



The Midweek

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

An Election Day Message from Pastor Steve

Yesterday, we had the opportunity to exercise our rights as Americans to cast our vote for our President and many other political offices. As I stood in line in the cold this morning, I was struck with a sense of duty and pride in casting my vote. As Americans, we are a diverse melting pot of cultures, ideas, and beliefs. It is our freedom in the midst of diversity that helps make America a place different than other places around the globe.

Now that we have cast our votes we wait. Waiting is a spiritual discipline. We are reminded in the Book of Isaiah

“But they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall run and not grow weary. They shall walk and not faint.”
Isaiah 40:31

In waiting on the Lord, our hearts and our minds are filled with expectation even as God renews our strength. We believe that in the waiting, that God is still at work in ways that are not yet visible. As we have waited through this election cycle, God is at work in ways that we do not yet comprehend. When we wait and watch, we will have eyes to see and ears to hear God moving in our midst.

On the 2000 Election Night, my college hallmates and I had decided that we were going to stay up until the election winner was called. By 3:00 a.m., we decided to go to bed. We later became familiar with terms like “hanging chads.” I certainly do not know when the election results will come this year, but the one thing that I know is

that whoever is elected President is that Jesus is still King for the Christian. Our primary allegiance, as Christians, is not to Trump, Biden, or even to America- it is to God. Our ministry and our task will not change tomorrow. We will still be called to love our neighbors and our enemies. We will still be called to care for the poor, the marginalized, and to seek justice for the oppressed. We will still be called to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus to all people.

Lastly, I know there are many who are anxious about the results of the election. May the God of peace bring you a “*peace that passes all understanding*” as we wait, watch, and pray for the future of our nation and community.

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), 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (Contemporary). 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

GIVING STATEMENTS for January 1-September 30, 2020 have been emailed to all members/friends who have emails registered with Avenue Church. If you do not have email and would like a print out of your giving statement, please call Kelly at the church office to request one.

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, green beans and peas. For the 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.

BLESS A FAMILY WITH A THANKSGIVING MEAL: You can sponsor a meal for a family of our community, whom Avenue knows will be most appreciative. Here are 3 different ways you can donate: \$20 (turkey), \$30 for other items or \$50 for a complete meal. Simply mark a check or an envelope with “Turkey, Other Items or Complete Meal” or designate on line donation.

Funding is needed by Sunday, November 15th.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

UMW BOARD MEETING: On **Wednesday, November 4th** we will meet in the Century Club at **3:30 p.m.**

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD OR SHOEBOX MINISTRY: To provide a shoebox of gifts for a child as part of **Shoebox Ministry of Operation Christmas Child**, there are two options. Call Brenda Beissel at 302 270-1764 to make a box for you. Send her \$ 25.00 check to cover all items and shipping. Or pick up a box and brochure from foyer closet shelf and make your own unique gift box. Boxes must be dropped off between November 16th - 23rd so **time is running out**. You can drop off your box at Anchor church of the Greater Milford Boys and Girls Club, 101 Delaware Veterans Blvd, Milford during the day or at Calvary Wesleyan Church in Harrington, DE or at Calvary Church on E. Lebanon Road in Dover in the evening. Each drop off has different times so call the church office for specific days and times.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday Morning Sisters' Bible Study will be meeting at **10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**. We will continue our study of Jonah with Priscilla Shirer on **November 10th**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired is meeting in Fellowship Hall at 10:15AM. Our study for November is "In This Place." The lesson for November 8th lesson is "Worship in the Synagogue" based on Luke 4:31-44; November 15th lesson is "Worship as the Church" based on Matthew 18:15-20; Hebrews 10:19-25; November 22nd lesson is "Worship at the Throne" based on Revelation 4:1-11; and November 29th lesson is "Created, Loved, Known" based on Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-18. Feel free to join us in Fellowship Hall for these exciting lessons.

CODE PURPLE TRAINING: Code Purple Volunteer Training will take place on **Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m.** in the New Century Club building. Code Purple is a Men's Cold Weather Shelter housed at Avenue Church from December 1st through March 15th. We need male volunteers who will spend the night with our guest. There are opportunities for women to volunteer as well. Help us care for those on the margins of our community. Call or email the church office to RSVP for the training.

SYMPATHIES TO:

- Bonnie Glenn and family on the death of her brother, Ronald Friedline who passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2020.

