



The Midweek

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Continuing with last week's theme of the Apollo moon landing, I admit that the quote from Michael Collins, the command module pilot, is the most fascinating to me. While it's true that most people think of "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" when they think of the mission, Collins had another take on the events of the day.

He said, "If a count were taken, the score would be three billion plus two over on the other side of the moon, and one plus God on this side." He was talking about his 21-hour solitary journey in the command module orbiting the moon as Armstrong and Aldrin were on the surface. While the attention of the world focused on the first two men walking on the celestial body, Collins was alone with God.

I like Collins' odds better than Armstrong's and Aldrin's. For as Acts 8:31 says, "If God is for us, then who can be against us?"

I realize that God was with everyone that day, as the Lord is always by the side of all His children, but I love the idea behind the quote. We don't need anyone or anything besides God. The fact that we have family and friends is a bonus but we need God.

So as we go forward, living into our own destinies, let us go knowing that God always goes with us and we are equipped with all we need. And to God be the glory forever and ever, throughout the entire universe.



From the desk of the Bishop

Summer of Love

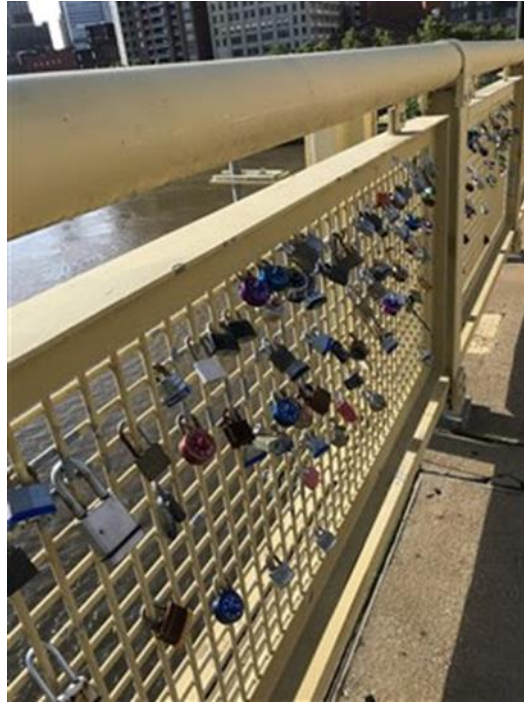
By Bishop Peggy Johnson

This season I have been pondering “love.” According to the Apostle Paul it “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (I Corinthians 13:7). It has been the theme of both of our annual conferences in a sense as Eastern PA (June 13-15) emphasized the importance of passing down the **generational love of God through evangelism** and Peninsula Delaware’s annual conference (May 30-June 1) called us to be out in the world engaging in **acts of sacrificial love**. Love knows no bounds, is accessible to all, is contagious and like “type O negative” blood, it is the universal donor. Love continues on and on in an unending stream of goodness and life.



The last week of June I traveled to the College of Bishops meeting in Pittsburgh, PA where I encountered a bridge with “locks of love.” All around the world this phenomena can be found in which people attach a pad lock to a chain-link fence on a bridge as a symbol of

some kind of love commitment to a significant other. So popular is this kind of padlocking that municipal officials need to remove these locks from time to time because the sheer weight of them can compromise the integrity of the bridge. The locks symbolize **permanence and faithfulness** to a promise, another characteristic of love. The sheer weight of love can conquer anything, even the structure of a mammoth bridge.



Last week I flew to Kansas City for Youth 2019, the quadrennial denominational Youth gathering, whose theme was “Love-Well.” There I encountered the faces of over 3,000 young people seeking to be the loving presence of Christ in this world. They are concerned about immigration, the environment, the place of LGBTQIA+ members of our church, and the hard, hard task of loving enemies. I taught a class there with a few other leaders from the UM Association of Ministers with Disabilities about accessibility for youth who have physical and emotional challenges. The theme of love appeared again and again in our conversations: be in ministry **with those on the margins**, create spaces and accessibility for equality of participation, and explore the giftedness of the disability community.



At the end of the day it is all about love. It is that simple, it is that hard. It means waking up every morning and praying that one can be an agent of love in the world. It means doing the challenging work of getting yourself out of the way and putting Christ and others first. The Holy Club of Oxford University that John and Charles Wesley led in 1729 required of its members to undergo a rigorous self-examination each day with 22 questions. Each one boils down to holiness of life and focus so that love can shine through. This Holy Club changed the world. Most of the 25 members of this club eventually became legendary leaders of the Great Awakening of that era and changed the world forever with love.

This still works today, especially during these polarizing times. As we make love our focus all the other things of life fall into place. As Paul reminds us: love never fails (I Corinthians 13:8).



Vouchers cannot be handed out on premises. Disregard to this policy will result in termination of the event.

Please Join Us for a Fundraising Event!

Cub Scout Pack 186
Milford– Silicato Way
August 26, 2019 | 4 to 9pm

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount equal to 20% of your total bill will be donated to Cub Scout Pack 186.



This offer valid for dine-in and takeout only | GrottoPizza.com |  

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 Kay Meade, the family and friends of John Muncey, the family and friends of Roger Ryall, the family and friends of Dan Smith, the family and friends of Carlton Goodhand, Samantha Leister, Betty Ziesel, Anne Spicer, Brayden Rosebrook, Kim McClure, Alex's son, Sally and Howard Todd, Gilbert Emory, Jim, for everyone with financial worries, Lydia Ann Carmine, Arnold Williams, Diane Gehlert, Diane's niece, Charlie, Sandy, Rob Craig, Londyn Hudson, Chris Miller and family, Jim Wightman, Beverly Harrison, Leroy Hitchens, Dave, Bill, Bill Gaskill and family, Kay, Connie Eisenbrey, all who have lost children, Bernie, Chip Sheats, Robin, Alex, Andrew Parsons, for the closure of internment camps for immigrants, Justin, Jesse, Charlie Fleetwood, Craig, Ella, Christopher, Ray Gibson, Dawn Neilson, Vicki, Brandon, the Schultes family, the victims of flooding throughout the nation, Merry, Jim, Shannon and family, Jack Simons, Gerald Zeveney, Andrea, Dean, Doris Rickert, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Brenda Beissel, the Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, Dot Sophos, Alma Brittingham, Janice Brittingham Conaway, Cynthia, George Reph, Karen Hoch, all in the Milford hospital, for everyone with cancer and their families, Joe, Susan, Jerry, Rich, Marc, Sally, Joan Eisenbrey, Gary Swain, Pat Rust, Michele Barto Winn, Dee Ann Mason, Elwood Leary, Pat Dunne, Beth Judy, Lisa Shaw, Glen Stevenson, and Kirsten Pearce.

Praise God for: the love of Jesus.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Kay Meade, the family and friends of LeeAnn Webb-Pritchett, the family and friends of Carlton Goodhand, the family and friends of Dot Sophos, the family and friends of Rufus "Jerre" Lane, the family and friends of Barbara Moore, the family and friends of Michele Barto Winn, Betty Ziesel, Bobby, those whom Robert left behind, Brayden Rosebrook, Kim McClure, Alex's son, Sally and Howard Todd, Gilbert Emory, Beverly Purdue, Jim, for all with financial issues, Lydia Ann Carmine, Commander Thomas Baker, for someone recovering from knee pain, Arnold Williams, Diane Gehlert, Diane's niece, Charlie, Bobby and family, for all who are sick, Sandy, Rob Craig, Londyn Hudson, Chris Miller and family, John Wightman, Beverly Harrison, Leroy Hitchens, Dave, Bill, Alan Jester, Bill Gaskill and family, Kay, Connie Eisenbrey, Lillian, all who have lost children, Chip Sheats, Bernie, Robin, Alex, Andrew Parsons, for the closure of internment camps, the return of the 8:00 Sunday school class, for new job opportunities for everyone seeking employment, Justin, Jesse, Charlie Fleetwood, Craig, Ella, Christopher, Ray Gibson, Dawn Neilson, Vicki, Brandon, the Schultes family, the victims of flooding, Jim, Shannon, Jack Simons, Gerald Zeveney, Andrea, Dean, Doris Rickert, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd

Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Brenda Beissel, the Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, Alma Brittingham, Janice Brittingham Conaway, Cynthia, George Reph, Karen Hoch, Dawn Willis, all in the Milford Hospital, all those with cancer and their families, Joe, Susan, Jerry, Rich, Marc, Sally, Joan Eisenbrey, Gary Swain, Pat Rust, Dee Ann Mason, Elwood Leary, Pat Dunne, Beth Judy, Lisa Shaw, Glen Stevenson, Kirsten Pearce and Lori's mother.

Praise God for: The love of Jesus and Betty .

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.

UPCOMING

2019 YARD SALE: Set up for the Yard Sale is underway. Thank you to everyone has donated or come into assist w/ the set up. There is still much to do, so if you can give us any time to help, it would be appreciated.

The ABSOLUTE last time for donations will be Tuesday, July 30th at 2:00 pm. Any donations after this will either be refused or if left at church, will be donated to God's Way. We are standing firm on this so that our church volunteers can take Wednesday off for a little R+R before the sale begins on Thursday, August 1st.

Thank you again and come see what treasures we have that might be perfect for you. Let's make the 2019 Yard Sale extra special in memory of our "Boss Lady", Peggy Hughes.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

UMW THANK YOU: A big thank you to all who donated eye glass cases, fabric and sewing items to go to the Congo. They are on the way to the Congo! Sue Keefer took suitcases full. No more eye glass cases are needed but again, Thanks.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will be meeting on **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: "Milford School District has many homeless children. The Avenue Knitters/Crocheters can help support them by providing hats, mittens and scarves. Please join us in knitting and/or crocheting any of those items?? We have the yarn for you, come see us in the Grier Room any Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Finished items can be delivered to the Grier Room on Wednesdays or to the Church Office any time. **There will be a time for collecting on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.**"

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 21st lesson is "Jesus Teaches About Transforming Love" based on Matthew 5:39-48; and July 28th 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.

CARD MINISTRY: Cards - "Made with Love" from Avenue UMC have been a long time tradition. Come join us on **Wednesday, September 11th at 10:30 a.m.** in the Grier Room. If you have any questions, please call Brenda Biessel at (302) 270-1764.

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.

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

MEALS ON WHEELS—HELP WANTED: Volunteer drivers for the Meals On Wheels program delivering food to seniors a couple of hours a day, one or two days a week out of the Milford Senior Center. Mileage reimbursement available. Contact Sue Headly, Site Manager, at 302-535-3094.

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



CALENDAR

SUNDAY 7/28

- 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 7/29

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

TUESDAY 7/30

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

WEDNESDAY 7/31

- 10:00 a.m. Youth Bible Study, Wesley Room

THURSDAY 8/1 ~ UMW Yard Sale

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. BOLM, Grier Room

FRIDAY 8/2 ~ UMW Yard Sale

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

SATURDAY 8/3 ~UMW Yard Sale

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

SUNDAY 8/4 ~ 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