

The Midweek

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 13:24-25

In just a few weeks, we will hit the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic. In that time, there are reasons to lament; for over 500,000 American lives lost to the virus which include friends and loved ones. We also have reasons to give thanks for God's faithfulness and the ways in which we've been able to adapt to the changing landscape in our personal lives and in our church. We can celebrate the availability, distribution, and the effectiveness of the vaccine as well.

As a Pastor, I am concerned about how we view the nature of the Church. I am 100% onboard with live streaming our worship services and gathering via ZOOM for meetings because of the pandemic. I am also all onboard with those who are at the greatest risks for COVID staying home and participating in worship and the ministries of the church virtually. We must respect the science of how viruses work and who is most at-risk.

My concern lies in how the pandemic has allowed us to get out of the habit of gathering for worship- and the reasons for doing so. As I go through the community, I talk with members of Avenue who are eating out at restaurants, going to the gym, attending a movie at the theater, and visiting with friends and who do not plan on coming back to in-person worship because they are concerned about the virus or they prefer the convenience of worshipping at home.

First, let me applaud the staff, the Trustees, and the Health Ministries Team at Avenue Church. With the protocols in place at Avenue Church, I believe that when we follow the protocol that worship is one of the safest places we can gather. Certainly, there is a risk, but when we all do our part, we minimize the risk. Just in January, the Trustees installed a UV Light Air Purifier on the HVAC system in the Sanctuary. The UV light kills bacteria and viruses (including COVID-19) that are in the air. We continue to look for ways to make the worship experience as safe as we can.

Secondly, we must rediscover the nature of the Church. Being part of a Church is more than watching a worship service online. In the writings of Paul, the Church is always called "the body of Christ." The Church is the "embodied presence of Christ." We can only be embodied when we come together to worship, to grow in our faith, and to serve. Yes, we can worship online, in our car, or in a tree-stand- but we cannot be the Church without being part of the Church! The Church cannot fully function if part of the body is missing. God has given us the Church, the community of believers, to be a place to be encouraged, to worship together, and to serve together.

As of today, Easter is just over a month away. What better time to make our way back to the embodied presence of Christ in Milford, the Church! Just as Jesus rose from the dead, let us pray and expect God to allow our church to rise from the pandemic in powerful ways that point others to God's saving grace through Jesus! Let us not give up on meeting together!

Hope is Rising!

Parton Steve

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 afternoon 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: <u>https://avenueumc.thersvpapp.com</u>

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.

HOLY WEEK SCAVENGER HUNT REGISTRATION: Avenue will be hosting a socially-distanced family scavenger hunt on Sunday, March 28th beginning at 1:00 p.m. Families will use the Holy Week story of Jesus to navigate their way to stations around town and learn together about God's love for us. Please register your family by <u>clicking here</u> or going to (<u>https://tinyurl.com/4tzr9aet</u>).

If you would like to assist in planning and running the Scavenger Hunt, please contact Andrea LaMotte at <u>lamotte.andrea@gmail.com</u>

CANDY DONATIONS FOR SCAVENGER HUNT: We are seeking donations of Easter Candy to give to families who complete the Scavenger Hunt. Easter Candy should be brought to the Church Office no later than Sunday, March 21st.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY RE-LAUNCH DISCUSSION: We will be holding a ZOOM conversation about what a relaunch of Children's Ministries, including Sunday School, may look like at Avenue. We are looking at meeting online at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2nd. Please email Pastor Steve at <u>srlamotte@avenueumc.com</u> to be sent the link.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP: Holy Week and Easter are just around the corner. We hope that you will make plans to worship with us in-person or online during this sacred time in our faith.

• March 28thPalm Sunday: worship at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. as we consider Jesus'

entry into Jerusalem and the implications for our faith.

- April 1st Holy Thursday: We will gather at 6:30 p.m. as we consider Jesus' last meal with his disciples and what Jesus taught them.
- April 2nd Good Friday: At 6:30 p.m., we will consider Jesus' death and the Cross. Death is never easy to sit with, but when we do it will make resurrection all the sweeter!
- April 4th Easter Sunday
 - **6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service**: As the disciples went to the tomb at sunrise, we will gather in anticipation and worship for Jesus' resurrection.
 - 9:00 a.m. Indoor Easter Service: Join us in the sanctuary as we sing, celebrate, and worship the resurrected Christ together.
 - 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Easter Service: Join us out on the lawn as we sing, celebrate and worship the resurrected Christ together. Please bring your own chair or blanket to sit on. We will move the service indoors if the weather does not cooperate. This service will not be live-streamed.

