



The Midweek

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

The following is from Beth Parker's Charge Conference Devotional from October 3, 2020.

I miss smiles and I miss smiling. I miss singing and choir practice. I miss rehearsing anthems, over and over, so that they stay in my head all week long. I really miss seeing more of my Avenue family on Sunday mornings, sharing ideas and brainstorming with the UMW Board team and I miss meeting in small groups of UMW circles. I miss our book group in person discussions. I miss seeing families and hear the laughter of children. I miss Sunday morning coffee pot gatherings. I know many of you can join me in the "I miss" items and could add many more.

Even with all the things we miss, we know that God has given us a new way to worship and a new way of living. We also know that God is the same God today as yesterday. We know that God is in charge and promises us that he is with us each day. We know that God is making all things new. He is with us during sleepless nights and long days. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go". (Joshua 1:9)

How do we know that God is with us during a pandemic? Because good things are happening even as we deal with all the racial unrest, political discord, weather extremes and Covid-19. New things are happening. Here is a peace during some quiet times that affirms that God is near. During in-person worship when I was quietly humming the hymns, I quickly realized that the words become more meaningful. Isn't *For the Beauty of the Earth* a wonderful song of praise? We are grateful to God for this earth, for every hour of each day and night, for joy of human love and then we **give grateful praise** for all we have. Now the **hymns** stay in my mind and keep me humming all week long.

The live streaming services are truly a blessing. So very many people, no matter where they are can be part of worship and hear a sermon that speaks to them. We pray together whether

in person or on-line. When worshipping at home, one can sing with gusto. Worship outdoors, in cars or on lawn chairs allows families and others together for our evening worship. Online daily devotionals, which support the sermon series, are an additional plus to our regular meditations. Fusion Student Ministries are meeting outside and for Youth Group and movie nights. Even as I miss in person Book Group and Bible studies, the video Bible and book studies have continued to let me share ideas and challenge my thinking on topics that impact my faith. *The Color of Compromise*, by Jemar Tisby, confronted me and informed my thinking in new ways. Steve, Kevin, Will, Kelly and Curtis and others have worked tirelessly to make these new ways of worship and learning happen.

God is calling us **to live** in new ways, to worship in new ways and to serve while going through a pandemic. Good things are happening and we don't want to miss them. We at Avenue are called to serve and have reached out to make time and space available for school children that need Wifi. We are collecting masks and hand sanitizer for those who can't afford to buy it. We are donating water and food treats to hospital workers and we are calling and checking in on each other. We are making sure our church family and friends are ok. We can continue to care, continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus and humbly serve others as we give with love and gratitude to God. So, as it says in Galatians 6: 9-10,

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all the people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

The verse says do good to all the people. Our God is making all things new.

Beth Parker

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.

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.

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING: There will be a Young Adult Gathering on **Sunday, October 18th** at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will have lunch together and be discussing how to develop habits to grow in our faith. If you are 19-35ish, come on out and join us! Please RSVP by emailing Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com

PRAYER GATHERING FOR OUR NATION: Avenue will be gathering for a time of prayer on **Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30 p.m.** for a time of prayer for our nation as we prepare for

the 2020 election. Our time together will be filled with worship, corporate prayer and repentance, as well as times of guided prayer. Please RSVP for the Prayer Gathering by emailing Kelly at churchoffice@avenueumc.com

ALL-SAINTS DAY IS NOVEMBER 1ST: During our worship gatherings on **Sunday, November 1st** we will be holding a time of remembrance for the saints who have gone on to glory over the course of the previous year. Please make plans to join us for this special time of worship.

OUTDOOR SERVICE IS MOVING INDOORS: On **Sunday, November 1st**, the Outdoor Evening Service will be moving in to the Sanctuary for worship at 6:00 p.m. Participants will need to wear masks and practice social distancing while inside the building. Our outdoor “experiment” was a lot of fun this summer and is likely to return when the weather is nicer and the daylight longer in 2021.

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**. 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 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:

