



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

October 2021

Vol. 182

A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace.

I wrote last month's edition of the "Chat" just before I left for my two week journey to the Montana and Idaho wilderness and if you recall, I wondered aloud what might happen in the time I was away. I asked a couple of questions:

- ◆ Will the pandemic be on the wane or resurgent?
- ◆ Will there once again be horrific numbers of wild-fires, tornados, and hurricanes?

Here are the answers:

Unfortunately the pandemic has been resurgent, particularly in states that have low rates of vaccinations. In fact Idaho is currently in an all-out crisis, having no hospital beds available and having to send patients across the border to Washington in order to receive medical care. Not good! We at NDUMC are still doing all we can to ensure the safety of our members and friends, but it's disappointing that after a year and a half we're not further along than this.

During the time I was out west we woke up to the perpetual presence of smoke, some from local fires but most of it drifting over from California, some days worse than others. That said, for the most part the fires have been contained.

Tornados and hurricanes? Not so much. When I was about to embark on the rafting part of my trip on Saturday, August 28, where for 6 days I would be without phone or Internet, Ida was about to hit New Orleans. It wasn't until I got off the river and back into civilization that I found out the extent of what happened here in New Jersey. The tornado that ripped through South Jersey, and the record-shattering flooding that took so many lives and damaged so much property. We were very fortunate insofar as our church buildings and grounds (just some seepage into the Susannah Wesley room), but many of our members and friends were not so lucky. I'm not a pessimist, but given the dire predictions of climatologists, it looks like we should be prepared for greater number of such weather-related phenomena as the world continues to heat up.

And that call for preparation segues into a call for action! This month, Saturday, October 30th to be exact, we are having a **Vision Retreat** from 8:30-3:00, that we might come up with a new way forward for our church and its ministry. All are invited to attend and offer your opinions and discussion as to how you feel God is leading us!

Saints, we live in a world that changes just as fast as the weather and it's been four and half years since our last Vision Retreat. Many of the ideas we came up with then, such as what became our "Miracles and More" campaign, the hiring of youth pastors, and the expansion of our food ministry were discussed at the retreat then taken up by our Church Council and put into action. It's exciting to be a part of such a leap of faith, and this year's retreat should be no less inspiring! Setting aside a few hours on a Saturday is a small sacrifice in order to lend your voice and take ownership of the future of New Dover, right?!

If you're excited about what we've been able to accomplish as a church up to this point, I get the feeling "you ain't seen nothing yet!"

Be blessed and inspired!

Chuck





CHURCH PICNIC IS OCTOBER 10TH AT MERRILL PARK IN COLONIA FROM 12-5PM.

SIGN-UP SHEETS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR MONETARY DONATIONS, SIDE DISHES AND DESSERTS. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES.



New Dover United Methodist Church
Annual Church Conference is
October 23, 2021 at 10:15 am
via Zoom.
Zoom link will be sent out when
available.

There are currently 12 families on the Food Basket list. If you would like to sponsor a family in need this Thanksgiving, please complete the form found on the office door and they will be added to the list.

Food needed: turkeys, boxed mash potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, stuffing, soups, pie fillings, cake mixes.



KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz
Pat & Brian
Emma
Marianne & Eugene
June Ebbets
Jim Mitchell
Lulu Kamenas & family
Erin, Kenley, Quentin
Robert Engel, Sr.

Paul Fazzioli
Nicholas Simone
Hurricane Ida Flood Victims
Service men & women
Veterans
Homeless, unemployed
& uninsured
All affected by Covid-19 and
their families

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 2021 permanent prayer list, please contact Karen Rowland at krowland648@yahoo.com

FROM YOUR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

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JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING AT
10 AM FOR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.
Romans 12:12

SERMON OF THE MONTH

“Our Self-Inflicted Wounds”

Preached Sunday, July 25, 2021

Jeremiah 10:17-22/Hebrews 12:3-13

There are basically two types of self-inflicted wounds- intentional and unintentional.

