

The Midweek

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I was recently in a card store and I saw a birthday card that said, "If grapefruit can have its own day than your birthday deserves at least a week." It was a cute sentiment and I get the point. As I write this on July 18, I am aware that it is National Caviar Day. September 29 is National Coffee Day which is an appropriate day for my wedding since my first date with Michael was at Starbucks. November 5 is National Love Your Red Hair Day. That is one I'll be celebrating with very few people.

However, my favorite day of the year for recognizing those "special days" may possibly be August 15 which is designated as National Relaxation Day. I personally think if any one theme should be a week (or longer), it should be that one. How about National Relaxation Month?

There is one thing that should be recognized every day however, and that is Jesus. Even if we are diligent at showing up in worship on Sundays, we need to make our Savior someone we celebrate every day of every month of every year. One day a week is not enough.

Revelation 4:11 says "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

The God who has created all, who has saved us from death, and is walking with us through every moment of our lives deserves our love, praise and acknowledgement each and every day. For to Him belongs the glory and honor forever and ever.

The Commission on a Way Forward and the upcoming Special General Conference in the United Methodist Church

The Commission on a Way Forward was constituted at the last General Conference of the United Methodist Church in May 2016. It was assembled to study the way that the church could minister to all people even with very different views of human sexuality and homosexuality across the connection of the church. The Commission has brought together persons deeply committed to the future(s) of The United Methodist Church, with an openness to developing new relationships with each other and exploring the potential future(s) of our denomination in light of General Conference and subsequent annual, jurisdictional and central conference actions.

We have a profound hope and confidence in the Triune God, and yet we acknowledge that we do this work in a climate of skepticism and distrust, from a human point of view. We are a connection, and we admit that our communion is strained; yet much transformative mission across our world is the fruit of our collaboration.

The matters of human sexuality and unity are the presenting issues for a deeper conversation that surfaces different ways of interpreting Scripture and theological tradition. The work has been meant to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the Council of Bishops in their service to the next General Conference in finding a way forward.

Bishop Schol of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference has written a letter to the church which is below. It articulates well the positions of the Council of Bishops about the various plans that were developed by the Commission. Bishop Schol wrote this:

The Commission with input from the Council of Bishops completed its work and sent the full report, more than 100 pages to the staff of the General Conference for translation and release to the church. In addition to the Commission's report, additional legislation related to homosexuality has been sent by churches, individuals and groups and also must be translated. It will be months until the translation is complete.

What seemed appropriate to the Bishops, translate the one report by July 8, is unrealistic with the additional legislation.

I recognize how important this material is not only for the General Conference delegates but for all United Methodists as we seek to discuss, understand and pray for the way forward of our beloved United Methodist Church. I regret that a commitment was made that in hindsight was not realistic.

The Commission's report outlines three proposals and their variations include:

1. **The Traditionalist Plan:** Strengthen the existing language about homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and create swift and strong punishment of anyone that does not follow the Book of Discipline. It also provides exit plans for churches who no longer feel the United Methodist Church represents their values.

The Council of Bishops is not recommending this model because it will create disruption, church trials and pain for individuals and congregations that would distract us from our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Bishops also do not believe or want to encourage "exit plans" that encourage people to leave the church because they do not agree with an aspect of the church. The Bishops believe we are stronger and healthier through our differences, not by dividing the church.

2. **The Connectional Conference Plan:** Create a Connectional Conference Model for the church which allows congregations to decide to be a part of one of three "branches"/conferences in the United States - progressive, centrist or conservative. Each of these conferences could modify the Book of Discipline and align church practices to their theology and understanding. Present annual conferences and even congregations could choose different "branches"/conferences.

The Council of Bishops is not recommending this model to the General Conference. A similar model was created in 1939 which separated a majority of African Americans and the rest of the church into distinct conferences. It was finally disbanded in 1968 and caused lasting pain to many in our denomination. It would not be helpful for us to be separate but equal, separating us by theology and segregating gays and lesbians. It would also require years to implement, maybe as many as 10 years and that would detract us from the mission of Jesus Christ and focus us on institutional matters. In essence, this plan creates three denominations within a denomination.

- 3. **The One Church Plan:** Create a One Church Plan that allows:
 - Congregations to decide their marriage policies.
 - Pastors to determine who they will marry.
 - Boards of Ordained Ministry and clergy executive sessions to determine fit and readiness for ministry.

The Council of Bishops is recommending this model to the General Conference because it preserves appropriate local decision-making and does not require congregations to think and act alike. It preserves our unity in the midst of differences, allows for contextualization and provides the least disruption to the mission of Jesus Christ.

This proposal represents the Bishops' best discernment around these critical and sensitive matters. The Bishops request that you intentionally and purposefully pray for our church as we enter into this season of deliberation and discernment.

I recognize there will be United Methodists that will not be in agreement with the proposed plan by the Bishops. Some will find it hard to be in a church that allows discrimination against gays and lesbians. Others will not accept that parts of our denomination will allow congregations, pastors and conferences to make their own decisions about marriage and leadership for the church that may include gays and lesbians. I recognize the Bishops' recommendation will generate different feelings and opinions. I humbly ask you to stay open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in the church and in your life. I hope that while we may not all think alike, we will all love as Jesus loved.

Regardless of the outcome of the 2019 Special General Conference, I pledge to you to be your bishop, a bishop of the whole church. The Special General Conference could adopt or modify one of the plans listed above or make no change at all. I cannot not envision United Methodists in Greater New Jersey not gathering and serving together in one Annual Conference. We are united in common purpose and we continue to be graceful in our disagreements.

If there is change, I will not make appointments or lead in a way that seeks to change your mind about homosexuality. Each of us arrives at various beliefs based on our experiences, understandings and convictions. If General Conference does not make any changes to our Book of Discipline, I will continue to lead in our mission and respect our clergy and laity serving contextually in their ministry with their community.

I call us to stay focused on our mission, to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to grow vital congregations to transform the world. Let's not allow differences to deter us from serving Christ in and through our congregations. We have made great progress and God has a future with hope for us.

Thank you for being United Methodist, for your commitment to Jesus Christ and for your service to the church and the world. In the midst of the vast diversity found within our United Methodist Church, the Bishops continue to work for the unity of the church and long for each of us to BE OF ONE HEART in our desire to discern the mind and will of Jesus Christ for the mission of our church.

Keep the faith! John Schol, Bishop The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

Church Council Minutes from May 16, 2018

Present: Pastor Tom Pasmore, Pastor Wendy Owen (acting secretary), Carolyn Humes, Jack Dickerson, Jack Sheaffer, Vaughn Webb, Mike Swain, Jim Clendaniel, Bob Berglund, Sarah Pasmore.

Jack Dickerson led us in the opening prayer

The minutes from the last Leadership Team meeting from May 1, 2018 were distributed. There were no questions.

Administrative Reports

Finance:

The 1st quarter budget was met. Expenses are in line. Monthly giving is being watched closely because of the passing of several large givers. Cash is good. The funds in the money market are higher than the liabilities.

The discussion of Jo Wood's estate funds included a proposal to open an account specifically for these funds. Jim Clendaniel was authorized to act on behalf of the church in all matters related to the banking and investment accounts. Jim agreed to act in that capacity. Tom Pasmore made the motion to open the account, with Jim Clendaniel as the authorized agent on behalf of the church. It was seconded by Vaughn Webb. The proposal was passed unanimously.

There was also notification to the church council of the memorial money from the Crabb estate going into the IRA as directed by the Crabb family.

Trustees:

There were two main issues of the Trustees. The two were the decisions of the Trustees to not allow the RVRC to rent space in the building and the requirements of the Trustees in order to continue with Code Purple.

Code Purple: In order for Code Purple to continue to use Avenue, the following requirements must be met. Guests will be fed and processed offsite. Guests will come in and out of the Wesley Room only. All activities will take place in the Wesley Room and there is no time when guests should be upstairs. There should be two volunteers on site at all times. There will only be to-go bags for breakfast and lunch and all food service issues will be eliminated. There is no need for people to be on the second floor and transitions from floor-to-floor will not be needed.

In addition, there will be no women allowed to stay over-night and female volunteers will be able to volunteer at the women's shelter. The sofas and furniture will be off limits, with the exception of the cots. Everyone must be run through the law enforcement system to check and make sure there are no sex offenders before being allowed to stay over at Avenue until they are cleared. If not cleared, they will be sent to Seaford.

Jack Dickerson made a motion that Code Purple be allowed to stay at Avenue with the caveats listed above. Jack Sheaffer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rich Vanstory Resource Center (RVRC): The Trustees decided not to rent to this organization that does outpatient support for drug addicted individuals. There was a concern about safety. The Trustees asked for a vote of the Church Council in affirmation of their decision. Jim Clendaniel made the motion, which was seconded by Jack Sheaffer, to deny the request of the RVRC and it passed.

There was a review of the Greeter program. Bob Berglund reminded the group that there was to be no parking in the fire lane and only alongside the church in the designated spots. There was a discussion of how we can see and monitor who comes to the doors by using the camera and the greeters. The electronic

locks would be programmed for the openings and closings as decided by the Trustees. A question was raised on how often there are church shootings in this country. The trustees also agreed to meet with the choir and remind them that the fire lane needed to stay clear.

The banner for the yard sale was in design at the time of the meeting. The old wooden sign would not be going back up but the yard sale banner would replace the VBS banner once VBS was over.

The church van was not needed for the mission trip to Florida because of the number of people who flew there. The mechanical issues associated with the trailer have been fixed and the power steering still sounds loud but is safe. The issues with the trailer have been fixed. The boy Scouts will detail the van as a service project for the church.

SPRC:

There was no formal report from SPRC as there was nothing to discuss.

The minutes of the last church council meeting from February 21 were reviewed and there was a motion by Jack Dickerson to approve them, seconded by Vaughn Webb and the motion was unanimously passed.

The question of whether girls would be allowed to enter the Cub Scout pack, with the plan to allow them to join Boy Scouts in the future was brought before Church Council. Pastor Wendy brought up concerns about how the programs, which includes separate girl dens, would be staffed and supported. It basically brings into the church two packs. There were also questions about the boys and girls being together in the scouting ranks. Sarah Pasmore gave excellent reasons as to why it would be good for the girls to have similar opportunities of the boys. The vote then went before the council and there were seven votes for denying access at this time and revisiting the situation in the future. There was one vote against denying girls access. Two people did not vote.

At 8:05, Pastor Tom gave the closing prayer and the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor hay

from the producers of Celtic to Classical



Baroque to Bluegrass

Experience the energy of dueling fiddles and more in two different styles, each characterized by bright, spirited playing. Arcangelo Corelli just may have been the Bill Monroe of his day! Sheridan Seyfried's virtuoso group returns for a third summer to southern Delaware, featuring pianist Sean Kennard and violinist Dennis Kim.



Tuesday, 8/7 – Georgetown Presbyterian Wednesday, 8/8 – Epworth UMC (Rehoboth) Thursday, 8/9 – St. Martha's Episcopal (Bethany) Friday, 8/10 – Avenue UMC (Milford)

all concerts at 7:30 PM (both programs) no charge—a free will offering will be taken

Songs and Dances

International sensation Jonah Kim, a cello soloist dubbed "the next Yo-Yo Ma" leads a program that finds the threads of song and dance that run through a wide variety of styles, from Bach to Celtic, and including music composed specifically for Jonah. No one will forget hearing this incredible musician live. He's joined by violin, flute and piano: Alexis Meschter, Ya-Jhu Yang and Sheridan Seyfried.



Tuesday, 8/14 – The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist (Milton) Wednesday, 8/15 – Epworth United Methodist Church (Rehoboth) Thursday, 8/16 – St. Martha's Episcopal Church (Bethany)

for more details visit www.celtictoclassical.com from July 27th by phone: (267) 808-7704



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America Grant

Volunteers will assess the needs of individuals who are blind, deaf, and otherwise disabled and record progress on the access of services available. Volunteers will also work to prevent and remove barriers to transportation and general mobility, employment, education, and personal growth to address current and future poverty alleviation for this vulnerable population.



Student and Adult volunteers are welcome!

A Chance to impact and learn about a diverse community!

Volunteers needed Monday through Friday!

Learn about removing barriers to greater success in your community!

DELAWARE DIVISION FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

1901 North DuPont Highway New Castle, DE 19720

Grace Hoffman: 302-255-9975

Araba Hagan: 302-255-9841



Delaware Health and Social Services, Division for the Visually Impaired, in collaboration with the Delaware School for the Deaf, are seeking Volunteers to serve the transition and the disabled student and adult populations to address barriers to training, education, and employment with the goal of alleviating poverty. We need your skills, experiences, and expertise to make this a success beginning this summer and beyond!! Please consider joining us for this exciting volunteer opportunity! With your knowledge, you can help the disabled population in areas such as access to services within the Department of Labor, Department of Education, and non-profit entities in areas such as job coaching, employment skills, training, education, and mobility venues to name a few.

Our goal is to break down the barriers facing the disabled student and adult populations to alleviate both current and future poverty levels. Addressing these issues are VITAL to combatting poverty in our state. This is a unique opportunity for those who want to give back and make a positive difference in and impact on someone else's life by joining and becoming a part of the solution.

Please contact us for more information and any questions at:

Delaware Division for the Visually Impaired 1901 North DuPont Highway New Castle, DE 19720

Grace Hoffman: Grace.Hoffman@state.de.us/302-255-9975

Araba Hagan: Araba.Hagan@state.de.us/302-255-

9841





REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE

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2018 Yard Sale at Avenue United Methodist Church

Donations for Yard Sale will be accepted Monday, July 23rd—Monday, July 30th (9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.)

Large item pick up by appointment only! Larry (302) 745-4331 Sonny (302) 690-4953

Thursday, August 2nd 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. "Early Bird Special" (\$1 admission this day only)

Friday, August 3rd 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m Saturday, August 4th 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Lancaster Amish cheese available in 1 lb blocks

All proceeds go to missions of the church both locally and country wide

Avenue United Methodist Church 20 N. Church Street Milford, DE 19963 (302) 422-8111



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 Trinidad family, Nancy Richardson, Penny Gillespie, Maureen Mayer, Rob MacDonald, Fran "Sis" DeFrank, The Thai soccer team stuck in the caves and all those who are trying to save them, Jonny, Amy and Rowan Howard, Everyone affected by weather calamities and natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, volcanoes, heat waves and droughts, Shirl, Dave Rumery, Anne Adams, Brenda Beissel, Savannah and daughter, Colleen Dunham, Luisa Combs, Bill and Jill Gustin, Linda Breedlove, Leslee, Kirsten Pearce, Jean Layton, Ruth Callaway, Jack and Helen Heinbach, John Siegrist, Everyone traveling, Christopher, Ainsley and Katie, Charlie Fleetwood, Louise O'Bier, Mary Kate, Katie H., Elizabeth, Theresa, Boy Scout Troop 186 traveling to West Virginia for a week of summer camp and Craig.

Recently hospitalized: Bella, Jim Quillen, Frank Bilger, Loretta Wooten, Joyce Arthurs and Dean Johnson.

Rejoice with: Adam Wall's birthday, Christina and Adam's anniversary and Christina and Adam, expecting their first child in December.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Nancy Richardson and family, the family and friends of Bob Campbell, the family and friends of Calvin Baker, the Hartley-Nagel families, Dave Rumery, John Siegrist, Jonny, Amy, Rowan, Ainsley, Katie, Marian Hood, Vickie, Bella, Irene Falco, all bereaved parents, Craig, Lanny Price, Dan H., Jean Hutchman, Christopher, everyone affected by natural disasters, Anne Adams, Fay Farissier, Brenda Beissel, Judy, Colleen Dunham, Jonathan, Charlie Fleetwood, Ray, Penny, Savannah, Vanessa, Bill and Jill Gustin, Linda Breedlove, Ruth Callaway, John and Helen Heinbach, Debbie Smith, everyone traveling, and Tom Pasmore.

Recently hospitalized: Dean Johnson and Frank Bilger.

Rejoice with: The people of Thailand and the rescued soccer team, Boy Scout Troop 186, the Cornerstone UMC mission trip participants, and all whose prayers have been answered.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Mary Lee Burch who will celebrate her 94th anniversary on July 21st.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

Handbells

Resume on Monday, Sept. 10th at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

IMomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

JMispillion 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

JAveNotes 1

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

AVENUE UNITED METHODIST MEN: The Annual Yard Sale is right around the corner. We need your help on Sunday, July 22nd at 12:15 p.m. to set up tables, move sale items out of the trailer and storage shed for the yard sale. Any and all members of the Church Family that can help will be most welcomed. THANK YOU, Rob Craig.

2018 YARD SALE: The Yard Sale is getting closer. This is the time to take all those things you have cleaned out and load them into your car. You can bring them to Avenue on Monday, July 23rd through Friday, July 27th. Also, on Monday, July 30th. There will be help unloading your car but we need your help too.

Please consider coming in to help sort, price, label, measure, and clean items that are coming in. We need YOUR help - men and women, young and old. If you have 1 hour, 2 hours or a whole day, please come help out. New hours for workers July 23rd – July 30th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm weekdays. No weekends except for Sunday, July 22nd after 11:00 service for set up. Only Clean – Like New Shoes will be accepted this year. Thanks, and please SPREAD the word to friends and neighbors.

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.

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 August 13th at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will be meeting on August 7th 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.

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: The Adult Summer Sunday Class will be studying "Jesus Calls for Justice and Mercy" during the month of July. July 22nd, "Entering God's Kingdom" based on Luke 13:22-30; and July 29th "Parable of the Great Dinner" based on Luke 14:15-24. The Adult Summer Sunday Class meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. All are welcome.

OUTREACH

TEACHING ASSISTANT POSITION: Avenue Preschool will be hiring a new teacher assistant for our Pre-K program. If you would like to apply please send in your resume by **July 25**th the job will close at this time. Must have a teacher assistant certification from DOE. Please send all information to <u>office@avenuepreschool.org</u>. If you have any questions call Paula Yeich at 422-8775.

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: We are in need of bar soap and cereal (not pre-sweetened please). Thank You.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 7/22

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

MONDAY 7/23

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room

7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,

Wesley Room

7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 7/24

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 7/25

5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,

Room 202

7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class,

Holzmueller Room

THURSDAY 7/26

8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,

Conference Room

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room

6:30 p.m. Board of Laity—Dover District,

Carpenter Room

FRIDAY 7/27

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 7/28

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 7/29

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. Cubs Pack Comm. Planning

Meeting, Heritage Room

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	51	52
9:30	137	118
Sunday School	16	20
11:00	69	47
FUSION	0	0
Total	273	237