



The Midweek

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Major League Baseball had its Opening Day this last weekend. For baseball fans, Opening Day serves as the unofficial beginning of Spring and the season of hope. On Opening Day, every team starts with a clean slate. As a fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Opening Day is often the only day I get to celebrate my team in first place (granted, a five-way tie for the division lead). There is a saying in baseball on Opening Day: Hope Springs Eternal.

As we begin Baseball Season, we have entered into a season of hope in the Church as well. As we celebrated Easter Sunday just a few days ago, it should be noted that Easter is not a day to celebrate but a season in which to practice a lifestyle of celebration. We spend forty days of Lent practicing self-denial and confession and often we spend one day on Easter celebrating the resurrection. Is it any wonder that we often fail to see the difference the resurrection makes?

In the book Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection and the Mission of the Church, author N.T. Wright says:

“[Easter] ought to be an eight-day festival, with champagne served after morning prayer or even before, with lots of alleluias and extra hymns and spectacular anthems. Is it any wonder people find it hard to believe in the resurrection of Jesus if we don’t throw our hat in the air? Is it any wonder we find it hard to live the resurrection if we don’t do it exuberantly in our liturgies? Is it any wonder the world doesn’t take notice if Easter is celebrated as simply the one-day happy ending tacked on to forty days of fasting and gloom?”

Easter as an eight-day party? Champagne before and after prayer? Shouting our alleluias? (This sounds even more extraordinary when you discover that Wright is an Anglican) Easter is more than a nice way for us to wrap up the season of Lent. It is not even a day. Easter is a season in which the Church is called to celebrate and live resurrection lives. Wright suggests that this season of the Church is a season for planting, watering, and training up things in our lives that will bear fruit. Easter is a season of hope.

As we move through the season of Easter, I want to encourage each of us to discover ways to plant, water, and cultivate new life in our relationship with God and with others. I want to invite you to a season of celebration and of joy. I want us each to discover that the Resurrection is not a day to celebrate but a life to live. Let us live as Easter People!

Easter People Raise Your Voices,

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!

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.**

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.

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.**

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 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.

EASTER FLOWERS

*Those who have given of themselves to others
live forever within the hearts of those they've touched.*

GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF

All those lost to COVID-19 by Caryn Chasanov
His Father, David Alan Arbaugh by Buxton Stevens Arbaugh
Orpha & Grover Ashton by The Webb Family
Alan Boltz by Anita, Cheryl, Judy and Nancy
Janet Boltz by Anita, Cheryl, Judy and Nancy
William Boyd from his granddaughter Molly Edge
Linda Breedlove by Pat Fisher
Lyle Bunville by Kathryn Welch
Lynn Byer by William Byer
Cal Clendaniel by Ginny Clendaniel & Family
Cal Clendaniel by Joyce & Bob Voshell
Grace Conway by David and Sherrie Morris
Betty and Loren Cutler by Richard and Sharon Brown
Her parents John & Alberta Dougherty, Sr. by Al & Linda Hanna
Irene and Tom Eastburn by Carole and Greg Brennan
Ed, Frances & Ted Fisher by The Don Fisher Family
Lucius & Hazel Fox by Connie Fox and family
Duane T. Fox Sr. by Connie Fox and family
Mother, Kathleen Friedline by Bonnie Glenn
Brother, Ronald Friedline by Bonnie Glenn
Joann Glenn by Tom Glenn
Bill Green by Faye Byer
Our daughter Amy M. Hanna-Hagopian by Al & Linda Hanna
His parents Norman & Evelyn Hanna by Al & Linda Hanna
Lib & Dike Hitchens by The Hitchens Family
Ruth and Art Jenkins by Richard and Sharon Brown
Bill Johnson: Lynne's Fiancé by John and Ginny Van Tine
Joe Lear by Joyce and Bob Voshell
Jo-Anne Lessard from her family
Don H. Lewis by Tita Lewis
Sue Lewis by Ken Lewis
Bud, Sally & Peter Macky by Pat and Don Fisher and Family
Jannie Martin by Kaye Majoch
Violet and Harvey Marvel by Joyce and Bob Voshell
Mother & Dad, Edith W and Raymond W Masten by Carolyn M and Harry E Humes
Robert & Lucille Mercer by Ann and Kaye
Earlene Morris by David & Sherrie Morris
Ferd and Edith Nelson by Barbara French
Bertha and George Patterson by Rob and Pat Craig
Stephen Reid by Doris Koons
Daughter Norma and Son Madison by Norman and Millie Remick
Ivan and Harriet Reynolds by Dave and Bev Reynolds

GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF (cont.)

