



# THE NEW DOVER HERALD

March 2021

Vol. 176

*A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church*

## CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

*" To think to know the country and not know  
The hillside on the day the sun lets go  
Ten million silver lizards out of snow!  
As often as I've seen it done before  
I can't pretend to tell the way it's done.  
It looks as if some magic of the sun  
Lifted the rug that bred them on the floor  
And the light breaking on them made them run."  
-from "A Hillside Thaw"  
by Robert Frost*



Saints,

Grace to you and peace from the midst of the deep snow and long ice-o-lation of winter 2021. Like the good poet Frost we all hope to experience a similar hillside thaw; am I right?! As if the pandemic didn't make us feel isolated enough along comes two feet of snow on February 1<sup>st</sup> followed by another six inches a few days later. Hopefully by the time you read this (around three weeks after it was written) the first crocuses and daffodils are beginning to push their way through the frozen ground to the sunlight. Oh, and a whole lot of you have either had your vaccination or are scheduled to do so!

I've been thinking a lot lately about what church is going to look like in the months ahead. It's been so long since I looked out from the pulpit to see your smiling faces that I almost forget what it's like! We had a Worship Committee meeting this week and that topic invited a lot of interesting comments and ideas. We all agreed that we've come a long way since last March 15<sup>th</sup> when I sat all alone on a stool in the sanctuary and streamed out a Sunday morning message from my iPhone.

One year later, while keeping things as COVID-free as we can, we've made significant improvements to our Saturday night and Sunday morning services. In addition to a wide variety of soloists, readers, and preachers, Grace has played with the same skill and energy as she does when you are all in attendance. Kyle Sanders, Anita Davis, Brian Chesney, and the Manglapuses have led praise on Saturday nights. Rosie has picked up where Davidson left off, preaching monthly and helping out with the technology every Saturday and Sunday. Kyle Becker has made sure our altar beautifully reflects the church season we're in. Karen Rowland has worked behind the scenes to lead the Worship Committee, line up liturgists and coordinate communion. From August to November Omar Sanders and others made sure the stage, sound system, and camera were set up in the parking lot, and then taken down after the service. And finally, since Christmas Eve we've had a great crew, chiefly Jim Dalton, Aiden O'Rourke, Rhea, JayR, and Krisel Manglapus, working with our new sound and video equipment set up in the newly cleaned and renovated balcony (thanks Trustees!). Many of you have told me how much better our broadcasts have been since we got things up and running!

As exciting as that is, the big news, as far as worship is concerned, is that this month our sanctuary will be totally repaired and repainted! In fact it all should be completed by the time you read this. This was only possible because of the work of the Trustees and your donations to the “Miracles and More” financial campaign that is still ongoing. Because we still have more vital projects on the menu, please take the time to respond to the letter that was sent out and give as you feel led. Once we can safely enter won’t it be great to experience worship with a bright and beautifully revamped sanctuary!

In the meantime what can we expect as the temperatures warm and the rules regarding COVID are loosened up? Well, first of all the Worship Committee unanimously agreed to hold an outdoor service on Easter Sunday, April 4, and won’t it be fantastic to celebrate the resurrection in one another’s company! And this year, because Easter falls on the first Sunday, we will also celebrate Holy Communion! Of course, this will depend on the weather (*uh oh, not again!*), but hopefully we’ll all be able to gather once again in the parking lot and sing our hymns so the whole neighborhood can hear us! More good news- we are planning to go back to weekly outdoor services starting in May and lasting until the weather turns cold next fall or the virus restrictions are lifted, whatever comes first!

However this turns out we will continue to livestream our services every week. I don’t know if you’ve noticed but our virtual pews now extend all around the state, country and world as you have shared our broadcasts with family members and friends- great job! I love hearing from former church members, old friends, and some of my former Pennington School students telling me how much they are enjoying our services. Many of them have become part of our dedicated virtual congregation so we don’t want to lose them!

Finally, I want to close by lifting up the life, faith, and dedication of Evelyn Millard who passed into glory last month after decades of discipleship at New Dover. On my very first visit to Edison, when I sat down for my initial interview with the Staff Parish Committee, I was told that of all the church members whose test I would need to pass, the most important was Evelyn’s! Since then, her steady presence at the 8:30 service was one of the most reliable sights I beheld from the pulpit. Did someone forget to light the altar candles? Evelyn would either let them know or light them herself! Is the sound not loud enough? Evelyn would let me know! Did an usher not show up? Evelyn would fill in! Did my sermon not make much sense? Well... you get the picture! We will all miss her service, her intelligence, and her “ornery” grin as she and Evan welcomed us to church each week! As with all the faithful Saints, her example will continue to shine in the years ahead.

