

The Midweek

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

As I prepare to leave for my honeymoon, I am turning to my friend Pastor Heidi for her thoughts. This is what she wrote for October. And in all ways, to God be the glory and honor forever.

There is a struggling cherry tree growing in our front yard. We have tried everything to help it with fertilizer, water, and weed barrier, but the only really healthy part seems to be the suckers growing at the base. Each year, I lovingly trim off the truly dead branches, prune away the suckers, and then, see what else needs an assist. Pruning the tree this year reminded me of that unfathomable, wonderful, and incredibly hopeful passage in John, where Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit...I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:1-5 NRSV).

Jesus knows all our flaws and assures us that the grace given to us is sufficient for us to be fruitful. He is the vine that will tap the nutrients and moisture from the earth and pass it on to us to bear the fruits of the spirit that will be most useful to God and our beloved neighbors. There have been many times in history when we thought: sure, we are capable of fixing things with a new invention, a new algorithm, a new discovery, but in the end, we discover that as the branches alone, nothing is better; we cannot do it ourselves.

When we abide in him, we can endure the pruning and the temptations, and be like the sun coming out on a gray day to reveal that we have a great God; that what God has

created is good; that there are good people in the world; and that what we imagined was a dream can become a hoped-for reality. Luke writes, "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom (Luke 12:32 NRSV). God's goodness for us is abundant.

Fall clean-up is a good time to think about pruning away what is no longer useful, and about what we might need to keep for Winter. Do you ever think about what you really need?...perhaps when packing a suitcase for a trip, or a backpack for a hike. In many ways, we struggle with this every day: with our thoughts; with our social media; with how we spend our spare time. Our lives are bombarded by cell phone notifications, advertisements, traffic, and so many other distractions. James writes, "Blessed is anyone who endures temptation" (James 1:12 NRSV). Our faith in God will not free us from our struggles, but it will enable us to persevere through them.

Paul provides some guidance regarding what we should do: "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9 NRSV). As we pray, "lead us not into temptation," we also commit ourselves to acting upon what Jesus taught us by example, and what good qualities other people have exemplified in their lives. How will our lives model this for our children and others?

To feel God's peace, we, too, can make deliberate commitments to act lovingly, kindly, and "unfollow" or "change the channel on" suggestions, people, and things that do us harm, or make us angry, or separate us from God.

Fall clean-up is also a good time to appreciate the fruits of our harvest; the changing colors of the plants and trees; the subtle change in the angle of the sun's rays. Even things that seem finished, or broken can be used in a different ways that give them new importance...perhaps we make a table display of the pretty leaves, or make a mosaic of broken china pieces. We are much like these flawed but useful things for God. Even with all our imperfections, God has a fruitful use for us. "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us" (Romans 12:6 NRSV). When we exercise our gifts of the spirit with humility and kindness, those around us are built-up, comforted and encouraged. When we hold these gifts to ourselves, or expect praise or a reward for them, then, no one is helped. God's goodness for us is abundant.

Pastor hay







Tuesdays 6-8PM

Ages 13-99

NENUE CHURCH, HERITAGE ROOM

20 N Church St, Milford, DE 19963

For More Info Contact Seth seth.wilcox37@yahoo.com



Code Purple Hot Line: 302-519-0024 – P.O. Box 542 – 703 East King St., Seaford
Love INC Clearinghouse phone line: 302-629-7050 - codepurplesussexcounty.com
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/codepurplesussexcounty/

CODE PURPLE INFO & UPCOMING TRAINING

We are building a team of volunteers to help serve our homeless guests for the 2018/2019 cold weather season! Please join us to learn more about Code Purple and how you can get involved. This vital resource is dependent on volunteerism as Code Purple Sussex County is 100% volunteer run. Most of our emergency winter sanctuaries are open each night from December 15th until March 15th. Volunteer spots include: intake, overnight, morning relief, clean-up crews, transportation, laundry and dinner service. (To *Sign Up* for dinner sponsorship and other volunteer opportunities, please use the link found on our website at codepurplesussexcounty.com **Volunteers/Servants!**). Last year we served 150 literally homeless neighbors at our shelters. We served the elderly, families, the infirm, those recently released from prison, and sometimes persons struggling with addiction or persons with mental health not being treated.

