



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

May 2020

Vol. 167

A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

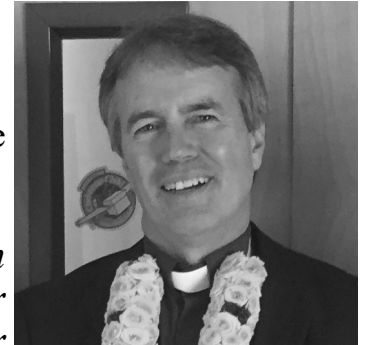
CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you, peace...

If you recall, in last month's "Chat," just as the extreme measures to combat Covid-19 hit home I wrote the following:

"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."



As I write this on the 13th of April, the day after Easter, I can attest that you have come through above and beyond my highest hopes! Just some of the ways...

- ♥ I know that you have done your very best to maintain social distancing in order to protect the most vulnerable, wearing masks and gloves when you go out for essentials (*I've seen some of you when out shopping!*) Even those who have been coming to the church to prepare food, or paint a room, or decorate the altar, or participate in worship have shown discipline in this regard.
- ♥ I hear story after story of how you are caring for one another during this time of social distancing phone calls just to chat or offering to go to the pharmacy or supermarket.
- ♥ I'm so impressed with how you have been praying for one another and sending your prayer requests to the church.
- ♥ You have made up and delivered to the church hundreds upon hundreds of sandwiches to add to the 500 we receive every week from Wawa. On Tuesdays and Fridays Brian Richards fills the back of his pick-up and makes the run to Saint Joseph's Social Center in Elizabeth where the food is distributed. They say we are their most dedicated church-partner in this badly needed ministry!
- ♥ You have been so supportive of our live-streaming of worship services throughout the pandemic. On a normal weekend we get a total attendance of around 150-200,

but so far online our services have been drawing around three times that many viewers! That's because *YOU* have done a great job sharing the services with your friends and they in turn share it with theirs. New Dover is being shown weekly in homes from Edison to Mumbai! I call it "exponential evangelism" and its something we will endeavor to keep up and improve on once the pandemic ends.

- ♥ Earlier this month Pastor Davidson and I combined forces to create a new online Hot Topics class entitled "*Meanwhile, where is God?*" In order to keep it manageable we decided to limit the number of participants to 30. Well, that filled up in no time! So far the class has been enthusiastically received by all who have taken part and we are finding the ZOOM format a great way to stay connected, conduct meetings, and even pray together!
- ♥ Finally, your continued financial support of our church and its ministry has been outstanding. I know from conversations with my colleagues that many of our churches are either in crisis or about to be. Thanks to your dedicated support of New Dover we are managing to keep our heads above water when it comes to our budget and that's because you continue to believe in what we are doing in terms of ministry. In addition many of you have switched over to online giving and have found it to be an easy, convenient way to make your weekly or monthly offering. Keep up the good giving!

Like you, I don't know how much longer this crisis will last, but I am more confident with each passing day that New Dover will emerge from this a much stronger church with a far-reaching online presence, a powerful prayer network, a dynamic outreach ministry, better facilities, and a renewed sense of purpose.

In the meantime let's continue to love and support one another, keep one another in prayer, do those phone calls, make those sandwiches, and in the words of Janice Wilson, stay in our pajamas and take part in Sunday worship!

May God keep you and your loved ones safe as we continue on this wilderness journey together. Rest assured the Promised Land lies ahead and I know we will get there!

Keep the faith,

Rev Chuck

In This Issue:

- Chuck's Church Chat
- Keep Us in Your Prayers
- Sermon of the Month
- Summer Camps
- Poem
- Food Ministry
- May Birthdays & Anniversaries

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Boyce Family	Manny & Nora De La Paz	Robin & Carolyn DeCicco
Judy Tymitz	Sandra De Alwis	Liam Dalton
Tom Crouse	Fran Livecchia	Calvin Christian
Bonner family	Cancer patients	Tonya Burleigh
Pat & Brian & Family	Service men & women	All <i>essential</i> workers
Aaron Christie	Veterans	All Covid-19 patients and their families
Dianne & Herb Petersen	Homeless, unemployed & uninsured	
Parkhill Family	Evelyn Millard	
Mary Ellen Anglin		

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.

We would like you to know that through this strange, different and confusing time of quarantine, your prayer warriors continue to pray as we always have with a bit of a change.

We now have three (3) prayer lists, our permanent list where the names stay for 1 year, monthly list where the names are removed after a month unless requested to remain for an additional month, and now we have a Corona Virus list for those with the virus, those who have been exposed to the virus, those who are working with the public and of course, sadly, those who have succumbed to the virus.

While the virus is ever foremost on our minds, we are aware that life goes on and prayers of all sorts, for all reasons are needed. We are here for your requests and instead of writing it down in the red book at the end of the pew, send your prayer requests to Rev, Pat Carpenter, Karen Rowland, Anita Davis, Judy Tymitz or Trish.

Blessings, peace and stay well.

Pat

SERMON OF THE MONTH

"What's Mom Want?"

(Preached May 12, 2019)

Matthew 20:17-28

Boy, Moms have been in the news a lot lately, some of it, not so good, right? Like those Hollywood Moms who paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to get their kids into college? And their kids didn't even want to go!!!! But hey, a lot of Mother's Day stories are good news! Like Megan Markle and Prince Harry's new baby "Archie." Or, right up there, the new addition to the Greve family, Addelyn Grace, born Tuesday and already with way more pics on Facebook than that Archie kid! My own Mom recently became a Great Grandmom for the second time with the birth of Maverick, and just seeing him squirming in his rocker is enough to rally her maternal instincts once again.

Motherhood is something my Mom learned the hard way through the crucible of raising three active, ornery boys. I'm sure for many of you Mother's Day calls to mind the hard work, sacrifice, and support your moms gave you, and continue to give you along the way. And for those who've lost their mom along the way, I hope today brings warm memories of the lessons she taught you and the troubles she helped you get through. I know for me, without the faith and support Mom has given me over the years I would be a fraction of the person I've become. But I'm sure that's true for so many of you as well.

Remember when your Mom told you that one day you could be president? Did you believe that? I guarantee she did! Well this Mother's Day let's take a look at the story of another mother who had dreams for her children- Salome, the mother of James and John. All she wanted was for her boys- James and John, to rule alongside Jesus in the Kingdom of God! Talk about an ambitious goal for her kids!

But what about you, the mothers among us today? Over the years what dreams have you had for your children and grandchildren? When you pray for your sons and daughters, what do you pray for? Well, if your mom was like my mom, she dreamed that, if I didn't get to be president at least I would get into a profession where I would be happy, and that hopefully had decent pay. In my early years I told her I wanted to be a locomotive engineer (because the train used to run right by my grandparent's house and I'd run out when I heard the whistle blow and the engineer would wave at my every time) but Mom wanted me to be, what else, a doctor.

I can assure you with complete confidence that the last thing in the world she would have imagined was that I would end up in a pulpit, mainly because she saw first-hand my life up close and personal. Then one day our pastor read her a verse from the 19th chapter of Luke saying "*Loose him for the Lord hath need of him.*" This comforted my mother for a while until she looked it up and discovered the "him" loosened in in the passage referred to an ass!

The mother of James and John had no doubt about what she wanted for her sons: prestige and power! In order to get the gist of what's happening in this scene, we need to understand the circumstance Jesus and his large crowd of followers found themselves in. They were finally on the way to Jerusalem, and Jesus had taken the disciples aside and told them in detail what awaited him once they'd arrive in town, and it wasn't pretty. He said he would be arrested, condemned to death, mocked, scourged, crucified, and would somehow be raised on the third day. Understandably, such a dire prediction shocked and distressed the disciples. James and John must have told their mother what Jesus said, but apparently the gist of it was lost in the translation. Apparently all she heard was

that they were going to Jerusalem, and that made her happy indeed. She figured once they arrived, then surely Jesus, this prophet of God, this messiah, would rally the Jews, kick out the hated Romans, and reign as king of a restored nation. And like any good patriotic mother, when this came down, she wanted her sons to be a part of it! And so she grabbed James and John by the hand and brought them to Jesus, and there she knelt before him, just as one would before a king. Jesus, probably wondering what all this was about, asked what she wanted. Salome had no qualms about telling him that when they got to Jerusalem she wanted to see James and John on either side of Jesus' throne. In other words, in the new monarchy she wanted to see her sons installed as Jesus secretary of state and chief of staff!

