

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

January 2021

It's Time to Step Up to the Plate!

In my message to you last month I admitted the chaos and rage and insanity in our country today. I acknowledged the personal anguish that has come so close to home in the past month. I reminded you about the reality of evil (the subject of an upcoming sermon).

But I also wrote about advent hope. I told you that I believe in the possibilities for this congregation's future. I cited the prophet Baruch, who instructed the people to "take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God." Dad taught me to never lie, so I really do believe everything I wrote! I was not just being a cheerleader who declares that his team will win, even when down 40 points in the fourth quarter.

We do *not* believe in a Santa Claus or Magic Fairy god who waves a magic wand and makes everything OK.

So there really *is* hope for the future of People's Church of Dover! BUT', we do not believe in a Santa Claus god. Our God does not come down and wave a magic wand and make everything OK for us – no matter how persistently we pray. *God does not work that way.*

God's role in revitalizing this congregation, I believe, is this:

1. Calling us to work for the Kingdom, and inspiring in us a vision of faithful ministry;
2. Equipping us with everything we need for the work to be successful; and
3. Reminding us – through the Holy Spirit – that we are loved, blessed, and *empowered to transform lives.*

We are called. We are equipped. We are empowered. We are given a task to accomplish.

Now we have to actually *do* the work! We are the hands and feet of God – God does not hold a hammer, make direct deposits, or teach math to struggling children. *We* have to do those things. God, the People's Church of Dover, and God's people whom we serve, need us to step up to the plate and make it happen. Everyone needs to reimagine what it means to be a member. Regardless of age, amount of free time, or limited income, there is something that *everyone* can do to be a part of our ministry together. Everyone is called *and* equipped!

We will need volunteers to tutor children or organize afternoon activities for them. We will need people to organize house churches and Bible studies. We will need more people to be involved in the liturgy. And we need to become financially sustainable; as of today, the 2021 pledges we have received will pay for less than six months of ministry expenses. God needs everyone to step up to the plate, get involved, prioritize the church, and take responsibility for making this experiment work. With God's help, we *will* succeed!

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

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 01/08 – Arthur Lewis, Sr.
- 01/08 – Barbara Van Sant
- 01/10 – Sarah Cole
- 01/12 – Nell Baker
- 01/13 – Anita Masias
- 01/15 – Phyllis Tarburton
- 01/17 – Ryan Dodd-Sterling
- 01/25 – Jennifer Goldsmith
- 01/25 – William Wharton
- 01/27 – Joseph Zingaro
- 01/28 – Charles Boyer
- 01/28 – Jane Kent
- 01/31 Elinor Lee

Worship



We continue to enjoy worshipping in person as we practice social distancing and other safety measures. In December we once again were able to share in Holy Communion. We also enjoyed the beauty of the sanctuary as it was decorated for Advent and Christmas. Great care continues to be taken to ensure that this experience is as safe as it is spiritually uplifting. As we entered into the season of Advent, various individuals/families participated in the lighting of our Advent Wreath as we continued to enjoy past traditions. 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. On January 3 we will ‘see’ one another unmasked as we worship via Zoom while our pastor is on a much-needed vacation. 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
01/03	Brenda & Warren Bouton	Brenda Bouton
01/10	Jim Caldwell	Jim Caldwell
01/17	Cheryl Goldsmith	Cheryl Goldsmith
01/24	Mary Beth Andrews	Judy Zingaro
01/31	Joe & Judy Zingaro	Jennifer Childears

Finance



We heard the great news from the visioning weekend and strategic plan. 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 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.

In terms of money, there is more fantastic news! A budget of \$200,000 is entirely doable with 50 members giving a weekly average of \$75. Some give more, some give less, which make this achievable.

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

Lyn Arnold

Meditation

The meditation group will not be meeting in January. If you have access to the internet and would like to do some meditation at home, I recommend the following guided meditations which are on YouTube.com. There are many other guided meditations on YouTube. Be well.



[Daily Morning Meditation for Positive Energy, Clarity, and Achievement After Sleep](#)

[50 Healing Verses - soothing music - YouTube](#)

Serena Leiser

Building



We have talked so much about the building during these last months, you must be wondering about the status! Mountain Consulting began basement renovations were begun in December, but then halted. We are having problems with the city inspector, who does not want to let us continue until we install a sprinkler system, building wide! We are working about that, so we expect the project to finally be completed by the end of January,

Also, by the end of this month, we expect that the drainage project will commence. Stopping the occasional basement leaks and flooding is a top priority. Mountain Consulting's surveyor has completed his work, and submitted a plan to the city. A 'storm pond' – essentially a giant gravel pit – will be constructed on the south lawn, then covered with new grass. Then a trench will be dug around the perimeter of the building to catch rain coming down from the sides and water from the downspouts. Everything will then drain into the storm pond. No more watery, moldy basement!

