



The Midweek

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Exodus 20:8 is a command from God that we rarely keep. This scripture says, “Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.” How many of us take a day and do no work?

It is the only command that starts with “remember.” God must have known we would forget that one. We have become such a society of busyness that our “energizer bunny” mentality has become a badge of honor and we fail to follow the example of our Lord.

Even as a people made in the image of God, we somehow think that “resting” means we are weak or lazy. Yet God Himself rested after He created. Genesis 2: 3 is very specific as it tells us that “God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that He had done in creation.”

Jesus rested too. Even though His time on earth was limited, He followed the example of His Father and rested. We hear in Mark 4:38 about how when the crowds were big and there was work to be done, Jesus was asleep in the boat when the disciples woke Him as they feared the sea around them. Jesus understood the need for rest.

So why then, when we are commanded to take a Sabbath and we have such

great role models for self-care, do we refuse to do it ourselves? (And take note that the Sabbath is different than a day off if we use our time away from the office/work/school to do laundry, catch up on cleaning the house, and grocery shop. That becomes a personal work day.)

Rest is important in your spiritual journey. Studies show that people who take a true Sabbath are healthier, more capable of handling stress, and are more productive in the long term. God also blesses those who honor the Sabbath by affirming our obedience to Him, inspiring and revealing the Savior to us, and freeing us from the false idols and addictions of busyness.

As we begin a new year, working hard to get our bodies, finances, careers, health and many other issues into better shape, let us remember that we need to do a better job of following ALL the commands that God has given to us, including the one to keep a Sabbath. And to God be the glory forever and ever.

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

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

Have you planned your going away gift?

In 2018 Avenue church received a large bequest from Jo Wood. She was concerned about her church and wanted to see it healthy and vibrant long into the future. She did many things right. Including writing a will and making a final contribution to this church which meant so much to her. Can we say the same about us? Why not pick up the phone and schedule an appointment with an attorney. If you do not have one, contact the church office which can give you a list of attorneys who are part of the congregation.

There are ways to make an end of life gift that do not require the services of an attorney. Avenue might be named one of beneficiaries of your IRA. If you have a pension plan with a death benefit you might name Avenue a beneficiary. Life Insurance policies might provide an opportunity. There are members who have entered into charitable gift annuity contracts benefitting the church. There is a wide variety of techniques available to leave a tax smart gift to the church.

If you feel moved to do something but do not know how to start, give the church office 422-8111 a call. Our endowment committee would love to talk with you about giving options.

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 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: 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Russ and Bev French and family, Joan Eisenbrey and family, Ferd Nelson, Harriet Anne, Kristi Doughty, Marianne Butterworth, Lida Wells, Marie Minelli, David Knowles, all those traveling, David Rutt, Craig, Loretta Wooten and family, Everett Bennett, Charlene Sandifer, Phyllis Masten, Linda Breedlove, Teresa Jarrell, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, the victims and their families of the Mexico oil pipeline explosion, Jay Adams, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, the Pasmore family, Brenda Beissel, Jean Hutchman, Kathleen Friedline, Charlie Harding, Charlie Fleetwood, everyone with job and financial issues, all those with marital and relationship concerns, Lynn Powers, all battling addictions, Bill and Jill Gustin, everyone adversely impacted by the government shutdown, Donna Tyne, Carrie McCartney, Bill McCartney, everyone affected by the winter storm, Bill Gaskill's dad, Yvonne Nelson.

Praise for: A new career change.

Rejoice with: Addie Nelson, all those whose prayers have been answered, Carol Evans and family, everyone celebrating anniversaries.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Gilbert and Joan Emory who will celebrate their **65th** anniversary on **January 31st**.

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Russell French** who passed away January 23, 2019. Russell joined Avenue on October 17, 2004.

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 GENERAL MEETING and program on **Sunday, February 10, 2019** will welcome **Joyce Cain, a missionary** from South America as our speaker. Joyce and her husband Mark have been in mission in South America since 1973 having only recently moved back to this area. They have been working to translate the Bible for the Guahibo tribe. Please come for lunch following the 11:00 Worship Service usually beginning around 12:30 p.m. Bring a lunch snack to share and join in the fellowship and learning. All are welcome - men and women.

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. 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?

Avenue will be hosting the DOVER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING classes on **February 23rd from 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.** If you would like to learn more about the following committees or ministries please contact the church office.

Staff /Parish Relations

Lay Leaders

Trustees

Finance

Nominations and Leadership Development

Evangelism

MissionInsite

Worship

Prison Outreach

Race Reconciliation

Connectional Giving for Mission

Children's Ministry

Prayer and Healing Ministries

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) are proud to serve their third Pancake Breakfast of the year on **February 24, 2019**. 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 Member Orientation on **Sunday, February 24th from 12:30-1:30 p.m.** We will meet in the Grier Room where you will get to know the Pastors better and receive an orientation on the heritage, values, mission, and vision of both The United Methodist Church and Avenue. If you would like to attend, please email or call the church office at churchoffice@avenueumc.com or (302) 422-8111.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

SCRIPTURE AND THE WESLEYAN WAY: The class Scripture and the Wesleyan Way, taught by Rev. John Van Tine, meets on Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. This eight week course deals with topics like "What Is the Bible's Message?"; "Am I a Real Christian?"; "How Can I Connect with God?" plus others. This exciting class looks at what scripture says, John Wesley's comments on it, and how we can be better followers of Jesus Christ. All are welcome. Our next class is on **January 29th**.

CHRISTIAN BELIEVER CLASS: Our next class is on **January 27th** at 2:00 p.m. in the Holzmueeller Room. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **January 29th** 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 27th lesson is "Devote All to Christ" based on Philippians 2:1-11. All are welcome.

A new class **started 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 is being led by Dan Nelson and Tom Chilton. They started 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 23rd 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 February 24th at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. We shall continue our study of Adam Hamilton's Book Unafraid, studying section four, Chapters 13-16. We are also looking for new books to study. If you have any recommendations, bring them with you at our next meeting. 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

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

MONDAY 1/28

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting, Nursery
- 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 1/29

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den Meeting, 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, Holzmuehler Room

WEDNESDAY 1/30

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

THURSDAY 1/31

- 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 2/1

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

SATURDAY 2/2

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

SUNDAY 2/3 ~ 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, Holzmuehler 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