So let's again get this straight- immediately after Jesus tells the disciples that he would have to suffer and die, when every thought and every prayer should have been directed to matters of the spirit, Salome makes a request that is utterly earthbound. Jesus wants his followers to keep their focus on the Kingdom of God, but she was concerned only with an earthly kingdom- the rebirth of Israel. Man! That's like going to a fine French restaurant and ordering a hot dog. Poor Jesus, who had been preaching the Kingdom of God for years, must have been a bit exasperated at this point. Who would blame him if he told Salome to "*get behind me Satan!*" just as he had scolded Peter earlier? But in typical fashion, he responded to her with tenderness and compassion, hitting the nail directly on the head with his reply to her: "*You do not know what you are asking.*" And turning to her sons he asked, "*Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?*"

Looking back, we tend to be highly critical of Salome and what she wanted for her children. Didn't she comprehend *why* Jesus' was going to Jerusalem? Did she even listen when he told the disciples what would happen to him once they got there? How could she be so naïve? But aren't we all a bit like Salome when we pray to Jesus on behalf of our own sons and daughters? Think about it....

When we offer up prayers for our children, are we more likely to pray for worldly success or blessings of a spiritual nature? There are, no doubt, times in our own prayer life when Jesus replies patiently, "*You do not know what you are asking. Are you sure this is what you want for your children?*" Put yourself in Salome's place- what would you ask of Jesus on behalf of your own or daughter? "*Lord, please make my son a financial success in life.*" "*Lord, grant my daughter a promotion,*" "*Jesus, make my children prosperous.*" All nice objectives, but are these not earthly blessings?

On the other hand, how often do we pray that our children grow up to be humble, compassionate and kind? How many times do we pray that they practice self-sacrifice? How many of us ask God that they seek after, not financial success, but truth? How many of us pray that our children become not rulers, but servants?

It is difficult to pray for such things for our children, is it not? Why is that? Why do we who call ourselves Christians, a title that clearly means those called upon by God to live lives of sacrifice and self-denial, have a hard time praying for our children to adapt such a lifestyle? If we profess spiritual values, why do we ask for mere earthly rewards for our children? Perhaps it is because we are too much like Salome. We find it easy to follow Jesus from a distance; we find it easy to attend church on Sunday and live a "decent" life before our neighbors. But when Jesus asks us "*Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink,*" and we know that that cup contains a life of sacrifice and hardship, we can only look down, shuffle our feet, and retreat back into the crowd. In other words, like Salome, we hear the message Jesus speaks to us, but we retain only the parts we like. We take to heart the promise of blessing, but when it comes to the sacrifice and suffering required of his disciples we cover our ears.

Oh but Saints- if we possess a faith that conquers death then we need to be open to *every word* Jesus speaks, not just those we like! That's because our lives, our actions, our thoughts, our values, our prayers, can only reflect that which rules our hearts. And that which rules in our hearts is what will be passed down to our children. Therefore we probably pray that they receive those things we

place our own faith in, so if our lives rely on earthly treasure, than we will probably pray for earthly treasure for our children. If we hold financial success to be primary, than we will pray that our children attain financial success. Correspondingly, if we harbor prejudice in our hearts, we wouldn't have it in us to pray that our children might have unconditional love for a neighbor. If our lives are guided by fear and mistrust, how can we ever pray that our children receive the power that comes from faith? In short, we would probably never seek the transformation of our children if we ourselves are not transformed!

Jesus' values are not compatible with the world's values, because he teaches us a whole new way to live. His is an insurgent gospel that flatly contradicts the accepted order. It is a challenge flung in the face of standards we often take for granted. It is a challenge to the way we judge one another in terms of wealth, or birthright, or skin color. It is a challenge to how we value ourselves by the type of job we hold down. It a challenge to *every* standard the world holds up as the standard. It is a challenge even to the prayers of a loving mother.

The good news is that eventually Salome understood this great truth, even though the cost to gain that understanding was almost too great to bear. She did not fully realize what she had requested for her sons until that horrible, darkened day when, as Matthew tells us, she, along with other mothers who had followed Jesus, found herself looking on from a distance at his dying form on a cross. She had come to Jesus that her sons may be placed one on his right hand and one on his left. Jesus had told her the she did not know what she was asking. But as she stood there at Calvary she found out what it did mean to be placed at his side. She at last understood what it meant to truly follow this man from Nazareth and drink from the very same cup he drank so deeply from.

She had asked Jesus that her sons be beside him in glory, and in a very different way than she ever imagined, her prayers were answered because both of her sons eventually drank from that bitter cup. Chapter 12 of Acts tells us that James was slain with a sword at the order of Herod, and tradition tells us that John too died a martyr's death. This was certainly not what Salome had in mind when she came to Jesus on behalf of her sons. Knowing what she now understood as she stared through teary eyes at the cross, would she again ask of Jesus the same favor? Looking up at the cross, would she still want her sons on the left and right of Jesus: on crosses now occupied by two thieves?

Looking up at the cross ourselves, would we? Are we able to drink of the cup of which Jesus drank? Would we ask God that our children do the same? Saints, it is our faith alone that determines how we answer that question.



NEXT GENERATION
SUMMER CAMPS
UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

2020 CAMPING PROGRAMS

Camp Inspire | July 20-25, 2020

A week of creativity, music, photography, art, and worship! **Grades 6-12**

- **Music** | Bring your instruments and voices for a week of music making and songwriting.
- **Acting** | Practice improve skills, experience being on a stage, and discover acting can be used in worship.
- **Photography** | Explore and capture the beauty of creation. Campers Discover different photography skills, how to use a variety of camera settings, and create a photo project.

Camp Transform | July 27-Aug. 1, 2020

Discover how to follow the ministry of Jesus, who declared good news to the poor, freedom for prisoners, and freedom for the oppressed. **Grades 6-12** Learn new forms of art, including crafting, drawing, pastels, clay-making and more

Camp Sprout | Aug. 3-8, 2020

Experience the joy and excitement of camp while learning more about the love of God and faith in Jesus. Camper's church and community members are encouraged to volunteer to be a part of the week. **Grades 1-5**

Counselors In Training Program | Aug. 3-8, 2020

For high school students wanting to grow their leadership and prepare to serve as Summer Camp counselors. This program runs during the elementary camp, Camp Sprout. Lead a group of elementary students through the camp experience. *A limited number of applications will be accepted for this program.* **Grades 10-12**

This summer there are new opportunities for campers to express themselves each week of camp at Pine-lands 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.

REFLECTIONS IN QUARANTINE

Have you heard? There's a war going on
COVID-19 has arrived from Wuhan
It's a grim scenario, a fight against a new foe
Taking us where we have not yet gone.
Signs of the struggle are visible worldwide
Leaders and health care aiming to stem the tide
The pandemic is here, and all are in fear
While financial futures are swiftly being fried.

The news from the outside goes from bad to worse
Daily headlines are pointed and terse
We're ordered to retreat and keep our germs discreet
Lest we carry and pass on the deadly curse.

All groups halted, their numbers forbidden
Social distancing is the new word to spin
Use your elbows to sneeze, wash your hands—please!
Changing our habits is the way to win.

Travel is a danger, so forget that vacation
Cruises and planes are now vehicles of incubation
No fun at the ballpark or any national landmark
Our homes are now our prisons for the duration.
The demand for guns is now more than supply
Buyers looking to hunt? We know that's a lie
They're buying protection with the bullet of a shotgun
With their fellow man in the bulls-eye.

And yet, and yet...

As people of faith let's consider for a bit
The deeper meaning of this Corona culprit
This has happened before, in the Bible days of yore
Let's review those lessons, if you will permit.

Look on the trials of the Old Testament
Visited on those who did not repent
Affliction they did endure, which left their lives pure
God's will in their future then given consent.

Turn the pages once more, find the Gospel way
The road to the cross filled with suffering each day
Believers assaulted while Jesus they exalted
Growing in faith as they fought in the fray.

