



The Midweek

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Becoming Wise

I love the first chapter of Psalms. You really should read it before going any further.

The chapter serves as an introduction to the book of Psalms, which was the Jewish prayer book. It gives the reader an image of what it looks like to grow in our faith as we read, pray, and sing through the scriptures. The person who meditates on God's Word is like a tree planted by streams of water, yielding fruit in season, and having leaves that never wither. The person who meditates on God's Word experiences a flourishing life regardless of the season.

In short, the Psalms (and the Bible as a whole) are given to us to teach us **wisdom**. Specifically, the Bible helps us to become wise in our understanding of God and how we live in the world. Wisdom is defined as having "experience, knowledge, and good judgment." Reading that definition, I think we can agree that we need more wise people in the world! When we meditate, think, and reflect on the Scriptures we begin to gain a godly perspective of life, suffering, pain, and eternity. We learn that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Proverbs 9:10)"

When I was growing up, I learned the Bible Song. You may recall the song:

*The B-I-B-L-E,
Yes! That's the Book for me.*

*I stand alone on the Word of God.
The B-I-B-L-E.*

The song taught me the importance of standing on God's Word. Of course, I often looked at the Bible as an instruction manual. (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth) I even had a book that listed what the Bible said on various topics and issues. While it was helpful to know what the Bible says about an issue, I came to realize that the Bible doesn't address every topic specifically. While the Bible speaks life today, it does not have a nice tidy piece of guidance for every topic in my life. Are there topics and commands that clearly guide our lives? Yes. Is the Bible more than an instruction manual? Yes!

I have come to see the Bible as more of a book teaching me the wisdom of God rather than an instruction manual as I have matured in my faith. That is precisely what Psalms 1 describes. For example, the Bible doesn't give us "5 Easy Steps to a Life Free of Suffering." Instead, it acknowledges that suffering is part of the human experience as a result of sin and provides guidance on how to endure. This Biblical worldview provides a framework for experiencing life in a sinful world with godly wisdom.

This Fall, we will consider what it means to live a "*deeply formed life*." This is a life where our lives are conformed to the life of Jesus. As we grow closer to and more like Jesus, reading and studying the Bible are essential to becoming wise in the ways of God.

Sow Much Love,

Pastor Steve



My name is Christina Trager. I am the new Next Generations Pastor here at Avenue. I grew up in Bethany Beach, DE with my mother, father, and two older brothers. I did not grow up in church, but started attending Mariners Bethel UMC with my aunt and uncle when I was 14 years old. I fell in love with Jesus and serving others and felt the Lord call me into full-time youth ministry my junior year of high school. I attended college at GroundZero Masters Commission where I received my Bachelor's degree in Biblical studies. I grew in my knowledge of the bible and obtained hands-on experience in ministry, in particular with four different youth ministries.

During the summer as I was in college, I interned at my home church working with the youth ministry and starting and leading our drama ministry program. In 2015, after interning a year with the college, I became a US-2 Missionary with the Board of Global Ministries where I served in Rocky Mount, VA for two years. During those two years, I worked with an after school program for underprivileged children, a church's youth ministry and some community outreach programs. It was a wonderful experience where I learned about advocating for others.

In 2017, the Lord called me to attend Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. I commuted weekly, going to school part-time, as I received a position back at my home church as the Middle School Coordinator. I really enjoyed my time there and once again learned so much. I graduated in May of 2021 with my Masters of Arts in Theology with a certificate of Child and Youth in Advocacy.

This past year I felt the Lord calling me to something new and I am excited that He brought me to Avenue. Youth and serving the Lord is where my heart and passion are. I am so excited and ready to get to know the youth in the church and in the community, love on them, and share the amazing news of Jesus Christ with them. I will also be working with those in the college/young adult ages, which as a young person myself looking for a place to grow with my peers, I am excited to find that space for others as well.

Thank you for those of you who have welcomed me already! I am so thrilled to be here and meet all of you!