Mission and Outreach



Code Purple is in full swing and going as planned. We will continue to be the emergency sanctuary for the homeless men of Dover through March. We welcome any donations of supplies, food and meals if anyone is interested in helping out. We always need things like coffee, sugar, creamer, milk, drink mixes, gloves meals can be prepared ahead and dropped off, breakfast casseroles and dinner casseroles are always easy to freeze and use when needed.

Thank you for your continued support and please keep these folks in your prayers. Life isn't easy out there and our city leadership struggles to find the best way to help.

Susan Harris

Trustees



and at church.

The annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, January 17, 2021, after service. The agenda will be sent in a separate email and posted on Facebook

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. If you feel I have not done well as Moderator and you or someone you know would like to take over, you can also bring this to the Trustees.

I wish you all a very blessed beginning of the new year.

Jennifer Childears

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 peace.

Administration

- It's time to make a *commitment* to the future of People's Church of Dover. The congregation needs to significantly increase its income, if it is to sustain the exciting new ministries we are developing. If you want to participate in these ministries, then give all you can and then some. Commitment cards will be distributed at the service on Christmas Eve. Cards will be sent via mail to folks who cannot attend the service.
- Those who can't give anything are just as much a part of our community – we need *you* even more than we need your money! You could contribute by volunteering for the children and youth ministry, hosting a house church, or by attending service every week. If you are homebound and cannot give or participate, then give the pastor a call sometime and chat – your conversation and spiritual insights will be your contribution!
- ***The deadline for the February newsletter is January 25.***

Church Office – 302-674-4177
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00
Email address: office@peopleschurchofover.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

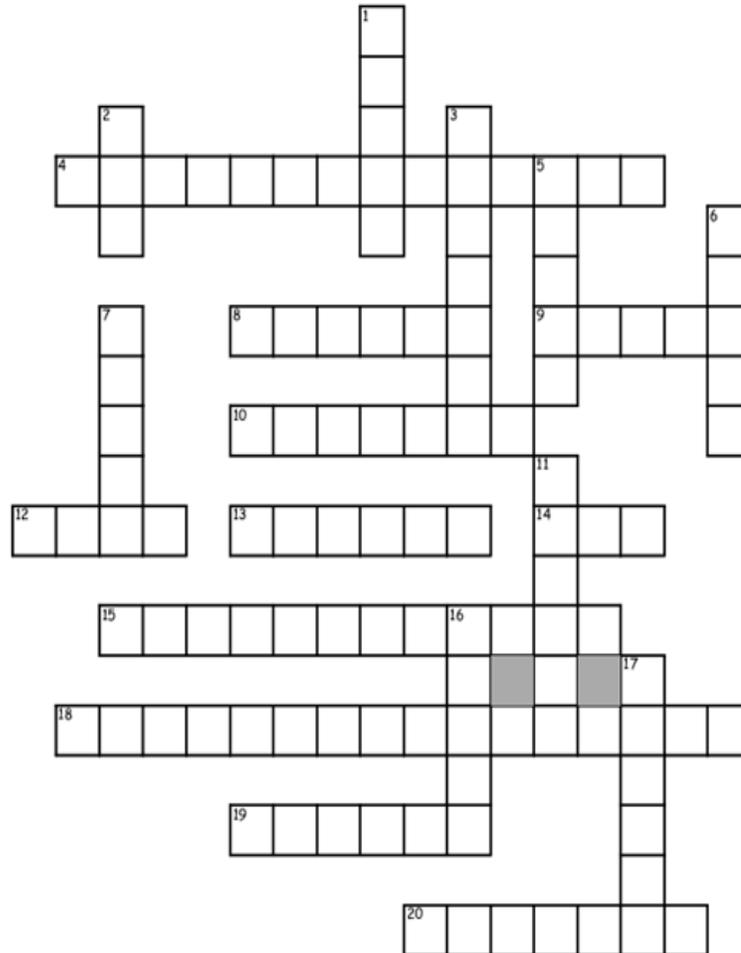
Jennifer Childears - Moderator
Sue Harris - Mission and Outreach
Vicky Healey - Clerk (Interim)
Serena Leiser – Pastoral Relations
Judy Zingaro - Diaconate
Mary Beth Andrews - Christian Education
Robin Hinderer - Treasurer
Lyn Arnold - Finance
Paul Hanebutt - Facilities Management
Richard Johnson - Management



Name: _____

Date: _____

Winter Wonderland



Across

4. You can't catch me! I'm the _____!
8. A tool used to help clear away snow?
9. I_L__
10. S__a_
12. A sleeveless piece of clothing you wear on top of a shirt?
13. When ice freezes in a long sharp spike:
14. Froze water
15. H__C__c_____
18. Walking in a
19. ACHOO!
20. To predict the future weather is a?

Down

1. A long accessory usually worn around the neck?
2. How many sides does a snowflake have?
3. Popular candle scent
5. An arrangement of notes, melodies and lyrics
6. Warm material coming from lambs:
7. Cotton covers for your feet
11. The season of the holidays:
16. A winter cottage used as a temporary residence
17. Several pieces of clothing worn on top of one another in the winter: