



## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, May 16, 2018*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

I love my college alma mater. I am a proud Nittany Lion from Penn State, as many of you know but recently the university did something that made me wonder if every member of the trustees had lost their mind.

When I was at Penn State, we had a very active outing club. It was made up of six “sub-clubs” that included the camping/hiking, ski, spelunking, rock climbing, kayaking and scuba clubs. As a sophomore, I became president of the ski club and in my junior year took over as president of the entire outing club. The main objective of each sub-club was to offer instruction to beginners in each sport, and trip or “outings” for the more advanced members. It was a great way to learn new skills or spend time improving the sports you already were involved with.

So, imagine my shock and disbelief when the university decided that the outing club could no longer “go out” and do anything that took the members beyond cell phone range. For those of you who think I am kidding...well I wish I was. Feel free to Google the whole thing. The National Review did a particularly good story on the situation.

The Club is almost 100 years old and for most of those years everyone involved was out of cell phone range because we didn’t have cell phones. What a shock

to find out that when I was hiking or camping back in the late 80's we were at risk by not having the ability to connect instantly to emergency services.

Everyone has their comfort zone but stepping out of it can provide big rewards. For those in the outing club, it's the chance to disconnect and participate in activities that are relaxing and a good diversion from the daily stress. For the Apostles, leaving their lives and families behind gave them the opportunity to learn at the feet of Jesus and spread the good news of salvation.

Scripture gives us numerous admonitions "to go" without any suggestion that we do it in a safe, risk-free way. Mark 16:15 tells us to "go into the world and preach the gospel to all." We hear, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit," in John 15:16. And of course, the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19 tells us, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

I can't imagine Jesus saying we should all stay home because we can't go beyond cell phone coverage. As Christians, we are directed "to go" but when we do, we know that God is with us. Joshua 1:9 commands us to "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

I think it's time to send the Penn State trustees a Bible.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

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 .....

## Pray for the Women

*By Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith*

At the close of our Welcome Reception in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the women clergy came forward with a special presentation to Bishop Peggy Johnson. Not deemed “worthy” enough for the main ceremony, they came undaunted by that insult. They gave Bishop Johnson a gift in honor of the work that she does and, more importantly, of the hope that she brings them. Maybe one day, they said, even Africa will elect a female bishop. You could see the yearning in their expressions: yearning to have their gifts for ministry accepted and celebrated, yearning to serve God with all of their hearts and souls and minds and strengths without hindrance due to their gender.

Contrast that with another reception the bishop received, this one from a church where she went to preach. The church leaders there presented her with a wooden statue of a woman bowing down at a man’s feet. They told her that her husband is the head of her and she serves him. They clearly made their point: they did not respect her leadership as a woman.

Later, when we visited the pastors’ school, we saw very few women clergy. We also learned that every new pastor gets sent out to start their own church when they finish their training. Can you imagine the challenge of these women, who receive no respect in their communities, trying to plant a new faith community? I admire their courage and sense of calling that is strong enough to overcome such discrimination.

Imagine, then, the feelings of disappointment in The United Methodist Church, whose conferences failed to pass an amendment stating that “men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God.” This amendment stated that “maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies, not the divine,” and promised that The United Methodist Church would “seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large.” We, in the United States, tend to assume the truth of these statements, and our privilege blinds us to the detrimental impact of failing to pass this amendment. It passed in all of the Annual Conferences by 66.5%, just short of the two-thirds majority needed.



Sadly, in Central Congo, the amendment received NO votes in support. My heart breaks for those faithful female pastors who still withstand much discrimination and abuse at the hands of men. Our Peninsula-Delaware Conference supported the amendment overwhelmingly, by 260-18. I very much appreciate the statement that support makes, declaring women as having equal value to men in the eyes of God.

However, because of my time in the DRC, I cannot sit back in the midst of my privilege while my sisters in other parts of the world suffer. I have added to my daily prayer a request for guidance on how to respond. How can I support my sisters in Christ around the world? How does God call me to support, in particular, my clergy sisters in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

I invite you to join me in this prayer effort, as you feel led. Perhaps, by praying together, God will reveal to us a way to tangibly demonstrate our support of women around the world. Maybe we can



support the fresh water wells being dug in the DRC. Women spend hours each day traveling to a river to carry murky water back to their homes. Clean water from wells saves women hours of work each day. Additionally, the clean water prevents so much disease. Our Congo Partnership, supported by your apportionments and by the special offering we take at Annual Conference, paid for a drill to be shipped up country to dig wells for very isolated communities. While there, we witnessed the workers striking water and celebrated as the fresh water began to flow out. What if we pooled our resources enough to

purchase a drill to keep up country, traveling from village to village to provide clean water? Then, we would be living out our vision of **“Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today’s world,”** as we provide both fresh water and the Living Water of Jesus Christ. Please join me in prayer and let’s see what God has in mind.

