



AVENUE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, January 5, 2022*

### **Pure As Snow**

We had quite the snow storm this week! Our children were really excited to go outside and play in the snow. Having a snow day from school did not hurt their excitement. Their coats and snow pants were soaked after spending so much time outside.

I love going outside after a snowfall like the one we had. The snow makes everything quieter and the landscape is pristine and pure as everything is covered in a blanket of white. It is remarkable how quickly that beautiful white blanket is turned into a mess! At one point, we had seven kids playing in our yard, chewing up the snow. Once I started shoveling out the driveway, the littlest amount of dirt began to turn the snow into a dingy color of brown.

In chapter one of Isaiah, the prophet speaks the word of God to the people by recounting the ways that they have been unfaithful in the ways they live out their faith. The sinful living has stained their lives. God offers hope. Isaiah writes,

*“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:  
Though your sins are like scarlet,  
They shall be as white as snow;  
Though they are red like crimson,  
They shall become like wool.”  
Isaiah 1:18*

Just as it does not take much dirt to ruin the pristine appearance of a new snow, even the smallest sin requires us to be washed (spiritually) and made clean (Isa. 1:16). God promises to forgive our sins in a way that washes them “as white as snow.” God

promises to cleanse us and make us whole when we repent and return.

As you look out at the snow today and it becomes muddy and common, allow this to be an illustration of our hearts. Let us take comfort in knowing that Jesus restores our lives, as our sins are made “whiter than snow.”

Sow Much Love,

*Pastor Steve*

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## **Welcome Pastor Neyda**

We are excited to have Rev. Neyda Albarrán join our staff at Avenue United Methodist Church. Rev. Neyda Albarrán is a third-generation pastor and is an ordained minister of the Wesleyan Church. She holds a B.A. in Pastoral Studies and an M.A. in Education. She comes to us from Florida. She was born in Waukeegan, IL and grew up in Puerto Rico. She has trained and traveled with many missionary teams around the world. She is the founder of The Culture Club PR, a multicultural club for kids. She has served in several churches and positions throughout the years (her ministry started when she was 20). She is also an educator (several grade levels). She comes with her 11-year-old son, Ian, and her (we won't say an age) aunt. Together, they hope to serve Avenue wholeheartedly to the glory of God.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Neyda and Ian as they settle into life in Delaware.

# COVID Vaccine at Avenue United Methodist Church Milford



La Redd is willing to administer COVID vaccines on Sunday, January 23, 2022 from 8 AM to 12 PM at Avenue United Methodist Church in Milford.

They are offering both Moderna and Pfizer (if the supply comes in) full and booster doses. Children 5 years and older can have the Pfizer vaccine.

To prevent any wasted vaccines, you need to sign up for the vaccine. Please fill out the information below and put it in the Health Ministry box or email your information to [healthministry@avenueumc.com](mailto:healthministry@avenueumc.com)

I need a headcount by **January 20<sup>th</sup>** for Kara Smith, RN from La Redd to ensure they have enough vaccines and not waste any. Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Child age \_\_\_\_\_ Adult age \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the appropriate answer for the vaccine you need.**

**Pfizer or Moderna**                      **1<sup>st</sup> vaccine:** yes or no

**2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine:** yes or no                      **Booster:** yes or no

If you need the **2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine or the booster**, what was the date you received your last vaccine? \_\_\_\_\_

It is important to show up for the vaccine if you sign up.

## **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](https://facebook.com/avenueumc)) and Youtube ([youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch](https://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

**GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2022:** Your new giving envelopes have not arrived yet and may be delayed beyond the first of the new year. The company we have dealt with for many years has been facing many difficulties including COVID/employee illness, a series of machine breakdowns, and other issues. They are working many overtime hours to process our and the thousands of other envelope orders that are backlogged. As soon as they arrive, we will get the boxes labeled and will have them ready for you to pick up when you come to church. In the meantime, simply place your offering(s) in a plain envelope or an old giving envelope. As long as your name is on the envelope, it will be credited properly. Thanks for understanding.

*Harriet & June*

**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](mailto:dholt@avenueumc.com).

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>:** We will have a focused Church Council meeting on **Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM** to discuss how to pay for replacing the portico roof and sanctuary HVAC system. We will have a regular Council meeting at a later date. If you would like to participate, but did not receive a ZOOM link, please email Kelly at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com)

**TORNADO RELIEF FOR KENTUCKY THROUGH UMCOR:** The United Methodist Church Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is on the ground providing assistance in Mayfield, Kentucky, and other areas devastated by the recent tornadoes. The best way to help at this time is through monetary donations rather than physical items. 100% of your designated gift to UMCOR goes to where you direct it. If you would like to help, please make your check payable to Avenue United Methodist Church with "Advance #901670" in the memo line. You can also give online by selecting the Fund "UMCOR-Kentucky."

**NEW MEMBERS CLASS** will be held on **Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:45 a.m.—1:00 p.m.** in the Grier Room. This class is for those interested in learning more about Avenue Church, what it means to live as a Christian through the church, and to pursue becoming a member of Avenue. Please RSVP by emailing Kelly at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com).

