



The Midweek

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

A Trip to the New Room Conference

Last week, I made the trek to Nashville for the New Room Conference. The New Room Conference is a gathering of pastors and leaders in the Wesleyan family (United Methodist, Wesleyan Church, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Zion, British Methodist, etc.). The week is filled with gifted speakers, powerful worship, and fellowship with friends. The conference is not really a leadership training, but a three-day retreat to pray for a spiritual awakening in our lives, our communities, and the world.

The highlight of the conference, for me, was hearing Rich Villodas preach. Rich is the pastor of New Life Church in Queens, New York. His book, *The Deeply Formed Life*, was chosen as *Christianity Today's* book of the year in 2020. Villodas talked about the importance of spiritual formation in which the Holy Spirit transforms our interior life. I am looking forward to reading his book because Villodas is the same age as me, he has a couple of children, he is a pastor, he lives in "the city that never sleeps," and he wrestles with, and advocates for living a life that "slows down to catch up with God." As a husband, parent, and pastor, I want to be fully present for my wife, my kids, and for the presence of the Holy Spirit. If I get caught up in the frenetic pace that the world expects us to live at then I will miss out on the deep life that Villodas (and the Bible) speak of.

Traveling to an event like New Room is part of my own practice of rest and renewal. We each need to create space in our lives where we turn off the outside world so that we can tune in to the work of the Spirit. As we journey on a

pathway of discipleship, we must intentionally practice habits that allow us to mature in our faith. We must let go of some of the things of the world in order to put these habits into practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the conference. I'm hoping to travel to the New Room Conference again in 2022. I would really like to bring some folks from Avenue to the Conference to pray for a spiritual awakening in our church and community. Perhaps God will lay it on your heart to come as we sow seeds for a great awakening. That will be my prayer as I hope that it is yours.

Sow Much Love,

Pastor Steve

**On Friday, October 1st the Church Office
will be closed at 1:00 p.m.**

Masks Required for Unvaccinated Persons

We have received some questions over the last couple of weeks about masks and participation at Avenue. Over the course of the pandemic, we have worked diligently to provide a safe space for people to come and to worship. This has meant following the guidelines of DPH and the CDC. In some cases, we have taken extra steps, such as installing ultraviolet light filters on our air handlers that kill viruses. While the State of Emergency has been lifted, Avenue is still committed to ensuring the safest gatherings we can. As we head into Fall, flu season is just around the corner. This means:

- Masks are *required for all unvaccinated persons* at Avenue Church. This applies on Sunday morning worship and coming into the building during the week for any event.
- We are following our school district when it comes to children and youth. This means that all children who are unvaccinated must also wear masks. These masks should be worn in worship and Sunday School.
- We continue to encourage the practice of social distancing. We should not assume that someone else wants a handshake or a hug.
- Hand Sanitizer stations are throughout the building. We invite you to use them as needed.

These procedures are not in place because of fear, but out of love for our neighbor. When we wear a mask, it is not so much to protect ourselves but to protect those around us. As Christians, we give up our individual preferences and replace them with care and concern for others out of the sacrificial love that Jesus showed each of us. We thank you for your continued diligence as we continue to learn how to live in Christian community during this season of the pandemic.

Dear Avenue Church Family,

September 28, 2021

We thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the abundant blessings we continue to receive, even during the challenges we face as a nation, community, church, and individuals. One specific blessing we wish to recognize is our church staff, led by Pastor Steve. We have seen our church begin to reopen ministries, including our outreach, music, and children's programs. Most recently we enjoyed gathering as a church family for our Fall Kick Off outside worship service. These would not be possible without the entire staff of Avenue.

October is typically the month that we take the opportunity to recognize and demonstrate our appreciation to our pastor(s). Like last year, we wish to use October to express our gratitude to our entire staff: Pastor Steve, Kevin, Dan, Kelly, and Curtis.

We will have a basket in our church Fellowship Foyer during October for cards you may wish to give as an expression of thankfulness.

Additionally, if you wish to provide a personal gift of appreciation to any of our individual staff members, please feel free to do so directly. You may also wish to make a monetary Love Gift that will be shared by our staff.

For the Love Gift to be tax-free to our staff members, IRS rules state you cannot claim it as a tax deduction. For this reason, your Love Gift Offering will not appear as a contribution on your financial statement from Avenue Church. Any of the following methods can accomplish gifts of appreciation:

- You can deliver your gift to the church office
- 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 (Choose the fund "Staff Appreciation 2021")
- You can download and use our "Avenue Church DE" App on your smartphone

If you are planning to offer a monetary gift of appreciation, please do so by **October 29th** so we can distribute your gifts to the staff on the final Sunday of October. Thanks for your continued support and prayers for the ministries at Avenue.

With gratitude,



Lance Wyatt

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

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.

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: Starting in October we will be changing our hours and our days. We will open at **11:00 a.m. and 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 AND HOW CAN YOU HELP: Looking for donations: China, Crystal, Framed Art, Seasonal and Home Décor, Crafts, Jewelry, Gently used & new Holiday gift items.

The days and hours for dropping off items to sell are:

Saturday, October 16th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Monday, October 18th - Wednesday, October 20th 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Bake Sale will also return and Bonnie Carmine is heading up the sale. She will also be asking for baked goods.

Anyone who would like to volunteer please show up on any of the collection days or the sale days Friday, October 22nd (1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) and Saturday October 23rd (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and cleaned up afterwards).

For information 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 October is “Into the Future.” The lesson for October 3rd is “The Church’s Activities” based on Acts 2:37-47; October 10th lesson is “The Church as One Body” based on I Corinthians 12:12-31; October 17th lesson is “The Church as a Discerning Body” based on Matthew 16:13-19; October 24th lesson is “The Need for Spiritual Renewal” based on Revelation 3:1-6, 14-20; and October 31st lesson is “Covenant Renewal” based on Deuteronomy 29:10-29. 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 **October 5th**. 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 School-Age Kids and Preteens

School-age kids need 9–12 hours of sleep a night. Bedtime problems can start at this age for a variety of reasons. Homework, sports and after-school activities, screen time (on computers, TVs, smartphones, and other devices), and hectic family schedules all can contribute to kids not getting the sleep they need.

Sleep-deprived kids can become hyper or irritable and may have a hard time paying attention in school. It's still important to have a consistent bedtime, especially on school nights. Leave enough technology-free time before bed to allow your child to unwind before lights-out. Consider switching off the electronics at least an hour before bed and keeping screens out of kids' bedrooms.

Teens

Teens need about 8–10 hours of sleep per night, but many don't get it. Early school start times on top of schedules packed with school, homework, friends, social media, and activities mean that many are chronically sleep deprived.

Sleep deprivation adds up over time, so an hour less per night is like a full night without sleep by the end of the week. Among other things, a lack of sleep can lead to:

- being less attentive
- inconsistent performance
- short-term memory loss
- delayed response time



This can lead to anger problems, trouble in school (academically and with teachers and peers), the use of stimulants like caffeine or energy drinks to feel more awake, and car crashes due to delayed response times or falling asleep at the wheel.

Teens also undergo a change in their sleep patterns — their bodies want to stay up late and wake up later, which often leads to them trying to catch up on sleep during the weekend. But this irregularity can make getting to sleep at a reasonable hour during the week even harder. Ideally, a teen should try to go to bed at the same time every night and wake up at the same time every morning, allowing for at least 9 hours of sleep.

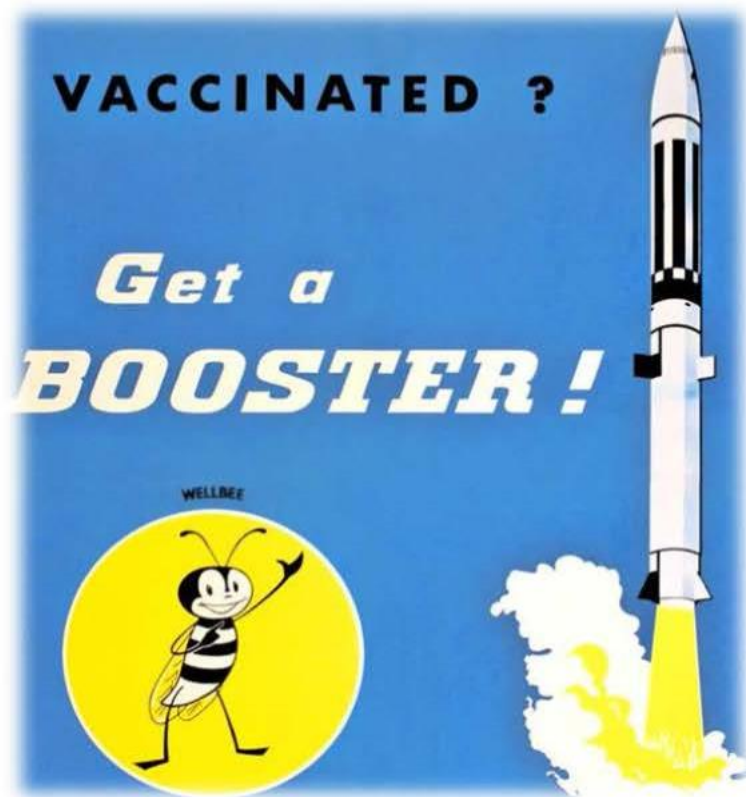
Bedtime Routines

No matter what your child's age, establish a bedtime routine that encourages good sleep habits. These tips can help kids ease into a good night's sleep:

- Stick to a bedtime and give your kids a heads-up 30 minutes and then 10 minutes beforehand.
- Include a winding-down period in the routine.
- Encourage older kids and teens to set and maintain a bedtime that allows for the full hours of sleep needed at their age. <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents>

“And the child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.” ~ Luke 2:40





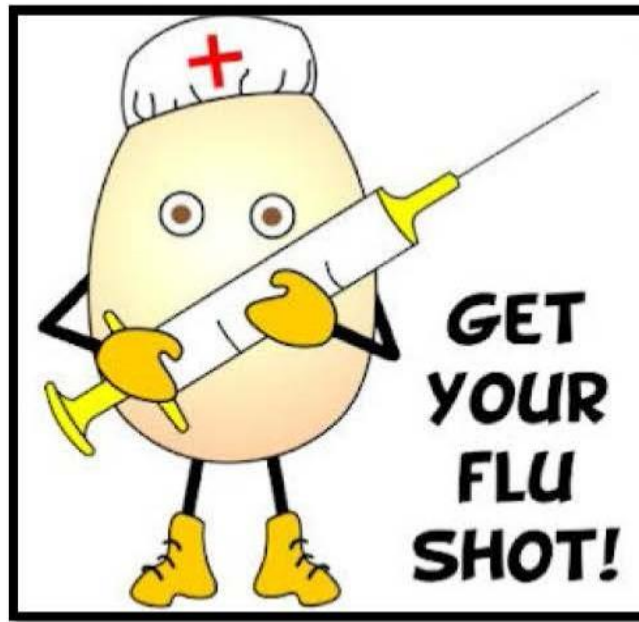
If you are **immune comprised**, please contact your pharmacy for your **Moderna vaccine booster** or your **Pfizer vaccine booster today!** Below are listed a few of the pharmacies providing boosters.

- 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!

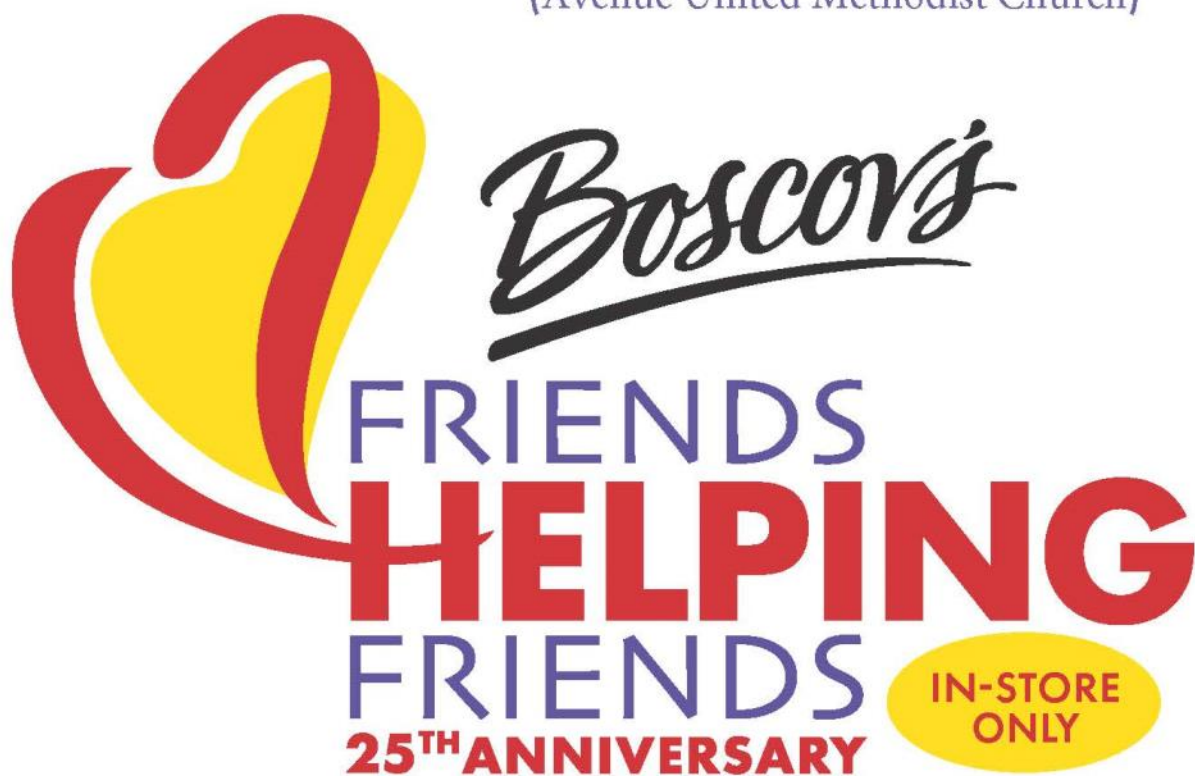
Thank you!



Health Ministry



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



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

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DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF** DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS
 - **REGISTER TO WIN** A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD
At every Boscov's store
-

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

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, Amish Sharp Cheese,
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**

SMYPATHIES TO:

- The Fox family on the passing of Brian Fox.

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.

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
Tom Glenn
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
Laurel Pastor
Patty R
Millie Remick
Roy Rigby
Dick Roberts
Lorna Rosella Rulona
Phil Saint
Richard Sapp
Alice Sellers
s
Roland Simms
Racheal Simesak
Gary Simpson
Linda Singleton
Samuel Smith
Jacqueline Stokes
Dave Stratton
Tamara
Joan Wadman
Lloyd Webb
TJ Webb
Betty Ziesel