



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, September 8, 2021*

## **We Are Family**

I had just turned one when my beloved Pittsburgh Pirates last won the World Series in 1979. I don't have any recollections of their victory other than what I would see on TV during my childhood in the 1980's. The '79 Pirates had a theme song, and the song was "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge. The song epitomized the strong bonds within the team. They were a family.

The Church is called to be a family as well. Our familial ties are not one of blood, last name, ethnicity, or nationality. We are a family because of Jesus Christ. We come from many different backgrounds, races, socio-economic statuses, and experiences and yet we find our unity in our confession that Jesus Christ is Lord and that he rose from the dead. Our confession leads us to set aside our differences in order to focus on the most important thing; how we live out our faith together in mission and purpose.

Avenue is a family. Many of you have experienced the joy and support of this family. Admittedly, there are times when we fail in our life together as a family. Our faith in Jesus calls us to be a community of grace, repentance, and reconciliation. My prayer is that we will continue to engage our community and to invite others into the family of God through the Avenue Family. This is a place where transformation can occur because we gather to worship and serve God together.

On Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be gathering for a combined outdoor worship

service at 10:00 a.m. As a family, we will celebrate our Third Graders as they receive their Bibles, we will worship and celebrate communion together, and we will eat and fellowship together with a picnic afterwards. Food will be provided by Top 5 BBQ and Schlabach's Ice Cream. There will be inflatables for the kids, cornhole, and a few surprises. While we will have some chairs available, we invite you to bring a chair or blanket for the service.

We are family! Let us commit to gathering with one another, worshiping together, and serving in the world!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

## **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](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 by contacting Dan Holt, our *Pastor of Congregational Care*. You can email Pastor Dan directly at [dholt@avenueumc.com](mailto:dholt@avenueumc.com).

**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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> (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 Shockley at [sundayschool@avenueumc.com](mailto:sundayschool@avenueumc.com). You can also register at <https://bit.ly/3BNpaYQ>.

**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](mailto: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](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 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).

**JOIN OUR RIVERWALK OUTREACH TEAM:** Milford's Riverwalk is on for **September 18<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com)

**AVENUE FALL KICK-OFF IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>:** After a one-year absence because of COVID, we are planning a church-wide worship gathering and picnic on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**PRESENTATION OF THIRD GRADE BIBLES (3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS):** Avenue will be presenting Bibles to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders on **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders. If you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com)

**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](http://www.umcmmission.org) and give directly to UMCOR and the relief effort in Haiti.

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** The Milford Community Pantry has begun an evening schedule to accommodate working families who need help but cannot get here during our daytime hours. Beginning in September, we will be open **every** Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. If you know of a family that could benefit from this please tell them about our help.

Starting in October we will be changing our hours and our days. We will open at **11:00 a.m. close at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday and THURSDAYS**. We have not been busy on Fridays so we will see if the Thursday works for more folks than Friday. We are so appreciative of the help we get from everyone at Avenue; help with food, money and volunteer hours. We would be in

trouble without the support we get from God and the Avenue congregation. Thank You!

**HOLIDAY FAIR PLANNING MEETING:** We will be having a Holiday Fair Planning Meeting on **September 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. We are looking for volunteers to help with the Holiday Fair on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be selling those items such as seasonal, crystal, fine china, boutique items, arts and crafts, pictures and gently used toys, etc. not able to be sold during the summer yard sale because of space. Also, we will be having a bake sale during the event so start thinking about what you might be able to provide.

We need volunteers during the collection and set-up days or during the sale days. Even if you can only work one or two hours we can use all of the help possible. For additional information or if you are not able to attend the meeting, but want to volunteer contact:

Sandy Culotta – [swculotta@gmail.com](mailto:swculotta@gmail.com) or 302.258.5787

Judy Struck - [judystruck@comcast.net](mailto:judystruck@comcast.net) or 609.319.8082

## **DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**SUNSHINE BIBLE CLASS:** The Sunshine Bible Class for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired, is meeting in the Grier Room at 10:15 a.m. Our study for September is “Outside In.” The lesson for September 12<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Being Bold to Join” based on Luke 7:36-50; September 19<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Opening the Door to Christ” based on Galatians 2:11-21; and September 26<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Citizens of God’s Household” based on Philippians 3:2-21; Ephesians 2:19-22. Plan to join us in the Grier Room for these exciting lessons.

**SISTERS BIBLE STUDY:** We will begin a 7 week study of Elijah with Priscilla Shirer on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Join us and bring a friend. Study begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room, so please be a few minutes early.



## VISION

**Our eyes help us take in the world** around us and play an important role in kids' development. Getting regular eye exams can keep their eyes healthy and find any vision problems.

### Routine Eye Exams

Kids get their first eye exam in the hospital as newborns. Then, a doctor or nurse will check their eyes at each checkup. For kids in school, the nurse often does this too. Depending on your child's age and family health history, each eye exam may be slightly different. Eye exams can include:

- vision screening, to check the overall health of the eyes
- visual acuity test, to find out how sharp or clear objects appear
- eye alignment, to see how well the eyes work together

If the pediatrician or family doctor finds a problem that needs to be checked by an eye doctor, they will recommend that your child see an ophthalmologist or an optometrist.

### Glasses and Contact Lenses

Many kids and teens are nearsighted, farsighted, or have an astigmatism. These problems are usually corrected with eyeglasses or contact lenses. Kids and teens who wear glasses or contacts should have yearly checkups with an eye doctor to watch for any vision changes.

If your child needs glasses, keep these tips in mind:

- Let kids pick their own frames.
- Plastic frames are best for children younger than 2.
- An elastic strap can help keep glasses in place for active toddlers.
- Metal frames should have spring hinges and are OK for older kids.
- Polycarbonate lenses are best for all kids because they are tough, shatterproof, and light.

Contact lenses may be a good choice for some older kids and teens, such as those who play sports or feel uncomfortable wearing glasses. To wear contacts safely, they should know:

- when to wear them and not wear them
- how to put them in and take them out properly
- how to clean them as instructed by the doctor

### When Should I Call the Doctor?

Many vision problems that are found early can be corrected. Call your pediatrician or family doctor if you notice that your child's eyes:

- are often red
- look different than usual
- make tears more than usual
- don't line up or move together
- look crossed (after 6 months of age)
- have pupils (centers) that are different sizes, are an unusual color, or have changed color

Also call if your child:

- complains of eye discomfort
- rubs their eyes a lot
- seems very sensitive to light
- has trouble focusing on or following an object

In school-age children, signs of a problem can include:

- not being able to see objects at a distance
- trouble reading the blackboard
- squinting
- trouble with reading
- sitting too close to the TV
- headaches

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents>



**"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."  
Psalm 119:18**



**Health Ministry**



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Terry Andrews** who will be celebrating his **88<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **September 11<sup>th</sup>**.

**ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:**

- **Jerry and Margie Tucker** who will celebrate their **53<sup>rd</sup>** anniversary on **September 14<sup>th</sup>**.

**SYMPATHIES TO:**

- Jennifer Antonik on the death of her husband, Ben on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.
- The Attix Family on the death of Noah Attix who passed away on Saturday, September 4, 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.

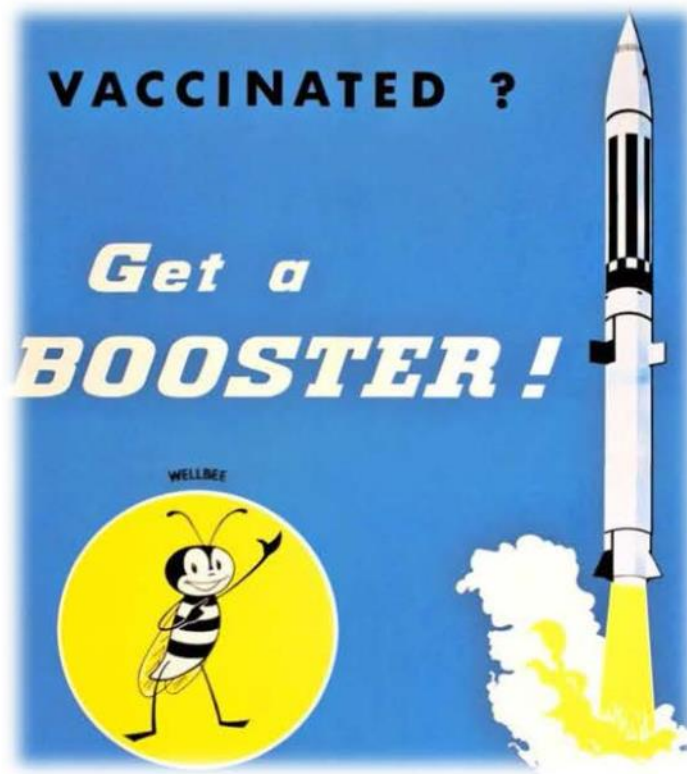
**PRAYER REQUEST:**

Frank & Frances Beebe  
Brenda Beissel  
Dale Brandon  
Bob Cage  
Charlene Johnson Cannon  
Mary Charnick  
Jack & Denny Collins  
Luisa & Billy Combs  
Lauren Connell  
Susan Cooper  
Craig  
Rick Crump  
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  
David Johnson  
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 Schultes  
Roland Simms  
Racheal Simesak  
Gary Simpson  
Linda Singleton  
Samuel Smith  
Dave Stratton  
Joan Wadman  
Lloyd Webb  
TJ Webb  
Betty Ziesel





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 1<sup>st</sup>. (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!