



Fall 2016

The Dove Express

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

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The Reverend Dr. David Montanye ~ (609) 967-4290

The Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

As we enter fall on the Seven Mile Island we are aware that change is occurring everywhere. Now is when children and youth return to school, businesses close for winter, leaves change colors and thousands of birds fly south along the eastern seaboard flyway. We are trying to adapt to the many changes that are taking place around us.

William Easum in his book *Dancing with Dinosaurs*, suggests one of the reasons dinosaurs became extinct was they could not adapt to changes in their world. When a giant meteor struck the earth it destroyed vegetation that was their source of food. In addition, dinosaurs only ate the vegetation located at their eye level. With their massive appetites they quickly devoured all the food they could easily see.

Easum has speculated that dinosaurs' necks may have been too stiff to reach the plentiful vegetation below their eye line, or they may have been too nearsighted to see the vegetation below. They were unable or unwilling to see what was happening around them and to make the necessary changes for their survival. Dinosaurs couldn't adapt to their new environment and so they soon disappeared. If they had only bent down to reach the vegetation that was below eye level they might have survived.

Sometimes, we as a church may feel like dinosaurs. We may only see what we are used to seeing. However, Jesus says to us "Look around you, there is plenty of opportunity. There are new possibilities everywhere."

This fall we will be receiving new members into our fellowship. We will also be recognizing those who are here when we change seasons and who want to become associate and affiliate members. I invite you to make a formal commitment to the people and the ministries of this church.

Through all the changes we face our purpose is constant: to do kindness, to love justice, and to walk humbly with our God. We are a church where hope is established, life is restored, and people are blessed - in short, where God is truly up to something. I hope that you will see the possibilities that are there when you become a member of the First UMC of Avalon.

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

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon



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.

WEST POINT CADET CHOIR

The West Point Cadet Choir, from the United State Military Academy is coming to worship with us on **Sunday, October 2, 2016!**

Anyone willing to house one or two cadets during their weekend stay here in Avalon and Stone Harbor, please send an email to the church or speak with George Coleman who will be coordinating housing for the Cadets. Please state your preference for hosting male or female cadets and let us know how many you can house. Responsibilities include providing cadets with a place to sleep, a meal on Saturday night, and transportation to and from our Church and St. Brendan's for rehearsals and worship. Our Church will be hosting 27 cadets this year. We will also be hosting the cadet send-off luncheon.

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.



The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. David J. Montanye, Pastor
June Batz, Associate Director of Music
Sara Atack, Secretary
Brenda Katapodis, Treasurer
Patti Boyle, Sexton



Church Family Members

Doris Walters
Libby Hines

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In worship on August 28th, we welcomed our newest members: Robert Ferguson Jr. and Andrew Ferguson.

THE NEW AVALON ASSEMBLY CHAUTAUQUA AT THE JERSEY SHORE

A thank you goes to all those who participated in the Chautauqua lectures this year. There was an average of 22 people that attended each of the three presentations and over 175 people attended the Laugh in Peace Comedy Tour.

Thanks goes to our Mayor Marty Pagliughi for ending the program and to Norman Gluckman, Director of the Avalon Free Public Library for their support.

The New Avalon Assembly is a member of the nationwide Chautauqua Trail.

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!



THANKS TO OUR FANTASTIC FUNDRAISER WORKERS!

This summer's fundraisers were a success and it is all because of your hard work and dedication. Thank you for your service to God and our church.



Here are the results:

Chicken BBQ Dinner raised \$2,618
Peach Festival raised \$933

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 a sign-up sheet at the back table in the sanctuary or call Louise Baehr @ 536-2814.



Stay Connected

A new Church Family Directory was recently distributed by email. If you would like a copy, please contact the Church Office at AvalonMethodist@hotmail.com. If you have had a change of address or email address, let us know. We always want to make it easier for everyone to keep in touch. Let Sara, our church Secretary know how others can reach you by emailing us or calling the Church Office at (609) 967 - 4204.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

9:00 - 2:00 pm

It's not too early to start thinking about our Christmas Bazaar on **November 12th**. Remember we will need items for Christmas decorations new hand made & used. We will be having our gourmet food table, Christmas cookies, and baked goods. Start thinking about how you can help us with any of these items. For more information contact Nancy Doell.



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.

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FALL DUNE GRASS PLANTING

Avalon's annual Fall Volunteer Dune Grass Planting will be held on Saturday, **October 1st**. Volunteers will meet at Avalon Community Hall at 8:30 am for coffee and donuts before planting begins. Please call or email the church office if you are interested in participating.

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

Pencil these dates on your calendar:

September



- September 6th
SPRC Meeting 7:00 pm
@ Parsonage
- September 11th
Birthday Coffee Hour
- September 17th
Nielsen/Behr Wedding
- September 24th
Wilkinson/Magnavita Wedding
- September 25th
Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Gerald Lui
- September 30th
West Point Cadets Arrive

October

- October 2nd
West Point Cadet Choir
World Communion Sunday
- October 8th
Doris Walters Memorial Service
- October 9th
Birthday Coffee Hour
- October 29th
Annual Church Conference
@ South Seaville UMC
8:30 - 11:45 am

November

- November 6th
All Saints Sunday
- November 12th
Christmas Bazaar
- November 13th
Birthday Coffee Hour
- November 20th
Healing Service

December

- December 11th
Birthday Coffee Hour
- December 24th
Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm
- December 29th
Pierce/Watson Wedding

FOCUS ON MISSION

Our 2016 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

SEPTEMBER:

Sneaker Gift Cards
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School
Wildwood NJ

OCTOBER:

Caring for Kids, Inc. (CMC)
Diapers and Infant Care Items

NOVEMBER:

Coats, Socks, Hats & Gloves
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School

DECEMBER:

Giving Tree
Needy Families in CMC

COMMUNION OFFERINGS

September 4th -

Red Bird Mission School

October 2nd -

World Communion Sunday

November 6th -

UM Student Sunday

December 4th -

UMCOR



The Church Conference 2016: A More Efficient Way of Doing Our Work

This Fall our District will be using the same model as last year for Church Conference. Across the Greater New Jersey Conference the majority of congregations will be gathering for Super Saturday Church Conferences. The purpose of holding these Super Saturday Church Conferences is to:

1. Provide each congregation with separate space and a designated Elder to lead participants through the necessary discussion and decisions reflected in votes.
2. Gather 100 or more leaders and members from 10 or more congregations in worship to celebrate what God has done and is doing in our lives.
3. Provide several workshops to resource our ministries in several areas to strengthen vitality.

For our church, all of this will be accomplished in less than three hours on the morning of **Saturday, October 29th** at the South Seaville UMC.

Under this model, our Church will become partners with four other local churches. Our Church Conference will begin with registration at 8:30 – 9 am, followed by our Church Conference beginning at 9 am and ending at 9:45. There will be a worship service from 9:45 – 10:30 and workshops from 10:30 until 11:45 am at which time we will have completed all our work.

This is a model that is finding success across the United Methodist Church and building energy around mission and ministry.



September 30 - October 2, 2016

Wildwood Convention Center

Wildwood, NJ

Let There Be Light

IGNITE is more than a conference. IGNITE is a movement with a purpose to IGNITE the faith of the next generation of followers of Jesus Christ through life-changing worship, relevant teachings and authentic community.

More than 1,000 students from grades 6-12 from around the region will gather in Wildwood to learn about God's calling on their lives and go deeper in their faith journey.

Register online at

<https://www.gnjumc.org/ignite2016/>

You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. – 1 Thess. 5:5