



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

On May 31, 1984, there was a super outbreak of tornadoes that went through Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York killing 89 people and injuring thousands more. I was five at the time and on the night of the outbreak, we were playing T-ball when a parent from the parking lot shouted that there was a tornado on the ground about ten miles north. That tornado was a powerful F-4 that nearly destroyed the entire small town of Atlantic and was just a few miles from my childhood home.

As I write this, we are experiencing the backend of a morning of storms that produced apparent tornadoes near where I live in Dover (and throughout Delaware). I am scanning the Facebook posts of friends who are sharing stories and pictures of the damage in the wake of the storm. It's unnerving to know how close the powerful storm came to our house (less than .25 miles) but I am thankful for safety and that there have been few reports of injuries thus far.

The wind is a powerful force. It can comfort us as it sways trees back and forth and it can bring destruction as we saw on Tuesday. In the Bible, the Spirit of God in Hebrew and Greek is the same word for wind. It is the "wind" of God that is breathed into Adam's lungs; it is the "wind" of the Spirit that brings the graveyard to life in Elijah, and it is the wind of the Spirit that comes upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost- giving birth to the Church.

As we marvel at the destructive power of the wind this week, let us long for the lifegiving power of the Divine Wind- the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for the Spirit's

presence in our lives, in our church, and in our world so that all might know the love of God.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

As the hymn says, “give thanks with a grateful heart” and that is precisely how I feel when it comes to thanking all of you for your grace, support, kind and generous love offering, the many notes and emails, the gifts, and all the other ways you blessed me when I left Avenue for Millville. A special thank you to everyone who came to the “drive-bye” on my last Sunday.

I had hoped that I would be able to thank you in person when “rewind Sunday” happened, but the pandemic continues. Perhaps it can be scheduled in the future. So, while this is not my preferred mode to express my gratitude, I could not let another day go by without thanking each of you.

You have been a gift from God to me, and I pray our paths will cross again as we focus on bringing the honor and glory to God forever and ever. God bless you all.

With love to my Avenue family,

Pastor Wendy

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 7:00 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*

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

Worship Service Update

We have been back to in-person for three weeks now and it has been a joy to see the faces of those who have been able to attend. Traditional Worship, at 9:00 am, has had 40-45 people in worship. The 10:30 am Contemporary service has been around 25-30. Our outdoor evening service (now 7:00 pm) has been around 45-55. Those numbers are well off our “usual” averages, but we realize that we live in a different world and there is an uneasiness about returning to group settings.

You are invited to come and join us in-person in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. If outdoor worship is more appealing, join us at 7:00 p.m. Just be sure to bring a chair, hat, sunglasses, and some water! There is plenty of space in the yard, seating on the pavement for those who cannot safely walk across the yard, and a few parking spaces where you can remain in your vehicle and worship with your windows down.

Thank you to everyone from our greeter teams, health ministries, and music ministries who are doing an excellent job of making worship meaningful each week. Thank you to our Audio/Video Team for making our livestream available to all!

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 7:00 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 **Monday through Fridays** from 9:00am until 3:00 pm. 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 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.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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 10:15AM. The study for August is “A New Way of Life.” The lesson for August 16th lesson is “Who Is My Neighbor?” based on Luke 10:25-37; August 23rd lesson is “Great Faith” based on Matthew 15:21-28; and August 30th lesson is “Great Mercy” based on Mark 5:1-20. 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.*

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.

BIRTHDAY GREETING TO:

- **Mildred Jensen** will celebrate her **98th** birthday on **August 7th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

- **Walt and Ruth Peters** will celebrate their **63rd** anniversary on **August 10th**.
- **Larry and Joan Wadman** will celebrate their **70th** anniversary on **August 12th**.

SYMPATHIES TO:

- Andrea Prettyman and family on the death of her mother, Barbara Dietrich who passed away on Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Those affected by Tuesday's storms.
- Those affected by the COVID-19, Medical Staff, and those working on a vaccine
- Our local, national, and world leaders
- 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	Craig Hanna	family
Frank Beebe	Pat Hudson	Laurel Pastor
Bobby Bergez and family	Raymond Hughes	Jan Perkins
Bill and Marty Brereton	Doris Isele	Bob Randolph
Bob Cage	Karl Isele	Kathy Rumery
Jeff Carmine	Dottie and Jerry Jackson	Phil Saint
Jennifer Clarke	Alvin Jarrell	Richard Sapp
Jack and Denny Collins	Dean Johnson	Vicki Schultes and family
Luisa and Billy Combs	Kourtney	Chris Shultz
Kim Coulbourne	Rhoda and Greg Kurz	Roland Simms
Donna and Keith	Esther LaMotte	Racheal Simesak
Coverdale	Ellie Lauckner	John Smallwood and
Julie Dally	Jean Layton	family
Josiah Davis	Mary Jo Lear	Linda Sockrider
Joanna Denney	Nancy Lee	Teresa
Charlie and Barbara	Jack and Zelda McDuff	Joan Wadman
Fleetwood	Ricki McGuire	
Ellen Coulbourne Hall	Dan & Jennifer Nelson &	

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: Bob Voshell

I was born in Felton, along with my two brothers and one sister. It was a small town, but there were a lot of children we could play with and have fun when we were out of school. I believe I started Sunday School at the age of six because my Mother made me, as she had done with my older sister and brother. I remember enjoying Sunday School because most of the kids I played with around town also attended. Those were the days when on weekends and holidays we kids could leave our house early in the morning, come home for lunch and go back out to play until supper time. My Dad was working in a war-time job while my Mother took care of her four children. There were no problems with the kids, quite unlike what happens in the large cities today. In Sunday School, during our play time, we had a large table filled with sand that we could play with. A music teacher would come to each class and teach us new songs each Sunday . . . My mother and dad did not attend church at that time, and we walked to Sunday School, which was only a block away. When I turned 10 years old, my mother decided that she wanted to go to Wilmington to be with my dad and to also get a war-time job. We four children were moved to our Grandparent's house 2 miles north of Felton, We found new friends to play with and rode a school bus to school each day.

Fast forward to April 1958, when I was 25 years old, I met a beautiful girl who lived in Milford—who was one year younger than me. We began dating, and were married on October 25th of that year, in our lovely Chapel here at Avenue Church. She had been a member of this Church since the mid 1940's and asked me to join Avenue also, which I was happy to do. We had purchased a house in Felton after our marriage. In 1963 we purchased a lot where we live now, and in 1964, moved into our newly built home on Labor Day.

By that time Joyce and I had many friends who were members in Avenue and we were volunteers for various committees. We both helped out as teachers or teachers helpers and enjoyed it so much.

Our family was growing - Lisa was born in May 1960 and Laura was born January 1965. They were both baptized here and joined Sunday School. They joined many activities available here, which also increased our volunteering. Avenue Church became the center of our lives. Most of our friends and their children were members here and it was a joy to meet with everyone here each Sunday. The committees which we served on gave us another chance to see and work with our friends sometimes working as Disciples to get new members and help our Avenue Church to Grow in membership, activities, and assistance to

the people in our community. I learned so much from the church leaders who when before me and I am eternally grateful for their guidance and care!! I learned to negotiate and accept and forgive as part of our mission to make Disciples for Christ. We washed each others' feet as we tried to do God's Will at this Church for generations ahead, and leave our egos and prejudices out of it. We learned very quickly about the needs in our community. Joyce and I learned to spend our time and worldly goods on projects and services which changed our lives for the good of all.

We joined with our leaders in helping with Fusion, Aid to UMCOR, local needs for the Matthew Project, the UMW and UMM.

We were hearing God's Word in our Worship and being inspired by it to go out into the world to serve. Things like The Greater Milford Boys and Girls Club—where young people have a safe place to learn and play, have early access to computer training, learn to swim, hungry children are fed, and Counselors see to feeding their mental and spiritual health. LIVES ARE CHANGED!! I HAVE HEARD THE STORIES AND SEEN IT WORK!! Feet are washed!! Milford's new Hospital always needs extra hands and voices in many areas.

LIVES ARE SAVED!! Not only in the Operating Rooms or the Emergency Room, but through Health Education and expert care. Volunteers push carts, transport patients, comfort families, and make phone calls.

Other places which have needs for Volunteers are: Peoples Place, Delaware Hospice Center, Veterans Home, KSI, schools can always use mentors, CODE PURPLE and Milford Library.

There are many volunteers in these named places who are Avenue Members and members of other Churches and Organizations in the Milford Community.

My service to our community is inspired by the goodness of God through Jesus and his great LOVE for us. My part is small but it has brought me great joy and a chance to love everyone else in the world as much as I love myself.

Jesus said, "Do as I have done to you".

CHANGE LIVES! WASH FEET! DO! KNOW THE JOY!

Thank You,

Bob Voshell

Witness to Our Faith

From: *Joyce Voshell*

My faith journey began here at Avenue Church. I was baptized here, attend Sunday School, took my catechism classes, and joined the church when I was twelve years old. My acceptance of Christ as my savior and friend did not come to me in one stunning event or revelation. Instead it came like the dawn, as a realization of Jesus' love and sacrifice for me, a sinner. The seeds for this project were planted in my heart as a child and watered by wonderful Sunday School teachers and mentors, Rebecca and Sarah, and several Elizabeths, and then God made the harvest. I loved learning the many stories and songs as a child and later becoming a teacher and mentor myself.

Church music was always a way of expressing my love for Christ and His church and I still enjoy it very much. Singing in the choir and attending many Bible studies were highlights for my spiritual growth.

I continued through nursing school and young adulthood to attend church wherever I was and met many interesting and wonderful Christians. They taught me by lesson and by example how to live a meaningful and joyful life as a disciple. Many times I failed but God's grace came to lift me up and set my feet on the steep path again. I am so thankful for His unfailing love. As a member of United Methodist Women, over many years, I met and served with the most amazing and I learned from them on many levels.

I married Bob in 1958 and we have two daughters who have grown into intelligent, loving, caring women. We also have two wonderful son-in-laws, and four grandsons who are the love of our lives. I am so thankful!

Now I am old and the journey has been long, but lovely and I face the future with thanks and praise for the opportunities for service that I have been given. I still want to serve in whatever capacity I can. I can still cook and write and pray and I am so thankful. God has led me and healed me and helped me through thus far and I am assured of His hand on me forever.



Because oranges can be cut to make smiley and joyful mouths, they represent our second fruit of the spirit **“Joy”**.

Oranges have many health benefits. They are a good source of fiber, which helps with our digestive health. Oranges are a good source of vitamins and minerals,

- **Vitamin C.** Oranges are an excellent source of vitamin C. It is a great antioxidant. Just one large orange provides over 100% of your daily requirements of vitamin C.
- **Thiamine.** Also called vitamin B, function is to help convert carbohydrates into energy. It is a very good source for the brain and nervous system.
- **Folate.** Also called vitamin B9 or folic acid. It helps to create new blood cells and maintain healthy skin cells
- **Potassium.** Is considered a mineral and electrolyte, which conducts electrical impulses in the body. Intake of potassium can lower blood pressure; and helps muscles that control breathing and heartbeat. Oranges are a good source of potassium.

<https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/foods/oranges#vitamins-and-minerals>

Oranges are low in calorie and a healthy refreshing snack. Keeping us healthy and joyful!

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

John 15:11

