



AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Stop Being a Friendly Church

I hear stories pretty frequently about people who try to go to a church for the first time. It can be an intimidating experience to walk into a space where you do not know the people, the culture of the church, or the layout. When you are a guest, you will have many questions. Where do I park? What door do I enter through? Do we stand? Kneel? Cross ourselves? Raise our hands in worship? Shout, “Amen!”?

One of the worst things for a guest is to walk into a worship space and not have anyone speak to them. While guests do not want to be smothered (like a young family in an elderly church) or offered leadership positions immediately (we need people like you!), when we speak to new guests, we recognize their value and communicate that they are welcome here. To this end, many churches go to great lengths to describe themselves as “friendly” churches. Many of the “friendly churches” are, indeed, friendly. Sadly, some churches believe they are friendly when they are not. The problem with settling to be a “friendly church” is that the friendliness stops when the service ends.

We need to stop seeking to be a friendly church and instead be a church where friendships lead to transformation.

Let me be honest; we need to be friendly on Sunday morning. Anything less will turn guests away from the church in a heartbeat. However, our friendliness must evolve into friendship. People are looking for connections. People are looking for relationships. If they do not find meaningful relationships at church, they will find them at the bar, the bowling alley, or the gym. The church must resist the urge to ‘circle the wagons’ of our relationships to withstand the battering of the world. Instead, we are to open our circle of friends as a way to bring people to Jesus.

This week, let us seek to enlarge our circles. Let us be intentional about being friendly and inviting people into relationships. As we build relationships, let our words and actions point others to God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Sow Much Love,

Pastor Steve

COMFORT AND CARE CARDS FOR MARCH

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus says, “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for you souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (NRSV)

When we look at the ministry of caring for our shut-ins and those who are unable to live their life in Christ in a way they would like, Jesus is asking His disciples to fill in the gap. In this time of Pandemic, it has been challenging. So we are starting a “Care Card Ministry” here at Avenue United Methodist Church. We will be giving you the names and addresses of three members of our congregation for everyone to send a “Thinking of You” card. I also encourage you to write a personal note on the inside of the card.

The names will be in the bulletin and also in the Mid-Week. If you have any questions let me know.

Blessings,

Dan Holt
Pastor of Congregational Care.

Beverly Harrison
c/o Milford Place
500 S. DuPont Hwy
Milford, DE 19963

Fran Johnson
c/o Milford Place
500 S. DuPont Hwy
Milford, DE 19963

Louise Sipple
c/o Westminster Village
1175 McKee Rd
Dover, DE 19904

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: Ash Wednesday, **March 2nd** marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

- *Ash Wednesday Service* will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. The service will be an opportunity to begin Lent with repentance, seeking God’s forgiveness for our sin.

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

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!!



The Avenue United Methodist Women donated snacks to the employees at Bayhealth Hospital in appreciation for their dedication to the patients in their care and for the personal sacrifices they make every day to ensure healthcare for our community, especially during the pandemic.

Volunteer Day at Camp Pecometh

Where: Pecometh Camp & Retreat Ministries, Centreville, Maryland

When: Saturday, April 23, 2022; 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Who: Youth and Adult Volunteers (Parents/Guardians must accompany children)

Why: It's a lot of work getting Pecometh ready for summer! Volunteer Day is a chance for adults, youth, and kids to come help - all while spending a day of fellowship and enjoying the spring weather. In the middle of the day, we'll all take a break from the hard work and enjoy a cookout lunch at the Picnic Pavilion.

Contact: Julia Shultz, shultz.jf@gmail.com, by **Monday, March 28th** to express interest in volunteering or for further information

GROWTH GROUPS

KNOW . . . GROW . . . GO

Growth groups are groups where we learn, grow, and do life together. They meet once a week and are a great way to get to know each other and be challenged to grow in our spiritual journey.

Groups will start meeting the second week of March!

MONDAYS

6:30 p.m. @ Home in Frederica Alpha Group led by Karen Schneider and Lucius Webb. This study seeks to answer questions we may have about the Christian faith. Starting March 14th.

TUESDAYS

10:00 a.m. @ Church Sisters Bible Study. Currently studying the book, Angels led by Brenda Powers & Ginny Van Tine. This is a women's Bible study that explores what the Bible has to say about angels. This is an ongoing group.

6:30 p.m. @ Church The Christian Atheist: Believing in God but living as if He doesn't exist led by Lloyd Webb. This is a 4-week study that will challenge us to take a serious look at what we say that we believe and how we actually live it out. We will meet in the Grier Room.

