



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, July 28, 2021*

## **THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP [part 3]**

Two weeks ago, I invited you on a journey. This journey follows my thoughts and reflections on Christian Worship after taking my first doctoral course at The Institute for Worship Studies. This series is based on excerpts from my first theological paper focusing on Christian Worship throughout the Old and New Testaments. The thoughts are based in Scripture, with quotes and thoughts from various professors of worship and theology from around the world.

Several key thoughts to remember from part 1:

- 1) Genesis 1 (select verses):  
**"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).**
- 2) 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.**
- 3) From the Westminster Confession:  
**Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.**
- 4) Matthew 28:19:  
**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

Several key thoughts to remember from part 2:

1) Two quotes from Allen Ross:

**“Creation has always been foundational to the faith of the worshipping community, not only because it displays the power and majesty of the Creator, but also because it provides the basis and even the pattern for God’s great work of redemption.”**

**“The worship of God, the Creator, is therefore also the worship of God, the Redeemer, for what God did in creation set the pattern not only for redemption but also for the worship of the redeemed.”**

2) John 4:23-24 – True worship is authentic from the heart

**“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

Thus, the journey continues . . .

Robert Webbers states, “What is worship? . . . ‘Worship does God’s story.’”<sup>1</sup> **Our corporate worship tells and enacts God’s story of Creation and Redemption.** If our worship truly does tell and enact God’s story, worship must be transformative and cause the worshiper to change. William Dryness states, “Worship, in other words, is transformative. And in order to bring about this renewal, worship needs to work faith down into the emotions and reflexes of believers, making them respond to God in the whole of life. That is, worship, though grounded in something that God has done and continues to do in the world, reaches its goal in moving worshipers to be active participants in what God is doing. Worship is about making believers into the agents of God’s dramatic purposes in the world. Worship, when it is vital, stimulates the agency of God’s people.”<sup>2</sup>

Then, we see that worship is a continual process, initiated by God. Webber states, “What lies at the heart of worship is God’s continual movement towards the people of the world and the continual response of the people in faith and obedience.”<sup>3</sup> **Christian worship is God’s continual movement towards people and the people’s continual response.**

**Christian worship is a way of life.** “Worship is never an end in itself nor does it stand alone apart from our life in the world. Worship is central to all that we do. And for that reason our whole life is both a procession toward worship and a procession out of worship. Life is a cycle of constant return to the source of our new life and to the empowerment for life that we receive from the Christ we meet and celebrate in worship.”<sup>4</sup> Worship becomes a way of life. Gerald Borchert states, “The service of God involves one’s entire life of responding to God and

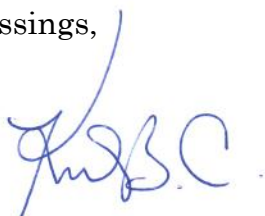
divine mystery . . . True worship can never be pigeonholed as a segment of life. It is not merely liturgical activity in a building. Of course, our liturgies and congregational actions can reflect authentic worship, but worship demands one's life involvement"<sup>5</sup> Worship becomes a way of life and a continual act of God through revelation and a continual response by humankind.

Robbie Castleman unites God's story to our individual story through his statement, "It is God's story that puts our individual stories in their proper place and in appropriate perspective. When corporate worship takes the shape of God's great salvation story, the hearts of worshipers will join their voices to sing Psalm 103 [Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name] with integrity, holiness and rightly focused hope. This is what it means to worship 'in spirit and in truth' and to present God with a 'living sacrifice' and to engage in worship that is 'holy and acceptable'"<sup>6</sup> **When corporate worship presents God's story, worship will be rightly focused. The worshipers will be worshipping God in "spirit and truth" and they will be "a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship"** (Rom 12:1b).

**God created humankind to be in communion with him, to reflect his glory.** A.W. Tozer quotes, "Humankind was created to worship God and reflect his glory; that is our chief end. The reason God made man in his image was that he might appreciate God and admire and adore and worship; so that God might not be a picture, so to speak, hanging in a gallery with nobody looking at him. He might not be a flower that no one could smell; he might not be a star that no one could see. God made somebody to smell that flower, the lily of the valley. He wanted someone to see that glorious image. He wanted someone to see the star, so he made us and in making us he made us to worship him."<sup>7</sup>

To be continued . . .

Blessings,



Kevin B. Chamberlain  
*Minister of Music*

**\*\*For a list of works cited please speak with Kevin for a print or email copy of the article.\*\***

## **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 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](mailto:judystruck@comcast.net)

Sandy Culotta (302) 258-5787 [swculotta@gmail.com](mailto:swculotta@gmail.com)

### **YARD SALE DATES AND TIMES:**

Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (\$1 entrance fee)

Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### **DONATION DATES AND TIMES:**

Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**SIGNUP TO HELP:** If you would like to sign up in advance for a time to help with the donations and/or the Yard Sale please use the following link to access the sign up sheet: [ti-nyurl.com/avenueys21](https://ti-nyurl.com/avenueys21).

**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](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 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.

**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](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

**SUMMER KICS:** 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 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](mailto:pws210@comcast.net). **Next class is on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</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—UPDATE:** The Milford Community Pantry thanks you for your gracious support. The pantry will be **closed August 6<sup>th</sup>** during the Yard Sale. Because of all the activity during the yard sale setup we ask you to hold donations to the pantry until August 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank You!

**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](http://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](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup> @ 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 11<sup>th</sup> @ 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.

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL:** Avenue Preschool has an opening for a teacher in the beginners program. You must be certified in early childhood education to apply. The hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. with summers off. Please email your resume to [office@avenuepreschool.org](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org).

## **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 August is "The Five Stages of Job." The lesson for August 1<sup>st</sup> lesson is "Worship" based on Job 1:8-20; August

8<sup>th</sup> is “Resignation: based on Job 1:21-22, 2:7-10; August 15<sup>th</sup> is “Protest” based on Job 19:1-6, 13-19; August 22<sup>nd</sup> is “Angry Despair” based on Job 30: 16-23; August 29<sup>th</sup> is “Acceptance” based on Job 40:1-5, 41:1-10, 42:1-6. Please join us in the Grier Room for these exciting lessons.

## River Safety

### If Your Canoe, Kayak, or Raft Should Break or Capsize, Remain Calm!

- **Hold on.** Even a capsized canoe or kayak will float,
- Move to the **upstream end** of your vessel, if possible, to avoid being pinned between it and any debris downstream.
- **Lay on your back** with your legs and feet pointed downstream.
- Never attempt to stand in rapids or fast-moving water.
- When you feel you have regained some control, attempt to slant toward shore.
- **Save people first.** Boats and gear can be recovered later.

### Paddling is Hot Work and May Tire You Out!

- Always wear a lifejacket in the water.
- **Never drink then swim.**
- **Never try to swim across the river.**



<https://www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/river-safety.htm>

River hazards include strong currents, boat traffic, and strainers (obstacles that allow water to pass through them, but trap boats and people).

**Watch where you and your vessel are going.**

**“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”**

**Isaiah 43:2**



**Health Ministry**



**BIRTHDAY GREETING TO:**

- **Mildred Jensen** who will celebrate her **99<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **August 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:**

- **Walt and Ruth Peters** who will celebrate their **64<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **August 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**SYMPATHY TO:**

- The family of Ruth Callaway who passed away on July 16, 2021. Ruth joined Avenue on February 24, 2002.
- The family and friends of Alvin Jarrell who passed away on July 18, 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. Joseph Archie), 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	Bonnie Glenn	Jason Neall
Rosie Babel	Alina Guido	Ariel Ownes
Frank & Frances Beebe	Matt Hall	Alan Parker
Bobby Bergez	Dave Harris	Laurel Pastor
Bob Cage	Beverly Harrison	Jan Perkins
Charlene Johnson Cannon	Steve Hofer	Millie Remick
Jennifer Clarke	Cindy Horsman	Roy Rigby
Gloria Clendaniel	Karl Isele	Dick Roberts
Bob Colbourne	Ron Ivory	Lorna Rosella Rulona
Jack & Denny Collins	Dean Johnson	Phil Saint
Luisa & Billy Combs	Justin	Richard Sapp
Violet Condif	Linda Kemp	Alice Sellers
Lauren Connell	Doris Koon	Roland Simms
Linda Cottrill	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Racheal Simesak
Craig	Jean Layton	Gary Simpson
Rick Crump	Jean Layton's Grandson	Linda Singleton
Sandy Culotta	Nancy Lee	Samuel Smith
Julie Dally	Brittany Poore Little	Joan Tolbert
Joanna Denney-Turner	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Debbie Topolski
Michael Dougherty	Sonny Meck	Gene Topolski
William Ernst	Tiffany Medlin	Joan Wadman
Ken Fechter	Frank Mentusky	Mary Lou Walters
Charlie & Barbara	Orville Mills	Lloyd Webb
Fleetwood	Kathryn Avery Mitchell	TJ Webb
Jayne Frank	Tiffany Mitchell	Betty Ziesel
Steve & Judy Franklin	Stan Moody	
Gail & Jeffrey	Jean Murphy	