



Summer 2016

## **The Dove Express**

*The First United Methodist Church of Avalon*

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

## **The Pastor's Corner**

Dear Friends,

On July 1, I will begin my fifth year as your Pastor and I am happy about that. Once again I have watched as the population on the Seven Mile Island grows from slightly under 1,000 people to over 40,000. And each year at this time, I ask myself the question: Am I ready for the summer? Underlying that question is the deeper question: Are we ready to be a vibrant community of faith here in Avalon and in Cape May County? As a community of faith, what are we known for?

When Sue and I first bought our house in Poughkeepsie, New York, our real estate agent asked what Church we were attending. I told her that we were attending the Poughkeepsie UMC. She replied, "Oh, that's the cookie walk church." I didn't know what a cookie walk was but I soon learned. What I also learned is that each Church has an identity. Like Dr. Pepper or Coke, we have a certain flavor about us. The Seven Mile Island is a place where families gather to relax and enjoy themselves, to learn how to fish or to sail.

For our Church, it is the same. We are a place where meaningful intergenerational activities happen – weddings, birthday celebrations, and special holidays. We are also a place of refuge and relaxation. We are a place where people come to take long walks on the beach or bicycle rides along Dune Drive - where people can come to be refreshed and restored. And finally, we are an outpost of God's grace. We are a church with a strong sense of mission – doers of the Word and not hearers only.

This summer I invite you to experience all of God's great possibilities and to ride the wave of God's amazing grace. Whether it is worship or music, healing or fellowship, bible stories or mission activities, chicken or peaches and ice cream, – there is a place for you here at the First United Methodist Church of Avalon. Walk-ins are always welcome. Come and experience the richness and the hope of this community of faith.

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

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Dave*

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## **THE NEW AVALON ASSEMBLY**

### **A CHAUTAUQUA-LIKE EXPERIENCE AT THE SHORE**

**The New Avalon Assembly returns for its 4th year!**

This summer, the New Avalon Assembly will be returning to our Church. The New Avalon Assembly is based on the Chautauqua experience of the late 1800's and early 1900's, which provided lectures, concerts, religious speakers, and the opportunity to "recreate yourself" in beautiful natural surroundings.

The New Avalon Assembly was formed in 2013, and has been designed to renew this unique forum for personal growth and enrichment. Program offerings have been developed around the four original pillars of the Chautauqua experience: arts, education, spiritual growth, and entertainment. This year's programs will be based on a common theme: ***What Makes Us Human?***

Support for these events will be provided through a partnership with the Avalon History Center, and by contributions from the Avalon Public Library, Southern New Jersey Health Council and generous individuals. The New Avalon Assembly is now a member of the Chautauqua Association, which seeks to bring together the organizations that were part of the original Chautauqua Circuit that flourished in the early 1900's and the new Chautauqua-like organizations that are being revived in resort communities throughout the United States and Canada.

The First New Avalon Assembly event for this summer will be The Laugh in Peace Comedy Tour, being held on July 12th at 7:00 pm at the Avalon Elementary School. An award winning comedy troupe, featuring Rabbi Bob Alper, Rev. Susan Sparks and Aman Ali, will provide a wonderful evening of laughter and peace. Be sure to watch the weekly bulletin for information on the four Tuesdays in July and August where we will be hosting additional presentations.

**Come join us!**

**for our 4th season for  
an interesting series of  
speakers and events.**

A graphic for the Chautauqua Lecture Series. It features a background image of a person walking on a path through a grassy field with trees in the distance. The word "Chautauqua" is written in a large, green, cursive font, and "Lecture Series" is written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font below it.

**Chautauqua**  
**Lecture Series**

# The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

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## Church Staff

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

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## Congratulations to the Graduates of 2016!

### Andrew Louis Katapodis

Graduated from Egg Harbor Township High School

### Sarah Schall

Graduated from Avalon School



Kerri & Bob Muhr  
Elissa & Raymond Faraglia  
Kate & Eric Hertrich

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## Conratulations!

Sally and John Herr on the birth of their grandson Owen!



## Church Family Members

Laura "Lolli" Ferguson  
Florence Campbell  
Coy Zachary

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## PLEASE WELCOME SARA OUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY

We welcome to the staff of the First UMC of Avalon, Sara Atack. Sara currently resides in Somers Point and has lived there for 18 years. She is working towards her associated degree in Mathematics. She has been a member at Somers Point UMC for 8 years and has filled in as secretary there in the past. She has worked at Staples in Somers Point supervising the Copy and Print Department and has also volunteered in the Cape Atlantic District Office.

Sara will be working here at the Church regularly Tuesday thru Thursday from 9 am until 1 pm. Please stop by the Church Office and greet Sara when you have a minute.

# The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held this year from July 11 - 15, 2016 with a special musical presentation on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> in worship at 10 am. The theme this year is The Surf Shack where we catch the wave of God's amazing love. By learning bible verses, hearing Bible stories, singing songs, playing creative games, creating new crafts, and flying kites in God's great creation, we experience God's great love for us all.

Vacation Bible School is open to children from age 4 through those children who have completed the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. All youth grades 7 – 12 are invited to register for the VBS volunteer program where you can serve as an assistant teacher and receive at least 15 hours of community service credit for your work.

The registration forms are available on-line at [www.avalonmethodist.com](http://www.avalonmethodist.com). Complete the registration form and mail or email it to the Church. This year registration will be limited to the first 50 children and 15 youth volunteers. Once those numbers for participation have been reached, the children and youth will be placed on a waiting list and they will be notified if space is available. Reserve your place as soon as possible. Come join your friends in being a part of this year's fun.

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## 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 revised Church Family Directory will be distributed again by email July 15th. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the Church Office [avalonmethodist@hotmail.com](mailto:avalonmethodist@hotmail.com). If you have had a change of address or email address, please 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.



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## 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.

# The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

## CHICKEN BBQ DINNER

SATURDAY, JULY 30TH

*pick up orders from*

**4:30 - 6:30 pm**

*Dinners are \$17 each*

To purchase tickets: Call the church office at (609) 967-4204. Tickets will also be available after church on the Sunday - 10th, 17th and 24th. Tickets will also be available during Vacation Bible School on Friday, July 15th



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** to make brownies (no nuts, please) to include in the meal. Sign-up sheet on back table.

**ALSO NEEDED:** Volunteers to assemble dinner items for pick-up from 4-6:30 p.m. on the 30th. Sign-up sheet on the back table of church.

Thank you in advance for your dedication to this community project.

## 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 who is willing to house one or two cadets during their weekend stay here in Avalon and Stone Harbor, please send an email to [avalonmethodist@hotmail.com](mailto:avalonmethodist@hotmail.com) or speak with George Coleman who will again be coordinating housing for the Protestant 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 would like to host as many cadets as possible. We will also be hosting the cadet send-off luncheon for both the Protestant and Catholic Choirs.

## **IGNITE** CONFERENCE 2016

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*

## 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!





# The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

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**Pencil these dates  
on your calendar:**



## June

June 19th: Father's Day

June 28th: Church Council Meeting 7 pm

## July

July 3rd: Independence Day  
Avalon Fireworks at 30th St.

July 4th: Stone Harbor Fireworks at 80th St.  
Field

July 7th: 7pm VBS Teachers/Volunteers  
Meeting and Safe Sanctuaries Training

July 10th: Set-up/Decoration for VBS 2016

July 11th - 15th: Vacation Bible School

July 12th: Laugh in Peace Comedy Tour

July 17th: VBS Surf Shack Musical  
Presentation

July 19th: New Avalon Assembly

July 26th: New Avalon Assembly

July 30th: Chicken BBQ

## August

August 2nd: New Avalon Assembly

August 9th: New Avalon Assembly

August 13th: Peach Festival 7-9 pm

August 23rd: Church Council

## September

September 4th: Healing Service

September 30th: West Point Cadets Arrive

## October

October 2nd: West Point Cadet Choir

### **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**

#### **JUNE:**

Volunteers in Medicine

#### **JULY:**

West Point Cadet Choir  
Activities Fund

#### **AUGUST:**

Backpacks & School Supplies  
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School  
Wildwood NJ

#### **SEPTEMBER:**

Sneaker Gift Cards  
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School  
Wildwood NJ

### **COMMUNION OFFERINGS**

#### **June 5th -**

A Future with Hope Mission Fund

#### **July 3rd -**

United Methodist Communities

#### **August 7th -**

Camden Neighborhood Center

#### **September 4th -**

Red Bird Mission School