



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

September 2019

Vol. 159

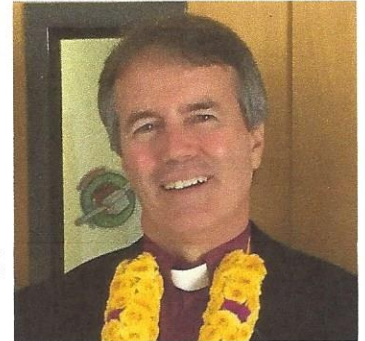
A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace!

Well, we were hoping things would slow down a bit over the summer, give us a chance to catch our breath, put our feet up, recharge our batteries, rest up for fall, but guess what? There were just too many opportunities for effective ministry before us and they simply couldn't wait!



- To begin with our 2019 Vacation Bible School was an incredible week of learning and celebrating God's love! I've never witnessed a more smoothly run VBS in all my life. *"The Incredible Race"* brought all the kids, teachers, and helpers together to celebrate the incredible global diversity of God's creation culminating in an inspiring closing ceremony on Friday. Thanks go out to everyone who had a part, from the planners, to the volunteers, to the contributors, and especially to the parents who understand the importance of biblical education in the lives of their kids!
- Our partnerships with Wawa and Auntie Em's to address local hunger continued strong over the summer, even picking up additional volunteers along the way. By the time you receive this edition of The Herald we will have picked up and delivered over 8,000 (not a typo!) meals to local nonprofits for distribution to those in need in our surrounding community!
- Inspired by a Sunday morning visit from Executive Director, Victor Salama, New Dover has strengthened its partnership with First Friends of New Jersey and New York in our mission to comfort and welcome those who have entered the US seeking asylum. On Tuesday, July 9th Brian Richards and I accompanied other mission partners on a tour of the Essex County Correctional Facility to observe the treatment of detainees. On Friday night, July 12th members of our Social Justice Task Force joined with hundreds of others at the same facility for the Lights of Liberty vigil. We are currently collecting belts and shoelaces for those who are being released from detention and are hosting an orientation for new volunteers on Wednesday night, October 23rd.
- On July 17th I met with our new District Superintendent, Sang Won Doh (great guy!), who was highly impressed with New Dover's accomplishments over the past year, particularly in our mission and justice ministries. He invited me to speak at his very first Raritan District gathering and I will be honored to brag about all of you!
- Last but not least, our new Associate Pastor, Davidson Sutherland, has hit the ground running, meeting with the youth and young adults, preaching on Saturday night, teaching at VBS, working the Flea Market to raise funds for next year's Rise Against Hunger Event, planning his new Adult Sunday School class, and working with me to plan our upcoming Coffee House. In other words, we're keeping him busy!

So that's just a taste of what's been anything but a relaxing summer at NDUMC... But if you think that's a lot wait until fall! This month's edition of The Herald is filled with exciting news about new and returning events and programs so let's all get out our calendars and a pen and save the following dates...

- The annual Church Picnic at Merrill Park takes place starting around noon on Sunday, September 8. Lots of food, fun, and fellowship!
- Sunday school for the kids starts on September 15th!
- That Sunday also marks the beginning of our new worship hours- 8:30 and 10:15. Note the change from 10:00!
- Our brand-new Adult Sunday School led by Pastor Davidson starts at 9:00 AM on September 22nd!
- Hot Topics returns the week of September 23! Classes are at 10:30 AM on Mondays and 7:00 PM on Thursdays. We will be taking a close look at the Gospel of Mark this session.
- Our annual Music Sunday will happen on September 29th. Come hear from our talented vocal and bell choirs and our "Acts of Praise" band!
- First Friends of NJ & NY will be holding a regional volunteer orientation at New Dover from 7:00-8:30 on Wednesday night, October 23rd. Come learn about the ways you can help those detained seeking asylum.
- And this just in: we are planning to host a major Edison-wide event to support the Christian Medical College of Vellore, India in the new year! Date to be announced.

Before I close, on behalf of the whole church I want to thank Tonya Burleigh for her years of dedicated service to NDUMC. As many of you know, Tonya and her husband Scott have moved to jolly old England! Just in my brief time here Tonya has served as head of the Altar Guild as well as head counter on Sunday morning. More than that her smiling face and boundless enthusiasm always brighten our Sundays; we will all miss her much! May God continue to bless Tonya and her family in the years ahead!

