



AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

I love spring. I love the smell after the rain, the sight of leaves emerging on the trees, and the temperatures as they warm up. As we leave winter in the rearview mirror, spring is the season of new life.

It feels like we are entering the season of spring in the Church (and in our community) as more and more people are vaccinated in this long COVID-19 winter. In worship, we are seeing faces we haven't seen since last February and early March. After missing Easter worship last year as a result of the pandemic, we had 300 gather to celebrate and live the Resurrection. Music ministries continue to expand in numbers and in the ways that they enhance our worship. Fusion is planning a summer mission trip for students later this year. Children's ministry has started back up with the early launch of Summer KICS at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

In Isaiah 43:18-19, God says:

*“Remember not the former things,
Nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing;
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness,
And rivers in the desert.”*

In the midst of captivity, God was directing Israel to forget the past and to look towards the new ways that God would be at work in the coming future. To follow our seasonal discussion, God was moving Israel from the winter of captivity to the spring of new life.

We continue to move into a new season of ministry at Avenue Church. We are looking at

our mission and our ministries in a way that leads us towards more fruitful ministry. We are looking at discipleship and asking how we can be more effective in helping people have their lives shaped by Jesus Christ. We are looking at our structures to see how we can make space for lifegiving ministry to take place.

What we continue to need is YOU! You are essential in the “new thing” that God is doing in our midst. Whether it is coming back and attending worship, reengaging in your financial support of the church, or starting new ministries that God has placed on your heart the work of the church is not the work of the pastor alone- but the people of God working together. If we are to fully embrace the new thing that God is doing then we need you to be part of it!

As we head into May, it is a great time to reconnect with Avenue Church. If you’ve been attending, I want to invite you to pray for the ‘new thing’ that God is doing in our midst. Pray that we might be receptive to the new opportunities that will come before us to live us a church full of followers of Jesus Christ!

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

GIVING STATEMENTS-I have issued and emailed giving statements for the first quarter 2021 to all those with email addresses. If you do not have (or do not wish) to have a PushPay account, just click on the sentence (**Click here to access your single giving statement**). If you do not have email and would like a copy of your first quarter giving, call Kelly and I will print one out for you. *Thanks, Harriet*

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.

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.

SUMMER KICS: Summer KICS will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service for kids ages 4 through 4th grade (Kids 5th 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. **Next class is on Sunday, May 2nd.**

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.

- **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.**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Church Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Please register your intent to participate by emailing Kelly

at the Church Office (churchoffice@avenueumc.com).

AIRMAN OUTREACH - You may or may not know that a lot of the young men and women stationed at Dover Air Force Base are away from home for the first time. They may be lonely, scared, and isolated. Airman Outreach is an opportunity to build relationships with these young men and women, give them a family away from home, and provide a sense of community and belonging. Some ways this can be done are to invite them to a family function, teach them a skill (cooking, working on cars, etc.), and find a common hobby. The idea is to meet with them, communicate with them, and let them know we are there for them. If you are interested in this new ministry or would like more information, please contact Karen Williams via email at mkwill95@comcast.net with "Airman Outreach" in the subject line. You can also text or call her at 302-393-6467.

2021 GRADUATES: If you have a family member that is graduating (high school/college), please send an email to Kelly at churchoffice@avenueumc.com with the information and a picture. We will be listing the 2021 graduates in June.

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 May is "God Revealed." The lesson for May 2nd "God Declares Who God Is" based on Exodus 33: 12-23; 34: 5-8, May 9th "God in the Quiet Sound" based on 1 Kings 19: 9-19, May 16th "Jesus Transformed" based on Luke 9: 28-36, May 23rd "The Indestructible King" based on Daniel 7: 1-14, and May 30th "God is Love" based on 1 John 4: 7-21. Feel free to join us in the Wesley Room for these exciting lessons.

SISTERS BIBLE STUDY IS BACK— We'll be "Chasing Vines" with Beth Moore for 6 weeks beginning **May 11th** at 10am in Fellowship Hall. Any questions, please call Brenda Powers at (302) 422-8821.

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: Cheryl Pusey

I received a call from my dear friend, Janice Abbott, who shared with me her newest ministry – encouraging others to witness their faith – and she asked that I share mine in the AveNews. How wonderful to see God using Janice in such an uplifting way. Through her guidance and encouragement, our brothers and sisters in Christ are stepping out in faith to share their testimonies, and those of us who read their messages are blessed.

