



AVENUE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, January 30, 2019*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

Mary Jo Lear got me a desk calendar that provides a piece of advice or loving suggestion each day of the year. Earlier this month was “quote your mom” day. (Thank you again Mary Jo.)

It made me wonder what my mom would have wanted me to quote. She had so many wonderful ways of making me feel loved with what she said every day. For some reason however I kept going back to her advice that I would regret it if I didn’t learn a second language and how to play a musical instrument. She was right about both.

But that got me to thinking about what language would be heard and spoken in heaven. I believe that everyone will understand all languages and the barrier of not being able to understand each other will no longer be an issue.

Acts 2:4 says that “all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” What would the world be like now if we asked the Spirit to guide us in our thinking and interaction with our brothers and sisters in Christ and walked in the ways that the Spirit enables us to walk?

Jesus and His disciples most likely spoke Aramaic. Moses spoke Egyptian and wrote in Hebrew. The writers of the New Testament wrote in Greek. Won’t it be wonderful to speak the language of and understand everyone we meet in heaven? As there will not be any discord or dissention in the kingdom of God, there will also be complete harmony and an appreciation for God’s teachings. Political differences, economic and social systems, and religious doctrines will no longer be sources of discourse and debate. Instead, there will be peace and harmony for all.

We pray every week that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What would it be like to start now to open our minds and hearts to better understand each other in this world? By being transformed through the ways and enlightenment of the Spirit we can become better children of the Lord, thus we bring Him honor and glory forever.



Pastor Henry

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## **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.



*From the desk of the* Director of Connectional Ministries ....

## Healing Wounds

By Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

We think some kind of bug bit our goldendoodle, Wesley, on his hind right paw. It began as a small red spot. However, Wesley started licking it and would not leave it alone. Despite our best efforts at soaking his paw and covering it with a sock, his paw eventually got infected. Now, we have to give our poor boy an antibiotic twice a day and he has to wear the “cone of shame.” He tolerates it pretty well, but he could have prevented it by not messing with the bite in the first place.

How I wish this type of thing only happened to dogs! But, we humans do the same thing, don't we? While we do not lick a physical wound, we do nurse our grudges. We get irritated by some small slight, and we play it over and over again in our minds. Then, as we grow angrier, we begin to tell others about it to justify ourselves. We gossip and back-bite until the wound has become infected and begun to infect others around us. (See Psalm 41:5-8.) We have all heard it: “Did you hear what Pastor Soandso said? Can you believe that?” The rumor spreads and grows and begins to infect the body of Christ. What began as a misunderstanding or even a hurtful comment from which we could learn has become a tumor eating at the heart of community.

Years can go by and still we nurse that grudge. We still badmouth the person who we believe hurt us. We think we have justified reason to be angry. But we do not realize we not only continue to harm ourselves but also the very temple of Christ here on earth—the church. Wesley's paw began to hurt him so much that he limped, which impacted the rest of his body. He could not run as fast and did not even look forward to his walks. Now that he is healing, his excitement for his normal play and daily walks has returned. So, in the church, when we allow this infection to grow, we harm the ability to live the purpose God created for us—to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Who wants to hear a message calling them to change their lives and hearts if they do not see our lives and hearts changed? (See Luke 3:3-6.)

We also see this dynamic playing out in our global United Methodist Church. You all know about the Special Called General Conference at the end of February. (You can read about it here.) I hope that you all have included the deliberations in your prayers.

Our Conference Spiritual Formation Team is creating prayer vigil resources for us to pray together. Too often, however, we have gotten into the very same “licking our irritants into infections” habit with this topic, as well. We demonize people on the “other” side of the conversation, with comments such as: “They don’t care about the Bible;” or, “They do not have any compassion for people.” As our hearts and communities become infected with ill-will for each other, we lose our ability to “walk in the way that leads to life.” (See our Baptismal Vows.) We no longer make disciples or transform our world. After all, who wants to join an infected body?

Perhaps we need to don the “cone of shame” to prevent our mouths from licking the wound with harmful words. The book of James exhorts us: “Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry.” Can we confess that we have often been quick to speak and slow to listen? Maybe we also need to take the antibiotic of Jesus’ love and grace and mercy several times a day, so that we begin to see that the same grace which covers us also covers our “enemy.” We might then experience the healing of the wounds of our church and begin to offer that healing once again to our world. Perhaps then, we can become “Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today’s world.” I am willing to try it. Will you join me in this effort to become a healing body for our world?

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**Community**  
**PIZZA NIGHT**



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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](http://GrottoPizza.com) |  

## 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 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.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Russ French, The family and friends of Ray Lafontaine, Ray Shearer, Joan Eisenbrey, Ferd Nelson, Harriet Anne, Kristi Doughty, Marianne Butterworth, Lida Wells, Marie Minelli, David Knowles, Craig, Loretta Wooten, Everett Bennett, Charlene Sandifer, Phyllis Masten, Linda Breedlove, Teresa Jarrell, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, 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, Everyone with relationship, marital or family concerns, Lynn Powers, Leone Lenart, Bill and Jill Gustin, Everyone adversely impacted by the government shutdown, Donna Tyne, Carrie McCartney and son, Bill McCartney, Bill Gaskill's dad, Millie Remick, Mark and Joyce Cain, Rob and Lisa, Laura, Casey, and Cameron, Hughes family and Gary Swain.

**Recently hospitalized:** Charlie Fleetwood.

**Praise for:** A new career change and prayers for guidance in this new career.

**Rejoice with:** Pearl Betts, Carole Brennan, The team and caterpillars of the upcoming Chrysalis Weekends and All of the musically talented people here at Avenue.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

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

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>** from **12:15-1:00 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](mailto: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 **February 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**CHRISTIAN BELIEVER CLASS:** Our next class is on **February 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 **February 5<sup>th</sup>** 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 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** meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. Our study for January/February is "Loving God by Trusting Christ." February 3<sup>rd</sup> lesson is "Renounce Everything for Christ" based on Philippians 3:7-14. All are welcome.

A new class **started on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 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 30<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 February 24<sup>th</sup>** 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!**



# CALENDAR

## 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,  
Holzmueller Room
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room

## MONDAY 2/4

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting, Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
- 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 2/5

- 9:30 a.m. Archives Meeting, Archives Room
- 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 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,  
Holzmueller Room
- 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting,  
Carpenter Room

## WEDNESDAY 2/6

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Tiger Den Meeting, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Theological Reflections,  
Heritage Room

## THURSDAY 2/7

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Reunion Group
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- Milford Commu. Pantry Volunteer  
Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 6:30 p.m. Experiencing God, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Heritage Room

## FRIDAY 2/8

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

## SATURDAY 2/9

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Fellowship Hall

## SUNDAY 2/10~ Scout 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
- 12:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting/Covered  
Dish, Fellowship Hall
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believer's Class,  
Holzmueller Room
- 2:00 p.m. FL Seabase Mtg (parents/students)  
Wesley Room
- 2:00 p.m. Study 7 Meeting, Carpenter Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &  
Fellowship Hall