



The Midweek

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

As I write this on Tuesday evening, Election Day, I am sitting on my sofa watching the news media trying to figure out which candidates are winning, what the early polls indicate, and how this will impact the country in the future. I just know it means “The Voice” will not be on this evening.

I did see one poll that said 77% of those questioned believe the country is more divided than it was two years ago. Only 8% of the respondents said the company was more united. The “most important issue” is all over the place and some of the responses are new to me. I can only speculate that there are regional concerns that don’t affect Delaware like people in states who will be deciding if felons who have finished their sentences can vote again.

So here is my question? In His day, would Jesus have won if He had been on the ballot and was opposed by one of the Pharisees? I would like to think Jesus would have won any office He ran for but I’m not sure that His message at the time would have been popular. Things have certainly changed, just as they continue to evolve in this era.

We basically vote with and for Jesus when we live as He commands us to live. When we fail to obey the lessons the Lord gave us, do we give our opponents an example of Christian hypocrisy? How does that get used against us by people who claim that Christ is “fake news” and there is no way the Bible

could be true? Do our actions line up with our speech?

Scripture tells us in 1 Thessalonians 2:13, “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.” Is the word of God at work in each of us? If we are not living as true examples of Christ, what can we do to change that?

I saw a great quote earlier this week that said, “Being a Christian is about living an inviting example.” Can we live as an example of God’s love and be the inviting people we are called to be? Can we be uniting instead of dividing people? And can we bring God the honor and glory forever and ever?



Pastor Henry

Church Office and Food Pantry will be closed on November 12th.





From the desk of the Bishop

Quest for justice, mercy should be One Size Fits All

By Bishop Peggy Johnson

My son Gabriel appeared in a recent Facebook post donning a Halloween costume in which he is dressed as a cactus. It is quite clever, and perhaps he chose this outfit because he works as a botanist at the Smithsonian Science Lab and loves plants.

When I asked him about it, he said he purchased it at Walmart, and it is labeled "One Size Fits Most." He said I could borrow it anytime I wanted to dress up like a cactus. This is likely not going to happen.

First, I don't like plants all that much and secondly, "One Size Fits Most" never works for me. They are always too big. I can just imagine falling down steps in this unfitting cactus costume that my six-foot tall son fits into quite well.



Does one size fit most? It is an important question to ponder as we consider our social issues in the world today. Is there a place for uniformity, or is it important to recognize our differences with respect and grace? Yes and no.

When should 'One Size Fit Most'?

The General Board of Church and Society is working on a revision of our United Methodist Social Principles. These can be found in our *Book of Discipline* in Paragraph 160-164. They include many important statements that we as United Methodists believe about social justice. However, one size does not always fit all in the global context.

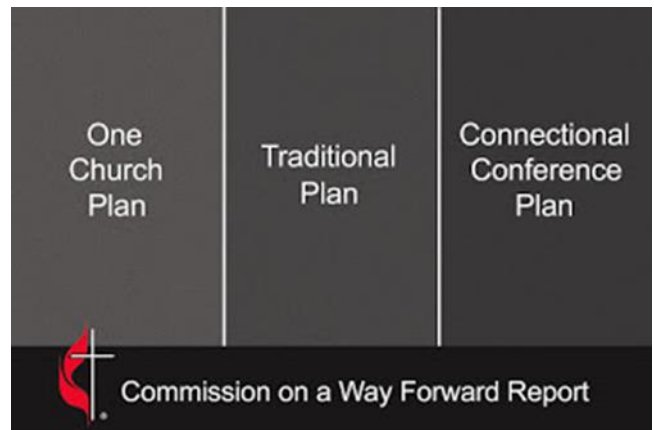


Recently, the topic of plastic water bottles came up. We know that the use of these bottles creates a huge recycling issue for our planet. Because it does not break down, plastic causes pollution, increasingly littering our landfills and oceans with these empty bottles.

When discussing the need for United Methodists to take a stand against these disposable bottles our sisters and brothers in Africa raised their own concern. Much of their drinking water is unsafe for human consumption. The plastic water bottles are a lifeline for health for many of our friends across the globe. To make a statement against all plastic bottles is to cause harm to part of our connection. One size does not fit all in this case.

In our conversations about human sexuality and ministry the Commission on a Way Forward's One Church Plan acknowledges that "we are not of one mind regarding human sexuality. As we continue to faithfully explore issues of sexuality, we will honor the theological guidelines of Scripture, reason, tradition and experience."