6:30 p.m. @ Church The Grace of Les Misérables led by Kevin Chamberlain. A 6-week study exploring grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love and hope in Victor Hugo's epic story and our faith. We will meet in Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAYS

9:30 a.m. @ Church Your Life in Christ led by Tita Lewis & Harriet Davies. This is a 5-week study that is great for those who are exploring faith, starting the faith journey, or want to have a "basics" refresher. We will meet in the Grier Room

6:30 p.m. @ Church The Gospel of Luke led by Pastor Steve. 8-week study exploring the life and ministry of Jesus according to the Gospel of Luke. We will meet in the Grier Room.

6:30 p.m. @ Home (right next to the church) Weird led by Pastor Neyda. Are we willing to be weird in a world where "normal" isn't working? 6-week study.

6:30 p.m. @ Church Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert led by Dan Nelson. This group will discuss the author's spiritual journey from atheism to a transformed life. We will meet in the Holzmueller Room.

SUNDAYS

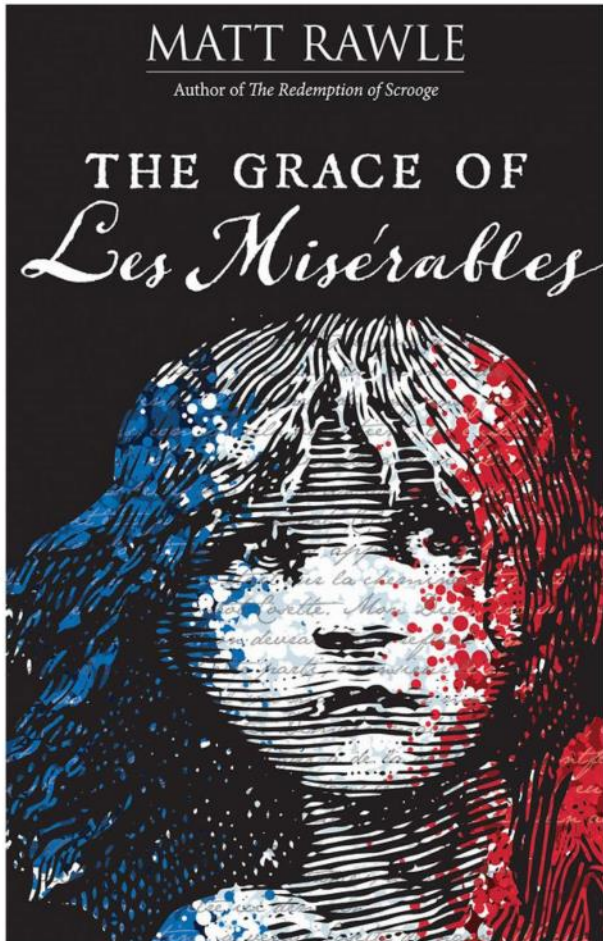
10:15 a.m. @ Church Adult Sunday School led by John Van Tine. Studying the Bible together. Ongoing group.

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

LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS

12:30-1:00 PM

March 3, 2022 – *Ned Perwo*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Manasquan, New Jersey

March 10, 2022 – *T. J. Thomas*

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes

March 17, 2022 – *Michael Stefanek*

Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury, Maryland

March 24, 2022 – *Herb Parkes*

Christ Episcopal Church, Milford

March 31, 2022 – *Jon Rania*

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Rehoboth Beach

April 7, 2022 – *Bill Mathews*

New Castle United Methodist Church, New Castle

Avenue United Methodist Church
20 N. Church Street
Milford, DE 19963

avenueumc.com

For more information contact:
Kevin B. Chamberlain
KBChamberlain@avenueumc.com



What is Colorectal Cancer?

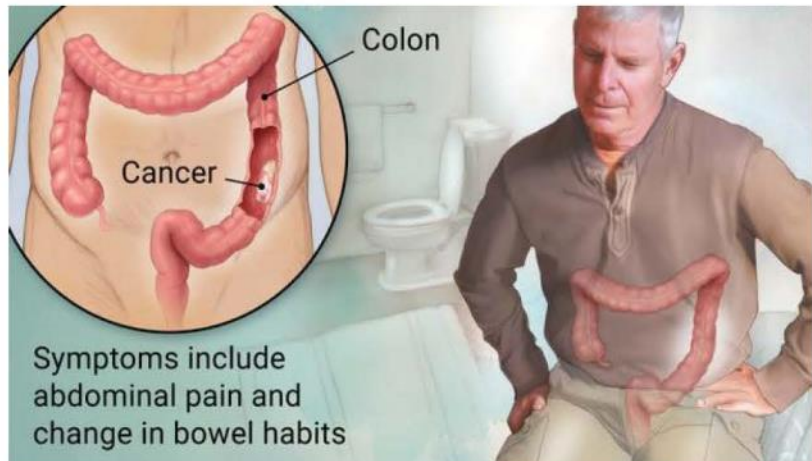
Colorectal cancer is a disease in which cells in the colon or rectum grow out of control. Sometimes it is called colon cancer. The colon is the large intestine or large bowel. The rectum is the passageway that connects the colon to the anus.