Blessings,

Christina Trager

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THURSDAY JULY 21st



TASKS:

4pm Help Set UP

For both Downtown & Avenue

4pm - 8pm

Avenue Information Booth

Greet visitors / hand out balloons to all kids
(pick an hour and let us know)

8pm

Tear Down

For both Downtown & Avenue

**Please click on links to help Downtown
Milford and/or Avenue Booth
(they are different links)**



If any of you are interested in volunteering at Downtown Milford's "3rd Thursday" event (July 21st from 4 – 8 pm), either helping Downtown or serving at our booth (greeting people, preparing and handing out balloons to children) here are the links to sign up:

Avenue's Booth – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A4A72DA0F85-third>
Downtown Milford - <https://volunteersignup.org/FF3L4>

It is fun to get to see and serve our community! Come on down!
If you are going and don't have an Avenue Tshirt, let me know, so you can wear it to the event.

2022 YARD SALE

The summer is moving along and that means the Yard Sale is coming quickly!! Here is a list of all the important dates that you need to help us get ready. Please let us know if you would like to help.

Judy Struck (609) 319- 8082 judystruck@comcast.net

Sandy Culotta (302) 258-5787 swculotta@gmail.com

YARD SALE DATES AND TIMES:

- ♦ Thursday, August 4th from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (**\$1 entrance fee**)
- ♦ Friday, August 5th from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- ♦ Saturday, August 6th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DONATION DATES AND TIMES:

- ♦ Thursday, July 28th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ♦ Friday, July 29th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ♦ Monday, August 1st from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ Tuesday, August 2nd from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



FURNITURE PICK UP:

Contact Larry Hughes (302) 745-4331 or Dave Reynolds (302) 503-3933. Times will vary and items must be either in the garage or outside.

Please pick up a list of what will and will not be accepted from the counter in the church foyer.

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.

GIVING STATEMENTS—Second quarter giving statements were emailed **Monday, July 11th**, to all givers with email addresses. If you do not use email but would like a paper copy of your 2022 giving so far, please call Kelly (302-422-8111) and I will prepare it for you. *Harriet Davies, Finance Secretary*

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.

SPONSOR KICK-OFF SUNDAY: Avenue is planning a church-wide kick-off on **Sunday, September 18th**. Beginning at 10:00 a.m., we will gather for worship under the tent. After worship, we will have food and dessert trucks to enjoy an Avenue Family Meal together. There will be yard games and inflatables for the whole family. This is intended to be a time of

celebration and fellowship and a great opportunity to invite new families and friends to worship.

Our goal is to provide the day Kick-Off Sunday at no cost to our congregation and are looking for some sponsors who might want to help provide the event. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com or speak with him by calling the church office.

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.

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.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP - FAVORITE WORSHIP SONGS: Avenue will be holding a “hymn sing” on Sunday, July 31st. It will be an opportunity to sing our favorite songs in each service. The 9:00 a.m. service will be given the chance to request their favorite hymn during worship. At 10:30 a.m., we are taking a different approach and requesting that you email Pastor Steve (srlamotte@avenueumc.com) your favorite praise song, chorus, or hymn. The Praise Team will be putting together the service from these requests. We look forward to worshipping with you on July 31st.

SERMON SERIES HELP NEEDED—ASKED/ANSWERED: In August, we will begin a new sermon series called ASKED/ANSWERED where you will have input on the sermon content. We want to know what questions you have about the Bible, God, Faith, and Theology. For four weeks, we will look at our questions and build a sermon that addresses one or more of the

questions you have. It will be an opportunity to have a little more participation in worship.

Got questions? You can email your questions to Pastor Steve (srlamotte@avenueumc.com) with the phrase ASKED/ANSWERED in the subject line. Your questions need to be received prior to August 1st to put the series together.

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The pantry is in need of diapers size 5 and 6. **Beginning in October on the 3rd Sunday we will again put a food cart in the sanctuary for pantry donations. Thank You!**

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 be taking July and August off. See you **September 13th**.

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 July is “The Work of the Church.” The lesson for July 24th lesson is “The Jerusalem Council’s Mandate” based on Acts 15:1-21; and July 31st lesson is “Mission Without Walls” based on Acts 16:25-34. Please join us in the Grier Room for these exciting lessons.

