

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

When I was a teenager, I would accompany my best friend's family to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. It is the roller coaster capital of the world. During my last trip there, we waited in line for the Magnum, which was at the time the tallest rollercoaster in the world. Tommy and I waited for nearly an hour so that we could sit in the very front seat of the coaster. Roller coasters are fun because of the nerves that erupt on the way of the first hill and the adrenaline you experience as you pass the pinnacle of the hill and zoom towards the bottom of the hill.

Holy Week is a bit like riding a rollercoaster. We begin on Palm Sunday with the excitement of Jesus entering Jerusalem. We wave our palms and shout "Hosanna!" Holy Thursday begins with the joy of gathering for a meal with friends, but quickly takes a turn for the awkward as Jesus washes his disciples feet while talking about a traitor. Good Friday plunges us into the depths of death as we consider Jesus' death on the Cross. Holy Saturday is this liminal "in-between" day of grieving and silence before rising to the climax of Easter Sunday.

It is important to celebrate each of the stops of Holy Week. We miss so much of the story and the emotions of what Jesus did for us if we simply go from Palm Sunday to Easter, celebration to celebration. It is imperative that we not only celebrate, but we linger at the Cross and stare death in the face in order to know the reason for our celebration.

I want to invite you to join us this Sunday for **Palm Sunday**. We will worship at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. **Holy Thursday** and **Good Friday** will be held on April 1st and 2nd with both services beginning at 6:30 p.m. **Easter Sunday** will rise with a **Sunrise**

Service at 6:45 a.m., followed by an Indoor Easter Celebration at 9:00 a.m. Our Easter celebration will conclude with an Outdoor Easter Celebration at 10:30 a.m. out on the lawn. Each gathering helps us to better understand the Easter Story- the story of our salvation.

I look forward to worshipping with you during the upcoming week!

Hope is Rising,

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.

<u>On Thursday afternoon we will be sending out an email with the reservation link.</u> 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.thersypapp.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 <u>clicking here</u> or going to (<u>https://tinyurl.com/4tzr9aet</u>).

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: It has been two years since we have been able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter together. We are excited about the opportunity to celebrate Holy Week and Easter together. We want to invite you to join us during the week!

Palm Sunday Service is **March 28**th **at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** We will wave our palm branches and consider Jesus' journey into Jerusalem. Worship will be followed by a *Family Scavenger Hunt* at 1:00 p.m. Pre-registration for the Scavenger Hunt is required.

Holy Week provides two opportunities to worship. It is essential to slow down and spend time at the Table and at the Cross before our Easter Celebration. Holy Thursday will take place on Thursday, April 1st at 6:30 p.m. as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Good Friday will also take place at 6:30 p.m. on April 2nd in the Sanctuary as we linger at the Cross and consider Jesus' death.

Easter Sunday is **April** 4th and will begin with an outdoor Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m. on the lawn along Front St. The 9:00 a.m. celebration will be a blended service indoors in the

sanctuary. This service will be live streamed through our Facebook page and Youtube channel. At 10:30 a.m., we will have a combined service outside on the lawn to celebrate the Resurrection. **Please bring your own chairs for the outdoor services**. If the weather does not cooperate, the service will be held indoors.

SPRING/SUMMER KICS LAUNCH: We are looking to relaunch the Children's Ministry at Avenue Church in April by starting Summer KICS early as a way to continue to share the Good News with our children, ages 4 years up through 4th grade. (We believe 5th grade children and older can worship with their family) We are looking to begin Summer KICS on Sunday, April 11th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. *To make this work, we need your help*! We need:

- ⇒ **Teachers:** We need 3-5 teachers who can commit to 1 Sunday a month to lead Summer KICS. We will provide a curriculum for Summer KICS.
- ⇒ Assistants: We would like to have assistants to help the teacher with the lesson and to build relationships with our children. We would like to have 8-10 assistants who could commit to participating once every two months.

The opportunity to serve in KICS is for all adults from either service. Your willingness to serve allows some of our families to fully participate in worship! If you're interested in helping, please contact Pastor Steve at <u>srlamotte@avenueumc.com</u>.

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** 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. Right now **we need cereal** for the food pantry. Thank you very much for the diapers. As always thank you very much for your ongoing support, *Tita and Diane*.

MATTHEW PROJECT: Call Joanne Burbage (422-6152) if you are interested in helping pack/ handing out 25 Easter boxes on **Tuesday, March 30**th.

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 28th lesson is "Prayer and Holiness" based on Matthew 6:5-18. Feel free to join us in the Wesley Room

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. Our last meeting is Wednesday, March 24th 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: Lindsey O'Day

Good Day, Avenue Family

I was asked to share my testimony with you all and I have to admit, it's a bit difficult for me to be transparent in my testimony. Do I write a book and tell you about all the times God pulled me out of the muck and mire? Do I act as if life is perfect since I asked Jesus into my heart? The truth is, I am still living my testimony. I haven't reached that pinnacle of perfection just yet. I have had so many "A-Ha" moments where I was down and out and God pulled me through. He is ALWAYS there! Did that make my life easier? No. Far from it. I still struggle. Every day. I am a single mom of two amazing kids, but I'm sure you all can empathize that the last year has not been an easy one for any of us. Raising kids in a pandemic is a unique challenge I haven't gotten the hang of just yet. I am struggling. I am STRESSED. Yet, I am so blessed to have a wonderful village surrounding us that includes church and family and non-blood family. But I have to be honest, I feel more than just a little bit lonely and bruised at the moment.

A little over a year ago, I was blessed to be a team member and table leader of a girls Chrysalis weekend. I met 3 new teenaged "daughters" who I really got a chance to bond with. They have also been experiencing higher than normal stress this year and they ask me why God lets bad things happen to good people. How do you answer that? Truthfully. I don't believe God is making these terrible things happen to us. But I do believe God is trying to get our attention through it all. One thing I've learned is that I cannot live this life, pandemic or not, without HIM. I've had people tell me how strong I am. That is just a load of rubbish. I am a hot mess. God is my strength, my protection, and my salvation. This doesn't mean bad things won't happen or that the storm will skip me. It just means I know I am loved and I have Him to lean on and carry me during these

times.

One of my Chrysalis girls asked me "How do you know God is real?" I know because I would not be here without His love and grace. God speaks to all of us. It may not be as clear as a cell phone call. But God speaks to each of us. And if you take the time to listen, you will hear Him. It can be in the form of a quiet word you can barely hear. "Wait" seems to be His favorite word to me, the impatient. It can be in the form of a beautiful friend from church who says "You aren't fooling me. I know you need to spend more time with God. You should go to Emmaus." It can come in the form of the gift of something you need but are too proud to ask for. It can be as simple as realizing you feel better when you get up on a Sunday morning and lead worship when all you really want to do is spend the day in bed. The hardest times to believe in our amazing and loving God is when it feels like He is silent. Is He silent now? Or is the world too loud for me to hear Him? I will still seek Him as long as I am still standing. Yes, I am tired. I am sad. I am in mourning for friends lost and important events missed this past year. But without God throughout all of this, I would not still be standing. I have had every single need met, in abundance. I have good friends and family members to hold me accountable. I fall short and mess up some days but God still has grace for me. He is still my loving Father. And that, my friends, is the current status of my never-ending testimony.

I will leave you with one of my favorite verses.

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29: 11-13

Taking this verse from the context it was written shows us that this is not a promise from God that we will not face trials and tribulations. The prophet Jeremiah was actually delivering these words to those who were in exile for SEVENTY years. God hasn't promised a life of rainbows and daisies. He has promised us that His plans are still FOR US. Trust the process. Especially in these trying times. Lean on Him. I love you all.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

• Norm and Millie Remick who will celebrate their 70th anniversary on March 24th

SYMPATHYTO:

- The family and friends of Janet McCall who passed away on March 18, 2021. Janet joined on March 18, 2007.
- Sympathies to Larry Hughes on the death of his daughter, Jennifer.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Those affected by the COVID-19, Medical Staff, and distributing the 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	Lau
Brittany and Baby Naomi	Na
Jennifer Clarke	Bri
Bob Colbourne	Jac
Jack & Denny Collins	Ric
Luisa & Billy Combs	Jer
Voilet Condif	Fra
Lauren Connell	Orv
Linda Cottrell	Ka
Julie Dally	Tif
Joanna Denney-Turner	Sta
Carolyn Evans	Vir
Ken Fechter	Jas
Charlie & Barbara Fleetwood	Ari
Gail and Jeffrey	Ala
Matt Hall	Ma
Dave Harris	Lau
Beverly Harrison	Jar
Steve Hofer	Mi
Karl Isele	Roy
Ron Ivory	Dic
Dottie & Jerry Jackson	Lor
Alvin Jarrell	Phi
Dean Johnson	Ric
Linda Kemp	Ga
Doris Koon	Ali
Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Leo
Jean Layton	Rol

uren Lee ncy Lee ittany Poore Little ck & Zelda McDuff cki McGuire nnifer McNamara ank Mentuskv ville Mills thryn Avery Mitchell ffany Mitchell an Moody rginia Moser son Neall riel Ownes an Parker arv Ellin Parsons urel Pastor n Perkins illie Remick y Rigby ck Roberts rna Rosella Rulona il Saint chard Sapp ry Seal ice Sellers o Shew oland Simms

Racheal Simesak Gary Simpson Linda Singleton Samuel Smith Linda Sockrider Kathy Sullivan Tom Susen Joan Tolbert Joe Valentine Joan Wadman Mary Lou Walters TJ Webb Betty Ziesel



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>

Colorectal Cancer Screening Test

Colorectal cancer is a cancer found in the colon or rectum, located at the digestive tract's lower end.

