

The Midweek

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

If you have environmental allergies, you may be struggling right now. I know I am. It seems that I have a constant stuffy nose and my eyes are always watering. On the days when my head feels like a balloon, the pollen and other stuff floating in the air can make me dizzy.

I realize that if this is my biggest health issue, I am a very lucky woman. Even though it's not a life-threatening problem, I still ask God to get me through the symptoms and put me on the other side of the sniffling and sneezing.

And I also know that even though it's not a major problem, God has my "sinus annoyance" in His capable hands. Jeremiah 30: 17 says, "For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord."

There are a lot of people on the prayer list these days and the medical concerns that are listed are much worse than allergies. There are some people that will not be healed in this life from the maladies they

have. For those who know Christ as Savior however, all the illnesses, issues and brokenness will be fixed in God's eternal kingdom no matter how big or small the affliction. That promise of healing is one of the great gifts of the resurrection.

To God be the glory forever and ever.



• If you know of anyone who is graduating, please get that information to the church office as soon as possible.



From the desk of our Bishop

Let us rejoice in our United Methodist heritage By Bishop Peggy A. Johnson



United Methodist Heritage Sunday this year falls on May 20. That is also Pentecost Sunday, giving the day a double-heritage significance, since that is when we celebrate the birth of Christ's church.

Speaking of births, however, I invite us all to begin our United Methodist heritage celebration a month early, on Sunday, April 22, in order to commemorate the birth of our denomination from merger and reorganization 50 years ago. That labor-intensive birth happened on April 23, 1968. But it came after nearly a decade of prayerful



negotiations, General Conference legislation and prevenient mergers of racially segregated annual conferences—like ours—until the glorious day of delivery when we finally became The United Methodist Church.

The Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church—both



denominations being offspring of earlier mergers themselves. The new denomination abolished Methodism's Central Jurisdiction, created in 1939 to unify and segregate annual conferences with predominantly black churches and members across the nation, like our former Delaware Annual Conference.

So, in 1968 and in the years that followed, after a history of divisions and dubious mergers, we finally got it right, for the most part. Getting it right meant reorganizing

churchwide agencies and creating legislation and special commissions to monitor our still-unfinished journey toward racial and gender equity and denominational inclusiveness. For that same journey and others, it also meant creating special programs and funds, Special Sunday offerings and eventually, missional priorities.



It meant—and it still means—living into our divine call to manifest integrity, generosity, grace and other bedrock Christian values, as we strive to become what our own annual conference approved as its vision statement in 2017: *United in Christ, Committed to Transformation.*

We are 50 years old as a denomination this year, and we have made much progress. But there is much more to be done. I pray that our life expectancy, our arc in history, is long, with

no end in sight, and that it will forever bend toward justice, in James Russell Lowell's famous words.

The year 1968 was one of emergent change, not only in our church, but across our nation and throughout society. There was turbulent racial conflict, violence in our streets, war, protests and questions about the relevancy of the church.

The Rev. Dr. Albert C. Outler, a prominent theologian at the time, cast a vision for the Uniting Conference in his address on the morning of our merger ceremony. He called for the new church to be steadfast in unity and committed to ecumenism and evangelism in word and deed. He also stressed the need for the church to reform itself from being an insulated institution to actively demonstrating the presence of the living Christ.



In order to reform, he said, we needed to be "...a church united in order to be uniting, a church repentant in order to be a church redemptive, a church 'cruciform' in order to manifest God's triumphant agony for mankind (sic)." When he finished, the 10,000 people at Dallas Memorial Auditorium gave him a prolonged standing ovation.



Dr. Outler's call is still with us today as we celebrate 50 years of United Methodism. If each one of us would take to heart these principles of unity, ecumenism, evangelism and reform, we could become the church that our founders envisioned many years ago, as they sought to spread "scriptural holiness" across the land.

"This is the day the Lord has made," said Outler.

"Let us really rejoice and be glad in it—glad for the new chance God now gives us."

Indeed, for the next month, from April 22 through May 20, and for months and years to come, let us really rejoice and be glad in this faithful, if not faultless, heritage we share as United Methodists. Let us clothe ourselves in love, seeking always to be transformed as those redeemed through grace. And let us be glad for our unity in a Christ who "binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14). Yes, glad "for the new chance God now gives us."