*“Well done, good and faithful servant...”*

**Chuck**

**Change**

*“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” - Frederick Douglass*

# KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Boyce Family  
Judy Tymitz  
Pat & Brian & Family  
Parkhill Family  
Manny & Nora De La Paz  
Debbie Ladym  
Cindy Bonito  
Cancer patients  
Robin & Carolyn DeCicco

Tonya Burleigh  
Victor Vilela  
Service men & women  
Veterans  
Homeless, unemployed  
&uninsured  
All affected by Covid-19 and  
their families  
Children with Autism

All Elderly of NDUMC  
Rose DeLand  
Herb Petersen  
Greve family  
Jean Fletcher  
Anna Franklin  
Joanette Hunt&family

**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.**

The permanent prayer list will be forthcoming in April. If you wish to add anyone to the 2021 permanent prayer list, please contact Pat Carpenter 732-208-0139 [pcarp732@gmail.com](mailto:pcarp732@gmail.com)

*Do Not Worry  
-George MacDonald*

*It has been well said that no man ever sank under the burden of the day. It is when tomorrow's burden is added to the burden of today that the weight is more than a man can bear. Never load yourselves so, my friends. If you find yourselves so loaded, at least remember this; it is your own doing, not God's. He begs you to leave the future to Him, and mind the present.*

## In This Issue:

- Chuck's Church Chat
- Keep Us in Your Prayers
- Sermon of the Month
- Finance News
- March Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Trustee News
- Bread Breakers
- Membership Corner



# SERMON OF THE MONTH

## “Are We There Yet? No We’re Not”

Sermon preached on Sunday, January 31, 2021

### Proverbs 29:20, 14:29, 15:18, 16:32, 21:5 and Romans 8:18-25

Saints, patience is a virtue. Our Catholic friends will tell us that expression goes back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Patience is one in a list of seven virtues that oppose the seven deadly sins that first appeared in an epic poem titled “Psychomachia,” or “Battle of the Soul.” It describes the conflict between opposites: good virtues verses evil vices. Every deadly sin has an opposing virtue, and the opposing sin of patience is wrath. So the opposite of patience would not only be impatience; it would also be anger! But the teaching of patience as a good quality to possess goes back much further than the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The Bible has many passages that tout patience, and just as many that warn against angry impatience.

The Book of Proverbs contains numerous examples where patience is presented as a noble trait:

*“Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding;” “Those who are slow to anger calm contention;” “One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and one whose temper is controlled than one who captures a city;” “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance...”*

On the other hand, impatience is always seen in a negative light in Proverbs:

*“Do you see someone who is hasty in speech? There is more hope for a fool than for anyone like that;” “...one who has a hasty temper exalts folly;” “...those who are hot-tempered stir up strife;” “...everyone who is hasty comes only to want.”*

Biblically speaking, patience is consistently seen as a virtue. While impatience? Eh...not so much! Now they say some people are born with the gift of patience, but I sort of doubt it, don’t you? When’s the last time you saw a patient baby? Maybe my experience is limited but I don’t believe your average garden-variety new-born exhibits a ton of patience. Am I right? Quite the opposite. Baby wants its milk now! Baby wants its Mommy now! Baby wants its diaper changed...well, you get the picture. Heck, if a new-born baby displayed patience we might think there’s something wrong with them!

*“Hello, is this the Dr. Howard’s office? Yes, I’d like to make a appointment for Junior.”*

*“I see, and what’s the problem?”*

*“Well, he’s way to polite for a two week old.”*

No, patience is not our strong suit as we enter life. It’s something we acquire as we navigate our way through the years, and admittedly, some people have proven to be better at acquiring it than others. Growing up in the Coblenz family was in and of itself an exercise in patience. To this day I don’t know how my parents did it. Raising three head-strong boys would test anyone’s patience, right?? No event illustrated this circumstance better than our legendary cross-country trip to California. My Dad had an IBM conference to attend in Santa Barbara and thought it would be a *fantastic* idea to make it a grand family adventure. I was 9 years old, Paul was 7, and Harry was 18 months when we piled into our ’66 Buick station wagon, backed out of driveway, and pointed the car west. When I said piled in I meant it. Harry rode strapped into one of the very first car seats manufactured, but Paul and I rode the entire 3,000 miles loose in the back of the wagon; no seat belts needed back then because *we weren’t sissies!* Beginning the first day, Dad would tell us what we would be seeing on our way west and we would get all excited. But for boys who had never traveled a lot beyond a 20-mile radius of Quinton, New Jersey, the distance between stops was daunting, and we would get antsy. Starting about halfway across Pennsylvania the cry emanated from the back of the station wagon-“*Are we there yet?*” “*No we’re not,*” would be the reply from the front. This scene would repeat itself every few minutes or so until Dad had enough and would give us that furl-

