



AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Why me? Why here? Why now?

In his speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop", the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., starts by talking about how he would respond if God were to ask him, "Martin Luther King, in what age would you like to live in?"

He then proceeds to talk about seeing the liberation of the Hebrews from Egypt, about listening in at the Parthenon to the philosophers of the day, then the Roman Empire and its emperors. Then he moves on to the Renaissance, and then to Wittenberg to watch Martin Luther tack his thesis on the church doors. Dr. King would then continue this time travel to America to watch Abraham Lincoln sign the Emancipation Proclamation and then to the 1930s (the Great Depression). Interestingly, he would not choose to stay in any of these places or times. This is what he says,

"Strangely enough, I would turn to the Almighty, and say, 'If you allow me to live just a few years in the second half of the 20th century, I will be happy.'"

Dr. King was aware that WHERE he was is WHERE (and when) he needed to be.

Sometimes, we ask ourselves, "Why am I here?" and by "here", I mean, geographically as well as existentially. Why now? Why me?

I am a firm believer that both you and I are allowed to be in a place, in a time, and in a moment, for a reason. God is always at work and invites us to join him wherever we are (in history, geographically, and spiritually). Thankfully, the invitation is not dependent on our knowledge, pedigree, academic achievements, or even talents. The first requirement to being used by God is this: willingness.

Dr. King said I am willing. The Bible was full of men and women who said, "I am

willing.” During seasons of famine, political oppression, religious confusion, and historical turmoil, men and women of all ages and stages have answered the call and said, “I am willing!”

I believe God is wanting to do something great here, in Milford, in Avenue and in our lives. I believe He is calling us all to be engaged in that work he wants to do. Why Milford? During Covid? Why through us? Because he loves us, and we have been set in this place and this generation to make sure His love does not just stay with US but is spread wide to all we have been blessed to share this place and season with. We are called to this generation, in this historic moment for a reason.

This week we will be looking at someone that was placed in a family, a historic, and religious context and was willing to spread truth (harsh truth) to anyone that would listen (and a couple of those who DIDN'T want to, as well). We don't have to be as radical as John the Baptist, but we DO need to be as willing.

To answer these age-old questions, “Why me? Why here? Why now?”, I leave you with a quote by Mordechai, Queen Esther's relative and counselor, who challenged her to do something with who she was, where she was, and the moment she was in:

And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? Esther 4:14b (NIV)

You may not be in a “royal position” but whatever position you are in can be used by the King of kings to impact the world, in such a time as this. Are you willing?

Pastor Neyda

Dear Avenue Family,

Thank you for everyone's thoughts, prayers and support during a difficult time in the passing of our son, Chuck Culotta II.

Chuck, Sandy and family

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.

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."

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 January 30th and we will meet at least once a month on Sundays at 4:30 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 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 25th** 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

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.

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Discipleship Pathway >>>

Interested in leading or joining
a growth group?
**Just text "Pathway" to
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Phrases that HELP and HINDER



What you say has an impact on developing healthy eating habits.

Phrases that HINDER	Phrases that HELP
<p>INSTEAD OF...</p> <p>Eat that for me. If you do not eat one more bite, I will be mad.</p> <p><i>Phrases like these teach your child to eat for your approval AND LOVE. This can lead your child to have unhealthy behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs about food and about themselves.</i></p>	<p>TRY...</p> <p>This is Kiwi Fruit; it is sweet like a strawberry. These radishes are very crunchy!</p> <p><i>Phrases like these help to point out the sensory qualities of food. They encourage your child to try new foods.</i></p>
<p>INSTEAD OF...</p> <p>You're such a big girl; you finished all your peas. Jenny, look at your sister. She ate all of her bananas. You have to take one more bite before you leave the table.</p> <p><i>Phrases like these teach your child to ignore fullness. It is better for kids to stop eating when full or satisfied than when all of the food has been eaten.</i></p>	<p>TRY...</p> <p>Is your stomach telling you that you're full? Is your stomach still making its hungry growling noise? Has your tummy had enough?</p> <p><i>Phrases like these help your child to recognize when he or she is full. This can prevent overeating.</i></p>
<p>INSTEAD OF...</p> <p>See, that did not taste so bad, did it?</p> <p><i>This implies to your child that he or she was wrong to refuse the food. This can lead to unhealthy attitudes about food or self.</i></p>	<p>TRY...</p> <p>Do you like that? Which one is your favorite? Everybody likes different foods, don't they?</p> <p><i>Phrases like these make your child feel like he or she is making the choices. It also shifts the focus toward the taste of food rather than who was right.</i></p>
<p>INSTEAD OF...</p> <p>NO dessert until you eat your vegetables. Stop crying and I will give you a cookie.</p> <p><i>Offering some foods, like dessert, in reward for finishing others, like vegetables, makes some foods seem better than others. Getting a food treat when upset teaches your child to eat to feel better. This can lead to overeating.</i></p>	<p>TRY...</p> <p>We can try these vegetable again another time. Next time would you like to try them raw instead of cooked? I am sorry you are sad. Come here and let me give you a big hug.</p> <p><i>Reward your child with attention and kind words. Comfort him or her with hugs and talks. Show love by spending time and having fun together.</i> http://Myplate.gov</p>

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Gilbert and Joan Emory** who will celebrate their **69th** anniversary on **January 31st**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Dallas and Rebecca McKenzie on the birth of their daughter, Willow Nicole McKenzie, who was born on December 29, 2021.
- Drew and Kellie Fox on the birth of their son, Jack Bennett Fox, who was born on January 14, 2022.

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.
- Prayers for those working in our local health systems as they enter emergency care protocols.

PRAYER REQUEST:

Brenda Beissel
Carmen Castro
Manuel Castro
Natashia Castro
Luisa & Billy Combs
Rick Crump
Jim Crystle
Joanna Denney-Turner
Charlie & Barbara
Fleetwood
Sam Hanna
Dave Harris
Beverly Harrison

Jerry Jackson
David Johnson
Dean Johnson
Joie
Jack & Zelda McDuff
Joanne McKay
David and Judy Passwaters
Larry Passwaters
Ron Payne
Millie Remick
Roy Rigby
Serra and Emre
Lexi Silicato

Joan Wadman
Betty Ziesel