



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

June 2023

Vol. 201

*A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church
Celebrating 175 Years 1848-2023*

Honoring the Past, Blessing the Present, Transforming the Future

Chuck's Church Chat



Oh what is more sweet than the month of June
When our senses thrill and our hearts keep tune
To the song of the birds and the rose in bloom?
Oh what is more joy than the early gray
Of the dewy morn and the sun's first ray
That herald the dawn of a perfect day?
Oh what is more fair as the sun climbs high
Than the azure hue of the summer sky
And the snow-white clouds drifting idly by?
Oh what is more pure than the summer air
That wafts from the woodlands and gardens fair
A fragrance and perfume so rich and rare?

from "June"

by Lottie Brown Allen

Saints,

Grace to you and peace in this month of bird song, azure skies, snow-white clouds, fragrant gardens and the end of the school year (*yea!*).

Let us welcome June, the gateway into summer, even though it seems like spring had just arrived at the tail end of the mildest winter any of us can ever remember. The demarcation between seasons has become quite the gray area lately, has it not? That said we look forward to this month of transition and the upcoming season of beaches, vacations, and ice cream. Lots and lots of ice cream!

Speaking of ice cream, when down south in my native Quinton Township last week I drove past "Hudock's Custard Stand," the legendary seasonal fast-food landmark to witness once again the long lines at both the grill and the ice cream counters. Down where I'm from we call soft ice cream "frozen custard," even though it hasn't an ounce of custard in it! Much of my teen summer diet consisted of Hudock's foot-long hot dogs with sauerkraut and chili sauce, washed down with a peanut butter shake! Think I'll drop in next time I'm down.

June is also the season when things start winding down a bit at church as our Sunday School, as well as Hot Topics, Bible Study, and various fellowships (other than our Wednesday Prayer Warriors, and Friday morning Bread Breakers) go into sabbatical mode, and on Sunday, June 24th worship switches to our 9:30 summer hour. But before we go completely into summer status there are a few big events to look forward to...

On June 4th, Trinity Sunday, we will host the 4th "All-Bells-Ring" which unites the Wesley Ringers from Bound Brook UMC, the Jubilee Ringers from Scotch Plains UMC, and the Silver Bells, the Golden Ringers and the Jubilate Handbell Choir from New Dover. It promises to be a wonderful Communion Sunday worship experience!

On the following Sunday, June 11th, we will be taking in quite a few new members, and celebrating the end of our Sunday School year. Following worship it's time for our annual Strawberry Festival!

And finally, June 18th is Father's Day and in addition to honoring our Fathers, we will be celebrating our graduates and teachers as well.

As always, there's plenty to look forward to at NDUMC! Just the thought of it makes me hungry. Any good foot-long hot dogs and peanut butter shakes around here?!

Bon appetite!

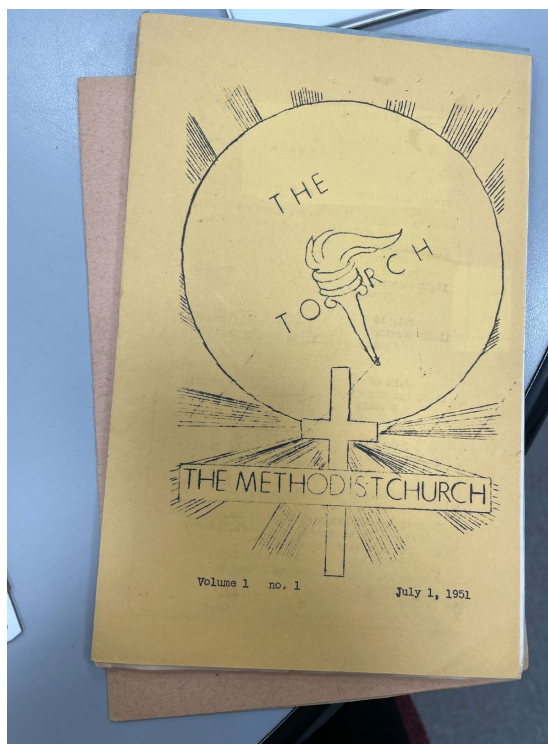
Rev Chuck

**Summer Sunday Worship Service time change starts
June 25th at 9:30am.**

Celebrating 175 Years
1848-2023

Honoring the Past, Blessing the Present, Transforming the Future

Before there was The Herald, there was The Torch.
It was first published on July 1, 1951



KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz
Debbie Ladym
Shirley & Lamont Shaffer
Beverly Vollmar
Victor Vilela
Peggy Silva
Evelyn MacKenzie
Family of June Ebbets
Fran Livechia

Service men & women
Veterans
Homeless, unemployed
& uninsured
All affected by Covid-19 and
their families
The People of Ukraine
Victims & their Families of
the recent mass shootings

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 2023 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

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SERMON OF THE MONTH

“Uh...What Just Happened?”

Preached on Sunday, April 16, 2023

Luke 24:36-49

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Saints, last week we celebrated Easter. So...*what just happened?* When it comes to the life of a church, Easter can be like a shot of steroids.

Now I’m not referring to the long-term abuse of steroids. I’m talking about when you have an allergic reaction, or a bad dose of poison ivy, or a bronchial infection, and your doctor gives you a shot of steroids and within hours you’re feeling better, stronger, and overall more positive. You feel like a new person! Problem is the steroid effect is only short term. Yeah, wears off in about a week. And unfortunately that’s about how long the shot of Easter works for most churches as well!

I was pretty psyched at the number of you who attended our services all during Holy Week. We had a great crowd on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday, and a 50 percent increase in attendance over last year on Good Friday. On Easter, between the two services we broke the 200 barrier for the first time since the pandemic! And by the way, we shouldn’t take such a jump for granted because that simply hasn’t been the case with most of the churches in mainline denominations.

Question is, what does it all mean? Because after all, numbers are just that- numbers. We all knew that attendance would be down the week after, right? One of my predecessors at 1st UMC in Asbury Park, Rev. Herbert Lowe, somewhat ironically, called the Sunday after Easter “*Low Sunday*.” This begs us to ask ourselves a good honest question: other than a temporary shot of steroids, what does Easter mean for those of us who call ourselves New Dover United Methodist Church? More importantly, what does it mean when it comes to our going forward in ministry?

And you know what? That’s pretty much the same question the disciples were asking one another in the wake of that first Easter Sunday. Right after they looked wide-eyed at one another and asked “*Uh... what just happened?*” they must have wondered, “*What does it mean for us going forward?*”

Saints again, Easter can be a real shot of steroids. But steroids wear off! What should *WE* gain from Easter Sunday that’s long lasting, that won’t wear off in a week or so, that won’t allow us to merely get back to business as usual? For that, what say we dive headlong into today’s New Testament passage!

The scene opens with the disciples talking about all that occurred in the days leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion, what we call “Holy Week.” They discussed the testimony of the women who had fled from the empty tomb, then Peter going there himself and finding nothing but linen cloths where Jesus’ body had been. And then there was the curious story told by the two followers who encountered a fellow traveler while on their way to Emmaus. A stranger unknown, but who revealed himself to be Jesus when they broke bread together, then simply vanished! *What in the world does all this mean*, they asked themselves. *What in*

the world does all this mean, and what does it mean for us going forward?

So while they're pondering all this, what to their wandering eyes should appear, but Jesus himself, who just materializes in their midst. And what's the first word Jesus says to them? He simply says "*Shalom,*" which translates "*Peace be with you!*" Which immediately caused a peace to fall over the disciples, right? Right? Ugh...WRONG! In fact, they reacted in quite the opposite fashion, not a serene calmness but abject fear! We're told, "*They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.*" So much for the "*Peace be with you!*"

Remember how we chuckled a bit at the women, who upon discovering the empty tomb and the angel telling them Jesus had been resurrected fled in terror? Well now it was the guys turn to reveal their jangled nerves! But really, who can blame the disciples, right, because (*HELLO!*) Jesus was DEAD! And if that was the case, what was he doing standing in the middle of them?! You see, Saints, its only our life-long familiarity with Jesus' appearances after the crucifixion, stories we learned in Sunday School and beyond, that keeps this story from coming across like a horror film with an unexpected jump scare of Zombie Jesus suddenly showing up!

It's obvious at this point that the disciples hadn't quite believed the stories told by either the women at the tomb or Peter or the two Emmaus Road travelers, because Jesus showing up knocked their collective sandals right on off! Think about how we'd react if, a couple of days after attending our Aunt Gertrude's funeral she suddenly showed up at dinner?! I doubt we'd all say, "*It's great to see you Aunt Gerty!*" I don't know about you, but I know my reaction would be to high-tail it out the door!

