



The Midweek

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Happy New Year and a prayer for blessings, good health and prosperity to all of you.

I will start this edition of the 2019 Midweek with musings from my dear friend Heidi Hill. (I had something else written for this week but have decided to preach on it instead so you will have to come to church to hear what I was going to say.) To God be the glory forever and ever.

During my younger years, I did not think much about Epiphany except to note that we would sing "We Three Kings" on the Sunday before January sixth. When Clark and I lived in a small village in central Germany, however, I was exposed to a different side of this ancient tradition: first of all, no one would decorate the tree or house until the night before Christmas; second, no one would take down the decorations until after the Twelfth Day of Christmas (January sixth); third, on January sixth, a group of four children dressed as the three kings and the Christ Child carrying a star on the end of a staff, would stop by each house in the village and read a blessing.

As I thought about the three kings' journey this year, it struck me that God had prepared for the Christ Child's star to shine in a time before we can even imagine. God had planned for these wise men to notice the star, and to follow it, so that Christ's holy nature could be revealed to them and to the world. Although we celebrate Christmas each year, its meaning and intent extends well beyond the baby Jesus in the manger and flows deep in our individual journeys. What things serve as the stars in our lives? How can we pay better attention and experience our own epiphanies - recognizing the divine encounters in our lives? In response to these encounters, how can we be more intentional about how we act

with love, care, and compassion?

There are many stories about epiphany, the revelation of Christ to the world, but one of my favorites remains the story of Simeon: "this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him" (Luke 2:25 RSV). The term "bucket list" has become popular of late; but, how many of us have the capacity to think beyond our own lives? Who would choose to list the unfolding of God's promise to the world? And who would recognize as he held the child, Jesus, that this was the fulfilling divine encounter that he desired? Simeon's blessing in response is telling: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32 RSV). As I read Simeon's giving of thanks, I am amazed anew that this wondrous treasure is revealed for all of us.

Pastor Andy



OPIOID CRISIS PRESENTATION
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.
AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SANCTUARY

1. What is an opioid, where do they come from, what drugs are in the class of opioids and why does it matter.

2. Where in the brain does addiction take place. Why does this matter. How opioids affect us on a cellular level. Why does this matter?

3. So what can a Church, Christian, Human do?

WE can't stop drugs from crossing the border.

WE can look at the carnage created by this epidemic [family members, active addicts, those trying to rehab, children of addicts] and pick a place to respond.

Our presenter is Reverend Barry Steiner Ball. He is a graduate of the Citadel with a B.A. in psychology. He then received a Master of Divinity from Duke University. He was then offered a position with the Maryland Natural Resources Police (game warden and marine police) working Talbot and Caroline County. He served as chaplain for NRP when needed.

Barry started a doctoral program at Wesley Seminary in Washington D.C. He was offered a position on a Drug Enforcement Task Force in Hagerstown MD. In this position he worked large cases in western MD. During this assignment Barry was exposed to the plight of Drug Endangered Children and changed his doctoral project to begin working with local Methodist Churches helping them discover how they can support these children.

Barry completed his doctoral degree in 2017, retired from the NRP and is working full time with local churches in helping them find their ministry response to the opioid epidemic.

Program provided by Avenue United Church Methodist Men and Women



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: Family and friends of the child from the Consortium school at Cape Henlopen, Family and friends of Stephen Welch Sr. who passed away this week, Family and friends of Stephen Leishman who passed away last week, Charlene Sandifer, Joan Eisenbray, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Everyone to have a peaceful and stress-free Christmas, Nancy Webb, Bonnie Carmine, Christopher, Katie, Brenda Beissel, Jean Hutchman, Lida Wells, Charlie Fleetwood, Linda Breedlove, Kathleen Friedline, Charlie Harding, Ferd Nelson, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Everyone with job and financial issues, Dot Sophos, Scott Sophos, Lynn Powers, Kathleen Wier, Craig, All addicted to alcohol and drugs, James Spray, Luisa Combs, Yvonne Nelson, The Hughes Family, Dalton & Marissa, Pat Lilly, Those who are missing a special family member this holiday season, The family and friends of Tom Welfrey who lost his daughter last week, A 6-year-old who was diagnosed with leukemia, Sharon Brown's cousin, Sue, A friend who is recovering from open heart surgery, Don Fisher, Jack Welch, All families having troubled times, and Bill McCartney.

