



The Midweek

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Dear Avenue Family,

As I sit in my office writing, 95 complete Thanksgiving meals are going out to their recipients, 49 of which went to families with students attending Milford Schools. A handful of our young adults are handing them out, Fusion students and leaders packed the boxes Sunday night as part of their annual Friendsgiving, and your generosity purchased the items in each box. Our Office Administrator, Kelly Hudson, ordered the food while Joanne Burbage and Kevin Chamberlain developed the list of the families we would assist through these meals. The Thanksgiving boxes are a great example of Paul's metaphor of the Church being a body. Many parts make up the body that works together towards a common goal. It is a blessing to see the fruit of the work of the people called Avenue.

I am thankful for the people who make up Avenue Church and the commitment to engage in ministry with one another and the community around us. This summer, the children (and parents) of Vacation Bible School raised over \$800 to support families in Guatemala. A generous donation enabled us to purchase a tent to do creative ministry outside this past summer and in the summers to come. The United Methodist Woman raised over \$10,000 through a re-imagined yard sale and Holiday Fair. Health Ministries have been vital during the pandemic in keeping us healthy and informed. Our ability to hire our Pastor of Congregational Care has increased our connectedness over the last few months. We have four small groups learning about Discipleship during the Fall, with two Advent Studies beginning next week. As our world emerges from a pandemic, Avenue continues to respond with creativity, generosity, and faith.

This Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the ways our congregation has responded to the challenges of the past twenty months. Your generosity had allowed us to move forward at a time when other churches and businesses had to hit the "pause" button. I believe that we will have opportunities to grow in our ability to follow Jesus and in our ministry to the world around us in the coming months. I hope that we will be able to round out our staff to help equip our laity for God's work for us. We will address some building issues to ensure this facility remains a vital tool for worship and disciple-making. In this new world, we have the opportunity to envision how Avenue can be a fruitful congregation for the next 10-15 years.

For this to happen, we will need your continued support in the work of the church. We need people who will pray daily for our church, our staff, and our ministries. We to develop the leaders we have and new leaders to engage in new forms of ministry in the months and years to come. We will need continued financial support as well. As we seek to grow as a church, we will need to expand our financial health.

I want to invite you to consider giving thanks through a special Thanksgiving Offering prayerfully. Your Thanksgiving Offering is an opportunity to financially bless the church as we look to close out the year. I want to invite you to put "thanksgiving offering" in the memo line of your check for this special offering. Thank you for your regular giving and the giving that goes above and beyond!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Steve

THIS DECEMBER AT AVENUE CHURCH

12/5 **Family Advent Night** (5:00 p.m.)

12/12 **Miracle on Bethlehem Street** (4:00 p.m.)

12/16 **Blue Christmas Service** (6:30 p.m.)

12/24 **Lessons and Carols** (10:30 a.m.)

12/26 **Combined Worship** (10:00 a.m.)

CHRISTMAS EVE AT AVENUE CHURCH

12/23 **Traditional Christmas Eve Worship** (6:30 p.m.)

12/24 **Traditional Christmas Eve Worship** (2:30 & 9:00 p.m.)

12/24 **Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship** (4:30 & 7:00 p.m.)

LET THE WEARY WORLD REJOICE
AT THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR!

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.

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 careercounselorde@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 January 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.

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.

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 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 Holzmuehler 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.

Church Office Hours this 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



Code Purple “To-Go” Items Needed

The opening night of the Code Purple season is just around the corner. Avenue operates as a cold-weather shelter for homeless men in our community from December through the beginning of March. Code Purple is looking for "to-go" items to give to the men as they leave each day. If you'd like to donate items, please bring them to the church office during business hours.

