



The Midweek

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

“Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift He gave us in His dear Son.” (Ephesians 1:5)

Scripture is filled with verses about praising God and giving glory and thanksgiving to the Lord. We do that in prayer, through our devotions and while we undertake our personal spiritual disciplines. We do it in community during worship through the group prayers, the music and the message. But we also react individually while in community by the way we sing, pray and even how we raise our hands.

Some people are uncomfortable raising their hands in a public situation. There are others with shoulder or arm issues who can't do it. For most people however, they don't know why it happens.

In Exodus 17, we hear how Moses raised his hands to God in a symbol of surrender, trust and need as he was trying to protect the Israelites from the Amalekites. When his hands were up, the battle turned in their favor. Moses said to God through his raised hands that, “we can't do this alone. We need you God.” When we raise our hands in worship we also are telling God that we surrender our own wills and need the Lord's help. Biblically, raising hands is a sign of surrender.

But we also raise our hands in joy and delight. I was in Rehoboth a few weeks ago and saw a woman standing on the beach, both arms raised and tears streaming down her face. I went over and asked if she needed help, but she laughed and said no. She was just so overcome by the beauty of her first time seeing the ocean that she wanted to give glory to God for what He had created. She and I prayed together and then I left her to

enjoy the moment. Her hands were raised in awe and gratitude. We do the same during service when we lift our hands in joy to thank God for the blessings the Lord has given us.

There is a myriad of reasons while people raise their arms during worship and I'm sure you can come up with a list. Which reason do you have for raising your hands?

Whether you are home or in church, I invite you to get into the habit of raising your hands in surrender and love to the Lord. If you do it already than keep it up (no pun intended). If you have not done it in the past, start slowly and as you become more comfortable, raise those arms as the Spirit moves you to give God the glory and honor forever and ever.

(On a lighter note, if you want to have a good laugh over the subject of hand raising, I invite you to go to YouTube and watch Tim Hawkins' video on hand raises. Tim Hawkins is a Christian comedian that you can find by googling him or putting his name in the search bubble on YouTube. He also has a very funny video if you are a Led Zeppelin fan.)

Pastor King





From the desk of our Director of Connectional Ministries

Life in Transition

By Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Years ago, I gave my kids a caterpillar to butterfly kit. It came with several baby caterpillars and an enclosure to contain them and food. We carefully followed the directions and took great joy in watching the caterpillars eat and grow large. As they grew, they shed their skins and we found these skins inside the enclosure. After several weeks, the caterpillars began to spin their cocoons. We watched them hang themselves upside-down and create a complete sac around themselves, basically entombing their bodies from the outside world. Inside the cocoon, the caterpillar first digests its body parts, which later nourish the new parts of the butterfly. Only parts called imaginal discs remain from the original caterpillar. However, these discs contain the memories of the caterpillar as well as the design for the new butterfly.

Once the caterpillars transformed into butterflies inside the chrysalis, we watched them emerge. Three of the new butterflies emerged well and continued to hang upside down while their wings strengthened. The process of emerging helped send the blood to their new wings, but the wings need to harden a bit before they can fly. After a few hours of resting and stretching out their wings, the butterflies took flight. We watched them for a little while and then set them free.

One butterfly, however, struggled to emerge. We fought the urge to help him out. We had read that if you help cut a butterfly free, it will not strengthen its wings and it will die. The process of emerging, though a painful struggle, gets the blood flowing to the wings and strengthens the other muscles so that the butterfly can fly. We hated watching this little creature struggle so much. It finally got one wing out but the other one got stuck in the cocoon. As it hung upside down, the weight of the cocoon pulled off part of its wing. It would never be able to fly. We kept it in the enclosure and fed and watered it, but the butterfly did not live long.



I reflected on this memory as I prayed for all of the pastors and churches in transition right now. As pastors and churches grow together, they need to shed some of the practices which no longer bring life. Sometimes our churches get stuck because they refuse to shed ministries that no longer bear fruit. Without the ability to change, they will die. The churches and pastors with the courage to shed old practices continue to grow and change.

When the time comes, the Bishop and Cabinet appoint pastors to a new place of ministry. Before the pastors and churches can begin that new journey, however, they need to spin cocoons for a time of transition. They need to say goodbye to friends and parishioners. They need to reflect on what parts of ministry together that they can leave behind, including any resentments that need forgiveness or unfinished business that needs closure. As they let go of these aspects they no longer need, they allow them to become nourishment for the transition.

They also need to take time to consider all that the time together taught them and what aspects of ministry they want to carry forward with them to a ministry with a new pastor or a new church. Like the imaginal discs of the caterpillar that remain with the butterfly, we need to ensure that we carry forward any ways that God has shaped and changed us through our ministry together. These lessons strengthen us for our new appointment or pastor. We also need to take the time to rest, as hard as that is during transition. Before we rush into new relationships, we need to prepare our hearts to see Jesus in one another. So, we rest and let the love of Jesus flow like blood throughout our hearts and minds and souls and bodies. As we rest, we wait on the Lord who will renew our strength and prepare us to fly with Christ in our new ministry partnerships.

As you wait for this new season in ministry, whether your pastoral appointment is new or renewed, several resources can help. Here are a few:

[**"Eight Traps that Can Derail a Ministry in the First 90 Days"**](#)

[**"Fifty Ways to Improve Pastoral Transitions"**](#)

[**"Fifty Ways to Welcome a New Pastor"**](#)

[**"How Incoming Pastors Can Navigate the Chageover Zone"**](#)

[**"Passing the Baton to your Pastoral Successor"**](#)

We join all of our churches and pastors in prayer during this season. We pray for smooth transitions. We pray for gratitude for pastors and churches in transition. We pray for peace in knowing God's desire for us is to BE the church, no matter who is at the helm. We also pray that we will be "Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today's world."

AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Leadership Team Meeting

Minutes

May 1, 2018

Present: Robert Berglund, Jim Clendaniel, Pastor Tom Pasmore, Pastor Wendy Owen, Rob Craig, Beth Parker, Vaughn Webb

Absent: Ed Steiner, Jack Sheaffer

Guests: Jack Dickerson, Trustee

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Pastor Tom, and Pastor Wendy led the opening prayer.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Pastor Tom reported for SPRC since Jack Sheaffer could not attend. Things were quiet on the personnel front. Working on recruiting new members of the committee for the next year. Looking for opportunities to have the kids lead part of worship.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report was submitted by Chair, Bob Berglund. We had a very good first quarter, which does not include Easter since it fell on April 1. Things are going well. We have lost a number of significant givers to death and will be working to increase giving through the upcoming Planned Giving Seminar and Giving Campaign in the fall. The first quarter financials for 2017 and 2018 (P&L comparison) are attached for your review.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM are making a donation towards the Ralph Spain Camperships at Camp Pecometh, and will be handing out multiple Scout Scholarships this year on Scholarship Sunday, May 13.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW is looking for a new treasurer to backfill the amazing Jo Wood. Things are beginning to slow down for summer. Plans are underway for the spring Circle meetings and the kickoff Circle meetings in September. The UMW will be making a donation to the Ralph Spain Camperships at Camp Pecometh.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees have spent considerable time talking about Code Purple and the status of the emergency shelter in here at Avenue. There was significant fear about could happen if we had shelter guests wandering freely around the church building, especially with us also operating a preschool. *The Trustees recommend that Code Purple be allowed to continue to operate with the following stipulations: 1) All activities of the shelter be confined to Wesley Room and basement bathrooms. (Code Purple is not to use any other areas of the church.) 2) There be two overnight volunteers as much as possible. 3) All incoming guests be screened against the Sex Offender database and barred admittance if their name appears in this database. 4) No female overnight volunteers. (There will hopefully be opportunities for these women to volunteer at the women's and children's shelter here in Milford.) 5) Sussex County Code Purple would be required to sign a building usage contract. The Trustees felt that this balanced the need to help our homeless brothers against the need to help protect our property and parishioners. They will be bringing this motion to the next Church Council meeting to get approval from the Council to put these into effect.*

There are a number of issues with the HVAC units in each of the rooms. The Trustees will be working to retro fit the hot and cold control valves in each of the units. These have begun failing which is allowing hot and cold fluids to leak through the valves wasting energy and money. Work is slated to begin over the summer on this issue.

The trustees are also working on putting in a centralized control system for the units that would allow us to program them like we program the exterior church doors. This change could save significant amounts of money.

Chesapeake Utilities has received a grant from the City of Milford to run natural gas along NW Front St, and we plan to hook up when it is available. This will require new boilers, but should lower our fuel costs significantly.

Trustees are looking at new signage for NW Front Street including a digital sign that could be programed to display rotating messages.

Trustees are looking at maintenance free flooring for the Preschool wing.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Jack Dickerson reported that the safety committee is continuing their work. The greeter teams are up and running on Sunday morning and have been helpful in a variety of ways. John Horsman will be leading the greeting teams and providing guidance concerning emergency preparations.

The old Sunday School office has been converted to a base of operations for the greeter team. There have been some communications issues with some of the Greeter Teams are the Safety Committee is working to eliminate these issues.

PASTOR'S TIME

Pastor Tom has the set the annual Staff Retreat for the June 4-6 in Lewes. The Leadership Team will be invited into a session led by Rev. Dave Humphrey from Mariner's Bethel in Ocean View to help us in setting goals for the next two years. We are looking to use the same model that Mariner's has to reinvigorate the congregation and our mission.

Working with Greg Abbott to start Fellowship of Christian Athlete's dinners during the fall. Our hope is to get students to invite friends and parents to introduce them to Christ, and help those whose lives are consumed by sports and unable to get to Avenue to help set up and serve the dinner.

There is concern from the team about the challenges that we face as a congregation, including the opening of the satellite campus of United Church here in Milford. United is a very large church in Dover who is looking to expand here in Milford. This is especially troubling with the drop in attendance that we have seen in the past year. Please encourage one another to invite friends that we have not seen in church for any length of time.

Team recommended that we have an Avenue Photo Challenge to spark interest in the new projectors and bringing scenes from the local community into worship.

The team discussed the latest news that girls could now join Boy Scouts. Pastor Wendy, one of the Scout leaders, asked if Avenue Church as the sponsoring organization would be interested in allowing girls into Pack or Troop 186? After much discussion about the pros and cons of allowing girls to participate, the team felt lead to recommend to Church Council that they not be allowed into this Pack or Troop. Church Council will have to decide at our meeting next week whether to approve this recommendation or not. Once the decision is made, Troop and Pack 186 will be notified.

ADJOURNMENT:

