



The Midweek

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I can't get over the feeling that I need more than 24 hours in a day. I realize that if there were more, say 28 hours in a day, that I would just fill them up and decide I need still more...like 36 hours in a day. The secret to my day needs to be working smarter and more efficiently, not trying to cram more into my already crazed calendar. As a friend pointed out to me when I was lamenting about how nutty my weeks can get, I have the exact same number of hours in the day that Helen Keller, Jonas Salk and Marie Currie had in their days. Or if you want to make it more current, I have the same number of hours in my day that Mary Barra, Elon Musk and Bill Gates have in their days.

God is always perfect and the Lord made the day to be 24 hours long. I am not going to debate God's choice of timing therefore the reason I don't get more done has to be my issue. The Dalai Lama reminds me of that also as one of his quotes hangs on my refrigerator. He said, "There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live."

Would it not be wonderful if we took full advantage of the time we are given in this world to live, do and love? Scripture tells us to make good use of our time in Ephesians 5: 15-16 for it says, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time."

The best use of our time is follow the teachings of Christ and find ways to be His hands and feet in this world. I find myself humbled by what our missionary teams have done to take days away from home and serve others. What an amazing witness to the love of Jesus. Jesus always has time for us. We need to make the best use of our time for Him as well.

To God be the glory for all time, forever and ever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **VBS Meeting**—May 30th at 6:30 p.m. in Grier Room
- **Leadership Team Meeting**—June 5th at 9:30 a.m.—Location: TBA
- **Yard Sale Meeting**—June 6th at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room
- **VBS Meeting**—June 7th at 6:30 p.m. in Grier Room



From the desk of our Director of Connectional Ministries

Mutual Ministry

By Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Twenty-five years ago on June 13, Bishop Susan Morrison ordained me. Every year at the Ordination Service, I think back and remember my experience. I remember how young I was, how naïve, how optimistic, how hopeful. I remember my deep desire to throw my whole self into ministry—heart and soul and mind and strength. And, when I remember, I renew my sense of calling, my sense of hope, my desire to serve. I’ve experienced enough pain and suffering in the church and in the world that I no longer remain naïve; and yet, I’ve also seen the miraculous power of the love of Jesus transform lives, bringing healing and forgiveness and reconciliation beyond human ability.

One special memory from my ordination took place when Bishop Morrison washed our feet. If you’ve ever had your feet washed in a worship service, you know the intimacy, the humility, the strong sense of love conveyed through that act. The symbol of episcopal power kneeling at the feet of the newly ordained pastors communicated the essence of servant leadership and set a wonderful model for us to follow in our ministry. The symbol also highlights our theme for Annual Conference this year: Leading as Followers of the Way. Jesus himself washed his disciples’ feet and called them to do the same. So, as we follow Jesus more closely, our leadership will more accurately reflect this divine leadership style of laying down our lives for others.

At Annual Conference this year, we will again commission and ordain new clergy leaders. We will elect new clergy and lay leaders for the conference teams and celebrate the ministry of the laity in partnership with the clergy. At the Ordination Service, we also remember that God calls ALL baptized followers of Jesus into ministry. We celebrate the ministry of each person through their specific roles: ordained elders and deacons, commissioned elders and deacons, local pastors, certified lay ministers, lay servants, and the ministry of the laity. God intends for all of these parts to work together for the good of the whole body, as we support one another and help each other grow.

In conversation about supporting one another at a Board of Ordained Ministry meeting last fall, we decided to ask people, and in particular, elders, to consider supporting a person attending Licensing School by paying for their books. This year, each participant must purchase their own books, which adds to the expense of Licensing School. Many who attend Licensing School will serve as part-time Local Pastors, many of whom are bi-vocational, meaning that they have other jobs and that they already have to take a week off from work to attend the school. Wouldn't it be a wonderful sign of mutual ministry support, and an example of servant leadership, if elders paid for the books of those attending Licensing School? Several people and an individual church have already supported this effort!

So, we invite you to pray for those who are attending Licensing School, for those who are being ordained, for those being commissioned, and for all who share this journey of ministry. I know they will appreciate the prayer support and the moral support. Participating in this support will also strengthen the bonds between us as a connectional church. Let's join together in this way. As we do, we will be witnessing to our vision of becoming "Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today's world."





Be part of a
GREETER TEAM!!

Sign up sheet on the table
in the Foyer

Help us welcome visitors and guests

A person is seen from behind, with their arms raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. They are standing against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon and clouds illuminated in shades of orange, yellow, and green. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt.

Barratt's Chapel

THURSDAY'S 7-8 PM

Summer Series

JUNE 7 — BISHOP PEGGY A. JOHNSON
JUNE 14 — REV. JAMES WHITTAKER, WAUGH CHAPEL
JUNE 21 — REV. EARLE BAKER, BETHEL UMC
JUNE 28 — REV. ED KUHLING, GRACE UMC
JULY 12 — SINGING AND PRAYING BAND OF MARYLAND & DELAWARE
JULY 19 — PASTOR JANICE HERMAN, FRIENDSHIP UMC
JULY 26 — REV. KARIN TUNNEL, ST. PAUL'S UMC

REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITAL VISITS: Please help the pastors by calling the church office at (302) 422-8111 when someone from the church is hospitalized.

ELECTRONIC GIVING is being offered at Avenue Church. An *Information Sheet with Authorization Agreement* is available on the table in Fellowship Foyer. Simply fill out the authorization agreement and return it to the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you want to reserve a Sunday please call the church office then call Milford Plant, Flower and Garden Shop at (302) 422-4961. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK: The family and friends of Bob Currie, the family and friends of Bonnie Walls, the victims of the school shooting in Texas, everyone impacted by the volcanic activity in Hawaii, Larry Fortner and his daughter, Jennifer Miller and family, Dot Sophos, the Fisher family, Brian Reph, Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, the Emmaus team and pilgrims, Elaine Willey, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, the Hughes family and children, Cole and family, Craig, Sandy Wooliford, Jean Layton, Anita Layfield, Bill and Jill Gustin, Grace Irish, Mary Kate, Anne, Emily, Linda Breedlove, Susan Newark, Leslee, Alan Jester, Alma Brittingham, Louisa Combs, Ruth Callaway, Georgia Owen, Walter Elliott, Merry, Mary Ellen, David Johnson, and Sister Mary.

Recently hospitalized: Holly Maloney

Rejoice with: Liam, Annaliese, Donny, Seth, the Florida missionaries, all graduates, Charlie Harding, Jay Roosa, Penny Gillespie, Harry and Meghan, all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month, the hospital auxiliary, all participating in spring concerts, and Finn McPherson.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Bonnie Walls, The victims of the school shooting in Sante Fe, Texas, Everyone impacted by the volcano activity in Hawaii, Jennifer Miller, Don, Pat and the entire Fisher family, Brian Reph, Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, Christopher, Holly Maloney, Kirsten Pearce, The Hughes family and children, Cole and family, Craig, Bobby Walls, Jean Layton, Anita Layfield, Bill and Jill Gustin, Jacob Hudson, Family and friends who have lost a loved one in the military, Carolyn Evans, Family members with serious health problems, Katie May, Keith, Mary Kate, Anne, Emily, Katie H, Linda Breedlove, Susan Newark, Leslee, Alan Jester, Louisa Combs, Ruth Callaway, Georgia Owen, Carlton Goodhand, Louis Blanc, Yury Nadolny and the \$3000 PayPal Thief.

Rejoice with: For all celebrating wedding anniversaries and birthdays this month, Sarah Craig, Those who received unexpected blessings and David and Linda Sockrider who will celebrate their 49th anniversary on June 1st.

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

♪**Misplion Children's Chorus**

Resume on Tuesday, September 4th 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**

Resume on Wednesday, September 5th, 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 6th grade to come see how Jesus can change lives. Youth Week will be held at the same time for any 6th grade through high school students (6th graders get to choose which they want to be a part of).

Mark your calendars as Shipwrecked VBS starts on Sunday June 17th- Thursday June 21st. 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](#)

VBS Meeting: On **Wednesday, May 30th** 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.

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. ☺

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.

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 **June 11th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS’ BIBLE STUDY: We will be meeting on **June 5th and 19th** 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 Holzmuehler Room. On **May 30th** we will continue exploring the Bible. To register, please call Josh Willey at (302) 422-8952.

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.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS will meet each Sunday during the summer at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. The summer lessons will focus on justice as presented in the New Testament. June's lessons will be "God is Just and Merciful." On June 3rd the lesson is "Justice and the Sabbath Laws" based on Matthew 12:1-14; June 10th, "Parables of God's Just Kingdom" based on Matthew 13:24-33; June 17th, "Jesus Teaches About Justice" based on

Matthew 15:1-9; and June 24th, "Reaping God's Justice" based on Luke 16:19-31. Plan to attend as many of these lessons as you can.

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

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: Let's make the 3rd Sunday of this month boxed macaroni and cheese for Food Pantry Sunday.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	44	45
9:30	152	171
Sunday School	17	38
11:00	68	65
FUSION	0	0
Total	281	319

FATHER'S DAY is just around the corner and we are accepting donations for carnations in loving memory or honor our fathers. Envelopes are in the pews. Carnations are \$5.00 per stem and proceeds will benefit the Parish Purse. All orders need to be placed no later than June 12th so they can be added to the bulletin for Father's Day. If you have any questions call Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 6/3 ~ Communion

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,
Grier Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272,
Heritage Room
- 4:00 p.m. Concert Series: Music School
Recital, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. FUSION Summer Send Off

MONDAY 6/4

- 9:00 a.m. Hospital Aux. Meeting,
Grier Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley 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 6/5

- 9:30 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting—
Location TBA
- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Wesley Room

WEDNESDAY 6/6

- 9:30 a.m. Yard Sale Meeting, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202

THURSDAY 6/7

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,
Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. VBS Meeting, Grier Room

FRIDAY 6/8

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

SATURDAY 6/9

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

SUNDAY 6/10

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