- **Marian Leister** who will be celebrating her **100th** birthday on **October 7th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Robert & Shirley Bannan** will be celebrating their **59th** anniversary on **October 7th**.
- **Jack & Zelda McDuff** will be celebrating their **50th** anniversary on **October 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	Jason Neall
Ed Bailey	Dave Harris	Mary Ellin Parsons
Frank Beebe	Pat Hudson	Laurel Pastor
Bobby Bergez and family	Doris Isele	Jan Perkins
Bill & Marty Brereton	Karl Isele	Melissa Poore
Bob Cage	Dottie & Jerry Jackson	Bob Randolph
Brittany and Baby Naomi	Alvin Jarrell	Millie Remick
Jennifer Clarke	Dean Johnson	Roy Rigby
Pat Clearly	Kourtney	Phil Saint
Jack & Denny Collins	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Char Sandifer
Luisa & Billy Combs	Ellie Lauckner	Richard Sapp
Donna and Keith Coverdale	Jean Layton	Leo Shew
Julie Dally	Johnny	Roland Simms
Josiah Davis	Mary Jo Lear	Racheal Simesak
Joanna Denney-Turner	Lauren Lee	Gary Simpson
Tim Dennison	Nancy Lee	John Smallwood and family
Charlie & Barbara	Brittany Poore Little	Ann Sutcliff
Fleetwood	Lyn	Teresa
Dylan Fox	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Joan Wadman
Kathleen Friedline	Ricki McGuire	Betty Ziesel
Charles Glenn	Chip and Gabby McKinney	
Ellen Coulbourne Hall	Frank Mentusky	
Al Hanna	Orville Mills	

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



@FusionatAvenue



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: Cindy Horsman MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse

Until I was 6 years old my father was a mean and abusive man. My grandmother prayed for him every day. The pastor from the First Baptist Church in North East, Rev Spencer would come by the house to try to lead my father to the Lord and my father would tell him to get off his property. Rev Spencer vowed that one day he would win my father's soul to the Lord. That day came in 1963! My father became saved.

I knew my father was saved when as a family we were taking down a wall in the kitchen. My father hit his thumb with the hammer. Blood was squirting and six kids ran and hid. Instead of my father cursing and becoming abusive he looked at his thumb and said, "God bless my thumb". All of us kids peaked around the corner to witness this change.

My father wanted his role to be a soul winner for the Lord. He led me to the Lord, and I was baptized on New Year's Eve 1962. My fathers first Sunday school class contained 6 boys, today all those boys are pastors. My father became a backup pastor and a chaplain for the prison. He said if God could save and forgive him it could surely change the inmates. My father lead over 3000 people to the lord. At least one of the inmates became a pastor. Many thanked him years later for his work.

Over the years my father and I had a great relationship. I helped him with his sermons and challenged him. I questioned God's abilities and the Bible. We both learned and grew from those sessions. When I was 7, I taught my first Sunday school class there were only 2 people in the class, one was the main teacher.

This teacher, Mrs. Clemens also had us do visitation and we learned the Romans

road to salvation. My father and Mrs. Clemens told me that I didn't want to go to heaven and have someone I knew in hell looking up and saying, "why didn't you tell me about God?"

At 15, I had my own Sunday school class with 12 kids, 10-12 years old, in attendance. I was involved with Youth for Christ and a leader in the Teen Christian class at church. We visited nursing homes to sing and prayed with the residents. One of the leaders would present a short sermon. It was not all work; we went out for ice cream afterwards.

God has protected me from many things. He led me to John, my husband of over 46 years. I am so blessed; all of my children and husband have been baptized. My father led my sons to the Lord before he passed away in 2008.

Over the years the Lord has led me to many adventures. I had a high school diploma and was a housewife, so I did not have any work skills. It cost more for a daycare for 3 kids than I could earn. It sounds crazy, but people began calling me offering jobs that worked around John's job so he could watch the kids. I worked as a cashier, bookkeeper, legal researcher, office manager, and real estate agent among other jobs.

The kids started school, so I decided it was time for me to start my career. I went to Del-Tech and completed a test to see what profession suited me. I came home and said, "guess what John, I am signed up to become a nurse at no cost to us". God opened another door for me. This love of education led me to obtain a Bachelor's degree in nursing and a Master's degree in nursing education.

Over the years, I have worked in many areas of nursing. From patient care to monitoring facilities to nursing education. I have prayed with patients and we talked about God. I retired (so I thought), then Pastor Tom asked if I would be the nurse for Avenue. I had no clue what he meant. He said, "pray about it, God will show you and let me know". September of this year, I completed my Faith Community Nurse /Parish Nurse course and have been commissioned. God opened another door for me. Doing the two things I love, talking about God and caring for others.

God has also blessed me with my own Massage business. I was in a car accident in 1994 and the doctors were suggesting back surgery. I chose chiropractor and massage as an alternative treatment. I had studied massage therapy on my own and thought this treatment could help with my pain. When I had good results after the accident, I prayed about becoming a massage therapist. I

prayed that if God wanted me to be a massage therapist someone would finance it, it wouldn't snow on the days I had to drive to Baltimore for school and the hospital would allow me to have off the days I needed to go to school. The hospital flexed my schedule and paid for the course. Only one snow day the entire semester (500 hours) and I had the flu that day! God was really looking out for me!

Going to massage school was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I met some of the most unique people in the world. It took me out of my comfort zone and out of my protective box. So, my business belongs to God.

