



The Midweek

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

As of January 16th, the government shutdown has been underway for more than 25 days. There is an up-to-the-minute count on the USA Today website if you ever need the specific details of this particular shut down.

More than 800,000 government employees are either furloughed completely or working without pay. Considering the average household in the United States is 3.1 people, that means more than two million people are directly impacted by not having a paycheck. Then there are the millions, including the 136,000 people in Delaware who are affected by the SNAP program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) running out of money. People, including children and the elderly, are going to be hungry as a result. There are also the small businesses and other service providers and their employees who are being affected by less customers and fewer sales. I could give you many more examples of the ramifications of this shutdown, but I suspect you are already aware of the widespread impacts.

Whatever “side” you are on regarding the budget battle over the wall, I hope we can all agree that government workers, the communities that rely on federal employees for their economic health, and the millions of Americans who are supported by government programs should not be pawns in a political battle. People are being harmed and that is wrong.

The argument that there is a bigger principle at stake is true but it's not about a wall. It's about how the government is expected to treat its people and considering what scripture tells us, we are doing a poor job.

The biblical purpose of government is to care for and promote the good and protect the safety, security and peace of the people as Paul points out in Romans 13. Readings in Isaiah, Jeremiah, the Psalms, the Book of Kings reminds us that the government is responsible for caring for the poor and vulnerable and responsible for fairness and justice. That means Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

Many of you have asked what can be done to help those affected by the shutdown. Prayer is always needed. In addition, remember how stressed and worried people without paychecks and an income are going to be and let them cry, vent or express their concerns without getting into a political debate. Then simply ask what can be done. Everyone has a different story and need. By gently ascertaining what will be helpful, there will be an opportunity to support and care for our brothers and sisters who are impacted.

That is what Jesus is expecting of us – to care for each other in the midst of whatever the world gives. And in that way we can give God the glory and honor forever and ever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*****Church Council Meeting on January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**



From the desk of the Bishop....

To know beyond the unknown

By Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

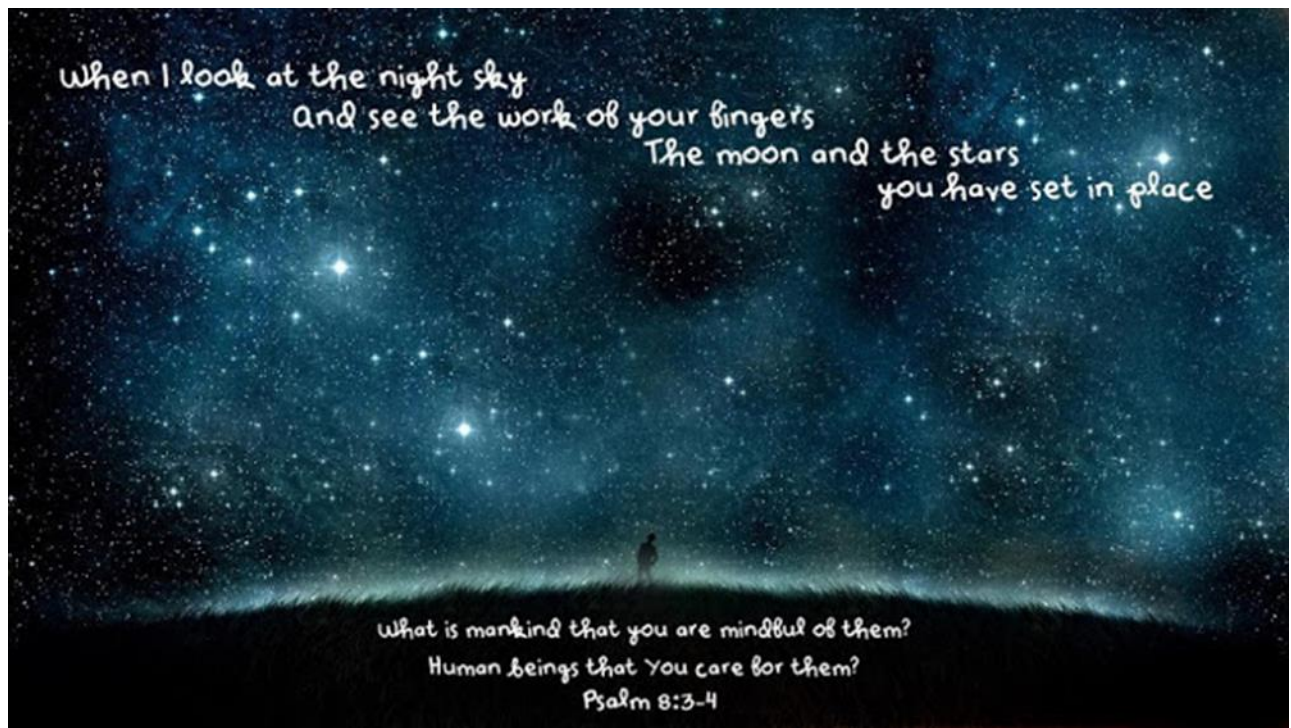
NASA has sent a space craft far beyond Pluto that recently took pictures of a reddish rock that astronomers call “Ultima Thule” (which means “beyond the known world”). This hunk of rock and ice stretches about 20 miles across and is about 6.5 billion kilometers from the earth.

Ultima Thule is significant, according to NASA, because it could offer us insights about what the solar system was like at its first forming. It could help scientists understand how the building blocks of planets were made 4 billion years ago.

