



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, December 5, 2018*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

My dear friend Pastor Heidi has written another beautiful reflection for the month. Her words are below.

We celebrate Christmas in the “time after the Christmas story,” but let’s reflect for a moment on what the Bible tells us about the first reactions to it. As the story goes, the prophets of God foretold the coming of the Christ-child. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah:2,6 NRSV).

Mary was filled with humble wonder as she accepted and contemplated her role in the event. “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word” (Luke 1:38 NRSV). Her cousin, Elizabeth and the unborn John acknowledged him with joy upon hearing Mary’s voice. Joseph accepted the responsibility of keeping the baby Jesus safe and raising him. That is the “before” story.

How did the rest of the world react? The story tells us that after the angel messenger delivered the good news to the young shepherds, “suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’” (Luke 2:13-14 NRSV). The young shepherds hurried from the fields to find the child, shared the good news, and returned to the fields “glorifying and praising God” (Luke 2:20 NRSV). The rest of the world, as represented by the wise men from the East, journeyed from afar, “were overwhelmed with joy” (Matthew 1:10 NRSV) upon finding him, and brought him

gifts. King Herod, was fearful (what if this was true?), and took angry steps to mitigate the threat to his power.

We benefit from living in the next chapters of the Christmas story. As the rest of the world, how will we react? What thoughts, gifts, or talents will we bring to this year's celebration? How can we prepare some best memories for our children, other than some game or message on social media? A useful tool to approach this question is to let your mind wander back to the best Christmas you have experienced: not necessarily the most memorable, but your favorite Christmas. What was the moment that made it the best Christmas? How can we use the elements of that favorite Christmas memory to influence how we approach Christmas this year?

As a child, Christmastime was a huge event. My mother was from tropical Hawaii, and then, she found herself in a land of long winters. As the minister's wife, it was tradition for her to host the congregation in our home. She decked everything out graciously including red and green cellophane on each window panel and votive candles in jars lining the sidewalks. People came in waves; the kitchen was bustling with ladies filling trays of goodies; there were coffee and tea pourers; my parents greeting the guests; and much singing of Christmas carols in the living room.

Then, there were the things to ponder: my father broke with church's tradition of being Santa Claus, explaining that it was his job to tell Jesus' story; my first taste of discrimination when my mother felt that I was type-cast as a Chinese coal digger in the Nutcracker Suite; generosity in the form of my grandfather's box of Christmas pears and Hawaiian candies.

My best Christmas memory, however, was when I would take some time each year to view the completely white ceramic statue of Mary that my mother would place by itself on the buffet with just a few pine greens. When I first viewed it, Mary was looking down on me as I thought she might have viewed her baby.

I wondered, "What was she thinking?" "What would God ask of me?" "Would I be courageous enough to reply, "Here am I"? Later, I wondered, "How many more times during Jesus' life would she look at him like that? How amazing is it that God loved us so much that He gave us His Son? What an impact this tiny baby would make on the world!

The holidays are upon us in this "time after the Christmas story." A time of celebration, anticipation, wonder, and perhaps, we have allowed them to become stressful, overwhelming, and anxious times. The choice is ours to seek out at our core the quiet blessings of Christ's birth and express them as we are able, or to get caught up in the world's whirlwind of all the things and traditions around us.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the word "Pastor" written in a standard script and "Kelly" in a more stylized, flowing script.



# SOUNDS *of* CHRISTMAS *featuring*

The Mispillion Children's Chorus

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *accompanist*

*with*

The First State Harmonizers

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

December 7, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

Avenue United Methodist Church  
20 N. Church Street  
Milford, Delaware 19963  
302-422-8111





# *The Milford Community Band*

*Southern Delaware's Premier Music Organization*

## *2018 Christmas Concert Schedule*

**3:00 PM, Sunday, December 9**

**Milford Senior Center • 111 Park Ave., Milford, DE**

**7:00 PM, Saturday, December 15**

**Goshen U.M. Church • 103 Mulberry St., Milton, DE**

**3:00 PM, Saturday, December 22**

**First Baptist Church • 301 Walker Road, Dover, DE**

**FREE ADMITTANCE • DONATIONS WELCOME**

**302-398-9394**

**[www.milfordcommunityband.org](http://www.milfordcommunityband.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 [www.DelawareScene.com](http://www.DelawareScene.com).