Suggested Items Placed in a Quart Sized Ziploc Bag

Juice

Canned Sausage

Breakfast Bars

Pop-Tarts

Code Purple Also Needs

Coffee

Bottled Water

Sugar

Original Coffee-Mate (Liquid)

Hot Cups



November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month- Scanning for Lung Cancer

Did you know:



- 90% of lung cancer is caused by smoking
 - Non-smokers subjected to second-hand smoke are at a 20-30 % increased risk of developing lung cancer in their lives (This includes childhood exposure)
 - Low Dose Cat Scan (LDCT) screening is now widely available to detect lung cancer at the early stages when outcomes are greater (must meet guidelines for screening to be paid for by insurance/Medicare.)
 - Age 55-77
 - Current smoker or former smoker who quit in last 15 years
 - Smoked at least 30 pack years (1 pack per day for 30 years, 2 packs per day for 15 years etc.)
 - No symptoms of lung cancer
 - No previous chest CT scans in the past year
- These guidelines will change in 2022 and will reduce pack years smoked and adjust age to 50-80, but currently Medicare and insurance companies are not paying at these new recommended guidelines.
- Lung cancer treatment has made many great advances in recent years. Targeted therapy to match individual's cancer cells can provide cure and /or many years of quality survival.



It's never too late to quit smoking. For free support and free smoking cessation medications, contact Delaware Quitline at 1-866-409-1858 (<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/quitline.html>)

To learn more about preventing, screening, treating, and surviving lung cancer in Delaware, check out: <https://www.healthylaware.org/Individuals/Cancer/Lung#intro>

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

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

1Corinthians 6: 19-20



Health Ministry



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 at 6:30 p.m.

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



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



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

The Sanctuary is never prettier than it is when the poinsettias arrive for December. Placing poinsettias in the church in memory or honor of loved ones is a beautiful and cherished tradition.

This year we will again only be ordering 6.5" pots of poinsettias at **\$7.50** each. The Altar Guild has requested that we only order 100 pots of flowers and in **RED** only. All additional funds will go to the Parish Purse.

Sponsor's Name _____

Memory of _____

Honor of _____

The cost for each Poinsettia is: 6.5" pot \$7.50 _____

The Altar Guild has requested that we order only **RED** Poinsettias this year.

Please Print Clearly

Please use a separate order form for each name
in memory of or honored

Names of sponsors and those remembered and honored will be in the Worship Folder on December 19th and Christmas Eve.

Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

Orders MUST be in no later than Wednesday, December 15th



ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Jack and Mary Lou Sheaffer** on celebrating their **57th** anniversary on **December 5th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Matthew Fox**, son of Danny and Marie Fox and grandson of Connie Fox, for receiving his Eagle Scout Award on Sunday, November 14, 2021. Matthew is the seventh Fox to receive the Eagle Scout Award.

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
Brenda Beissel
Dale Brandon
Charlene Johnson Cannon
Lydia Castro
Adriel Castro and family
Alex Castro and family
Mary Charnick
Jack & Denney Collins
Luisa & Billy Combs
Lauren Connell
Susan Cooper
Craig
Rick Crump
Joanna Denney-Turner
William Ernst
Ken Fechter
Charlie & Barbara
Fleetwood
Jayne Frank
Jason, Joanna & Garrett
Franklin
Todd French
Gail & Jeffrey
Tom Glenn
Connie Grieship
Alina Guido
Nikki Gustafson

Al Hanna
Sam Hanna
Dave Harris
Beverly Harrison
Karl Isele
Ron Ivory
Jerry Jackson
David Johnson
Dean Johnson
Joie
Justin
Chris K.
Katie and family
Linda Kemp
Doris Koon
Rhoda & Greg Kurz
Jean Layton
Nancy Lee
Brittany Poore Little
Jack & Zelda McDuff
Reagan McGovern
Donna Meck
Sonny Meck
Tiffany Medlin
Megan
Susie Miller
Orville Mills
Stan Moody

Jean Murphy
Jason Neall
Larry Passwaters
Laurel Pastor
Charles Paulaitis
Patty R
Millie Remick
Roy Rigby
Dick Roberts
Lorna Rosella Rulona
Phil Saint
Richard Sapp
Vicki Schultes
Alice Sellers
Lexi Silicato
Roland Simms
Racheal Simesak
Linda Singleton
Samuel Smith
Carrie Sullivan
Tamara
Brenda Thompson
Joan Wadman
TJ Webb
Josh Willey
Dorothy Yates
Betty Ziesel