

AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

As always, my friend Pastor Heidi provided her very beautiful thoughts to me and I'd like to share them with you. And to God be the glory forever and ever.

What a vital time it is for us to lean on the infinite capacity of the Holy Spirit to comfort and to teach us. We might ask ourselves, what did Jesus do when He knew that difficult times were coming? In anticipation of the crucifixion and the unsettling times that would follow, Jesus gathered the disciples for one of the most comforting discussions. He prepared them for His death, resurrection and ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. He gave them, and He gives us in these troubling times, a message of great hope, of love demonstrated by obedience, and of trust as evidenced through prayer.

Even now, He comforts by saying: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me...you know the way to the place where I am going...[For] I am the way, and the truth, and the life...If you love Me, you will keep My commandments...[Through prayer] I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in My name you ask Me for anything, I will do it... And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth...You know Him because He abides with you, and He will be in you...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you" (John 14:1-27).

We can ask, what gifts will be revealed through these challenging times? We can find great comfort in listening for the Holy Spirit's lessons and reminders.

Indeed, Isaiah prophesized that we will be strong in the Lord so that we might soar on wings like eagles and run without tiring in the easy times and more importantly, when times are hard, we might still walk (Isaiah 40:31).

These times for humankind are very different. We are used to running and soaring, working, traveling, going to school, going to church, being physically near each other, and being relatively healthy. In these times, some of us are stretched to the maximum with long hours and emotionally draining work. Others of us suddenly struggle to walk, to be still, to be healthy by staying at home unless our work is essential to the new normal.

As we learn this different way of living, Jesus' words take on new meanings. As Christians, we are challenged to keep His commandments in new ways. How can we comfort and love one another while staying at home and social distancing? How can we be more creative in our kindness? How can we be grateful for what this turmoil may bring? In both this new chaos and stillness, we certainly can pray to be open to God's will and to accept that God knows what we need.

Mother Theresa wrote, "The first requirement of prayer is silence...Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depths of our hearts." As we pray, we all become essential workers, and as such we are led to do God's work with loving kindness in new ways. Mother Theresa also said that "Holiness does not consist in doing extraordinary things. It consists in accepting, with a smile what Jesus sends us. It consists in accepting and following the will of God...God has created us so we do small things with great love" so that through us, this great love extends throughout the world.

As Jesus concludes His comforting discussion with the disciples, He also delivers the message of His peace and joy. "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. If you loved Me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I...I do as the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know that I love the Father" (John 14:28-31). We too may take comfort and courage in His words and find His peace and the joy of His love of the Father.

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

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.

AVENUE CHURCH APP NOW AVAILABLE: You can now download the Avenue Church App on your smartphone and stay up-to-date with the latest news, videos, and events happening at Avenue. The app is updated regularly and you will have the ability to give to Avenue directly from the app. The app is available for iPhone (IOS) and Android (Google Play) devices.

To download the app, click this link from your phone:

[iPhone \(IOS\)](#)

[Android \(Google Play Store\)](#)

You can also search "Avenue Church DE" in your App Store.

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: All those infected by the coronavirus and the medical teams who are seeking to contain and heal it, Rymal Kenton and family, the Kimmey family, the Van Tine and Johnson families, Chris Schultz, Barbara Dietrich, Jennifer and Chris Miller, Larry Hughes, Janie Martin, Jean Hutchman's daughter-in-law, Bob Cage, Joe, Donna and Keith Coverdale, Julie Dally, Rhoda and Greg Kurz, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, Ellie Lauckner, Jean Layton, 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 Bill Combs, Joan Wadman, our nation and its leaders, everyone dealing with financial issues, all who are feeling isolated and alone.

Rejoice with: Everyone whom God has blessed.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Those infected by Covid19 and the medical teams who are seeking to contain and heal it, the Kenton family, the Kimmey family, family and friends of Charlie Ward, the Van Tine family, the Johnson family, Chris Schultz, Rachael, Barbara Dietrich, Jennifer and Chris Miller, Larry Hughes, Janie Martin, Jean Hutchman's daughter-in-law, Bob Cage, Lee Tyrrell, Joe, Donna and Keith Coverdale, Julie Dally, Rhoda and Greg

Kurz, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, Ellie Lauckner, Jean Layton, 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 who are feeling lonely and isolated.

Rejoice with: The Wallace family, the Cannon family, and all who are blessed by God.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Kathryn Webb who will be celebrating her **92nd** birthday on **May 24th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Ernest and Lorraine Donovan will celebrate their **60th** anniversary on **May 21st**.

