

AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Last week's write up.....

As I am on vacation this week, I turned to my dear friend Heidi for this week's addition to the Midweek. Her writing is magical, so I hope you enjoy the "guest author" this week. To God be the glory forever and ever.

From Pastor Heidi:

How many times do we need the Holy Spirit in the role of the Rememberer? For me, that seems to be a huge role. The promised Holy Spirit was not only for the disciples, but is here in the world today, if we listen. As we observe Lent this year and remember all the challenges and trials that Jesus faced during his time in the wilderness, we, also, can take this opportunity to consider the challenges and trials in our lives within the context of listening with our whole hearts and minds to what our Comforter, Counselor, and Rememberer, the Holy Spirit, reminds us of God's promises. We, too, can face death, sickness, and whatever ugly distractions this world has for us, knowing that Jesus laid the groundwork for our faith, and promised that the Holy Spirit is here now to teach us and to lead us much further.

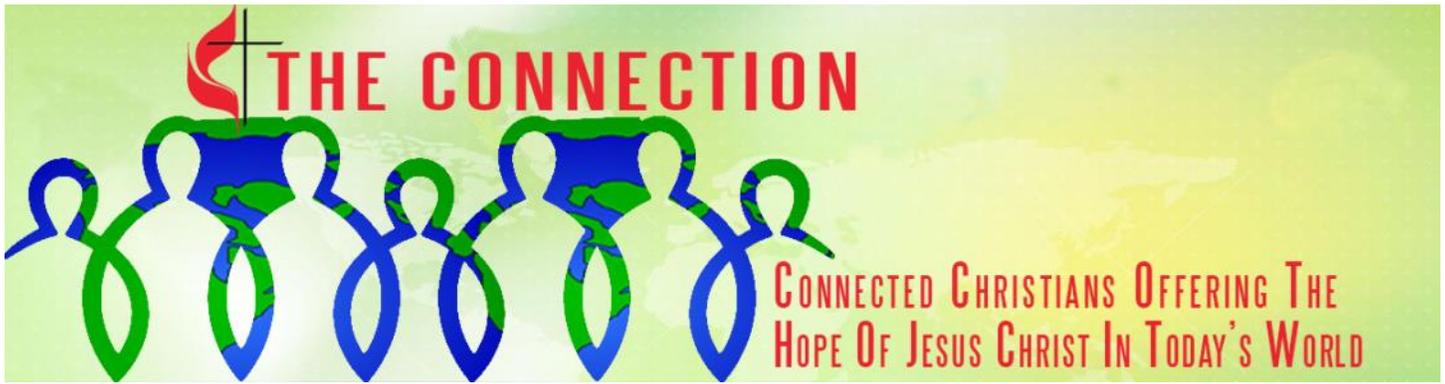
Jesus promised, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not

as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:26-27 RSV).

Those verses were particularly on my mind this month when our son was scheduled for total knee replacement surgery, after an unsuccessful partial knee surgery five years ago. The new surgery reminded me anew of the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In Kansas 2013, as my father was passing from this life, we learned that our son who lived on the island of Maui, Hawaii, was being medically evacuated to a hospital on another island, Oahu, due to severe complications with that knee operation. I was torn in two, wanting to be in both states. The words of John 14:26-27 came to me, and suddenly, I felt awash in God’s peace. My sister, Mary, who was on the phone with me during my father’s passing, was ready to listen, when I said, “I can let Dad go, but I am not ready to let Buddy go.” I was at peace with our father’s passing but did not want to deal with the possibility of our son’s passing the same day. In a further instance of the Holy Spirit at work, my father, in his passing, continued to be a mentor and counselor. There at his bedside with me was his dear care-giver and student, who sang, read scriptures, and promised my father that he would return to school and continue his theological studies (something my father had been encouraging him to consider for years). It was a sacred time, to be sure, full of the Holy Spirit.

Later in the chapter, Jesus said, “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go hence” (John 14:30-31 RSV). It seems to me that there is great peace in loving the Father and living in obedience to his loving will.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



From the desk of our Director of Connectional Ministries

Women's History Month

By Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Malala Yousafzai was born in 1997 and grew up in the northwest Swat Valley region of Pakistan. As a child she was fortunate to have access to education because her father, Ziauddin Yousfzai operated a private girl's school in her home town. This part of Pakistan was under Taliban rule and they did not believe that girls should have an education. When she was eleven years old Malala wrote a blog for the BBC describing what it was like living under Taliban occupation. This story appeared in a New York Times documentary and it got a good bit of attention in print and on television. She was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize by Desmond Tutu.



Unfortunately, all of this attention made her a target of the Taliban. On October 9, 2012 she sustained a gunshot wound to the head by a masked Taliban gunman. Miraculously she survived the assassination attempt and was sent to England for treatment. This horrific act of violence against a young girl created overnight a huge outpouring of support for her cause. After her recovery she became an international speaker for the rights of education for all children, especially girls. In 2014 Malala was the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. As a result of her advocacy the United Nations passed a petition in her honor that led the country of Pakistan to ratify the first ever "Right to Education" bill. She has established a non-profit organization that raises funds to provide education for girls and has written a number of books. In 2015 she opened a school in Lebanon for Syrian refugees.

Currently she is enrolled at the Lady Margaret Hall (college) in Oxford studying for a bachelor's degree in philosophy, politics and economics. There is no telling what she will be doing in the future.

I give thanks for this courageous young voice in our world who believes in the education of girls and all people. Many of our Methodist missions around the world focus on the education of girls and society has reaped the benefits of these efforts ever since. Only when everyone is respected as equal and equally able to access education, health care and the basic needs of life can the entire world thrive and be at peace. Malala is a shining example of a young person who has changed the world. We should never under-estimate the power of once voice, who bravely speaks out for justice and human rights. Happy Women's History month!