Pastor Tom led the group in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

AUMC Profit and Loss				
January 1 - March 29, 2018				
	Total			
	Jan 1 - Mar 29, 2018	Jan 1 - Mar 29, 2017 (PY)	Change	
Income				
3000 Revenue/Receipts			0.00	
3010 Contributions for General Fund			0.00	
3010-10 Envelopes	161,227.00	154,028.75	7,198.25	
3010-15 Plate Donations	9,119.07	4,187.50	4,931.57	
3010-25 Initial for envelopes	630.00	607.00	23.00	
3010-30 Stock Contributions		2,736.90	-2,736.90	
3010-35 Christmas	265.00	15.00	250.00	
3010-45 Easter/Lent	1,095.50	122.50	973.00	
3010-50 Electronic deposits	13,602.00	15,423.00	-1,821.00	
3010-90 Music		180.00	-180.00	
Total 3010 Contributions for General Fund	\$ 185,938.57	\$ 177,300.65	\$ 8,637.92	
3015 Designated Ministries Income			0.00	
3015-30 Family ministries		192.00	-192.00	
3015-50 Flowers		-225.25	225.25	
3015-70 Youth/Fusion	760.00	280.00	480.00	
Total 3015 Designated Ministries Income	\$ 760.00	\$ 246.75	\$ 513.25	
3030 Sunday School	336.12	459.27	-123.15	
3040 Other Income			0.00	
3040-10 Building Use	697.00	785.00	-88.00	
3040-60 Pre-school	1,000.00		1,000.00	
3040-99 Miscellaneous	1,072.50	114.27	958.23	
Total 3040 Other Income	\$ 2,769.50	\$ 899.27	\$ 1,870.23	
3050 Transfers To Church GF	9,352.00		9,352.00	
3060 Investment balance changes	4,284.79	16,948.28	-12,663.49	
3070 Interest	425.69	441.23	-15.54	
3090 Journey of Faith	350.00	2,061.00	-1,711.00	
Total 3000 Revenue/Receipts	\$ 204,216.67	\$ 198,356.45	\$ 5,860.22	
Total Income	\$ 204,216.67	\$ 198,356.45	\$ 5,860.22	
Gross Profit	\$ 204,216.67	\$ 198,356.45	\$ 5,860.22	
Expenses				
5100 Sr Pastor			0.00	
5110 Salary	11,239.26	11,018.88	220.38	
5120 S S Allowance	1,259.76	1,234.98	24.78	
5130 Housing Allowance	5,227.50	5,125.02	102.48	
5140 Health Insurance	4,416.00	4,058.00	358.00	
5150 Pension & Disability	2,886.03	2,825.46	60.57	
5160 Expense Allowance	578.90	1,473.89	-894.99	
5170 Continuing Education	340.00		340.00	
Total 5100 Sr Pastor	\$ 25,947.45	\$ 25,736.23	\$ 211.22	
5200 Associate Pastor			0.00	
5210 Salary	9,690.00	9,499.98	190.02	
5220 S S Expense	1,033.98	1,013.76	20.22	
5230 Housing Allowance	3,825.00	3,750.00	75.00	

5240 Health Insurance	4,095.00	3,765.00	330.00
5250 Pension & Disability	2,386.08	2,339.19	46.89
5260 Expense Allowance	449.48	209.44	240.04
5270 Continuing Education	450.00	35.00	415.00
Total 5200 Associate Pastor	\$ 21,929.54	\$ 20,612.37	\$ 1,317.17
5300 Youth Pastor			0.00
5310 Salary	10,965.00	10,750.02	214.98
5320 S S Expense	838.85	822.37	16.48
5350 Pension	653.60	645.00	8.60
5360 Expense Allowance	222.62	624.10	-401.48
5370 Continuing Education		1,500.00	-1,500.00
Total 5300 Youth Pastor	\$ 12,680.07	\$ 14,341.49	-\$ 1,661.42
5400 Adminstrative Staff			0.00
5410 Secretary			0.00
5410.1 Secretary Salary	3,861.00	3,789.00	72.00
5410.2 S S Expense	295.38	289.86	5.52
5410.3 Pension	267.28	265.08	2.20
Total 5410 Secretary	\$ 4,423.66	\$ 4,343.94	\$ 79.72
5430 Custodian			0.00
5430.1 Salary	3,851.50	3,763.50	88.00
5430.2 S S expense	294.66	287.90	6.76
5430.3 Adminitstrative Staff Custodian Pension	179.28	179.28	0.00
Total 5430 Custodian	\$ 4,325.44	\$ 4,230.68	\$ 94.76
5440 Nursery Caretaker			0.00
5440.1 Salary	905.75	867.25	38.50
5440.2 S S Expense	69.30	66.34	2.96
Total 5440 Nursery Caretaker	\$ 975.05	\$ 933.59	\$ 41.46
Total 5400 Adminstrative Staff	\$ 9,724.15	\$ 9,508.21	\$ 215.94
5500 Ministry of Music			0.00
5510 Salary - Director	12,954.00	12,700.02	253.98
5520 S S Expense	991.00	971.55	19.45
5550 MUSIC DIRECTOR'S PENSION	769.62	762.00	7.62
5560 Music Director's expense allowance	804.41	1,113.18	-308.77
5570 Music Dir Continuing Ed	140.00	659.00	-519.00
Total 5500 Ministry of Music	\$ 15,659.03	\$ 16,205.75	-\$ 546.72
5600 Church Programs			0.00
5601 Youth Minister			0.00
5650 Expense Allowance		361.40	-361.40
Total 5601 Youth Minister	\$ 0.00	\$ 361.40	-\$ 361.40
5680 Programs & Ministry			0.00
5681 Adult Education	1,922.29	1,454.11	468.18
5681.5 Reimbursement-adult ed	-835.00	-666.00	-169.00
Total 5681 Adult Education	\$ 1,087.29	\$ 788.11	\$ 299.18
5682 Contemporary Worship	349.99	656.25	-306.26
5683 Education - Sunday School	452.08	39.00	413.08
5684 Evangelism	6.24		6.24
5686 Fellowship	664.30	368.64	295.66
5688 Connections			0.00

