

AVENUE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, January 24, 2018*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

There is a magic and contentment to ordinary days that I treasure, especially given the chaotic nature of what is happening in this world. For me those are the days in which nothing spectacular happens, but nothing horrible occurs either.

One of those days was this past Tuesday. It was rainy, warm, my calendar was fairly “normal” and there was an opportunity to catch up on church work and get my laundry done. I got to sit in my office and hear the kids in the preschool counting out loud as they learned their numbers, while checking off items on my to-do list. It was quiet, peaceful and “ordinary” in every sense of the word.

Scripture is very comforting during times of hardship, particularly the verse from Hebrews 13:5 that says, “Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.” It’s peaceful to realize that when we are facing those milestone moments, the hills that seem impossible to climb, and the burdens of the world that God is there with and for us. But it’s just as important to remember that God is with us and for us in the middle of the ordinary as well. The Lord is next to us as we fold the laundry, sort the mail, and make a sandwich for lunch.

The Lord wants to be part of our lives as we experience the extraordinary – both good and bad. But the Creator wants every single element of our lives, as ordinary as they may seem, to be part of bringing honor and glory to Him. The same God who created the heavens and the earth is the Maker, Creator and Architect of those ordinary moments as well. No matter what we are facing, God is with us always.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

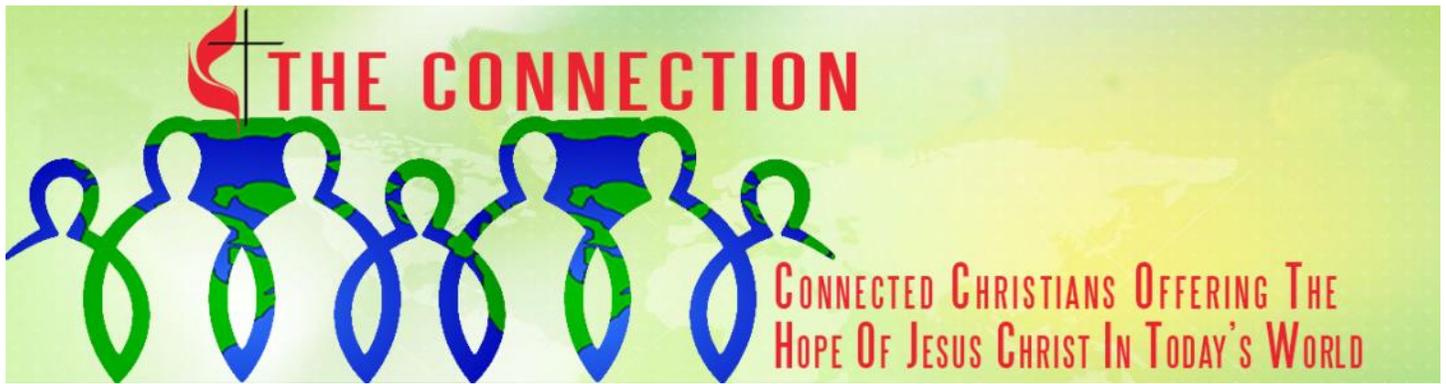
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'P' and a long, trailing flourish at the end.

## Upcoming Meetings

- **Safe Sanctuary Training** on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

## 2018 Church Council Meetings

- February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



*From the desk of our Bishop .....*

## **Arrested but not Deterred**

*By Bishop Peggy Johnson*

In a blog post entitled “Ten Things You May Not Know about Martin Luther King, Jr. by Christopher Klein, April 4, 2013, we read some interesting facts about the Civil Rights leader who changed the world forever. For example, I never knew that his birth name was Michael and was later changed to “Martin” after his father went to Germany and learned about Martin Luther’s reformation work. King’s father legally changed his name as well. It was a premonition of the work that young Martin was later to do.

I did not know that Dr. King started college at the age of 15 or that he had experienced an assassination attempt by a woman who stabbed him with a letter opener in a department store. I did not know that King’s mother was assassinated by a Sunday service intruder while she was playing the organ in 1974. How did I miss this? Church shootings are sadly new news! On and on the article goes with amazing facts about the life of a man whose legacy continues to shine a light in all of the areas of freedom and justice for all.

The thing that I was not surprised to read was that King was arrested 29 times for his faithful social justice work . Be it civil disobedience or trumped up charges or something as trivial as jail time for driving 30 miles per hour in a 25 miles per hour area, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was no stranger to prisons and jails. Still today “truth” is often put in jail. Power is not pleased with the concept of equality. To unleash that on the world is an affront to those with all the authority and privilege. The

crucible of incarceration gave King time to write important letters, and to pray, but it no doubt steeled his determination to keep doing the work because his imprisonment was in itself a glaring example of the injustice he was confronting. Still today people are put in prison unfairly and often it is the very thing spawns liberation. Former President Nelson Mandela's 27 years in prison created the fire power for a whole new way of life for the people in South Africa. King's imprisonment did the same.

How many times would I be willing to be imprisoned for my convictions? How can we work to make our law enforcement and prison systems more equitable for people of color and people who are doing the sacrificial work of promoting human rights? These are thoughts I ponder on the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. I thank God for his courage and his voice that continues to challenge and shape our world.



