



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

April 2021

Our Biggest Assets, and Our Biggest Challenge

When I first learned about this congregation, I stated that your *location* is your biggest asset. Of course the endowment is also a huge help, since it allows us to keep the lights on while we are reinventing ourselves. To these we have to add a third asset: the fact that everyone is on the same page – we all want this congregation to be useful to the community, to be a place of service and cross-cultural interaction. A coherent, shared vision, without internal dispute, is a phenomenal asset that will make the revitalization a success. Because we believe that this vision comes from the Holy Spirit, *it cannot fail!*

But as I wrote in the strategic plan, there is a stumbling block: the congregation's financial sustainable well into the future. Money will be our biggest challenge, but it is not insurmountable. Later in this issue, Jennifer describes steps the trustees are taking in order to get help from church finance professionals within the UCC.

Money is a tough topic for congregations. Some of us are just not good with money, and most people just don't like talking about it. It brings up our insecurities and our discomfort. But we *have* to talk about it. In fact, in the fall, the Trustees and I will initiate a year-long conversation about money, so we all might as well get used to talking about it in church!

To get us started, I list here possible reasons why money is so hard to talk about in a church. Can you identify with any of the discomforts in these lists? Can you think of another?

Why Laity See Money-Talk as Taboo

1. Many people confuse their self-worth with their financial worth, and thus avoid talk about money.
2. The average middle-class church member already feel financially stressed, and felt that they simply cannot give more.
3. Older people have financial anxiety because they wonder if they will have enough money to last.

Why Clergy See Money-Talk as Taboo

1. Clergy fear that talking about money will alienate some people and lead them to go to another church.
2. Clergy fear that people will interpret stewardship sermons as self-interested attempts to get a raise in salary.
3. Because of the Biblical witness, some clergy feel uncomfortable around people of wealth. Clergy may feel that money is more an evil than a blessing.

4. Many feel a shame about how little they give.
5. People of wealth are often overwhelmed by the many requests they received, and they feel that they are being exploited.
6. Self-made individuals sometimes resent others telling them what to do with their money.
7. Money talk creates anxiety; most of us project our own insecurities onto our church.

4. Many clergy are personally struggling to make ends meet.
5. Clergy have not been trained as money managers or fundraisers.
6. Clergy feel that talking about stewardship is like asking personally people for money, and that is taboo in our culture.
7. Clergy do not see stewardship as being a meaningful measure of congregational vitality.

Reverend Hodge

The Taboo of Money-Talk



"The fiscal crisis in the churches today is a spiritual crisis because it derives from the very soul of the church. The problem lies less in parishioners' pocketbooks than in their hearts and less in churches' budgets than in clergy's understandings of the needs and desires of their members' lives."

"Anthropologists have long recognized that a key to understanding a cultural system is to focus on those things that are considered taboo. Taboo...is associated with something so sacred that to touch it or even talk about it is to expose oneself to danger...Money is perhaps the topic that remains most subject to taboo [in the United States]."

- both quotes from Robert Wuthnow

"Congregations have particular cultures not only around giving but also on stewarding finances. A lack of discussions about budgeting and acknowledging contributions reflect a taboo around money - separating the spiritual from the material."

- NSCEP Executive Report

Today's pastors are, at best, reluctant stewards of their churches' human, physical, and financial resources... This underlying negative attitude toward administration and money is at the head of the financial crisis that mainline Protestant church are facing today.

- Daniel Conway

Membership



Prayer List

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.

- Jeff and Judy Reed – Members
- Pat Hufnal - Member
- Tony Bucco – Father of Jennifer Childears
- Judy Smith and family – Friend Robin Hinderer
- Carly Fedena – Friend of John Downs
- Claire Zaragoza – Friend of Bill & Joyce Darling
- Denise Hoffert – Sister of Cleah Muntz
- Karen Trittenbach – Sister of Cleah Muntz
- Patricia M. Bartley – Friend of Paul Hanebutt
- Linda - Friend of Kathy Hanebutt
- Colleen Richardson – Cousin of Kathy & Paul Hanebutt
- Mark Goforth – Son-in-law of Serena Leiser

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 04/04 – Shelby Cole
- 04/11 – Phyllis Simpkins
- 04/20 – Paul and Kathy Hanebutt
- 04/23 – Debra Cole

Worship



We continue to enjoy worshipping in person as we practice social distancing and other safety measures. We did not celebrate Holy Communion in February but look forward to celebrating on Easter Sunday, April 4. Great care continues to be taken to ensure that our worship experience as well as the celebration of the sacraments, is as safe as it is spiritually uplifting. Worship continues to provide opportunities to enjoy uplifting music, and inspiring and challenging sermons, enhanced by the addition of new screens in the sanctuary and an improved Wi-Fi system that enables live streaming of our services. And there is always the joy of seeing our church family face to face in the midst of these challenging times. As changes continue to happen in our church 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 being live streamed on Facebook or taped for later viewing on YouTube.

Rev. Judy Zingaro

Altar Flowers and Liturgist Schedule

	Flowers	Liturgist
04/04	Easter Lilies	Jim Caldwell
04/11	Pat Thompson	Brenda Bouton
04/18	CJ & Ileana Santiago	Jennifer Childears
04/25	Cheryl Goldsmith	Cheryl Goldsmith

Finance

Remember that Easter is upon us. Christ died for our salvation. Please be generous in your Easter envelope. Thank you.

Lyn Arnold



Meditation



In April I will be offering two meditation groups. Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 pm and Wednesday, April 14 at 10:00 am. We will be doing guided healing meditations this month. I will also be

sharing some short 5 minute morning meditations you can do at home each day. It has been proven that just 5 minutes of meditation each day can make a difference in the stress level in your life. If you have never meditated before and are curious what it is all about, feel free to call me at 781-492-1478 and let's talk.

Serena Leiser

Trustees

Big things are coming! People's Church and People's Community Center will be transformed, and you are going to want to be here when it happens. Read on.



This past month, the Trustees entered into a contract with UCC Church Building and Loan to assist us with discerning the feasibility of two vital tasks- a Capital Campaign and a Stewardship Program. If either task is feasible to do, the Church Building and Loan will provide us the tools and guidance needed to be successful.

If you recall, the idea for a capital campaign was mentioned during our annual meeting in January 2021. Money raised for this campaign would go towards building renovations and the creation of the People's Community Center, which is a major goal for our mission priority of ministering to the youth and neighborhood. Just think of all the programs that will be created and run from our very building that support those living closest to it!

Through the Stewardship Program, we will have access to training and innovative ways to reach out to

our congregants and friends that help promote our future financial needs. Our mission priorities require a sustainable income source and so we will faithfully work to be good stewards of any gifts we are given through our community of people.

We have a good relationship with the UCC Church Building and Loan. Jill White is part of that office and we were fortunate enough to have her guide us through our Visioning Weekend in October. She is familiar with our mission priorities and our values and that is going to go a long way in putting us on the best path forward.

Contact Jennifer or Pastor Hodge with any questions about these awesome programs! And get excited- we are moving forward!
Jennifer Childears

Administration

- Anyone interested in donating flowers for May 2nd and 30th please let Cheryl Goldsmith know at cheryl.goldsmith@cr.k12.de.us or 698-1074.
- The May newsletter deadline is April 23.

Who We Are

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 ace.

Church Office: 302-674-4177

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00

Email address: office@peopleschurchof dover.org

Staff

Rev. Dr. G. Derrick Hodge, Pastor
Kathy Hanebutt, Organist
Dr. Paul Hanebutt, Choir Director
Dr. Randal Revay, Sexton
Sheila Kay-Lawrence, Administrator

Board of Trustees

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

Easter Word Search



Basket
Bonnet
Bunny
Candy
Chicks
Chocolate
Daffodil
Decorate
Ducks



Dye
Easter
Egg Hunt
Eggs
Family
Flowers
Grass
Happy
Jellybeans

Lily
Parade
Peeps
Rabbit
Spring
Sunday
Tradition
Tulips