Over the years, I taught Bible School, served as the Sunday School Superintendent, and taught Sunday School. At Avenue United Methodist Church, I have been on the Trustees Committee, taught Sunday School and Bible School. Now I am a commissioned Faith Community/Parish Nurse donating my time for Avenue United Methodist Church.

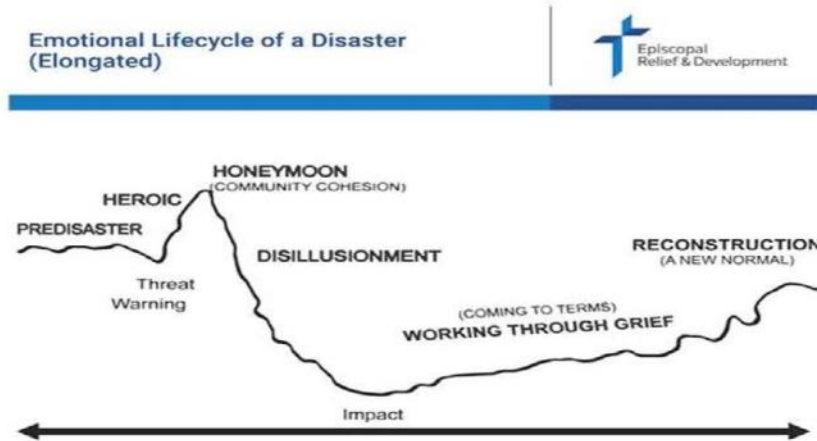
Part of the responsibilities of the Faith Community Nurse is to oversee the Health Ministry program for the church. The program is designed to reach out to members in need in the church through prayers, visitation, phone calls, helping provide home services, reviewing medical information and knock drop and runs during this pandemic. The committee also helps in screening parishioners for COVID and providing education.

God has blessed my life. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 46 years. We grew up together, finished high school together, and both of us have college degrees. We have 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

God brought me through breast cancer twice, as well as chemo, radiation, infections, and many surgeries. God is not done with me yet!! Who knows what door God will open for me? I pray I am always open to his voice in leading and directing of my life.



Since March 2020, we have been dealing with a pandemic. COVID-19 has been and is challenging for us all. So, what is happening? What can we expect? A pandemic affects us like other disasters that occur. The Emotional Lifecycle of a Disaster graph shows how a disaster affects us emotionally. Below is a quick look at how it affects each of us and the stages we have and will go through.



As you notice there is a stage called working through grief. This stage impacts each of us differently. We need to be aware of the different stages and help each other through these stages.

There are many ways we can help each other through these stages. Such as being kind to each other, be tolerant of each other, be nonjudgmental, call one another and check on each other, offer to help where you can, go shopping for a person who is unable to go shopping, make masks for others, prepare your hearts before talking with each other and before posting on social media. Please understand that some people are scared and lashing out, please pray for them.

When you help others, you help yourself!

Remember to pray for your pastor as he is the leader of the church and he needs your support. Pray for your church staff. They work beside and with the pastor to help meet the needs of the congregation.

Remember, if you are depressed or angry or having trouble dealing with life right now, please call and get help. Your healthcare provider can help you find organizations and possible medications that can help you through this time. We are in this together and we need to help each other through the grieving process and work towards rebuilding to a new normal. Maybe, just maybe this new normal will be better than before the pandemic!!

“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together running over, will be put in your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Luke 6:38

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

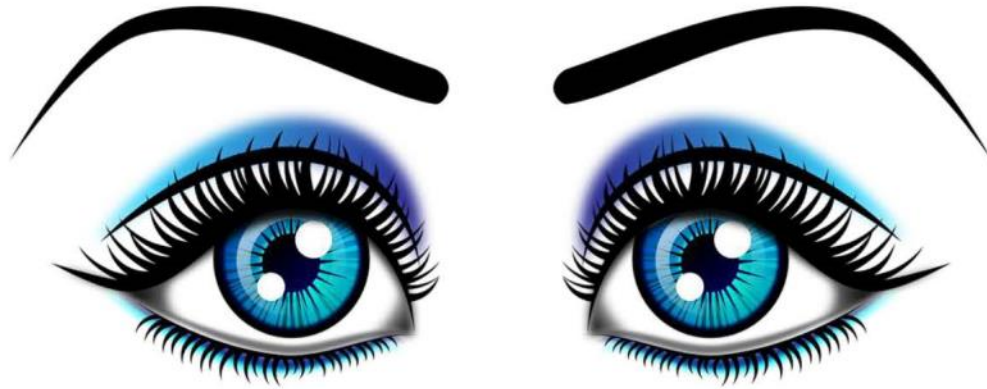
Galatians 6:2



Health Ministry



Mark Your Calendar!!



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 a.m.-12:00p.m. 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.