



The Midweek

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

General Conference Postponed Until 2022

The 2020 General Conference was pushed back a year. General Conference was to be held in August of 2021. With the lingering effects of the pandemic, the slow roll-out of the vaccine, and travel considerations, The United Methodist Church is postponing General Conference for another year. It will now take place on August 29-September 6, 2022.

General Conference is the only body in The United Methodist Church that can address structure and doctrine issues. General Conference meets every four years to do the work of the church. We recently met in a special session in February of 2019 to discuss our doctrine, especially around Human Sexuality. Since the February 2019 gathering, there has been much discussion around a possible split of our denomination. A proposal called *A Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation* is sponsored by Traditional, Centrist, and Progressive United Methodist seems to have support with some delegates. While there was hope that there would be a clearer vision for The United Methodist Church's future, the postponement means all United Methodist's will be waiting until 2022 for a glimpse of what the church might become.

What does this mean for Avenue? What should we do?

While we wait for the General Conference, our first responsibility is to pray for our Episcopal leadership and our delegates. While some are upset about any decisions, the extra time could lead to new possibilities. We must pray that the

Spirit of God will guide those who make decisions for our denomination.

Lastly, we must get to work. The outcome of General Conference 2022 will not change the work of the church. We are to worship. We are to love our neighbors. We are to make disciples. As we come out of the pandemic in the coming weeks and months, we will engage in the ministries that God has set us apart to do. We will not wait for the General Conference to tell us what The UMC looks like beyond 2022. We will live as the church today and in the days to come. Avenue has always been a church with diverse theological understandings who seek to be the hands and feet of Christ. We will continue to creatively extend love, grace, and generosity to Milford and beyond.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor 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: <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.

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 [clicking here](#) or going to (<https://tinyurl.com/4tzt9aet>).

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

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 **individually wrapped** and brought to the Church Office no later than **Sunday, March 21st**.

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 28th Palm 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.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RE-BOOT: We are looking to reboot Sunday School beginning **Sunday, April 11th at 10:30 a.m.** for children ages 4 through 4th grade. The format will be similar to Summer KICS, but will take place in Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in Sunday School, please email the church office at churchoffice@avenueumc.com.

ADULTS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL REBOOT: We are looking for adults who would like to teach or assist during Sunday School/Summer KICS. The program will be an "all ages in one room," which means two adults can cover most weeks. The more interested adults we have, the less frequently you will have to serve. To become a leader for our reboot, contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com

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. The tentative dates are **August 5 -7, 2021.**

Survey Links

This one is can be clicked on: [Survey for Yard Sale](#)

This Survey link can be copied or typed in: tinyurl.com/avenueys

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 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Avenue offers a number of scholarships each spring. Graduating Seniors can get applications from our website (www.avenueumc.com/scholarships). Then complete the applications on your computer and return them to Mrs. Hudson at churchoffice@avenueumc.com. 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 9th**, 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.**

MILFORD COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY: The Milford Community Pantry continues to operate on Tuesday's and Friday's from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. For the Diaper Closet we need **sizes 3 and 6 diapers**. Thank you so much for your ongoing support, Tita and Diane.

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 March is “Holy Living.” The lesson for March 7th is “Living as Holy People” based on Leviticus 19:1-18; March 14th lesson is “Nourishing Holiness” based on I Peter 2:1-10; March 21st lesson is “Physical Holiness” based on I Corinthians 6:12-20; and March 28th lesson is “Prayer and Holiness” based on Matthew 6:5-18. Feel free to join us in the Wesley Room

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.

VIRTUAL PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Pastor Steve will continue 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 churchoffice@avenueumc.com. **Next meeting is Wednesday, March 3rd 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: Nicole Wilkins

My faith has been a journey. It started simple enough when I was in elementary school. I went to a church that did frequent altar calls. One day I decided I should go see what this salvation thing was all about. After all, it got me out of the church service, and I had heard from friends that there were cookies after. I was “saved” many times. Jesus=Cookies, kind of a no-brainer. But that was the start of my faith journey. Through life experiences, my faith has grown sometimes in small ways and sometimes in huge leaps. I certainly cannot detail all of them here, but I will try to hit some of the biggies.

I had an imaginary friend as a child that I so creatively titled “the invisible man”. My childhood was rough, and I talked to that invisible man all the time. Through that same church, where strangers brought a bus to pick me and my brothers up, I learned that God is always with us. My invisible man who had helped me navigate many situations had a name all along.

