



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

November 2022

Vol. 194

A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

Chuck's Church Chat

“Thanksgiving Turkey”

George Parsons Lathrop - 1851-1898

*And already still November drapes her snowy table here.
Fetch a log, then; coax the ember; fill your hearts with old-time cheer;
Heaven be thanked for one more year, and our Thanksgiving turkey!
Welcome, brothers—all our party gathered in the homestead old!
Shake the snow off and with hearty hand-shakes drive away the cold;
Else your plate you'll hardly hold of good Thanksgiving turkey.*

Saints,

Grace to you and peace as we enter this month of gratitude and tradition!

Like many of you, over the years the Thanksgiving holiday has been perhaps the most constant day on the Coblenz family calendar. We walk out of the cold through the door and smell that aroma wafting through the house and we know, we know precisely what's going to be on the table when we sit down to feast! Like a Norman Rockwell painting, smack-dab in the middle is a big old turkey, basted brown with butter, surrounded by side-dishes that we won't need a menu to identify! Both mashed potatoes and yams, stuffing- both plain and with sausage, three gravy boats, rolls and butter, green bean casserole, and succotash (*I'll pass!*). Then there are the relative newcomers that beg for a place on our burgeoning plates - let's call them “electives”- that we may or may not push a classic dish aside to make room for. And I won't even begin to go into dessert!

Despite all that is consistent about Thanksgiving, this year will be markedly different for the Coblenz family with our dear Mom's passing. And yet, her presence will be strongly felt as we gather, just as Dad's has been, and our beloved grandparents before them. Thanksgiving is very much like All Saints Day in that regard; it is a communion of our family's Saints! Perhaps you share similar emotions when it comes to this holiday of gathering and gratitude?

November is also that time of the year when each of us take spiritual inventory regarding our giving to the church (*I know- that's a rather abrupt segue!*). As I've stated before, how much we give to New Dover depends on how we answer two simple questions:

1. How grateful am I for what God has done in my life?
2. Do I believe my church is a good steward of my offering, doing all it can to build God's Kingdom on earth?

Saints, what we do with the financial blessings we've been entrusted to by God is a great responsibility, therefore, we should each do our best to invest in those things we genuinely believe in! It is my hope that, over the years, we have been building your faith in the ministry of NDUMC as we continue to broaden and strengthen our ministry into the future!

We have certainly come a long way together. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, our Sunday School continued to grow in both numbers and enthusiasm. Our Vacation Bible School taught more children than ever. Because of our online ministry we are reaching more people than ever. Because of Bread Breakers, our Wawa partnerships, and our Food Closet, we are feeding more people than ever. Because of our response to the war in Ukraine and the numerous climate change disasters we are helping more people than ever. And because of our ongoing partnership with Christian Medical College in India, we are healing more people than ever! Heck, maybe we should change our name to “The More Than Ever United Methodist Church!”

Bottom line- this wouldn't be happening without God's constant guidance and inspiration combined with your faith, your willingness to pitch in, and your generous offerings. All I can do is paraphrase the words of Jesus from Matthew 25: “Well done good and faithful servants!”

Saints, like the gatherings we will all hopefully experience this holiday, may our shared ministry be the blessed tie that binds us in Christian service and fellowship, and may we sense the presence, inspiration, and love of all those Saints who have gone before us, building a spiritual legacy and laying the faith foundation for what we

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Chuck



KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz
Debbie Ladym
Earlette Butterfield
Brian Richards
Kyle Becker
Service men & women
Veterans
Homeless, unemployed
& uninsured

All affected by Covid-19 and
their families

The People of Ukraine
Victims & their Families of
the recent 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 2022 permanent prayer list, please contact Karen Rowland at krowland648@yahoo.com

