



The Midweek

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

A Biblical Case for Wearing Masks

On Tuesday, January 11th, a new indoor mask mandate went into effect in Delaware as a result of rising COVID infections in our state. The governor's mandate exempted churches and houses of worship from the mandate. However, we believe that it is the responsibility of every Christian to care for their neighbors, especially those who are at-risk and vulnerable. With that in mind, anyone entering Avenue will need to wear a mask to help protect our community.

This is not meant to be a political decision, **but a Biblical one**. In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul writes about eating food sacrificed to idols. A practicing Jewish person would not eat food sacrificed to an idol. Paul believes that his freedom in Christ permits him to eat this food since an idol is not really a god. But then, Paul writes:

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ~ 1 Corinthians 8:9

Paul understands that there are still some Christ-followers whose faith will not allow them to eat meat sacrificed to an idol. They see this sort of action as sinful. Seeing Paul eat meat sacrificed to an idol might tempt a person to do something against their conscience. Paul's freedom to eat this meat could cause a "weaker" person to stumble and sin. Listen to Paul's solution. He says,

Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall. ~ 1 Corinthians 8:13

Even though Paul believes he has every right to eat meat sacrificed to an idol, *he sets*

aside his freedom and rights in order to honor his brother/sister who does not believe the same as him! He says he will never eat meat again, just to affirm and protect the conscience of a Christian brother or sister! As a Christian, we are called to look out for the well-being of those in our community.

How does this relate to masks? As Americans we strongly believe in personal rights. We have the rights/freedom to choose not to wear a mask. As a Christian, we are called to set aside our personal rights and freedoms on behalf of those who are vulnerable in our communities. A Christian does not operate out of personal freedom, but out of what is best for the Body- the community we live in through our faith in Christ- the Church.

As you come to Avenue over the coming days and weeks, you will be asked to wear a mask. This request is devoid of political motivation, but out of care and concern for our sisters and brothers who are immune-compromised or are in a higher risk category. We will wear masks because we love and care for our neighbors. We will pray that there will come a day where we do not have to wear masks. Until that day comes, we will practice our faith by caring for the most vulnerable in our community.

Sow Much Love,

Pastor Steve

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 17th.

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

I need a headcount by **January 20th** 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 **1st vaccine:** yes or no

2nd vaccine: yes or no **Booster:** yes or no

If you need the **2nd 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) 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

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2022 HAVE ARRIVED! Giving envelopes are in Fellowship Foyer for you to pick up. If we missed you and you would like envelopes, please tell us. If you do not wish to have your envelopes because you have recently switched to PushPay (or another reason) please tell us. And if you are still reluctant to pick them up and would prefer home delivery, please call the church office. All requests should be made to Kelly at the office, 302-422-8111. *Thanks, Harriet and 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.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - JEAN HUTCHMAN: There will be a memorial service for Jean Hutchman on Saturday, January 15th at Avenue Church. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. and there will not be any visitation. All who attend must wear a mask. The family has also requested that we space out our seating for the service.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WORSHIP SERVICE: The Milford Ministerium’s annual *Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service* will be held on Monday, January 17th at Noon at First Presbyterian Church in Milford (101 S. Walnut St.). Faye Blake, CEO of "Pathways to Success" will be the speaker and a freewill offering will be received to support the MLK Jr. Scholarship Fund that benefits students going to college. All are invited to attend.

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 16th 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.

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

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: As we begin a new year I want to send a message of gratitude to everyone who supports the Pantry. Your prayers, your help, your donations all make a difference in our success. Remember to use [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Milford Community Pantry, Delaware when ordering. Once you set it up you don't need to enter the Pantry; Amazon knows who you support... isn't that great!!

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 16th lesson is "The Transfiguration" based on Mark 9:2-8; January 23rd lesson is "Beholding God's Glory" based on Exodus 34:29-35; and January 30th 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 will continue our study “Angels” by David Jeremiah/. Join us and bring a friend. We will meet on **January 18th** 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 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

Dear Avenue Family,

Marty and I would just like to thank you for the way that you have accepted us into your Church family. Your generosity, especially during Christmas, was very much appreciated. We have truly been blessed. We are looking forward too many years of good fellowship and ministry here at Avenue United Methodist.

Blessings,

Dan Holt
Pastor of Congregational Care

Discipleship Pathway

At Avenue we strive to GROW. We want to be disciples that are growing in our faith, love, and service. If you are interested in becoming part of our Discipleship Pathway (intentional effort to provide pathways to growth) as a leader or participant in a growth group, just text the word PATHWAY to (302)205-1215. You will receive texts about our upcoming listening, planning and equipping gatherings.

AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Discipleship Pathway >>>

Interested in leading or joining
a growth group?
**Just text "Pathway" to
(302)205-1215**

Five Health Habits for a healthier lifestyle.

As a Christian, the Bible promises us eternal life. The Bible also states our bodies are the temple of God. We need to treat our bodies as temples of God. A good New Year's goal would be to live a life that is mentally, physically and spiritually healthy as a child of God.

Does a healthy lifestyle make a difference? According to studies completed and documented in Harvard Health, the answer is “yes”. According to an analysis completed, people who met the criteria for five healthy habits enjoyed significantly extraordinarily longer lives than those who had none: 14 years for women and 12 years for men (if they had these habits at age 50).

"A 2012 mega-analysis of 15 international studies that included over 500,000 participants found that over half of premature deaths were due to unhealthy lifestyle factors such as poor diet, inactivity, obesity, excessive alcohol intake, and smoking. And the list of supporting research goes on."

The studies have shown that the following five areas have shown to have a large impact on risk of premature death. These healthy habits are defined and measured accordingly:

Five Healthy Habits

1. Healthy diet is the intake of healthy foods like vegetables, fruits, nuts, whole grains, healthy fats, and omega-3 fatty acids. Unhealthy food is red and processed meats, sugar-sweetened beverages, trans fat and sodium.
2. Healthy Physical activity composed of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity daily.
3. Healthy body weight defines a body mass index (BMI) 18.5-24.9.
4. Smoking. NO smoking
5. Moderate alcohol intake, which was measured as between 5-15 grams per day for women and 5-30 grams a day for men. That is 12 ounces of regular beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/healthy-lifestyle-5keys-to-a-longer-life-2018070514186>



KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!! BE THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL!!

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” ~ I Corinthians 7:19-20

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Dallas and Rebecca McKenzie on the birth of their daughter, Willow Nicole McKenzie, who was born on December 29, 2021.

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
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
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
Serra and Emre
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