



## *The Midweek*

***Wednesday, May 8, 2019***

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

My youngest nephew is getting ready to graduate from college in a few weeks. He worked really hard and will be graduating with two degrees and additional honors. This means he has earned the right to walk in three different graduation ceremonies, and of course, they are on three different days.

When asked by his mother (my sister) which ceremony he wanted to participate in, he told her he wanted to be part of all of them. As he said, he did the work, he wants to celebrate his achievements.

My sister does not want to spend the entire weekend away from home, entertaining the in-laws so she is trying to “suggest” he do just one. To her credit, she does feel bad about this “lack of enthusiasm” she has for his events, but she is still trying to get him to cut back to one.

As way of perspective, Colton is her third child and she has done this with the other two before. And she knows her attitude on this one is bad because as she says, when it was her first, she showed up all excited with a different outfit for each ceremony. This time she is throwing a few things in a bag and while she will be the genuinely proud mother, she is also going to spend the weekend fake smiling her way through it and wishing he had only done one.

It got me to thinking about how special, unique and important each of us is to Jesus. We are not just one in a long line of God’s created children, but each of us individually is the most significant person in this world to Him. While there

have been billions of people on this planet, Jesus sees each of us as if we are His one and only. He has all the time in the world for us, and we don't have to get in line for His attention or presence. Each of us is His number one priority and while that is hard for us to comprehend, He is God and that is not only possible, it's what happens every day.

1 John 3:1 tells us to, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God." So, if you ever feel like a number or inconsequential in this world, just remind yourself that you are the most important person ever created in the eyes of God and He loves you unconditionally and with His whole heart. You are God's beloved child and He will always see you as the incredible, amazing individual that you are.

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.

**MOTHER'S DAY** is just around the corner and we are accepting donations for carnations in loving memory or honor of our mothers. Special Mother's Day envelopes are in the pews and the Church Office. Carnations are **\$5.00** per stem. Proceeds will benefit the Parish Purse. All orders need to be placed no later than **May 9<sup>th</sup>** so the names can be listed in the worship folder on Mother's Day. If you have any questions call Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.



*From the desk of the Bishop ....*

## **Murder in the Heart**

**By Bishop Peggy Johnson**

It seems that the world has gone crazy with a series of hate-related mass murders recently. In New Zealand, Muslims were killed while worshipping. Then there were bombings in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, where many Christians were murdered and wounded. And now we grieve a shooting in a Jewish synagogue near San Diego, Calif. These senseless atrocities have become a constant, tragic reality in our troubled world.

Christians need to acknowledge the persecution of the church that is a part of that sobering reality. There are more Christian martyrs and people incarcerated for their Christian beliefs than ever before in the history of our world. According to some researchers, one in 12 Christians live where their faith is “illegal, forbidden or punished” (2018 World Watch List from Open Doors). That comes to about 215 million Christians facing persecution.

It is not limited to Christians of course: Muslims, Jews, and religious sects of all kinds face persecution and death, depending on where they happen to live, including people in the United States. Humans are killing and harming each other for sectarian religious reasons, for racial bigotry reasons, for reasons of fear, for reasons of ignorance in an endless wave of malice and misery.

### **Response after response after response**

We decry this! We are jarred into responsive action with every horrible news account and the details that emerge. Sometimes, some of us even become numb because it is so overwhelming.

We engage in sending help for the victim’s families, rebuilding damaged houses of worship, launching street protests, going to Congress to testify, and calling for more restrictive gun laws. We organize talks about racism and building healthy relationships with the “other.” We teach and preach about inclusivity and tolerance.

We have candlelight vigils and calls to prayers and calls to action. We encourage people to speak out and write to lawmakers. We do, do, do all of this, at least for a while; and sometimes it all gets too hard and overwhelming, and the passion dissipates. Then there is the next explosion, the next shooting, the next suicide bomber; and it starts all over again. What can stop this endless cycle of evil and violent inhumanity?

### **Anger in our hearts is tantamount to murder**

An important answer is right here in The Book, the Word of God, found in the “Sermon on the Mount,” what I lovingly refer to as “Jesus’ Greatest Hits.” The Gospel says in Matthew 5:21-24,

*“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment: whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”*

Jesus is meddling here, getting personal. That is why he is so hard to hear. It is not the mass murderers “out there” that he is admonishing. He is talking about us, with all of our interpersonal rubs and “sides” and strife and jealousies and bigotries and impatience and selfishness!

Jesus is saying that anger in our hearts against our brothers and sisters is the same as committing murder. The seeds of anger bloom into murder. It all begins in the heart, in our hearts. Every one of us has been guilty of anger against our fellow humans. Every one of us has at some time spoken disparagingly about someone with whom we disagree.”

If we really want to do something about the violence and evil in the world, if we really believe in doing what the Word of God says, we need to work on ourselves first. Go to the lawmaker of your soul and ask God to ferret out the places where you are holding hatred. Go write a letter to yourself about why you don’t like this person or that group. Hold a candlelight vigil in your prayer closet and ask God to help you devise a plan to build bridges of understanding and respect instead of erecting walls of schism and hatred. Confront your personal demons with confession and repentance.

Then go out and make peace with the people with whom you are in disagreement. There is a lot of demonizing going on in this world and in The United Methodist Church. Take personal responsibility to understand, respect and speak kindly to your opponents. As the familiar hymn admonishes us: “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!”

If you do these things, the words of Isaiah 58:8 and 12b will come to pass “Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your real guard....You shall be called the repairers of the breach.”

## **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 Doris Warren, the family and friends of John Shoemaker, the family and friends of Carol Morris, the victims of the synagogue shooting in California, the victims of the bombings in Sri Lanka, Charlie Fleetwood, Joan Eisenbrey, Jim Clendaniel, Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Holly Maloney, Craig, Dee Ann Mason, Brandon, a business deal to work out, Mason, Pat Dunn, Beth Judy, Janice Rudy, Lisa Shaw, Glenn, Merry, Muriel Miller, Doris Rickert, all affected by natural disasters, Katie and Ainsley, Ellan Orkin, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Kay McFadden, Brenda Beissel, Janet Dill, the Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, Jen Nelson, Carlton Goodhand, Dot Sophos, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham and The family and friends of Peggy Hughes.

**Praise for:** Answered prayers.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Peggy Hughes, the family and friends of Paul Pelen, the family and friends of Martin Jarrell, the family and friends of Janice Rudy, Mikolai Campbell, Charlie Fleetwood, Melissa, Joe, new job opportunities, Joyce, Butch, Joan Eisenbrey, Pat Rust, Sami, Lynette, all mothers who have lost a child, Michele Barto Winn, Jim Clendaniel, Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Holly Maloney, Craig, Vicki, Dee Ann Mason, Brandon, the Schultes family, for a business deal to work out, Mason, Pat Dunn, Beth Judy, Lisa Shaw, Glenn, Merry, Muriel Miller, Doris Rickert, Katie and Ainsley, Ellan Orkin, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Kay McFadden, Brenda Beissel, John Spillane, Janet Dill, the Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, Jen Nelson, Carlton Goodhand, Dot Sophos, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham.

**Praise God for:** answered prayers.

**Rejoice with:** The family and friends of Wyatt William Morris and Caleb Cook Morris, Jean Layton.

### **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.

### **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

**Kathryn Webb** who will celebrate her **91<sup>st</sup>** birthday on **May 24<sup>th</sup>**.

### **ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:**

**Ernest & Lorraine Donovan** will celebrate their **59<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **May 21<sup>st</sup>**.

**Sonny & Donna Meck** will celebrate their **51<sup>st</sup>** anniversary on **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

## **UPCOMING**

**2019 YARD SALE MEETING:** We will be having a Yard Sale Meeting on **May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** in the **Grier Room**. All are welcome to attend.

