



July/August 2022

# he Messenger

Newsletter

Avon United Methodist Church ■ 130 Genesee Street ■ Avon, NY 14414 ■ 585-226-8600 ■ [www.avonnyumc.org](http://www.avonnyumc.org)

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Let me begin by saying I hope to greet you all in person on Sunday, July 3rd in worship. Words on paper, or an image on screen is good, but it doesn't beat being together; so, if you're not out of town on the weekend of July 3rd I hope to see you in worship that day.

I'd like to begin by sharing a quote from the New Testament Letter to the Colossians with a few paraphrases:

*"To God's holy people in [Avon NY], the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.*

*I always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when I pray for you, because I have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you."* (Colossians 1:2-6)

That is the opening of Paul's letter to a congregation of Christians whom he had never met before but had heard of. (We'll be looking at this letter in a few weeks; it's one of the suggested readings in the Revised Common Lectionary for the month of July.)

I first heard of the faith and devotion of the people called Methodist in Avon NY over twenty years ago when I was a relatively new pastor who was invited to join a clergy group that would meet on Thursday mornings. One of the other clergy was Larry Beman, then the pastor of Avon UMC. And years later when I was appointed to Genesee UMC I became even more familiar with the faith, devotion, and love that you have. It was through the annual choir exchange between the two congregations that I started to know individual members.

Like Paul, I too, have been praying for you ever since I got word that the Bishop wanted me to come to be your pastor. And I hope for, and ask for, your prayers as we enter into the work of ministry together. Words on a page, a first-time sermon, when that comes about; those are nice beginnings, but growing **together** as followers of Jesus, working, and ministering **together** to proclaim the grace and Kingdom of God will only happen as we come **together**, face to face, in worship, and fellowship, studying and praying **together**.

I know that times of pastoral change are difficult for everyone, but I believe that God wants to do something great through us in Avon. God has called us and equipped us to share the love of Jesus to those around us; so, let me close with these words from the Prophet Isaiah:

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*

*I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

*...because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise."*

(Isaiah 43:19-21)

Thanks be to God for God's promises

# Trustee Projects 2022

Submitted by: Mark Blakely

## Upkeep (Taking care of what we have):

Repair leaking faucet in Royal Perrin room sink.  
Investigate/mitigate bad odor in hallway when entering via the side door.  
Open up wall under plugged urinal in men's room and repair drain.  
Reinstall new cement board and replace tile.  
Update rest of downstairs hallway tile with same as kitchen, serving area.  
Brighten up the side entrance hallway.  
Paint the "bullnose" and risers of side entrance stairs gloss black.  
Finish the (doorways) trim projects in the furnace room.  
Install metal sheathing over roof above outside hood exhaust fan.  
Seal any wire/pipe penetrations from furnace room with fire-stop foam.  
Exterior painting and glazing project- Get estimates from other contractors.  
George Anthony end-of-June final deadline for starting project!  
Repair front entrance right outside light. Trim down bushes which are blocking both.  
Adjust fluorescent downlight on stone sign for better nighttime visibility?  
Bell tower repair plan?

## Function (Improving the usefulness and value of our space and programs):

Update "Insteon" account with new e-mail address.  
[trustees.avonumc@gmail.com](mailto:trustees.avonumc@gmail.com)  
Put smoke and CO detectors on subscription monitoring service?  
Install 7-day electronic coffee pot timer for coffee hour Sunday mornings.  
Zoom Sanctuary connection ("Microsoft Account" password is blocking the startup)  
Update custodial job requirements, hours, and salary. (Steve and Mark, meet with Bob.)  
Upgrade appearance and functionality of both bathrooms.  
Install ventilation fans (timed on, with ceiling light activation.)  
Replace urinal (push) flush mechanisms in men's room with lever style.  
Install another congregational ceiling mic for better pickup during worship services.  
Wire office Internet router to UPS used for exit sign backup.  
Install new identifying signage on front of church and by side door entrance.  
Change 5' dirty dish sink to 7' (establish value, get estimate of cost differential.)

## Accessibility (Includes liability and code compliance areas):

Estimate for raising concrete to same height across side and back door thresholds?  
(\$5800- Don Barnhard) (Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant)  
Explore accessible bathroom ideas. Get design and estimates for possible plans.  
Wheelchair lift by elevator, with caged safety gates. (Get rid of ramp liability!)  
Elevator inspection. Annual requirement, but hasn't been done in past two years. (\$500)  
Estimate for replacing lift cable. (\$3600 from about 10 years ago.)



WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR!

Pastor Keith, after earning a BA in Psychology and a career in the business world, returned to school and is a 1982 graduate of Colgate Rochester/Bexley Hall/Crozier with a Masters in Divinity. He obtained his Doctorate of Ministries in 2006 from Drew University.

Pastor Keith was a Retired Elder with the United Methodist Church having served in Spencerport, Harris Hill in Williamsville and until last year, the Genesee United Methodist Church, 2008-21. After a year of retirement, he decided it was time to return to ministry and is assigned to Avon.

Pastor Keith and his wife Kathy A. King-Griswold live on Crittenden Road in Rochester where they have been for many years. The Griswolds have 2 young adult children and we are sure to hear much more about them in the coming year.

Many in the choir remember Pastor Keith from our choir exchanges with Genesee and several church members have other links with Keith especially from his Genesee time.

Pastor Keith notes that his strengths are in Worship, preaching, pastoral counseling and facilitating small group studies. He describes himself as a traditionalist when it comes to living an ethical life in Christ.

Email - [pastor.avonumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.avonumc@gmail.com)



The  
September  
newsletter  
deadline is  
August 15!



August 13, 2022  
Avon, NY

# July/August Radio Programs

by Mark Blakely

With so many difficult issues facing us in the news today, I thought this summer's radio ministry schedule could benefit from some lighter fare! It might even do us some good to listen to messages from "a simpler time" with less serious associations. And so the July schedule will feature five episodes from Pastor Natalie Bowerman's series "God's Toy Box." These are from Natalie's adaption of portions of a book entitled "Toy Box Leadership" published in 2008 with authors Ron Hunter and Michael E. Waddell. Although written in a totally secular style for a corporate business model, there are many lessons in this book that can be applied to building strong congregations and churches.

Many of the life skills we've learned and adapted to this point were first encountered through play situations, either alone or with others.

As Natalie comments, "God encourages us to play, God encourages us to be curious." I've already included a prior segment on the Yoyo back on May 22nd as it referenced a multi-part series about the Lazarus story. The July programs will include Legos, Slinky Dog, Mr Potato Head, Rocking Horse, and Lite Bright. (Absent from my master radio list is Play Dough, as regretfully I did not get a good recording of that presentation.)

Then in August, I am re-sharing some fun special services held over the course of six years in a large white tent in our back parking lot!

These are, of course, the worship gatherings we shared during the Corn Festival weekend with our good friends Central Presbyterian across the street. All of these worship celebrations were a preaching partnership between our Pastor Kim Ferrel and Central's Carin Farmer, though Pastor Carin is rarely heard as Bob D'Angelo edited most of them, and then used her contributions for their radio program on WYSL (which followed ours Sunday mornings.) But you will also hear plenty of Bob's Brother's Band with talented lead singer, Elaina Caven.

I might instead substitute a different program in the August lineup if our neighboring congregations reunite for a combined service during the Corn Festival (and Bob D'Angelo records it!) If so, it will feature "a first broadcast" with our new pastor, Rev. Keith Griswold.

In any case, the August schedule will segue on September 4th into a service that includes Pastor Keith as part of our congregation's shared worship experience with Geneseo UMC back in September 2018 at Long Point Park.

**07/03/22** "God's Toy Box: Legos" with Pastor Natalie Bowerman from 10/14/18. "Legos "connect." They hold onto each other... We can only build our church if we form attachments with others. Legos help illustrate that we can build strongest and highest toward God through our connections. We need to reach out to others who don't have a strong framework and invite them to become part of ours!

