



AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Breaking the 4/14 Window

I love Vacation Bible School! When I was growing up, each church in our area held VBS during a different week. We (the kids) would go from church-to-church attending the program there. Some churches held their VBS during the day while others were in the evening. If the church was close enough, there would be 10-15 kids riding bikes together to attend VBS. I loved seeing my friends, playing kick-ball in the church yard, and eating off-brand Oreos during snack.

This week, Vacation Bible School has been taking place at Avenue. Our building has been transformed into the Southwest and we have been exploring the story of Joseph from the book of Genesis. There we discover how God loves us, is with us, is in control, and how God is stronger than any challenge we might face. Our prayer is that these principles will be sown into the lives of our children and that through the Holy Spirit they will grow into a strong and vibrant faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Bible School is not meant to be a stand-alone program. It is just a part of a Discipleship Pathway that invites children to begin to follow Jesus. A successful VBS needs to have a strong children's, youth, and family ministries. If we are to raise up a new generation of fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ, then these components must be present and functioning at a high level. If I am perfectly honest, these are areas that need to be invested if Avenue is going to lead and grow in these areas.

This is a great opportunity for Avenue Church to consider if we desire to raise up a new generation of disciples. There are studies (Barna and Pew Research) that show that 63% of Christians come to faith between the ages of 4 and 14 years old. There is a precipitous drop-off of people coming to faith after 18. This should heighten our commitment to disciple our children. Just as young people learn good habits like hygiene, manners, and interpersonal skills, this is a time where faith in Jesus can become real. Each time we hold a baptism (like we will this Sunday), we commit to providing ministries that will help parents and baptized members live out their faith in Jesus Christ. Now is the time for us to reimagine and reinvest in these vital ministries.

I started off this article by saying that I love VBS, and I do! It is not a stand-alone program. As we come to the end of the week there is an opportunity to consider how we can assist our children to claim faith for themselves. We need people to teach in Children's Ministry (Sunday School), become Fusion leaders, disciple parents, and create opportunities for children and families to grow in their faith together. May VBS be a catalyst for greater outreach and discipleship in our church!

Sow Much Love

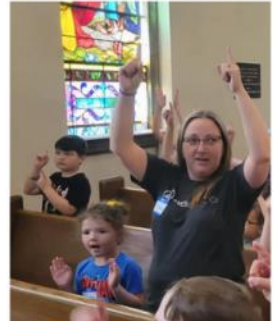


Our brother, Roosevelt Thomas, is now located at Milford Center and is in need of a little pick me up. So let's flood him with some cards of love and encouragement.

Roosevelt Thomas
c/o Milford Center Genesis Health Care
700 Marvel Rd.
Room 124
Milford, DE 19963

VBS Has Been Monumental!

We have had so much fun at Vacation Bible School during our first two nights, and we have two more nights to go! We have been learning about the story of Joseph from the book of Genesis. We've learned that God has a plan for our lives and that God is always with us...even when things are not going so well! Continue to pray for a great final two nights of VBS.



ZUMBA

@AVENUE



**TUESDAYS &
THURSDAYS**

5:30 PM

\$3 Suggested
Donation

**20 N. Church St.
Milford, DE**



Avenue United Methodist Church

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 (302) 422-8111 or by contacting Dan Holt, our *Pastor of Congregational Care*. You can email Pastor Dan directly at dholt@avenueumc.com.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday, June 29th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Our primary purpose for meeting will be to gather as a Church Conference to elect a new class of leaders. We will also be having some other conversations as we prepare for the Fall. Reports from Ministry Chairs should be emailed to the church office by **Wednesday, June 22nd at Noon** to be included in the packet.

MINISTRY RESTART—USHERS AND GREETERS: We believe in creating a warm, welcoming, and expectant worship environment where members and guests are excited to gather, to worship, and to grow as a community of faith. To assist with this, we are looking to restart *the ministry of ushers and greeters*.

Ushers and Greeters are servants who have the gift of hospitality and are able to remove barriers that keep people from encountering the presence of God during worship. Greeters operate outside the sanctuary to create a warm welcome, answer questions, and assist where needed. Ushers minister inside the sanctuary to receive the offering, assist with seating, and to provide assistance when needed. Both roles are vital to help worshippers get better connected to our Discipleship Pathway to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and both roles will work with our Connections ministry to that end.

If you would like to serve as an Usher or Greeter, email Kelly at churchoffice@avenueumc.com.

RIVERWALK FREEDOM FESTIVAL OUTREACH: Milford’s *Riverwalk Freedom Festival* is scheduled for **Saturday, September 17th** in downtown Milford. Avenue will be present to meet with community members, share information about our church, pray with those who need it, and to have a great time! We are creating a team to envision our booth and to serve the day of the event. If you would like to be part of the outreach team, please contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

FALL KICK-OFF PLANNING HAS BEGUN: We will be holding our Fall Kick-Off on **Sunday, September 18th at 10:00 a.m.** under the tent. This will be an all-church worship time with a family meal afterwards. We are looking for those who want to make this an unforgettable day

of worship and family fun for our entire Avenue Community. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, please contact Pastor Steve at 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 call (302) 422-8111 or send an email to healthministry@avenueumc.com.

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Pantry can always use cereal and soup, canned fruit is also good. **Our big news is a transition of leadership. Tita and Diane are retiring and their replacements are in training.** Diana LeDonne is taking on the role of Coordinator. Nancy Czerwinski, a very active Milford Lion, will be handling the inventory. They will appreciate your continued support of the Milford Community Pantry. The Avenue congregation is so generous and helpful. Your help allows us to continue our efforts to reduce food insecurity.