**GLASSES CASES/ POUCHES FOR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC):** Upcoming deadline for cases is quickly approaching. The needs are many and **we need cases by**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>.** The eyesight issues in the Congo (DRC) are very serious. Often poor eyesight is caused by lack of clean water and lack of medical attention. Jonathan and Donna Baker, retired missionaries to the Congo, are going back to help those in need and asked for our support. We have 850 sunglasses and reading glasses but need the soft, cloth pouches/cases to protect the glasses. Please buy or make them and drop them into the glass case box in the office. United Methodist Women thank you so much.

**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!

**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](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com)

**CONFIRMATION 2022 | A FIRM FOUNDATION:** We are calling out to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as we prepare to begin a new year of Confirmation Classes. Confirmation is a journey for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://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. True is true ... ***Remember the reason for the season.*** No matter where you shop we celebrate the gift of Jesus.

## **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 January is “Wonder.” The lesson for January 2<sup>nd</sup> is “In Awe of God’s Creation” based on Psalm 19:1-6; January 9<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Coming Into God’s Presence” based on Isaiah 6:1-13; January 16<sup>th</sup> lesson is “The Transfiguration” based on Mark 9:2-8; January 23<sup>rd</sup> lesson is “Beholding God’s Glory” based on Exodus 34:29-35; and January 30<sup>th</sup> lesson is “Joining the Choir of Angels” based on Revelation 19:1-10. Plan to join us in the Grier Room for these exciting lessons.

**SISTERS BIBLE STUDY:** We start a new study “Angels” by David Jeremiah in January. Join us and bring a friend. We will meet on **January 11<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room, so please be a few minutes early.

**CODE PURPLE:** 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 1<sup>st</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:chilto@aol.com)



## January is Healthy Life style Month

Let us start the year with a positive and joyful mind set leading us towards a healthy life. A positive and joyful mind set along with the love and faith in God we can overcome anything! Wake up each day with the love and thoughts of a new day in Christ. We can start with mentally preparing ourselves for a healthier version of ourselves.

Dylan wrote this song in 1973 for his children, "Forever Young" Staying forever young means having a curious and evolving spirit, not living in or trying to hold on to the past, but continuing to embrace the creative possibilities that remain, right now, in the present moment. Forget the old ways! Focus on achieving a younger and healthier you! Forget your old poor healthy choices and begin with new healthier choices for the 2022-year staying forever young!

### Forever Young

May God bless and keep you always,  
May your wishes all come true,  
May you always do for others  
And let others do for you.  
May you build a ladder to the stars  
And climb on every rung,  
May you stay forever young,  
Forever young, forever young,  
May you stay forever young.

May you grow up to be righteous,  
May you grow up to be true,  
May you always know the truth,  
And see the lights surround you,  
May you always be courageous,  
Stand upright and be strong,  
May you stay forever young,  
Forever young, forever young,  
May you stay forever young.

May your hands always be busy  
May your feet always be swift,  
May you have a strong foundation  
When the winds of changes shift.  
May your heart always be joyful,  
May your song always be sung,  
May you stay forever young,  
Forever young, forever young,  
May you stay forever young.

By Dylan



**“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of our youth; walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgement.”**

**Ecclesiastes 11:9**

**“They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.”**

**Psalms 92:14**

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Ed Bailey** who will celebrate his **97<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **January 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Richard and Sharon Brown** who will celebrate their **58<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **January 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**SYMPATHY TO:**

- Chuck and Sandy Culotta (and family) on the death of Chuck's son, Charles "Chuck" Culotta, II on Friday, December 31, 2021.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

- Those affected by the COVID-19, Medical Staff, and distributing the vaccine.
- Our District Superintendent (Rev. Joseph Archie), Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, and The United Methodist Church.
- Our Pastors, Staff, and Leadership of Avenue United Methodist Church.

**PRAYER REQUEST:**

Frank & Frances Beebe  
Brenda Beissel  
Dale Brandon  
William Byer  
Charlene Johnson Cannon  
Lydia Castro  
Adriel Castro and family  
Alex Castro and family  
Ginny Clendaniel  
Jack & Denney Collins  
Luisa & Billy Combs  
Lauren Connell  
Craig  
Rick Crump  
Jim Crystle  
Joanna Denney-Turner  
William Ernst  
Ken Fechter  
Charlie & Barbara  
Fleetwood  
Dan and Dawn Forsyth  
Jayne Frank  
Jason, Joanna & Garrett  
Franklin  
Todd French  
Gail & Jeffrey  
Tom Glenn  
Alina Guido  
Nikki Gustafson  
Al Hanna

Sam Hanna  
Dave Harris  
Beverly Harrison  
Raymond Hughes  
Terry Hughes  
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  
Tiffany Medlin  
Megan  
Susie Miller  
Orville Mills  
Stan Moody  
Jean Murphy  
Jason Neall  
Larry Passwaters

Ron Payne  
Walt Peters  
Patty R  
Millie Remick  
Roy Rigby  
Dick Roberts  
Lorna Rosella Rulona  
Phil Saint  
Richard Sapp  
Alice Sellers  
Lexi Silicato  
Roland Simms  
Racheal Simesak  
Linda Singleton  
Samuel Smith  
Carrie Sullivan  
Brenda Thompson  
Marvel Tice  
Joan Wadman  
TJ Webb  
Josh Willey  
Danny Wine  
Dorothy Yates  
Betty Ziesel