



Fall 2017

The Dove Express

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

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THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

When I was a small boy I used to think a lot about time travel. One of my favorite books was "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeline L'Engle. The book told the story of a young boy who could travel through time. Thinking about time travel got me thinking that, for me, one of the most fun aspects of the 125th Anniversary celebration has been the ability to, in a small way, go back in time. In the Fellowship Hall there are pictures of our church in mission and ministry over the past 25-30 years. These pictures tell the story of our church in action and we honor the people in those pictures for their contribution to that story. These pictures, lovingly put together by Martha Richardson, will be displayed until the end of October.

Several of the pictures show the placing of the steeple on our church. Those who were instrumental in the building of this Church believed that the steeple would act as a beacon. The steeple, once it was properly lighted, would lead others to a better way of life - a life of faith and a life that offers hope to those in need.

Over the past 25 years, the steeple has grown weathered, cracked, and it also leaks. Our Trustees have decided to repair and restore our steeple so that it can continue to shine outward in our community and call others to God in Jesus Christ. We will be creating a **Steeple Restoration Fund** which will allow us to maintain this symbol of our outreach to the community and to the world.

Why do we reach out to others in this way? Perhaps Madeline L'Engle said it best: "It will draw people to Christ by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."

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

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave

CHURCH STAFF

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

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!

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.

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle, that is, the 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.



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 earns \$5 for every \$100 purchased. This does not sound like a lot of money but think of the money spent on groceries in a month. There are churches in our conference that earn over \$5000 a year!

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 the community food bank of New Jersey and Holy Redeemer food pantry.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

9:00 - 2:00 pm

Our Christmas Bazaar this year will be held on **November 11th**. 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 at (609) 741-7514.



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In worship on August 6th, we welcomed our newest members

Bev & George Coleman.

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 36 people that attended each of the five presentations. If you are interested in helping to plan next years speakers and lectures please speak to Pastor Dave.

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

WEST POINT CADET CHOIR

The West Point Cadet Choir, from the US Military Academy is scheduled to come and worship with us on September 17, 2017. Anyone who is willing to house 1-2 cadets that weekend, send an email to the Church Office at avalonmethodist@hotmail.com.

Include your preference for hosting male or female cadets and let us know how many you can house.

Responsibilities include providing the cadets a place to sleep, a meal on Saturday night, and transportation to and from the Church for rehearsals and worship. We would like to host as many cadets as possible.



FALL DUNE GRASS PLANTING

Avalon's annual Fall Volunteer Dune Grass Planting will be held on Saturday, **October 14th**. 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 Church Conference 2017: 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, November 4th** at St. Peter's UMC in Ocean City.

Under this model, our Church will become partners with four other local churches. Our Church Conference will begin with registration at 9:45 – 10 am, followed by a worship and plenary session with Bishop Will Willimon from 10 am - 11:30 am. Our Church Conference begins at 11:45 am and ending at 12:30 pm at which time we will have completed all our work.

IGNITE 2017
CONFERENCE

The logo for the Ignite 2017 Conference features a stylized flame icon on the left, composed of a black circle with a white flame shape inside. To the right of the icon, the words "IGNITE 2017" are written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font, and "CONFERENCE" is written below it in a slightly smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font.

September 29 - October 1, 2017

Wildwood Convention Center

Wildwood, NJ

FIRED UP

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/ignite/ignite2017/>

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

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

**Pencil these dates
on your calendar:**



SEPTEMBER

- September 10: Birthday Coffee Hour
September 12: SPRC Meeting - 7 pm
at the parsonage
September 17: West Point Cadet Choir
September 19: Women's Circle - 11:30 am
September 22: Family Promise
Dinner 5 - 7 pm
Family Time 7 - 9 pm
Overnight 9 pm - 7 am

OCTOBER

- October 1: World Communion Sunday
October 8: Birthday Coffee Hour
October 15: Homecoming Pot Luck
Dinner - 6 pm
October 17: Women's Circle - 11:30 am
October 24: Trustees Meeting - 7 pm

NOVEMBER

- November 4: Church Conference
9:45 am @ St. Peter's, Ocean City
November 11: Christmas Bazaar
9 am - 2 pm
November 12: Birthday Coffee Hour
November 16: SPRC Meeting - 7 pm
November 19: Healing Service - 10 am
November 21: Women's Circle - 11:30 am
November 23: Thanksgiving Day
November 26: United Methodist Student
Sunday - 10 am

DECEMBER

- December 3: 1st Sunday of Advent

- December 10: Birthday Coffee Hour
December 19: Women's Circle - 11:30 am
December 24: Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm
December 25: Christmas Day
December 31: New Year's Eve

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.

COMMUNION OFFERINGS

- September 3rd:**
UMCOR Disaster Response
October 1st:
World Communion Sunday
November 5th:
UM Student Sunday
December 3rd:
Red Bird Mission School

MISSION PROJECTS

- September:** Sneakers
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School
October: Caring for Kids, Inc.
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School
November: Coats, Socks, Hats, and
Gloves
Glenwood Ave. Elem. School
December: Giving Tree
Needy Families in CMC

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon



5 THINGS YOU CAN DO

Please pray for those whose lives have been impacted by Harvey. Please also pray for Early Response Teams, disaster coordinators, and the many volunteers who are working tirelessly to provide relief.

Make relief kits. Download the packing list and shipping label at umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies.

Give to UMCOR's relief and recovery efforts: U.S. Disaster Response

Donate only those items requested. (To keep relief supplies in stock, give to Material Resources Advance #901440 at umcor.org/donate.)

Please wait for an invitation to volunteer.



The United Methodist Committee On Relief is grateful for your relentless prayers and support.

125th Anniversary

Sunday, August 6th

10:00 am Worship Celebration of 125th Anniversary
Borough Proclamation and Reception

Sunday, August 13th

10:00 am Worship
Rev. Robert Williams Preaching
Former General Secretary, United Methodist Commission on Archives and History

Tuesday, August 15th, 7 pm

"125 Years of Faith: Sharing memories of the history of the Methodist Church in Avalon"

Nina Ranalli, Director of the Avalon History Center

Rev. Dr. David Montanye, Senior Pastor
Rev. Bob Scott, Former Pastor
Followed by an Ice Cream Social

Sunday, October 15th

6:00 pm Homecoming Pot Luck Dinner
Bring Your Favorite Covered Dish