



Delaware Headwaters Charge

Through God's love and in community with one another, we welcome you!

Summer 2023 Newsletter

Farewell Messages From Our Beloved Pastors

Dear different parts of the body,

Here are some of the memorable things I have received:

- with Bloomville United Methodist Church, you came to sing me the Zaccheus or Micah song. You collected cards and offered some gifts. I am glad to be able to make it to some of your cooking events. You are such a church sealed with enthusiasm and gathering activities;
- with Hobart United Methodist Church, you mentioned in our council meeting and asked about my attorney search to assist me. Your driving took me to the members in hospitals and UMW and UMC conference meetings. I have had special Sunday worship services with you. You are such a church that gets things right and proper;
- with First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, you were present every Sunday and in session meetings, shaping my Sunday liturgy. You gave me plants and cat toys. You have checked on the neighbors and my well-being. You are such a church that cares for the sick and the least;
- with Stamford United Methodist Church, you welcomed my late-night arrival in August, took me for my birthday meal, and fixed things at the parsonage/manse while working tirelessly on archiving church records. You coordinated to turn up to encourage me on Sundays. You are such a church that is hospitable and supportive;
- with Township United Methodist Church, you sent me cards and gifts. I also got to preside to celebrate the Brockway member's life. Every time I met all of you at church, you ardently prepared from your love of the

church. You are such a church that is well-loved and gentle in spirit.

Thank you for your support and for allowing me to serve God alongside you. As I have relocated to a new place, I thank you for the roles you took in the roles in Pastor-Parish Relations, Treasurer, Finance, History, Lay Speaking, Pastoring, Teaching, Event Organizing, Music, Charge Coordinating, Secretary, etc and many who took even more than one role. I appreciate all of you and your gifts.

I want to give special thanks to our musicians for bringing the melodies to us every Sunday. Please also don't forget to celebrate them and their gifts of music and worship.

Church is a collective from a wide variety of gifts that each person uniquely brings. Like everybody else, pastors come and go to nurture this body with each person's unique gifts. That is for the Church to grow in all the essential aspects, especially in God's gift of grace, as the Book of Romans (CEV) 12: 4 to 6 speaks to us:

"We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts consistent with God's grace that has been given to us"

At the midnight of June 30, 2023, I am no longer your pastor or in the Charge. Then, new gifts from new pastors come and maybe new people too will come your way, be wise and gracious to consistently look out and capture the gifts and God's grace in them!

All will be well,
Teerayut Teerasupaluck

Hello DHC,

Let me start by saying it has been a privilege to work with you over the years. You all have blessed me and my family in many ways; we have come to think of this community as home. It is hard to leave you, but I know God will keep you and bless you in your ministry together.

I must be honest, I have never been good at saying goodbye. In the wise words of Tigger, I much prefer to say, "TTFN - Ta Ta For Now." Tigger wasn't even my favorite character, but the idea of TTFN is more along the lines of "until we meet again." Goodbye always sounded final, but TTFN gives hope of seeing one another later in life.

I guess that is why it became a popular saying during World War II. The transition time after World War II was long for some. While it was a month or two for many, it was over a year before many loved ones made it home. In the time between a war ending and returning to normal life, there is a sense of unity and peace as people rebuild and celebrate life again.

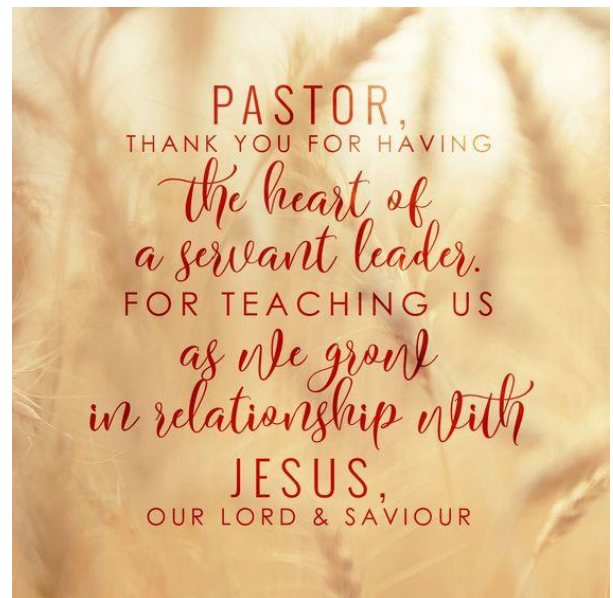
In Ephesians 4:1-7 Paul speaks of the importance of unity.

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

That is my prayer for you, that you will hold fast to peace and unity of the Spirit, bearing with one another, and continue the mission, to create spaces for disciples of all ages to grow in faith. God has blessed you all in so many ways. As your Pastor, I urge you to live with the Spirit and continue to grow disciples of Christ.

As your Pastor, I say goodbye, but as your friend and fellow disciple in Christ, I say TTFN.

