



The Midweek

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Dads lugging strollers. Moms juggling hand wipes and water bottles. Grandparents beaming at and entertaining their grandchildren. Kids in various places along a spectrum of emotions from overflowing joy and excitement to complete meltdown. Ah...the magic of Disney World.

Michael and I recently came back from a quick trip to the “most magical place on earth.” Together with tens of thousands of other people we spent hours in line waiting to embark on Peter Pan’s Flight, Expedition Everest and Mission to Mars, among others. We were on one of the first buses to arrive at the Animal Kingdom and we still had a 75-minute wait to soar through Pandora on the back of a banshee. We were thrilled because later that day the wait for that ride reached almost three hours. The entire duration of this new attraction was about five minutes. It was a long time in line for a short flight.

Yet for the most part (tired child meltdowns aside), everyone took the long waits in stride even after spending a small fortune for the experience. Disney magic and marketing are amazing motivators for getting people into the parks. With the added incentives of the princesses and the “Fab Five” (Mickey, Minnie, Donald Duck, Goofy and Pluto) to see, everyone who visited the parks were excited to see the characters they knew from the movies and cartoons.

But it got me to wondering about how many of these families would make that kind of effort to get their children to church. I sat on the bus to Epcot for 30 minutes

across the aisle from a grandfather who was trying to figure out how to get two hours out of the schedule to get his granddaughters to a meet-and-greet with Anna and Elsa, the two princesses from the hit movie “Frozen.” Did he work that hard to teach them about Jesus and give them the story about salvation?

While a family trip to Disney World can create lifetime memories, it is the knowledge of Jesus that can promise an eternity in God’s kingdom. I also think that if it came down to it, most parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members would prefer to know their children will be safe in the presence of the Lord forever than spend huge amounts of money to affirm the story of cartoon characters and have a few days of fun. My guess is that most people don’t consider it an either/or situation or they choose to think the kids will come to Jesus in their own time and way.

What I truly pray is that the families I saw at Disney do both. I hope they have their family fun with Mickey and Minnie AND recognize Jesus as Savior. I know that was the case for two families at least as I know several families from Avenue were in Orlando at the same time my husband and I were.

Following Jesus does not mean we have to give up those experiences of traveling, enjoying entertaining activities or making childhood and family memories. But there has to be an understanding of priorities. Jesus has to come first. The Bible tells us in Joshua 24:15, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

I have no idea what percentage of the families I saw at Disney “do both” by putting God first and having fun together. It would be speculation on my part to guess how many parents would pack the stroller and snacks for a one-hour-per-week trip to church. I also wonder what it would look like if grandparents took the grandchildren for an hour a week to experience God – no waiting or long lines to contend with.

By doing the math, I estimate that most people waited, on average, between five to six hours of their time each day in lines. If families would commit to that much time in church on a monthly basis how would that benefit the kingdom of God and their families?

Disney World is one of my favorite vacation destinations. I love the rides, especially the roller coasters, and I had a great time having lunch with all the Winnie-the-Pooh characters. I even got my picture taken with Edna Mode, the hip fashion designer from the Incredibles movies who designs super hero suits. (No capes allowed.)

But I never forgot that the true story of importance, the real person behind our salvation, and the source of my eternal peace and joy is not a cleverly crafted fictional

character. It is our Lord and Savior Jesus who is the truth, the way and the life.

So if we are the parents, the grandparents, the extended family...can we find ways to bring the children in our lives to church? It will be time well spent in the pursuit of salvation for those we love. It won't be an easy "sell" compared to a week in Disney World, but the long-term results will be infinitely more rewarding.

And to God be the glory forever and ever.



Upper Room
October 20, 2011

Doing Our Part
1 Corinthians 12:27

Before my left big toe was amputated, I had never really thought much about my toes. I quickly learned what a difference losing one big toe can make. Once it was gone, I walked with a limp, and it was difficult to keep my balance. I now realize that even the smallest member of my body is important to the proper functioning of the whole.

Similarly, the body of Christ has no insignificant members; all God's children are needed for the body to work properly. If one part is missing or injured, the church's effectiveness is hindered. As Christians, together we are God's hands, mouth, feet and toes! God wants to use all of us with our unique gift talents to do the work of the kingdom: teaching God's word; helping the poor, needy, and sick; reaching out to those who are lost. To be complete, the body of Christ needs the skills and talents each of us can offer.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please show us how we can be involved in the work you are doing on this earth. We pray as Jesus taught us, saying, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

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 family and friends of Pauline Emory, The family and friends of Mickey Clark Lasher, The family and friends of Mildred Tribbett, Muriel Gillespie, Arvin & Linda Noel, Kathy Kimmel Russ, Gerald Burbage, Fran Patterson, Bonnie Hudson, Orville Mills, Joan Eisenbrey, Ferd Nelson, Harriet Ann, Marianne Butterworth, Lida Wells, Craig, Loretta Wooten, Everett Bennett, Bev French, 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, for children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and Gary Swain.

Recently hospitalized: Tyler Stokes.

Rejoice with: A new career change and prayers for guidance in this new career and generous and kind people.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Harry, Kevin, Liam Gross, all those battling weight issues, the Fisher family, Brenda Beissel, the UMC General Conference, Muriel Gillespie, Kathy Kimmel Russ, Gerald Burbage, Arvin and Linda Noel, Bonnie Hudson, Joan Eisenbrey, Jenny Thomas, Fran DiFrank, Peter, Ferd Nelson, Lida Wells, Craig, Rick, Harry, Christopher, the Pasmore family, Tori and Shane Eskridge, Loretta Wooten, Fran Patterson, Avenue Church and congregation, Orville Mills, Nik Heist, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Jay Adams, Willie Jones, John Gilmore, Linda Breedlove, Teresa Jarrell, Phyllis Masten, Adam Sobiech, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Jean Hutchman, Charlie Fleetwood, Charlie Harding, Kathleen Friedline, everyone with job and financial issues, Tyler Stokes, all those with marital or relationship issues, Lynn Powers, Leone Lenart, Bill and Jill Gustin, Donna Tyne, Millie Remick, Mark and Joyce Cain, the Hughes family, Gary Swain, a daughter-in-law, Rob and Lisa, Laura, Casey, Cameron, the girls Chrysalis weekend and Tyler Stokes.

Recently hospitalized: Wende Davis and Olga Slayton .

Rejoice with: All those whose prayers have been answered.

Praise for: The scouts and their leaders, the UMW and the missionaries being hosted this past weekend .

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Josh and Elaine Willey who will celebrate their **61st** anniversary on **February 15th**.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♫**Handbells**

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♫**MomentUM Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♫**Misphillion 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

GENERAL CONFERENCE BRIEFING– February 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

There will be a meeting to discuss the upcoming called General Conference in St. Louis, MO, February 23-26, 2019. This special session of General Conference has preoccupied the thoughts, prayers and ministries of many United Methodists. The information shared by all sides in the dialogue over human sexuality can be confusing because of the volume of material and the intricacies of each position. To help you better understand the issues on all sides and to help maintain our focus on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world, Pastor Tom and Pastor Wendy will be sharing more information about the process and legislation before the General Conference. They will also be answering questions about expectations and impact of this General Conference on Avenue Church.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLE MEETINGS. New members are 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 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 12:15-1:00 p.m.** We will meet in the Carpenter 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 **February 19th**.

CHRISTIAN BELIEVER CLASS: Our next class is on **February 17th** 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 **February 19th** 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 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 for adults meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. Our study for February is "Love Songs that Glorify God." The February 17th lesson is "Praising God's Mighty Works" based on Psalm 66; and February 24th lesson is "Living With God's Loving Assurance" based on Psalm 91:1-16. Please join us for these exciting lessons from the Psalms.

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 **February 13th 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 is opened WEEKLY on Wednesday morning from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. 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 always needs cereal and bar soap. Thank You for all your support!

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!**



presents its annual

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT

A Choral Patchwork

Dr. Colin Armstrong, Artistic Director & Conductor



With Guests:

Cantabile Women's Chorus
Sussex Tech High School Bella Voce
VOCE men's quartet

Sunday, February 24, 3:00pm
Epworth United Methodist Church



This event is supported, in part, by the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The division promotes Delaware Arts at: www.DelawareScene.com

For tickets: southerndelawarechorale.org

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF **DONALD BUXTON** we proudly present...

Sunday, March 10, 2019

@ 3:00 p.m.

Dover Downs Rollins Center, Route 13, Dover

Spring Classical Concert

Selections include

Lalo Cello Concerto
Jennifer Crowell Stomberg,
soloist

Bizet Carmen Suite No.1

**Borodin's In the Steppes of
Central Asia
& More**

*Dover
Symphony
Orchestra*



Jennifer Crowell Stomberg



Delaware
Division of the
Arts



This program 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

Prices are:

Adults - \$20



Seniors/Students/Military/

First Responders - \$15

Young people 18 & under free with a paying adult

Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org

Or Call 302-270-1903

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 2/17

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 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
- 3:00 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 2/18

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Theater, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. BearDen Meeting, Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. General Conference Briefing, Sanctuary

TUESDAY 2/19

- 9:45 a.m. Sarah Circle Meeting at Sharon Brown's residence
- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle Meeting, 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. Trustees Meeting, Carpenter Room

WEDNESDAY 2/20

- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Odyssey of the Mind, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Explore the Bible Study, HolzmueLLer Room

THURSDAY 2/21

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Dover Board of Laity, Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Heritage Room
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC, Carpenter Room

FRIDAY 2/22

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

SATURDAY 2/23

- 8:30 a.m. Dover District Leadership Training
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 2/24 ~ Pancake Breakfast

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 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
- 12:15 p.m. New Member Orientation, Carpenter Room
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believer's Class, HolzmueLLer Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room & Fellowship Hall