



The Midweek

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Discipleship #3: From Activity to Relationship

My parents always had a large garden growing up. From the garden, Mom would can or freeze the harvest God gave us and we would enjoy the fruits and vegetables throughout the year. Gardening is hard work, too. Cultivating a garden requires preparation (tilling and preparing), planting of seeds, maintenance (pulling weeds and watering), as well as the harvest at the right time. Gardening is not an activity you begin if you're hungry now, but is something you cultivate if you want to eat for the next 6-9 months.

Just like gardening, spiritual growth does not occur through endless activities but through intentional and deep relationship with God and with others. Deep and impactful relationships stake time. Jesus spent three years walking and sharing life with a group of twelve individuals. The time spent with Jesus paid off as these disciples shaped the early church. Deep relationships also require truth. To grow in our relationship with God and others we must have people in our lives who we have given permission to speak truth to us. Finally, deep relationships require love. Just as a plant will not grow without sunshine, we will not grow without experiencing love. We can have all sorts of time and truth, but if we do not have love, it is all worthless. If we do not love those we disciple and serve, it will all fall apart.

As we focus on discipleship, we must make a shift in away from programming to deep and meaningful relationships where we grow in our faith in Jesus through

time, truth, and love. Let us love deeply the community of God that we are part of!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

Sunday, July 11, 2021

The evening service at 6:30 p.m. will be in
the sanctuary.

SPRC Actions & Up-dates

Staffing Up-date

We are in the process of recruiting for a full-time **Pastor of Discipleship & Connections**. The Job Summary states “The Pastor of Discipleship & Connections will lead the Small Group Ministries of Avenue UMC and other ministry functions that will nurture the church family in connecting to one another and to grow in their personal faith journey. They will develop, implement and maintain system(s) to assimilate persons new to the church into the life of the church.” If you know of someone that may be interested in this position, please let them know of this opening and/or pass along their name and contact information to Pastor Steve or a member of the Staff Parish Committee.

We are also in the process of recruiting for a part-time position for a **Pastor of Congregational Care (Visitation)**. The Job Summary states... The Pastor of Congregational Care will lead the efforts of Avenue UMC in providing pastoral care and compassion to the Avenue church family. It is expected he/she will utilize the staff and the laity of the church in the ministry of pastoral care. If you know of someone that may be interested in this pastoral position, please let them know of this opening and/or pass along their name and contact information to Pastor Steve or a member of the Staff Parish Committee.

Praise & Worship Team – while we are not currently recruiting for the Team Leader please know that this is a tremendous opportunity to serve our church. If you or someone that you may know have been blessed with musical talents, how about sharing those gifts with our church family.

Church Covenant

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has been working over the past year with Pastor Steve to create the Ministry Covenant of Avenue UMC. The concept of a “church covenant” between the laity and the clergy has been encouraged for all churches within our conference for the past few years. The attached covenant was approved by our Church Council on May 5, 2021. I urge you to review the Ministry Covenant and ask yourself how you will join, support, and/or lead in fulfilling the mission and ministries of Avenue UMC!

Please know that the vision and missional goals, as well as the expectations of the pastor and the congregation, are intended to be dynamic. They may well change and be enhanced from one year to the next. Please feel free to share your thoughts and comments with any member of the SPRC. While the SPRC members were instrumental in the drafting of this covenant, it serves as an agreement between the entire laity and the clergy of Avenue UMC. Together we all make up the body of Avenue Church and have the vital role of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and serving our community in Christian love.

2021 Ministry Covenant of Avenue United Methodist Church

(Covenant – “an agreement, a conditional promise” formed between the SPRC and the Lead Pastor, Steve LaMotte)

This Covenant will be used as the foundation for the relationship between our pastor and the congregation of the Avenue United Methodist Church (AUMC). The purpose of this Covenant is to reinforce the bond between the congregation and the pastor by:

- (1) Clearly establishing the expectations of the pastor by the congregation.
- (2) Clearly establishing the expectations of the congregation by the pastor.
- (3) Supplementing district forms/formats in the performance evaluation of the pastor.

This Covenant shall be reviewed and adopted by the Church Council. It is intended to be a dynamic document that will be flexible enough to meet the evolving and changing needs of the Avenue Church Family in serving the ministry and mission of AUMC in our community.

