



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

April 2021

Vol. 177

A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace!

As I write this in the third week of March, 2021, I'm reflecting on the week one year ago when everything changed. A week that started off business-as-usual: getting the bulletin together, researching and writing the sermon, doing a couple of hospital and home visits, and teaching Hot Topics, but a week that ended with me sitting alone in the sanctuary on Sunday morning speaking to you through my iPhone, explaining our decision to shut down live worship and weekly gatherings for the next month or so, because that's about how long we thought it would take to put the Coronavirus behind us. So much for our gift of prophecy!



And I think of other lives as well- your lives- students, teachers, and administrators who suddenly couldn't attend school, the workers who couldn't go to work, individuals in support groups who could no longer meet, mothers and fathers waiting in a line around the block to enter a grocery store, only to find the shelves that once held paper towels and toilet paper stripped of product. I think of the scramble to find hand sanitizer, and a mask, any mask! I recall the confusion, the mixed messages emanating from scientists and politicians, very often at odds. That week the number of known cases in the United States stood at just 550, with no deaths reported. Yet dire warnings from the CDC and academics like Dr. Fauci were predicting disaster if we didn't take immediate, drastic steps. Some, like our church, heeded those warnings, others did not. And so the number of total cases in the US currently stands at 29,154,894 with 529,264 recorded deaths. And for many of you, the pain felt in the loss of beloved family members and friends is something no mere numbers can hope to reflect.

But here we sit, a full year later, and at last there is good news. It appears we have finally turned the corner and will witness the end of this tragic chapter. Despite the conspiracy theories, misinformation, willful ignorance, and outright lies of many, most of us have adhered to the protocols needed to stem the spread of COVID. In addition, the scientists have done their work, with a number of vaccines and treatments created, manufactured, and available to the public in astonishing time (I just had my first Pfizer shot earlier this week- piece of cake!).

So what does that mean for us going forward? Well, it's all good news! Following a live Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 on April 4th (see *ALL* of you there!) we are planning to have a massive outdoor Easter Morning Worship Service at 10 AM in the front parking lot (weather permitting, of course). So invite your friends, family members, and neighbors to come proclaim Jesus' resurrection! It will be also be triumphant to celebrate making it through what was our toughest winter in years, and I'm not just talking about the weather!

Furthermore, the Church Council with recommendations from the Worship Committee has decreed that we will begin Saturday night and Sunday morning outdoor services starting the first week in May and will continue until we are cleared to safely return to our newly renovated sanctuary. Given the recent speed that our recovery has taken, there's a chance we will be back worshipping inside before long, but that will be up to developments in controlling the virus and corresponding actions of our Council. Stay tuned!

As I mention in this month's Easter Letter, resurrection is all about new birth and new creation, and no church is better poised and positioned for new birth and new creation than we are! Our food ministry alone has grown 300fold since last March and thanks to you it shows no sign of abating! There are some pretty crazy plans in the works to perform miracles on the scale of Jesus' breaking the loaves and sharing the fish! But after all, that's what living our faith is all about, isn't it?!

Saints, we the congregation of New Dover are rising just as those ancient words are again proclaimed to a hurting world, "*He is risen!*"

He is, we are, risen indeed!

Chuck



The SWEET Truth of Easter

These candies tell a story~
the best news you'll ever hear.
~It's about Jesus dying on the cross
so that we could be brought near.

So hold them and turn them and you will see...
the "M" become a "W" an "E" and then a "3"

The "E" stands for... Easter....
God's everlasting love and His eternal plan.

It reminds us of the cross
and the way God rescued sinful man

The "3" represent the 3 days Jesus spent in the grave....
By His death, His children He did save

The "M" reminds us of the mercy the Messiah showed
as He died in our place.
and the miracle of the resurrection
so we can see Him face to face.

The "W" reminds us... that He alone
is worthy of our worship and praise
and calls us to be His witnesses
around the world for all of our days.

