



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

July/August 2023

Vol. 202

*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



“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.”

Genesis 2:1-3

Saints,

Grace to you and peace, as once again we embark upon the hazy mornings, sunny afternoons, and soothing twilights of summer.

As I sat at desk preparing to write this month's "Chat" I realized that by the time you read it we will have completed our seventh year of ministry together. Those of you who study your Bible know that 7 is what we call a "biblical number."

The Oxford Companion to the Bible writes this about the number seven:

“Seven, the sum of three plus four, of heaven and earth, signifies completeness and perfection. There were seven heavenly bodies (sun, moon, and the five planets known to the ancients), seven days of the week, seven archangels. The great festivals lasted seven days, and there were seven weeks between Passover and the feast of weeks (Pentecost). Every seventh year was a sabbath year, when the land would lay rest and fallow, and Hebrew slaves were allowed to go free...The seventh day represented God completed work and in the book of Revelation the seventh seal, trumpet, bowl, etc., represent the completion of God's plan.”

No getting around it, the number seven is a biblical biggie! When we think back on where we were seven years ago and where we are now, we have indeed come a long way together. I recall my very first visit to Edison on February 14, 2016, when Raritan District Superintendent Drew Dyson took Jean and I to dinner at Lou Cas, then drove us to New Dover to introduce us to the Staff Parish Committee. Turns out only three members were able to attend; the rest were out celebrating Valentine's Day!

From those humble beginnings we have certainly had quite the spiritual adventure, have we not? But unlike what the biblical understanding of seven suggests, it appears that our journey is far from complete; there's still a great deal to be accomplished as we strive together to build God's Kingdom!

With that said, how about we focus instead on another number: eight. Why eight, you say? Well once again let's turn to The Oxford Companion to the Bible where we read:

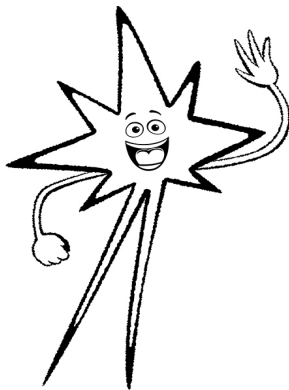
“Eight was later used for God’s new creation, the day of the Resurrection being regarded as the eighth day, rather than the first.”

As many of you know, there are eight sides to the baptismal font, symbolizing rebirth, transformation, and a fresh new start on life. Let me ask you, wouldn't that be a great theme as we begin this eighth year together? To remember our baptism, what it means to be called to leave the past behind and follow Jesus, and begin the next year refreshed, recharged, and rejuvenated! Sure, we can look back on all we've achieved and have cause to celebrate, but only if we continue to challenge ourselves to build upon those very accomplishments.

It has been a most humble honor to serve with you, my fellow disciples, for the past seven years. I look forward to taking on the challenges this vital eighth year will bring, as together we turn yet another page!

A most blessed summer to you all,

Rev Chuck



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KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz
Debbie Ladym
Shirley & Lamont Shaffer
Beverly Vollmar
Victor Vilela
Peggy Silva
Evelyn MacKenzie
Fran Livecchia
Pastor Kumar & Florine

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

In This Issue:

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- Mildred Vollmar Scholarship
- Welcome New Members

Never underestimate the Power of Prayer. One small prayer can change your life dramatically.

That's the reason why we have church calendar. Well, not exactly but having a church calendar definitely helps keep track of not forgetting important dates. And today is THAT one of the more significant days. It's PENTECOST. (Tada with expectation, and not getting the response)

I kind of anticipated this reaction. Let's try this again. It's Pentecost! (Applause, hopefully)

Pentecost according to the book of Acts is when God's Spirit landed on the apostles, the believers who were gathered with the sound of gushing wind, like tongues of fire and overturned the recipients as well as the crowd. Turn of history event took place in the book of Acts, as Jesus at his departure and ascension promised his followers to send, a wonderful counsel who He will send.

