



AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

I've never really understood America's fascination with the British monarchy. I watched my Facebook feed blow up when Prince Harry married Meghan Markle. The same was true when Prince William and Princess Kate had their children. Few things get people excited, like a royal wedding or birth!

This Thursday (May 13th) is Ascension Day. This is the day the Church celebrates Jesus' return to heaven following his resurrection as recording in Acts 1:9:

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight."

Ascension Day is probably one of the least known "Holy Days" on the Church calendar. Pastors (including myself) rarely preach or teach on it. Still, it is an important day for us to consider because the Ascension is where we see Jesus, as Stephen Seamands writes, be exalted as the "Now and Forever King." Unlike the British monarchy, which is symbolic, Jesus the King over the heavens and the earth, has complete authority and power. At the Ascension, rather than the day Jesus returns, Christ became King over Creation.

We live in God's Kingdom now. It is fully present even though we cannot always see it. As followers of Jesus, we are subjects of the Kingdom submitted to the authority of King Jesus. For us today, this means that our lives are subject to Jesus' authority. Our decision-making should conform to the Kingdom. As citizens of the Kingdom, we are to be committed to the mission of the Kingdom!

As we remember Ascension Day on Thursday, take time to consider the monarchy, but not the Queen of England and the House of Windsor but the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ who sits at God's right hand. Let us consider how we submit to the King's authority and commit to the mission for the Kingdom.

Happy Ascension Day!

Pastor Steve

P.S. I recommend reading *The Unseen Real*, by Stephen Seamands, to learn more about the Ascension. It is available from www.seedbed.com.



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.

COVID CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS LIFTED BEGINNING MAY 21ST: On Tuesday, May 4th, Governor Carney announced that capacity restrictions for houses of worship would be lifted beginning May 21st, provided that social distancing of 3 feet be maintained between households. This is good news and moves us closer to being able to worship at total capacity. On a given Sunday, most families keep three feet of distance between one another. This may be a challenge on Sundays where there is a baptism, Christmas Eve, Easter, and other “special” Sundays. We will be evaluating whether or not to continue the RSVP system we have in place.

This announcement does not change the mask mandate. Mask will still be required upon entering Avenue and should be worn the entire time in the building. We are grateful for how the Avenue community has worked to make our times of worship safe and sacred during the COVID pandemic. We will continue to do all we can to express our love for one another by how we protect each other.

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 16th.**

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. 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.**

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.

**** On June 6th at the 10:30 a.m. service we will be recognizing all our Class of 2021 graduating seniors.**

MILFORD LIONS CLUB: Milford Lions Club is collecting used eyeglasses. There is a donation box in the coat closet.

IMPORTANT YARD SALE ANNOUNCEMENT: YES!! Avenue Church will be having its annual yard sale this year. Mark your calendars for **August 5th, 6th, and 7th**. This year's sale will be somewhat abbreviated compared to previous years. More details will follow in June.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 21-24: VBS is just around the corner! We are making changes for VBS, making it an event for the entire family. This year, we are planning for one (or more) parent/guardian to be with their kids as we interact with the lesson, the music, and the fun! Registration and more information will be coming soon.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: VBS will be held on June 21st-24th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We have areas we are looking for people to serve in. Areas needed are:

- Decoration Assistant (Help build set/create decorations)
- Opening Skit (1 Person)

- Adult to run games
- Registration (2 Adults from 6:00-7:00 p.m.)
- Two Adults to Count Money Nightly

If you would like to assist with Vacation Bible School in June, please email Andrea LaMotte at lamotte.andrea@gmail.com.

OUTDOOR SERVICES BEGIN JUNE 6TH: Summer is nearly here and Avenue will again be offering an evening outdoor worship service on Sunday nights. Our first service will be **Sunday, June 6th** at 6:30 p.m. out on the lawn along Front Street. You will need to bring your own chair for the worship service. We hope that you will plan on joining us for worship outdoors, especially if you are not yet ready to come inside. This gathering is open to the community so bring a friend!

