



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

April 2024

Vol. 210

A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

April! April! Are You Here?

Dora Read Goodale

April! April! are you here?
Oh, how fresh the wind is blowing!
See! the sky is bright and clear,
Oh, how green the grass is growing!
April! April! are you here?

April! April! is it you?
See how fair the flowers are springing!
Sun is warm and brooks are clear,
Oh, how glad the birds are singing!
April! April! is it you?

April! April! you are here!
Though your smiling turn to weeping,
Though your skies grow cold and drear,
Though your gentle winds are sleeping,
April! April! you are here!

Saints,

Grace to you and peace! Just as the poem announces, "April! you are here," the first month that's fully free and clear of winter! (*Okay, please don't say I jinxed it if we get one of those massive, wet April blizzards*). While March cautiously lures the crocus and daffodil up and out of the frosty earth, in April all manner of flowers burst forth everywhere: from the dark, dank soil of garden beds to the tippy, topmost boughs of apple and cherry trees.

In the backyard of my 18th century house in Salem County there are a couple of ancient lilac bushes that come April sprout forth first buds, then leaves, then their pale, purple flowers, and finally the most enchanting scent. That essence, carried on the spring breeze, has proven to be both a blessing as well as a bane because, as captivating as the scent may be, it's for that very reason lilac bushes were often planted right next to... (*okay, I'll just say it*)... the outhouse. Yes, before indoor plumbing, lilacs were nature's original air fresheners! In fact they were so good at it, I would venture to say most of us keep lilac-scented candles and spray cans around the house that, when called upon, serve a similar purpose should the need arise...

Okay, there's probably a sermon in there somewhere, but for now it's time to change the subject. Amen?! (*Trust me, after nearly eight years of Chuck's Church Chat, it's getting harder and harder to come up with new material!*)

So Saints, just as the spring flowers that bloom in our gardens don't do well without adequate preparation beforehand, so too, now is the time for us to prepare our bodies, minds, and spirits for some awesome things that will be springing up over the next couple of months, such as...

- In Fellowship Hall following worship on April 14th, we will be showing the incredible 175th anniversary video that Rhea and the crew put together!
- Speaking of spring gardening, the date for planting our Jehovah Jira Garden is Saturday, May 4th, with a rain date on Sunday, May 5th!
- On Monday, May 6th at 7:00 pm, everyone is invited to take part in the *Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Service at the JCC on Oakwood Avenue.*
- On Sunday, May 12th we will celebrate Mother's Day with a special service of worship!
- Then on Saturday, May 18th starting at 8:30, our annual Rise Against Hunger event: "A Day Without Hunger" takes place at New Dover. Sign-ups have already begun for assembly lines of volunteers to put together and bag 30,000 meals to feed hungry children around the globe. See information in this month's Herald, or sign-up on our website!
- The very next day, May 19th is Pentecost, and we will be taking in new members that day! If you are not a member of New Dover and desire to join, please see me and we will arrange for a get-together to talk all about what it means to be a United Methodist at NUMC!
- Later that afternoon, Pastor Rosie, Alice, and I will be heading down the Parkway to Wildwood for the Great New Jersey United Methodist Conference. On Monday we will be joined by Brian Richards, and volunteers from our Friday morning Bread Breakers crew to host a dinner and provide information so that other churches can start up their own chapter of Bread Breakers!

So yeah, just like the flowers, opportunities to put our faith into action are bursting forth everywhere over the next couple of months, so why not tackle as many as you can? And in the meantime, there's weekly worship, Sunday School, Hot Topics, Bible Study, Chancel and Bell Choirs, United Women of Faith, YAYA, Prayer Fellowship, D2C, Bread Breakers, and more! May it never be said that there are few ways to activate one's faith at New Dover, so let's get planting!

