



## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, March 7, 2018*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

In less than two weeks I am going on vacation with my son Christopher. I want this to be a special time with him before I get married because I want to spend time making sure he understands that I will always be his mom and he will always be my priority. Even though he is an adult and living on his own, Chris will always be the most important person in my life. My fiancée and I agree that our kids will always come first and this is my chance to make sure Chris gets it. No matter what happens, my love for Chris will never end and always be there.

God feels the same way about us. No matter what is happening in the world, each of us is the most important person in the world to Jesus. Even if you were the only person in the world, our Savior would have gone to the cross just for you. That is how much Jesus loves you.

Psalm 136:26 tells us to. "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever." What an amazing gift that is...that the God of all heaven and earth loves you above all else in the

universe.

God loves you. Never forget that and always know you are the Lord's priority.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

Pastor Henry

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## Jonathan and Donna Baker—Missionary Newsletter



*Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you. Psalms 84:12*

Praise God for the amazing team who recently joined us in the Democratic Republic of Congo! We truly believe their presence here has made a difference to the Congolese who cherish relationships with the United Methodist Church in the United States. As many of the team have shared, their hearts have been touched in profound ways and they have experienced a true transformation.

Did you know that in Congo Bishops receive welcome and greetings like royalty? It is amazing the respect given by the people as their visits always brought hope and encouragement. Bishop Peggy Johnson truly experienced that when she and Bishop Daniel Lunge climbed into chairs for the local men to carry them through the village of Wembo Nyama. What an astounding welcome while hundreds of residents waved palm branches, sang and trilled their delight in the honor of having TWO bishops in their village, the first female bishop ever seen by the central Congo Episcopal Area!





The entire team received honorable welcomes as well. District Superintends Dawn Taylor-Storm & Joe Archie, Rev. David Ryan, Rev. Bob Wilt and Director of Connectional Ministries Rev. Vicki Gordy Stith heard trills, songs and chants of joy in every location they had the delight to visit. People rejoiced in welcoming Ann Jacob, a seminary student, and Tony Barnett, the Chair of the Church Counsel in his local church. All were welcomed as “missionaries”, people who had traveled far to embody God’s love and hope.

A beautiful tradition in Congo is to demonstrate extravagant generosity to visitors so wherever the team went, they were showered with gifts of rice, fruit, chickens, and even goats! Often these were given by people who cannot afford to eat themselves such as a group of widows bring food to the team. How humbling it is to experience these acts of grace from our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Traveling far away, leaving family and jobs to a country known for violence and difficulties brings challenges. How did they find the strength to even board the plane? Trust! Trust in the Lord! As stated in Psalms 84:12, “those who trust, blessings will flow.” And so many blessings flowed as every team member expressed their joy in experiencing the love and faith of their Congolese sisters and brothers in Christ! Here are just a few highlights of the wonderful experiences as a team.



After three years of financial contributions from the South District in the Eastern PA Conference, the Team had a chance to see first-hand the fruits of their labors at the Mpasu Medical & Nutrition Center. What a thrill to see the new Pediatric building and to hear, just after arriving, a newborn had been born and was using the new incubator! Feeding the children, welcoming members of the Elderly women’s program empowering older women often shunned by society and meeting the dedicated staff at Mpasu were highlights of the mission. After feeding the children there and at Miriam’s Table, the DS and the Mpasu Local Church hosted a lovely worship service. What a blessing!



Years of fundraising and planning were celebrated when water gushed from the earth in the village of Wembo Nyama last week! WATER IS LIFE! This large village in Central Congo with a population of about 82,000 has had no access to fresh clean water until this well drilling met success. Diseases related to the drinking of dirty, contaminated, bacteria infested water contributes to the largest cause of death, second only to the disease of malaria. Large crowds gathered around the workers as the rig reached the aquafer, about 150 feet below the surface. Praise the Lord! Jonathan and I dropped to our knees in joy as the team gave shouts of praise!



The School of Theology in Wembo Nyama has had a highly rated reputation over the years, especially since this village is the “Jerusalem” and the “Genesis” of Methodism in Congo which began in 1914 when the first missionary, Bishop Lambuth, appeared. Several of the team had the honor to teach classes to the students which brought such elation from the students. The library of this large school, contains only 200 books but some “solar Kindles” were recently provided by the General Board of Higher Education with hundreds of books on each for the students! Most students do not have access to the resources available on theology and Biblical history in developed countries. Therefore, the students raised many questions which the team articulately answered. What a blessing to so many! Thank you, Bob, Joe, Dawn and Jonathan!