5688.1 Confirmation	381.82		381.82	
Total 5688 Connections	\$ 381.82	\$ 0.00	\$ 381.82	
5689 Communications	1,173.40	646.50	526.90	
5690 Missions	1,063.20	1,350.00	-286.80	
5691 Music	3,977.42	1,330.83	2,646.59	
5692 Scholarships	489.00		489.00	
5694 Vacation Bible School	170.13		170.13	
5695 Worship	24.68	705.58	-680.90	
5695.2 Upper Room	169.65	185.75	-16.10	
5695.3 New Service		16.75	-16.75	
5695.5 Flowers	100.00	9.99	90.01	
Total 5695 Worship	\$ 294.33	\$ 918.07	-\$ 623.74	
5697 Youth	6,589.39	1,548.73	5,040.66	
Total 5680 Programs & Ministry	\$ 16,698.59	\$ 7,646.13	\$ 9,052.46	
Total 5600 Church Programs	\$ 16,698.59	\$ 8,007.53	\$ 8,691.06	
5800 Buildings & Grounds - Everyday expenses			0.00	
5881 Cleaning Service			0.00	
5881-A Restroom supplies Contractor	1,349.08	759.53	589.55	
Total 5881 Cleaning Service	\$ 1,349.08	\$ 759.53	\$ 589.55	
5883 Electric, Sewer & Water			0.00	
5883-A Electric	3,857.62	3,723.55	134.07	
5883-B Sewer & Water	701.03	979.05	-278.02	
5883-C Trash Pick-up	615.00	600.00	15.00	
5883-D Utility tax	163.67	157.99	5.68	
Total 5883 Electric, Sewer & Water	\$ 5,337.32	\$ 5,460.59	-\$ 123.27	
5887 Church - Maintenance			0.00	
5887-20 Fire & safety - repair & maint	575.00	50.00	525.00	
5887-40 Elevator maintenance	198.08	187.03	11.05	
5887-50 HVAC Maintenance	903.50		903.50	
5887-60 Auto-Van	336.91	57.91	279.00	
5887-70 Building Maintenance	2,948.15	3,873.72	-925.57	
Total 5887 Church - Maintenance	\$ 4,961.64	\$ 4,168.66	\$ 792.98	
5891 Insurance			0.00	
5891-1 Property & Liability Ins	4,625.71	4,563.25	62.46	
5891-2 Workmans Comp	1,102.50	882.25	220.25	
5891-3 Van insurance	299.25	299.25	0.00	
Total 5891 Insurance	\$ 6,027.46	\$ 5,744.75	\$ 282.71	
5895 Technology	574.75	33.35	541.40	
5896 Kitchen Supplies	261.01	933.74	-672.73	
Total 5800 Buildings & Grounds - Everyday expenses	\$ 18,511.26	\$ 17,100.62	\$ 1,410.64	
5900 General & Administrative	25.00		25.00	
5910 Administrative	95.00	333.50	-238.50	
5920 Office Supplies & Expense	826.08	573.81	252.27	
5920.5 Office reimbursement	-216.00	-206.50	-9.50	
Total 5920 Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 610.08	\$ 367.31	\$ 242.77	
5922 Copier Lease	705.00	3,252.51	-2,547.51	
5923 Copier use and supplies	185.11	1,842.69	-1,657.58	
5925 Postage	346.66	174.85	171.81	

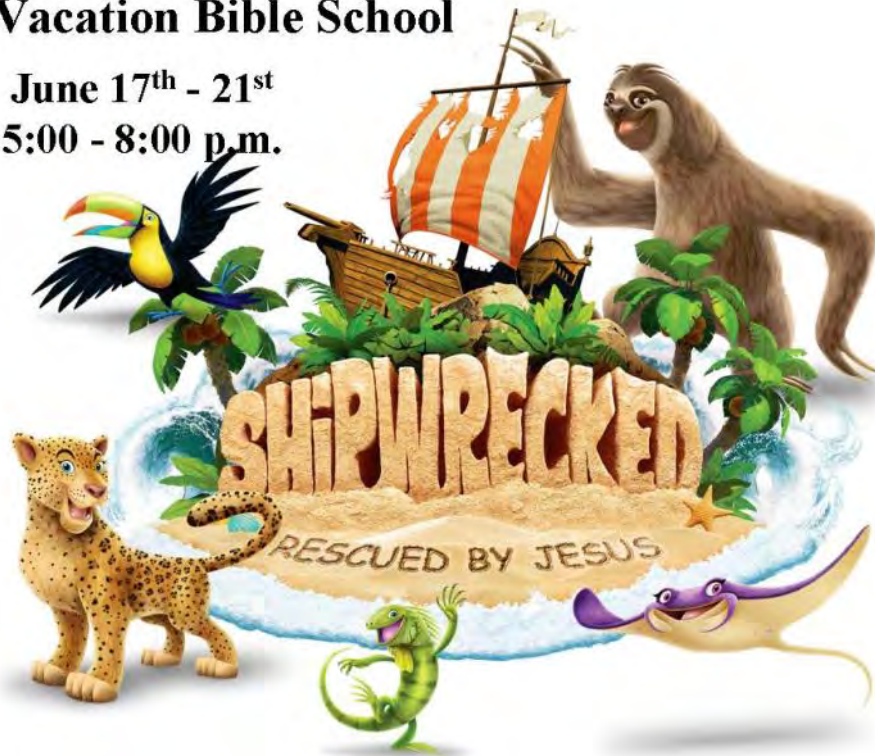
5925.5 Postage reimbursement		94.00	-94.00	
Total 5925 Postage	\$ 346.66	\$ 268.85	\$ 77.81	
5930 Telephone	1,612.88	1,313.33	299.55	
5935 Staff Development		116.00	-116.00	
5950 Secretarial			0.00	
5959 Pension Lurwick	450.00	450.00	0.00	
Total 5950 Secretarial	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 0.00	
Total 5900 General & Administrative	\$ 4,029.73	\$ 7,944.19	-\$ 3,914.46	
5911 Bank Charges	225.71	198.30	27.41	
5915 Ministry Works Payroll Charges	270.30	288.75	-18.45	
6000 Apportionments & District Office	24,000.00	19,978.40	4,021.60	
Total Expenses	\$ 149,675.83	\$ 139,921.84	\$ 9,753.99	
Net Operating Income	\$ 54,540.84	\$ 58,434.61	-\$ 3,893.77	
Net Income	\$ 54,540.84	\$ 58,434.61	-\$ 3,893.77	

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **VBS Meeting**—May 14th at 6:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- **Church Council Meeting**—May 16th at 7:00 p.m. in Music Room
- **Trustees Meeting**—May 21st at 7:00 p.m. in Grier Room

Vacation Bible School

June 17th - 21st
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



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!