AUMC YARD SALE IS COMING (AUGUST 4th – 6th): Please begin to collect your donations this spring. A planning meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 28th** in the Heritage Room at 6:30 p.m. Please consider volunteering. Contact for more information: Judy Struck - judystruck@comcast.net or Sandy Culotta - swculotta@gmail.com. Many hands make light work. Come join in the fun!!

ADULT FUSION LEADERS NEEDED: As the school year winds down and we begin transitioning into summer, we are looking to add to our Adult Fusion Ministry Team. We are looking for adults who love Jesus (first) and who also love teenagers, and who can make a one-year commitment to serving on Sunday evenings and special events. While we often think of younger adults as the prime candidate, research shows that older adults can also be effective Student Ministry Leaders.

If you would like to learn more about Fusion and becoming a Fusion leader, please contact Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

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.

TUESDAYS

10:00 a.m. @ Church Sisters Bible Study. We will conclude our study of The Ten Commandments on **June 28th**. Have a blessed and healthy summer.

SUNDAYS

10:15 a.m. @ Church Summer Sunday School led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired plus others is meeting in the Grier Room at 10:15 a.m. The study for June is “The Fruit of the Spirit.” The lesson for June 26th lesson is “Life in the Spirit” based on Galatians 5:22-26. Please join us in the Grier Room for these exciting lessons.



Women face higher risk of stroke

STROKE IN U.S. WOMEN BY THE NUMBERS



One in 5 women will have a stroke.
About 55,000 more women than men have a stroke each year.



#4
cause of death

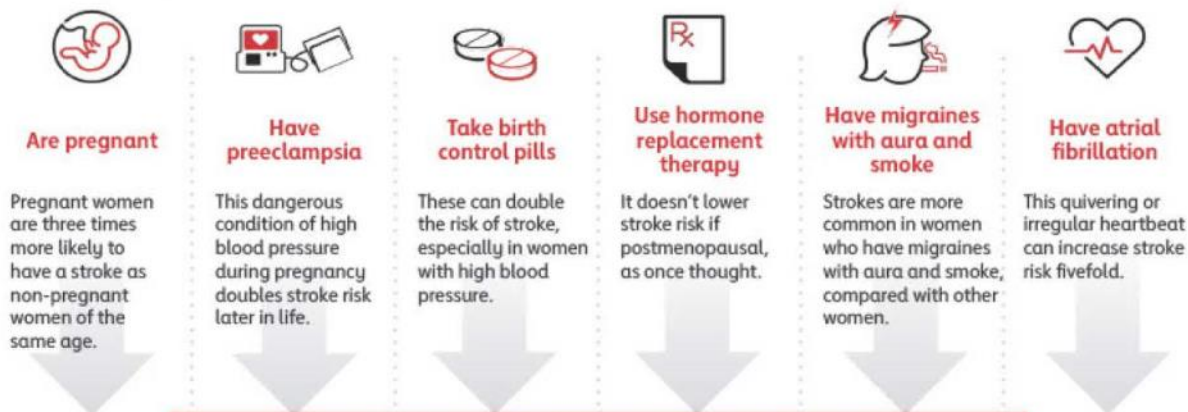
Stroke is the No. 4 cause of death in women.
Stroke kills over 85,000 women a year.



Among women, Black women have the highest prevalence of stroke.

TALK TO YOUR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL ABOUT HOW TO LOWER YOUR RISK
and use the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association prevention guidelines:

STROKE RISK INCREASES IN WOMEN WHO:



STROKE RISK DECREASES IN WOMEN WHO:



Learn more at stroke.org

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“She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong.”

Proverbs 31:17

ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

- **Rob and Pat Craig** who will celebrate their **54th** anniversary on **June 22nd**.
- **Glenn and Judy Struck** who will celebrate their **50th** anniversary on **June 24th**.
- **Dave and Judy Passwaters** who will celebrate their **64th** anniversary on **June 28th**.

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.
- Pray for peace in Ukraine and other areas of conflict around the world.

PRAYER REQUEST:

Marty Brereton
Charlene Johnson Cannon
Roland Cohee
Mike and Judy Conflitti
Barbara Fleetwood
Tom Glenn
Niki Gustafson
Sam Hanna
Beverly Harrison
Quinn Humes
Jerry Jackson
Dean Johnson
Kirsten Lewis and family
Diana Lubitz
Martha Marani
Jack & Zelda McDuff
Joanne McKay
David and Judy Passwaters
Ron Payne

Marshall Rea
Alyshia Redmond
Millie Remick
George Reph Jr.
Ron Semmont
Sandy S.
Seth Spencer
Glen Stevenson
Joan Wadman
Dr. Charles "Chuck" Wagner

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY 6/2

- 4:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. VBS Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. VBS

THURSDAY 6/23

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Century Club
- 5:30 p.m. VBS Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. VBS

FRIDAY 6/24

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Century Club

SATURDAY 6/25

- 9:00 a.m. Haitian Church, Century Club
- 12:00 p.m. Party—Lee Watson, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Century Club

SUNDAY 6/26

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class, Grier Room
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship ~ Baptism-Neil Whaley IV
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 7:00 p.m. Haitian Church, Century Club

MONDAY 6/27

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Century Club
- 7:00 p.m. Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Sermon On the Mount, Holzmueller Room

TUESDAY 6/28

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 5:30 p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Yard Sale Meeting, Heritage Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Milford Al-Anon Group, Century Club

WEDNESDAY 6/29

- 4:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Alpha Group Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Sanctuary