# ***Save the Date***

Saturday, December 8, 2018

9am - 3pm

**MILTON GARDEN CLUB, Holly Fest**

Milton Fire House

Fresh Greens, Wreaths, Arrangements, Grave Mounds

Limited Orders for Magnolia & Boxwood Wreaths

Please call

(302) 684-3804 or (302) 684-8315

Like us on FB

Join us at **THE PALACE!**



for A Fund-Raising Event

for Auxiliary of Milford Memorial



Have **LUNCH** or **DINNER**

On the 2nd Monday of each month

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount equal to 15% of your total bill will be donated to:

**MMH Auxiliary**



Thank you for supporting the  
Auxiliary of Milford Memorial

**The Palace**

556 S. Dupont Blvd.

Milford, DE 19963

302-441-2070

[www.MilfordPalace.com](http://www.MilfordPalace.com)







To Everyone at Avenue UMC and Avenue UMC Preschool,

Thank you for helping me in collecting for Mountaire's thanksgiving for Thousands food drive. Your donation was a tremendous help to Mountaire and the people who received the meals this year. We were able to feed 8500 grateful families on Delmarva. Again, Thank you very, very, very much for helping Mountaire Feed the Thousands. With out your support we could not have fed so many less fortunate families this Thanksgiving. I hope you will help me and Mountaire Feed the Thousands next year too.

Merry Christmas to all!

*Colby Johnson*

## **UMW GENERAL MEETING – DECEMBER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**



**WHEN: December 16<sup>th</sup>**

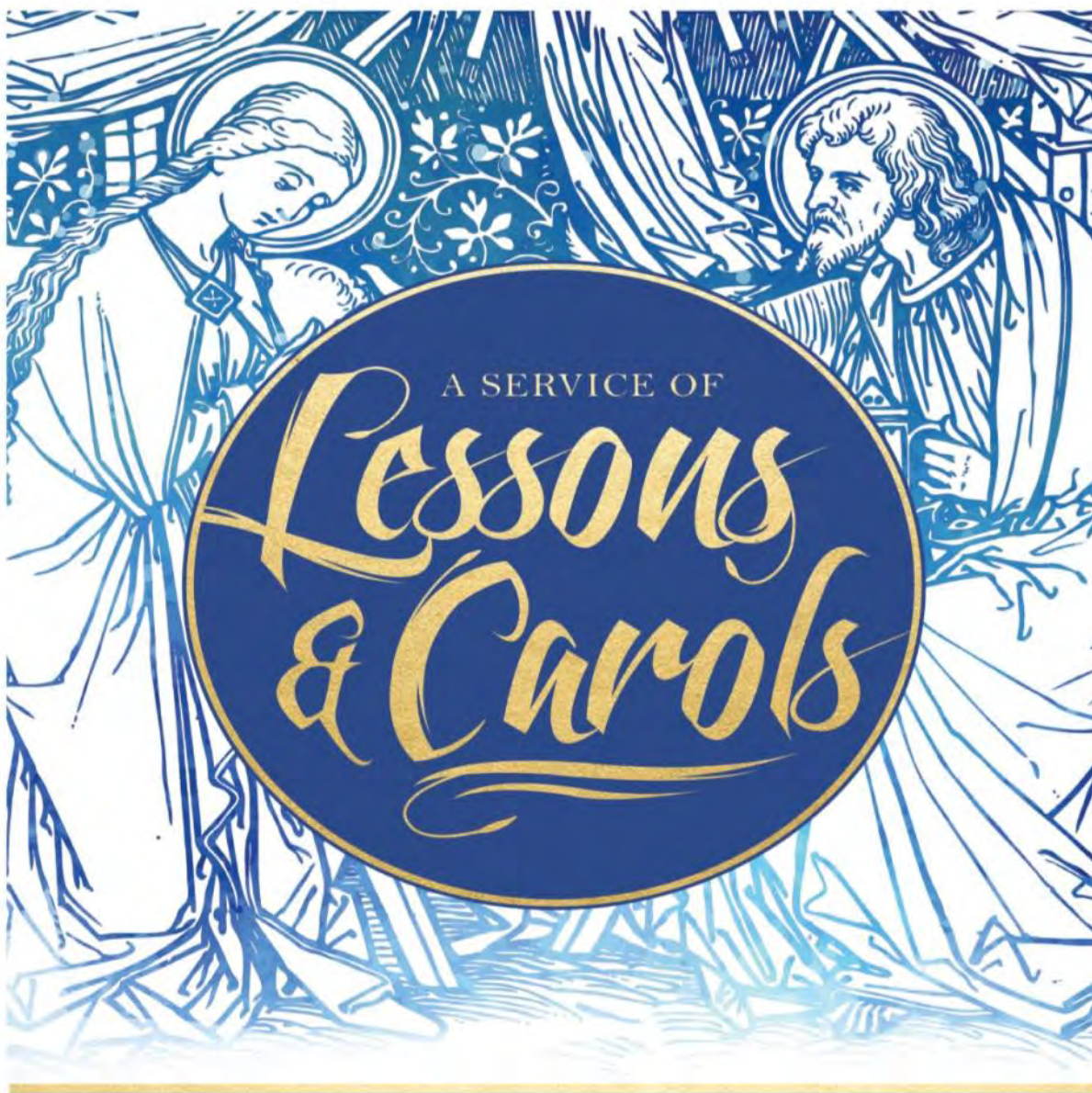
**TIME: 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**Kevin Chamberlain, Minister of Music and our own AveNotes will be bringing us some Christmas music following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. We will meet in Fellowship Hall for sandwiches and other finger foods finished off with Christmas Cookies. So, bring a snack to share - veggies, cheese and crackers, chips, or whatever you would like and come join in the fellowship and fun. Remember to bring your Chrismon tree gift and something good to eat on the December 16<sup>th</sup>.**





# AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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**FEATURING THE FESTIVAL CHOIR AND ORGAN**  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 24TH AT 10:30AM**

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**20 N. CHURCH STREET | CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED**  
**PLEASE JOIN US | FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



# POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

The Sanctuary is never prettier than it is when the poinsettias arrive for December. Placing poinsettias in the church in memory or honor of loved ones is a beautiful and cherished tradition.

This year we will again only be ordering 6" pots of poinsettias at \$6.00 each. The Altar Guild has requested that we only order 75 pots of flowers and in RED only. All additional funds will go to the Parish Purse.

Sponsor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

The cost for each Poinsettia is: 6" pot \$6.00 \_\_\_\_\_

The Altar Guild has requested that we order only **RED** Poinsettias this year.

**Please Print Clearly**


**Please use a separate order form for each name in memory of  
or honored**

Names of sponsors and those remembered and honored will be in the Worship Folder on December 16<sup>th</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

**Orders MUST be in no later than Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**



The background of the entire page is a dark red, textured surface. On the left side, there are three lit yellow candles of varying heights. The tallest candle is in the back, the medium one is in the middle, and the shortest one is in the front. All three candles have bright yellow flames. The text is arranged to the right of the candles.

# Join us at Avenue for worship this Christmas Season

Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:00AM Traditional Worship

9:30AM Children's Christmas Program

11:00AM Traditional Worship

## Christmas Eve

10:30AM Festival of Lessons and Carols

3:00PM Family Service

5:00PM Family Service

7:00PM Contemporary Service

9:00PM Contemporary Service

Communion will be served  
at all services.

Candle lighting will be  
at all afternoon and evening  
services.

Child care will be provided  
at the 3:00PM, 5:00PM and  
7:00PM services.





Brochures are on the foyer table.

