



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

April 2020

Vol. 166

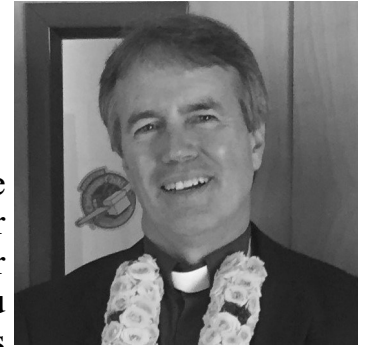
A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you, peace...

Normally at this time of the year I would be excited to write you about our upcoming Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter services. I would be telling you all about how joyful and successful our "Rise Against Hunger" event was. I would be sharing good news with you about our Sunday School, Youth Group, UMW, Bible Studies, Hot Topics class, and on and on. *But these are strange times we live in.*



As I'm writing this on Friday, the 13th (yikes!) of March there's no way to predict what the situation will be by the time you receive this edition of "The Herald." Things are changing from hour to hour, let alone day to day. Right now the Covid-19 Corona Virus is poised to wreak havoc and I'm praying that the measures we have taken as a nation and as a church have done much to curtail its spread, but given the extremely contagious nature of the disease, that is by no means a given!

I am hoping that by the time you read this we as a church will have been there for one another. That we will have cared for our sick and shut-ins. That we will have served as an example to our neighbors on how to maintain faith in the teeth of fear. That we will have devoted ourselves to our ongoing ministries, such as delivering Wawa sandwiches to our neighbors, and maintaining our food closet stocks. That if we've had to miss church, we took the time to cultivate our spiritual lives through Lenten devotions, home Bible study, and following our services online. That we will have maintained a focused prayer life, because our prayers serve to unite us in care and mission.

These are strange times we live in, but they will pass. The Bible has dozens of examples of God's people beset with disease, famine, and plagues. The key is how they emerged from such challenges. Sometimes they withered and their faith failed them, but more often than not these crises served to unite the people in mission, as well as remind them of their utter dependence on God. And that is my hope for us, the disciples of New Dover United Methodist Church.

May God make his presence felt among us as we journey through "the valley" together, and may we be blessed with the love and support of one another along the way.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev Chuck

Rev. Chuck Coblenz

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Palm Sunday	8:30 am & 10:15 am
Maundy Thursday	7:00pm
Good Friday	7:00pm
Saturday Praise	5:00 pm
Easter Sunday	6:30 am, 8:30 am & 10:15am

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KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Boyce Family

Judy Tymitz

Tom Crouse

Bonner family

Pat & Brian & Family

Aaron Christie

Dianne & Herb Petersen

Parkhill Family

Mary Ellen Anglin

Manny & Nora De La Paz

Sandra De Alwis

Fran Livecchia

Cancer patients

Service men & women

Veterans

Homeless, unemployed

&uninsured

Evelyn Millard

Robin & Carolyn DeCicco

Liam Dalton

Calvin Christian

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.

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

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

(1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.

(2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.

(3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.

(4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.

(5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.

(6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

SERMON OF THE MONTH

“The Only Good Samaritan...”

Preached on Sunday, March 8, 2020

Luke 10:25-37

We love this parable don't we?! And we love us some Samaritans, right?! We want to be just like this guy! Ever since we were kids in Sunday school we've held in our hearts the image of this man bending down to bandage the wounds of the bruised and bleeding traveler, then gently lifting him up, setting him on his donkey and bringing him to the inn, where he gave the innkeeper two days pay for room and board. So well-known and beloved is this story that whenever we 21st century Christians hear the term “Samaritan,” we get all warm and fuzzy, filled with nothing but positive feelings. Heck, our government even passed “*Good Samaritan*” laws to give legal protection to people who, like the guy in the parable, give assistance to those who are injured, ill, or in peril.

♪ Like a good neighbor, Samaritan is there! ♪

But Saints, here's the thing- if we sentimentalize to the point where we view the Samaritan in the story with nothing but love and admiration we gut the parable of its power. Like so many of the other parables that Jesus employed, this one has a number of different meanings and levels of meanings. On the surface it's Jesus' answer to a lawyer who quizzed him, “*And who is my neighbor?*” And of course it's an example of what to do whenever we see someone in desperate need. But if we can step back into 1st century Palestine, we'll observe something bigger going on, much bigger.

Before we do that, maybe it would be a good idea to ask ourselves “*What's a Samaritan?*” And why did Jesus choose to make a Samaritan the hero of his story? You know, Jesus himself never called this parable “The Good Samaritan.” Aside from the fact that Jesus never gave titles to any of his parables, I doubt that's the title he would have used. Why not? Seems like a perfectly apropos title to us, right? Heck, it's been called that for centuries. Maybe it's because Jesus believed that calling it “The Good Samaritan” might lead his listeners to assume he believed that all the other Samaritans were not so “good.” That a so-called “good Samaritan” was a rare, if not unique, human being. That wasn't true, but it turns out most Jews at that time actually felt that way! Why?

The Jews of Judea and the Galilee despised and distrusted anyone who lived in the hilly country between them known as Samaria. So great was their contempt that Jews in transit between Judea and Galilee usually went way out of their way to avoid having to interact with the loathsome Samaritans! So for Jesus to characterize a Samaritan, any Samaritan, as a good person was to buck the overwhelming cultural prejudice that existed at the time.

But of course that's precisely why Jesus made a Samaritan the focus of this story! Making the hero a Samaritan gave the parable a plot twist that put the majority of his listeners' teeth on edge, but it also gave the parable it's dramatic and lasting influence. If we want to tap into the true power of the parable we need to put ourselves in the place of Jesus' original listeners so we can sense the bitter enmity they held for their Samaritan neighbors. And once we begin our exploration the first

thing we'll realize is that this whole thing started as a rivalry between competing religious sects. In fact, check this out- *the Samaritans considered themselves the true Jews!* How is that?

Well, the story begins with the civil war following the death of Solomon that split Israel into a northern and a southern kingdom. Nine centuries before Jesus, Omri, an Israelite king, purchased a hilltop from a man named *Shemer* and there he built his capital. "*Shermer*" is the root of the name Samaria. When the Assyrians conquered Northern Israel in 721 they named their new province Samaria, after the capital city. Another thing the Assyrians did was exile around 27,000 Jews from Samaria and bring in people from neighboring provinces to colonize Samaria. This influx of foreigners brought with it an influx of pagan gods, but around 300 years before Jesus a segment of Jewish Samaritans erected a temple to Yahweh on Mount Gerizim, and it was their descendants who were the Samaritans we encounter in the New Testament. Much to the chagrin of the Jews of the Galilee and Judea these Samaritans considered themselves the true Jews. In fact they were much more religiously conservative, considering only the five books of the Torah as sacred scripture.

Over the centuries the religious rivalry between the Judean and Galilean Jews and the Samaritan Jews showed itself in numerous ways. Following their return from Babylonian exile, the Judean Jews refused to allow any Samaritans to participate in the rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple. They constantly argued over whether the temple on Mount Gerizim or the Temple in Jerusalem was the true center of Jewish worship. In fact, despite their shared heritage, Judean Jews regarded Samaritans as foreigners, and as such they were forbidden to worship in the Jerusalem Temple! As a protest, in year 9 of the Common Era, during Passover, Samaritan men desecrated the Temple by scattering human bones throughout its halls and porticos! As you might imagine that didn't go over very well! Other than the ruling Romans, Samaritans were public enemy number one to the crowd listening to Jesus tell this parable. In his essay "Lost in Non-Translation," the great biochemist and science fiction author Isaac Asimov argued that to the Jews of the time there were no good Samaritans; in his view, this was half the point of the parable. Once we can grasp that we will begin to sense the power of Jesus parable.

So this was the atmosphere fueled mainly by the religious and political leaders who constantly rabble-raised the population into believing that *the only good Samaritan was a dead Samaritan.*

Of course these were only words, and we all know "*sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!*" right? But when a population is constantly subjected to such hate-fueled rhetoric, eventually somebody will take it upon themselves to do something about it. Some impressionable person will look for an excuse to put these hate-filled words into concrete action. And in the year 50 CE, that's exactly what happened.