Please read and share these recent accounts, resources and ideas to help celebrate our United Methodist history, as we celebrate 50 years together. Also, be sure to view the compelling, 11-minute historical video that shares diverse views on the in 1968 merger of the EUB and Methodist denominations and related concerns.

<u>The United Methodist Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Historic Merger</u> <u>Amid tumult of 1968, a church came together</u> <u>Uniting Conference sermon still talked about</u> <u>Formation of The United Methodist Church</u> <u>"JUBILEE": The 50th Anniversary of The UM Church</u> <u>VIDEO: Proclamation of and Responses to EUB-Methodist Union, 1968</u>

Also, UM News Service will publish a story at <u>www.umc.org</u> this week on the end of the segregated Central Jurisdiction in 1968, and later a story on the creation of the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR). They will finish their UMC 50th anniversary series on Monday, April 23, with a story about people who were at the 1968 Uniting Conference.



Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

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

SPRING POPS CONCERT

A Western Theme featuring the phenomenal 1812 Overture Finale

Sunday, April 29, 2018 @ 3:00 p.m.

Dover Downs Rollins Center

Route 13, Dover

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,

At the door, Or Call 302-270-1903

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Delaware Division of the **rts**



This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the <u>Delaware Division of the Arts</u>, a state agency, In partnership with the <u>National Endowment for the Arts</u>. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on <u>www.DelawareScene.com</u>.



Celebration of the National Day of Prayer at the Park May 3rd at 6pm at Bicentennial Park 102 NW Front St. Milford, DE.

All are welcome to come to pray for our Community, Leaders, Country & our families. Bring your own chair, rain or shine.

> This event is sponsored by Milford Area Ministerial Association.

Southern Delaware Chorale presents

SIMPLE GIFTS A 32-Year Celebration Retrospective

Reprising works by Bernstein, Berlin, Copland, Fauré, Gershwin, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Verdi, Whitacre and others

Dr. Colin Armstrong, Artistic Director and Conductor

Sunday, May 6, 2018

3 p.m.

Epworth United Methodist Church Holland Glade Rd, Rehoboth Beach, DE

Adult: \$20; Student: \$8

Advance ticket purchase available by phone at **302-260-7022**; at Browsewabout Books in Rehoboth Beach, or Puzzles in Lewes; online at southerndelawarechorale.org, or, space permitting, at the door.

Delaware Division of the

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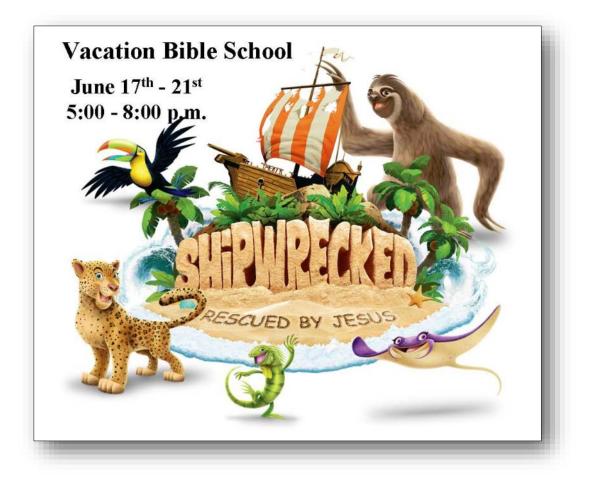






UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Leadership Team Meeting—May 1st at 7:00 p.m. in Carpenter Room
- Scholarship Comm. Meeting—May 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in Carpenter Room
- **VBS Meeting** May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- Emmaus Gathering—May 6th at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- **VBS Meeting**—May 14th at 6:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- **Church Council Meeting**—May 16th at 7:00 p.m . In Sanctuary



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: Paul Burton, Bill and Jill Gustin, The family and friends of Lillie Brittingham, Jean Layton's mother who passed away on Friday, Jean Layton, Merry Hutchman, Craig, Brian Reph, Kirsten Pearce, Colleen Dunham, Don, Pat and the entire Fisher family, Barbara Horsman, Linda Breedlove, Peggy Hughes, Ray, Terry and family, Jennifer, Chris and family, Rick, Kelly and family, The Hughes family, Richard Bergez, Dave Reynolds, Brandon and the Gladish family, Brandon, Katie and the baby, Jack and Zelda McDuff, Greg Brennan Jack Fitzgerald, The family and friends of Gary Logan, Mary Bergez's father, who passed away last week, Beth Judy, The staff and ministries of Avenue UMC, Aubrie, Walt, Jessica and Dave's unborn baby girl, John and Sandy Sigrist, Bill Gaskill and Rebecca Robinson.