So that's it for now Saints. Hope you're ready for a big fall, and keep on keepin' the faith!

Peace,
Rev

In This Issue:

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IMPORTANT STUFF!!

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE AS OF 9/15/19

8:30 Worship

**9:00 Adult Sunday
School
(Starts 9/22/19)**

10:15 Worship

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



America
Christians of India
Marian Jones' List
LuLu Kamenas
NDUMC Missionaries
Preston Family
Boyce Family
Fran Livecchia
Our Schools

Convalescent Homes
Allie Forbes
Carney Family
Mary Ellen Anglin
Bub & Earlette Butterfield
Coblentz Family
Wounded Veterans
Praise Band
Manny & Nora De La Paz

John Resch & Family
Jean Fletcher & Family

Pray for all those seeking employment, those affected by Natural Disasters, those suffering with addictions, those suffering from depression, those affected by acts of terrorism, all national leaders, all Servicemen and Women and all those serving at New Dover UMC.

Any names that may have been left off are not intentional. We trust in God to know all our needs.



Music
Sunday

**September 29, 2019
8:30 am & 10:15 am**

SAVE THE DATES

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Sept. 8 | Rally Day/Church Picnic |
| Sept. 15 | Sunday School Starts |
| Sept. 22 | New Adult Sunday School Starts |
| Sept. 23 | Hot Topics Returns |
| Sept. 29 | Music Sunday |
| Oct 4-6 | Ignite |
| Nov. 9 | Lee Weaver Presentation |
| Dec 27 | Sight & Sound |



SERMON OF THE MONTH

“Bait and Switch?”
(Preached August 4, 2019)

Mark 8:27-35

Have you ever been the victim of a bait and switch? Bait-and-switch is a scam long used in some of the more sinister retail stores. One day we open up the paper and see that an electronics store in the City is advertising a 65” LG Flat Screen 4K Smart TV at a ridiculous, low, low price, and we get all excited because in a month its football season! Okay, that’s the **“bait.”** The trap’s been set! So we jump in the car and head to the City, but after we park in the deck and enter the store we look up and down the shelves but guess what? Yep, we can’t find the 65” LG flat screen 4K Smart TV at an unbelievably low, low price! So next we march up to the help desk, behind similarly confused customers, where a store manager tells us *“Oh, sorry, that particular model just “sold out.”* And now we’re no longer confused, we are more than a bit angry, because we just wasted half a day, toll through the tunnel, \$24 bucks for parking, and 6 gallons of gas for nothing! And why? Because we had our heart set on that particular 65” LG Flat Screen 4K Smart TV, that’s why! Then the manager shows us the ad, and there in the fine print at the bottom we read that the deal on the 65” LG Flat Screen 4K Smart TV at an unbelievably low, low price *is limited to the first four customers.* Arrrrgh!

But “Hey,” he tells us, turn that frown upside down! Obviously feeling our pain, the manager lets us know that they just happen to have a different 65” flat screen in stock made by “Willfleecum Electronics” that’s “just as good,” and hey, it’s only \$50 more! And that my friends is the **“switch!”** And so what do we do? Odds are we end up driving home with a 65” Flat Screen 1K Dumb TV manufactured by a company we never heard of that works okay until Thanksgiving afternoon when the screen suddenly goes as snowy as Grandmom’s hair and you just remembered that you hadn’t purchased the 24 month protection plan because the manager told you this was reliable TV with an impeccable track record.

And that my friends is the old bait and switch, and we tend to fall for it more often than not because it’s an alternative to the disappointment and inconvenience of bringing home nothing at all. From the seller’s perspective, bait and switch enables them to unload a more expensive product at a higher price or, better yet, an inferior product at a higher profit margin, so they’ll keep on doing it, because “hey!” why stop? Electronic stores, by the way, aren’t the only entities that employ bait and switch. Hotels widely use the form of bait-and-switch tactics known as ‘resort fees’. They first attract customers by advertising the lower price (which appears on all promotional materials), and then charge customers the mandatory “resort fee” when they arrive for check-in. And we’d have known that if only we’d **read the fine print!** And politicians, of course, are perhaps the most notorious abusers of bait and switch, promising all kinds of goodies before they’re elected, only to pull the proverbial rug out once they’re safely voted into office. It’s gotten so bad we don’t even need fine print to know when politicians are baiting us! Bottom line, “bait and switch” is as much a part of our culture as spam phone calls and every bit as annoying...well, almost!

But Saints, there are some areas of our lives where bait and switch shows up where we’d least expect it. For instance, there are millions of Christians who’ve been victims of bait and switch when it comes to their religion. They’ve been sold a bill of goods that isn’t as advertised.

The Christian faith isn’t what they were led to believe it is. Why is that? Maybe it’s because they turned on their flat-screen TV one night and saw a “man of God” who told them that if they only believe enough, and send him \$50 or \$100 or \$1,000 dollars, they would be blessed big time. That if they believed in the Jesus they’re selling they would never feel lonely or depressed again. That prayer alone, well, prayer plus a sizable check (as much as you can possibly afford) would heal their every ill. And if they sent that check, and prayed long enough and hard enough God would perform a miracle and cure theirs or their loved one’s illness. That believing in Jesus would transform their life from drudgery and hardship to a flower-strewn cakewalk all the way to heaven’s pearly gates.

And so they came to their mega-church or tuned in their TVs and prayed their prayers and put their offering in the plate or in the mail, but after a while they realized that nothing’s changed. They’re just as financially strapped as they ever were. They’re just as lonely, just as depressed, just as physically ailing. Despite their ardent prayers their loved one suffered immensely before they eventually died. And their own life became anything but a cakewalk.

And so they came to believe the Christian faith is not as advertised. That God or the church or the minister or someone has pulled a fast one, some sort of religious bait and switch on them, advertising a belief system that guarantees earthly wealth, security, and comfort (that's the bait), and instead taking their money and running, buying limos, beach houses, and Lear jets. (that's the switch).

"Wait just a minute here! That's not what we signed up for...is it?" Did Jesus sell us a bill of goods? Did we not read the fine print when we opened our Bibles? Better question- did we actually read our Bibles at all? Well then, how about we open it up and take a look, not at the fine print, but at the bold print? Let's see for ourselves if Jesus is guilty of the old bait and switch, advertising one type of life but delivering quite another.

In the pivotal chapter 8 of Mark's Gospel, Jesus lets everyone within earshot know what's expected of his followers, and it's not in the fine print; it's right there in big bold letters anyone can read! *"He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'"*

Saints if there's a bait and switch going on in our religion it's not coming from Jesus, not from the man who said... *"...if you are (so much as) angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment... love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return...you cannot serve God and wealth... therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions...give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again."*

Couple things about Jesus- he doesn't pull any punches, and he doesn't sugar-coat what it means to be his follower. **Jesus doesn't bait and he doesn't switch!** I'm afraid that if there's any of that going on in the Christian church, it's coming from those wolves in sheep's clothing who profane the Gospel with their heretical teaching and preaching. You see, they're the ones pulling the bait and switch. And ultimately the one they have wronged is Jesus himself. Because they advertise a beautiful new 65" LG flat screen 4K Smart TV at an unbelievably low, low price just waiting for us, But when we showed up to get it, we just hear sorry, don't really have one of those on hand; how about a 9" black and white portable with 4 channels and rabbit ear antennas? So when Jesus pleads with us to honor our commitment as disciples, we just look down, shuffled our feet and said, *"Sorry, but that's the best we can do Jesus; take it or leave it."* But here's the thing, **Jesus ain't buying.**

There is no fine print where Jesus says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." There's nothing that says, "Don't want to pick up your cross, no problem, how about picking yourself out of bed an hour every week on Sunday?" Nothing that says "Don't want to love your neighbor as yourself? No problem, just love those who you want to love, and judge those you don't." Nothing that reads, "Don't want to sacrifice your money or possessions for the sake of the Gospel? No problem, just throw a few bucks in the plate and go your way." Nothing that teaches, "Don't care to lose your life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, no problem. You can say you're a follower of mine and still hold on to all your old prejudices, and earthly desires, still serve both God and money, still spend more time and effort for yourself than for others in need, still act like you know the Bible when you don't spend ten minutes a week reading it, still act like your forgiven, when you're not even sorry for the way you think, act and behave." Saints, I've looked everywhere in the Bible, but I have yet to find such fine print!

