



The Midweek

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Have you churched lately? How are you churching?

I'll be the first to admit that grammar is not my strong suit. I pay money for programs, like Grammarly, to help me when I need to communicate in an educated manner through the written word. Even as I may struggle with certain aspects of the English language (what is passive voice?), I am certain about what makes a *noun* and a *verb*.

When we talk about the church, we are often speaking about the *noun* "church." *We will often talk about going to church. When we use church as a noun, church becomes an inanimate building. Church becomes a destination.*

A better way to think about church is to think of it as a *verb*. *Church is not a place we go to, it is something we do. Better yet, church is something we live! To 'church' is to live as the Body of Christ in the world. To 'church' is to walk with Jesus each moment of the day rather than a place we go to for an hour on Sunday. See the difference?*

As we come back to church (the place), let us be even more intentional about living as the Church- the Body of Christ active in the world with

grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love. I am convinced that the local church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the single most important agent in the world for transformation that there is!

I'm ready to *church!* *How about you?*

Grace and Peace,



P.S. Grammarly hated this article.

To All,

I would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, prayers, cards, visits (pre-COVID19), and calls. It has been a long journey and one which will continue for several more months, I am making great progress, but still have a long road ahead.

One thing I know for sure is the power of prayer, I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for everyone praying for me. I truly cannot thank you enough.

May God bless all of you!

Laurel Pastor

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 and YouTube as we begin streaming our worship services at their new times. Traditional worship will be available on the Avenue Facebook and YouTube page at 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship will be available on our Facebook and YouTube page beginning at 10:30 a.m. You can find our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/avenueumc and YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch>.

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.

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.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired plus others is meeting under the shade tree on the New Century Property next to the Church at 10:15 a.m. The study for July is "A New People." The lesson for July 12th, is "Wisdom to Navigate Life's Challenges" based on Daniel 1:8-17; July 19th lesson is "Our Always-Faithful God" based on Daniel 3:19-30; and July 26th lesson is "Forgiving, Merciful, Compassionate" based on Nehemiah 9:9-17, 32-33. Feel free to join us under the tree for these exciting lessons. Please bring your own chair.

OFFICER/LEADERSHIP ELECTION will be held on Sunday, July 19th prior to all worship services. We elect our officers in the main meeting of our organization (worship) and will be electing a new slate of leadership as well. Members who have been nominated and accepted the

opportunity to serve are:

Trustees: Greg Abbott, Wes Spruill, Toni Zeveney

Finance: Diane Betts, Tom Chilton

SPRC: Sharon Clendaniel, Barb Decker, Heather Evans

Nominations: Bob Clendaniel, Bonnie Glenn, Jennifer Nelson

Church Council: Larry Pusey

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Robert and Marie Bradley will celebrate their **61st** anniversary on **July 11th**.

Rev. John and Ginny Van Tine will celebrate their **50th** anniversary on **July 18th**.

SYMPATHIES TO

- JoEllen Kimmy and family on the death of her mother, Peggy Pajak, on July 7, 2020.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Those affected by the COVID-19, Medical Staff, and those working on a vaccine
- 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
Josiah Davis
Charlie and Barbara
Fleetwood
Bob Hotaling and family
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: Rev. John Van Tine

I grew up in Seaford, Delaware, the youngest son of Karldon and Ruth Van Tine. My mother was born in Singapore in 1912, the youngest child of Methodist missionary parents. Her father had booked passage on the Titanic, but because Mom was late being born, they missed the ship for which I am thankful. My father came from a long line of Methodist pastors on his mother's side. I am the first Van Tine to be an ordained pastor.

Like Ginny I grew up in the church. I attended Sunday School, Church, and youth group. When I was in seventh grade I had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and knew that he was my savior. At the age of 15 I felt God's call into the ordained ministry. Now, I was not sure if it was God calling me, some corny idea I had, or an expectation from some family members. (My parents did not pressure me in any way. They just wanted me to find a career path that suited me.) The opportunity to test my call came in the form of a public address announcement. A man from Easter Seal Camp Fairlee Manor would be doing interviews at the end of the school day for anyone who wanted to be a camp counselor for the summer. I responded to the invitation and was hired. For the next six summers I was a counselor at Camp Fairlee Manor. There I received my confirmation of God's call into the ordained ministry. Camp Fairlee Manor was a defining period in my Christian walk. It was at camp where my faith was strengthened. I was made the official chaplain, which meant that I had to either compose prayers or find prayers for the other counselors to use at the end of the day. After my first year as a counselor the camp had grown too large to take us into Chestertown to church, so I also conducted the church services on Sunday mornings. Camp Fairlee Manor was integrated from its very beginning and dealt with people with all kinds of handicapping conditions from age 5 to 95. At camp I learned to accept people as they were and to encourage them to be more than they were. Traits that did me well in ministry.

I attended Wesley College, which at that time was a two year school. I graduated with an associate of arts degree. During my last semester two classmates and I made a trip to High Point, North Carolina. We were going to look at High Point College and visit a friend we knew who had graduated from Wesley the previous year. On our way home from High Point we stopped at Greensboro College in Greensboro, North Carolina, to visit with the Dean of Students, who had been the Dean of Students at Wesley the previous year. When he learned that I planned to major in history, he recommended Greensboro College, as it was strong in history. (Greensboro College, like Wesley College, and High Point College were all United Methodist Colleges.)

The last free weekend before classes began my first semester at Greensboro College, I met Ginny. It was not love at first sight. It seemed though as if God said to us, "I brought you two together, now make it work." I asked her out the following March and we have been together ever since.

Upon graduation from Greensboro College I began my Seminary education at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, PA, which in my first year moved to Rochester, NY. I then transferred to Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, from which I graduated in 1973.

I began my life as an ordained minister in 1970. My first appointment was the Worton:St James Charge of three churches near Chestertown, Maryland. We lived in the Parsonage in Fairlee, just three miles from Camp Fairlee Manor. I would serve other charges in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference after the Worton:St James Charge. In all I served eight charges (thirteen churches, as some of these charges had more than one church).

I retired from active ministry in 2012 and Ginny and I moved to Milford and live in the house where she grew up. After retirement I continued to serve as Conference Secretary until 2016. Currently, I am President of the Laurel Ruritan Club, Chaplain at Nanticoke Hospital, Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee of the Dover Federal Credit Union and also serve on its Assets and Loss Committee. At Avenue I teach the Sunshine Bible Class and help facilitate the Exploring Your Faith Book Club. I am also called upon to serve as a spiritual director to various Emmaus and Chrysalis Weekends. Two scriptures that guide my life are Galatians 3:28 and Romans 8:28.

Rev. John Van Tine, Retired

Witness to Our Faith

From: Ginny Van Tine

I was raised by Christian parents and grandparents right here in Milford. As many of my generation did, I went to Sunday School, sang in choir at church and school and participated in Youth fellowship where I had many spiritual mentors.

After confirmation into church membership I began daily Bible reading and attended summer Bible camps. It was at one of those camps that I had a personal encounter with Christ while singing “How Great Thou Art” which was new to me.

My choice of Greensboro College, a United Methodist school in Greensboro, N.C. became one of the most important decisions I would ever make. To decide to attend a school eight hours from home that you have never seen until the first day of the first semester is certainly either crazy or an act of faith. For me it was an act of faith—it just felt right and was an answer to prayer.

I was the only student from Delaware until my sophomore year when four students transferred from Wesley College in Dover, DE. One of them became my husband three years later. Fifty years later we still believe it was all part of God’s plan for our lives.

We had a few difficult times, but Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” has been my life line as I have taught Sunday School, Bible studies, VBS, directed church and community choirs, and been actively involved since 2003 in the Emmaus community.

“The Lord is our strength and shield,” (Psalm 28:7) in all things.

Ginny Van Tine



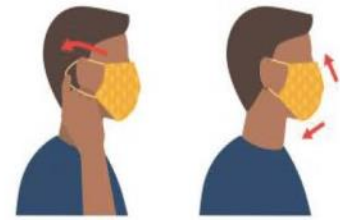
Face Coverings

Who should NOT use cloth face coverings: children under age 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Cloth face coverings are NOT surgical masks or N95 respirators.

Wear your Face Covering Correctly

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily



Use the Face Covering to Protect Others

- Wear a face covering to help protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Wear the covering in public settings when around people outside of your household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain
- **Don't** put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- **Don't** touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands



Take Off Your Cloth Face Covering Carefully, When You're Home

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine (learn more about [how to wash cloth face coverings](#))
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing.



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” ~ Romans 13:1