



# THE NEW DOVER HERALD

September 2022

Vol. 192

*A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church*

## Chuck's Church Chat

Saints,

Grace to you and peace...

Well, school is about to start and I'm sure every one of you has a photo similar to this one! It was September 7, 1966, and my brother Paul and I were all set to go out the front door and across the road to catch the big yellow bus that would, for the next nine months, deliver us to Quinton Elementary School. Paul is, quite fashionably, entering first grade, while I, with my newly absent right central incisor, and sporting my newly acquired Yogi Bear lunchbox, am about to enter third.

Having put in years as both a student and a teacher, September has always been a month of mixed emotions. Sad that summer and all its barefoot freedom was ending, but, in an age long before Facebook, excited to see my friends, classmates, and colleagues once more. The beginning of each new school year is like embarking on a journey into the unknown, with all its nervous thrills of discovery and sense of adventure. And so, 56 years after our dear, devoted Mom snapped this Polaroid, we have once again arrived at the point of departure. Prayers for all returning students, parents, teachers, aides, workers, and everyone who makes the adventure one worth taking!

As you know, the church year very much mirrors the school year as September is also the time when we restart many of our programs and ministries that were relatively dormant during the summer sabbath. But before we leave the summer of 2022 behind, here are a few highlights from July and August...



- ◆ The 2022 edition of Vacation Bible School, "MONUMENTAL" marked the first time we've been able to go fully live in three years, and it was nothing short of incredible! Thanks to co-directors Rhea Manglapus and Naomi Hunt, Pastor Rosie, the entire Manglapus family, Jeff and Karen, dozens of dedicated volunteers, and those who donated to pay for the supplies and food! The kids were so excited throughout the entire week. *"Well done, good and faithful servants!"*
- ◆ The Saturday Night Alive Praise Service Balcony Broadcast Crew, along with praise leaders Kyle Sanders and Emma Patrimonio, kept our worship experience thriving throughout the summer months! *"Well done, good and faithful servants!"*
- ◆ Raeann and Sue Dalton, along with numerous church volunteers, tended our Jehovah Jira Garden during the hot months of July and August. The garden produced a record harvest that provided basket after basket of fresh produce for our food-insecure neighbors! *"Well done, good and faithful servants!"*

- ◆ And speaking of food ministry, how about the Bread Breakers, who continued to gather every Friday morning to bag and distribute the sandwiches you donated along with supplemental food items?! Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> stood out as we received 1,104 sandwiches and had to use two pick-ups to deliver the food to Saint Joseph's Social Center in Elizabeth! *"Awesome stuff,"* as Brian Richards would say! *"Well done, good and faithful servants!"*
- ◆ In addition to our Council and Trustees, our Sunday School staff met on August 14<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the new year, the Worship Committee met the following evening, and the Nominating Committee met three times over the summer, doing our best to put you, our members, in the positions best suited to your gifts. *"Well done, good and faithful servants!"*

Yes, it was truly a summer to remember, but now on to the fall!

- ◆ New Dover returns to our 10:15 Worship time on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ That's also Sunday School Rally Day. Classes for kids and adults start up the following week, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM,
- ◆ The annual Church Picnic takes place right after worship, also on Sunday, September 11. As usual, lots of food, fun, and fellowship!
- ◆ Hot Topics returns the week of September 26<sup>th</sup>. Classes once again meet at 10:30 AM on Mondays and 7:00 PM on Thursdays. We will be learning a thoroughly modern way to explore scripture; it's a skill we can all use!
- ◆ Music Sunday happens when we worship on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Come out to hear the combined gifts of our talented vocal and bell choirs!
- ◆ Our Annual Church Conference takes place on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM at our sister church, Wesley UMC of South Plainfield. Come celebrate our church and vote in our new leaders!

Before I close this edition of the "Chat," I want to, on behalf of our church, give thanks for the decades of ministry that Lisa Gilmore so lovingly and enthusiastically gave to New Dover. Lisa has moved to Orlando, Florida where she hopes to fulfill a long-time dream to work at Disney World! She leaves behind an enduring legacy of dedicated service, from the Bell Choir, to the Altar Guild, to VBS, and on and on! Our prayers go with you on your new adventure, Lisa, and please say "Hi!" to Goofy for us! *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"*

And have a blessed September all!

*Chuck*

# KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz  
The Brooks Family  
Gail Engel  
Debbie Ladym  
Dan Mirdala  
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 2022 permanent prayer list, please contact Karen Rowland at [krowland648@yahoo.com](mailto: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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- Keep Us in Your Prayers
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- UMW Service Awards
- Membership Corner
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**Never underestimate the Power of Prayer. One small prayer can change your life dramatically.**

# SERMON OF THE MONTH

## “Thoughts and Prayers and Actions”

(Preached on Sunday, June 12, 2022)

### James 1:22-25

“...be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But *those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.*”

Saints, I know you’ve heard me say this time after time after time, but here it comes again- biblical faith has *never* been about the words alone; it’s *always* been about action! The Bible cannot be more clear- we can never separate our faith from the actual doing of ministry.

AS most of you know, I’m fascinated by the culture of the Ancient Pueblo Native Americans. Over the years I’ve embarked on numerous adventures in the canyons and deserts of the American southwest with a crew of friends who share the same interest. For years, we would look at photographs and read accounts of a magnificent work of ancient primitive art far out in a deep desert canyon known as Grand Gulch, and we would dream about making the 6 mile hike through the sagebrush, down a steep switchback, and onto the dry river bed to make our way there. Last fall we made up our minds to not merely read about Big Man Panel; we determined to get there.

Well, to make a long story short, because we took action, our faith was rewarded! With a couple of gallons of water on our backs, early in the morning of June 8<sup>th</sup> we drove to the trailhead in Bears Ears National Monument, left the car and followed a rough map for six miles until we looked up to the cliff panel on our right and there it was- two imposing life-size figures staring down at us! Incredible! Rather than merely reading about Big Man Panel, that day we made our dream a reality. We put our faith into action and were rewarded.



As I mentioned, the Bible is very consistent when it comes to faith and action. Faith simply doesn’t exist without some form of action attached to it. And what James tells us is that faith and action is a two-way street; each both feeds and feeds off the other to strengthen one another. Faith without action dies on the vine like an un-watered tomato!

Check out James once more:

*But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.*

What is faith without works like? Well, it's like having a best-selling cookbook and picking it up every once in a while and reading a recipe, and thinking, "*Now that sounds delicious!*" And you put the cookbook down but you never actually try the recipe! And this gets repeated- a different page, a different recipe, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year...

But here's the thing, here's what James is telling us: unless you at some point make up your mind to actually cook that recipe, it will eventually fade from memory and never be of use to you! Unfortunately that's what the Bible is like to many "Christians." It's a cookbook that's read every once in a while, but never put into practice!

Saints, unless we engage in the actual "doing of ministry," the words of scripture will evaporate to nothingness, and what we call our faith will be nothing more than a faded memory.

That's what the Bible is like to faith-without-works "Christians." And what is church to such so-called believers? Worship services are like turning on HGTV and watching your favorite cooking show once a week. We turn it on and listen and watch the chef explain how a certain meal ought to be prepared. And we say, "*Oh, that looks scrumptious! I'd really like to try cooking that!*" But once the show ends we just turn off the TV and our enthusiasm fades to indifference, and finally inaction. And sadly, next week we'll turn the show on again and repeat the same tired old routine. All watching; no doing, *ad infinitum*.

Put simply, what James is telling us is at some point, if we want refer to ourselves as a cook, we actually have to try cooking something! If we want to call our ourselves a people of the Christian faith; **we need to actually practice that faith**, for it is only in the doing, only in the actually process of bringing God's recipes to completion, that our faith itself will be both strengthened and rewarded! Saints, when we take the time to read the recipe, gather the ingredients, mix them all together in the right amounts, heat the stove or oven, wait until the timer goes off and finally place the finished meal on the plate, only then will we actually be able to say, "*Hey, know who I am? That's right- I'm a cook!*" So what does it look like when there's actual cooking going on?

Yesterday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, thousands of demonstrators gathered at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., while thousands of others protested in hundreds of other cities in at least 45 states in the "March for Our Lives" protest against gun violence, spurred by the horrendous mass murder of children and teachers that took place in Uvalde, Texas.. Naturally the question is, what role should we, the church, do about our children and teachers being gunned down time and time again in their classrooms, or what should we do about the thousands upon thousands who die every year by gun violence in this country, year after year after year? Is doing nothing even an option?

Not if we read Proverbs...listen!

**If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength being small;**

**If you hold back from rescuing those taken away to death, those who go staggering to the laughter;**

**If you say, 'Look, we did not know this'—**

**Does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?**

**Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it?**

**And will he not repay all according to their deeds?**

Saints, I ask you, can it be any clearer? The typical response from so many politicians and pundits whenever an event such as what happened in Uvalde is: "*Our thoughts and prayers are with them.*" Well, according to everything the Bible teaches us about our faith, **that's not enough**. In fact, according to the Bible, such a response is pathetic. Now that doesn't mean we shouldn't pray for those whose lives have been devastated by gun violence. Prayer is such a vital part of any follower of Jesus! But what scripture tells us consistently, throughout both the Old and New Testaments, is that whenever there's an opportunity for action, thoughts and prayers alone are not enough. In fact, prayer alone can turn into a convenient excuse not to get off our butts and act!

Saints, I'm not sure what it is we of New Dover UMC will do about gun violence, but this I do know- we **MUST** do something. We've been praying for an end to gun violence every week, for years on end, and still it goes on unabated. Isn't it obvious? Are we are not called on to do more than just pray? Are we not called on to put our faith into action? And once we determine to do so, not only will it make a difference in the world, but it will both strengthen and reinforce our faith itself. Then, like the one who not only calls him or herself a cook, we become the one who actually makes the recipe! We go beyond talking about being a disciple and actually become one!

Again, the words of James:

**But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.**

Saints we of New Dover have proven to be a church that doesn't just hear the word and forget about it once we leave the sanctuary; we act! We don't just pray for neighbors who are hungry- we feed them! We don't just pray for out shut-ins and patients in hospitals and rehabs- we visit them! We don't just pray for our global neighbors- we send them bicycles and sewing machines so they can work, or we build them an ICU room in Vellore, India that will save lives far into the future! We don't just pray for the people of Los Cocos, DR- we send them dozens upon dozens of boxes of supplies and build them homes to live in. We don't just pray for our New Jersey neighbors in need of home repairs- we send a COP crew to put on new rooves and siding!

Saints, we have done much to build God's Kingdom here in Edison and around the world, but let us always strive to do more, because the greater the action- the greater the blessing! My friends and I were rewarded for making the challenging hike to Big Man Panel this month; it's an experience we will never forget. Saints, so too will our service together at New Dover be a time we will never forget, so long as we continue to live out the promise of our faith!



October 8, 2022  
9:30 am  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
1500 Plainfield Avenue

# CHURCH CONFERENCE

Committee Reports are due by September 19th.



Join Us!

## RALLY DAY

September 11, 2022

## Churchwide Picnic

Check the sign-up board in Fellowship Hall for attendance and donations needed.

## United Methodist Women News

The United Methodist Women will begin their new year with a dinner meeting at Manny's Diner of Clark at 1030 Raritan Road, Clark, NJ. The dinner will be on Wednesday, Sept. 14th 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 \$10.00 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 beginning July 31st. Any questions, please call Connie at 732-287-2231.

## United Methodist Women Service Recognition Awards

For many years now, Paulette has served as Chair of New Dover's Outreach Committee. Paulette leads by example, having embarked on numerous trips to the Dominican Republic over the last 15 years, building 28 homes, and bringing much needed supplies donated by church members as well as her employer, Stop N Shop! Paulette coordinates and works at our highly successful Pedals For Progress annual event, and is one of New Dover's hardest working volunteers in our Jehovah Jireh Garden. Besides her outreach ministry, Paulette is also one of our head counters, a liturgist, Sunday School teacher, and tutor for our 2022 Confirmands. For years at Council meetings Paulette has served as its recording secretary. New Dover is honored to have her as a very active member.



## Brian Richards receives Laity Recognition Awards

The Laity Recognition Awards are given each year to honor creativity and innovation in transforming lives and making disciples of Jesus Christ. United Methodists throughout Greater New Jersey have the opportunity to nominate people in their congregation who are leading ministries that reach out into communities in a commitment of Christ's outreaching love.

We are called to serve in our homes, our work, our local community as well as globally. The laity role is that of a servant who models the love of Christ by examples and the local church is where our labor is constant in witnessing and sharing our faith experiences of the gospel in many different ways. The past year has been challenging to all, yet, you have given your time, energy, talent and responded to the needs due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the communities you serve.

Congratulations, Brian and thank you for your leadership and vision during the pandemic. Bread Breakers continues to grow and provide for the needy in our area. You have been an inspiration to all of the people involved with the sandwich ministry.





## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We begin life in the womb then burst forth wanting to live, ready to grab everything life has to give... Growing, learning, making mistakes, trying, Crying sometimes 'til our heart aches, then pushing forward again using all it takes To get to the place that realizes our dream and makes us content, then we say "Ah, This is what is meant by a life well-lived."

For so many it is a lifelong pursuit, the need for achievement at its root. Pushing the boundaries until the goal is reached, The glass ceiling broken, the barrier breached, then we say "YES" To have climbed to the pinnacle of success, then start over again, and again---and again. Yet not all who live race to be the victor.

Some find their way in the quiet woods, the open plains, the small hills, the burbling streams

Gather wisdom by various means, make friends along the way, from day to day, They weave a tapestry of commitment, friendship and love from the circle in which they move; they throw their arms open wide and invite those inside who are willing to be touched by a heart unbounded;

To the prize of first, best or most there is no heed, but only a need, to fix the hurt and find the lost; to make the world better and not count the cost, To say "NO" to the highest peak and "YES" to love.

We have known some of these, they have been in those woods, seen those plains, climbed those hills and forded those streams. They found their wisdom, their friends, their love, their dreams; Opened their hearts and arms to all those ready to be woven into their lives To be mended, found, loved.

They've moved here and there, and back to here, gave joy to many in their sphere Settled in each place and threw out a net for gathering and sharing Lives that were unerring in their purpose, called for a season To seek out the need and take heed of their gifts and the reason.

Used what they were given to make life more than just existing, never resisting the winds that blew them where they would do the most good, always doing what they could To extend love, compassion, contentment.

As is hoped for each of us, they have run the race, been taken by the Father and met Him face to face

The time has come that their work should cease, they now rest with the Savior and the angels in eternal joy and peace as those still here grieve the loss.

Yet though our hearts are broken, and words of memories are spoken, Separation is only a matter of time as in our deepest hopes...

The words of promise shine bright, we will all meet again in that heavenly kingdom of light,

Those who were loved and loved in return, will come together once more, forever this time as God throws open the door saying "all who believe enter in joy"

And there they will be, standing at the gate where all those who have gone before us will wait, to show us into that beautiful place that heals our hearts with mercy and grace as we once again see them with newly opened eyes

God's children, His creation, servants of Christ, those who were loved Before life, during life, and now for eternal life.

Until then, we wait. For goodbye is not the end.

(Originally written as a memorial for a friend who passed from COVID-Anita Davis, April 2022)

## September Birthdays

3	Debbie Ladym Matthew Yascko
5	Rosemary Raju
7	Nancy Rock
11	Alethea Poornaselvan
12	Hemant Raju
14	Ed Carney
15	Ava Christian
18	John Bonner
21	Mike Taylor
23	Marsha Quackenbush
24	Nilesh Katkar Donna Sucheski
26	Sangita Christian Declan O'Rourke
30	Robbin Roth

## September Anniversaries

4	Edward & Debbie Ladym
7	Charles & Diana Bennett
8	Elmira & Cesar Higoy
9	Chang June & Sunhee Yoon
14	Ed & Phyllis Carney
16	Dan & Danielle Mizak
24	Scott & Tonya Burleigh
25	Michael & Martha Taylor
26	John & Jayne Bonner
27	Juel & Ted Nelson





The Chancel Choir  
is looking for  
new members.  
Anyone interested, please  
talk to Grace Kim.

Rehearsals are held on Sunday  
right after Coffee Hour.



The Nursery will open on  
September 18, 2022.  
Volunteers are needed to staff  
the Nursery.  
You are required to have a background  
check for Safe Sanctuary.  
Contact Alice Lamoreaux for details  
732-710-1388 or  
email at [jemmom5@optonline.net](mailto:jemmom5@optonline.net).

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BELLS

Summer's almost over and it's time to dust off the tables, spread out the pads, open up the cases and ring our bells again. Bell rehearsals will begin on September 11 and we need your hands to ring the bells.

It may have missed your notice but our young ringers are now adults. They have graduated from high school and are moving into their young adult world and activities. Some will still be near by but they can't always be here. We need you!

Like anything else worth doing, bell ringing is a commitment of time to learn the music and to bring the best we have to the worship experience. When we ring it is not a performance but rather it is a ministry, bringing God's love and your gifts together. New ringers are supported by their Ring Partner at all rehearsals and when ringing in church. Bell ringers build a bond grows closer with each new musical experience.

### Who can ring?

Anyone age 6 and up can be a ringer at New Dover. We welcome families to join together and share in this wonderful experience.

### Where and When are rehearsals?

We practice every Sunday following the worship service in the Music Room.

11:30 -12:30 Silver Bells and Golden Ringers (age 6 to retirement)

12:30 – 1:00 Jubilate Handbell Choir (age 16 to retirement)

### What if I can't make every rehearsal?

We begin and end rehearsals on time so that each ringer may plan their day.

From time to time ringers have other commitments that require their time and attention. Each ringer is expected to inform the director (via text) as soon as possible if they cant make a rehearsal.

### When do we ring?

We generally ring once a month from September – June.

On ringing days we practice at 8:00 in the sanctuary rather than after church.

Occasionally we visit other choirs to ring with their choir during morning worship.

### What does it cost?

\$20.00 annually for our bell shirt. (These are purchased in the Spring). All music and required equipment, including gloves, are provided by the church.

If you have any questions about being part of this ministry please contact Alice Bennett 732-216-7587 or, better yet, just stop into a rehearsal and see it live and in person.

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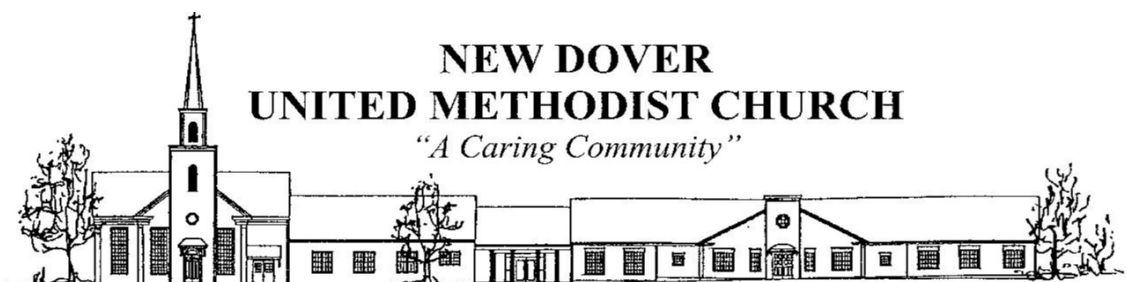
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**NEW DOVER  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
*"A Caring Community"*



# MONUMENTAL

CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS



VACATION  
SCHOOL  
BIBLE  
2022

