



The Midweek

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

We are in the home stretch for the 2020 Presidential Election marked by the first debate held last night. Campaign text messages and phone calls are increasing. There is an increased amount of angst being peddled by media outlets and talking heads based on their political bias. Over the last several weeks in worship, we've been talking about how to live a life that is shaped by Jesus. With that said, how do we prepare for the elections in a way that reflects Jesus?

- No political party fully encapsulates the teachings of Jesus. No candidate is "God's chosen" candidate. Each party and candidate are deeply flawed because of sin. As Christians, we must look at each issue and candidate through the lens of the teachings of Jesus.
- Democrats/Republicans are not the enemy. As Christians, we should seek to avoid polarization and the labeling that occurs in the culture at large. We must remember that our identity as Christians is more important than our political party. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."
- Do not do the work of the enemy by spreading lies, innuendo, fear, or accusations.
- Listen to those who are different than you. Try to seek understanding and to build bridges rather than finding ways to "win arguments."
- As Christians, we should not gloat over victories, but serve one another out of love. When candidate "A" wins the election, think about all the people who will be discouraged, depressed, saddened, joyful, or smug by his victory. Take time to pray genuinely and humbly for them. Likewise, when candidate "B" wins, do the same for those experience

the same range of emotions. Continue to pray for your own heart, as well.

- As those who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we will not fear tomorrow, nor will we cause others to fear. In this life, we are called to do the work of redemption that God is bringing about. This will be unfinished work until the final resurrection. We have hope, then, that God will make all things new.

There are certainly other ways that Christians can prepare for the coming election, but this is a starter list. Let us repent of the sin and evil in our lives and in our nation. Let us be guided by the Holy Spirit to pray for one another and to show love towards all people, including those different from us. Let us pray for Donald Trump, Joe Biden, and their running mates that they would respond to the Spirit's movement in their own lives.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

Service Opportunities at Avenue Virtual Café

Avenue is actively opening our doors for students who need a safe and reliable place for virtual learning. We are open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00-3:00 p.m. If you are interested in signing up for a three and a half hour shift, follow the link below to sign up to help. You must complete a background check (or have one on file in the last three years) in order to serve in this ministry. Contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com or at 422-8111 for more information.

To sign up to serve, go to: <https://calendly.com/avenuevcafe/vsessions>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

EVENING WORSHIP : The Outdoor Evening Worship Service is moving to **6:00 p.m.** Bring your chair and blanket and join us on the lawn for a great evening of worship led by our Praise Team.

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 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. 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 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: The Milford Community Pantry continues to operate on Tuesday’s and Friday’s from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. We seen an average of 4-6 families each day. We are also seeing families in need of diapers from our Diaper Closet. If you need food at another time please call Tita Lewis at (302) 236-6616.

Our current needs are cereal (without sugar coating), saltines and chunky soup. For the Diaper Closet we need wipes and sizes 4 and 5 diapers. We have a good supply of newborn and size one. Thank you so much for your ongoing support, Tita and Diane.

CHARGE CONFERENCE is Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will take place via ZOOM with our District Superintendent, The Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa. This is a time to celebrate what God has done and to anticipate what God will do in the upcoming year. Please register your intent to participate in the Charge Conference by emailing the Church Office so that we know who do send the ZOOM link out to. All may attend, but you must be a professing member of Avenue Church to vote.

HELP WANTED! AVENUE GREETER TEAM: The Avenue Greeter team needs your help. We’re inviting you to join and help serve in this ministry. No experience needed, just a friendly smile and some of your time (a few Sunday mornings throughout the year). If you’re interested, please call John Horsman at (302) 222-6642.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW): The UMW have contacted the Milford District schools to see if there are any needs that students and teachers have. Craig Warrington asked that we collect **hand sanitizer** and masks for schools. We have a source for masks (although we will accept masks). Alcohol content of hand sanitizer needs to be 70% or more. Please try for more of a get consistency than water consistency. Items can be left in church office or with any UMW that lives near you. More needs will be listed as we get them.

Also, Camp Pecometh is asking for donations since their events have had to be cancelled this year. Camp Pecometh provides Christian camping experiences for many children and youth each year and we want them to be able to continue with their mission. We continue to support Camp Pecometh and hope you do too. Stay tuned. Thank you.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday Morning Sisters' Bible Study will be meeting at **10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**. Our study of Jesus will conclude on **October 6th**. We will begin our study of Jonah with Priscilla Shirer on October 13th.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired is meeting under the shade tree on the New Century Property next to the Church at 10:15AM. Our study for October is "Remember Who You Are." The lesson for October 4th is "Our Mysterious but Approachable God" based on Exodus 24:1-12; October 11th lesson is "Choose Today" based on Joshua 24:14-28; October 18th lesson is "Food for Our Souls" based on Nehemiah 8:1-12; and the lesson for October 25th is "One With Christ and One Another" based on Luke 22:14-20. Feel free to join us under the tree for these exciting lessons. Please bring your own chair.

