



The Midweek

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I saw a commercial for a new television series that will be on one of the networks starting this September. It's called "Evil" and when I saw the advertisement all it said was, "Evil. Coming this fall." It just hit me funny because my first reaction was, 'ummm...I'm pretty sure it's been in the world for a really long time already.'

But it got me to wondering how the production company was going to depict evil. Will it be a stereotypical version of the enemy looking like a pointy-eared devil or will it be in some other form telling stories about evil experiences. Either way, I won't be watching. There is certainly plenty of evil in the world and I don't need it on my television at night as I'm trying to come up with an entertaining diversion from the day's tasks.

But it got me to thinking about what evil really looks like and it took me back to a lecture that my systematic theology professor gave when I was in seminary. So, in advance of this new t.v. series, I would like to share with you some thoughts about what evil looks like.

Dr. Kendal Soulen will tell you that evil is the absence of God in the lives of His creation. When the original fall occurred in the garden with Adam and Eve failing to be obedient, humanity found themselves at a distance from God. Although, according to Wesley, we were forgiven of that original sin through prevenient grace, we still found ourselves separated from God since we no longer were with Him in the Garden. In that abyss, and with the ability to make our decisions thanks to our free will, we do at times find ourselves dealing with evil.

There are several types of evil, which lead to the way we sin.

First, there is frailty. We know what is good and evil. We don't want to sin or do anything evil. We don't intend to sin but we don't have the power to resist and/or the capability to not

sin. Most of us are guilty of frailty. “We want to do good but we don’t achieve it,” said Dr. Soulen.

Then there is evil that disguises itself in the way of purity. We know what is good and we avoid evil. We do what is good. But we don’t do it because it’s the right thing to do. Instead we do it because it’s beneficial to us. If it was not in our best interest, then our effort to do it would go away. It is a form of hypocrisy. As Dr. Soulen put it, “We do good but for the wrong reasons.” Our bent towards frailty and purity is very much a part of who we are.

Then there is wickedness. We know what is good but we willingly choose to do what is wrong because we think it will be good for us in some way. We fail to take into account the effect it can or will have on God’s other children and/or creation because we only are focused on ourselves. Evil deceives us into thinking there is a shortcut or benefit for us.

Then there is evil for evil’s sake and that is diabolical evil. This is when the motive and reason for doing something is not because of the belief that in some way “I” as the perpetrator of evil will benefit. Evil is accomplished simply to do evil.

But evil can be overcome with good as we are reminded in Romans 12:21. Christ showed us that it is possible. Christ was/is like us because He was born human with all of the same characteristics of weakness and free will that we have been given. Jesus comes into the world with the same baggage that all other people are born with. But where we mess up in our freedom, Christ takes His freedom and uses it correctly by living in gratitude for God’s grace and He is obedient to God’s command. Because he does this, he does not abuse his freedom so he can live as the image of God.

This makes Christ the freest person ever and that freedom fills Jesus with power. Satan sees a problem coming and so Satan takes him out into the wilderness and tempts Jesus, but Christ withstands the temptation. (Matthew 4: 1-11). As a truly free person He is able to live as a presence of God’s kingdom on earth. Christ does not return evil for evil when he is in conflict with evil. His mode of operation is to persist in the face of evil. As He was able to resist, He calls us also to repent and resist evil.

The Lord is the truth and the way. Evil is self-destructive. God builds us up. It is through God’s grace that we are able to heal and liberate and resist evil. This is difficult as we are reminded in Romans 7:19, “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.” But as Jesus proves, it can be done. 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.

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 Peggy Hughes, The family and friends of Janet Dill, For the Rudy and Lane families, and friends, The family and friends of John Hunt, The family and friends of Zachery Fanning, The family and friends of Bob Hermann, Mother's everywhere, Students being bullied at school, Alan Jester, Charlie Fleetwood, Melissa, Joe, Joan Eisenbrey, Pat Rust, Michele Barto Winn, Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Holly Maloney, Craig, Vicki, Dee Ann Mason, Brandon, The Schultes family, For a business deal to work out, Mason, Elwood Leary, Pat Dunn, Beth Judy, Lisa Shaw, Merry, Muriel Miller, Doris Rickert, Katie and Ainsley, Ellan Orkin, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Kay McFadden, Brenda Beissel, John Spillane, Glen Stevenson, The Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, Carlton Goodhand, Dot Sophos, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, Janice Brittingham, Otto, Amanda, John Siegrist, Cynthia, Good health for all of us, The Wilcox family, Jeanie Zaimes and Millie Remick.