AVENUE UNDER THE BIG TOP: Thanks to a generous donation from a congregation member, Avenue has purchased a large tent that will be here at the end of June. Beginning in July, the tent will house our evening worship services. It will also open up opportunities for some creative fellowship, worship, and outreach events. As we prepare for the tent's arrival and set-up, we would like to encourage you to think creatively about how we can leverage the tent for ministry and mission. If you'd like to discuss ideas, please contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

CONNECTION CLASS JUNE 13TH: Avenue will be hosting a Connection Class on **Sunday, June 13th at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**. This class is for new attendees who would like to meet the staff, hear the story of Avenue Church, and ask questions about Avenue. It will be a great way to connect with some other new attendees at Avenue. Donuts, coffee, and juice will be provided. Please RSVP to Kelly in the church office at churchoffice@avenueumc.com

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 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. Our next class will be on **May 18th** at 10:00 a.m. 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: Linda M. Marvel

My Journey with God

I didn't find god, god found me when I was born. I was baptized Methodist. When to Sunday school when I was younger, attended church when I was older. The only reason you were not in church you were sick or dead. When I met my husband to be I left my church to attend his, Holy Cross, he was catholic. When we had children they were raised in the catholic faith. God is god no matter what church you attend. For 47 years I attended catholic churches.

We moved to the Milford area in 1982. Everything was great, our sons were in college, and our daughter was graduating from high school. As the years passed our children got jobs, then wives and husband and grandchildren. God was with me through all the growing up years. Through thick and thin, through good and bad. My husband got ill in 2009, he went through hell trying to beat his illness. During my husband's stay in Milford hospital I met Pastor Earle and he didn't know me or my husband. He knew my grandson and his Mom for they are members of Avenue.

Pastor Earle would visit my husband and pay a prayer to him. In 2011, God needed another angel so he took my husband from me. I could have been very mad at god, but I wasn't, I knew god took him so he wouldn't be suffering anymore. I asked Pastor Earle if he would do my husband's service. He told me he would be honored too. Here was a man of god, who didn't know us from Adam and he gave me such a wonderful feeling of peace. That's when I decided to go back to my Methodist religion. What a wonderful church, and new friends who made me feel so welcome. Pastor Earle brought god back into my life. I hope to see my friends again soon. I talk to god every night and every morning. When I return to church god will be with me always and forever on whatever journey's I take.

How Is Alzheimer's Disease Diagnosed?

Doctors use several methods and tools to help determine whether a person who is having memory problems has “possible Alzheimer’s dementia” (dementia may be due to another cause), “probable Alzheimer’s dementia” (no other cause for dementia can be found), or some other problem.

To diagnose Alzheimer’s doctors may:

- Ask the person and a family member or friend questions about overall health, use of prescription and over-the-counter medicines, diet, past medical problems, ability to carry out daily activities, and changes in behavior and personality
- Conduct tests of memory, problem solving, attention, counting, and language
- Carry out standard medical tests, such as blood and urine tests, to identify other possible causes of the problem
- Perform brain scans, such as computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or positron emission tomography (PET), to rule out other possible causes for symptoms



These tests may be repeated to give doctors information about how the person’s memory and other cognitive functions are changing over time. They can also help diagnose other causes of memory problems, such as stroke, tumor, Parkinson’s disease, sleep disturbances, side effects of medication, an infection, mild cognitive impairment, or a non-Alzheimer’s dementia, including vascular dementia. Some of these conditions may be treatable and possibly reversible.

People with memory problems should return to the doctor every 6 to 12 months.

It’s important to note that Alzheimer’s disease can be *definitively* diagnosed only after death, by linking clinical measures with an examination of brain tissue in an autopsy. Occasionally, biomarkers—measures of what is happening inside the living body—are used to diagnose Alzheimer’s. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/how-alzheimers-disease-diagnosed>

Hotline for Alzheimer’s 1-800-272-3900 www.alz.org/desisepea

“Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.”

Psalm 55:22



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

- **Kathryn Webb** who will be celebrating her **93rd** birthday on **May 24th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Bob and Joanne McKay** who will celebrate their **51st** anniversary on **May 16th**.
- **Sonny and Donna Meck** who will be celebrate their **53rd** anniversary on **May 23rd**.

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