



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

As CPE came to a close, and our instructor offered up a final prayer for everyone who had been in a virtual classroom with me for the past 10 weeks, I could not help but think of Matthew 18:20. That scripture says, “For where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Certainly the writers of the Bible never knew that virtual communities were to be part of the 21st century. The idea of connecting through a computer (let alone to have the electric, internet and software to make it all work), would have been beyond their wildest imagination.

“Community” is an interesting concept these days. We were an online community of believers, brought together by our desire to be the hands and feet of God in this world but we will never meet. It made me wonder what it would be like if I never went outside my home? Some people have a bigger online presence than they have in the “real” world. What if my entire “community” gathered to learn and worship Christ was in a virtual space and comprised entirely of people I met online? Would God still be in the midst?

The answer is yes. The scripture says “gathered in my name.” It does not say, “gathered in my building.” So what does that look like for the people who live stream worship service, are part of online chats about the Bible, and gather virtually to pray?

While I personally believe people miss a lot when they don't become part of a physical community, I also believe that God is bigger than any circumstance we place ourselves in – including a virtual world. I saw a community of us come together via Skype for 10 weeks to hold meaningful discussions, learn together, and advance the kingdom of God on earth. And it was still beautiful. I have faith that however God appears in the midst it will be wonderful.

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 Gary Swain, the family and friends of Emery Dougherty, Lydia Ann Carmine, Linda Marvel, Jenn, Beverly Harrison, Bill, Marty, Amy, Alan Jester, Dean, Jennifer D., Doris Rickert, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, the Smallwood family, Ferd Nelson, the Stewart and Dale families, the Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, Alma Brittingham, Janice Brittingham Conway, George Reph, Joan Eisenbrey, Dee Ann Mason, Glen Stevenson, Kirsten Pearce, Bobby, Courtney and Clementine, Lisa, the homeless, an 8:00 Bible Study, Charlie Fleetwood, Steve Zeveny, Dan Johnson, the Anderson family, family and friends of Logan Brooke and Chelsea Wooters, Craig, Domingo Belez, Norman Dill, all victims of gun violence, everyone seeking employment, all with financial issues, Bonnie Simon, Betty Ziesel, Jenna Warrington, Bill Gaskill and family, the Boy Scouts at Sea Base, Dawn Willis, all who have lost children, Christopher, Shannon, Megan, Andrea, Cynthia, Roger, Everett, all students and teachers getting ready to go back to school, all college students traveling back to campus, Jennifer Vaughan, Katie, for our military, safe and injury free sports seasons, Becky Harrington, Doris A, and Beverly Ryan.

Praise God for: River Helmick, and answered prayers.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The return of the 8:00 a.m. Bible Study so members of 9:30 a.m. can attend, Craig, grieving fathers, Amy's family, Bobby Walls (Elaine's Husband) , Lydia Carmine, -Wright Parker, Linda Arken, Doris Rickert, DeeAnn Mason, Jennifer, The family and friends of George Reph, Kirsten Pearce, Charlie Fleetwood, Steve Zeveney, Bill Gaskill and family, Karen Hoch and Robert Van Vorst.

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:

Ferd Nelson who will celebrate his **98th** birthday on **September 6th**.

Lida Wells who will celebrate her **96th** birthday on **September 8th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

Jerry and Margie Tucker will celebrate their **51st** anniversary on **September 14th**.

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. There will be an 8:00 a.m. service in the sanctuary for those who are unable to attend the combined service. Bring a friend to worship with and get connected to the Avenue family!

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

SMALL GROUPS W/PASTOR STEVE: During the month of 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. 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 2nd-3rd grade and 6th-8th grade 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 **Sept. 10th**, we will begin a new study "A Nation in Crisis—Study Book of Joshua by David Jeremiah. 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 **the final** 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 will meet for the last time Sunday, September 1st, at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. The Sunshine Bible Class returns next Sunday. The study for September 1st is "In the Beginning God," based on Genesis 1:1-2:4.

SUNSHINE BIBLE CLASS FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults will meet at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday September 8th, in the Grier Room. After that the Class will meet at 9:30 a.m.. Our study for September is "God the Creator." The lesson for September 8th is "Together, But Why?" based on Genesis 2:4-25; September 15th, the lesson is "The Thick Darkness" based on Exodus 19: 9-25; 20: 18-21; September 22nd, the lesson is "God's First Creation" based on Proverbs 8:1-3, 12-36; and September 29th, the lesson is "God's Ultimate Messenger" based on Hebrews 1:1-14. This class is taught by Rev. John Van Tine, Retired. Please plan to attend these exciting lessons.

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.

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH BOOK CLUB: Exploring Your Faith Book Club will meet on Sunday, September 15th in the Grier Room at 12:15 p.m. We will begin a new study based on the book "When Did God become Christian?" by David Kalas. This study is led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired. This group meets on the third Sunday of the month. All are welcome.

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 (srlamotte@avenueumc.com) 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.

A large bonfire is burning brightly at night, with a massive plume of sparks and embers rising into the dark sky. The fire is contained within a white rectangular border at the top of the image.

BONFIRE CELEBRATION AT THE GLENN'S

September 1, 2019
6 PM

2600 Canterbury Rd
Milford, DE 19963

Bring a Lawn chair or Blanket

The poster features a warm, orange-toned background with a subtle wood grain texture. At the top, several autumn leaves in shades of orange and yellow are scattered. In the center, two large maple leaves are prominently displayed: one in a golden-yellow hue and another in a deep red. The text is rendered in a clean, white, sans-serif font, providing a sharp contrast against the warm background.

Fall Season

Kick Off

September 8th

**10:30 AM Combined Service
with Church Picnic to follow**

8:00 AM Indoor Service

FUSION IS COMING



**SEPTEMBER 8, 2019
AT 6:00 PM.**

You Might Get Wet
So Bring Proper Attire

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 9/1

Blessing of the Backpacks

- 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 9/2

Church Office Closed

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 9/3

- 9:30 a.m. Archives Meeting,
Archives Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Preschool Meet the Teacher,
Grier Room & Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central DE Chess Club,
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team, Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY 9/4

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group
- 6:00 p.m. Preschool Meet the Teacher,
Grier Room & Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Tiger Den Meeting,
Holzmueller Room
- 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting, Wesley Room

THURSDAY 9/5

- 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. Arrow of Light Den Meeting,
Wesley Room

FRIDAY 9/6

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

SATURDAY 9/7

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

SUNDAY 9/8 ~ Communion

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,
Grier Room
- 10:30 a.m. Combined Service, Outside
- 11:30 a.m. Church Picnic, Outside
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting,
Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Outside