

May 2024



# The Messenger

Newsletter

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

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I'm writing this in April, right around tax time. I think most of us are familiar with the idea of an audit. And I think one fear most of us have is being audited; of receiving a letter from the IRS that doesn't include a tax refund but states that they would like to talk about our tax return. But doing an audit is good for us; when we balance our checkbooks, we are running an audit on our own finances to see if we are in the black. I once read an article written by an executive, who was a follower of Jesus, he suggested that we should do a spiritual audit on ourselves. Below are some of his questions, and some I've added for us to conduct our own spiritual audit.

*Pastor Leah*

**1. Am I content with who I am becoming?**

Every day you get one day closer to who you will ultimately be; are you satisfied with where you are headed?

**2. Am I becoming less religious and more spiritual?**

The Pharisees were religious; Jesus was spiritual. Too much traditionalism is religious, while a relationship with Jesus is spiritual; which is more important to you?

**3. Do I have a quiet center to my life?**

Francois Fenelon, who walked with God three hundred years ago said, "Peace is what God wants for you no matter what is happening." Inner peace is the evidence of God's presence.

**4. Have I defined my unique ministry?**

Do you know what spiritual gifts God has gifted you with? The need is always bigger than any one person can satisfy, so your call is simply to handle the part of the need where your gifts fit.

**5. Is my prayer life improving?**

One test of our prayer life is this: Do your decisions have prayer as an integral part, or do you make decisions from your desires and then turn to God asking God to bless your decision?

**6. Have I maintained a genuine awe of God?**

Awe inspires us, it overwhelms us, it intimidates our humanness, and it inspires worship. Are you in awe of God?

**7. Is my humility genuine?**

As a follower of Jesus our humility is not denying the power that we have but admitting that the power comes through us from the Holy Spirit. Are you a conduit of God's Spirit and power?

**8. Do I have joy?**

Joy is promised to us, do you have it? Joy is perfected when we live under the sovereignty of God.

## Weekly Updates by Mail

*Submitted by: Laurie Combs*

Every Friday, Mark Brennan (our Office Manager) sends out the Weekly Update, which is a compilation of current church happenings and parts of the upcoming Sunday service. Mark does this via email, so those of you without it do not receive this important communication document. On Mondays, Laurie Combs repeats the process with Sunday's Joys and Concerns and so again, some of you might miss out. To address this shortcoming we have developed a list of parishioners who do not have email, and both the Weekly Update and Joys and Concerns are sent to them on Mondays through regular mail. If you would like to be on this special communications list, please let Mark Brennan or Laurie Combs know by calling the church office ([226-8600](tel:226-8600)) and leaving a message. And if you know of someone who might also want to receive this information by mail, please share with them and get the process started!

## A Mother's Day Prayer

O God, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give You thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that You chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from Your hands and gave it to us. Thank You for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth.

We celebrate your divine love, reflected in human expressions of motherhood. We give you thanks for the mothers among us, and ask that you strengthen them in their daily tasks. Grant them wisdom in the lessons they teach, patience in the discipline they foster, and persistence in their promotion of decency and compassion, both by word and example.

May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and upon those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers to us along our journey. We praise you, O God, for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true.

Where we have been so blessed, we give our grateful praise, for you have provided loving hands that have worked so hard in raising us, cared enough to correct us, and blessed us in ways we cannot have fully known as children. We call forth your compassion upon every mother who has unknowingly caused pain and suffering. And so, we lift to you our mothers, so imperfect, also so wounded by this world. We bless our mothers this day, no matter what they have done or left undone. We do this because we believe in your healing, and we believe in your love, and we believe that you love every mother, good or bad; and we stand together with all mothers in solidarity, for we all are in need of your grace.

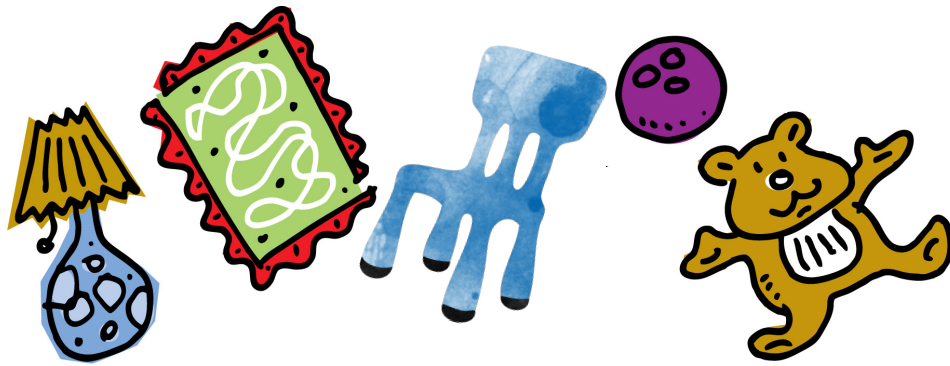
Where we have failed because we did not know better, help us to forgive ourselves. Where we have seen your face in any woman who has been to us a mother, in her face we have seen your light and your love, and we give thanks—for where they have loved, they have kept your word and blessed us.

