



The Midweek

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Celebrate Good Times, Come On!

Andrea and her dad danced to *Celebration* by Kool and the Gang for their Father-Daughter dance at our wedding reception. The song was special to them and it certainly fit the vibe of the wedding reception as family and friends gathered to celebrate with us. I'm a little bit biased, but I think our wedding reception was the most fun out of all the ones we've attended.

This past Sunday was a celebration at Avenue Church! Close to 250 people from our church family gathered to worship, to fellowship, to play games, and to share a good meal together. This was a celebration 18-months in the making because of COVID. I'm not sure the day could have been much better, short of Jesus returning while we were gathered. I've been reflecting on how we keep that fellowship, the feeling of joy, and the posture of celebration in the forefront of our life together as a community.

In Richard Foster's classic book, *The Celebration of Disciplines*, Foster lists celebration among the spiritual disciplines. It is a corporate discipline, meaning that it is a discipline that the church practices together. I first read this book in an undergraduate class and it took me by surprise that celebration was included. My experience of corporate worship was that church people looked sleepy, never smiled, and got upset when young people didn't sit properly still. Yet the Bible tells us to celebrate! We are instructed to clap our hands, to pray aloud and to use various instruments in worship. Worship can certainly be quiet and reflective, there is a time for worship to be noisy, filled with audible praise, and done in a celebratory manner.

Listen as to why Foster says celebration is important:

*“Celebration gives us strength to live in all the other disciplines.
When faithfully pursued, the other Disciplines bring us deliverance
from those things that have made our lives miserable for years which,
in turn, evokes increased celebration.
Thus, an unbroken circle of life and power is formed.”*

Read that passage again. Celebration enables us to live into the other disciplines which “brings us deliverance from those things that have made our lives miserable for years.” When we experience this deliverance, it should increase our celebration. Celebration is part of the cycle of spiritual growth and formation. We must not be afraid to celebrate in worship and in our life of following Christ.

I want to encourage each of us to practice the discipline of celebration. When we wake up in the morning and recognize the blessings God has placed in our lives, let us celebrate. When relationships are reconciled, let us lift up a shout of praise. When we see people come to faith in Jesus, let our praises lift the roof of the church! Let us give thanks to God for what God is doing now and what God will do in the future!

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-19 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 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.

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: 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 register by emailing Patty Shockley at sundayschool@avenueumc.com. You can also register at <https://bit.ly/3BNpaYQ>.

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. If you would like to receive emails when we need meals, you can email Sharon at sharonclendaniel@msn.com or call at (302) 390-6368.

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.

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.umcmission.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. 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: We are looking for volunteers to help with the Holiday Fair on **October 22nd and 23rd**. 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 or (302) 258-5787

Judy Struck — 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 26th 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 continue our study of Elijah with Priscilla Shirer on **September 28th**. Join us and bring a friend. Study begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room, so please be a few minutes early.



Thank you to everyone who made the yard sale a terrific success. The funds that were raised help to support the following United Methodist Women ministries:

ARC of Delaware

Brandywine Counseling

Camp New Hope

Camp Pecometh

Embrace

Home of Hope Women's Program

UMCOR for Ethiopian relief

Neighborhood House

KenCrest Group Homes

Christ Episcopal Church Seamen's Ministry

Shepherd's Office

"I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you" ~ 2 Timothy 1:6



Hands-on UMCOR Relief Hygiene Kits Project

In addition to providing funds to UMCOR, let's provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave homes due to flooding, tornados, hurricanes and more. UMCOR gives HYGIENE kits to many people and families inside and outside the United States. Two choices: 1.) make your own hygiene kit or 2.) bring some of the items needed. UMCOR understandably is very specific:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any items or they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of the kits or containers should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

Items Needed:

- **One hand towel** (15x25-17x27 inches) **No** kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels.
- **One Washcloth.** **No** kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels.
- **One comb.** Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth. **No** pocket combs or picks. Rattails and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth.
- **One toenail or fingernail clipper.** **No** emery boards or metal nail files.
- **Bath size soap** (3 Oz. bar or larger. **No** Ivory or Jergens soap. Do not remove it from packaging.
- **One adult toothbrush.** Do not remove it from packaging. Personal advertising not acceptable.
- **10 adhesive bandages** (3/4 by 3 inches). Common household bandages acceptable.
- **One one-gallon size resealable bag.** All items are put in a bag.

Boxes will be available for you to deposit kits or items. Packing day to be announced. There is a **\$2.00 cost per kit** to cover the toothpaste UMCOR provides and shipping costs. **Collection ends October 10th.** This project is sponsored by the **United Methodist Women.**

Sleep for Toddlers Preschoolers

From ages 1 to 3, most toddlers sleep about 12–14 hours over a 24-hour period. Separation anxiety, or just wanting to be up with mom and dad (and not miss anything), can motivate a child to stay awake. So can the toddler style of always saying "No!" It's important to set regular bedtimes and naptimes, and to stick to them. Parents sometimes think that keeping kids up will make them sleepier at bedtime. But kids can have a harder time sleeping if they're overtired. Though most toddlers take 1- to 3-hour naps during the day, you don't have to force your child to nap. But do schedule some quiet time, even if your toddler chooses not to sleep.

Establish a bedtime routine to help kids relax and get ready for sleep. For a toddler, the routine might be 5–30 minutes long and include calming activities such as reading a story, bathing, and listening to soft music.

Whatever the nightly ritual is, your toddler will probably insist that it be the same every night. Just don't allow rituals to become too long or complicated. Whenever possible, let your toddler make bedtime choices within the routine: which pajamas to wear, which stuffed animal to take to bed, what music to play. This gives your little one a sense of control.

Even the best sleepers give parents an occasional wake-up call. Teething can wake a toddler and so can dreams. Active dreaming begins at this age, and for very young children dreams can be alarming. Carefully choose the books you read with your toddler before bedtime, and keep the content mild. Nightmares are scary for toddlers, who can't tell imagination from reality.

Comfort and hold your child at these times. Let your toddler talk about the dream if he or she wants to, and stay until your child is calm. Then encourage your child to go back to sleep as soon as possible.

Time spent with screens (like a TV or tablet) can disrupt a child's sleep. That's one reason why health experts recommend:

- limiting screen time
- keeping toddlers away from screen devices in the hour before bedtime
- not keeping devices in a child's bedroom

Preschoolers

Preschoolers sleep about 10–13 hours a night. Those who get enough rest at night may no longer need a daytime nap. Instead, they may benefit from some quiet time in the afternoon. Most nursery schools and kindergartens have quiet periods when the kids lie on mats or just rest. As kids give up their naps, they may go to bed at night earlier than they did as toddlers. <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents>



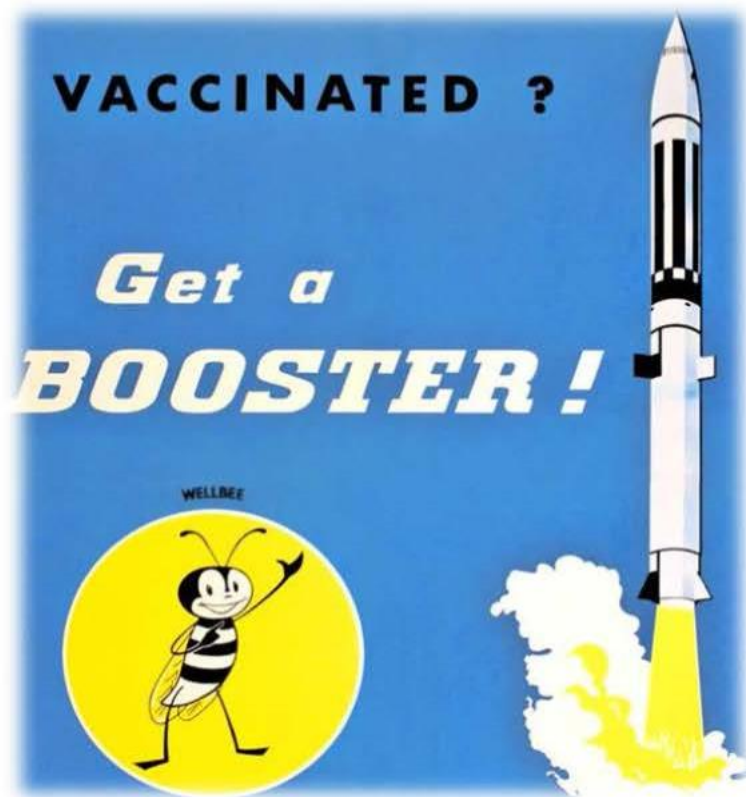
“Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.”

Mark: 36-37



Health Ministry





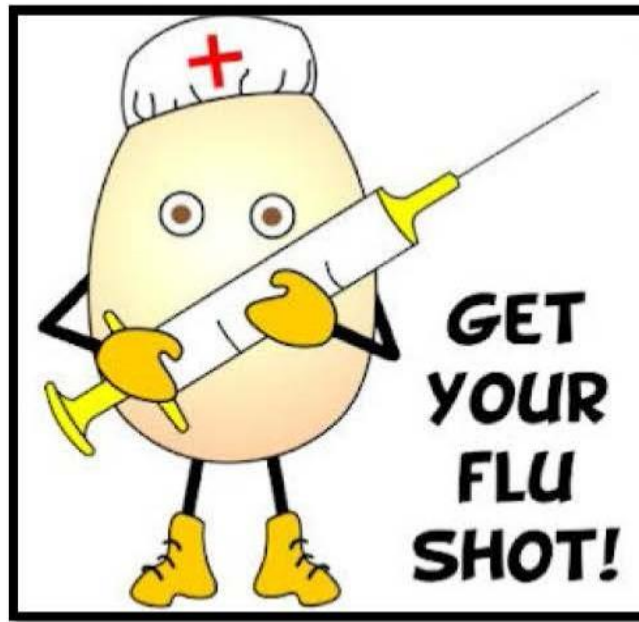
If you are **immune comprised**, please contact your pharmacy for your **Moderna vaccine booster** or your **Pfizer vaccine booster today!** Below are listed a few of the pharmacies providing boosters.

