



The Midweek

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Someone recently sent me this story and when I read it, I was immediately reminded of Matthew 7: 1-5 that says, "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye."

The story goes like this: A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. "That laundry is not very clean", she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap." Her husband looked on, but remained silent. Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments. About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean

wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this." The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

How many times do we look through the window of our own understanding not appreciating that our view may be tainted? Let us focus on the healing of our own judging natures and forego the judgement of others.

And to God be the glory forever and ever.



50 Years Ago Today

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed in Memphis, TN, cutting short a life that helped reshape the American consciousness. Race was certainly seen before King's life, but he helped to give voice to issues of race that had not been heard. In preparation for this sad anniversary, I listened to King's last speech, *I Have Been to the Mountaintop*, yesterday on the 50th anniversary of its delivery, and was amazed at how timeless his message was. Martin Luther King, Jr. was truly a modern day prophet and martyr. As a man of God, he lived into the example of Jesus Christ by being willing to sacrifice everything so that the will of God could be done. He spoke truth to power and made himself an enemy of the status quo. Ultimately, this cost him his life.

While I mourn the loss that we re-experience today in remembering King's passing, I know that he was just as human and just as frail as anyone else. But he galvanized people of faith into a movement focused on peace and looking to respect all. The part of his last address that resonated with me most profoundly is this, "Strangely enough, I would turn to the Almighty, and say, 'If you allow me to live just a few years in the second half of the 20th century, I will be happy.' Now that's a strange statement to make, because the world is all messed up. The nation is sick. Trouble is in the land; confusion all around. That's a strange statement. But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars. And I see God working in this period of the twentieth century in a way that men, in some strange way, are responding." This got me thinking about today. Would we ask God to live in the first half of the twenty-first century? Would be willing to stand up for something in the same way? How would we live into the will of God for our world? Could we stand up for peace in the midst of hate? I invite you to ponder these questions as you go through your day today. May God give us the courage to do God's will even when it costs us something significant.

Peace,

Pastor Tom



From the desk of our Director of Connectional Ministries

Strengthen and Remember

By Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Everywhere our mission team went in the Democratic Republic of Congo, crowds of people met us waving palm branches and singing and dancing. The palm branches really looked more like limbs of palm trees, rather than the single leaf we give out in worship. To adorn the buildings where we stayed, the people wove palm branches together to create an arch. People ran before us (especially the children), walked beside us, and came behind us. The children brought me so many flowers that I took my sun hat off to collect them all. I did not want to drop a single bloom. The children also grabbed any open hand to walk together with us. The Congolese people could not believe that we gave of our money and our time to be with them. Because we came to them, they no longer felt invisible and forgotten, by us or by God. Bishop Johnson had warned us: "You are going to feel like rock stars by the welcome we will get."



Yet I realized this past Sunday, that I will never experience Palm Sunday the same again. I can now imagine the joy of the people welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem. I can imagine the hope that his presence brought to them. I can imagine people getting swept up in the excitement of it all. I can also imagine the renewed strength this greeting would bring Jesus, as he continued to walk his way toward the cross. We who celebrate Holy Week understand the extremes Jesus endured, from its triumphal entry to the Last Supper, from betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane to the denial of the disciples, from the pain of the cross to the heartache of being abandoned by all but the women, from the finality of the grave to the hope of the empty tomb. Too quickly we blame the crowds for "praising him on Sunday and calling for his crucifixion on Friday." Yet the parade celebrated their genuine joy and hope that the world would be different because of Jesus.

We know, of course, that the world IS different because of Jesus. But, the Jerusalem crowds

cannot be blamed as the only ones who express frustration when God does not live up to our expectations. Although we may not directly call for Jesus to be crucified, we participate in his crucifixion daily. Before we join the disciples' hand-to-breast denial, "Surely not I, Lord?" let's not dismiss our own actions so hastily. When was the last time we judged a fellow Christian harshly because they disagreed with our own understanding of God or God's Word? When did we last abandon sisters and brothers in Christ because the cross of conflict became too painful? When have we betrayed our Christian community by whispering gossip in the night and pretending to kiss when we came together? When have we believed the lie of the finality of sin, with no hope for redemption, refusing even to begin the long road through forgiveness and reconciliation? Although we KNOW that Jesus changed the world through his life, death, and resurrection, we still allow fear to drive us away from the joy of praise to the cry of crucifixion.



Yet, Jesus calls us deeper this Holy Week. Two statements from the Congolese people also reflect Holy Week. When they prayed for us, they prayed for God to give us the strength not to get tired doing the work of Jesus. Following Jesus does exhaust us sometimes, and we all need a place we



can go to be celebrated, like our sisters and brothers in Christ in the Democratic Republic of Congo celebrated us. They also told us as we left: "Remember us." We heard it over and over. "Remember us." I remember countless times in Scripture where "God remembers" someone or a divine promise to someone and takes action. When we remember those in crisis around the world, we "remember" them and we bring them into the presence of Jesus.

However, I also recalled the thief on the cross, who said: "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom." Whenever we pray the Lord's Prayer, "Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," we can remember our Congolese sisters and brothers and all those around us torn apart by war or impacted by poverty and injustice. May we remember them not only in our words, but in our actions, as we partner with God to make the Divine Realm a reality, where one

day, all will be fed and know peace and be healed, through the power of Jesus Christ. As we live toward that day, we trust that we will one day become "Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today's world."

Feeding the Hungry Event

On Saturday, April 7th, volunteers from CWC and our community will pack 100,000 meals! Please consider Sponsoring this event, and coming out to help us pack meals.

