



The Midweek

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Whenever I am out in public, and I sneeze or slightly cough, I immediately find myself announcing to the whole world around me, "It's just allergies." And it is just an allergy. I know that because I have had them for more than 50 years so I am very experienced at the reaction they cause me. Pollen gets to me. And for some reason the pollen this year seems exceptionally bad. We had a major downpour with lots of wind on Tuesday and by the next morning, my car was covered in the yellow pollen I consider to be a nightmare. I knew I was going to be affected all day on Wednesday and I was. So I ended up "sharing" my health status quite frequently during the day.

It's just usually one small dry cough or a quick sneeze, but I feel this need to let the people around me know it's not Covid. Most of them seem appreciative to hear me say it (the rest don't care or didn't hear me to begin with), but nobody finds it out or strange when I make that pronouncement. You can actually physically see some people relax.

But if I stood in Redner's and instead pronounced Jesus as Savior of the world to the crowd around me, I think most people would find that extremely odd and uncomfortable. I get they want to be assured they are not at risk from the virus, but would it not be better for them to hear that God is in control?

Mark 16:15 reads, "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'" While knowing I am not going to make anyone sick is comforting for those I come in contact with (while staying six feet apart), the Gospel is the true source of peace. How then can we find ways to share the good news of Jesus as easily and as public as we do the status of a deadly virus? How can we make hearing about the joy of salvation as natural as checking the daily statistics on the Delaware Coronavirus website? I'd love to hear your thoughts on this. How can we bring the honor and glory to God always and forever?

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY: Join us on **Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** on Facebook Live as we gather to worship and pray together. If you cannot watch at 10:00 a.m., the video will remain up on our Facebook page. Join us at www.facebook.com/avenueumc

You can also share the live stream on your page, inviting others to worship with us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT: We want to thank everyone who has continued to give as an act of worship and support over the last several weeks. We know that many of our financial futures are up-in-the-air as jobs are shut-down and routines are disrupted. Your support means that Avenue Church can continue to serve the Milford community through this crisis. If you are able, you can send your gift through the mail to our church office (20 N. Church St. Milford, DE 19963) or by giving online at www.avenueumc.com/give, or by texting 'avenueumc' to 77977. Thank you, again, for your continued support.

PASTORAL CARE: If you know someone who is in need of prayer or a phone call, please call the church office at 422-8111 or contact one of the pastors directly. We are doing limited face-to-face pastoral care visits during this time, but want to make contact any way we can.

PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK: For those infected by Covid 19 and the medical teams who are seeking to contain and heal it, the family and friends of Kathy Crystle, the family and friends of David McCarty, Jennifer Miller and her husband Chris, Larry Hughes, Joe, Darren Beilstein, Donna and Keith Coverdale, Donna Hill, Katie Meadows, Julie Dally, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, Ellie Lauckner, Barb Decker, Jan Perkins, Bill and Marty Brereton, Ed Bailey, Ken, Joe and Mary Jo Lear, Craig, Sammy, Bella, Linda Breedlove, Charlie and Barbara Fleetwood, Esther LaMotte, Chris, Laurel Pastor, Tori Nelson, Betty and Ramie Ziesel, Dean Johnson, Jack and Zelda McDuff, Luisa and Billy Combs, Joan Wadman, our nation and its leaders, everyone dealing with financial issues, all those who are feeling isolated and alone.

Rejoice with: Everyone who has been blessed by God.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: All those infected by the coronavirus and the medical teams who are treating and containing it. the family and friends of Mary Sue Thawley, the family and friends of Violet Marvel, the family and friends of Kathy Crystle, Dave Rumery and his family in the Covid death of his mother. Charlene Workman and her family in the Covid death of her sister. all the residents of Genesis who have lost their life to Covid, Jennifer Weaver, Rhoda and Greg Kurz, Jennifer Miller and husband Chris, Larry Hughes, Joe, Darren Beilstein, Donna and Keith Coverdale, Donna Hill, Julie Dally, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, Ellie Lauckner, Jean Layton, Barb Decker, Bob Cage, Jan Perkins, Bill and Marty Brereton, Ken, Ed Bailey, Joe and Mary Jo Lear, Craig, Sammy, Bella, Linda Breedlove, Charlie and Barbara Fleetwood, Esther LaMotte, Chris, Laurel Pastor, Tori Nelson, Betty and Ramie Ziesel, Dean Johnson, Jack and Zelda McDuff, Luisa and Billy Combs, Joan Wadman, our nation and its leaders, everyone dealing with financial issues, all who are lonely and isolated as a result of the virus.

Rejoice with: Bill Gaskill and family and everyone blessed by God .

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Mary Sue Thawley** who passed away on **April 13, 2020**. Mary Sue joined Avenue on November 18, 1984.

The family and friends of **Phyllis Ann Rust** who passed away on **April 16, 2020**. Phyllis joined Avenue on January 1, 1944.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Parker and Maxine Turner who will celebrate their **57th** anniversary on **April 28th**.

UPPER ROOM DELIVERY: The Upper Room Daily Devotional is part of the spiritual formation for many at Avenue. The current issue is almost complete and a new issue will be arriving soon. Picking up an Upper Room is not as simple as it once was, we want to ensure that those who want one can have one. **If you would like to receive an Upper Room delivered to your house (with safety precautions taken), then please call the church office at 302-422-8111 or email churchoffice@aveuenumc.com so we can add you to a delivery list.** If you are willing to help deliver Upper Rooms in your area, please contact the office as well so we can organize deliveries when the new issue arrives.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT HOME: Since we are unable to meet for Sunday School each week, we are providing a home Sunday School lesson for you to do with your children (or grandchildren!). You can click on the link below for a video lesson. Then use the pages at the end of the MidWeek to lead your children through the lesson. This week's lesson is on The Road to Emmaus and the questions we have about God and faith.

1. [Watch the lesson here](#)
2. Read the Parent Page with Kids
3. Have children fill out their questions
4. Do the coloring page.
5. Pray together

We will send out another lesson each week for you to disciple your children at home. Thanks to Sparkhouse for making this curriculum available.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Avenue offers a number of scholarships each spring. Graduating Seniors can get applications from the church office by emailing Kelly Hudson at churchoffice@avenueumc.com or they can be downloaded from the webpage. Then complete the applications on your computer and return them to Mrs. Hudson. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. **Please keep these two dates in mind:**

- ♦ **April 26th**, 3:00 p.m. deadline to return all Avenue Scholarship applications to the office.
- ♦ **May 12th**, 9:30 a.m. is when scholarships will be awarded, along with gifts and recognition for all the Class of 2020. **Please plan to join us.**

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES DURING CORONA OUTBREAK: There are several opportunities to

share the light of Christ during the next several weeks of our new reality.

- Volunteer to help prepare meals at Banneker Elementary School. Contact the church office at 422-8111.
- Donate Money to the schools or two one of the restaurants who are providing meals. They providing out of their bottom line and this is an opportunity to rally around them.
- Check-in on your neighbors who may be lonely, shut-in, or at-risk. Be safe about it, but don't give up on the community.
- Do a grocery run for someone who may have trouble getting out.

GENERAL CONFERENCE POSTPONED - With the spread of the Coronavirus worldwide, The 2020 General Conference, scheduled for May 5th-15th in Minneapolis, MN, has been postponed until 2021. General Conference is attended by over 800 delegates and Bishops from four continents. This decision comes at a time where our denomination was facing questions about a possible split as well as other major decisions around budget reductions and new elected leaders. The body of the General Conference is the only body that can set church doctrine and polity. The Discipline (our church doctrine and polity) set at the called Special General Conference of 2019 is the current church law within The United Methodist Church.

As of this time, there are no new dates for General Conference 2021. As part of The United Methodist Church, we continue to pray for our Bishops, leaders, and delegates who guide our denomination and churches.

LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT: If anyone would like to send letters of encouragement to Milford Genesis it would be appreciated. The staff and residents are struggling. Health ministry has collected masks and caps for the staff along with some food. The Chief of Police has jumped in with me to organize groups to support the staff and residents with food.

Milford Center Genesis
700 Marvel Rd.
Milford, DE 19963



March 9, 2020

Dear High School Senior,

Congratulations on making it to the end of your senior year! As you come to the home stretch of your high school education, the Avenue Church family celebrates all your accomplishments as you approach this important milestone.

As you probably know Avenue awards several scholarships each year. **If you are receiving this letter you are eligible to apply.** The enclosed letter describes the scholarships we award, as well as the specific qualifications for each one. **You may apply for as many scholarships as you qualify for.**

This year, we are **not** mailing the scholarship applications. Please e-mail Mrs. Kelly Hudson, Church Secretary, at churchoffice@avenueumc.com and let her know which applications you want. They can also be downloaded from the webpage. Then complete the applications on your computer and return them to Mrs. Hudson. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.

Please keep these two important dates in mind:

- **April 24th** at 3:00 p.m. is the deadline to return your applications to the Church Office.
- **May 10th** at 9:30 a.m. is when scholarships will be awarded, along with gifts and recognitions for all the Class of 2020. **Please plan to join us.**

Again, congratulations on all your achievements! We are very proud of you! If there is anything else we can do for you, or if you need letters of reference, please let any of the Pastors know. Please take a moment to let us know your plans for next year. We would like to stay in touch.

Wishing you God's peace,

Steve LaMotte
Pastor



THE 2020 PAUL RIMMER MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Rimmer Scholarship was established at Avenue Church in memory of Paul Rimmer who was an outstanding church musician. This scholarship is designed to assist students in grades 7-11 with musical training. One scholarship is awarded yearly, on Sunday, May 10th at the 8:00 a.m. worship service.

The scholarship is awarded to a student who is:

- 1) currently in 7th – 11th grade,
- 2) currently or has recently been involved in the Music Ministries of Avenue Church,
- 3) willing to use his or her musical talents in the ministry of Avenue Church.

The Scholarship is \$500 which will be paid to a music teacher or music school on your behalf.

Applications are available in the church office. Please return completed applications to the church office by **Friday, May 1, 2020**. Please contact Kevin Chamberlain for more information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K.B.C.", located below the text of the announcement.

Kevin B. Chamberlain
Minister of Music and Organist
Avenue United Methodist Church
20 N. Church Street
Milford, DE 19963
(302) 422-8111 (church office)
(302) 236-1276 (cell)
kbchamberlain@avenueumc.com

2020 Paul Rimmer Music Scholarship Application

Name_____ Grade_____

Address_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Please type all answers.

Write a brief statement why you wish to further your musical training.

In a few sentences tell us about your past and present involvement in the Music Ministries of Avenue Church.

In a few sentences tell us how you would use the Paul Rimmer Music Scholarship, and how that would assist you as part of Avenue Church's Music Ministry.

Please enclose a letter from a music teacher describing your current musical proficiency, and your potential for growth.

Please return completed application to Avenue Church by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2020.

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT
1

Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT
2

For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT
3

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT
4

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT
5

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



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cdc.gov/COVID-19



I wonder...

- How different Jesus looked after he walked out of the tomb.
- How you would know you were near to God.
- If I've seen Jesus in others and not recognized him.




Different, But Still Here

Nolan's mom has been in the hospital a long time, but the nurses keep mentioning that she'll get to come home soon. Nolan can't wait. It's been months since she was home; the car accident was that bad. In fact, Officer Robinson said that if his mom hadn't been wearing a seat belt, she wouldn't have made it out alive. He was the policeman who came to get him at school. Nolan will remember the day for the rest of his life.

