



The Midweek

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Thanksgiving 2020

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Dear Avenue Family,

What a year! Nearly the whole continent of Australia was on fire. Murder Hornets on the West Coast, riots throughout America, wildfires throughout the western United States, COVID-19, schools and businesses shut down, churches moved to online worship, and wearing masks became the norm. Of course, there are plenty of other things that we could add to the list that are personal as well. And yet, Paul instructs us to *rejoice, pray, and give thanks in all circumstances*.

Our ability to **give thanks** in every circumstance comes down to perspective. Can we see past the difficulties and challenges to see God's blessings in our lives? Can we see that God is blessing us **through** the difficulties and challenges?

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, we are so thankful for our Avenue Family and the ways we see God working in and through you during 2020. *Thank you* for the ways in which you have cared for your neighbors during a pandemic. *Thank you* for the phone calls, cards, emails, and text messages that you have sent to check-in on friends. *Thank you* for the ways in which you have held one another in prayer. *Thank you* for providing meals for hospital

workers and for those in need. We have seen your love in action in 2020.

A global pandemic will make imagination and creativity necessary when it comes to the ongoing ministry of the church. *Thank you* for the ways you have helped us do ministry in new ways. *Thank you* for making church online possible. *Thank you* for the people across all our services who have volunteered (during a pandemic!) to practice, record, and lead worship so that our church family could gather digitally. *Thank you* for those who have made the decision to come back to worship as we re-opened. It has been so good to see you. *Thank you* to those who have made the decision to worship from home. We know you are making a decision for your health and well-being as well as for those around you.

Lastly, thank you for your continued support of the church. Your acts of worship through your gifts testify to your faith that it is God who provides. Your gifts have allowed Avenue Church to continue to be a beacon of light during a dark and difficult time.

This Thanksgiving, we are thankful to God for you and the ways in which you make our family at Avenue Church such a vital part of our lives and of our community. As we gather with our families, ***we rejoice, pray, and give thanks in every circumstance for you and for our church family!***

Happy Thanksgiving,



LaMotte
Lead Pastor

Steve



Kevin B. Chamberlain
Minister of Music



Will Leister
Youth Pastor

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.

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.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR WORSHIP RESERVATION: As we continue to adapt our worship services to meet the State guidelines and best practices in the midst of a pandemic, **we are asking each person/family planning on attending worship to make a reservation.** By following the link below, you can make a reservation for service you plan on attending (9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.) and you will be able to choose to sit in the sanctuary or in overflow seating in Fellowship Hall. If you do not make a reservation, it is possible you will be seated in Fellowship Hall if the sanctuary has reached capacity.

You can access our reservation system by going to <https://avenueumc.thersvpapp.com/> and begin reserving your seat(s). You will need to do this every Sunday you plan on attending worship. Please call the church office at 422-8111 if you cannot make the reservation online.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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 **at a later date**.

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 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.

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.

Thank You From the Avenue Staff

As a staff, we wanted to say a big "Thank You" to the many kind words and signs of appreciation during Staff Appreciation Month in October. We are thankful to be part of a caring community and it is a pleasure to serve at Avenue. We are looking forward to the upcoming year and shining the light of Christ in the Milford Community.

Thank You!

Erica, Taylor, Laura, Curtis, Kelly, Will, Kevin, and Steve

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Jack and Mary Lou Sheaffer** on celebrating their **56th** anniversary on **December 5th**.

SYMPATHIES TO:

- Diane Argo and family on the death of Russ Argo who passed away on Wednesday, November 11, 2020.
- The family of Lynn Hitchens who passed away on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. Lynn joined Avenue on April 7, 1974.
- The family of Marty Uffner who passed away on Tuesday, November 24, 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
Lydia Castro
Brittany and Baby Naomi
Jennifer Clarke
Pat Clearly
Jack & Denny Collins
Luisa & Billy Combs
Donna and Keith Coverdale
Julie Dally
Josiah Davis
Joanna Denney-Turner
Carolyn Evans
Veronica Evans
Fay Farissier
Gary Farmer
Ken Fechter
Charlie & Barbara Fleetwood
Craig Hanna
Dave Harris
Pat Hudson
Doris Isele
Karl Isele
Dottie & Jerry Jackson
Alvin Jarrell