Our Parents, John & Louise Roosa, Karlton & Ruth Van Tine by John & Ginny Van Tine
Her sister Jill D. Grzybowski – Shumate by Linda & Al Hanna
Marge Steiner by Joyce & Bob Voshell
Mother, Hazel Swain by Mike Swain
Charlotte & Harold Tucker by The Hitchens Family
Doris Veasey by David & Sherrie Morris
Our daughter, Sarah Kathleen Webb by Lloyd and Nancy
Aunt Kay Webb by The Webb Family
Lucius & Alice Webb by “Their Family”
My husband, Robbins Webb by Kathryn Webb
Steve Welch Sr by Jacob and Michael Welch
Lida W. Wells by Carolyn M and Harry E Humes
Burton & Hazel Willis by Connie Fox, Susan Harvell & families
Jim and Dawn Willis by Brie, Lance, Rhys and Toby Wyatt
Spence and Stella Willis by Brie, Lance, Rhys and Toby Wyatt
Jo Wood by Joyce & Bob Voshell

GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOR OF

All the Volunteers at Milford Community Pantry by Tita Lewis
Blessings and Love to All by Sarah Circle
Graham, Kasey, Hannah, Lily and Jack Burbage by Gerald and Joanne Burbage
David, Liz, Clay, Brady, Lacy Burbage by Gerald and Joanne Burbage
Lauren Connell by William Byer
Pat Craig by Rob Craig
Harriet Davies by Diane Dolan
Heather and David Evans by Rob and Pat Craig
Don Fisher by Joyce and Bob Voshell
Ruth Fretts by Dave and Bev Reynolds
Helen Holleger, our friend by Catherine and Gary Colbourne
The Hunt Families by Tom and Rachel Susen
Larry, Lynne and Owen Pusey by Diane Dolan
June McNamara by Diane Dolan
Lorraine Reph by Ken Lewis
Dave and Beverly Reynolds by Diane Dolan
The Susen Families by Tom and Rachel Susen
Bob Walls by Diane Dolan
Sandy Walls by Diane Dolan



2021 Avenue Church Scholarship Information

Available on our website.

All applications should be emailed to:
churchoffice@avenueumc.com

Due April 23rd by 3:00 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: Sandy Walls

My God has always been in my life. He was there when I was born and he gave me dedicated Christian parents who instilled faith and love in me by the way they lived and the home they gave my sister and I. God has always present in our lives as we grew up. My mother's mother lived with us. So, our family was a family of five. Church was always a part of our growing up years. We had grace before meals and prayers at bedtime. A family is a blessing and it means so many things. Words could never really tell the joy a family like mine meant. The lives of my parents and their faith daily showed me how to love and care for others. Having my grandmother with us taught me to respect and love older people. I loved her stories, her laughter, and our family shared the same things other families go through. Yet, the bond of faith and love was an added gift through the years that would last forever. It is important that anyone reading this realizes that I grew up many years ago when our world was very different.

Time passes so fast. After graduating from high school, two years later I got married. God blessed my husband and I with three daughters. Our family was active in Avenue Church. I helped with Sunday school four year old class for 22 years. Bible school, sang in the choir, and was in a circle of wonderful friends. During those years I know God touched my heart because I found myself wanting to help others more. We can experience God's presence in healing, comforting, blessing others with a note, a card, a visit, a phone call, a hug or a meal. I found myself able to do these things knowing God was with me every day. He always gives me the words to write in my cards, as well as the names of the people I need to send them to. He sends me where I am needed. I have always loved giving and have always loved hugs. The COVID definitely changed my life. However, I pray daily that one day our lives will regain normalcy.

In 1994, my sister and I had to take our mother to Baltimore for back surgery. It was then that my sister brought bags of yarn and a wonderful idea that while mother was in Baltimore recovering from surgery that the two of us would begin making afghans together that we could give to people, and we get together twice a month at my home to continue making them. Every afghan we give away we tell the person when they use it they get a permanent hug.

Our world needs love. Love that will last. It is a true joy to share the goodness and grace of God everyday through our prayers, our giving and our kindness. Never forget that God is with us always.

*“Love the Lord with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself.”
~ Luke 10:27*

Easter was early this year. It is a reminder that God is with us everywhere. At Easter and always may you feel His presence, know His peace, and rejoice in His life.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- Bill and Joan Dudley who will celebrate their **70th** anniversary on **April 20th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

- The family of Leo Shew who passed away on April 4, 2021.

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:

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



Health Ministry



APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"
Matthew 19:14

**GROWING UP
Together**

Our world is made up of many different kinds of people.
Each one of us is special in our own way, but we are all very much alike. We all have friends and families, go to school, and have hobbies such as soccer, art, or music.

Children with autism may look like other kids, but if you met them you would find they are different in some ways. It may be hard for them to play, to make friends or to learn new things. Some may have trouble talking or understanding what people say. Some may talk too much about a favorite topic. But, just like you, children with autism are very special in many ways. They have families who love them very much, they go to school, and they have special interests.

This booklet is about people you may meet who have autism and how you can be their friend.

What Is Autism?
Autism affects the way a person's brain and body works. It is not a disease and is not contagious. You cannot catch autism from a classmate or friend. A person with autism may have a hard time communicating with other people, making friends, or following directions. However, with the help of teachers, classmates, families, and friends, children with autism often can find it easier to learn in spite of these challenges.



How Do Kids with Autism Act?
Children with autism may act in some unusual ways. Some may have difficulties with certain activities, but they may have strengths in other areas. For instance, a child with autism may be a math whiz, a great artist or unbeatable at computer games. Still, they may have trouble putting their thoughts into words or understanding what you say.

Some children with autism prefer that schedules stay the same or that people always sit in the same seats. They may have a difficult time when things change. Changes may be scary for them, so they may try telling others what to do or where to sit. You may think they are being "bossy" but it is really them trying to adjust to the changes. When schedules change and they do not know what is coming next, they can be very upset, sad or angry.





AUTISM SOCIETY

Web: www.autism-society.org

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