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:

Bob Cage	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Leo Shew
Brittany and Baby Naomi	Ellie Lauckner	Roland Simms
Jennifer Clarke	Jean Layton	Racheal Simesak
Pat Clearly	Lauren Lee	Gary Simpson
Jack & Denny Collins	Nancy Lee	John Smallwood and family
Luisa & Billy Combs	Brittany Poore Little	Ann Sutcliff
Donna and Keith Coverdale	Lyn	Teresa
Julie Dally	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Tiffany
Josiah Davis	Ricki McGuire	Joan Wadman
Joanna Denney-Turner	Frank Mentusky	Betty Ziesel
Carolyn Evans	Orville Mills	
Fay Farissier	Jason Neall	
Ken Fechter	Mary Ellin Parsons	
Charlie & Barbara Fleetwood	Laurel Pastor	
Dave Harris	Jan Perkins	
Pat Hudson	Bob Randolph	
Doris Isele	Millie Remick	
Karl Isele	Roy Rigby	
Dottie & Jerry Jackson	Lorna Rosella Rulona	
Alvin Jarrell	Phil Saint	
Shirley Jester	Char Sandifer	
Dean Johnson	Richard Sapp	
Doris Koon	Alice Sellers	

Fusion Winter Schedule

November 1st- No Fusion

November 8th- Fusion 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

November 15th- Fusion 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

November 22nd- Friendsgiving 3 PM- 7:30 PM

-We will be boxing Thanksgiving food boxes as part of Friendsgiving

November 29th- No Fusion

December 4th- Friday Night GROG 6 PM- 8 PM

December 6th- No Fusion

December 13th- Fusion 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

December 20th- Fusion 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM-Christmas Party

-\$20 and Below Gift Exchange



@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: Joe Shockley

I grew up in Memphis Tennessee, my family attended a Roman Catholic Church and I went to Catholic elementary, middle and Jr high school. I attended public high school. It was a normal childhood, I knew about God, Jesus Christ, the apostles and saints and went to youth group. When I was 14 my family moved to Delaware, my fathers' family was from Delaware, his father was not well and he wanted to be near them.

While I was in high school, my father passed away. I was 17. I am the oldest of six children. It was a traumatic experience. Why would God take my father and leave us to fend on our own?

After high school I tried to go to college, I wasn't ready for more school. I joined the US Navy, see the world, get away from Delaware, all the regular reasons. I served four years in the Navy, two of those years were spent in the Western Pacific, Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines'. I had the opportunity to observe many different people and their religions. When my tour with the Navy was complete, I returned to Delaware. I worked at different jobs in construction and I met Patricia, "Patty" Williams. We, Patty and I, started attending Conley's Chapel in Angola. We married in 1979, at Conley's Chapel. Patty is a nurse and I continued to work at different jobs. The company I was working for let me go, lack of work, etc. I had the GI Bill from the Navy, Patty suggested I go back to college.

I was 27, starting back to college at the parallel program at Georgetown with the University of Delaware. As I was finishing my freshman year, we found out Patty was pregnant, with twins. After our daughters were born, we were faced with a decision, I had to transfer to the main campus in order to finish my degree. We were fortunate her father had a large house in New Castle, we could

move in with him while I finished my education. It was a “mixed” blessing. Patty was able to transfer to a position in Newark and I continued at the main campus. We found a good day care for the girls which close to our house. After I graduated our jobs made it possible to move back to Sussex County, we were able to buy a house in Milford. We have attended different churches over time, mostly non-denominational. We visited Avenue around the time the H2O Contemporary services were starting. We liked the message and the format, we started attending regularly. We became members of the Avenue Church body. We didn’t become involved in any of the Church leadership functions for a few years then I was nominated to be on Church Council. I accepted and served on the council and through the years have served in different roles in the Church. I am now a member of the Church Board of Trustees.

I stated in the beginning of my story “Why would God ...leave us to fend on our own?” God never left! I don’t understand why things happened the way they did, why my father died when his young family was just getting started. Over the years, as I look back, I have learned that understanding why is not as important as trusting and having faith that through Christ, God’s plan is real in my life. As you read this, I leave you with a verse someone wrote on the cover page of a bible they gave me.

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

I continue and look forward to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



Health Ministry



We are Thankful for Healthy Habits while Worshipping Together at Avenue!

Like staying home when you are sick. We are thankful for those who have been exposed to COVID-19 and quarantined themselves for 2-14 days to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

There symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

Fever or chills

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or body aches

Headache

New loss of taste or smell

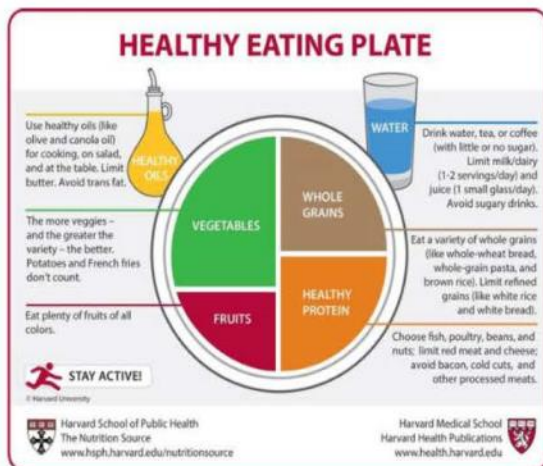
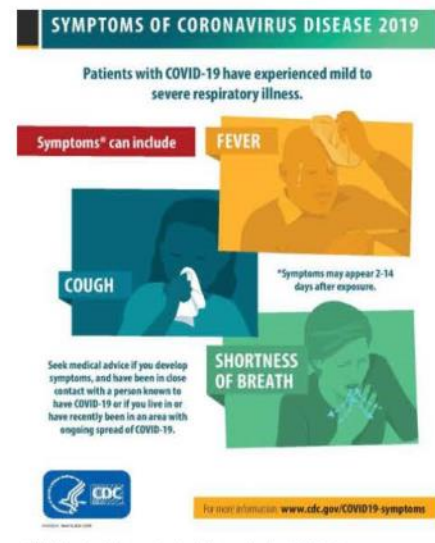
Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

Change in taste or smell



If you have been sick, please stay home until you are stronger. Rest, eat healthy, drink plenty of water/fluid and exercise to help build up your immune system before going out again.



“You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs.” ~ Psalm 32:7

What Is Herd Immunity?

Herd immunity occurs when a significant portion of a population becomes immune to an infectious disease, limiting further disease spread.

Disease spread occurs when some proportion of a population is susceptible to the disease. **Herd immunity** occurs when a significant portion of a population becomes immune to an infectious disease and the risk of spread from person to person decreases; those who are not immune are indirectly protected because ongoing disease spread is very small.

The proportion of a population who must be immune to achieve herd immunity varies by disease. For example, a disease that is very contagious, such as measles, requires more than 95% of the population to be immune to stop sustained disease transmission and achieve herd immunity.

How Is Herd Immunity Achieved?

Herd immunity may be achieved either through infection and recovery or by vaccination. Vaccination creates immunity without having to contract a disease. Herd immunity also protects those who are unable to be vaccinated, such as newborns and immunocompromised people, because the disease spread within the population is very limited. Communities with lower vaccine coverage may have outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases because the proportion of people who are vaccinated is below the necessary herd immunity threshold. In addition, the protection offered by vaccines may wane over time, requiring repeat vaccination.

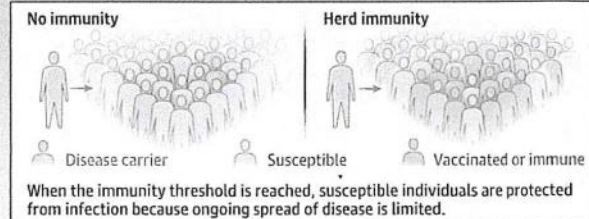
Achieving herd immunity through infection relies on enough people being infected with the disease and recovering from it, during which they develop antibodies against future infection. In some situations, even if a large proportion of adults have developed immunity after prior infection, the disease may still circulate among children. In addition, antibodies from a prior infection may only provide protection for a limited duration.

People who do not have immunity to a disease may still contract an infectious disease and have severe consequences of that disease even when herd immunity is very high. Herd immunity reduces the risk of getting a disease but does not prevent it for nonimmune people.

Herd Immunity and COVID-19

There is no effective vaccine against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) yet, although several are currently in development. It is not yet known if having this disease confers immunity to future

Herd immunity works to control the spread of disease within a population when a specific amount of that population (threshold) becomes immune to the disease through vaccination or infection and recovery.



Vaccination results in immunity without having to contract disease

- Herd immunity by vaccination protects people who are unable to be vaccinated due to age or other conditions.
- Populations with less vaccine coverage may still have disease outbreaks.
- Protection given by vaccines may decrease over time.

Infection and recovery result in immunity through antibody production

- Many people must be infected and recover from the disease to develop herd immunity, and some infections could cause complications or death.
- The disease may still circulate among children even if many adults have been infected and recovered.
- Antibodies developed from infection may only provide protection for a limited time.

Vaccines for COVID-19 are being developed but are not yet ready to use. To prevent COVID-19 transmission, practice social distancing, wear a mask, and wash hands often.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mayo Clinic

www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/herd-immunity-and-coronavirus/art-20486808

infection, and if so, for how long. A large proportion of people would likely need to be infected and recover to achieve herd immunity; however, this situation could overwhelm the health care system and lead to many deaths and complications. To prevent disease transmission, keep distance between yourself and others, wash your hands often with soap and water or sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and wear a face covering in public spaces where it is difficult to avoid close contact with others.

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Published Online: October 19, 2020. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.20895

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Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Dr Desai reported receipt of a PandemicTech fellowship. No other disclosures were reported.

Sources: Plans-Rubió P. Evaluation of the establishment of herd immunity in the population by means of serological surveys and vaccination coverage. *Hum Vaccin Immunother*. 2012;8(2):184-188. doi:10.4161/hv.18444

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. https://apic.org/monthly_alerts/herd-immunity/
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. <https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/achieving-herd-immunity-with-covid19.html>

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