Dean Johnson
Linda Kemp
Doris Koon
Rhoda & Greg Kurz
Ellie Lauckner
Jean Layton
Lauren Lee
Nancy Lee
Brittany Poore Little
Lyn
Jack & Zelda McDuff
Ricki McGuire
Frank Mentusky
Jennifer Hughes Miller
Orville Mills
Stan Moody
Jason Neall
Alex Oliveras, Sr.
Alex Oliveras, Jr.
Adriel Oliveras and family
Mary Ellin Parsons
Laurel Pastor
Jan Perkins
Millie Remick

Roy Rigby
Lorna Rosella Rulona
Phil Saint
Char Sandifer
Richard Sapp
Alice Sellers
Leo Shew
Roland Simms
Racheal Simesak
Gary Simpson
Linda Singleton
John Smallwood and family
Ann Sutcliff
Teresa
Joan Wadman
Betty Ziesel



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: Janice Abbott

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

T Thanks be to God
H He is always there for you
A Ask and you will receive
N Never feel alone
K Kindness
S Sincere love for you family and friends
G Give to those in need
I If you only believe, all things are possible with God
V Victory can overcome the world, with our faith
I I will pray for everyone this season
N Never let go of God's hand
G Go out into the world and show your love and kindness everyday

Thanksgiving is a time of being thankful for all that God has blessed us with.

Luke 6:38

For as you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together, to make room for more and running over. Whatever measure you use to give, large or small will be used to measure what is given back to you.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to Witness to my Faith these past few months. What a blessing it has been for all the Avenue UMC congregation. It has been so inspirational to read each and every story in the midweek. Our lives have been blessed by each and everyone's faith journey.

May God bless each one of you for saying “yes”, to the call to contribute.

Let us be thankful each day for our many blessings. I know 2020 has been a trying year for all of us. Let us pray for all of those affected by the many events this year. Let us pray for all of those less fortunate. Let us be grateful for the many blessings God has given us.

Let your faith grow stronger every day.

You never know what a personal touch means, a phone call, a visit, a note and a card just to let them know God cares.

Who can I bless this Thanksgiving season?

Happy Thanksgiving and God bless.

Janice Abbott



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

We are thankful that people have used healthy habits to help prevent the spread of germs causing illness such as COVID-19, flu, colds, strep throat, and other various illness. Because of these healthy habits, we can smell and taste. We want to be able to taste and smell a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner.

Remember: Go easy on the salt except in your speaking!

Herb Roasted Turkey

(12 pound) whole turkey

- ☐ ¾ cup olive oil
- ☐ 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- ☐ 2 teaspoons dried basil
- ☐ 1 teaspoon ground sage
- ☐ 1 teaspoon salt
- ☐ ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ☐ 2 cups water



Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Clean turkey (discard giblets and organs), and place in a roasting pan with a lid.

In a small bowl, combine olive oil, garlic powder, dried basil, ground sage, salt, and black pepper. Using a basting brush, apply the mixture to the outside of the uncooked turkey. Pour water into the bottom of the roasting pan, and cover.

Bake for 3 to 3 1/2 hours, or until the internal temperature of the thickest part of the thigh measures 180 degrees F (82 degrees C). Remove bird from oven, and allow to stand for about 30 minutes before carving.

“Command the people of Israel, and say to them, ‘My offering, my food for my offerings by fire, my pleasing odor, you shall take heed to offer to me in its due season’.” ~ Numbers 28:2

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” ~ Colossians 4:6

Church Office Hours:

Nov. 23rd – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 24th – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 25th – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Nov. 26th – CLOSED

Nov. 27th – CLOSED





A Thrill of Hope

Join us this December as we experience the HOPE
of Jesus!

- Dec. 6 Light Up Avenue | 6 p.m.
Join us outside for carols, lights, and more
- Dec. 17 Blue Christmas Service | 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 20 Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday
- Dec. 23 Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve (Eve)
3 and 6 p.m. | Piano Led Worship
9 p.m. | Guitar Led Worship
Register at | christmasatavenue.thersvpapp.com
- Dec. 24 Lessons and Carols | 10:30 a.m.
- Dec 24 Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve
3 and 6 p.m. | Band Led Worship
9 p.m. | Organ Led Worship
Register at | christmasatavenue.thersvpapp.com

Avenue United Methodist Church
20. N. Church St. Milford, DE

facebook.com/avenueumc
avenueumc.com