



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, December 11, 2019*

I have very good friends who, for an entire year, throw their spare change into jars and buckets. Then over the Thanksgiving holiday, they have a family night where they watch Christmas movies and roll all the coins that have been collected. Whatever amount of money has been “saved” over the year becomes their entire Christmas budget.

There are a few rules that come with this tradition. The first is that 10% of the gross amount is given to charity. The second is that the Christmas tree, which is included in the “saved coin budget” must be a live tree. And the third is that whichever family member comes closest to guessing the actual amount saved gets to plan the menu for Christmas dinner.

When the kids were younger, and they had no idea the value of money, they were always guessing really wacky amounts. But my friend tells me that one year, one of the children came within just a few dollars with a very unexpected guess. Christmas dinner that year was hot dogs and buttered noodles. (A deal is a deal.)

I love that idea and I think I’m going to try it for 2020. But clearly it’s going to take some adjusting of my habits. I use my debit card for everything and there is never any change from a financial transaction because it’s always for the exact amount. Changing over to cash for everything will be an adjustment.

On the other hand, I never liked having coins rolling around in my purse or weighing

down my wallet. Having a specific place to dump them will be helpful.

But what I like the most is the idea that there will be a treasure waiting at Thanksgiving. It will take some work but the delayed reward will be very worth it. And I look at it as an investment in my future. I just need patience.

We have often heard that “patience is a virtue.” A lot of people think that quote is scripture but it’s not. Those words are from the narrative poem called “Piers Plowman” written by William Langland in the 1360s.

But there is a lot of scripture about patience. Galatians 5:22 says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” 1 Corinthians 13:4 reminds us that “Love is patient and kind, loves does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.” There are so many other verses but these are two of my favorites. Which one speaks to you?

In this season of advent when we wait with joyful anticipation for the return of Jesus, let us wait patiently and with our eyes on the amazing reward that will be ours in the future – the return of our Savior. And to God be the glory forever and ever.

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



*Take My Hand Ministry, Inc*

Presents

## A tasting of Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

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 PAST 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.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Jack and Janet McCall** who will celebrate their 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

### 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.

The **Lion** is a symbol of strength and power. Jesus is the Mighty Counselor.

The **Heart** represents of love of God, sent into the world at the birth of Jesus.

The **Triangle** represents the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Precious **Oil** was one of the gifts brought by the Three Wise Men who came to worship the Baby 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](http://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.

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

## SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS’ BIBLE STUDY:** On **January 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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 16<sup>th</sup>** (Disciple 1) and **December 11<sup>th</sup>** (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 premie 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 15<sup>th</sup> is “Hope for New Things” based on Isaiah 42: 1-9; lesson for December 22<sup>nd</sup> is “Hope Fulfilled” based on Matthew 1: 18-25; lesson for December 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

**CHRISMON:** All Chrismon gifts and identifying tags **need to be taped back** onto the wrapped gift and **returned no later than Sunday, 12/15/19**. We will also need volunteers on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.** to sort Chrismon tree packages by family numbers, so families can receive on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

# Upcoming Events - Health Ministry

## “Mark your calendars”

● **Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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 9<sup>th</sup>**, is the last day to register for the Heart Saver, AED, First Aid class scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to Lewis Sacks, lead instructor.

☺ **Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** 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 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

**Orders MUST be in no later than Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**







# 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**

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](http://www.DelawareScene.com).



**302-398-9394**

[www.milfordcommunityband.org](http://www.milfordcommunityband.org)



# Health Ministry



December's theme is "Dealing with Depression"

While the holidays are considered a joyous time of the year, for some it is a very difficult and depressing time of the year. Look for more information in the weeks to come for some strategies to help you or someone you love with depression.



[https://www.verywellmind.com/tips-for-living-with-depression-1066834?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=socialbutton](https://www.verywellmind.com/tips-for-living-with-depression-1066834?utm_source=email&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=socialbutton)

### Proverbs 12:25 kjv


"Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad". Speak words of support, hope and love to others during the holiday season.

## December



A Memory tree called "Memories" is set up in the foyer by Fellowship Hall. You and your memories provide the decorations for this tree. You are welcomed to bring an ornament to place on the tree in memory of your loved one that is celebrating Christmas with Jesus. Please keep the ornament within 3 inches in length and width. After Christmas, you will take the ornament and save for next year. We would love to share in the memory of your loved one during the Christmas season.





## 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](http://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 22<sup>nd</sup> during 9:30 a.m. service**

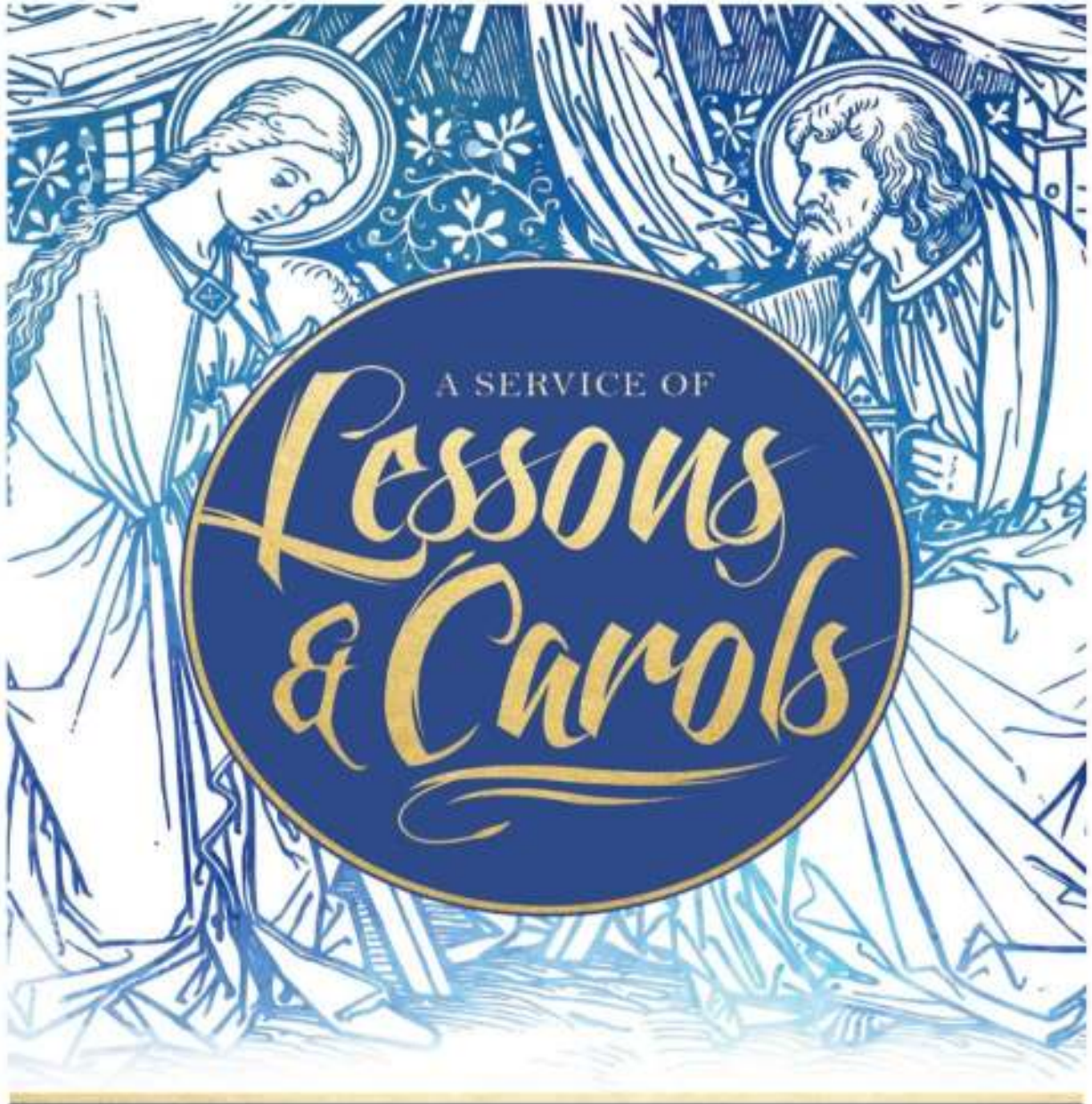
Our program will be the Nativity Story with our Sunday school children serving as the actors. We are planning on having practices take place during Sunday school with a possible "dress rehearsal" on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> in the morning.

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](mailto:sundayschool@avenueumc.com). Parent volunteers would be greatly appreciated.



AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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**FEATURING THE FESTIVAL CHOIR AND ORGAN  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> AT 4:00PM**

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**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](http://avenueumc.com)  
[fb.com/avenueumc](https://fb.com/avenueumc)  
20 N. Church St. Milford  
302-422-8111

# CALENDAR

## 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
- 10:00 a.m. Choir 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

## MONDAY 12/16

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Tiger Den, Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den
- 7:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> State Harmonizers,  
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Court of Honor,  
Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holz. Room

## TUESDAY 12/17

- 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 12/18

- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion
- 6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 Class, Holz. Room

## THURSDAY 12/19

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Group
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion
- 6:00 p.m. APS Christmas Program,  
Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den, Wesley Room

## FRIDAY 12/20

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

## SATURDAY 12/21

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

## SUNDAY 12/22

- 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. 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