



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

In light of the mass shootings that took place in this nation over the past week, I find myself once again seeking answers to questions that never get resolved. I am angry, hurt, and frustrated. So as I look over the writings of my fellow clergy and determine what others have said, I want to share what the writers of the Upper Room have put on the internet.

To God be the glory. Let the prayers commence.

Join the staff of The Upper Room in praying for the victims and their families of the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton.

Pray with your family, friends, small groups, and communities of faith the honest prayer below. Pray for love, justice, mercy, peace, and healing for all.

While the mass shootings may be “old news” in a few weeks, prayer, the oldest, most ancient of practices, never will be. Nor will our love in action. It always will be needed, and I pray we can offer both—prayer and action—through our work always. Claire K. McKeever-Burgett

***O God! Another mass shooting, O God. O God. O God! O God!
215 days of the year. 249 mass shootings thus far.***

Staggering numbers. And we are right to fall down, cry out to you, lament, grieve, wail, rage. We are right to cry: No more! No more! No more!

We are right to ask ourselves: How are we complicit with systems of violence and white supremacy, of power and greed?

***We are right to feel overwhelmed and lost, broken and undone.
We are not right to do nothing, to say nothing, to feel nothing.***

O God. O God. O God! O God!

*In our crying out,
In our mourning wails,
In our confusion,
In our sickness,
In our grief,
may we take a deep breath,
then one step, then another toward just love that has the power
to heal, to save, to make right.*

*Love in action, O God. O God. O God! O God!
We pray.*

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



From the desk of the Bishop

What's in Your Heart?

By Bishop Peggy Johnson



Doctors have perfected many kinds of tests that diagnose heart disease. From coronary artery blockages to arrhythmia, to heart valve disease—with modern testing equipment, we can know what is in a person's physical heart.

However, when our Scriptures speak of the heart, it is far more than a body organ. The “heart” is found 762 times in the KJV Bible, and it tends to mean what it is the central core of a person's desires, wonderment and passion. It is our true best self. One cannot test this kind of heart with a stethoscope, but it is easily discerned by a person's words.



**BUT THOSE THINGS
WHICH PROCEED
OUT OF THE MOUTH
COME FROM THE HEART,
AND THEY DEFILE A MAN**

Jesus taught his disciples that eating food with unwashed hands does not defile a person: “Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?”

He goes on to assert the true test of a person's heart: “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person.” (Matthew 15:17-19)

What is in our heart is evidenced by the way we talk. Just listen to what a person says. Listen to yourself talk. No special equipment necessary; just listen with your ears... and your heart.

This is no little thing. The Book of James reminds us, “The tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire. And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness... it is a restless evil... full of deadly poison.” (James 2:5-6, 8b)



In our current political climate, we are experiencing countless inflammatory words whose name is legion. Many of them come from a heart of racial bigotry, sexism and classism. Calls for congresswomen to be “sent home” and unkind words about Baltimore being an unlivable “rat and rodent infested mess” are

disappointing and hurtful. It stirs up more and more strife between people as the cycle of harsh criticism and insults goes on and on.

However, we are not sitting above it all in holiness and purity. In the life of the church, mean-spirited words are spoken against one another as well. James says, “Every kind of beast and bird or reptile and sea creature can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue.” (2:7).

Sadly, it is part of the human condition to speak unkindly. So, do we just take it as a “given” and keep on hurting one another with insults and slander? I think not! We have a God who can understand our weakness and will help us.

Paul teaches, “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. And God is faithful; and he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, God will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” (I Corinthians 10:13)

May we use God’s preventive medicine for the heart disease of slander and evil words spoken against each another. Indeed, may we use that same medicine to also cure the callous, heinous and even murderous actions that too often are prompted by our words. Should we be surprised that hurtful public policies and personal threats and attacks often seem to follow hateful public discourse?

May we continue to pray and work unceasingly for a world in which everyone is given respect in our thoughts, words and deeds, and where the better angels of our nature lead us to promote inclusion and equality for all. If each of us takes responsibility for what we think, say and do in this world, our church can still become part of the beloved community that God intended.