But she made it. She's alive. That's what matters. Still, Nolan is trying to brace himself for when the bandages come off. The plastic surgeons spent hours repairing the damage. She had four different surgeries. Because the injuries to his mom's face were so severe, his dad said she won't look the same. Nolan isn't sure how different she'll look. Will he even recognize his mom? Her face has been wrapped with gauze forever. Nolan and his mom joke that she is his mummy.

When the doctor comes in to take off the bandages Nolan can tell his mom is nervous too. Nolan feels some tears in his eyes. And then, there she is. There's still swelling, but aside from that, she looks so different. A lot different. But then his mom smiles and talks to him in her familiar voice. She's changed, but she's still the same. And she's still here.



The Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

Jesus is alive and with us today.



On the Road

Roll the die and follow the directions to see how fast you can recognize Jesus.

Bible Bit

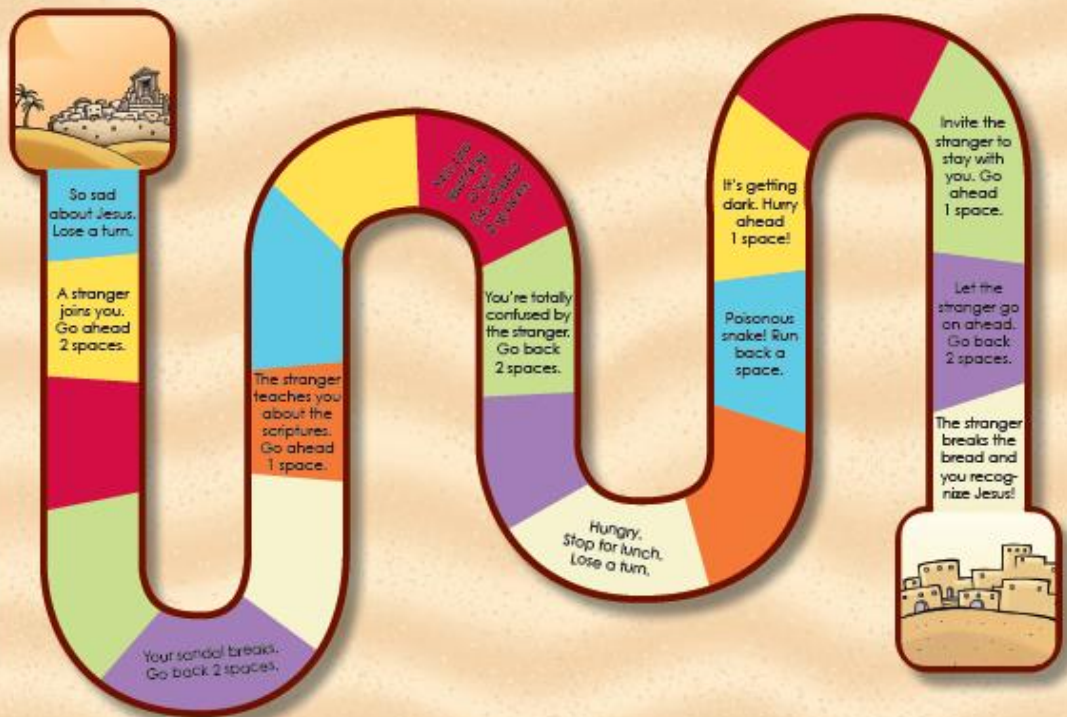
Jesus had a lot more than just 12 disciples. Cleopas and his companion were part of this bigger group.

Bible Bit

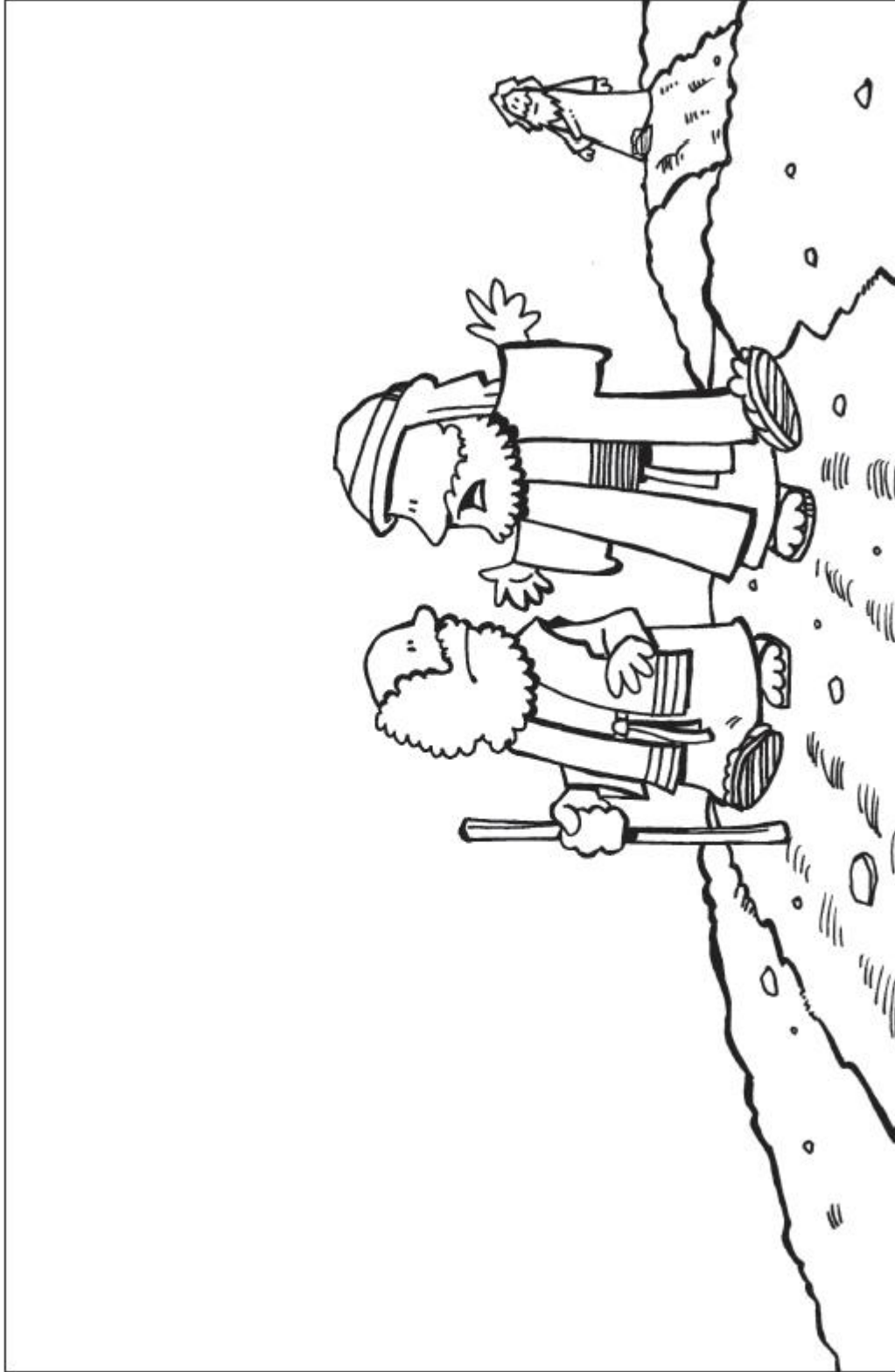
No one is sure where the ancient village of Emmaus was. It was either 7.5 miles from Jerusalem or 17.5 miles, but the records aren't clear.

Memory Verse

Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.
Luke 24:31



The Road to Emmaus



Three days after Jesus died, Cleopas and his friend were slowly walking down the road.

After a while, a stranger began to walk along with them.

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The Road to Emmaus



All of a sudden, Cleopas and his friend recognized the stranger. It was Jesus.