



The Midweek

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

My friend Claudia called me a few days ago to tell me that out of all the people in the Bible, she was feeling like Pharaoh. Considering she is a Christian, American woman living in a Chicago high-rise with two dogs who have trained her to spoil them, I was missing the analogy.

She explained that she felt as if God was trying to turn her heart with a series of “unfortunate events” that while not nearly as bad as the plagues, still had her going through the waves of hardened heart and then remorse. Her professor husband of 37 years had left her for a grad student who is 35 years younger than she is.

Claudia is vacillating between wanting to see horrible things happen to both her ex and his new love interest and knowing she should let them both go to live their own lives. She said every time she had negative thoughts, something in her life went wrong. For example, when she was having a particularly nasty bout of thinking, her refrigerator died and she lost all of the food that had been stored in it. When she sought to provide forgiveness, she saw all the possibilities of a new life she could not have had before and was at peace. Then she turned negative again and her dog got ill. Back and forth she went, and as her heart would harden and soften, she found her life mirroring her emotions.

Claudia knows Jesus as Savior and therefore does not want to think that God is punishing her for her “less than Christian thoughts” when she has them. She knows that everyone has bad times in their lives. She also knows that she will have victory through her faith because Jesus has overcome the world. But sometimes it feels as if Christ is trying to get her attention when her mind goes someplace she knows it shouldn’t.

I believe Jesus is trying to get her to focus on what is truly important and that is Him


but He is not doing it through punishment. He does it by providing her peace when she keeps her thoughts centered on God. Isaiah 26:3 reminds us that “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.” Keeping her in peace allows her to handle the hard times without panic or fear.

It is true that bad things – replacing refrigerators, sick dogs, broken down cars, virus pandemics, medical emergencies, stock portfolio collapses, etc. – will happen in our lives. The good news is that we don’t have to face them alone. The God of the universe is watching out for, walking with, and providing us strength. Through Him we can find the peace of our Savior no matter what our worldly circumstances.

As we continue to deal with the unknowns and the fears of a global pandemic and it’s resulting economic, healthcare and daily concerns, let us remember to keep our eyes and heart on the Almighty who will bring us through it all.

And to God be the glory forever and ever.

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



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

THREE WAYS TO GIVE: There are several ways to give as an act of worship to God. Your gifts help to make it possible for Avenue to reach out to the world. You can

- Plate Giving on Sunday morning
- Text-to-Give: Text "avenueumc" to 77977 and follow the prompts
- Give through our website: Click red "give" button on the top right of our homepage

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Avenue United Methodist Church. Contact Pastor Steve or Harriet Davies if you have questions about giving.

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 Dawn Willis, the family and friends of Jerry Krone, Jennifer Miller, David Rutt, Joe, Jean Layton, Ed Bailey, Joe and Mary Jo Lear, Diaz Bonville, all those seeking employment and/or promotions, Mike, all those who are traveling, Jamie, Anne, DeeAnn, Alan Jester, baby Luca and his parents, Merry J., Chuck Coverdale, Debbie Eannone, Sammy, Bella, Linda Breedlove, Charlie and Barbara Fleetwood, Esther LaMotte, Chris, Laurel Pastor, Betty Ziesel, Jack and Zelda McDuff, our denomination, Janice Abbott, Luisa and Billy Combs, Gene, Craig, Buzz Gildea, Joan Wadman, our nation and its leaders, all those infected by the coronavirus and the medical teams working to contain and heal it, Michael Lee, Dean and Derl Dennis.

Rejoice for: The poor in spirit that they know God better.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Brenda Hurd, the family and friends of Nora Downes, the family and friends of Kaitlyn Clendaniel, Jennifer Miller, Joe, Ellie Lauckner, Michael Lee, Dean and Derl Dennis, Joanne McKay's sister, all impacted by the Tennessee tornadoes, Jean Layton, Jan Perkins, Ed Bailey, Allison Parker, Wright Parker, Helen Holleger, Joe and Mary Jo Lear, Diaz Bonville, all those seeking employment and promotions, Mike, all those traveling, Jamie, Anne, DeeAnn, Alan Jester, baby Luca and his parents, Merry J. and her family, Robin Wickman, Jackie and her family Larry Eisenhauer, Rob McDonald, Debbie Eannone, Sammy, Bella, Linda Breedlove, Charlie and Barbara Fleetwood, Esther LaMotte, Chris, Laurel Pastor, Betty Ziesel, Dean Johnson, Jack and Zelda McDuff, our denomination, Janice Abbott, Luisa and Billy Combs, Gene, Craig, Buzz Gildea, Joan Wadman, our nation and its leaders, everyone affected by the coronavirus and the medical teams seeking to heal and contain it.

Rejoice for: Everyone who has been blessed by God (which is all of us).

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Don and Pat Fisher who will celebrate their **53rd** anniversary on **March 18th**.

Norman and Millie Remick who will celebrate their **69th** anniversary on **March 24th**.

PURPLE FOR THE LENTEN SEASON: These beautiful paraments are used during the Lenten Season until Good Friday, when the altar will be stripped. Purple is the color of penitence and royalty. The Crown of Thorns on the altar piece and the pulpit frontal represent the mockery, humiliation, passion and suffering of Jesus. The budded cross on the lectern frontal is symbolic of life and of the Trinity.

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

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) are proud to serve their third Pancake Breakfast of the year on **March 22, 2020**. 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. **CANCELLED!!!!!!**

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES are held each Wednesday at noon followed by a soup luncheon at various churches. The schedule is:

March 18th at Avenue UMC, 20 N Church Street Milford, DE

March 25th at First Presbyterian Church, 101 S. Walnut St. Milford, DE

April 1st at Mt. Enon Baptist Church, 600 Church St. Milford, DE

LENTEN STUDY ON THE BEATITUDES will be led by Pastor Steve. Our next class will be on Thursday, **March 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Grier Room**. For more information email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Our next class will be on **Saturday, March 21st at Barratt's Chapel**. 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 will take place on Friday, April 3rd and is an exciting night of fellowship, worship, and growing together in God's Word for the women of Avenue Church and our community. Rev. Paige Evers will be our speaker for the evening and dinner will be provided by Etta's. Tickets for the event are \$20/person and will be on sale on March 8th, 15th and 22nd in the Fellowship Foyer. You can contact Andrea LaMotte for more information at lamotte.andrea@gmail.com.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Join us during Holy Week as we journey to the Cross in order to celebrate the resurrection.

April 5th- Palm Sunday (8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.)

April 9th- Holy Thursday (6:30 p.m.)

April 10th - Good Friday Service (6:30 p.m.)

Celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Don't miss gathering as the body to celebrate the empty tomb and the hope that the resurrection brings.

Sunrise Service (6:30 a.m. on the lawn)

Traditional Worship (8:00 and 11:00 a.m.)

Modern Worship (9:30 a.m.)

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020 will be held on May 5th-15th 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, March 16th 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 **March 17th**, we will continue our study "Jesus—The God who knows your Name" **until March 31st** in the **Grier Room at 10:00 a.m.** **Beginning April 7th we will start "JONAH—An Interrupted Life by Priscilla Shirer."** 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 **March 16th** (Disciple 1) and **March 18th** (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. **NO CLASS ON MARCH 11TH AND 18TH, WE WILL RESUME ON MARCH 25TH.**

SUNSHINE BIBLE CLASS FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. Our study for March is “Suffering.” The March 15th lesson is “The Israelites in the Wilderness” based on Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:9-15; March 22nd lesson is “Jesus in the Wilderness” based on Matthew 4:1-11; and March 29th lesson is “The People of Judah Are Exiled” based on 2 Kings 23:34-25:30. 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 29th** 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: Join us for Chair Yoga for the last 2 sessions **Thursday, March 12th and March 19th** from 8:30-9:00 a.m. in the Grier Room. We will take a spring break and try it again next winter!

Namaste ~ the place of God in me honors the place of God in you!

COMMUNITY

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 baby wipes.

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](https://www.amazon.com/smile) 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.

Avenue United Methodist Church *Lenten Organ Recitals*

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 2, 2020 – 12:05-12:35 PM

Jon Rania,
Christ Episcopal Church, Dover

All Recitals are at Avenue Church.

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.

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

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



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This program 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.



SAVE THE DATES

**EASTER CANDY
&
BAKE SALE**

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND

April 27th & 28th

**Friday 10am—2pm
Sunday after all 3 services**

**Presented by the Ladies of Avenue.
All proceeds to be used for missions
supported by the Avenue Methodist Women.**

**Our Church is blessed by all
the wonderful cooks that share
their talent and time to bless others.**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 3/15~ 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
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and
Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Pack Committee Meeting,
Grier Room

MONDAY 3/16

- 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. Tiger Den, Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holz. Room
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

TUESDAY 3/17

- 9:45 a.m. Sarah Circle, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle Meeting,
Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,
Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Lion's Den
- 6:30 p.m. Trustee's Meeting, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Wesley Room

WEDNESDAY 3/18

- 12:00 p.m. Lenten Service, Sanctuary
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting /Crocheting Group,
Wood Lounge
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den, Wesley Room
- 6:45 p.m. Voices of Delmarva,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 Class, Holz. Room

THURSDAY 3/19

- 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 Bible Study, Grier Room

FRIDAY 3/20

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

SATURDAY 3/21

- 8:15 a.m. Confirmation Class to Barratt's
Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 3/22 ~ Communion

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
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsals, 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