UMW YARD SALE SURVEY: Avenue UMC has an annual yard sale except for this past year (2020) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are hopeful that the annual UMW Yard Sale for 2021 can be held in August. Please help us determine if we would have your support to move forward with planning the yard sale. <u>The tentative dates are **August 5 -7, 2021**</u>.

Survey Links This one is can be clicked on: <u>Survey for Yard Sale</u> This Survey link can be copied or typed in: <u>tinyurl.com/avenueys</u>

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. <u>Church Office Hours are Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.</u>

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 <u>prayer@avenueumc.com</u> 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Avenue offers a number of scholarships each spring. Graduating Seniors can get applications from our website (<u>www.avenueumc.com/scholarships</u>). Then complete the applications on your computer and return them to Mrs. Hudson at <u>churchoffice@avenueumc.com</u>. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. **Please keep**

these two dates in mind:

- April 23rd, 3:00 p.m. deadline to return all Avenue Scholarship applications to the office.
- **May 9**th, 10:30 a.m. is when scholarships will be awarded, along with gifts and recognition for all the Class of 2021. **Please plan to join us.**

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 10:15 a.m. Our study for February is "The Hypocrites and the Holy." The lesson for February February 28th lesson is "Jesus Clears the Temple" based on Matthew 21:12-16. 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. <u>https://tinyurl.com/yyg2uhek</u>

If you have any questions, please email Cindy Horsman at healthministry@avenueumc.com.

VIRTUAL PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Pastor Steve will be leading a Bible Study via Zoom on The Sermon on the Mount. We will be going deeper than we are able to go on Sunday mornings on Jesus's Master Class on Discipleship and focusing on how we can live out The Sermon in our everyday life. Please sign up by emailing <u>churchoffice@avenueumc.com</u>. We may look into a book/workbook to guide our conversations. **Next meeting is Wednesday, February 24**th **at 7:00 p.m.**

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: Ed Steiner

My parents took me to Sunday School in the old brick church where Fellowship Hall now stands. Two great Christian ladies Mrs. Short and Mrs. Wilkerson took gave me a wonderful introduction to Christian love. Jesus has worked on me through Avenue Church ever since. When I was eleven years old I spent one week at Pecometh, the camp associated with the Methodist church. Those of you who have spent a week there will probably remember a service when everyone gathered in the little riverside amphitheater at dusk for a worship service. During that service there was a call for people who would dedicate their life to Jesus to come down to the front. I went. I remember when I got to the front looking up and seeing that I was one of the very few. I could not understand why. It did not make any sense. Why wouldn't you? It turned out to be a great lesson in the possibility of misunderstanding. Most people thought coming forward meant a decision to become a minister. That was not what I meant at all. But I did mean the dedication and I still mean it. And I hope many others do as well. I think it likely that someone who has been as exposed to the Gospel and those people who have responded to it as I have would make a similar dedication.

I joined church at twelve. At the service we were given a Bible which I committed to reading through. An awful lot of it was boring (much of Numbers) and the parts that struck me most were the erotic parts of the Song of Solomon. But it was a start. Over the years I have spent a lot time reading and thinking about the Bible and what theologians and scholars have said about it. My relationship with God has been a dynamic one and my present sense of the Deity is as an ever present power that urges us to be the kind of people that will inhabit the Kingdom.

I have been blessed in being offered many opportunities for service in the name of Jesus over the years. Many of them at Avenue. Taking advantage of them has been a lot of fun. Some annoyance, some frustration but, by and large, fun.

Like everyone else, my life has had sad times. Really sad times. But I trust God and my faith, while not summed up in them, is reflected in two favorite scripture passages. "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." and "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Or as a plaque given to me by my daughter that hangs on the wall of my office says" Bidden or unbidden, God is present."

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

• Sue Hatfield who will be celebrating her 91st birthday on February 25th.

SYMPATHIES TO:

- Prayers for Gregory Brennan on the death of his sister, Bette Powers.
- Prayers for Bonnie Glenn on the passing of her mother, Kathleen Friedline who passed away on February 10th.
- The family and friends of Kathryn Kimmel Russ who passed away on February 17, 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:

Dah Cana	Deen Jahren	Less Deulsine
Bob Cage	Dean Johnson	Jan Perkins
Lydia Castro	Linda Kemp	Millie Remick
Brittany and Baby Naomi	Doris Koon	Roy Rigby
Jennifer Clarke	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Dick Roberts
Bob Colbourne	Jean Layton	Lorna Rosella Rulona
Jack & Denny Collins	Lauren Lee	Phil Saint
Luisa & Billy Combs	Nancy Lee	Char Sandifer
Voilet Condif	Brittany Poore Little	Richard Sapp
Lauren Connell	Lyn	Gary Seal
Linda Cottrell	Marian	Alice Sellers
Craig	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Leo Shew
Julie Dally	Ricki McGuire	Roland Simms
Joanna Denney-Turner	Jennifer McNamara	Racheal Simesak
Diane (not in congregation at	Frank Mentusky	Gary Simpson
Avenue)	Jennifer Hughes Miller	Linda Singleton
Carolyn Evans	Orville Mills	Linda Sockrider
Ken Fechter	Kathryn Avery Mitchell	Nick Spurlock
Charlie & Barbara Fleetwood	Tiffany Mitchell	Bob Susen
Chick Glanden	Stan Moody	Teresa
Bonnie Glenn	Jason Neall	Joan Tolbert
Matt Hall	Alex Oliveras, Sr.	Joe Valentine
Dave Harris	Alex Oliveras, Jr.	Joan Wadman
Steve Hofer	Adriel Oliveras and family	Mary Lou Walters
Pat Hudson	Ariel Ownes	TJ Webb
Doris Isele	Alan Parker	Betty Ziesel
Karl Isele	Mary Ellin Parsons	
Dottie & Jerry Jackson	Laurel Pastor	
Alvin Jarrell	Kris Perfetti	



March 4, 2021 – 12:30-1:00 PM Jackson Borges, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Rehoboth Beach

March 11, 2021 – 12:30-1:00 PM Michael Stefanek, Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury

March 18, 2021 – 12:30-1:00 PM *T. J. Thomas,* St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes

March 25, 2021 – 12:30-1:00 PM *Kevin B. Chamberlain*, Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford

Please enter the Church wearing your face covering and register your attendance at the door.

Please observe social distancing practices while in the building. The sanctuary has been sanitized before the recital and an air filtration system is sanitizing the air.

Lenten Organ Recitals are part of the Concert Series of Avenue Church.

Easter Flower Order Form

The Sanctuary is never prettier that it is when the spring flowers arrive for Easter. Placing Lilies and Tulips 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" pots of Lilies and Tulips at \$8.00 each. All additional funds will go to the Parish Purse.

Sponsor's			
Sponsor's Name	 	 	
Memory of			
Honor			
of			

The cost of the Lily's and Tulips are \$8.00 each



Lily



Please use a separate order form

Tulip

For each name in memory of or honored **Please Print Clearly**

Names of sponsors and those remembered and honored will be in the Easter Sunday Bulletin Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

Orders must be in no later than <u>March 31st</u>

COVID INFORMATION

BAYHEALTH IS OFFERING A WAITING LIST FOR SENIORS AGE 65+ WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR FIRST DOSE OF THE COVID-19 VACCINATION

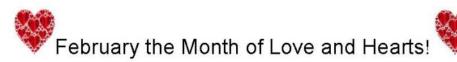
ONCE ON THE WAITING LIST BAYHEALTH WILL CONTACT YOU TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO RECEIVE YOUR FIRST DOSE OF THE VACCINE

TO REGISTER, CLICK THE LINK BELOW: <u>https://www.bayhealth.org/covid-19/vaccine</u>

SELECT THE BLUE BOX TO ADD YOUR NAME TO BAYHEALTH'S WAIT LIST

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE WAIT LIST REGISTRATION ON YOUR OWN, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT (302) 422-3385 DURING OFFICE HOURS FOR ASSISTANCE.





There are several ways you can reduce the risk of developing coronary heart disease (CHD) and prevent a heart attack or stroke. The main ways to lower your risk is by lowering your blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

A healthy diet low in fat and high in fiber.

Eat fresh fruit and vegetables (5 portions a day) and whole grains.

Limit the amount of salt you eat to no more than about 1 tsp.

Avoid food containing saturated fats and sugar, such as:

- meat pies, sausages, and fatty cuts of meat
- butter, lard, ghee a type of butter often used in Indian cooking
- cream, hard cheese
- cakes and biscuits
- foods that contain coconut or palm oil

Include foods with unsaturated fats; particularly foods high in unsaturated fats:

- oily fish
- avocados
- nuts and seeds
- · sunflower, rapeseed, olive and vegetable oils

Physical Activity

• Walk, Swim, Bike, Dance, Exercise

Maintain a healthy weight.

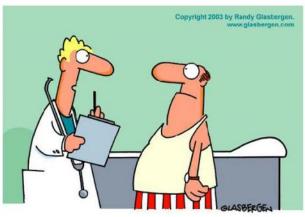
Give up smoking.

Reduce your alcohol consumption.

Keep your blood pressure under control.

Keep your diabetes under control.

Take prescribed medicine.



"What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"

"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." Romans 12:1