On January 1 the New Horizons spacecraft sent back pictures—images the like of which we have never seen before. What is even more exciting is that this spacecraft has enough power to continue exploring the unknown universe for another 11 years. So, it will continue traveling further out into space and take even more out-of-this-world pictures that we have never seen before.



As Psalm 19 rejoices, “The heavens declare the glory of God.” How amazing is our God to have created so many vast planets and stars?



"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place," asks Psalm 8:3, "what is man that you are mindful of him and the son of man that you care for him?" Compared to all this vastness of space, we on this tiny planet might seem insignificant. Yet, God does love us and care for us as precious beings in God's creation.

Ponder the words of Ephesians 3:20: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work with us..." Or Romans 11:33: "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing."

Yet, beyond the known world (to borrow our new celestial discovery's moniker) and beyond the new horizons emerging in our sciences, we know an unknowable God. We know this Creator who cares for all creation through mighty words and deeds, through a heaven-sent Son whose birth we celebrated at Christmas, and through our own faith in the reliable evidence of things unseen.

We may continue to journey far in our search and discovery of distant, unknown worlds. But the God we know is always near, listening and peering into our searching hearts, hearing and responding with love to our prayers of faith. Let us believe in that!

Resources: www.QZ.com, www.cbc.ca

Remembering the Dream...

Celebrating the birthday of
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



"I Have A Dream"

January 21, 2019 ~ 12 Noon

Benjamin Banneker Elementary School
449 North St., Milford, DE.

Sponsored by:
Milford Area Ministerial Association &
Milford Interdenominational Minister's Alliance

Kirby Schuler



Dear Supporters,

In case you haven't yet heard, I, Kirby Schuler, will be moving to Ecuador on March 29, 2019 for my new position.

I'll be in DE in January for a few days & I'm planning 3 meet & greet parties. I hope to see each of you at one of them!

Party 1: Sunday, January 20th @ Arena's Café on Coastal Highway in Rehoboth, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Party 2: Thursday, January 24th @ Crossroad Community Church in Georgetown, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Party 3: Saturday, January 26th @ Rudy's Family Restaurant in Harrington, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Call/text, my mom, Valerie Schuler at (302) 270-5255.

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: The Riley and Wells families, Adi Nelson, Russ French, Bev French, Joan Eisenbrey, the family and friends of Grant Curtis, Ferd Nelson, Lida Wells, Craig, for all those addicted to drugs and alcohol, Charlene Sandifer, Linda Breedlove, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Brenda Beissel, Jean Hutchman, Charlie Fleetwood, Kathleen Friedline, Charlie Harding, everyone with job and financial issues, all those impacted by the government shutdown, everyone with relationship and marital issues, Lynn Powers, all battling addictions, Craig, Leone Lenart, Bill and Jill Gustin, Donna Tyne, Carrie McCartney and son, Bill McCartney and Mildred Jensen.

Rejoice with: Everyone who attended youth rally, Mary Jo Lear, and all those whose prayers have been answered.

Recently hospitalized: Jay Adams.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Russ French, Joan Eisenbrey, Ferd Nelson, Harriet Anne, Kristi Doughty, Marianne Butterworth, Lida Wells, David Rutt, Craig, the Wooten family in the passing of Wayne, Loretta Wooten, Charlene Sandifer, Linda Breedlove, Yvonne Nelson, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Mildred Jensen, Jay Adams, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Brenda Beissel, Jean Hutchman, Kathleen Friedline, Charlie Harding, everyone with job and financial issues, all those dealing with relationship or marital concerns, Lynn Powers, all battling addictions, Leone Lenart, Bill and Jill Gustin, everyone adversely affected by the government shutdown, Donna Tyne, Carrie McCartney, Bill McCartney, and all those impacted by the severe winter storms.

Recently hospitalized: Charlie Fleetwood.

Praise for: Barry Steiner-Ball.

Rejoice with: Addie Nelson, and all those whose prayers were answered.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Larry Wadman who will celebrate his **91st** birthday on **January 26th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Richard and Sharon Brown who will celebrate their **55th** anniversary on **January 18th**.

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 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 22nd** 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: Our next class is on **January 20th** at 2:00 p.m. in the Holzmuller Room. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **January 15th** we will continue our 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 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 on Sunday, January 20th 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 16th 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 p.m. 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.

Milford Community Pantry needs cereal. Thank You!

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!**

Grotto Pizza® Community PIZZA NIGHT

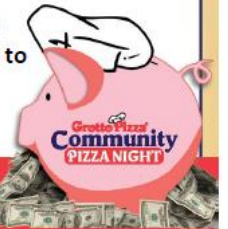


Vouchers cannot be handed out on premises. Disregard to this policy will result in termination of the event.

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

DAY 1/20 ~ Baptism Sunday

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believer's Class,
Holz. Room
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting,
Heritage Room
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &
Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 1/21

Church Office Closed

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY 1/22

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, 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
- 6:00 p.m. Lion's Den Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den, Room 207
- 7:00 p.m. Central DE Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Scripture and the Wesleyan Way,
Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Explore the Bible Study,
Holzmueller Room

WEDNESDAY 1/23

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group,
Grier Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Lay Laureate Meeting,
Holzmueller Room
- 6:30 p.m. Lay Laureate Meeting, Holzmueller
Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Theological Reflections,
Carpenter Room

THURSDAY 1/24

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Reunion
Group
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 6:30 p.m. Experiencing God, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Heritage Room

FRIDAY 1/25

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

SATURDAY 1/26

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

SUNDAY 1/27 ~ Laity Sunday

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Pack Committee Meeting,
Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &
Fellowship Hall