



People's to People

The Newsletter of the People's Church of Dover

United Church of Christ

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Rev. Dr. G. Derrick Hodge - Pastor

September 2020

Message from the Pastor

Most pastors, I suspect, use their monthly newsletter column to tell spiritually uplifting stories, or perhaps to teach a moral lesson. Conference Ministers, who are pastors to the pastors, use their monthly newsletter commentaries for that purpose, and I personally do appreciate reading the hope and guidance that those messages can convey.

However, my role as pastor is not *only* to encourage and uplift you. You have called me to lead you as you envision the future of People's Church, and launch a revitalization program. So I will bring you spiritually uplifting words in the form of weekly worship services and "Food for the Soul" messages. These monthly newsletter contributions will focus on the congregation's rebirthing process. Each month I will draw a mental map to describe where we are in the process, and where we are heading.

As you know, in a few weeks (2-4 October) we will begin our serious discernment work with our "Visioning and Repurposing Weekend". This kick-off weekend will be led by a revitalization expert from the UCC. We urgently need the active participation of *every* member of People's Church! The more participation – whether you come into the building or join us from a computer at home – the more likely PCD will regain its place as a vital spiritual force in the city. We really do need every perspective, from everyone who has ever had any interest in the wellbeing of this church, or in the wellbeing of the city. Joining in this conversation does not commit you to anything – we just need your ideas about what God is calling PCD to do, in a time such as this!

That weekend will be an exciting launch in a new direction, but it is only the beginning. For several months after that, we will continue to work on discernment. Below you will find a graphic map of our discernment work. Each phase will have several subsections and divisions, and it is a work in progress. So as we begin the discernment work, we will add tasks, delete tasks, and adjust the timeline.

The bottom line is that a new day is indeed dawning for People's Church of Dover! But remember that God does not make the Kingdom of Heaven appear, magically, without our cooperation. We need your active participation in helping us discern a new direction! Keep always in your heart the scripture that I preached on my first Sunday with you, Isaiah 43:19:

See, I am about to do a new thing;
even now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

G. D. Hodge

Draft Visioning and Revitalization Timeline: People’s Church of Dover

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
I. Visioning and Repurposing Launch					
II. Asset Mapping and Building Planning					
III. Discerning and Committing to the Vision					
IV. Design of New Ministry Plan					
V. Launch of New Ministries					
V. Evaluation, Revisiting and Adjusting					

Version: 25 August 2020

Prayer List for Members & Friends

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.

- Carol Skadsberg and Family
- Claire Zaragoza
- Ms. Pat Hufnal
- Family of Vernon Ingram
- Ricco Bonilla
- Family of Ralph Gmuer
- Jerry Burns – Friend of Serena

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 9/5 Jennifer Childears
- 9/7 Bill and Joyce Darling
- 9/12 Bill Dodd
- 9/25 Pat Hufnal
- 9/26 Cleah Muntz
- 9/29 Cheryl and Steve Goldsmith

May God Bless you on your Birthdays and Anniversaries!

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

WORSHIP NEWS

We continue to enjoy worshipping in person in our sanctuary as we experience the inspiring sermons of our 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

September Sermon Schedule

(Subject to change, as the Spirit moves!)

Date	Sermon	Focus Scripture
6	The Passover: Violence and Rescue	Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 13:8-14
13	Guilt and Forgiveness	Matthew 18:21-35; Jonah 3:10-4:11
20	"And the people murmured..."	Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 20:1-16
27	"And the people quarreled..."	Exodus 17:1-7; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rev. Hodge would like to begin mid-week Bible studies. If you are interested please let the office know which days and times are best for you, and whether you would like to meet in person or on your computer at home.

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

MEDITATION

There will be a meditation group on Tuesday, September 8th, at 6:30 PM, in the Meditation Room on the 2nd floor of the church. This group is open to all, whether you are a beginner or have been meditating for a while. We will be doing a relaxation exercise, a guided meditation, and a time to just check in. Please wear a mask. If there are people interested in a daytime meditation group in September, let me know and I can schedule one.

--- Serena Leiser, sleiser1@verizon.net, 781-492-1478

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

For those of you who are not familiar with the role of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC), its purpose is to facilitate a healthy relationship between the pastor and congregants in order to enhance the effectiveness of the church's ministry. The committee serves:

- as an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor;
- as a support group for the pastor's leadership: interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of the pastor to the congregation; and
- as a primary communications conduit between the ministry and the membership.

If anyone has a question for or a concern, you are strongly encouraged to speak directly to Reverend Hodge. He much prefers open and direct communication and he is very approachable and easy to talk with. If it would be more comfortable for you, you can speak with a member of the PRC first and then they can go with you to meet with Rev. Hodge. You would also be welcome to come to one of our committee meetings to discuss any issues you might have.

The members of the committee are:

Serena Leiser (chair), Jim Caldwell, John Downs, CJ Santiago and Joe Zingaro.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

"Each month at People's Church opens new opportunities for our future. From a building maintenance perspective there are a few projects planned and in process. The building painting project is ongoing. Regrettably the contractor has been delayed. We are hoping for a start date in the very near future. We have started bidding on fixing and replacing the basement windows to minimize water entering the basement from the south lawn area. We have had a discussion with a video/sound company about installing a video system in the sanctuary which will also allow us to live stream the service and events, especially in this time of COVID-19. The subcommittee remodeling the Fellowship room has made some exciting purchases to refurnish the area. We are looking forward to the new look of that gathering area after the painting is completed. If you notice any building or grounds issues, please write down your concerns and observations and leave the note in the office with Judy or Dr. Hodge."

-- Dr. Paul Hanebutt

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 working with the trustees as we continue the clean-up/clean-out in our building.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND LITURGIST SCHEDULE		
	Flowers	Liturgist
September 6	Jim Caldwell	Cheryl Goldsmith
September 13	Warren & Brenda Bouton	Serena Leiser
September 20	Paul and Kathy Hanebutt	Vicky Healey
September 27	Cheryl Goldsmith	John Downs, Jr.

MODERATOR MOMENT

“Time, talent or treasure” is a phrase used when asking the congregation for support. You decide if you can give all three or just one or two. Today though, I am specifically asking for your time.

People’s Church is at a turning point in its history. The time has come to decide what will be our future. What will People’s Church be as we move forward? It’s a big question that requires an investment of time. Luckily, we do not have to struggle with how to answer the question alone. For the beginning of this process we will be joined by Jill White, who is a Church Revitalization Specialist with the UCC. She will guide us through a “Visioning Weekend” October 2, 3 and 4.

If you are reading this, you are part of this weekend. People’s Church needs your thoughts and opinions as we craft our future. It doesn’t matter if you haven’t worshiped with us in years or if you just started last week. If you have any interest in People’s Church, we want you to join us this weekend.

The Trustees are working on the logistics for keeping this weekend as safe as possible. All sessions will be virtual, but some will gather in person at church. The current schedule is 7-9 pm on Friday October 2; 9 am-3 pm Saturday October 3; and immediately after service on Sunday October 4.

It's a big chunk of time, I admit. But you might not need to be present for all of it. The specifics are still being formed and a more detailed agenda will be sent as soon as possible. But, for now, please prayerfully consider being a part of this visioning weekend. Keep an eye out for emails, Facebook posts and YouTube videos as we get closer to the event!

- Jennifer Childears

****DEADLINE FOR October 2020 NEWSLETTER IS September 25, 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

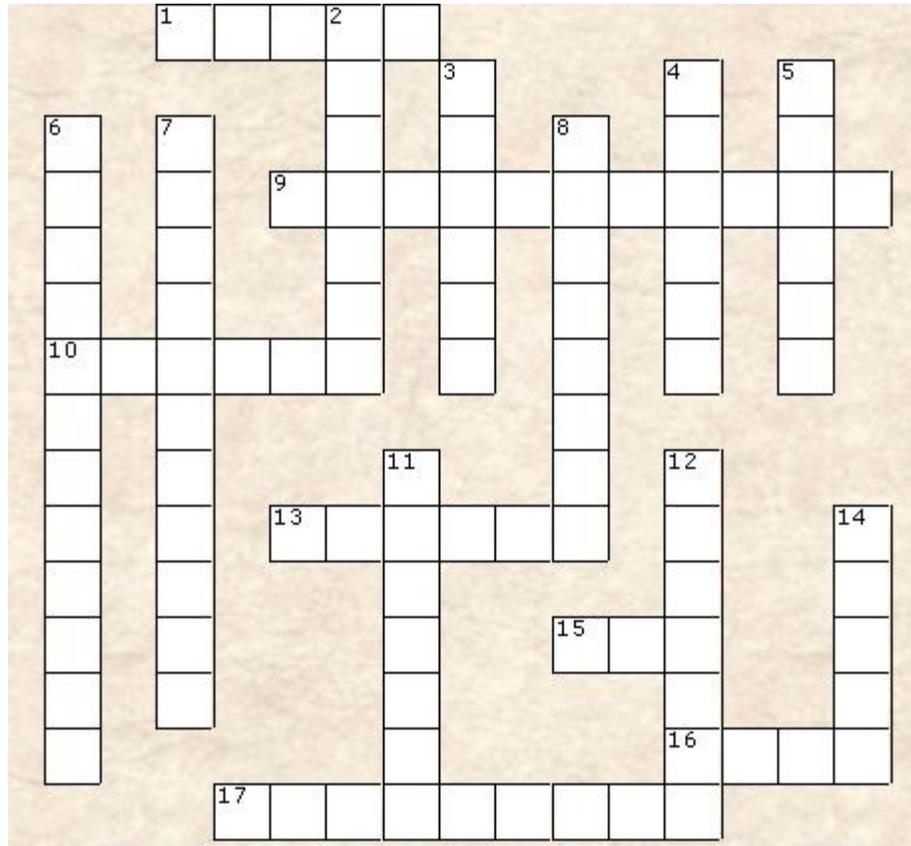
Worship Service	10:00 AM	Rev. Dr. G. Derrick Hodge	Pastor
Kathy Hanebutt	Organist	Dr. Randal Revay	Sexton
Dr. Paul Hanebutt	Choir Director	Cheryl Goldsmith	Head Usher
Robin Hinderer	Treasurer	Judy Zingaro	Administrator

Board of Trustees

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

Bible Crossword

Test your knowledge of the Hebrew Bible.
How many of these can you complete without peeking?



ACROSS

1	1st and 2nd _____
9	Fifth book
10	Tells the story of Moses
13	This book contains songs
15	Tells of a man who lost everything
16	A woman devoted to her mother-in-law
17	Third book

Down

2	Contains two different creation stories
3	Tells of a queen who saved her people
4	Tells of a man thrown into a lions' den
5	1st and 2nd _____
6	Longer discourses of advice; how to be wise
7	This book is a love story; never mentions God
8	Collection of short wisdom sayings
11	Last book of the Hebrew Bible
12	A very long genealogy
14	The big fish

Quiz: The Exodus

For the next few weeks, the lectionary scripture will be about the Exodus. Do you remember the story?

- 1) After the Israelites departed Egypt, how did the Lord lead them on their journey to the Promised Land?
- He placed a bright star in the sky to guide them.
 - An angel of the Lord walked ahead of them.
 - He allowed Moses to carry the sacred map to the Promised Land.
 - He went before them in a pillar of cloud or fire.
- 2) Why did God lead the Israelites to the Red Sea instead of a more direct route to the Promised Land.?
- To avoid having to cross Mount Sinai
 - To avoid the pursuing armies of Pharaoh
 - To avoid war with the Philistines
 - To avoid the desert of Shur
- 3) About two months after leaving Egypt, the Israelites were starving to death. They grumbled against Moses and wished they had stayed in Egypt, but the Lord sent quail and manna. Where did this happen?
- The desert of Sin
 - The desert of Moab
 - The desert of Shur
 - The desert of Elim
- 6) What did manna taste like?
- bread frosted with sugar
 - matzo bread
 - bread with butter
 - bread made with honey
- 8) Who attacked the Israelites while they were camped at Rephidim?
- The Philistines
 - The Canaanites
 - Pharaoh's army
 - The warriors of Amalek
- 9) How did the Israelites win this battle?
- Moses went to the top of a hill and held up his hands.
 - Moses struck and killed the attackers' leader with his staff.
 - Moses threw his staff on the ground. It turned into a serpent and frightened the attackers.
 - Moses held up his staff and the Lord sent a whirlwind to carry the attackers away.
- 10) How was Moses reunited with his wife and sons?
- Moses' father-in-law brought them
 - They came with a band of traders.
 - Moses' sister and her husband brought them.
 - Moses himself went to get his them.