



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, January 13, 2021*

Dear Avenue Family,

Last Wednesday marked the beginning of the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is the time when we recognize the revelation of God Incarnate as Jesus. We often think about the star leading the Magi from the East to Bethlehem to worship Jesus as King. Those of us who are Christians have experienced an epiphany moment in the revelation that Jesus is God-in-flesh.

Last Wednesday was revealing day, an Epiphany moment, for our country and church. As protestors gathered in Washington D.C., violence broke out as rioters broke into the Capitol building, forcing the evacuation of the Congressmen and women who were gathered there. There is nothing worth condoning in Wednesday actions at the Capitol. It was a heinous act. This is just another incident of revelation of who we are as a nation.

My heart is broken for our nation and our church because of what was revealed yesterday (and has been being revealed over the last several years). We are a broken and divided nation. We do not trust those different from ourselves. We would rather win a fight than seek understanding and reconciliation with those different from ourselves. We are a nation and a church that is divided along socio-economic and racial lines. There is contempt and even hatred for "the other." Christian Nationalism, fueled by White Supremacy, is apparent more than ever and it is demonic. There are those in the church who heed the words of political leaders with more regard than we do the Teachings of Christ. We have made idols out of our leaders, our nation, and even our flag. Our allegiance as Christians is to Christ. Jesus is our Lord. Not Trump. Not Biden. Not Old Glory. I love our country, and am blessed to call America my home, but it is a love that is nowhere near the love I have for God.

Now, more than ever, the church must find our voice to lead. We have squandered our authority and integrity by aligning ourselves with power, politicians, and parties rather than aligning ourselves with Christ and the characteristics of the Kingdom of God. We are not called to fight hatred with hate, or extremism with extremism. We defeat hatred with love. We see this love in Jesus who laid down his life for the world (including his enemies). Jesus shows us that whoever wants to be first must become last, and a servant to all. Jesus's love told Peter to put away his sword when there was the opportunity to fight back. Out of love, Jesus ate with and washed the feet of Judas, who betrayed him. It was through love that Jesus forgave those who executed him.

What now? Church, we need to repent. We need to repent of our idolatry. We need to repent of anything that doesn't look like Jesus. We need to repent of racism and Christian Nationalism- both which are antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus. We need to pray for ourselves, one another, and our nation. Third, we need to start living in a way that reflects Jesus and not our political affiliation. Christians are to be neither right, left, or religious. We are to be centered on Christ.

As we move forward, let us repent and seek God's forgiveness and healing in our own lives. Let us lift up our country. May we shine the light of Christ in a world covered in darkness.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Steve". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Pastor" and "Steve" being capitalized and prominent.

## **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). 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

**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.**

**On Thursday mornings we will be sending out an email with the reservation link.** By following the link, you can make a reservation for service you plan on attending (9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.) and you will be able to choose to sit in the sanctuary or in overflow seating in Fellowship Hall. You can access the link at: <https://avenueumc.thersvpapp.com>

If you do not make a reservation, it is possible you will be seated in Fellowship Hall if the sanctuary has reached capacity. 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.

**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](mailto: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.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:** Church Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.** Please register your intent to participate by emailing the Church Office (churchoffice@avenueumc.com) so that we know who to send the ZOOM link out too.

**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 24<sup>th</sup>**.

### **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 17<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Hope Because of Christ” based on I Thessalonians 1:2-10; January 24<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Nothing Can Separate Us From God’s Love in Christ” based on Romans 8:31-39; and January 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**HEALTH MINISTRIES:** Would you like to volunteer one Sunday morning to take temperatures or document names? Click on the following link to sign up. <https://tinyurl.com/yyg2uhek>

If you have any questions, please email Cindy Horsman at [healthministry@avenueumc.com](mailto:healthministry@avenueumc.com).

## *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: Harry Humes*

I was born and raised in Milford and attended the First Presbyterian Church. During WW II we had a missionary from China name Kenneth Kepler moved to Milford. One year he arranged for our Young Peoples Group to attend a Jack Wertzen Crusade in Philadelphia. I was 17. We walked from City Hall to the University of Pennsylvania's Convention Center. Jack Wertzen had been a big band leader until he felt called to preach the gospel. I played in a dance band in high school and could relate to him. When he asked the question where would I go if I died tonight, I confessed to myself, I didn't know, but I wanted to find out. There were thousands of people there and we were sitting way up high in the back of the auditorium. My eyes filled with tears and I felt I had to go forward. I did and my life was never the same.

I joined the Navy for four years right out of high school. I learned that my body was the temple of the Holy Spirit and I must not defile it. So, my new found faith kept me from smoking, drinking, swearing and misbehaving when I went ashore or where ever I was. When I got out of the service, I wanted to go to a small Christian College. Mrs Kepler, the pastor's wife, told me about Westminster College in western PA. Since I'd traveled all over the world, getting to western PA shouldn't be a problem. I graduated after four years and went to work in Wilmington. I wanted to find a wife who believed the same as I did. I found her right back home in Milford. I fell in love with Carolyn Masten and we got married in 1960. We raised four wonderful children in Wilmington, Milford and Dagsboro.

Music had always played an important role in my life. On board my heavy cruiser, I sang in the choir. In college I sang in the choir. When we moved to Dagsboro, I directed a small church choir for 3 years. In Millsboro I directed for

4 years and in Ocean View 5 years. It was a great way to express my faith and be of service to the Lord.