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 GREETINGS TO:

- **Jean Murphy** who will be celebrating her **93rd** birthday on **October 1st**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Hank & Birgit Haefeli** will be celebrating their **65th** anniversary on **October 1st**.
- **Robert & Shirley Bannan** will be celebrating their **59th** anniversary on **October 7th**.
- **Jack & Zelda McDuff** will be celebrating their **50th** anniversary on **October 10th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

- **Ramie Ziesel** on the death of his brother, Leonard Ziesel on September 10th.

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	Craig Hanna	Mary Ellin Parsons
Ed Bailey	Pat Hudson	Laurel Pastor
Frank Beebe	Doris Isele	Jan Perkins
Bobby Bergez and family	Karl Isele	Melissa Poore
Bill & Marty Brereton	Dottie & Jerry Jackson	Bob Randolph
Bob Cage	Alvin Jarrell	Millie Remick
Brittany and Baby Naomi	Dean Johnson	Roy Rigby
Jennifer Clarke	Kourtney	Phil Saint
Pat Clearly	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Char Sandifer
Jack & Denny Collins	Ellie Lauckner	Richard Sapp
Luisa & Billy Combs	Jean Layton	Leo Shew
Donna and Keith Coverdale	Johnny	Roland Simms
Julie Dally	Mary Jo Lear	Racheal Simesak
Josiah Davis	Lauren Lee	John Smallwood and family
Joanna Denney-Turner	Nancy Lee	Ann Sutcliff
Tim Dennison	Brittany Poore Little	Teresa
Charlie & Barbara	Lyn	Joan Wadman
Fleetwood	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Betty Ziesel
Dylan Fox	Ricki McGuire	
Kathleen Friedline	Chip and Gabby McKinney	
Charles Glenn	Frank Mentusky	
Ellen Coulbourne Hall	Orville Mills	
Al Hanna	Jason Neall	

Fusion Fall Schedule

October 4th- Fusion 3 PM-5 PM

October 9th- Movie Night 6:30 PM

The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe- PG

October 11th - No Fusion

October 18th - Fusion 3 PM-5 PM

October 25th - Fusion 3 PM-5 PM

October 31st 12 PM-3 PM Paintball

@ Precision Paintball Georgetown, DE

November 1st - No Fusion



@FusionatAvenue



@fusionatavenue



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Remind App: Text @fusavenue to 81010



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: Harriet Davies

I learned a little about being a Methodist and a lot about the love of Jesus in action in the tiny one room Methodist church where I grew up in rural NE Pennsylvania. My first Sunday School teacher was the older sister of my friend, Esther. We memorized the books of the Bible and shared many Bible stories. Not only was she our Sunday School teacher; she also taught us to ice skate. She became a WAC—we weren't sure what that meant, but we knew she was special.

Another Sunday School teacher was the mom of my other friend, Julie. Again, not only was she our teacher; she was also our 4-H leader and taught us sewing during our meetings at her house.

Then there was Ellen Sheffler, who was always there. She acted as the SS superintendent, but she also made sure the furnace was up and running on Sundays and kept the place clean. She lived across the road from our little two room, grades 1-6, elementary school. She let us come across the road and pump drinking water from her hand pump. When I think of the “poor widow” story I think of Ellen.

Widowed as long as I knew her, she always had a nickel for the collection plate. I'm afraid sometimes we snickered when we heard it drop—ugh!

And then, “Aunt” Mae Harvey, our neighbor on the farm next door. Aunt Mae was, hands down, my mother's best friend. She was with Mom in her bedroom long before Dr. Davenport arrived for the birth of five of the six of us. (Because she was 40 when #6 arrived, Doc insisted Mom go to the recently-opened hospital—she was not happy!) But Aunt Mae also was president of the Ladies' Aid. I wanted to be just like her because she got to call people to ask them to “furnish” particular dishes for church dinners. Oh, if she could see me now as I

make my begging calls for food for funeral receptions!

Beginning when we were around 12 and through our teen years, we had a pretty active MYF. We could never afford a “real” pastor, so we had a succession of supply pastors shared with two other churches. However, the one who started the MYF is the only one I really remember. Several of us were confirmed during his years. He had a gift for preaching so that I felt I could see and hear Jesus in his sermons, and he really cared about us young people.

About that time, Bob Harvey (no relation to Aunt Mae), our pianist, offered to start a choir. I didn't realize until later that he was really a pretty awful pianist, but again, he loved us, made time for us, and taught us as much as he could about singing in a group.

My dad was a worker bee. I seem to remember he was treasurer for a period of time. But if a manual job needed to be done, he could be counted on to help with it. Because he had been up for hours milking cows before church, I don't believe he ever heard a whole sermon; he was usually asleep by then. But he did show up!

