



The Midweek

Wednesday, July 3, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

If you were in church on Sunday, you heard me tell the story about my friend Jose and how he points out which patients need a visit from the chaplain. He is a Christian and while he believes in Jesus as Savior, the people he puts me in contact with don't all agree with him. He simply knows when people are hurting – whether they be Christian, Muslim, Jewish, atheist, or any other spiritual and/or religious background.

As I said in the sermon, it's really helpful for me to be able to walk into a room and say that Jose had sent me because everyone loves and appreciates Jose's sunny personality and caring, compassionate nature.

But I wonder if I would be as welcome if I said to the patients that Jesus had sent me. Some people, I am sure, would appreciate it and welcome me in warmly. Others would look at me like I had lost my mind. Some would just tell me to get lost.

The doors that won't open when I mention Jesus will open when I toss Jose's name around. But once I'm in the room, I can ascertain where someone might be in their relationship with God and what might be important for me to focus on. Sometimes, it's just enough of an opportunity to plant a seed.

But without Jose, I might not get my chance. It's a perfect example of why we all need to be witnesses to Christ. Thanks to Jose, I have an opportunity I may

not have otherwise.

Acts 1:8 says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Can we all be a witness like Jose is? Can we bring others to the place where Jesus can enter their lives? If we can, we will bring Him honor and glory forever.

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



July 1, 2019

Dear Avenue Family:

I greet you in the name of the risen Christ! As I sit writing this letter, I am still amazed and surprised at the way that God has worked in my life and in my ministry. In February of 2001, I was a senior at Asbury College, newly married, and looking to begin my ministry with students. That month, I interviewed at Avenue United Methodist Church for the position of youth pastor. By the time Andrea and I drove back to Kentucky, we had an offer from the SPRC asking us to consider accepting the position, which we did.

We spent the next nine years calling Avenue home. You nurtured us, gave me room to grow as a person and a pastor, developed lasting friendships, and welcomed our firstborn. It was during those nine years at Avenue that God solidified my calling to the ministry of an Elder in The United Methodist Church. I am grateful for the ministry that many of you have had in making that discernment of that calling possible.

I have spent the last nine years of ministry as the pastor of Hope United Methodist Church in Dover, DE while serving as the chaplain at Wesley College. When my time as a chaplain came to a close, I added Magnolia United Methodist Church to my ministry with Hope. During the last two years, along with a great team of leaders, we have seen God work in Magnolia as our two churches merged together to form Orchard Church.

Now, I have the opportunity to come home to Avenue. There is much that has changed over the last nine years. I am forty. We have four children: Abbie (12), Chloe (8), Malachi (6), and Caleb (3). We've been to China twice to bring home our sons. My hair is lighter (thanks, kids), and Andrea and I recently celebrated eighteen years of marriage.

While much has changed, there is much that is the same. I continue to be passionate about preaching and teaching people about God's saving grace through Jesus Christ. I believe that when we begin to grasp the height, breadth, and depth of God's love for us that our lives will be transformed and that we will be moved to works of redemption and restoration in this life. I love the opportunity to teach the Bible from the pulpit or a small group/Bible Study as these discipleship opportunities help believers move forward in faith. After 18 years, I continue to be passionate about the church reaching emerging generations. I have four children, and I want the church to reach them and their friends.



I am looking forward to working with the excellent staff that is assembled at Avenue and the laity who are on the front lines of ministry. There is so much talent, passion, and gifts throughout the staff and congregation. I recognize that God is doing many good things through Avenue and I want to work to continue that momentum.

I am looking forward to meeting you for the first time, or reconnecting with you after many years. I am excited about seeing what God has in store for us and for Milford. I hope that you will join us in worship and come with anticipation as God continues to mold us and shape us together!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven LaMotte". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

Rev. Steven LaMotte
Pastor

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 Jim Miller, The family and friends of Jill Rauch, The family and friends of Dan Smith, Anne Spicer, Brayden Rosebrook, Lewis Sacks, Kim McClure, Alex Olivera's son, Amanda, Safety for the children over summer vacation, Sally and Howard Todd, Gilbert Emory, Lydia Ann Carmine, Jonathan Whaley, Arnold Williams, Travleing mercies for Mike Williams's sister and father. Ginny VanTine, Sandy Woloford, Diane Gehlert's neice, Jenn, Charlie, Londyn Hudson, Kay, Jennifer, Beverly Harrison, Leroy Hitchens, Dave, Bill, Alan Jester, Charlie Fleetwood, Craig, Vicki, Brandon, All getting ready for VBS, The Schultes family, Merry, Gerald Zeveney, Andrea, Walt and Ruth Peters, Dane, 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, Alma Brittingham, Janice Brittingham Conaway, Cynthia, George Reph, Tom, Sarah and the kids, All Pastors being sent to new churches and the congregations receiving them, Karen Hoch, Katie Meadows, John Seigrist, All in Milford Hospital, Joe, Susan, Jerry, Rich, Marc, Sally, Joan Eisenbrey, Pat Rust, Michele Barto Winn, Dee Ann Mason, Elwood Leary, Pat Dunne, Beth Judy, Lisa Shaw, Glen Stevenson, Kirsten Pearce and John Spillane.