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



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

Tonya Burleigh
Rademacher family
Paulette Harland
Cartwright family
Homeless, unemployed
&uninsured
Gail Zelle
Children with Autism
All Elderly of NDUMC

Rose DeLand
Petersen family
Greve family
Jean Fletcher
Anna Franklin
Joanette Hunt&family
Michael Nilsen
Bunting family
COVID victims&families

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. Service men and women and veterans Thank you and God Bless.

If you wish to add anyone to the 2021 permanent prayer list, please contact Pat Carpenter 732-208-0139 pcarp732@gmail.com

April

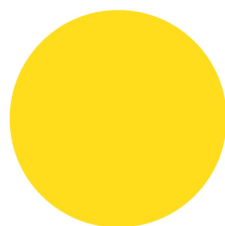
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FROM YOUR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. Nobody lights a lamp to put it under a bowl; instead, he puts it on the lamp-stand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and give praise to your Father in heaven.

-Matthew 5:14-16



LIGHT FOR THE WORLD

SERMON OF THE MONTH

“Breaking Bread in the Storm”

(Preached Sunday, February 7, 2021)

Acts 27:33-38

Just before daybreak, Paul urged all of them to take some food, saying, ‘Today is the fourteenth day that you have been in suspense and remaining without food, having eaten nothing.’³⁴Therefore I urge you to take some food, for it will help you survive; for none of you will lose a hair from your heads.’³⁵After he had said this, he took bread; and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat.³⁶Then all of them were encouraged and took food for themselves.³⁷(We were in all two hundred and seventy-six persons in the ship.)³⁸After they had satisfied their hunger, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea.

How do we handle life in the midst of a storm, when, like a boat on a chaotic sea we feel threatened by the conditions around us. Have you ever literally been on the water, maybe on a bay or the ocean fishing or cruising around, when a squall came out of nowhere, whipping the waves into a frenzied maelstrom, smashing into the bow, throwing water over the gunwale? How did you react? Did you run around the deck in panic? Or did you remain calm, and do what it took to get the boat back ashore to a safe harbor?

What’s the difference between a person who shudders and panics when life gets stormy and one who remains steady and focused? Most of the storms we face in life are not literal like the one in this morning’s scripture passage from Acts. Rather they could come in the form of a serious illness. The death of a loved one. The loss of a job. Or a deadly pandemic that continues to rage across our nation and world.

Nothing in life reveals more about what’s inside a person than how she or he reacts to life’s storms. If we knew nothing else about Paul, this story from the Acts of the Apostles tells us all we need to know about his character, his courage, and his faith, does it not? While others on shipboard, having gone two weeks in the storm without eating, had given up hope of ever seeing shore, Paul did something that brought a sense of peace to the crew and passengers- he broke bread. He then ate some and then gave the rest of it to those on board, and in that simple act the tide changes from panic to calm, from despair to hope. It’s the turning point of the whole voyage.

What happened aboard Paul’s ship bound for Rome reminded me (*of all things*) of a scene in the movie “Jaws!” Do you remember the little Kintner boy being killed by the Great White Shark? The whole town was in a state of panic. Chief Martin Brody was slapped in the face by the boy’s mother, who blamed him for her son’s death. That evening the Brody family invited Matt Hooper, the marine biologist who recently arrived in town, to dinner. Hooper entered their house and was greeted by Ellen Brody. Chief Brody, was sitting at the table, looking completely depressed and deflated, trying to drown his sorrows in a glass of wine, his dinner sitting on a plate in front of him untouched. It was a scene of utter defeat and despair. So what did Hooper do? He sat down at the table, looked at Martin’s plate full of food, and asked “*Is anyone eating this?*” He immediately picked up a fork and proceeded to wolf it down as if he hadn’t a care in the world. Sounds a bit off, but that simple act of doing something we do without thinking everyday- eating a meal- restored a sense of calm to the scene and the next thing you know, Chief Brody snaps out of his lethargy and they begin to formulate a plan to take on the shark.

