



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, July 15, 2020*

Have you caught a glimpse of the comet, Neowise, in the skies this month? I was up early a few days ago and took a half-hearted attempt to see it (I was tired and didn't quite know where to look), but the pictures that some photographers are taking are breathtaking. I saw a local photographer shoot a picture of the comet with one of the concrete towers in Rehoboth Beach in the foreground.

A comet fits into the whole 2020 vibe; Australia was on fire, tornadoes in the US, the first wave of a global pandemic, Murder Hornets, and now a comet. In ancient times, astronomers looked to the skies for signs of what the future held, and a comet would have been a sign of something. Scholars have hypothesized that the Magi in the Gospel of Matthew saw a supernova or a comet that led them to worship Jesus. I think many people are looking for signs to try and interpret what is going on in our world right now.

Jesus' disciples wanted signs to know the coming end of the age. They asked him about it in Matthew 24. Jesus answered their question about signs by saying,

***“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nations will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.*”**

There is more that Jesus says about recognizing the signs around us, but then he goes into two parables about keeping watch (Matthew 24:36-51, 25:1-13). The point that Jesus is making is that there will always be wars and rumors of war. There will always be natural disasters and signs in the sky. We are not to fear the signs, but to be sure that we are ready, watching, and waiting for Jesus' return.

Is your heart ready for Jesus' return? If the answer is "no," what would you need to do to prepare your heart? If the answer is "yes," how are you helping other people prepare? We have a responsibility to share the "Good News" of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus with the world.

As we go through our week, let us live in faith over fear. We do not need to fear the signs around us, but we do need to be sure that our hearts are surrendered to Jesus.

Grace and Peace,



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## Pastor Steve on Vacation

Pastor Steve will be on vacation **July 20-27, 2020**. As a way to recharge, Pastor Steve will not be responding to emails, phone calls, or text messages. He will begin returning messages on Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. During that time, if you need Pastoral Care, please call Kelly in the church office at 302-422-8111 or email [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com) and she will either connect you to a staff person to assist you, or put you in contact with a local pastor who is on-call to care for emergencies.

If you have a prayer request, please call the office or email [prayer@avenueumc.com](mailto:prayer@avenueumc.com) to have your request distributed to the prayer team.

## What You Need to Know for Avenue's Reopen

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**
- ♦ **Sanitize or Wash Your Hands**
- ♦ **Singing is Limited**

**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](http://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*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORSHIP ON SUNDAY:** Worship is held each Sunday in-person or online at 9:00 am (Traditional) and 10:30 am (Contemporary). Through the warmer months, we are holding an outdoor evening worship service at 6:00 pm. We are streaming the morning worship services on our Facebook (facebook.com/avenueumc) and Youtube (youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch) pages.

**GIVING AT AVENUE** is possible through multiple ways.

- You can give your offering in-person
- You can snail mail your gift to: 20 N. Church St. Milford, DE 19963
- You can give online through the red “give” button on our homepage
- You can text “avenueumc” to 77977 and follow the prompts
- You can download and use our “Avenue Church DE” App on your smart phone

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** The Church Office will be open on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Fridays** from 9:00am until 3:00 pm during the month of July. We do ask that you consider using a phone call or email if you are able to accomplish your business before coming into the office.

**PASTORAL CARE:** If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 422-8111 or contact a staff person directly. You can also email [prayers@avenueumc.com](mailto:prayers@avenueumc.com) to have your name added to the prayer chain. We are doing limited face-to-face visits during this time, but would be happy to make contact any way that we can.

**MILFORD COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY** is available to assist Avenue Families on Sunday mornings. 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.

**OFFICER/LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS** will be held on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> 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, Jr.

## **DISCIPLESHP OPPORTUNITIES**

**ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL** is led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired, is meeting under the shade tree on the New Century Club property next to the church at 10:15 a.m. The study for July is “A New People.” The lesson for July 19<sup>th</sup> is “Our Always-Faithful God” based on Daniel 3:19-30; the July 26<sup>th</sup> 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!

**THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE:** Pastor Steve will be leading a book club during the month of August on Jamar Tisby's book, *The Color of Compromise. It is a compelling look at the Church's complicity in racism in America and provides opportunities for Christians and Churches to become anti-racist. We are looking to start at the beginning of August on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm through ZOOM. If you are interested, please email Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).*

**PRAYER TEAM:** We are overhauling our prayer team and creating opportunities for Prayer Gatherings as we cover our church, community, and world in prayer. This will include weekly times of prayer. Down the road, we would like to have a prayer team active at each worship service. If you feel God nudging you to go deeper in prayer as we seek revival in our community, contact Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

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

### SYMPATHIES TO:

- JoEllen Kimmy and family on the death of her mother, Peggy Pajak, on July 7, 2020.
- Vicki Schultes and family on the death of her step-father, Bob Hotaling on July 9, 2020.
- The family and friends of Kitty Chen who passed away on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. Kitty joined Avenue on April 15, 1973. Visitation will be held from 10:00—11:00 a.m. and the funeral will begin at 11:00 a.m. at Avenue.

### 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

Ed Bailey  
Bill and Marty Brereton  
Bob Cage  
Jeff Carmine  
Luisa and Billy Combs  
Donna and Keith  
Coverdale  
Julie Dally  
Josiah Davis  
Charlie and Barbara  
Fleetwood  
Pat Hudson  
Molly Ingram

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  
Phil Saint  
Chris Shultz  
Roland Simms  
Racheal Simesak  
Linda Sockrider  
Ann Varey  
Joan Wadman

## SPRC Update

The Staff Parish Committee is striving to keep the congregation abreast of what is taking place within our staff members. First, let me say thank you for all of those that were able to participate in the “ride-by” for Pastor Wendy on the last Sunday in June. While much different than our typical send-off, it was an opportunity for all to share their appreciation and love for the six years that Pastor Wendy spent with us. Secondly I want to make everyone aware that the SPRC committee regretfully accepted the resignation of Matt McCreary, our Praise & Worship Leader, at our June meeting. Matt’s commitments to his young family, his full-time job, and the on-going upheaval created by the Covid19 Pandemic all were contributing factors. Also, Youth Pastor Will Leister and his wife Sam are expecting the birth of their daughter in mid-August. He is expected to be on leave for a couple of weeks.

The Committee is continuing to fine tune job descriptions and review the current status of staffing needs as they correspond to the ministry needs of our church; especially with respect to the current decline in giving. This is an opportunity for us (you & me) to actively become involved in serving in the ministries of Avenue UMC. For example, the ministry of caring for one another and staying connected as a church family are areas that we all can participate in. Please contact our pastoral staff as you feel led to participate. Please know that we as a committee appreciate your thoughts, concerns or comments and ask that you would forward them to me or any of committee members.

*Lloyd Webb*  
SPRC Chair

## *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: Lloyd Webb*

I am Lloyd Webb and I would like to share with you some aspects of my faith journey. I was raised in Avenue Church, attended Sunday School, went through confirmation class, joined the church and attended worship. I attended church but was not really part of the CHURCH. I have been blessed with a loving and patient wife that helped guide me in my faith journey. Nancy and I were married following my junior year in college. After graduation we were living in Newark as I was in my first year of teaching. While there we attended a worship service at the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Newark. The following week after attending worship we were visited by two of the church elders. During our visit they asked Nancy and I a very simple question; if we were to die that night would we be with Jesus in heaven and why? I responded with the typical self-justification “what have I done” response; I had lived a moral life, had tried to do the right things and was trying to “live right” and was pretty good by the world’s standards. Nancy’s response was quite different; she stated that by the grace of God and her acceptance of Jesus Christ as her personal Savior she would be with Him in heaven. Even though I recognized the difference in our responses, I was not ready to take the next step. A few years later we were teaching a Sr. High Sunday School class and attended a retreat at the Word of Life Camp in New York. It was at this time that I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. My faith made that journey from my head to my heart. It became personal....I became part of the Church.

In 2007 we had the opportunity to attend the Walk to Emmaus. During this experience I learned that God’s grace for me (and for you) was evident before we ever recognize it, prevenient grace. And when we come to accept Jesus as our personal Savior we experience His justifying grace. Then as we continue this faith journey we experience His sanctifying grace as we strive to become more and more like Christ everyday. My faith journey is all about God’s Grace. God has given us everything we need for salvation; Jesus paying the sin debt for all. Our response is to only accept the gift. It is my hope and prayer that we as a church family will all experience God’s saving grace and will embrace Jesus as our personal Savior.





**Health Ministry**



## Current guidance based on community exposure, for people exposed to people with known or suspected COVID-19 or possible COVID-19

Current guidance based on community exposure, for asymptomatic persons exposed to persons with known or suspected COVID-19 or possible COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

| Person  | Exposure to   | Recommended Precautions for the Public   |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual who has had close contact (&lt; 6 feet)** for ≥15 minutes***</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Person with COVID-19 who has <u>symptoms</u> (in the period from 2 days before symptom onset until they meet criteria for <u>discontinuing home isolation</u>; can be laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness)</li> <li>Person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (laboratory confirmed) but has not had any <u>symptoms</u> (in the 2 days before the date of specimen collection until they meet criteria for <u>discontinuing home isolation</u>).</li> </ul> <p>Note: This is irrespective of whether the person with COVID-19 or the contact was wearing a cloth face covering or whether the contact was wearing respiratory personal protective equipment (PPE)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay home until 14 days after last exposure and maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others at all times</li> <li>Self-monitor for symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check temperature twice a day</li> <li>Watch for fever*, cough, or shortness of breath, or other <u>symptoms</u> of COVID-19</li> </ul> </li> <li>Avoid contact with <u>people at higher risk for severe illness</u> from COVID-19</li> <li>Follow <u>CDC guidance</u> if symptoms develop</li> </ul> |
| All U.S. residents, other than those with a known risk exposure   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible unrecognized COVID-19 exposures in U.S. communities</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Practice social distancing</u> and other <u>personal prevention strategies</u></li> <li>Be alert for symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch for fever*, cough, or shortness of breath, or other <u>symptoms</u> of COVID-19</li> <li>Check temperature if symptoms develop</li> </ul> </li> <li>Follow <u>CDC guidance</u> if symptoms develop</li> </ul>   |

\*For the purpose of this guidance, fever is defined as subjective fever (feeling feverish) or a measured temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher. Note that fever may be intermittent or may not be present in some people, such as those who are elderly, immunocompromised, or taking certain fever-reducing medications (e.g., nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDs]).

**“The Lord will sustain him upon his sickbed; in his illness, You restore him to health.”**

**Psalms 41:3**



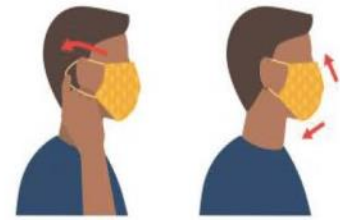
## Face Coverings

**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**