



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Lamenting With the World

Over the last few weeks, I have been overwhelmed by the images coming out of Haiti and Afghanistan. Haiti is not only an impoverished nation, they continue to be the victim of devastating earthquakes and the assassination of their President earlier this summer. The aftermath of The United States' military exit of Afghanistan has raised questions about the mechanics of such a move and what will happen to the people of that nation as the Taliban takes control of the control.

I don't claim any geopolitical knowledge. I'm not a foreign policy expert. I don't know why Haiti's President was assassinated or any answers to 20 years of involvement by America in Afghanistan. What I recognize is the need for lament when we view the brokenness in our world.

Lament is an expression of loss. Lament is when the Psalmist express their grief over the brokenness and sin he sees in the world. Lament is Jeremiah writing about the devastation the people experienced as they are overrun by an invading army. The Biblical writers cried out and turned to God through their times of lament.

In the Western Christian Church we do not lament very well. We would prefer prayers, hymns, and postures of worship that leave us feeling "good" after worship. Lament invites us to sit with the pain and misery that others experience. I believe that for the Church to engage in fruitful ministry that it must learn once again how to lament. We must, as Paul writes in Romans 12:15, to "*rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn.*"

I don't have the answers and my opinion is not always helpful. What I can do, as a

Christian, is to empathize with the pain and experience of others. We should lament the grave danger that women, children, and Christians face in Afghanistan. We should lament the poverty we see in Haiti. We should mourn with the families of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor for their tragic deaths. We should share the ministry of presence with families in our own community who are experiencing suffering. We don't need the answers. We don't need to know all the political implications. We just need to lament when we see other human beings suffer, and to take our prayers to God who hears and who cares.

In the midst of lament, we can see glimpses of goodness and of the Kingdom of God. In places like Haiti, people of all walks of life are working together to clear rubble and to serve their neighbors. In Afghanistan, there are incredible pictures of our service men and women caring for babies and children in the midst of a terrible situation. As we cry out to God in lament, let us never stop looking for and working towards God's Kingdom on the earth.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Steve

Thank you for your love you shared over the last several weeks while I am recovering from surgery. Recovery is a slow but sure process. I want to say thank you for all the prayers, delicious food, gifts, cards, visits, and phone calls. You are an amazing group of people. I am so blessed to be apart of the Avenue family and receive the love. Love you all!! *Cindy Horsman*

Mask Are Recommended, But Not [Yet] Required

As our attendance numbers continue to increase and we head into the Fall, it is a good time to remind everyone of Avenue's COVID protocols. We want to remain vigilant and continue to create space that is safe and welcoming. Other than two Sundays, Avenue has been able to remain open for worship since July 2020. To continue, we need everyone to show care and concern for one another by putting others ahead of our own preferences.

We continue to ask that unvaccinated persons wear masks while in the building. This is one of the best way (along with social distancing) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Children, over the age of 2, who have not been vaccinated should also wear a mask while in worship.

An important part of our church family is the ability to hug, shake hands, and experiences positive physical touch. There is something healing about a hug. As we've learned in the last 16 months is that there is also a risk to physical touch. Please continue to practice social distancing as best as possible. The CDC recommends 3 feet of distance between households and people. Avenue continues to provide hand sanitizer throughout the building to help reduce the spread of germs.

We love seeing each of you on Sunday mornings. Let us continue to do our part to make it possible for us to come together in-person for worship. Let us not grow weary of doing good and caring for our neighbors around us.

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.

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 29th.**

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.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: AUGUST 29TH: We will have a special time Blessing the Backpacks, students, and teachers during the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services on August 29th. We encourage all our students, from the youngest to our seniors, to bring their backpacks as we pray for the upcoming school year. We will also recognize teachers and those who help make education possible. Come join us on August 29th.

