



August 2020

The Exodus in Delaware

The story of the exodus tells us that God led the people “out of the land of slavery in Egypt” and set them on a course to a new place “flowing with milk and honey”, a place where they would take their part in God’s plan for salvation. But to get there, they had to go through a desert experience: forty years of uncertainty, anxiety, and discomfort. They went on a journey of discovering who they were, and where God was calling them to do the work of building a society based on the laws of God, the laws of faith, justice, equality, self-forgetting, and love.

On more than one occasion, they were mighty tempted to bail out on the whole project. They “grumbled against Moses”, and wished aloud that they were back in the miserable but safe-and-secure conditions of slavery in Egypt. How they doubted and complained and worried! But God continued to lead them, by pillar of fire by night and cloud by day, and, eventually, they arrived.

Remember what I said in a sermon: Biblical stories are never only about historical events in the ancient Near East or moral fables told to educate the next generation. They are *also* about us, here and now. So what does the story of the exodus have to do with Dover today?

People’s Church of Dover has been in the wilderness for quite a while now. Folks are not sure what is going to happen next, what this congregation is called to do, or even whether or not it will survive. But like the ancient Hebrews in the desert, at last they came to the edge of the promised land, and Joshua led the “righteous remnant” into their new home in Palestine.

This congregation stands at a precipice. It is ready to discover the “new thing” that God has promised. I am absolutely convinced that there is much ministry yet to be done by this congregation. It is being called into a new place, and it *will* survive the desert experience and be transformed into something even more useful to God’s purpose. That is very good news!

The journey will begin during a major two-day participatory event, the first Friday and Saturday of October. Save the dates! Every single member and friend of People's Church of Dover will be a part of the revitalization. Details will come next month, so in the meantime, sit on the edge of your seats in anticipation, fasten your seat belts, and get ready for God to do something new!

Rev. Dr. G. Derrick Hodge

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 Judy know about prayer list changes. Henceforth, names will be left on the prayer list for three weeks, and then removed unless you request that they remain.

- Barbara Moore – mother of Carol Skadsberg
- Claire Zaragoza
- Ms. Pat Hufnal
- Tony – Serena's son-in-law
- Ricco Bonilla

WORSHIP NEWS

We are very happy to once again be worshipping in our sanctuary as we experience the inspiring sermons of our new pastor. We hope you will join us anytime you are able. We are moving into a new phase in the life of our church and it promises to bring with it lots of excitement as we look to the future with renewed hope and energy. If you are not able to safely join us in worship, the service will still be available on YouTube.

Judy Zingaro

August Sermon Schedule

*As of today, this is what Dr. Hodge anticipates preaching about.
But the Spirit sometimes moves unexpectedly! A new problem or insight might
arise at any time, necessitating an adjustment of scriptures or titles.*

Date	Title	Focus Scriptures
2 August	Wrestling with God	Genesis 32:22-31
9 August	Getting out of the Boat	Matthew 14:22-33
16 August	Learning from Aliens	Genesis 45 and Matthew 15
23 August	The Secrecy Motif	Matthew 16:13-20
30 August	Revealed: The Identity of God	Exodus 3:1-15

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.

MEDITATION

MEDITATION RETURNS!!

We will be resuming our monthly meditation groups the second week of August. Please join Serena on Tuesday, August 11th, at 6:30 PM at the church. We will meet in the meditation room on the second floor. We will take time to check in with each other, do a 20-minute guided meditation and then have time to be creative, read scripture, or whatever moves us. Everyone is welcome. Even if you have never done meditation before, this is a safe place to learn. Please wear a face mask. If you have any questions feel free to call (781) 492-1478 or email me sleiser1@verizon.net.