Sonny and Donna Meck will celebrate their **52nd** anniversary on **May 23rd**.

Jeff and Bonnie Carmine will celebrate their **55th** anniversary on **May 29th**.

CONGREGATIONAL IMPACT SURVEY: We are collecting anonymous data from our congregation about the impact of COVID-19. The survey takes about two minutes to complete and will help our team assess the impact the pandemic is having on our congregation and the opportunities to provide assistance. Click the following link below to take the survey....

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TN6ZTRN>.

As always, if you need assistance, please contact the church office at (302) 422-8111 or email churchoffice@avenueumc.com.

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 God's House 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.

2020 GRADUATES: If you have a family member that is graduating (high school/college), please send an email to Kelly at churchoffice@avenueumc.com with the information and a

picture. We will be listing the 2020 graduates in June.

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

HEALTH MINISTRY: This week we have information on a health spring. Click link below:
<https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/pdf/infographics/healthy-spring-H.pdf>

Bayhealth Expands Community Coronavirus Testing in Sussex County

Bayhealth is partnering with the Governor's office, the Division of Public Health, and our other healthcare systems to expand Coronavirus community testing and outreach to high-risk populations in Sussex County. No appointment is necessary.

Bayhealth will provide walk-up or drive-up community testing at the **DHSS State Services Center in Milford located at 253 NE Front Street from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on these dates: May 7, May 9, and May 11.

This expanded community testing is geared to the following high-risk populations: those with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, those living or working with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, family members or housemates of those working in the poultry industry, and those with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, hypertension, or compromised immune systems.

Coronavirus testing is available for all ages. Nemours AI DuPont will be available to provide pediatric patient testing.

Delawareans with questions about COVID-19, related to medical or social service needs, should call 2-1-1; or 7-1-1 for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the weekends. You may also email DPHCall@delaware.gov with questions.

I wonder...

- What God's house looks like.
- How big God's house really is.
- What it means that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

A Room of My Own

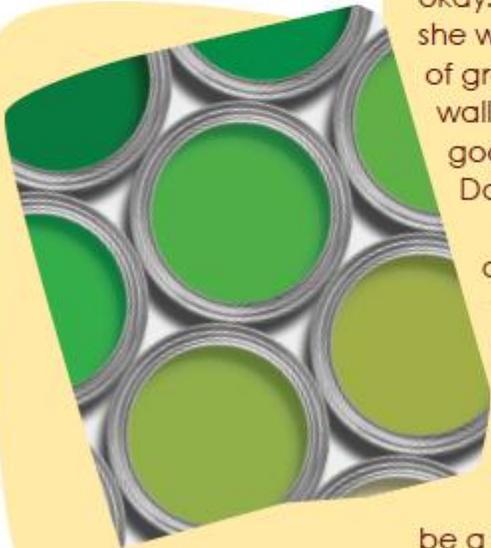
Clara sat down hard on a big box. She looked around her room—what a mess! *Well, I've only been working on it for a day, I guess, she thought. And it's not like I can unpack until all the painting is done.*

Clara's family had ridden in a moving van and their family van for three whole days. They'd moved all the way across the country. Her dad called it an "adventure." Clara thought it was just a lot of work. But it was exciting, because for the first time since she was a baby (and that didn't really count) she was going to have her own room. Audrey would have her own room, too; but the little boys would still have to share.

Mom said Clara was in charge of designing and decorating her room. It wasn't big, but that was okay. It was hers! And she could paint it any color she wanted! She chose green, a bright lime-ish sort of green, and she and her mom already had two walls done. It was crazy bright! Mom said she was a good enough painter to finish the rest on her own. Dad would help with the trim later.

Once the walls were dry, hopefully tomorrow afternoon, she could start unpacking and putting out all of her books and her stuffed animals and the stuff that made it seem like home.

Mom had promised that once all the boxes were unpacked, they'd go pick out a new comforter and curtains or shades. Clara was thinking bright orange might be nice. Or maybe a crazy purple. It would be fun to decide.



God's House



Jesus said, "Believe in God and in me. God's house in heaven is so big that everyone can have a room."

My Heavenly Room in 3D

Jesus taught his disciples that God's house in heaven has rooms for everyone! What will your room in heaven look like? Make a model of it using the pattern below. Color the sides of the diorama below. Then cut out the pattern, fold up the sides, and glue or tape them together to see your room in 3D.

