



The Midweek

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Called to Care for One Another

On September 1, 2021, I started a new journey as the Pastor of Congregational Care here at Avenue United Methodist Church. It was a challenge that I was looking forward to by helping the church and its members grow in our capacity to care for ourselves and the community.

We have been through some difficult times during the Pandemic. We are trying our best to contact those close to us and those who remain distant. Just as we were starting to get out and move about, we were hit with another surge which has made the life of close contact difficult.

When I look back over the last few weeks and reflect on the messages given from the pulpit about the genealogy of Jesus, the message of His birth, and His dedication in the temple, I can't help but reflect on how those beginnings and the people that helped form our image of what precisely the Messiah means to us!

I listened while Pastor Neyda spoke about the ministry of John the Baptist and the message of what it means to be a Disciple of this Messiah. This message from John was a message to ALL who follow Christ. Luke 3:16 says, "*John answered all of them by saying. 'I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'*" The fire of the Holy Spirit lies in all of us, and that is what makes us Disciples of Jesus willing and able to care for all of God's people.

As Disciples of Jesus Christ, we are asked to care for those in need. We can classify needs several different ways. When someone asks me if they can help me, my standard answer is, "I need help in three ways; Mentally, Physically, and Spiritually so where would you like to begin?" As Disciples today, we need to be aware of the needs of those around us. We need to be safe during these difficult times, but we also need to stay diligent. Finding ways to reach out and fulfill the needs of others no matter what it is.

I am looking for ways of reaching out to ALL of God's children. In the coming days, I would like to hear from each of you about someone you have reached out to that may need to feel the love of Jesus. If I can help arrange a phone call, join you for a visit, or some other form of contact, please do not hesitate to get up with me.

In the gospel of Luke 4:43, Jesus says, *"I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."* As disciples of Jesus, this is our proclamation as well. All of God's children need to feel the love of Jesus from His Disciples! Don't be a Fan; be a Follower!!! KNOW! GROW! GO!!!

Blessings

Dan Holt
Pastor of Congregational Care

Welcome New Members -

It may have been snowy last Sunday, but we welcomed three new members to Avenue Church.



Kayla and Zach Caciccia are joining Avenue through a Profession of Faith. Kayla is a C-17 Loadmaster and Aircrew Scheduler at Dover Air Force Base. Zach is a Public Affairs Specialist. They are expecting their first child later this year. Kayla and Zach live in Milford.



Dan and Marty Holt are joining Avenue through a transfer of membership. Dan is a retired United Methodist Licensed Local Pastor of Tildonsville UMC in the East Ohio Conference. Marty is a retired hairdresser. Dan and Marty moved to Milford to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Dan is serving as Avenue's Pastor of Congregational Care. They live in Milford.



Alan Lane is joining Avenue through a Profession of Faith. Alan grew up at Avenue and was a member of Fusion when he was in Middle School and High School. Alan works maintenance and is in training for the Air Force Reserves. He is married to Amanda and they live in Milford.



Donna and Dennis Yates are joining Avenue Church by way of transfer from Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Tabernacle, NJ. Dennis retired from Acme Supermarkets where he managed several stores in NJ. Donna is a retired Children's and Family Pastor from Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Donna and Dennis live in Milford.

Opportunities to Serve at Avenue

It's a new year and there are new opportunities for you to serve on Sundays and get connected at Avenue! There will be more opportunities within and without the church in the future. Check out some of the areas below and use your gifts and talents!

- **Connections Ministries:** We are looking for people with the gift of hospitality to help make a welcoming environment at Avenue. You can contact Karen at careercounselorde@gmail.com
- **Fusion Leader:** We are looking for adults who are passionate about Jesus and helping teens connect to their faith. Contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com
- **Health Ministries:** Assist with education and follow-up with those in recovery from illness and surgeries in our church. If interested, contact healthministry@avenueumc.com
- **Music Ministries:** Love to sing or want to ring bells? Check out the opportunities with the Music Ministry of Avenue by contacting Kevin Chamberlain at kbchamberlain@avenueumc.com
- **Safety Team:** This team looks after Avenue members in the parking lot and through the building by providing a helping hand. If interested, contact John Horsman at john.horsman@delaware.gov
- **Tech Team:** Interested in helping run our Audio/Video Team? We are looking for individuals to help run our projection software and be a camera operator. Email srlamotte@avenueumc.com to get connected.
- **Worship Team:** Play an instrument? Sing? We are currently looking to grow our team that leads worship on Sunday morning. Contact srlamotte@avenueumc.com if interested.

