



People's to People

*The Newsletter of the People's Church of Dover
United Church of Christ
46 South Bradford Street,
Dover, Delaware, 19904*

(302) 674-4177 - Office (302) 674-3423 - FAX

Email address: office@peopleschurchofdover.org

Webpage: peopleschurchofdover.org

MAY 2017

Dear Friends,

"There was a time when I had all the answers. My real growth began when I discovered the questions to which I had the answers were not the important questions." —Reinhold Niebuhr

On a recent drive home from Dover to Queenstown I listened to *Fresh Air* host Terry Gross interview James E. Ryan, Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and author of the new book, *Wait, What? And Life's Other Essential Questions*. Once home I ordered and downloaded the book to my Kindle. It's a short but emotional read. It made me laugh and made cry as he illustrated the real-life importance of asking questions.

Questions are, well, questionable for some in the church. We may hope or depend that The Church has the answers to all our questions. Over the years more than one person has told me about a Sunday School teacher not appreciating their questions, so they stopped asking. But they didn't stop having questions!

Questions are vital and should be welcomed in church. Religion doesn't have all the answers to our questions about God. Does that surprise you? Church is a place for us to gather and ask our questions together, as well as to share answers found (or not!), and share the outcomes of asking our questions.

Being able to ask questions makes a difference. God gave us minds to ponder the mysteries of living faithful lives. Humankind has learned a lot by asking questions. Why is the sky blue? Why does the apple fall from the tree down to the ground? Is there life beyond earth? Who wrote the Bible and why? What does it mean to say Jesus was resurrected? Are there any limits to God's love?

I became grudgingly interested in questions while in seminary. My Christian Education professor assigned us the task of formulating three questions each week, questions without simple Yes or No answers. The questions were required to inspire deeper

thinking and conversation, and were not easy to formulate. I have since come to appreciate asking and being asked such questions.

Questions inspire us to think about things we might have thought had settled answers. However, our knowledge and experience of God is always growing as we age, mature and learn from new ideas and situations.

I have decided to do a sermon series beginning on May 7th using Ryan's five questions and one bonus question. I'll explore these questions using our lectionary scripture texts for each week. I hope you enjoy the series!

- May 7 Wait, What?
- May 14 I Wonder....(Why or If)?
- May 21 Couldn't We at Least...?
- May 28 How Can I Help?
- June 4 What Truly Matters?
- June 11 Bonus Question: And did you get from this life what you wanted, even so?

It's not necessary to read the book, but you might want to, anyway!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Ellen

STEWARDSHIP REPORT THROUGH – APRIL 30, 2017

Annual Church Budgeted Income	155,906			
	Budgeted	Actual	Difference	Comments
Income Weekly Budgeted	\$4167			
Income Received				
Income Members	36747.32	27956.20	8791.12	Under donated
Transfer from Invest. Savings	45000.00	45000.00	0.00	Taken
Expenses to Date	-67955.74	-63697.18	-4258.56	overspent
Net Difference	13791.58	9259.02	4532.56	Underspent

ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL 2017				
04/2016		04/2017		Offerings
04/03	70	04/02	57	\$ 944.00
04/10	79	04/09 Palm	65	2536.00
04/17	81	04/16 Easter	99	2,687.46
04/24	70	04/23	57	\$ 768.00
05/01	66	04/30	53	\$ 1593.00
	412		260	\$ 8,528.46
AVERAGE	82		52	\$ 1,705.69
Y T D BUDGETED				\$81,747.32
UNDER BUDGETED INCOME				-\$7,198.12

MAY 2017 BIRTHDAYS

05/01	Roger M. WHARTON	05/03	Erin BIDDLE
05/03	Kathryn HANNAH	05/04	Joan CONARD
05/04	William R. DARLING	05/04	Nathan SMITH
05/06	Jane ZINK	05/04	Gerald E. RICE
05/10	Josephine STRONG	05/11	Angela HEALEY- RAKSNIS
05/11	Ethan GOLDSMITH	05/15	Sandra McNINCH
05/16	Mary Beth GOLDSMITH	05/18	Brenda POLASKO
05/18	Victoria Healey	05/20	Joyce DARLING
05/22	Robert DePUE	05/23	Brantley LINDSEY-KLUGE
05/23	William A. HUFNAL	05/23	Harry OTTO
05/24	Adolf WEISSENFLUH	05/27	Jackie NIEHORSTER
05/27	Andrew POLASKO	05/31	Denese R. LINDSEY

If we missed anyone, please notify the church office to get your name on the list.

