



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

June 2022

Vol. 190

A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace!

You know, there are two types of human beings for whom June presents a powerful yearly shift in attitude and lifestyle- students and teachers! Having years experiencing both roles, I was reflecting on what it felt like when the school year had run its course and summer recess began.

From Kindergarten through 8th grade, June meant leaving the old, varnish-smelling, oaken floors of Quinton Township Elementary School classrooms behind and emerging into the spacious freedom of life on Jericho Road with its woods, pastures, swamps, and streams, and most of all our friends who lived up and down the road. Once my brothers and I took our shoes and socks off the day after school ended, we hardly put them on again until September rolled around, Sunday School, pushing the lawn mower, and playing Little League baseball being the rare exceptions. By the time August ended, the bottom of our feet were as black as the garden soil in which our Mom Mom and Pop Pop planted corn, radishes, tomatoes, string beans, and pole limas! After graduating 8th grade, the four steamy summers of high school were just as filled to the brim: fishing Waterworks Pond in my Old Town rowboat, a week with my family on the beach of Avalon, playing street hockey Saturday mornings on the school parking lot, learning to drive without denting the station wagon, Tuesday dollar nights at the movie theater, and farming my own 2 ½ acre tomato field on the family farm.

As joyous as it was entering summer as a student, I have to say it was double that for the fourteen years I spent as a teacher at The Pennington School. And it wasn't because the summers were as magical; it was giving a two-and-a-half-month rest to all the lesson plans, grading, parent conferences, and faculty meetings. (I imagine some amens are being said by our teachers right now!). Summers of my teaching years were mainly spent restoring my 1720 house, picnics with the family, going to auctions and yard sales, spending a week in Ocean City, New Jersey (the good Ocean City!), white water rafting excursions every two years, and, yeah, more golf.

We of New Dover are blessed to have a humungous number of students and teachers who will be entering that glorious summer sabbatical this month. As they do, let's all think back on how much summers meant to all of us growing up. Maybe by remembering how precious the rhythm of the seasons were to our youthful well-being we might venture to take better care of ourselves in this current age in which we face a constant bombardment of our senses. So let's all get out there and have ourselves a little fun!



Here's to a blessed, restful summer,

Rev Chuck

Calling all accountants, auditors or anyone with a finance background! We are in need of one volunteer to review and audit our 2021 financial books and records per our conference guidelines. You would need to meet with our finance staff at the office to have access to our books and statements, and the time would be approximately 2-3 hours. It can be done over more than one day, however you will need to be in the office. Per the guidelines from the conference, it can not be anyone who currently is involved with the finances of the church, or even related to them (must be independent!). If God is calling you in this direction, please call the main office, or see Rev. Chuck, Michelle O'Rourke (treasurer) or JoAnn Lettieri (finance chair).

Celebrate the end of
Sunday School year
with the students,
teachers and
congregation on
June 12th



Sign up sheets for donations are in Fellowship Hall

**Today marks the end of our first Picnic to Picnic program.
Bring a final surprise for your secret friend to surprise them and reveal yourself!**



KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz
June Ebbets
The Brooks Family
Gail Engel
Debbie Ladym
Bud & Earlette Butterfield
Dan Mirdala
Former students &
teachers of Colonia H.S.

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:

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But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Matthew 6:6-8

SERMON OF THE MONTH

"Choose Wisely"

Preached on June 6, 2021

Joshua 24:11-15

Matthew 7:21-29

In the climactic scene of the classic movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," Indy finds himself standing in an ancient chamber before dozens of cups and chalices, one of which, according to the centuries old Templar Knight standing guard, is the Holy Grail which Jesus shared with his disciples at the Last Supper. But Indy is not alone because the American Nazi sympathizer, Walter Donovan and his accomplice Elsa are also in the room, and Donovan has a pistol!

The knight tells them they must choose the cup from which to drink, but whatever they do they must choose wisely because *"the true grail will bring them life, but a false grail will take it from you."* As one would expect, the Nazi villains bully their way in and choose first, Elsa grabbing the most ornate, golden, jewel-encrusted chalice from the table and hands it to Donovan who exclaims, *"Yes! It's more beautiful than I ever imagined! It certainly is the cup of the King of Kings."* He dips the chalice into the fount, raises it and offers a toast, *"To eternal life!"* then raises the rim to his waiting lips and drinks deeply. Eternal life was his expectation, but as anyone who's seen the movie knows, that's not quite what he gets, is it?! After a few seconds he starts to gag, then before their eyes he ages hundreds of years in ten seconds, his skin rotting and peeling back, and finally his screaming skull breaking to pieces and turning to dust. The knight calmly proclaims, *"He chose... poorly."* Understatement of the year, right?!

Next, it's Indy's turn and he nervously surveys the remaining vessels, finally picking out, not a jewel encrusted chalice but a simple clay vessel. *"That's the cup of a carpenter,"* he says, and he dips into the water and drinks it down. Nervously, he turns to face the old knight who pauses then smiles and proclaims, *"You have chosen wisely."* And Indy uses the water from the cup to heal his mortally wounded father and we have a very happy ending! *Da da dada da da daaah!* So Saints, if you haven't already guessed, choosing wisely is what this sermon is all about!

On the site of the ancient town of Shechem in central Palestine, archeologists have uncovered one of the largest pre-Roman temples ever constructed in Palestine; Gazing upon the ruins one can easily imagine how magnificent the shrine must have been in Old Testament times. Legend has it that it was before the steps of this temple that Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel over 3,000 years ago. Most of us remember Joshua from Sunday School class or Bible study right? It was Joshua who took over leadership of the Israelites following the death of Moses in the last days of their wilderness wandering. It was Joshua who led them through the Jordan and into the Promised Land. And it was Joshua the people looked to for wisdom and guidance. For Joshua, as well as an inspiring leader, was a mighty prophet whose words made known God's will to the people. So there in that ancient city, he assembled *"...the elders, the heads (of the tribes), the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God,"* on courtyard of the temple, before the sacred Ark of the Covenant, and there Joshua offered a great challenge to the nation of Israel.

He began by retelling their sacred history, reminding the Hebrew people how hundreds of years before, God had summoned their father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and promised that his descendants would one day inherit the very land on which he now stood. He refreshed their memory of their sojourn in Egypt, where they became great in number. And he recalled the mighty acts of God which freed them from Egyptian slavery and made of them a nation. He went on to remind them of the long, painful, wilderness wandering that forged their faith, disciplined their sinfulness, and strengthened their resolve. And finally, Joshua narrated how they had just now crossed the Jordan and with the Lord going before them, had been given this land God had promised to Abraham, the land upon which they now stood, a land flowing with milk and honey. Here before him stood the 12 tribes of Israel, united by centuries of history.

And at this point Joshua, like a judge addressing a jury, demands that the people render a verdict. Joshua called on them to *"...to serve (God) in sincerity and in faithfulness."* That's because the land they had entered held many temptations, chief among them the invitation to worship the gods of the Canaanites. Rather than attempt to bind their consciousness, Joshua gave the Israelites the freedom to choose, and so he put the question before them: *"...choose this day whom you will serve..."* Make that decision, one way or the other, he told them, here and now! Serve the God who created the universe, or serve the idols of this world, it was up to them. And those words of Joshua yet echo down the centuries, do they not? ***"...choose this day whom you will serve."***

Saints, the choice before us. After 15 months we have at last gathered in this holy shrine known as New Dover United Methodist Church having emerged from a wilderness, not that of the Sinai desert with its droughts, its famines, and its poisonous serpents, but that of a pandemic with its contagiousness, its stress on every aspect of our lives, and its heartbreaking, isolated ICU stays and deaths. And yes, Joshua's words are every bit as decisive as the day they were first spoken in ancient Shechem! That day, standing before that ancient shrine, the Israelites were called upon to choose whom they would serve. A path was put before them and they were called upon to make a commitment to go one way or the other.

You know, I imagine there must have been quite a few in the crowd who must have been feeling pretty uneasy that day. Being asked to make a big commitment on the spot like that is one of the most difficult actions that we human beings can experience in our lives. We understandably fret when we know that the choice we are called on to make will, for better or worse, set the course of our lives far into the future. When it comes to our faith, there are a great many who, rather than commit to one way or the other, are far more comfortable straddling the fence, even though anyone who's ever literally straddled a fence knows that comfortable is not at all an accurate description! Rather than making a hard commitment, we more often take pride in our ability to make endless compromises. Some of us have become rather adept at living out our daily existence without ever making a hard choice. Heck, some of us may go the rest of our lives avoiding such a commitment altogether! But what today's Hebrew scripture lesson tells us is that if we are true to the faith we profess, we must pledge to serve God with all sincerity and effort. Make that commitment or stop pretending to serve God at all. Saints, we need to take our faith seriously, for though there may be wiggle-room for compromise in our day-to-day dealings, in our relationship with God, there are no gray areas. ***"Choose this day whom you serve!"***

Such a choice is before us at this point in our journey as a church, as we emerge from the pandemic wilderness into an unsure future. Like the Israelites of long ago Shechem, we have come out of the wilderness, waded through the Jordan, and gathered in a sacred place. Like them we are called on to remember the countless blessings in which God has touched our lives. And like them we are called on this day to choose whom we will serve.

As Joshua reminded the ancient Israelites, so too let us take a few moments to remember. Let us call to mind what God has done for us in the year past: the blessings we have received through family, friendship, and the cavalcade of life itself. The times our fears have been eased by Christ's presence. The times we have been healed from illnesses or injury. The times God has comforted us in our grief. Those times we received unexpected strength in a time of weakness.

And what about this church, our church? How often have we experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in our online worship? All the times we shared our joys and concerns and lifted our prayers together in unison? Think of the blessings we've received from our online classes. Recall the amazing Virtual VBS we held last year! And what about the incredible growth of our Youth and Young Adults? And hey, has God not richly blessed and strengthened our mission? How many thousands have we fed in our neighborhood? How many boxes of badly needed supplies have we shipped to Los Cocos in the Dominican Republic? How many lives will be saved through ICU India?

Again, making a commitment that will affect every aspect of our lives is a nervy thing to do, but really now, when it comes to whether or not we will commit ourselves to the service of the Lord, the choice isn't really that difficult at all is it? But like many of the Israelites of Joshua's day, far too many who call themselves "Christian," will prefer to remain astraddle the fence and put off making any hard commitment to go all in for God. And so the world is chock-full of so-called luke-warm Christians (an oxy-moronic term, right?), and we know what God thinks of luke-warm Christians don't we? In Revelation 3:16 he hear, ***"So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*** Yes, being a non-committed Christian literally makes God sick!

And by the way, someone else had something interesting to say about such fence straddlers of the faith! Jesus didn't beat around the bush when it came to explaining precisely what it means to accept or reject serving God. In Matthew 7 we hear ***“Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord”, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven.”*** In other words we can recite all the prayers, creeds, and Bible verses ever written. Our faith don't mean doodily-squat if we don't act upon it! Jesus let's us know on no uncertain terms that when he calls on us to follow him we can't go around telling everyone *“Oh yeah, I'm a follower of Jesus!”* when we never budge from our pews. To remain stuck in place while he proceeds on is to have ***“chosen poorly.”***

In this morning's Gospel lesson, Jesus spoke of two types of houses, one built on a strong rock foundation and one on a foundation of sand. Each of these houses represent those who have heard Jesus' teaching, but there's a difference when it comes to how they respond when asked to, *“...choose this day whom you will serve.”* Listen to the words of the parable: ***“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.”***

The one who hears Jesus' words and then acts on them builds a strong foundation that can withstand the most violent of storms. That's because an active faith strengthens itself just like lifting weights strengthens our muscles!

On the other hand, ***“... everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”***

Again, merely hearing the words of Jesus, without acting upon them leaves us vulnerable to all manner of crises. The same storm that couldn't put a dent on the house built upon a rock will destroy the house on the sand, and what one may have thought was a genuine faith turns out to be a worthless illusion. Hearing God's word and not acting on it is like deciding, *“Thanks but no thanks,”* when it comes to serving God!

Saints of New Dover United Methodist Church, the pandemic wilderness is ending and as we cross through the Jordan into an unknown future we too are called on to decide how committed to Christ we are to be. To serve God in sincerity and faithfulness is not to think of this church as just another club we belong to, just another block of time to schedule into our busy week! It's not who we claim to be that's important; it's what we **accomplish** here in our ministry and mission that is the rock foundation of a genuine faith.

To say yes to God the most important commitment we will ever make in our lives. Let's just take a few moments before we leave this place to reflect on how we ourselves answer the question Joshua put before the Israelites 3,000 years ago. Will we truly serve the Lord? Will we rise up and follow Jesus? Or will we remain stuck in place, astraddle the fence, shouting *“Lord, Lord!”* without ever attempting the work of ministry, without ever entering the Kingdom of God? As always, the answer is up to us.

My recommendation? ***Choose wisely!***



UMW Trip to Long Beach Island
August 4, 2022

If you only paid a deposit for the trip, the balance is due now and the amount is \$45.00 if you paid a \$50.00 deposit.

Due date is Sunday, June 12th. You can mail a check to me, payable to United Methodist Women or see me in church on the 12th. If you don't remember what you owe, please call me at 732-287-2231.

Connie Thomas
UMW Vice President



**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/NEWDOVER](https://vbspro.events/p/newdover)

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



New Member were welcomed into the United Methodist Church on April 24th and May 8th. They are:

Bill & Donna Bunting
Kennyson & Bindu
Christian

Shashi Christian
Ashok & Violet David
Herold & Jyotika David
Nirmit & Karen David
Sherry & Grace Masih
Kathleen Reiss
Gloria Thompson

Welcome to the family of
New Dover United
Methodist Church.



Confirmation

Class of 2022

Congratulations to

*Luke Colon
Eric Colon
Risith Duggimpudi
Daniel Mizak
Declan O'Rourke
Jessica Rodriguez*

*on their confirmation into the United Methodist Church
and membership at New Dover United Methodist Church
Edison, New Jersey*

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

LETTING GO

Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Fifteen years after my mother’s passing, I finally gave up her beloved violin. It was a shadow of its former self, needing more care than I could give. I had never played it, nor had she touched it for decades before her death. Yet neither one of us could bear to give it away, her for remembering the sacrifices of time and money to play the instrument and me for knowing her fond memories of times gone by. But nothing in this world lasts forever (including us); at some point, the time comes for each of us to change our focus from material desires to spiritual treasures. Let’s learn to let go of those things we don’t need and allow someone else to use what we do not. It’s not easy, but necessary, in order to keep focused on what’s eternal and indestructible.

Acts 4:32-35

³²⁻³³ The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn’t even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, “That’s mine; you can’t have it.” They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them. ³⁴⁻³⁵ And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy. Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the price of the sale to the apostles and made an offering of it. The apostles then distributed it according to each person’s need.

We need to do the same thing with our spiritual selves, turning toward the fruits of the Spirit...

(From The Upper Room) The apartment building I had lived in for four years closed. As my neighbors and I began to move out, I marveled at the amount of stuff people had been able to fit into their apartments. My own quarters had been pretty bare, but there was always plenty of room for the regular stream of friends coming in and out to visit. Had I accumulated more things, there would not have been enough space for all of the shared meals, impromptu dancing, and games of charades with those I cared about. Though I’m not an avid collector of material possessions, I do have a tendency to store up unnecessary and even dangerous things in my heart: grudges, harsh words, hypocritical thoughts, and bad attitudes. My heart can become so disorderly that there’s little room left for God or other people. Unless I give the Holy Spirit complete freedom to remove everything that isn’t valuable, I will remain isolated in the cramped confines of spiritual clutter. God longs to live close to us, to share the space of our lives so we can enjoy intimacy with God and with one another. Clearing the junk out of our hearts can be difficult, but when we do, we open ourselves to experiencing life as God meant it to be.

Galatians 5:22-25

the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²² But the fruit of

Here is my challenge for you...this year give away at least one thing that is important to you, something you don’t use but keep for sentimental reasons; and work on one of those spiritual fruits when confronted with worldly behavior. Let me know your story.

June Birthdays

- 1 *Lauren De Zaio*
Amy Silva
- 2 *Sunhee Yoon*
- 5 *Melita Nyema*
- 6 *Evan Gilmore*
- 8 *Zander Christian*
Pramila Ponugubaty
- 9 *Jelovus Jeevaraj*
- 10 *Lin Allarey*
Peggy Silva
- 13 *Jaffy Jeevaraj*
- 15 *Meghan Vilela*
- 16 *Andrew Hunt*
Danielle Mizak
- 18 *Daniel Gray*
- 20 *Stefanie Ladym*
- 21 *Charles Bennett*
- 22 *Jayne Bonner*
- 23 *Marilynne Romeo*
- 25 *Zill Christian*
Caroline Christian
- 27 *Maureen Sanders*
- 28 *Lina Christian*
- 30 *Alice Bennett*
Sam De La Paz

June Anniversaries

- 2 *Thomas & Sunitha Duggimpudi*
Charles & Janet Greve
- 5 *Daniel & Sharon Gray*
- 25 *Kevin & Paulette Harland*





June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	6 7:00pm Trustees 7:30 AA	7 7:30-1:30 Flea Market	8 10:00am Prayer Fellowship 6:30pm UMW Meeting	9 7:30pm AA	10 9:00am Kahboom Robotics 1pm YAI/YA D2C 5:00pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA	11 9:00am Kahboom Robotics 1pm YAI/YA D2C 5:00pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
12 Strawberry Festival 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30a Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	13 10:30am Hot Topics 7pm Nurture 7:30 AA	14 7:30-1:30 Flea Market	15 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	16 7:00pm Hot Topics 7:30p AA	17 11am Pre-School Graduation	18 9:00am Kahboom Robotics 1pm YAI/YA D2C 5:00pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
19 Father's Day 10:15am Worship 11:30pm Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	20 7:00pm Worship 7:30 AA	21 7:30-1:30 Flea Market	22 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	23 7:30pm AA	24 9:00am Kahboom Robotics 1pm YAI/YA D2c 5:00pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA	25 9:00am Kahboom Robotics 1pm YAI/YA D2c 5:00pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
26 10:15am Worship 4:30pm Telugu Service	27 7:00pm Council 7:30pm AA	28 7:30-1:30 Flea Market	29 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	30 7:30pm AA		

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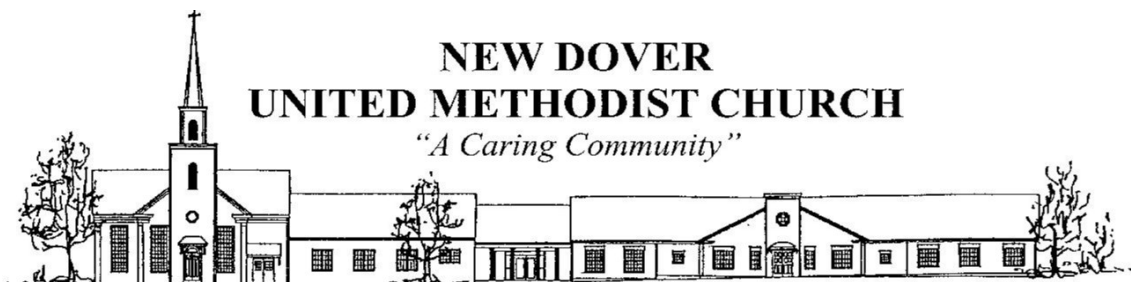
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**NEW DOVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

"A Caring Community"

