



## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, May 2, 2018*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

Once again, my dear friend from Kansas, Pastor Heidi, wrote a beautiful monthly meditation that I feel compelled to share with you. Here is her take on the season of Pentecost to come. To God be the glory forever and ever.

Some people are morning people, and some people are evening people. When I was a child, my bed was next to an east-facing window. I remember waking to the first bird calls, and then, feeling the first rays of the morning sun gently cross my pillow. Oh, how I love the morning! Now, I listen for the cardinal's morning melody. How do they know that the sun is surely rising soon? And then, I watch for the sun's rays as they first breach the horizon. Perhaps the difference in my appreciation of the morning now, is that I like to turn my back to the sun, and watch the rays march across the prairie or down the mountainsides. I appreciate the soft morning light in the western sky as it changes the clouds from a soft pink to a peach against the blue sky revealing all the hues of the land or waters that welcome it. The sun seems to take its time to awaken each blade of grass, each creature, each wave, each ripple, each rock and each grain of sand in their turns.

Fifty years ago I wrote a song entitled, "My Mother's Garden." It came from thinking about Jesus' revolutionary idea expressed in the Sermon on the Mount: "You have heard it said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his

sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust (Matthew 5: 43-45 RSV). The last refrain of the song went like this: “For God sends down the rain and the sun to water and warm all the garden.”

Ascension Thursday and Pentecost will soon be upon us, so you may be wondering where I am going with this meditation on mornings. It seems to me that we do not need to worry sentimentally about the comings and goings of the sun or the rain, for, as Christians, God’s lovingkindness is the constant in our lives. We are free to greet each day with grateful hearts and understand in the core of our being that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). As the writer of Lamentations said, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning” (Lamentations 3:22-23 NRSV). What we can do, is to appreciate God’s creation, and more importantly, our being in it. Even more, like the psalmist, we can find the joy in it, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 119:24 NRSV). Or like the morning birds, we can exclaim, “Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn” (Psalm 57:8 NRSV).

God’s love is eternal, divinely mysterious, unchanging, and passionately active in our lives as communicated through his only begotten son, Jesus. “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:10 NIV). As we are grateful for each morning, and for the knowledge that God loves us more than we can ever understand through the gift of His Son, it seems that we cannot help but to serve Him. As we learn to love one another, we find that God abides in us. Perhaps we do not even recognize the actions that come from our gratitude for God’s love; but far more than the actions that we devise ourselves, the actions coming from our gratitude are the proof of God’s grace acting to heal and restore us. As the psalmist expressed, “If I take the wings of the morning, and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast” (Psalms 139: 9-10 NRSV). Each morning, we can feel blessed by Christ’s ascension, the descent of the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, and the inclusion of all mankind in the outpouring of God’s love.

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 .....*

## Fruit of the Peace Tree

*By Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith*

My favorite moment came from an unplanned part of the ceremony. Isn't that how God frequently works? This past Sunday, at Camp Pecometh, the Peninsula-Delaware Conference held a Peace Tree Ceremony with the six Native tribes in our area: Lenape, Nanticoke, Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Accohannock, Assateague, and Nause Waiwash. During the 2016 Annual Conference of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, we opened our worship with a time of confession and repentance toward our Native brothers and sisters, and we promised to continue to walk this journey with specific actions. As part of worship, our Conference leaders made specific promises to walk in this path of repentance and reconciliation and we also chose the symbol of the Peace Tree. After that worship service, we planted the Peace Tree (a white pine) at Pecometh and began to plan a ceremony involving the tree.



We recognize that reconciliation involves a journey of a thousand steps. This Peace Tree Ceremony will be an additional marker of that journey. We pray that the Peace Tree will serve as a reminder that relationships take time and that they must be nurtured and fertilized and watered in order to grow. We recommit ourselves to building, healing, and restoring these relationships.





The Tree of Peace symbol arose from the Iroquois Nations. The five tribes had been at war on and off for over five centuries. Creator sent a man who preached the good news of peace. He eventually convinced the tribes to commit their lives to peace. Bringing the tribes together, he dug up a white pine as a Tree of Peace. Underneath that tree flowed a deep river. At its roots, he had the tribes lay down their weapons, letting them fall into the river below to be carried deep into the earth. As he replanted the pine, he instructed the tribes that they had “buried the hatchet,” and therefore committed themselves to peace.