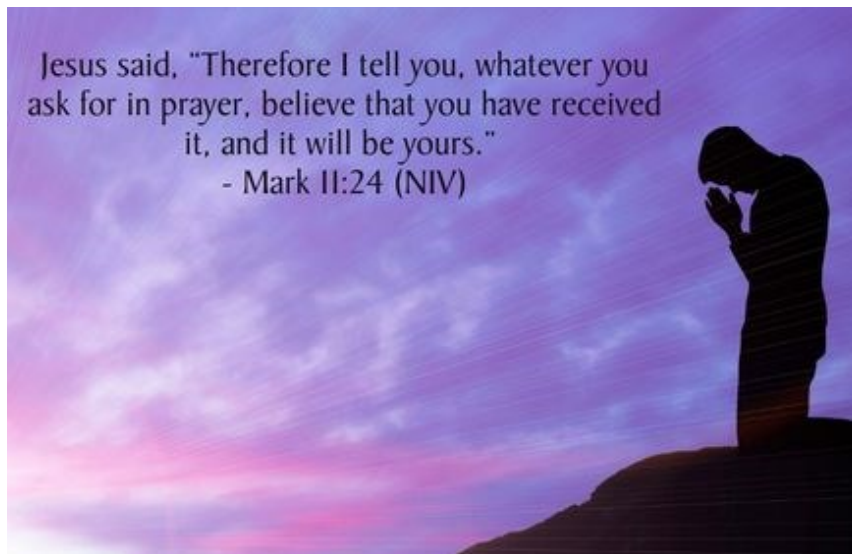
FROM YOUR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

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

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Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."
- Mark 11:24 (NIV)



SERMON OF THE MONTH

“But I’m Not Hungry!”

(Preached on Sunday, September 18, 2022)

Hebrews 5:11-14

About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

Show of hands- how many of you had parents who told you at dinnertime you had to eat everything on your plate? Okay, how many of you had parents who told you to just eat what you want? When it came to the Coblentz’ family table growing up, I, along with my brothers, were perpetually in the former category. Mom’s rules, backed up by Dad’s muscle, made it clear- eat everything on your plate or prepare for the torments of hell, meaning no dessert and go to your room! And while, *for the most part*, our Mom was an excellent cook, there are many dinners burned into my memory (pardon the pun), when there was, to put it mildly, a great deal of, let’s call it hesitation, once the food was presented.

Case in point: liver. Liver and onions was *ALWAYS* met with a protest that would make the Amtrak strike look like a small-town parade. My brothers and I could smell that nasty stuff frying up a half hour before dinner and knew at that point we were in for a dark night of the soul! Five bottles of ketchup cannot disguise the taste of that malodorous slab of blood-filtering flesh! And look, I know there are a few of you out there who, by some genetic quirk, actually love the taste of liver. Well...may God have mercy on your soul!

Another thing my brothers and I laugh about today was what we refer to as Mom’s “experimental years,” when she enrolled in a cooking class and our standard rotation of meals, was broken up by her “recipe of the week.” Introducing new meals into the rotation was met with the same amount of skepticism and dread as a blind date. Through these culinary newcomers, Mom started introducing a few French and Scandinavian words into our vocabulary and we were having none of it!

Bottom line, no matter what Mom cooked up and placed before us, rules were rules and they would be enforced. So whenever one of the “questionable meals” was served up, my brothers and I were forced into a decision: was getting to dessert worth wolfing down what was in front of us? If it turned out eating the meal would be torture unto pain of death, we had an expression we would employ in a vain attempt to get out of it. Maybe some of you have used it as well?

That phrase, given through the most painful looking grimace we could muster, was simply, “*But I’m not hungry!*”

Problem was, “*But I’m not hungry*” rarely meant what the words implied. Hunger really had nothing to do with it. Come dinner time my brothers and I were *always* hungry! “*But I’m not hungry*” had more to do with what was for dinner than what wasn’t in our stomachs. Heck, even if somehow we weren’t hungry we’d never employ that expression if it was spaghetti or meat loaf or sauerkraut and sausage being served! Always found room for them! But if what was placed before us was either unknown, nasty looking, or, based on previous experience, just plain awful, chances are Mom would be hearing, “*But I’m not hungry!*”

Now all you out there who were never ordered to eat everything on your plate are probably getting a good snicker out of this, but I’ll tell you what, it made men out of us! You know the expression- spare the liver spoil the child!

But enough about liver; you’re not here for a culinary expose’; let’s talk about the Bible?

We all ought to be pretty aware that food is frequently a metaphor for something much more powerful. In Deuteronomy 8:3 Moses tells the Israelites, “...*one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*” That’s a passage so important that Jesus quoted it to Satan when he was tempted in the wilderness. So Saints, here’s a very serious question that demands an answer- **how hungry are YOU when it comes to the Word of God?**

There are literally dozens of passages describing how God, just like our Moms, is always ready to feed us rich portions of his **Word!**

Psalm 107:9- *For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.*
Proverbs 2:6- *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;*
Jeremiah 3:15- *I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.*
Daniel 2:21- *...he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.*
I Corinthians 12:8- *To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit...*
Matthew 6:11 - *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Heck, we even go so far as to call one of our most beloved devotionals “Our Daily Bread,” right? You see, God is constantly cooking up some serious scriptural food to put before us on the table, and like our parents, all God asks is that we clean our plate. Seems like a reasonable request. But Saints, are there not far too many self-professed Christians who, rather than dig voraciously into the Word, stare at it for a minute make a face, then tell God, “But I’m not hungry?” When offered the bread of the Word, they simply get up from the table, walk away, and the food goes cold. And Saints, that pretty much describes what the writer of Hebrews was experiencing 2,000 years ago! There were a lot of first century Christians who simply weren’t cleaning their plates. They had become a “*But I’m not hungry*” church, and the epistle writer didn’t pull any punches when he confronted them with their apparent lack of appetite!

So what about this book we call “Hebrews?” New Testament scholar, Alexander C Purdy, once called the Epistle to the Hebrews “*the least known of the major New Testament writings.*”

For one thing, we don’t know who the author was; he never tells us. Scholars are pretty much in agreement that, even though it addresses similar themes, it was not written by the Apostle Paul.

Anyone else would be just a guess, so the identity of the writer is lost to the centuries. We’re also not sure about the audience for whom Hebrews was written. We don’t know who they were or where they were either! What we do know, based on the epistle itself, is that the community being addressed had some serious commitment issues when it came to their faith!

The problem wasn’t that they were heretical. They weren’t engaged in any blasphemous or idolatrous behaviors. No, the great sin the writer identifies was simply that they weren’t hungry for the Gospel! They had, in the words of the writer, “... **become dull in understanding.**” In other words, they were losing it in terms of their comprehension of the Gospel. And notice he says they “*have BECOME dull,*” implying that at one time they must have been pretty sharp!

At one time they really knew their stuff. But like a knife left to rust, they’ve lost their edge!

And a dull knife is pretty much a useless utensil.

The writer is openly disappointed in the flock because he expected so much more from them. He tells them...*for though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach YOU again the basic elements of the oracles of God. Yeah, they needed to go back to school.*

But don’t expect to jump right in where you’ve left off, he tells them! You’re credits have long since expired! Yeah, they need to re-enroll in Gospel 101 because whatever knowledge they had at one time has been lost.

Next the writer uses, you guessed it, a food metaphor, to explain exactly what they need:

You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, IS UNSKILLED IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. Oh smack! They are so far gone they’ve even lost the ability to tell right from wrong! And once they fail to comprehend the righteousness of God, they’re forced to rely on others to tell them what’s righteous and what isn’t, what’s true and what’s a lie. And when that happens, once God’s word loses its edge, they become vulnerable to any movement professing to represent the true gospel. No matter how far from Jesus’ actual teaching it strays. *Why? Because they’ve become “...unskilled in the word of righteousness!”*

Such lethargic, indifferent, apathetic, baby-milk Christians, who have let God know they’re “not hungry” for the solid food of the Word, clearly don’t have what it takes to teach, because as Hebrews states, “...***solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.***”

Saints, do you agree that there are few passages in all of scripture that more accurately describe **the current state** of the Christian Church? We live in a nation with far too many milk-fed Christians, and far too few Christians who can handle the solid food. Let's face it, there are millions of Christians, in this country alone, who have been attending church their whole lives and aren't even weaned yet! How do we know this? Because it's evident that, like the congregation addressed by Hebrews, they've forgotten "**the basic elements of the oracles of God.**" They've even lost the capacity to "**distinguish good from evil.**" There are two possibilities: they are either ignorant of, or choose to ignore, the basic tenets of our faith. Things we should know by heart, like:

- ⇒ In the Kingdom of God, there are no walls; all are welcome.
- ⇒ That because we are, each of us, made in God's image, it's downright evil to use poverty-stricken immigrants pawns for political gain.
- ⇒ That because "**the love of money is the root of all evil,**" no amount of economic gain justifies breaking every commandment in the book in order to achieve it.
- ⇒ That "**blessed are the peacemakers**" means that hatred and violence against those who think differently, or believe differently, or vote differently, is never justified.

How could this happen to the Church? ***We are supposed to and expected to know better!*** Maybe it's because we became dull in our understanding. Perhaps it's because whenever God puts the good food on the table, far too many of us tell God we just aren't hungry? But don't lose hope, because, as is always the case with God, there's hope, should we choose to live out our faith...

