



The Midweek

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

One of the major issues I dealt with at the hospital this summer was when families were forced to make a decision about removing life support from their loved ones. It is a difficult choice to make for obvious reasons and anyone who has found themselves in that position can attest to the heart wrenching responsibility it is. To make it even worse, the scenario of “pulling the plug” has also morphed into a cultural source of morbid and cynical humor that makes it harder for a family or individual to figure out the right thing to do.

The question I would inevitably get was “am I killing” this person whom I love by removing life support? My answer is always the same. “Absolutely not.”

Scripture tells us in Revelation 1:18 that Jesus said, “I am the living one. I was dead and see, I am alive forever more, and I hold the keys of hell and death.” And in 1 Samuel 2:6, we hear that “The Lord brings death and gives life.”

When a person or family makes the decision to remove artificial means to support life, it’s not a decision of whether that person will live or die. That is for God to decide, and only God. The choice is whether you place your loved one in God’s hands and pray for God’s will to be done.

Yes, there should be discussions with medical professionals about the long-term prognosis of a person on life support. Most certainly the wishes and desires of the patient need to be considered. They are even legal matters to take into account if someone has a medical advance directive in place.

But the choice is never between living and dying even though that is the way it feels at the time. We are all going to die. Death is part of life and we have to experience death to have never ending life with our Savior in His heavenly kingdom. As difficult as it may be to say good bye to someone in this world, we may take comfort and strength in knowing we can see them again for all eternity in the presence of the Lord.

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.

September/October Meeting Reminders

- * **Leadership Team Meeting**, September 23rd at 6:30 p.m in Grier Room
- * **Endowment Meeting**, September 24th at 7:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- * **UMM Pancake Breakfast**, October 6th in Fellowship Hall
- * **UMW Board Meeting**, October 7th at 3:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- * **Finance Committee Meeting**, October 8th at 7:00 p.m. in Heritage Room
- * **Flu Shots**, October 13th from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- * **UMW General Meeting/Luncheon**, October 13th at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- * **Health Ministries Meeting**, October 14th at 6:30 p.m. in Grier Room
- * **Church Council**, October 30th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



From the desk of the Bishop

Listen to your children

By Bishop Peggy Johnson

I have always loved the praise song by Ken Medema titled “Lord, Listen to Your Children.” Its refrain goes like this:

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
 Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
 Lord, listen to your children praying,
 Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.*

Love, power and grace are the things that God has for his children, children of all ages. In recent years our chronological children are speaking to this world about things that are happening that need the attention of all of us. Front and center are the issues of **gun violence and climate change**.

One does not have to wait very long for the next mass shooting. They occur now almost weekly, and one begins to wonder if it is safe to go shopping or to an open air concert, theater or country fair. Always there is the fear of being the next victim of these acts of horror.

Grandmothers are buying their grandchildren bullet-proof school backpacks. I raised my children in a more innocent time, and they never experienced “active shooter drills.” But children today are going to school with an undercurrent of fear.

Some of our children went to Washington DC after the Parkland, Fla., school shooting. They begged our legislators to do something about this crisis. I hope people will listen to our children. I pray that God’s love, power and grace from above will inspire our leaders to address this urgent, complicated issue honestly and effectively. Let’s be in prayer about this and add our voices to those of our impassioned young advocates!





Recently, a spunky Swedish 16-year old named Greta Thunberg journeyed across the Atlantic Ocean on a yacht and arrived in New York City to continue her crusade to help save our planet. She is calling for the world to address with more urgency the issues of climate change that are causing catastrophic weather systems on the planet.

Greta's critics call her "crazy" and say she is an alarmist who has "no sense of humor." There are even bumper stickers with expletives decrying her crusade for the world to wake up and do more to save itself. But she has created a groundswell of support among many, and her voice continues to be heartening.



Greta Thunberg

She has Asperger's Syndrome, but she calls it her "super power" for the work she is doing. A Nobel Peace Prize nominee, she has inspired many other young people with her courage and conviction. I pray for her relentless voice!

The alarming increase of category 4 and 5 hurricanes could be construed as a wake-up call. Some of our churches and their cemeteries on the Eastern Shore of Maryland are imperiled by rising sea levels. I hope people will listen to our children and to Greta's message and take some personal steps to care for the environment. Let's be in prayer and join their active, conscientious witness on this matter as well.

Our children want what we all want: love, power and grace for our world. Only God is the true source of these intangible but very real forces that can conquer our mammoth challenges.

God's spiritual resources are the answer to our fear, violence and over-consumption. Could God be calling us to do more about the things that are killing our people and destroying our planet?

Are greed, apathy or lack of creativity taking center stage? Or are we unwilling to partner with those we consider "the other," those who are different from us? What world are we leaving for the next generation if we sit by and do nothing? Do we care?

I urge us all to listen to the children and youth in our families, churches, schools and communities. God gives them messages that we need to hear. As we work together lovingly on these challenges, more good can be accomplished. As we call upon the love, power and grace of our Lord, there is no telling what good can happen and how we might be transformed.

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 Joan Eisenbrey, John Horsman, Lydia Ann Carmine, Dean, Betty, Kirsten Pearce, the family and friends of Doris Rickert, Owen McDonald, Charlie Fleetwood, Marty and Bill Brereton, Linda Breedlove, Jean Hutchman, Beverly Harrison, Amy, Christopher, Craig, Bill Gaskill, and Jean Layton.

Praise God for: A wonderful fall kickoff service.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Pray for Great Test Results, Jean Davis, Alan Jester, Charles Stevenson, Karen, Keith Meck, prayers for DIL for help in decision regarding job offer, Travel mercies for Nancy, Sue Lewis, Holly Maloney, Craig, Healing for Bob and Jake, Dan Falta, Naomi and the family and friends of Ferd Nelson.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪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:

Jean Murphy who will celebrate her **92nd** birthday on **October 1st**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Hank and Birgit Haefeli who will celebrate their **64th** anniversary on **October 1st**.

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Ferd Nelson** who passed away on September 16, 2019. Ferd joined Avenue Church on May 2, 2004.

UPCOMING

FALL BIBLE STUDIES: We are kicking off some Bible Studies in the month of October. Joining a study is a great way to grow in your knowledge of the Bible and God as well as getting to grow in your relationships with others here at Avenue. Here are some of the offerings starting up in October. You can sign-up for a class in the Fellowship Foyer.

24 Hours That Changed the World: Join Rev. John Van Tyne on Tuesday evenings beginning **October 8th** for six weeks to look at the death of Jesus and how it changed the world.

Disciple Bible Study: Josh Willey will be teaching this 36 week journey through the Bible. You'll learn the narrative arc of the Bible as well as key themes, terms, and how the Bible applies to your life. Date: TBD

Christian Believer: Join Elaine Willey for *Christian Believer*, a 30-week study focused on classical teachings of the Christian faith through the use of words, symbols, and hymns. Date: TBD

The Epic of Ruth will meet on Wednesday evenings beginning **October 9th** at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Steve. We will look at the three main characters of the story of Ruth and see ourselves in those characters, and see how they point us to Christ. Contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com for more information.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will be starting soon. Confirmation is an opportunity for 7th graders (and older teens) to learn more about what it means to be a Christian and to make their faith their own. Our plan is to meet two Sunday's a month beginning in October from 4:00 p.m.- 5:15 p.m. Students can stay for dinner and Fusion afterwards. If you have a 7th-12th grader who would be interested in Confirmation Classes, please email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS will be held on **Sunday, November 2nd** from 12:15 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. This class is for those who are interested in learning more about Avenue Church, what it means to live as a Christian through the church, and to pursue become a member of Avenue. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing Kelly at churchoffice@avenueumc.com

WORSHIP: We will begin a new series called "Greater" as we look at the book of Colossians. Through the series, we will look at what life "in" Jesus looks and how to live that out in our own lives. This week, Pastor Steve will be sharing from Colossians 1:15-23.

UMCOR OFFERING will be received on **Sunday, October 6th** at all worship services to support the ongoing recovery efforts in the Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian. Checks can be made payable to Avenue UMC with "UMCOR" in the memo.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is one of the top rated charitable organizations in the country. Overhead fees are paid for from apportionments to ensure that 100% of donations go where they are earmarked to go.

METHODIST MEN (UMM) are proud to serve the first Pancake Breakfast of the year **on October 6th**. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea will be **served immediately after all three services. A free-will offering will be accepted.** Funds from this meal will help provide a Boy Scout college scholarship to a high school graduate from Troop #186. Other mission projects will also be funded. Join us for a most excellent breakfast and fellowship.

FLU VACCINES AT AUMC: On Sunday, **October 13th** from **9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m** in Fellowship Hall. All you need to do is bring your pharmacy benefit insurance card, Medicare, Medicaid or VA card. **No co-pay.** If you have any questions, please call Walgreens at (302) 424-6300, option 2 and the option 3.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) is gearing up to have a terrific year of mission projects, expanding our knowledge of God, fellowship with other women and being the hands and feet for Jesus. We share concerns, prayers, meaningful books and enjoy our times of mission work, especially for women and children. Any woman, is welcome to be a part of United Methodist Women, to attend a small group Circle meeting and help support gatherings that take place at Avenue. You are welcome and we would love to have you join us.

UMW GENERAL MEETING: **Save the date - Sunday, October 13th** at 12:30 p.m. for a general meeting, open to everyone, to learn about the mission - *Clothing Our Kids*. Details to follow.

UMW CIRCLE MEETINGS: Circle meetings for October will take place on Wednesday October 9th at 7:00 p.m. (Esther Circle) and Tuesday, October 15th - Sarah at 9:45 a.m., and Mary/Martha at 1:30 p.m. Please come to a meeting that fits your time schedule and help us make a difference.

If meetings aren't your thing, but you would like to be in the loop of UMW happenings and could attend and help out from time to time, you might be interested in **an electronic circle - E-Circle**. Just send or give your e-mail address to Beth Parker at bparke42@comcast.net.

HEALTH MINISTRIES: Our next meeting will be on **October 14th** at 6:30 p.m. in the Grier Room.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING HELP NEEDED: Lisa Johnson is needing help (2-3 volunteers) for decorating the entrance foyer and fellowship foyer for the holidays. If you are able to help on **November 25th or 26th**, please contact Lisa at (302) 422-1086.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

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 **Sept. 24th**, we will continue our 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."

SUNSHINE BIBLE CLASS FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. Our study for September is "God the Creator." The lesson for 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—UPDATE: **We are going to postpone the card ministry for another few weeks.** If you have any questions or are interested, please call Brenda Biessel at (302) 270-1764.

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH BOOK CLUB: Exploring Your Faith Book Club will meet on **Sunday, October 20th** in the Grier Room at 12:15 p.m. We will continue our study based on the book "When Did God become Christian?" by David Kalas Chapters 4-6 . This study is led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired. This group meets on the third Sunday of the month. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY

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.

The Mispillion Children's Chorus

Open to All students AGES 6-12

Come Sing with Us

Two Rehearsal locations and times:

Select the one that works best for your child's schedule

The Milford Boys & Girls Club

Tuesday from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Avenue United Methodist Church

Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 p.m.



NO AUDITIONS!

NO FEES!

**NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE
REQUIRED!**

*No member affiliation necessary with either B&G Club
or with Avenue United Methodist Church*

*A commitment from parents/guardians that
students attend regularly and participate in the
choral performances.*

QUESTIONS:

themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com

Sharon Starling (302) 422-2785

Kevin B. Chamberlain (302) 422-8111



Please join Sussex County Volunteer Delaware 50+ and the State Office of Volunteerism as we collect donated items for our deployed servicemen and women who are serving during the holidays.

Donations Accepted: September 11, 2019 – November 12, 2019

Stockings for Soldiers Suggested Donation Items

“Bolded” items are most in demand

- **Small** Individually Packages Meals
 - Tuna/Lasagna/Beefaroni
 - Smaller package (8 oz or less) preferred
 - **Crew Socks, Mole Skin**
 - Slim Jims/Beef Jerky
 - Toothbrushes & Small Toothpastes
 - **Small Candy**
 - Mini-candy bars (send your favorite)
 - Christmas/Halloween candy
 - **Granola/Fruit/Breakfast Bars**
 - **Cookies/Nuts/Pretzels/Trail Mix**
 - Less than 12 oz. size
 - **Flavored drink mixes** (Single Packets)
 - Lemonade, teas, hot cocoa, coffee
 - **Paperback Books** (no romance novels)
- **Ramen Noodle Soup**
 - Single packs preferred
 - Fruit roll-ups/gushers/Cracker Jacks
 - Chewing gum
 - ChapStick & Lip balms
 - Razors (individual or packs)
 - Toiletries & lotions (small package)
 - Baby Wipes, Foot powder, sun block
 - DVD Movies & Music CDs
 - Pocket games & puzzles
 - Hand/Foot Warmers/Fly Swatters
 - Crossword, Sudoku
 - Beanie Babies
 - Some Dog/Canine Items for our K9 Heroes

Notes: Smaller, individual sized packaging is preferred to fit into individually packed stockings. We accept all sized packages/containers as donations, larger items are sent to units for snacking.

No aerosol cans or bars of soap please.

Send a Personal Holiday Message of Support & Friendship

(Include return address/email, you might hear back from a soldier. Limit: 100 cards per person)

\$\$\$ Financial Donations to Help with Shipping Costs \$\$\$

Make checks payable to: Stockings for Soldiers

(501.c.3 Tax ID# 27-0604668)

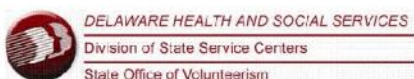
MAIL TO: Volunteer Delaware 50+

546 S. Bedford Street

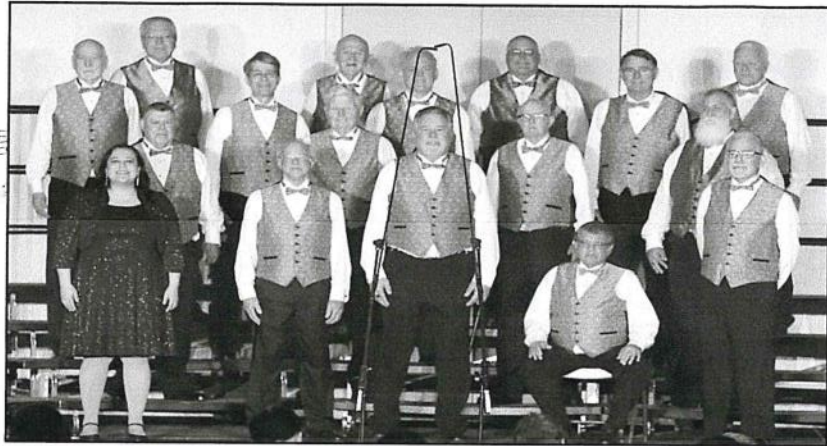
Georgetown, DE 19947

302-515-3020

The Stockings for Soldiers web address is: <http://www.stockingsforsoldiers.org>



"A Cappella Extravaganza VII"



The **First State Harmonizers**, and the **Voices of DelMarVa** will perform some of their most requested songs in four part harmony and debut a number of new songs in their repertoire.

Quartets will also give featured performances as part of the show.



Sunday, September 29, 2019

Modern Maturity Center

***1121 Forrest Ave
Dover, Delaware***

Time - 2:30 p.m.

General Admission: \$ 15.00

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE at: www.firststateharmonizers.com

Or Call: (302) 422-8620

Tickets will be available at the door.

This organization is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on DelawareScene.com.

Delaware Division of the **Arts**



October 13, 2019

9:00 a.m. —12:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 9/22

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,
Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship, Baptism
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &
Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 9/23

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting, Nursery
- 6:30 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting,
Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 9/24

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study,
Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,
Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. Pack Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 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. Endowment Meeting,
Grier Room

WEDNESDAY 9/25

- 9:30 a.m. Milford Flower Show,
Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion
Group
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 6:45 p.m. Voice of Delmarva,
Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 9/26

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

FRIDAY 9/27

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

SATURDAY 9/28

- 8:30 a.m. Sexual Ethics Level 2
Training, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 9/22

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,
Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &
Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Pack Comm. Meeting,
Grier Room