"We acknowledge that God's revelation of truth and God's extension of grace as expressed in Jesus Christ may cause persons of good conscience to interpret and decide issues of sexuality differently," according to our United Methodist Judicial Council's recent ruling. I believe this is another case where one size does not fit all during this time in the life of the church.



When should 'One Size Fit All'?

But what about non-negotiables? Where do we take hard stands and agree to be in solidarity? Where does one size fit all? I think that would be in the area of basic human rights, mercy and justice for humanity.

Texas



At the most recent meeting of the **General Board of Church and Society** (on which I serve as a board member) we visited **Karnes City, Texas**. There is a connection there of community partners helping immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who have moved into that area in the state. The health, housing, legal, education and employment services of this city are all working together in a coordinated effort to assist this population.

For some in our country the latest wave of asylum-seekers from Central America are a problem, a threat that needs to be kept out, even with military troops, walls and mass shootings. But the people in Karnes see their immigrant population as an asset to their community.

Local agencies base their service model on the principle of Asset Based Community Development, and they identify their new community members as an important part of the mix. These welcome residents are hard-working and give many volunteer hours in the schools and support service venues.

They are tenacious, family-orientated and grateful. These immigrant families attend agriculture classes and ESL (English-as-a-Second Language) classes. They are fellow human beings working in the community for good, and they are treated with respect. Partly because of them the entire area is thriving.

We need to respect the humanity of immigrants, as many in this country have done in the past. But our federal government is now considering an administrative decision that would change the Flores Settlement Act and Public Charge policies. It is proposing that people who are not U.S. citizens should lose their chance to have permanent residency if they receive any form of public assistance, such as health, nutrition and housing aid.

According to our friends in Karnes City this would be a devastating thing, endangering the lives of many people there. We can all offer public advocacy comments about this dangerous new measure using <https://www.ouramericanstory.us/faith-traditions/>. Surely, people should not have to choose between receiving food and health care assistance and pursuing legal residency or citizenship. One size needs to fit all here. Would any of us want to be put in that drastic, inhumane position?

Gun violence and acts of racial hatred



Another place where we should be in solidarity is around stemming the tide of gun violence, particularly as it relates to racial hate crimes. The recent fatal shootings of worshiping Jews at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pa., and elderly black shoppers at a Kroger grocery store in Louisville, Ky., are yet more examples of racism in its most heinous form.

The Pittsburgh shooter absurdly posted on social media “HIAS (The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) likes to bring invaders in that kill our people. I can’t sit by and watch my people get slaughtered.” As he was shooting innocent people, he shouted “All Jews must die.”

At the Shabbat service that morning a family was bringing their baby for a Jewish naming ceremony known as a “bris.” A person’s name or identity as a part of the Jewish family should not be the reason for them to be singled out as a people that “must die.”

We must have a zero-tolerance policy against intolerance and our insatiable need for automatic firearms. Common sense legislation needs to be “one size fits all,” applying to all firearm sales and restrictions in all places.

The list could go on because there are many complicated issues. We are not of one mind or heart on many concerns. But officially, as United Methodists, as children of John Wesley, we are advocates for social justice and human mercy.

And as Christians, we believe that for everyone in the family of God there needs to be “one size that fits all” when it comes to our humanitarian concerns.





Mike Williams in Concert
November 10th , 7:00 pm in the
Sanctuary

RSVP is required

**[https://887thebridge.ticketspice.com/
mike-williams-comedy-event](https://887thebridge.ticketspice.com/mike-williams-comedy-event)**



Sunday
November 25, 2018
3:00 p.m.

Dover
Symphony
Orchestra



"Ring in the Holiday Season"

The Dover Symphony Orchestra

Dover Downs Rollins Center, Route 13, Dover

Join the DSO, under the direction of Donald Buxton, as we perform a wide array of popular and seasonal music. Visit the displays of our Central Delaware Artists and Artisans. Munch on festive baked goods & start your holiday shopping early! Sing along, clap your hands, tap your toes. Join us for this special treat for your entire family! Artisan displays open at 1:30 PM. Concert at 3:00 PM. Tickets available at the door or online. Valet parking available. Free parking lot shuttle service.



Come Play!
DOVER DOWNS
HOTEL & CASINO

This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.

Prices are:

Adults - \$20

Seniors/Students/Military/

First Responders - \$15

Young people under 18 free with a paying adult

Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org



Southern Delaware Chorale

*Dr. Colin Armstrong,
Artistic Director & Conductor*

Mid-Atlantic Symphony

Present

George Frederick Handel's

Messiah

Sunday, December 2, 2018, 3 PM

Cape Henlopen High School

1250 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE

Ticket prices: Adult \$25, Student (with ID) \$10

Tickets are available at Browseabout Books in Rehoboth Beach, at Puzzles in Lewes, from any member of the Chorale, and from southerndelawarechorale.org



This organization is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on <http://DelawareScene.com>.



IMPROV THEATRE

Tuesdays 6-8PM

*Ages
13-99*

**AVENUE CHURCH,
HERITAGE ROOM**

20 N Church St, Milford, DE 19963

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

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: Ken and Julia Bock and their family and friends in the passing of Pearl Bock, the family and friends of Chet Dickerson, Joyce Bononni and family in the passing of her father, Rita Bennett, Craig, Matt Dougherty, all brothers and sisters not speaking to each other, Alan Jester, Linda Breedlove, Lida Wells, the health and well being of all seniors and children during this cold and flu season, Ferd Nelson, Charlie Fleetwood, family and friends of Larry Davis, good decision making concerning a career change, Christopher, Bill and Jill Gustin, the pilgrims and team members of the upcoming Emmaus weekends, Peter Brockstedt, Vicki Schultes and family, the delegates to General Conference in February, Dale Brandon, Isabella, Chuck Moses, Brad Larson, the victims of the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, the community of Squirrel Hill and the City of Pittsburgh, change of heart for all perpetrators of violence and crime, all law enforcement and their families who worry, peace, God's will to lead us in a new direction.

Rejoice with: All students beginning confirmation class, Frank Bilger, all whose prayers have been answered, Avenue Church who is blessed to have had members of the Lutheran Church be part of the Handbell Choir.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Ken and Julia Bock, family and friends of Anna Mously, Shirley Morris, Amalyn Buddenbohn, Barbara Emory, Alan Jester, Jean Hutchman, family and friends of Kevin Bowers, Bill Baylog, Jen Nelson, Brad, Joyce Bononni and family, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Bonnie Hudson, Charlie Fleetwood, family and friends of Chuck Moses, Hallie Sizer, Orville Mills, all those impacted by social media and phone scams, Christopher, Jean Ritter, Craig, Cindy McElwee, Jill Gustin, Vicki Schultes and family, Sandy, Grace, the Lutheran Church, the delegates to General Conference, the nation, peace in the world, everyone with financial and employment issues, God's will to lead us in His direction, and Ann Andrews.

Recently hospitalized: Arvin Noel, Frank Bilger, Rusty Pride, and Bill Gustin.

Rejoice with: All of God's children who have been saved through Christ.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

Carol Terry is turning **80** years old on **November 30th**. Let's see if we can send her 80 cards. Her address is: 101 Babb Dr, Apt 3403, Dover, DE 19901

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

♫Sanctuary Choir

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

♫AveNotes

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

UMW HANDS ON MISSION DAY will be **Saturday, November 17th** from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will be focusing on making and putting together the tags for the Chrismon Tree. We will also have a Card Making table. We need lots of help with these projects and look forward to wonderful fellowship with resulting Crismon Tree tags giving everyone an opportunity to help some folks in need have a merry Christmas. Let's spread the love of Christ by working together to help others.

Instead of a specific **Harvest Sale date**, **UMW** will be providing an ongoing display of handmade knitted and crocheted afghans and smaller items for sale. Many items took a great deal of time to make and have lovely detail. Think Christmas tree or gifts. All money made from these items will go to Mission projects at home and away. Please check out the display case and/or display table to see all that is available for Christmas gifts or something to spoil yourself. Please give funds to Kelly in the office or put in envelope in Health Ministries mail box (Peggy Hughes).

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) are proud to serve their second Pancake Breakfast of the year on **December 2, 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.

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—UPDATED: Our greeter teams wanted to remind everyone that on Sunday mornings during worship all the doors, 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 **November 12th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **November 13th** we will continue our new study: **The Joy Stealers** by Rob Renfroe 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 November is "God Blesses and Creates Regardless." The November 11th, "Jacob Receives Isaac's Blessing" based on Genesis 27:5-10, 27, 18-19, 21-29; November 18th, "Jacob Forms a Relationship with God" based on Genesis 28:10-22; and November 25th, "God Blesses Jacob and Rachel" based on Genesis 30:22-32, 43. Please come.