Cologuard[®] is a test identified to find colon cancer even in early stages when it is more treatable

Cologuard finds 94% of Stage I & Stage II colon cancers³

Cologuard performance in adults ages 45-49 is estimated based on a large clinical study of patients 50 and older. False positives and false negatives may occur. In this clinical study, 13% of people without cancer received a positive result (false positive) and 8% of people with cancer received a negative result (false positive).

Cologuard detects altered DNA and blood in your stool.

Who is Cologuard for?

If you are 45 and older and at average risk for colon cancer, Cologuard may be right for you. Cologuard is not for everyone. It is not a replacement for diagnostic or surveillance colonoscopy in high risk individuals. Ask a healthcare provider if Cologuard is right for you.

Cologuard may not be right for you if:

- · You have a personal history of colon cancer, adenomas, or other related cancers
- You have a family history of colon cancer (one or more first-degree relatives diagnosed with colon or rectal cancer before the age of 60, or two or more first degree relatives diagnosed with colon or rectal cancer of any age)
- · You have had a positive result from another screening method in the last six months
- You have been diagnosed with a condition that places you at high risk for colon cancer. These
 include but are not limited to: inflammatory bowel disease, chronic ulcerative colitis, Crohn's
 disease, familial adenomatous polyposis
- You have been diagnosed with a relevant cancer syndrome passed on from your family. Check with your healthcare provider to see if Cologuard is the right test for you.

https://www.cologuard.com/effective-and-easy



"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight." Proverbs 4:7





Delaware Governor John Carney Governor Carney Announces Updates to COVID-19 Vaccination Program

March 16, 2021

Pharmacies can begin 50+ vaccinations Wednesday; providers can vaccinate patients 16+ with high- and moderate-risk medical conditions

WILMINGTON, Del. – Governor John Carney and the Delaware Division on Public Health (DPH) on Tuesday announced an expansion of Delaware's COVID-19 vaccination program.

- **On Wednesday**, pharmacies in Delaware may begin vaccinating Delawareans aged 50+.
- Also on Wednesday, health care providers, including hospitals, may vaccinate patients 16+ with high and moderate-risk medical condition s. Providers who are NOT vaccinating may refer patients to hospital systems. Delawareans should contact their medical provider about vaccination opportunities. DPH has also encouraged providers to contact their highest risk patients directly to schedule vaccination appointments. Non-paid caregivers of Delawareans with high- and moderate-risk medical conditions may also qualify for vaccination through medical providers.
- **On Tuesday, March 23rd**, the State of Delaware will open its COVID-19 vaccination waiting list at <u>vaccinerequest.delaware.gov</u> to any Delawarean, 50+.

Visit <u>de.gov/covidvaccine</u> for a list of <u>high- and moderate-risk medical</u> <u>conditions</u>, participating vaccination providers, and additional information on Delaware's COVID-19 vaccination program.

When You've Been Fully Vaccinated

How to Protect Yourself and Others Updated Mar. 8, 2021

<u>COVID-19 vaccines</u> are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on what we know about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic. We're still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. After you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking <u>precautions</u> in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces until we know more.

Have You Been Fully Vaccinated?

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- ✓ 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- ✓ 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If it has been less than 2 weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are NOT fully protected. Keep taking all <u>prevention steps</u> until you are fully vaccinated.

What's Changed

If you've been fully vaccinated:

- ✓ You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- ✓ You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an <u>increased risk for</u> severe illness from COVID-19.
- ✓ If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - ✓ However, if you live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

What Hasn't Changed

For now, if you've been fully vaccinated:

✓ You should still take steps to protect yourself and others in many situations, like wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are:

✓ In public

✓ Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household

 \checkmark Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at <u>increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19</u> or who lives with a person at increased risk.

✓ You should still avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.

✓ You should still delay domestic and international travel. If you do travel, you'll still need to follow CDC requirements and recommendations.

 \checkmark You should still watch out for <u>symptoms of COVID-19</u>, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.

✓ You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2067-DM51719&ACSTrackingLabel=When%20You%E2%80%99ve%20Been%20Fully%20Vaccinated%20%7C%20COVID-19&deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM51719

