

# NEW DOVER HERALD

January 2018

Holiness unto the Lord

Vol. 141

## Highlights

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welcome  
January

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation:  
old things have passed away;  
behold, all things have become new.

2 Cor. 5:17

## CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you, peace, and Happy New Year!

Well, once again I'm writing the New Year edition of the "Chat" in the middle of December (Trish has a deadline that I must adhere to... or else!) so once again I have no idea how the second half of December has gone. I do want to lift up the incredible Interfaith Thanksgiving Service we hosted last month featuring clergy and choirs from neighboring churches, synagogues and mosques- what a celebration of our diverse community! Everyone who attended, and there were many, felt transformed by the service. At our Sunday services we lit the first candles of the Advent wreath, marking our journey to Bethlehem, and following worship on the 10<sup>th</sup> we had a sumptuous pot-luck lunch followed by an amazing Christmas Pageant!

You may recall that last year I published my first New Dover UMC New Year's Resolutions. I resolved that we invite at least one friend and/or neighbor to church each week, and so many of you made that a reality! It's great to see so many new faces in church. Well, it's a new year, So here my NDUMC resolutions for 2018:

- ♦ **Resolved that we fill the sanctuary for Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo on January 20!** At a meeting in November the Social Justice Task Force made up their minds to bring in a powerful and persuasive voice to kick off a series of guest speakers who will inspire us to get off the pews and make a genuine difference in the world. Who better than the legendary Tony Campolo to kick this off?! For decades he has traveled the nation and world, proclaiming the Gospel and calling believers to live out the message and ministry of Jesus Christ. ***YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!*** Invite your friends, relatives, and anybody within earshot- this will be a historic day at New Dover!
- ♦ **Resolved that we come out for an exciting new Bible Study: Hot Topics- A New Look at the 10 Commandments.** For eleven weeks starting January 22 we will employ modern scholarship, power point, video, and lively discussions to examine the history, influence, and modern understanding of this document, so foundational to our faith. Classes will be coordinated with a sermon series on the Commandments throughout the eleven weeks. Hot Topics will take place on Monday mornings at 10:30 and ***Tuesday*** nights at 7:00 (***Note that we're changing the evening class to accommodate those who have had a hard time making Thursday nights.***)
- ♦ **Resolved that we get our long-planned Coffee House up and running!** Do you know we have an incredible space with all kinds of potential?!

