

AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

The Lost Art of Sending a Card

My favorite gift that I received this year for Christmas was from my oldest son, Malachi. Like many gifts from a seven-year-old, it was homemade. Rather than a homemade ornament or mug, Malachi gave each person in our family a card that he designed himself. Inside each card was a message that he wrote himself without any help from other family members. I have to admit that I choked up a little as I read my card to the rest of the family.

When I did my youth ministry internship at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Marion, Illinois, my mentor encouraged me to write five note cards every week. He taught me to catch a student doing something good and to encourage them, or to share the good I saw with their parents. He also taught me to send thank you notes to those who serve and, quite frankly, we can easily take for granted. I have gone into homes of people I have sent cards to and found my notecard hanging on their refrigerator. Never underestimate the power of love contained in a handwritten note!

In 1 Thessalonian 5:11, Paul writes,

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

As part of the Body of Christ, we are to encourage one another and build one another up. There are many ways to do this: Phone calls, notes sent in the mail, text messages, delivering a batch of cookies, and the list can go on. What better time to encourage one another than right now- especially as the cold and dark days (along with COVID) are

preventing many from their normal social circles.

Take time this week (and the weeks that follow) to encourage one another in our church community. Let us look after each other with great care and concern. Let us allow the love of Jesus to be evident in the ways that we live together as the Body of Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP AT-HOME ON JANUARY 10, 2021: We will be holding at-home worship this Sunday, January 10, as we create some space between holiday travel and gatherings and coming together. Our plan is to return to in-person worship on Sunday, January 17th.

This Sunday, Rev. Rob Townsend will be bringing the message to us. Rev. Townsend is the Director of Connectional Ministries for The Peninsula-Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church. Rev. Townsend has previously served at Hockessin, Bethesda (Salisbury), and Millsboro United Methodist Churches and was the Salisbury District Superintendent before moving into the role of DCM. Rev. Townsend also served as Pastor Steve's clergy mentor through the ordination process.

Make plans to join us online at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. this Sunday on our Facebook page or on our Youtube Channel.

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY: Worship is held each Sunday in-person or online at 9:00 a.m. (Traditional) and 10:30 a.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 ENVELOPES FOR 2021: During this week, giving envelopes will be delivered to those members who have been unable to pick them up at church.

OFFICE OPEN- DOORS CLOSING: With the increase in cases of COVID-19 in our area and in an effort to limit traffic in the church, we will be keeping the main entrance doors locked during the week even while the office remains open for the short-term. There is an intercom available at the main entrance should you need to get inside the church. We encourage everyone to utilize email and phone calls, when possible, to limit the need to come to church. We thank everyone for helping to keep our staff and volunteers safe during this time. **Church Office Hours are Monday—Friday 9:00 am—3:30 pm.**

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.

HELPING THE HOMELESS- MISSION PROJECT: Within our own community, we have a population of men and women who do not have permanent homes and who either sleep out in the elements or find a bed at the Code Purple Shelter at Avenue or the Milford Church of the Nazarene. Avenue will be collecting items to be made available as To-Go Kits for the homeless in our community through the Code Purple Shelters as well as Brandywine Counseling. If you would like to contribute to the To-Go Kits, please consider donating one or more of the following items by bringing it to the church lobby by **January 24th**.

Items Needed

- * Bottled Water
- * Canned or pouched meat
- * Nuts
- * Breakfast bars
- * Drink flavor packets
- * Snacks
- * Crackers
- * Shelf stable microwavable meals
- * Hand warmers
- * Deodorant
- * Razors
- * Personal items such as small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, soap or body wash
- * Hand cleaner

There are also larger items that can be take directly to Brandywine Counseling Center (969 E. Masten Circle, Milford), which would benefit the homeless in our community as well.

- * Tents
- * Tarps
- * Blankets
- * Sleeping bags
- * Mylar Thermal Emergency Blankets

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired is meeting in the Wesley Room at 10:15AM. Our study for January is “The Good News.” The lesson for January 10th lesson is “Jesus Announces Good News” based on Luke 7:18-28; January 17th lesson is “Hope Because of Christ” based on I Thessalonians 1:2-10; January 24th lesson is “Nothing Can Separate Us From God’s Love in Christ” based on Romans 8:31-39; and January 31st lesson is “The Outcome of It All” based on Revelation 21:1-8; 22:12-15. Feel free to join us in the Wesley Room for these exciting lessons.

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: Ken and Missy Wilcox

Our Avenue journey,

The year was 1997. A young couple and their 8 month old boy packed up their life and moved from New England to Delaware. Settling in Harrington, they set out to establish a new life in a new place. New jobs, a new home, and eventually a new church were all right around the corner. This is where our story begins.

