



The Midweek

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Once again my friend Pastor Heidi has beautiful words I would like to share with you. Here is her December meditation.

Some friends and I were talking about how much we enjoy the traditional hymns, especially around the holidays. New praise songs are expressive and inspiring, but there is something about the melodies, harmonies, and the words of the traditional hymns that fill our hearts. As we enter this Advent Season, the hymn that I find myself constantly humming is the 6th century, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” The title itself captures my heart. As we sing “O Come, O Come,” we express our yearning and our certain hope for the baby, Jesus, who came to us, the Christ who is with us now, and the Christ who is to come.

Throughout time, humankind has named the people and things that make up our world. Most of the time, a name is simply a way to identify someone or something. When it comes to our children, sometimes we give them a family or friend’s name. Sometimes, we like the sound of it, or like a name beginning with the letter “D” or “J.” Sometimes, we deliberately name our children with words that have meaning. Do you know why you were given your name? Does it have a special meaning? If it has a meaning, does the meaning express your parents hopes for you? Or define you in some way?

The Gospel according to Matthew begins with Jesus’ wonderful and colorful genealogy to demonstrate how He is descended from Abraham and from David. When the genealogy arrives at Joseph, the husband of Mary of whom Jesus was born, it proclaims that Jesus is called Christ (Matthew 1:1-16). Following the long list of

names, that proclamation in verse 16 is a huge, astounding, precious, and joyful leap into God's divine mystery. The chapter also describes how Jesus' name is declared by an angel of the Lord to Joseph when the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and commanded, "you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21 RSV).

Like the names, Jacob, John and Elizabeth, the Hebrew name, Jesus, was fairly common at the time. The name Jesus, however, means "The Lord is salvation" or "Yahweh is salvation." The name Jesus tenderly identifies the child as the Son of man; the meaning of the name underscores His identity as the Christ, Son of God. The name Christ in Hebrew is "Messiah." As the Son of God, Christ delivers us from our sins through love and divine compassion, and fulfills the Isaiah 7:14 prophecy. As Matthew recounts: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1:23).

Jesus has other titles included in the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" such as "Day-spring," which alludes to Easter, and "Desire of nations" to "bind all peoples in one heart and mind; [and]...Fill the whole world with heaven's peace." The hymn "There's Something About That Name" by the Gaithers (1991) is a newer song about the power of Jesus' name. As we sing "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; there's just something about that name" we are transported to that place where we know that God is with us now and forevermore.

Also consider perhaps the most powerful song about Jesus' name: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" with the beginning lyrics: "All hail the power of Jesus' name, Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all." Surely, Advent is a time of joyful celebration that God loved us so much that He gave us Jesus who is Christ to save us.

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



From the desk of the Bishop

Sweet Potato Rolls

By Bishop Peggy Johnson



The parking lot was full when I arrived at Nelson's UMC in Hebron, Maryland. The annual "Sweet Potato Roll Sale" was in full swing on that crisp fall day in late October. For many years the members of the church work for an entire week preparing for this fundraiser that garners over \$30,000 annually for their many mission projects. Some people actually take a week of vacation from their secular employment to help out. I came to visit the church

on “pick up” day for a promised gift of two dozen of these highly-coveted home-made delights. I learned that some people who have moved out of the area drive long distances to the church each year to continue to make their purchases.

The pastor, Rev. Dr. Becky Collison, explained that the whole church gets involved in this process. There are those who cook, peel, mix, roll-out, cut, butter, package, label, and sell. The day I was there the fellowship hall was filled with church folks engaged in roll-making and the room was buzzing with a spirit of joy and cooperation. Everyone was using their talents to accomplish this great work of making 4,900 dozen or 58,800 rolls (all of which had been pre-ordered and many had to be turned away). People were arriving at their assigned pick-up time and some were purchasing quite a few dozen. They said they would freeze them and bake them for Thanksgiving Dinner. These rolls were a family tradition during the holidays.



The curious thing about these rolls is that they are square and not round as one would expect. For years the church folks made round rolls but at some point, they realized that they could make them more efficiently if they were square and placed in a rectangular pan and scored. The new shape took some getting used to but some ingenious member of the church made a contraption that actually scores the slab of sweet potato dough and the speed of the production took off. After all, a square roll tastes the same as a round roll. The benefits of the new shape outweighed the need for it to adhere to tradition.



In churches, we have a saying “we’ve never done it that way before.” Sadly that attitude keeps us from doing something new and better that the Lord is calling us to do. Our ministries and missions are good but sometimes they need a creative new edge, perhaps using some new talent, new kinds of outreach, more diversity, a broader reach. Nelson UMC uses some of its profits from the roll sale to fund an after-school program for children at risk in the community and the whole town is experiencing the benefits of this ministry. They have also paid for the installation of a wheelchair ramp and have donated to a number of overseas mission projects.

What new thing can you be doing at your church? How can you “sing to the Lord a NEW song?” (Psalm 96:1) Who does God want you to reach for Jesus Christ that requires you to change the way you do things? I know a church that does Vacation Bible School the whole day on that Saturdays before school starts so that parents are free to go out shopping. They have doubled their attendance. Many churches are beginning to use credit-card machines to accept donations because increasingly people do not carry cash or checkbooks. There is a church in Texas that has installed washers and dryers in their education building to help the homeless population have clean clothes. Some of our churches are studying their carbon footprint and are beginning to use china dishes and cloth tablecloths instead of disposable paper and plastic products.

The possibilities are endless. Our God is a God of new ideas and longs for us to make new ways for people to experience divine love. “Behold I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:19) May you follow the example of the square sweet potato roll-makers at Nelson’s UMC and go out to start something new!



Take My Hand Ministry, Inc
Presents
A tasting of Christmas Brunch
Sunday, December 15th
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Benvenuto Restaurant
249 NE Front Street | Milford, DE 19963
(302) 422-1086

Everyone is invited to this special Brunch Tasting that will benefit the Milford Police Department's Christmas Toy Drive. The Brunch is a “Free Blessing to You.” Please help us be a blessing to the children & youth of the Milford Area by bringing a wrapped and tagged (gender & age) Christmas Gift for a girl/boy valued at \$20 plus; or a \$20 plus gift card to Wal-Mart.

Join us in celebrating the true Spirit of Christmas with fabulous foods, fellowship, live music, and the special gift of loving our neighbors the way our Savior Loves us.

Buon Natale!!!

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 Not Too Shabby at (302) 200-0752. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Debbie Pearce, Phyllis French, Ginny Clendaniel, Janice Abbott, Gabriel, family of Kathy Chilton, DeeAnn, Sammy, Bella, Craig, Pray for the family of Judith O'Rourke, Charlie Fleetwood, Bob and Jan Perkins, family of Tommy Lott and family of Eleanor Lurwick.

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Eleanor Lurwick** who was promoted to the Church Triumphant on November 26, 2019. Eleanor joined Avenue Church on May 13, 1956.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Jean Hutchman who will celebrate her **94th** birthday on **December 10th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jack & Mary Lou Sheaffer who will celebrate their **55th** anniversary on **December 5th**.

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.

UPCOMING

CHRISMON ORNAMENTS

Many years ago, Marge Steiner volunteered to create these needlepoint symbols for the tree in the Sanctuary. Several women worked on them using white, gold and silver threads, representing the liturgical colors of Christmas. What we have are many reminders of the symbols of our faith. How many can you spot on our tree?

Chi Rho (X P) are the first two letters of “Christ” in Greek.

A **Fish** represents the first letter in Greek of the titles of Jesus (Jesus, Christ, Son of God, Savior) which spell the Greek word for “fish”, (icquV, ichthus).

The **Crown** symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Savior’s birth, and Jesus as the Son of God and Prince of Peace.

The **Star** represents the sign God placed in the heavens to guide the Three Wise Men to Jesus.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE: This past Sunday we announced the partnership with Push Pay to offer online giving from your phone, your laptop, or from our website. This tool creates another avenue for you to worship God and to support the ministries of Avenue Church through your giving. You can give using your Debit Card, Credit Card, or through an ACH transfer. You can give a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts just as you may do with online bill pay. Giving is easy and takes about thirty seconds to set up, and it is secure. Here is how it works:

From Your Cell Phone- Text “avenueumc” to 77977. You will receive a message with a link. Click on the link which will take you to our online giving page.

From Your Computer- In your browser, go to <http://www.pushpay.com/pay/avenueumc> This link will take you to our giving page from where you can make your gift.

From Our Website- Go to www.avenueumc.com and click on the red “Giving” button in the top-right corner of the homepage. That button will take you to our giving page.

Our leadership is excited about this tool and encourage you to use it as you giving purposefully and joyfully as an act of worship each week! If you have questions about the platform or the process, please contact Pastor Steve or Harriet Davies.

FAMILY ADVENT MEAL: Everyone is invited to join us on **Wednesday, December 4th** at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for an Avenue Family Meal. Spend the meal getting to know the rest of the Avenue Family. After the meal, we will learn more about the season of Advent and why it is important in the life of the church and in our personal lives. Meat, Dessert, Drinks, and paper ware will be provided, we ask that you bring a dish to share. See you on December 4th!

POINSETTIAS: Order forms for poinsettias will be available on the foyer table. All orders are due by **December 18th**.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **December 10th**, 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.

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDIES: Next class will meet **December 9th** (Disciple 1) and **December 4th** (Disciple 3)

KNIT/CROCHET GROUP: The final count of the hats and scarves for the students of Milford School District was 12 hats and 13 scarves. 5 preemie baby hats were added, which will be given to health services to be used where needed. Thanks to all contributors.

SUNSHINE BIBLE CLASS FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. Our study for December is "Hope". The lesson for December 8th is "Faith and Hope" based on Hebrews 11:1, 6-16; lesson for December 15th is "Hope for New Things" based on Isaiah 42: 1-9; lesson for December 22nd is "Hope Fulfilled" based on Matthew 1: 18-25; lesson for December 29th is "Hope for Spirit-Filled Living" based on Acts 1: 1-9; . This class is taught by Rev. John Van Tine, retired. Please plan to attend these exciting lessons.

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH BOOK CLUB: Exploring Your Faith Book Club will meet on Sunday, **December 8th** in the Grier Room at 12:15. We will continue our study based on the book "When Did God become Christian?" by David Kalas Chapters 10-12. Please bring any suggestions you may have for our next study. This study is led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired. This group meets on the third Sunday of the month. All are welcome.

CHRISMON: As we begin the advent season, celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to share gifts with children and some adults of our community, as though we were giving them to Jesus. Avenue's sanctuary Christmas tree will be glowing, adorned with handmade Christmas tags, with the name of a child, adult, or a mission and a desired gift on Sunday 12/8/19.

Identifying tags must be taped back onto the wrapped gift and returned no later than **Sunday, 12/15/19**. Volunteers will be needed to sort gifts in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, 12/15/19. Gifts will be picked up or delivered Monday, 12/16/19. "...the star, which they saw in the east went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was... and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down and worshiped him and when they had opened their treasures, they presented to him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh". Matthew 2:9,11.

Volunteers are needed on **Sunday, December 15th at 12:00 p.m.** to sort Chrismon tree packages by family numbers, so families can receive on Monday, December 16th.

HEALTH MINISTRY: “Please fill out the Health Ministry survey and put your completed survey in the Health Ministry box in the foyer”. Thank You!

COMMUNITY

MENTORING HELP NEEDED: We are aware of a need at Benjamin Banneker Elementary School for mentors. Mentoring has been shown to make an impact in the life of the student. The commitment to mentoring can take the shape of your schedule, making it easy to get involved. If you are interested in learning more about mentoring, contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@gmail.com.

CODE PURPLE: We are close to the beginning of the cold weather season. Code Purple is a ministry housed here at Avenue that provides overnight shelter for homeless men in our community. We are in need of volunteers to assist with Code Purple. If you are interested in learning more about Code Purple and the opportunities to serve, contact Dan Nelson at bubbazanettiz1000@msn.com.

INTERESTED IN OUTREACH? We are looking to gather some folks who are interested in reaching out into the community to share God's love and to connect with our neighbors. If you are interested in being part of this team, please contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: If you are wondering what else we may need I suggest toilet paper. Thanks to all of you at Avenue who support us through prayers and donations. Also, I want you to know that Mountaire is donating chicken to us now and they deliver! (We previously purchased it from the Food Bank.) Mountaire is a good example of Christian support.

The Diaper Pantry is now open every day and will be done at the Food Pantry during the hours of 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

The Sanctuary is never prettier than it is when the poinsettias arrive for December. Placing poinsettias in the church in memory or honor of loved ones is a beautiful and cherished tradition.

This year we will again only be ordering 6.5" pots of poinsettias at \$7.00 each. The Altar Guild has requested that we only order 75 pots of flowers and in RED only. All additional funds will go to the Parish Purse.

Sponsor's Name _____

Memory of _____

Honor of _____

The cost for each Poinsettia is: 6.5" pot \$7.00 _____

The Altar Guild has requested that we order only **RED** Poinsettias this year.

Please Print Clearly

Please use a separate order form for each name
in memory of or honored

Names of sponsors and those remembered and honored will be in the Worship Folder on December 22nd.

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

Orders MUST be in no later than Wednesday, December 18th





The Milford Community Band

Southern Delaware's Premier Music Organization

2019 Christmas Concert Schedule

Saturday, December 7 ~ 3:00 PM
First Baptist Church - 301 Walker Road, Dover

Sunday, December 15 ~ 3:00 PM
Milford High School Auditorium - 1019 N. Walnut Street, Milford

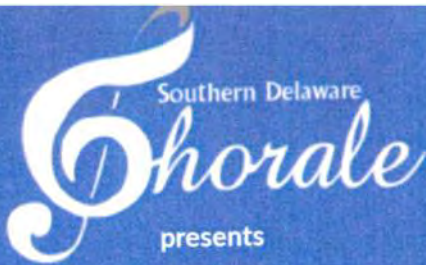
FREE ADMITTANCE ~ DONATIONS WELCOME

Delaware Division of the Arts
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 www.DelawareScene.com.



302-398-9394

www.milfordcommunityband.org



Carols & Lullabies

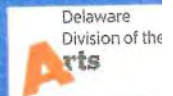


Dr. Colin Armstrong
Artistic Director & Conductor

Sunday, December 8, 3pm
Epworth United Methodist Church
Tickets \$25

For tickets: southerndelawarechorale.org

This event is supported, in part, by the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware Arts at: www.DelawareScene.com





While the holidays are considered a joyous time of the year, for some it can be a very difficult and depressing time of the year.

What are the signs and symptoms of depression?

Sadness is only one small part of depression and some people with depression may not feel sadness at all. Different people have different symptoms. Some symptoms of depression include:

- Persistent sad, anxious, or “empty” mood
- Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness
- Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies or activities
- Decreased energy, fatigue, or being “slowed down”
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions
- Difficulty sleeping, early-morning awakening, or oversleeping
- Appetite and/or weight changes
- Thoughts of death or suicide or suicide attempts
- Restlessness or irritability
- Aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems without a clear physical cause and/or that do not ease even with treatment



Does depression look the same in everyone?

No. Depression affects different people in different ways. For example:

Women have depression more often than men. Biological, lifecycle, and hormonal factors that are unique to women may be linked to their higher depression rate. Women with depression typically have symptoms of sadness, worthlessness, and guilt.

Men with depression are more likely to be very tired, irritable, and sometimes angry. They may lose interest in work or activities they once enjoyed, have sleep problems, and behave recklessly, including the misuse of drugs or alcohol. Many men do not recognize their depression and fail to seek help.

Older adults with depression may have less obvious symptoms, or they may be less likely to admit to feelings of sadness or grief. They are also more likely to have medical conditions, such as heart disease, which may cause or contribute to depression.

Younger children with depression may pretend to be sick, refuse to go to school, cling to a parent, or worry that a parent may die.

Older children and teens with depression may get into trouble at school, sulk, and be irritable. Teens with depression may have symptoms of other disorders, such as anxiety, eating disorders, or substance abuse.

Treatment is to see a healthcare professional or a mental health specialist.

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/depression/index.shtml>

*“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”
1 Peter 5:7*



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
December 10, 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 dinner and takeout only | GrottoPizza.com |  

Give Online from Your Phone

1. Text "avenueumc" to 77977
2. Click on the Link you receive as a text
3. Make a Gift through Debt/Credit Card or ACH Transfer
4. Type in Confirmation Code (can opt-out of this step in future)
5. Considering make your gift recurring

Go to www.pushpay.com/pay/avenueumc to give through your computer.



SOUNDS *of* CHRISTMAS *featuring*

The Mispillion Children's Chorus

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *accompanist*

with

First State Harmonizers

POLYTECH High School Chamber Choir

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

December 13, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Avenue United Methodist Church
20 N. Church Street
Milford, Delaware 19963
302-422-8111