Have a blessed April,

Rev Chuck



KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz
Debbie Ladym
Shirley & Lamont Shaffer
Beverly Vollmar
Evelyn MacKenzie
Fran Livecchia
Gail Engel
Connor Chin
Leyla Dixon

Jerry DiRenzo
Service men & women
Veterans
Homeless, unemployed
& uninsured
The People of Ukraine
For Peace in the ongoing
conflict in Israel & Gaza

Victims & their Families of
mass shootings
All Elderly of NDUMC

Pray for all those affected by Natural Disasters, those suffering with addictions, those suffering from depression, Victims of terrorism & violence, all national leaders, and all those serving at New Dover UMC.

All doctors, nurses, EMT, teachers, grocery store workers, janitors, and all other frontline workers. Thank you and God Bless.

If you wish to add anyone to the 2023 permanent prayer list, please contact Karen Rowland at krowland648@yahoo.com

FROM YOUR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP EVERY
WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 10 AM

Prayer is not demanding
that God do what I want
but trusting that God
will do what is right.

MAX LUCADO

In This Issue:

- Chuck's Church Chat
- Keep Us in Your Prayers
- Sermon of the Month
- Wawa Story
- D2C
- Rise Against Hunger
- Stewardship Corner
- Thank you!
- Easter Baskets
- Liturgists needed
- UWF Event
- Sight & Sound
- March Birthdays and Anniversaries
- March Calendar

SERMON OF THE MONTH

“When They Who Are Blind See Things We Don’t”

(Preached on Saturday, March 9, 2024)

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stood still and said, ‘Call him here.’ And they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart; get up, he is calling you.’ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said to him, ‘My teacher, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

So, after two plus years of ministry, Jesus now had his sights set squarely on Jerusalem and taking a road leading south from the Galilee he and his followers eventually passed through the ancient village of Jericho, just 17 miles north of Jerusalem. The large crowd must have made quite a spectacle as well as quite a racket as they paraded their way down the main street; and the reason for their excitement was Jesus. For a nation immersed in severe poverty, class warfare, and oppressed by the Roman Empire, Jesus represented a glimmer of hope; and even a glimmer was in extremely short supply in first century Palestine.

What had he done to raise their hopes? Well this Rabbi from Galilee merely healed the sick, exorcised demons, fed the hungry, and openly challenged the authority of Rome, breaking down class barriers between rich and poor, priests and common folk. Now at that time in Israel’s history, anybody who dared challenge the status quo in any way, would draw attention from two sources.

To the common folk, the ones who followed in his wake, he was at the very least a powerful prophet in the tradition of Elijah, Isaiah, and Micah. But hey, who knows, maybe he could even be the long-awaited messiah. But for those in political and religious power Jesus was seen as somewhere between a nuisance and an upstart revolutionary.

The ultimate test of any wanna-be messiah could occur in but one place- Jerusalem, the holy city, that had within its walls the one Temple for the one God, and that’s precisely where Jesus was heading. That’s why the crowds following him were so raucous; imagine the buzz, the excitement, the anticipation. However, unlike dozens of other towns he had gone through, it seemed nothing miraculous would occur in Jericho that day. But then, just as Jesus was about to exit the city gate a lone desperate voice cut through the commotion. The voice was that of a blind beggar sitting alone in the dust on the side of the street. His name was Bartimaeus.

We don’t know much about Bartimaeus other than what’s written in this short passage.

We know that he was blind. We know his father’s name was Timaeus because “*bar-timaeus*” means “the son of Timaeus.” And he was most likely orphaned and alone, because if he had family around he probably wouldn’t have had to take to the street to beg for a living. As such, he existed on the bottom rung of the class ladder, for all practical purposes a non-person, totally dependent on the charity of others, with no property, no social standing, and few rights, like so many others down through the centuries who pass anonymously “through this veil of tears.” Who live and die and are soon forgotten, lost to time without a trace.

Normally that is the fate of the Bartimaeuses of the world. But not here! There was this one thing about Bartimaeus that stood out- when he heard the crowd shouting “*Jesus of Nazareth*,” he was aware enough to know what that meant! Bartimaeus, after all, was blind but he wasn’t deaf, and he certainly wasn’t dumb! Sitting there, days on end in the dusty thoroughfare, he had overheard the voices of passersby making their way south from Galilee who spoke of this Jesus and his miraculous powers to heal. And now this very miracle worker was about to march right past him. Suddenly, within earshot, was someone who had the ability to restore his sight, and with his sight restored Bartimaeus could finally get off the curb, on his feet, and off the dole! Bottom line, there was no way he was going to let this opportunity pass!

Bartimaeus possessed but one way to get Jesus’ attention. And so, as Mark tells us, “*he began to shout out..., JESUS, SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME!*”

Now notice the name that he called- not “*Jesus of Nazareth*,” but “*Jesus, son of David*.” Bartimaeus, the blind beggar from the streets of Jericho, knew something for sure that most of the crowd only hoped was true. In Israel calling someone “*son of David*” was the equivalent of shouting “*fire!*” in a crowded movie theater. That’s because to anyone living in first century Palestine, “*son of David*” meant “*messiah*,” that’s because the true messiah was to be a descendant of King David.

So, with a voice rising above the din of the crowd, Bartimaeus was calling Jesus nothing less than the long-awaited Messiah. What’s interesting is the reaction of the crowd. They didn’t join their voices in chorus with Bartimaeus. No, they told him to shut the heck up! Mark tells us “*Many sternly ordered him to be quiet...*” Now why would they do such a thing? Even today, isn’t that so typical a reaction whenever one whom society labels voiceless actually dares to raise theirs? Bartimaeus represents all those over the centuries whom the upper crust tries to put a tight lid on! Those who don’t possess the wealth, the connections, or the political clout to make their voices heard over the constant commotion of the windbags and blowhards. Maybe that’s why Bartimaeus was told to pipe down?

Or perhaps they were trying to protect Jesus because it was so dangerous to call someone the messiah at that time? The Romans after all had a nasty reputation for hanging any and all would be messiahs on one of the crosses lining the roadsides.

Or maybe it was simply because the crowd knew Jesus was focused on his mission, boldly walking ahead of the crowd with purpose. They figured he had no time to tend to just another roadside panhandler; there was a mission to accomplish just 17 miles away in Jerusalem, and with Passover approaching it couldn’t wait! So keep it down, Bartimaeus; keep it down!”

But Bartimaeus was having none of it and “*...cried out even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’*” And Jesus, rather than heading out the city gate, stopped dead in his tracks, “*...and said, ‘Call him here.’*” So, somewhat reluctantly, his disciples “*called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart; get up, he is calling you.’*”

Now, you gotta love what happens next; try to picture this. For who-knows-how-long Bartimaeus had been sitting there on cramped legs holding out a cup to the darkness hoping to hear the plink of a coin from a compassionate passerby. But now, like a boxer coming out of his corner, Bartimaeus springs to his feet, throws off his robe, and struts right on up to Jesus!

I have to believe Jesus must have cracked up a little seeing him approach in such a bold manner.

He then asks Bartimaeus a question that we might be tempted to gloss over, until we take a second to realize its importance. Jesus says, “*‘What do you want me to do for you?’*” What do you want me to do for you? Huh...? Hey Jesus... hey Captain Obvious... there’s a blind man standing in front of ya. Whatta ya think he wants? A new pair of Crocs? But as trifling as Jesus’ question appears to be it actually serves as a model for how we, his followers, ought to treat those 21st century Bartimaeuses who cry out to us from the side of the road! So often we simply presume to know what their need is, and so before they can open their mouth we just throw them a few bucks or a bag of food and go on our way, feeling mighty good about ourselves. But Saints, even though our intentions may be good, such an approach can actually do more harm than good. That’s because it, in effect, dehumanizes the very person we’re trying to help.

Most of us on the giving end can’t imagine how gut-wrenching it is for a person to have to resort to accepting charity. We assume that all we have to do is offer the needy something, anything, and they’ll just break out in smiles and be so grateful, and go on their way. But that’s simply not the case. Put yourself in their place- have you ever had to accept charity, maybe in the form of money, food, or shelter from someone else? To have to do so from another person, even a close relative, is most often so demeaning and embarrassing. It is no different for the Bartimaeuses of our world. Jesus understood this; he understood that each person, regardless of social standing, is entitled to a degree of dignity and respect, so rather than assume, he asks Bartimaeus, “*‘What do you want me to do for you?’*” He accords him the dignity that comes from being a fellow traveler on this earth, made in God’s image.

And dignity in this case begets dignity. Because Jesus afforded Bartimaeus his due respect, Bartimaeus returned it by calling Jesus “*Rabboni*,” meaning “*my Great One*,” or simply “*my teacher*.” There is hardly a more respectful title in the Jewish world than that!

Bartimaeus knew all about Jesus of Nazareth, he has a well-known teacher of wisdom, but when Jesus showed Bartimaeus the dignity that others failed to perceive, Jesus became *his* teacher. And in that sense of dignity, Bartimaeus asked of Jesus, “*My teacher, let me see again.*” And without hesitation, in this emotional meeting of two people who genuinely respected one another, Jesus responded “*Go; your faith has made you well.*” And imagine, the very first thing Bartimaeus’ eyes beheld was the smiling face of *his* teacher beaming back at him! What an incredibly joyous meeting it had been, between these two sons of God, whose lives unexpectedly intersected in downtown Jericho.

You know Saints, we, the church, are the Body of Christ on this earth. We are Christ walking on “the way.” Problem is that so many of us who call ourselves Christian are so focused on the road ahead of us, solely focused on making it to the holy city, that we fail to hear, or worse- ignore, the voices of those who cry out to us from the roadside, or a hospital room we walk by, or the house of a neighbor who is homebound.

Jesus? He always stopped. Yes he was focused; yes he was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem for Passover; yes he was nervous about what lay before him; yes he was determined, after three years of spreading the word about the Kingdom of God, to finally confront those in religious and political power who were lording over others wrongfully. But he *always* had time for those who cried out to him from the side of the road.

And so should we. Because if we believe that all there is to our faith is going to church and one day walking into heaven, then we, my fellow travelers, are blinder than Bartimaeus ever was.



Youth and Young Adult News

Meeting Schedule

Meetings will start at 2/3pm (depending on the Project Group) and will end with Saturday Service .

March 23 and 30
April 20 and 27
May 18 Rise Against Hunger and May 25
June 15 Coffee House and June 22

Important YaYA safe the date!

COP June 23-29
VBS July 15-19 and 21 (VBS Sunday)
Ignite Conference Oct 11-13



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Making the most of what God gives you

Matthew 25:14-15; 19-23 – The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants^[a] and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents,^[b] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.^[c] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Like the servants in the parable, our Trustees and finance people are good and faithful servants. They not only use your donations to take care of the church, but they have applied for, and gotten, several grants. During Covid they used grant money from the conference to upgrade our audio-visual equipment so we could live stream services, hear services in the nursery, and hear and view services in Fellowship Hall. They also applied for, and received, PPP money from the government to help keep the church running during Covid. More recently, they received a \$150K Federal grant to improve security in the church and parsonage. The use of that grant is currently in progress. There will be cameras, additional lighting, and improved security for the doors. Please thank our "good and faithful servants" when you see them.



Bread Breakers would like to thank you for your continued support of the sandwich ministry. Your sandwiches and the lunches we make are greatly appreciated by our partners at St. Joe's, Bianca F.L.O.W.E.R.S and Food for Friends.

Stewie and Charity have joined the team and need some help. Check out the display in Fellowship Hall and if you can please donate some of the items that go into making the lunches, ie., case of water, packs of individually wrapped cookies, granola bars.

