

The Midweek

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

For those of you who were not in church on the 16th, and have not received the news, I am being redeployed to another church effective July 1st. I can't begin to tell you how much I am going to miss you all. So as I work to get my head around this change to come, I am going to leave this week's article to my friend Heidi so I can concentrate on the schedule, plans and transitions that are coming in the next four months. I'll be back up to speed next week. Until then, to God be the glory forever and ever.

Did you see the sky this morning? On clear mornings, the sun bathes the earth with light and heat as it chases away the shadows of the night. On overcast mornings, the sun majestically tinges the clouds with pink and peach before warming the earth, us and all the living creatures. On hazy mornings, the sun sets the fog ablaze as it burns through the murky, gray gloom. Each morning before opening my eyes, I pray, "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Praying this verse sets the intention of the day and brings God into the day from the very start. When I open my eyes, sometimes, it is still dark; sometimes, it is overcast. Some days, reasons to rejoice come easily; some days, reasons to rejoice are more challenging to find. With trust, hope, and faith, however, every day, whether bright or gray, can be a reason to rejoice in the LORD.

Amidst a world of clang and clamor, when our minds plead for direction and our grieving hearts yearn for solace, we can find comfort and courage in seeking reasons to rejoice. In Psalm 19, the psalmist sings praises to the glory of God in the heavens: "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of

the world" (Psalm 19:1-4). The heavens and the sky are the first voices to extol God's glory actively and ceaselessly from day to night. We experience the repeating of day to night, and even though we do not perceive voices of the heavens and sky by sound, we understand them as timeless beauty and as God's divine order of the world and of the limitless expanse.

How can we deepen our trust and faith in God? The second half of Psalm 19 assures us of how we can trust and rejoice in the glory of the LORD in the law. "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:7-9). As Christians, we also can consider Paul's letter to the struggling Colossians: "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you will also be revealed with Him in glory (Colossians 3:1-4). Like the Colossians, he calls us to look above, and on earth, to act with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, love, Christ's peace, and gratitude (Colossians 3:12-15).

The beginning of Lent will be February 26th this year. Perhaps, there is something above that will help in celebrating this holy time.

Pastor hay

SPRC Update

The Bishop and Cabinet have reappointed Pastor Wendy to the Millville United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2020. The SPRC committee wants to affirm Pastor Wendy in her faithfulness in responding to God's call in her ministry. Pastor Wendy has been a blessing to the Avenue Church family and will undoubtedly be so to her new church family as well. While this announcement seems to have a sense of finality to it; I want to assure you that this is <u>not</u> the case. Pastor Wendy will continue to be a vital and vibrant part of our Pastoral Team shepherding our Avenue Church family until her transition on July 1st. Over the next few months we will continue to embrace the ministry of Pastor Wendy and we will celebrate her time with us. We will also identify a future date that we as a Church family can appropriately show our thankfulness to Wendy for the love, care and concern she has shown to us over these past six years.

Please join me in praying that God will continue to bless; this Church, Pastor Wendy, Pastor Steve and our entire Pastoral Team during this time of transition.

I also want to share with you that the SPRC Committee covets your prayers as they seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the search for the person(s) that God is already calling to be a part of our pastoral team.

Thank you, *SPRC Committee*





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: We are now able 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: Jack and Zelda Mc Duff, Roselle Roe, Andrea Prettyman, K.C. Carter, Jeanie Zaimes, Barbara Sidel, Gene, everyone in Puerto Rico, Betty Gilette, Ginny Clendaniel, our denomination as it moves forward, Dave Sockrider, Linda Breedlove, Joy Benham, Amy Arnold, Jean Layton, Janice Abbott, David S., Bill Gaskill and family, Alan Jester, DeeAnn, Bella, Sammy, Frank Martire, Dominique Brunner, all victims of gun violence, Scott Jackson, Ellie Lauchner and her family, Chris, Amy and all those struggling with grief, all parents who have lost children, Diane Brutuan, Ed Bailey, Cynthia, Ginny, Craig, everyone seeking a job or promotion, all those with financial issues, Charlie Fleetwood, Barbara Fleetwood, the nation and its leaders, peace, a marriage in crisis, everyone traveling.

Rejoice with: Donny Hopkins, all who know Jesus as Savior, all with answered prayers.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: David Sockrider, Fran DeFrank, Alex Cutler, Rob MacDonald, Merry J., Darlene Wilson, Judy King, Matthew Tierney, Tiffany Young, Craig, Family and friends of Al Skinner, Amy Arnold, Christians struggling with the guilt of depression, Ron Ivory, Dawn Willis, Laurel Pastor, Charlie Fleetwood, Brayden O'Brien and Betty Ziesel.

Praise God for: Answered Prayers.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Sue Hatfield who will celebrate her 90th birthday on February 25th.

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

JAveNotes .

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

UMW YARD SALE: The AVENUE CHURCH ANNUAL YARD SALE is coming up on August 6th, 7th, and 8th. Join us for a planning meeting on **Tuesday, February 25th at 1:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. If you're a seasoned helper or never done it before, WE NEED YOU!! Let's make this year's sale the best ever. You can clean out your closets, share your faith, and show a warm "we care" to the Milford community. Be sure to put these dates on your calendar!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26th in the Sanctuary. Pastor Wendy will be leading the service as we prepare our hearts and lives for the season of Lent. Come and join us on this sacred night as we gather to worship together.

LENTEN STUDY ON THE BEATITUDES will be led by Pastor Steve on Thursday's beginning **February 27**th **at 6:30 p.m. in the Grier Room**. We will be looking at each of the Beatitudes and reading the book *Words from the Hill* by Stu Garrard. If you are interested in signing up for the study, please do so on the sign-up sheet on the round table in the Fellowship Foyer, or by emailing Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Our next class will be on Sunday, February 23rd at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. Confirmation is for students in grades 7-12 with the aim of teaching the faith to claim it for themselves. Contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com with questions.

EASTER OUTREACH: We are putting together a team to lead an Easter Egg Hunt as an outreach to the church and community prior to Easter Sunday. If you would like to serve on the team, please contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@gmail.com

THE WELL, a night of worship and fellowship for women, will be held on **Friday, April 3rd** at 6:00 p.m. here at Avenue. The cost is \$20 per person which includes a catered meal and access to the event. All women are welcome to attend. Please contact Andrea LaMotte at lamotte.andrea@gmail.com for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL BIBLE READING: In the month of February, we will be reading through the Gospel of Matthew as a community. With 29 days in the month and 28 chapters in Matthew, we'll read one chapter a day. For further interaction, there will be a Facebook post each day where you can leave your thoughts, share your insights, and interact with other members of the community. Join us as we commit to spending time in God's Word!

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020 will be held on May 5-15 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. General Conference is a gathering of United Methodist delegates from around the world. It is the only body that can write the doctrine and polity of the church. They will be discussing and voting on all matters regarding the church and our future. As General Conference draws closer, let us pray for the 800+ delegates who will gather in Minnesota and for the leaders of our church.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

EXPERIENCING GOD: Donny Hopkins will be teaching a class on Experiencing God (13 week course). Our next class will be on **Monday, February 17**th at **6:30 p.m.** in the Grier Room. For more information please contact Donny Hopkins at (302) 381-1083.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On February 25th, we will start our new study "Jesus—The God who knows your name by Max Lucado. 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 **February 24**th (Disciple 1) and **February 19**th (Disciple 3).

THE WESLEYAN WAY BIBLE STUDY: Rev. John Van Tine, Retired will be teaching a class on Wednesday nights from 7:00—8:00 p.m. beginning February 5th through April 8th in the Grier Room. The class is the "The Wesleyan Way" by Scott Jones. This class will enable us to make following Jesus a way of life. Plan to attend these classes that will deepen your faith.

SUNSHINE BIBLE CLASS FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. Our study for February is "Holiness." The lesson for February 23rd lesson is "Holy Purpose" based on Isaiah 61:1-11. 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 March 29**th in the Grier Room at 12:15 p.m.. We will study Chapter 3 of the book "The Dream of God" by Verna J. Dozier. This study is led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired. All are welcome.

HEALTH MINISTRY: On Thursday, February 27th 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. NO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 20TH.

COMMUNITY

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.

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.

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Milford Community Pantry is so thankful for the generosity of the congregation at Avenue and we want to be sure you know it. Cheers and applause for the people who helped with the large order that was delivered last week. We also need volunteers for the first Tuesday morning of each month. Our Pantry needs right now are canned pork & beans and cereal. Our diaper closet needs are the larger sizes 4 and 6.

A reminder for those of you who buy through Amazon. Amazon has a site that donates to charities and we are part of the groups you can select. Order through Smile.Amazon.com and select a Milford Community Pantry, Milford, DE. Prayers for our outreach, our volunteers and for the families we serve are always appreciated. Questions call Tita Lewis 664-1321.

HELP US REACH NEW PEOPLE THROUGH WORSHIP

Avenue is continuing to look for ways to reach new people while improving the worship experience on Sunday mornings. We would like to extend the reach of our worship services by live streaming our gatherings on the internet. This would make our worship services available to shut-ins, those who are sick and traveling, as well as those who may be new to the area and checking out churches. Once services are complete, video of the services would be archived on our website or on a platform such as YouTube for those who want to view them later.

While part of our sound system was replaced previously, there are still upgrades that will allow our sound system to be as clear as possible, helping everyone hear the service better and providing the best sound for live streaming. Our wireless microphones are currently out of compliance with the FCC and need to be replaced. We would also like to upgrade our monitors to in-ear monitors, which would reduce the noise coming from the chancel and making the speakers in the Sanctuary sound clearer.

The total cost of the project is \$50,000. As this is not a budgeted item, we are looking to see if there are members who would like to contribute to the project. Your contribution will enable high quality sound and as well as the digital distribution of our worship services on Sunday mornings and beyond.

If you would like to contribute to this project, please make a check payable to Avenue United Methodist Church with "A/V Upgrades" in the memo line so we know where to place it. If you have questions about the upgrade possibilities, please contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com or Kevin Chamberlain, Minister of Music at KBChamberlain@avenueumc.com.

A generous donor is offering a challenge that they will match 100% of any gift \$500 or less specifically designated for the A/V Upgrades, up to \$10,000. All gifts must be received by the end of February to be matched.

Report for Avenue's January 29, 2020 Church Council Meeting

The endowment monies given to Avenue have been separated from the church's General Funds and put in accounts to be managed by professional money managers, overseen by us, but managed by them. All three of the firms use socially responsibility guidelines for Avenue, as requested/required by the Book of Discipline.

- 1. A general pool of funds given to the church over the years, which included scholarships, memorials and such, was probably the first one. It was deposited with the Mid-Atlantic Foundation, managed by Fulton Bank.
- 2. When Mildred Masten Bach and her husband, O. B. Bach passed away in 1988, they left money to Avenue for the purpose of purchasing a new organ. After the purchase was completed June 2005, the remaining monies were placed in a separate fund and named the Bach fund. It was deposited with the Mid-Atlantic Foundation, managed by Fulton Bank.
- 3. In 2018, the executor of Jo Wood's Estate deposited a gift for the church's benefit in an account with Morgan Stanley. After the Endowment Committee was formed at the end of 2018, the fund management was assigned to Clearbridge, a professional money manager, starting at the end of March 2019.

With the formation of the Endowment Committee, for the first time, the church had a committee to oversee all of the endowment funds on one spreadsheet. On Feb. 1, 2019, the amounts in the two firms was about equal, with the Foundation having a slight edge. That changed during the year, with the addition of the following percentages.

As of Dec 31, 2020 the returns of the 3 funds were:

Foundation general pool 8.5% Foundation Bach Fund 6.2% Morgan Stanley Wood fund 10.1%

Church Council had set the rate of 4% for withdrawal from the total of Endowment Funds to deposit in the church's checkbook. That amount will be withdrawn and has already be added to the 2020 budget.

Respectively submitted,

Carolyn M. Humes,

Chairman of the Endowment Committee



presents

A Choral Tapestry

TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Sunday, February 23, 3:00pm Epworth United Methodist Church Rehoboth Beach



With Special Guests:
The Second Generation Community Chorus
Cantabile Women's Chorus
Cape Henlopen HS Chorus

Tickets: \$25 www.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



Please Join Us for a Fundraising Event!

Cub Scout Pack 186 Milford-Silicato Way February 25, 2020 | 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.

Community

This offer valid for dine-in and takeout only | GrottoPizza.com | 📑 💟



@ATALYST



Catalyst is a gathering time to discuss Scripture, Pray, and to **Fellowship**

This is for 6-12 Grade. 11:00 AM to 12 PM



February 27, 2020 – 12:05-12:35 PM Kevin B. Chamberlain, Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford

March 5, 2020 – 12:05-12:35 PM Jackson Borges, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Rehoboth Beach

March 12, 2020 – 12:05-12:35 PM Kevin B. Chamberlain, Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford

March 19, 2020 – 12:05-12:35 PM *T. J. Thomas*, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes

March 26, 2020 – 12:05-12:35 PM Herb Parkes, Christ Episcopal Church, Milford

April 11, 2020 – 12:05-12:35 PM Jon Rania, Christ Episcopal Church, Dover

A luncheon of homemade soup and bread will be served in the **Fellowship Hall** immediately following the recitals. **All are invited.**

Lenten Organ Recitals are part of the Concert Series of Avenue Church.







2x as many women as breast cancer.

Not all women are equally affected by stroke.

African-American women are more likely than other groups of women to have a stroke, mainly because of having high blood pressure, being overweight or obese, and having diabetes.

Women have UNIQUE RISK FACTORS for stroke.

- Stroke risk increases with age, and women often live longer than men. This is largely why 6 in 10 people who die from stroke are women.
- people who die from stroke are women.
- Stroke risk doubles in women at midlife and roughly doubles during the 10 years after
- Stroke risk increases during pregnancy.
- Taking birth control pills may double stroke risk, especially in women with high blood pressure.

All women can take 5 steps to reduce their risk for high blood pressure.

- Know your family history.
- Be physically active.
- Eat a healthy diet that's low in sodium.
- Limit alcohol intake.
- Avoid smoking.

High blood pressure is a major risk factor for stroke.



Check your blood pressure frequently. If you have high blood pressure, work with your doctor to keep it under control.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT REDUCING YOUR RISK OF STROKE



When a stroke happens, every minute counts. If you think you or someone you know may be having a stroke, act F.A.S.T. and do the following simple test:



Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?



A—Arms
Ask the person to raise both arms.
Does one arm drift downward?



S—Speech
Ask the person to
repeat a simple
phrase, is their
speech slurred or
strange?



T—Time
If you observe any
of these signs, call
911 immediately.



Learn more by visiting www.cdc.gov/stroke.

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion



Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DONALD BUXTON, we proudly present...

Sunday, March 15, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m.

Dover Downs Rollins Center

Route 13, Dover

Spring Classical Concert

Featuring

Schubert's Symphony #8—
"Unfinished Symphony"
Sibelius's Finlandia
Chausson's Poeme
Performed by Stefan Xhori

Performed by Stefan Xhori
Selections from Debussy's
Childrens Corner for Orchestra

Prices are:

Adults - \$20

Seniors/Students/Military/

First Responders - \$15

Young people under 18 free with a paying adult

Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org



Or Call 302-492-0353

This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the <u>Delaware Division of the Arts</u>, a state agency,

in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.





Delaware Division of the



CALENDAR

SUNDAY 2/23

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,

Grier Room

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsals, Music Room

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

2:00 p.m. Christian Believers Class,

Holz. Room

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room

6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and

Wesley Room

MONDAY 2/24

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room

6:30 p.m. Experiencing God, Grier Room

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music 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 2/25

10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room

1:00 p.m. Yard Sale Meeting, 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 2/26

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

6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

6:45 p.m. Voices of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 Class, Holz. Room

THURSDAY 2/27

8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Group

8:30 a.m. Chair Yoga, Grier Room

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room

12:00 p.m. Lenten Organ Recitals, Sanctuary

2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion

6:30 p.m. Lenten Study on the Beattitudes, Grier Room

FRIDAY 2/28

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 2/29

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 3/1 ~ Communion

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. Choir Rehearsals, Music Room

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

2:00 p.m. Christian Believers Class,

Holz. Room

3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting,

Heritage Room

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room

6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room