That childhood came with many wounds that took years to heal and scars remain. As I began to understand the crucifixion, I realized something beautiful. Jesus had scars. Those scars were the proof of who He was and what He had endured. The scars did not mean He was broken, damaged or somehow less than, so maybe I was not either. Maybe God could use my scars.

I realize this is getting long, so I will try to wrap up, but I would be remiss if I did not talk about the times I struggled with my faith. When I thought that God could not possibly know what He was doing. My childhood home being foreclosed on when I was seventeen. I could not know then that the foreclosure would lead me to people who would help me heal. Painfully sad miscarriages that eventually led to us having Cooper. God got it right. Fervent prayers of healing

that I said for Charles, a young man from our youth group, as I waited with him for the surgery that would harvest his organs. It was hard accepting that God said “no” to my prayers while simultaneously saying “yes” to the prayers of the organ recipients and their families. And these are just a few.

Hindsight is a beautiful friend. When I look back, I can see the game of chess that God had to play to get me to where I am today. I accepted Jesus as my Savior many years ago, but that was just the beginning. My salvation story continues because as I get to know Jesus better, I accept a little more of Him and His teachings every day.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Gary and Marti Seal** who will celebrate their **64th** anniversary on **March 11th**.
- **Al and Linda Hanna** who will celebrate their **49th** anniversary on **March 11th**.

SYMPATHIES TO:

- Sympathy to Doris Kimmel and family on the death of Kathy Kimmel Russ. Kathy is the sister of Karen McColley and Dan Kimmel.
- Sympathy to Bobby Bergez on the death of his aunt due to complications with COVID-19.

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:

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

Avenue United Methodist Church *Lenten Organ Recitals*

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 than 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
Name _____

Memory
of _____

Honor
of _____

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

Lily _____



Tulip _____



Please use a **separate order form**
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
March 31st

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:

<https://www.bayhealth.org/covid-19/vaccine>

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.



Health Ministry



Colorectal Cancer

1 in 3 adults are not being screened.

50% 

Colorectal cancer screening prevented about half of the expected new cases and deaths during 2003-2007.

+13%

The percentage of adults screened for colorectal cancer increased 13% from 2002 to 2010.

\$14 Billion

The estimated direct medical cost of colorectal cancer care in 2010 was \$14 billion.

Colorectal cancer is the #2 cancer killer in the US among cancers that affect both men and women. But it doesn't have to be. Screening can find precancerous polyps (abnormal growths) so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. Screening can also find colorectal cancer early when it is easiest to treat. A new CDC report says that rates of new cases and deaths of colorectal cancer are decreasing and more adults are being screened. Between 2003 and 2007, approximately 66,000 colorectal cancer cases were prevented and 32,000 lives were saved compared to 2002. Half of these prevented cases and deaths were due to screening.

Learn what you can do to reduce your risk of colorectal cancer.

➔ See page 4

Want to learn more? Visit

[www http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns)

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control



"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your disease."

Psalms 103: 2-3



Health Ministry



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

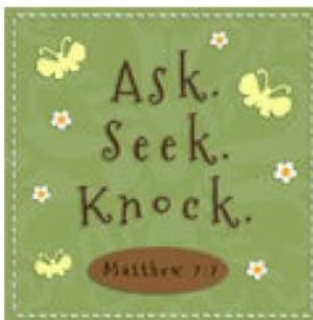
Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. But while COVID-19 vaccines can keep you from getting sick, scientists are still learning how well vaccines prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to others. So even after vaccination, we need to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Although the vaccine supply is currently limited, the federal government is working toward making vaccines widely available.

https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h3dc43e11%2C136087f7%2C1360bd8c&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2067-DM50192&ACSTrackingLabel=Key%20Things%20to%20Know%20About%20COVID-19%20Vaccines%20%7C%20COVID-19&s=yiXquT3d0BroUirRjQZR7AtIakUMw6t1IHJMkO4t2l8

To schedule your vaccine you can

- Go on line to the Delaware.gov site to sign up for a vaccine.
- Contact your local pharmacy and/or healthcare provider to see if they are administering the vaccines.
- Walgreens
- Walmart
- Milford Senior Center is also scheduling people for the vaccines



“Ask, and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened.” ~ Matthew 8:7-8



Health Ministry



