

# NEW DOVER HERALD

October 2018

*Holiness unto the Lord*

Vol. 149

## Highlights

### *In This Issue:*

- Chuck's Church Chat
- UMCOR Flood Buckets
- Keep Us in Your Prayers
- Save the Dates
- Sermon of the Month
- Raritan Valley Poverty
- Bishop Schol Visit
- Hunger Walk
- Nursery News
- Operation Christmas Child
- Membership Blog
- UMW News
- Social Justice
- Calendar
- October Birthdays & Anniversaries



## CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace!

Recent weather has made me feel as though I'm teetering on edge as I'm writing this in the second week of September, a couple of days after our Church Picnic, where thanks to a fantastic Nurture crew we made the best of a horrendous weather day, and a couple of days before Hurricane Florence is due to hit the Carolina coast. By the time you receive this both events will be long past, but in terms of hurricane relief we will have only just begun.

Thanks to a tip from our Social Justice Chair, Erin Markan, along with the approval of our Outreach Chair, Paulette Harland, as well as our Church Council, we are now officially the collection center for hurricane flood buckets for the entire Central Region of our Conference! That means rather than driving hours to more distant drop-off points, local churches can bring flood buckets to New Dover resulting in more buckets for more victims of hurricane damage. It says a lot about our church as we take the lead on disaster relief!

Now as you know by now, I'm usually very excited about upcoming events at New Dover but October is totally off the charts! Let's take 'em one at a time in chronological order...

- ⇒ Okay, this one actually occurs at the tail end of September (28-30<sup>th</sup>): our Youth Group, led by our new Student Pastor Chris Stanley, will join their peers from around the state attending the IGNITE YOUTH CONFERENCE in Wildwood. We're very excited to see the growth and excitement taking place in our UMYF! They raised over \$1,000 with their car wash in August to offset their cost for attending the conference!
- ⇒ HOT TOPICS IS BACK! By popular demand we will be taking a fresh look at the Book of Revelation. With its vivid imagery, controversial prophecies, and powerful message this could be the hottest topic ever! Classes will be held on Monday morning at 10:30 and Thursday evenings at 7:00 starting the week of October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ⇒ John Schol, Bishop of our Great New Jersey Conference, will join us for worship at 10 AM on WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, October 7<sup>th</sup>. We're putting together an exciting service with lots of laity participation in order to praise God as we celebrate our incredi-

bly diverse and gifted congregation. You will not want to miss it!

- ⇒ On Sunday afternoon, October 21<sup>st</sup> we will once again participate in the METUCHEN-EDISON INTERFAITH HUNGER WALK. Pledge sheets will be available on our website, in Fellowship Hall after church, and in the office during the week. The walk begins at 2:00 PM at Neve Shalom synagogue on Grove Avenue in Metuchen and will make it's way through Roosevelt Park. Last year we had record participation and donations and we're looking to double that this year! And yeah-once again our own "Acts of Praise" will be providing the opening music!
- ⇒ After much planning, this month the Stewardship Committee kicks off our ambitious "MIRACLES & MORE" capital campaign that will combine badly needed improvements to our sanctuary and infrastructure with exciting ministry and mission via the Conference's "Miracles Everywhere" campaign. Please see the accompanying article in this month's Herald for more details.
- ⇒ The focus of our Social Justice Task Force this month will be Domestic Violence,
- ⇒ an all too common occurrence in our nation and around the world. Come find out what we can do about it as a church. All are invited to attend the SJTF monthly meetings.
- ⇒ Finally, on October 24<sup>th</sup> I'll be accompanying our United Methodist Women to "Sight & Sound" in Lancaster, Pa., to see a production of Jesus. Sounds like a fun day out with our amazing ladies!

Told you October was a kickin' month! Before I sign off I just want to give a big shout out to our Nominating Committee who worked hard over the summer to put together a strong slate of leaders for our ongoing ministry. Well done good and faithful servants!

Okay, time for a pumpkin spiced latte! Enjoy the fall!

Peace,

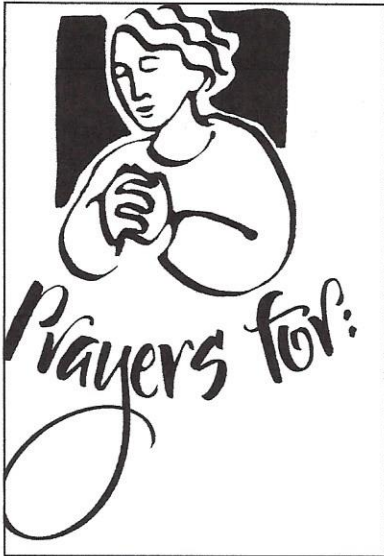
*Chuck*

Rev. Chuck Coblentz

Once again, in response to Hurricane Florence New Dover is spearheading efforts to support families affected by Hurricane Florence by collecting UMCOR Cleaning Kits (Flood Buckets). The list of supplies to be included in each bucket was updated earlier this year, so everyone who wants to participate should be sure they are shopping from the May 2018 Flood Bucket list! <https://www.umcor.org/umcor/relief-supplies/relief-supply-kits/cleaning>. You can drop off your buckets or supplies at the church. We will coordinate the delivery of the items to UMCOR.



# KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Bob Meckler & Family  
 Manny DeLaPaz & Family  
 Spencer Kolb  
 Christine Rowland  
 Eric Myers  
 Nayan Vyas & Family  
 Robert Rozmus  
 Christine & Judy Tymitz  
 America

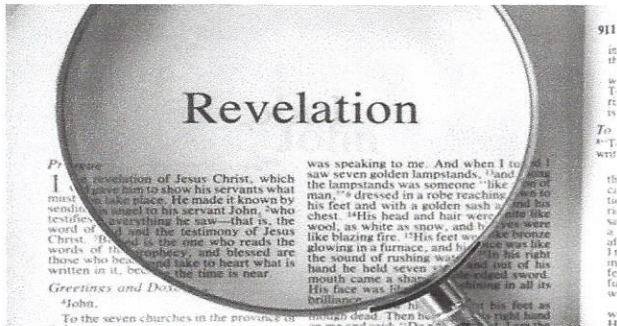
Christians of India  
 Marian Jones  
 LuLu Kamenas  
 NDUMC Missionaries  
 Preston Family  
 Boyce Family  
 Jeff & Karen Rowland  
 Our Schools  
 Robyn & Carolyn DeCicco

All suffering with  
 Addictions  
 Convalescent Homes  
 All Servicemen and  
 Women  
 Gayle Farrell

**Pray for all those seeking employment, those affected by Natural Disasters, those suffering with addictions, those suffering from depression, those affected by acts of terrorism, all national leaders and troops, and all those serving at New Dover UMC.**

Any names that may have been left off are not intentional. We trust in God to know all our needs.

*By popular demand,  
 the next HOT TOPIC....*



*Classes start the week of October 1!  
 Mondays 10:30 AM &  
 Thursdays 7:00 PM*

## SAVE THE DATES

- Oct 1 Hot Topics Starts
- Oct 1 Social Justice Taskforce Meeting
- Oct 7 World Communion Sunday w/ Bishop John Schol
- Oct 21 Hunger Walk
- Oct 24 Raritan Valley Poverty Taskforce Event
- Nov 17 Church Conference

# SERMON OF THE MONTH

## "We Are What We Eat"

(Preached 9/2/18)

*John 6:53-60*

We've all heard that old expression, "*We are what we eat.*" In this day of gluten free, kale munching, green tea chugging, hold the cheese, pass the tofu diets, such a statement seems more relevant than ever. If "*We are what we eat,*" we had better not eat that high fructose syrup laden muffin, right? Or that carb loaded bagel smothered in fatty cream cheese. Or that pink, yellow, purple, sugar locked and loaded kids cereal. If we truly are what we eat, we don't want to turn ourselves into a couch-potato size Hot Pocket or a 55 gallon barrel of Fruit Loops, or a Costco pack of deep fried Oreos. Heck, given the pork producing history of my family's business, if we are what we eat, you have a slab of scrapple preaching to you every Sunday!