UNITED METHODIST STUDY: Have you ever wondered what United Methodists Believe? If you have, then this course is for you. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 13th** 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 continue our study of Adam Hamilton's book Unafraid. We will meet **Sunday, November 18th** at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room and discuss Section 2, Chapters 5-8. Please join us.

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS will meet on **November 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Grier Room**. Over the next 34 weeks the class will be exploring the Bible. To register, please call Dave Reynolds at (302) 503-3933.

COMMUNITY

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD / SHOEBOX MINISTRY: Thank you so much for your generous support. There will be well over 100 children receiving Christmas boxes from Avenue. Please place your boxes on the altar to be blessed on **Sunday, November 11th**.

BLESS A FAMILY WITH A THANKSGIVING TURKEY: For a donation of **\$20.00**, you can sponsor a turkey for a pre-selected family from our community, whom Avenue knows will be most appreciative. Simply mark a check or an envelope with "Turkey". Discounted turkeys have been set aside and The United Methodist Men will be the arms and legs to pass on these turkeys to grateful families. Money for turkeys are due by **Sunday, November 18th**. **Thank You!**

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE will be on **Sunday, November 18th** at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Milford.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER: If you know individuals without family or friends to spend Thanksgiving with please pass this message along to them for a free Thanksgiving lunch. The Milford Church of the Nazarene will be hosting their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, on Thanksgiving Day...service will be 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. or as long as food lasts.

Milford Church of the Nazarene
11 Salevan Place
Milford, DE 19963

COLLEGE AGE LEVEL OUTREACH CHRISTMAS LETTER: Please sign the Christmas greeting for the College Age Level Outreach. It is located in the Foyer **Sunday, November 11th, 18th and 25th**.

CHRISMON TREE GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: On **Sunday, December 2nd**, tags with desired Christmas gifts will be placed on the Sanctuary Christmas tree. These tags will be available until **Sunday December 9th**. If you would like a Chrismon Tree tag before December 2nd, please call Joanne.

All gifts must be returned by Sunday December 16th. Please substitute or call Joanne 422-6152, rather than pass the necessary deadline. Please remember to adhere the tag to the present on the exterior of the bag or box of the gift. About 70 families are helped each Christmas by your generosity.

MESSIAH TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE: The Southern Delaware Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Colin Armstrong, will present a concert performance of G.F. Handel's "Messiah", with the Mid Atlantic Symphony and 4 professional soloists, on **Sunday, December 2, 2018** at 3:00 p.m. at Cape Henlopen High School, 1250 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE 19958. For tickets please go to www.southerndelawarechorale.org, Puzzles in Lewes, Browseabout Books in Rehoboth Beach, or Ginny Van Tine Chorale member.

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!**

Thank you to

- Milford Lions Club
- Chuck & Todd Culotta for the use of your trailer for the donated food
- Everyone who donated to the Food Drive
- Everyone who came to help us sort and boxes the donation

There were 2400 items that had to be sorted, counted and put away.

There was over \$140. donated as well.

There were a lot of folks who made this Food Drive successful and we want to thank them all

The Milford Community Pantry



LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	58	56
9:30	176	191
Sunday School	62	76
11:00	63	68
FUSION	0	42
Total	359	433

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11/11

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 1:00 p.m. Study 7 Meeting, Grier Room
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room

MONDAY 11/12 ~ Veteran's Day

Church Office Closed

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting, Nursery
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 11/13

- 9:45 a.m. Sarah Circle Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 12:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle Meeting, Jo Wood Lounge
- 5:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus, Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. Improv Group, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den, Room 207
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Study, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting, Carpenter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Study 7 Meeting, Jo Wood Lounge

WEDNESDAY 11/14

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting /Crocheting Group, Grier Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Working Group, Jo Wood Lounge
- 6:30 p.m. FCA, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Pack Comm. Meeting, Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Theological Reflections, Carpenter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room

THURSDAY 11/15

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 11:00 a.m. Study 7 Meeting, Grier Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion
- 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC, Carpenter Room

FRIDAY 11/16

- 12:00 p.m. Mental Health Assoc. in DE, Heritage Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 11/17

- 10:00 a.m. UMW Mission Day, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. FCA, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 11/18

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club, Grier Room
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room