Did you see what happened? Chief Brody was down and in deep despair. The storm showed no sign of abating. He knew nothing about how to handle the crisis confronting him; what did he know about sharks? He had lost confidence in himself. It took someone to enter the scene, who happened to know a lot about sharks, who would bring both wisdom and confidence, to restore the chief's hope. The eating of the meal was simply a sacramental sign of that confidence and hope restored. Such is the power of breaking bread in a storm!

So back to the scripture from Acts- what did Paul's have that the others did not? It wasn't that Paul was a better seaman than the crew aboard ship. Heck, before he had embarked on his missionary journeys Paul was a trained tentmaker, hardly a skill that would come in handy on the water. In fact, if you looked at Paul's experiences on the Mediterranean, not good! According to II Corinthians 11:25 *he had been shipwrecked three times!* That would hardly instill confidence of those aboard, right?

So if it wasn't seamanship or being lucky on the water, what was it about Paul that enabled him to bring a sense of peace to the vessel that had been tossed about for two weeks with no end in sight? One word, and it's not a surprising word to us is it? That word is faith. And faith was what separated Paul from the rest of the passengers and crew.

Faith can be such an unfocused word at times, but that was not the case when it came to Paul. Yes, Paul had faith in the power of Christ's salvation and for that reason his fear of death had little sway over him. But just as important, Paul had faith in his calling, his mission. Right after his conversion, Paul knew that Jesus had called on him to deliver the Gospel to the Gentiles, and for over two decades that's what he did. More than any other apostle, Paul was responsible for the transformation of Christianity from a sect of former Jews who believed that Jesus was the true Messiah, to a world religion that would eventually conquer the Roman Empire without firing a shot! Along the way Paul faced umpteenth threats to his life and work, but through it all he remained firmly devoted to his calling, because he knew that's what God put him on earth to do! Now, twenty or so years into that journey of faith Paul knew he was called for one final missionary undertaking, and that's why he was on board the ship that got caught in the maelstrom.

Paul testified that one night following his arrest for preaching the Gospel "*the Lord stood near him and said, 'Keep up your courage! For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome.'*" That was his mission; that was the reason he had boarded the ship; and that was why he knew the storm would not keep him from the task to which he had been called. And to reinforce this, according to Acts 27 he told his shipmates, "*... last night there stood by me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before the emperor; and indeed, God has granted safety to all those who are sailing with you.'*" So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told."

For Paul his faith, his calling, and his sense of mission were irretrievably intertwined. For him there was no point in faith without a mission; they could not be separated! ***This faith Paul had in both Jesus Christ and his mission was why he remained calm and focused, even in the midst of a relentless storm.*** That's how, even though all was fear and panic about him, he could do something so routine as take bread, break it and eat it, and give it to his shipmates. And that simple act symbolized all the power of that Paul's faith and mission.

And what of us? What differentiates those of us who panic in the midst of a storm and those who remain serene and confident? Is it not the very same faith; is it not the very same sense of mission? Saints, panic brought on by despair does nothing but produce further chaos and potential catastrophe. But calmness based on our faith and calling produces order that leads to hope.

This Communion Sunday morning we will once again break bread in the midst of a storm. The storm is the pandemic that yet rages about us, but we will not run about the deck in panic. Instead we will lean on our faith and remember our calling. That is how, like Paul, we will once again bring our New Dover ship safely into port to repair any storm-caused damage and make it ship-shape for our next God-given mission!



Wisdom from Charles Spurgeon

1. "Sing in trouble, again because God loves to hear his people sing in the night."
2. "The more the wind rages the more you feel that the anchor holds you."
3. "It is the bold Christian who can sing God's sonnets in the darkness."
4. "How despicable our troubles and trials will seem when we look back upon them!"
5. "It is a sweet mercy to have to go through the floods, if some filthiness may thereby be removed."
6. "If you have little trouble, you will have little faith but if you have great faith, you must expect to have great trouble."
7. "Storms help to make the sailors sturdy, and trials help to make Christians strong in faith."
8. "If you never go anywhere but where Christ leads the way, you need not be afraid of storms, for they will beat upon him more than upon you."



Finance News

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

New Dover United Methodist Church Operating Fund		
	2021	
	February	Year to Date
Income	\$14,609.53	\$31,523.99
Expenses	\$55,489.39	\$85,759.83
Difference	(\$40,879.86)	(\$54,235.84)

April Birthdays

- 1 *Jonathan Lamoreaux*
Rhea Manglapus
Aiden O'Rourke
- 2 *Judy Rienzo*
Harold Shaban
- 3 *Bobby Engel*
Justine Stevenson
- 5 *Angelina Budala*
Phyllis Carney
- 10 *Joanne Demler*
- 13 *Owen Gonzalez*
Helen Polese
- 14 *Doug Rock*
Joey Stevenson
- 15 *Krisel Manglapus*
- 16 *Swati Christian*
- 21 *Chang June Yoon*
- 22 *Zachary Owsiany*
- 24 *June Ebbets*
- 25 *Chuck Coblentz*
- 26 *Naomi Hunt*
- 27 *Wilfredo Manglapus*
- 29 *Judy Tymitz*

April Anniversaries

- 9 *Ben and Patty Stevenson*
- 11 *Rich and JoAnn Lettieri*
- 13 *Brian and Mackenzie Chesney*
- 16 *Tim and Robbin Roth*



BREAD BREAKERS: FOOD MINISTRY NEWS



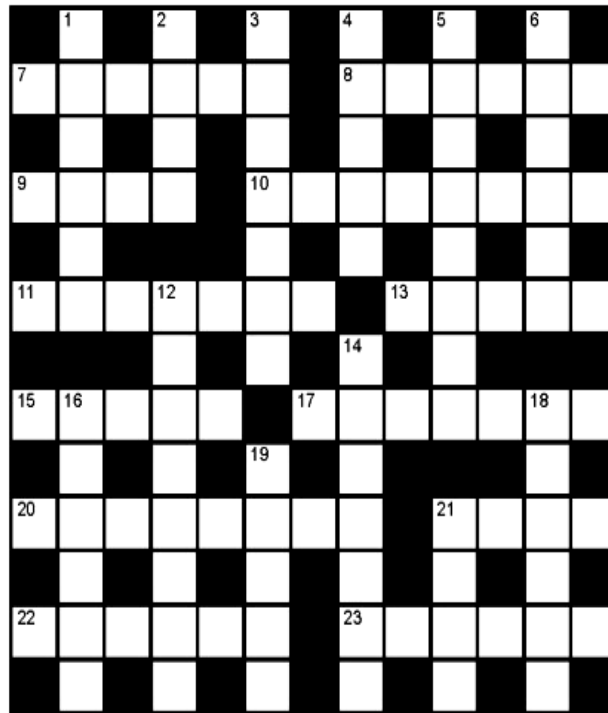
On the street in Plainfield...lunches unloaded and ready for pickup by those in need

Some of our loyal volunteers-Bob, Bill and Don



*If you are ready to volunteer for our food ministry, contact Brian Richards 732-433-3000
deliveries12@aol.com*

Luke



Across

- 7 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye _____, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:5 (6)
- 8 The book of this prophet was handed to Jesus to read in the synagogue. Luke 4:17 (6)
- 9 "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the _____s." Luke 21:25 (4)
- 10 The liturgical season celebrated after Christmas. (8)
- 11 An act of devotion to show sorrow for one's sin. (7)
- 13 "That he would _____ unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear." Luke 1:74 (5)
- 15 The tetrarch of Galilee. Luke 3:1 (5)
- 17 It's easier for a camel to go through this eye than for a rich man to enter the kingdom. Luke 18:25 (7)
- 20 Feeling regret or sorrow for one's sins. (8)