brow stare from the rear-view mirror, elevate his voice, and if our whining persisted, threaten to pull of the car to administer the appropriate disciplinary procedures to his impatient spawn. Believe me, by the time we made it to the Grand Canyon Paul and I had both learned the value of patience!

So where is this going, you might ask? Well, I know I'm being Captain Obvious when I tell you that we are currently living in a nation where patience is in short supply, and saints, that's not a good thing! Even before the pandemic hit our average attention span had shrunk below that of a gnat, but then came COVID. When the virus first showed up we were told by more than a few politicians and pundits that it was no big deal, that it was just a few cases; nothing to see here! That it was no worse than the typical flu. We were told that it would magically disappear when the temperatures warmed up in the spring. Bottom line, no need to spend a lot of time on it. But then, as the virus persisted into the summer and the numbers of sick and dying went up and up our patience was tested. We were given deadline after deadline as to when the outbreak would come to an end so we could get back to our "normal" lives. Then, when the numbers began to head down toward the end of summer, despite what the scientists were predicting, we were told it would not come back in the fall. And so on and so on.

In the meantime the majority of us were doing all we could to bring an end to the pandemic. We wore our masks. We socially distanced. We stopped going out. We didn't gather together as we normally did for the holidays. But while most of us were doing what the doctors ordered, there's been a vocal minority who have refused not only to believe in the measures needed to combat the virus (*something about taking away their freedom*); heck, some a lot of them don't even believe there is a virus. Others believe that if they just pray hard enough the virus will either just disappear, or their faith will make them immune. And you can thank a lot of TV mega-church preachers for that failed theology. And so now the numbers are as high as they've ever been, and our patience, which was already being tested, is now paper thin.

So the question is simply this what does the Bible teach us about how to handle a crisis? How are we to act as Christians in the face of such challenges? What role does patience play as we continue to navigate this viral wilderness? For that we turn to the Apostle Paul and some words he wrote to the church in Rome. A church that was going through a crisis that dwarfed even our own.

If you were one of the early followers of Jesus patience was a virtue you could not do without. Many of the church leaders, including Paul, preached that Jesus would be returning in the very near future, maybe even that day, and so the seeds of expectation were planted in the hearts of believers. In the meantime those same believers were being beset from all angles. They were booted from their synagogues. Their belief in Jesus as the divine messiah split their families down the middle. And because they refused to worship the Emperor and other Roman deities they were outcast from society, and severely persecuted for their belief. The Romans often made their executions a public spectacle to set an example to others who might walk a similar path. The earliest letter that we have of Paul's, I Thessalonians, deals with complaints from many in the church about the delay of Jesus' return. They had been told by Paul that it would be any day now, so where was he? In the meantime friends and family members were dying and so they asked Paul if that meant they wouldn't participate in the great day of resurrection.

Paul's response was an attempt to alleviate those fears and encourage them to be patient in the face of their fears: *"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died."*

He then backtracks a bit on his earlier prediction of Jesus imminent return: *"Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night....So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night."*

This delay in Jesus' Parousia in tension with the persecution the church was enduring, was something Paul was forced to deal with throughout his ministry, and this morning's passage from Romans is a perfect example. Here Paul ties hope to patience, and what he writes to the first century church dealing with persecution is written to those of us dealing with the COVID pandemic as well. He said, *"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God... We know that the whole creation*

*has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”*

Now, I'm a guy, therefore I will not have the “joy” of experiencing childbirth! But childbirth is what Paul is comparing this waiting to. Childbirth, *from what I've heard(!)*, is painful. But the hope is that you will have a healthy baby when it's over and that's what carries you through this pain. Paul was describing what the church was going through at that time as labor pains, but that which we hope for is coming, and the hope will be realized in Jesus' return.

Hope for Paul is always about something we cannot yet see, but believe will happen. One of my favorite professors at seminary was Christian Beker who wrote a definitive biography of Paul. He himself was an escapee from a concentration camp in Holland in World War II, and it was a horrendous experience, but it was hope that kept him alive, and a lot of that hope he received from Paul's writing. He taught that, for Paul, hope is about endurance, patience and waiting, that the Spirit gives us the endurance to wait for the redemption of our bodies, and boy can we ever apply that to our current situation! Paul taught that without patience hope will never be realized. Those Christians in the early church who lost patience simply left the church, meaning they also left the hope that the Christian faith promised.

And you know we cannot separate that which is spiritual from that which is physical when it comes to what we're going through. Those of us who have hope, that we will get through this but it's going to take effort, need to maintain our patience or we not get to the other side. Those who are getting sick and dying in greater numbers are those who have lost patience. Those who are not masking up, who are not social distancing, and the statistics bear this out.

Patience IS a virtue. The next time you're feeling impatient see it for what it is- it is really about a lack of faith! Our faith gives us patience and calls on us to listen to our modern day “prophets” who know what they're talking about. Listen to those who are qualified to tell us how to handle this pandemic; it's going to take a while. We are still in labor pangs but we know the vaccinations are coming; we know we can see the end of this. But if we're going to make it to the end we need to be patient.

I'm going to close with another passage from Paul that really take patience to the next level, and it's one you've heard time and again much like you may have heard Romans 8 time and again! It's from I Corinthians 13, and in it the first adjective Paul uses to describe love is what? Patient! He writes, *“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”*

Paul ties patience to love, in addition to tying it to faith and hope. It is what makes us who we are as Christians. As Christians our nature is to be patient, is to wait with patient endurance for that which our hope promises. Ultimately, that's what this is all about. If you're an impatient person it's not too late; pray for patience. Realize how tied it is to your faith and to your hope. Do we really believe that God is with us? Then we, like the early church, can patiently await that which God promises us.

The pandemic is still raging, but we know it will come to an end. Like my brother and I screamed from the back of the station wagon, *“Are we there yet?”* No, no we're not, but **we will get there**. Keep the faith, keep the hope, and above all, be patient.





## Finance News

The Finance Committee is continuing to provide financial information. The following provides the income and expenses as of December 2020. 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		
	2020	
	December	Year to Date
Income	\$ 36,060.12	\$ 258,404.93
Expenses	\$ 18,094.68	\$ 288,256.15
Difference	\$ 17,965.44	\$ (29,851.22)

## *March Birthdays*

- 4 Sharon Gray
- 8 Steven Castlegrant
- 10 Danny Mizak  
Bolton Nyema
- 13 Abraham Jacob Katkar  
Salins Paul
- 14 Christopher Sanders
- 17 Dawn Preston-Burnett
- 19 Jean Fletcher
- 20 Peter Burnett  
Lindsay Yascko
- 22 Alyssa Sarno
- 31 Cecil Parmar

## *March Anniversaries*

- 2 John & Marilyn Kimball
- 9 Ruzwalt & Nilpa Khristi
- 30 Wilson & Jesmina Christian





## TRUSTEE NEWS

**Our sanctuary is changing for the better! The tarps are down and the scaffolding is up, and spackling and painting are in progress.**



**Work began on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 and will be completed in a couple of weeks. When it is finished, new blinds will be installed to complete the makeover.**

**God has called on us to donate for this work, and we have answered the call. A big thank you to Jeff Rowland for coordinating this project.**



# BREAD BREAKERS FOOD MINISTRY

<p><b>MISSION STATEMENT :</b> To provide food, clothing, and services for the homeless population and families in crisis that are in need of temporary help.</p> <p><b>OUR GOAL IS TO SERVE :</b> Help individuals and low income families to become independent and self sufficient. Our longterm goal is to provide educational programs, computer classes, and hot meals weekly to help individuals lift themselves out of poverty.</p> <p>BIANCA F.L.O.W.E.R.S. is dedicated in helping those in need to live a quality life style and ultimately giving back to the community.</p>  <p><b>General Support Services(Weekly and Quarterly):</b> Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, General Veteran Support, Inspiring Mentoring, and Art 101.</p> 	<p><b>BIANCA</b> <b>F.L.O.W.E.R.S., INC.</b> (Faith Lives On With Each Receiving &amp; Serving) 501 © 3 Non-Profit Organization</p> <p>BIANCA F.L.O.W.E.R.S. INC. is an organization that was started in memory of our lovely daughter Bianca A. Closs. She was truly a blessing from God.</p>  <p>Using the Word of God and His Resources To Water and Harvest the Souls of those in need.</p> <p><b>Food Pantry Family Center</b></p> <p>Founder &amp; Organizer: Linda M. Closs Director: Tonia Evans P.O. Box # 328 Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076 E-mail: clossda@aol.com</p>	<p><b>BIANCA</b> <b>F.L.O.W.E.R.S., INC.</b> (Faith Lives On With Each Receiving &amp; Serving) 501 © 3 Non-Profit Organization</p>  <p>PASTA RICE CEREALS PEAS SOUPS CLOTHES BEANS</p> <p>ENCOURAGED-STRENGTHENED EMPOWERED</p> <p><b>Food Pantry Family Center</b></p> <p>Founder &amp; Organizer: Linda M. Closs Cell No. : 908.507.4118 Website: www.biancaflowersinc.com E-mail: clossda@aol.com</p>
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**Bianca F.L.O.W.E.R.S. (Faith Lives On With Each Receiving and Serving), Inc. is also partnering with us to bring food and other items to those in need.**