PRESENTATION OF THIRD GRADE BIBLES (3RD AND 4TH GRADERS): Avenue will be presenting Bibles to our 3rd Graders on **Sunday, September 19th at the 10:00 a.m.** at the Fall Kick-Off worship service. We realize that, because of COVID, we were unable to present Bibles to last year's 3rd Graders. If you have a 3rd or 4th Grader who would like to receive a Bible, please contact the church office with their name, grade, and what school they are attending by emailing Kelly at churchoffice@avenueumc.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 12TH (REGISTER NOW): We are so excited to have Sunday School up and running for the Fall as we help our children grow as disciples of Jesus. We will be using a similar model to SUMMER KICS where all students will meet and learn together. As the class grows, we will create additional classes based on age. To be consistent with our policies, unvaccinated children (and adults) should wear a mask while in the building and in Sunday School.

To help us with numbers (and determine if we need additional classes) please pre-register by emailing Patty Schockley at sundayschool@avenueumc.com.

JOIN OUR RIVERWALK OUTREACH TEAM: Milford's Riverwalk is on for September 18th and Avenue will be there. We are looking for a team of people to help plan our booth and be present to reach out to the community. Our goal is to meet our neighbors and share information about Avenue with them. If you would like to be involved, please contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com

AVENUE FALL KICK-OFF IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH: After a one-year absence because of COVID, we are planning a church-wide worship gathering and picnic on Sunday, September 19th under the tent in the lawn. Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by a picnic outside. Mark your calendars and we'll provide more information in the coming weeks.

HELP FOR HAITI: If you're like us, you've been praying for the nation of Haiti since Saturday's devastating earthquake. There is the opportunity to give to UMCOR in order to support the relief efforts underway there. UMCOR stands for The United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR is a long-standing agency providing excellent relief work and financial accountability. Local churches provide all the administrative costs of the organization, meaning 100% of your designated giving goes to where it is sent. UMCOR is often one of the first on the ground after a disaster and one of the last organizations to leave.

There are several ways that you can donate to UMCOR. You can go on our website and use our online giving option. Choose the "UMCOR-HAITI" fund in order to donate. You can also give to Avenue through a check with "UMCOR- HAITI" in the memo. Avenue will collect the funds and make the donation to UMCOR. You can also go to www.umcmmission.org and give directly to UMCOR and the relief effort in Haiti.

UMW BOARD MEETING: The next UMW Board Meeting will be on **September 7th** at 3:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

ESTHER CIRLCE: Esther Circle will be hosting a covered dish dinner on **Wednesday, September 8th at 5:30 p.m.** at the home of Bonnie Glenn on Canterbury Road. All AUMC Circle members as well as the UMW Board are invited to attend. Please consider joining us for a wonderful evening of food and fellowship. Please RSVP Gerry Morris at (302) 422-5009, **before September 6th.**

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 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.



The 8th Fruit of the Spirit is “Gentleness”. Peaches represent “Gentleness” because peaches need to be handled with care to prevent bruising.

Peaches do not contain many nutrients but they add to the recommended daily amounts of Vitamin C, potassium, iron and fiber.

Vitamin C is a wonderful antioxidant that can help prevent cancer. It also help to preserve the health of your skin. Fiber found in peaches helps with the digestive system to help prevent colorectal cancer. Potassium found in peaches help with lowering blood pressure, prevention of strokes and kidney stones. Peaches have a very small amount of vitamins A, E, and K, as well as magnesium and phosphorus.

Peaches are a wonderful healthy snack. Grab one while you are on the go. Or you can create a summer salad by starting with mixed greens or spinach and adding dry-roasted nuts, fresh peaches, fresh mozzarella, and grilled chicken, salmon, or tofu. Drizzle with a balsamic dressing. Yummy!! <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/274620#diet-tips>

“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for any honest work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all men.”

Titus 3:1-2

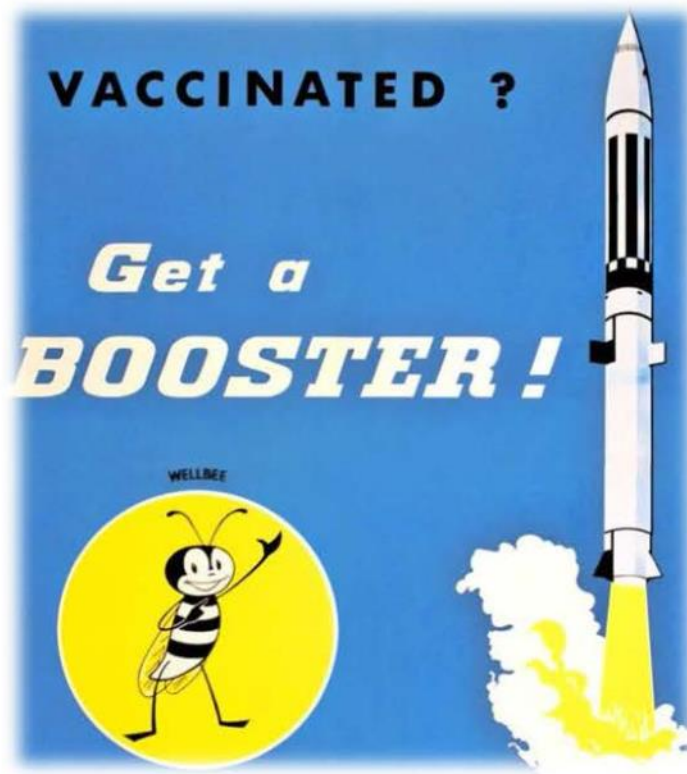
“A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

Proverbs 15:4

“But as for you, man of God, shun all this; aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

1Timothy 6:11





If you are **immune comprised**, please contact your pharmacy for your **Moderna vaccine booster** or your **Pfizer vaccine booster today!** Below are listed a few of the pharmacies providing boosters.

- In Milford, Kent Pharmacy is providing the Moderna boosters for the immune compromised. 302-491-6886.
- Walgreens in Lewes and Middletown are also providing the Moderna boosters.
- Walgreens in Milford is providing the Pfizer booster for the immune compromised 302-424-6300.



Avenue United Methodist Church has agreed to host a flu vaccine clinic at the church on **Sunday, October 10, 2021** from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Walgreens will be providing flu vaccines both the regular dose, for individuals 4-64 years of age and high dose, for individuals 65 and over.

We need a **minimum of 25 people** to have the flu vaccines provided to us at no cost.

Please sign up with your name, address, phone number and age before October 1st. (forms are in the foyer) We need to have an accurate count to ensure the proper amount of dosages are available for each age group!

Thank you!

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

- **Harry & Carolyn Humes** who will celebrate their **61st** anniversary on **August 27th**

SYMPATHY TO:

- The family and friends of Cliff Crouch who passed away on August 20, 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
- Pray for Haiti as they recover from Saturday (8/21) earthquake.
- Pray for the people of Afghanistan.

PRAYER REQUEST:

Noah Attix
Frank & Frances Beebe
Brenda Beissel
Bob Cage
Charlene Johnson Cannon
Jack & Denny Collins
Luisa & Billy Combs
Lauren Connell
Susan Cooper
Linda Cottrill
Craig
Rick Crump
Sandy Culotta
Julie Dally
Joanna Denney-Turner
Michael Dougherty
William Ernst
Ken Fechter
Charlie & Barbara
Fleetwood
Jayne Frank
Gail & Jeffrey
Alina Guido
Matt Hall
Al Hanna
Dave Harris
Beverly Harrison
Cindy Horsman
Karl Isele
Ron Ivory

Dean Johnson
Justin
Linda Kemp
Doris Koon
Rhoda & Greg Kurz
Jean Layton
Jean Layton's Grandson
Nancy Lee
Brittany Poore Little
Jack & Zelda McDuff
Reagan McGovern
Sonny Meck
Tiffany Medlin
Frank Mentusky
Susie Miller
Orville Mills
Kathryn Avery Mitchell
Tiffany Mitchell
Stan Moody
Susan Morgan
Jason Neall
Ariel Ownes
Laurel Pastor
Patty R
Millie Remick
Roy Rigby
Dick Roberts
Lorna Rosella Rulona
Phil Saint
Richard Sapp

Alice Sellers
Vicki Shultes
Roland Simms
Racheal Simesak
Gary Simpson
Linda Singleton
Samuel Smith
Dave Stratton
Joan Wadman
Lloyd Webb
TJ Webb
Betty Ziesel