May God Bless You on Your Birthday



The Prayer List for Members & Friends of the Church

The list is kept current. For a copy please call the church office: 674-4177; peopleschurchdover@verizon.net

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS

Cawood Cosden - Courtland Manor

Jane Dodd – is at home recuperating

Louise Ferguson –

Mary Johns - Westminster Village Assisted Living

Amanda Middleton – recovering from medical procedures

Rose Mary Ressel – at Westminster Village Assisted Living, Apt. 243

Betty Tomlinson – Westminster Health Center

Adolf Weissenfluh – home, dealing with advancing Parkinson's disease

Gertrude Weissenfluh

Sarah Woods – recovering from surgery

PRAYERS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

Verna James – The Hufnal's aunt: reoccurrence of Breast Cancer and other health issues due to aging

Chris Lambertson – son of Kasey Stokes, friends of the Deckers, just diagnosed with ALS decease

Jacqueline Lenox – Jim Miller's aunt - broken pelvis, shoulder/neck pain

Brenda Leister – Cleah Muntz's sister, knee surgery

Kayla Storr – friend of Chip & Ginny Stewart, with many health problems

Chloe Sharp – Sally Childears: 9 year old friend, receiving chemo and radiation in prep for surgery

PRAYERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Warren Hoover – friend of Ginny and Chip

Willard Irwin – Lyn Arnold's colleague

Pat Morrison - friend of John Downs, Jr.

Diana Oswell – Vicky Healey's sister

Kelly Schmidt – Terry W Warfield's niece

Uncle Pete – Pastor Ellen's Uncle

SPRING RETREAT "SPIRITUAL PRACTICES" SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017 9:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

Do you have a regular Spiritual Practice? Do you know what a Spiritual Practice is? The most common/well known Spiritual Practices are prayer, meditation and reading of Scripture. But there are so many other Spiritual Practices, you may be doing one and not even be aware of it.

Join us as we discuss and participate in various Spiritual Practices, some familiar, some new. We will look at the many different ways to pray, to meditate and to read Scripture. We will learn about other Spiritual Practices from each other. We will practice Lectio Divina, a traditional Benedictine practice combining scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word.

Please give yourself permission to take a day off from life's routines and spend the day with friends, and maybe even make some new ones, on Saturday, May 13th. Lunch will be provided. Please bring snacks to share.

This retreat is open to all members and friends of People's Church. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can call the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Serena Leiser at 508-870-3242 or sleiser1@verizon.com.

VOLUNTEERS

Flowers

05/07 Lyn Arnold
 05/14
 05/21 Phyllis Tarburton
 05/28

Liturgist

05/07 Peg Schwarz-Green
 05/14 Lyn Arnold
 05/21 Bill Hufnal
 05/28 Warren Bouton

If anyone would like to donate the flowers for a Sunday or two during the year Please call the office to give the details. Thank you.

Sunday Lessons

MAY 07 FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER
Holy Communion
 Acts 2:42-47

05/07

MAY 14 FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER
 Acts 7:55 - 60

05/14

MAY 21 SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER
 John 14:15 - 21

05/21

MAY 28 SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER
 Acts 1:6 - 14

05/28

Ushers

We are in NEED of friends to donate just a few minutes on Sunday mornings to USHER. Please choose an open slot on the sign-up sheets in the rear of the sanctuary, or call the church office.

BOARD OF DIACONATE

The Diaconate has had a busy year as we all take on new responsibilities and continue to look for ways to make People's Church a stronger church.

We had the pleasure of helping you welcome 10 new members. We look forward to utilizing their many gifts, some of which we have already had the pleasure of enjoying.

Many of our members attended the Lenten Book study, and in early April we served a delicious meal prepared by several of our members.

The Diaconate supported the Board of Management's decision to make some adjustments in our worship space, making it more accessible and creating more space for our choir.

In April we also welcomed a new caregiver for our nursery. Please stop by and say hello to Britney if you have the opportunity.

We were saddened by the death of one of our members in March. John Downs, Sr. will be greatly missed.

Videos of the Sunday sermons are posted on the FB page. So come join the congregation online. Post a photo or comment of interest to your fellow members, post a prayer or word of praise or just come and see what everyone else is up to.

CHURCH VAN MINISTRY

We continue to need someone to help with our Sunday morning Transportation Ministry. Please call or email the office if you are able to help fellow members enjoy worship or know of someone in need of a ride. 302-674-4177 or office@peopleschurchofdover.org.

If you have ideas about how to make our worship more meaningful please feel free to contact someone on the Diaconate or complete one of the index cards in the pews and drop in the collection plate.

Our next meeting is May 21st after worship

Peace,
Judy Zingaro, Chairperson

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Board is thankful this month for many things:

1. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers for a great year: Mary Beth Andrews, Jennifer Childears, Jean Hitchens, Gwen Senato, Suzanne Schwarz-Green, Cheryl Goldsmith, Tracy Williams and Judy Zingaro. We are moving into the planning phase for our next school year and are open to all suggestions, comments and ideas from the congregation.
2. Thank you to all who made our Easter Egg hunt a success: Cheryl Goldsmith for supplying and filling the eggs, Mary Beth Andrews, her step-daughter and Maria Myer for hiding them, and the Easter Bunny for once again being a great host.
3. Thank you to all the moms and mom-like folks at People's Church. We are blessed to have you and wish God's blessings upon you and your family.

SAVE THE DATE AND GATHER THE KIDS

Vacation Bible School is coming! July 9-13, 2017 6-8pm.

Please pray for our endeavor as we strive to share God's great love with our community's children! Mary Beth Andrews will be directing this year's fun-filled week. Children 4-12 are encouraged to join us. Volunteers are needed, please see Mary Beth or Jennifer for details.



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Git-R-Done day on 4/1/2017 was a huge success. There were 15 people that spent a little over 3 hours to freshen up the yard of People's Church in time for Easter. The Board of Management wants to thank Chip Stewart for organizing and spearheading the work. The workers were: Chip, Dick, Kathy, Paul, Keith, Robin, Louise, Jerry, Alexis, Helaine, Jacqui and Jimmi, Glenn, Jean, Warren, THANK YOU all very much for your work.

The pews in the front have been moved courtesy of Two Men and Truck. That has opened up the space for wheelchairs, walkers, making the ease of movement flow better. Just in time for Easter the sanctuary was made beautiful with the placing of the Easter Lilies. Thank you to Phyllis S. for doing the staging of the lilies around the altar, it was Beautiful.

Thank you to all the members of the Board of Management who do so much to keep our wonderful church running maintenance wise. There are so many things that get done during the week, like the fencing around the excesses on the North side, to the fixing of the light on the sign at Reed and Bradford.

BOARD OF MISSION & OUTREACH

FOOD BANK

We delivered 30 food items and \$0 to the First Baptist Church Food Bank. We will collect for Holy Cross Food Bank in May. Items needed are canned goods, oatmeal, powdered milk, stewed tomatoes, jelly, peanut butter, canned beef stew and chili and saltine crackers. Monetary funds can be put in the Food Bank envelopes found in the hymnal rack. Please make checks payable to People's Church. Thanks for your continued support; it is greatly needed.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship sponsored a presentation by Julie Lewis, a master gardener

and daughter-in-law of member Art Lewis. Her topic, container gardening, was both informative and inspiring. She brought appropriate plants, planters, and the group discussion led to good information and suggestions.