Rejoice with: The confirmation class of Londonderry UMC in Londonderry, NH as they travel home .

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: All the students and adults who participate in Fusion, family and friends of Rebecca Robinson, family and friends of Donna Munyon, family and friends of Marjorie Patton, Leslee, Jean Layton, Rick Vaughan, Kirsten Pearce, Christopher, everyone with relationship issues, successful and peaceful talks with North Korea, Larry Jameson, Barbara Ball, Ruth Layne, David Lamb, Mark Wiederholt, Vladimir Osipov, Yuri Nadolny, Val and Bob Randolph, all of God's special and unique children, Beth N., Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, Bill and Jill Gustin, Brian Reph, the entire Fisher family, Greg Brennan, Linda Breedlove, the family and friends of the woman killed on Southwest Flight 1380, Alan Jester, Gene Bottoms and family, families and friends of the victims of the Waffle House shooting, Ken Keller, Heba and her mother, Courtney, Cole and family, Kelly Keller and family, Jessica, Brandon, John Siegrist, a patient and family preparing for a medical procedure, William, and Ron Payne.

Recently hospitalized: Holly Maloney

Rejoice with: All those involved with the Emmaus weekend, everyone who got to be part of Youth Sunday, Kyle and Kayla Clark, and the Rutt family.

Sincere thanks to the many friends of Avenue who blessed my father, Robert Mercer with birthday greetings.—Kaye Majoch

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

Parker and Maxine Turner will celebrate their 55th anniversary on April 28th.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

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 <u>churchoffice@avenueumc.com</u> 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 13**th, 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.**

THE 2018 PAUL RIMMER MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Rimmer Scholarship was established at Avenue Church in memory of Paul Rimmer who was an outstanding church musician. This scholarship is designed to assist students in grades 7-11 with musical training. One scholarship is awarded yearly, on Sunday, May 13st at the 8:00 a.m. worship service.

The scholarship is awarded to a student who is:

- 1) currently in $7^{\text{th}} 11^{\text{th}}$ grade,
- 2) currently or has recently been involved in the Music Ministries of Avenue Church,
- 3) willing to use his or her musical talents in the ministry of Avenue Church.

The Scholarship is \$500 which will be paid to a music teacher or music school on your behalf.

Applications are available in the church office. Please return completed applications to the church office by **Friday**, **May 4**, **2018**. Please contact Kevin Chamberlain for more information.

VBS Meeting: 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.

HELP WANTED! COMMUNION COORDINATORS: We are in need of individuals to schedule communion servers for the 11:00 a.m. services. If you are interested please talk to Pastor Tom.

SPAIN GRANT PROGRAM—CAMP PECOMETH on **Sunday, May 6**th, during each of our worship services, we will remembering the life of Ralph Spain. As part of his legacy, we will be taking a special offering to support the Spain Grant program at Camp Pecometh. Please help us by contributing to this special offering.

LUNCHEON AND PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR: On Sunday, May 20th, at Noon in Fellowship Hall there will be a seminar on planned giving and estate planning. Dave Buchanan, development director of Pecometh, and Kathleen Hawkins, financial advisor from Merrill-Lynch, will give a presentation, with discussion. Topics covered will be:

- What is planned giving?
- The New Tax laws and their implications
- Giving through IRAs and other vehicles
- Why do estate planning?
- Outright gifts of cash, securities, or personal property.
- Wills and bequests
- Insurance policies
- Charitable Gift Annuities

This program is sponsored by Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministries as a service to Avenue UMC and its ministries.

2018 YARD SALE: The Yard Sale is coming soon! Be sure to save your treasures! We will be serving neighbors and folks recommended to us. **New hours for workers July 23rd – July**

30th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. weekdays. No weekends except for Sunday, July 22nd after 11:00 a.m. church service to setup. Shoes will be accepted this year.

WHAT IS THE BIG CANDLE IN THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY?

This is the Paschal candle. It is one of the most sacred and enduring elements in Christianity. It is adorned with one or more Christian symbols, often the cross to represent His redemptive sacrifice; symbols of grapes, for the Eucharist - the true presence of Christ and our spiritual strength; and the Lamb of God, which is Christ.