**07/10/22** "God's Toy Box: Slinky Dog" with Pastor Natalie Bowerman from 10/21/18. This toy from the past is most interesting in the way it moves. It stretches out and then reconnects, and is designed to be pulled from in front, and not pushed from behind. Jesus is our head, and goes out ahead of us to lead the way. Each of us is an individual link, our positions changing with circumstances. But no matter how far behind, we can't get separated. And we always need to help assist those behind us.

**07/17/22** "God's Toy Box: Mr Potato Head" with Pastor Natalie Bowerman from 11/11/18. This toy above all others can help display our most "fun-damental" creative choices. What decisions

do we make in presenting ourselves to others? Some of us have more to choose from based upon resources available, and some choices can be intentionally deceptive. We need to be careful making judgments of others based upon appearances, which are always on the outside. In the end, it is what is on the inside that shows who we really are.

**07/24/22** "God's Toy Box: The Rocking Horse" with Pastor Natalie Bowerman from 11/18/18. Columnist Erma Bombeck once wrote, "Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do, but never gets you anywhere." A rocking horse is like that, it keeps us busy but when we get off we haven't really moved. We need to be mindful when we serve, to making progress. Worry is the biggest obstacle to moving forward. (Natalie lists quite a few common sources of worry back in 2018. You can no doubt make note of a few new ones, since!) We need to do what we are able to, and trust that God can and will do the rest for us.

**07/31/22** "God's Toy Box: Lite Bright" with Pastor Natalie Bowerman from 11/25/18. The way we highlight what is important in our lives can be simple and straightforward. But following Jesus is complex! His light only shines through us to others from those areas where we place "our emitters." Alone, we are each a tiny little peg. But together, we can form big pictures that are a mighty illustration of God's being in the world.

**08/07/22** "Lemons or Lemonade?" from the 08/14/11 outdoor combined service with Pastors Kim Ferrel and Carin Farmer. Bad things happen in life. How do we choose to respond to our difficult situations? Being bitter or grateful covers a wide range of options, and choices. But God can always make lemonade for us out of our personal lemons. We just need to look for opportunities.

**08/14/22** "Worshiping in God's Creation" with Pastors Kim and Carin from the 08/12/12 tent service. Have you ever received a gold medal? What do you think of as "your personal best" dedicated toward the Glory of God? What messages do you hear that invite you to give God your best? May we always continue to hear this call in our times of activity, and times of silence...

**08/21/22** "Thy Word is a Lamp" with Kim and Carin from the 08/11/13 combined tent service. Psalm 119 is the longest psalm in the Bible with 176 verses. Among (many) other things, this psalm tells us that God's light is a lamp located down by our feet, and not positioned higher above to illuminate more than a step or two ahead in the darkness. We may wish that His light was more like a floodlight in our lives sometimes, but need to have faith that God's Word is there to guide us forward a step at a time.

**08/28/22** "A Family Divided" with Kim Ferrel and Carin Farmer from 08/14/16. Ironically, the final time our dynamic pastoral duo teamed up (though nothing to do with the sermon title) as Kim moves on to another charge by the following summer. An examination of a very difficult scriptural passage; Jesus challenged his disciples, and he challenges us! But sometimes painful division is a good thing as it forces us to think hard and to make difficult choices.

**09/04/22** "Go and Make Disciples, Matthew 28:19" together with Geneseo UMC at Long Point Park on September 9th, 2018. Although already "recycled" once on 09/06/20, this service foreshadows our newest pastor, Rev. Keith Griswold (of Geneseo, at the time!) sharing the message with Pastor Natalie Bowerman. Our combined choirs and congregations are joined together in a memorable time of worship and picnic fellowship.

