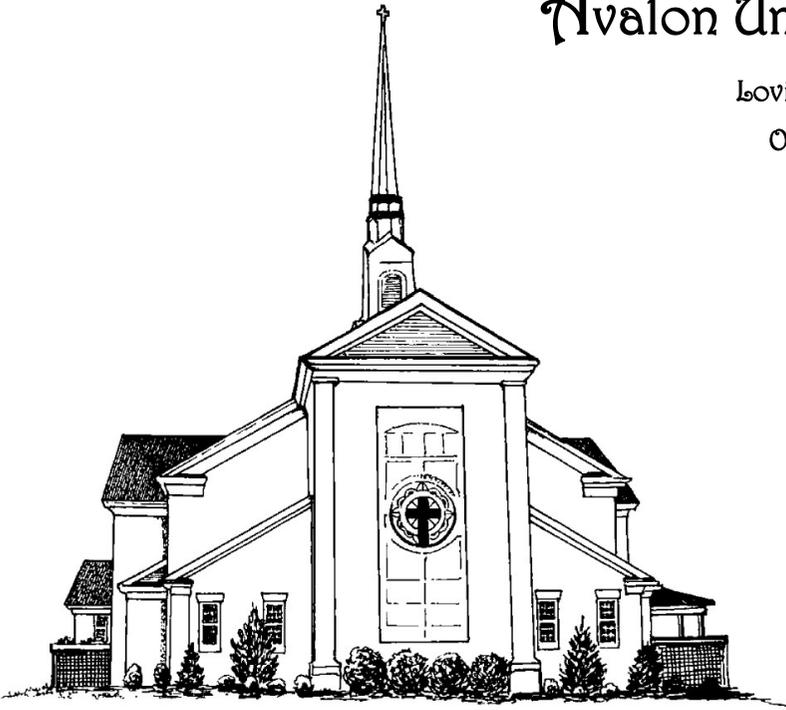


Avalon United Methodist Church

Loving God, Loving People
On Our Christian Journey

Pastor Debbie Cong

September 1, 2019



Shadows or Light

Have you ever thought about the difference in how you see things in the light compared to when a shadow is on it? The light always helps us to see clearly! I know personally I have missed things when they either had a shadow on them or I did not have enough light to see them. This is in the natural of course, but I always think about how that could apply in other areas of life.

In the Old Testament there was a shadow that had long been cast across Gideon's life that caused him to see himself as timid, fearful, doubtful, incapable. Like others of his countrymen, his entire existence had been discolored by the shadows of their dreaded enemies (the Midianites), leaving him a defeated shell of a man, intimidated into hiding, not wanting to attract notice or draw attention to himself. But when the angel of the Lord appeared one day, while Gideon was threshing wheat in the shaded winepress to keep from being seen, the surprising words of an angel tugged him out of the shadows and into the clarifying light of the Lord's perspective.

"The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior." (Judges 6:12) Despite the shadows, God considered him capable of brave exploits and sent the angel to tell him so. This began a series of changes that transformed Gideon from an insecure coward into a valiant warrior captain of Israel's fighting men. The angel moved into position for God to bring out a courage (in Gideon) HE could use to inspire a nation to victory.

Are you looking at yourself like Gideon did in the beginning with the shadows of doubt and all kinds of insecurities? Take a look at yourself in the light of who God's word says you are in HIM today. Praying that the One who redeemed you by HIS own blood redefine your identity in the Light of HIS mercy, promise, and power. As a believer in Christ "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." Believing God to keep you in His marvelous light always...

pastor Debbie

When We All Get to Heaven

It is great to have the choir back at it! After a much-needed summer vacation, we are renewed and excited to once again be a part of worship. No robes though until the temperature dips below 200. Thanks again to all of our summer performers for sharing their talents and doing a great job!

I also hope you are enjoying worship more and more as we head into the fall season. The past few weeks have, to me at least, felt very connected and energetic-it feels like the church is coming alive in even greater ways. I pray that you feel the same energy as God works to bring you fresh confidence and perspective. He is working- always.

This month's hymn is "When We All Get to Heaven"

*Sing the wondrous love of Jesus;
sing his mercy and his grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
he'll prepare for us a place.*

*When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!*



Written in 1898 by Eliza E. Hewitt and arranged by Emily D. Wilson, this familiar hymn calls up images of both the pearly gates in heaven and the classic tent revivals here on earth. The driving 4/4 time signature, syncopated rhythms, and climbing melody combine to give the hymn an enormous energy. When sung by a congregation with great fervor, the energy becomes overwhelming, infectious, like it will carry you straight to Heaven's door. Hewitt is also known for penning the lyrics to "There is Sunshine in My Soul Today."

The American tent revivals themselves are fascinating, while the history is too long to cover in this article, they harken back to the early 19th century and combined "Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Quakers, black, white, free, and slave." All were welcome, and they experienced the Spirit in a very different way than they did under the normal "boundaries" of church. The experience of a multi-day affair, rather than an hour or two at church, would cause people to consider Scriptures with much more urgency and conviction. Many hymn written in this time period have themes about the imminence of Christ's return, the particularly piercing guilt of sin, and the feeling of overwhelming love. Hewitt herself penned this hymn shortly after attending a revival in Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

While there are still tent revivals to this day (including Ocean Grove!), you don't have to go to one to get the same sense of renewal and conviction. Just ask God to open your heart and be ready and willing to receive when He speaks to you.

In Christ, Andrew

We are so grateful and blessed to have been a part of the Avalon family for the past 15 years. Avalon will always hold a very special place in our hearts and we will always remember the love and support you gave to us. We appreciated the luncheon and especially the "Southern" basket and all the cards. Each of you has the love of Christ in your heart and may you continue to share it with others. We miss y'all and pray for God's blessings on each of you.

Love,
Carl and Carol Ellis

Grandparents Day September 8th at 4pm Sing and 5pm Dinner. Call Office for reservations by Sept. 4th.

Looking Ahead, Save the Date:

What	Where	When
Fish Fry	F'ship Hall	Sept 8, Sunday 4pm
Homecoming	Avalon	Oct. 20, Sunday 12noon
All Saints Day		Nov. 3
Charge Conference	Christ UMC	Nov. 10 at 3pm
Hanging of the Greens	Soup Supper benefit missions	Nov. 24 , 5pm
Christmas Eve Service	Avalon Sanctuary	Dec. 24 at 5:30pm
New Year Family Communion	Avalon Sanctuary	Dec. 31 at 5:30pm
Leadership Tour 2020	Camilla UMC	Jan. 19, 2020
	Basic/Advanced Lay	
Speaking Training 2020	Hand Memorial	Jan. 17/18 2020
Will Graham Celebration	UGA Conference Center	Fri, 3/20 to Sun. 3/22/2020

Leadership Chairpersons

SPR Committee—Terry Stumpe	UMM—Lloyd Mears
Trustees— Vicki Cirone	Usher—Lloyd Mears
Finance— Wayne Barnette	Homebound—Cheryl Laughlin
Missions—Carolyn Rentz	Lay Leader—Sheila Creel
S S Superintendent— Richard Griffin	Evangelism—Ann Owen
UMW—Mona Faye Williams	Memorial—Katy Reed

The Stewardship of God's Self-Control

The wise steward keeps a single-minded view of what is truly important: the work of God and the fulfillment of His purpose for and in His people. The question is always, "What would He have me do?"

He would have us meditate on His word. We remember His instructions to Joshua when he was selected to lead the Israelites after the death of Moses. He told Joshua to let there never be a time when God's word was not coming out of his mouth. Because Joshua did that, there was a succession of victories and an influence that touched an entire nation. His devotion and self-control was obvious to everyone. He boldly told the nation, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." That required self-control. Joshua 24:15

What is so wonderful is the Lord enables His people to operate in this manner, remembering that this virtue has been placed in the hearts of believers by the Holy Spirit when He takes up residence in our bodies when we are born-again. Self-control is the ninth fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

We express self-control when we seek and yield ourselves to the will of God. We study to conform our will to His will. God's word reminds us to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." 2 Tim. 2:15. God's word and His will are one and the same. There is never a contradiction between the two.

Self-control is necessary to focus on God's work which includes our giving, our talents, our time, sharing the truths of God to others and teaching our children about Him.

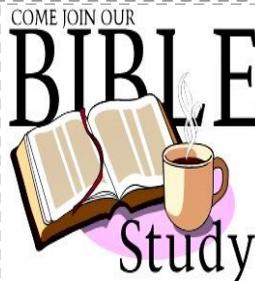
God's people are constantly being distracted by other interests. We are drawn away by problems and concerns. When this happens we get a divided mind, being pulled in many directions. Exercising self-control is not easy, but it is rewarding. And with our Lord's help it can be done.

Janet Beard, Stewardship Chairperson



BIBLE STUDY

New Bible Study "Book of Ephesians" starts Sept 4th and every Wednesday at 1:30pm to 2:30pm in the Young Adults Class Room, on the west side of Celebration Hall. Open to everyone.



Bible Study "Apostle Creed"
Wednesday night 6pm after
Family Night Fellowship supper.
Everyone invited

Wednesday Family Night Fellowship (FNF)

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS

September Menus

FNF Begins at 6PM

Sept. 4—Fried pork chops, Potato casserole, Green beans Dessert

Sept. 11—Meatloaf, Mashed potatoes, Zipper peas, Dessert

Sept. 18—Hamburger steak, Rice & gravy, Butterbeans, Dessert

Sept. 25— Fried chicken, Broccoli casserole, Black eyed Peas, Dessert

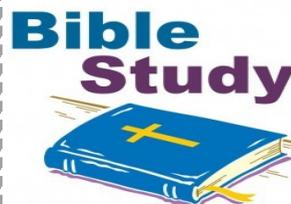
Server Rotation: Volunteers

Please be mindful that if your reservations are not cancelled by noon on Tuesday, you are responsible for payment.

Cost: Adults- ----- \$6.50

Children under 12 years- - \$3.50

Take outs- ----- \$.50 extra



Bible Study

Armor of God by Priscilla Shirer
Started Thursday, June 13th, 7pm—8pm
Taught by Cheryl Henderson
Young Adult Classroom, Everyone Invited

49'ers Senior Luncheon Avalon UMC

Fellowship Hall

Next Luncheon:

September 17, 2019 11:30am

\$7.00 per person

Third Tuesday of each month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch provided by Kaye Blalock, Southern Elegance Catering. Come bring a friend and enjoy making new friends who love the Lord! Everyone is invited. We continue to have wonderful meals and entertainment. Each month is different.

Pastor—Rev. Debbie Cone
Music Director—Andrew Bode
Pianist—Elizabeth Wolfe

Secretary—Elaine Tarpley
Financial Sec. Donna Carswell
Youth Director—Derek Thornton

3018 Gillionville Rd., Albany, GA 31721-2908

Pastor's Home Number: 229-432-2266

Church : Tel: 229-436-2056

Fax: 229-436-2011

Email: avalonumc@gmail.com

Website: www.avalonumchurch.org

Regular Sunday Schedule:

9:45am Sunday School **11am** Morning Worship **6pm** Evening Worship

THOSE WHO SERVE

Offering Stewards Sept. 1—Bill Beard/Ellen Branch

Sept. 8—Wayne Barnette/Sheila Creel

Sept. 15—James Ivey/Jenny Collins

Sept. 22—Ben Glass/Janet Beard

Sept. 29—Ann Owen/Kim Glass

Ushers: Sept. 1 — Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Max Collins,

Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

Sept. 8—Avalon Youth

Sept. 15—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Max Collins,

Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

Sept. 22—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Max Collins,

Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

Sept. 29—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Max Collins,

Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

Prayer Room: Sept. 1 Homer Milliner

Sept. 8 Norma Smith

Sept. 15 Ann Owen Sept. 22 Robbie Collins Sept. 29 Nola Bricker

Nursery: Sept. 1 Tina Justice Sept. 8 Terri Stump

Sept. 15 Dollie Dollar Sept. 22 Nancy Newman Sept. 29 Kim Glass

Sound Technician: Bob Smith

Trustee of the Month September: Vicki Cirone

If Trustee is unable to be at an event your month it is your responsibility to get someone to fill in for you. Buildings need to be locked after an event.

Circle Of Concern:

Nikki Daniel, Gene & Laverne Hawkins, Dorothy Griffin, Rebecca Smith, Ursula Gaydosh, Mike Ling, Rebekah Fowler Griffin, Gail Mears, Wendy McLeod, Beverly Reese (Bobby Bruner's daughter), Martha Darsey, David Michels (Brother of Cheryl Laughlin), Glenn Stanford, (Son of Jan Beard,) Jim Warner, Phyl Strawbridge, Jane Everett (sister of Debra Harris), Murray Blackstock, Wilda Rutland, Bob Smith, Jerry & Cathy Lang, Norma Jean Moss, Patty Stone (Margaret Bruner's sister-in-law, Lola Moreland, Donna Carswell & her mother, Donna Perrett (sister-in-law of Leon Perrett).

If you know of anyone that needs to be added or removed please call the church office.

Home Bound – Please join us in this ministry to these members:

Barry & Nikki Daniel, Ann Dollar, Ed & Nelle Ennis, Gene & Laverne Hawkins, Gay Sheffield, Rebecca Smith, Joyce Waters, Kitty Tomlinson, Bill Coward, Cora Dasher, Lola Moreland, George Anderson, Wilda Rutland, Phyl Strawbridge, Jim Warner.