We spent some time getting used to the new things in our lives. I enrolled in school, Melissa worked to support our family, and together we took care of Benjamin. We looked for a new church, but had not found one that felt like home. One day at work, Melissa noticed a pastor doing visitation at the facility and realized it was the first clergy she had seen. She was impressed by his manner and compassion for the people he was visiting and decided that his church might be one for us to try. That pastor was Earle Baker and soon we were attending Avenue UMC.

We wanted a church where we could be involved with things other than just Sunday morning service. Wednesday night pot luck dinners, pancakes breakfasts, the yard sale, and family ministry events were all parts of our journey with our new church family. We made many new friends and had many great experiences that all added to our life as a young family.

After several years our son Seth was born and I was working at the hospital. Often on Sunday morning, Melissa would take the boys to church while I stayed home to sleep after working all night. That changed when the Contemporary

service started and I became the drummer in the praise team. It was great to have a part in putting that together and it was a joy to later share that with my sons as they got older.

Over the years, a great many people from Avenue added to our journey and became “surrogate grandparents” to our boys, teaching them invaluable lessons on how to serve both God and our neighbors. Peggy and Larry Hughes, Bonnie and Jeff Carmine, Grace and Joe Irish, Mike and Karen Williams, Henrietta and Tom Chilton, and many, many others too numerous to list. They allowed them to be kids and have fun while teaching them how to serve others and to be an example of Christ love.

Melissa tells a story of when Seth was younger and we were setting up for a dinner at home. He had been asked to set the table and put out some things when she asked if he needed any help. His reply was, “Mom, I know how to do this, I’ve seen the United Methodist Women do it a bunch of times”.

You never really know when what you do is an example of Christ love to those around you. We have been so very fortunate to have had the congregation of Avenue UMC be that example for our lives and we hope that in some small way, the we have been able to return the favor. Thank you Avenue for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

- **Ed Bailey** who will be celebrating his **97th** birthday on **January 8th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Richard and Sharon Brown** who will be celebrating their **57th** anniversary on **January 18th**.

SYMPATHIES TO:

- Prayers for the family and friends of Scutch Kenton, Sr., who passed away on Saturday, January 2, 2021.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Those affected by the COVID-19, Medical Staff, and those working on a vaccine
- The arrival, safety, and effectiveness of the recently approved COVID 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:

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



2021 New Year's **RESOLUTIONS**

START BY LOVING YOURSELF

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO

Make a list of all your talents and positive attributes. Leave it on the refrigerator. You have many gifts and talents. Add to your list in the morning and every night before you go to bed. This is a way of loving and appreciating yourself along with your gifts.

MAKE A LIST OF ALL YOUR LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS

This list is your support group. They can help you list your positive gifts and talents. You can ask them to do this with you. Then hold each other accountable. Never be critical. Always be positive and supportive of each other.

ENHANCEMENT LIST

This is the list you will make to enhance your life. All ideas of enhancement must be small steps. For example, eat healthy, move more, learn something new, or take up a new hobby. Journal your progress. Journaling does not have to be difficult sometimes it is just one or two words.

EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

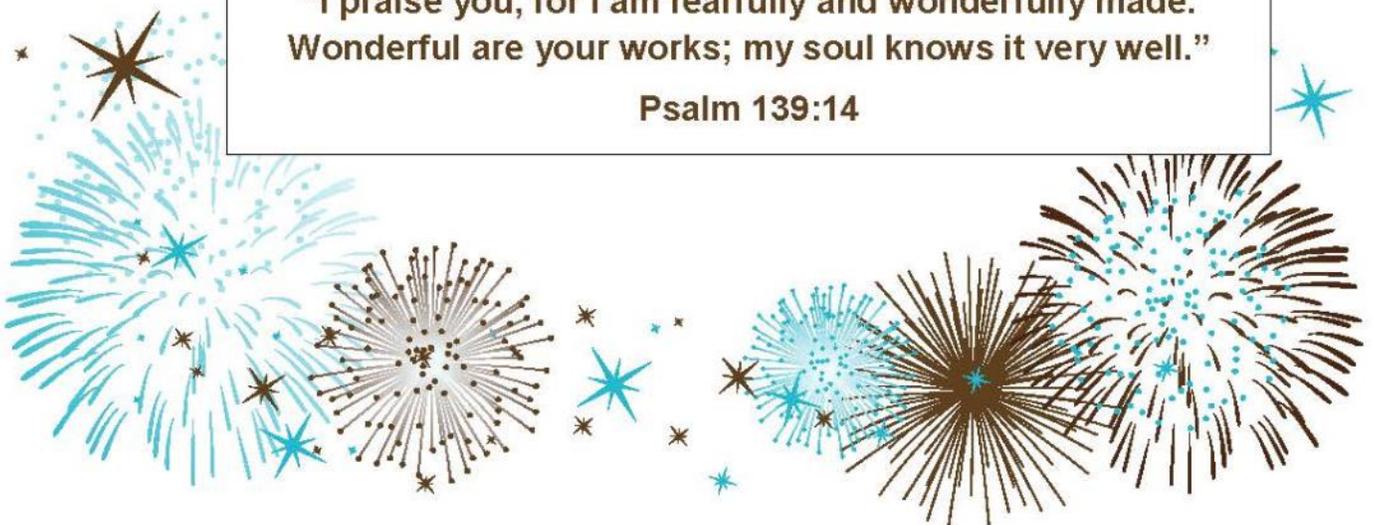
It takes about 21 days to change a habit. If you give up or change one habit, you must replace it with something else. For example, health-Instead of snacking during commercials, I will exercise by lifting a can good in each hand during commercials of (list your favorite show). I will eat fruit instead of cake/sweets 5 days a week. Instead of watching TV for 4 hours, I will watch TV for 3 hours. I will read or research to learn something new for one hour. Then I will call a friend to share the information and discuss it.

