



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

On a Pathway of Discipleship

A few years ago at the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference the late Rev. Junius B. Dotson, The General Secretary of Discipleship in The United Methodist Church, challenged the clergy and laity attending to re-engage in the work of disciple-making. He encouraged each church to develop an *intentional discipleship pathway*. This pathway would be a tool to help members and attenders know what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. In 2018, Avenue Church began meeting to take a look at what discipleship is and some of the challenges the Church faces in disciple-making in the 21st Century. This Spring, a Discipleship Committee 2.0 started the work of developing a pathway that fits who we are as a church and will be more than some words on a piece of paper.

Before we get to the *Pathway*, we need to define some terms. There are plenty of definitions of what a *disciple* and *discipleship* are, but we wanted to write definitions that are biblical and fit our context at Avenue. A ***disciple*** is *someone in the process of becoming like Jesus Christ*. ***Discipleship*** is *the process of becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ*. The definitions are not rocket science. We wanted them to be clear and biblical. In the Gospels, Jesus had twelve main disciples who entered a three-year masterclass where they learned from Jesus by *being near, listening to, and obeying* (should sound familiar from Sunday's sermon). Their lives were being shaped by Jesus through a process of living in a relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus is not a one-time decision. It is a life-long journey of allowing our lives to be shaped by Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Over the next several weeks, we will look at what this process looks like at Avenue. We'll explore the habits and disciplines that enable our lives to conform to the life of Christ. The goal is that each of us would grow in our commitment to Christ to how we live that out by serving our community and the world.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve



TONIGHT—THE PRETTY CRAZIES

Avenue has a great opportunity to gather together. **Tonight (August 11th) at 6:30 p.m.** *The Pretty Crazies* and the *Daddy Jam Band* will be rocking Avenue and getting everyone moving! **Due to unforeseen circumstances the Felton Fire Company Ice Cream Trailer will not be able to here.** Event is free and open to the public. Bring a friend and enjoy the evening together!

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.

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 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.

GIVING STATEMENTS for the second quarter April-June have been emailed. If you do not have email and would like a paper copy of your giving, please call Kelly at the church office and we will see that you get one. *Thanks, Harriet*

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, August 15th.**

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!
- **Sunday School Volunteers:** We are looking for teachers/teacher assistants/youth helpers for Sunday School this year. All teaching materials and supplies are provided each week, all you will need is to bring your enthusiasm and desire to make a positive impact in the lives of the children at Avenue UMC. Sunday School is held during the 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service and you can choose what week(s) you are available to help. We hope to have enough volunteers to ensure we have a pool of teachers/teacher assistants/youth helpers to serve on a rotating basis. If you feel led to help with the children's ministry, please contact us at: sundayschool@avenueumc.com. *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Prov. 22:6)

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 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.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY | CHURCH TREASURER: If you have gifts in finances and accounting, Avenue is looking for a new church treasurer to begin the upcoming year. The person must be knowledgeable in double entry accounting. There will be the opportunity to work with the outgoing Treasurer for training and assimilation. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE SUSPENDED: The staff has made the decision to suspend the outdoor evening worship service, beginning this week. As our summer has progressed, participation at the evening outdoor service is lower than it was last July/August. We will continue to watch our local COVID numbers to determine whether or not to resume the worship service at a later date.

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 15th is “Protest” based on Job 19:1-6, 13-19; August 22nd is “Angry Despair” based on Job 30: 16-23; August 29th 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.



Kiwi represents our 4th fruit of the spirit “**patience**”. You need patience to get all the bit out of your teeth.

Kiwis are small fruits that have many health benefits. They are loaded with vitamin C, vitamin K, vitamin E, folate, and potassium. They also contain antioxidants and are a good source of fiber. You can eat the small black seeds and the fuzzy brown peel. Most people prefer to peel the Kiwi before eating it.

The nutrients in Kiwis;

1. Can help treat asthma
2. Helps with digestion
3. Helps increase your immune system
4. Help with blood pressure
5. Can reduce blood clotting
6. Help prevent vision loss
7. May lower the risk of colon cancer

<https://www.healthline.com/health/7-best-things-about-kiwi>

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all holiness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love”

Ephesians 4:2-3

“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:24-25





Banana-Kiwi Salad

Servings: 4

Ingredients

Ingredient Checklist

- ☐ 2 tablespoons lime juice
- ☐ 1 tablespoon canola oil
- ☐ 1 tablespoon minced shallot
- ☐ 2 teaspoons rice vinegar
- ☐ 1 teaspoon honey
- ☐ ¼ teaspoon salt
- ☐ Pinch of cayenne pepper, or to taste
- ☐ 4 kiwis, peeled and diced
- ☐ 2 firm ripe bananas, cut diagonally into 1/2-inch-thick slices
- ☐ ½ cup diced red bell pepper
- ☐ 2 tablespoons thinly sliced fresh mint
- ☐ 2 tablespoons chopped cashews, toasted (see Tip)



Directions

Instructions Checklist

- ☐ **Step 1**
Whisk lime juice, oil, shallot, vinegar, honey, salt and cayenne in a medium bowl. Add kiwis, bananas, bell pepper and mint; toss to coat. Serve sprinkled with cashews.

Tips

Tip: To toast nuts & seeds on the stovetop: Toast in a small dry skillet over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until fragrant and lightly browned, 3 to 5 minutes.

<http://www.eatingwell.com/recipe/249111/banana-kiwi-salad/>



BIRTHDAY GREETING TO:

- **Olive Wuenstel** who will celebrate her **90th** birthday on **August 13th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

- **Bob & Jan Perkins** who will celebrate their **68th** anniversary on **August 15th**.
- **Gary & Brenda Powers** who will celebrate their **51st** anniversary on **August 16th**.
- **Harry & Carolyn Humes** who will celebrate their **61st** anniversary on **August 27th**

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	Matt Hall	Laurel Pastor
Rosie Babel	Al Hanna	Jan Perkins
Frank & Frances Beebe	Dave Harris	Millie Remick
Bobby Bergez	Beverly Harrison	Roy Rigby
Brenda Beissel	Cindy Horsman	Dick Roberts
Bob Cage	Karl Isele	Lorna Rosella Rulona
Charlene Johnson Cannon	Ron Ivory	Phil Saint
Jennifer Clarke	Dean Johnson	Richard Sapp
Gloria Clendaniel	Justin	Alice Sellers
Jack & Denny Collins	Linda Kemp	Roland Simms
Luisa & Billy Combs	Doris Koon	Racheal Simesak
Violet Condif	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Gary Simpson
Lauren Connell	Jean Layton	Linda Singleton
Susan Cooper	Jean Layton's Grandson	Samuel Smith
Linda Cottrill	Nancy Lee	Dave Stratton
Craig	Brittany Poore Little	Joan Tolbert
Rick Crump	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Debbie Topolski
Sandy Culotta	Reagan McGovern	Gene Topolski
Julie Dally	Sonny Meck	Joan Wadman
Joanna Denney-Turner	Tiffany Medlin	Mary Lou Walters
Michael Dougherty	Frank Mentusky	Lloyd Webb
William Ernst	Susie Miller	TJ Webb
Ken Fechter	Orville Mills	Betty Ziesel
Charlie & Barbara	Kathryn Avery Mitchell	
Fleetwood	Tiffany Mitchell	
Jayne Frank	Stan Moody	
Steve & Judy Franklin	Susan Morgan	
Gail & Jeffrey	Jean Murphy	
Bonnie Glenn	Jason Neall	
Alina Guido	Ariel Ownes	