



People's to People

The Newsletter of the People's Church of Dover
United Church of Christ
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. G. Derrick Hodge

December 2020

Hopeful Anticipation

There is lots of chaos and sadness in our world today – in our individual lives, and in our collective life together. Lots of crises. Lots of grief. And to top it all off, *today* is world AIDS day. In maudlin fashion, I spent the morning reading obituaries, and remembering the catastrophe of the 1980s. It would be unfaithfully to Christ, and a disservice to the tens of millions of dead and suffering people, to let this day go by without weeping.

As Christians striving to be faithful, we are *not* called to ignore tragedy, to pretend like everything is OK, to say that evil in the world is not a problem for us because, in the end, God will have the last word. Like Jesus, we are called to denounce evil, to fight structural sin, to lay ourselves open to the suffering of the world, *and to grieve*. Remember that Jesus wept. Jesus raged. Jesus walked right into the midst of the violence of his society, and felt the pain of living in his very flesh. Being alive and being a Christian do not always feel good. We weep, too.

And yet, Advent is a season of *hope*, of expectation that God is doing *a new thing*. How can we feel this hope – no, *live* this hope – without denying the reality of pain and suffering? How can we grieve the losses in our own lives, and yet serve others with joy? How can we fully confront (in both mind and body) the evil in our world today, without becoming embittered and pessimistic? This is the dilemma of advent in a time such as this.

All I can tell you, People's Church of Dover, is that I believe in you, and I believe in our God. I believe that there is yet more ministry that this congregation has to give to God's people. I believe that there is yet much more truth that God has to speak to the world, *through you*. You have already taken the most important step by saying "yes" to God, by deciding to stay in the neighborhood and do what is *right*, whatever the cost. And by deciding to align your will with the will of God, you have embraced the only source of real joy and real comfort.

And so, you cannot fail. Things are not the way we thought they would be. They are not the way we would have hoped. Yet the present moment gives us the precious opportunity to finally admit that *our way does not work*. To walk with our God and to do her will. And as long as we do that, we cannot fail. There is good news aplenty! There is joy abundant, and ours for the taking. Hear the comfort of God through the prophets Baruch and Isaiah:

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. [For] every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Rev. Dr. G. Derrick Hodge

Membership



Prayer List for Members & Friends of the Church

We rely on you to let the office know when members or friends have a special pastoral need. Reverend Hodge will be glad to call, write, or visit anyone with a particular concern. Call the office to let Sheila know about prayer list changes. Names will be on the prayer list for three weeks, unless someone requests that they remain.

- Louise Warfield
- Carly Fedena – Friend of John Downs
- Diana Oswell – Sister of Vicky Healey
- Pat Hufnal – Sister of Bill Hufnal
- Claire Zaragoza – Friend of Bill and Joyce Darling

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 12/07 – Theresa Lloyd
- 12/07 – Nancy Otto
- 12/10 – Dylan Allbee
- 12/21 – Patricia Diantonio
- 12/22 – Carol Skadsberg
- 12/26 – Dori Hill
- 12/28 – Alexander Senato

Christian Education



Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Christian Education activities at the church continue to be on hold until it is safe to begin again. Continue to be safe and practice social distancing, as we anticipate exciting new things happening in our church.

Mary Beth Andrews

Worship



We continue to enjoy worshipping in person as we practice social distancing and other safety measures. In November we once again were able to share in Holy Communion. Great care continues to be taken to ensure that this experience is as safe as it is spiritually uplifting. In November we also celebrated the sacrament of baptism as our granddaughter, Delia, was baptized. As we will enter into the season of Advent, we will once again be inviting individuals/families to participate in the lighting of our Advent Wreath. Please watch 'Soul Food' each week for information about any other special services or events. Worship is providing opportunities to enjoy uplifting music, inspiring and challenging sermons, and the joy of seeing our church family face to face in the midst of these challenging times. We look to the future of People's Church with renewed hope and energy. We hope to continue to see new and returning faces in the future. If you are not able to safely join us in worship, the service is still available on YouTube.

Rev. Judy Zingaro

Altar Flowers and Liturgist Schedule

	Flowers	Liturgist
12/6	Vicky Healey	Vicky Healey
12/13	Cheryl Goldsmith	Cheryl Goldsmith
12/20	Poinsettias	Warren Bouton
12/27	Poinsettias	John Downs

Advent is all about anticipation. So in that spirit, there will be no sermon schedule this month – you will just have to eagerly await the sermon each week, wondering what the topic will be!

Meditation



The meditation group will meet on Tuesday, December 8, at 6:30 pm in the 2nd floor meditation room. This month our meditation will be based on scripture. No visualization, no counting your breaths - just soothing music and listening to healing and inspiring scripture. If you have any questions or want to learn more about meditation, feel free to contact Serena Leiser (781-492-1478 or sleiser1@verizon.net). If anyone is interested in a *morning* meditation group, just let me know.

Serena Leiser

Building and Management

Rev. Hodge will continue to communicate the details of the plans. So stay tuned; the saga continues...



Dr. Paul Hanebutt

Mission and Outreach



As the weather gets colder; plans for Code Purple become our biggest priority. Please think about donations of supplies for the guests. Items needed most are: toilet paper, paper towels, sugar, tea bags, and coffee. Clothing needs for our guests: white socks, large, XXL, XXXL sweatshirts and sweatpants.

Susan Harris

Stewardship and Finance



Our calling is to engage with our neighbors, helping the community youth and

the homeless, and letting the neighborhood minister to us. The other area, not to be left out, is to create more opportunities for our members, in terms of worship, Bible study, and faith formation.

Lyn Arnold

Trustees



The annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, January 17, 2021, after service. Agenda topics will include budget items, the strategic planning report, building renovation information and other relevant items. More information will be posted as the date comes closer.

The annual meeting is also when officers are elected. We are still looking for a permanent Clerk for the Board of Trustees. If you are interested in this position, please let us know.

Christ is born again this month! May celebrating his birth, however that happens this year, bring you all hope, joy and comfort. Christmas blessings abound.

Jennifer Childears

From the Moderator

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:11



There are two additional documents attached to the newsletter this month. My prayer is that you complete both.

The first one is a Spiritual Gifts Assessment. Following the instructions and honestly answering the questions will

help determine what areas of service you may be naturally inclined towards. I encourage you to spend some time doing this assessment, even if you already know your spiritual gifts. I thought I knew mine and was surprised that this assessment revealed I am stronger in another area. This assessment is for you alone and you don't need to share your results with anyone.

The second document is a Time and Talent Survey. Using what you learned from the Spiritual Gifts Assessment and your own life experiences and education, please complete this survey for submission to the Church Office. This will provide church leadership a picture of ministry areas most common to the congregation.

I thank you for your time spent on these two documents.

Blessings for your Christmas season and I am looking forward to hopefully seeing your all maskless sometime in 2021.

Jennifer Childears



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.

The deadline for the January newsletter is December 28.

Administration

- If you would like to donate a Christmas Poinsettia “in memory” or “in honor” of someone for the church services of December 20th and December 27th, please call the office, drop it in the offering plate or mail in your order. The office would like to have your offers by December 14th.
- The annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, January 17, 2021, after service.
- Check out our temporary sign on the corner of Reed and Bradford Streets; the future home of the People's Community Center.
- Kudos to the decorating crew that came out and decorated the sanctuary! Randal Revay, Glenn and Jean Hitchens, Judy Zingaro, Paul and Kathy Hanebutt, and Vicky Healey.
- Whenever you have upcoming meetings or announcements, please contact Sheila Kay-Lawrence (302) 674-4177 or office@peopleschurchofdover.org, so that she can add it to the church calendar.

Church Office – 302-674-4177

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00

Email address: office@peopleschurchofdover.org

Staff

Rev. Dr. G. Derrick Hodge, Pastor

Kathy Hanebutt , Organist

Dr. Paul Hanebutt, Choir Director

Dr. Randal Revay, Sexton

Sheila Kay-Lawrence, Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees

Jennifer Childears - Moderator

Sue Harris - Mission and Outreach

Vicky Healey - Clerk (Interim)

Serena Leiser - Pastor Parish Relations

Judy Zingaro - Diaconate

Mary Beth Andrews - Christian Education

Robin Hinderer - Treasurer

Lyn Arnold - Finance

Paul Hanebutt - Facilities Management

Richard Johnson - Management



Christmas Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these words to find the hidden word?

sehlig

lagne

nosw

teer

corasl



Name _____ Date _____

Ugly Christmas Sweaters

Use the clues to help match each person to their sweater color and design! Place an X in the boxes that can be eliminated and a O in any boxes that are a match!

	BLACK	RED	GREEN	BLUE	ORANGE	BROWN	ELF	SNOWMAN	SANTA	GIFTS	REINDEER	GINGERBREAD
BRAD												
MARCOS												
ETHAN												
MILLIE												
JASMINE												
ELLA												
ELF												
SNOWMAN												
SANTA												
GIFTS												
REINDEER												
GINGERBREAD												



Nativity Word Search

X S M B I Y L V Y Y J U H O L Y S F
 D O S E C A M E L S O J G S Z S T G
 J V T T Z A M A N G E R T Y F J A I
 O B A H Z O Y S C T Z G J J I Q B F
 S D R L N A T I V I T Y C R E P L T
 E B Y E Q D D O N K E Y I A I S E S
 P A J H J Y X E E J H U V A N J U G
 H B O E S H E P H E R D S N M D L S
 O Y H M T C R J X W A R X G T P L I
 P E X L O V E P E A C E C E R E V E
 K I N G S I Y F Y B P X A L D Y L P
 D H P J Y A U A D V E N T M A R Y Q

- ADVENT
- ANGEL
- BABY
- BETHLEHEM
- CAMEL
- CANDLE
- DONKEY
- GIFTS
- HOLY
- JESUS
- JOSEPH
- KINGS
- LOVE
- MANGER
- NATIVITY
- PEACE
- SHEPHERDS
- STABLE
- STAR
- MARY