What is the wisdom in a life of submission
Partnering with God in a life of co-mission?

We learn from distress and strengthen under duress
Discerning and showing Christ under any condition.

Are we cowering under the sword of bad news
Lamenting our fate and crying the blues?
Or while others have fled do we stand in good stead
And make the Christian life our wont to choose?

Despite all the uproar let's gird ourselves well
We know that Christ doth in each of us dwell
So let's take up the fight and shine His light
By our actions to trust in Him we will tell.

Now take heart in God's glory, grace and love
Remember His promise to His followers thereof
He is with us forever, He will leave us never
And His glory awaits us in heaven above.

And so we abide and walk by faith...

Anita Davis, March 27, 2020

New Dover is Feeding People

“Jesus never says to the poor: **come find the church**, but he says to those of the church: **go into the world and find the poor, hungry, homeless, imprisoned.**” Tony Campolo

Thanks to the vision and efforts of Brian Richards, this is exactly what New Dover is doing. Last year with our partnership with Wawa, we were able to provide 12,000 meals to the community!!

With the worldwide pandemic New Dover has heard the cries of those in need and stepped up to reach out to the growing need to feed people. A huge **Thank You** to all who of supported this mission by making sandwiches, emergency food bags or providing cash donations to help. As more people find themselves without work during this pandemic the need will only grow.

We have had tremendous support from so many, including our own Connie Palmer from Wesley UMC who jumped in to lend a hand. But we need more people to get involved and help support this much needed work.

How can you help?

Prepare sandwiches or box lunches

Prepare emergency food bags or donate items that can be used to make these emergency bags

Monetary donations for the purchase of food

We have placed a barrel at the front door of the church for all food donations.

Sandwiches can be dropped off at the church on Thursday for Friday delivery, there is a cooler at the front door for these donations.

For more information on what food is needed or how to prepare the sandwiches please go to our website:

www.newdoverumc.org

Let's continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus! Paulette, Catherine and Brian preparing food for distribution
Paulette, Catherine and Brian preparing food for distribution



Brian Richards and Tami Pino



Paulette, Catherine and Brian preparing food for distribution



Brian's truck all loaded up to deliver food



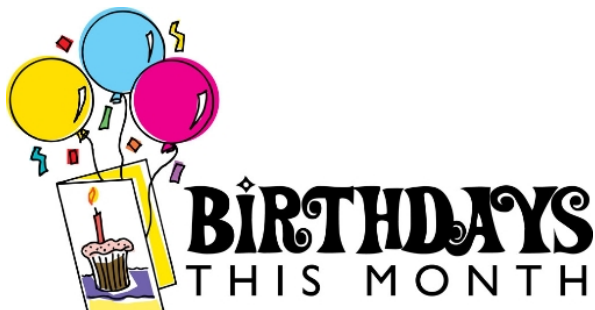
To St. Joseph's Social Service Center

May Birthdays

- 1 *Arul Duggimpudi*
Evan Gumbs
- 4 *Anthony Harland*
- 5 *Courtney Paserchia*
- 6 *Desdimona Christian*
- 10 *Mya Maggiore*
- 13 *Joseph Bonner*
- 14 *Thomas Duggimpidi*
- 15 *Jacob Engel*
Karen Tisch
- 17 *Jonathan Paul*
- 18 *Christina Lapatka*
- 19 *Aaron Christie*
- 20 *Mary Jane Manglapus*
- 22 *Rajiv Dialle*
- 23 *Fran Livvechia*
Sharonda Meade
Shirley Shaffer
- 24 *Ashley Baidowsky*
- 25 *Ava Ilena Cimala*
Kalindu De Alwis
Mary Ann Pagano
- 28 *Sanjay Christie*
Jonathan Lettieri
- 29 *Melissa Oswiany*
- 30 *Jeffrey Rowland*

May Anniversary

- 7 *Mukesh & Sangita Christian*
- 12 *Tim & Elaine Lindner*
- 17 *Jeffrey & Karen Rowland*
- 19 *John & Kirsten Rodriguez*
- 24 *Tony & Cindy Bonito*
Elton & Michele Nyema
- 27 *Dave & Lisa Chesney*



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