- 21 "Why do the disciples of John _____ often ..." Luke 5:33 (4)
- 22 Jesus compared men of this country with the Jews of the time. Luke 11:32 (6)
- 23 "And it is _____ for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16:17 (6)

Down

- 1 "_____ it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer." Luke 21:14 (6)
- 2 "And when the day began to _____ away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away ..." Luke 9:12 (4)
- 3 "When I was daily with you in the temple, ye _____ed forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness." Luke 22:53 (7)
- 4 Tempted Jesus for forty days. Luke 4:2 (5)

- 5 Jesus mourns for the hard hearts of the people of Jerusalem saying, "how often would I have _____ thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings." Luke 13:34 (8)
- 6 One of the men in the line of Christ from Luke 3:36. (6)
- 12 These people asked for increased faith in Luke 17:5. (8)
- 14 The father of James and John. Luke 5:10 (7)
- 16 The Hebrew name for the Lord. (6)
- 18 The holiday that celebrates the events of Luke 24. (6)
- 19 The prodigal son returned to his father with plans to be this type of servant. Luke 15:19 (5)
- 21 If a son asks a father for this, will he give him a serpent? Luke 11:11 (4)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

If I had my life to live over again, I'd smile more and worry less

I'd spend more time making others happy

I'd think more on my blessings instead of my problems

I'd take more time to listen to a child's words and hear them

I would care more about mankind and less about the dirty dishes in the sink

I'd eat more cake and ice cream and less beans and potatoes

I'd take more picnics and watch the butterflies flitter through the breeze

I'd listen to the birds sing

I'd take long walks with a dear friend

I'd walk in the summer rain and let the water cool my face

I would go to the beach and watch the waves roll to the shore and stand amazed in
God's magnitude

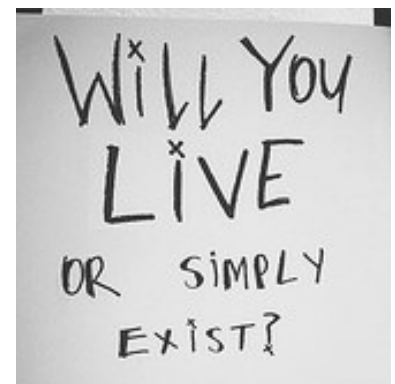
I'd climb more mountains, pick more wildflowers, watch more sunsets, and look for
more rainbows

I'd walk barefoot in the park, take more vacations, and relax in a hammock on a warm
summer day

You see, life's too short to let it pass you by

Life has many blessings

All we must do is find them



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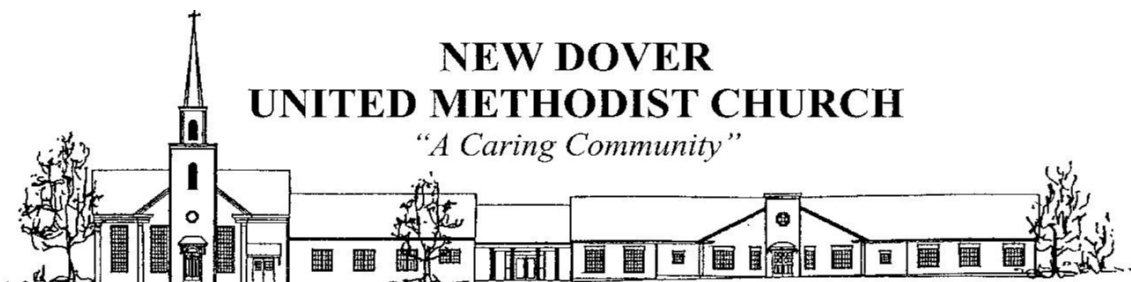
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NEW DOVER UNITED METHODIST HERALD

Church Office 732-381-9478

Fax 732-381-9479

E-mail : admin@newdoverumc.org



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:

In Memory of:

Given by:
