



The Midweek

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

“In the beginning...”
Genesis 1:1

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

As someone who grew up participating in athletics, the sports seasons were the way that I would mark the passing of time. Hope springs eternal as the start of baseball season brings ideations of warmer weather and quickly dashing my dreams of the Pirates being any good. Football season means that the weather would be changes, the leaves browning, and that Fall would lead to cooler nights. Basketball season was the bridge that would help me get from Winter to the more pleasant days of spring.

Even as our cultural markers for the changing seasons have been taken away, we were reminded this past Sunday by Pastor Wendy that *“for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” In every season that we encounter, from those which we expect to those seasons that are unexpected or even unwanted, God uses those seasons to work in and through us.*

Throughout the pandemic, I have communicated my belief that our society is in transition. This is no clearer than the unrest we have along racial lines as we pursue justice and reconciliation. This is also clear as businesses, families, and individuals wrestle with how to adapt to our current cultural moment in the midst of COVID-19 and the other challenges that 2020 has brought us.

I also believe this to be true for the church. Churches of all sizes have had to wrestle with “doing church” online. The real question that we need to asking is “What does it mean to be the church?” If we can worship online from the comfort of our home while in our pajamas, why do we need to “go” to church? This is a question that is at the core of who the Church is. I

believe that God is compelling us by the Holy Spirit into a new season in the church. A season where we reexamine our priorities, our ministries and our mission to be fruitful in the time and place that we've been called to.

This Sunday, join us at 9:00 am (Traditional) and 10:30 am (Contemporary/Modern) in the sanctuary or online. You can also join us at 6:00 pm (weather permitting) on the lawn as we gather to celebrate communion and to worship as the Body of Christ.

Come expectant for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives in new ways in this new season!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Steve". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Pastor" and "Steve" being capitalized and prominent.

What You Need to Know for Avenue's Reopen

As we seek to reopen on July 5th for worship, please take the time to read through our updated procedures for worshipping at Avenue. All are welcome to attend who are willing to follow the guidelines below. It is recommended that those whose age or health conditions make them at-risk of contracting COVID-19 consider worshipping at home through our livestream to protect themselves and others. If you have come in contact with someone who is COVID-19 Positive or if you are running a fever and showing flu-like symptoms, please refrain from attending worship in-person.

New Times: We have new worship times! Traditional Worship will be held at 9:00 am and Contemporary/Modern Worship will take place at 10:30 am. Both services will be in the sanctuary. The Fellowship Hall will be available for overflow, if needed based on social distancing guidelines.

Evening Service: There will be a 6:00 pm Contemporary/Modern Worship service on the lawn along Front Street on Sunday evenings. This service will be dependent on the weather. Bring your own chair or blanket and enjoy worshipping as the Body outdoors. Social distancing must be maintained during our outdoor worship service.

Masks Are a Must: Current regulations require masks to be worn in public places. Worshipers must wear a mask while inside Avenue, including while seated in the pews. Wearing a mask is one of the simplest ways that we can care for one another by slowing the spread of the virus.

Sanitize or Wash Your Hands: Hand sanitizer will be available on your way in and out of the sanctuary. We highly encourage you to sanitize your hands before and after worship.

Singing: Singing is a higher risk activity than talking as we expel more molecules from our mouth with greater energy. We also know that singing is an important facet of worship for many. Music will be led from the chancel at both services. With masks remaining on, we encourage the congregation to mouth the words (i.e. Lip-synching), humming, or singing quietly to yourself (and God). This change will invite us to worship God as we meditate on the words of the songs that are chosen.

Procedures, Procedures, Procedures: We are trying to think intentionally about how to keep our community safe as we approach our reopening. Here are the steps to take to attend worship.

- *One Way In/One Way Out | The Main Entrance (by the church office) is the only door that will be unlocked on Sunday morning. This helps us with cleaning between services. You will need to enter and exit through this door. Our Greeter Teams will be available to assist you if you need to use another entrance because of*

mobility issues.

- *Check-In | In order to help keep account of who attends (for traceability when it comes to COVID-19), you will sign-in upon enter the Fellowship Foyer with a volunteer. This will involve your name and having your temperature taken by folks from our Health Ministries Team.*
- *Every Other Pew | You'll notice upon entering the sanctuary that we will be sitting in every other pew. We will also be asking separate households to keep six feet of social distance between themselves and others in the pews.*
- *Carry-In/Carry-Out | To help eliminate the passing of materials, we ask that if you pick up a worship folder and/or communion cup that you dispose of them yourself in a trash receptacle at the church or at your home.*
- *Giving | There will be Giving Boxes in the chapel and at the back of the sanctuary for you to receive your tithes, gifts and offerings. We also highly encourage you to use our safe and secure online giving platform to eliminate the need for our money counters to touch paper money and checks. You can access our online giving at www.avenueumc.com/give*

As a staff, we believe that these procedures and guidelines will enable us to gather safely for worship. We will continue to monitor guidelines from the State and our Bishop, as well as the information about any rise in hospitalizations. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Grace and Peace,

Avenue Church Staff

Church Office Hours

The Church Office will be open on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm** during the month of July. We do ask that you consider using a phone call or an email should you need to take care of any business you need to before coming to the Church Office.

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.

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.

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.

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.

MILFORD COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY is available to assist Avenue families on Sunday mornings, beginning July 12th. If your family needs assistance with food and/or diapers, please come to the Food Pantry, which is located on the first floor of the educational wing, and one of their volunteers will assist you. Please contact the Church Office at 422-8111 for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

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

SYMPATHIES TO

- The family and friends of Shirley Sells
- The family and friends of George Shockley

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Pastor Wendy as she begins her ministry at Millville United Methodist Church in Millville, DE.
- All United Methodist Pastors who are meeting with their church for worship for the first time on Sunday
- Our local, national, and world leaders
- Those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak
- Our District Superintendent (Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa), Bishop Peggy Johnson, and The United Methodist Church
- The Pastors, Staff, and Leadership of Avenue United Methodist Church

PRAYER REQUEST

Josiah Adams
Ed Bailey
Bill and Marty Brereton
Bob Cage
Jeff Carmine
Kitty Chen
Luisa and Billy Combs
Donna and Keith
Coverdale
Julie Dally
Charlie and Barbara
Fleetwood
Pat Hudson
Doris Isele
Karl Isele

Dottie and Jerry Jackson
Dean Johnson
Rhoda and Greg Kurz
Esther LaMotte
Ellie Lauckner
Jean Layton
Mary Jo Lear
Nancy Lee
Jack and Zelda McDuff
Laurel Pastor
Jan Perkins
Kathy Rumery
Lloyd and Nancy Saba
Phil Saint
Chris Shultz

Roland Simms
Racheal Simesak
Ann Varey
Joan Wadman
Bella
Craig
Chris
Helen
Paula
Sammy

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: Beth A. Parker

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.... Oh How I love Jesus.....

Jesus said, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37, 39

What is my faith journey so far? How to describe my walk with the Lord? I am a child of God; I am created in God's image and I am loved by God. I love God's creation, I am thankful and try to live according to my favorite scripture "..... to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." Micah 6:8

I started out in life being very fortunate to have the most terrific mother and father. My parents were loving, giving Christian parents who modeled for me how to care and how to be Christ like. They were servant leaders and showed by their actions and lives how to live. I never had a doubt that I was loved and it was easy for me to know that God loved me, because my earthly parents did. The United Methodist church was a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up in love with church. My parents and sisters and I always went to church on Sunday and more. Church was never just a building. it was always people that cared for me and people I loved. Church was community and fellowship – people to study with and share with. I have had no trouble accepting that the church was not closed during this Pandemic, because Bible Studies, daily devotionals, zoom meetings, prayer concerns, Sunday School and Sunday worship services still happened. I talked to church family by phone, prayers abounded, water and food were delivered, masks were made, and my gratitude overflowed for those working, healing and giving of themselves. I found new "essential persons" to thank and lift up. God was alive and well and continued the call to discipleship.

Sharing my faith story is difficult for me because I was raised and always thought that it was between God and me. But 2 Timothy 1:7-8 "For God didn't give us a spirit timidly, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So, do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord....

I am not ashamed, just uncomfortable. My salvation story and beliefs have always been private. It has been only in later years that I realized that we all have a story to tell. To share Christ in my life, can make a difference. I did as my parents had modeled and participated in much that church had to offer. I loved the polity of the church, treasured choir practice

and worship, loved working with youth (MYF), women's Circle (UMW) meetings, church business meetings - I loved it all. I loved serving at church events, learning about missionaries and all that was offered. But no testimony, nothing personal; just not done. The churches I attended also did not encourage this type of witness.

Then sometime in my early 30's I was asked if I was "saved". That got me thinking. A Sunday School teacher seeing that I was searching, asked me to be part of a 10 Brave Christians group which included getting up at 5:30 in the morning to read scripture, to pray and to begin to have a relationship with Jesus. Following this I immersed myself in Bible Study. I stopped doing so much at church and started to examine my walk with God, what it meant to follow Jesus. I did three of the Disciple studies, a two-part study called Beginnings, and every study offered that I could possibly do. I immersed myself in the Bible and continued to grow in my faith, my love of God and I found a better balance in my church life. Part of the awakening in me was a focus beyond my home church into being aware of my "neighbors" and those not exactly like me. Social Justice concerns grew for me as I marched with United Methodist Women for Fair Wages for all, reached out to those incarcerated, to homeless and more.

Now close to 50 years after I first began my new journey, I still find the Bible and devotionals fresh and current. They speak to me, no matter what is going on in my life. I continue to study and learn and there is always more to help me be all that Christ would have me be. Avenue UMC is the 6th UMC I have attended in the last 50 years. (I moved a lot) and in each place I found a church family. The fellowship and church community sustained me and embraced me with love and gave me the ability to grow in my faith. Each church gave me new challenges, new mentors and it encouraged me in what God lead me to do. Some things might surprise you.

I have had my ups and downs. I have had many mountaintop experiences often in large group settings like UMW events, sometimes caring for my parents at the end of their lives. I have also had moments of despair. I've had the most horrible times of loss and depression and feeling that I was abandoned by God. I've yelled at God, questioned God and doubted. But always my beautiful Lord is there, with me, always with compassion and ready to pick me up and carry me and my burdens. Love, love, love – we all need love.

I have no doubt that there is a God of love, of forgiveness. I have no doubt that Jesus lived and died for me and continues to be my example and definer of how to live my life. I try to love everyone, to defend and stand up for the unlovable and be a light as often as I can. I am thankful that the Holy Spirit prays for me when my tongue gets tied, and that I am forgiven for my prideful thoughts and actions. I can only keep trying, to continue to grow in my faith journey and rely on my God of grace and peace. I am so thankful for each and every blessing of my life: God's wonderful creation, family, friends, church friends, music and friends I have not yet met.

..... to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." Micah 6:8

Jesus said, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37, 39

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.



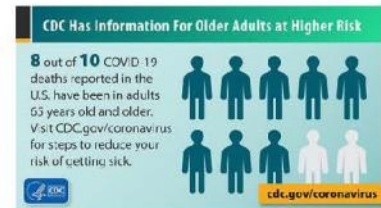
Health Ministry



On Sunday July 5th Avenue United Methodist Church will open their doors for worship services. Please consider whether you are a high risk individual or your loved one is. If you are high risk, what service you should attend.

People of any age with the following conditions **are at increased risk** of severe illness from COVID-19:

- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus



Children who are medically complex, who have neurologic, genetic, metabolic conditions, or who have congenital heart disease are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 than other children.

COVID-19 is a new disease. Currently there are limited data and information about the impact of underlying medical conditions and whether they increase the risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what we know at this time, people with the following conditions **might be at an increased risk** for severe illness from COVID-19:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Liver disease
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Smoking
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus

When considering coming back to church July 5th take into consideration that July 4th is on Saturday. Family picnics and gathers will occur increasing the risk of the spread of COVID-19. People exposed to COVID-19 on Saturday, will not have signs or symptoms for 2-14 days and can transmit the virus to others. Some people have mild symptoms and are unaware that they have COVID-19. We want you to make an informed decision.



Health Ministry



The wearing of masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing (6 ft) is very important. The outdoor 6 pm services is a good choice if you want to attend church but not be in the building, decreasing your risk of acquiring COVID-19.

If I decide to go to church on Sunday at 9 or 10:30 what should you expect?

1. We will ask your name
2. We will take your temperature
3. We will ask you if you have any of the symptoms listed below
4. We will ask you if you have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19
5. We will ensure you are wearing a mask to protect others
6. We will ensure social distancing
7. We will sanitize between services
8. We will wipe down door knobs on a regular bases
9. Sanitizer will be available for you

If you have a temperature above 99.5, signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or you have been exposed to anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, we will insist that you do not to enter the building in order to protect others.



Taking your temperature from a small distance.

Together we can help keep our church family and community safe. It requires everyone working together.

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

1 Cornithians 12:26



Watch for symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms.

A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care.

When to Seek Emergency Medical Attention

Look for **emergency warning signs*** for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fgroups-at-higher-risk.html

**“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.”**

Romans 10:13