During the ceremony, the Bishop and Cabinet members read words written on sticks. These words have become weapons, further injuring our Native sisters and brothers. The words included various massacres (and particularly the Sand Creek Massacre, where a Methodist pastor killed over 200 Native women and children), boarding schools (The Methodist Church ran 14 of the 150 boarding schools during that era), the taking of Native lands and territories, the forced relocation of Natives, the forced assimilation into European culture, the Doctrine of Discovery, the use of mascots such



as the Redskins, rape, and a multitude of health crises such as a three-fold risk of suicide among Native young people as compared to the national average, higher poverty, lower education, higher incidence of diabetes and tuberculosis. As we read each “weapon” aloud, we dropped them into a basket. The pastor holding the basket, Rev. Shane Moran, then dumped them into the hole next to the Peace Tree.

When Pastor Shane picked up the shovel and began to bury the weapons, the Cabinet had been instructed to just stand there. However, I saw a second shovel. I picked it up and asked Pastor Shane if I could help. He agreed and I shoveled some of the dirt into the hole. It felt good burying those hurtful events.



It felt as if we were truly putting them to rest and committing ourselves to a time of mutual peace. After a few shovels, I looked up and noticed the rest of the Cabinet standing behind me. They, too, wanted to participate in burying those hurtful words and weapons. I watched as each member took a turn at the shovel. After just committing ourselves verbally to continue this journey of reconciliation, we acted out our dedication to work against remaining injustices by burying the hatchet of words.

We had not planned for that moment. Yet, the Spirit showed up, offering us a beautiful moment of acting out the promises we had made. I thought of how the whole process reflected our Conference Vision and Mission.

In conversations with tribal leaders, listening to their pain and triumph, we became **“Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today’s world.”** Through our actions, we “Connected” to God and one another; we “Acted” to prevent repeating past mistakes; we “Led” the way in demonstrating to the world that reconciliation takes time and commitment; and we “Loved” one another through repentance and forgiveness. In that way, we also **“Cultivated Christ communities through our CALL—Connecting, Acting, Leading, and Loving.”** Where have you seen the Spirit show up in your life recently? Open your eyes! Look in those unexpected moments. Jesus will appear. He is risen!

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



★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

**UNITY**

**EPHESIANS 4:3**

MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE UNITY  
OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE.

**MAY 3, 2018**

**#PRAY4UNITY**  
**NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG**



**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](http://southerndelawarechorale.org), or, space permitting, at the door.



This organization 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 DelawareScene.com.





# THE MISPELLION CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *assistant director/accompanist*

*presents* 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Concert



**Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

Avenue United Methodist Church  
20 N. Church Street ~ Milford, Delaware

For more information (302) 422-2785  
[themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com](mailto:themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com)

NO admission ~ Handicap accessible  
Donations benefit Mispillion Children's Chorus



*Celebrating 50 years*

Sunday, May 20, 2018

2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Old Families, Current Families and New Families come and share memories and enjoy a great time together!

Bouncy House

Popcorn

Face Painting

MomentUM Band

Story Teller and Much More





AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS  
•THE MUSIC SCHOOL OF DELAWARE•

# A Breath of Spring

Brahms Horn Trio, Op. 40, 1st & 2nd mvt.

Grieg Violin Sonata No. 3, Op. 45

Selections of songs and arias

**TUESDAY, MAY 15 at 7:30 PM**

AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 20 N CHURCH STREET, MILFORD

Dr. Colin Armstrong bass baritone, Amos Fayette violin,  
Sara Hoffman horn, Georgiana Ibach accompanist, Liliya Maslov piano,  
Augustine Mercante countertenor, Marybeth Miller soprano, Joanne Ward soprano

ADMISSION IS FREE!

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Programs are 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](http://www.DelawareScene.com).



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# UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Scholarship Comm. Meeting**—May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Carpenter Room
- **VBS Meeting** - May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- **Emmaus Gathering**—May 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- **VBS Meeting**—May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- **Church Council Meeting**—May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Music Room





*Be part of a*  
***GREETER TEAM!!***

Sign up sheet on the table  
in the Foyer

**Help us welcome visitors and guests**



## *An Evening with the Piano Dudes*



The Auxiliary of Milford Memorial Hospital invites you and your friends to join us for An Evening with the Piano Dudes. The event will include entertainment and dessert; cash bar.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased from any Auxiliary member. For more information, please contact Tita Lewis at 302-236-6616.

