



The Midweek

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

It's that time of year again. Starbucks has brought back all of its holiday beverages and pastries. Just seeing the peppermint mocha and caramel brulee latte on the menu again is a gift to me that keeps on giving all through the holidays. It's amazing how a cup of warm milk with espresso, chocolate and peppermint can change my attitude. It's an expensive attitude adjustment but it is "my happy place" for the few minutes that I am enjoying it.

Everyone has those moments of joy that come from the "little things." While Jesus is our source of continual joy, the Lord understands and finds joy Himself in those positive aspects of our lives that are in addition to what the Savior gives. It can be a big event like time with our families and friends, or a small moment like my Starbucks coffee or when my cat climbs into my lap at the end of the day. I'm sure everyone has their own versions of what those moments look like.

In Nehemiah 8:10 it says, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

So, this holiday season I hope you find those small moments of joy while living into the greatest gift of Christmas – the arrival and joy of our Savior. To God be the glory and honor forever and ever.



From the desk of the Bishop....

**Ku Klux Klan Activity
By Bishop Peggy A. Johnson**


It has been called to my attention that recently there has been material distributed by the KKK in the bounds of our annual conference (Delaware and Eastern Shore of Maryland). Packets have been left on doorsteps and yards that contain material of a racist nature, speaking against Jews, African Americans and Latino people. The dissemination of hate and distrust among people is one of the highest forms of evil on earth. It gives birth to discrimination, violence and untold pain and suffering. People of faith need to speak out by contacting their public officials and the police and ask for swift action. We also need to teach tolerance and love in our churches and neighborhoods and pray for a day when this will be a thing of the past.

Historic Barratt's Chapel

Lessons & Carols Service
Sunday, December 9, 5:00 p.m.
Led by Dr. James Wilson

Candlelit Christmas Eve Communion Service
Monday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.
Led by Bishop Peggy Johnson
ASL Interpretation for the Deaf

for more information: **302-335-5544** or
barratts@aol.com



Sunday Dec 16th @ 6pm

Food, Games, Prizes
Ugly Sweater Contest
Beats Pill Raffle

Fusion Family Christmas



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

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.



UMW GENERAL MEETING – DECEMBER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