## **SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES**

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** On **May 14<sup>h</sup>** we will finish our study: "Because of This I Rejoice" by Max O' Vincent. This is a Lenten study of Philippians. On **May 21<sup>st</sup>**, we will begin a new study of Peter by Adam Hamilton. We will meet 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:** Christ Episcopal Church in Milford has asked us to join with them in making Seaman's Scarves for "Christmas at Sea" <https://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>. Please join with us, in this endeavor. Stop in the Grier Room any Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., to knit or crochet with us and/or pick up yarn for both this project and our Prayer Shawls. Call Carolyn Humes 422 8620 or e-mail [carhum@verizon.net](mailto:carhum@verizon.net).

**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 May is "The Spread of the Gospel." The lesson for May 12<sup>th</sup> lesson is "Called to Life in the Spirit" based on Romans 8:1-14; May 19<sup>th</sup>



lesson is “The Call of the Gentiles” based on Romans 11:11-24; and May 26<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Called to New Life in Christ” based on Romans 12:1-8. Please plan to attend these exciting lessons.

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** will meet on **May 8<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, May 19<sup>th</sup>** in the Grier Room at 12:15 p.m. What we will study for just that day is to be determined. We will start a new book “When Did God become Christian?” by David Kalas in the Fall.

## **COMMUNITY**

**MATTHEW PROJECT:** In lieu of the Matthew Project during the remainder of April and May, please consider donations of furniture, household items, clothing, etc. for the Mission Fund Raising Church Yard Sale. Call Beth Parker at (302) 698-6475 or (302) 382-5581. The Church Yard Sale helps many families and missions in multiple ways. A list of “Missions who pick up household or accept donations” is also available from the church office.

**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.



# THE MISPELLION CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *assistant director/accompanist*

*presents* 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Concert

## We Are One

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

at 7:00 p.m.

Milford Senior High School  
1019 N. Walnut Street | Milford, Delaware

For more information (302) 422-2785  
[themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com](mailto:themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com)

Free admission | Handicap accessible  
Donations benefit Mispillion Children's Chorus





# MISSION u 2019

July 18-20, 2019

Pecometh, The Riverview Retreat Center

401 Jack Elliot Way, Centreville, MD. 21617

The Mission Studies for 2019

**Spiritual Growth Study:** *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*

Study leader: Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

**Special Study and publication:** *United Methodist Women In Mission: 150 Years and Beyond*

Study Leader: Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Registration Forms available on Foyer table

Deadline is June 30, 2019

Price ranges from one day commuter \$75.00 to  
Single room for three days at \$425.00.

See Registration form.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

FAITH – HOPE- LOVE IN ACTION

# CALENDAR

## **SUNDAY 5/12 ~ Mother's Day**

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

## **MONDAY 5/13**

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room  
 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting, Nursery  
 6:30 p.m. Second Street Players,  
 Heritage Room  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206  
 7:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> State Harmonizers,  
 Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. VBS Meeting, Grier Room

## **TUESDAY 5/14**

10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room  
 12:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room  
 1:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley Room  
 4:30 p.m. Odyssey of the Mind—Paint Night,  
 Fellowship Hall  
 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. Second Street Players, Sanctuary  
 7:00 p.m. Central DE Chess Club,  
 Room 206  
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team, Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Grier Room

## **WEDNESDAY 5/15**

1:00 p.m. Rev. 5 Task Force Meeting,  
 Heritage Room  
 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group,  
 Grier Room  
 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room  
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion  
 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary  
 6:30 p.m. Tiger Den Meeting, Wesley Room  
 6:45 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room

## **THURSDAY 5/16**

8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Reunion Group  
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 1:00 p.m. Yard Sale Meeting, Grier Room  
 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group  
 6:30 p.m. Experiencing God, Grier Room  
 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Pathway,  
 Carpenter Room  
 6:30 p.m. Second Street Players,  
 Fellowship Hall  
 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den, Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Holzmuehler Room  
 7:00 p.m. SPRC, Heritage Room

## **FRIDAY 5/17**

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

## **SATURDAY 5/18**

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

## **SUNDAY 5/19 ~Confirmation**

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  
 1:00 p.m. How To Do Church,  
 Fellowship Hall  
 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272,  
 Heritage Room  
 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &  
 Fellowship Hall