Each guest is uniquely homeless...each vulnerable...each one matters!

Code Purple opens "on call" once the weather dips down below 32. We call these "bookends" and volunteers will sign up to volunteer <u>if</u> Code Purple is called. However, once December 15th arrives, we have 6 sanctuaries **stay open** regardless of the temperature until March 15th. Our Laurel sanctuary opens every night of January & February. It takes an average of 12 people per night at each site to effectively operate a Code Purple Sussex County Site (we have 11 total certified CPSC Sites). The other sites open as overflow.

That means we have a potential of 132 volunteer spots to fill each night just to provide basic coverage during the season!

Come be part of the solution and join our team!

PICK WHICH LOCATION WORKS BEST FOR YOUR SCHEDULE

(All training events take place from 7pm-9pm)

Oct. 15th - Gateway Fellowship - 8110 Cannon RD, Bridgeville, DE

Oct. 24th - Milford Nazarene - 11 NW Salevan Pl, Milford, DE

Nov. 1st - St. Luke's Episcopal - 202 N. North Street Seaford, DE (in Parish Hall behind the church)

Oct.29th & Nov 6th - Laurel Church of the Nazarene -100 Walnut Drive Laurel, DE

TBA – Georgetown Code Purple Sussex County Training TBA – Bethany Beach Code Purple Sussex County Training TBA – Delmar Code Purple Sussex County Training

We need you!

Updated SBRK 9/11/18

The Mispillion Children's Chorus

Open to All students AGES 6-12

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4th

Two Rehearsal locations and times:

Select the one that works best for your child's schedule.

The Milford Boys & Girls Club

Tuesday from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Avenue United Methodist Church

Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

NO AUDITIONS!
NO FEES!
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!



No member affiliation necessary with either B&G Club or with Avenue United Methodist Church.

A commitment from parents/guardians that students attend regularly and participate in the choral performances.

QUESTIONS:

themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com Sharon Starling (302) 422-2785 Kevin B. Chamberlain (302) 422-8111



Please join Sussex County Volunteer Delaware 50+ and the State Office of Volunteerism as we collect donated items for our deployed servicemen and women who are serving during the holidays.

Donations Accepted: September 11, 2018 – October 31, 2018 Stockings for Soldiers Suggested Donation Items

"Bolded" items are most in demand

(No aerosol cans or bars of soap please)

- Small Candy
 - Mini-candy bars (send your favorite)
 - Christmas/Halloween candy
- Granola/Fruit/Breakfast Bars
- Cookies/Nuts/Pretzels/Trail Mix
 - o Less than 12 oz. size
- Flavored drink mixes (Single Packets)
 - o Lemonade, teas, hot cocoa, coffee
- Chewing gum
- Fruit roll-ups/gushers/Cracker Jacks
- Slim Jims/Beef Jerky
- Ramen Noodle Soup
 - Cup of Noodles are too large to go inside stockings
- DVD Movies
- Music CDs
- Hand/Foot Warmers/Fly Swatters

- . Small Individually Packages Meals
 - Tuna/Lasagna/Beefaroni/Fruit.
 - Smaller package (8 oz or less) preferred
- Toothbrushes & Small Toothpastes
- BLACK or WHITE Crew Socks, Mole Skin
- ChapStick & Lip balms
- Razors (individual or packs)
- Toiletries & lotions (small package)
- · Baby Wipes, Foot powder, sun block
- Paperback Books (no romance novels)
- Pocket games & puzzles
- Crossword, Sudoku
- Beanie Babies
- Phone Cards (AT&T)
- Dog/Canine Items for our K9 Heroes

Notes: Smaller, individual sized packaging is preferred to fit into individually packed stockings. We accept all sized packages/containers as donations, larger items are sent to units for snacking.

No aerosol cans or bars of soap please.

Send a Personal Holiday Message of Support & Friendship

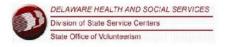
(Include return address/email, you might hear back from a soldier. Limit: 100 cards per person)

\$\$\$ Financial Donations to Help with Shipping Costs \$\$\$

Make checks payable to: Stockings for Soldiers

Mail to: Volunteer Delaware 50+ 546 S. Bedford Street Georgetown, DE 19947 302-515-3020

The Stockings for Soldiers web address is: http://www.stockingsforsoldiers.org







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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: 3rd Quarter Financial Statements will be ready for pickup on Sunday. They will be on the table in the Foyer.

FINANCIAL COVENANT CARDS: Please remember to bring your financial covenant cards to church on Sunday, October 7th.

PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK: Janice Abbott, someone with a hip condition, Gary, for all those affected by Hurricane Florence, Vicki Schultes, Richard Hughes, Bill and Jill Gustin, Craig, the family and friends of Jay & Michele Schlink, Denise Webster, Colleen Dunham, the family and friends of Emmanuel Collazo, Pastor Wendy and Michael Butterworth, Jonathan Sturgis, Kitty Bullock, Mason Lockhart, Brenda Robinson, Bobby Walls, Betty Graham, Shelby Swain, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Mrs. Evans, Brad Dennehy, Sharon's family, Bernie, Jean Hutchman, Nicki and David, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Brooke Lute, Charlie Fleetwood, Dave Rumery, and Jeanie Zaimes.

Rejoice with: The Johnson family, the family and friends of Hunter Jacob Emory, Jr., all those whose prayers have been answered.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Clinton McCall, Janice Abbott, Arthur Mosher, Jeanette Mosher, Joyce Bononni, Ashley Bononni, Victims and families of the tsunami in Indonesia, Gary, For all those affected by Hurricane Florence, Vicki Schultes, Richard Hughes, Bill and Jill Gustin, Craig, The family and friends of Colleen Dunham, Mason Lockhart, Bobby Walls, Chuck Moses, Shelby Swain, Kirsten Pearce, Veronica Evans, Brad Dennehy, Sharon's family Bernie, Jean Hutchman, Nicki and David, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Brooke Lute, Charlie Fleetwood, Dave Rumery, Jeanie Zaimes, Jim Camprill, Colleagues of Sandy Culotta in North and South Carolina dealing with the aftermath of Florence, Paul Akana, Carrie, Pat Lilly, All who are in need of a job, Upcoming boys' chrysalis weekend, Vladimir & Olga Osipov, Jeanel Starling's granddaughter and Jenika Dietrich.

Rejoice with: Pastor Wendy and Michael Butterworth, The birth of Clinton McCall on Wednesday, September 26th, All the girls who came to Christ on the girls' chrysalis weekend and All those whose prayers have been answered.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Joe Lear who will celebrate his 94th birthday on October 17th.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Larry and Peggy Hughes will celebrate their 55th anniversary on October 12th.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

Handbells

Mondays 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

ISanctuary Choir

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

JAveNotes

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 (UMW) are ready to gather in small group Circle meetings and at large quarterly Unit meetings for the fall of 2018. Circles meet on the third Tuesday (Sarah and Mary/Martha) or second Wednesday (Esther) each month. If you would like to be part of a UMW Circle, please just come out to one of the meetings. We meet at 9:45 a.m. (Sarah), 1:30 p.m. (Mary/Martha) and 7:00 p.m. (Esther). More details to follow.

UMW DOVER DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING is being held on October 6, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at Long Neck UMC, 32051 Long Neck Road, Millsboro, DE. The program is "Home Insecurity, Food Insecurity – How do we Help?" by Kaytra MacDonald, from Love, Inc. We will be collecting items for the Love, Inc. Reading program awards given and Mission Today awards.

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) are proud to serve the first Pancake Breakfast of the year on October 7, 2018. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea will be served immediately after all three services. A free-will offering will be accepted. Funds from this meal will help provide a Boy Scout college scholarship to a high school graduate from Troop #186. Other mission projects will also be funded. Join us for a most excellent breakfast and fellowship.

FLU VACCINES AT AUMC: On Sunday, October 14th from 9:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m in Fellowship Hall. All you need to do is bring your pharmacy benefit insurance card, Medicare,

Medicaid or VA card. **No co-pay**. If you have any questions, please call Walgreens at (302) 424 -6300, option 2 and the option 3.

UMW GENERAL MEETING: "**Empowering of Women and Children in Democratic Republic of Congo**" is the title of the presentation being given by Donna and Jonathan Baker at the UMW General Meeting and covered dish lunch on **October 14, 2018**. As usual, we will gather following worship at approximately 12:15 in Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered dish and be updated on the happenings in the Congo. The Bakers will be sharing during Worship but will be able to give us more details about women and children at this gathering. We are in Covenant partnership with the DRC and continue to learn and support this mission across the world. This event is open for everyone.

PENINSULA DELAWARE CONFERENCE UMW ANNUAL MEETING will be held on October 27, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at Union UMC, 201 Railroad Ave, St. Michaels, MD 21663. Climate Justice is the topic presentation.

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 October 8th at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On October 9th we will continue our study: Short Stories by Jesus 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class meets in the Grier Room at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. The study for October is "God Destroys and Re-creates." The October 7th lesson is "Noah's Steadfast Faith" based on Genesis 6:9-22; October 14th, "God Is Always Working" based on Genesis 10:2; 11:10, 27, 31-32; 12:1-4; October 21st, "Abraham and Sarah Birth God's People" based on Genesis 18:9-15; 21:1-7; and October 28th, "Isaac and Rebekah Continue the Legacy" based on Genesis 24:12-21, 61-67. Please come.

UNITED METHODIST STUDY: Have you ever wondered what United Methodists Believe? If you have, the this course is for you. For six weeks beginning on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018** from 7:00—8:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. Rev. Van Tine will lead a discussion on our United Methodist Beliefs.

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH BOOK CLUB will start a new study on **Sunday, October 21, 2018** at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. Our new book will be <u>Unafraid</u> by Adam Hamilton. It is subtitled "Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times." Please join us.

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.

CODE PURPLE: Thank you for all the monetary and physical donations. Right now we are very well stocked up. Since we don't know how much room we will have in the Wesley Room, we are going to put the physical donations on hold for now. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tom or Dan Nelson. **Thank You!**

LAST WEEK	<u> AT AVI</u>	ENUE
Attendance	2017	2019

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	51	52
9:30	130	164
Sunday School	59	57
11:00	101	62
FUSION	46	40
Total	387	375

CALENDAR

·	UNDAY 10/7 ~ Communion WEDNESDAY 10			
	ake Breakfast	1:30 p.m.	Knitting /Crocheting Group,	
8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	2.00	Grier Room	
9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir, Music Room	
9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class,	5:00 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion	
0.00	Grier Room	6:00 p.m.	AveNotes, Sanctuary	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	6:30 p.m.	Tiger Den Meeting, Wesley Room	
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	7:00 p.m.	Theological Reflection,	
3:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting,	= 00	Carpenter Room	
	Heritage Room	7:00 p.m.	Esther Circle, Fellowship Hall	
6:00 p.m.	FUSION, Fellowship Hall and	millio an Ar		
	Wesley Room	THURSDAY		
		8:30 a.m.	Men's Reunion Group,	
MONDAY 1		11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room	2:15 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion	
4:00 p.m.	Alzheimer's Support Group,	6:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Comm. Meeting,	
	Grier Room		Grier Room	
6:30 p.m.	Wolf Den Meeting, Nursery			
6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir, Choir Room	FRIDAY 10/	0/12	
7:00 p.m.	1 st State Harmonizers,	7:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
	Fellowship Hall			
7:00 p.m.	AA, Room 206	SATURDAY	<u>Y</u> 10/13	
7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Wesley Room	7:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
TUESDAY 10/9		SUNDAY 10	SUNDAY 10/14	
10:00 a.m.	Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
5:00 p.m.	Mispillion Children's Chorus,	9:15 a.m.	Flu Shots, Fellowship Hall	
515 5 P	Music Room	9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	
6;00 p.m.	Improv Group, Heritage Room	9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class,	
6:00 p.m.	MomentUM, Wesley Room	0.000 0	Grier Room	
6:30 p.m.	Arrow of Light Den Meeting,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	
oros priir	Carpenter Room	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
6:30 p.m.	Dover District Board of Laity,	12:30 p.m.	UMW General Meeting/Covered	
oros priir	Music Room	1 2. 00 p	Dish, Fellowship Hall	
7:00 p.m.	Central Delaware Chess Club,	6:00 p.m.	FUSION, Fellowship Hall and	
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7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal,		vvesiej ivoeii	
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7:00 p.m.	Finance Comm. Meeting,			
о р.ш.	Grier Room			
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