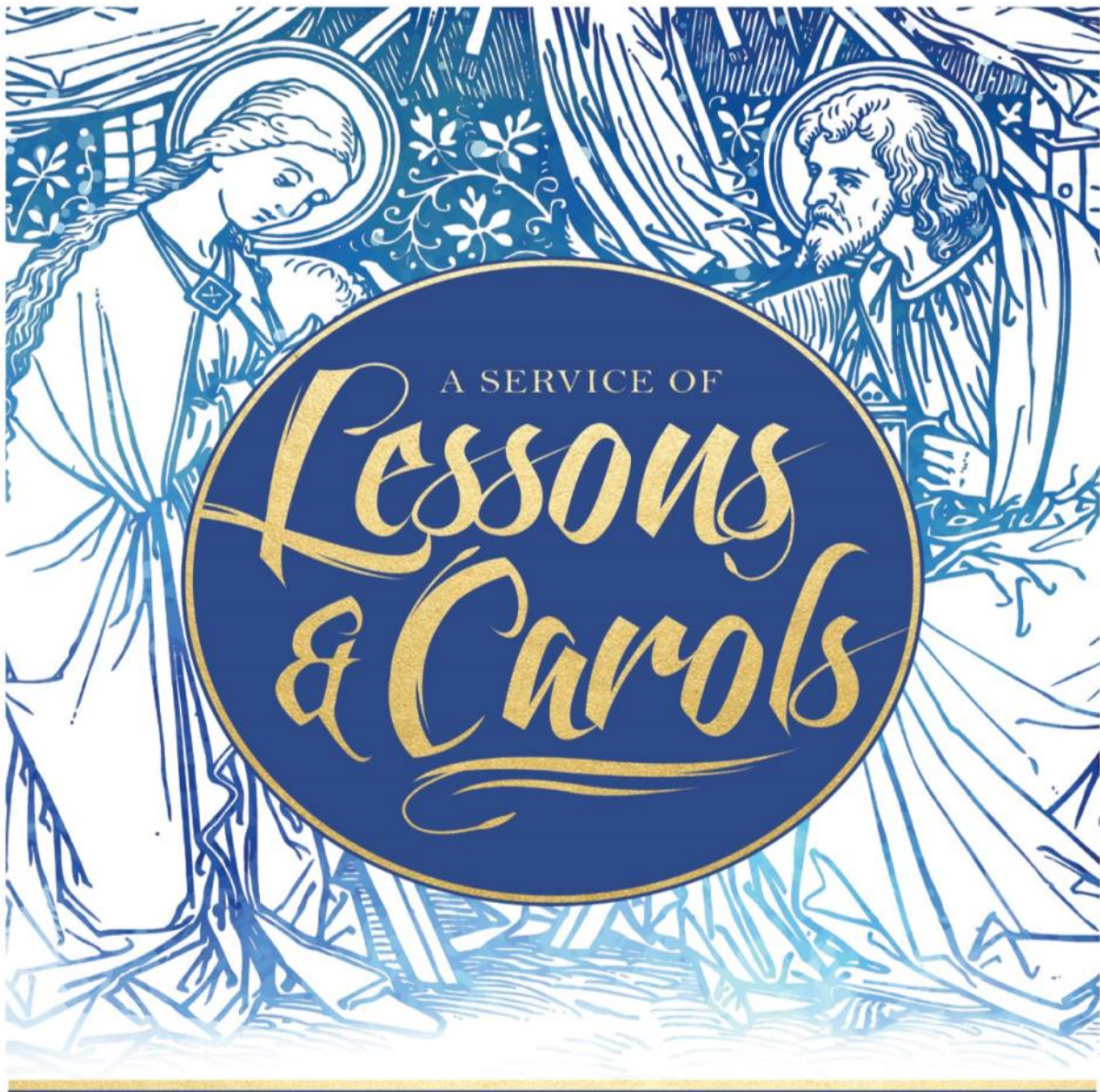
WHEN: December 16th

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 16th.



AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

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 16th and December 23rd.

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

Orders MUST be in no later than Wednesday, December 12th



Join us at Avenue for worship this Christmas Season

Sunday, December 23rd

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.

The poster features a black background with the year '2019' in white at the top right. Below it, the words 'YOUTH RALLY' are in yellow and blue. The main title 'Protector' is in large white letters, with a blue flame-like graphic behind the 'P' and an orange flame-like graphic behind the 'or'. A white cross is integrated into the 't'. Below the title, the Bible verse 'ISAIAH 43:2' is written in yellow and blue. At the bottom, the logo for 'YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES' is on the left, and 'JANUARY 4-6' is on the right. Below that, 'OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND' is in large blue and yellow letters, and 'ROLAND E. POWELL CONVENTION CENTER' is in white at the very bottom.

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.

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: 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: A mother, June Rankin, Evelyn, and Leone Lenhart.

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, The family and friends of Evelyn McNamara who passed away last week, The family and friends of Sue Bennett who passed away last week, The family and friends of Charles Shockley who passed away last week, Charlene Sandifer, Nancy Webb, Craig, 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, Everyone with financial and job issues, A promotional opportunity, For nursing home patients, their families, & caregivers, Our Avenue church family as we deal with the losses that we have suffered this week, Debra Breitweiser, Rachel's son-in-law, Bonnie Carmine, Taylor Bush, All who are struggling with addiction, Good decisions in a career move, All those with family conflict, Sharon Brown's cousin, and Wendy Zeisel.

Recently hospitalized: Matt Dougherty and Carol Evans's granddaughter.

Rejoice with: Matt Topolski and Patrick Helmick.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

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

Russ and Harriet Davies who will celebrate their **58th** anniversary on **December 24th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Charles Shockley** who passed away on December 6, 2018.
Charles was baptized on May 16, 2010.

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

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.

Oil Lamp symbolizes the Word of God.

Alpha and Omega, first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, are a reminder that Jesus is all we need as we practice our faith in God.

The **Shell** is a symbol of baptism and the baptism of Jesus.

A **Dove**, the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven at Jesus' baptism by John. It represents the Holy Spirit.

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 16th, 23rd 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 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 18th. 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 18th. Spouses and friends are welcome. **Esther Circle** will be meeting on December 12th, 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 16th**. 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 16th.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

KNIT/CROCHET GROUP: A large amount of yarns were donated to the church today (Wednesday, Nov 14th) 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 16th, "Love and Worship God" based on Psalm 103:1-17, 21-22; December 23rd, "Jesus: God's Loving Promise" based on Luke 1:26-31; 2:22 25-35; and December 30th, "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 12th 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.

COMMUNITY

CHRISMON TREE GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: **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.

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Diaper Pantry will be opened WEEKLY on Wednesday morning from 10-11:30 starting in January. We need 8 people to commit to one day a month and we will have it covered. Would you like to see young mothers smile?? See how happy they are that people care?? Contact Tita or Diane so we can establish a calendar. We need 2 people each week.

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!**

CALENDAR

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 , Baptism
- 12:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting,
Fellowship Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272,
Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and
Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Pack Committee Meeting,
Grier Room

MONDAY 12/17

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting, Heritage Room
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts—Court of Honor,
Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 12/18

- 12:00 p.m. Sarah Circle Meeting at Ginny
Clendaniel's residence.
- 12:00 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle Meeting at
Rudy's Restaurant
- 6:00 p.m. Improv Group, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pack Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Grier Room

WEDNESDAY 12/19

- 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. Tiger Den Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. FCA Dinner, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room

THURSDAY 12/20

- 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 12/21

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

SATURDAY 12/22

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

SUNDAY 12/23

- 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

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	31	66
9:30	132	191
Sunday School	69	96
11:00	70	79
FUSION	45	0
Total	347	432