



AVENUE CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Believing in God vs. Believing God

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

Hebrews 3:12

I receive a daily devotional from an organization called Seedbed. These are the same people who put on the New Room Conference that I wrote about last week. They are Wesleyan, Christ-centered, and longing for revival. Yesterday, the scripture was Hebrews 3:12 and their “sower-in-chief” JD Walt wrote this about it:

“It is easy to read this and think, “Of course I believe in God.” An unbelieving heart is a far more subtle thing and it can be hard to see it coming. The assault of darkness, evil and even suffering and hardship is not to get us to stop believing “in” God. It is to cause us to stop believing God. You see the difference don’t you. It is an easy thing to “believe in God.” It is another thing entirely to “believe God.” The former is an affirmation of faith. The latter is faith itself. There are many souls who “believe in God” and yet whose hearts have turned away from the living God.”

Did you catch the difference that JD makes? There are likely few things that are going to make us stop believing in God. There are many things in life that tempt us to stop “believing God.” We can believe “in God” without believing God. While believing in God can be a way to describe us, believing God describes how we live.

Turning away from the living God means that God's Word and God's way is no longer central in our lives.

As I read this devotional, my prayer was that I would not waver in believing God. This is my prayer for you as well. I believe when I read that "God so loved the world that he gave his only son." I believe God when I read the Bible that says, "nothing can separate us from the love of God." I believe God when God says he will never "leave us or forsake us."

Take time this week to read through Hebrews 13:2-3. Meditate on the words. Think about what it means to turn away and to examine the ways we are tempted to turn away. Let us seek to be a community that "believes God" by the way that we live out our faith.

Sow Much Love,

Pastor Steve

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.

AVENUE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE: We have super soft T-Shirts with the Avenue logo on them available for purchase in the church office. We have adult sizes available that range from S-XXL. Each shirt is \$10. Stop by the office during the week, or email srlamotte@avenueumc.com to reserve your shirt.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: There will be a Church Council meeting on **Thursday, October 21st at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. The goal of this meeting will be Charge Conference preparations, which include approving the 2022 Budget, Pastor's Compensation, and a few other items requiring Council approval. If you have something for the agenda, please email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

CHARGE CONFERENCE: Our yearly Charge Conference meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 24th at 4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. This gathering is a time to worship and celebrate what God has done in our congregation, as well as time to focus on some of the business of the church. This will be our first opportunity to meet our new District Superintendent, The Rev. Joseph Archie. Charge Conference is open to anyone, but you must be a member of Avenue to vote. Appointed leaders of Avenue should make every effort to attend. Please contact Pastor Steve with any questions regarding Charge Conference.

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: 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.

Thank you for all the support you give The Milford Community Pantry. Some of you ask what our needs are and right now they are: cereal, peanut butter and size 6 diapers (we have plenty of all the other sizes).

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

HEALTH MINISTRIES: The next Health Ministry Planning Committee will be on **Tuesday, October 12th at 6:30 p.m.** via Zoom.

NEW PEW BIBLES: Scripture and the oral tradition of reading Scripture in Christian worship has been around since the early church of the 3rd and 4th centuries. United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and standard for Christian doctrine. **Through Scripture the living Christ meets us in the experience of**

redeeming grace. We are convinced that Jesus Christ is the living Word of God in our midst whom we trust in life and death. The biblical authors, illumined by the Holy Spirit, bear witness that in Christ the world is reconciled to God. The Bible bears authentic testimony to God's self-disclosure in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as in God's work of creation, in the pilgrimage of Israel, and in the Holy Spirit's ongoing activity in human history. The Bible is sacred canon for Christian people, formally acknowledged as such by historic ecumenical councils of the church. Our doctrinal standards identify as canonical thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament.¹

Over the past two years, Pastor Steve has been encouraging us to open and read our Bibles in worship. Do not just read the words on the screens, but fully immerse ourselves in the text of the printed Word. The translation of the pew Bibles over the past 30 years has been the Revised Standard Version [RSV], but the translation that Avenue Church has been orally reading for the past 15 years has been the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]. In an effort to bring the printed pew Bible in line with the oral tradition of Avenue Church, we need your support and help. The Pastoral Staff is looking to replace the pew Bibles with the NRSV. If you would like to help with this, please contact Kevin Chamberlain. The total project will cost \$1,500 (\$10.50 each).

¹ The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

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 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 12th**. Join us and bring a friend. Study begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room, so please be a few minutes early.



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.**

COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People

People with moderately to severely compromised immune systems are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 and may not build the same level of immunity to 2-dose vaccine series compared to people who are not immunocompromised. CDC recommends that people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This additional dose is intended to improve the response of people who are immunocompromised to their initial vaccine series.

Although CDC does **not** recommend additional doses or booster shots for any other population at this time, HHS has announced a plan to begin offering COVID-19 vaccine booster shots this fall.

Choosing Safer Activities

If you are not fully vaccinated and aged 2 or older, you should wear a mask in indoor public places.

- In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.
 - In areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.
- People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated. They should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask, until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
- If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.



If you haven't been vaccinated yet, find a vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on what we know about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can do things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

These recommendations can help you make decisions about daily activities after you are fully vaccinated. They are *not* intended for healthcare settings.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.” ~ 3 John 1:2



Thanksgiving Blessings

You can *bless a family*
in our church or community
this year with a complete meal
for Thanksgiving.

Our GOAL for 2021 is 85 Thanksgiving meals.

Here are 3 different ways you can donate:

\$20 (turkey)

\$30 (non-perishable items)

\$50 (complete meal)

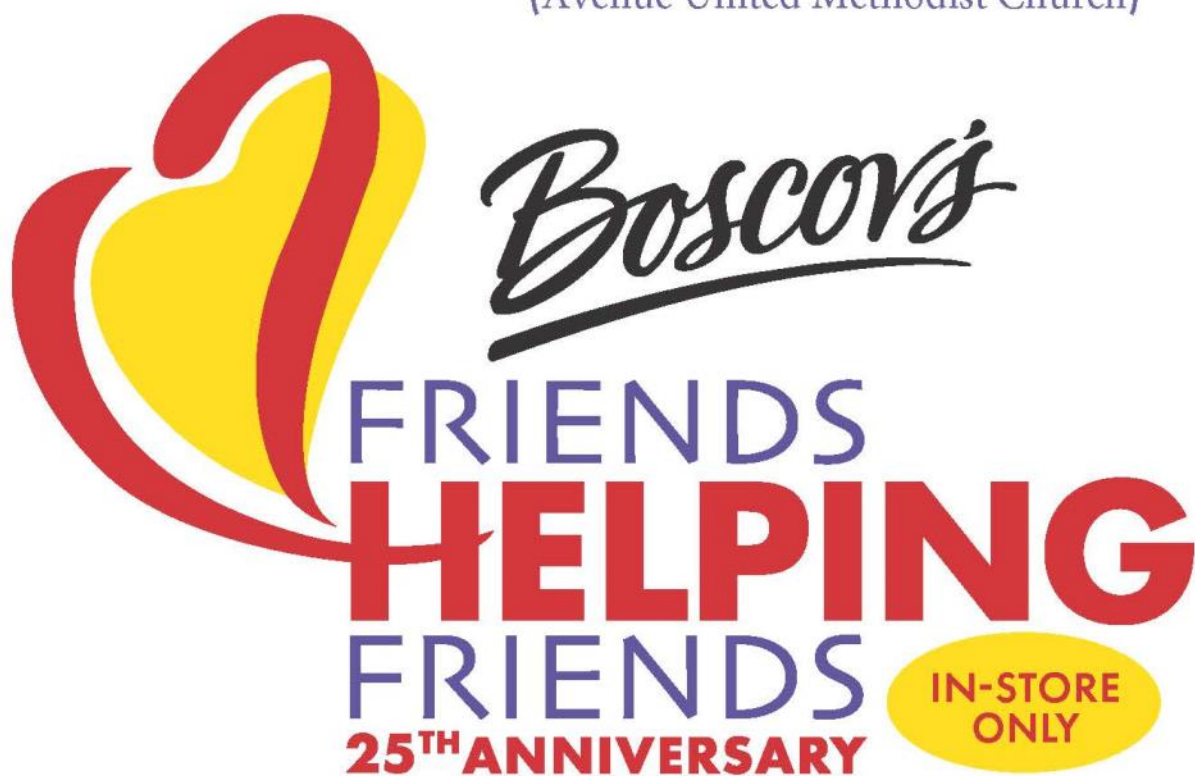
Simply mark a check or an envelope
“Thanksgiving Blessings” or designate donation.

Funding is needed by

Sunday, November 21st



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



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

.....

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

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

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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)

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A Musical for All Ages

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Multi-generational participation:

Families with children . . .

youth . . . single adults . . . senior adults . . .

ONLY 4 REHEARSALS

Learn your music at home with mp3 files

PRESENTATION

Sunday, December, 12th at 4:00PM

For more information, contact Kevin Chamberlain KBChamberlain@avenueumc.com





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:

- **Helen Holleger** who will celebrate her **90th** birthday on **October 9th**.

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

- **Robert and Shirley Bannan** who will celebrate their **60th** anniversary on **October 7th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Tim and Kally Dennison on the birth of their daughter, Hayden Jean Dennison on September 30, 2021.

SMYPATHIES TO:

- The Burd family on the passing of Brian Burd on October 5, 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 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	Tom Glenn	Orville Mills
Brenda Beissel	Alina Guido	Stan Moody
Dale Brandon	Matt Hall	Susan Morgan
Bob Cage	Al Hanna	Jean Murphy
Charlene Johnson Cannon	Dave Harris	Jason Neall
Lydia Castro	Beverly Harrison	Laurel Pastor
Adriel Castro and family	Karl Isele	Patty R
Alex Castro and family	Ron Ivory	Millie Remick
Mary Charnick	David Johnson	Roy Rigby
Jack & Denny Collins	Dean Johnson	Dick Roberts
Luisa & Billy Combs	Justin	Lorna Rosella Rulona
Lauren Connell	Linda Kemp	Phil Saint
Susan Cooper	Doris Koon	Richard Sapp
Craig	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Alice Sellers
Rick Crump	Jean Layton	Roland Simms
Julie Dally	Jean Layton's Grandson	Racheal Simesak
Joanna Denney-Turner	Nancy Lee	Gary Simpson
Michael Dougherty	Brittany Poore Little	Linda Singleton
William Ernst	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Samuel Smith
Ken Fechter	Reagan McGovern	Jacqueline Stokes
Charlie & Barbara	Donna Meck	Dave Stratton
Fleetwood	Sonny Meck	Tamara
Jayne Frank	Tiffany Medlin	Joan Wadman
Todd French	Megan	TJ Webb
Gail & Jeffrey	Susie Miller	Betty Ziesel