## 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:** Marty Brereton and her son Tony Wing, Kathleen Friedline, Phil, Charlie Harding, Alan Jester, Craig, Everyone dealing with memory, dementia, alzheimers and other cognitive issues, and for their caregivers and families, Lois Hopkins, Harold Santy, Christine Santy, All those with financial and employment issues, Matt Topolski, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Gertrude Hendrick, Jean Hutchman, Ferd Nelson, Christopher, Bonnie Hudson, All the victims of the California fires, Carole, David and Stephanie Johnson, All those who are driving, flying and otherwise traveling for the holidays, Charlie Fleetwood, The Hughes children, Vicki Schultes and family, Joanne Tschantre Hyatt, Victims of gun violence, Chloe Donigan, Kirsten Pearce and Carole Brennan.

**Rejoice with:** Jen Nelson whose father has moved into the VA home this week, Bill Gustin All whose prayers are answered, and God's blessings poured out upon us.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Olivia, Piper McIntosh, Piper's mom, Daniel's mother and grandmother, Jim, everyone to have a wonderful Christmas, Rachel's son-in-law, the family of Sue Bennett, Nancy Webb, Craig, Christopher, Pat Lilly, all addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, Matt Topolski, Megan Miller, Brenda Beissel, Jean Hutchman, Tony Wing, Marty and Bill Brereton, Lida Wells, John Adams and family, Charlie Fleetwood, Linda Breedlove, Kathleen Friedline, Charlie Harding, Ferd Nelson, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, everyone with financial and job issues, and our church family who bring Jesus to the world.

**Recently hospitalized:** Sue Bennett, a mother, June Rankin, Evelyn, and Leone Lenhart and Charles Shockley.

**Rejoice with:** Chloe Donigan, Tristan, Joanne Tschantre Hyatt, Gene and Alva Hemshrot, Eleanor Lurwick, Harriet Davis, Bernice Smith, and Marty Brereton.

**Praise God for:** His divine intervention, answering prayers and His unconditional love.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:**

**Eleanor Lurwick** who will celebrate her **95<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **December 6<sup>th</sup>**.

**Lotte Dressler** who will celebrate her **96<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **December 10<sup>th</sup>**.



**Jean Hutchman** who will celebrate her **93<sup>rd</sup>** birthday on **December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Jack and Mary Lou Sheaffer** who will celebrate their **54<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **December 5<sup>th</sup>** .

**Jack and Janet McCall** who will celebrate their **56<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

**SYMPATHY TO:**

The family and friends of **Sue Bennett** who passed away on December 5, 2018. Sue joined Avenue on April 7, 1974.

We will celebrate Sue's life at 2pm on **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Visitation will start at 1pm. Reception to follow at the Century Club.

**WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:**

♫**Handbells**

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♫**MomentUM Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♫**Mispiration 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**

**Why blue?**

These beautiful paraments are blue, a color increasingly used for Advent in Protestant churches. Blue is the color of royalty to welcome the coming of a King. Blue symbolizes the night sky where the star appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. Blue can also signify the waters of Genesis 1 and the beginning of a new creation.

**What do the symbols represent?**

The symbol embroidered in the center of the altar parament is the Chi Rho (X P). It is composed of the first two letters in the Greek word Christos. The Greek letters, Alpha (first) and Omega (last) which flank the Chi Rho,



symbolize Jesus as the Christ who has come and will come again, as well as the continuity of God's presence in human history.

(Adapted from The meaning of Church Colors by Dennis Bratcher)

## CHRISMON ORNAMENTS

Many years ago, Marge Steiner volunteered to create these needlepoint symbols for the tree in the Sanctuary. Several women worked on them using white, gold and silver threads, representing the liturgical colors of Christmas. What we have are many reminders of the symbols of our faith. How many can you spot on our tree?

**Chi Rho** (X P) are the first two letters of "Christ" in Greek.

The **Lion** is a symbol of strength and power. Jesus is the Mighty Counselor.  
The **Heart** represents of love of God, sent into the world at the birth of Jesus.

The **Triangle** represents the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Precious **Oil** was one of the gifts brought by the Three Wise Men who came to worship the Baby Jesus.

## ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the Advent Wreath in worship is a cherished tradition at Avenue. We are recruiting 16 families to light the wreath this year. We use 'families' as a broad sense to include single parents, step families, multiple generations, and even traditional families. We are looking for volunteers for all three services on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and four families for Christmas Eve (3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m.).

To volunteer to light the Advent Wreath, please contact Pastor Wendy at [wendybutterworth@avenueumc.com](mailto:wendybutterworth@avenueumc.com) and indicate which service you attend (8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., or 11:00 a.m.) and which Sunday or Christmas Eve service you are available. You will receive back from Pastor Wendy, simple instructions for lighting, as well as the reading that accompanies the lighting. Thank you.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLES** are meeting in December to Fellowship and celebrate the birth of Christ. **Sarah Circle** will be meeting at 12:00 noon at the home of Ginny Clendaniel on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a dish to share. **Mary/Martha Circle** will meet at Rudy's Restaurant in Harrington on Route 13 at noon, also on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Spouses and friends are welcome. **Esther Circle** will be meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday night at 6:00 pm, also at Rudy's Restaurant, Harrington. **E-Circle** members and other women are welcome to join us at any of these times of fun and fellowship.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GENERAL DECEMBER MEETING** will be a Christmas Celebration and everyone is invited. Kevin Chamberlain, Minister of Music and our own AveNotes will be bringing us some Christmas music following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service **on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall for sandwiches and other finger foods finished off with Christmas **Cookies**. So, bring a snack to share - veggies, cheese and crackers, chips, or whatever you would like and come join in the fellowship and fun. Remember to bring your



**Chrismon tree gift** and something good to eat on the December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES**

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP:** The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **December 10<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** On **December 11<sup>th</sup>** we will watching a movie "I Can Only Imagine 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:** A large amount of yarns were donated to the church today (Wednesday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>) to be used for Prayer Shawls, as well as cold weather articles for homeless, Code Purple, school children and any other community needs. Knitters and crocheters, please come to the Grier Room any Wednesday afternoon (1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.) to pick up yarn and patterns for any of these articles.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:** The Sunshine Bible Class meets in the Grier Room at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. December begins a new quarter and the lessons will be "God Commands Our Love, Respect and Obedience." The study for December 9<sup>th</sup>, "Choose to Love and Serve God" based on Joshua 24:1-3, 13-15, 21-24; December 16<sup>th</sup>, "Love and Worship God" based on Psalm 103:1-17, 21-22; December 23<sup>rd</sup>, "Jesus: God's Loving Promise" based on Luke 1:26-31; 2:22 25-35; and December 30<sup>th</sup>, "Modeling God's Love" based on Matthew 25:31-46. All are welcome.

A new class will be **starting in January on Sunday's at 8:00 a.m.** for people who want to attend Sunday School and 9:30 a.m. worship service. The class will be led by Dan Nelson and Tom Chilton. They will be starting on a study of the book of Ephesians. If you have questions contact Dan Nelson at (302) 349-4842 or Tom Chilton at (302) 725-1333.

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** will meet on **December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Grier Room**. 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

**CHRISMON TREE GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:** Chrismon tags with desired Christmas gifts will be placed on the Sanctuary Christmas tree. These tags will be available until Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup>. **All gifts must be returned by Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup>**.

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.

**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	66	81
9:30	159	135
Sunday School	60	89
11:00	77	65
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>370</b>

# CALENDAR

## **SUNDAY 12/9**

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and  
Wesley Room

## **MONDAY 12/10**

- 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. Second Street Players, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting, Nursery
- 7:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> State Harmonizers,  
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

## **TUESDAY 12/11**

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 12:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. 4H, Fellowship Hall
- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Second Street Players, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,  
Wesley Room

## **WEDNESDAY 12/12**

- 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 12/13**

- 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. Webelos Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Heritage Room

## **FRIDAY 12/14**

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

## **SATURDAY 12/15**

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

## **SUNDAY 12/16**

- 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. UMW General Meeting/Covered  
Dish, Fellowship Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272,  
Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and  
Wesley Room