Disconnect to Connect (D2C)

DISCONNECT
to **CONNECT**

Meeting in April on
Saturday 13th and 20th
at 2:00pm

BYOP
Bring Your Own Project



Save the Date
May 18, 2024
WILL BE
*"A DAY WITHOUT
HUNGER"*

JOIN US AT
NEW DOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AS WE ASSEMBLE
30,000 MEALS
LET'S "RISE AGAINST HUNGER!"

Look for sign up sheet at the church or use the link below
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949AFA623A2FFCF8-48539720-rise>

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS 2024!



SCUBA VBS
JULY 15 - 19, 2024
9AM - 12PM

Send your kids deep into
an undersea adventure at
New Dover United Methodist Church
Vacation Bible School!



JOIN THE VBS TEAM!
SIGN UP
TO BE A VOLUNTEER.

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve
and make a difference in the lives of children?
Join the VBS team! We are seeking volunteers
to help create an unforgettable experience
for kids as they learn about God's love.
Scan the QR code to sign up!

April Birthdays


- 1 *Jonathan Lamoreaux*
Rhea Manglapus
Aiden O'Rourke
- 2 *Bindu Christian*
Judy Rienzo
Harold Shaban
- 3 *Bobby Engel*
Justine Stevenson
- 5 *Angelina Budala*
Phyllis Carney
- 10 *Joanne Demler*
- 11 *Eric Colon*
- 12 *Nicholas Castlegrant*
- 13 *Ryan Greve*
- 14 *Doug Rock*
Joey Stevenson
- 15 *Krisel Manglapus*
- 16 *Swati Christian*
- 21 *C.J. Yoon*
- 22 *Zachary Oswiany*
Ma Angelika Vedana
- 25 *Rev. Chuck Coblentz*
- 26 *Naomi Hunt*
- 27 *Wilfredo Manglapus*
- 29 *Judy Tymitz*

April Anniversaries

- 4 *Kristie & Scott Reino*
- 9 *Ben & Patricia Stevenson*
- 11 *Richard & JoAnn Lettieri*
- 13 *Brian & Mackenze Chesney*
- 16 *Timothy & Robbin Roth*



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:30am Hot Topics 7:00pm Trustees 7:30pm AA	2 7:30am Flea Market 7:30pm Troop 44	3 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	4 7:00pm Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	5 8:00am Sandwiches 5:00 Kabhoom 7:30pm AA 7:30pm Small Group	6 9:00am Kabhoom Robotics 10:00am Communion Setup 5:00pm Praise 6:15pm Telugu Service 7:30pm AA
7 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship/Baptism 11:00am Amer Desi 11:30am Bell /Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	8 10:30am Hot Topics 7:00pm Nurture 7:30pm AA	9 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30p BS Troop 44	10 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	11 7:00p Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	12 8:00am Sandwiches 5:00 Kabhoom 7:30pm AA 7:30pm Small Group	13 9:00am Kabhoom Robotics 2:00 D2C 5:00pm Praise 6:15pm Telugu Service 7:30pm AA
14 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:00am Amer Desi 11:30am Bell /Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	15 10:30am Hot Topics 7pm Worship Meeting 7:30pm AA	16 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30p BS Troop 44	17 10:00am Prayer Fellowship 6:30p UWF Meeting	18 7:00pm Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	19 8:00am Sandwiches 5:00 Kabhoom 7:30pm AA 7:30pm Small Group	20 9:00am Kabhoom Robotics 2:00pm D2C 5:00pm Praise 6:15pm Telugu Service 7:30pm AA
21 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship/Bells 11:00am Amer Desi 11:30am Bell /Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	22 10:30am Hot Topics 7:00pm Council 7:30pm AA	23 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30p BS Troop 44	24 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	25 7:00p Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	26 8:00am Sandwiches 5:00 Kabhoom 7:30pm AA 7:30pm Small Group	27 9:00am Kabhoom Robotics 5:00pm Praise 6:15pm Telugu Service 7:30pm AA
28 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:00am Amer Desi 11:30am Bell /Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	29 10:30am Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	30 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30p BS Troop 44				

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**NEW DOVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

"A Caring Community"

