



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

November 2020

Being an Outside-In Church!

Last month I wrote to you about the success of the visioning weekend, during which the members discerned three missional priorities: ministry with members and friends, ministry with children and youth, and ministry with our neighbors. The congregational also made a firm commitment to remain in our current location and to spend the money necessary to make the building useful to the community and a source of pride for our members. In short, we made a commitment to be an “outside-in church”.

Now, it just so happens that the vision you discerned coincides with my own vision of faithful ministry in the city. It also happens that that vision is consistent with the findings of recent research on congregational vitality. Yesterday after the service, we watched the first in a series of videos on congregational vitality, produced by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership is a think tank and research center at Wesley Theological Seminary in the District. The professor in the video described the seven characteristics of outside-in churches:

1. Ministries share the gospel in all three ways: *sign, word, and deed*.
2. They obey God's commandment to “go”; they do not wait for folks to come through our doors.
3. Walk the streets. “Know your zip code”. Know what is happening & *how the area is changing*.
4. Build *authentic* relationships with neighbors.
5. *Collaborate* with community stakeholders.
6. *Make a difference*. Participate in God's work of transformation.
7. *Reshape* our understanding of community. Our church includes those outside, not just those inside our building.

The wellbeing of the congregation depends upon its faithful work of doing the gospel, in sign word, and deed. In doing that work, we must follow the example of Jesus, even when His teachings go against our human “common sense”, or when they go against the notions, we are absolutely certain about because we have believed them all our lives. False ideas about the world, preached to us by false prophets, prevent us from being effective in ministering the Gospel.

To be faithful, we must be willing to see the world *anew*: not through the eyes of past prejudices or current certainties, not through the worldview shouted at us by cable ‘news’ commentators, but through the eyes of our Lord.

Another thing that gets in the way of faithful outside-in ministry are three common excuses:

1. There are only a few of us, not enough of us to do effective ministry in the community.
2. We are too old. We don't have enough emotional energy or physical stamina to obey God's call to “go”.
3. We don't have enough money.

Suffice is to say that the professor from the Wesley Seminary debunked *all three* excuses! And that really is great news, because we know that we are very well equipped to begin a new exciting period of outside-in ministry. Thanks be to 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.

- Brother of Ileana Santiago
- Nephew of Cleah
- Claire Zaragoza
- Paul Terranova – Neighbor of Jim Caldwell
- Hannah Jones and her family – Friend of Robin Hinderer
- Carol and Malcolm Browne – Sister and brother-in-law of Kathy and Paul Hanebutt
- Diane Hanebutt – Sister-in-law of Paul and Kathy Hanebutt
- Carly Fedena – Friend of John Downs
- Pat Hufnal, sister of Bill Hufnal, is suffering greatly, from the interaction of both dementia and Parkinson's.
- Harriet Griggs – Wife of former pastor, Dan Griggs

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 02 – Lori Rice
- 06 – Jeff Hall & Alyssa Middleton-Hall
- 08 – Mary Johns
- 11 – Serena Leiser
- 15 – Sally Childears
- 18 – Betsy Stewart
- 23 – Pat DiAntonio
- 23 – Susan Harris
- 25 – Jennifer Downs
- 30 – Pat Thompson

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 October we shared Holy Communion for the first time since March! Great care was taken to ensure that this experience was as safe as it was spiritually uplifting. 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 |
|-------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 11/1 | Brenda & Warren Bouten | Jennifer Childears |
| 11/8 | Phyllis Tarburton | Brenda Bouton |
| 11/15 | CJ & Ileana Santiago | Serena Leiser |
| 11/22 | Serena Leiser | Jean Hitchens |
| 11/29 | Pat Thompson | Phyllis Tarburton |

November 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 | Scriptures |
|------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | The Beatitudes | Matthew 5:1-12 |
| 8 | What God Really Wants | Amos 5:18-24 |
| 15 | The Rich will Get Richer | Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 22 | The Bully Sheep | Ezekiel 34:11-24 |
| 29 | Waiting for God | Isaiah 64:1-9 |

Meditation



The meditation group will meet on Tuesday, November 10, 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

The management team on the trustees committee is moving forward with a few church building and remodeling projects. Pricing for a video system for the sanctuary has been received and accepted by the board of trustees. Bathroom and laundry room remodeling plans for the basement have also been reviewed and accepted by the board of trustees. Discussion have been re-instituted with Becker Morgan to finalize electrical, elevator, bell tower and office space improvements. The next step is to have a congregational meeting for discussion and approval of these projects. Rev. Hodge will continue to communicate the details of the plans.



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.



We will provide more information as we get closer. Everyone is welcome to join the code purple team at night to help with the meals and fellowship with the guests after

dinner. If you would like to be responsible for an evening meal server, please let me know (302) 423-6049 and I will be happy to make those arrangements.

Susan Harris

Stewardship and Finance

Great news from the visioning weekend! The People's Church has determined a path and is moving forward. Your generous contributions will go toward fulfilling the spiritual missions. Thank you for your continued support!

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.

As part of this decision, the building will be renovated toward those goals. You have seen the new paint—isn't it lovely?



Rev. Hodge has encouraged us to work with local and ethically-aligned businesses. With his help and direction we are streamlining many operations. We now have a much-reduced chart of accounts and budget report. You will see that soon. The Finance & Treasury team are working on moving the checking accounts to a more ethical operation.

Look for more exciting news—there's a lot going on!

Lyn Arnold

Trustees



The Trustees are working diligently on improving certain areas of the Church. Some of these improvements will come soon and some will wait, but be assured that

we will be transparent and share them with you when the time is right.

We are still looking for a permanent Clerk to handle meeting minutes and announcements. If you want to be “in the room where it happens,” then please reach out to Jennifer Childears.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in either December or January. More information will be coming about how to be a part of it.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers during these trying times. We have been meeting in person for worship since July and all of us remain healthy and strong. I want to thank those who attend for being responsible and only coming to service when you are well.

Jennifer Childears

From the Moderator

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 NIV

Each member of People's Church makes up the body of the Christ's Church. And you bring something to the body of Christ that no one else can. Your gifts and talents are wonderful, and they are appreciated here at People's Church. As we move forward with our new mission priorities and programs, you will play a vital part.

Now you are probably thinking to yourself that you have no special talent, gift or ability. I also believed that of myself. I believed I was not special in any way and really didn't have anything to offer. But those who have been with People's Church long enough, know that isn't true. You've seen the wonders of Vacation Bible School and now you see me leading as Moderator.

I still was not convinced I was anything special and I certainly did not think I had any special gifts. But, Jill White, who led our visioning weekend in October shared a Spiritual Gifts Assessment worksheet with me. I will be sharing it with you all this month. My hope is that, like me, you will find that what you thought was nothing special is actually an amazingly wonderful gift from God, given to you for a specific purpose.

Be on the lookout for my email to you later this month. And remember, God made you special and He loves you very much!

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.

Administration

- We have a new color copier/printer/scanner! The lease is just a bit lower, and the copier is much better!
- The deadline for the December newsletter is November 23.
- Our new secretary, Sheila, is now officially out of her probationary period. She has been pretty fab so far, so let's keep her around a bit longer!
- There will be a very brief congregational meeting after worship service on 7 November. We will have only one item of business: to approve the Trustees' decision to proceed with the major building repairs. The annual meeting of the congregation, for approval of the budget, will be on 9 January.

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

The deadline for the December
newsletter is November 23.

Jesus prayed to God.

To find His prayer, fit the words from the list into the crossword puzzle.
Then transfer them to the numbered lines.

all
may
Son
Him
life
come
time
give
over
your
that
might
given
Father
people



“(8) _____, the (7) _____ has (2) _____.
 (1D) _____ (11) _____ (12) _____,
 (5) _____ Your Son (4Down) _____ glorify You.
 For You (9) _____ (6) _____
 (10) _____ (14) _____ (13) _____
 (15) _____ that He (4Across) _____
 (17) _____ (3) _____ (16) _____ to all
 those You have (1A) _____ Him.”

Jesus prayed for His

_____.
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Find the letters to fill in the blanks.
Write the letter that's missing from the second word of the pair.

- 1) DESERT - TREES _____
- 2) FRUIT - TURF _____
- 3) SMILE - LIME _____
- 4) CAMEL - LAME _____
- 5) RADIO - ROAD _____
- 6) SPIDER - RIDES _____
- 7) LEARN - NEAR _____
- 8) ELBOW - BOWL _____
- 9) PEAS - APE _____



For example, F → → ↓ = Q

Puzzle #1

1. S ← ← ↑ = _____

2. G ↓ ↓ ← = _____

3. L → ↑ ↑ ↑ = _____

4. O ↑ ↑ → = _____

5. F → → ↑ = _____

6. J → → → = _____

7. V ↓ ↓ ← = _____

8. Z ↑ → ↑ → = _____

9. P ← ← ↑ = _____

10. Q ↓ ← ← = _____

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

Jesus said, "I am _____"
1 2 3

_____"
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Do you know where this verse is located?