Core Value: “Truth – Trust – Respect”

- 1) We respect the need for each person’s right to privacy and will keep all discussions regarding personnel and personal information confidential.
- 2) Our SPRC Committee meetings will be a safe place where all that are involved can be trusting, open and honest when dealing with any issue.
- 3) We will offer regular and honest feedback to our pastor in a timely and kindhearted manner.
- 4) We will treat each other with respect, recognizing the various gifts and talents that each member brings to the committee.
- 5) We will support our pastor through our prayers, our presence, our gifts/talents and our service, recognizing that this ministry is truly a partnership.
- 6) We believe that our pastor needs to be present at the SPRC meetings and the SPRC will hold no meetings without the pastor’s knowledge.
- 7) We believe that the hiring and dismissal of staff members lies jointly with the pastor and the SPRC Committee.

2021 Vision and Missional Goals for AUMC

- To embrace the Vision Statement of AUMC – “to be a dynamic faith community growing in hope, love and service.”
- To embrace the Mission Statement of AUMC – “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world.”
- To develop a clearly defined Discipleship Pathway Process for our church
- To develop measurable goals
- To define what “active participation” means for our church laity

Expectations (actions) of the Church Congregation

- To actively support the pastor and the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.
- To actively participate in and develop our leadership in various connectional ministries such as small groups, family ministries, grief share, etc.
- To fully support the church leadership in exploring, developing and implementing a leadership structure that enhances our discipleship pathway process.

Expectations of the Lead Pastor

- To lead the church family in worship that is Christ centered and biblically based
- To observe a day of Sabbath
- To maintain the priority of God, family and work (Avenue Church and district activities).
- To accomplish the 2021 performance goals as noted by SPRC in the Performance Evaluation

Adopted by SPRC: March 25, 2021 (LRW SPRC Chair)

Approved by Pastor: Steven R. LaMotte

Approved by Church Council: May 5, 2021

2021 Annual Conference Report

The 237th Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference met June 10th-12th, successfully using the same Zoom format as the 2020 conference. Clergy and laity members met in separate sessions on June 10th, followed by a joint business session on June 11th. Attending the conference on behalf of Avenue were Pastor Steve LaMotte, delegates Beth Parker and Barbara Rutt. Also participating as an accompanist was our Minister of Music and Organist, Kevin Chamberlain.

Organizationally, Conference formalized redistricting plans originally presented in 2020. Beginning July 1st, we will go from 4 districts, Wilmington, Dover, Easton and Salisbury, to 3 districts, renamed Delaware, Upper Shore and Lower Shore. This consolidation will result in a savings of \$82,000. Avenue will be served by Rev. Joseph Archie, Delaware District Superintendent. Our former D.S., Dr. Sa, has completed her term and has been appointed to pastor at St. John's UMC in Seaford.

Conference recognized and thanked Bishop Peggy Johnson for her years of faithful, loving service. Bishop Johnson will be retiring on September 1st. There will be a formal celebration of her ministry later this summer, details to be forthcoming.

Upon Bishop Johnson's retirement, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling will become the leader of Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference. She is presently Bishop to the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, and will also continue in that role. This dual arrangement is not an organizational change from our perspective. Bishop Johnson served simultaneously as the leader of two Annual Conferences, ours as well as Eastern-Pennsylvania. The E-PAC will now be served by the Bishop of New Jersey Annual Conference. We will have opportunity to welcome Bishop Easterling and look forward to sharing in creative and spirit filled ministries with her.

Conference approved resolutions allowing eleven churches to disaffiliate from the UMC for reasons of conscience related to issues surrounding human sexuality. The departures are subject to the full satisfaction of all apportionment, debts, pension and health insurance obligations.

The Annual Conference 2022 spending plan was approved, noting that expenses will be 4% lower than in the previous year. The Conference Annual

Appeal was designated to benefit the following programs: BOOM (Board of Ordained Ministry) scholarships, Congo Partnership supporting clean water, agricultural, educational and medical programs, and Justice for Our Neighbors working to resolve immigration and social justice issues.

Ordination anniversaries celebrated at Conference included Pastor Steve LaMotte, 10 years, and a former Avenue Associate Pastor, Bruce Miller, 25 years.

Further details regarding 2021 Annual Conference may be found on the Conference website, www.pen-del.org, or by contacting Pastor Steve or one of our lay delegates.

Respectfully submitted,

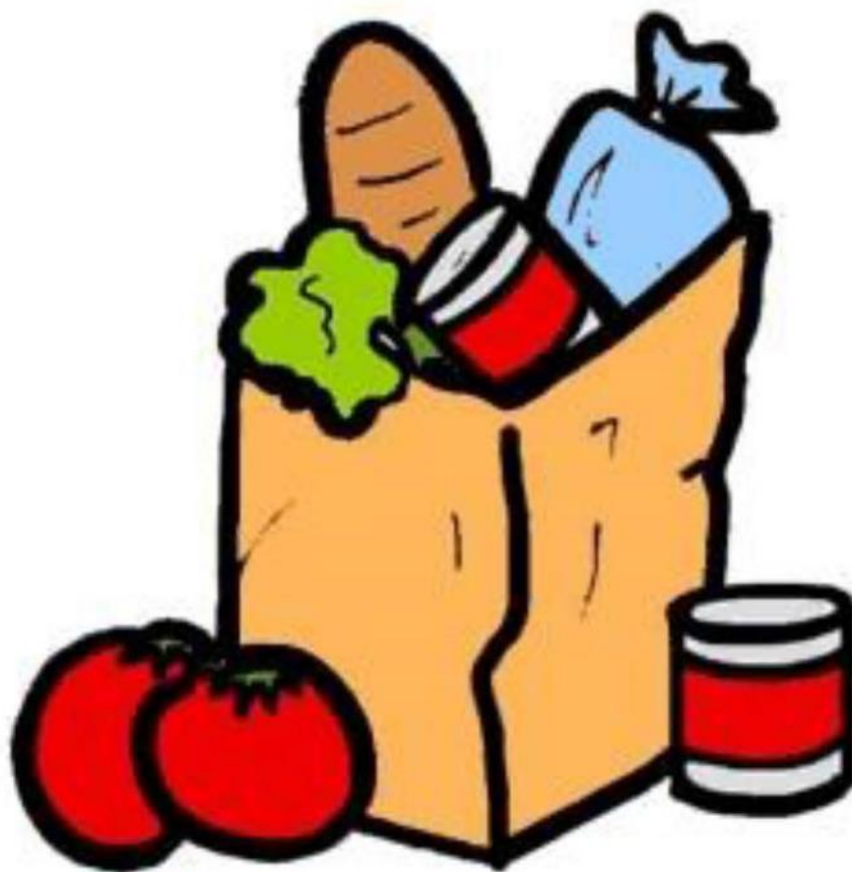
Barbara Rutt
Lay Delegate

Milford Community Food Pantry

Wednesday, July 14th

4:30 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Bring proof of employment and ID



2021 YARD SALE

The summer is moving along and that means the Yard Sale is coming quickly!! Here is a list of all the important dates that you need to help us get ready. Please let us know if you cannot make the meeting, but want to help.

Judy Struck (609) 319- 8082 judystruck@comcast.net
Sandy Culotta (302) 258-5787 swculotta@gmail.com

PLANNING MEETING: Tuesday, July 13th at 6:30 pm in **Fellowship Hall**. Everyone wishing to help is welcome to come and learn what is happening.

YARD SALE DATES AND TIMES:

- ◆ Thursday, August 5th from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (\$1 entrance fee)
- ◆ Friday, August 6th from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, August 7th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DONATION DATES AND TIMES:

- ◆ Thursday, July 29th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, July 30th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, July 31st from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, August 2nd from 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday, August 3rd from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FURNITURE PICK UP:

Contact Larry Hughes (302) 745-4331 or Dave Reynolds (302) 503-3933. Times will vary and items must be either in the garage or outside.

PLEASE PICK UP A LIST OF WHAT WE WILL AND WILL NOT ACCEPT FROM THE TABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER AS THE YARD SALE HAS BEEN MODIFIED THIS YEAR.



THIS SUMMER AT AVENUE



JULY 29TH @ 6:30P

THE REHOBOTH SUMMER
CHILDREN'S THEATER PRESENTS:
HANSEL AND GRETEL



AUGUST 11TH @ 6:30P

THE PRETTY CRAZIES AND
THE DADDY JAM BAND

**EVENTS ARE OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC & FREE!**

AVENUEUMC.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/AVENUEUMC

**AVENUE CHURCH
20 N. CHURCH ST. MILFORD, DE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY: Worship is held each Sunday in-person or online at 9:00 a.m. (Traditional), 10:30 a.m. (Contemporary) 6:30 p.m. (Outdoor Worship). 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 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 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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The Church Office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We asked that you use the main entrance to access the office during business hours. All guest will need to buzz in on the intercom to be let in.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY DREAM TEAM: As we prepare for the Fall and the discipleship that is taking place in our congregation, we want to invite those who are passionate about children’s and family ministry to join our Dream Team. This team will spend time in prayer and dreaming about how to best disciple our children and make our families the primary place of discipleship. If you are interested in learning more, please email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

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 Wesley Room prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson and activities. They can be picked up in the Wesley Room 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, July 11th.**

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.

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

MEAL TRAIN AT AVENUE: Health Ministries is looking for folks in the Avenue family who like to cook and would like to prepare meals for those who are sick, who have had loved ones pass, or who have had new babies as a way to care for one another. We are using the website mealtrain.com to allow members to sign up. If you would like to receive emails when we need meals, you can email Sharon at sharonclendaniel@msn.com.

AVENUE HOSTING COMMUNITY EVENTS: This summer, Avenue is hosting several events as a way to come together as a community. Each event is free and open to the public.

July 29th @ 6:30p.m. - The Rehoboth Summer Children's Theater Presents: Hansel and Gretel. Join us for a 2-person play performed by The Rehoboth Summer Children's Theater. Schlabach's Ice Cream will be on hand. Bring your own chair or blanket.

August 11th @ 6:30p.m. - The Pretty Crazies and The Daddy Jam Band. Bring your kids for a night of music, celebration, and empowerment from The Pretty Crazies. The Felton Fire Company Ice Cream Trailer will be at the concert. Bring your own chair or blanket.

HELP WITH TENT INSTALLATION—We need 6 volunteers to help put up our newly purchased tent. If you are interested please call Kelly at (302) 422-8111 or email at churchoffice@avenueumc.com.

FUSION—CANCELLED: There will be NO FUSION on Sunday, July 11th.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Summer Sunday School for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired plus others, is meeting in the Grier Room at 10:15 a.m. The study for July is “The People Next Door.” The lesson for July 11th lesson is “Listening to the Stories” based on Ruth 2:4-16; July 18th lesson is “Inside Out” based on Acts 6:1-7; and July 25th lesson is “Love Your Neighbor, Really” based on Mark 2:1-12. Please join us in the Grier Room for these exciting lessons.

What Do I Need to Know About Water Safety at the Pool or in Natural Settings?

- **Learn how to swim** - this applies to both you and your children.
- **Supervise** your children at all times in aquatic settings, regardless of whether or not there is a lifeguard on duty.
- **Use Life jackets.** Just like seat belts, life jackets save lives. When in or around the lake, river, or ocean, always wear a life jacket.
- **Check the weather conditions**, prior to arriving at the pool, lake, river, or ocean. Never swim or go boating in rough weather, (i.e. thunder and lightning, strong winds, and strong currents).
- **Use a buddy system** - this applies to adults and children!

- **Diving Boards**

By far the most dangerous element to your swimming pool is the diving board. The vast majority of swimming pools are not deep enough for a diving board. The risk of spinal and head trauma are extremely high in pools less than nine feet deep, which most are. Even a moderately steep dive will cause a collision at the bottom for the swimmer, and the long slope of the pool shallow end is a tricky obstacle to avoid when pulling up from the dive. Removing the diving board from your pool and encouraging a no diving policy will decrease the likelihood of a swimming pool accident or injury by as much as 50%. <http://poolwatermedic.com/swimming-pool-safety/>



“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

Genesis 1:2



Health Ministry



ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Robert and Marie Bradley** who will celebrate their **62nd** anniversary on **July 11th**.
- **Rev. John and Ginny Van Tine** who will celebrate their **51st** anniversary on **July 18th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

- David Evans and family on the passing of his mother, Carolyn Evans.

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
- Those who lost loved ones in the building collapse in Florida.

PRAYER REQUEST:

Ann
Rosie Babel
Frank & Frances Beebe
Bobby Bergez
Bob Cage
Charlene Johnson Cannon
Jennifer Clarke
Gloria Clendaniel
Jack & Denny Collins
Luisa & Billy Combs
Violet Condif
Linda Cottrill
Craig
Rick Crump
Sandy Culotta
Julie Dally
Joanna Denney-Turner
Michael Dougherty
William Ernst
Charlie & Barbara
Fleetwood
Jayne Frank
Steve & Judy Franklin
Gail & Jeffrey
Bonnie Glenn
Alina Guido
Matt Hall
Dave Harris

Beverly Harrison
Steve Hofer
Karl Isele
Ron Ivory
Alvin Jarrell
Dean Johnson
Justin
Linda Kemp
Doris Koon
Rhoda & Greg Kurz
Jean Layton
Jean Layton's Grandson
Nancy Lee
Lee Family
Brittany Poore Little
Jack & Zelda McDuff
Sonny Meck
Tiffany Medlin
Frank Mentusky
Orville Mills
Kathryn Avery Mitchell
Tiffany Mitchell
Stan Moody
Jean Murphy
Jason Neall
Ariel Ownes
Alan Parker
Laurel Pastor

Jan Perkins
Millie Remick
Roy Rigby
Dick Roberts
Lorna Rosella Rulona
Phil Saint
Richard Sapp
Alice Sellers
Roland Simms
Racheal Simesak
Gary Simpson
Linda Singleton
Samuel Smith
Joan Tolbert
Debbie Topolski
Gene Topolski
Joan Wadman
Mary Lou Walters
Lloyd Webb
TJ Webb
Betty Ziesel