



AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

We find ourselves in the middle of Holy Week where we remember Jesus' journey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, his Last Supper with his disciples, and Jesus' death on the Cross. For me, Good Friday is the most jarring and uncomfortable gatherings we have in the Protestant Church. We do not do well with death, mourning, or lament. Yet Good Friday (and Holy Saturday) invites us to sit as those who mourn with the realization that Jesus *died for me*. *While I want to quickly move to Easter, I know that in order for there to be a resurrection there must be a death.*

We have been living in this Good Friday/Holy Saturday vibe since the COVID outbreak began last March. We have been filled with fear about contracting the virus. We mourn the loss of life in our communities. We grieve the distance that the pandemic has put between family members and friends. Piled on top of this fear and mourning has been racial tensions, systemic injustice, and a contentious election cycle. I know that I would like to move on as quickly as possible from this Good Friday/Holy Saturday grief and mourning, but we are continually reminded that we are in a time to sit, to grieve, and to look death in the face.

We have the advantage, on this side of the Cross and empty tomb, of knowing that death does not have the final say. We have faith, that even though crying will last through the night, that there is joy that comes in the morning.

This Sunday is Easter Sunday. It is the day we celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death and to cling to our hope that as Jesus lives, we can face whatever comes our way. This Easter, more than any in recent history, should be a time to celebrate the life Jesus brings and to worship God. This Sunday, I hope that Christians everywhere will pull out all the stops in order to celebrate Easter!

I want to invite you to gather on Easter Sunday with Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m., Indoor Worship at 9:00 a.m., and an Outdoor Worship at 10:30 a.m. Wear bright colors. Be prepared to sing, to clap, and to give thanks to God who enables us to live with hope! Even as we continue to face the pandemic (and whatever is thrown at us next) we will choose to not live in fear for we are resurrection people!

I cannot wait to worship with you on Easter Sunday!

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

PASTORAL CARE: Pastor Steve will be on vacation from **April 5-11, 2021**. If you have a pastoral care concern, please contact the church office at 422-8111 and Kelly will assist in getting you in touch with our Pastoral Care Team.

VACCINATIONS AND WORSHIP: We are so excited and hopeful to hear about members of the Avenue family getting vaccinated. While you may be fully vaccinated, it is still the requirement of Avenue Church (and the State) to wear a mask when you are in the building and attending worship. While we long for the day where we do not have to wear a mask and where we can hug one another, we are not yet there. Please continue to do your part to love your neighbor by wearing your mask and practicing social distancing. Thank you!

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 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!

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 srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

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.**

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.**

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 April is “New in Christ.” The lesson for April 4th is “Encounter on the Road to Emmaus” based on Luke 24:13-35; 2 Corinthians 5:17; April 11th lesson is “Living by New Standards” based on 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; April 18th lesson is “Clothed With the New Person” based on Ephesians 4:21-32; and April 25th lesson is “Vessels for the Lord” based on 2 Corinthians 4:7-20. 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: Judy Struck

The phone rings, I answer. It is Janice Abbott calling to ask if I will share my faith journey. I've done this once before, but it was 20 years ago. There's much more to add to the story, so let me begin.

God has given me plenty of opportunities to learn and grow. In my earlier years I often resisted the pull of church and life as a Christian. I had all the typical excuses: I was too busy, too tired, selfish with my time. I let my immaturity keep me from stepping out and building my faith. God and Jesus often took a back seat where they waited patiently for me to grow up and grow in love, joy, and charity.

I first learned about Jesus' love when my friend Sue, who, at the age of 11, invited me to attend Vacation Bible School with her at the Long Hill Chapel. For two wonderful weeks we rode a school bus the three miles to and from her church. I loved every minute of that VBS summer, and it was there I first approached the altar to let Christ into my life. Did that awaken my conscience and create a desire to attend church each Sunday? Not exactly, but I never forgot.

The next year my family moved to a new town. A new friend, Debbie, asked if I would like to join the youth group at her church. I now lived in a large rural community where I rode a bus to school and it was 5 miles to the closest town. However, the Yellow Frame Presbyterian Church was just a couple of miles away and many of the new friends I'd met at school went there. I quickly joined the youth group. What fun we had at picnics, Sunday meetings, weekend retreats, and more. I began to attend church services and took the confirmation classes. The spring of the year I was 13, I became a member of the church. Great

memories of being 12 and 13 years old. Jesus was close.

Next came high school, then college and marriage. Again, life was busy, and I was a selfish young woman who had homework, or studying, or a summer job, or dates to go on. No time to go to church. Suddenly, I was a married grown-up with a full-time job. God resided in the Bible on my bookshelf. Years passed until 1977 when my husband and I moved to a new home in a new town. Just beyond the end of our street was the Olivet United Methodist Church. That was the year we started our family and decided to make going to church more of a priority in our lives. Our family grew from three to four and my parents moved nearby. I began to attend Adult Sunday School and volunteer with VBS each summer. I helped with the bazaar, Junior Church, and the Nursery. Was I experiencing the love of Jesus? Most definitely, yes. We attended Olivet until 1996 when my daughter wanted to move to another Methodist Church a few miles away. She asked me to attend with her. Union Grove United Methodist was a tiny, country church with room for maybe 60 parishioners. However, it was warm and cozy and filled with such nice people. So, we moved our membership and attended there for 8 years until we relocated to Delaware.

Moving to Milford in 2004 was exciting, exhausting, and most definitely God lead. I had never expected to leave New Jersey, but the Lord knew I needed a change. We sold our home and my parents sold theirs and we came here as one family unit! Even tho' I continued to work in New Jersey for almost two years after moving here, I was always home on the weekends and I began to attend Avenue with my parents. We became members in the spring of 2005. My mother died in November and my father's health was not good. I was needed in Milford full time. OK, God.... What's next? It was on a Saturday in January 2006 when I met a woman whose life story was just like mine. She told me of working part-time in retirement as a teacher-naturalist at Abbott's Mill Nature Center. That Monday I was on the phone and asking for an interview. I retired from teaching elementary school in N.J. on March 31st and began teaching at Abbott's Mill on April 3rd. Such wonderful people, warm and friendly, and I was getting to teach! YES, I was loving life and learning more about my new hometown. Shortly after, an Abbott's co-worker, Sue, mentioned that she attended Bible Study Fellowship at a church in Milford, an international program, class was held every Thursday morning during the school year. Really? Wow, I could do that. So began my 12+ years of studying God's word with over 100 women of strong faith. With weekly homework and scriptures to read I began to learn more deeply of God's love and constant presence in my life.

At Avenue, my faith took a giant leap when Pastor Phyllis Walton arranged

small groups to do a Bible study using Rick Warren's book, "A Purpose-Driven Life." Suddenly I was thinking differently. More about others and how I could show Christ's love in my everyday actions. I signed up for a few other studies at Avenue. In 2016, I began volunteering at Code Purple each week. My husband and I covered INTAKE each Wednesday evening for the next several years. Through our experience at Code Purple, we opened our home to a homeless gentleman. He's been with us for four years and is a part of the family. We have learned to actively show our love and to be generous in spirit and more.

In hindsight, I can see where and when the Lord has *always* been with me. From guiding me to where I met my husband, bringing advice when my teenage son got into some trouble, showing me a house with 4 bedrooms & possible "in-law suite" that became our Milford home, helping me learn to tithe when Avenue began the Journey of Faith in 2008, getting me into the hospital when I suffered from pulmonary emboli, helping my husband heal his myriad broken bones after a motorcycle accident. There are no coincidences in life, all are evidence of the presence of our heavenly Father and Christ Jesus. Just ask me, I'm sure I can tell you a few more.

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	Linda Kemp	Dick Roberts
Brittany and Baby Naomi	Doris Koon	Lorna Rosella Rulona
Jennifer Clarke	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Phil Saint
Bob Colbourne	Jean Layton	Richard Sapp
Jack & Denny Collins	Lauren Lee	Alice Sellers
Luisa & Billy Combs	Nancy Lee	Leo Shew
Voilet Condif	Brittany Poore Little	Roland Simms
Lauren Connell	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Racheal Simesak
Linda Cottrell	Ricki McGuire	Gary Simpson
Craig	Jennifer McNamara	Linda Singleton
Julie Dally	Frank Mentusky	Samuel Smith
Joanna Denney-Turner	Orville Mills	Kathy Sullivan
Carolyn Evans	Kathryn Avery Mitchell	Joan Tolbert
Ken Fechter	Tiffany Mitchell	Joe Valentine
Charlie & Barbara Fleetwood	Stan Moody	Joan Wadman
Gail and Jeffrey	Virginia Moser	Mary Lou Walters
Matt Hall	Jason Neall	TJ Webb
Dave Harris	Ariel Ownes	Betty Ziesel
Beverly Harrison	Alan Parker	
Steve Hofer	Mary Ellin Parsons	
Karl Isele	Laurel Pastor	
Ron Ivory	Jan Perkins	
Alvin Jarrell	Millie Remick	
Dean Johnson	Roy Rigby	

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

Colorectal Cancer

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

Early cases can begin as noncancerous polyps. These often have no symptoms but can be detected by screening. For this reason, doctors recommend screenings for those at high risk (age 40) or over the age of 50.

Colorectal cancer symptoms depend on the size and location of the cancer.

Some commonly experienced symptoms include

- changes in bowel habits
- changes in stool consistency
- blood in the stool
- abdominal discomfort

Colorectal cancer treatments will depend on:

- size
- location
- how far the cancer has spread

The most common treatments include:

- surgery to remove the cancer
- chemotherapy
- radiation therapy



Learn the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer. Contact your health care provider to see if you need to be screened for colorectal cancer.

Mayo Clinic www.mayoclinic.org

“Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear, then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer: Here I am.”

Isaiah 58:8-9



Health Ministry



When You've Been Fully Vaccinated

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

COVID-19 vaccines 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 precautions 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 prevention steps 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 increased risk for 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
 - ✓ Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 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.
 - ✓ You should still watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, 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



Health Ministry

