



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

May 2022

Vol. 189

A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace...

I'm writing this edition of "the chat" still basking in the glow of what was an amazing Holy Week! Thanks to everyone who made it so meaningful and inspiring. After two years in the wilderness, it was beautiful to be able to come together live, once again, to worship and fellowship together!



Just to hit a few highlights:

- ◆ Palm Sunday worship had our Bell Choir ringing out and our Chancel Choir singing out! That morning's Coffee Hour featured our fond, loving farewell to the Samuel family, who are moving back to India. The Samuels have been such a vital part of our ministry over the years! May God's Grace be with them in their new home....
- ◆ Our Maundy Thursday gathering in "the upper room" of Fellowship Hall featured the testimony of numerous witnesses to Jesus' life, Karen Rowland's explanation of the Seder, sharing communion together, and stripping the altar for Good Friday.
- ◆ Speaking of Good Friday, the Telugu Congregation held their annual "Seven Last Words" service from 12-3:00. Then at 7:00 we gathered in the sanctuary for an emotional "Prayers from the Cross," our Tenebrae service of light into darkness.
- ◆ The next day our annual Easter Eve praise service was led by the inspiring and energetic Jamie Conrad.
- ◆ Easter Sunrise Worship at 6:30 was perhaps the biggest surprise! We set up for our normal 12-15 attendees and had to scramble to bring out chairs for 28; a record attendance in my time here! Kyle led us in song, Lisa was liturgist, and chirping birds accompanied the sermon!
- ◆ Finally, our 10:15 Easter Worship packed the pews- it was the biggest crowd we've had out since the pandemic started over two years ago! Grace and the Choir lifted us up to renewed heights, and the congregational singing raised the roof right off the foundations! There was such joy and energy throughout the service and everyone left church that day feeling that, not only was the worst behind us, but the future was brighter than we could have imagined few months ago!
- ◆ As if to put an exclamation point on all that, fifteen new adults requested to join our church! Most will have been taken into membership on the following Sunday. Combining that with the seven great kids we have coming from our Confirmation Class, and that means our membership will increase by a whopping ten percent in one month! Can I get an AMEN?!

Coming out of Holy Week I thought I'd close with the words of that classic song by Jimmy Cliff:

*I can see clearly now the rain is gone.
I can see all obstacles in my way.
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind;
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunny day!
Look all around, there's nothing but blue skies;
Look straight ahead, there's nothing but blue skies!
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunny day!*

Saints, let's look forward to a bright, bright, sunny May!

Peace,
Rev Chuck



*Calling for volunteers
Saturday, May 7th
10:00am
to help prepare and plant
the
Jehovah Jireh Garden*



KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz
June Ebbets
The Brooks Family
Gail Engel
Debbie Ladym
Bud & Earlette Butterfield
Service men & women
Veterans
Homeless, unemployed
&uninsured
All affected by Covid-19 and
their families
The People of Ukraine
All Elderly of NDUMC

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.

If you wish to add anyone to the 2022 permanent prayer list, please contact Karen Rowland at krowland648@yahoo.com

FROM YOUR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP EVERY
WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 10 AM

In This Issue:

- Chuck's Church Chat
- Keep Us in Your Prayers
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- Vacation Bible School
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- Membership Corner
- May Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Calendar

Prayer Warriors

James 5:16 "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (KJV)

SERMON OF THE MONTH

The Sixth Beatitude: “Where to See God”

(Preached Sunday, February 27, 2022)

Matthew 5:8

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God,” is either the most hopeful of the beatitudes, or the least hopeful of the lot! American biblical scholar, author, and preacher, George Buttrick wrote that *“for most people this sixth beatitude is the ‘bright and particular star in the constellation.’* And upon first read he’s right! After all who doesn’t want purity of heart? Who doesn’t desire to see God? Sounds peachy, right? But then Dr. Buttrick followed that up by describing the sixth beatitude as, *“...the most inaccessible”* of the nine! He wrote, *“We hardly know what is more beyond us...purity of heart or seeing God.”* And of course he’s right!

Time and again the Bible makes it clear that purity of heart is beyond us. Here are just a few examples from scripture that bear that out...

- ◆ Proverbs 20:9 asks, ***“Who can say, ‘I have made my heart clean; I am pure from my sin’?***
- ◆ Proverbs 16:2 warns us, ***“All one’s ways may be pure in one’s own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.”***
- ◆ And for all who believe the best way to achieve purity throughout life is to heed the leanings of one’s heart, well, they need to listen to Jeremiah! ***“The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it?”***
- ◆ Jesus himself, in the very same book in which we find the sixth beatitude, Matthew, teaches, ***“For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.”***

Needless to say, that’s a pretty far cry from purity of heart! So, if the Bible makes it clear that a pure heart is simply beyond us- just who *is* Jesus blessing with this sixth beatitude? Right? If no one is capable of purity of heart, it follows that no one will benefit from such a blessing. And so Saints, there we have it- conundrum number one!

So let’s move on to the next part of the beatitude- the reward for those who are pure of heart, should they even exist! And here we run into conundrum number two- ***“for they shall see God!”*** Now when it comes to seeing God, the Bible is inconsistent at best! On one hand, there are occasions when it seems okay to look upon God and even describe what one sees...

- ◆ Jacob claimed to have had such an experience as the morning light rose following his night locked in hand to hip combat with the Lord, naming the place of his wrestling match *Peniel*, which means literally, “the face of God,” because, as he declared, ***“For I have seen God face to face and yet my life is preserved.”***
- ◆ Hundreds of years later, Isaiah had a similar nerve-racking encounter that we can read about in chapter six, ***“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.”***
- ◆ And Ezekiel vividly described God when he witnessed the Lord leaving the Temple after Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians: ***“...seated above the likeness of a throne was something that seemed like a human form. Upwards from what appeared like the loins I saw something like gleaming amber, something that looked like fire enclosed all round; and downwards from what looked like the loins I saw something that looked like fire, and there was a splendor all round. Like the bow in a cloud on a rainy day, such was the appearance of the splendor all round. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.”***

So on one hand, while it's always a bit harrowing, it seems perfectly fine to gaze upon the Lord; no harm done. But then there are quite a few other passages that tell us, not so fast, wanna-be God gazer!

- ◆ When Moses was about to head up Mount Sinai to fetch the Ten Commandments some of the people wanted to go up with him but God put a stop to that, ordering Moses to **“Go down and warn the people not to break through to the Lord to look; otherwise many of them will perish.”**
- ◆ In Exodus 33:20, the Lord flat out tells Moses, **“...‘you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.’**
- ◆ In the New Testament, despite stories of Jacob, Isaiah, and Ezekiel, we're told in chapter one, verse 18 of John's gospel: **“No one has ever seen God.”**
- ◆ That exact phrase is repeated in I John 4:12: **“No one has ever seen God...”**
- ◆ And Jesus let's us know in John chapter 6 that there's only one person who's actually seen God: **“Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.”** Meaning him of course!

So, where does this leave us when it comes to the sixth beatitude? Again, it's a heck of a conundrum! Scholars have pointed out that there is nothing in any of the rabbinical literature that parallels this particular beatitude of Jesus. Nowhere else do we see purity of heart connected to seeing God. But why would Jesus not only present, but intertwine the two? Is Jesus having a bit of fun here? Is he tossing out a lure to see if any of us will bite? Is Jesus mocking us? Knowing Jesus the way we do, we certainly don't believe that! So he's up to something, but what? He presents a beatitude that seems impossible for any of us to fulfill, at least any of us who aren't pure of heart or capable of gazing upon God. Again, what is Jesus up to here?

Listen again, saints: **‘Blessed ARE the pure in heart, for they WILL see God,’** Did you catch the tense of the verbs? This beatitude has both a present and a future tense to it doesn't it? The pure of heart **ARE** being addressed here and now, so Jesus says they are among us. But they **WILL** see God, suggesting an event that **WILL** happen in the future. Question is, how far into the future? Will they see God in this life, or will they have to wait until the next one? Or can it be both? Interesting, because that would totally fall in line with Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God, which he taught us is both here and now, and also in the future. It, it is “among us,” but it is not yet fulfilled. Let's look at the future aspect first.

In the very last chapter of the Bible, Revelation 22, we read a description of the Kingdom in all its glory- **“Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face...”** So yes, perhaps the greatest joy of the afterlife is basking in the glow of God's countenance. In Job 19 we read, **“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God.”** As Paul writes in I Corinthians 13, **“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.”** The Bible is clear that those who are saved, will come face to face with God in the afterlife.

But what about seeing God in this life? Is that possible? Again, Jesus blessing upon the pure in heart is that they **WILL** see God. We've already established that purity of heart is something we cannot possibly attain. But here's the thing- Jesus has! And so we discover that great truth: there's one and only one way to achieve the purity Jesus speaks of in the sixth beatitude and that is to **open our hearts and let him in!** Only by doing so, can we trade in our impure worldly hearts for Jesus' heart of perfect love. And once our hearts have been purified by Christ's presence, guess what? we will discover that we actually can see God in this life! Because, as Jesus promised, those of us with pure hearts **WILL** see God!

Where exactly will we see God? Well, further along in Matthew, Jesus tells us! Remember how in Matthew 25 Jesus tells those on his right, **“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”**

And then remember how the righteous responded saying, **“Lord, when was it that we SAW you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we SAW you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we SAW you sick or in prison and visited you?”**

And the king will answer them, *“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*

Saints, just as the sixth beatitude teaches, we truly can see God in this life, but only if our hearts are pure, only if we have Christ in our hearts. And so I guess the question is a simple one- when you gaze into the eyes of our fellow human beings, what do **you** see? How we answer that question tells us a lot about the state of our hearts does it not? Does the sight of some people fill us with thoughts of prejudice, disgust, and anger? If so, our hearts are absent of Christ, and far from pure, no matter how much we tell ourselves that isn't true. Such hearts will never see God.

But if we take that leap of faith and let Christ in, then we will never again gaze into the eyes of a fellow human being and fail to see God's image shining through!



NEW DOVER UMC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

(in-person)

July 25th-29th, 2022

Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, children form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

Send your kids on an impacting adventure!

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
DEADLINE: MAY 15TH!**

Register by May 15 and receive a VBS theme t-shirt!

**REGULAR REGISTRATION
DEADLINE: JULY 3RD!**

Online registration may be found here:
[VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/NEWDOWER](https://vbapro.events/p/newdover)

Any questions? Please contact us at NewDoverVBS@gmail.com

The UMW are sponsoring a trip to Long Beach Island on Thursday, August 4, 2022, to see "Escape to Margaritaville" at the Surflight Theater at 2:00pm. Prior to the show, we will have lunch at Buckalew's Restaurant.

The total cost of the show is \$95.00, which includes the show, lunch, bus and bus driver's tip. The bus will leave the church at 9:00am. A deposit of \$50.00 is upon making reservation with the balance due on June 12, 2022.

Registration forms are available at church or see me, if you are interested.

If you have any questions at this time, please call me at 732-287-2231.

Connie Thomas
UMW Vice President

The next UMW meeting is
Wednesday, May 11th at 6:30pm.

Pastor Rosie is our guest speaker. She will cover the basics of "where are South Korean churches and Christians" along with the introduction of this beautiful and historic nation that she calls home.

All women of the church are invited
to attend.



UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN

Faith • Hope • Love in Action

To Our New Dover Church Family:

Brian and I have made the move into our forever home in Roscoe, New York in the Catskills. Because of the pandemic and closing of in person services, we were not able to say a proper "see you all on the journey", so it is with so many emotions that we write this.

New Dover has been very good to us for so many, many reasons. I met Brian again for the first time at New Dover 10 years ago while greeting with Evan and Evelyn. We all know how that turned out! We thank you for allowing us to serve you while working for God's Kingdom here on earth. A big thank you for allowing us to be a part of your children's lives and for allowing Brian to be your Conference Delegate.

We will miss that which we have become familiar with, but we feel that God has moved us here for a reason. We will visit when we can and the RV and the car will soon be gone but we will always be with you in spirit.

We love you all with the love of God, agape.
Blessings, peace and be well church.

Pat and Brian





The Pastors
YoungHak Lee, Sooh Na, Chuck Coblenz, Rosie Pang

*You are invited to
Confirmation Sunday
May 22, 2022
10:15am
to welcome the Class of 2022 as
members of New Dover United Methodist Church*

*Confirmation Class of 2022
Farrah Allidina
Serena Allidina
Luke Colon
Eric Colon
Risith Duggimpudi
Daniel Mizak
Declan O'Rourke
Jessica Rodriguez*



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

A note from the Nurture Committee:

Picnic to Picnic will be ending at the Strawberry Festival in June! Please be sure to make your "Secret Pal" feel special!!

TODAY

Today is here. I will begin with a smile and resolve to be agreeable. I will not criticize.
I refuse to waste the valuable time God has given me.

Today has one thing in which I know I am equal with others-time.
All of us draw the same salary in seconds, minutes and hours.

Today I will not waste time because the minutes I wasted yesterday are lost
as a vanished thought.

Today I refuse to spend time worrying about what might happen. I am going to spend my time
making things happen.

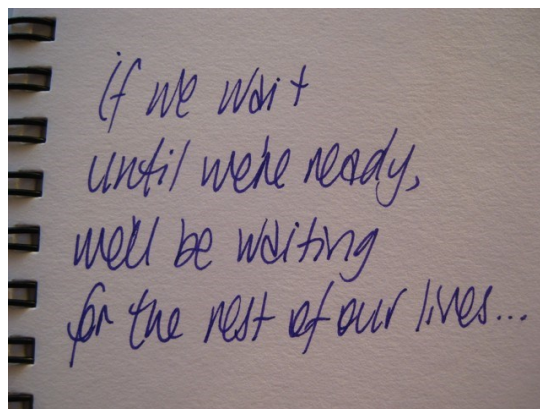
Today I am determined to study to improve myself, for tomorrow I may be needed,
and I must not be found lacking.

Today I begin by doing, and not wasting my time. In one week I will be miles
beyond the person I am today.

Today I will not imagine what I would do if things were different. They are not different.
I will make a success with what material I have.

Today I will stop saying, "If I find time" or "If I had time," for I will never find time for anything.
If I want time I must make it.

Today I will act toward other people as though this will be my last day on earth.
I will not wait for tomorrow, for tomorrow never comes.



May Birthdays

- 1 Arul Reddy Duggimpudi
Evan Gumbs
4 Anthony Harland
6 Desdimona Christian
10 Mya Maggiore
13 Joseph Bonner
14 Thomas Reddy Duggimpudi
15 Jake Engel
19 Aaron Christie
20 Mary Jane Manglapus
22 Rajiv Dialle
23 Christopher Greve
Fran Livecchia
Sharonda Meade
Shirley Shaffer
25 Kalindu De Alwis
28 Sanjay Christie
29 Melissa Owsiany
30 Jeffrey Rowland

May Anniversaries

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





May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	2 10:30am Hot Topics 7:00pm Trustees 7:30pm AA	3 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30pm BS Troop 44	4 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	5 7:00pm Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	6	7 9:00am Kahboom Robotics 5:00pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
8 Mother's Day 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu	9 10:30am Hot Topics 7pm Nurture 7:30pm AA	10 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 6-7:30p GS 80105 7:30pm BS Troop 44	11 10:00am Prayer Fellowship 6:30 UMW Meeting	12 7:00pm Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	13	14 9:00am Kahboom Robotics 5:00pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
15 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	16 10:30am Hot Topics 7:00pm Worship 7:30pm AA	17 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30pm BS Troop 44	18 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	19 7:00pm Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	20	21 9:00am Kahboom Robotics 5:00pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
22 Confirmation 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	23 10:30am Hot Topics 7pm Council 7:30pm AA	24 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 6-7:30p GS 80105 7:30pm BS Troop 44	25 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	26 7:00pm Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	27	28 9:00am Kahboom Robotics 5:00pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
29 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu	30	31 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30pm AA				

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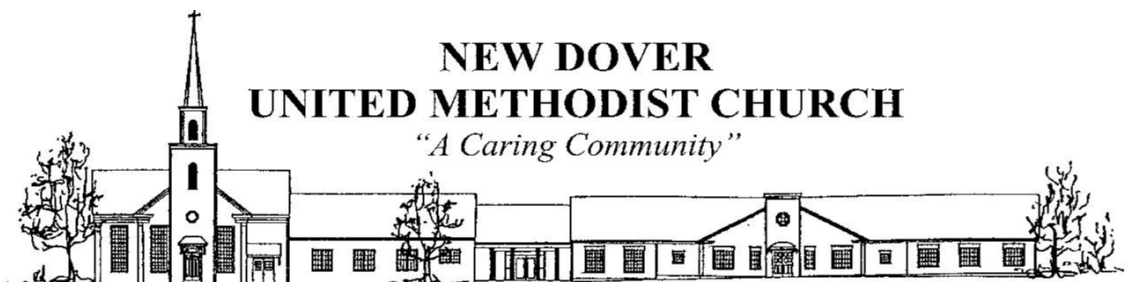
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**NEW DOVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
"A Caring Community"