How to Prevent Fires that Cause Burns in Your Home

Fire Prevention

- Install smoke detectors on every floor of your house and make sure to check the batteries on a regular basis.
- Be careful when cooking. Keep the handles of pots and pans turned in toward the center of the stove so that they can't be knocked or pulled over. Don't wear loose clothing when cooking, so that it doesn't catch fire. If grease catches on fire, carefully cover the pan with lid to smother the flames, then turn off the burner. Never put foil or other metals in a microwave oven.
- Never leave space heaters on when you leave home or go to bed.
- Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed. Don't overload extension cords or run them under rugs.
- Never smoke in bed or when you are sleepy. You should use large, deep ashtrays for smokers and put butts out with water before throwing them away.
- If there's a fire and you must exit through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees to the nearest safe exit.

Family Fire Escape Plan

- Create a fire escape plan. Make sure it explains how you'll exit the house and where you'll meet.
- Find two ways to get out of each room.
- Plan a safe way to get to the ground from every room.
- Pick a meeting place at a safe distance from the house, such as a neighbor's house or mailbox. Plan to gather there if you've had to escape from a fire.
- Practice the plan. Hold family fire drills twice a year.



For tips on how to create a family fire escape plan, visit the [Red Cross](#) site or the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) s



Can you find the fire hazards in this picture?

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone, who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Matthew 7:7-8



The UMW/United Women in Faith will be collecting school supplies in participation with the Bayhealth Summer Community Service Project. The supplies will be donated to Caring Hearts Helping Hands which will provide them to the families that it supports. Last year the organization packed and distributed nearly 200 book bags with supplies.

If you would like to donate supplies, please place them in the receptacle in the church office by **Thursday, July 21st**.

We will be collecting the following supplies:

- 1" single subject spiral notebooks (wide or college ruled)
- Loose notebook paper (wide and college ruled)
- 1" three ring binders
- Three ring notebook dividers
- Highlighters
- Colored markers

Thank you for helping the children supported by Caring Hearts Caring Hands get off to a positive start in the coming school year.

AUGUST
10, 11, 12



CELTIC TO CLASSICAL 2022

WITH CELLIST JONAH KIM

All performances at 7:30 PM

- Wednesday, August 10th, Epworth United Methodist Church, Rehoboth
- Thursday, August 11th, St. Martha's Episcopal Church, Bethany
- Friday, August 12th, Avenue United Methodist Church, Milford

No tickets are sold; a freewill offering is taken. Seating is first-come, first-served. Join us for a special evening of classical cello, bluegrass fiddle and grand piano—C2C's usual mix of styles is sure to delight audiences of all musical tastes!

SHERIDAN.SEYFRIED@GMAIL.COM
www.celtictoclassical.com

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
Alma Brittingham
Charlene Johnson Cannon
Roland Cohee
Mike and Judy Conflitti
Dana
Barbara Fleetwood
Dan Williams Gaskill Sr
Tom Glenn
Niki Gustafson
Michel Hall
Sam Hanna
Beverly Harrison
Quinn Humes
Jerry Jackson
David Johnson
Dean Johnson
Esther LaMotte
Kirsten Lewis and family
Diana Lubitz
Martha Marani
Jack & Zelda McDuff
Jean Murphy

Ron Payne
Marshall Rea
Alyshia Redmond
Chester Reid
Millie Remick
George Reph Jr.
Ron Semmont
Seth Spencer
Glen Stevenson
Lonel Touze
Evelyn Townsend
Joan Wadman
Dr. Charles “Chuck” Wagner
Milton Whitescarver

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY 7/20

4:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. SPRC, Carpenter Room
6:30 p.m. Alpha Group Dinner,
Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 7/21

11:00 a.m. AA, Century Club
5:30 p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY 7/22

7:00 p.m. AA, Century Club

SATURDAY 7/23

9:00 a.m. Haitian Church, Century Club
7:00 p.m. AA, Century Club

SUNDAY 7/24

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

MONDAY 7/25

11:00 a.m. AA, Century Club
6:30 p.m. Endowment Meeting,
Grier Room
7:00 p.m. Harmonizers, Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Sermon on the Mount,
Holzmueller Room

TUESDAY 7/26

5:30 p.m. Zumba, Wesley Room
7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Grier Room
7:00 p.m. Milford Al-Anon Group,
Century Club

WEDNESDAY 7/27

4:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Voices of Delmarva,
Century Club
6:30 p.m. Alpha Group