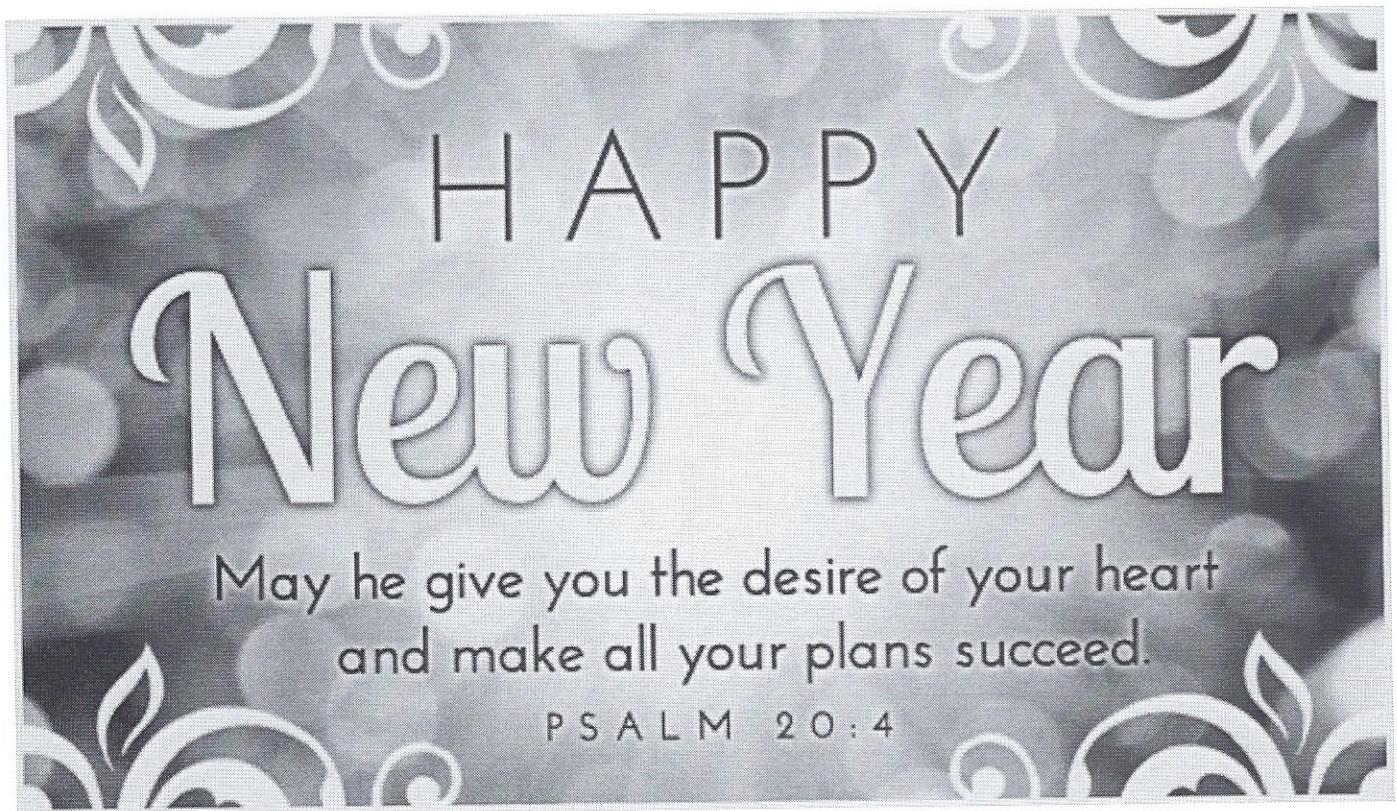
Let's make up our minds to tap that potential by hosting a regular coffee house (monthly? weekly?) in our Fellowship Hall. Besides offering fellowship among church members, coffee house ministries have proven to be a tried and true way to get more unchurched neighbors into the church. What we need is someone to step up and take it on- develop programs, activities, etc. *Are you the one called?* Let me know!

Okay Saints, given how busy we are at "*this festive time of the year*" that's all I got for now. Of course there are many more challenges ahead in 2018, and many more things that you yourself are passionate about as well. Love to hear all about them! In the meantime, Happy New Year from Jean, me, Marconi, Mikey, and the parsonage cat herd!

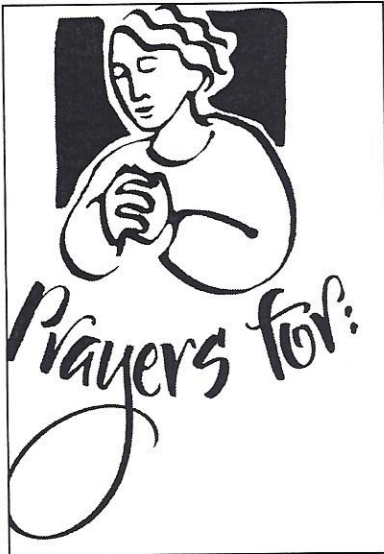
Your servant in Christ,

*Chuck*

Rev. Chuck Coblentz



# KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Bob Meckler & Family  
Manny DeLaPaz & Family  
Spencer Kolb  
Christine Rowland  
David Santos & Parents  
Nayan Vyas & Family  
Robert Rozmus  
Shirley Heidersberger  
Christine & Judy Tymitz

America  
Christians of India  
Marion Jones  
LuLu Kamenas  
Hedy & Tony  
Calvin Christian  
Doug Sargent  
NDUMC Missionaries  
Pat Carpenter

Dianne Petersen

**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.

To activate the prayer chain contact Nancy Preston @732-381-1205  
or Anita Davis @732-815-0597

## ***New Email Addresses***

***Beginning on January 8, 2018,  
the church email  
address will be:***

***Admin@newdoverumc.org  
(no hyphen)***

***Rev. Chuck will now have his  
own email address:***

***Pastor@newdoverumc.org***

***The church website is:***

***www.newdoverumc.org***

## ***SAVE THE DATES***

- Jan 14*      *Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service @New Hope Baptist Church, Metuchen, NJ at 3pm.*
- Jan 20*      *Worship with Tony Campolo 10a-2p*
- Jan 22*      *Hot Topics Begins 10:30am*
- Jan 23*      *Hot Topics 7:00pm*
- Jan 28*      *Confirmation Class Begins*



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# SERMON OF THE MONTH

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## *"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"*

Isaiah 42:5-9; Luke 2:21-35

Preached January 15, 2017

Several years ago a teacher who tutored children in a large city hospital, received a routine call requesting that she visit a particular child. She took the boy's name and room number and was told by the teacher on the other end of the line, *"We're studying nouns and adverbs in this class now. I'd be grateful if you could help him with his homework so he doesn't fall behind the others."* It wasn't until the visiting teacher got inside the boy's room that she realized it was located in the hospital's burn unit. No one had prepared her to find the boy horribly burned and in great pain. She felt that she couldn't just turn and walk out, so she awkwardly stammered, *"I'm the hospital tutor, and your teacher asked me to help you with nouns and adverbs."* The next morning a nurse on the burn unit stopped her in the hall and asked, *"What did you do to that boy?"* She started to stammer an apology, but the nurse interrupted her: *"Hold on, hold on, you don't understand. We've been very worried about him, but ever since you came yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back, responding to treatment... It's as though he's made up his mind to live."* Later on the boy explained that he had given up hope until he saw that teacher. It all changed when he realized one thing: *"They wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?"* Without even realizing it, the teacher in the hospital became the embodiment of hope for a boy in the shadow of utter despair.

Just as a hospital wouldn't send a tutor to teach a dying child, 2,000 years ago a man named Simeon knew that the Lord would not send a Messiah to a dying nation. He realized that the newborn before him was more than an infant waiting to grow to maturity; this child of Mary and Joseph embodied hope itself. The first genuine hope Israel had received in centuries. And like the shepherds of Bethlehem, Simeon, no one special in terms of wealth, power, or status, would be chosen by God to witness this hope in the flesh. So how did it come that he would have such a divine encounter?

It all started because Jesus was born a Jew, and like all Jewish children he was bound to follow the law. So, after eight days, Jesus was circumcised according to the ancient covenant forged between God and Abraham. And there, he was given the name Jesus, as the angel had instructed Mary nine months before. "Jesus" or "*Jeshua*," is the Greek form of the Hebrew *Joshua*, and means "*The Lord is salvation*". Thirty-three days after the circumcision, Mary, Joseph and Jesus were required to come to the Temple in Jerusalem for the ritual of purification.

Here all firstborn males were designated as holy to the Lord, and a sacrifice was offered.

According to law, it was to be a lamb, but for poor people two doves or two pigeons sufficed.

That Joseph and Mary offered only the pair of doves or pigeons is one of the strongest pieces of evidence in scripture that Jesus was born into poverty.

As the young family awaited their turn at the altar, an elderly man entered the Temple, a man who years ago had been promised something, a man who had been waiting his whole life for that promise to be fulfilled. And now, finally, upon seeing the infant Jesus he knew his journey come to an end. Simeon had lived in Jerusalem all his life. He had seen the once proud and powerful nation of Israel fall into the hands of the pagan Romans; he had witnessed many of the religious leaders of Israel sell out their faith, collaborating with Rome for prestige and power, and he wondered when, if ever, Israel would rise from these ashes to become a nation of priests delivering God's messages to the world. But when it came to faith in Israel's future, Simeon had more than most.