Intentional self-inflicted injuries harm one's own body without meaning for the injury to be fatal. People who engage in self-inflicted injury typically do so in an attempt to cope with distress, anger, and other painful emotions, or to get out of a life-threatening situation, such as a soldier shooting him or herself in the leg just before a major battle.

Unintentional self-inflicted wounds occur unwittingly. Someone accidentally cuts or shoots oneself. Or it could be wounds caused unwittingly by poor decision-making on the part of the wounded: a smoker getting lung cancer; a drinker getting sclerosis of the liver; or a person who has had all kinds of opportunities to be vaccinated yet chooses not to, and comes down with Covid.

Last week I had my yearly checkup with my doctor, and as happens these days, the topic of Covid came up. He told me that last month at Overlook Hospital in Summit where were 30 patients with Covid, some on ventilators. Out of the 30, guess how many had been vaccinated? Yeah....none. And while he as a doctor, felt bad about the ones dealing with this potentially fatal condition, we both agreed they suffered from self-inflicted wounds. But this simply fits into the pattern of Covid hospitalizations state and nation-wide.

New Jersey's seven-day average for confirmed positive COVID-19 tests is now 455, up 58% from a week ago and 136% from a month ago, when officials were reporting record-low daily caseloads. And in all but a couple of cases, every person hospitalized was unvaccinated. *"We cannot put it more clearly,"* the Governor said. *"The vaccines work. They are proving more than 99.9% effective in preventing people from contracting the virus, 99.99% effective in keeping people out of the hospital, and 99.999% effective in keeping people alive."* But while more than 55% of New Jersey's total population, around 5 million people, are fully vaccinated, that means 45 %, or approximately 4 million are not! Why is that? And PS- ours is one of the best states when it comes to getting vaccinated.

Across the country, the numbers are bad and getting worse, particularly in states where the vaccination rates are low and safety measures are nonexistent. New Covid cases are rising in 49 of the 50 states, mainly due to the Delta variant of the disease which, according to the WHO, is the "fastest and fittest" variant yet—as much as 50 to 60 percent more transmissible than the Alpha variant, which was already 50 per cent more transmissible than the original strain of COVID-19. By the end of July, Delta was the cause of more than 80% of new U.S. COVID-19 cases: *"The Delta variant poses a serious risk to people who are not fully vaccinated, as it is highly contagious."* In fact, the hospitalization rate of patients with the Delta variant was about 85 percent higher than that of people with the Alpha variant. *"A recent study showed that children and adults under 50 were 2.5 times more likely to become infected with Delta,"* which is a major concern since so far, no vaccine has been approved for children 5 to 12 in the U.S., *"As older age groups get vaccinated, those who are younger and unvaccinated will be at higher risk of getting COVID-19, and Delta seems to be impacting younger age groups more than previous variants."*

All epidemiologists agree- the greatest risk to another outbreak of Covid, and this time one that makes our children especially vulnerable, is the refusal of so many of us to be vaccinated. Saints, we've been through the mill for the past 18 months, so we should know better by know, right? It's one thing to have a pandemic sort of sneak upon us. It's quite another to know what's coming, what we need to do in order to prevent the next wave, and then choose not to! If this virus is allowed to rear its ugly head, rise back up, and once again wreak havoc on our lives then guess what? We will have only ourselves to blame. Saints, any wound we receive from a future recurrence of Covid would be self-inflicted. But then again, most of the wounds we suffer these days are self-inflicted, are they not?

Take the raging climate crisis. There were scientific articles written in the 1800s(!) warning of the effects of putting too much carbon into our atmosphere. The general public has been made aware of global warming since the 1980's and the fossil fuel industry has known about it for decades prior to that, yet we

have done practically nothing, other than fiddle while the world has burned. In fact we have pumped more CO2 and methane into the air than ever before. The fires of the American west, the flooding in Europe, India, Indonesia, and elsewhere? All self-inflicted wounds.

And what about gun violence? 2021 is on pace to be America's deadliest year of gun violence in the last two decades. As of this week, there have been 296 mass shootings in the United States this year. A mass shooting is defined as a shooting that results in the killing of 4 or more people. 11,477 people have been killed this year alone from gun violence. Additionally, 13,956 human beings have used a gun to take their own lives. Yet passing effective gun safety measures never seems to happen, despite the public outcry for it, we do nothing. Just as the case with the pandemic, and climate change, gun violence in this country is a gaping self-inflicted wound.

So, what does scripture have to tell us about self-inflicted wounds? Turns out plenty! By delving into this morning's passages, perhaps we can understand what got us into these crises, and hopefully, what can get us out.

Our Hebrew scripture lesson from the prophet, Jeremiah was written during perhaps the greatest crisis the Jews had faced since they first entered the Promised Land hundreds of years before. It was the year 598 BCE, and the walls of Jerusalem were being pummeled by the powerful Babylonian army under Nebuchadnezzar and it was apparent to everyone holed up in the city that Jerusalem was about to fall, and fall hard. Trying to come to terms with how they had arrived at this horrible end, as well as what future awaited them, the prophet and the people, engaged in dialogue.

In the passage Jeremiah speaks firsts, prophesying to the people: ***"Gather up your bundle from the ground, O you who live under siege! For thus says the Lord: I am going to fling away the inhabitants of the land at this time, and I will bring distress on them, so that they shall feel it."*** In other words Judea, buck-up, because this is gonna hurt! And while you're at it, pack your bags, because after the whuppin' you're going bye-bye!

The Judean's entire world was about to be turned upside down, but it's not like they couldn't see it coming. Why? Because every one of Judah's wounds were self-inflicted, the result of decision they themselves made, and advice from God's prophets they didn't take. For years, centuries, the Judeans had wounded themselves through their actions and it had cost them dearly, but until now it hadn't cost them their nation. Until now it hadn't hurt anywhere near this much. So what were these self-inflicted wounds?

According to Jeremiah there were three. Number one was idolatry. Despite all manner of warnings, a great many Jews participated in the worship of Canaanite and other gods. But, as Jeremiah points out, idols are nothing more than impotent placebos, distractions from the one true God who could help them. In Jeremiah 10 we read, ***"Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, nor is it in them to do good. They are worthless, a work of delusion...Not like these is the Lord, the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance..."*** The first self-inflicted wound - idolatry.

The second was mistreatment of the poor and vulnerable. As the rich were getting richer the poor were getting poorer, and the gap between them became a festering self-inflicted wound that would work to take the nation down! In Jeremiah 5 we read. ***"For scoundrels are found among my people; they take over the goods of others...their houses are full of treachery; therefore they have become great and rich, they have grown fat and sleek. They know no limits in deeds of wickedness; they do not judge with justice the cause of the orphan, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the Lord, and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this?"*** The second self-inflicted wound- mistreatment of the poor and vulnerable.

And the third? Their willingness to follow idiotic leaders. In chapter 10 Jeremiah doesn't mince words! ***"For the shepherds are stupid, and do not inquire of the Lord; therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered."*** Stupid is defined as *"having or showing a great lack of intelligence or common sense, slow of mind, not clear or precise in thought or expression, given to unintelligent decisions or acts."* You get the picture! Not only that, Jeremiah says they were ***"ignorant of the ways of the Lord,"*** which, if no one paid them any mind, would keep the damage to a minimum, except a large percentage of the population placed their faith in these stupid shepherds, and that led the nation down a path of judgment and ultimate destruction. In the immortal words of Obi-wan Kenobi, *"Who's the more foolish, the fool or the fool who follows him?"* The Judeans followed their stupid shepherds right to the total destruction of their nation.

Pretty foolish thing to do, wouldn't you say?

So these three things: idolatry, mistreatment of the poor, and stupid leadership were the self-inflicted wounds that took down Judah. but what about us? I don't consider myself an alarmist, but given the elevated nature of the crises we are currently engaged in, it's worth asking the question, is it not? Could we end up like the Judeans of Jeremiah's time and die by our own self-inflicted wounds?

In a January 1838 speech, as the nation was becoming more and more divided over the issue of slavery, Abraham Lincoln warned of our dying by self-inflicted wounds, asking, *"At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."*

What then can we learn from the plight of the Judeans? What could potentially be the 21st century idolatry that takes us down? Who are, as Jeremiah put it, the **"scarecrows in a cucumber field,"** who cannot speak, and cannot walk, who are worthless, a work of delusion... Perhaps the vacuous conspiracy theories that entice so many away from the truth? Think of the millions who waste their time chasing after such idols, when that time could be spent on things that actually matter, that are grounded in truth and God's wisdom!

And what of our own mistreatment of the poor and vulnerable? Like Judah at the time of its collapse, the gap between rich and poor in this country continues to grow. How long before God says enough is enough? How long before we join the centuries long list of other "great nations" that have succumbed to the greed of the few?

And finally, Jeremiah warned the Judeans about following "stupid shepherds." I'm just gonna leave this one blank....ugh!

But despite all that seems to be crumbling down around us, despite all the self-inflicted wounds we are suffering from, there is still hope. Wounds, even those that are self-inflicted can be healed through confession and repentance. Jeremiah himself offered just such hope as we read in chapter 15: ***"Therefore, thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord."***

One of the ways God delivers us is through divine discipline. Just as a loving parent will discipline a wayward child, the Lord, for our own good, will do everything possible to keep us on the best path through life. Hear the words from the writer of Hebrews: ***"My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.' Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed."***

The good news is this- it doesn't matter whether our wounds are unintentional or self-inflicted, when we cry out, God, our divine heavenly parent, is always ready to heal us and restore us! That healing often involves discipline that leads to repentance, but as Hebrews affirms, ***"...later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."***

So Saints, let us stop spending so much time kneeling before scarecrows in cucumber patches, mistreating the poor, and following after stupid leaders. When we do that, our wounds are self-inflicted. But let us instead turn our hearts and minds to God, love our neighbors as ourselves, and heed the advice of the wise. Do that and not only will we be healed, but our community, our nation, and our world will be as well!

Picnic to Picnic

An activity that promotes fellowship with random acts of kindness from October through June.

Return this tear off to the basket located in Fellowship Hall by October 10 at 11:00 am to be a participant. A random drawing will take place on that day.

I would like to participate in the Picnic to Picnic, Random Act of Kindness activity.

Name _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone: _____

Three things that I would love as a surprise:

Known allergies (nuts, flowers, etc):



This is what it is all about.....

Over the last year and a half, our sense of fellowship and community has waned due Covid. Our lives have become virtual and the smallest of things that we did in the past to bring a smile to another have become fewer and further between

In an effort to rekindle the fellowship we have always felt at New Dover United Methodist Church, the Nurture Committee is inviting you to participate in a Picnic to Picnic Activity!

Your role.....

At the Church Picnic, I will have all of the names, addresses, emails and contact information you provide on the tear off attached in a basket.

Each person participating will draw a name and in the 8 months between the Church Picnic and the Strawberry Festival, your job is to provide kinship and support to that person...but shhhhhh...your identity should remain a secret until the Strawberry Festival where we will reveal our identity with a final activity. **If you are not at the Picnic, I will email you your person's information.*

Ideas for this activity...

Can you send flowers, drop off a note or a sweet treat, place a Dollar Store decoration on their lawn, or any other idea that comes your way. It need not be a financial burden to you and I encourage you to include your children if you can so they can see what a random act of kindness looks like first hand! Do one or two or do a monthly installment.....it's up to you!

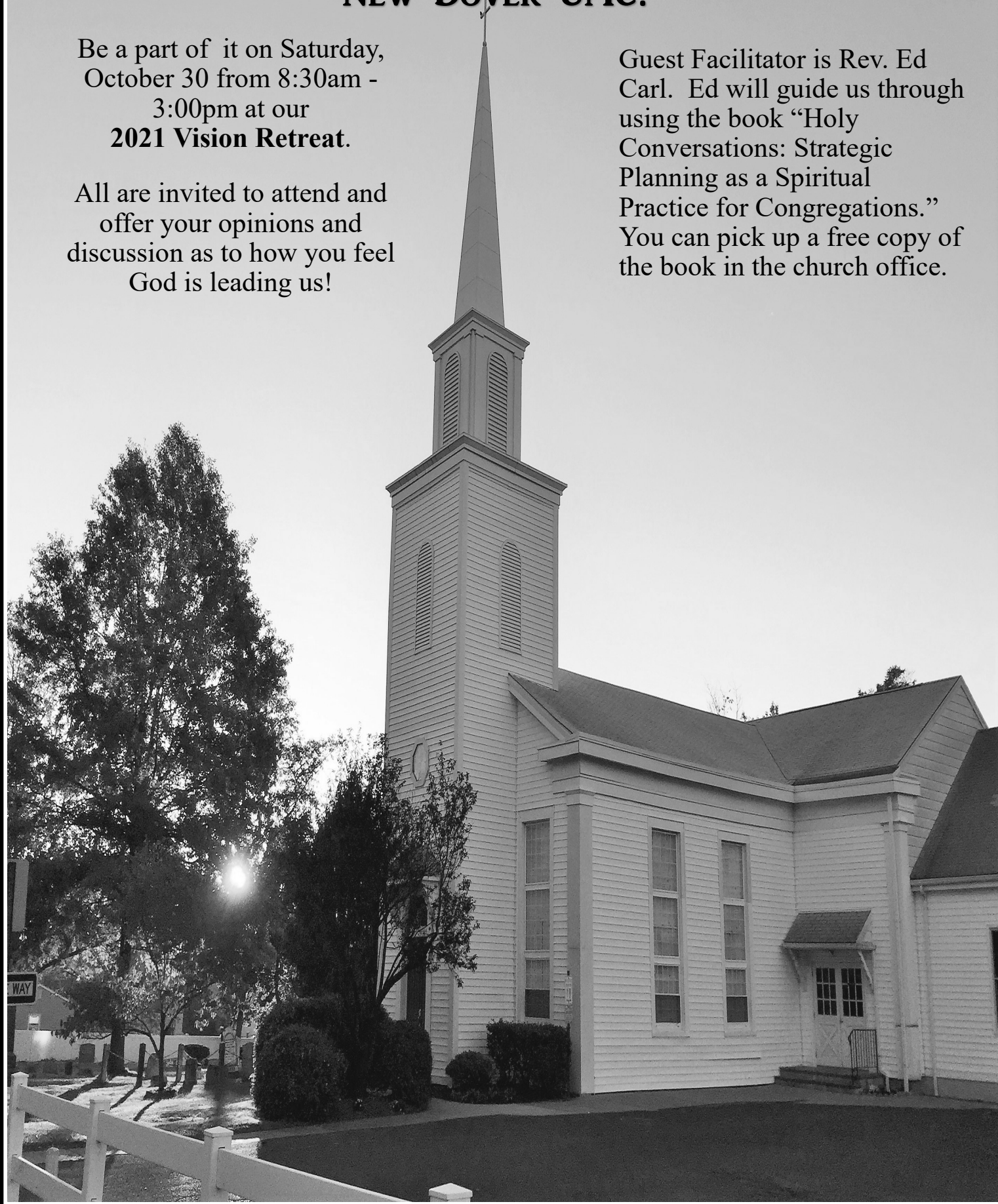
Hoping many of you will participate and that we can all start feeling the same kinship and love we have in the past. The Nurture Committee

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE AT NEW DOVER UMC?

Be a part of it on Saturday,
October 30 from 8:30am -
3:00pm at our
2021 Vision Retreat.

All are invited to attend and
offer your opinions and
discussion as to how you feel
God is leading us!

