



The Midweek

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

The line for the drive-thru banking lanes at PNC was out of their parking lot and onto the street by the bottling plant a few weeks ago. But I had no choice since I had to do some business to conduct so I put my car in park and settled in for a long wait.

As I usually do when I am in wait-mode, I pulled my phone out to play scrabble on an app I like to use. It's me against the phone and I have an outstanding win rate against it. But for a brief second, I thought the phone was trying to tell me something because the first letters to pop up for my use were C-O-V-I-D.

I was honestly shocked and for a moment wondered if I was on a hidden camera somewhere. But as nobody appeared to be interested in what I was doing, I just took the letter selection as bad luck.

But then the competitor in me took over and I thought...hmmm, an opening word with a "V" and a "C" in it, when I will get a double word score for going first, will not be so bad. So I placed the word on the board and waited for my large point tally to appear.

But what popped up was "no such word." And all I could think about was "oh yes there is."

Just five months ago very few of us outside the medical community had ever heard of Covid-19. Now, it dictates our lives. God, however, has always known this was coming. The Lord also knows when it will be over. The Bible tells us that it is not ours to know.

The writer of Acts (presumably Luke) reminds us that even though we don't know exactly what is to come, we will indeed be assailed by trials. It's part of life for Christians to experience tribulations. However, Luke also reminds us that we can and should be comforted by knowing God is in charge. Acts 14:22 says, "There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, 'It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.'"

God is sovereign over history and the Lord determines what will happen, as well as when, where and how it will take place. The Savior also knows what will occur in the lives of each and every one of his beloved children.

Only God can see what the next five months will bring. Or the next five years or 50 years. For all of eternity, God is in control. We need to trust that everything is going according to His plan, even when we don't like or understand it. As long as we remember that the Lord loves us all, we can be confident that whatever is to come will be full of unknown blessings.

And to God belongs the kingdom, the power and the glory forever.

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: 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: All those infected by the coronavirus and the medical teams who are seeking to heal and contain it, the family and friends of Janet Callaway, the family and friends of Laura Leach, the family and friends of Bernadette Delong, Ellen Heinbach, Chris Schultz, Rachael Simesak, Barbara Dietrich, Jennifer and Chris Miller, Larry

Hughes, Janie Martin, Jean Hutchman's daughter-in-law, Bob Cage, Lee Tyrrell, Joe, Scott Horsman, 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, Joe and Mary Jo Lear, Bob Voshell, 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 including the church, all those feeling rejected and isolated as a result of the virus.

Rejoice with: Everyone who has been blessed by God.

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Jack Heinbach** who passed away on May 10, 2020. Jack was a member of Avenue Church.

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**.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Erica and Keith Bauer on the birth of their son, Anderson, on Monday, May 11, 2020.

CHARGE CONFERENCE will be held on Wednesday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. via the online video conferencing platform, Zoom. The Charge Conference is being held to vote on the potential purchase of The New Century Club property. Membership at Avenue Church is required in order to vote at the Charge Conference on this matter. Information on the proposed purchase and information on how to use Zoom will be emailed out at a later date. Please contact Pastor Steve, Pastor Wendy, or Jack Dickerson with any questions.

2020 YARD SALE: Due to all the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 virus, it has been decided that the **Yard Sale will NOT be held this year.** We feel this is in the best interest of the church, community, and volunteers. Please keep our mission program in your prayers as we search for ways to help others in our area, country, and world. Thank you to all!

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 The Promise of the Holy Spirit 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 masks how to make them, etc. Click link below:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Witness to Our Faith

Each week in the Avenue Midweek, members and friends of Avenue UMC will be sharing their own personal witness of faith. This column will be coordinated by Janice Abbott who will be seeking volunteers and writers who are willing to share their stories. Each article is due one week in advance and should be sent to Kelly at the Church office so there will be time to add it to the newsletter. It will appear the following week. It will be inspirational to read each week how God has blessed each person/family today and through the years. If you would like to contact Janice to volunteer, please call her at (302) 943-7278.

We will start by having Janice share her witness from 1984. It is still as pertinent today as it was more than 25 years ago.

From Janice Abbott:

I will start with Jim's and my witness dated 1984. Our faith in God was severely tested in March of that year. Back then, Joanne Burbage asked me to share a Witness to Our Faith. She recently gave me a copy which I will include in this article. It is now 2020 and it seems, as I age, that my faith is tested frequently. However God, my faithful friend, has helped me through each day and whatever crisis or problem I may face. I always say, "I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me," (Phil 4:13) when my faith is tested. I don't always understand why things happen in our lives, but I do know God is always there for us to lessen the pain and heartbreak and to give us hope.

