



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Last week I was at Camp Pecometh in Centreville, Maryland for a four-day residency in ministry (RIM) program. I will have to do five more sessions over the next two years: January 2019, May 2019, August 2019, January 2020 and May 2020. This program is for commissioned clergy who are seeking ordination. I was extra blessed because Pastor Tom is one of the guides for this program. My ordination mentor, Jeanel Starling, is the other leader.

It was hard for me to be gone because I kept thinking I was missing something at Avenue. There is always work to be done, a member to visit, a sermon to write...and the list goes on and on. Added to that is the amount of time I will need to be out of the office for wedding things and it was hard to stay focused on what was happening at the retreat. True, the wedding is an anomaly and after we get back from the honeymoon all the time away to handle the details for our special day will be history and will never happen again. However, at this moment in time, the wedding planning was a distraction during RIM. (On a side note, I understand why people elope. The details are never ending and tiring. But that is a story for another time.)

But what brought everything to a screeching halt was when we had a problem with water. Something happened and for a short while, there was no running water at Pecometh. My "problems" with schedule and reception menus and dress fittings seemed incredibly petty when I was hit straight on with the reminder that so many people in this world don't have safe, running water.

Suddenly my issues became small and to be honest, they have been handled. I was just stressing over them for no good reason. I have member visits scheduled through the end of next week, so they will happen. My sermon will be written in the evening, sitting in my air-conditioned home with electric lights and within arms-reach of my refrigerator if I want something to eat or drink. The wedding plans will get handled and I trust the event will be lovely. The other work will get done at appropriate times.

After all, I don't have to walk miles for water every day. I don't have to worry about where my next meal is coming from. I have very little work to do to actually stay alive.

God has blessed me greatly but every now and then we get those sharp reminders of those in need. Philippians 2: 3-4 says to "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

Let us all find some time this week in the midst of our busy schedules, to-do lists, multi-tasking, personal agendas and filled calendars to remember and pray for those in this world who are just trying to get by day-to-day. This will bring the honor and glory to God 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 Bishop

A Place at the Table

By Bishop Peggy Johnson

The United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities met at Gallaudet University for a three-day conference for the purpose of education, advocacy and support (August 1-3, 2018). The theme was “Taking Our Place at the Table: DisABILITY Leadership Academy.” The event included a number of speakers: Rev. Stephanie Remington from the Lewis Center at Wesley Theological Seminary’s Lewis Leadership Center, Rev. E. Michelle Ledder from the General Commission on Religion and Race, Rev. Jackson Day from the General Board of Church and Society and Rev. Dr. Anthony Hunt from the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Leadership development was the key component of this event and the group strategized



about how to promote more opportunities to be in leadership and inclusion in the UMC. People with disabilities, even those who are ordained or commissioned, often find themselves talked about but not at the table.

Jesus understood the importance of table ministry. Much of his ministry included gatherings around meals and around tables. It seemed like he was always doing radical acts of inclusion at the tables where he sat. He ate with sinners and tax collectors and got in trouble

with the Pharisees for that (Matthew 9:11). He allowed a woman with a questionable past to wash his feet at a table in the home of a Pharisee and he gets grief for that too (Luke 7:36-50). We see him including Mary of Bethany around the teaching table instead of sending her to the kitchen to cook with her sister Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Jesus gives us a parable about the great banquet that includes all of those who the world excluded (Luke 14:15-24), especially those with disabilities. In addition he didn't shy away from literally turning over tables of greed and extortion when the place of prayer for the Gentiles was being defiled with the sale of sacrificial animals and the changing of coins. (John 2:11-12). In each case the Lord was widening the circle at each table, teaching the world the unimaginably grace-filled, inclusive love of God.

Jesus' most radical act of table turning would be the Last Supper, where at the table Jesus himself becomes love incarnate. The Lamb of God becomes the sacrificial lamb for the sins of the world. The bread and the wine are his very body and blood. His death on the cross seals forever the opportunity for everyone, everywhere, throughout all of history to be a part of the family of God and seated at the table.

At this disability conference at Gallaudet we once again committed ourselves to sharing the good news that God unconditionally includes and loves people with disabilities. I ask you, the church to think of ways that your church, your ministries, your outreach programs can include this amazingly gifted community.



Code Purple Update

On Thursday, August 2, 2018, the Sussex County Code Purple Board met to start planning out this year's activities and sites. The board discussed multiple issues and wanted to keep the congregation at Avenue UMC up to date. More will be communicated as the autumn progresses.

- ♦ **Training**-Like last year, there will be training for the existing Code Purple volunteers, as changes are coming, and any new volunteers whom may want to join in this wonderful ministry. Dan Nelson has stepped forward to do the training at the **Milford Nazarene Church on Thursday, October 24, 2018 at 7 pm**. If a perspective volunteer cannot make that date, there will be another date where Dan will train volunteers at The Cross location in Seaford. A date should be available for this event in the near future.
- ♦ **Check in/ Dinner Location**-Nikki Gonzalez is working diligently at getting the Intake/ Dinner location set for guests who will be staying at Avenue UMC. It was decided jointly by the Sussex County Code Purple Board and the Avenue UMC trustees at the end of last season that the men will now only be entering into the Wesley Room to rest and sleep. The Heritage Room will not be used this year. Nikki is speaking to the Milford Church of God, located on Walnut Street to be the Intake/Dinner location for the men. Please pray on this. While the Church of God wants to partner with Code Purple Sussex County, this Intake/Dinner location may strain their church funds.
- ♦ **Church Donations**-The Sussex County Code Purple Board wanted to ensure that going forward any donations that came to Avenue UMC for Code Purple be distributed where the need is greatest. This is a community program and all donations should support that effort. Hopefully, a volunteer coordinator will step forward to keep this process flowing as smoothly as possible. In addition, any monetary donations should be made directly to Sussex County Code Purple. Checks can be written directly to Love, Inc. with the Code Purple designation listed on the memo line. Please send any checks to Susan Kent's attention at: Love INC P.O. Box 542, Seaford, DE 19973
- ♦ **Funds at Avenue UMC**-Love, Inc. is also working on fundraising ideas and other possible activities to increase revenue to ensure we can operate throughout this and future Code Purple seasons. Avenue does have some church based funds that we will utilize to operate the Men's shelter here in Milford until they are exhausted.
- ♦ **New Women & Children's Shelter**- Praise God! The Milford Church of the Nazarene is going to become a women and children Code Purple shelter. Nikki Gonzalez and Joyce Bonnoni from the Sussex County Code Purple Board met with Pastor Art Roxby to begin the process of preparing for the upcoming season. The Board will keep you informed of their progress and is looking forward to more volunteers joining together at Church of Nazarene at the October 24, 2018, for training.



VISTA

50 years

Volunteers In Service To America

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.

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

**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





Be part of a
GREETER TEAM!!

Sign up sheet on the table
in the Foyer

Help us welcome visitors and guests

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: Dave Reynold's mom, Wayne, Rebecca Hornsby, Craig, Jean Ritter, Dan Hagopian, Charlie Fleetwood, family and friends of Pete Geldof, Brenda Bosman and family, Kim, the Campas family, Marian Hood, baby Amaya and family, Linda Cantrill, Linda's children, Wright Parker, Ginger, the Hughes family, Russell French, Betty Ziesel, Ruth Callaway, Jean Hutchman, Lida Wells, Jill and Bill Gustin, Linda Breedlove, Dawn Willis and family, the upcoming Chrysalis weekend and the volunteers and caterpillars, Kirsten Pearce and Frank Calio.

Recently hospitalized: Wright Parker and Anita Layfield.

Rejoice with: Judy, everyone who worked and volunteered with the yard sale.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Dave Reynold's mother, Wayne, Craig, Charlie Fleetwood, Kim, Wright Parker, Children and families of Peggy and Larry Hughes, Betty Ziesel, Ruth Callaway, Jean Hutchman, Lida Wells, Jill and Bill Gustin, Linda Breedlove, Dawn Willis and family, Dave McCarthy, Brenda Faulk Robinson, Andrea Breitwieser, Catrina, Senior Airman Alix, Those who lost a loved one, Dot McCain, The family and friends of James Baxter, Allen Messick, Joan, The family and friends of Anne Payne,, Gary, People traveling, Nik, Dylan Lloyd, Christine's brother Ben and his family Those who are rallying in DC, The family of Elias who passed away in Haiti last week, Arvin Noel, Brenda Beissel, Anita Layfield, Frank Calio, Friends of Jean, Jean Layton, Kirsten Pearce, Cheryl, Merry, and Donald, Bill, Taren Murphy, Bill Gaskill and family, John Siegrist and family, the upcoming Emmaus and Chrysalis weekends, teams and caterpillars, Bundy Simms, Leslee, Alma Brittingham and Bernie Brittingham.

Rejoice with: Dean Johnson, Thanks for all the prayers from Jon and Cindy Horsman for their family and Praise for God's blessing and love.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Everett and Sue Bennett who will celebrate their **51st** anniversary on **August 19th**.

Harry and Carolyn Humes who will celebrate their **58th** anniversary on **August 27th**.

THE BIRTHDAY GIRLS!

Shhh. It's a secret but both Lida Wells and Dot Sophos are turning 95-years-young in early September. Dot celebrates on September 1st and Lida's special day is September 8th. To mark these big occasions, we are hoping to have 95 cards sent to each of them by people in our church. Both women have played extraordinary roles in helping Avenue grow into the amazing church that it is so we hope you will reach out with "happy birthday" sentiments.

Their addresses are:

Mrs. Dot Sophos
Milford Place
500 South DuPont Blvd
Milford, DE 19963

Mrs. Lida Wells
503 Point Drive
Milford, DE 19963

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

♪Mispiration 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

UMW EVENT: Peninsula Delaware Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat. "Embracing Wholeness" An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living. Join us Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m at Wesley UMC. Forms are located on the foyer table.

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 **September 10th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will be meeting on **August 21st** 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 continues to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. Our studies on Justice in the New Testament will center on "Paul Teaches About New Life in Christ." August 19th, "Loving and Just Behavior" based on Romans 12:9-21; and August 26th, "Practicing Justice" based on Colossians 3:5-17. All are welcome and feel free to come on any Sunday that suits your schedule.

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: The Milford Community Pantry is beginning a new outreach to young families. We will be offering diapers. This is a ministry that was done by the Multi-Cultural church but since they have moved it is no longer available. We are seeking your support, your comments and your help. The Diaper Closet will be open the first Wednesday morning of each month beginning in September. (Families will need a referral from church or social services.) We will need volunteers and diapers. If you are able to provide either, please contact Tita Lewis or Diane Dolan.

Also, we are in need of cereal (not pre-sweetened please). Thank You.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	64	61
9:30	153	178
Sunday School	26	34
11:00	46	47
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	289	320

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 8/19

- 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 8/20

- 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. Trustees Meeting, Grier Room

TUESDAY 8/21

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' 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 8/22

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Pride of Delmarva,
Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 8/23

- 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 8/24

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

SATURDAY 8/25

- 9:00 a.m. Music Dept. Fellowship Hall &
Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 8/26

- 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