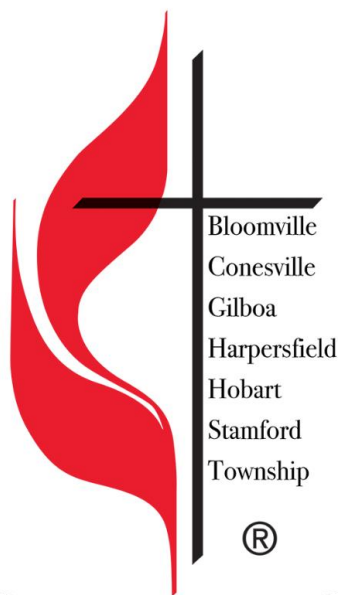
Paul Moller



Delaware Headwaters Charge Reconfigured

DS Rev. Karen Monk has made new appointments and restructured our Charge. Beginning July 1st our newly reorganized Delaware Headwaters Charge will have two new pastors and 3 new churches. Our lead pastor will be Rev. Dawn Richards and associate pastor will be Rev. Peggy Laemmel. The additional churches will be Harpersfield UMC, Gilboa UMC and Conesville UM Chapel. Our Charge still includes Bloomville UMC, Hobart UMC, Township UMC, Stamford UMC/First Presbyterian Church. We are still working out the worship schedule.

As DS Rev. Moore said in 2013 at the DHC inception, *we are separate church families but we share and join in our faith with the guidance of our Pastors, faithful congregations and valuable volunteers. Each church is individual and autonomous, but we work together now.* Many changes are happening fast. Follow us on our website or Facebook. Let us introduce you to the new pastors.



Introductions of Our New Pastors



Rev. Dawn Marie Richards

Reverend Dawn Richards has served in the New York Annual Conference for three years. Prior to that, she served in the Oklahoma Annual Conference, where she served local churches for 24 years. She is passionate about social justice, rural ministry, pastoral care and spiritual formation. She loves to walk and kayak.

Rev. Richards is a graduate of the Pacific School of Religion; she earned a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in 1985 and was ordained an elder in 1987. She worked in pastoral counseling for eight years before returning to pastoral ministry.

Rev. Richards has been involved in the Upper Room Academy for Spiritual Formation in a variety of ways. She attended numerous Five-Day Academies and the Two-Year Academy, and in 2018 she served on a team for the Oklahoma Five-Day Academy. She has also attended the One Year Online Academy. For her spiritual formation and continuing education, she also likes to take Spiritual Retreats.

Rev Richards completed Heartpaths Spirituality Center's Spiritual Direction Training, where she became a certified Spiritual Director and served as a staff member there for several years.

Rev. Richards has a daughter and son-in-law living in New York City and two daughters and their spouses who live in Oklahoma. She has 3 grandchildren. And she shares her home with her cat Mira.



Rev. Margaret "Peggy" Laemmel

Hello and Greetings to Everyone at My New Churches,

First of all, I want to acknowledge the faithful and loving work that Pastor's Tee and Paul have done over the years. I know that you all have a lot of sadness about their leaving and that you will miss their care of you. We must continue to pray for them in their new endeavors and hope that in the future they will be able to visit us when we have events.

Now, about myself as a minister. First of all, please call me Pastor Peg. If you've had a chance to read my biography you know that I'm from New York state, but I've spent a lot of time in other parts of the U.S. and lived in Japan for a while. This has given me a broad way of thinking about how things can be done, and I've learned that working with people is more rewarding when it's a team effort rather than just by myself.

As a minister I believe that Jesus' church belongs to all of us, the pastor and the congregation. It's always best when we work together to make things happen.

My experiences of living in new places among new people has also taught me that there's always something new to be tried out. When someone says, "But we've never done it that way before," I like to say, "Great! Let's try it and see if we'll like it or if it works. If we don't like it, or it doesn't work, we don't have to do it again." Also, I like to hear ideas from everyone. The best ideas for my former churches came from my parishioners. And my ideas have always been improved on when my parishioners

have helped to round them out. I love it when we can all work together to come up with something new or revitalize something established and make it more relevant for everyone. So, I ask for your open mindedness when I or you come up with a seemingly crazy idea. Let's hear it out and see if we can have fun with it and make it work.

I guess you should also know that I love the following: Beading and jewelry making, sewing, knitting and crocheting, taking walks (I'm really looking forward to the prayer walks) cooking and baking (I'm so glad bake sales are coming back after COVID) checking out thrift stores and tag sales (I can't wait to help out at Angel's Attic) gardening (look for some new plants in and around the churches) history, movies and concerts, teaching Bible studies (What haven't you studied that you want to?) children's sermons and VBS, crafting stuff with kids and adults, outdoor and indoor worship, and a whole bunch of stuff I don't have time to mention.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know the wider community. See you all on July 2.

Rev. MARGARET A. LAEMMEL
AKA Pastor Peg

New Pastor Contact Information

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Pastor Peggy Laemmel

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Confirmation & Membership

Confirmation Sunday, a significant and meaningful day in the life of the congregation, was celebrated on June 4th & 11th at Bloomville UMC. It was a day we celebrated with a group of young people and adults who professed their faith publicly for the first time. On this day we celebrated their decisions to become full members of the Body of Christ. 6 youths stood before the congregation as well as 6 new adult members joining our church. One of the most important works we can do is inviting, welcoming, and celebrating new members in the community. Pastor Paul's expert guidance provided the foundation for this journey.



