



AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

If you were in church on November 18th, you heard me lift up a request from a young person who asked for prayers for “my boo boo.” The card appeared on the prayer request wall outside of Fellowship Hall, so I have no idea when it was posted or who it came from. I can just tell by the penmanship that its author is a child.

While I am certainly concerned for the injury that this youngster has sustained, I am also filled with joy. When a child knows to ask Jesus for healing, it is a source of great comfort and peace because his or her journey with Christ is already underway and going in the right direction. We have a lot we can learn from this girl or boy.

Jesus actually tells us to be like children and come to Him full of faith and trust. Luke 18:17 says, “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

It would be my hope that we all be like this child and trust unconditionally the healing powers of Jesus in our lives.

I pray that you and your families have a blessed and joy-filled thanksgiving, filled with the wonder, trust, and faith of children. And to God be the glory forever and ever.



From the desk of the Director of Connectional Ministries

Detours on the Journey By Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Last week, I hosted the Northeast Jurisdiction Directors of Connectional Ministries, representing ten conferences from nine episcopal areas, from Maine to West Virginia. In the past, we have met in Baltimore and New York, going to museums and attending Broadway shows. What could I do on the Eastern Shore to compete? I decided not to compete but to offer them something they could not get anywhere else—an [Underground Railroad Tour](#) and steamed crabs. (Yes, I know you can technically get steamed crabs in Baltimore, but they are not as good.) I borrowed a church van and we set off on our adventure.



About 45 minutes into our trip, before we even arrived at the [Harriet Tubman Visitor Center](#) as the first stop on the tour, the van began pouring out smoke. We pulled over, retrieved the fire extinguisher just in case, and opened the hood of the van. My husband, Bo, who served as our driver, saw sparks and more smoke, so we slowly made our way to the nearest town, Easton, Maryland. There, we stopped at an auto repair shop and discovered that it could not be fixed easily, and I began calling car rental places to get us on the road again. Since we had seven passengers, however, no one had anything available. I asked my assistant to call around to other churches, and she hit a brick wall. Then, Bo called St. Mark's UMC in Easton, and they allowed us to borrow their church bus. I thanked God for the connectional system we have.

That connection strengthened when the Uber driver arrived to take Bo to St. Mark's. When he got in, Bo told the driver where he was going and the driver replied that he was a member at St. Mark's but had not been in a long while. Bo shared that my father had served at St. Mark's and it turns out the man had joined when my dad pastored there. During the short ride, Bo had a chance to tell the man that the doors to the church are always open, should he ever wish to return. He replied that he might, seeing as this encounter might be a sign. So, our detour turned out to be a divine encounter.

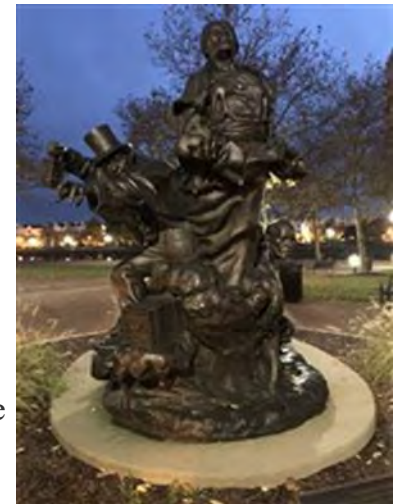


Along the Underground Railroad, we learned that Harriet Tubman had many detours on her rescue missions and several of these detours resulted in divine encounters. In preparing for the journey, I had read a book, called, *Tubman Travels: 32 Underground Railroad Journeys on Delmarva*, which describes several passages Harriet Tubman had taken. One day, when she was around 11 or 12, she ventured out to the Bucktown Store to pick up supplies for her owners. While there, she encountered a slave attempting to escape and his master in hot pursuit. He caught his slave at the store and asked Harriet to assist him in tying the slave down. She refused, which marked her first public act of resistance, and altered her life.

The slave wiggled free and the master, attempting to stop him, threw a two-pound weight at him. The weight missed the slave and hit Harriet in the head, splitting open her skull and driving a piece of her shawl into her head. Because she was a slave, they sent her back into the fields immediately with blood rushing down her face and did not allow her to get help until she collapsed. She nearly died and lived forever after with a traumatic brain injury which brought on seizures and vivid visions. Oddly enough, these visions appeared to be from God. Harriet often followed the instructions she received in these visions as she helped others follow the path to freedom. Again, what might seem to be a huge detour on life's journey turned out to be a divine encounter for Harriet.

