



The Midweek

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Mission Possible: Living to Bless Others

I was grateful for Rev. Dave Buchanan's message at Avenue last week as he shared about moving our focus from "money" to "people." His example of Ralph Spain is a great example of the impact that each of us can make when we move from focusing on a scarcity mindset (not enough money) to a blessing mentality. Having worked with Ralph, and known many of the kids who he helped to send to Pecometh, I know that his desire was to be a blessing to others. In order to do this Ralph had to unlock some resources, or as he would say, "shake a few trees."

As Christians, we are called to be a blessing to others. It doesn't matter how much money that we have (or don't have), or whether or not we know the scriptures. What matters is an intentional state of mind where we intentionally seek to bless those around us. Everyone can do this. Each of us should be known by the ways that we love and bless our neighbors and even our enemies (pretty sure Jesus said something about that!).

Thanksgiving is just over a week away. As we prepare our meals, clean our homes, and strategize how to avoid conversations on politics and religion, let us give thanks for the people who have been a blessing to

us and our faith development. As we give thanks, let us seek to be a blessing to the people we meet in our words and deeds.

Sow Much Love,

Pastor Steve

Church Office Hours for next week

Nov. 22nd – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 23rd – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 24th – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 25th & Nov. 26th - CLOSED



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.

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.

TAI CHI: Tai Chi is a great way to build up core strength and balance with decreased stress on joints. Please join us **Tuesday’s and Thursday’s at 9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**. No fees!

A SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE AVENUE STAFF: As a staff, we would like to say thank-you for the cards, notes, gift-cards, and financial gifts that were received during Staff Appreciation Month. We consider it a blessing to serve the people called Avenue and to share kingdom ministry together in Milford. As you pray and support us, we continue to pray and seek to find ways to walk with you on your pathway of discipleship. Thank You! *Laura, Curtis, Kelly, Dan, Kevin, and Steve*

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS PLANS AT AVENUE: We are thinking about Advent and Christmas at Avenue and want you to join in during these special times of worship, study, and fellowship. Be sure to mark your calendars to get involved!

December 5th - Family Advent Night at 5:00 p.m.

- * You’ve seen the crafts in the Fellowship Foyer. Don’t miss the opportunity for fellowship as we begin Advent together.

December 12th—Miracle on Bethlehem Street at 4:00 p.m.

- * Join us at 4:00 p.m. for our production of the musical, *A Miracle on Bethlehem Street*.

December 16th - Blue Christmas Service at 6:30 p.m.

- * Not everyone is happy during the holidays. Many are grieving. A Blue Christmas Service is a time to acknowledge loss and grief amidst the holidays.

December 23rd - Traditional Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m.

- * Can’t make worship on the 24th? Experience Christmas Eve at Avenue a day early!

December 24th— Traditional Christmas Eve at 2:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Contemporary Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 pm.

- * We have a great day of worship planned on Christmas Eve. Join us for Lessons in Carols at 10:30 a.m. when we hear the Christmas story through the Scriptures and music of our faith. In the afternoon and evening Candles, Carols, and Communion make this sacred night of worship meaningful as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

December 26th— Combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

- * We will have one worship service on the first Sunday of Christmas. It will be filled with Christmas Carols and a message of hope.

WELCOMING AND CONNECTING WITH THE CONNECTION TEAM: Last week, we unveiled a new ministry team at Avenue Church. The Connection Team serves to welcome guest and attenders and assist them in getting connected to the ministries of Avenue Church. Over the last several months, we have been working to develop a dedicated space for the Connection Team. That space is the newly renovated stone wall with the TV's in the foyer. This will be space where people can ask questions, fill out a connect card, and learn more about the ministries of the church.

If you would like to participate in the Connection Team, you can contact Karen Schneider at career counselorde@gmail.com.

COFFEE NOW IN FELLOWSHIP HALL: We are excited to be able to offer coffee, tea, and hot chocolate on Sunday mornings. You can find these refreshments in Fellowship Hall. We are thankful for Donna Hill and her service to Avenue in providing this act of hospitality each week.

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: The holiday season is upon us. As you shop on Amazon you can help the Milford Community Pantry. Use smile.amazon.com and select your charity. Enter Milford Community Pantry, Milford, DE and then everything you shop through Amazon Smile we will receive a small credit. It is easy and cost you nothing. We receive a check and are very grateful. Trite is true ... ***Remember the reason for the season.*** No matter where you shop we celebrate the gift of Jesus.

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.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW): 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 November is “The Fellowship of the Table.” The lesson for November 21st lesson is “Communion Connections” based on I Corinthians 11:17-34; and November 28th is “Come to the Banquet” based on Isaiah 25:6-10; 55:1-3. Plan to join us in the Grier Room for these exciting lessons.

SISTERS BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our study “Incarnation” by Adam Hamilton. Join us and bring a friend. We will meet on **November 30th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room, so please be a few minutes early.