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As the only nonprofit hospice agency in the state of Delaware, we are always looking for special volunteers. If you are able to donate just a few hours a week, month, or year, please call Maxine for more information. 302-856-7717 or visit www.delawarehospice.org

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 Howard Sipple, The family and friends of Dorothy Wickham, Don Fisher, Pat and the rest of the Fisher family, Phyllis French, Brian Reph, Ruth Layne, Kirsten Pearce, Vicki Shultes' dad, Barbara Horsman, Bonnie Carmine, Charlie Fleetwood, Colleen Dunham, Bill and Jill Gustin, Linda Breedlove, Peggy Hughes, Ray, Terry and family, Jennifer, Chris and family, Rick, Kelly and family, The Hughes family, Charles Harding, Richard and Carmella Bergez, Joe and Grace Irish, John Horsman, Baby Brandon, Niki, Craig, Pastor Wendy and Chris, Derek, Pastor Tom and family, For all whose hearts need healing, Brandon and the Gladish family, Brandon, Katie and the baby, Barbara and Tom Ball, and Jim.

Rejoice with: All of us whom God loves so much and all the new members who joined the church today.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Howard Sipple, Don Fisher, Pat and the rest of the Fisher family, Brian Reph, Kirsten Pearce, Vicki Shultes' dad, Barbara Horsman, Charlie Fleetwood, Colleen Dunham, Bill and Jill Gustin, Linda Breedlove, Peggy Hughes, Ray, Terry and family, Jennifer, Chris and family, Rick, Kelly and family, The Hughes family, Charles Harding, Richard and Carmella Bergez, Joe and Grace Irish, John Horsman, Niki, Craig, Brandon and the Gladish family, Brandon, Katie and the baby, Jack and Zelda McDuff, Cindy Clem, Dottie and Jerry Jackson's daughter, Teri Sullivan, Mispillion Children's Choir, children and their families .

Rejoice with: Bonnie Carmine, Rick Simpson, the children who were waving palm branches at 9:30 and all the teens who enjoyed the Chrysalis RUSH on Saturday.

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

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY CROSSWALK ON GOOD FRIDAY

The Milford Ministerium will be hosting a Good Friday Cross Walk starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Milford Church of the Nazarene and concluding at Calvary United Methodist Church. All are invited to follow the cross as it is carried across Milford. Transportation will be provided back to the Church of the Nazarene after the Walk is over.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT AVENUE:

March 29th, Holy Thursday Service with communion 7:00 p.m.

March 30th Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES:

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service. Join us outside to worship the Risen Savior.

8:00 a.m. - Traditional Service with brass accompaniment, choir and organ

9:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service with the Praise Band

11:00 a.m. - Traditional Service with brass accompaniment, choir and organ

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

The schedule is:

March 28th, Avenue UM Church

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

March 28th, Faith, Hope & Love

March 29th, Mt. Enon

JELLY BEAN JARS: The Jelly Bean Jars are back for children and adults. The yellow sign-up sheet is for children up to 12 years old and the green sheet is for those 13 and up. The one who guesses the closest wins the jar of Jelly Beans. The winner will be announced on Easter Sunday. Good luck to everyone.

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Avenue offers a number of scholarships each spring. Graduating Seniors can get applications from the church office by emailing Kelly Hudson at churchoffice@avenueumc.com or they can be **downloaded from the webpage**. Then complete the applications on your computer and return them to Mrs. Hudson. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. **Please keep these two dates in mind:**

- ♦ **April 27th**, 3:00 p.m. deadline to return all Avenue Scholarship applications to the office.
- ♦ **May 13th**, 9:30 a.m. is when scholarships will be awarded, along with gifts and recognition for all the Class of 2018. **Please plan to join us.**

VBS Meeting: On **Tuesday, April 17th** at 6:00 p.m. we will be meeting in the Grier Room. If you can't make that meeting our next one will be on **Thursday, May 3rd** at 6:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. Any questions, please call Sarah Pasmore at (302) 841-3143.

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 **April 9th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will take two weeks off for Easter- **March 27th and April 3rd**.

Starting on **April 10th** we will begin a 5 week study: "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado. The study books are available in the office. Any questions 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.**

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmueller Room. On **March 28th** 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, **April 15, 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 the following lessons in April. The theme is **All Glory and Honor**. April 1 the lesson will be "He Has Risen" based on Luke 24: 1-12, 30-35; April 8, "The Risen Lord Appears" based on John 21:1-14; April 15, "Follow Me" based on John 21:15-25; April 22, "The Lord God the Almighty" based on Revelation 4:1-6, 8-11; April 29, "Blessing, Glory, Honor Forever" based on Revelation 5:6-14. The Sunshine Bible Class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 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 **51st** 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. **SPACE IS LIMITED.**

AVENUE PRESCHOOL NEW-OFFER: Children who will turn 3 after August 31st 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!

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	77	63
9:30	180	169
Sunday School	55	77
11:00	79	68
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>
Total	433	419

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 4/1 ~ Easter

- 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service, Outside
- 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

MONDAY 4/2 ~ Church Office Closed

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 4/3

- 9:30 a.m. Archives Meeting, Archives 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 4/4

- 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, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pride of Delmarva,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class,
Holzmueller Room

THURSDAY 4/5

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,
Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 12:00 p.m. MAMA, Fellowship Hall
- 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202

FRIDAY 4/6

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

SATURDAY 4/7

- 12:00 p.m. Bridal Shower, Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Concert Series: Coastal Concerts,
Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 4/8

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall
and Wesley Room