



The Midweek

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP [part 1]

On December 1, 2019, I began a journey; A journey towards a doctoral degree in Christian worship. My first class focused on: 1) the theology of worship as based in both the Old and New Testaments and 2) the historical practices of the early church (beginning in the 4th century).

Over the next few weeks, I will be writing a series of articles titled: Thoughts and Reflections on Christian Worship. The series is based on excerpts from my first theological paper focusing on Christian Worship throughout the Old and New Testaments. I invite you to come on this journey with me. The thoughts are based in Scripture, with quotes and thoughts from various professors of worship and theology from around the world.

Thus, journey begins . .

For the past 17 years, I have been adapting [adopted from Dr. Bruce H. Leafblad] and revising my personal definition of Christian worship: ***Christian worship is communion with the Triune God in which believers, by faith in the redemptive work of Christ, center their minds attention and hearts affection on the Lord, humbly glorifying God in response to his greatness and his word.*** This definition embraces both the understanding that God is the Creator of the earth and that Jesus Christ is the redeemer of humankind. Communion with God is central to our Christian worship. Our communion with God is Trinitarian (worship of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit).

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gn 1:1). God then spoke and created all things *ex nihilo*, meaning “out of nothing.” After creating the heavens and the earth, God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Gn 1:26a). “So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him” (Gn 1:27a).

Designed from the first sentences of the Old Testament, God established the Creator/creation relationship. God created man “out of nothing” and God created man in God’s own image (*imago Dei*). It is in the Creation story that our worship of God was established. Also, one can find throughout the Old Testament multiple covenants similar to that found in Jeremiah, “And you shall be my people, and I will be your God” (Jer 30:22). The word *covenant* is an agreement made between two or more parties and it is typically based on some significant event in history. “[Christian] worship orients itself around particular things that God has done in history, and it is primarily about things that Christians do together in the presence of God.”¹ The Creation story coupled with the covenant between Creator/creation makes God the object and subject of our Christian worship. **“As the Westminster Confession puts it: ‘Man’s chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.’”²**

“After creating the heavens and the earth, God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness’” (Gn 1:12a). Not only does this verse talk about man being created in the image of God, it also gives glimpses of the Trinity; “Let us make man in **our** image.” Christian worship is *Trinity* focused; One God who is Three persons. The Trinity speaks to humankind in two ways: revelation and redemption. “Every act of God is Trinitarian . . . Scripture indicates that particular members of the Trinity are closely connected with certain activities in relationship to our world. This does not mean that the other members are not also involved, but each of the three has a locus of work and responsibility. This means there is diversity in their functions, but certainly not an absolute division of labor.”³ Alan Coppedge states, **“Gods work in revelation is from the Father through the Son by the Spirit.”⁴** This revelation from God is not a one-way street; God expects a response from the creation. Coppedge goes on to state, “The Spirit opens our spirits so that we can understand and be receptive to the truth; [the Spirit] helps us understand what God is saying . . . The Spirit empowers us to respond positively to the revelation we have received from God, bringing an enabling grace that allows us to be receptive, to trust and then to respond appropriately . . . God’s revelation concentrates on the person of Jesus, and his primary design is for us to come to know about the Son **so that we may actually come to KNOW the Son** (salvation) . . . Knowledge of God is mediated

through the Son. There is no saving knowledge of God apart from Jesus.”⁵ **Christ states, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (Jn 14:6).**

Corporate worship is initiated by Gods work through revelation [truth]. It is through the working of the Holy Spirit that truth is understood, and it is through Christ that we can have communion with the Father. “The basic structure of worship is Trinitarian—that worship is initiated and enabled by the persons of the Trinity, and further, that worship results in believers being enabled to actually share in the Trinitarian life of God.”⁶ Robert Webbers states, **“The Trinitarian formula, so familiar in Christian worship, is found in Scripture only in Matthew 28:19, where the risen Christ commissions the apostles to make disciples of all people, baptizing them ‘in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’”**⁷

To be continued . . .

Blessings,



Kevin B. Chamberlain

Minister of Music

Works Cited Bibliography:

^{1, 6} William A. Dryness, *A Primer on Christian Worship: Where We’ve Been, Where We Are, Where We Can* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.) 15 and 73.

² Andrew Wilson-Dickson, *The Story of Christian Music* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.) 11.

^{3, 4, 5} Alan Coppedge, *The God Who is Triune: Revisioning the Christian Doctrine of God*. (Downers Grove: IVP, 2007.) 115 and 118.

⁷ Robert E. Webber(ed.), *The Complete Library of Christian Worship. Volume I, The Biblical Foundations of Christian Worship*. (Nashville: StarSong Publishing Group, 1993.) 36.

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

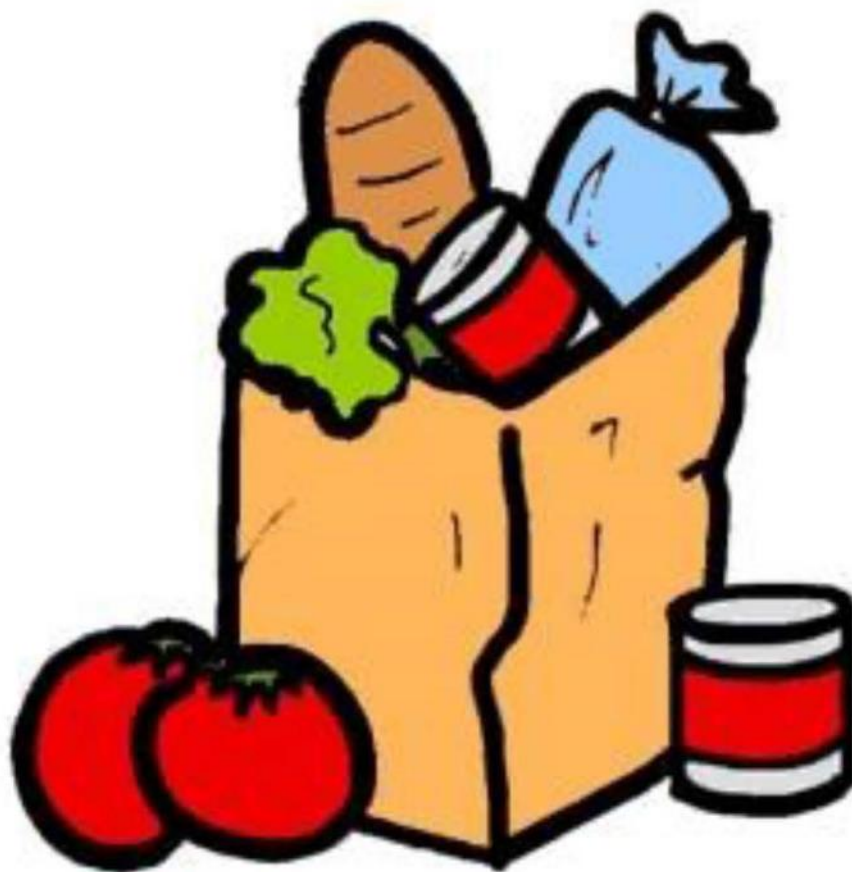
Approved by Church Council: May 5, 2021

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 18th.**

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 18th.

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 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.

Drowning and serious injury is too common

Unfortunately, many people drown each year, and others are seriously injured, while they are enjoying activities at beaches, rivers, lakes and swimming pools. In Australia, more children die from drowning than from motor vehicle accidents or any other cause except illness. Also, every year people are paralyzed diving into shallow water in rivers and lakes.

How to be safe at the beach

Suggestions include:

- Make sure everyone in your family learns to swim.
- Swim at a beach patrolled by lifesavers.
- Swim between the red and yellow flags. They mark the safest areas to swim.
- Swim under supervision or with a friend.
- Read and obey the safety signs.
- Ask a lifesaver if you are unsure of conditions.
- Go surfing with someone else.
- Do not swim right away after you've had a meal.
- Do not swim under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Do not run and dive in the water.
- Check it is okay to swim before you enter the water. Remember that conditions change regularly and quickly.
- Use at least 15+ sunscreen; wear a long-sleeved shirt and broad-brimmed hat.
- Do not panic if you get caught in a rip at a patrolled beach. Float with the rip and raise one arm for assistance.
- Wear a foot strap when surfing or a wrist strap when body boarding.



<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/swimming-preventing-injury#drowning-and-serious-injury-is-too-common>

**This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the
sea so that its waves roar-the Lord Almighty is his name:"**

Jeremiah 31:35



Health Ministry



ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **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