



Winter 2017

The Dove Express

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

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THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Hanging on the wall above the desk in my office, is my framed certificate of appointment to our Church and to the community of Avalon. This certificate outlines what I should be doing as your Pastor. It is a guide that helps me determine what kind of leadership I should be providing in Avalon. There are eight missional challenges listed on the certificate. Each year I have focused on one or two so that we can continue to be a vital congregation. In previous years, we have developed strategies to welcome new people into the life of this Church. We have reached out to the Seven Mile Island Community in new and creative ways. Every two years, we have evaluated our effectiveness in ministry. You have provided guidance and benchmarks that help us plan what to do next.

This year I want to invite everyone to think and act upon our church's need for an engaged and committed laity that will continue to carry the church forward. I want to encourage all who consider themselves a part of this congregation to think about ways in which you may utilize your gifts for ministry within the community. This year, I will also be focusing increased energy on promoting the sustainability of our Church. This means paying more attention to living as an ecologically responsible community as well as improving our financial sustainability by increasing our endowment. I plan to invite a small group of us to meet regularly during the coming year to improve stewardship capability.

I would ask you to take a minute to review the stories in this newsletter – stories of people that have been served and lives that have been touched. The good news of Jesus Christ flows freely from this community of faith into the world. Through spirited worship, in small groups, and through strategic missional and education partnerships, we are making a difference in the lives of others.

This month, I attended the Bishop's Convocation in Long Branch, New Jersey. I learned each congregation has a soul and one of the tasks of the Pastor is to tend to that soul. It has been my experience that this congregation has an amazing soul – a soul that has a heart for mission, shows hospitality to people they don't know very well or at all, and is deeply caring for others whether they are homeless or in poverty or simply in need of a caring friend. As we set our course for the new year, I invite each of you to tend to your soul – to learn something new, to share something important or something you have learned, and to challenge yourself to grow in faith and to help make the world a better place. God's grace and his favor is there for each of us as we embark on the new adventures we will experience in 2017 – the 125th year of ministry in Avalon.

God loves you and I'll see you in Church.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave



The Breakfast Club will be meeting at 9 am.

Schedule

Thur. January 26th	Dino's
Wed. February 1st	Court House Diner
Wed. February 8th	Clary's
Wed. February 15th	Marge's
Wed. February 22nd	Vote on were to go
Sun. February 26th	Links @ 12:30 pm

Last Get-together for Winter 2017

DISTRICT NEWS

Regional Day of Learning "Reclaiming Your Passion for Ministry"

Sunday, February 12th, 2017
1:45 pm - 6:00 pm

Pitman United Methodist Church
758 N. Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071

Registration is due by February 9th

For more information visit

<https://www.gnjumc.org/events/2017-southern-region-day-of-learning/>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017



Are you ready?
Vacation Bible
School is coming
this summer!

*Remember that the
Lord is great and
awesome
-Nehemiah 4: 14 b*

What: Hero Central uses music, spectacular science, crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories to help kids discover their strength in God! Kids go on awesome adventures alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God.

Who: Registration is for children 4 years old through 6th grade. Junior and Senior High students can become volunteers and register to be Assistant Teachers. Registration forms for those attending and volunteers will be available on our website beginning on Wednesday, February 7th.

Registration is open to all but be sure to register early.

When: Monday-Friday, July 10-14
(9 am-Noon)

Where: The First UMC of Avalon at
3344 Dune Drive
Avalon, New Jersey 08202

You can reach us by phone at
(609) 967-4204
or on our website
AvalonMethodist.com.

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. David J. Montanye, Pastor
Sara Atack, Secretary
Brenda Katapodis, Treasurer
Patti Boyle, Sexton



Church Family Members

Ted Mozer
Layton Wilson
Larry Luing
June Spielman
Evelyn Breth

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In worship recently we have welcomed our newest members: Sally Herr, John Herr, Andrew Katapodis, Dan Thompson, Pam Thompson, Marcia Nelson & John Richardson.



Congratulations!
Melissa & Matthew Watson
were married at our church on Thursday,
December 29, 2016.

GOOD NEWS FOR GROCERIES!

We have a wonderful fund raising program at our church. It's easy – sign up for an ACME or SHOP-RITE \$100 gift card; give Margie Lingerfield a check for \$100, she will purchase the cards and give them to you. The church will earn \$5 for every \$100 card we purchase. That may not sound like a lot of money at first, but think of the money spent on groceries in a month - \$800 earns the church \$40. There are churches in our conference that earn in excess of \$5000 a year!



Women's Circle

The Women's Circle, women of The First United Methodist Church of Avalon, meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month for brunch/lunch at The Links or the Sand Barrens restaurant. Please join us! There is always a sign-up sheet at the back table in the sanctuary or call Louise Baehr @ 536-2814.



GLEANINGS

Help feed the hungry children in Cape May County. Please place non-perishable items in our grocery cart (Courtesy of Avalon Market) and they will be delivered to local food banks.

Keeping in Touch

Keeping in Touch

Have you moved or changed your mailing address, home address, home phone, cell phone, or email address? Please send an email to avalonmethodist@hotmail.com or call the church office at (609) 967-4204. Thanks!

PICTURE DIRECTORY

Have you received your new picture directory? The picture directory has finally arrived! This is the first picture directory that our church has provided in over 15 years. This is a terrific way to get to know other members and friends in our congregation. Please be sure to pick up your copy of the Directory.



A Thank You goes out to all who participated in the Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar 2016, which was held on November 12, 2016. A Thank You also goes to all the Christmas Bazaar crafters which met regularly and created the many creative and wonderful Christmas ornaments that were sold at the Bazaar. This year's Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar raised over \$5,000 in support of the mission and ministry of this congregation. Thank you to Nancy Doell, Wilda Richardson, and Dee Phillips and many others for providing the leadership to make it all happen.

NEW MEMBERS INVITATION

Have you thought about joining the First United Methodist Church of Avalon? Membership in the United Methodist Church involves making a simple commitment to support this faith community with your prayers, your presence, your witness, and your gifts. You can become a full-member, an associate member or an affiliate member or if you have never been part of a faith community simply profess your faith in Jesus Christ. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Dave.



SAY GOODBYE TO THE SNOWBIRDS

SNOWBIRDS

Rita Bedford
Dottie and Dave Brennan
Pam and Dan Thompson
Bev and George Coleman
Barbara & Bill Graham
Bill & Carol Lehman
Martha & Charles Richardson
Wilda & Jack Richardson
Ferd & Molly Sauereisen
Rose Shute

Please contact the Church Office if we have missed a snowbird that has already traveled south and Sara, our secretary, will add them to the list. Warm wishes for the winter break!

MISSION PROJECTS RESULTS BY THE NUMBERS

The figures are in! During 2016 our Church provided outreach to the following organizations:

- ❖ 39 Backpacks filled with school supplies were provided to boys and girls of Glenwood Elementary School in Wildwood.
- ❖ 7 homeless families were provided a meal and a place to stay through Family Promise.
- ❖ Over 20 adults and older youth served as teachers, assistant teachers, and counselors as part of the Surf Shack Vacation Bible School 2016.
- ❖ 3 families who wouldn't have had much of a Christmas received many Christmas gifts through our Church's Giving Tree program. We helped three families and provided food for the Caring for Kids Food Pantry
- ❖ We supported the United Methodist on Relief with gifts for Hurricane Matthew and One Great Hour of Sharing.



MISSION FUND CAMPAIGN MOVES FORWARD

When people are hurting, our church helps. For the past two years, First United Methodist Church of Avalon has been participating in the Future with Hope Mission Fund Campaign. Our goal has been to raise \$10,000 over a three year period to accomplish the following projects.

- Rebuild 200 - 300 homes of low-income and marginalized people that have been devastated by Hurricane Sandy so that we can help rebuild communities.
- Help bring an end to deaths by malaria, which take place every sixty seconds through support of the Imagine No Malaria campaign and the provision of life-saving anti-malaria nets to those who are at risk particularly children.
- Develop the mission and ministry of our own congregation by retaining 25% of the funds for this campaign which will support mission projects here in Cape May County.

During this third year of this 3-year campaign, our members and friends have raised over \$5,000. Offering envelopes for this special project are available. Your faithful support of the "A Future With Hope Mission Fund" is very much appreciated. There is still a need even now.

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

**Pencil these dates
on your calendar:**



JANUARY

January 8th: Birthday Coffee Hour
January 15th: Human Relations Sunday
January 17th: Trustees Meeting - 7 pm
January 26th: Breakfast Club - 9 am
at Dino's in Seaville

FEBRUARY

February 1st: Breakfast Club - 9 am
at Court House diner in CMCH
February 8th: Breakfast Club - 9 am
at Clary's in CMCH
Church Council - 7 pm
February 12th: Birthday Coffee Hour
February 14th: Valentines Day
February 15th: Breakfast Club - 9 am
at Marge's in CMCH
February 20th: President's Day
February 22nd: Breakfast Club - 9 am
Vote on where to go
February 26th: Healing Service
Breakfast Club - 12:30 pm
the Links in CMCH

MARCH

March 1st: Ash Wednesday
Soup & Bread Dinner - 6 pm
Worship Service - 7 pm
March 3rd: World Day of Prayer
March 7th: Trustees Meeting - 7 pm
March 12th: Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 12th: Birthday Coffee Hour
March 26th: One Great Hour of Sharing

APRIL

April 9th: Palm Sunday
April 9th: Birthday Coffee Hour

April 13th: Maundy Thursday
Soup & Bread Dinner - 6 pm
Worship Service - 7 pm

April 14th: Good Friday
Worship Service - 7:00 pm

April 16th: Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service - 7 Mile Island Ecumenical
Service 6:15 am Contemplative Worship
with Communion 8:15 am
Traditional Worship Service 10 am

April 30th: Native American Ministries
Sunday

FOCUS ON MISSION

Our 2017 Communion Offerings and Mission Projects meet a variety of important needs in Cape May County, in New Jersey, and around the world. Our focus this year is on helping our five strategic mission partners which help children and families in need here in Cape May County and on building greater capacity to support the One Great Hour of Sharing, the United Methodist Homes, and the Future with Hope Campaign.

MISSION PROJECTS

January:

Bridge Wellness Services

February:

Personal Care Items for
Family Promise

March:

Sneakers for
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School in Wildwood

April:

Baby food & Diapers for
Caring for Kids, Inc.

COMMUNION OFFERINGS

January 1st:

Human Relations Day

February 5th:

Pennington School

March 5th:

One Great Hour of Sharing

April 2nd:

Native American Ministries