



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, January 8, 2020*

On Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, a statement called ***The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation*** was released on the Council of Bishop's website. It puts forth a plan of separation in light of our ongoing theological impasse within The United Methodist Church. This proposal is the result of a group of Methodist leaders from a cross-section of the theological spectrum, meeting with mediator, Kenneth Feinberg, in order to work towards a way forward through our impasse as a denomination.

This ***Protocol of Reconciliation*** seeks to provide the opportunity for Annual Conferences and Churches who do not feel they can, in good conscience, stay in The United Methodist Church. A brief outline of the Protocol is this:

- If an Annual Conference or church desires to remain United Methodist, then no action is required. Staying United Methodist is the default action.
- Traditionalist Annual Conferences and Churches would be permitted to leave to establish a new form of Methodism in-step with their theological views.
- Progressive Annual Conferences and Churches would also be permitted to leave to establish their own expression of Methodism.
- Central Conference (those outside of The United States) could also vote to leave or stay part of The United Methodist Church.

A plan of separation has become necessary because our denomination is not of one mind on how to interpret and apply scripture, especially in the area of human sexuality. It is very difficult to maintain institutional unity when there are competing visions for what *The United Methodist Church* should look like.

What does this mean for *Avenue United Methodist Church*?

First, we should remember that **this is only a proposal**. Nothing has been decided and cannot be decided until General Conference meets in May of this year. At that point, this ***Protocol of Reconciliation*** *will be one of dozens of plans and legislation that will be considered*. It is possible that our delegates will vote on a way forward, or we might put things off for another four years. Regardless of what you hear about our denomination, **separation has not formally been approved**.

Secondly, our congregation also has a diversity of theological views. There are people in our pews who believe like we do, and those who believe quite differently. As brothers and sisters in Christ, ***we must resist the temptation to demonize those who think and believe differently than us***. Demonizing those different than us is culturally popular right now. As Christians, we must remember that **each person is created in the Image of God** and deserves to be treated with sacred worth. While we may disagree in some areas, in Christ we are still sisters and brothers. The most loving thing we can do is to make space for one another, to listen to each other, seek to understand one another, and to pray for one another.

Which leads into our last response: ***Pray***. Prayer is the real work of Christians. It should not be an afterthought. Over the next five months, we should lift up our denominational leaders, our General Conference delegates, our local church leaders, and those who are impacted by the decisions that General Conference makes.

From a pastoral standpoint, I would encourage each of us to place our hope in God. ***Even when institutions fail, God is faithful and true. God does not fail us***. If you have questions or concerns about this proposal and/or the state of our denomination, your pastoral team is happy to listen to your concerns, answer what questions we can, and to pray together. Let us place our hope in God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Steve

[Initial Posting of The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation](#) from Bishop Peggy Johnson

[FAQ on The Protocol](#)

Dear Church Family:


It seems over the more recent years I have been unable to “outgrow” my need for continued deep prayers, concerns and touch.

My Avenue Church “family” has delivered deliciously prepared food, gone grocery shopping, supplied groceries, sent cards (sympathy, thinking of you, get well, etc.) from your hearts to mine, provided transportation, made visits, shared smiles and participated in fun times. Through all the recent years, special new friends have been realized and old relationships with friends have continued to be fulfilled and made stronger.

Until you are the recipient of such wonderful grace, you cannot understand the depth or sincere meaning of a simple thank you. I thank you for God’s blessings and all you have offered for me and my family through the past difficult months.

Love and peace,

Jean Layton



## 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.

## **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](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.

**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.

**CHURCH ENVELOPES:** Giving envelopes for 2020 will arrive in your home mailbox from mid- to late-December. If you receive envelopes and prefer not to have them because you are switching to Push Pay for your giving, please return them to the church office. Then they can be issued to new members who joined after the envelope order had to be submitted. Thank you.

**PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK:** The Helmick family, The Dickerson family, Sherrie Morris and family, Joe Zammetti and his family, Lindsey, Pat Strickland, Dave Sockrider, Jerry Eisenhower, Janice Abbott, Bill Gaskill and family, Four-year-old grandson, Jim, David S., Pam, Brittany Poore, Alan Jester, DeeAnn, Bella, Sammy, Jean Layton, All victims of gun violence, Yvonne Nelson, Chris, Joy Benham, David Achut, Craig, Everyone seeking a job or promotion, All those with financial issues, Charlie Fleetwood, Barbara Fleetwood, This nation, A marriage in crisis, and Bradley and Amanda.

**GIVE PRAISE FOR:** Jack and Nancy Dickerson.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The Helmick and Salevan families, the Dickerson family, Sherrie Morris and her family, Leslie Eaves and daughter and family, Bev, our denomination, Joe Zammetti and family, Pat Strickland, guidance through college, Dave Sockrider, Carla Tingle and her siblings, David Rutt, Linda Breedlove, Jerry Eisenhower, Janice Abbott, Bill Gaskill and family, four-year-old grandson, Jim, David S., Pam, Jessica, Alex, Jennifer, Brittany Poore, Alan Jester, DeeAnn, Bella, Sammy, Jean Layton, all victims of gun violence including the church in Texas, the victims of the Pennsylvania State turnpike

accident, Yvonne Nelson, Chris, Joy Benham, David Achut, Craig, everyone seeking a job or promotion, all those with financial issues, Charlie Fleetwood, Barbara Fleetwood, the nation and its leaders, peace, the military being deployed to Iraq, a marriage in crisis, Bradley and Amanda, everyone traveling, Craig, Dan H, Jan Perkins and Josiah Adams.

**Rejoice with:** All who know Jesus as Savior.

**Praise God for:** Loving us all the time.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Richard and Sharon Brown** who will celebrate their **56<sup>th</sup>** wedding anniversary on **January 18<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.

## **UPGOING**

**METHODIST MEN (UMM)** are proud to serve their second Pancake Breakfast of the year **on January 12<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

**UMW GENERAL MEETING:** A speaker from Brandywine Counseling and Community Services will be coming to share with everyone on **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>** following the 11:00 worship service. Please bring a covered dish and meet in Fellowship Hall to enjoy food and fellowship and be informed about our new Counseling Center here in Milford.

We will also be collecting items for the center to share with their clients. They really need blankets, socks, winter hats, scarfs, and other cold weather items. Please put in the UMW Donation Box in Fellowship Foyer. Thanks and see you there.

**EXPERIENCING GOD:** Donny Hopkins will be teaching a class on Experiencing God (13 week course). An introductory night will be on **Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** in the Grier Room. For more information please contact Donny Hopkins at (302) 381-1083.

## **SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES**

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** On **January 14<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 **January 13<sup>th</sup>** (Disciple 1) and **January 8<sup>th</sup>** (Disciple 3)

**SUNSHINE BIBLE CLASS FOR ADULTS:** Sunshine Bible Class for adults meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. Our study for January is "Covenant." The lesson for January 5<sup>th</sup> is "God's Covenant with Abram" based on Genesis 15:1-20; January 12<sup>th</sup> lesson is "Ruth's Covenant with Naomi" based on Ruth 1:1-2:3; 4:1-20; January 19<sup>th</sup> lesson is "God's Covenant with David" based on 2 Samuel 7:1-29; January 26<sup>th</sup> lesson is "God's Covenant with Us" based on Jeremiah 31:27-37. This class is taught by Rev. John Van Tine, Retired. Please plan to attend these exciting lessons.

**EXPLORING FAITH BOOK CLUB:** Exploring Your Faith Book Club will meet on **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** in the Grier Room at 12:15. We will start the book "The Dream of God?" by Verna Dozier. This study is led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired. This group meets on the third Sunday of the month. All are welcome.

**HEALTH MINISTRY:** Here are some upcoming events in January. Mark you calendars!

♥ **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.

## **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:** 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).

**If someone wants to donate socks, gloves, gently used or new jackets and jeans to Code Purple. These items can be taken to the Brandywine day center located in the old Halpern Eye Care location behind the McDonalds. If you take in donations, please ask for Patricia or Cat. Tom Chilton met with them regarding these donations.**

**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).

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** I would like to thank all of you who give to the Pantry in some way. Avenue members are ready to help those in need! We have been able to help many families thanks to your generous spirit. I want you all to know your support makes a difference. Some of you give through your envelope giving and the Pantry receives those donations in a lump sum each month. Harriet keeps track of that for you but I want to be sure you know we appreciate those gifts even though you don't receive a thank you note. We will continue with the Diaper Closet daily .... That seems to be working. RIGHT NOW, we are good for toilet paper. Thank you and Happy New Year from all of us at The Milford Community Pantry.

You can give to the Pantry through Smile.Amazon; the site will ask you for your charity and you can enter milford community pantry. Be sure to look carefully and select the milford,de site.

**STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS THANK YOU:** Volunteer Delaware 50+ wants to thank you for contributing to Stockings for Soldiers again this year. Your donations were a big part of what we collected: \$1,060 and 1,080 stockings and there was a total of 24 different participants (organizations or individuals) donating.





Health Ministry





**PARENTS**

## Are my kids getting enough physical activity?

You know kids need physical activity to grow up strong and healthy.  
**But did you know it can help them feel better right away?**

 Better sleep

 Better mood

 Better grades

**And when your kids are feeling good, your life is easier, too. So find ways to help your kids fit more activity into their day.**

### How much do they need?

Kids and teens ages 6 to 17 need at least **60 minutes** every day.

Most of it can be **moderate-intensity aerobic activity**. Anything that gets their heart beating faster counts.



At least 3 days a week, encourage your kids to step it up to **vigorous-intensity aerobic activity**.



**Is it moderate or vigorous?**  
Use the "talk test" to find out.

When you're being active, try talking:

- ✓ If you're breathing hard but can still have a conversation easily, it's **moderate-intensity activity**
- ✓ If you can only say a few words before you have to take a breath, it's **vigorous-intensity activity**

As part of their daily 60 minutes, kids and teens also need:

**Muscle-strengthening activity**  
At least 3 days a week



Anything that makes their muscles work harder counts — like climbing or swinging on the monkey bars.

**Bone-strengthening activity**  
At least 3 days a week



Bones need pressure to get stronger. Running, jumping, and other weight-bearing activities all count.

### Psalm 139:13-14

**"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."**





## Health Ministry

### My kids are younger than 6. What about them?

Younger kids love to be active naturally!

- Aim to keep them moving 3 hours a day — and more is better
- Limit time when they're just sitting around (like screen time)

### What counts?

Whatever gets them moving!



Encourage active play with friends



Give them rewards for active chores



Sign them up for free or low-cost sports or classes

### Or get active together!



Make your morning walks a race



Dance while dinner's in the oven



Show them your favorite ways to move

Most of all, help them find activities they really like to do!

### It all adds up. And so do the benefits.

Help them get active now, and they'll build healthy habits for life.

So take the first step. Get your kids moving. And when you can, move with them!

Find out how your kids can get 60 minutes of activity every day.

[health.gov/MoveYourWay/Get-Kids-Active](https://health.gov/MoveYourWay/Get-Kids-Active)



**Health Ministry Committee Meeting**  
**2nd Monday of the Month 6:30-8 PM in the Greir Room**  
**Next meeting is February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Remember, Saturday February 15th, in Fellowship Hall  
CPR, AED First Aid Training starting at 8:45 AM  
For those that signed up and paid the \$25.00!!



## **Announcements from Health Ministry.**

Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, is the last day to register for the Heart Saver, AED, First Aid class scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 AM. If we have a large number signed up, we will also have a 12:30 PM class.



To register you need to send an envelope with an 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 AM to Lewis Sacks.

January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Greer room is the **Health Ministry Committee meeting**. All healthcare workers and laypersons with a heart to serve are welcomed .



Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:00 AM Mary Lou Scheaffer will be teaching chair Yoga in the Greer room. Please come and have some fun!

# CALENDAR

## SUNDAY 1/12

### **UMM Pancake Breakfast**

- 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
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Pack Committee Meeting,  
Grier Room

## MONDAY 1/13

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting, Nursery
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 7:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1/14

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. 4H, Sanctuary
- 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 1/15

- 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 Choir
- 6:30 p.m.. Wolf Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 Class, Holz. Room

## THURSDAY 1/16

- 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 pm. Troop Comm. Meeting,  
Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den,  
Wesley Room

## FRIDAY 1/17

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

## SATURDAY 1/18

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

## SUNDAY 1/19

- 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
- 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