



The Midweek

Wednesday, February 28 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I am taking a one week break from the usual type of article that I write so that I can say THANK YOU to every person at Avenue Church for your support and love. Yesterday, February 27th, I went before the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) to again submit for an oral exam of Bible, theology, pastoral care, sacraments, worship, preaching, Christian education and evangelism. Last year you may recall that I did the same with disastrous results.

But you all wrapped me up in your love and you stood beside me and this time, I passed. I could not have done this without every one of you because I felt your prayers and support. I am so grateful to you.

Commissioning will be at the Annual Conference on Friday evening, June 1st, in Princess Anne, Maryland. You are my family so please know that if your schedule is open and you wish

to attend, you are more than welcome to be part of the event.

Philippians 1:3-4, “I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.”

I pray for all of you with joy and an appreciative heart for everything you are in my life. Thank you more than I can say. I love you all.

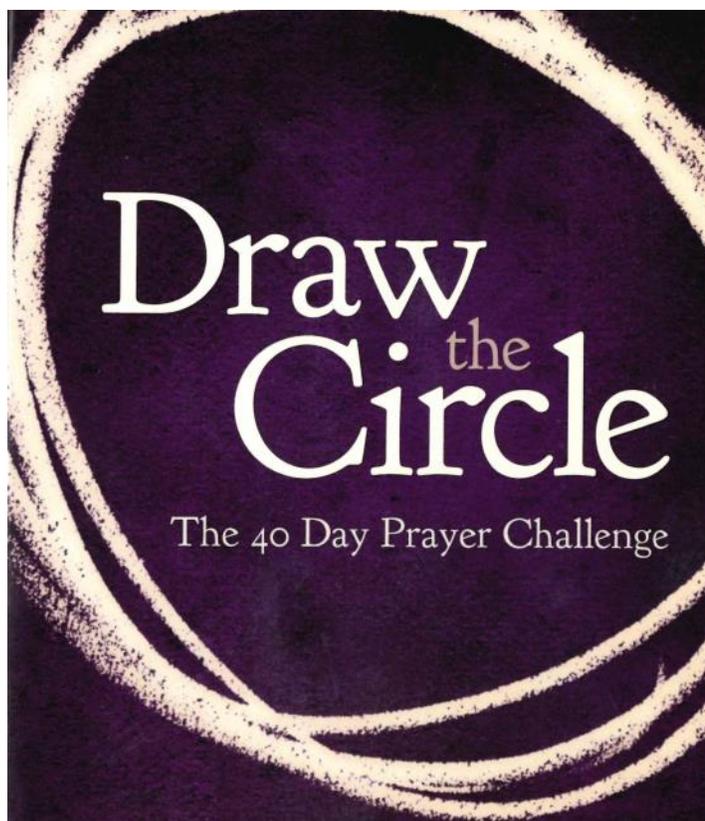
To God be the glory forever and ever.



Pastor Kelly



Avenue Staff



Lenten Bible Study

Sundays—6:00 p.m. in the Grier Room

Mondays—10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays—Poncho & Lisa Johnson's residence.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. and study at 7:00 p.m.
(registration required)

Avenue United Methodist Church

Lenten Organ Recitals

February 15, 2018 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Kevin B. Chamberlain,

Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford

February 22, 2018 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Taylor Harvey,

Salisbury, Maryland

March 1, 2018 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Herb Parks,

Christ Episcopal Church, Milford

March 8, 2018 – 12:05-12:35 PM

T. J. Thomas,

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes

March 15, 2018 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Ned Perwo,

Newark United Methodist Church, Newark

March 22, 2018 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Kevin B. Chamberlain,

Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford

All recitals are held at Avenue Church.

A luncheon of homemade soup and bread will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the recitals.

All are invited.

Lenten Organ Recitals are part of the Concert Series of Avenue Church.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF **DONALD BUXTON**, we proudly present...

Sunday, March 18, 2018 @ 3:00 p.m.

Dover Downs Rollins Center

Route 13, Dover

Spring Classical Concert

Featuring

Beethoven's Violin Concerto

Performed by **Stefan Xhori**

Shostakovich's Overture Festivo

Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite &

Sibelius's Finlandia



Prices are:

Adults - \$20

Seniors/Students/Military/

First Responders - \$15

Young people under 18 free with a paying adult

Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org



Or Call 302-270-1903

*Dover
Symphony
Orchestra*



Delaware
Division of the
Arts



This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency,

in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.

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: The family and friends of Dick Crabb, the family and friends of Jo Wood, the family and friends of Brenda Draper, the family and friends of Rudee Taylor, the family and friends of Dorothy Swain, Kali Culotta and family, Marti and Don Seal, the family and friends of Frances Biddle, Janine Martin and family, the family and friends of Mark Givenisi, Howard Sipple, Linda Breedlove, Daphne Antonik, Jenn Antonik, Penny, Holly, Steve, Anna, A.J., Rick Simpson, everyone in the medical community especially those in hospice and home healthcare professions, the victims and family and friends of the Florida school shooting, the victims of the church shooting in Russia, Pike Labajo, Kathy and Dave Rumery, the participants and team on the Boys Chrysalis weekend, the victims of the various plane crashes, Phyllis Morton, Mike, Vicki, Elizabeth Frampton, Kevin Frampton, Phyllis French, Bonnie Carmine, Colleen Dunham, Charlie Fleetwood, Christopher, Bill and Jill Gustin, Lida Wells, Alan Parker, Kirsten Pearce, Code Purple guests and volunteers, Anne, Matthew, everyone with financial issues, Cindy Swain, Missy Wilcox, Brandon Harmon, and all who are traveling.

Rejoice with: For each new day, Bill and Luise Combs, Bethany Pasmore, Stacey Craig, and Victoria.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Jo Wood, The family and friends of Charlene Shockley, The family and friends of Sharon Bailey, The family and friends of Luke Yetter, Howard Sipple, Linda Breedlove, Steve, Anna, Rick Simpson, For the victims and their families, friends, teachers and fellow students of the school shooting in Florida, Kathy and Dave Rumery, The boys chrysalis weekend, all the caterpillars and volunteers, Bonnie Carmine, Colleen Dunham, Charlie Fleetwood, Bill and Jill Gustin, Lida Wells, Kirsten Pearce, For the Code Purple guests, volunteers and all the homeless, Barbara Horsman, Janet McGhee, John Seigrist, Joe Dougherty, Allister Quinn, Craig, Diane Brutvan, Lilly family, Linda Welch, Renee Hoffman, Bob, Vicki Shultes's dad, Bill Brecks, Alan, Donald, and Cheryl.

Rejoice with: 60th anniversary and vow renewal on March 24 of Yvonne's parents, Bill and Luise Combs, Missy Wilcox, Val Randolph and Nicole Wilkins, praise team members who are both celebrating birthdays, Sammy Pasmore who avoided setup and teardown from his sister's birthday party and The wonderful celebrations of life over the last two weeks

WE EXTEND SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Josephine “Jo” Wood** who passed away February 16, 2018. Jo joined Avenue Church on May 19, 1968.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪Handbells

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

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Mispillion 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.

UPCOMING

THE 40-DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

Starting on February 14th, the Avenue staff invites everyone to join in the 40-day prayer challenge through the season of Lent. We will be using the book *Draw the Circle: The 40 Day Prayer Challenge* by Mark Batterson. There will be optional opportunities to meet periodically to pray and discuss our experience reading the book. There will be various Bible Studies and worship services throughout the entire season. The book is available at church and can be picked up for a suggested donation of \$10. It’s also available for Kindle and other digital platforms if you would prefer. We are also looking forward to a 40-day prayer vigil. Signup sheets will be available closer to Lent. If you have any questions or would like more information about Bible Studies or worship times, please call the church office at 422-8111.

LENT: Until Easter the Church is in a season of self-denial and self-examination called Lent. During Lent we recommend these special services.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES are held each Wednesday at noon followed by a soup luncheon at various churches.

The schedule is:

February 28th, Mt. Enon Baptist Church

March 7th, Church of the Nazarene

March 14th, New Life Christian Church

March 21st, Avenue UM Church

MILFORD INTERDENOMINATIONAL LENTEN SERVICES are held each Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. at various churches. The schedule is:

February 28th, Upper Room
March 7th, Bethel A.M.E.
March 14th, Word of Life
March 21st, New Beginnings
March 28th, Faith, Hope & Love
March 29th, Mt. Enon

LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS

All recitals are held at Avenue Church each Thursday from 12:05-12:35 p.m. during Lent. A soup luncheon held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following all recitals. All are welcome.

The Schedule is:

March 1st, Herb Parks
March 8th, T.J. Thomas
March 15th, Ned Perwo
March 22nd, Kevin B. Chamberlain

AMBASSADOR CLUB: What inspires you? What stops you? These are the questions raised at Avenue's Ambassador Club round table discussion. Come tell us how you think things ought to be on Saturday's 4 pm, Grier Room. For all serious and free thinkers, ages 18 - 28.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2nd Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **March 12th** 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 **March 6th** .

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmueller Room. On **March 7th** we will continue exploring the Bible. To register, please call Josh Willey at (302) 422-8952.

EXPLORING FAITH BOOK will begin a new study on Sunday, **March 18, 2018** at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. Our new study will be the book "If Experience is Such a Good Teacher, Why Do I Keep Repeating the Course?" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Please join us.

SUNSHINE BIBLE STUDY: The Sunshine Bible Class will be studying "Acknowledging God" during the month of March. March 4th, the lesson will be "The Lord Will Provide" based on Genesis 22:1-3, 6-14; March 11th, "There is No God Like You" based on 2 Chronicles 6:12-21; March 18th, "The People Gave Thanks to God" based on 2 Chronicles 7:1-9; and March 25th,

"Keep My Statues and Ordinances" based on 2 Chronicles 7:12-22. The Sunshine Bible Class meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. All adults are welcome.

KNITTING GROUP: We are currently having a reprieve in the weather, but it will change. The Code Purple and the homeless families in our community need scarves to ward off the chill. Some of Avenue's knitters have donated yarn and started several scarves using very basic garter stitch, but knitters are needed to finish each one. Will you volunteer to complete one? The "kits" will be in the Church office for pick up and return the finished product.

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 50th year providing early education services in the community. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31st, 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. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: www.avenuepreschool.org.

On **March 5th from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.** Avenue Preschool will hold on-site open registration for the upcoming school year. Registrations must be done in person on that day.

AVENUE PRESCHOOL NEW-OFFER: Children who will turn 3 after August 31st 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 a previous request for jeans and sweat pants.

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	63	57
9:30	200	174
Sunday School	79	55
11:00	67	63
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>45</u>
Total	459	394

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 3/4 ~ 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
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting, Heritage Room
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study, Grier Room

MONDAY 3/5

- 10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class @ Barratt's Chapel
- 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 3/6

- 9:30 a.m. Archives Meeting, Archives Room
- 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
- 6:30 P.M. Webelos Den, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting, Carpenter Room

WEDNESDAY 3/7

- 10:00 a.m. SLT Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Diabetes Prevention Program, Heritage Room
- 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 3/8

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group, Conference Room
- 9:00 a.m. DCOM, Heritage and Holzmueller Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 12:05 p.m. Lenten Recital, Sanctuary
- 12:35 p.m. Lenten Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
- 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion, Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service, Sanctuary

FRIDAY 3/9

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

SATURDAY 3/10

- 4:00 p.m. Ambassador Club, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 3/11

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study, Grier Room