We lift to you the heart of every mother who has watched her child die of hunger, every mother who has been a victim of abuse, every woman who stands in protest against a world that massacres her children and renames them "collateral damage." We lift to you the prayer of every mother who has ever loved and lost. We lift to you our Mother Earth. We lift to you our Mother Church. We lift to you, O God, your mother's heart; and although we cannot fully express our gratitude, help each one of us to be your blessing of love, a blessing straight from your heart. Amen.

— Rev. Jane Sommers

May this prayer bring comfort and blessings to all mothers on this special day. 🙏❤️





# CHURCH GARAGE SALE

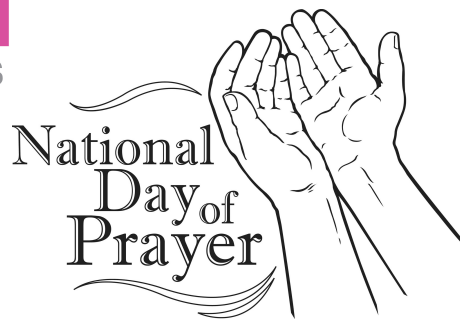
*Submitted by: Jackie Tickner*

As part of Avon Attic Days, our women's group is hosting a garage sale, on June 7 and 8. As you downsize or declutter, box up your items and drop them off at church. Clean items in working condition can be donated. You'd be surprised what sells. Your trash becomes someone else's treasure. Think green and recycle your no longer loved items. (No clothing please). Questions? - Contact Ginny House. 330-3732

## MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

### May Anniversaries

- May 5 Cameron, Clifford & Marcia
- May 19 Gage, Scott & Deb
- May 22 Cappello, Andrew & Brittanie
- May 23 Lottes, Jonathan & LuAnn
- May 26 Bradigan, Steven & Jillian
- May 26 Steves, Tim & Brandilyn
- May 27 Rowcliffe, Victor & Jodi



Thursday May 2, 2024



May 18, 2024

### May Birthdays

- May 3 Keenan Jon Rowcliffe
- May 6 Don Mastin
- May 8 Richard Dieffenbacher
- May 11 Gary Babbitt
- May 12 Jonathan Lottes
- May 12 Laurie Combs
- May 13 Steven Bradigan
- May 15 Linda Rosebrough
- May 16 Tim Dickinson
- May 17 Ginny House
- May 18 Bill Schmerbeck
- May 20 Ailey Chambers
- May 23 Miranda Kenyon
- May 24 Lia Gage
- May 25 Marcia Cameron






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June						
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
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			7:00 PM Choir - Sanctuary			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM Girl Scouts - FH	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR 7:00 PM SPPRC - RP	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS -FH 6:30 PM Cub Scouts-FH	6:30 PM cub scout committee meeting - SSR 7:00 PM Choir - Sanctuary	4:30 PM Girl Scouts - FH   Ascension		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:08 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Worship Team-RP  Mother's Day	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS -FH 7:00 PM Church Council	9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Choir - Sanctuary	7:00 PM Interfaith Meeting		 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service   Pentecost	11:00 AM Heart of Ruth 3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - SSR 6:30 PM Ad Team-RP 7:00 PM AUWF (formerly UMW)- SSR	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS -FH	7:00 PM Choir - Sanctuary	4:30 PM Girl Scouts - FH		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service	3:00 PM Food Addicts-SSR   Memorial Day	9:00 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30 PM TOPS -FH	7:00 PM Choir - Sanctuary			Location key: FH=Fellowship Hall SSR=Sunday School Room L=Library RP=Royal Perrin Room

"I will pour out my Spirit  
on all people."

Joel 2:28, NIV



**Please recycle.**  
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Time-Dated Material.  
Please deliver promptly.  
*Return Service Requested*



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