- 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.



Health Ministry





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!



Health Ministry





Join Scouting Night

Families looking for adventure?

Fall and Spring Camping, Pinewood Derby Race, Skits, Holiday Party,
Blue and Gold, Indoor Winter Camping, Knot Tying, Fire Building,
Totin Chip, Gaga Ball, Summer Camp, Halloween Parade

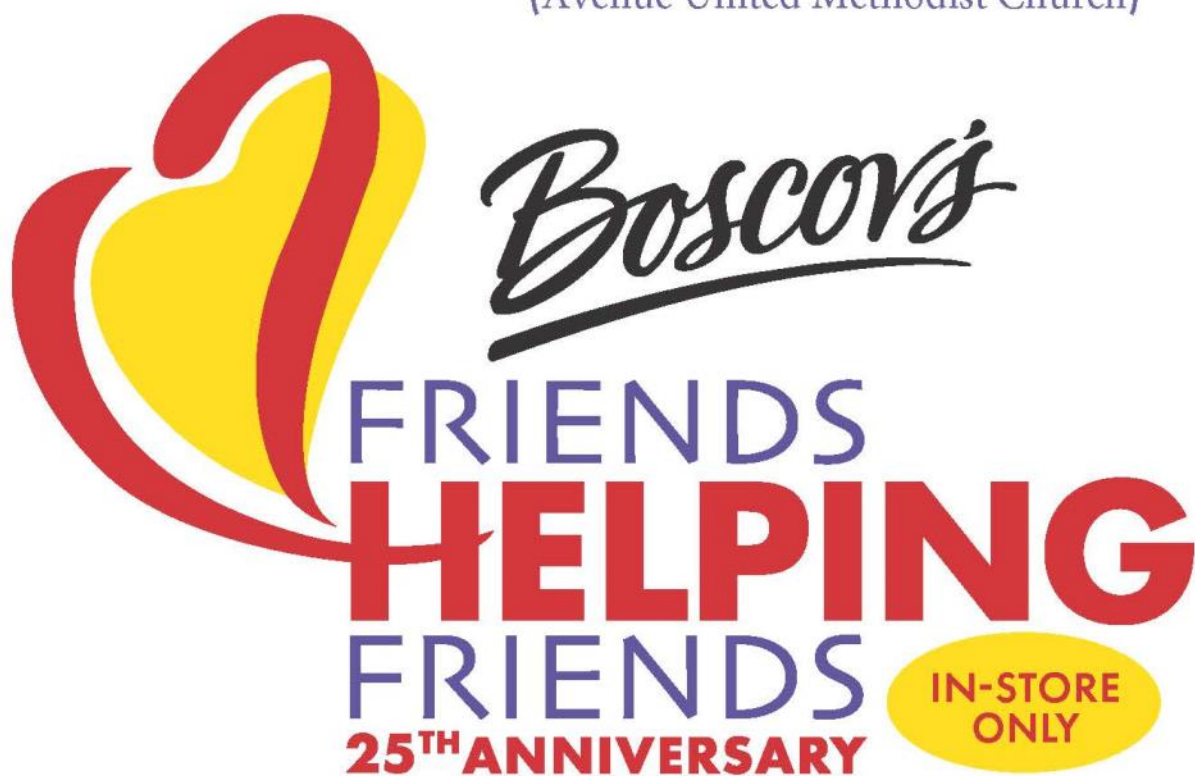
When: September 25, 2021 (4:00-7:00pm)

Where: Avenue United Methodist Church

Who: Boys and Girls (Kindergarten through 5th Grade)

Join us at the church to learn more about joining Pack 186.

HELP SUPPORT BSA Troop 186 - Milford, DE
(Avenue United Methodist Church)



ONE DAY ONLY - OCTOBER 20, 2021
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

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Sharon Collins (302) 242-6310

For more details visit [boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends](https://www.boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends)



AVENUE METHODIST HOLIDAY FAIR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Friday, October 22nd from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.
(\$1 early bird fee)**

Saturday, October 23rd from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**China, Crystal, Framed Art,
Baked Goods, Seasonal and Home Décor,
Crafts, Jewelry,
Gently used & new Holiday
gift items.**



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

- **Jean Murphy** who will celebrate her **94th** birthday on **October 1st**.
- **Helen Holleger** who will celebrate her **90th** birthday on **October 9th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

- **Hank and Birgit Haefeli** who will celebrate their **66th** anniversary on **October 1st**.
- **Robert and Shirley Bannan** who will celebrate their **60th** anniversary on **October 7th**

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 LaTrelle Easterling, 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
Brian Burd
Bob Cage
Charlene Johnson Cannon
Lydia Castro
Adriel Castro and family
Alex Castro and family
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
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
Donna Meck
Sonny Meck
Tiffany Medlin
Megan
Susie Miller
Orville Mills
Stan Moody
Susan Morgan
Jean Murphy
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
Jacqueline Stokes
Dave Stratton
Tamara
Joan Wadman
Lloyd Webb
TJ Webb
Betty Ziesel