No one who's spend years attending church should ever be surprised by what Jesus asks of his true disciples. Mark 8:32 tells us, "He said all this quite openly." So Saints, if we are find ourselves victims of the old bait and switch, I'm afraid we have only ourselves to blame.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- A sign up table for Sunday School will be in Fellowship Hall starting September 1st. Please stop by to drop off your paperwork or pick up a calendar of events.
- The first day of Children's Church and Sunday School is on September 15th with Team Building Activities. All children should be in Wesley Hall no later than 10:00 to meet their Team!
- A calendar will be set up in the vestibule. We have a lead teacher for each grade level but as per our safe sanctuary policy we would like to have a "Helper" in each room, each Sunday. We are asking that all parties who are interested in helping the program, even if for one day here and there, sign up on the calendar, specifically with the grade level you'd like to help in. We want the program to grow in strength and numbers this year. Please reach out to me at janegreve@paps.net or 732-771-3868 for further information.

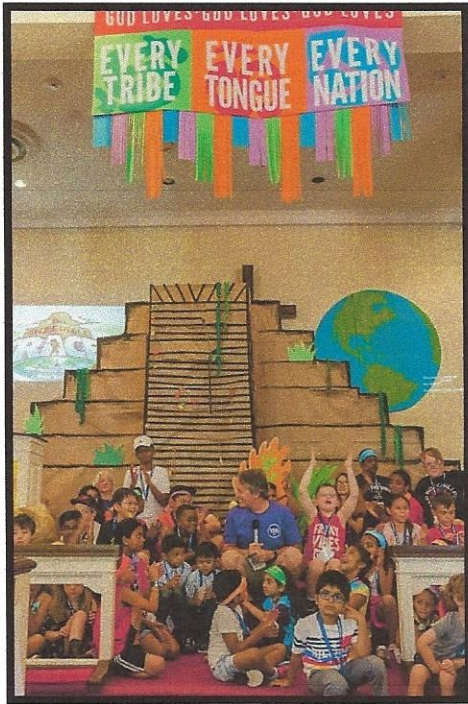
ATTENTION ALL YOUTH FROM GRADES 6 - 12!!



IGNITE 2019
OCTOBER 4-6
WILDWOOD , NJ

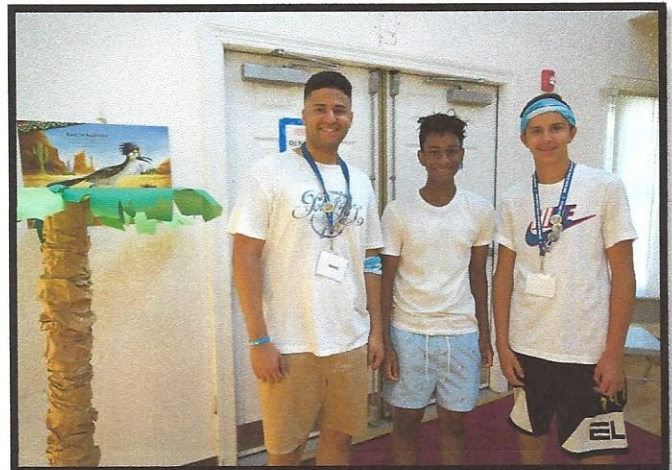
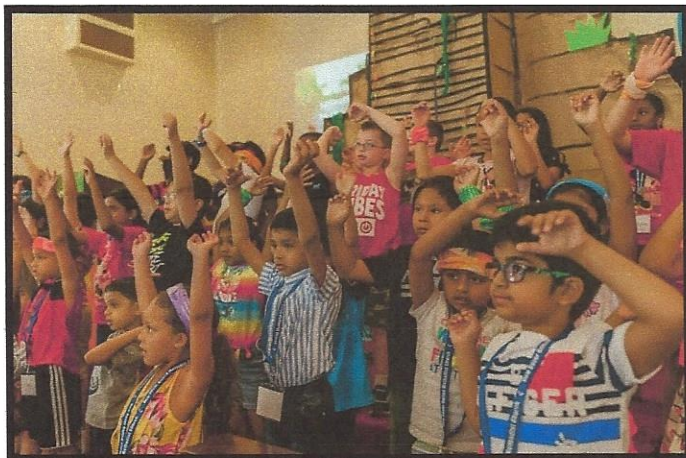
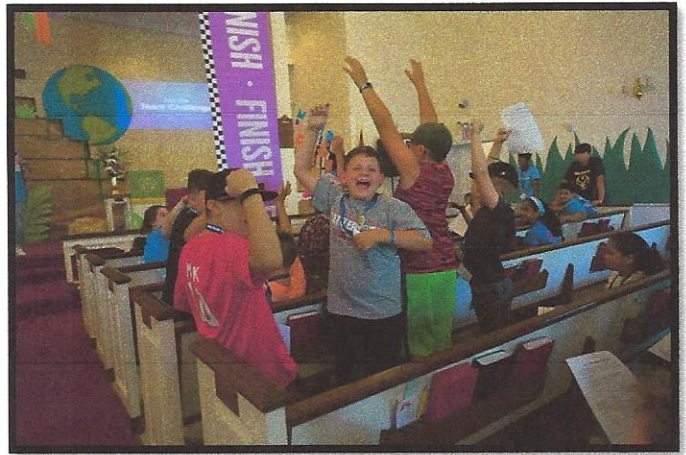
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
ATTENDING, CONTACT
DAVIDSON SUTHERLAND
817-715-4383

dsutherland@gnjumc.org



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Multi-Cultural Luncheon - July 21, 2019



Multi-Cultural Luncheon - July 21, 2019

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW will hold its first meeting of the 2019/2020 year on September 11th with a dinner at Manny's Diner/Restaurant on Raritan Road in Clark, NJ. The dinner will start at 6:00 pm.

We will each order our own meal from the menu and receive our own check, as we did last year.

The deadline to sign-up on the sheet on the UMW bulletin board in Fellowship Hall is on Sunday, Sept. 1st. There will be a \$5.00 fee to sign up and reserve your seat. Please give deposit to Connie Thomas. Said deposit will be returned at the dinner.

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring a trip to Sight & Sound on Dec. 27, 2019, to see the Christmas Show, after which we will have a buffet style lunch at Shady Maple.

The cost of the trip is \$122.00 which includes the bus, driver's tip, **a center-orchestra seat** at Sight & Sound, and the luncheon at Shady Maple with gratuity. The bus will leave the New Dover UMC back parking lot promptly at 7:00 am and we should be back at the church between 6:30-7:00 pm.

A \$50.00 deposit will hold your seat and is due at this time. The balance of \$72.00 is due by Nov. 17, 2019. Checks should be made payable to **United Methodist Women**. There are special prices for children at Sight & Sound and the restaurant. Please see me for prices and age restrictions. No seats will be held without a deposit and are sold on a first come/first serve basis. We must sell at least 40 seats or the trip will be cancelled. There will be no refunds after final payment is made unless we have a waiting list.

Any questions on either event , please see Connie Thomas at church or call her at 732-287-2231.

September 8, 2019
Merrill Park, Colonia, NJ
12-5pm

 **ANNUAL**
CHURCH PICNIC



MEMBERSHIP BLOG

What a great first half of summer! Let us begin with the third Sunday in June, aka Father's Day. The men of the congregation received carnation boutonnieres for the occasion. The Chancel Choir provided an inspirational version of "Yes, My Jesus Loves Me" for the anthem, and Grace a lovely arrangement of "Deep River" for the offering. The Scriptures for the day were 2 Samuel 18:24-33 and Luke 15:11-24. Rev. compared two stories of fathers and sons: David and Absalom, and the prodigal and his father. Despite the betrayal of Absalom, David remained merciful and then heartbroken at his death. Then, despite the mishandling of his life, the prodigal returned to find his father welcoming him with open arms and ready to forgive. God's love for us is unconditional and He is always looking to welcome us back home. The health of a nation is dependent on the parent-child relationship; the love of the father should be as the love of the Father. The following weekend our pastor was on vacation, and we were graced with sermons by our laity. On Saturday Stephanie R. read Proverbs 23:25-26 and discussed how fear stops us from following our calling. On Sunday the bell choir performed a piece under guest director Emma P; Jeisun P. gave a presentation on his future mission trip to India. It's inspiring to see the future leaders of our church in action! Thanks to both of you for sharing with us. The Scriptures for the day were Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and Mark 10:45. Paulette H. took the pulpit, talking about the seasons of our lives. Changes in our lives can bring about new seasons; God may ask us to alter our path for these changes, yet He is always with us and we will find our way if we trust Him. We should serve when and where we can no matter our season. On the final weekend in June, Saturday service was an auspicious occasion. Omar Sanders led the Praise Band on his last day as praise and worship leader, stepping down after 15 years in the band. The congregation presented him with a love gift, and a time of refreshments and fellowship followed the service. Best wishes Omar-we will miss your talents! On Sunday, Victor Salama from the First Friends of NJ-NY was the guest speaker, discussing immigration issues. The Scriptures for the day were Ezekiel 47:21-23 and Hebrews 11:8-16. Mr. Salama noted that it is challenging for us to accept immigrants and allow them to flourish in the US; because of fear and greed, immigrants are being abused and detained, and the approval rate for citizenship is declining. Immigrants need advocacy; First Friends helps with support and supplies in detention, plus housing and transportation after their release. Let's welcome the strangers and become neighbors! Thank you Victor, for an eye opening presentation.