You see, earlier in his life, Simeon had been granted a revelation from on high, an *epiphany* if you will. It was revealed to him that the long awaited Messiah, promised by God to redeem Israel would be born in his lifetime, and incredibly, it was also prophesied that Simeon himself would not die until he had *seen* this blessed child with his own two eyes. Simeon, nothing special in earthly terms, just an average Joe, would himself behold the Christ of God.

So Simeon clung to that promise all his life, but now he was far up in years, and he wondered whether God would keep the promise. Still he held onto his faith, until a day that dawned like every other day, until the Spirit guided him to the Temple. And there, at long last, he beheld the answer to his prayers, the prophecy fulfilled. Not only was he privileged to gaze upon the child, but he picked him up, and held him in his trembling hands! And Simeon realized the great gift the child fulfills in all who see him for who he is: HOPE. Hope that conquers all anxiety and fear; hope that shines light into the darkness, hope that defeats all suffering and despair; hope that triumphs even in the face of death.

Simeon never lived to see what Jesus would do once we grew in stature and wisdom, but that didn't matter because for him the future of Israel was no longer immersed in shadow. No longer would decency and compassion yield to corruption and prejudice. No longer would the outcasts and the exiles feel abandoned. No longer would the

blind remain blind and the lame remain lame. Finally, hope has been delivered in swaddling cloths and the victory would ultimately be won, because fear and despair lose all their power once we believe in hope.

Saints, over the centuries this very same hope has accomplished miraculous things in the world. Time and again it's redeemed nations and cultures who had strayed far into the darkness. Hope continues to achieve such things now, continually turning us toward the light, even when the looming shadows threaten to envelope us completely. Hope has the power to transform bad people into good people and good people into great people.

Saints, when we come to believe that God's victory is at hand such hope gives rise to brave words and braver deeds that defy despair and pessimism that so often rear their ugly heads. Words and deeds that boldly challenge any politician or government that elevates the rich and powerful while demeaning the disenfranchised and destitute. Words and deeds that take on anyone who would rather line the pockets of campaign donors than offer healthcare to the poor and powerless. Words and deeds that let the world know that we who walk in the footsteps of Jesus of Nazareth will not and cannot stand by while pundits fan the flames of fear and racism.

On April 4th, 1968, one good man made great by faith witnessed of his encounter with hope and the vision of God's impending victory that had been revealed to him. His speech echoed the words of Simeon's upon beholding the Christ child. Simeon said, "*Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace...for my eyes have seen your salvation...*" Nineteen centuries later, looking out over a congregation of people pursuing a dream of justice, Dr. Martin Luther King fearlessly echoed that testimony when he prophesied,

*"There are difficult days ahead, but it really doesn't matter with me now because I've been to the mountain top...Like anybody, I would like to live a long life...but I'm not concerned with that now...I just want to do God's will! And he's allowed me to go to the mountain and I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you but I want you to know, tonight, that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy tonight, I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man! 'Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!'"*

Dr. King was assassinated the very next day at the age of 39. But like Simeon before him, he didn't pass from this earth until he had seen a bold vision of hope fulfilled in Christ. Once he witnessed that hope, nothing, nothing, *nothing* in this world could disillusion him any longer, Martin Luther King would never live to see many of the strides this country made in terms of race relations; he would never live to see a person of color elected President of the United States, but that didn't matter because for him the Promised Land of racial equality was no longer immersed in shadow. Even something as cold and unfeeling as an assassin's bullet could not blot out the vision of freedom he had witnessed from that mountaintop. Like Simeon, King knew that despite the struggle that remained, victory, God's victory, was at hand! You see Saints, once the Promised Land has been revealed, once the future bursts clearly into view free from the fog of doubt, unbound from fear and despair, well what else is there to do but take up our cross and start marching!

All people of faith bask in a living hope that enables us to tower above the heartache, pain, and pessimism of this world, believing in a brighter tomorrow. The promise of the Christ child is more than a suspicion that things will be fine in the end- it is a power that transforms us

from apathy to empathy, from lethargy to action, from defeatism to victory. Faith in Jesus and all he stands for releases us from the limited expectations of our mortal lives so that from then on like Dr. King, we "*just wanna do God's will.*"

But what about those of us who have yet to actually experience the presence of Christ?

Who yet walk the earth in fear and timidity? Who yet fear for the future? Who believe we are heading backward, not forward when it come to building God's Kingdom? Who may find themselves in situations similar to Simeon's before that day in the Temple. Who may have heard of the promised Christ; who may have been told that they would one day experience his presence? Time marched on, days into weeks, and months into years, but still no experience of the hoped for Messiah, without which they feel bound by the limitations of our mortal natures, and the bookend finality of death. Simeon's promise from God was fulfilled, but what of God's promise to us? Where can WE meet the one who was promised to deliver us? This child, this source of ultimate hope? Well, no surprise- usually in the same place Simeon found him!

Today's gospel lesson tells us that the Spirit guided Simeon into where? The Temple, and it was there he beheld the child of hope. So too this day has the Spirit guided us here, to this temple, this sanctuary, that Christ may be presented to us this very morning through the words of scripture, and the proclamation of the Gospel. Here is where he is. We come to this temple to find the promise fulfilled; we come to this temple to find love in all its power; we come to this temple to experience HOPE, hope that can only arise from the presence of the Lord. Here, like Simeon so many centuries ago, we can take the living Word of God into our arms and our hearts. Here we regain the hope that brings us victory; and here we loose the chains that hold us back.

Saints we know there is still much work to be done before the Promised Land, the Kingdom of God is fulfilled; so many challenges remain. But like Simeon, all we need do is allow the Spirit to guide us onward. And like the church of Dr. King's last sermon let us leave this temple with his words of hope ringing in our ears: "*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!*"

**NDUMC Social Justice Task Force Presents**

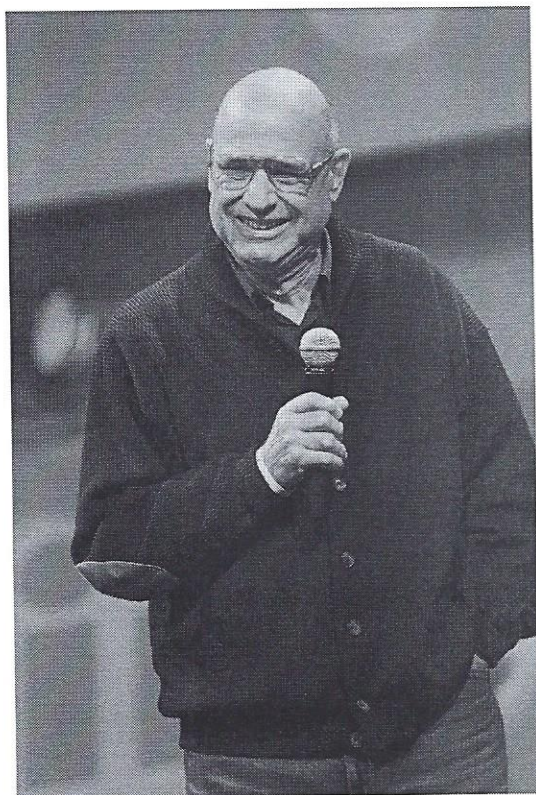
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**DR. TONY CAMPOLO**  
***THY KINGDOM COME:***  
***JESUS AND JUSTICE***

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**NEW DOVER UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
687 New Dover Road  
Edison, NJ 08820  
newdoverumc.org**

**(No Charge- A Free Will Offering  
Will be Taken)**

**Contact: 732-381-9478  
admin@newdover-umc.org  
We're on Facebook**

**<https://tonycampolo.org/>**

**JANUARY 20, 2018**

**10-11:30 Praise & Worship**

**11:30-1:00 Small group discussion over lunch**

**1:00-1:30 Closing Worship**

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***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

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## FINANCE

The Finance Committee is continuing to provide financial information. The following provides the income and expenses as of October 2017. 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		
	2017	
	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 26,697.27	\$ 220,312.81
Expenses	\$ (23,206.77)	\$ (218,452.19)
Difference	\$ 3,490.50	\$ 1,860.62

## TRUSTEES

Dear Congregation,

2017 was a great year at New Dover United Methodist Church. We accomplished many things, but not without all of you. I believe the whole congregation is a trustee of the church, not just the elected ones.

Even though I am stepping down as President, I remain a member of the Board. It has been my great pleasure to serve you for the last 5 years.

In His Service,

Brian Richards

## MEMBERSHIP BLOG

This first blog of the New Year begins with the service of November 19, 2017, which focused on missions. Service began with the presentation of Bibles to three of our youth, with the command to use them often and wear them out! The Scriptures for the day were from James 2:1-8 and 2:14-18. In place of the sermon, the DR mission crew (Paulette H., Jenn O. and Mya M.) talked and presented a video about their most recent trip to that country. Jenn noted it was her first time there, and that the family friendly atmosphere reminded her of her childhood. Mya, having been there 3 times, discussed the warmth of the people and making lifelong friendships with them. Paulette related the trials of the people, yet how they continue to support each other and have faith in God. She also mentioned specifics of their work there, followed by a video. Thanks to each of you for keeping us connected with God's children in another part of the world; we are all one family! On the Tuesday immediately following, New Dover hosted an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service, which was well-attended by over 120 congregants from a variety of denominations. It was a service of song and Scripture, including voices of several choirs, with readings from the Old and New Testament and the Qu'ran. The sermon was given by the Imam Farhan Siddiqi; he noted in his message that giving is not limited to things, but also prayer, love and support for others. We must first initiate change in ourselves, then be accountable for initiating change in the world. The next weekend was the last one in November. The Sat. praise service included a rousing rendition of "Jingle Bell Rock" to bring in the season. On Sunday, the Scriptures for the day were from Exodus 25:1-9 and Matthew 6:19-21. On the topic of financial stewardship, Rev. Chuck talked about the prosperity gospel-the mistaken idea that if we are good Christians in our giving, we are guaranteed financial blessings from God. He noted that this gospel promotes giving which benefits us and uses God as a cosmic bell-hop. We need to ask ourselves how grateful we are for Christ's sacrifice and how much we are willing to sacrifice for the kingdom. Are we living people but dead Christians? Do we understand Jesus' message but can't bring ourselves to follow it? Let's be honest with ourselves.

December services began with the first Sunday in Advent (also Communion Sunday). The first Advent candle was lit with accompanying liturgy. Four new members were received into the church. The Scripture for the day was Isaiah 52:7-10. Our pastor discussed the Israelites and their difficulty in following God with faith and trust. They realized their failings and prepared for God's wrath. To their surprise, he sends them Jesus to offer grace, forgiveness, hope and love. Through Jesus we are offered redemption rather than despair. Our closing hymn, "Watchman Tell Us of the Night" reminded us of the peace and promise brought by the birth of Jesus. The next weekend, our first snowy one of the season, the Praise service included a sermon on the journey to Bethlehem; are we living the journey or compromising our Christianity? The band finished the service with "Let It Snow". On Sunday our youth not only participated in the Advent litany, but presented their lessons learned in Sunday School. The 10 AM service was followed by a pot luck luncheon and time of fellowship. That in turn was followed by the annual Christmas pageant, coordinated adroitly by Mary Jane Manglapus. Thanks to everyone who helped make the weekend a joyful one!





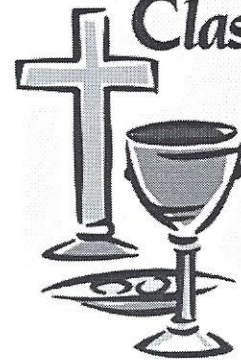
## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Classes begin January 28, 2018.

Confirmation is May 20th.

If your child or someone you know age 12 and up is interested, please contact Rev. Chuck for more information.

## Confirmation Class



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD & OTHER MISSIONS

### *Thankful and Joyful*

We are so thankful for 102 Gospel Opportunities that our New Dover family supplied to Operation Christmas Child! Even more so for the donations throughout the year that enabled the helpful hands for our packing party to make 35 more shoe boxes.

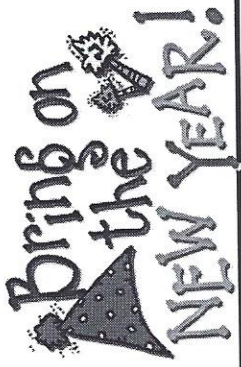
We are blessed to have our faithful volunteer keep our Drop Off center open to receive 1147 shoe boxes for the week! Thank you so much for Herb Petersen, Anita Davis, Janet & Poncho Greve, Korissa Semmens, Jake & Jesse Donnelly, Mike & Bryant Baidowsky and Brian Richards and his RV to help deliver some of the 75 cartons of shoe boxes!

Our efforts helped to fill three tractor trailers at Evangel Church sending 17,147 shoe boxes to spread the love of Jesus and the word of God to children all over the world.

We are tracking some of those shoe boxes and in the next few months, we should receive emails regarding which countries they were sent to.

Your gifts reach far and wide and help many. We have sent \$500.00 to the Houston Food Bank in response to the dire need after Hurricane Harvey. In addition, \$3,122.00 was sent to UMCOR for Harvey disaster relief in Texas and \$2,618.00 sent to UMCOR for Hurricane Maria disaster relief in Puerto Rico.

We have much to be thankful for and know that with the blessings that we receive, we in turn are blessing others.



# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (FH)	3 10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00-8:00pm Karate (W)	4 7:30 AA	6	6 10:00-11:00am Karate (W) 1:00-4:00pm Kids for Christ (W) 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8 Tehgu Service 7:30 AA & Al Anon
7 Epiphany Sunday 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship & Church School 11:15 Choir Practice 11:45 Bell Choir Practices 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 4:00 Youth Group 5:00-7:00 Tehgu Service	8 7:00 Nurture	9 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (FH)	10 10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00-8:00pm Karate (W)	11 7:30 AA	12	13 10:00-11:00am Karate (W) 1:00-4:00pm Kids for Christ (W) 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8 Tehgu Service 7:30 AA & Al Anon
14 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship & Church School 11:15 Choir Practice 11:45 Bell Choir Practices 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 3:00 M.L.K. Jr. Memorial Service 4:00 Youth Group 5:00-7:00 Tehgu Service 6:30 Girl Scouts	15 Martin Luther King Jr Office closed	16 Herald Articles due 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (FH)	17 10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00-8:00pm Karate (W) 7:00 Worship Team	18 7:30 AA	19 7pm CS #318	20 10am-2:00 pm Worship w/Tony Campolo 10:00-11:00am Karate (W) 1:00-4:00pm Kids for Christ (W) 6:30-8 Tehgu Service 7:30 AA & Al Anon
21 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship & Church School 11:15 Choir Practice 11:45 Bell Choir Practices 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 4:00 Youth Group 5:00-7:00 Tehgu Service 6:30 Girl Scouts	22 10:00 Herald Team 10:30 Hot Topics 7:00 Ad Council 7:30 Boy Scout Troop 44 (6)	23 7:00pm Hot Topics 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (FH)	24 10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00-8:00pm Karate (W)	25 7:30 AA	26	27 10:00-11:00am Karate (W) 1:00-4:00pm Kids for Christ (W) 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8 Tehgu Service 7:30 AA & Al Anon
28 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship & Church School 11:15 Choir Practice 11:30 Confirmation Class Begins 11:45 Bell Choir Practices 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 4:00 Youth Group 5:00-7:00 Tehgu Service 6:30 Girl Scouts	29	30	31			