SEASON
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THE MISPELLION CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *assistant director/accompanist*

presents 4th Annual Spring Concert



Friday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m.

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

For more information (302) 422-2785
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



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

EVENT BENEFITS
BAYHEALTH

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
Auxiliary of Milford Memorial

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Milford, DE 19963
302-441-2070
www.MilfordPalace.com





Be part of a
GREETER TEAM!!

Sign up sheet on the table
in the Foyer

Help us welcome visitors and guests

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) by Memorial Day (May 28th) 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 3rd. 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: 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The Fisher family, Brian Reph, Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, Steve LaMotte and family, the Emmaus team and pilgrims, Elaine Willey, a co-worker, Zeek's mom, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, the Hughes family, Morgan, Diane W., Jim D., Carson, Cole and family, Courtney, SueEllen and her mom, Penny Gillespie, Craig, all mothers who have lost a child, Kelly Biesel Williams, Wayne Billings, Kevin Mitchell, Pat Crabb, Jean Layton, Anita Layfield, Bill and Jill Gustin, Robert Mercer, Grace Irish, Linda Breedlove, Susan Newark, Jack Sheaffer, Paige, Jenika Dietrich, Leslee, Alan Jester, John Siegrist, Ron Payne, Liz, Mary Ellen, and Karlyn.

Rejoice with: All who have an opportunity to serve, Greg and Carole Brennan.

Recently hospitalized: Walt Peters, Jay Roosa, and Charlie Harding .

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

Ernest and Lorraine Donovan who will celebrate their **58th** anniversary on **May 21st**.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♫**Handbells**

Resume on Monday, Sept. 10th 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

Resume on Wednesday, September 5th 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

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 9th 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 15th at 11:30 am.** Bring your own sandwich. **Mary/Martha Circle** will be gathering on **Tuesday, May 22nd 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.

VBS Meeting: On **Monday, May 14th** 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 sign-up sheet on the lobby table.

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.

YARD SALE MEETING: Our next yard sale meeting will be on **June 6th at 9:30 a.m.** in the Grier Room.

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. *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."

SUNDAY WORSHIP AND SAFETY

Our greeter teams wanted to remind everyone that on Sunday mornings during worship all the doors, except for the main entrance facing the Milford Women's Club, will be locked from 10 minutes after the service starts until 10 minutes before the service ends. This is being done for all of our safety, and to limit ingress from anyone wishing to cause our parishioners harm. If you have any questions about this policy or want more information, please contact the trustees, the safety team, or the church office. We will try to get you an answer as quickly as we can.

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 finish 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 15th** in the **Grier Room at 10:00 a.m.**

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmuehler Room. On **May 9th** 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 13th, "Bringing First Fruits" based on Leviticus 23:9-14, 22; May 20th, "Remembering with Joy" based on Leviticus 25:1-12; and May 27th, "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 lap robes 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. 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.**

COMMUNITY

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	68	70
9:30	264	140
Sunday School	76	65
11:00	73	50
FUSION	36	0
Total	517	325

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 5/13 ~ Scholarship Sunday

- 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

MONDAY 5/14

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. VBS Meeting, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Tiger Den Meeting, Nursery
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

TUESDAY 5/15

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 11:30 a.m. Sarah Circle Meeting at Ginny Clendaniel's residence
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Laity—Dover District, Grier 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
- 7:30 p.m. Music Masters II, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 5/16

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 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, Holzmuehler Room
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Music Room

THURSDAY 5/17

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Odyssey of the Mind Paint Night, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Committee Meeting, Grier Room

FRIDAY 5/18

- 4:00 p.m. Odyssey of the Mind, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus Concert, Sanctuary

SATURDAY 5/19

- 8:00 a.m. Young People's Congo, Nursery, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 5/20 ~ Confirmation

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Confirmation
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class Brunch, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Planned Giving Seminar, Fellowship Hall
- 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club, Grier Room
- 2:00 p.m. Preschool 50th Anniversary Celebration—Outside
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room and Fellowship Hall