



The Midweek

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Year End Review

Throughout Church history, we have utilized a calendar separate from the *Gregorian Calendar*, which has been in use in Western civilization since 1582. The liturgical calendar begins with the first Sunday of Advent. This upcoming Sunday is The Feast of Christ the King, which is commonly called Christ the King Sunday. It is the final Sunday of the liturgical calendar. The liturgical calendar invites Christians to operate on a different rhythm than the rest of the world.

The end of any year is a great time to do some self-assessment. Andrea and I celebrate our anniversary in December and it gives us time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. This sort of reflection invites the Holy Spirit to guide us on where we need to grow and what sort of goals we should work towards in the coming year.

One way that we can reflect on the past year on *Christ the King Sunday* is to ask; “*Has our lives reflected to the world that Christ is King in 2020?*” We can examine our speech and whether our words reflect the characteristics of Jesus. We can examine our actions to see how we have cared for the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed over the past year. We can reflect on whether anything else took the place of Christ the King in our day-to-day living.

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, it also means that we will shortly begin the new liturgical year. It will be a new year with new opportunities to draw closer to God, to live out our faith, and to proclaim that *Christ is King!*”

Pastor Steve

AVENUE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

10:30 A.M. CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

6:00 P.M. CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

WORSHIP ONLINE AT 9:00 AND 10:30 A.M.
ON FACEBOOK LIVE AND YOUTUBE

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.

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.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS LEADERSHIP MEETING: We are making our Advent/Christmas list and checking it twice! As we are preparing for the season, we will be having a vision meeting for the holiday season on **Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. Pastor Steve will be sharing about our opportunities for Kingdom Impact this upcoming season and how you can participate in making it happen. Anyone interested in knowing more is invited to attend.

CHRISMON TREE 2020: Avenue will again be making Christmas special for area families who are in need. Because of COVID we will be providing gift cards for families to purchase gifts for their children. While there is joy on our end of purchasing gifts, our families will be able to experience the joy of buying gifts for their children. Families will be given gift cards with appropriate funds available based on their wish list and our guidelines for what we provide. If you would like to help share the joy of Christmas, please write "Chrismon Tree" on your check or envelope.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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 finish up our study of Jonah with Priscilla Shirer on **November 24th**.

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 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.

ADVENT MISSION STUDY: Pastor Steve will be leading an Advent Study beginning **Wednesday, December 2nd at 10:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. We will look at how Advent prepares us for Jesus' Second Coming and how our understanding of that prepares us to truly live into Christmas. Please sign up by calling or emailing the church office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Gerald and Shelby Swain** on celebrating their **65th** anniversary on **November 24th**.

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



Our Thanks to You the Congregation at Avenue

During this season of Thanksgiving it is appropriate to express our gratitude to you for your support.

To those of you who give financial support

THANK YOU

To those of you who bring food and diapers

THANK YOU

To those of you who pray for us and ask "Is there anything you need?"

THANK YOU

To our volunteers a big

THANK YOU

To Avenue United Methodist Church for allowing us to use the building

THANK YOU

This ministry started here at Avenue and expanded to include several Milford churches who joined talents to feed families who are food insecure. Because members of this congregation are involved in many civic groups, we extend our gratitude to: Milford Lions, Milford Fire Dept., Milford Rotary, the Scouts, 4H, schools and other businesses and groups who give us support.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

The Sanctuary is never prettier than it is when the poinsettias arrive for December. Placing poinsettias in the church in memory or honor of loved ones is a beautiful and cherished tradition.

This year we will again only be ordering 6.5" pots of poinsettias at \$7.00 each. The Altar Guild has requested that we only order 75 pots of flowers and in RED only. All additional funds will go to the Parish Purse.

Sponsor's Name _____

Memory of _____

Honor of _____

The cost for each Poinsettia is: 6.5" pot \$7.00 _____

The Altar Guild has requested that we order only **RED** Poinsettias this year.

Please Print Clearly

Please use a separate order form for each name
in memory of or honored

Names of sponsors and those remembered and honored will be in the Worship Folder on December 20th.

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

Orders MUST be in no later than Wednesday, December 16th



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: Gary Downes

I am mostly a private person, so when asked to share a very special and private moment in my life, I was somewhat hesitant. My reluctance soon faded when I reflected on the many people that have taken the time to share their stories with me and how it helped strengthen my faith.

So here it goes,

2016-2017 was a very difficult and trying time for me as I suffered a horrible digestive problem that just wouldn't go away. It came and went for almost a year before the true cause was revealed. Apparently I had a severe case of diverticulitis and an angry polyp. This combination of polyp and diverticulitis resulted with a ruptured colon, major surgery and a lovely colostomy bag followed by six months of recovery.

After the six months of recovery, I was fortunate enough to have surgery to remove the bag and reattach my colon. This was very successful and I was released from the hospital on a Friday feeling great. However, by the following Thursday I was back in the hospital with a terrible infection and enjoyed another surgery and a week in ICU.

I tell you all this to get to the amazing event that I want to share.

After being released from the hospital for the second time in 2 weeks, I was sitting on the sofa with Victoria and looked over at her, grabbed her hand and said, "I really didn't think I was going to make through this. I was certain I wouldn't ever set here with you like this again."

At that very moment a waive of emotion came over me like I have never

experienced before. I started uncontrollable crying for a least 10 minutes. During this time I could feel the pain and worry leaving my body. This was replaced by a euphoric and peaceful feeling. The crying transformed into speaking in tongues.

When I finally came to my senses, I was in a state of relaxation and calmness that I have never felt. All of my fears, phobias, worries, anxieties and issues didn't matter anymore. My constant tension was gone. I felt at complete peace. The peace that passes all understanding. I could feel GOD's comfort. All that I had experienced up to that point lead me to that moment and as difficult as that was, it was well worth it. I believe the Holy Spirit came to me that day and I will never be the same.

Gary Downes



Celebrating Thanksgiving

Traditional Thanksgiving gatherings with family and friends are fun but can increase the chances of getting or spreading [COVID-19](#) or the [flu](#). The safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year is to celebrate with people in your household. If you do plan to spend Thanksgiving with people outside your household, take steps to make your celebration safer.

Wear a mask



- Wear a mask with two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Wear the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin and against the sides of your face.

Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you



- Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread COVID-19 or flu.
- Keeping 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from

Wash your hands



- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Keep hand sanitizer with you and use it when you are unable to wash your hands.

Attending a Gathering

Make your celebration safer.



- Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups, and utensils.
- Wear a mask, and safely store your mask while eating and drinking.
- Avoid going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen.
- Use single-use options, like salad dressing and condiment packets, and disposable items like food containers, plates, and utensils.

Hosting a Thanksgiving Gathering



If having guests to your home here are other steps you can take include:

- Have a small outdoor meal with family and friends who live in your community.
- Limit the number of guests.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and items between use.
- If celebrating indoors, make sure to open windows.
- Limit the number of people in food preparation areas.
- Have guests bring their own food and drink.
- If sharing food, have one person serve food and use single-use options, like plastic utensils.

Thanksgiving Travel

Travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others.



If you do travel

- Check travel restrictions before you go.
- Get your flu shot before you travel.
- Always wear a mask in public settings and on public transportation.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from anyone who is not in your household.
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your mask, eyes, nose, and mouth.

Consider Other Thanksgiving Activities

Host a virtual Thanksgiving meal with friends and family who don't live with you



- Schedule a time to share a meal together virtually.
- Have people share recipes and show their turkey, dressing, or other dishes they prepared.
- Watch television and play games with people in your household
- Watch Thanksgiving Day parades, sports, and movies at home.

Shopping

- Shop online sales the day after Thanksgiving and days leading up to the winter holidays.
- Use contactless services for purchased items, like curbside pick-up.
- Shop in open air markets staying 6 feet away from others.

Other Activities

- Safely prepare traditional dishes and deliver them to family and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others (for example, leave them on the porch).
- Participate in a gratitude activity, like writing down things you are grateful for and sharing with your friends and family.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/thanksgiving.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2067-DM42275&ACSTrackingLabel=Celebrating%20Thanksgiving%20%7C%20COVID-19&deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM42275

11 ways to show thanksgiving to God

1. Remember Him
2. Recognize His hand
3. Give Thanksgiving in Prayer
4. Keep a Gratitude journal
5. Repent of sins
6. Obey His commandments
7. Serve others
8. Express Gratitude to others
9. Have an Attitude of gratitude
10. Choose to be humble
11. Make a new goal

“In everything, give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

1Thessalonians 5:18