



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

July/Aug 2021

Vol. 180

A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace.

Wow, before I begin let me just say it's been great seeing so many of you back in the pews for worship Saturday nights and Sunday mornings! I'll never forget the dazzling smile on the face of Sanjana Dialle as she walked up the sidewalk to enter for worship on June 6! The energy before, during, and after the services has been through the roof. I was talking to Bolton Nyema following that particular worship and we both agreed that the long time off has made us appreciate weekly worship more than ever. Let's hope we can ride this renewed energy into the summer months!



A couple of days ago while musing over a possible theme of this month's "chat," it hit me- the end of June marks five years since I began my pastorate in Edison. ***I know!!!!!!*** Out of curiosity I went into my files and located the very first "Chuck's Church Chat" I wrote the June before I actually started my ministry here (*I never throw anything out!*). I closed that piece with these words:

Our own journey is all about the Kingdom of God as described by one Jesus of Nazareth who gave his life that we may know what it means to love unconditionally. It will be my humble honor to do my utmost to empower our entire New Dover community on the incredible journey ahead...maybe, just maybe, we will transform the world in a way that is pleasing to God. I'm confident that will be the case and I can't wait to begin our journey together!

Looking back five years later, I think about the changing face of the congregation, those pillars of the church who have gone on to glory, others who found different spiritual paths in their lives, and those who have joined us on our ongoing faith journey, strengthening our mission and ministry.

Saints, we have come so far, but we still have a long, long way to go because the Kingdom has not yet been fulfilled. Think of the numerous challenges we've faced- the causes we've championed, the mouths we have fed here at home, the houses we've built in Los Cosos, the lives we will save in Vellore. Think of all the triumphs as well as the heartbreaks along the way, because they all have helped mold us into the disciples we have become.

Finally, think of what the world was like in June of 2016 and then think of where it is today. I know there may be some who are discouraged and believe we may actually be losing the fight, but to that I once again remind you...I have read the end of the Bible. *Spoiler Alert- God wins!*

The journey continues!

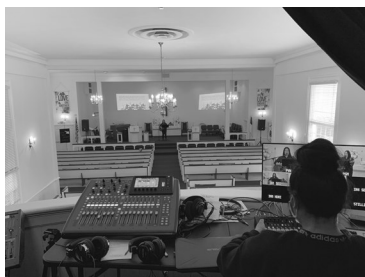
Chuck

Youth & Young Adults (New Dover YAYA)

Project Revamp has completely overturned their Youth Room into a new, clean welcoming space this year. A few final touches remaining, this room has been their new favorite place to hang-out throughout the transitional pandemic year. They're currently working on the Prayer Cross Project in partnership with the UMW.



The Heavenly Hosts hosted served smoothies at the Strawberry Festival and will resume Cook-off's in the Fall. Look out for an upcoming special summer fundraiser.



AND

Team New Dover Studios has been serving on the balcony crew for every service to broadcast live since December 2020. Without them, virtual/live services would not have been possible. Thank you, NDS!

Youth And Young Adults Summer Schedule
YAYA Sunday Meets will resume on Sunday, July 25 at 1:30pm.

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz

Bob Maimoni

Polly Wendel

Noah Comacho

Lisa Basha

Don Huestis

Service men & women

Veterans

Homeless, unemployed

&uninsured

All affected by Covid-19 and
their families

All Elderly of NDUMC

The People of India

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 2021 permanent prayer list, please contact Pat Carpenter
732-208-0139 pcarp732@gmail.com

FROM YOUR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

For a slim figure, share your food with
the hungry.

For lovely eyes, seek out the good in
people.

For an attractive face speak words of
kindness.

For poise, walk with the knowledge
that you never walk alone.

Audrey Hepburn

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SERMON OF THE MONTH

“Bridge Over Troubled Water”

Lessons from Sarah and Abraham’s Story, Genesis 18 & 22

*(Preached on Saturday, May 29, 2021 Peace with Justice Week-Memorial Day Weekend by Pastor Rosie Pang
Sermon did not broadcast properly due to technical glitches with a hardware.)”*



(New Revised Standard Version) God’s Defense of His City and People
To the leader. Of the Korahites. According to Alamo. A Song.

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

As mentioned above, this one-of-a-kind, don’t-wanna-miss-out sermon was cut off from the April 29th SNAPS (Saturday Night Alive Praise Service) broadcast right when I began to preach. Somethings happen for a reason and this is one of those that happen for no other reason than accidentally when technology fails. Although the sermon was omitted, you will be blessed to hear my friend Julia on praise that evening and of her singing the title song. Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/eunyrozie.pang.3/videos/308961084166057>. I also recommend you to turn on the music while reading this by going to YouTube.com >(Search)> Simon & Garfunkel - Bridge Over Troubled Water (from The Concert in Central Park) and hit play! It’s called “sensory learning, Aha!”

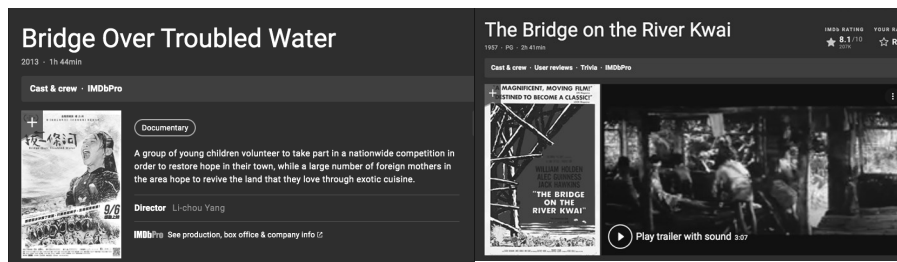
How many of you know and love this song? One of my favorites. The lyrics of the song goes like this: When you're weary, Feeling small, When tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all, I'm on your side, When times get rough, And friends just can't be found, (Chorus) Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down, Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down. When you're down and out, When you're on the street, When evening falls so hard, I will comfort you, I'll take your part, When darkness comes, And pain is all around, Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down, Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down.

Yes, this is a secular song, too bad it never made it to a hymnal. But it is gospel-influenced, gospel-inspired and when they created the song, they put scholarly efforts to it to their artistic perfection. Every word of it sings to me of Christ. Jesus who is the bridge between God and the world is asking you to be the same bridge to connect the world to God.

My troubled water was... When I was a sophomore in High School in the Philippines, my parents had to make a decision to go back to South Korea where my older brother began prepping for his college admission. I remember having to readjust to completely different, tough school system, schedule, people and felt helplessly lost in space and alone. I would often go into my new school before anyone arrived so I can slip into a chapel where no one came by, alone. Even the time in the Philippines was not easy when I first got there in 7th grade and just started to feel like I had a sense of belonging, my small group of friends, got comfortable with the new language and fluent in their culture. That was not even that long ago and now, repeat that all over again, alone. I felt abandoned and uncared for. Day after day, morning after morning, my seat in that dark chapel grew warmer as my hope grew dimmer. I was anxious and worried. My life now and my future was in trouble. My soul was restless and lacked peace. In all possible ways, my ground was shaking and I was in deep troubled water.

When you web search the title “Bridge Over Troubled Water” and look for movies, these two results pop up. One on the left is a documentary in foreign language released in 2013 about a group of young children volunteering to take part in a nationwide competition to bring hope in their forgotten town while another group of foreigners with the same goal in mind spearhead a project of hope with their love of exotic cuisine. The movie one on the right is a world war II movie which takes place around the Burmese border (modern time “Myanmar”) featuring a famous bridge over Kwai River.

As you see here, we have troubled waters with two completely different contexts. If you have seen The Bridge on the River Kwai, or have lived through World War II, or know of war veterans, refugees and victims, you’d naturally



relate your trouble to battlefields, warfare, severe wounds, corpses, killing, lots of blood and most likely post-war traumatic stress disorder. At the same time, problems that don't involve such extreme measures may not seem much of a "trouble." However, the story of the young children and foreign mothers' fight to restore hope for their dear community and my

desperate high school days are no less of a trouble. Every challenge is like rough currents of water, some do swallow you alive.