The Paschal candle is a rich symbol of our faith. It reaches its pinnacle at Easter. Each year on Easter Sunday it is the first candle lit. The "new" fire serves as an image of the Resurrection. The candle, which represents Christ himself, is placed on a special Paschal candle stand near the altar. This candle, also called the Easter Candle, originated in the earliest days of Christianity, when evening prayer began with the lighting of a candle. This practice was probably inspired by the Jewish custom of lighting a lamp at the conclusion of the Sabbath.

In the time of Constantine, we are told by the historian Eusebius that the emperor "transformed the night of the sacred Easter Vigil into the brilliancy of day, by lighting throughout the whole city pillars of wax, so that this mystic vigil was rendered brighter than the brightest daylight."

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 May 14th at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our study: "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado. 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 on **May 1**st in the **Grier Room at 10:00 a.m.**

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmueller Room. On April 25th we will continue exploring the Bible. To register, please call Josh Willey at (302) 422-8952.

EXPLORING FAITH BOOK will continue our study on Sunday, **May 20, 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 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.

KNIT/CROCHET GROUP: All the scarf kits have been picked up. As the scarves are finished, please turn them into the office for placement where needed. The current project is making

6"x 9" rectangles, either crocheted or knitted, using worsted yarn, to be used in laprobes for the Veterans Home. Any questions, please call Mary Lou Sheaffer or Carolyn Humes.

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: <u>www.avenuepreschool.org</u>. SPACE IS LIMITED.

COMMUNITY

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Lions Club is having a food drive for the Milford Community Pantry on May 5^{th} (8:30 a.m. -3:00 p.m.) at the church. We need helpers to sort and box donations. If you can help please contact Tita Lewis or Diane Dolan.

COMMUNITY EVENT: Like to support **the Arc of Delaware**, a non-profit agency which supports and offers programs to approximately 25,000 Delaware citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families? Then lace up your sneakers and be part of the team or donate to the Avenue U.M.C. team on **May 5th** for the **18th annual 5K/ 1Mile Run**, **Walk and Roll** through beautiful Wild Quail Country Club, Wyoming, Delaware. Registration forms and sigh up sheet is on Fellowship Foyer table. Pre-register for \$25.00 until April 28th and \$30.00 after. Come support this wonderful cause.

MOTHER'S DAY is just around the corner and we are accepting donations for carnations in loving memory or honor of our mothers. Special Mother's Day envelopes are in the pews and the Church Office. Carnations are **\$5.00** per stem. Proceeds will benefit the Parish Purse. All orders need to be placed no later than **May 9**th so the names can be listed in the

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE			
Attendance:	2017	2018	
8:00	68	66	
9:30	154	188	
Sunday School	67	83	
11:00	62	65	
FUSION	37	30	
Total	388	432	

worship folder on Mother's Day. If you have any questions call Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 4/29

8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship
10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Appreciation Brunch,
	Fellowship Hall
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.	Pat Fisher Piano Recital, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	FUSION, Fellowship Hall
_	and Wesley Room
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<u>MONDAY</u> 4/30

9:00 a.m.	Hospital Aux. Meeting, Grier Room
11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room
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- 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 5/1

9:30 a.m.	Archives Comm. Meeting,
	Archives Room
10.00	\mathbf{O} , \mathbf{O} , \mathbf{D} , \mathbf{D} , \mathbf{O} , \mathbf{D}

- 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. Webleos Den, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting, Carpenter Room

WEDNESDAY 5/2

SLT Meeting, Fellowship Hall
Diabetes Prevention Program,
Heritage Room
Knitting Group, Grier Room
Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202
AveNotes, Music Room
Civil Air Patrol, Grier Room
Pride of Delmarva,
Fellowship Hall
Scholarship Meeting,
Carpenter Room
Disciple 1 Class, Holzmueller Room

THURSDAY 5/3

8:30 a.m.	Men's Reunion Group,
	Conference Room
11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room
2:15 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,
	Room 202
6:00 p.m.	VBS Meeting, Grier Room
6:00 p.m.	National Day of Prayer,
	Bicentennial Park
6:30 p.m.	Bear Den Meeting, Wesley Room

<u>FRIDAY</u> 5/4

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 5/5

8:00 a.m.	Lions Club Food Drive, Music Room
4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class Dinner,
	Fellowship Hall
7.00	

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 5/6 ~ Communion

8:00 a.m.	Fraditional	Worship
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- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Emmaus Gathering, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room