MAY 19  
6 - 9 P.M.

RIVERFRONT  
THEATER,  
MILFORD

2 S. WALNUT  
STREET

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Join us at **THE PALACE!**



for A Fund-Raising Event  
for Auxiliary of Milford Memorial

Have **LUNCH** or **DINNER**  
On the 2nd Monday of each month

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount  
equal to 15% of your total bill will be donated to:

**MMH Auxiliary**

Thank you for supporting the  
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Milford, DE 19963  
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April 2018



Greetings:

"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 NIV

On May 26, 2018 I will be departing for Cambodia. I cannot begin to tell you how thankful I am for you and all your prayers and financial support. Please know that you will be part of the ministry in Cambodia. I can not do this without you and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Since my last letter, I attended training at Mission Training International in Palmer Lake, Colorado. I participated with others preparing to leave for an extended season in a foreign country. During these four intense weeks we became a family, and they will forever have a special place in my heart.

The first two weeks of training involved language learning, covering such topics as; what to expect, a day in the life of a language learner, lifestyle of language learning, community and family language learning, motivation and morale, phonetics, and practice drills. At the conclusion, my confidence level for the ability to learn Khmer (Cambodian Language) increased significantly.

The following two weeks dealt with heart issues regarding transitioning, managing stress, communicating, grief & loss, embracing rest & keeping The Sabbath, and how to say goodbyes & hellos. Let me just say there were several tears shed during this time period. However, I feel more prepared for the challenges I will be facing. Being in rhythm with God and taking confidence in knowing His grace is sufficient will greatly aid my transitioning to Cambodia.

Meanwhile, I am finishing up a lot of loose ends here in the States and saying good goodbyes so that I can say good hellos when I arrive in Cambodia.

Speaking of good goodbyes, I would like to invite you to a special Commissioning Service which will be held May 20, 2018 at 9:30 AM at Lincoln United Methodist Church, which is my home church to send me forth. This will be my last Sunday in the United States for a season. It would greatly warm my heart if you could attend.

Again, on May 26, 2018 at 10:55 AM I will board Emirates flight EK232 from Dulles International Airport to Dubai International Airport (13-hour 10-minute flight). When I arrive in Dubai there will be a 90-minute layover before boarding Emirates flight EK388 to Phnom Penh International Airport (9-hour 10-minute flight).

Everything I currently know how to do will be coming to a halt once I arrive in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Therefore, I need your prayers. My goal for the first year is simply to survive and hold on tight to Jesus as I step out in complete faith. When I first arrive in Cambodia I will be staying in a hotel until I locate an apartment. I will also need to purchase a phone, get somewhat settled, figure out how to buy groceries, where or how to pay bills, find a language helper, get familiar with the area and begin language school on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In closing, I want to say thank you to all my partners and also inform you the address to TMS Global has changed. Their new address is TMS Global, P.O. Box 936559, Atlanta, GA 31193-6559. This is now a secured lock box to avoid theft. You can still give online as well at [TMS-Global.org/give](https://TMS-Global.org/give) – Designate tax-deductible gifts: Argo-3087. While in Cambodia letters will be sent via e-mail. Therefore, I need your e-mail address. Please e-mail your address to [carol.argo@hotmail.com](mailto:carol.argo@hotmail.com) or text to 302-242-5078 (prior to May 25<sup>th</sup>).

In Christ Love and Joy,

Carol Argo – CCW with TMS Global on "The Cambodian Road"

*(Carol)* ☺

BYE

## Avenue Local Photo Challenge

Two weeks ago the projectors in the sanctuary were replaced thanks to the generosity of a very special donor. The change has really made a positive difference in the visibility of the words and backgrounds that our projection techs use on Sunday mornings. Someone made the suggestion that we should use local pictures as backgrounds for our slide presentations, and we here at Avenue Church think it's a great idea. In honor of the new projectors and warmer temperatures, we are holding the first ever Avenue Photography Challenge!! So, grab your Nikons and iPhones and get out there and snap pictures of our community that we can use for worship. Send us pics of Abbotts Pond, Slaughter Beach, Bicentennial Park, Milford High School, whatever you think would look good on the screen. Submissions are due in via email ([churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com)) by Memorial Day (May 28<sup>th</sup>) and will be judged by a random group of people in the church office sometime that week. Winners will be announced during worship on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our photo contest winner will receive a cool gift basket including a church T-shirt and assorted Fusion swag. So, get snapping and help us fill up our worship photo library.