The country's state of water / Global issues... The trouble of our time we're in addresses another clear and present danger. This pandemic and the mass shootings, bias and intolerance on another race and now the hate crimes rising against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are plunging all of us into the deep end without a moment to waste. In order to preserve generations and humanity, save our children and the vulnerable from what threatens their safety, we must lay down that bridge to respond immediately. So if you are on the bridge, don't be so quick to avoid those still in the water to cross over. If you do not help the next person from the bridge you're standing on, if you bypass to provide that relief, if you don't stop and listen, if you don't extend your arms to those in troubled waters and pull them out of their troubled waters when you happen to cross the bridge, you're not only missing out on the opportunity to be the bridge over troubled water. And the person you neglect will in fact drown, or to say the least have to last in their deepening trouble even longer.

If you've been spared and saved by God's grace and have faith that God is with you, gives you strength time to time, if God's truth has set you free from your past and worries, fear, and resentment, know that God is in control; if you have Jesus as the bridge over your troubled water, stop acting like you're still in the water! You are standing on that bridge and no longer drowning but some of you can't get your mind out of the water, why?

It's not that simple, is it? Well, think of a veteran who returned from World War II, Vietnam, Korea, the Gulf coast or the Middle East. Even when they leave the battlefield and come home back to their country, back to their families, they're not really back. The experience wounded them and some too vividly traumatic that they relive the battlefield over and over. As the medals go to those who survived, rather than standing tall in pride, they kneel low for their comrades with the weight of guilt and peculiarity. They also realize that the world they return to is not the same world they left. These veterans come back from war to combat just to live on. And inevitably, although many of us are not veterans, we find ourselves right back at another troubled water! If it's not with me, one of family members get ill. Even if it's not this nation, another country gets a Covid resurgence. Can we ever survive a Rip Tide?

Genesis 18 & 22... Sarah and Abraham's water begins to be troubled when those three men approach the tent they stayed at. Wait. Did you just say troubled? You mean in a good way right, Rosie? Well. I see this text a little differently today because as a woman and if I were of Sarah's age, at 99, the last thing on my mind is having a child. And husband like Abraham, you know he's got some issues too. He lies periodically, he's got a mistress, and oh, what else? Oh yeah, indecisive. I don't know about you, but honestly, I would NOT be asking for a child if I were Sarah. She did ask long time ago. She did want a child, but again, long time ago. It was on her prayer list fifty years ago? At 99, She's got things together, comfort of her tent, and I certainly don't think she would sign up to raise a baby with a husband always bringing home unwanted guests without asking. But those three men kept on insisting Sarah that she'll have a child by next year. No wonder Sarah laughed. Wouldn't you? Sarah didn't have to laugh at God. Sarah laughed at those ridiculously naughty visitors! Naughty or nice, Sarah's womb was preparing for a child and quickly filling up with water.

I invite you to read on Genesis because what happens during Sarah's pregnancy will strike you with thunder and lightning bolt. If you're in a pool, get out before you read the rest of chapter 18 and 19 'coz Sodom and Gomorrah happens. If the book recorded events in chronological order, Sarah goes through her maternity watching or at least hearing of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Genesis 19:28, "He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace." Can you imagine what your OB-GYN will say to you going any near a judgment day? What's worse than stress during your pregnancy? More stress! Chapter 21, Isaac was born.

I want to turn your attention to Abraham for a moment. During the time before Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed, Abraham does something we should all give him significant credit for. He mediates with God in efforts to save the righteous from being swept with the wicked. When God tells Abraham if there are fifty righteous men, God will hold off on the judgment, Abraham gets busy to start recruit. Then he sees less and less of a chance to find all

fifty. He begins to plead bargain. You see, what Abraham is doing is exactly what we should do. Plea bargain? I mean mediate. Talk to God on others' behalf. He was laying down a stone for others to cross over with him. That's precisely what Jesus did for the world. Abraham knew that God listened and that God was with him. He knew that God's mercy and grace has given him second chances to make him a better man today than he was last year. In fact, he and Sarah had just heard an answer to their ancient prayers that proved to them both that God hears every cry and desires of your heart, even the timing may be a little bit off your grid. So Abraham stood with God and followed God's instructions because he knew that God would lead him to the right path; the path of life and redemption.

As someone who was on a bridge of salvation, Abraham took up a rock and laid it one stone at a time to extend a chance to life for others to cross over. He bargained to forty people. Then thirty, twenty, and ten. But to no avail, the people of Sodom shamelessly turn hostile toward the visitors who were staying with Lot. God is merciful and God is Love. But don't be mistaken that God will simply blindfold the sin of hostility.

All the men of Sodom came to Lot's demanding to abuse his visitors for fun and sports. What does this signify? They wanted to take advantage of those who were vulnerable. Unlike Sarah and Abraham who offered extra hospitality toward the three visitors, these so-dum I mean Sodom people just offered hostility. They outnumbered these visitors to bully them, threaten them and hurt these foreigners who were seemingly weak. Little did they know. Lot does what is ethically correct and that is to protect these visitors to his best and tries to persuade those wicked neighbors from doing any harm. And you know the rest of the story. Burning sulfur storm outside of Lot's family. So you know what? As the Hebrew scripture echoes repeatedly and as how Jesus also teaches all his followers, look after the weak, the sick, the orphans, the hungry, and don't be hostile against strangers, bereaving, and children.

What is your troubled water?

In chapter 22, another trouble comes to Sarah and Abraham and that is when God calls to give up Isaac. What in the world is this about? We'll go into this another day. But the sense of trouble is clear here. What is your troubling water? Do you know of anyone and what their trouble is? You see, if you're the one the water is pulling down, you cannot rescue yourself. And if you're on a bridge and happen to see someone in the troubled water, make sure you do what Abraham did. Mediate. Intervene. Help. Pray. Do something. **Jesus laid down his life for ALL, the good, the bad, and the in between. The innocent, the perpetrators, and everyone. Jesus laid down his life to be the bridge to cross God's love over to the world.**

The trouble we as a church is going through is a generation of drifters. Many young people sail off and are turned off by some of the hostile and unethical decisions churches make as much as how indecisive some of us are. But they do get caught in a Rip Tide and is impossible to make their way out of the water on their own. Friends, get out there and look out. When you see someone in troubled waters and you can't swim to them, bring the bridge to them-the Bridge of Jesus Christ. *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.* After all, Jesus does have a middle name. Lifesaver.

Prayer: We have failed, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Morning Coffee Hours

As most of you know, we have been worshipping in our beautiful sanctuary since the end of May and all is going well. We would now like to resume our coffee hours after the service each week, but we need your help.

We need at least 2 people each week to do the coffee hour. At the present time we have the UMW doing it the first Sunday of every month and the Trustees and Kingsly Family sharing the third Sunday of the month (each of them doing it 6 times per year.) This leaves the second and fourth Sundays and the fifth Sunday in a month which occurs four times a year.

The job can be done by two friends, a couple, or any of the work areas of the church (Nurture, Social Justice, Outreach, etc.).

Please give this your consideration. Any questions, please see Connie in church or call her at 732-287-2231.



Congratulations! Class of 2021



Presenting New Dover Graduates

2021

Kindergarten:
Chelsea Nyema and Jaiden Gulstone

5th Grade to MS:
Danny Mizak, Jameson Ouellette

MS to HS:
Declan O'Rourke, Rishith Duggimpudi

HS to College:
Naomi Hunt



If you have any graduates in your family, drop a line with the church office for a gift from us!



NEW DOVER UMC VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 12th-16th, 2021

Embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. At Treasured VIRTUAL VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold—it's them!

Send your kids on an impacting adventure!
Register today!



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

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

**REGULAR REGISTRATION
DEADLINE: JULY 1ST!**

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

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

July Birthdays

| | |
|----|---|
| 2 | <i>Ross Karlo Tuason</i> |
| 3 | <i>Connie Thomas</i> |
| 5 | <i>Barbara Sucheski</i> |
| 6 | <i>Leena Parmar</i> |
| 7 | <i>Adelfo Gonzalez</i> <i>Deja Lewis</i> |
| 8 | <i>Alpa Vyas</i> <i>Joyce Yoon</i> |
| 9 | <i>Bob Becker</i> <i>Ricky Dially</i> |
| 11 | <i>Hadassah Bandela</i> |
| 12 | <i>Ajith De Alwis</i> <i>Jiya Katthula</i> |
| 14 | <i>Pat Carpenter</i> <i>Raeann Dalton</i> |
| 15 | <i>Jessica Vyas</i> |
| 17 | <i>Laura Becker</i> |
| 18 | <i>Michael Owsiany</i> |
| 20 | <i>Tonya Burleigh</i> |
| 21 | <i>Nicole De Zaio</i> <i>Nilpa Khristi</i> <i>Mauricio Vilela</i> |
| 22 | <i>Joshua Bonito</i> |
| 25 | <i>Bryant Baidowsky</i> |
| 26 | <i>Michael Bonner</i> <i>Madhu Christian</i> <i>Bryce Sarno</i> |
| 27 | <i>Elton Nyema</i> <i>Jeisus Poornaselvan</i> |
| 28 | <i>Mark Sojak</i> |
| 29 | <i>Elizabeth D'Arcy</i> <i>Austin Sarno</i> |
| 30 | <i>Yash Joshi</i> |
| 31 | <i>Helen Castro</i> <i>Greg Wittke</i> |

August Birthdays

| | |
|----|---|
| 2 | <i>Sonel Bhagat</i> |
| 4 | <i>Nathaniel Nyema</i> |
| 5 | <i>Wesly Kingsly</i> <i>Jean Wiskowski</i> |
| 6 | <i>Janet Greve</i> <i>Jessica Rodriguez</i> |
| 7 | <i>Juel Nelson</i> <i>Jim Silva</i> |
| 8 | <i>Persis Bandari</i> |
| 10 | <i>Erica Campbell</i> <i>Peter Ponugubaty</i> |
| 11 | <i>Martha Taylor</i> |
| 15 | <i>Michele Nyema</i> |
| 17 | <i>Scott Burleigh</i> <i>Fiona Meade</i> |
| 19 | <i>Justin Bonito</i> |
| 21 | <i>Ryan Stevenson</i> |
| 22 | <i>Tim Carney</i> |
| 24 | <i>Chester Aludino</i> <i>Catherine Poornaselvan</i> <i>Ben Stevenson</i> |
| 25 | <i>Rishith Duggimpudi</i> |
| 26 | <i>Apurva Christie</i> |
| 27 | <i>Linda Crouse</i> |
| 28 | <i>Scott Perrine</i> <i>Christopher Perrine</i> |
| 30 | <i>Shannon Bhagat</i> |



July Anniversaries

- 2 *Janice Wilson & Mark Sojak*
12 *Evan & Yveline Gumbs*
16 *James & Susan Dalton*
20 *Jim & Rose DeLand*
22 *Jonathon & Alice Lamoreaux*



August Anniversaries

- 7 *Julie & John Gottstein*
10 *Brian & Marie Rock*
12 *Chuck Coblentz & Jean Wiskowski*
22 *Corbiey & Jennifer Ouellette*
24 *Wilfredo & Mary Jane Manglapus*
29 *Patrick & Agnes Kingsly*

United Methodist Women

We are so happy to be meeting again. Our June meeting was a wonderful covered dish supper following a brief business meeting.

Election of officers was held. Dianne Petersen will remain as President, Lisa Chesney as Secretary and Peggy Silva as Treasurer. Mary Ellen Anglin, served as VP for several years and led us beautifully in prayer, has moved and will no longer be an officer. Thank you, Mary Ellen for your faithful service to our UMW. Connie Thomas is now our new VP and we look forward to working with her.

Two mission projects we will continue to serve our Lady Veterans in Menlo Park. If you would care to help us with donations, please drop them off in Fellowship Hall in July. Personal items, scarves, jewelry and a complete list will be posted. Please continue to save your pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. They are always grateful for our contributions which help to aid in the cost of running their "houses".

We have new and exciting programs planned for the fall so we look forward to seeing you all again and some new faces are always welcome. ALL women of the church are invited to attend.

Happy summer to all.

Sincerely,

Dianne Petersen - President



The United Methodist Women will begin their new year by having a dinner meeting at Manny's Diner of Clark at 1030 Raritan Road, Clark, NJ. The dinner will be on Wednesday, Sept. 8th at 6:00pm and we will order from the menu, as we have done in the past. Each of us will receive our own check.

There will be a ten dollar deposit due when you sign up to hold your seat. The deposit will be returned at the dinner. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in church on the UMW bulletin board.

Any questions, please call Connie at 732-287-2231.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

THE MATTER OF FAITH

The substance of faith-

The experience of belief without sight; inner peace despite outer chaos
The wait for answers in the rush for solutions; trust in the midst of uncertainty
The nexus between believers without constraint of time or distance;
Repentance in the face of sin; the link between total surrender and final salvation.

The strength of faith-

Continuity against prevailing pressure to not believe;
Ability to remain centered through inconvenience or tragedy;
Capacity to maintain an indefinite hold on action;
Unshakeable conviction that God's timing is always perfect;
Sustaining the connection to each other through the Vine that is Christ;
Heartfelt understanding of His sacrifice, our submission and His forgiveness.

The tests of faith-

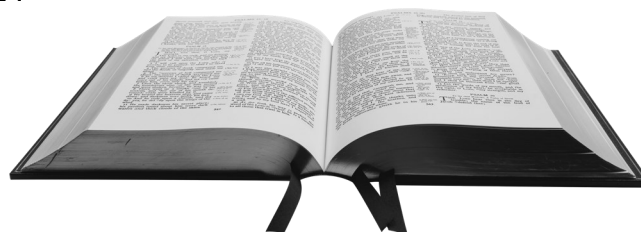
The world's mockery of an unseen God; personal trial and earthly tumult;
Pressure to make decisions without His wisdom;
Secrets of our past and worries of our future; separation from each other;
The panic of our sin and His judgment; doubt of the simplicity of His saving grace.

The responses of faith-

Do we fully believe in the unseen Creator? Is His peace truly in our hearts?
Do we wait to hear His voice and follow His direction?
Do we banish worry and trust Him in all things?
Is our relationship with Him and those He loves our priority?
Are we convinced that His promise of salvation is truth?,
Do we understand His judgment awaits the unbeliever?

The responses to the tests of faith will reveal the substance and strength of faith.

Anita Davis, June 9, 2021



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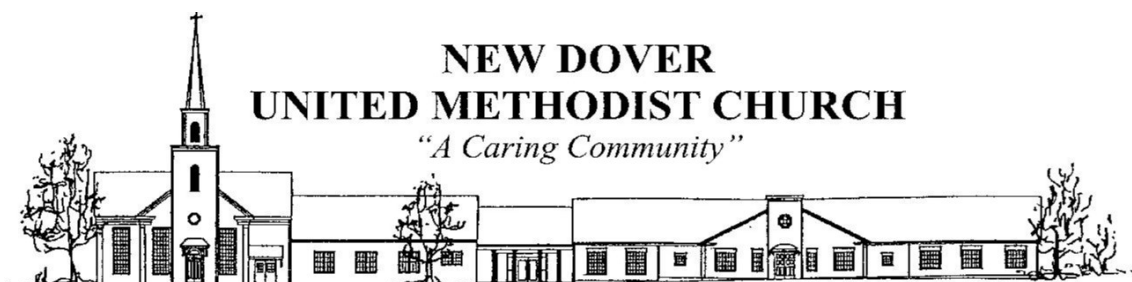
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**NEW DOVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
"A Caring Community"

Strawberry Festival 2021 by Rosie Pang

What a way to celebrate a school year so strange and
sour?

While this never-ending novel virus swept over our world
Leaving behind some souls soiled and safe grounds
stumped,

Strawberries ripened without fail.

June heat summer breeze

End of school year and many moving about,
Some with the pickled drops of hoping for better next
time; but

All for the sweet welcome of the break well deserved.



Congratulations to those whose job well done!
Salute to those whose lives and welfares were harshly
attacked.

Nevertheless, remember that
Strawberries ripen without fail.

From strawberry fields to your picnic tables,
God's goodness and mercy is sitting with you.

And the grace of Jesus your Sweet Savior
Seasons you with something worth counting as a
blessing.

After all, look!

All these strawberries have ripened without fail-
Ready to plump and plough
Another promised trail.