So then, how does Jesus handle this? First of all he's a bit surprised that they reacted this way. After all, before they ever made their way to Jerusalem he had told them, *repeatedly*, that this is what was going to happen, that's why! But then he voices the precise reason for their fear and he names it- DOUBT! "*He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?'*" Well, to put it bluntly, they had doubts because no matter how many times Jesus foretold his brutal death and miraculous resurrection, they either totally misunderstood it, or had simply doubted any such thing could possibly happen. And really, can we blame them? It's not like resurrections are an everyday thing, right?

So what does Jesus do to alleviate their doubts? Well, he offers proof that it's really him, and not just some shock-induced hallucination: "*Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence."

And that's how he began to quell the fears and confusion of his disciples, but what about us? We don't have Jesus of Nazareth visibly present among us. We have to rely on some other evidence if our own doubts are to be overcome. Maybe the key is found as we continue reading Luke's account: "***While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering.***" Saints, if we're honest with ourselves we realize that, like the disciples before us, both belief and doubt, to varying degrees, go hand in hand throughout our lives. There are days when our faith is unassailable. And there are others when it deflates like a week-old balloon. That daily battle between belief and doubt. Between faith and fear. Between hope and despair. Question is, how can we have our doubts, fears, and despair removed?

Once again, listen to the words from Luke- "***...he opened their minds to understand the scriptures.***" You see Saints, that's where the answer lies! The road to a strong faith *must* pass through Bible Study, Sunday School, devotions, and attending worship. Without that, how can we expect our faith to be strengthened and our doubts decreased?! How can we say we believe in Jesus and yet seldom or never open the Bible? In order to believe we genuinely need to know what the scriptures say and how they can be fulfilled in our lives going forward.

That's one way to keep the Easter spirit alive and growing. The other way is to observe the continuing work of Jesus that is going on in the world around us. In Isaiah 52 we read this about the "Suffering Servant," whom we believe to be Jesus himself: "***Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.***"

Christ rules the world, the prophet tells us, and even kings, bow down to him. At least those kings who truly know him. And so, we ask ourselves, "How do we get others to know of him, to follow him?" Well, when we live out the scriptures, and put into action his teaching, through our being his body on earth.

Saints, there are lots of people who earnestly want to change the world, but why would they want to join a church that's all talk and no action? On the other hand, if they see a church that is itself changing the world for the better, whether it's one sandwich at a time, or one ICU at a time, or one new house in the DR at a time, well, that's something they may want to be a part of!

And finally, faith is all about what Jesus has done in our own hearts. It's a very personal thing. It's a transformational thing. We who have been transformed may very well echo the words of the two travelers on the road to Emmaus who, upon realizing their traveling companion was Jesus himself "...*said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'*"

In the wake of our Easter joy, are our hearts yet burning as well? Or, like a shot of steroids, was it just a temporary high? Saints, we have so much work to do! The challenges we face today are, if anything, even greater than those of Jesus' day. But we have within us the reality of the resurrection to empower our faith and strengthen our hope in the time ahead. In the words of our closing hymn:

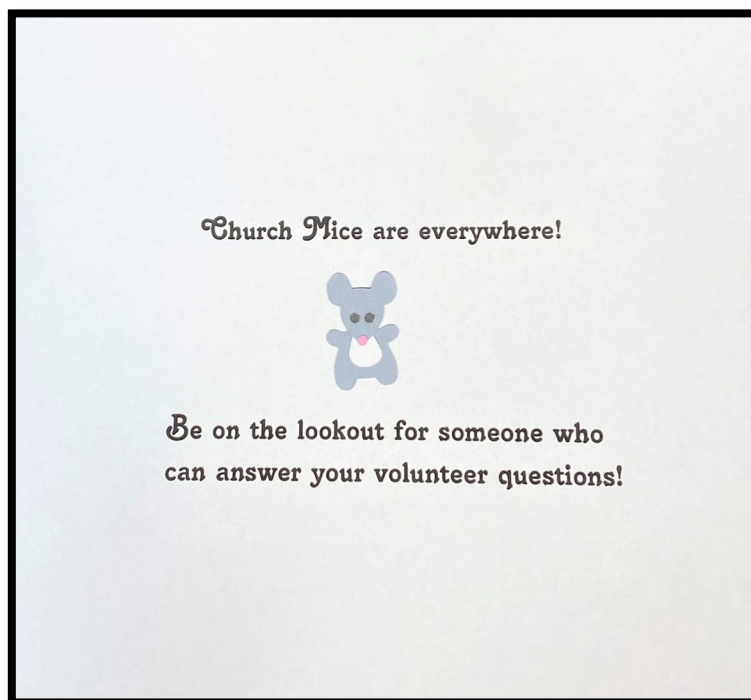
*Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
He comes to claim the here and now, and conquer every place and time.*

Little Greeters Recognition April 9, 2023



Special thanks to Sohan Sunkari, Troop 44, for making the Jehovah Jireh Community Garden renewal his Eagle project. New wooden boards, fresh soil, chicken wire & a sign were all part of the project, as well as overseeing 2 workdays of volunteers. We are ready to grow!

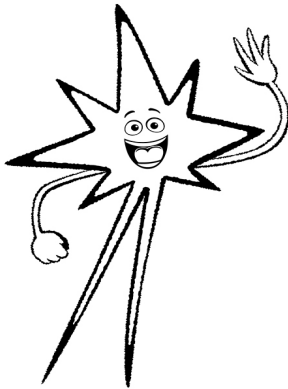
Please sign up for weekly weeding & harvesting at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zLsRXk4QWxeYAc4hLy7riEM6R6bAiOSKo5dUHECAI8k/edit?usp=sharing>



Mother's Day 2023

In New Dover style we celebrated Mother's Day with sermons by mothers, Stephanie Rademacher on Saturday and Michelle O'Rourke on Sunday. Stephanie spoke about a mother's hardest job "Letting Go." Michelle spoke about sharing our stories and she shared her inspirational story of motherhood, illness and recovery.





**NEW DOVER UMC
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

JULY 17th-21st, 2023
9AM - 12PM

REGISTER TODAY!

Pre-K (ages 3,4) - 8th grade
\$10 per child

Online registration may be found here:

[VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/NEWDOWER](https://vbspro.events/p/newdover)

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



June 11, 2023

after Worship Service

Sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall

Monetary donations accepted.



New Members will be welcome to our Church
on June 11, 2023.

Talk Rev. Chuck or email the office at
admin@newdoverumc.org about becoming a
professing member.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE...TRANSFORMATION

In the Bible *transformation* means “change or renewal from a life that no longer conforms to the ways of the world to one that pleases God” (Romans 12:2). This is accomplished by the renewing of our minds, an inward spiritual transformation that will manifest itself in outward actions. The Bible presents the transformed life in Christ as demonstrated through our “bearing fruit in every good work [and] growing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10). Transformation involves those who were once far from God being “drawn near” to Him through the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).

Moreover, evidence of transformation within us is seen in the way we increasingly reflect the likeness and glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). For as the apostle Paul said, “You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ” (Romans 8:9). To be considered as children of God, we must be led by the Spirit of God. And it is through the power of God’s Spirit that Christ lives within us. The transformed life mirrors the attitude of the apostle Paul: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

This power of transformation comes from one source. Paul said, “For the message of the cross [the gospel] is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18). In speaking of Jesus, the apostle Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, boldly declared this truth: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Transformed lives begin with the gospel message of Christ, for in it is the power of God. It is the gospel that brings us salvation: “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’” (Romans 1:16-17).

Through the gospel message of Christ, we learn “to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:22-24). “For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Romans 8:13-14).

Just before he died, the apostle Peter provided us specific instructions on how we are to live out our transformed lives: “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness ... for if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:3-11).

(from gotquestions.org)

United Women of Faith

Our next meeting will be June 14th at 6:30pm. We will have a business meeting and plan our programs for Sept. 2023-June 2024. We will also hold election of officers for the same time period.

Following the meeting we will have a "covered dish dinner", delicious desserts and a fun, surprise game. Join us for our last meeting before summer begins.

Any questions, call Dianne at 732-381-8688.

Sincerely,
Dianne Petersen - President

Trinity Sunday Special Worship Planned

The 4th All-Bells-Ring will be happening this year at New Dover UMC on June 4th-Trinity Sunday. The Wesley Ringers from Bound Brook UMC, the Jubilee Ringers from Scotch Plains UMC, the Silver Bells, the Golden Ringers and the Jubilate Handbell Choir from New Dover will be ringing their music during the morning worship. New Dover UMC is celebrating the 175th year of our church and the 40th year of Handbell Music Ministry. Please spread the word to family and friends to join us for this festive occasion.



June Birthdays

- 1 Amy Silva
- 2 Sunhee Yoon
- 5 Melita Nyema
- 6 Evan Gilmore
- 8 Xander Christian
Ravindra Perera
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
- 22 Jayne Bonner
- 23 Marilynne Romeo
- 25 Caroline Christian

- 25 Zill Christian
- 27 Maureen Sanders
- 28 Lina Christian
- 30 Alice Bennett
Sam De La Paz

June Anniversaries

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



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