

Winter 2018

The Dove Express

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

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THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Almost 35 years ago, I read a book that changed my life. It was called *The Road Less Travelled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values, and Spiritual Growth* by M. Scott Peck. Dr. Peck began the book with these words: "Life is difficult. That is a great truth, one of the greatest truths."

Dr. Peck went on to describe how once we truly know that life difficult – that once we understand and accept it – then life is no longer so difficult. I sometimes find myself searching for some kind of balance in my life, I look for those moments when hardships and difficulties seem to balance each other out. But the reality is more often we focus on the hardships and overlook the blessings.

Research bears this out. It's called the Headwinds/Tailwinds Asymmetry. Research consistently shows us that we remember the obstacles and hardships that we have to overcome. They are more vivid in our minds. These are the headwinds of life. Conversely, many of us overlook the resources that we have and the benefits we may get that others don't. These are, in a sense, the tailwinds of life.

Scientists have discovered that people consistently believe that there may be more headwinds in life than there are tailwinds. For example, some people believe that their parents favored their sibling over them. They think that, in the words of Tom Smothers, "Mom always liked you best." Similarly, pro-football or baseball fans think that the schedule is biased against their favorite team. Many Republican and Democrats see their electoral map is one that favors the other political party. In other words, our human nature is such that we focus on the headwinds and overlook the tailwinds. Rather than focusing on what is good, we have a tendency to focus on what is hard.

This is where gratitude comes in to play. St. Paul wrote to one of his struggling Christian churches, "In all things be grateful. The amazing thing about being grateful is that gratitude doesn't just make life better for us. It helps us to live life the way that God intended.

So, as we enter this Lenten season and recall the sacrifice that Jesus made, we also remember that the glorious beauty of Spring will soon arrive. What I want to suggest to you is that we take time to give thanks for the times in our lives when we have experienced tailwinds, whatever they may be. Let us acknowledge the privileges that have been given to us that others may not have. Let us take a moment to think about the advantages that we have had in life that we may have overlooked. May we remember and honor the people that have helped us along the way so that we have become our best selves. And as we have opportunity, let us seek to be somebody else's tailwind. Do this, and I believe that you will find that your life will get even easier and better.

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

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

Are you ready?

Vacation Bible School is coming this summer!

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

-Isaiah 43: 2

What: Rolling River Rampaige uses music, spectacular science, crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories to help kids experience the ride of a lifetime with 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 are available on our website.

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

When: Monday-Friday, July 9-13 (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 Breakfast Club will be meeting at 9 am.

Schedule

Wed. January 24th	Dino's
Wed. January 30th	Dino's
Wed. February 7th	Dino's
Wed. February 14th	Clary's
Wed. February 21st	Courthouse Diner
Wed. February 28th	Courthouse Diner
Wed. March 7th	Flight Deck Diner
Sun. March 11th	Links @ 12:30 pm

Last Get-together for Winter 2018

DISTRICT NEWS

Regional Day of Learning "Day of Imagineering"

Sunday, February 11th, 2018
2:00 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/>

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

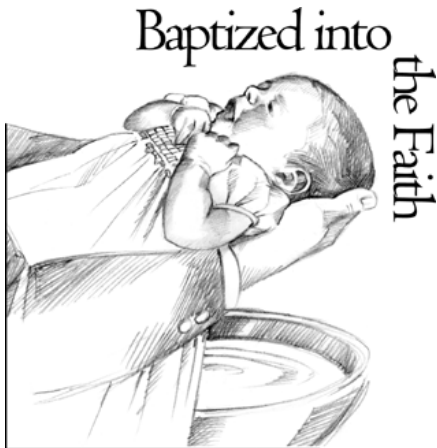
CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. David J. Montanye, Pastor
Kyle Sheppard, Organist/Choir Director
Sara Attack, Secretary
Brenda Katapodis, Treasurer
Patti Boyle, Sexton



Church Family Members

John Ferguson, IV
Jeanne Sykes
Laura Sykes
John Van Horn
John Titherington



Congratulations!
Nora Elaine Falkowski
was baptized at our church on
Sunday, October 1, 2017.

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

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!

Thank You

A Thank You goes out to all who participated in the Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar 2017, 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.



Award Season Movies Viewing

The Avalon Library is hosting showings of several films that are prominent in this upcoming award season. Each film will be shown at the Library starting at 6 pm. The Oscars are on March 4th beginning at 9 pm on ABC.

Tuesday, February 13th
Wonder

Tuesday, February 27th
The Darkest Hour

Wednesday, February 28th
Coco

Thursday, March 1st
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Tuesday, March 13th
I, Tonya

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

MISSION PROJECTS RESULTS BY THE NUMBERS

The figures are in! During 2017 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 as well as over 40 pairs of sneakers.
- ❖ 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 Hero Central Vacation Bible School 2017.
- ❖ 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 Harvey, Irma, and Maria and One Great Hour of Sharing.



MISSION FUND CAMPAIGN MOVES FORWARD

When people are hurting, our church helps. For the past five 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 five 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 final year of this 5-year campaign, our members and friends continue to support this effort. 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 campaign will end for our church on June 30, 2018.

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

**Pencil these dates
on your calendar:**



JANUARY

January 5th: Family Promise
Dinner: 5 pm - 7 pm
Family Time: 7 pm - 9 pm
Overnight: 9 pm - 7 am

January 14th: Human Relations Sunday

January 14th: Birthday Coffee Hour

January 30th: Breakfast Club
Dino's @ 9 am

January 30th: Breakfast Club
Dino's @ 9 am

FEBRUARY

February 7th: Breakfast Club
Dino's @ 9 am

February 11th: Birthday Coffee Hour

February 11th: Southern Regional Day of
Learning

February 14th: Breakfast Club
Clary's @ 9 am

February 14th: Ash Wednesday
Soup & Bread Dinner - 6 pm
Worship Service - 7 pm

February 14th: Valentines Day

February 18th: Healing Service

February 19th: President's Day

February 21st: Breakfast Club
Courthouse Diner @ 9 am

February 28th: Breakfast Club
Courthouse Diner @ 9 am

MARCH

March 2nd: World Day of Prayer

March 7th: Breakfast Club
Flight Deck Diner @ 9 am

March 11th: Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 11th: UMCOR Sunday

March 11th: Birthday Coffee Hour

March 11th: Breakfast Club
The Links @ 12:30 pm

March 25th: Palm Sunday

March 29th: Maundy Thursday
Soup & Bread Dinner - 6 pm
Worship Service - 7 pm

APRIL

April 1st: Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service - 7 Mile Island Ecumenical
Service 6:45 am in Avalon

Contemplative Service with Communion
8:30 am

Traditional Worship Service 10 am

FOCUS ON MISSION

Our 2018 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

COMMUNION OFFERINGS

January 1st:

Human Relations Sunday

February 5th:

Pennington School

March 5th:

UMCOR Sunday