*Peggy A. Johnson*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HOSPITAL VISITS:** Please help the pastors by calling the church office at (302) 422-8111 when someone from the church is hospitalized.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** is being offered at Avenue Church. An *Information Sheet with Authorization Agreement* is available on the table in Fellowship Foyer. Simply fill out the authorization agreement and return it to the church office.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** If you want to reserve a Sunday please call the church office then call Milford Plant, Flower and Garden Shop at (302) 422-4961. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

**PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK:** Donna and Sonny Meck and family, Charlie Fleetwood, Luise Combs, Raechel Pfier, Christopher, all the homeless in the world, Kirsten Pierce, Lorraine Donovan, Lisa Shaw, Randy Gooner, Kevin Mitchell, Arden, all affected by the California mudslide, the Remick family, friends and family of Junior Tyrrell, family and friends of Chris Lundy, Travis and Sarah Hughes, Judy Brown, Mason Lookhart, Nan Ruhl, Craig, David Nash, Bruce Morris, Susan Delledonne, John Fernay, Patrick Helmick, Leah Faber, Wayne, Zachary Lloyd, Nicole Tuttle and family, Code Purple guests and volunteers, Karen Williams, World Peace, Bill and Jill Gustin, Ben, Donald, Bill, and Julie.

**Recently hospitalized:** Howard Sipple, Jo Wood, and Jackson Wilkins.

**Rejoice with:** Richard and Sharon Brown, Janice Abbott, Jerry Jackson, Patrick Helmick, and the seven people who joined the church and the three who were baptized on Sunday.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Louise Gill, family and friends of Jean Chidzak, Howard Sipple, Bill Medhurst, Charlie Fleetwood, Patrick Helmick, Luise Combs, Vicki Mulholland, Raechel Pfier, Stephen Parson, Christopher, Craig, Bernadette Drodz, Barry Grote, all the homeless in the world, Kirsten Pearce, Lorraine Donovan, Lisa Shaw, Travis and Sarah Hughes, Gary and Marti Seal, all traveling, Judy Brown, all Code Purple guests and volunteers, Karen Williams, world peace, Bill and Jill Gustin, everyone impacted by the government shutdown, Mason Lockhart, Karen, Bonnie Carmine, and Lynn Catts Lee.

**Recently hospitalized:** Dick Crabb, and Jo Wood.

**Rejoice with:** Tita Lewis and Diane Dolan, Leon Tschandre, Donny Hopkins, Jackson Wilkins, and Matthew Lewis .

## WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

### ♫ **Handbells**

Mondays, at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

### ♫ **MomentUM Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### ♪ **Misphillion Children's Chorus**

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m., Music Room

### ♪ **Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### ♪ **Sanctuary Choir**

Wednesdays, at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

### ♪ **AveNotes**

Wednesdays, at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? If you are interested in using your musical gifts here at Avenue Church please contact Kevin Chamberlain, kbchamberlain@avenueumc.com or (302) 236-1276.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Gilbert and Joan Emory** who will celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on **January 31<sup>st</sup>**.

## **UPCOMING**

### **A WORD ABOUT GREEN PARAMENTS**

#### **Why Green?**

Green symbolizes the promise of new life. It is used during Ordinary Time, a period where there is no special season. This includes the period between Epiphany and Lent, as well as the season between Pentecost and Advent. We will be using green paraments starting this Sunday until Ash Wednesday.

#### **What do the symbols represent?**

The three-petaled arms of the fleur-de-lis crosses are symbols of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The crown motif represents Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is our heavenly leader or king.

### **UMW MISSION DAY**

Cabin Fever?? January doldrums?? Tired of being cooped up?? Here's a solution.

The UMW is hosting a Mission Day this **Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 10:00 A.M. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone with a heart for mission projects is invited. The following stations will be set up for a variety of activities that you can participate in.

1. **To Go Bag** assembly for Code Purple guests. The men are so appreciative.
2. **Card making.** Instruction on repurposing greeting cards to be sent to shut-ins, friends, neighbors, or anyone who needs a message of love. Come be creative.
3. **UMCOR hygiene or school kits** for children with needs.
4. **Crisis kits** for the Crisis center.

5. **Knitting.** Members of the knitting group will be giving instruction on basic knitting. They will furnish the yarn and expertise. Just bring your own knitting needles. Or, if you already knit, you can bring your project with you and knit away while enjoying friends and fellowship.

Some supplies will be provided, but more are needed, so please bring some items to help build the kits. Consider items such as: bottled water, granola bars or breakfast bars, packs of tuna, canned meat, individually wrapped crackers, cookies, containers of fruit, plastic utensils, single-serve beverages or food items, toothbrush and holder, medium sized toothpaste, bath soap, wash cloth, hand towel, brush, comb, deodorant, nail clippers, spiral notebooks, pads of paper, 24 count crayons, blunt scissors, 2 inch eraser, sharpened pencils, pencil sharpener, ruler, sponges, cleaning supplies, paper towels. Most of us are very familiar with what is needed, so please be generous.