One thing I have learned along my life's journey, when I'd face some kind of temptation, I would have to say, "Get Thee behind me Satan" and my problem would go away and it would leave me alone. Prayer really works.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Joy Benham** who will be celebrating his **90<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **January 14<sup>th</sup>**.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

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

**SYMPATHIES TO:**

- Prayers for the family and friends of Scutch Kenton, Sr., who passed away on Saturday, January 2, 2021.
- The family and friends of Val Wilgus who passed away on January 7, 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  
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  
Fay Farissier  
Ken Fechter  
Charlie & Barbara Fleetwood  
Chick Glanden  
Dave Harris  
Pat Hudson  
Doris Isele  
Karl Isele  
Dottie & Jerry Jackson  
Alvin Jarrell  
Dean Johnson  
Linda Kemp

Doris Koon  
Rhoda & Greg Kurz  
Jean Layton  
Lauren Lee  
Nancy Lee  
Brittany Poore Little  
Lyn  
Jack & Zelda McDuff  
Ricki McGuire  
Frank Mentusky  
Jennifer Hughes Miller  
Orville Mills  
Kathryn Avery Mitchell  
Tiffany Mitchell  
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  
Bob Susen  
Ann Sutcliff  
Teresa  
Joan Wadman  
TJ Webb  
Jon Zaimes  
Betty Ziesel



Health Ministry



# ***2021 New Year's*** **RESOLUTIONS**

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## **WHERE TO START**

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### **SET REALISTIC GOALS**

Make small changes. Focus on the Positives. Allow a special cheat.

### **DON'T SKIP MEALS**

Skipping meals can slow down metabolism, zap your energy, and lead to overeating.

### **DRINK FEWER SODAS & SWEETENED DRINKS**

These calories add up. Drink water instead.

### **EAT FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

Aim to eat 5 servings a day. To make eating healthy quick and easy, buy the pre-cut fruits and vegetables for a healthy snack.

This information and more is available at: <https://www.webmd.com/diet/features/keep-those-new-years-eat-better-resolutions>

### **New Dietary Guidelines for Americans**

[https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/Dietary\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Americans\\_2020-2025.pdf](https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/Dietary_Guidelines_for_Americans_2020-2025.pdf)

**"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."**

**1 Corinthians 10:31**



## Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines

Updated Jan. 4, 2021

Now that there are authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines in the United States, accurate vaccine information is critical.

### **Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?**

**No.** None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

There are several different types of vaccines in development. All of them teach our immune systems how to recognize the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity (protection against the virus that causes COVID-19) after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

### **After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?**

**No.** Neither the recently authorized and recommended vaccines nor the other COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States can cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.

If your body develops an immune response—the goal of vaccination—there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests. Antibody tests indicate you had a previous infection and that you may have some level of protection against the virus. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.

### **If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?**

**Yes.** Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, vaccine should be offered to you regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection. CDC is providing recommendations to federal, state, and local governments about who should be vaccinated first.

At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called natural immunity, varies from person to person. Some early evidence suggests natural immunity may not last very long. We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have more data on how well the vaccines work.

Both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

## **Will a COVID-19 vaccination protect me from getting sick with COVID-19?**

**Yes.** COVID-19 vaccination works by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19, and this protects you from getting sick with COVID-19. Being protected from getting sick is important because even though many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a severe illness, have long-term health effects, or even die. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you, even if you don't have an increased risk of developing severe complications. Learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work.

## **Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?**

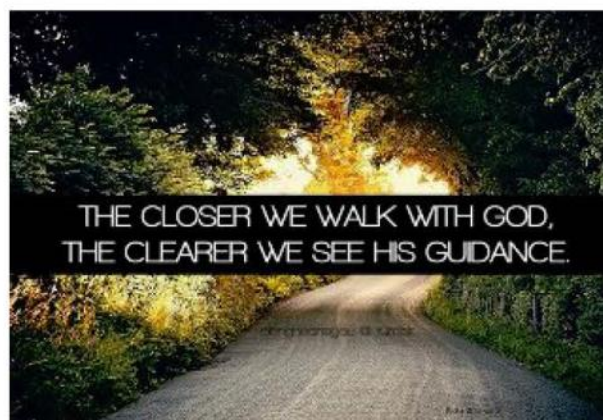
**No.** COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Messenger RNA vaccines—also called mRNA vaccines—are the first COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States. mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the mRNA cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way. Instead, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease. Learn more about how COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work. At the end of the process, our bodies have learned how to protect against future infection. That immune response and making antibodies is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Fvaccine-benefits%2Ffacts.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Fvaccine-benefits%2Ffacts.html)

Please go on the CDC site for further information about COVID-19 and the vaccine.

**“And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your desire with good things, and make your bones strong; like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”**

**Isaiah 58:11**





A hand is pointing towards a glowing hexagonal grid. One hexagon in the center-left contains a stylized 'F' logo. The background is a dark teal color with a grid of glowing hexagons in various shades of blue and green.

**FUSION IS GOING  
VIRTUAL**

**ZOOM MEETINGS  
ARE COMING**

**IF INTERESTED CONTACT  
PASTOR WILL  
[LEISTERWILLIAM@AVENUEUMC.COM](mailto: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 Congo Partnership Project**

**ARC of Delaware Pizza Party**

*Christ Episcopal Church Seamen's Ministry*

## Fundraisers