After Harriet escaped from slavery herself at the age of 27, she knew she could not be free until others also experienced freedom. So, she returned many times to rescue others out of bondage, becoming known as Moses. Often she could hide from those seeking her because they searched for a male Moses, not a small (she was five feet tall), disabled (from her seizures), woman. One other story of a detour on a rescue mission which resulted in a divine encounter involved the largest party she ever led to freedom—11 people. They began their journey in freezing rain, traveling at night and wading in water to avoid detection from the dogs. Several of the people had become weary and she promised them a warm bed and food at the next safe house, where they were to arrive in the morning. Imagine her shock when she arrived at the safe house just before dawn only to discover that the man who had been helping her no longer worked there because of suspicions he was helping runaways. She returned to her party, exhausted and out of ideas.

So, she led them to an island in a marshy creek where they spent the day and she turned to her only resource: prayer. She prayed all day and trusted God to provide for her. Around dusk, Harriet saw a man walking by in Quaker dress. She had never seen him before and he seemed to be mumbling or singing to himself. As he drew closer, she could hear the words: "My wagon stands in the barn-yard of the farm across the way; the horse is in the stable; the harness hangs on a nail."



Could she trust this stranger as her messenger from God? She decided she had nothing to lose. After dark, the group made their way to the farm and found the wagon and horse, as the man described. Additionally, the wagon had been generously filled with food and supplies and straw to keep warm. The runaways traveled in that wagon to the next safe house and onto freedom because of another divine encounter she experienced after a detour. One of her biographers wrote: "But these sudden deliverances never seemed to strike her as at all strange or mysterious; her prayer was the prayer of faith, and she *expected* an answer."

We may in our United Methodist Church feel like we are on a journey which has taken a detour. Yet, I believe, if we pray the prayer of faith like Harriet Tubman, we will discover that these detours contain a divine encounter. And, these divine encounters will lead us on a different path, but one which still lead us to freedom. I invite you to join with me in this prayer of faith for our church as we wrestle with a Way Forward. (See information [here](#).) I also invite you to open the eyes of your heart to what might seem like detours along your day. How might God be inviting you to a divine encounter through those seeming frustrations? How can we treat every encounter we have—every conversation, every email, every casual contact—as an opportunity to share a divine encounter? When we live with such openness, I believe we will experience ourselves as “Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today’s world.”

Blessings on the journey

Vicki

Note from Pastor Tom: The church van that failed was ours. The Trustees are working diligently to repair the vehicle. We give God the thanks and praise that no one was injured and the team was not seriously delayed.





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

Dover
Symphony
Orchestra



"Ringling 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.



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



Second Street Players

at the Riverfront Theater

2 S. Walnut Street, Milford, DE 19963



Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

adapted by Mountain Community Theater
from the novel by Valentine Davies

Based upon the Twentieth Century Fox
motion picture "Miracle on 34th Street"

Steven Haber
Director

Melissa Brenner
Assistant Director

**Free Gift for Kids
from Santa's Elves!**
(while supplies last.)

This is a tale that we want to believe in, that creates a world we seem to desperately desire, where love, decency, and generosity of spirit are their own rewards; what we really want Christmas to be all about.

Tickets: \$17

Nov. 23, 24, 25;

Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2, 2018

Curtain at 7 pm on Fridays and
Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays

A one dollar discount is
offered for seniors, students,
and military for Sunday matinees.

Reserve your seats by calling
(800) 838-3006
or click on the show info at
www.secondstreetplayers.com



Second Street Players 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



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>.



Take My Hand Ministry, Inc.

Presents

A tasting of Christmas Brunch

*Sunday December 9th
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

*Sunset Cove
3 Haven Lake Avenue
Milford, DE 19963
302-422-1086*

Everyone is invited to this special Brunch that will benefit the Milford Police Department's Christmas Joy Drive. The brunch is a "Free Blessing to You." Please help us be a blessing to the children & youth of the Milford Area by bringing a wrapped and tagged (gender & age) Christmas Gift for a girl/boy valued at \$20 plus; or a \$20 plus gift card to Wal-Mart.

Join us in celebrating the true Spirit of Christmas with fabulous foods, fellowship, live music, a Visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM) and the special gift of loving our neighbors the way our Savior loves us.

Please, call us with the number of guests that will be attending in your party.

Merry Christmas to All!!!

2019
YOUTH RALLY
Protector
ISAIAH 43:2

 **YOUNG PEOPLE'S
MINISTRIES**

JANUARY 4-6

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

ROLAND E. POWELL CONVENTION CENTER

Brochures are on the foyer table.



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: Amalyn Buddenbohn, The family and friends of Shyann Christopher, prayers for the Lilly family, Lois Hopkins , Alan Jester, Jean Hutchman, ill Baylog, Joyce Bononni and her family, Linda Breedlove, Lida Wells, Ferd Nelson, Bonnie Hudson, Charlie Fleetwood, Christopher, Jean Ritter, Craig, Jill Gustin and her husband, Vicki Schultes and family, Sammy, The Hughes children, Jim Miller, The family and friends of Pam Green, Matthew Topolski, Ed Springer Robin, Janice and her family, and Kathleen Friedline.

Recently hospitalized: Arvin Noel and Bill Gustin .

Rejoice with: All of God's children who have been saved through Christ, Christian Comedians Mike Williams and Gordon Douglas who blessed us with humor on Saturday night, Frank Bilger and Jean Murphy's son, Pat.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Marty Brereton, Tony Wing, Kathleen Friedline, Charlie Harding, Alan Jester, Craig, everyone dealing with memory issues and their caregivers and families, the Freeman family, Lois Hopkins, all those with financial and employment issues, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, for good health and prosperity, Alma Brittingham, everyone dealing with depression, Gertrude Hendrick, Jean Hutchman, Ferd Nelson, Christopher, Bonnie Hudson and her sister, all the victims of the California wildfires, the victims and their families of the first winter storm, everyone traveling for Thanksgiving, Charlie Fleetwood, the Hughes children, Vicki Schultes and family, Joanne Tschantre Hyatt, victims of gun violence, successful surgery on a neck cyst, Kirsten Pearce, and someone with a boo boo.

Recently hospitalized: Harold Santy

Rejoice with: Sharon and Alvin Jarrell, Amalyn Buddenbohn, the Powers and Howard families, Brittany Gunderson, all those whose prayers have been answered.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

George and Lorraine Reph who will celebrate their **55th** anniversary on **November 23rd**.

Gerald and Shelby Swain who will celebrate their **63rd** anniversary on **November 24th**.

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

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.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: Everyone interested in becoming a member of Avenue Church is encouraged to attend the next New Members' Orientation on **Sunday, December 2nd** from **12:15p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** in the Grier Room. This opportunity is a chance to get to know the Pastors better and receive a helpful orientation concerning the heritage, values, mission, and vision of both The United Methodist Church and especially Avenue. New Members will be received at all services on January 13, 2019.

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

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **November 27th** 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 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 20th** from 7:00—8:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. Rev. Van Tine will lead a discussion on our United Methodist Beliefs.

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS will meet on **November 21st 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.

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH BOOK CLUB will meet **on Sunday, December 9th at 12:15 p.m.** in the Grier Room. We shall look at the birth narratives of Jesus Christ and see how they are similar and how they differ. Please join us for this fun look at a story we think we know well.

COMMUNITY

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 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 Henelopen 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!**

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	44	58
9:30	155	165
Sunday School	72	92
11:00	73	64
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>52</u>
Total	388	431

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11/25

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

MONDAY 11/26

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley 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. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 11/27

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 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 Meeting, Room 207
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Wesley Room

WEDNESDAY 11/28

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room

THURSDAY 11/29

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Group
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion
- 4:00 p.m. Music Ministry Recitals, Sanctuary
and Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Board of Laity—Dover District,
Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Grier Room

FRIDAY 11/30

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

SATURDAY 12/1

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

SUNDAY 12/2 ~ Communion

Pancake Breakfast

- 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
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272, Heritage Room
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and
Wesley Room