Rejoice with: The Adams family and Sharon Brown's nephew.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Adi Nelson, Joan Eisenbrey, the family and friends of Stephen Welch Sr., Ferd Nelson, Lida Wells, Charlene Sandifer, Linda Breedlove, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, all those traveling over New Years, for a safe and sober holiday, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Brenda Beissel, Jean Hutchman, Charlie Fleetwood, Kathleen Friedline, Charlie Harding, everyone with job and financial issues, everyone with relationship or marital problems, Lynn Powers, all those battling addictions, first responders and military members who were not able to be with the family over the holidays, Craig, Leone Lenart, Bill and Jill Gustin, everyone adversely impacted by the government shutdown, the Sussex Tech band, the youth and adults attending youth rally, all to have a blessed and safe 2019.

Rejoice with: Mary Jo Lear, all those whose prayers have been answered, Piper McIntosh, Olivia McIntosh, and the Wall family.

Praise God for: Our wonderful choir.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Ed Bailey who will celebrate his **95th** birthday in January.

Mary Jo Lear who will celebrate her 97th on January 3rd.

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PLANNING BOARD MEETING will be held on **Monday, January 7th** at 4:00 pm at Avenue UMC in Grier Room.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLE MEETINGS are gearing up for 2019. New members welcome to join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 for Esther Circle. (**No Esther Circle meeting for January**). Locations will be announced in midweek the week before for Esther and Sarah Circles. Sarah Circle meets the third Tuesday each month at 9:45 am and Mary Martha Circle also meets on the third Tuesday at 1:30 pm at Avenue. A book report will be given each meeting this January – April by our own Helen Holleger. YOU won't want to miss these informative and fun reports. UMW Reading program books and Response magazines are available to borrow on UMW shelf in Foyer library. If you prefer an electronic circle so you can stay aware of the UMW events happening, contact Beth Parker at bparke42@comcast.net. What about a Reading Program Circle? Everyone reads the same book each month and comes together to discuss and share?

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

SCRIPTURE AND THE WESLEYAN WAY: Rev. John Van Tine will be teaching a class on Tuesday nights based on Bishop Scott Jones book Scripture and the Wesleyan Way. This eight week course will deal with topics like "What Is the Bible's Message?"; "Am I a Real Christian?"; "How Can I Connect with God?" plus others. The class will meet **January 15th** from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. Plan to attend this exciting class that looks at what Scripture says, John Wesley's comments on it, and how we can be better followers of Jesus Christ..

CHRISTIAN BELIEVER CLASS: New class will be starting on **January 6th** at 2:00 p.m. in the Holzmuehler Room. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **January 8th** we will be starting a new study: A Woman's Heart God's Dwelling Place by Beth Moore 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 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 meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. Our study for January is "Loving God by Trusting Christ." January 6th lesson is "Hold Fast to God's Love" based on 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5; 2 John 4-11; January 13th lesson is "Submit to God in Love" based on James 4:1-10; January 20th lesson is "Submit to God in Christ" based on Philippians 1:12-21; and January 27th lesson is "Devote All to Christ" based on Philippians 2:1-11. 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 **January 2nd 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, January 20th** at 12:15 in the Grier Room. We shall continue our study of Adam Hamilton's Book Unafraid, studying section three, Chapters 9-12. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Diaper Pantry will be opened WEEKLY on Wednesday morning from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. 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!**

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	60	48
9:30	196	140
Sunday School	0	50
11:00	75	47
FUSION	0	0
Total	331	285

Grotto Pizza® **Community** **PIZZA NIGHT**



Vouchers cannot be handed out on premises. Disregard to this policy will result in termination of the event.

Please Join Us for a Fundraising Event!

Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Milford– Silicato Way
January 23, 2019 | 4 to 9pm

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount equal to 20% of your total bill will be donated to Avenue United Methodist Church FCA.



This offer valid for dine-in and takeout only | GrottoPizza.com |  

Grotto Pizza® **Community** **PIZZA NIGHT**



Vouchers cannot be handed out on premises. Disregard to this policy will result in termination of the event.

Please Join Us for a Fundraising Event!

Cub Scout Pack 186
Milford– Silicato Way
January 30, 2019 | 4 to 9pm

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount equal to 20% of your total bill will be donated to Cub Scout Pack 186.



This offer valid for dine-in and takeout only | GrottoPizza.com |  

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 1/6 ~ Communion

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believer's Class, Holz. Room
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting, Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 1/7

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting, Heritage Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

TUESDAY 1/8

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 12:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus, Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Improv Group, Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den, Holz. Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central DE Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Comm. Meeting, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 1/9

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group, Grier Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room

THURSDAY 1/10

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Reunion Group
- 10:00 a.m. Revival Prayer Days, Heritage Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Comm. Meeting, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Pathway, Carpenter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Heritage Room

FRIDAY 1/11

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

SATURDAY 1/12

- 8:00 a.m. Troop—Merit Badge, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Battling Opioids, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 1/13

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believer's Class, Holz. Room
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall