



The Midweek

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

We have sung “Let There Be Peace on Earth” a few times over the past few months in the 8:00 and 11:00 services. As much as I enjoy singing it (or in my case listening to others sing it since I can’t carry a tune), I am always transported right back to my elementary school days.

That was the last song that was sung every year at every concert we had at school that was directed by our music teacher, Mrs. Steinbach. From age five through 12, kindergarten through sixth grade, I had the youthful optimism that the words and sentiment of that song would be quick to come. After all, who didn’t want peace on earth?

And yet here we are, decades later still singing the same song (with slightly different words) and I am wondering if peace on earth will ever happen. Turning on the news makes me think we are getting farther from that ideal than closer.

And yet Jesus tells us that He has come to bring us peace. In John 14:27, we hear the Savior say, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

Even though it feels as if the world continues to churn in chaos, we can take comfort in knowing that Jesus has promised us peace. And as we come into this special time of the year, when peace and silent night is part of what we anticipate

in Christmas, let us continue to pray that peace on earth comes to us soon, just like the peace we will know in the kingdom eternal. And to God be the glory forever and ever.



Pastor Kelly

We still need greeters, liturgists, communion servers and ushers at all 4 Christmas Eve Services. Please sign up or email Kelly (churchoffice@avenueumc.com) or Pastor Steve (srlamotte@avenueumc.com). Thank You!



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITAL VISITS: Please help the pastors by calling the church office at (302) 422-8111 when someone from the church is hospitalized.

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.

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 PAST WEEK: The family and friends of Eleanor Lurwick, the Johnson and Van Tine families, the family and friends of Harry Henze, Charlie Fleetwood, Barbara Fleetwood, DeeAnn, Sammy, Bella, Chris, Scott, all those who are traveling including all "snow birds" heading south, Charlene Sandifer, the family of Tom Susen, Bob Susen, Betty Baker, Dennis Baker, Janice Abbott, Jean Layfield, Grace S., Yvonne Nelson, all victims of gun violence, the families of the Sandy Hook victims, everyone with financial issues, all those with relationship problems, Pastor Wendy, Meredith, all those seeking employment or hoping for a promotion/better job and Debbie Kresse.

GIVE PRAISE FOR: Jan Perkins and the gift of God's Son.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Bill Johnson, Alan Jester, DeeAnn, Sammy, Bella, Janice Abbott, Jean Layfield, all victims of gun violence, Yvonne Nelson, Ginny Clendaniel, Chris, Craig, everyone seeking a new job or promotion, all those with financial issues, Charlie Fleetwood, Barbara Fleetwood, Anita Joseph, the nation, Bradley Benfield's family, Bradley Benfield and his fiancée, Lily, a grandson and his parents, for all in nursing homes, Debbie Pearce, and Phyllis French.

Praise God for: Answered prayers and His love.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Russ and Harriet Davies will celebrate their **59th** anniversary on **December 24th**.

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.

ONGOING

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.

Oil Lamp symbolizes the Word of God.

Alpha and Omega, first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, are a reminder that Jesus is all we need as we practice our faith in God.

The **Shell** is a symbol of baptism and the baptism of Jesus.

A **Dove**, the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven at Jesus' baptism by John. It represents the Holy Spirit.

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 **January 7th**, 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 23rd** (Disciple 1) and **December 18th** (Disciple 3)

SUNSHINE BIBLE CLASS FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class will not have class on **Sunday, December 22nd and December 29th**. We will resume classes on **January 5, 2020**.

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

CHRISMON THANK YOU: More than 50 families and two missions, are blessed with Joy this Christmas, because of your generous gifts for Avenue's Chrismon Tree. Great gratitude to volunteers who prepared the tags, decorated the tree, carried, sorted, bagged and delivered gifts. To Avenue's faithful office staff who give so diligently, that the church's mission is being accomplished. Thank you from the Matthew Project Committee.

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: 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.

Upcoming Events - Health Ministry

“Mark your calendars”

● **Tuesday, January 7th**, from 12:00 p.m. -1:30 p.m., we will have a covered dish Lunch and Learn with our speaker Anne Acacio PT, DPT. Bring a covered dish and join us for an educational class on Arthritis and keep moving.

♥ **Thursday, January 9th**, is the last day to register for the Heart Saver, AED, First Aid class scheduled for February 15th at 8:45 a.m. If we have a large number signed up, we will also have a 12:30 p.m. class.

To register you need to send an envelope with a non-refundable \$25.00 for the American Heart Association fee. On the envelope please print your name, email address and telephone number. You can drop the envelope in the offering plate. In order to have the proper amount of instructors, I need to provide the final count on January 10th at 9:00 a.m. to Lewis Sacks, lead instructor.

☺ **Tuesday, January 14th and Thursday, January 16th** from 8:30-9:00 a.m. in the Grier Room, Mary Lou Sheaffer will be teaching chair Yoga. Please try to attend and wear comfortable clothes.

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





Identifying negative thoughts

Once you identify destructive thought patterns that contribute to your depression, you can start to challenge them with questions such as:

- “What’s the evidence that this thought is true? Not true?”
- “What would I tell a friend who had this thought?”
- “Is there another way of looking at the situation or an alternate explanation?”
- “How might I look at this situation if I didn’t have depression?”



As you cross-examine negative thoughts, you may be surprised at how quickly they crumble. In the process, you will develop a more balanced perspective and help relieve depression.

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/depression/coping-with-depression.htm>

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts”. Bible NKJV



How can I help a loved one who is depressed?

If you know someone who has depression, first help him or her see a health care provider or mental health professional. You can also:

- Offer support, understanding, patience, and encouragement
- Never ignore comments about suicide, and report them to your loved one’s health care provider or therapist
- Invite him or her out for walks, outings, and other activities
- Help him or her adhere to the treatment plan, such as setting reminders to take prescribed medications
- Help him or her by ensuring that he or she has transportation to therapy appointments
- Remind him or her that, with time and treatment, the depression will lift

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

Galatians 6:2 “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Bible RSV





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

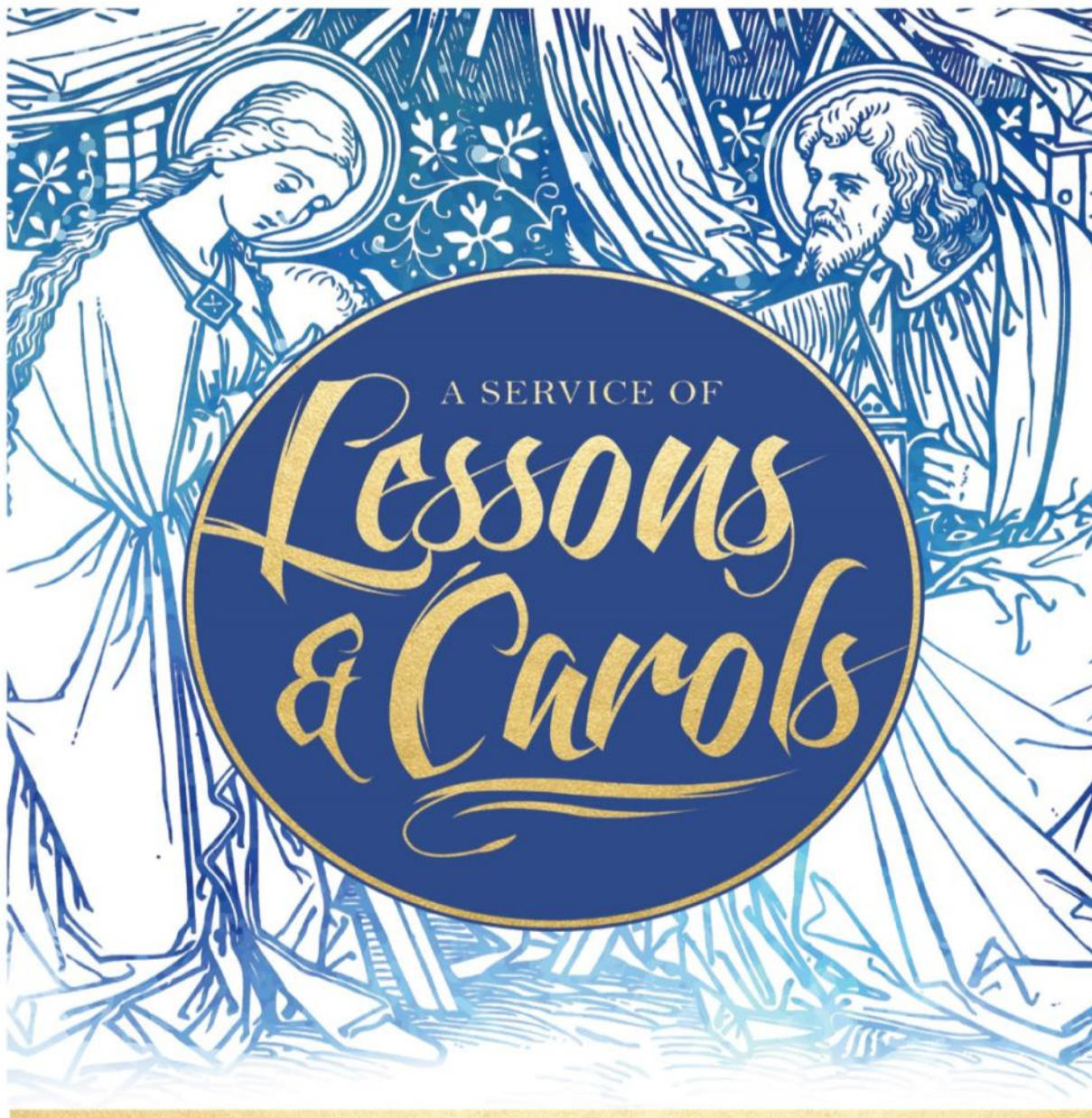
Our program will be the Nativity Story with our Sunday school children serving as the actors. We are planning on having practices take place during Sunday school with a possible "dress rehearsal" on Saturday, December 21st in the morning.

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

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20 N. Church St. Milford

302-422-8111

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 12/22

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believers Class,
Holz. Room
- 4:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION Parent Meeting,
Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 12/23

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den, Nursery
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holz. Room

TUESDAY 12/24 ~ Christmas Eve

- 3:00 p.m. Traditional Communion
Candlelight
- 5:00 p.m. Modern Communion Candlelight
- 7:00 p.m. Modern Communion Candlelight
- 9:00 p.m. Traditional Communion
Candlelight

WEDNESDAY 12/25 ~ Merry Christmas **Office Closed**

THURSDAY 12/26

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room

FRIDAY 12/27

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

SATURDAY 12/28

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

SUNDAY 12/29

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believers Class,
Holz. Room