December 22nd during 9:30 a.m. service

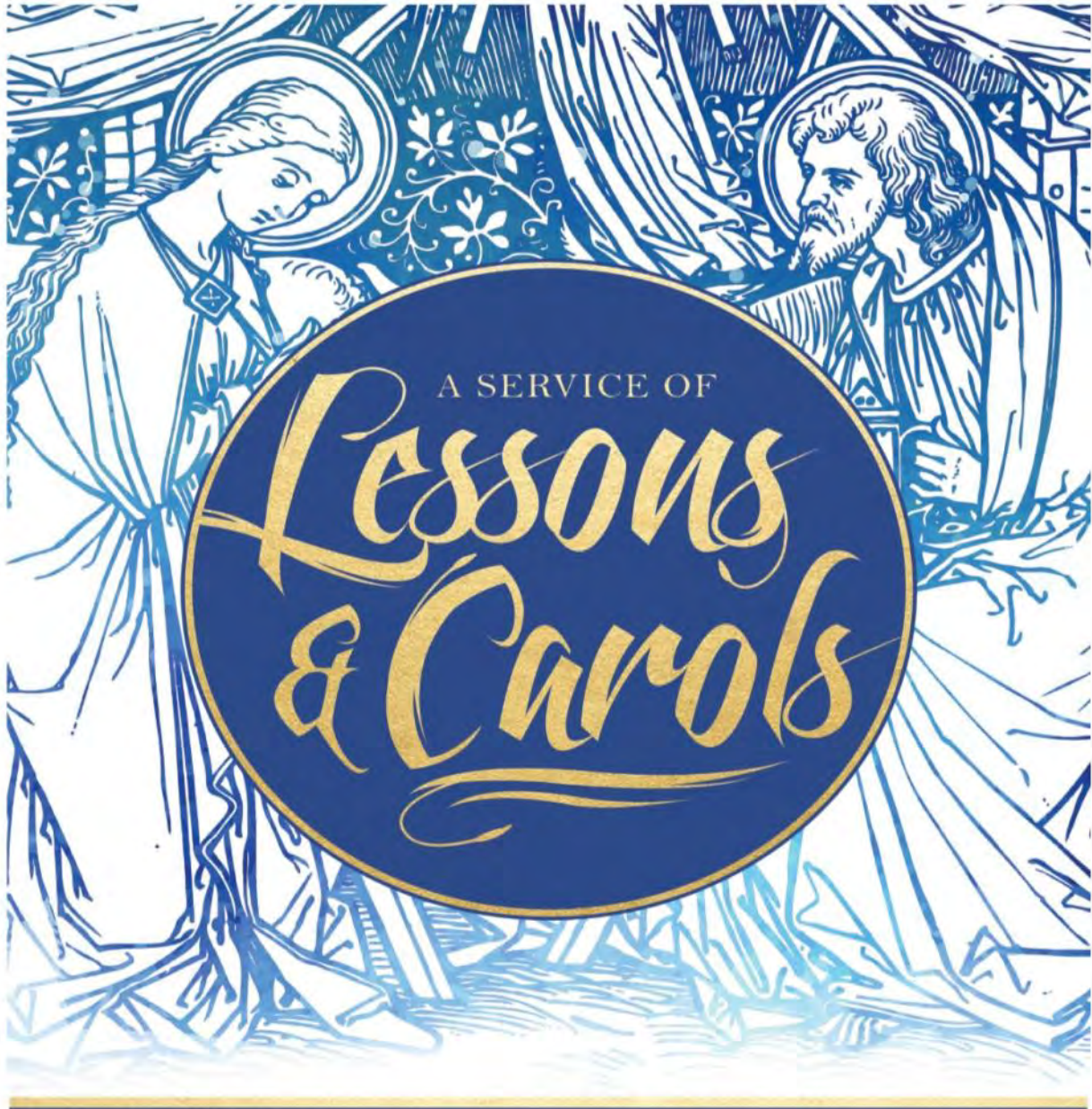
Our program will be the Nativity Story with our Sunday school children serving as the actors. We are planning on having practices take place during Sunday school with a possible "dress rehearsal" on Saturday, December 21st in the morning.

All costumes and props will be provided by the Sunday school.

If your child is interested in participating in the Christmas program please sign up in your child's classroom or email sundayschool@avenueumc.com. Parent volunteers would be greatly appreciated.



AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



FEATURING THE FESTIVAL CHOIR AND ORGAN
SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND AT 4:00PM

20 N. CHURCH STREET | CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED
PLEASE JOIN US | FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Join us for *Christmas at Avenue Church*

12/4 Advent Family Dinner (6pm)

12/18 Blue Christmas Service (6:30pm)

12/22 Children's Program (9:30 am)

12/22 Lessons and Carols (4:00 pm)

12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services

3:00 pm Traditional

5:00 pm Modern

7:00 pm Modern

9:00 pm Traditional

avenueumc.com
fb.com/avenueumc
20 N. Church St. Milford
302-422-8111

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 12/8

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club, Grier Room
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believers Class, Holz. Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room

MONDAY 12/9

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting, Heritage Room
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holz. Room

TUESDAY 12/10

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. 4H, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Esther Circle, Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus, Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Wesley Room

WEDNESDAY 12/11

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting /Crocheting Group, Grier Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Propel Womens Group, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 Class, Holz. Room

THURSDAY 12/12

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

FRIDAY 12/13

- 7:00 p.m. Concert: Sounds of Christmas, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 12/14

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

SUNDAY 12/15

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Choirs Rehearsal, Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believers Class, Holz. Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room