Praise God for: Answered prayers, The birth of Wesley Thomas Chesser on May 8, Avenotes and Choir and Jim Clendaniel.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Janet Dill, the family and friends of Lottie Dressler, Dan Smith, Vaughn Webb, Jeanie Zaimes, Jill Rauch and family, Alan Jester, Charlie Fleetwood, Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Holly Maloney, Craig, Vicki, Brandon, Brad Dennehy, daughters needing peace, the Schultes family, Merry, Walt Peters, Jim Clendaniel, Muriel Miller, Doris Rickert, Ellan Orkin, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Johnny Meehan, Kay McFadden, Brenda Beissel, the Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, Carlton Goodhand, Dot Sophos, Gilbert Emory, Pam Wilkerson, Chris, Seth Wilcox, Alma Brittingham, Janice Brittingham, Otto, Amanda, Cynthia, The McCall family, Joe, Jerry, Rich, Marc, Joan Eisenbrey, Pat Rust, Michele Barto Winn, Dee Ann Mason, Elwood Leary, Pat Dunn, Beth Judy, Lisa Shaw, Glen Stevenson, Kirsten Pearce, John Spillane, Debbie Cromer.

Praise God for: Jen Nelson, Bay Rothermel, Rain Vasey, Kenna Webb, a good court decision, the Helmick family, Addie Nelson, Dave and Linda Sockrider, all celebrating anniversaries, all whose prayers have been answered.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪Handbells

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

♪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.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Kathryn Webb who will celebrate her **91st** birthday on **May 24th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

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

Jeff and Bonnie Carmine will celebrate their **54th** anniversary on **May 29th**.

Dave and Linda Sockrider will celebrate their **50th** anniversary on **June 1st**.

Ted & Edna Newhouse will celebrate their **58th** anniversary on **June 3rd**

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Quinn Humes is graduating on June 6, 2019 from Sussex Tech High School. He is the son of Tom and Sandy Humes and the grandson of Harry and Carolyn Humes..

UPCOMING

2019 VBS: Mark your calendars as Roar! Life is Wild, God is good starts on Sunday, June 23rd - Thursday June 27th. Dinner is at 5pm for your family (adult required to stay with child until 5:45), VBS starts at 5:50pm and ends promptly at 8pm each evening.

You can register on-line. Use the link below or pick up a form at church to fill out. If you have any questions, contact the church office (302) 422-8111 or Sarah Pasmore at (302) 841-3143.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **May 28th**, we will continue our 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.

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 26th 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 22nd 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.

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.



Tonight at 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

FATHER'S DAY is just around the corner and we are accepting donations for carnations in loving memory or honor our fathers. Envelopes are in the pews. Carnations are \$5.00 per stem and proceeds will benefit the Parish Purse. All orders need to be placed no later than **June 12th** so they can be added to the bulletin for Father's Day. If you have any questions call Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.



PECOMETH VISITS AVENUE CHURCH

From the Camp Pecometh website: "It's been said that a week at Pecometh can have a greater impact on a camper than a whole year of Sunday School. A week of camp is filled with faith, fun and fellowship for children and youth to grow in their spiritual journey." On **Sunday, June 2nd**, Megan Sweeney, the Pecometh summer camp director, will be here to talk about summer camp. Megan will be speaking in each service and will be in the Foyer all morning Sunday to answer questions and register kids. For more information about their life-changing camp opportunities check out the Pecometh summer camp website: <http://www.pecometh.org/summer-camp>.



Come to the Music

ANNUAL SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

Saturday, June 1, 2019 · 4 pm

AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Cantabile Women's Chorus and the
Delaware Women's Chorus perform a
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Vacation Bible School

June 23rd—27th

5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

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 5/26

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Baptism Confirmation
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

MONDAY 5/27

Church Office Closed

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY 5/28

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pack Meeting, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Central DE Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team, Wesley Room

WEDNESDAY 5/29

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. VBS Meeting, Heritage Room

THURSDAY 5/30

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Reunion Group
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 6:00 p.m. Improv Group, Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Experiencing God, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Holzmuller Room

FRIDAY 5/31

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

SATURDAY 6/1

- 4:00 p.m. Concert Series: Cantabile, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 6/2

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Baptism
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Wyatt Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Pat Fisher– Piano Recital, Sanctuary
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting, Heritage Room