



**AVENUE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, April 14, 2021*

## **Making Time for Sabbath**

We took our kids on a family trip after Easter Worship. It was much needed as it was my first real time off since the summer. Holy Week is always a load with four worship services in one week, on top of everything else going on in the church and in our family calendar. The winter season brings about its own kind of tiredness and then we have the pandemic which creates a strange weariness that is hard to put a finger on.

One of the challenges of the age that we live in is that we are accessible 24 hours a day. Smart phones have made it easier to do our jobs, but the tradeoff is that we are now available at all hours. When we get up in the middle of the night, there is the temptation to check social media or email. When we wake up in the morning, we can respond to emails before saying good morning to our family or spend time with God. Our bosses and supervisors can text us after hours and expect that we respond. In a busy world, how do we find rest?

In the book of Genesis, God gives us the practice of Sabbath. Sabbath is stopping all work in order to rest, recharge, and to worship. In the Creation account (Genesis 1 & 2), we can see that humans were created to work. Just as God created the earth, humans are called to work to care for the earth. In the same way, just as God rested from work on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3) humans are called to observe a day of rest. Moses records the Sabbath command in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11).

Built into the rhythm of our faith is the idea of work and rest. Too often, we fail to rest, to recharge, and to worship. When we rest, we remember that God rested. When we rest we declare that our identity is more than what we are able to produce. When we rest, we acknowledge that we are not machines. When we rest, we remind ourselves that we are not gods and that the success of the world does not hinge on our constant toil.

In an increasingly virtual world where we can do our work from any place at any time it will become more important for Christians to re-discover the practice of Sabbath. When we practice Sabbath, we are living in resistance to a world that bases our value on what we produce and what we accomplish. In Sabbath, we can rest because we know that our identity is found in God who calls us sons and daughters.

As we seek to live a life of discipleship, how are you practicing Sabbath? What difference would Sabbath make in your life?

Jesus took naps (Mark 4:38-40). Be like Jesus.

*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](https://facebook.com/avenueumc)) and Youtube ([youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch](https://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:** 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](mailto: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.

**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](http://www.avenueumc.com/scholarships)). Then complete the applications on your computer and return them to Mrs. Hudson at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com). Handwritten applications will not be accepted. **Please keep these two dates in mind:**

- ♦ **April 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 3:00 p.m. deadline to return all Avenue Scholarship applications to the office.
- ♦ **May 9<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

**SUMMER KICS LAUNCHES SUNDAY:** Spring Break has ended and the weather is getting warmer, which has us all thinking about summer! Since we've missed Sunday School for the past twelve months, we are ready to launch SUMMER KICS a few weeks early.

Summer KICS will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service for kids ages 4 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade (Kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up can remain in the sanctuary and worship as a family). KICS Kids will be released to Fellowship Hall prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson and activities. They can be picked up in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Kids will be socially distanced and must wear a mask while in KICS. Activities will be appropriate for the time and there will be at least two adults helping with KICS. If you have questions about SUMMER KICS, please email our Sunday School Superintendent, Patty Shockley at [pws210@comcast.net](mailto:pws210@comcast.net). We will be starting on **Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SERVE ON SUNDAYS?** As we continue to move towards a more open worship experience on Sunday morning, there will be additional opportunities to serve. We are seeking people who have passions and interest in serving in several areas to help continue to make Sunday Worship the best experience possible. Below are a few places we are creating or reshaping. If you are interested in serving in an area, please email Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

- **Greeters:** Are the first line of contact for guest. Must be upbeat, helpful, and willing to make a great first impression.
- **Ushers:** Work inside the sanctuary to help guest find a seat, dismiss worshippers after service, help with a head count, and make worship a great experience by serving others. When appropriate, ushers will also assist with offering.
- **Nursery Team:** We are looking for adults of all ages to be on a list of back-ups to help our nursery staff when there is a vacation or illness. This ensures that our nursery stays open to serve families at both services.
- **Connection Center/Guest Services:** This is a new ministry area that will help connect new attenders to the life of the church. In this ministry, you will receive connect cards, answer questions about worship and the church, and help people get connected to ministries and opportunities for Spiritual Growth. To serve in this ministry, hospitality and a desire to connect is a must!

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** There is an easy way to help **Milford Community Pantry** if you are an Amazon shopper. Instead of ordering through Amazon.com go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). The first time you will need to designate the charity you wish to support; after that your charity is established and Amazon knows who you support. In the search enter Milford Community Pantry, Milford, Delaware. It is easy and there is a full explanation on their page of how they support communities throughout the world. Just by shopping as you ordinarily do a portion of each dollar you spend goes to The Pantry. Amazon send us a check for our portion. If you have any questions please call Tita Lewis at (302) 664-1321.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Clothed With the New Person” based on Ephesians 4:21-32; and April 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



**2021 Avenue Church Scholarships** are available on our website.

All applications should be emailed to:  
**[churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com)**

**Due April 23<sup>rd</sup> 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: Carolyn Humes*

My freshman year in high school was 1953 – 1954. One Sunday evening in October, 1953, the Presbyterian Church here in Milford, presented a Billy Graham film. My friend, who was a member there, invited me to go with her. I can still remember where we sat, watching the film, and the overwhelming feeling I had, that forced me to go forward at the Alter Call afterwards! There was no “thinking about it”, or “should I get up and go?” It was GO, loud and clear! That night, at that Alter, I gave my life to Jesus, and been a follower ever since. Also, that night, the feeling was again forceful that I start reading the Bible each night, before turning out the light. (68 years later, time has been moved to earlier in the day.) There’s no doubt that God had planned this for me to happen, on that October evening, I just hadn’t known it.