My dad gave me the nature bug without realizing it. I remember the night he asked me if I would like to stay out in the barn to watch my first calf being born. I was nine; it was amazing. One of my jobs was to walk out through the pastures during the spring and summer to bring the cows home to be milked. From the highest point of our farm, there is a good view of the small mountain that is the backdrop for the town eight miles away. I still love time in the mountains and nature is my spiritual home. Whether I'm paddling a local river, biking or hiking a local trail or one in a distant state, it's in nature that I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit most profoundly.

I cannot forget Irv. When I announced that I wanted to be married at that little church, he gathered a group of the farmers together and they gave the interior a fresh coat of paint! No one could remember the last wedding there—most people just went to a minister's house or if they wanted a larger wedding, they went downtown. They were pleased and wanted to show Russ and me that they cared.

I was there last November for the memorial service of Peggy Harvey, daughter-in-law of Aunt Mae, and the love shown that day was palpable. Several hundred people arrived at some point to pay their respects to her. Using their comments and my own, I spoke for the four of us siblings who left the area

after we graduated from high school about Peggy's and the community's influence on us. I also thanked those whose spirits could be felt there that day. The people in that little church helped shape my world view, supported me early in my journey of faith, and helped me become and remain a United Methodist.

Music, my love for nature, especially mountains, Methodism and showing love through action, my passions today, and the foundation was set all those years ago in that tiny Pennsylvania church and community.



Tetanus is different from other vaccine-preventable diseases because it does not spread from person to person. The bacteria are usually found in soil, dust, and manure and enter the body through breaks in the skin — usually cuts or puncture wounds caused by contaminated objects.

Today, tetanus is uncommon in the United States, with an average of about 30 reported cases each year. Nearly all cases of tetanus are among people who did not get all the recommended tetanus vaccinations. This includes people who have never received a tetanus vaccine and adults who don't stay up to date on their 10-year booster shots. The first sign is most commonly spasms of the muscles of the jaw, or "lockjaw."

Symptoms of Tetanus

- Jaw cramping
- Sudden, involuntary muscle tightening (muscle spasms) — often in the stomach
- Painful muscle stiffness all over the body
- Trouble swallowing
- Jerking or staring (seizures)
- Headache
- Fever and sweating
- changes in blood pressure and heart rate



Tetanus bacteria can infect the body through breaks in the skin caused by:

- wounds contaminated with dirt, poop (feces), or spit (saliva)
- Wounds caused by an object puncturing the skin (puncture wounds), like a nail or needle
- Burns
- Crush injuries
- Injuries with dead tissue
- Clean superficial wounds (when only the topmost layer of skin is scraped off)
- Surgical procedures
- Insect bites
- Dental infections
- Compound fractures (a break in the bone where it is exposed)
- Chronic sores and infections
- Intravenous (IV) drug use
- Intramuscular injections (shots given in a muscle) <https://www.cdc.gov/tetanus/about/index.html>

“Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established. The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble”.

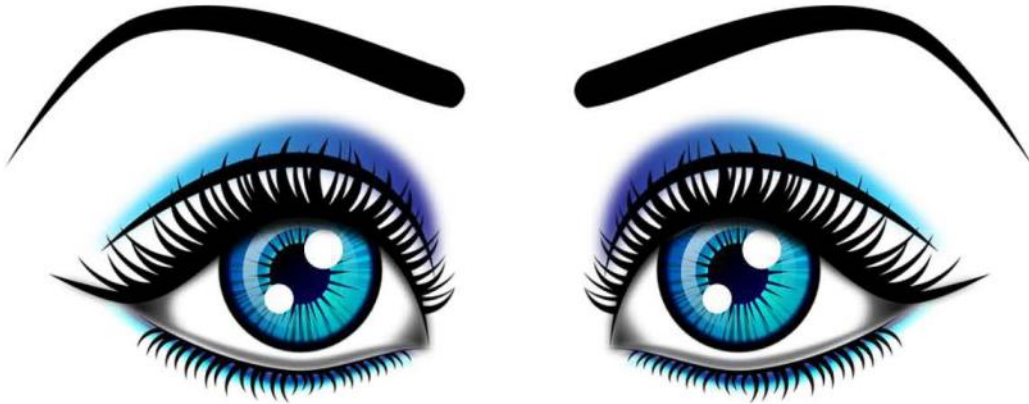
Proverbs 3:3-4



Health Ministry



Keep a look out!!



**The Flu vaccine will be
available in October at Avenue
United Methodist Church!!**

**Flu vaccine drive by station will be at the church on
October 18, 2020 8:30-12:00. Forms requiring your
information and insurance information will be available
online and at the church. All paperwork must be
completed ahead of time!! We have the pharmacist for
3.5 hours only. If you have any questions, please let me
know.**

You must bring the completed paper work in order to get the
flu vaccine.

For the month of September, we will be looking at information available to help you determine whether you or your child should be vaccinated against different diseases. The CDC web site listed provides information and the vaccination schedule you and your healthcare provider can use.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html>