"*We are what we eat.*" Usually we apply this expression to our daily diet, but how often do we think of it in terms of the Lord's Supper? But wasn't this in fact what Jesus meant when he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying, "*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.*" Doesn't Paul say in I Corinthians 10, "*The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.*" So you see, here at this table we are offered much more than a morsel of bread and a sip of wine. Here we are given the opportunity to be transformed into a new being. According to Jesus himself, when we in faith partake of his body and blood, in a very literal sense, we become his body and blood. So yeah, Saints- we are what we eat!

Now admittedly, at first this may sound awfully pretentious on our part. Think about it- claiming that we are capable of becoming Christ himself. That Saints sounds either pretentious or a pipedream! But here's the thing- the power to be transformed does not come from within us. We do not dare make such a claim based on our own merits or accomplishments. We can only claim it because God in Christ has offered us this gift, and has so ordained that we become Christ in and for the world.

It is a wondrous and masterful plan, and when we think about it, it makes a heckuva lot of sense! Listen- on the night of his betrayal Jesus knew that his days of physically walking the earth preaching, healing, and performing acts of mercy, were coming to a close. By offering the bread representing his body and the wine representing his blood, he passes on to us, his disciples, both his message and his mission: the awesome responsibility to unconditionally love the world and its people. Here we are transformed into his likeness, and sent forth to be servants to the world. Saints, this is our vocation; this is the ministry of all Christians. You and me? Well, we are his body on earth. Walking for him, talking for him, living for him, even dying for him if it came to that. When we kneel at the table and partake of the bread and the cup we become that which we eat: we become the body and blood of Christ.

But if the simple act of eating and drinking the elements was all we need do, then hey, our work would go easy. However, we know a body needs more than a physical nourishment, and we rejoice that, while Jesus has been absent from the scene in a physical sense for almost 2,000 years, for those of us who genuinely open our hearts to him, his very Spirit resides in us, guiding our paths, inspiring our words, and empowering our touch. When our hearts are possessed by his Spirit, when we walk from the altar this morning, out into the world, we, in every sense, become Christ to each person with whom we come into contact. His Spirit guides and inspires us, and our physical presence delivers that Spirit into action.

Saints, we ourselves make Christ very real to those who suffer. Christ is present in us as we minister to them. And most importantly we need to remember that for so many of our neighbors, we may be the only contact they will have with the Savior's unconditional love. You or I may very well represent their last good hope. And look- it is an awesome responsibility, yet one which our calling will not permit us to forsake.

A world in crisis has no need for privatized religion; our faith does not permit us to keep Christ's Spirit to ourselves. As Jesus' disciples we are, above all, a people sent forth. Saints, there's no way around that aspect of our faith. The world pleads for hope just as loudly and as passionately as it did centuries ago. Hearing the cries of the needy, Jesus went courageously forth from Galilee. Do we not hear the same calls this day? And just as Jesus walked the dusty roads of Palestine, so too are we to sent forth on the roads, streets and alleyways of the 21st century to do as he did: to boldly proclaim the Kingdom of God, to heal the sick, to feed the hungry, to comfort the

mourners, to rescue the lost. To “*let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.*”

Far too often, we seem to have forgotten or perhaps intentionally neglected the New Testament’s most basic definition of the church- that we are indeed the body of Christ on earth.

So often we come to Sunday service, get our fill of worship, and then check our inspiration on the way out the door. In the meantime the world still cries out, but the sounds fall on deaf ears.