In his monumental book "The History of the Jews," the 1st century historian Josephus, described what can happen when the propaganda of political and religious leaders enflames the masses. At a village called Gema, which lies in the great plain of Samaria, a Galilean on his way to a festival in Jerusalem was found murdered. Outraged, a mob from the Galilee gathered to set things right with the Samaritans, and they were soon joined by another angry horde coming up from Jerusalem. A man named Eleazar ben Deinai incited them to attack the Samaritans living in villages to the south of Shechem. And they massacred every man, woman, and child sparing no one, and burned their villages to the ground.

It happened in the year 50. But that could never happen here, right? We would never allow our rhetoric and propaganda drive us to hateful action, would we?

On May 31 and June 1, 1921, mobs of white residents launched a savage attack on the Black residents and businesses of the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The massacre began after a 19-year-old black man was accused of assaulting a 17-year-old white woman. The onslaught, carried

out on the ground and also from private aircraft, destroyed more than 35 square blocks of what was then called “Black Wall Street.” More than 800 people were admitted to area hospitals. Officially 36 black men, women, and children were declared dead, but the American Red Cross declined to provide the actual number. That incident didn’t happen on the plains of Samaria in the 1st century; it happened here, in America, in the 20th.

But we say come on, that was 1921, it can’t happen in our day and age can it? No way racist propaganda would persuade an impressionable young man to shoot up the minister and members of a Black church in South Carolina after they shared the Bible with him, right? We could never conceive in this day and age that hate-speech would lead someone to attack a mosque in New Zealand and kill peaceful Muslims would we? We would never believe anti-Semitic rants might embolden someone to enter a synagogue in Pittsburgh and empty an AK47 on innocent Jews at worship, would we? We can’t imagine that anti-LGBTQ rhetoric would lead to someone walking into a nightclub in Orlando and massacring 49 American citizens, can we?

Saints, we may choose to believe that words alone could never lead such atrocities, because, after all, they’re just words, but these acts, and dozens of others like them, have occurred. And unless we learn the lesson Jesus was trying to get across in the parable of the Samaritan, spoken to a people under the unethical influence of their leaders’ rhetoric, they will keep on happening. We as Christians should always stand up to anyone who chooses to fan the flames of hatred by defining whole peoples using derogatory terms like “*rapists, murderers, drug dealers, etc.*,” because the use of such terms will inevitably lead to violent acts.

Nor should we assume someone to be a good neighbor just because he or she is a part our particular “tribe,” whatever that tribe may be. Jesus never called the man in this parable “the good Samaritan,” but neither did he call the priest, “the bad priest,” or the Levite, “the bad Levite.” That might lead people to believe all priests and Levites were bad! Instead, when the lawyer asks “*And who is my neighbor?*” Jesus directed him to look at their **actions**, and not what particular “tribe” they belonged to. And Saints, this amazing parable implores us to do the same thing. In an age when the rhetoric of fear-driven politics and racial prejudice drive us toward segregation and tribalism, Jesus story about a simple act of mercy reminds us that ultimately it is our actions alone that mark our character as well as the character of our neighbor.





NEXT GENERATION

SUMMER CAMPS

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

2019 CAMPING PROGRAMS

Fine Arts Camp: Camp Inspire | 5th – 10th Grade | July 22 – 27

A week of creativity and performance! Join us as we celebrate the gifts God has given us. Campers will have the opportunity to participate in a music, theater, or photography & video track during this week of tuning into holy inspiration.

High School Camp | 9th – 12th Grade | July 29 – Aug 3

A week of connection and leadership for high school students! Campers will be given tons of opportunities to connect with God and each other while building their leadership skills and preparing for the bold future God is calling them to.

Middle School Camp | 6th – 8th Grade | Aug 5 – 10

A week of multicultural fun and discovery for middle school students! Campers will learn about the Bible, participate in special activities like soccer and STOMP and learn what it means to build bridges between different cultures.