**Thank you to Brian Richards for coordinating all these efforts with our New Dover Bread Breakers food ministry**

**We have some new partners in our fight against hunger! The Ray of Hope team comes in on Sunday mornings to make sandwiches and pack lunches to send over to Plainfield.**



**On Sunday, February 14, they made 380 sandwiches, packed 190 lunches, brought in 100 pairs of socks and a crate full of bananas! Thank you to our new friends who help make our food mission so successful!**

## **MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

### **Moving Toward Social Justice: Questions to Spur Self-Reflection and Discussion**

What is oppression (e.g. racism, sexism, classism) and what are its causes?

What are the factors that create an imbalance of power within a culture?

Is it ever necessary to question the status quo? Why or why not? When is it appropriate to challenge the beliefs or values of society?

What is privilege and what are your privileges?

What is social justice and what are your responsibilities to support it?

What does power have to do with fairness and justice? Do we have choices concerning fairness and justice?

What allows some individuals to take a stand against prejudice/oppression while others choose to participate in it?

What does it mean to be harmed by stereotypes or to be a member of a subordinated group?

When should an individual or a group take a stand against what he/she/they believe to be an injustice in opposition to an individual and/or larger group?

What do you view as the most effective ways to take a stand against injustices?

What are the benefits and consequences of questioning and challenging social order?

How does conflict lead to change?



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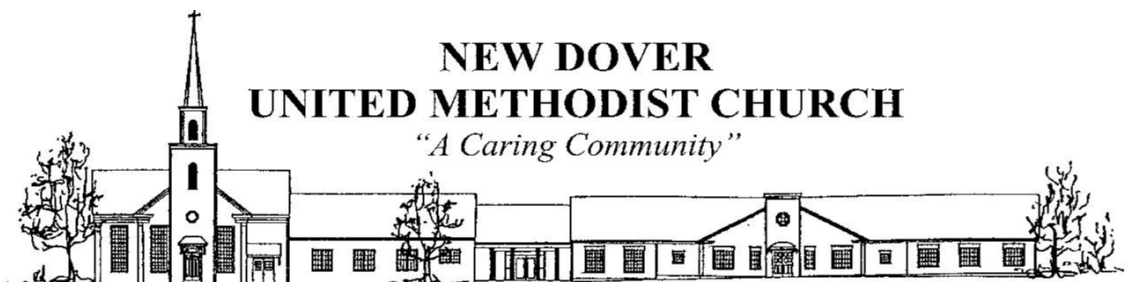
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# NEW DOVER UNITED METHODIST HERALD

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

Dear Friends, This has been a strange time for all of us. We are concerned about each other's health and well being. It means rethinking traditions that we have for the holidays. Unfortunately, we cannot have our usual lily sale for the Easter season. However it is an opportunity to rethink how we celebrate and remember our loved ones this season. We have set up a way for you to donate to one of several missions that we support here at New Dover and dedicate the donation. Please see the form.

Thank you and God Bless you this Easter season!

Lisa Gilmore



**Easter Lilies & Memorials**

In light of our situation with COVID 19. We are asking that instead of purchasing a lily plant this holiday season that a donation be made to either the Memorial Fund, the Endowment Fund, Miracles and More or the Food Ministry. You may choose your amount or make your gift the same amount as a lily (\$8) with a dedication. Please fill in the form and drop off at the office or mail it to New Dover.

**Order deadline: March 21, 2021**

Please make checks payable to New Dover UMC

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Food Bank:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Miracles and More: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please print all information below

In Honor of:

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In Memory of:

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