When I was asked to write some thoughts for the Ave-News on my faith, I said yes, immediately. I felt it would be easy for me. However, my friends, it was not easy. Life is not always easy, just as it is not always easy to be a Christian. Jim and I have struggled daily since our daughter's death on March 9, 1984. Thanks be to God we now walk with inner peace and blessed assurance that Vonda Kay is with Him.

The day of the accident our dear minister, Frank Lucia said, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord." We did not have a doubt that Vonda was immediately with God. For the believer, death means entering into the glorious presence of Christ. However, when a young and beautiful life is suddenly, in the wink of an eye, taken from you, how do you accept it? You believe! You believe in God's promise to you.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

We believe this and our faith gets us through each day. The real victory of faith is to trust God in the dark and through the dark. We are safer with Him in the dark than without Him in the sunshine.

The simplest faith is one that asks no questions. It is very difficult. We always want to know "why?" Why did this tragic thing happen to us? We believe in God as our Father

and we trust Him. We know He had a plan for Vonda. That is why He made her so special when she was here on earth. We feel we experienced more love from her in 18 years than most people find in a lifetime. Her death made us realize what is really important in life. Look around you each day and see what God gives you so freely, such as your health, your precious loved ones, the sky, sun, flowers, birds, trees, sunshine, rain, etc.

We take all these things in faith, however, we tend to take them for granted. Thank God many people in life do realize how precious these things are. They can be taken away so quickly. We know that Vonda has entered a sweeter, deeper joy and her life is even fuller now with Christ. She is being kept safe and secure for us in the home of God.

We really have not lost her, she has just been taken from our sight. She will have grown into rarer beauty and greater dearness when we meet her again. God knows best and we will see the reason clearly some day when we see our angel again.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1) Memories flood our mind every day. We have so many beautiful ones of her. Have faith, our special friends, and build special memories everyday with your loved ones.

“Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us.” (Psalm 62:8)



I wonder...

- What it means to keep Jesus' commandments.
- How the Spirit of truth works.
- What Jesus wanted the Holy Spirit to teach his followers.

Promises, Promises!

Dear Madeline,

Well, if you've found this note under your pillow, you're probably climbing into bed awfully tired after this very long day. I'm probably climbing into my new bed in my new house, too. And now we're each in our beds, too far away to tuck each other in. But there are some things I want to tell you.

First of all, the most important thing: I love you so much and miss you already! Second, we will be able to visit—don't forget that! It won't be the same as living so close, but there will be good things about visiting, too. Third, I hope you won't forget to do our tradition of committing at least one Random Act of Love each day. Just because we can't always do them together doesn't mean that we can't do them! Just think: now someone (or someones!) in two places will have a Random Act of Love change their day. How about we e-mail each other every night and tell each other what we've done? I'll tell you my Random Act of Love today: I left some of those chocolate chip cookies we baked in the moving truck for the moving guys to enjoy on their way home. What did you do?

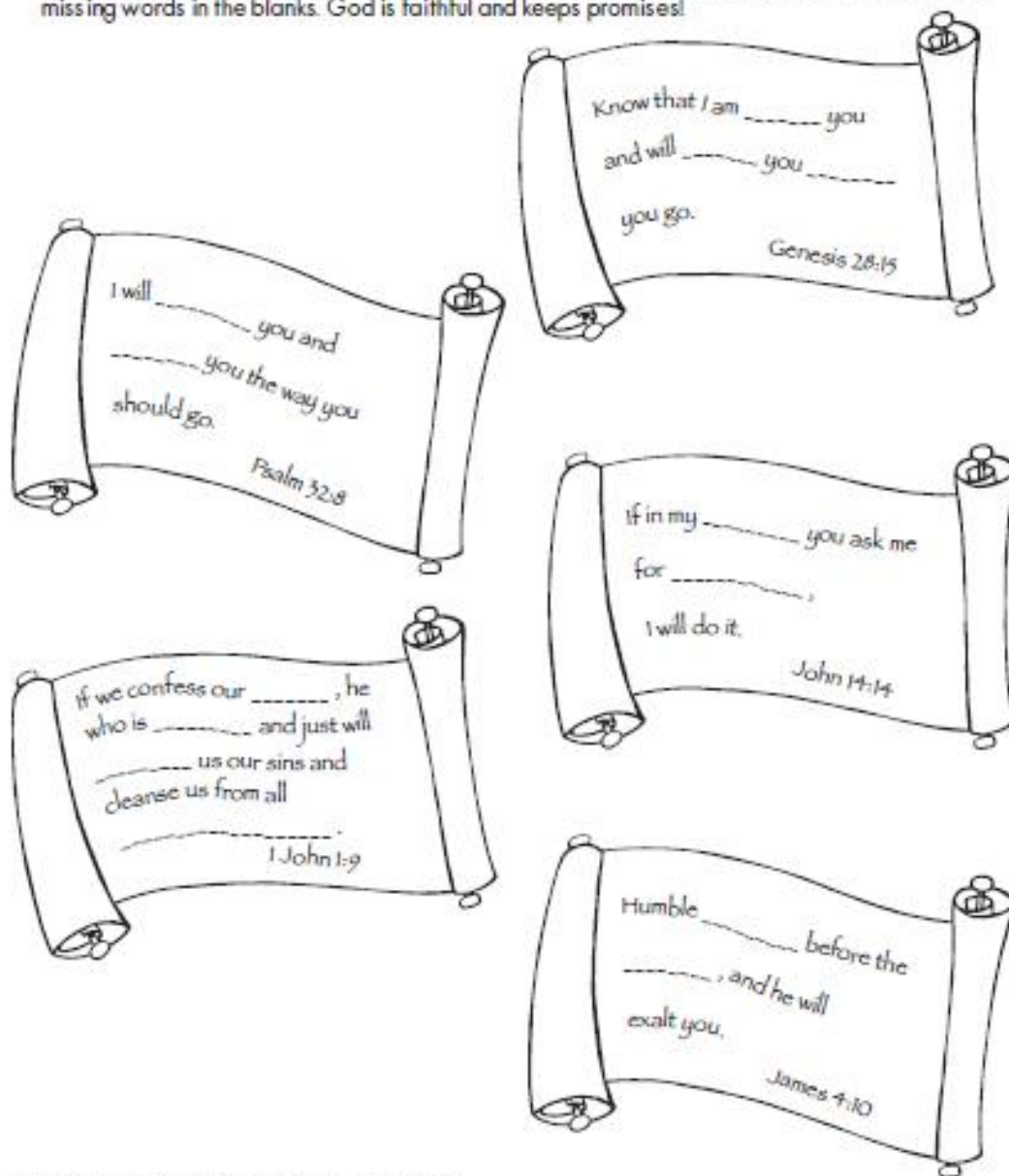
Love you, dear girl!

Grandma



Promises, Promises

Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be with us always. Did you know that the Bible describes some other promises? Use your Bible to look up each of these promises and write the missing words in the blanks. God is faithful and keeps promises!



The Promise of the Holy Spirit



Jesus loved his disciples. He knew he was going to heaven soon and wanted to make sure they weren't afraid.



Jesus told his disciples to love God
and love other people.

God sends me lots of
friends and family to love.

These are my pictures of some
of the people I love.





8 FACTORS OF HAPPINESS

Source: Duke University Study on Happiness

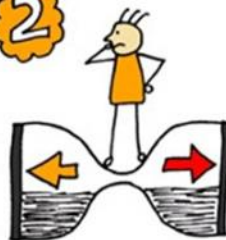
1



LACK OF SUSPICION and RESENTMENT

nursing a grudge was a major factor in UNHAPPINESS

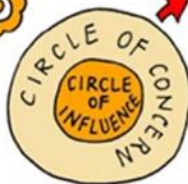
2



NOT LIVING IN THE PAST

pre-occupation with past mistakes and failures lead to depression

3



NOT WASTING TIME & ENERGY FIGHTING THINGS YOU CANNOT CHANGE

"co-operate with life"

4



STAY INVOLVED WITH THE LIVING WORLD

resist withdrawal & become reclusive during stress

5



REFUSE TO INDULGE IN SELF-PITY WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU A RAW DEAL

"no one gets through life without some sorrow and misfortune"

6



CULTIVATE OLD FASHIONED VIRTUES
LOVE
COMPASSION
HUMOR
LOYALTY

7



DONT EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM YOURSELF

gap between expectation and ability = feeling of inadequacy

8



FIND SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF TO BELIEVE IN

self centered egotistical people score lowest in any test measuring

HAPPINESS

Sketchnote by: Tanmay Vora ~ QAspire.com ~ @tnvora

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"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7