In 2017 we had numerous volunteers and sponsors who participated:

To the City of Harrington for the use of their Fork Lift.

To local business' who helped financially make this happen:

Calvary Wesleyan Church
Global Aid Network
CPR-Cell Phone Repair
HK Griffith
Blue Hen Construction Schiff Farm, INC
Collins Mechanical
All American Electric Services
Felton Holly Kia
All-Span, INC
Melvin Funeral Home
All-Star Embroidery and Screen
RS Bauer HVAC
The Bowers Group
Cooks Tire Center

As well to the churches who came and participated:

Newark Wesleyan Church
Trinity Wesleyan of Dover
The River of Roxanna
New Life of Greensboro, MD
and others!

We couldn't do this without all of you

If you would like to sign up, please go to the following link:

<http://www.calvarywesleyan.org/missions/>

COASTAL & CONCERTS
WORLD-CLASS CLASSICAL MUSIC

Musical Perspectives

Maestro Roman Pawlowski & friends
present

THE WORLD OF PERCUSSION MUSIC



3:00 pm Saturday April 7, 2018

Avenue Church, 20 N. Church St., Milford, DE

FREE admission. Call 1-888-212-6458 or

executivedirector@coastalconcerts.org for information.

Reception follows the presentation.

DELAWARE[®] HOSPICE

1982 *35th Anniversary* 2017

Volunteers Needed

- Patient Care Volunteers
- Vet to Vet Volunteers
- Fundraising Volunteers
 - Office Volunteers
- Memory Bear Seamstresses

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, 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Don, Pat and the entire Fisher family, Brian Reph, Kirsten Pearce, Vicki Shultes' dad, Barbara Horsman, 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, 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, Family and friends of Felix Chichocki, John Shea, Peter Muise, Christopher, Sue and Dave Stratton, Dan Hagopian, The healing of all people, Karen Haug, Sister Mary, Laura Vaughan, The Zimmerman and Gries families, James Gorlich All those who have lost loved ones this year to death, Alan Jester, Lillie Brittingham, Jean Layton, Judy Brown, and Paul Burton.

Rejoice with: Charlie Fleetwood, Charles Harding, and All of God's children who are freed through Christ's resurrection.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Please join Robert Mercer and his family in celebrating his **105th** birthday on **April 20th** by sending a card to 1175 McKee Road, Room 103, Dover, DE 19904.

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

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.

HELP WANTED! AVENUE GREETER TEAM

You've probably noticed over the past few months, there's a friendly greeter to welcome you to church. The Avenue Greeter team needs your help. We're inviting you to join and help serve in this ministry. No experience needed, just a friendly smile and some of your time (a few Sunday mornings throughout the year). If you're interested, we invite you to speak with any of our greeters to better understand our mission. Register today, there's a signup sheet on the lobby table.

HELP WANTED! AVENUE PROJECTION ASSISTANCE

We are in need of projection assistance Sunday's at 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. services. If you are interested there is a signup sheet on the lobby table.

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: 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 Holzmüller Room. On **April 4th** 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 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

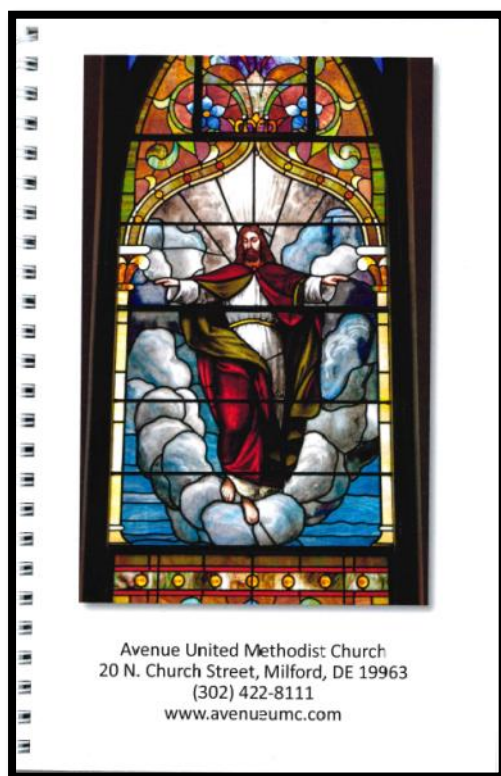
MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: We are in need of cereal (not pre-sweetened please). Thank You!

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
7:00		45
8:00	60	90
9:30	185	274
Sunday School	68	90
11:00	77	134
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	432	633

2018 Attendance totals are for Easter Sunday Service.

**Avenue Church Directories are available at the church office.
Cost: \$10**



CALENDAR

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

MONDAY 4/9

9:00 a.m. Hospital Aux. Meeting,
 Grier Room
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group,
 Grier Room
 4:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting
 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, Sanctuary

TUESDAY 4/10

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. Finance Comm. Meeting,
 Grier Room

WEDNESDAY 4/11

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,
 Holzmueeller Room
 7:00 p.m. Esther Circle Meeting, Musiic Room

THURSDAY 4/12

8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,
 Conference Room
 9:00 a.m. DCOM, Heritage & Holzmueeller Room
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 6:30 p.m. Committee Meeting, Grier Room

FRIDAY 4/13

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 4/14

9:00 a.m. SLT Workshop, Sanctuary
 1:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony—Nicholas
 Slonacher, Fellowship Hall
 2:00 p.m. Compassionate Care Hospice, Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 4/15

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 , Baptism
 12:00 p.m. Neeman Bapstim Brunch,
 Fellowship Hall
 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club, Grier Room
 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall
 and Wesley Room