## 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:** 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.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** Leslee, Jean Layton, Kirsten Pearce, Christopher, Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, Bill and Jill Gustin, Brian Reph, Don and Pat and the entire Fisher family, Greg Brennan, Linda Breedlove, Grace Irish, Alan Jester, John Siegrist, Ron Payne, Jay Roosa, Anita Layfield, Mary Ellen, Liz, Walt Peters, Whatcoat UMC in Camden, and Hughes family and children.

**Recently hospitalized:** Jean Layton and Anita Layfield.

**Rejoice with:** The Rutt family, Bill Gaskill, Patrick Helmick, and those who are experiencing blessings seen and unseen.

**ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:**

**Richard and PJ Greene** who will celebrate their **57<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **May 5<sup>th</sup>**.



## **WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:**

### **♫Handbells**

Resume on Monday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♫MomentUM Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♫Misphillion 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**

**VIM MEETING:** We will have a VIM Meeting—Florida on **Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. in the Grier Room.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLES** are closing out their circle meetings this year with fellowship gatherings. **Esther Circle** will be meeting at Bonnie Glenn's home on **Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**. Bring a dish to share. **Additionally, Esther Circle** has generously opened their dinner to both of the other Circles, so Sarah, Mary/Martha, E-Circle and Esther Circle can gather together. **Sarah Circle** will be meeting at Ginny Clendaniel home on **Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am**. Bring your own sandwich. **Mary/Martha Circle** will be gathering on **Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Abbotts Grill for lunch at 12:30 pm**. Bring a guest and come enjoy some food and fellowship. A big **thanks** to Helen Holleger for her Sticky Note Ministry of sharing UMW Reading Program Books with each circle this winter. It was a highlight for all. We will resume next fall. Come join in our final fellowship meetings and watch for fall news.

### **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 13<sup>th</sup> at the 8:00 a.m. worship service.

The scholarship is awarded to a student who is:

- 1) currently in 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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<sup>th</sup>**, 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 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> – July 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. weekdays. No weekends except for Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**after 11:00 a.m. church service to setup. \*Only Clean—Like New 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **May 14<sup>th</sup>** 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 8<sup>th</sup> in the **Grier Room at 10:00 a.m.**

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** meets at 7:00 p.m. in the HolzmueLLer Room. On **May 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 lessons for May will be entitled “Give Praise to God.” The May 6<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Giving from a Generous Heart” based on Exodus 35:20-29; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; May 13<sup>th</sup>, “Bringing First Fruits” based on Leviticus 23:9-14, 22; May 20<sup>th</sup>, “Remembering with Joy” based on Leviticus 25:1-12; and May 27<sup>th</sup>, “Rejoicing in Restoration” based on Psalm 34:1-10; Hebrews 2:17-18. The Sunshine Bible Class meets at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. All 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 **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). **SPACE IS LIMITED.**

## **COMMUNITY**

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** The Lions Club is having a food drive for the Milford Community Pantry on May 5<sup>th</sup> (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 5<sup>th</sup>** for the **18th annual 5K/ 1Mile Run, Walk and Roll** through beautiful Wild Quail Country Club, Wyoming, Delaware. Registration forms and sign up sheet is on Fellowship Foyer table. Pre-register for \$25.00 until April 28<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup>** so the names can be listed in the worship folder on Mother’s Day. If you have any questions call Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

**MATTHEW PROJECT** is in need of Girls clothes (12 mos), crib and toys. Please call Joanne Burbage at (302) 422-6152. Thanks!

## **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	72	59
9:30	193	154
Sunday School	72	71
11:00	74	62
<b>FUSION</b>	39	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>380</b>

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY 5/6 ~ Communion

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir , 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
- 6:30 p.m. VIM Meeting, Grier Room

### MONDAY 5/7

- 9:00 a.m. Hospital Aux. Meeting, Grier Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley 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 5/8

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

### WEDNESDAY 5/9

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier 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 5/10

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,  
Conference Room
- 9:00 a.m. DCOM, Heritage Room and  
Holzmueller Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202

### FRIDAY 5/11

- 4:00 p.m. Odyssey of the Mind,  
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SATURDAY 5/12

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

### SUNDAY 5/13

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship