



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, August 19, 2020*

This upcoming Sunday we will celebrate the third of four baptisms in the month of August. It is always exciting to meet with families to talk about their life, their marriage, and their child that will be baptized. In the midst of those conversations, I am able to start connecting the dots of how God's grace has been at work in the parents and the child's life. Often times, the parents have yet to recognize God's hand moving in their lives and the life of their child.

This grace that is at work before we recognize it is called "prevenient grace" by John Wesley. It is the grace that goes before us. When we bring a child to be baptized, the child cannot choose baptism or Christ. At baptism, parents recognize that God is already at work in their child's life.

Since March, many of us have wrestled with the COVID-19 outbreak and the challenging physical, mental, and spiritual struggles that have come from it. And yet, God's grace is still active in our lives even when we believe that God has been silent. God has not forgotten about you.

A good challenge this week would be to prayerfully think about the last six months and identify the ways in which God has been moving in our lives. It could be a renewed friendship that was only possible while we were in lockdown. It may be a new hobby that is bringing you life. It could be a different rhythm in your day-to-day life that has allowed you to be more attentive in your relationship with God. God is moving in our lives. We must have eyes and ears to recognize it.

As you go about your week, let us look for God's grace in ourselves and in others. Let us celebrate God's grace that goes before us, even when we are unaware.

Pastor Steve

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## In-Person Worship Update

After six weeks of worshipping in-person, we continue to see our numbers increase as people come back to town and become comfortable worshipping in-person. As a church, we are committed to providing the safest experience that we can. This means wearing a mask at all-times, practicing social distancing, no-contact worship, and no singing (or singing quietly to yourself).

As our numbers rise, we are still under restrictions from our Bishop and Governor on capacity limits. We may need to institute a reservation system so we can safely provide space for those who come to worship. We continue to look at how we can offer worship that is meaningful and life-giving while keeping our community healthy. If you have questions regarding worship, please contact Pastor Steve LaMotte ([srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com)) or our Minister of Music, Kevin Chamberlain ([KBChamberlain@avenueumc.com](mailto:KBChamberlain@avenueumc.com)).

## 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](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*

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Avenue Family,

We just wanted to thank you for all the support. Mom and baby are now home safe and sound. It is an exciting time and great time of remembering of how much God loves us all.

Raven was born at 7:58 am on Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>. She was 7 lbs, 15 oz. and 20 and 3/4 inches. Thank you again for all the prayers and support.

The Leister's

**Raven Leister    8/16/20**

## 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](https://facebook.com/avenueumc)) and Youtube ([youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch](https://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 Friday** from 9:00 am 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 [prayer@avenueumc.com](mailto:prayer@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:** So far we have not had any Avenue Families that needs help on Sunday for food or diapers. If your family needs assistance with food and/or diapers, please call Tita Lewis at (302) 664-1321 and Tita will try and meet you at your convenience. The Milford Community Pantry provides enough food for 5 days.

The food pantry will be open on Tuesday’s and Friday’s from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** is August 30<sup>th</sup> during the 7:00 p.m. outdoor service. We would normally have celebrating Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, but COVID changed our schedule. Our students have completed the course and are ready to make their commitments of faith. Join us on **Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

*Confirmation Students: Nick Dominick, Will Evans, Abigail LaMotte, Kylie Moorman, Brayden O’Brien, Cooper Pattillo, Natalie Stevenson, Cooper Wilkins and Emily Zammetti.*

**THIRD GRADE BIBLES:** We are compiling a list of our students who will begin Third Grade this school year so that we may present them with a Bible. If your child will be a third grader, please email Kelly at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com).

**BUILDING USAGE THIS FALL:** Because of COVID-19, the space we provide for meetings and groups will be reduced to ensure social distancing is followed. If you are leading a church group or thinking about holding a meeting/study at the church this Fall, we need proposed dates by August 31<sup>st</sup> so that we can begin putting our calendar together. You can email Kelly at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com).

## **DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY:** Ken and Missy Wilcox will be providing Financial Peace University virtually for Avenue and Orchard Churches. FPU is a great class for individuals and couples looking to find peace in their financial life. Classes begin **September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm** and run for eight weeks. You must register ahead of time to participate. The cost is \$129 for the materials. You can sign up at <https://www.fpu.com/promo> Contact Ken and Missy at [kmbsw123@gmail.com](mailto:kmbsw123@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**INTERESTED IN LEADING A SMALL GROUP STUDY:** One thing many of have missed during the COVID-19 outbreak is the opportunity to be in relationship with others. Small Group ministry can provide the opportunity for growth in our walk with God as well as growing our relationship with others. If you have an interested in leading a online or in-person small group (we'll train), please contact Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> lesson is "Great Faith" based on Matthew 15:21-28; and August 30<sup>th</sup> 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 is 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 will meet on Wednesdays in August 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).

**OUTREACH TO SCHOOL STUDENTS:** As Milford School District begins rolling out plans for the upcoming school year, virtual or hybrid learning is our present reality. There is a gap for many families and students in the Milford School District (and beyond) when it comes to access to High-Speed Internet needed for virtual learning. Avenue is exploring opening Fellowship Hall during the day for students to access our WiFi in order to be able to complete their work. We are forming a team to see how we can help all Milford students succeed in the upcoming school year. *If you are interested in helping shape this ministry to our community, please email Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).*

**YOUNG ADULT GATHERING** will take place on **Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you are a Young Adult 18-35ish, come out and join us for lunch, conversation, and a look at ways for you to be connected to the greater work and ministry of Avenue Church. Email Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com) to sign-up for lunch.

**BELATED ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Gary and Brenda Powers** who celebrated their **50<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **August 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:**

- **Harry and Carolyn Humes** will celebrate their **60<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **August 27<sup>th</sup>**.

**SYMPATHIES TO:**

- The family and friends of Gene Hemshrot who passed away on August 4, 2020. Gene joined Avenue on March 20, 2005.

**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
- 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:**

Amberley Arter	Charlie & Barbara	Ricki McGuire
Ed Bailey	Fleetwood	Laurel Pastor
Frank Beebe	Ellen Coulbourne Hall	Jan Perkins
Bobby Bergez and family	Craig Hanna	Bob Randolph
Ben	Pat Hudson	Kathy Rumery
Bill & Marty Brereton	Doris Isele	Phil Saint
Bob Cage	Karl Isele	Richard Sapp
Brittany and Baby Naomi	Dottie & Jerry Jackson	Chris Shultz
Jeff Carmine	Alvin Jarrell	Roland Simms
Jennifer Clarke	Dean Johnson	Racheal Simesak
Jack & Denny Collins	Kourtney	John Smallwood and family
Luisa & Billy Combs	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Sally Stevenson
Kim Coulbourne	Ellie Lauckner	Teresa
Donna and Keith Coverdale	Jean Layton	Joan Wadman
Julie Dally	Mary Jo Lear	
Josiah Davis	Nancy Lee	
Joanna Denney	Jack & Zelda McDuff	

## *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: Everett Tyrrell*

My name is Everett Tyrrell and my Journey of Faith began on a small, desolate road. The first thing was, that I knew a lot of thought needs to go into this and so, I decided to follow Christ. I knew the road I was staring on, nice and smooth at the beginning, wouldn't always be this way. I also knew that my decision had been made to follow GOD.

As I've traveled down this road, encumbered by rocks and mud and such; along with many trials and tests, such as losing a daughter, enduring a house fire; I *STILL* depend on God, not on the "whys". The ability to accept God's big picture and let go of my own agenda has sustained me throughout my journey.  
Everett L. Tyrrell



## *Witness to Faith*

*From: Lee Tyrrell*

My name is Robin Lee Bounds Terry Tyrrell, and I was born on the Eastern shore of Virginia in a tiny little town called Nassawadox. From my earliest memories, we were always involved in church, thus beginning my Journey of Faith. My maternal grandmother was the pianist who accompanied the choir at her church. Every time we went to see them, we would always go to their church; to a little tiny country church called Red Bank Baptist Church. I can also remember going to my aunt's house in Pocomoke City in the summertime – just in time to coincide with Bible school at *her* church, and I can remember going more than once!

We moved from Virginia to Delaware in 1959 and began attending Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Seaford. I was confirmed there and I really liked it; all the really *cool* kids came to Mt Olivet, so we were all friends – and that was of utmost importance in high school in Seaford, as it was exceedingly “clique-ish”. All was good from a young teen's point of view – all was fine in my world. I was fifteen years and eight months old on September 22, 1970; the day that my life and the life of my sister were changed forever - when we lost our Mother to suicide. I knew that my Mother had been the glue that held our family and *my life* together – and that nothing would ever be the same again. I learn more each passing year just how much I lost by not having a Mother guide me through my teens and onward to be a responsible adult and a good mother; the more my sister and I talk about it, I understand that losing our Mother had an even more profound effect on her. My head knows that my Mother was very sick in her mind; I don't know if my heart ever will understand that. I mean, *how can a MOTHER do that to her child???* My sister and I are extremely fortunate however, in that we had a *G R E A T* Dad. My dad went with me to pick out my wedding gown! How many brides can say that? My dad also, right before he walked me down the aisle to marry my first husband, whispered in my ear, “You know, we can leave right now if you want to”. Of course I laughed it off as though it was a joke but . . . I *really* should have paid better attention!

So yes, I got married to a guy I had gone to Jr. High School with – he moved into his step-sister's house after graduating from High School in Pennsylvania (across the street from where I grew up) and went to work at the DuPont plant for a year or so, then left for Army Basic Training. While he was in school for the work he would be doing while serving, we got engaged and married. A year later, I decided to join the Army and was stationed at Redstone Arsenal, in Huntsville, Alabama. I LOVED everything about being in the Army! I liked the discipline and hey – the simple fact that I didn't have to pick out what I was going to wear every morning was wonderful! There was little to no church during this time in my life. Have you ever heard the term “unequally yoked”? Those words would definitely describe my first marriage.

Back to Seaford we go where we set up housekeeping. My first husband, however, wasn't very interested in being married. We had only relocated back to the Seaford area for a few months before my sons' Father decided that he would much rather be free of the bonds of matrimony – and off he went. Our two sons are sixteen months apart, and several months after my younger son's birth, his Father decided our marriage was worth a second try – which lasted for four years. I found myself ill-equipped to raise two sons on my own. Believe me, those two opened up a *whole* new world to me! Anyway, my dad and my grandmother both continually told me “you need to get those boys in church”, so the boys and I visited a couple of churches, but,

strangely enough, we all three felt most comfortable at Mt. Olivet – so that’s where we went. My dad was still living and attending Mt. Olivet at that time. I was invited to become a member of the choir, the boys and I helped with Bible School (after they got too old to attend); and the boys both joined the Boy Scout Troop associated with Mt. Olivet and were both confirmed there. Enter Earle and Lisa Baker. Pastor Earle came to Mt. Olivet upon the death of Pastor Dick Varrell, who died obviously unexpectedly, at the age of thirty-nine (in a gym, no less). Anyway, it seemed that every time Pastor Earle preached, something he said truly touched my heart. As I came to know them better, Earle and Lisa helped me through many, many rough patches. When I lost my dad to lung cancer – *and felt as though I had lost my anchor* – Earle and Lisa were there for me. Lisa is who taught me that God was not ignoring me, or my pleas, my prayers, or my petitions to Him that seemingly went ignored; that maybe *I* wasn’t listening hard enough to *hear* Him. I took Discipleship I with Lisa as facilitator. I was invited to attend the Walk to Emmaus around this time of my life and I accepted. Another friend suggested to me *how* I might ask God for an answer – and I learned *that He had been listening to my pleas all along*, just like Lisa had told me!!!

About this time, I got brave. Since Everett and I had been dating for a couple months, I followed my friend’s advice and I asked God for a *specific* sign that Everett was the man I had been praying for over the previous 16 years. I asked, “God, please. Show me a purple flower”. And He did. Twice within an hour, no less! So I learned, without a shadow of a doubt, that I serve a living God! He looked down on me...lowly me...and granted the most private wishes of my heart. My prayer was for a *GOOD* man, and God put Everett in my life.

We have now been married for just over twenty years. We have endured, and I believe God has led us through the many, many trials that life includes, such as losing a daughter, losing a Mother, losing a grandmother, losing a home first to water damage when we were away attending a Sweet Adeline Regional Convention; and most recently, when we lost quite a bit of our home to fire damage (while *I* was away at the Sweet Adeline National Convention). Yet here we both are, walking along in harmony in this life that God has given us. As I’ve heard Everett say many times, “God does nothing halfway”. And I know without a doubt that He put us together.

...and I know with all of my heart that I serve a *living GOD!!!*

Oh, and by the way, I’m Lee Tyrrell, now.  
Lee Tyrrell



**Blueberries represent our 6<sup>th</sup> Fruit of the Spirit “Goodness”. We use blueberries because they are considered a super food packed with “Goodness”.**

Blueberries are a good source of fiber to help with the digestive system. They also contain vitamins and minerals. Vitamin K1, is one vitamin and is used by the body for blood clotting. Vitamin C helps maintain healthy skin and a healthy immune systems. It also contains manganese that is used to help metabolize fats, protein and carboyhdrates in our body.

Blueberries are also rich in antioxidants such as anthocyanin and quercetin which help to protect against heart disease. Myricetin is another antioxidant that helps prevent cancer and diabetes.

**Blueberries are a superfood representing “Goodness” and goodness is a super way we can demonstrate God’s love.** <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/foods/blueberries>

**“We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him,  
called according of his purpose.”**

**Romans 8:28**

**“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give  
glory to your Father who is in heaven.”**

**Matthew 5:16**