July services started off on the 7th, with a short hymn sing by request added to the service for the summer. The Scripture for the day was Hosea 13:4-11. Rev. took the congregation through the warnings of this passage: that when His people forget who they are-*whose* they are, God becomes angry that He has been forgotten. If we neglect to study His word and forget His call on our lives, we will be judged on our behavior; yet God is always ready with forgiveness if we are sincerely repentant and change our ways. Holy Communion at the railings followed the sermon. The next weekend the sanctuary was decorated in anticipation of VBS-what a treat! The congregation had the privilege of hearing Karlos Tuason perform "Above All" for the anthem. The Scriptures for the day were Genesis 4:1-16 and 1 John 3:10-18. Rev. took us through the story of Cain and Abel, reminding us that when we cry out for mercy, we take God's mark on our hearts offering us His safety and protection. We need to remember to show everyone compassion and respect, and show His mark through our actions. Let's work toward healing in love and justice-what are we waiting for? The next week, Pastor Davidson gave his first sermon at ND on Saturday evening. On Sunday our VBS participants sang for us with joy and enthusiasm, both for anthem and offering; thanks to all those volunteers who made a difference in the lives of more than 50 children! The Scriptures for the day were Proverbs 27:19 and James 1:22-27, read in 3 different languages by Isaac E., Mary Jane M. and Patrick K. While mirrors reflect our physical appearance, the mirrors mentioned in James reflect our soul-the beauty of God but also the flaws. We need to listen to those called to be mirrors for God, and also learn to be that mirror to others. That mirror should reflect God's perfect love-religion is worthless without self-reflection and continuing change. Let's transform our hearts from fear to faith!





Middlesex County Recreation Council, Inc. KIDDIE KEEP WELL CAMP

35 Roosevelt Drive, Edison, NJ 08837-2333
(732) 548-6542 Fax (732) 548-9535

www.kiddiekeepwell.org

info@kiddiekeepwell.org

Middlesex County Recreation Council, Inc. T/A Kiddie Keep Well Camp
IRS 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit Corporation and a Licensed New Jersey Charity



June 18, 2019

Anita Donnelly
Members of the New Dover United Methodist Church
687 New Dover Road
Edison, NJ 08820

Dear Anita and the Members of the New Dover United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the Kiddie Keep Well Camp, thank you for the kind donation of food. We have been able to distribute to our seniors as well as staff who arrived early for staff training. The seniors were so excited to have this food available for them. Most important all your wonderful support you have given the camp over the years. Your donation of produce in the past was greatly appreciated and important as well as very much needed at camp.

Five simple words define can define our camp and the community "together we can make a difference".

We are pleased to share with you that our 95th summer season is in full swing. Although the laughter and excitement from the approximate 680 individuals is just starting, our job is not complete. We cannot express how appreciative we are for your support as we prepare for our upcoming seasons.

The goal of Kiddie Keep Well Camp is to continue to make a difference in the lives of the vulnerable children and seniors of Middlesex County. With the help of donations and supporters such as yourself, we will continue to meet our goal and make improvements.

On behalf of Kiddie Keep Well Camp, please know how grateful we are for your support as we continue grow and provide the medical, dental, and other services that complement the traditional camp experience to individuals who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend camp. Truthfully, we could not do this without you. Thank you again for your generosity.

Most sincerely,

Cindy Robertson
Director

Your potential tax-deduction is based on the stated value for the goods and services you provided. This letter will serve as your receipt.

September Birthdays

- 3 Deborah Ladym
Danielle Tisch
5 Rosemary Raju
7 Nancy Rock
11 Alethea Poornaselvan
12 Jesse Donnelly
Hemant Raju
13 Scott Fisher
14 Edward Carney
15 Ava Christian
18 John Bonner
21 Michael Taylor
23 Marsha Quackenbush
24 Nilesh Katkar
Donna Sucheski
26 Sangita Christian
Fredie Terence
27 Michael Baidowsky
30 Robbin Roth

September Anniversaries

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