The event begins at 10:00 A.M. and ends at 2:00 P.M. However, you can feel free to come and go as you please. If you can only spend an hour or two, you will be able to experience some wonderful fellowship as well as help others. Plus, Joanne's yummy "yard sale" hot dogs, chips, and dessert will be provided around lunchtime.

We hope you will join us on this very special day. You will be blessed.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)** are proud to serve their third Pancake Breakfast of the year on **February 11, 2018**. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea will be **served immediately after all three services. A free-will offering will be accepted.** Funds from this meal will help provide a Boy Scout college scholarship to a high school graduate from Troop #186. Other mission projects will also be funded. Join us for a most excellent breakfast and fellowship.

Avenue will be hosting the **DOVER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING** classes on **February 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.** If you would like to learn more about the following committees or ministries please contact the church office.

Staff /Parish Relations

Lay Leaders

Trustees

Finance

Nominations and Leadership Development

Evangelism

MissionInsite

Worship

Prison Outreach

Race Reconciliation

Connectional Giving for Mission

Children's Ministry

Prayer and Healing Ministries

## **SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES**

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP:** The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **February 12<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will continue our study *Is This The End* by David Jeremiah. Please join us at any time. Contact Ginny Van Tine (302) 422-4282, Brenda Powers (302) 422-8821 or leave a message in the church office if you would like to join us. We will meet in the Grier Room at 10:00 a.m on **January 30<sup>th</sup>** .

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmueller Room. On **January 24<sup>th</sup>** we will continue exploring the Bible. To register, please call Josh Willey at (302) 422-8952. **EXPLORING FAITH BOOK** will meet on **January 28, 2018** at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. We shall continue our study of the "Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis by looking at letters 15 through 21.

**SUNSHINE BIBLE STUDY** will be studying "A Living Faith in God" during January. January 28<sup>th</sup>, "A Strong Faith" based on Daniel 10:10-19. The Sunshine Bible Class meets on Sunday mornings at **9:30 a.m.** in the Grier Room. All are welcome.

**SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING:** Interested in helping out with our children's ministries? Already volunteering with our youth? Please plan to attend ONE of the following trainings for Safe Sanctuary: **Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Grier Room. Anyone is invited to attend (even if you aren't sure you want to volunteer). If you have questions or want to know more – please contact Sarah Pasmore at (302) 841-3143.

## **OUTREACH**

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR.** Registration is ongoing for a limited number of spots for the 2017-18 school year, which is the preschool's **50<sup>th</sup>** year providing early education services in the community. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>, unless entering our new "Young Beginners" program-- see next section for those details. Registration must be done in person. Contact the Preschool Director, Paula Yeich, and at (302) 422-8775 for information or send an email to: [office@avenuepreschool.org](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org). Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: [www.avenuepreschool.org](http://www.avenuepreschool.org).

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL NEW-OFFER:** Children who will turn 3 after August 31<sup>st</sup> but before December 31, 2017 are now able to register for our beginners program. They will be in our 2 day program that is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Children must be potty-trained before the first day of school. Children in our preschool program are actively involved in a curriculum that stresses the social, emotional, physical and academic aspects of their development. For further information please see the contact details in the Avenue Preschool section above.

## **CODE PURPLE**

Greetings Friends! Our winter has certainly arrived and with the frigid temperatures, our Code Purple Sussex County shelter here at Avenue UMC has served 36 men so far this season. We have averaged 12-14 recently and we have been blessed with the support of community members and our church family. You may notice, we have placed a chalkboard in the lobby to note specific needs, as we discover shortages in supplies throughout the week. We are so grateful for the rapid response to last week's requests of jeans and sweat pants.

One way community groups and clubs can work to support Code Purple Sussex County, is to prepare GO BAGS for the shelter. Our guests can take a GO BAG in the morning as they leave for the day. This time of year, GO BAGS are best stocked in a large zip lock bag and include a water bottle, a protein, such as a pop top hearty soup or package of tuna, crackers, fruit cup, or applesauce, napkins, and a spoon/fork. A note of encouragement is always a blessing, as well.

We also invite you to join us in fellowship any evening. 7:00 -8:30 is a great time to come and play games, share testimony, listen with an open heart to another man's story, and be a loving presence during this difficult time in our guests' journeys.

**COMMUNITY**

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** We are in need of cereal (not pre-sweetened please). Thank You!

**LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	57	71
9:30	181	171
Sunday School	55	42
11:00	74	74
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>36</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>394</b>

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY 1/28

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club,  
Grier Room
- 3:00 p.m. Explaining Christianity with Dan  
Nelson, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and  
Wesley Room

### MONDAY 1/29

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting,  
Holzmueller Room
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,  
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

### TUESDAY 1/30

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,  
Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,  
Sanctuary

### WEDNESDAY 1/31

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. Civil Air Patrol, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class,  
Holzmueller Room

### THURSDAY 2/1

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Christmas Party,  
Fellowship Hall
- 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meetings, Wesley Room

### FRIDAY 2/2

- 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SATURDAY 2/3

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SUNDAY 2/4 ~ Communion

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Explaining Christianity with Dan  
Nelson, Fellowship Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting,  
Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall  
and Wesley Room