Praise God for: Jack and Nancy Dickerson, Happy Birthday to Bonnie Simon, Will, Matt, and Steve and CJ, born to Stephanie and Paul Burton on Sunday afternoon.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Sandy Williford, The family and friends of Dan Smith, Anne Spicer, Brayden Rosebrook, Kim McClure, Alex Olivera's son, Sally and Howard Todd, Gilbert Emory, Lydia Ann Carmine, Arnold Williams, Ginny VanTine, Diane Gehlert's niece, Charlie, Gary Coulbourne, Londyn Hudson, Kay, Jennifer, Beverly Harrison, Leroy Hitchens, Dave, Bill, Alan Jester, Connie Eisenbrey, An 8:00 Sunday school class, Justin, Jesse, Charlie Fleetwood, Craig, Vicki, Brandon, The Schultes family, Merry, Gerald Zeveney, Andrea, Dean, Doris Rickert, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Johnny Meehan, Kay McFadden, Brenda Beissel, The Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, Carlton Goodhand, Dot Sophos, Alma Brittingham, Janice Brittingham Conaway, Cynthia, George Reph, The Pasmore family, The LaMotte family, Karen Hoch, Katie, Sue Whitmoyer, All in Milford Hospital, Joe, Susan, Jerry, Rich, Marc, Sally, Joan Eisenbrey, Pat Rust, Michele Barto Winn, Dee Ann Mason, Elwood Leary, Pat Dunne, Beth Judy, Lisa Shaw, Glen Stevenson, Kirsten Pearce, John Spillane and Colin Hayward.

Praise God for: A great week of VBS and The Bergez family.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪Handbells

Resume on Monday, Sept. 9th at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Mispillion Children's Chorus

Resume on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:15 p.m., Music Room

♪Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Sanctuary Choir

Resume on Wednesday, September 4th at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

♪AveNotes

Resume on Wednesday, September 4th, 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:

Dee Konesey will celebrate her **105th** birthday on **June 13th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

Robert and Marie Bradley will celebrate their **60th** anniversary on **July 11th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Mr. Fishe in recognition and appreciation for the **39 years** you provided to the children of Avenue Preschool. Thank you so much.

UPCOMING

AVENUE UNITED METHODIST MEN - On Saturday, July 13th starting at 9:00 a.m., the AUMM will be assisting the Trustees with a church clean up. The basement needs to be cleaned up, especially old furniture and a variety of items in the store room. We will also need a crew to help clean up the river bank behind the Preschool playground, picnic tables and fire pit. A good turn out will make for easy work. *Rob Craig, AUMM President.*

2019 YARD SALE - Get ready to ——— CLEAN OUT!! The Yard Sale is August 1st, 2nd and 3rd and we need your donations of clean, gently used items. We take clothing, shoes, housewares, linens, toys, holiday items, small kitchen appliances, and misc. items. NO TV's, computer items or large appliances.

Drop off times: **9:00 a.m. till 4:00p.m. (July 22nd – July 29th)** at the church. We also need good clean gift bags w/ handles - large sizes (like those from Dollar Tree) and small ones, preferably plain w/o writing, i.e. Happy B-day, etc. Please place them in the tote inside the office door. Thank you.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will be meeting on **July 16th and August 13th** 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.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS: Summer Sunday for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired plus others meets at 9:30AM on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. The study for July is "A Heartfelt Covenant." The lesson for July 7 is "Jesus Teaches About Fulfilling the Law" based on Matthew 5:13-20; July 14's lesson is "Jesus Teaches Us to Love One Another" based on Matthew 5:21-32; July 21's lesson is "Jesus Teaches About Transforming Love" based on Matthew 5:39-48; and July 28's lesson is "Jesus Teaches About Spiritual Discernment" based on Matthew 7:1-6, 15-23. All of these lessons are from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Plan to come as often as you can.

COMMUNITY

MATTHEW PROJECT: We are in need of a baby stroller. 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.

We are in need of toilet paper, canned tomatoes and cereal.

2019 Yard Sale

Avenue United Methodist Church

Thursday, August 1st 2:00 pm -- 6:00 pm

"Early Bird Special" (\$1.00 Admission this day only.)

Friday, August 2nd 8:30 am -- 4:30 pm

Saturday, August 3rd 8:30 am -- 12:00 pm

All proceeds go to missions of the church.

DONATIONS: accepted at the church weekdays

July 22nd – 29th (9:00 am to 4:00 pm)

(NO TVs, computer equipment, large appliances, or books)

For furniture pick-ups contact

Sonny (302) 690-4953 or Larry (302) 745-4331

Avenue United Methodist Church
20 N. Church Street
Milford, DE. 19963
(302) 422 - 8111



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 7/7 ~ Communion

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

MONDAY 7/8

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

TUESDAY 7/9

- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central DE Chess Club,
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Comm. Meeting

WEDNESDAY 7/10

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group,
Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion

THURSDAY 7/11

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

FRIDAY 7/12

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

SATURDAY 7/13

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

SUNDAY 7/14

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