David Ryan, the founder of the Children's Ministry in Wembo Nyama, provided a 'refresher course' for the teachers there who dedicate so much of their time to this ministry. In 2013, approximately 30 students and 12 volunteer teachers participated in the program. As of this current year, over 6000 students are reached each month in 45 groups spread out among the villages surrounding Wembo Nyama. The Congolese, under the leadership of Director Josephine, have developed this program on their own! We are always in awe of their creativity and zeal for their work, as they draw symbols in the sandy soil and teach the children to play-act and memorize scripture passages.



The team also experienced beautiful new improvements in programs of the Congo Partnership which now have new leadership as designated by Bishop Lunge. The farm in Diengenga now has planted new fields and the use of the grinders promoted throughout the communities provide an income moving the project toward self-sustainability. The Mama Tola Social Program for young mothers who had to leave school to raise their families actively recruits and trains the girls in vocational skills and parenting proficiencies.

Vicki Gordy-Stith had the honor of presenting letters and gifts to the Mama Tola School in Diengenga from the youth of Wesley UMC in Dover, DE, a program lead by her daughter, Joy. The students shared such elation that a church in the US still loves them and prays for them. The team members all received beautiful dresses and shirts made by the sewing program at Mama Tola. A special visit to the Jack & Renie Miner Trade school reminded the team how various projects are working together such as the Trade School training mechanics using the truck from the farm.

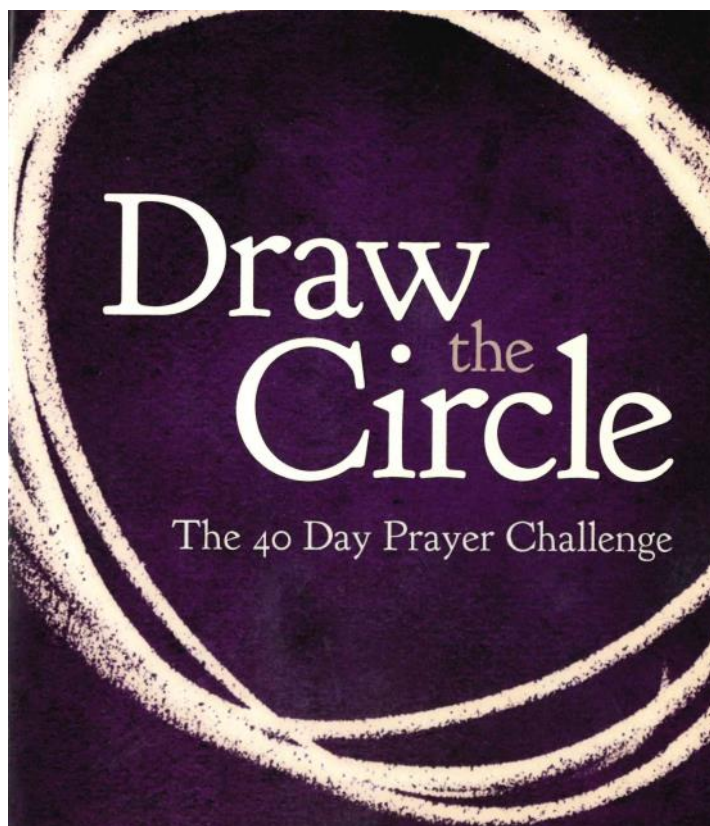


The team also experienced first-hand the major challenges faced by the central Congo with transportation and communication. Canceled flights, washed out roads, broken bridges and the cost to ship supplies from Kinshasa to central Congo were experienced by the team helping us better understand Bishop Lunge's transportation priority for his Episcopal Area.

We will never forget this very special time shared with the team who sacrificed so much to travel so far to develop relationships with the Body of Christ in Congo. Every life was transformed by the faithfulness of God's people in Congo. Our worship and devotional time brought such insight as so many expressed specific testimonies related to their experiences here. The Lord has abundantly sanctified the fifteen days of the team's journey and we believe these blessings will continue as they share their passion for Congo. Lusaka Efula! Merci beaucoup! Thank you!

Donna and Jonathan Baker  
Global Ministries Missionaries





## **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.**

# Easter Flower Order Form

The Sanctuary is never prettier than it is when the spring flowers arrive for Easter. Placing Lilies and Tulips in the church in memory or honor of loved ones is a beautiful and cherished tradition.

