



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, June 24, 2020*

Philippians 4:13 tells us that, “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” Thank God for that because as I write my last midweek, I need every ounce of strength that God will give me.

I have written hundreds of these articles over the past six years but this is by far the hardest. The only good news with writing it is that you can’t see me crying like crazy, although if you tune in for my last sermon on Sunday I suspect I’ll make up for it.

And as much as I love words and enjoy writing, I find myself unable to express the true emotions that I am feeling. The way I feel comes from my heart and words are not enough.

As I think back to the years that I have shared with you, I only have good memories. That does not mean everything was perfect – far from it, but I do know that Avenue is full of good people who want to bring honor and glory to God.

We don’t all agree on how that should happen or what the timing looks like or which music we should play or how we interpret the Bible, but I am certain of one thing. Every choice that was made, and all the actions that were undertaken were done in love and with the true intent to do the right thing.

So leaving you all is like giving up a piece of my heart. No matter what the journey has included, I would not have changed a second of it. Thank you all for what you have done to bring the love of Christ to the world and for sharing the Gospel with God’s children. I love you all very much.

And to God be the glory forever and ever.

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

## **Avenue to Re-Gather for Worship on July 5<sup>th</sup>**

Many of you have been asking when we will hold worship services again in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. Avenue is planning to regather for worship on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. There are some changes that have been made to help keep our community safe as we come back together.

First, we have adjusted our worship times in light of feedback of decreased numbers coming to worship and to reduce the amount of cleaning that is required to take place between services. Our **new worship times beginning July 5<sup>th</sup>** are:

- 9:00 a.m. **Traditional Worship**
- 10:30 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**
- 6:00 p.m. **Outdoor Contemporary Worship**

Churches around the country are reporting decreased attendance of 40-50% as they reopen. Our own survey of our congregation showed 30-40% of our congregation feels unsafe coming back to worship and is taking a “wait and see” approach to coming back to worship. We will continue to livestream our services at their new times. Those who are 65 and older, or have medical conditions that make them more susceptible to infection are recommended to worship from home through our livestream.

The outdoor service will run through the summer and will be one way to spread out the congregation that identifies with our contemporary worship service, while reaching out to new people who cannot attend on Sunday morning. However, the service is open to everyone. Those who attend will be asked to bring their own chair or blanket to sit on during the service.

*Worship will look different when we return. Masks must be worn inside the building at all times. Six feet of space must be kept between non-related households or persons. There will not be congregational singing. There will not be hymnals or Bibles in the pews. The pew cushions have been removed (bring your own!). Offering will be given on your way in or out of the sanctuary. Communion will be prepackaged and taken seated rather than through intinction at the prayer rail. You'll need to sign in when you attend so we can trace back to everyone who attended in case of someone attended who test positive for COVID-19. While we wish we didn't need to change our worship, we still believe in the importance of gathering and worshipping God together.*

Lastly, we want to be clear that our plans to regather are tentative and can change quickly. We are closely watching the infection rates, hospitalizations and the guidance of our Bishop and State officials. We want to keep our community safe and will go back to “worship at home” if it becomes necessary.

We look forward to gathering for worship with you and pray God's blessing in your life!

*Avenue Church Staff*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORSHIP ON SUNDAY:** Join us on Facebook Live as we begin streaming our worship services at their new times. Traditional worship will be available on the Avenue Facebook page at 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship will be available on our Facebook page beginning at 10:30 a.m. You can find our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/avenueumc](http://www.facebook.com/avenueumc).

**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](http://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.

**CAN YOU HELP LIVESTREAM?** We are looking for those who are interested in exploring digital ministry by providing some leadership in our Livestream worship services. We are looking for members to learn the recording and editing process, to manage our Youtube uploads, and to help with Social Media. As we are learning, this kind of ministry will be essential moving forward. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

**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:** The family and friends of Joe Lear, the family and friends of Linda Breedlove, the family and friends of Shirley Sells, Lloyd and Nancy Saba, Ann Varey. Those infected by Covid-19 and the medical teams who are seeking to contain and heal it. For all those in this country who have experienced racism and/or abuse by those in power of any type, all the communities impacted by looting, arson and other destruction, the healing of the nation, Pat Hudson, Helen, Sherena Chilton, Chris Schultz, Bonnie Carmine, Jeff Carmine, Nancy Lee, Josiah, Tita Lewis, Racheal Simesak, Bob Cage, Joe, Donna and Keith Coverdale, Janice Abbott, Julie Dally, Rhoda and Greg Kurz, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, Ellie Lauckner, Jean Layton, Jan Perkins, Bill and Marty Brereton, Ed Bailey, Mary Jo Lear, Craig, Sammy, Bella, Charlie and Barbara Fleetwood, Esther LaMotte, Chris, Laurel Pastor, Betty and Ramie Ziesel, Dean Johnson, Doris Isele, Karl Isele, Kathy Rumery, 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:** All those who have been blessed by God.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Joe Lear, the family and friends of Linda Breedlove, the family and friends of Shirley Sells, the family and friends of George Shockley, Lloyd and Nancy Saba, Ann Varey, those infected by Covid-19 and the medical teams who are seeking to contain and heal it, for all those in this country who have experienced racism and/or abuse by those in power of any type, all the communities impacted by looting, arson and other destruction, the healing of the nation, Jennifer Nelson's father, Pat Hudson, Josiah Adams, Paula, Phil Saint, Helen, Chris Schultz, Jeff Carmine, Nancy Lee, Josiah, Tita Lewis, Racheal Simesak, Bob Cage, Joe, Donna and Keith Coverdale, Julie Dally, Pastor Wendy, Rhoda and Greg Kurz, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, Ellie Lauckner, Jean Layton, Jan Perkins, Bill and Marty Brereton, Ed Bailey, Mary Jo Lear, Craig, Sammy, Bella, Charlie and Barbara Fleetwood, Esther LaMotte, Chris, Laurel Pastor, Dean Johnson, Doris Isele. Karl Isele, Kathy Rumery, Jack and Zelda McDuff, Luisa and Billy Combs, Joan Wadman, our nation and its leaders, everyone dealing with financial issues, and all who are feeling lonely and isolated.

**Rejoice with:** All those who have been blessed by God, and Bonnie Carmine.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Dave & Judy Passwaters** will celebrate their **62<sup>nd</sup>** anniversary on **June 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**Bob and Ann Wilson** will celebrate their **64<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **July 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

**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.

**Please bring your letters to the church, we have a basket in the Fellowship Foyer.**



## *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.

*From: Beverly French*

Writing this was not easy but I must admit that saying “no” to Janice is not easy either. I am Beverly French and was born and raised in Milford. My husband and I started dating when I was a junior in high school, and we were married at the end of my junior year in college. After college, he worked for General Foods and I was a teacher in Clayton for two years and then in Milford. Our first three years of marriage were spent in Delaware and we were then transferred to White Plains, NY and resided in Connecticut. Until Russell took an early retirement we lived in Connecticut and were blessed with a daughter and a son and later eight wonderful grandchildren. Life was good!

Many can tell you the moment or experience that brought them to accept God. I cannot. However, I can say that I have always felt that the Lord was with me and felt his presence in my life even in my most trying time which for me was in January 2019. So, here is my testimonial of my belief in God and how God answers prayers even though they may not be the answer you want.

Shortly after New Year's in 2019 Russell and I were packing to go on vacation, but he seemed to be coming down with some type of bug. We really did not think much about it because so many seemed to be experiencing various bugs at that time. Since we were supposed to leave in a couple of days and being unable to get a doctor's appointment, we decided to go to the emergency room. After several tests and within less than 3 hours, the doctor knelt down by him and told us that he had stage 4 pancreatic cancer and asked if we'd like her to call the family or would we rather do it. To say we were in shock and disbelief would be an understatement. Obviously, we wanted to know what could be done and quickly realized that the answer was nothing. I prayed and prayed for a miracle. Mark 11:9-21 says, “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours”. It took me about a week and a half before I told Pastor Wendy that I realized that God was giving us our miracle. It just was not the one we wanted. He was giving Russell the miracle of passing without having the pain and suffering that a longer time would have given him. It also gave both of our children the opportunity to spend some special, special quality time with their Dad. Then, within less than 3

weeks, he was gone. Once again, this was not the miracle any of us wished for but it was a true blessing and I thank God. Roman 5:1-5 says, “Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us”.

We were so blessed to have shared 53 years together and I thank God every day for those years and for the mercy that he showed to Russell as he left this earth to join him in heaven. We were blessed! Isaiah 41:10 says, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

## AVENUE UNITED METHODIST MEN SCHOLARSHIP

Presented to

**Eagle Scout Stephen Hynes**

Stephen has held numerous leadership positions within Boy Scout Troop 186 over the years. He had a good relationship with all of the scouts, and especially the younger ones. They looked up to him. He demonstrated excellent leadership skills. His Eagle Scout project was to build several tables, including charging stations for Sussex Tech High School, in Georgetown, in the Commons Area.

His activities include:

- Raven Nation Marching Band 2016-2020
- DFRC Blue-Gold All Star Band 2017-2019
- National Honor Society 2017-2020
- National Technical Honor Society 2018-2019
- National Spanish Honor Society 2018-2019
- Sussex Tech Baseball 2016-2018
- Skills USA-Quiz Bowl
- Wreaths Across America
- S.T.X –Press Drumline 2016-2020

The Methodist Men are very proud to present this scholarship to Stephen because he represents the leadership and academic qualities typical of the recipients through the years.





## Deciding to Go Out

With the opening of businesses, events and church, we want you to make an informed decision on whether it is right for you to go out and what you need to do if you decide to go out. There is a lot of information available. With the world so crazy today you may ask, "Who do I listen to"? In the medical profession, we follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and Delaware Health and Social Services guidelines. Here is some information from CDC.

### Germ Farm



## What to consider before you go

- **Do I live with someone who is at risk for severe illness?**
- **Do I practice everyday preventive actions?**

Continue to protect yourself by practicing everyday preventive actions, like monitoring yourself for symptoms, not touching your face with unwashed hands, washing your hands often, social distancing, disinfecting surfaces, wearing cloth face covers, and staying home if you are sick.

- **Will I have to share any items, equipment, or tools with other people?**

Choose places where there is limited sharing of items and where any items that are shared are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses. You can also choose to visit places that share, post, or announce that they have increased cleaning and disinfection to protect others from COVID-19.

- **If I get sick with COVID-19, will I have to miss work or school?**

If you are sick with COVID-19, stay home. Also, find out about your work or school's telework or sick leave policy.

- **Do I know what to do if I get sick?**

Know the steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick.

If you decide to engage in public activities, continue to protect yourself by practicing everyday preventive actions. If you will be running an errand, follow CDC's running errands considerations.

### Items to have on hand

- A cloth face covering
- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, if possible
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home.

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/deciding-to-go-out.html?deliveryName=USCDC\\_2067-DM31064](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/deciding-to-go-out.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM31064)

**"We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose" ~ Romans 8:28**