Serena Leiser

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

"Greetings to all from the management team. We are hoping that the painting project of the first floor will begin on August 17, barring any scheduling issues for the painting contractor. Hopefully by the next newsletter all the painting will be completed. We have been experiencing some air conditioning issues. These issues have been resolved and hopefully will continue to function going into fall. Last month our computer tech company, Secure Data, got us set up with a new computer and upgraded WIFI signal for the entire church. We also have a guest WIFI login available for our laptops, tablets and smart phones. Our web page has had some work done as well. One of the additions is the ability to use PayPal or other credit cards, securely, directly from the web site to make any contributions you may wish to make to the church. You may have noticed, Chesapeake Utilities has done some work upgrading the gas service to the building on the southwest corner of the building. If you notice any maintenance things around the building that you think should be addressed, please tell anyone on the Board of Trustees so we can take care of those issues. Have a great month. Prayers for health and safety. Blessings to all!"

Paul Hanebutt

MISSION & OUTREACH

New beginnings at People's Church will bring new opportunities to help our neighbors and be the hands and feet of God. Stay tuned for more information as we work to build new relationships to bring meaningful opportunities for us all to be good neighbors and show love and compassion to those most in need in our community. Anyone with any ideas or suggestions is welcome to join the discussion and help bring new and innovative ways to reach out and touch the hearts of those in need around us. I'm looking forward to a great year of change and new beginnings. Please join in and make a difference in the lives of people who find happiness and the goodness of people a fading hope. You might not be able to help everyone, but everyone can help as least one.

Sue Hunt

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The church is in need of someone to take minutes at the Board of Trustee meetings. If this is something you are able and willing to do, please notify the church office.

We also need individuals who would like to serve as liturgists as well as provide flowers for the altar. Please contact Vicky Healey if you would like to serve as liturgist and Cheryl Goldsmith if you would like to provide flowers. Or you may contact the church office.

If you would like to volunteer to help with contacting our home bound members, please contact Jennifer Childears or Judy Zingaro for a list of individuals that you can keep check on during these difficult days. Please also consider helping the trustees as we continue the clean-up/clean-out in our building.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND LITURGIST SCHEDULE		
	FLOWERS	LITURGIST
August 2	CJ & Ileana Santiago	Rev. Jim Caldwell
August 9	Paul and Kathy Hanebutt	Phyllis Tarburton
August 16	Cynthia Hotchkiss	Lyn Arnold
August 23	CJ & Ileana Santiago	Jean Hitchens
August 30	Mary Beth Andrews	Rev. Warren Bouton

TRUSTEES

The Trustees are happy to report that in-person worship service has been going very well. We are still working out the bugs for the Facebook livestream and hope to have better sound quality soon. If we have to suspend in-person worship services again, we will return to the YouTube playlist option we used throughout April, May and June.

Be sure to watch your email for invitations to discuss the sermon via Zoom on Sunday nights. If there are no after service meetings, we will have small group discussions in the fellowship room- masked and socially distant. Please join in when you can.

The Board needs someone to take minutes for meetings. This person handles minutes for the meetings and announcements for the annual meeting. Please reach out to Judy Zingaro or Jennifer Childears if you are interested.

****DEADLINE FOR September 2020 NEWSLETTER IS August 20, 2020****

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, Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Email address: office@peopleschurchofdover.org

Webpage: peopleschurchofdover.org

Worship Service	10:00 AM	Rev. Dr. G. Derrick Hodge	Pastor
Kathy Hanebutt	Organist	Dr. Paul Hanebutt	Choir Director
Dr. Randal Revay	Sexton	Robin Hinderer	Treasurer
Cheryl Goldsmith	Head Usher	Judy Zingaro	Admin. Assist.

Board of Trustees

Jennifer Childears - Moderator	Sue Hunt - Mission and Outreach
Vicky Healey - Clerk(Interim)	Serena Leiser - Pastor Parish Relations
Judy Zingaro - Diaconate	Mary Beth Andrews - Christian Education
Robin Hinderer - Facilities Management	Lyn Arnold - Finance
Paul Hanebutt - Music/Facilities Mgmt.	Richard Johnson - Management