This summer there are new opportunities for campers to express themselves each week of camp at Pinelands Center. A video kiosk will let campers record modern letters home to their loved ones, staying connected while having fun making movies. A mini-stage will be set up to serve as an open mike booth for the crooners at camp, or any stand-ups, ventriloquists or magicians in the making.

Going to camp without knowing anyone else can be intimidating, but most campers sign up individually rather than in groups or twos and threes. By the time they get cabin assignments, campers will have found their camp friends. During the week, camp is both nurturing and welcoming to all.

Camping is for everyone. Now is the time to register at www.GNJNEXTGEN.org.

SAVE THE DATE



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 13-17

9 AM - 12PM

**TAKE A RIDE ON THE ROCKY RAILWAY
AS JESUS' POWER PULLS US
THROUGH**

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will meet Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 6:30pm. After a brief meeting, our guest speaker for the evening will be Mark Sojak, a member of our church. He is a Woodbridge firefighter and he will do a presentation on fire safety. It promises to be an informative and enjoyable evening followed by our always delicious refreshments. All women and MEN are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please speak with any UMW member.

Dianne Petersen - UMW President
732-381-8688



Easter Food Baskets

Baskets will be distributed on April 5, 2020. If you know of a family in need, please complete a form that can be found on the office door and we will add them to our list.

Items needed:

7 chickens or ham
Breakfast item (cereals, oatmeal, pan cake mix)
Jam
Peanut butter
Pasta sauce
Mayonnaise
Pasta/Spaghetti
Crushed tomato or tomato paste
Cake mix or brownie mix.

Save the Date

April 5	Palm Sunday
April 8	UMW
April 9	Maundy Thursday
April 10	Good Friday
April 12	Easter
April 13	Herald Articles Due
April 20	Nurture Meeting
April 27	Ad Council



MEMBERSHIP BLOG

Our blog this month begins with the February 15 Saturday service. The congregation was fortunate to have the KFC praise band to provide music for the first half of the service. The Scripture for the day was Galatians 1:1-10. Rev. Chuck noted that Paul made a point of being called as a messenger of the true Gospel. Unless we have knowledge of the Scriptures and test any message against them, we may be following a perverted gospel. Being true to God's word and building his kingdom is more important than following the world's standards. The next Saturday Kyle S. provided the praise music, self-accompanied on the electric guitar. The Scripture for the day was Proverbs 18:17. Rev. discussed ways in which we look to confirm our own beliefs, and look to find the truth that matches our thinking. This confirmation bias polarizes people and makes it difficult to see past our own erroneous outlook. Confirmation bias killed Jesus; is it doing the same to us? When our bias is challenged, do we become the persecutors...or do we act in love?


The following weekend ended one month and began another. Saturday service was held on the 29th of February, with the New Dover praise band in attendance to provide music for the first half of the service. The Scripture for the day was Mark 1:9-13. When the spirit touched Jesus, he was compelled to go into the wilderness and know himself so as to model the ideal life for us. We also need the wilderness to examine ourselves and reflect on our calling; if we sincerely do so, we can't help but be changed. Let's find the time and willingness to surrender and change, then emerge to follow our calling. On Sunday morning, the first of March, the congregation was blessed to hear Rev. Pawan Charles from India. Not only did Rev. Charles give the sermon, he captivated us with a song on the sitar during the offering! The Scriptures for the day were 2 Samuel 18:24-33 and Luke 15:11-32 (story of the Prodigal Son). God knows what is good for us, yet we often take him and his blessings for granted until we learn his lessons for ourselves. Our transformation happens when we humbly repent and put our relationship with God above all else. Let us get back home to the Father before it's too late, and accept his forgiveness and blessings with a new heart. Thank you, Pastor Charles, for your kindness, wit and wisdom—we look forward to your return. Holy Communion at the rail followed the sermon, with both pastors serving the elements.

Just a note to all those who assisted with the second annual New Dover rummage sale—thank you, thank you, thank you! What a joy it was to work together for the kingdom. Everyone's participation was greatly appreciated and worthwhile; let's look forward to rummage 2021!

Lastly a memorial service and repast was held on February 29th to celebrate and remember the life of Joyce Olson, who had recently passed away. Joyce was a long time member of New Dover, but had been unable to attend for many years due to illness. We extend our sympathy to the entire family on their loss. Thank you Joyce for your unique view on life and for always making us smile!



April 2020

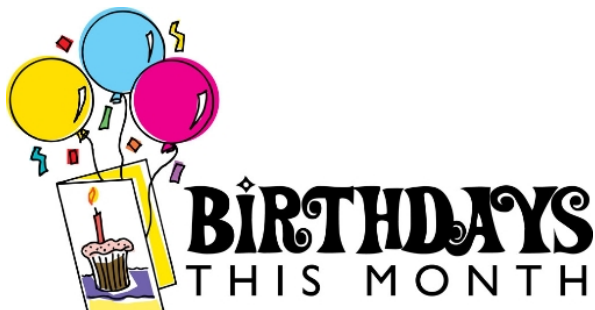
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
5 Palm Sunday 8:30 Worship 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Children Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:15 Choir Practice 11:45 Bell Choir Practices 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 4:30-6:00pm Telugu Service 4:00 Youth Group	6 10:30 Hot Topics	7 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 6:00 GS Troop 80105 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (FH)	8 10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00 Karate 6:30 UMW (FH)	9 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Worship 7:30 AA	10 Good Friday 7:00 Worship	11 10:00-11:00 Karate 1:00-4:00 Kids for Christ 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8:00 Telegu 7:30 AA & Al Anon
12 Easter Sunday 6:30 Sunrise Service 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 4:30-6:00pm Telugu Service	13 Herald Articles Due 10:30 Hot Topics	14 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (FH)	15 10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00 Karate	16 7:00 Service 7:30 AA	17 7:00CS #318 7:00 GS Troop 80005	18 10:00-11:00 Karate 1:00-4:00 Kids for Christ 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8:00 Telegu 7:30 AA & Al Anon
19 8:30 Worship 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Children Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:15 Choir Practice 11:45 Bell Choir Practices 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 4:00 Youth Group 4:30-6:00 Telugu Service	20 10:00 Herald Team 10:30 Hot Topics 7:00 Nurture Meeting	21 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 6:00 GS Troop 80105 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (FH)	22 10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00 Karate	23 7:00 Hot Topics 7:30 AA	24	25 10:00-11:00 Karate 1:00-4:00 Kids for Christ 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8:00 Telegu 7:30 AA & Al Anon
26 8:30 Worship 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Children Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:15 Choir Practice 11:45 Bell Choir Practices 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 4:00 Youth Group 4:30-6:00 Telugu Service	27 10:30 Hot Topics 7:00pm Ad Council	28 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (FH)	29 10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00 Karate	30 7:00 Hot Topics 7:30 AA		

April Birthdays

- 1 *Jonathan Lamoreaux*
Rhea Manglapus
Aiden O'Rourke
- 2 *Judith Rienzo*
Harold Shaban
- 3 *Robert Engel*
Justine Stevenson
- 5 *Angelina Budala*
Phyllis Carney
- 9 *Jennifer Fisher*
- 10 *Joanne Demler*
- 11 *Elora Fisher*
- 12 *Nicholas Castlegrant*
- 13 *Owen Gonzalez*
Ryan Greve
Helen Polese
- 14 *Douglas Rock*
Joseph Stevenson
- 15 *Krisel Manglapus*
- 16 *Swati Christian*
Jameson Tisch
- 21 *Sarita Budala*
Chang June Yoon
- 22 *Zachary Owsiany*
Ma Angelika Vedana
- 24 *June Ebbets*
- 25 *Chuck Coblantz*
Anthony Pagano
- 26 *Naomi Hunt*
- 27 *Wilfredo Manglapus*
- 29 *Judith Tymitz*

April Anniversary's

- 5 *Don & Karen Tisch*
- 9 *Ben & Patty Stevenson*
- 11 *Richard & JoAnn Lettieri*
- 13 *Brian & Mackenze Chesney*
- 16 *Timothy & Robbin Roth*



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