Trustees Approve Replacing Office/Portico Roof and HVAC

If you've been on the backside of the church office suite, you may have noticed that the portico roof is in severe disrepair. That's probably being generous as parts of the roof are falling in. This is not only a safety hazard, but an insurance liability as well.



The portico is the porch between the sanctuary and the choir room, but the roof extends over the church offices which go all the way to the catwalk. This section of roof will need to be taken off and replaced. In addition, the HVAC system that sits on top of that same roof is around 20 years old. This system provides air conditioning for the sanctuary. It frequently failed last summer.

The Trustees have approved the replacement of both the roof and the HVAC system. This will cost an estimated **\$185,000**. Church Council has approved the reallocation of \$133,000 earmarked for upgraded flooring in the Education Wing to the Portico Roof/HVAC project. The balance of the project can be paid out of our Building Fund.

As the project would deplete our Building Fund, the leadership at Avenue will be looking at ways to raise funds for the building to ensure that we can keep the building in good repair. Our facility is large and in regular need of maintenance and upgrades. There will be a date in the month of February to hear more about this project and other possible projects that the Trustees are working on.

If you have questions about the project, please contact our Trustees Chairperson, Greg Abbott (gregabbott07@comcast.net), or Pastor Steve (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.

WELCOME GATHERING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13th @ 11:45 A.M.: New to Avenue Church and want to get better connected? Join us for our Welcome Gathering on Sunday, February 13th at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Over coffee and refreshments, you’ll have the opportunity to interact with our pastoral team and hear more about the future of Avenue Church. RSVP to 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 ASSISTANT: We are looking to re-open our nursery and are in need of additional nursery assistants. Interested parties must be available on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. through Noon. Assistants 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

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 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!!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Thank you, thank you. A very big thank you to everyone who helped make eye glass cases, buy eye glass cases, buy and donate suitcases, organize and put cases on glasses and organize into suitcases and carry suitcases. We have not heard from Donna and Jonathan Baker yet, but I will keep everyone up to date on the response from them. I keep picturing the women setting up their bakery and children and adults having their eyes protected from the sun and being able to read better. Thank you, Pastor Steve, for your words of blessing for the Bakers, their travels and the projects. We are so blessed and fortunate and I rejoice in being able to help those in need with something so simple. Many hands were needed and appreciated. *Thanks from Avenue United Methodist Women*

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 10:15AM. Our study for February is “Show and Tell.” The lesson for February 6th is “The Greatest Commandment” based on Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 22:34-40; February 13th lesson is “Making God’s Light Visible” based on Matthew 5:14-16; February 20th lesson is “Informing, Transforming Faith” based on James 1:19-27; and February 27th lesson is “The Great Commission” based on Matthew 28:16-20. 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 **February 8th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room, so please be a few minutes early.

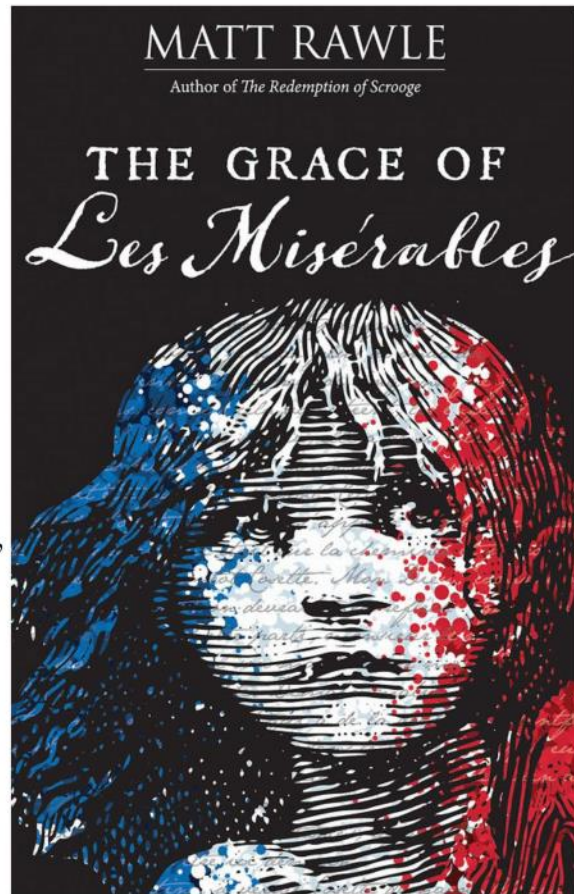
DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY: At Avenue we strive to GROW. We want to be disciples that are growing in our faith, love, and service. If you are interested in becoming part of our Discipleship Pathway (intentional effort to provide pathways to growth) as a leader or participant in a growth group, just text the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

NEW BIBLE STUDY: The Grace of Les Misérables

The Music Ministry will be sharing a 6-week Lent Bible Study called *The Grace of Les Misérables*, beginning Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m.