Blessings on the journey,

*Vicki*

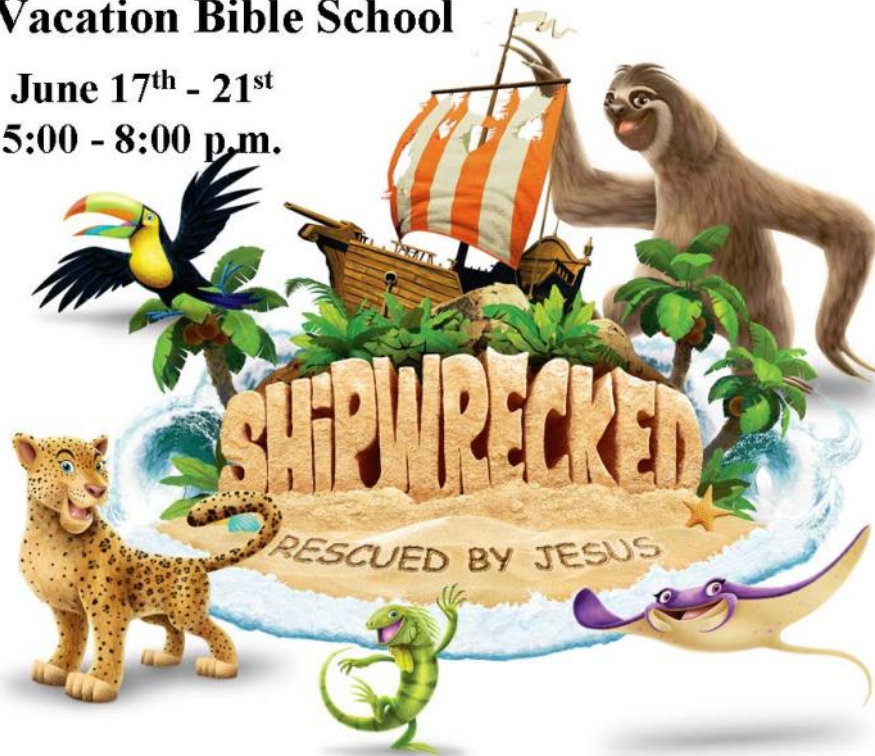


# UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Church Council Meeting**—May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Music Room
- **Trustees Meeting**—May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- **Nominations Meeting**—May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- **VBS Meeting**—May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Grier Room

## Vacation Bible School

June 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



# 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



## *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

**The Palace**  
556 S. Dupont Blvd.  
Milford, DE 19963  
302-441-2070  
[www.MilfordPalace.com](http://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](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:** 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.

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

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

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Fire Chief Marvin B. Hitch, The family and friends of Clifford W. Haack, The family and friends of Bob Currie, Larry Fortner, Dot Sophos, Don, Pat and the entire Fisher family, Brian Reph, Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, Steve LaMotte and family, Emmaus team and pilgrims for the May weekend, Elaine Willey, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, The Hughes family and children, Cole and family, Penny Gillespie, Craig, For all Mothers who have lost a child, Kelly Biesel Williams, Jean Layton, Anita Layfield, Bill and Jill Gustin, Grace Irish, Linda Breedlove, Susan Newark, Paige, Leslee, Alan Jester, John Siegrist, Ron Payne, Robert Mercer, Jim D., Diane W., People who are in hospitals, Mary, Mary Kate, Charlie Harding, Gene Topolski, Gillian Parsons, Traveling mercies for Nancy, Anita Joseph's sister, and her husband and Alma Brittingham.

**Rejoice with:** All who have an opportunity to serve, All mother's biological or otherwise, The Brennan's and Morgan Robert's as she leads worship at Orchard.

**Recently hospitalized:** Jay Roosa, Charlie Harding and Gillian Parsons.

**ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:**

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

**Sonny and Donna Meck** who will celebrate their **50<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **May 23<sup>rd</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

### **♫Mispillion 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 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

### **♫AveNotes**

Resume on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 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**

**2018 VBS:** Shipwrecked VBS (Vacation Bible School), kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. We would love children preschool age to 6<sup>th</sup> grade to come see how Jesus can change lives. Youth Week will be held at the same time for any 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school students (6<sup>th</sup> graders get to choose which they want to be a part of).

**Mark your calendars as Shipwrecked VBS starts on Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>- Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Dinner is at 5pm for your family (adult required to stay with child until 5:45), VBS starts at 5:50pm and ends promptly at 8pm each evening.**

New this year, you can register on-line. Use the link below or pick up a form at church to fill out. If you have any questions, contact the church office (302) 422-8111 or Sarah Pasmore at (302) 841-3143.

[Shipwrecked: Rescued By Jesus](#)

**UNITED METHODIST 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.

**VBS Meeting:** On **Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 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.

**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.

**YARD SALE MEETING:** Our next yard sale meeting will be on **June 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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. ☺**

## **WHY RED?**

As we celebrated high holy days of Easter, we enjoyed the beautiful white paraments which symbolize purity, holiness and virtue. Now we move into the season of Pentecost, and change the color of the paraments to red. The color of fire, red symbolizes the presence of God.

The symbols on the altar paraments are the initials, I H S, the first three letters of the Greek spelling of the Holy Name of Jesus. This is the symbol of the Holy Name of Jesus.

The Patonce Crosses on each side of I H S have expanded ends, with three petals on each arm.

The three petals represent the Trinity, and the total of twelve petals represent the Apostles. The Crosses on the lectern and pulpit are also Patonce crosses.

## **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.

**SUMMER SEND OFF** will be on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

## **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 **June 11<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will be meeting on **June 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>** in the **Grier Room at 10:00 a.m.** 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.

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** meets at 7:00 p.m. in the HolzmueLLer Room. On **May 16<sup>th</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." 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 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 **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>. 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**

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



## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY 5/20 ~ Confirmation**

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship,  
Confirmation
- 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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration—Outside
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room and  
Fellowship Hall

### **MONDAY 5/21**

- 11:00 a.m. Preschool Graduation,  
Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Grier Room

### **TUESDAY 5/22**

- 11:00 a.m. Preschool Graduation,  
Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle Meeting at  
Abbotts Grill
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pack Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,  
Wesley Room

### **WEDNESDAY 5/23**

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Civil Air Patrol, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holzmueller Room

### **THURSDAY 5/24**

- 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

### **FRIDAY 5/25**

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

### **SATURDAY 5/26**

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

### **SUNDAY 5/27**

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