Guest Facilitator is Rev. Ed
Carl. Ed will guide us through
using the book "Holy
Conversations: Strategic
Planning as a Spiritual
Practice for Congregations."
You can pick up a free copy of
the book in the church office.



Finance News

The Finance Committee is continuing to provide financial information. The following provides the income and expenses as of August 2021. The church income includes what is provided to the church in pledge envelopes to current expense and other income sources such as building rentals, flea market and various fundraising activities. Church expenses are shown which include salaries, utilities, conference obligations and other costs to keep the church operating.

New Dover United Methodist Church Operating Fund		
	2021	
	August	Year to Date
Income	\$ 8,867.51	\$ 182,537.28
Expenses	\$ 18,124.27	\$ 210,169.83
Difference	\$ (9,256.76)	\$ (27,632.55)

UMW News

UMW MISSION PROJECT FOR THE WOMEN VETERANS OF MENLO PARK

ITEMS NEEDED:

**TOOTHPASTE & TOOTHBRUSHES
SHAMPOO, BODY WASH, TALCUM POWDER,
DEODORANT, BODY LOTIONS, CHAPSTICKS,
LIPSTICKS, NAIL POLISH & FILES,
SCARVES & JEWELRY, NOTE PAD & PENS**

THE UMW WOULD APPRECIATE ANY MONETARY DONATIONS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ITEMS THAT ARE BADLY NEEDED.

**THANK YOU FOR ANY PREVIOUS DONATIONS YOU HAVE MADE.
LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!**

****The Veteran's Home is in dire need of volunteers to assist them with their work. If you are able to help in any way, please call 732-452-4100 and ask for Christina. Tell her you are from New Dover UMC.****

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dianne Petersen or any UMW member.

October Birthdays

- 1 *Nalini Dialle*
- 2 *Charles Greve*
- 6 *Claudine De Simone*
- 7 *Lisa LaFauci-Gilmore*
- 8 *Ed Ladym*
Oliver Vyas
- 9 *Anita De Simone*
- 10 *Patrick Kingsly*
- 11 *Subhas Budala*
- 12 *Kristen Rodriguez*
- 13 *Chelsea Nyema*
- 14 *Marian Jones*
Lori Perrine
Jessica Preston
- 15 *Will Sanders*
Kyle Sanders
- 16 *JayR Manglapus*
Tyler Rademacher
- 17 *Anthony Sarno*
- 19 *Wilson Christian*
- 22 *Sunitha Reddy Thumma*
- 24 *Lulu Kamenas*
- 27 *Rachel Aludino*
Sylvia Boyd
- 29 *Marilyn Kimball*
- 30 *Anaiah Lewis*
- 31 *Victor Vilela*

October Anniversaries

- 17 *Robert & Kyle Becker*
- 21 *Jim & Peggy Silva*
- 29 *Peter & Dawn Burnett*
- 30 *Anthony & Alyssa Sarno*



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

In memory of my cousin Susan, who passed from COVID in August 2021. Let's try to be prayerful and compassionate disciples of Christ.

THE DIFFERENCE

I got up early one morning, and rushed right into the day
I had so much to accomplish, that I didn't take time to pray
Problems just tumbling about me, and heavier came each task
Why doesn't God help me, I wondered; He answered, you didn't ask.
I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on gray and bleak
I wondered why God didn't show me; He said, but you didn't seek.
I tried to come into God's presence, I used all my keys at the lock
God gently and lovingly chided, my child, you didn't knock.
I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering the day
I had so much to accomplish, that I had to take time to pray.
-Author unknown

It takes a little muscle and it takes a little grit
A little true ambition with a little bit of wit
It's not the "biggest" things that count and make the "biggest" show
It's the little things that people do that makes the old world go.
A little bit of smiling and a little sunny chat
A little bit of courage to a comrade slipping back
It's not the "biggest" things that count and make the "biggest" show
It's the little things that people do that makes the old world go.
-Anonymous



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**NEW DOVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

"A Caring Community"