This Lent ponder the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love.

Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Whether you've read the novel, seen the Broadway musical, heard its soundtrack, or seen the several screen adaptations, you already know the power in the story. Author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—**Grace . . . Justice . . . Poverty . . . Revolution . . . Love . . . Hope**—each represented by a character in Hugo's story.



In keeping with his previous works, Rawle brings us to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in the world.

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

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AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Discipleship Pathway >>>

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a growth group?
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Heart disease

Heart and blood vessel disease (also called heart disease) includes numerous problems, many of which are related to a process called atherosclerosis.

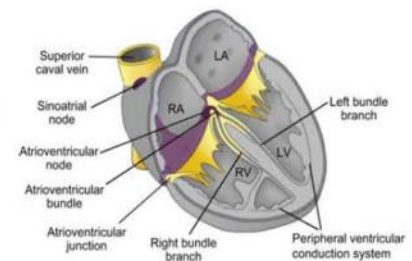
Atherosclerosis is a condition that develops when a substance called plaque builds up in the walls of the arteries. This buildup narrows the arteries, making it harder for blood to flow through. If a blood clot forms, it can block the blood flow. This can cause a heart attack or stroke.

Heart attack

A heart attack occurs when the blood flow to a part of the heart is blocked by a blood clot. If this clot cuts off the blood flow completely, the part of the heart muscle supplied by that artery begins to die. Most people survive their first heart attack and return to their normal lives, enjoying many more years of productive activity. Experiencing a heart attack does mean that you need to make some changes. The medications and lifestyle changes that your doctor recommends may vary according to how badly your heart was damaged, and to what degree of heart disease caused the heart attack.

Heart failure

Heart failure, sometimes called congestive heart failure, means the heart is not pumping blood as well as it should. Heart failure does not mean that the heart stops beating — that is a common misperception. Instead, the heart keeps working, but the body's need for blood and oxygen is not being met. Heart failure can get worse if left untreated. If your loved one has heart failure, it is very important to follow the doctor's orders.



Arrhythmia

Arrhythmia refers to an abnormal heart rhythm. There are various types of arrhythmias. The heart can beat too slow, too fast or irregularly.

Bradycardia, or a heart rate that is too slow, is when the heart rate is less than 60 beats per minute. Tachycardia, or a heart rate that is too fast, refers to a heart rate of more than 100 beats per minute.

An arrhythmia can affect how well your heart works. With an irregular heartbeat, your heart may not be able to pump enough blood to meet your body's needs.

Heart valve problems

When heart valves do not open enough to allow the blood to flow through, as it should, a condition called stenosis results. When the heart valves do not close properly and thus allow blood to leak through, it is called regurgitation. If the valve leaflets bulge or prolapse back into the upper chamber, it is a condition called prolapse. Discover more about the roles your heart

Common treatments

Common treatments may include surgeries and medications.

In the hospital and during the first few weeks at home, the doctor may perform several tests and procedures. These tests help the doctor determine what caused the heart attack, and how much damage was done. Some tests monitor progress to see if treatment is working.

**“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”
Proverbs 4:23**

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Josh and Elaine Willey** who will celebrate their **64th** anniversary on **February 15th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

- Todd Stevenson and his family on the passing of his mother, Nancy Stevenson on Friday, January 28, 2022.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Those affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Our local, national and world leaders.
- 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	Dean Johnson	Joan Wadman
Carmen Castro	Wayne Klaus	
Manuel Castro	Jack & Zelda McDuff	
Natashia Castro	Joanne McKay	
Luisa & Billy Combs	David and Judy Passwaters	
Rick Crump	Larry Passwaters	
Joanna Denney-Turner	Ron Payne	
Charlie & Barbara	Jacquelyn Reamer	
Fleetwood	Millie Remick	
Sam Hanna	Roy Rigby	
Dave Harris	Carol Ritter	
Beverly Harrison	Serra and Emre	
Jerry Jackson	Lexi Silicato	
David Johnson	Bill Smar	