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: All who carry heavy burdens and the people God sends to help carry them, the family and friends of LeeAnn Webb-Pritchett, the family and friends of Jerre Lane, Betty Ziesel, Bobby, peace for those Robert left behind, Brayden Rosebrook, Kim McClure, Alex's son, Sally and Howard Todd, Gilbert Emory, Beverly Purdue, Jim, the victims of mass shootings in the country, all those with financial issues, Lydia Ann Carmine, Thomas Baker, Arnold Williams, Diane Gehlert, Diane's niece, Charlie, Bobby and family, all who are sick, Sandy, 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, an 8:00 am Sunday school class, new job opportunities, Justin, Jesse, Charlie Fleetwood, Craig, Pierce Fender, John Rogerson, Marie Ann & Cheryl Cauffman, everyone working on the yard sale, Ella, Christopher, Ray Gibson, Vicki, Brandon, the Schultes family, victims of natural disasters, Jim, Jack Simon, 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, Kyle Blain, Karen Hoch, Dawn Willis, all in Milford Hospital, 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 mom .

Praise God for: The love of Jesus, Karen and Mike Williams, and a new job for Craig .

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Edie Perry, the family and friends of Gary Swain, the family and friends of Kaity Milford-West, all the victims of the mass shootings, Bonnie Simon, Betty Ziesel, Bobby, Jenna Warrington, the Draper and Tucker families, Brayden Rosebrook, Sally and Howard Todd, Gilbert Emory, Bill Brererton, Marty Brererton, Jim, Pat Matthews, family and friends of Bobby Walls (2009 graduate of William Penn H.S. as to not confuse this with any other Bobby Walls), everyone with financial issues, Lydia Ann Carmine, Arnold Williams, Charlie, all who are sick, Sandy, Londyn Hudson, Chris Miller and family, John Wightman, Beverly Harrison, Leroy Hitchens, Dave, Bill, Alan Jester, Bill Gaskill, Kay, Jay, Wendy (not Pastor Wendy), Connie Eisenbrey, Lillian, all who have lost children, Chip Sheats, Bernie, Robin, Andrew Parsons, for the closure of internment camps, an 8:00 Sunday school class, new job opportunities, Justin, Jesse, Charlie Fleetwood, Craig, Linda Johnson-Miller, Ella, Christopher, Ray Gibson, Vicki, Brandon, the Schultes family, for the victims of natural disasters throughout the nation, Jim, Shannon, 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 Milford Hospital, Joe, Susan, Jerry, Rich, Marc, Sally, Joan Eisenbrey, Pat Rust, Dee Ann Mason, Elwood Leary, Pat Dunne, Beth Judy, Lisa Shaw, Glen Stevenson, Kirsten Pearce, Lori's mother.

Praise God for: The love of Jesus, everyone who worked and supported the Yard Sale.

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:

Mildred Jensen will celebrate her **97th** birthday on **August 7th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

Walt and Ruth Peters will celebrate their **62nd** anniversary on **August 10th**.

Larry and Joan Wadman will celebrate their **68th** anniversary on **August 12th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Edie Perry** who passed away on August 6, 2019. Edie joined Avenue on November 13, 2005.

The family and friends of **Gary Swain** who passed away on August 6, 2019.

UPCOMING

KICK-OFF SUNDAY will be **September 8th**. To celebrate, we will be holding a combined worship service at 10:30 a.m. outside under the tent. Worship will be followed by a picnic here

at the church. Meat, drinks, desserts, and paper products will be provided. If you are able, you are welcome to bring a side dish to share. Bring a friend to worship with and get connected to the Avenue family!

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

2019 YARD SALE: The much proclaimed Yard Sale is finally over! **It was a GREAT success! We made \$10,000 which will be used to support the UMW mission programs at home and elsewhere.** Thank you one more time to everyone who volunteered to unpack and set up, brought in donations, hauled furniture, the lady who brought in a delicious lunch on Friday, all who packed up on Saturday, the office staff who assisted with all the paperwork and handled the trash, supported us with prayers and so many more things too numerous to name. This year we are supporting different programs with our unsold items. The clothing, shoes, and linens will go People's Place, the crafts and sewing items to the Milford Senior Center, and the remaining things will go to Teen Challenge. We pray that these items will continue to assist and bless people through all these avenues. God bless everyone for all their support.

Please no more bags for the Yard Sale —Thank You!

SMALL GROUPS W/PASTOR STEVE: During the months of August and September, there will be small group gatherings of 10-12 people in the homes of Avenue members to spend time getting to know Pastor Steve and sharing what you love about Avenue Church. There are several small groups with dates available to sign up for now, with more on the way. You may contact the Church Office (422-8111 | churchoffice@avenueumc.com) for more information.

TIME FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: The return of Sunday School is just around the corner. We have classes for children of all ages as well as adults. There will be registration forms in the lobby to get connected to a class. Forms will also be available on our Facebook page. Sunday School begins September 15th at 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELP NEEDED: With Sunday School starting back up, we are looking for additional teachers, assistants, and substitutes. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Patty Shockley, Miriam Case or church office at churchoffice@avenueumc.com.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On Aug. 13th we will see the video "What If..." in the **Grier Room** at **10:00 a.m.** We will begin the fall season on Sept. 10th. 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 an time. **There will be a time for collecting on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.**"

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS: Summer Sunday School for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired plus others meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. The study for August is "Covenant: A Personal Perspective." The lesson for August 11th, "A Mother-Daughter Covenant" based on Ruth 1:6-11, 14-18; August 18th, "A Covenant to Marry" based on Ruth 3:1-6, 8-12, 16-18; and August 25th, "A Covenant of Mutual Love" based on Ephesians 5:21-33. 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

AVENUE AT THE RIVERWALK FESTIVAL: Avenue will be hosting a booth at Milford's annual Riverwalk Festival on Saturday, September 14th. We are looking for folks to help be the face of Avenue Church as we share about our ministries and build relationships in the community. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Lobby if you would like to help out. You can contact Pastor Steve for more information.

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.



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 |  

Celtic to Classical
presents
Brahms and the Blues

Friday, August 23rd, 7:30 PM

Avenue United Methodist Church
20 N. Church St., Milford, DE 19963



***no charge – a
free-will offering
will be taken
(suggested, \$15)***

***For additional performances
of this program at other
Southern DE locations on
other dates, see below****



Cellist Jonah Kim leads a program that draws parallels between the soulfulness of German composer Johannes Brahms and that of the American-born blues. Featured are movements from the Brahms's *Piano Quintet in F Minor* and *Piano Trio in C Major* alongside the blues of Gary Moore, B.B. King and more. Jonah is joined by *Celtic to Classical* producer and pianist/arranger Sheridan Seyfried as well as violinists Moni Simeonov and Alexis Meschter, violist Jessica Chang and pianist Ya-Jhu Yang. Come join us for the very last concert of our 2019 summer series at Avenue UMC!

Performers

Jonah Kim, cello
Sheridan Seyfried, piano
Moni Simeonov, violin
Alexis Meschter, violin
Jessica Chang, viola
Ya-Jhu Yang, piano



*Additional performances of *Brahms and the Blues*: Tue., 8/20, 7:30 PM at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist (Milton), Wed., 8/21, 7:30 PM at Epworth UMC (Rehoboth) and Thurs., 8/22, 7:30 PM at St. Martha's Episcopal (Bethany). Please see our website for information about other programs.

for more details visit
www.celtictoclassical.com

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 8/11

- 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 8/12

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

TUESDAY 8/13

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 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 8/14

- 10:00 a.m. Youth Bible Study,
Wesley Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group,
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion
Group

THURSDAY 8/15

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. SPRC, Carpenter Room

FRIDAY 8/16

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

SATURDAY 8/17

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

SUNDAY 8/18

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship,
Baptism
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,
Grier Room
- 10:30 a.m. Helmick Reception,
Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship