



The Midweek

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

About That Logo...

In the Spring of 2020, while we hunkered down for COVID, one of the areas identified by our staff was to update our church logo. I had worked with a graphic designer who regularly works with NASCAR and the Chicago Cubs to create a logo for my previous church, Orchard Church. Shawn did a great job there and charged a *very reasonable fee*. *We reached out to him and began the process.*

Designing a logo begins with an interview about what we want to get out of a logo. I shared with Shawn that we wanted a modern logo that would look great on a website and a T-shirt and that we wanted to target a younger demographic as we engage in ministry in Milford and beyond. We wanted something identifiable and unique to Avenue Church, and our designer went about designing a logo. After a year of back and forth, we had four to six solid concepts, and the staff decided on the logo printed here.



The logo that you've seen has two facets. The first is that it is a stylized "A" for Avenue. The second is that it is also a road if you look at the "A" and the white spaces. Back to Pastor Earle Baker, we regularly talked in worship, meetings, and in new members class about our church being an "Avenue" to spiritual growth, discipleship, fellowship,

and so on. Recently, our Discipleship Pathway team developed the pathway of **Come**, **Grow**, and **Go**. The idea of a pathway is closely related to Pastor Baker's concept about our church being an Avenue to grow in our relationship with God.

Several of you have shared your concerns that "United Methodist" is not in the name. We recognized that "fitting" United Methodist into a clean, sleek logo is not visually easy from a staff perspective. We also acknowledge that most call our church "Avenue" when we are out in the wild. Many people outside the church already refer to us as Avenue Church.

You've also expressed concern with the upcoming General Conference that this logo was the first step of leaving the denomination. That is not the case. A new logo was not an attempt to separate. The logo was an attempt to develop branding or a tool that would make us more recognizable in the community to draw people into the church to share Jesus with them and what it means to be a Christian who is a United Methodist. I must confess that I did not secure more buy-in from crucial leadership in this process. I missed offering opportunities for buy-in through communication and feedback. As a way forward, we are pulling the logo back into "draft" status until our leadership team can discuss its merits and where we are as a church. We will also discuss how a new logo can help communicate our values and our discipleship pathway in sharing our identity.

Thank you to all the people who have shared positive feedback about the logo. Thank you to those who took the time to speak with me about your concerns, as well. I look forward to better communicating our direction and decisions!

Sow Much Love,



Update On Avenue's Door Policy for Worship

Since the pandemic, Avenue has been utilizing a single point of entry on Sunday morning. A single entry point allowed us to do temperature checks and to take attendance for contact tracing and pastoral care. This past Spring, we eliminated temperature checks as part of the protocol to attend worship while taking attendance. Taking attendance at the door is far more accurate than filling out a pew pad, which allows our pastoral team to provide better pastoral care when members of our community are missing in worship.

What about the sanctuary doors? When will they be unlocked?

In short, we tried unlocking the doors, but there has been a problem with the software that enables the mag-lock to disengage on schedule. When the software doesn't work, it requires someone to be present at the door to open it up or block the door open. Along with software issues, our Safety Teams (Greeter Teams) have not been able to fill out their teams since the pandemic. Low Safety Team numbers mean we cannot have someone at the front door to welcome people to worship. In addition to a Safety Team member, it would help the pastoral team if there was an additional person available to take attendance to assist with pastoral care.

How do we get the Sanctuary Doors Unlocked on Sunday mornings? We need all of the following to happen to begin unlocking the sanctuary doors on Sunday morning.

- We have contacted B-Safe about our software issues. We hope that this issue can be resolved. When resolved, the doors will unlock 30 minutes before worship as they did pre-Covid.
- Restaff our Safety Teams to have 4-5 members who can cover the building each week to welcome and assist those who attend worship.
- People to assist with attendance. The pandemic has shown us the importance of staying connected and knowing the people who are present and those who are missing.

Until we can complete these three steps, we will continue to ask worship attendees to use the main entrance on the side of the building. If there are any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Pastor Steve at 302-422-8111 or srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

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.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS: Avenue will be hosting a new members class on **Sunday, November 14th** at 11:45 a.m. for anyone interested in becoming a member of the church. The class will run until 1:00 p.m. and will provide some background on the church, our denomination, and our future. We will also discuss our membership covenant. If you would like to participate in the class, please call or email Kelly at 422-8111 or churchoffice@avenueumc.com

JOB OPENINGS - NURSERY WORKERS: We are looking to re-open our nursery and are in need of additional nursery attendants. Interested parties must be available on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. through Noon. Attendants must complete a background check. CPR certification is recommended. This is a paid position. Please email your resume and a cover letter to srlamotte@avenueumc.com

CONFIRMATION 2022 | A FIRM FOUNDATION: We are calling out to all 7th and 8th grade students as we prepare to begin a new year of Confirmation Classes. Confirmation is a journey for 7th/8th grade students to explore what it means to be a Christian and to have the opportunity to claim their faith on their own and becoming a member of Avenue United Methodist Church.

Classes will begin in November and we will meet at least once a month on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Confirmation students are expected to attend all classes (there is some grace) and be a regular participant in worship. Students will have some work to do during the process, and we'll have a good time while we are at it. Students will be confirmed on June 5, 2022, which is Pentecost Sunday.

Please email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com to register for Confirmation Class 2022.

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). **Thank you for the paper bags but right now we have plenty. We do need plastic newspaper bags.**

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.

UMW—UPDATES: Avenue United Methodist Women want to **Thank you** everyone for the tremendous response in collecting items for **UMCOR Hygiene Kits**. We have more than expected and we know that the people going through floods, hurricanes and other disasters will use them and be grateful for them. We are not quite finished yet. We need to “properly” assemble them according to UMCOR directions to make sure that they are acceptable. On **Saturday, November 6th from 9:00 a.m. to noon we will be working on the kits**. Everyone is invited to participate in this hand-on activity in Fellowship Hall. Just show up!

United Methodist Women meet monthly in small groups and circle meetings at Avenue Church. Esther Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and Sarah Circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. If you think you might be interested in being part of a mission minded group of women, please plan to come to one of these meetings. You will be welcome and lifted up. For further information, please call Beth Parker at (302) 382-5581 or bparke42@comcast.net.

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 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: On **November 9th** we will start a new 4 week study “Incarnation” by Adam Hamilton. Join us and bring a friend. Study begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room, so please be a few minutes early.

CODE PURPLE: Code Purple Training will be on **November 4th** in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. The CODE PURPLE season is quickly approaching. CODE PURPLE provides shelter for homeless men and women during the winter months. This will be the fifth year that Avenue has been a CODE PURPLE site for homeless men in the Milford area. Avenue provides shelter in the Wesley Room from December 1st through March 15th.

We desperately need male volunteers to be overnight host at Avenue Church. Each shift is from 8:15 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. Arrangements can be made in the morning if you need to leave earlier than 7:00 a.m.

There will be a training for those who are interested in serving at the Avenue Shelter (Men) or the Milford Church of the Nazarene Shelter (Women) on November 4th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If you are interested in serving, please contact Tom Chilton at chilto@aol.com

SMALL GROUPS HAVE STARTED: Small Groups are up and running. If you missed the opportunity to join a NOT A FAN group, you can begin this week. However, we are out of books, so you'll need to order your own book off of Amazon. Our small group schedule is:

Monday @ 10:30 a.m. | Led by Dawn Kenton | Avenue Church

Monday @ 7:00 p.m. | Led by Gary Powers | Avenue Church

Wednesday @ 10:30 a.m. | Led by Tita Lewis | Avenue Church

Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. | Led by Dan Nelson | Avenue Church

There are other opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship as well.

- Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. | Sunshine Sunday School Class led by John Van Tine in the Grier Room
- Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m. | Sister's Bible Study led by Ginny Van Tine and Brenda Powers in the Grier Room

Similarities and Differences between Flu and COVID-19

What is the difference between Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19?

Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but different viruses cause them. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a coronavirus first identified in 2019, and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses.

COVID-19 seems to spread more easily than flu. However, as more people become fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 should slow down. Compared to flu, COVID-19 can cause more serious illnesses in some people. COVID-19 can also take longer before people show symptoms and people can be contagious for longer. More information about differences between flu and COVID-19 is available in the different sections below.

Because some of the symptoms of flu, COVID-19, and other respiratory illnesses are similar, the difference between them cannot be made based on symptoms alone. Testing is needed to tell what the illness is and to confirm a diagnosis.

Both COVID-19 and flu can have varying degrees of signs and symptoms, ranging from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe symptoms. Common symptoms that COVID-19 and flu share include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/having chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Change in or loss of taste or smell, although this is more frequent with COVID-19.



How Long Symptoms Appear After Exposure and Infection

Similarities:

For both COVID-19 and flu, 1 or more days can pass between when a person becomes infected and when he or she starts to experience illness symptoms.

Differences:

If a person has COVID-19, it could take them longer to experience symptoms than if they had flu.

Flu

Typically, a person experiences symptoms anywhere from **1 to 4 days after infection**.

COVID-19

Typically, a person experiences symptoms about **5 days after being infected**, but symptoms can appear **2 to 14 days after infection**

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm>

“He Healeth the broken in heart and bindeth up their wounds” ~ Psalms 147:3



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



TRAINING FOR EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER VOLUNTEERS!



COME BE PART OF THE SOLUTION - JOIN OUR TEAM!

CHOOSE THE LOCATION THAT WORKS BEST FOR YOUR SCHEDULE
(Training events take place from 7pm-9pm)

Each training includes Narcan and De-Escalation segments.

Oct.19: Georgetown Presbyterian, 203 N. Bedford, Georgetown, DE

Nov. 4: Milford Ave UMC, 20 N Church Ave, Milford, DE

Nov. 9: The CROSS, 703 East King Street, Seaford, DE

Nov. 16: Milford Nazarene, 11 Salevan PL, Milford, DE

TBA – Cape Region Troop 7
TBA – CPR Training

Most of our emergency winter sanctuaries are open nightly Dec. 15 - March 15. Volunteers are needed for intake, overnight, morning relief, cleanup, and laundry. **We have a potential need of 132 volunteers to fill each night just to provide basic coverage during the season!** To sign up for volunteer opportunities, go to <http://codepurplesussexcounty/volunteers>

Last year we served @250 homeless individuals (all ages). Each guest is uniquely homeless...each one is vulnerable...each one matters!



Code Purple Hotline: 302-519-0024

PO Box 542 - 703 E King St, Seaford

Love INC Clearinghouse phone line:
302-629-7050

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/codepurplesussexcounty/>

Miracle on Bethlehem Street

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



BIRTHDAY GREETING TO:

- **Leon Tschantre** who will celebrate his **92nd** birthday on **October 31st**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Justin and Chelsey (Webb) Arseneau on the birth of their son, Hudson Joseph, on October 18, 2021.
- Todd and Lauren (Boyle) French on the birth of their daughter, Penelope Rose, on October 20, 2021.
- Larry and Lynne Pusey, on the birth of their son, Mason Andrew, on October 23, 2021.

SYMPATHY TO:

- Laurel Pastor in the passing of her mother, Theresa Saunders on October 18, 2021.
- The family and friends of Bob Cage who passed away on October 25, 2021. Bob joined Avenue on November 17, 2019.
- The family and friends of Cynthia Jones who passed away on October 26, 2021. Cynthia joined Avenue on December 7, 1980.

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.

PRAYER REQUEST:

Rachel Ballard	Alina Guido	Susan Morgan
Frank & Frances Beebe	Matt Hall	Jean Murphy
Brenda Beissel	Al Hanna	Jason Neall
Dale Brandon	Dave Harris	Larry Passwaters
Charlene Johnson Cannon	Beverly Harrison	Laurel Pastor
Lydia Castro	Karl Isele	Patty R
Adriel Castro and family	Ron Ivory	Millie Remick
Alex Castro and family	David Johnson	Roy Rigby
Mary Charnick	Dean Johnson	Dick Roberts
Jack & Denny Collins	Justin	Lorna Rosella Rulona
Luisa & Billy Combs	Chris K.	Phil Saint
Lauren Connell	Linda Kemp	Richard Sapp
Susan Cooper	Doris Koon	Vicki Schultes
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	Linda Singleton
Michael Dougherty	Brittany Poore Little	Samuel Smith
William Ernst	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Jacqueline Stokes
Ken Fechter	Reagan McGovern	Tamara
Charlie & Barbara Fleetwood	Donna Meck	Brenda Thompson
Jayne Frank	Sonny Meck	Joan Wadman
Jason, Joanna & Garrett	Tiffany Medlin	TJ Webb
Franklin	Megan	Josh Willey
Todd French	Susie Miller	Dorothy Yates
Gail & Jeffrey	Orville Mills	Betty Ziesel
Tom Glenn	Stan Moody	