



## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, March 16, 2022*

### **Daylight Savings, Ugly Couches, and Fruitful Ministries**

Just yesterday, I read that the United States Senate did something that would be (nearly) universally approved. They have voted to make Daylight Savings Time permanent. We are only a House of Representatives vote away from never having to change our clocks again! No more struggling to reset your microwave clock or discern whether you can trust your cellphone to adjust automatically overnight. This would be good news!

The adjusting of the hours of the day was implemented to maximize the amount of daylight to work outside. Over time, the idea has become obsolete, if not dangerous. There is research that shows that vehicle accidents increase when we change the clocks. This idea of adjusting the clocks to maximize natural light was a good idea whose time has come to an end.

Pastor Andy Stanley talks about how most families have an “ugly” couch. It started out as being a beautiful and useful couch that, overtime, begins to wear out but is still comfortable. It might get moved from the living room to another room, but the homeowner cannot get rid of it. That couch contains hundreds of memories and has great sentimental value. Eventually, the couch is not only ugly, faded, and ripped but it is no longer comfortable. Perhaps it gets moved to the basement rather than giving it away. Like adjusting the hours of the day, the couch was a good idea that should have been replaced long ago.

What do couches and Daylight Savings Time have to do with the church?

Everything, of course!

As Christians, we believe in the timeless message of Good News that Jesus Christ is God-in-Flesh who came to earth, died on the cross, and rose from the dead in order to save us from our sins and save us to eternity with God. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The Good News of Jesus needs to be proclaimed with hope, love, and grace.

The methods of how we communicate the Gospel is not etched in stone. While we do not like change, we are sent out to proclaim the Good News. Our methods may change over time. When I arrived at Avenue in 2001, we were putting our sermons on a local radio station. In 2020, we started live streaming our services over the internet. Up until 2003, we had one style of worship. Later that year we began the contemporary service to reach a new population of people with the Good News about Jesus. Recently, Avenue has had a group of Tai-Chi participants and a Zumba class in Fellowship Hall. Those classes present opportunities to build relationships that can point to Jesus. The methods have changed, but the message stays the same.

We are living through rapidly changing times. The pandemic has changed so much of our lives in and outside of the church. The challenge for us is to bravely minister in ways that are new and innovative while being faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For our leaders, now is the time to prune ineffective ministries, to fertilize ministries that are producing fruit, and to plant new ministries for future fruitful ministries.

What new ministries would you like to see at Avenue? What are some passions that you have that you'd like to use in ministry? How is God calling you to fruitful ministry in the church and in the world? Let us continue to listen for God's call to ministry that transforms as we encounter the resurrected Christ!

Sow Much Love,



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## 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

*Bishop LaTrelle Easterling*

BISHOP, PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE,  
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

REV. ERICA ROBINSON-JOHNSON *Chief Administrative Officer*

March 7, 2022 | A Message from Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

*“A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify, a never-dying soul to save and fit it for the sky. To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; oh, may it all my powers engage to due my Master’s will!”*

The Commission on General Conference has announced that the 2020 postponed session of General Conference will be held in 2024. This announcement has aroused deep emotions across the diverse strands of our denomination. The disappointment is real, the pain is legitimate and the frustration is understood. And we are yet the people of God who have proclaimed to the world the truth of Romans 8 that “neither death nor life, the present nor the future, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” That is a bold statement of faith and a witness to the world.

As we process our reactions, I hope we respect the deep discernment of the Commission. As anyone who has had to make decisions during this pandemic knows, those decisions are complex, informed by competing interests and often pleasing to very few. While I am not happy to see yet another delay, I am grateful for the wisdom of privileging health and equity above other considerations.

We are a global body with members who are experiencing different rates of vaccinations, varying travel complications, wars and tribal conflicts and a lack of access to stable digital platforms. As with all large systems, ours is imperfect, multi-layered and dynamic.