After devotions, led by Sandy Yurga, and a treasurer's report by Phyllis Tarburton, there was a discussion of our May trip. It was decided to go to Shady Maple, near Lancaster, on May 18, leaving at 9:15 am. This restaurant and gift shop offers a 10 per cent sr. discount and has gluten-free options. It is set for May 18th, and all members of the church are welcome. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

President, Ruth Gallihue suggested a future trip to Big Oak Park in Smyrna, which has paved walking trails.

"Slice is Nice" will be held after worship on May 7.

Jean Hitchens, secretary

MAY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-NA	2 07:00 PM-AA	3 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE	4 12:00 PM - F.A.I.R. MEETING 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	5 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-AA	6 1:00 PM- C. O. D. A. Chicken Salad Sale
7 10:00 am – Worship 11:00 am – coffee hour 11:15 am – Board of Christian Ed meeting	8 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-NA	9 07:00 PM-AA	10 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 10:30 AM – Caregivers	11 12:00 PM - F.A.I.R. MEETING 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	12 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-AA	13 01:00 PM- C. O. D. A. 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Spiritual Practices Retreat
14 10:00 AM – Worship 11:00 am – Coffee 11:10 am – W F meeting	15 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-NA	16 10:00 AM – Caregivers 07:00 PM-AA 6:30 pm – Board of Management meeting	17 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE	18 9:30 am – W F trip to Shady Maple 12:00 PM - F.A.I.R. MEETING 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	19 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-AA	20 01:00 PM- C. O. D. A.
21 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 am – Coffee 11:15 AM –	21 12:15 PM- NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-NA	22 07:00 PM-AA	23 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE	24 12:00 PM - F.A.I.R. MEETING 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	25 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-AA	27 01:00 PM- C. O. D. A.

Board of Diaconate						
28 10:00 am - Worship 11:15 AM- Coffee	29 12:15 PM- NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-NA	30 07:00 PM-AA	31 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE	JUNE ↓		
				1 12:00 PM - F.A.I.R. MEETING 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	2 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-AA	3 01:00 PM- C. O. D. A.
4 10:00 am - Worship 11:15 AM-Coffee 11:10 am Board of Christian ED meeting	5 12:15 PM- NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-NA	6 07:00 PM-AA	7 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE	8 12:00 PM - F.A.I.R. MEETING 7:00 PM Choir Practice	9 12:15 PM-NA - MESSAGE OF HOPE 07:00 PM-AA	10 01:00 pm C.O.D. A

**THE PURPOSE / MISSION STATEMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH OF DOVER
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The purpose of this church shall be to worship God who embraces all people;

to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ as our Revealer, Lord and Savior; to celebrate the sacraments; to facilitate spiritual growth; to practice Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church Universal; to proclaim the Bible as the story of our faith and to educate and nourish that faith among all ages; to render loving service towards humankind; to be faithful in our stewardship responsibilities with our time, talent and treasures; and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

Church Office – 302-674-4177, hours Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 P.M.

Email address: office@peopleschurchofdover.org - Rev. Witko: pastor@peopleschurchofdover.org

WebPage: peopleschurchofdover.org

Worship Service 10:00 AM
Philip S. Betts Organist
Kathy Hanebutt Organist
Robin Hinderer Treasurer
Usher Cynthia Hotchkiss Adm. Assist.

Dr. Paul Hanebutt Choir Director
Randal Revay Sexton
R. Jefferson Reed Head

Board Chairpersons

Joseph Zingaro - Moderator
Rev. Judy Zingaro - Diaconate
Robin Hinderer - Management

Sue Harris-Hunt - Mission and Outreach
Jennifer Childears - Christian Education
Lyn Arnold - Finance

****DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER IS MAY 20, 2017****