This year we will again only be ordering 6" pots of Lilies and Tulips at \$7.50 each. The Altar Guild has requested that we only order 100 pots of flowers and the Tulips will be PINK. All additional funds will go to the Parish Purse.

Sponsor's  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Memory  
of \_\_\_\_\_

Honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

**The cost of the Lily's and Tulips are \$7.50 each**

Lily \_\_\_\_\_



Tulip \_\_\_\_\_



Please use a **separate order form,** for each name in memory of or honored

**Please Print Clearly**

Names of sponsors and those remembered and honored  
will be in the Easter Sunday Bulletin

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

**Orders must be in no later than March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**We are sorry but NO orders will be accepted after March 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**as the flower order will be called in.**

## 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 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:** 60<sup>th</sup> 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

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** Dottie and Jerry Jackson, the family and friends of Alan, the family and friends of David Arbaugh, the family and friends of Jo Wood, Toby Tucker, George Tidwell, Don Fisher, Phyllis French, Steve Sylvester, Brian Reph, Preston Dyer, Lida Wells, Kirsten Pearce, Craig, the family and friends of John Hall, Vicki Shultes' dad, Barbara Horsman, Bonnie Carmine, Charlie Fleetwood, Colleen Dunham, John Feraeu, Leone Lenart, all who don't know Jesus, Katie Vaughan, all struggling with relationships, Ramona, Bill and Jill Gustin, Howard Sipple, Linda Breedlove, Christopher, Peggy Hughes, Ray, Terry and family, Jennifer, Chris and family, Rick, Kelly and family, the Hughes family, everyone seeking employment, everyone affected by the horrible weather across the country, all Christians having trouble loving their neighbors and enemies, that the sick and troubled people of the world come to know Jesus, Richard and Carmella Bergez.

**Rejoice with:** Beth Judy, Pastor Wendy, everyone who has had prayers answered, all the students who participated in the Odyssey of the Mind competition.



## **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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 Bibles 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:

March 7<sup>th</sup>, Church of the Nazarene

March 14<sup>th</sup>, New Life Christian Church

March 21<sup>st</sup>, Avenue UM Church

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

March 7<sup>th</sup>, Bethel A.M.E.

March 14<sup>th</sup>, Word of Life

March 21<sup>st</sup>, New Beginnings

March 28<sup>th</sup>, Faith, Hope & Love

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>, T.J. Thomas

March 15<sup>th</sup>, Ned Perwo

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **March 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 **March 13<sup>th</sup>**.

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmuehler Room. On **March 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 11<sup>th</sup>, "There is No God Like You" based on 2 Chronicles 6:12-21; March 18<sup>th</sup>, "The People Gave Thanks to God" based on 2 Chronicles 7:1-9; and March 25<sup>th</sup>, "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 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR.** Registration is ongoing for a limited number of spots for the 2018-19 school year, which is the preschool's **51<sup>st</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, 2018 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.

## **COMMUNITY**

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

**MATTHEW PROJECT** is in need of a dresser. Please call Joanne Burbage at (302) 422-6152. Thanks!

### **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	63	61
9:30	200	162
Sunday School	79	79
11:00	67	62
FUSION	50	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>398</b>



# CALENDAR

## 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

## MONDAY 3/12

9:00 a.m. Hospital Aux. Meeting, Grier Room  
 10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, Fellowship Hall  
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group  
 4:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting, Room 207  
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room  
 6:30 p.m. Tiger Den Meeting, Nursery  
 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. Fire Co. Meeting, Grier Room

## TUESDAY 3/13

8:30 a.m. Preschool Grandparent's Day, Fellowship Hall  
 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room  
 1:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley 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. Preschool Board Meeting, Grier Room

## WEDNESDAY 3/14

8:30 a.m. Preschool Grandparent's Day, Fellowship Hall  
 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  
 6:00 p.m. Esther Circle, Room 207  
 6:30 p.m. Troop Comm. Meeting, Grier Room  
 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holzmueller Room

## THURSDAY 3/15

8:30 a.m. Preschool Grandparent's Day, Fellowship Hall  
 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group, Conference 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. Bear Den Meeting, Holzmueller Room  
 6:30 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service, Sanctuary  
 7:00 p.m. SPRC, Holzmueller Room

## FRIDAY 3/16

8:30 a.m. Preschool Grandparent's Day, Fellowship Hall  
 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

## SATURDAY 3/17

9:00 a.m. Merit Badge College, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall  
 4:00 p.m. Ambassador Club, Grier Room  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

## SUNDAY 3/18

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  
 12:30 p.m. New Member Orientation, Carpenter 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