And we are yet called to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

There is not an announcement that can be made that changes our identify as disciples of Jesus Christ. As I stated on another platform, there are some things that have not been postponed: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, consoling the grieving, sharing the love of Christ and fervent prayer. The love of God is desperately needed as suicide rates escalate, families struggle under crushing medical expenses and injustices continue to destroy lives. While we sort out our denominational differences, fraught with pain and disappointment, we have a charge to keep.

A section on the church profile form we analyze as we’re making appointments catalogues the number of baptisms, professions of faith and transfers that have occurred within the last three years. Myriad faith communities have continued to welcome new members into the family of God during extremely challenging times. The notion that our postponed sessions of holy conferencing prevents growth is wrong.

I had the joy of preaching at Aldersgate UMC in Wilmington, DE recently. During the fellowship

time I was greeted by a woman with an irrepressible smile. She shared her story of being raised in another denomination, but desiring to find a new spiritual home. One of her co-workers was always recalling the moving worship and engaging ministry of Aldersgate. She decided to visit and has never stopped attending. She joined during the pandemic and was thrilled to be in the sanctuary with her brothers and sisters.

We have a charge to keep and we have a choice to make. We have the opportunity to continue serving God and God's creation during these challenging times. The Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences are comprised of strong, resilient, transformational disciples who love the Lord with all their heart, soul and mind and who will continue loving their neighbor as themselves. This is who we are. This is who we will be, God being our helper.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences

The United Methodist Church

Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, 139 N. State Street. Dover, Delaware, 19901



## 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

**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).

**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:** 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!!

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Avenue offers several scholarships to graduating seniors. This year we have an electronic application that is available on our website [www.avenueumc.com/scholarships](https://www.avenueumc.com/scholarships). Scholarship applications are due on **April 25<sup>th</sup>**.

**UMCOR ASSISTANCE IN UKRAINE:** We have all been watching the news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and wondering how we can help beyond prayer. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has ministries on the ground in Ukraine and Europe that are receiving funds to assist those displaced by the war. 100% of donations made to UMCOR go where they are directed, so you can be sure that your dollars are going to work. If you would like to donate to UMCOR, please make a check out to Avenue United Methodist Church with “**Advance #982450**” in the memo line. You can also give online by selecting “UMCOR-Ukraine” from the fund options. Thank you for your generosity.

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS:** You can join the ministry team at Avenue Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month for *Coffee and Conversations* from 11:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. While this time is especially geared to new attendees, this is a time to meet and interact with Avenue’s ministry team. No reservation is needed. We look forward to seeing you on **April 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**YOUNG ADULT ROUNDTABLE:** We will have our next Young Adult Gathering on **Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Wesley Room. If you are 18-35, come join us as we begin building the foundations of a strong Young Adult Ministry at Avenue Church. Please RSVP to Pastor Steve by emailing [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com)

**PECOMETH WORK DAY:** Come out and help Camp Pecometh get ready for a new season of ministry at the Pecometh Workday on **Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**. Pecometh is our Peninsula-Delaware Conference Camp in Centreville, MD. We will be working together with other churches to help prepare the camp for summer. Each participant will receive an Avenue T-shirt and lunch from Camp Pecometh. Please RSVP by emailing Julia Shultz at [Shultz.jf@gmail.com](mailto:Shultz.jf@gmail.com) by April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **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.

### **MONDAYS**

**7:00 pm** Defiant Joy @ Home in Milford. Led by Donna Yates. Women's Group. In this six-session video Bible study, author Candace Payne (aka "Chewbacca Mom"), reveals her personal secrets and biblical insights to unshakable joy that no circumstance can take away, and how you can discover and experience the same.

### **TUESDAYS**

**10:00 a.m.** @ Church Sisters Bible Study. On **April 26<sup>th</sup>** we will be starting a new study "Word of Life" by Adam Hamilton.

**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 Holzmuehler 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 Holzmuehler 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 Holzmuehler Room.

### **SUNDAYS**

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



# 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](http://avenueumc.com)

For more information contact:  
Kevin B. Chamberlain  
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# Colorectal Cancer Screening Test

A colonoscopy is one of several screening tests for colorectal cancer. Several screening tests can be used to find polyps or colorectal cancer.

## Gguaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT)

It uses the chemical guaiac to detect blood in the stool. It is done once a year. For this test, you receive a test kit from your health care provider. At home, you use a stick or brush to obtain a small amount of stool. You return the test kit to the doctor or a lab, where the stool samples are checked for the presence of blood.

- The **fecal immunochemical test (FIT)** uses antibodies to detect blood in the stool. It is also done once a year in the same way as a gFOBT.
- The **FIT-DNA test** (also referred to as the stool DNA test) combines the FIT with a test that detects altered DNA in the stool. For this test, you collect an entire bowel movement and send it to a lab, where it is checked for cancer cells. It is done once every three years.

## Flexible Sigmoidoscopy

For this test, the doctor puts a short, thin, flexible, lighted tube into your rectum. The doctor checks for polyps or cancer inside the rectum and lower third of the colon.

**How often:** Every 5 years, or every 10 years with a FIT every year.

## Colonoscopy

This is similar to flexible sigmoidoscopy, except the doctor uses a longer, thin, flexible, lighted tube to check for polyps or cancer inside the rectum and the entire colon. During the test, the doctor can find and remove most polyps and some cancers. Colonoscopy also is used as a follow-up test if anything unusual is found during one of the other screening tests.

**How often:** Every 10 years (for people who do not have an increased risk of colorectal cancer).

## CT Colonography (Virtual Colonoscopy)

Computed tomography (CT) colonography, also called a virtual colonoscopy, uses X-rays and computers to produce images of the entire colon, which are displayed on a computer screen for the doctor to analyze.

**How often:** Every 5 years.

How Do I Know Which Screening Test Is Right for Me?

There is no single “best test” for any person. Each test has advantages and disadvantages. Talk to your doctor about the pros and cons of each test, and how often to be tested. Which test to use depends on:

- Your preferences.
- Your medical condition.
- The likelihood that you will get the test.
- The resources available for testing and follow-up.

[https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/basic\\_info/screening/tests.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/basic_info/screening/tests.htm)



**“But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.”**

**2Thessalonians 3:3**

## **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>



**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?

- ♦ Tia Chi Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (For the quiet stretch exercise) Henrietta Chilton and Rachel Susen instructors
- ♦ 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> from 12 p.m.—5 p.m. we will be sponsoring a Blood Drive with the Blood Bank of Delaware

**ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Don & Pat Fisher** who will celebrate their **55<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **March 18<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Norm & Millie Remick** who will celebrate their **71<sup>st</sup>** anniversary on **March 24<sup>th</sup>**.

**SYMPATHY TO:**

- The family and friends of Joy Benham who passed away on February 27, 2022. Joy joined Avenue Church on March 18, 2007.
- The family and friends of Harry G. Greenly, Jr who passed away on March 10, 2022. Harry joined Avenue on April 7, 1963.
- The family and friends of David Sockrider who passed away on March 13, 2022. David joined Avenue on April 10, 1960.

**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	Joanne McKay
Brenda Beissel	Brian McMullen
Adam Berry	Patrick Murphy
Luisa & Billy Combs	Diane Parrilli
Linda Contrill	David and Judy Passwaters
Rick Crump	Ron Payne
Charlie & Barbara	Millie Remick
Fleetwood	Bill Smar
Bill Gaskill	Sandy S.
Vayda Gaskill	Kathleen Tracy
Sam Hanna	Dianne Verkade
Beverly Harrison	Joan Wadman
Jerry Jackson	Dennis Yates
David Johnson	Jon Zaimes
Dean Johnson	
Johnny	
Wayne Klaus	
Jack & Zelda McDuff	