CODE PURPLE: 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. If you are interested in serving, please contact Tom Chilton at chilto@aol.com

SMALL GROUPS—ADVENT STUDY: Rev. John Van Tine, Retired, will lead an Advent Study beginning Wednesday, December 1, 2021, in the Holzmüller Room at 6:30PM. The study is “The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch.” This study will help you rediscover and reinvigorate your Christian faith this Advent and Christmas season and look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith. All are welcomed.

What are the Causes / Risk Factors of Lung Cancer?

- 1- Smoking is the cause of 90% of all lung cancer including second hand smoking.
 - a. Leading cause of cancer deaths in men and women
 - b. **Second hand smoke is included in this statistic**
 - i. **Can also cause ear infections, asthma and respiratory infections in children as well as a cause for SIDS (Sudden infant death syndrome)**
 - ii. Causes @ 7000 adult deaths per from lung cancer and 35,000 deaths from heart disease.
- 2- Radon, an odorless, colorless radioactive gas exists naturally in soil and can enter buildings through gaps in a foundation. One in 15 homes in the US has naturally occurring Radon.
- 3- Chemical exposure such as asbestos, uranium, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, nickel and some petroleum products to name a few. Many of these chemicals are used occupationally.
- 4- Environmental exposure- pollution
- 5- Genetic factors. While a specific genetic defect is still not identified, families with lung cancer history have a higher risk for developing lung cancer, even without a smoking history.



What are the Signs and Symptoms of Lung Cancer

- 1- A cough that doesn't go away
- 2- Hoarseness
- 3- Persistent pain, usually in one area of the chest
- 4- Shortness of breath, even at rest
- 5- Coughing up blood
- 6- Frequent respiratory infections

Later stage symptoms can include:

- 1- Loss of appetite
- 2- Weight loss
- 3- Bone pain or fractures
- 4- Blood clots
- 5- Headache

<https://www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/lung-cancer> <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/lung-cancer/about/what-is.html>



If you have any questions concerning lung cancer, please contact Debbie Campbell Gibson RN.

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!”
Psalm 150:6

NEW BIBLE STUDY: The Gift of the Nutcracker

The Music Ministry will be sharing a 4-week Advent Bible called ***The Gift of the Nutcracker***, beginning Tuesday, November 30th.

The Nutcracker was first performed in 1892, and quickly became a holiday tradition, one that continues for many families to this day.

In ***The Gift of the Nutcracker***, author, Matt Rawle takes a look at this Christmas classic in a new way—through the lens of faith. Matt Rawle uses the iconic tale to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child and of the kingdom Christ came to build.

The study will be interactive with recorded segments from the author, Matt Rawle, video segments from the ballet, and live music from *The Nutcracker*.



Please join us for this study.

Study Guides will be available.

A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Foyer or you can contact Kevin B. Chamberlain via email at KBChamberlain@avenueumc.com



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





Thank You for Supporting the Holiday Fair!

Judy Struck and Sandy Culotta did an extraordinary job planning and organizing another fantastically successful UMW fundraiser.

Their hard work along with the support from so many members of the church raised over \$6,000 toward the various UMW missions in our community and abroad. The funds raised at the yard sale and the holiday fair total \$11,337.

Avenue United Methodist Women has made a \$100 donation in honor of Judy and Sandy to the UMW World Thank Offering in support of the UMW mission to improve the lives of women, children and youth.

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



ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Gerald and Shelby Swain** on celebrating their **66th** anniversary on **November 24th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Chad and Ashley Wyatt on the birth of their daughter Ainslea Grace Wyatt born October 29, 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.
- Kidnapped missionaries in Haiti.

PRAYER REQUEST:

Frank & Frances Beebe	Karl Isele	Lorna Rosella Rulona
Brenda Beissel	Ron Ivory	Phil Saint
Dale Brandon	David Johnson	Richard Sapp
Charlene Johnson Cannon	Dean Johnson	Vicki Schultes
Lydia Castro	Joie	Alice Sellers
Adriel Castro and family	Justin	Lexi Silicato
Alex Castro and family	Katie and family	Roland Simms
Mary Charnick	Chris K.	Racheal Simesak
Jack & Denney Collins	Linda Kemp	Linda Singleton
Luisa & Billy Combs	Doris Koon	Samuel Smith
Lauren Connell	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Tamara
Susan Cooper	Jean Layton	Brenda Thompson
Craig	Nancy Lee	Joan Wadman
Rick Crump	Brittany Poore Little	TJ Webb
Joanna Denney-Turner	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Josh Willey
William Ernst	Reagan McGovern	Dorothy Yates
Ken Fechter	Donna Meck	Betty Ziesel
Charlie & Barbara	Sonny Meck	
Fleetwood	Tiffany Medlin	
Jayne Frank	Megan	
Jason, Joanna & Garrett	Susie Miller	
Franklin	Orville Mills	
Todd French	Stan Moody	
Gail & Jeffrey	Jean Murphy	
Tom Glenn	Jason Neall	
Connie Grieship	Larry Passwaters	
Alina Guido	Laurel Pastor	
Al Hanna	Patty R	
Sam Hanna	Millie Remick	
Dave Harris	Roy Rigby	
Beverly Harrison	Dick Roberts	