TAKE SMALL STEPS.

REMEMBER INCH BY INCH LIFE IS A SINCH!

**"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."**

Psalms 139:14





2021 New Year's **RESOLUTIONS**

MINDSET

A HEALTHY MINDSET

Focusing on the good-positive thinking. This does not mean ignore reality or problems, but approach life with the expectation that things will go well.

Try the 5 C's of a Healthy Mindset:

1. CALMNESS

Be aware of what you are thinking. Find ways to calm your mind.

2. CLARITY

Set your priorities, goal, and values to help guide your decisions.

3. COMPASSION

Compassion towards yourself. Accept yourself and stop comparing yourself to others and doubting your abilities.

4. CONCENTRATION

Focus on what matters.

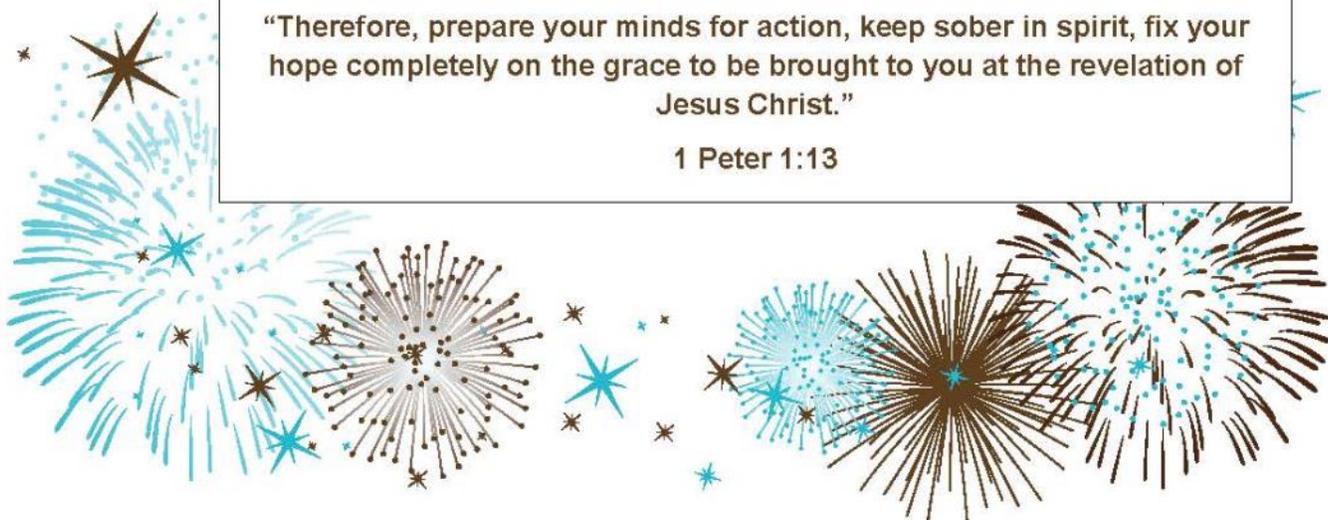
5. Courage

Take small steps toward a goal.

This information and more is available at: <https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/positive-thinking-overview#1> and <https://theblissfulmind.com/healthy-mindset/>

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 1:13



A hand is shown pointing towards a glowing, teal-colored hexagonal grid. In the center of the grid, there is a stylized white letter 'F' inside a square frame. The background is dark with a blue-green gradient.

**FUSION IS GOING
VIRTUAL**

**ZOOM MEETINGS
ARE COMING**

**IF INTERESTED CONTACT
PASTOR WILL
LEISTERWILLIAM@AVENUEUMC.COM**

MINISTRIES AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS SUPPORTED BY AVENUE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Missions



Spain Pecometh Camp Scholarship

Parish Purse

Fusion Youth Ministries

Code Purple

Matthew Project

Bayhealth Foundation

The Way Home Ministry

Volunteers in Mission

Home of Hope Women's Ministry

Camp New Hope

KenCrest Group Homes

Baker Gongo Partnership Project

ARC of Delaware Pizza Party

Christ Episcopal Church Seamen's Ministry

Fundraisers