But remember church, this was NOT THE FIRST Pentecost.

Acts 2:1

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place." People were already celebrating the day of Pentecost. Well, in other words, Pentecost was a traditional observance,

Leviticus 23 writes of Appointed Festivals in the Hebrew tradition--

The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

⁴ "These are the LORD's appointed festivals, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: ⁵ The LORD's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. ⁶ On the fifteenth day of that month the LORD's Festival of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. ⁷ On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. ⁸ For seven days present a food offering to the LORD. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work."

Followed by Offering the First Fruits, then

The Festival of Weeks

¹⁵ "From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. ¹⁶ Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD. ¹⁷ From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the LORD. ¹⁸ Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect, one young bull and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the LORD, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the LORD. ¹⁹ Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering^[c] and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering. ²⁰ The priest is to wave the two lambs before the LORD as a wave offering, together with the bread of the firstfruits. They are a sacred offering to the LORD for the priest. ²¹ On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.

²² "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God."

According to the Old Testament, you would go to the day of the celebration of Firstfruits, and beginning with that day, you would count off 50 days. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost is the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest.

Since it was always 50 days after Firstfruits, and since 50 days equals seven weeks, it always came a "week of weeks" later. Therefore, they either called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.

The term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning "fiftieth". It refers to the Jewish festival of Shavuot celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover. It is also known as the "Feast of Weeks" and the "Feast of 50 days" in rabbinic tradition.

Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. It is mentioned in five places in the first five books — in Exodus 23, Exodus 24, Leviticus 16, Numbers 28, and Deuteronomy 16.

So, jumping back to A.D., Jesus' followers got together to celebrate this Feast according to their Jewish tradition. "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."

But this time, it was different. In this assembly something odd, unexpected, uncalculated, uncertain happened.

The Holy Spirit happened.

If you want to refresh your memory of that account, please keep your Bibles open and read through the Acts 2. But I am going to hop over to the essence of Pentecost, the reason why the oddities and strange news occurred that day as testified by Paul in his Epistle.

9 gifts of the Spirit / Paul's Epistle
1 Corinthians 12:

⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of **wisdom** and to another the utterance of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the **working of powerful deeds**, to another **prophecy**, to another the **discernment of spirits**, to another various kinds of **tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**.

So what was it that the Spirit gave?
9 gifts of the Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12.

How many gifts? Let's count the words in yellow. 9

And to cross-reference this, we have the text from Isaiah on the gift of the Spirit: Isaiah 11.

Both mystical and mythical numbers 7 and 9 represent

cosmic perfection in each Hebrew and Greek traditions of numbers.

There is not enough distinction between the 2 implications of the gifts of the Spirit in the Old Testament and the New, however, you will notice that the Hebrew Scripture refers to the recipient of this gift of the Spirit is MESSIAH, "The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him," Isaiah 11:1

while the New Testament refers to all the believers as the new recipients. "³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." Acts 2:39



As the next important lesson on Pentecost, the Scriptures are also revealing to us who and what the Spirit's gifts are for:

Isaiah 11:
4 shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

1 Corinthians 12:

⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. Which takes us to the next steps in your journey of faith as Christ's followers: And it wouldn't be a party unless there is an element of surprise, isn't it?

So where is the Spirit leading us with these gifts?

Isaiah 11: Messiah leads
11 Recover / Redemption of God's People from all over nations

1 Corinthians 12: We lead

³¹ strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Messiah leads God's people to righteousness, holiness, and the grace who works through God's spirit justifies us when we confess our sins.

As we move into the New Testament, the letter to the Corinthians, Paul encourages the audience to STRIVE for the greater gifts, which is the journey of Christian conversion leading a life of sanctification as it continues. And Paul invites by saying "I will show you a still more excellent way." So what is the "more excellent way" Paul points us to?

Can you guess what that greater gift is?

It's found in the 1 Corinthians 13. One of our popular and well-loved passages about Love and "Faith, Hope...and the greatest of all, Is LOVE."

Oh and that's not all! I will just throw in some extra bonus gifts today.

According to the Gospel reading of John, Chapter 7:

'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " 39 Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive,

Rivers of living water? Prophet Jeremiah refers the River, Fountain of Living Water directly to God.

Living water (Hebrew: מַיִם-חַיִּים mayim-ḥayyîm ; Greek: ὑδὼρ ζῶν, hydōr zōn) is a biblical term which appears in both the Old and New Testaments. In Jeremiah 2:13 and 17:13, the prophet describes God as "the spring of living water",

So Out of the believers' heart shall flow "God," and since God is flowing in us, we will never thirst again. We learn that one of the details Jesus showed on the cross in his last moments in his limited humanity and physical body of a man, was that he "thirst." Being thirsty is a sign of humanity and we sometimes thirst physically and also spiritually.

With the Holy Spirit in us, we will not thirst again because God continues to fill us and replenish in us godliness, piety, righteous and the greater good, and what we have today Church is God's promise of possibility.



Yes, the Annual Conference concluded with a few heartbreaking resolutions this year, with closing of churches and passing of the churches to disaffiliation, as an annual conference, we lost about 20 churches.

I do not wish to romanticize our realities as believers become less in number and church sizes and numbers reduce.

Budget degrees everywhere while poverty level rises so does the cries of the needs of the people.

And so, today I want to invite all of you to CLAIM that bonus Pentecostal gift that is before us. That greater gift, of RECOVERY as a generation, and REDEMPTION OF GOD'S LOST REMNANTS, TO STRIVE FOR THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY OF LIFE and RESURRECTION, and to LOVE.

For to mortals it is not possible, but to God, all things are possible. So let's exercise that gift of Faith, and give Hope, to spread and achieve LOVE as God flows through everyone's hearts.

So let's CLAIM that Precious Gift of the Spirit as Jesus proclaimed to his disciples by '**Repent-ing, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

And all God's people who received the Holy Spirit say: Amen.

Blessings

May God grant to all living, grace; to the departed especially in honor of our nation, glory and rest; to the Nation, peace and concord; and May the promise of Jesus Christ abide in all the disciples, the gift of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.



New Dover’s Disconnect to Connect (D2C)
 Creative Space for Peace & Mental and Emotional Health,
 An Intergenerational Ministry
PART 3

By New Dover D2C NEEDleworks Group



A (not so) New Church History Banner

Have you ever seen this banner hanging in Wesley Hall? It’s both a testimony and celebration of New Dover’s church history. It’s creative, fun and reflective. You can see a fruit basket, bell...church on fire. What you witness on this piece of artwork is your timeless journey with Jesus through ups and downs. God is faithful, and as Jesus’ disciples, we follow in the footsteps to walk in faith.

And that’s what D2C is all about. Disconnect to Connect will be creating a not-so-new banner similar to this one, in a spirit of celebration of the 175th Anniversary. NEEDleworks group will meet on the following dates in July and continue to work through summer as the first group-project. There will be strawberries, bread, flood buckets to name a few motives. Anyone can be a part of this church-wide project. You don’t need crochet or quilt skills, as long as you can cut, glue, and follow directions! Once the banner is complete, we will present it in the October Church celebration then get back to the second year of making pillowcases and crochet stars for those who are in hospitals and care-facilities in need of care.



2023 Meeting Dates	NEEDleworks (Crochet & Quilt)	Fun & Games
D2C runs from 2-4PM on the meeting dates.	July 1 July 8 July 22 July 29	VBS Sunday, July 23 After service

D2C will take a month off in August. Text Rosie Pang or Stephanie for questions at 732-423-6171.

July Birthdays

2	Ross Karlo Tuason
3	Connie Thomas
5	Barbara Sucheski
6	Leena Parmar
7	Deja Lewis
8	Scott Reino Alps Vyas Joyce Yoon
9	Bob Becker Rický Dialle
11	Hadassah Bandela
12	Ajith De Alwis Jiya Katthula
14	Pat Carpenter Raeann Dalton
15	Jessica Vyas
17	Laura Becker
18	Michael Oswiany
20	Tonya Burleigh
21	Nilpa Khristi Mauricio Vilela
22	Joshua Bonito
26	Michael Bonner Madhu Christian
27	Elton Nyema Jeisun Poornaselvan
28	Mark Sojak
29	Elizabeth D'Arcy Austin Sarno
30	Yash Joshi
31	Helen Castro

August Birthdays

4	Nathaniel Nyema
5	Wesly Kingsly Jean Wiskowski
6	Janet Greve
7	Juel Nelson Jim Silva
10	Erica Campbell Peter Ponugubaty
11	Martha Taylor
15	Michele Nyema
17	Scott Burleigh Fiona Meade
19	Justin Bonito Kaylee Ferris
21	Ryan Stevenson
22	Tim Carney Lindsey Ferris
24	Chester Aludino Catherine Poornaselvan
24	Ben Stevenson
25	Rishith Duggimpudi
26	Apurva Christie
27	Donna Bunting Linda Crouse
28	Scott Perrine Christopher Perrine
29	Jyotika David



July Anniversaries

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

August Anniversaries

10	Marie & Brian Rock
12	Jean Wiskowski & Rev. Chuck
24	Mary Jane & Wilfredo Manglapus
29	Agnes & Patrick Kingsly

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

INSPIRATION

Repentance, salvation, transformation, now what?

Ah! Good works, we believe; not for our gain but for those who receive, through our actions, the message of Christ.

We throw ourselves with fervor into the fray, taking up tasks from this and that way,

No time to consider His plan.

Higher and higher we raise the bar, working to help others see the Morning Star

Shining our light but having no sight of the tapestry woven by His hand.

We tire, lose our zeal; the pace of the work no longer lends its appeal to show others to the King.

We wonder what has gone wrong, why does our song no longer bring the joy of Jesus as we sing?

Let's remember the Friend He has sent to assist, the One who leads and inspires us to persist;

None other than the Holy Spirit within.

It is this part of He who inspires our work, lights our spiritual passion with a spark,

Which in turn ignites the fire and shows us where to begin.

We need our Guide to lead us on the road, encouraging our steps and sharing the load;

The Spirit is the One who keeps us sharp.

Without that passion for the work we are still lost, just filling our days with tasks at the most;

The path of faith becomes a never ending hill.

We must find the work that touches the heart, energizes our belief and sets us apart,

Makes us eager to do the job that matches our purpose to His will.

Take some time to pray to the One who sent you His only Son, ask Him to open the door;

Then let the Spirit take your hand and inspire you to a life of more;

Don't let faith become a checklist of "to do", but let spiritual passion take over in you.

What are you waiting for?

(Anita Davis, June 2023)



Mildred Vollmar Scholarship

On June 4th the Mildred Vollmar Scholarship was awarded to Bhaarat Joshi. Bhaarat graduated from J.F. Kennedy High school in Iselin. His passion is performing and composing music. He participated in many areas of his high school music program. He has worked our own Grace Kim on his compositions and even performed one during service! Around New Dover he has performed with our Hand Bell choir, is an active member in our YAYA group, and has volunteered with the balcony broadcast crew.

He will be taking a GAP year to further hone his music skills. He hopes to attend the Boston Conservatory of Music at Berkelee or the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers. Good luck and God Bless you Bhaarat in your future endeavors!



Welcome New Members
New Dover United Methodist Church
June 11, 2023

*Philip Davis
Vera Henry
Carol White*



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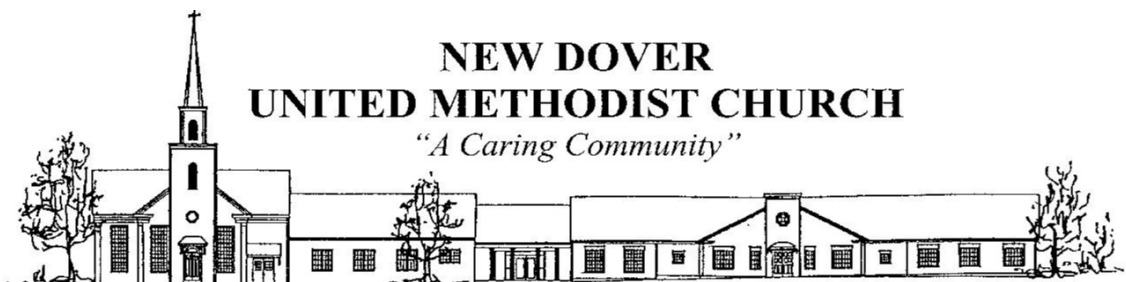
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**NEW DOVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
"A Caring Community"

Sunday School Trip to **Moses**



On Saturday, May 20, 2023 a group of 18 from Sunday School made our way to Lancaster, PA to watch Live on stage, **Moses**. In the drizzling rain, the group left church around 10:30 in the morning, and returned around 8:30PM. Sight and Sound Theatre welcomed us with a sense of PA; a funny smell that which gives life to earth.

We were studying Journey of Faith in Sunday School, and tying the lesson with the celebration of 175th Church Anniversary as well as individuals, this trip and the story of Moses became a perfect opportunity for everyone who went on the trip to understand that “All along, God was and is there by my side (Chansen Pang, 9).”

Here’s a trip reflection by Jiya Kundan Katthula, church’s 6th grader and Nilesh Katkar a parent.

“Today I’m going to talk about prophet Moses and the field trip to Lancaster, PA. I learned about prophet Moses from Sunday School, holy books, and my parents that he is a mighty prophet to whom God directly spoke with. He was anointed by God to lead the people of Israel from the Pharaoh. The main message of Moses was to worship one true God and follow the Ten Commandments given during his time. Now I want to talk about the field trip to Lancaster, PA. We went to Sight & Sound Theatre to watch the live musical, Moses. It was an amazing experience. I had been put in charge of the younger kids because I was the oldest. I had so much fun spending time with everyone, and I made a new friend, Ms. Lynn (Rosie’s friend). Going to Lancaster was rainy but on the way back it was sunny. I also thank my dad and Mr. Nilesh for driving the van. Thank you Ms. Catherine, Pastor Rosie, and the Church for making this trip happen. Looking forward to more trips like this.”

Nilesh Katkar a parent on the trip also mentioned how unbelievably impressive and real the stage effects of the show was. “I was really touched by the way they bam’d the splitting of the Red Sea. I was anticipating and a little concerned how that part would play out. It was breath-taking. And as the waters parted I realized, I was a part of the grand-scheme of the play as we were sitting in the middle of the sea. And as God’s redeemed people, I knew I was saved along with Moses. Incredible experience.”

Everyone on the trip played an important role for the trip. Although not everyone from Sunday School were able to join this year’s trip, as a very first trip like this ever taking place in New Dover Sunday School’s history, we were all history makers, just like Moses.



Celebrating the Life of June Ebbets

April 24, 1923 ~ May 13, 2023



June Ebbets was an active member of New Dover United Methodist Church for many years. June played handbells, sang in the choir, worked at the Flea Market, worked with the New Beginnings group and helped in the office. She will be dearly missed by all of us.

June died at the age of 100 on Saturday May 13, 2023. Born in St. Louis Mo., she moved to NJ with her husband settling in Iselin in 1953. June was a stay at home mom raising their four children. She was very active in all their activities volunteering as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout den mother as well as working on many troop committees. Once the children were older she worked as a bookkeeper. She especially enjoyed playing Bridge with her friends. June was predeceased by her husband Charles, her parents George and Ethel Rose as well as her sister Marjorie and brother George. She is survived by her four children: Dennis, Richard and his wife Barbara, James and his wife Sue Ann, and Susan and her husband Robert. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