I am fortunate to have grown up in a home with loving parents who instilled in me godly principles and moral. I cannot remember a day when I did not love the Lord. When I was a young adult, however, I realized there is much more to one's Christian faith than just loving the Lord. I learned from others that God longs and seeks a relationship with us. That is something I could not confidently say I had. Before I could have a relationship with God, I would need to know Him personally and intimately by spending time in His word which, up to that time, I had not done. Relationships require time and commitment. Reading and studying the Bible had not been on my top priority list.

When I became a mother, my most important responsibility was to give my sons a firm foundation by teaching them about God and His love for them. However, without a better knowledge of God's Word, I knew I would have difficulty giving them proper instruction. It was then that God intervened in my life. I was asked to teach a children's Sunday school class. Although I felt quite unprepared, our Sunday school superintendent confidently encouraged me and told me not to worry, I would learn with the children. Surprisingly, that's exactly what happened. As I learned, the desire to know more grew even stronger. A spark was ignited in my heart to seek Him more fully. It was 1994 when I enrolled in my first adult Bible study class and my life-long adventure in relationship with

God began. As I continued to teach Sunday school and attend Bible study classes, my knowledge and relationship with God grew. However, God taught me that what I was learning was not for me alone. Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations. We are all called to witness and share with others what we have learned as we study Scripture and to use the gifts God gives us to bless others.

As my knowledge and faith broadened, God ever-so-gently molded me into a new person in Christ. From 2001 to 2011, God encouraged me to reach out to my sisters in faith by organizing biennial bus trips to Philadelphia to attend Women of Faith conferences. Sounds simple, but God in his loving and compassionate way used this unique opportunity to reveal Himself to every person attending those conferences. Not only did we receive Biblical teaching from the conference speakers, but God touched our hearts and rejuvenated our souls as we set aside time to be in His presence.

In 2005, God open yet another door of opportunity to me. Instead of simply attending Bible studies, I was asked to facilitate one. Once again, my insecurities arose but God showed me that facilitators are not expected to know all the answers. All that was needed was a teachable heart. Facilitating that one class led to another, and another, and another. Throughout the years, God has transformed me from a timid, uneducated, and weak Christian to one who is no longer afraid to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

I retired my Sunday school teaching adventure after 20 incredible years. While I planned to continue attending and facilitating Bible studies, I had no immediate plan to change how I would serve God in the future. It was then that God called me to my greatest challenge. He placed on my heart the need to reach out to those who were hurting from the loss of a loved one. The GriefShare ministry began in 2008 and ran until 2016. To this day, I do not know why God chose me for this ministry but I can assure you, it was the greatest privilege of my life. With the assistance of Janice Abbott, Ann and Terry Andrews, Carlton Goodhand, Tita Lewis, and Diana Barnard, we faithfully followed God's call by sharing with so many the love, guidance, comfort, and peace that only God can give to those who are facing the most difficult journey of their lives. God's promises are real. He is faithful and true. He will never leave or abandon you. His love and mercy endures forever.

God works in mysterious ways. We do not always know His plan or understand it. But one thing's for sure—God's plan is perfect. After more than forty wonderful years at Avenue, God called Larry and me to step out in faith and follow His calling. While we no longer attend Avenue Church, God has truly blessed us with

new opportunities to serve Him. We continue to study God's word. I assist in a ministry that reaches out to those in need. God has truly blessed us. My desire is to be as faithful to God as He has been to me. We may not be called to remain in any one ministry forever but instead He asks us to be faithful and obedient to Him and to love and trust Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. That is my goal – to be faithful and obedient to His calling in His perfect timing.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Parker and Maxine Turner** who will celebrate their **58th** anniversary on **April 28th**.

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



Health Ministry



Celebrate OT Month!

APRIL 2021

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

PASSION. PURPOSE. POSSIBILITY.



What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational therapy is the only profession that helps people across the lifespan to do the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of daily activities (occupations). Occupational therapy practitioners enable people of all ages to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health, and prevent—or live better with—injury, illness, or disability.

Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes.

Occupational therapy services typically include:

- an individualized evaluation, during which the client/family and occupational therapist determine the person's goals,
- customized intervention to improve the person's ability to perform daily activities and reach the goals, and
- an outcomes evaluation to ensure that the goals are being met and/or make changes to the intervention plan.

Occupational therapy practitioners have a holistic perspective, in which the focus is on adapting the environment and/or task to fit the person, and the person is an integral part of the therapy team. It is an evidence-based practice deeply rooted in science.

For more information: www.aota.org



The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace. Psalm 29:11