



The Midweek

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I heard from my dear friend Pastor Heidi with her words of wisdom for the month and I was so touched (in part because I am not a huge fan of peas either), and decided to share this with all of you. My article on Tara, the ancient goddess of compassion, will have to wait until next week. To God be the glory forever and ever.

Do you remember asking yourself, “Or what?” when facing a decision or an action? I remember my younger brother seeming to ask that question frequently as we grew up, and he was faced with eating dreaded peas, or really, any vegetable. The immediate answer to this “or what?” was sitting at the table without dessert for hours, until we could figure out a way to make the peas somehow disappear into a napkin, onto the floor, or mysteriously, into the heater behind his chair. Perhaps, he would have grown 6 inches taller by eating the peas, but that was not his decision.

Another example is, when I could hardly wait to be tall enough to see above the burners on the stove, so that I could cook. Of course, my mother would warn, “Don’t touch the burners, or you will get burned.” Well, what does that really mean? One time, I leaned over a bit too far, and the end of my braid caught fire...that was an acrid lesson! Perhaps the real “or what?” burner lesson came one day when I forgot that I had taken something off a burner, placed my left hand directly on the cooling, but still hot burner, and seared rings into my palm that lasted for weeks...a painful reminder of a good lesson!

“Or what?” affected how I approached Lent this year. Why do we frequently, and defiantly ask, “Or what?” Give up wanting to control things that are really God’s to determine? Or what? Hmmm...I might be free to do something more valuable! Living is challenging. Sometimes, our personal lives and the world around us seem to be in turmoil. Do we fear not being in control?

In the midst of these times, we hear, “But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off’; do

not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand” (Isaiah 41:8-10 NRSV). Why is it so hard to trust God?

In these three comforting verses, he *names his people, the offspring of Abraham. He reminds us twice of being chosen, and again, of not being discarded. God is ever faithful; the Holy Spirit is ever with us through all the ebbs and flows of our lives. Jesus tells us, “You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV). As the chosen people, God does not ask us to control our destinies, but alternatively, gives us joy filled responsibilities to shine our light for God’s glory in our daily labors.*

Rather than asking, “Or what?.” what would be the effect of asking, “What if?” It seems to me that “Or what?” is about consequences, and that “What if?” is about opportunities. Many of us have been touched by a family member or friend with a cancer diagnosis, or other huge obstacle. It seems to me that this diagnosis is a lot about, “Or what?” Have this surgery, procedure, therapy...or what? Only God knows when we will take our last breath. After a long health battle, one of my dear friends determined that it was time for her to go into Hospice, and then, asked, “What if?” She decided to take the whole family on a trip to her favorite places in England and France. This “What if?” became a precious and blessed memory, and a shining example of how God works in our lives.

If you decide to observe Lent this year, what will you give up? I still am going to try to give up wanting to control more than my share; and also, will look for opportunities to let God’s light shine by asking, “What if?”

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

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 Leone Lenart, All those battling weight issues, Harry, Liam Gross, The Fisher family, Brenda Beissel, Marti Seal, The United Methodist general conference coming up on February 23 – 26, Muriel Gillespie, Kathy Kimmel Russ, Linda Rogers, Gerald Burbage, Arvin and Linda Noel, Bonnie Hudson, Joan Eisenbrey, Jenny Thomas, Ferd Nelson, Lida Wells, Craig, Christopher, The Pasmore Family, Pastor Wendy, Loretta Wooten, Fran Patterson, Avenue Church and the congregation as we prepare to receive Steve Lamotte as our new pastor, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Jay Adams, Willie Jones, John Gilmore, Linda Breedlove, Teresa Jarrell, Adam Sobiech, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Jean Hutchman, Charlie Fleetwood, Charlie Harding, Kathleen Friedline, Everyone with job and/or financial issues, All those with marital, relationship or family issues, Lynn Powers, Bill and Jill Gustin, Millie Remick, Mark Cain, The Hughes family, including children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Gary Swain, Emily, Frank Mentusky, Wendy Mayle, Kay Green, Octavion, Tony Johnson, Jon Terry, Leah Shribu, Doris Warren and Carlton Goodhand.

Rejoice with: Bethany Pasmore.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Karen Williams and family, the Fisher family, everyone recovering from surgery, Brenda Beissel, Marti Seal, Muriel Gillespie, Kathy Kimmel Russ, Linda Rogers, Gerald Burbage, Jack Eisenbrey, Jenny Thomas, Fran Patterson, Gary Coulbourne, Joan Eisenbrey, M.L. Katchka, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Dee Ann, Ferd Nelson, Lida Wells, Craig, A.J., Buzz Gildea, Mrs. Lewis, all those who are seriously ill, Charlene Sandifer, the Saxon family, Doris Warren, Carlton Goodhand, Arvin and Linda Noel, Sally, Buxton, all those battling weight issues, the people of Venezula, Christopher, the Pasmore family, Loretta Wooten, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Jay Adams, Carolyn, Cheryl Horst, John Gilmore, Linda Breedlove, Teresa Jarrell, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Jean Hutchman, Savanna C., Chris Dongls, Carson, Kassie, Jordan, Cole, Courtney, Charlie Fleetwood, Charlie Harding, Kathleen Friedline, everyone with job and/or financial issues, all those with marital and relationship concerns, Lynn Powers, Bill and Jill Gustin, Mark and Joyce Cain, the Hughes family, Gary Swain, Emily, Frank Mentusky, Wendy Mayle, Kay Green, Tony Johnson, Jon Terry and Leah.

Rejoice with: The caterpillars and staff on the boys Chrysalis weekend and Nicole Wilkins.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Gary and Marti Seal who will celebrate their **52nd** anniversary on **March 11th**.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♫**Handbells**

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Music Room

♫**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

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?

LENT: Until Easter the Church is in a season of self-denial and self-examination called Lent. During Lent we recommend these special services. The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 6th**.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be held at Avenue at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Child care will be provided.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES are held each Wednesday at noon followed by a soup luncheon at various churches. The schedule is:

March 6th, Calvary UMC

March 13th, St Paul UMC

March 20th, Mt. Enon Baptist
March 27th, Milford Church of the Nazarene
April 3rd, Avenue UMC
April 10th, First Presbyterian Church
April 17th, Avenue UMC (Snow Date)

MILFORD INTERDENOMINATIONAL LENTEN SERVICES are held each Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. at various churches. The schedule is:

March 6th, Wesley Chapel
March 13th, Bethel A.M.E.
March 20th, New Beginnings.
March 27th, My Father's House
April 3rd, Faith, Hope & Love
April 10th, Word of Life Comm.
April 17th, Upper Room
April 18th, Mt. Enon

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 **March 5th**.

CHRISTIAN BELIEVER CLASS: Our next class is on **March 3rd** 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 **March 5th** 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 March is "Discipleship and Mission." The lessons are: March 3rd "Called to Humility and Hospitality" based on Luke 14:7-14; March 10th "A Costly Call" based on Mark 1:16-20; Luke 14:25-33; March 17th "Calling the Lost" based on Luke 15:11-24; and March 24th "Calling to Salvation" based on Luke 19:1-10. Please plan to attend for these exciting lessons.

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 27th 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 March 17th at 12:15 p.m.** in the Grier Room. We shall conclude our study of Adam Hamilton's Book Unafraid, studying section five, Chapters 17-20. 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

MATTHEW PROJECT: A family is in need of TV, small table and 3-4 chairs, full size bed sheets and blankets. Thank You!

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!**

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
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Jennifer Crowell Stomberg



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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

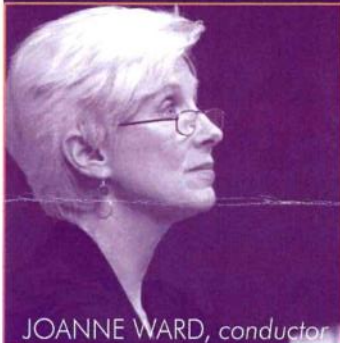
Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org

Or Call 302-270-1903

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WOMEN'S CHORUS



JOANNE WARD, conductor



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A WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CONCERT

IN SUPPORT OF PEOPLE'S PLACE, MILFORD

SUNDAY
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4 PM

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Lewes, Delaware

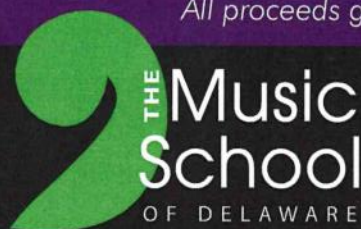
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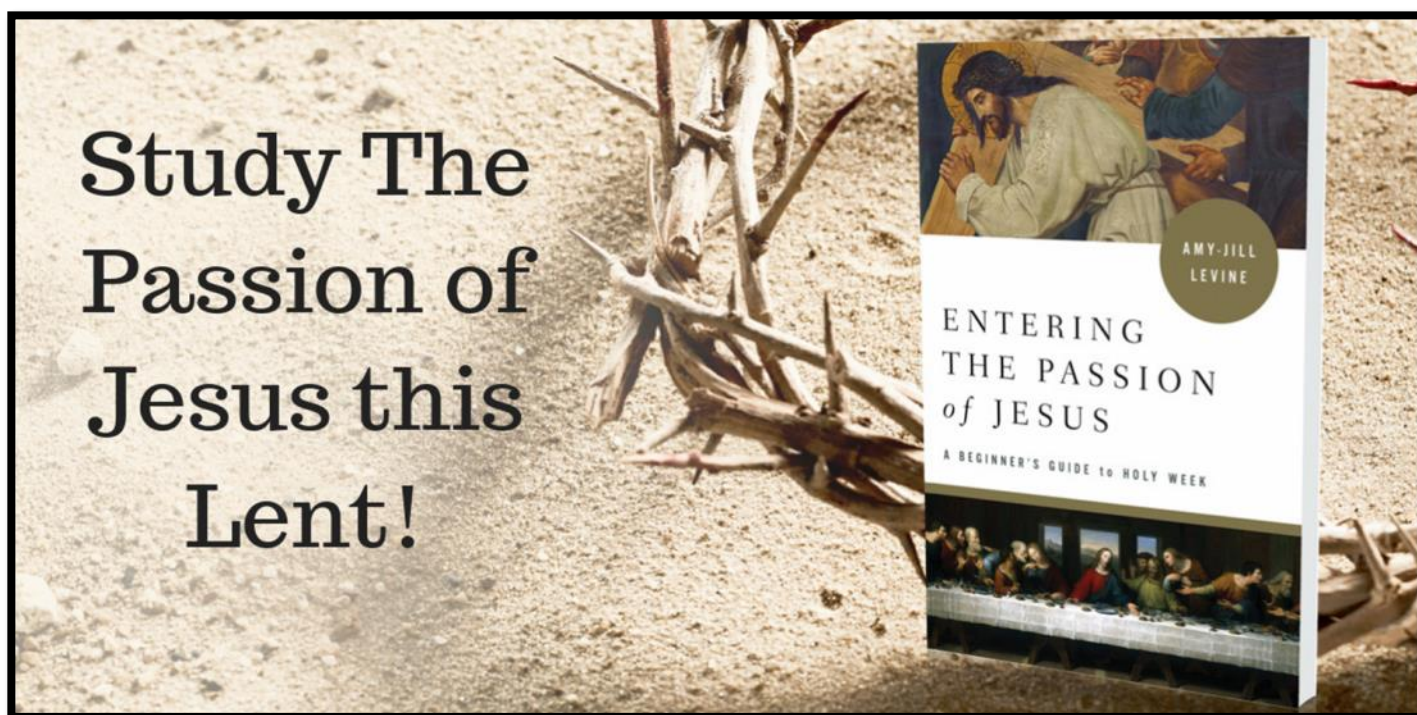
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DELAWARE COUNTY FUND FOR THE
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Wednesdays at 7pm
During Lent
Starting March 13th



Although the Bible gives us insights into what Jesus was thinking between the time he entered into Jerusalem and the night he spent in the Garden of Gethsemane, we can't totally relate. But what if we look at the “ordinary” people who witnessed the Passion events...the women around Jesus and his disciples? Or the “bad” guys... Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas? If we look closely at the people who were part of Jesus' life during the last days before the crucifixion—their relationships and roles in the story—how might that deepen our understanding of what happened? In *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story to help us fill in the blanks.

Avenue United Methodist Church

Lenten Organ Recitals

March 7, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Taylor Harvey,
Salisbury, Maryland

March 14, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Jackson Borges,
All Saints' Episcopal Church, Rehoboth Beach

March 21, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Herb Parkes,
Christ Episcopal Church, Milford

March 28, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

TBA

April 4, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

TBA

April 11, 2019 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Kevin B. Chamberlain,
Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford

All recitals are held at Avenue Church.

A luncheon of homemade soup and bread will be served in the
Fellowship Hall immediately following the recitals.

All are invited.

Lenten Organ Recitals are part of the Concert Series of Avenue Church.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 3/3 ~ Youth Sunday

- 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,
Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &
Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 3/4

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Theater, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den 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. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

TUESDAY 3/5

- 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
- 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. Leadership Team Meeting,
Carpenter Room

WEDNESDAY 3/6 ~ Ash Wednesday

- 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. Tiger Den Meeting, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Explore the Bible Study,
Holzmueller Room
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

THURSDAY 3/7

- 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. Webelos Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Heritage Room

FRIDAY 3/8

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

SATURDAY 3/9

- 8:00 a.m. Troop Merit Badge College, Wesley
Room and Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 3/10

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &
Fellowship Hall