Here at "The New Dover Café" we offer a variety of delectable dishes of God's Solid Word served up hot!

- ⇒ We have Sunday School classes for youth and adults.
- ⇒ We have Bible Study that meets on Friday evenings.
- ⇒ We have Hot Topics that meets twice every week.
- ⇒ We have our Wednesday morning prayer gathering.
- ⇒ We have the United Methodist Women who meet monthly.
- ⇒ We have "Disconnect to Connect" that meets at 1:00 every Saturday afternoon.

What an outstanding menu, right? Something for everyone! But here's the thing- unlike my parents, God doesn't force us to eat everything on our plate; we always have the choice to either dig in or tell God, "But I'm not hungry," and get up from the table. It's up to each one of us, isn't it?

And that's the question I leave you to ask yourself this morning- ***HOW HUNGRY ARE YOU?***

UPCOMING HOLIDAY DATES TO REMEMBER

November 22	Thanksgiving Service
November 27	1st Sunday of Advent
December 4	Stars for Charity Auction & Luncheon
December 18	Cantata
December 24	Christmas Eve Services 7pm & 11pm
December 25	Christmas Day Service 10:15am

Going to Ignite was an eye-opening experience. I have never been to a Christian conference before and this one was for the youth, and I am so on board for empowering our youth. The ride was wet and cloudy, but the traffic was great and so was the Company... Sophia, Suzanne, Sharon, and Jaqueline in my car, Paulette, Rosie, Declan in another. Lina, Jia and Ashwin came together on this trip.

There were some great things about the conference... Our group got together well, we mingled with Wesley UMC youth group at night at the hotel, the speakers were inspirational, and the Praise band was phenomenal.

And even though the services were awesome, I can't say that about the workshops. The decorations were a little disappointing, but that just inspired our crew to get involved for next year to see if some of our suggestions might improve **Ignite** and inspire our youth to catch the spirit and get involved.

Rosie and Stephanie





STARS FOR CHARITY is a volunteer group of artists who use their skills and individual styles to transform a 5" WOODEN STAR into fine art. The stars are then auctioned on Ebay. Any remaining stars will be sold at a live auction. 100% of the proceeds go to an agreed-on charity. Last year we donated to two New Jersey food-based nonprofits - "Bread-Breakers" of New Dover United Methodist Church in Edison, and Community Food Bank of Hillside which supplies food pantries all around NJ. Together we provided 13,000 meals for the needy. This year we aim to triple it to 40,000 with the aim of expanding into PA and NY.

Please help us support our food deprived neighbors with the power of your art. **Return your finished star by November 20th to:**

Stars For Charity
c/o New Dover United Methodist Church
687 New Dover Road
Edison, NJ 08820
Attention: William Bunting

You may create more than one if you desire. The more stars, the better. **PLEASE INCLUDE A SHORT BIO.**

Then watch the stars come out in December on the official Ebay website:

[new_dover_umc](https://www.ebay.com/str/new_dover_umc)

Please consider Stars for Charity so **YOUR** talent can become an agent for change.



Contact Bill Bunting at buntingart@yahoo.com or contact the church office for stars.

Online auction is from November 25-December 10 at our E-bay store: [New_dover_umc](https://www.ebay.com/str/new_dover_umc). Church Auction/luncheon is December 4th after service.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Dear Members and Friends...two announcements:

- 1. The greeting card ministry boxes will be set up in Fellowship Hall beginning Nov. 26. If you wish to send cards to anyone at New Dover without the cost of stamps, drop your cards in the box and they will be ready for pick-up the following week until January 1, 2023.**
- 2. The directory will be updated in January 2023; if you need to make changes to your contact information, please let me know by then. Anita Davis
marblesandmayhem@outlook.com**

ENCOURAGING OTHERS

1. Learn people's "love languages," the special ways they communicate and understand love. In his book, The Five Love Languages, Gary Chapman explains that not everyone's emotional needs are met in the same way, and that it's important to learn to adapt ourselves to their needs. The five love languages are: words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch.
2. If an encouraging thought comes to mind, share it! Don't let shyness hold you back. It may not have the same effect if you wait. Form a new habit: *Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today"* (Hebrews 3:13).
3. When you introduce someone, add a few words of praise for their abilities and accomplishments. You could also share how they've helped you or what is the nature of your relationship. It encourages people to be praised in front of others.
4. When someone is discouraged or hurting, offer specific, practical help. If you ask, "How can I help?" the person might be at a loss to answer. It's better to ask, "Would it help if I..." or say, "I would like to..."
5. Send a note. Although most communication is more and more digital today, there's still nothing like receiving a hand-written note in the mail.
6. Let people know that you're praying for them. Tell them what you're praying for them. One idea is to pray specific Scriptures for individuals according to their needs. For instance, you could base a prayer for someone who is suffering on Romans 15:13: "[I pray that] the God of hope [will] fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
7. Make celebration a more regular part of your relationships. Celebrate one another's victories, large and small, with a note, coffee together, a special meal, a congratulatory phone call, or just a high-five!
8. Be specific when you offer words of praise; it makes your encouragement more credible and concrete: "You did a great job at...", "I really appreciate that you...", "I was really impressed when you..."

(Part 2 in December)

The church has learned that a former member, Irene Brown, has passed away. Irene was 94 years old. She lived on W. Francis St. in Iselin. Irene and her mother, Mary Ellen Fielding, were neighbors of Connie Thomas. They suggested that Connie come to New Dover with her family and as they say "the rest is history". Please keep her family in your prayers.

November Birthdays

2 *Lisa Chesney*
4 *Kyle Becker*
Rex Parmar
5 *Karoline Tuason*
9 *Sammy Gadekar*
Timothy Lindner
12 *Dan Mizak*
15 *Emma Burleigh*
18 *Diana Bennett*
19 *Matt Murante*
20 *Sandra De Alwis*
22 *Sarah Castro*
Agnes Kingsly
24 *Robin Christian*
27 *Emma Patrimonio*
Nancy Preston
28 *Helen Burleigh*
Sam Harland
Landon Owsiany

November Anniversaries

5 *Melissa & Michael Owsiany*
12 *Wendy & Lawrence Castlegrant*
19 *Lina & Ashwin Katthula*
22 *Stephanie & Brian Rademacher*
24 *Meghan & Victor Vilela*
26 *Vicki & Chester Aludino*
30 *Samantha & Zachary Nocciolo*



CLOTHING DRIVE

The Outreach Committee is having a fall/winter clothing drive. We are collecting NEW women and men's adult-sized hats, scarves and/or gloves. They will be donated to the Group Home #1, located right here on New Dover Road, which is sponsored by the NJ Institute for Disabilities. Check out their website - **NJID.ORG**. Any extra accessories will be distributed to other group homes throughout our area. We will be collecting items through December 11. Please look for the donation box in Fellowship Hall. Can you please consider buying, knitting or crocheting an item for someone in need? Any questions, contact JoAnn Lettieri at 908-296-9177.



Thanksgiving food baskets will be distributed on November 20th. If you know someone who could use a helping hand this year, fill out a request form that can be found on the church office door.

Items needed are turkeys, boxed/canned potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned vegetable, pie fillings, cake mixes, etc.

The Finance Committee is continuing to provide financial information. The following provides the income and expenses as of August 2022. 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		
	2022	
	August	Year to Date
Income	\$ 28,537.80	\$ 223,437.33
Expenses	\$ (21,968.75)	\$ (251,714.80)
Difference	\$ 6,569.05	\$ (28,277.47)

Coming Soon

Poinsettia Sale

Watch for details in the bulletin
and emails



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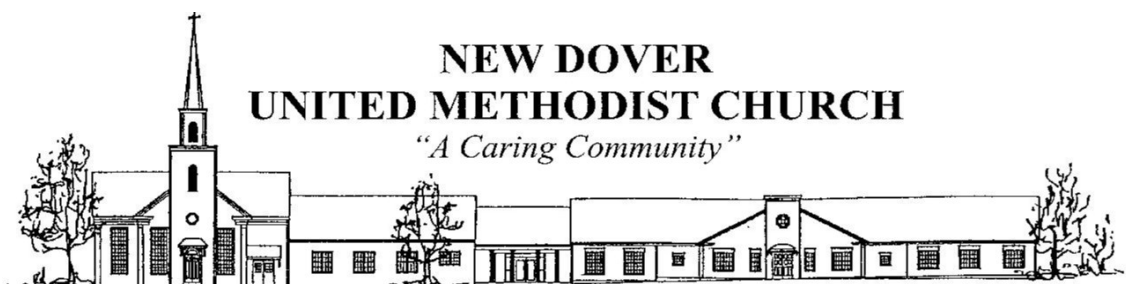
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**NEW DOVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
"A Caring Community"