If there’s one thing I can assure you of it’s this: if that’s our attitude, we simply don’t get it; in fact we may have never gotten it. But we’re far from the only ones.

Jesus said, “*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.*” But did you hear the last line in today’s scripture lesson? When “many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘*This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?*’” They were right to question how accepting most people would be to Jesus’ new interpretation of this bread from heaven, because face it- it’s not business as usual, not by any means!

You see, most Christians act as though faith is merely accepting who we are and incrementally improving on it. But if that’s what we believe we are sadly mistaken! ***Gospel faith is about nothing short of radical transformation!*** It’s all about leaving the old self behind and taking on the new self. And that new self we are invited to take in is none other than Christ Jesus himself.

So....why is this such a necessary step? Because our old self, no matter how hard we try, no matter how sincere our intentions, no matter how long we’ve attended church, is incapable of unconditional love. That’s because the old self- the self-seeking, self-serving, self-centered person can never overcome its own baggage! Our old self doesn’t want to surrender its old opinions. Our old self doesn’t want to surrender its old fears. Our old self doesn’t want to surrender its old prejudices. Our old self finds a perverse comfort in its self-familiarity. In fact our old self takes up so much space in our heart that we leave no room for Christ’s Spirit.

But don’t take it from me! Take it from the most famous theologian in church history- Paul, a man who knew what it’s like to do spiritual battle writing in Romans 7: “*For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?*”

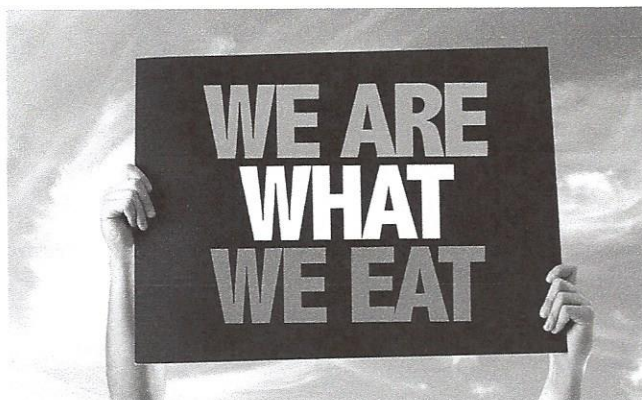
How many of us would be brave enough to pray such a prayer? Saints, if the Apostle Paul recognized his own battle with the old self, than who are we to think we’re above all that just because we come to church once a week? What is offered here is so much bigger than an incremental touch up of the old self. It is a radical call for the old self to get the heck out of our heart, so that the new self can enter in!

Saints, whenever we come forward to the table, let us do so with a faith that is made manifest in courage and commitment. Let us strive to be true to who we are in the eyes of God.

When we extend our trembling hand to receive the body and blood let us dare to become that which we eat. As we pray before, during and after we commune together let us declare to God how we will be Christ for our neighbors in need.

Two thousand years ago, a man came forth from the dusty backwaters of Galilee and throughout the centuries, through that one life, has transformed the lives of millions of people across the globe: One man. ONE MAN! Think of what we as a congregation of believers can do just in this community by living out his call to us! With his Spirit as our guide, with our voices proclaiming the promise of Gospel, with our feet carrying us to the lonely places, and with our hands extended in kindness, we are indeed capable of bringing new hope to the hopeless, and new life to the dead.

Saints, if we truly possess the faith we claim, than yes, we are what we eat. You and I are indeed a new creation. We ***ARE*** the Body of Christ.



# The Poor With Us

By: Rev. June Tamburro, Chair-Raritan Valley Poverty Task Force

Despite the current economic boom in the United States, wage growth has remained stagnant, and the income inequality gap between the richest 1% and the bottom 99% continues to grow. According to the latest US Census data, NJ now touts the 12th highest income inequality gap in the nation and our poverty level stands at 10.9%. Indeed, the poor are still with us!

Jesus' oft quoted statement to the same effect is generally misinterpreted as a divine resignation to the unalterable reality of the human condition. His remark, which comes after his anointing by the woman with the costly perfume in Matthew 26:11, is actually a quote from Deuteronomy 15:11. Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis reminds us in her book, *Always With Us? What Jesus Really Said about the Poor*, "Deuteronomy 15 says that there will be no poor person among you *if* you follow the commandments of God: to forgive debts, release slaves, and lend money even when you know you won't get paid back. Therefore, Jesus' words are a critique of empire, charity and inequality. Poverty is created by human beings...and is condemned by God." There is a biblical mandate to end poverty by following God's commandments, and the church must be a prophetic witness and advocate for such justice in the world.

Engaging in ministry with the poor is one of the four areas of ministry focus in the United Methodist Church. This ministry must involve both mercy and justice guided by love and grace, always with respect for the contextual nature of poverty. In response, The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference has established a Poverty Task Force within each of the nine districts in order to "work to understand and alleviate the root causes of poverty through socio-political and economic research, poverty expertise, advocacy and action." The Raritan Valley District Poverty Task Force (RVPTF) is a group of committed lay and clergy working together to understand the root causes of poverty in our District, to educate and provide resources to local churches, and to provide opportunities for social justice advocacy around the issues of poverty.

The Raritan Valley District Poverty Task Force is excited to announce the first region-wide event scheduled for **Wednesday, October 24 at 7:30 pm at the Bridgewater UMC**. We invite all clergy and laity from across the Central Region to join us for an outstanding speaker's panel event, ***The Poor With Us: A Faith Based Response to Poverty*** that will include: Mr. Michael Landis of the Neighborhood Center in Camden, Rev. Dr. Charles Boyer from Salvation and Social Justice, as well as representatives from the NJ Anti-Poverty Network and Somerset County Social Services. Please help us spread the word and plan to attend this meaningful and informative evening.

**BISHOP JOHN SCHOL IS COMING TO NEW DOVER!!!!**

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**OCTOBER 7, 2018**

**10:00 AM SERVICE**

**WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE BISHOP JOHN SCHOL ATTEND OUR WORSHIP SERVICE. BISHOP SCHOL WILL PREACH AND ASSIST IN COMMUNION.**



**EDISON-METUCHEN  
HUNGER WALK!**

**2 PM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21**

**NEVE SHALOM  
250 Grove Ave  
Metuchen, NJ**



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please give thoughtful consideration to volunteering some of your time to our Nursery on Sunday's at the 10 AM service.

Our young families are very important to our congregation and we want to be supportive. Your time and talents would be so appreciated!

See Jennifer Ouellette or Karen Rowland for information.



## Operation Christmas Child News:

Our Shoe box drive will not begin for another month or so, but while you are out school shopping, please consider purchasing some extra school supplies for your shoe box.



### **Shoebox Gifts Result in New Churches in Malawi**

Doors are widely opening up in spiritually dark villages in Malawi. Recently, following OCC shoebox outreach events, two villages in the Lilongwe region of the country witnessed the baptism of over one-hundred people total. These villages are hard to reach due to evil traditional beliefs and high illiteracy. At one OCC shoebox outreach event in November, over 400 children were invited including a village chief. A few days later, a children's ministry and bible study meetings were launched. Since then, two churches have been planted following the baptism.

In order to keep the village youth active, strong, and socially connected, new soccer teams have been formed using many of the balls that were included in shoebox gifts. PRAISE GOD!

One local pastor is very excited and sees another opportunity of establishing literacy and nursery centers to keep supporting the 5000 plus children in these villages.