## JULY Birthdays & Anniversaries

### July Anniversaries

Jul 6 Bailey, Craig & Stormy  
Jul 9 Bailey, Larry & Dale  
Jul 15 Spratt, J. Thomas & Deborah  
Jul 17 Tickner, Tom & Jackie  
Jul 21 Giso, Mike & Rachel  
Jul 22 Keenan, Kevin and Janey

### July Birthdays

Jul 5 Lincoln Macierowski  
Jul 5 Sally Tompsett  
Jul 7 Ethan Deragon  
Jul 7 Erica Bailey  
Jul 11 Jennifer Attea  
Jul 11 Brandilyn Steves  
Jul 14 Stormy Bailey  
Jul 15 Shaun Stevens  
Jul 18 Tim Dieffenbacher  
Jul 22 J. Thomas Spratt  
Jul 24 Brian Jr. Davis

## AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries

### August Anniversaries

Aug 8 Cousins, Jeff & Martha  
Aug 9 Keenan, Bob and Judy  
Aug 11 Gage, Matt & Jenn  
Aug 13 Southern, Lorraine & Thomas  
Aug 15 Rosebrough, Scott & Linda  
Aug 18 House, Roger & Pat  
Aug 18 Dickinson, Tim & Cathy  
Aug 20 House, Bob & Ginny  
Aug 22 Gage, Ricky & Julie  
Aug 31 Amey, David & Lesly

### August Birthdays

Aug 3 Joan Wright  
Aug 4 Greta May  
Aug 5 Raelyn Gage  
Aug 6 Gary Perrin  
Aug 7 Kristyn Mininni  
Aug 7 Kari Mears  
Aug 10 Michael Louis Gillen Jr.  
Aug 10 Melissa Doyle  
Aug 16 Rachel Giso  
Aug 16 Jeff McKeown  
Aug 18 Greg Deragon  
Aug 18 J. Luke Lottes  
Aug 20 Zan deRis  
Aug 26 Kolin Hunt  
Aug 27 Jillian Bradigan  
Aug 29 Greg McKeown  
Aug 31 Pat House



## Upper New York Annual Conference postponed due to COVID-19 concerns

April 21, 2022 / By UNY Communications / [Email](#)

The Sessions Committee of the Upper New York Conference gathered by Zoom on the morning of Thursday, April 21 to discuss growing concerns about the uptick in COVID-19 cases in Upstate New York and throughout the United States.

Members of the Committee shared both their own perspectives and what they have been hearing from others regarding the comfort level of gathering more than a thousand United Methodist from across Upper New York at Onondaga Community College's SRC Arena. In the end, while there was a great sense of loss about not being able to gather in-person for the third year in a row, the Committee overwhelmingly agreed that the top priority had to be the health and safety of the individuals that would be asked to attend. The decision was made to institute a backup plan that has been in place since the Committee started planning for an in-person Annual Conference gathering.

Annual Conference will be postponed to Oct. 6-8, and it will be a virtual gathering. The plan is to use the same technology that was used at the 2021 virtual Annual Conference gathering, which was relatively well received.

Postponing Annual Conference creates a new set of logistical concerns to address and the decisions about those concerns will be shared once they are made. In the meantime, anyone who has already registered for the planned in-person Annual Conference gathering will receive full refunds. The processing of refunds will start immediately but could take a couple of weeks to complete. If you made a hotel reservation, you should contact the hotel directly to cancel.

"We know that there will be many different reactions to the news of Annual Conference being postponed and moved to a virtual event," said the Rev. Joellyn Tuttle, Chair of the Sessions Committee. "Many will be disappointed; many will be relieved; and many more will be some combination of the two. Ultimately, this decision puts the health of the members of the Annual Conference first and that felt right to the Committee. Our first desire was to do no harm, and we are confident that we can pull together an excellent virtual event in October."

# July

2022

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts  Independence Day	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>8:08 AM</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH		<b>7:00 PM</b> Interfaith Meeting?		Sanctuary Reserved
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH				
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH				

# August

2022

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September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>8:08 AM</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>9:00 AM</b> Newsletter Deadline <b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH		<b>7:00 PM</b> Interfaith Meeting?		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH				
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH				



# The Messenger

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July/August 2022 