That same year, Young Life came to Milford, led by 2 college students from Kings College, located upstate Delaware. The meetings, every Monday night, were held in homes where there was a piano, and often were held in our house because of the piano. Our home was a big one, in the style of those being built in 1898, and the living room was double size. You should have seen how many enthusiastic kids were packed in there every week. At one time, the group totaled close to 75, filled the living room and overflowing. From that group, a Sunday afternoon Bible Study also started.

The summer of 1954, 11 of us went to the Young Life Camp in Colorado. (I’m certain if our parents had seen the broken down bus that we rode in, all the way across country, they would not have allowed us to go!) It was nursed along from West Chester, where we met the rest of the group, until we reached St Louis, when it went into the repair shop! We Delawareans had never felt 102 degree weather before, but we sat under a tree for all the time it took to repair the bus,

and felt it. That was an eye opener!

The meetings, followed by summer camp, created the solid support for us, all the following year. Especially for me, in that it was a continuation that followed my accepting Christ. Unfortunately, Kings College had to close the following year, but we all had been given a firm foundation to uphold us.

All during this time, Harry Humes was serving his 4 years in the Navy followed by 4 years in college. Since he had been born and raised in Milford, as I had, I knew him, but only as my friend's big brother. I don't think I had seen him since 1951, when he went into the Navy, until one summer evening in 1959, I was having dinner in the Post House, on Market St in North Wilmington, and in he walked! . We started dating in the Fall, and married summer of 1960, a year before I graduated from UD June 1961.

There is no doubt in our minds that this had all been planned, long ago by the Master Planner! Everything was just too perfect. My Christian husband had been chosen and was waiting for me to grow up!

We have been Blessed with 4 wonderful "children". (Can you still call your offspring who are ages between 52 and 59, "children"?), grandchildren and great-grand children. God is in all their lives too. Truly Blessed!

Thank you Lord,

Carolyn Humes

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Millie Remick** who will be celebrating her **88<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **April 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Bill and Joan Dudley** who will celebrate their **70<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **April 20<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Parker and Maxine Turner** who will celebrate their **58<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **April 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**SYMPATHY TO:**

- The family and friends of Mary Jo Lear who passed away on April 14, 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	Dean Johnson	Phil Saint
Bob Cage	Linda Kemp	Richard Sapp
Brittany and Baby Naomi	Kay Kness	Alice Sellers
Jennifer Clarke	Doris Koon	Roland Simms
Bob Colbourne	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Racheal Simesak
Jack & Denny Collins	Jean Layton	Gary Simpson
Luisa & Billy Combs	Lauren Lee	Linda Singleton
Violet Condif	Nancy Lee	Samuel Smith
Lauren Connell	Brittany Poore Little	Julianna Starling
Linda Cottrill	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Kathy Sullivan
Craig	Ricki McGuire	Joan Tolbert
Julie Dally	Jennifer McNamara	Gene Topolski
Joanna Denney-Turner	Frank Mentusky	Joe Valentine
William Ernst	Orville Mills	Joan Wadman
Carolyn Evans	Kathryn Avery Mitchell	Mary Lou Walters
Ken Fechter	Tiffany Mitchell	TJ Webb
Charlie & Barbara	Stan Moody	Betty Ziesel
Fleetwood	Virginia Moser	
Jayne Frank	Jason Neall	
Gail and Jeffrey	Ariel Ownes	
Bonnie Glenn	Alan Parker	
Matt Hall	Mary Ellin Parsons	
Dave Harris	Laurel Pastor	
Beverly Harrison	Jan Perkins	
Steve Hofer	Millie Remick	
Karl Isele	Roy Rigby	
Ron Ivory	Dick Roberts	
Alvin Jarrell	Lorna Rosella Rulona	





**Health Ministry**



## **APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

*"For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.*

*1 Corinthians 1:26-29*



**AUTISM IS A DIFFERENT WAY IN WHICH THE  
BRAIN THINKS AND PROCESSES  
INFORMATION.**

### **How Can I Be a Friend To Someone with Autism?**

- Accept differences.
- Know that people with autism are really smart, just in a different way.
- Be patient– understand that your friend doesn't mean to bother you or others.
- Wait– give extra time to answer questions.
- Join in activities that interest him or her.
- Invite your friend to join you in activities.