# MEMBERSHIP BLOG

This blog begins with the August 12, 2018 service. Special music was provided by the Manglapus family, beautifully singing "Rescue Me". The Scriptures for the day were Jeremiah 29:10-14 and Revelation 21:1-6. Rev noted that as we do not build a house without a plan, so it is with our faith. The Bible is the blueprint for that faith, which ends with Revelation and Zion as the place of peace where we walk together as one. We cannot be distracted by the world around us, but must remember that we answer to Jesus, not man. We also need to live this life in the joy of Christ, using the plan for our work here to transform the world. We have the blueprint, we have Jesus, and we have the Holy Spirit—what more do we need? The service on August 19 began with Rev. leading the congregation in "The Butterfly Song", complete with movements imitating animals! The anthem was provided by Kyle S. The Scriptures for the day were Isaiah 53:1-4 and Matthew 25:31-46. Rev's sermon, echoed by the moment for youth, explored the idea of true faith. Are we showing compassion toward the needy, and are we doing so with expectations of our reward or because our faith leads us to do so? God wants us to transform our behavior while we're here and warns of His judgment on the unexamined life. We have no excuse for our own judgment and lack of mercy toward others. Our pastor was on vacation the last weekend of August: Lisa G. took the pulpit on Saturday night, discussing living in genuine thankfulness and sharing God with others through breaking bread with others, using our gifts/talents and telling stories of His love in our lives. On Sunday we were blessed to hear Karlos T. and John R. sing separate selections with great feeling—thank you gentlemen for your talents. The Scriptures for the day were Genesis 4:1-16 and Matthew 5:21-26. Our student pastor Chris S. talked about our issues with anger, and how this emotion often takes over our lives and leads us to destructive behavior. We need to repent of our anger by repairing relationships—difficult but necessary. Let's feel challenged to take responsibility for our actions, make our hearts right with God, and live our faith with His love in our hearts. September services began on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with Communion Sunday on a hot Labor Day weekend. Jim D. sang for the anthem, and Jameson O. stole the hour by singing "Jesus Loves Me" during the offering. What a treat! The Scripture for the day was John 6:53-60. Rev. noted that we can't accept Communion in church yet not be servants of unconditional love and kingdom builders outside the church. Let's not consider our faith a self-improvement program limited to worship, but a radical transformation into a faith of courage and commitment—new creations in Christ. Communion by intinction followed the sermon. The next weekend's service was heralded in by rain and cool temperatures, yet those inside were warmed by God's Word. The Scriptures for the day were Jonah 1:1-3 and Luke 14:25-33. Rev. Chuck challenged the congregation with Jonah's story of disobedience; when we do not agree with God's call on our lives, do we ignore it or run the other way? How much are we willing to give up for the kingdom of God; how do we respond to His hard commands? The service was followed by the annual picnic and fun with Bible Trivia, held in Fellowship Hall due to the inclement weather.

In other news, we lost two former members of our church family in late August. A memorial service was held in our sanctuary for Shirley Heidersburger on Saturday of Labor Day weekend, followed by a short repast. The following Sunday a memorial service was held for Dick Campbell at First United Methodist Church in Westfield, followed by interment of his ashes in their Memorial Garden. Our condolences go to the families of these two faithful saints who walked the road less traveled and have gone to their glory.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Ladies, come out and join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, October 10th at 6:30pm. Please bring a covered dish to share. Desserts will be provided. Following our dinner, we look forward to our program "Growing Up in Sri Lanka" presented by Sandra De Alwis. Last year we heard about the Philippines by the Manglapus family and before that we heard about growing up in Singapore from Lily Baidowsky. We look forward to hearing our own lady's stories and their personal experiences.

We are again collecting items for our women veterans at the Menlo Park Veteran's Home. We hope to donate 50 gift bags to them. We are looking for items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, small notepads or note paper, and new greeting cards. We also will need medium gift bags for these items. If anyone can help us with these items, it would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dianne Petersen-President UMW

## SOCIAL JUSTICE TASKFORCE

There will be a meeting of the Social Justice Taskforce on October 1 at 6:30pm. The topic of discussion is Domestic Violence. All are welcome to attend. Please join us.



OCTOBER IS

domestic violence  
awareness month