Sometimes abnormal growths, called *polyps*, form in the colon or rectum. Over time, some polyps may turn into cancer. Screening tests can find polyps so they can be removed before turning into cancer. Screening also helps find colorectal cancer at an early stage, when treatment works best.

Colorectal polyps and colorectal cancer do not always cause symptoms, especially at first. Someone could have polyps or colorectal cancer and not know it. That is why being screened regularly for colorectal cancer is so important.

If you have symptoms, they may include—

- A change in bowel habits.
- Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement).
- Diarrhea, constipation, or feeling that the bowel does not empty all the way.
- Abdominal pain, aches, or cramps that do not go away.
- Losing weight and you do not know why.



Early cases can begin as noncancerous polyps. These cases often have no symptoms, but can be detected by screening. For this reason, doctors recommend screenings for those at high risk or over the age of 45.

Colorectal cancer symptoms depend on the size and location of the cancer. Some commonly experienced symptoms include changes in bowel habits, changes in stool consistency, blood in the stool, and abdominal discomfort.

Colorectal cancer treatment depends on; the size, location, and how far the cancer has spread. Common treatments include surgery to remove the cancer, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/basic_info/what-is-colorectal-cancer.htm

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” ~ Deuteronomy 31:6

I've heard friends talk about Zumba. What does it involve, and is it an effective workout?

Answer From Edward R. Laskowski, M.D. Mayo Clinic

Zumba is an aerobic activity that can count toward the amount of aerobic activity recommended for most healthy adults by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Aerobic exercise can reduce health risks, help maintain a healthy weight, strengthen your heart and boost your mood. If you enjoy Zumba, you are also more likely to do it regularly and experience its benefits as an aerobic exercise.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/expert-answers/zumba/faq-20057883>



ZUMBA CLASSES START ON MARCH 3RD

Every Thursday from 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Classes are being held at Avenue United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall

LaTasha Gibbs, Instructor

Cost- \$3.00 cash each class!!

Come and join us

What has the Health Ministry Team scheduled for you?

- ◆ First Sunday in the month starting March 2022- Blood Pressure screening
- ◆ First Sunday in March, meet your Health Ministry team and their specialty area, plus play with a Trainer AED to see how it works.
- ◆ Tia Chi Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (For the quiet stretch exercise) Henrietta Chilton and Rachel Susen instructors
- ◆ Thursday, March 3rd—Zumba Thursday at 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. for **\$3.00** a class (fast Pace exercise) La Tasha Gibbs, instructor
- ◆ Friday, April 1st have brunch with an attorney from Procino-Wells & Woodland, LLC for Estate Planning. Please be here no later than 10:15 a.m. Meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.

⇒ Review these sites to be prepared to ask your questions

Coffee & Counsel, Elder Law Series: Part One - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/661783274085087760>

Coffee & Counsel, Elder Law Series: Part Two - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1646140850215671564>

Coffee & Counsel, Elder Law Series: Part Three - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/164116823872630022>

- ◆ May 5th from 12 p.m.—5 p.m. we will be sponsoring a Blood Drive with the Blood Bank of Delaware

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

- **Gary & Marti Seal** who will celebrate their **55th** anniversary on **March 11th**.
- **Al & Linda Hanna** who will celebrate their **50th** anniversary on **March 11th**.
- **Don & Pat Fisher** who will celebrate their **55th** anniversary on **March 18th**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Dan and Caitlyn Donovan** on the birth of their son, Rhett Ryan Donovan on February 22, 2022. Rhett is the grandson of Vaughn and Tracy Webb.
- **Neil and Jessica Whaley** on the birth of their son, Neil Lafayette Whaley, IV on February 24, 2022.

SYMPATHY TO:

- Prayer for Linda Marvel and family on the passing of her daughter, Dee Ann Mason.

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.

PRAYER REQUEST:

Carol Badenoch
Brenda Beissel
Joy Benham
Luisa & Billy Combs
Rick Crump
Charlie & Barbara
Fleetwood
Bill Gaskill
Vayda Gaskill
Sam Hanna
Beverly Harrison
Jerry Jackson
David Johnson
Dean Johnson
Wayne Klaus
Jack & Zelda McDuff
Joanne McKay
Patrick Murphy
Diane Parrilli

David and Judy Passwaters
Ron Payne
Millie Remick
Bill Smar
Sandy S.
Kathleen Tracy
Dianne Verkade
Joan Wadman
Dennis Yates
Jon Zaines