VBS News

Join us for
Vacation Bible School
at Bloomville United Methodist
Church



Flight Express



Aug. 8, 9, 10
5:30-8pm

Fun for all children K-6th grade
We will have supper, crafts, games, & fun
each evening.



Angel's Attic is open 10-3pm Thursdays & Saturdays. Many thanks to all who donate, shop and volunteer at this mission. We encourage you to please consider volunteering. Your help is urgently needed. Just stop by on Thursday or Saturday and talk to Dottie and Wanda.

Township Celebration



The Township UMC is standing proud and continues to celebrate God's faithfulness. This is the bicentennial year for Township UMC. Special fellowship and festivities will take place on July 30 as we honor the past and look to the future.



Community Day Was a Hit

Many thanks to the organizers of the Bloomville Community Day on May 29th to honor local veterans and fire fighters. There are so many to thank for their contributions and making this event a success! We enjoyed food, conversation, baseball and wonderful photo display. What a great turn out. Thanks to the year-round efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers. Thank you to this amazing community we live in.



News from Alain & Katherine Niles

Dear Friends,

A lot has happened in the last few months here at the Hospital of Hope. Hard to put into words some of the recent events and there is a lot we can't share publicly, but we want to update you all so that you can join us in praying for the ministry here. It often feels like we're walking up hill...both ways...barefoot as we face trial after trial.

Power & Water: Our constant struggle! Over the last 2 months the water situation has been a real problem in Mango. We have always experienced regular power and water cuts since living here, but our "new normal" is for the water to be off more often than it is on. We are thankful for back up tanks and that, so far, it has not caused too many disturbances at the hospital.

Sickness: The bad water situation has caused many people in town and on our team to get sick from contaminated water.

Tensions in our town: We faced some recent tensions in our hospital which spilled over into town. It has been a long process of listening and identifying deep rooted problems. These situations are complicated and have forced us to pray and seek God's wisdom as we lead the hospital. We are thankful for strong relationships in town and with our local government.

So, why all these trials?

It might just be to test our faith. To keep us humble and relying on God. It might also be because God is doing incredible things here and we know the enemy is never pleased when people turn from darkness to light by His grace.

Village of Nali: Recently a short-term medical provider shared some hard results with a patient explaining that he had liver cancer, which had metastasized. The chaplain was called in and shared the gospel. The patient was eager to learn more and invited us to his village. We went a few days later and I was able to share the Good News with the man, his 3 wives and 14 children along with his

extended family. They were so receptive to the grace of Christ. We were reminded of the peace the gospel brings, especially when faced with mortality. Pray for this man and his family and for our chaplain team as we follow up with them.

100,000th Patient: On March 22nd, the hospital registered its 100,000th new patient. We still remember when the hospital reached its 10,000th new patient in the fall of 2015, about 6 months after opening. We are in awe of all that God has done these last 8 years: His provision for the hospital and for the many patients who have received care. Day after day we care for patients and walk them through difficult trials of their own. The last month we've seen many fascinating cases, infectious diseases, cancers, snakebites and every strange skin condition known to man...

People Who Come Serve: We are so grateful for the many people who give of their time, energy and resources to serve in Mango. We were blessed to welcome dear friends from Syracuse, NY, who came and worked alongside our team. It was such an encouragement to us!

Caleb: We are thankful that Caleb's broken wrist has healed and thankful that a bad cellulitis he developed in his elbow at the end of March cleared up quickly with the right antibiotics.

MK School: We have two more weeks of school! It has been a good school year, and we are now looking forward to our summer break.

Upcoming Plans: We have a busy summer ahead at HOH. Some of our career missionaries will be stepping away to get a break. We head into malaria season which is always busy as the rains come. Our family plans to get away for two weeks in July for some hiking and family time. Lots to look forward to.

As always, thank you for praying!
Alain & Katherine, Camille, Caleb & Mia-Joy





Our church volunteers are the unsung heroes of our church and the lifeblood of our ministry. You often give of your energy, skills, talents, time and special donations because you are passionate about the mission and vision of each church.

This is a special thank you to everyone who has helped each church. The list is long, your contributions so great. Remember the saying that says “we're better together”, which basically means that even though each one of us is gifted in some way, we chose to offer up our help to the greater good of each church.

Saying thank you never gets old and your help means more to us than you may think.



There are two ways to stay informed about our Charge.

- Visit our website at www.delawareheadwatersparish.com
- Follow us on Facebook. Facebook groups can be found by searching for
 - *Bloomville United Methodist Church*
 - *Delaware Headwaters Charge*
 - *Hobart United Methodist Church*
 - *Angels' Attic*
 - *Conesville UMC-Conesville*
 - *Harpersfield United Methodist Church*

TAKING THE NEXT STEP TO RECLAIM. REVIVE. RENEW OUR BELOVED UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Council of Bishops President **Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton** released a brief video message for Annual Conferences and local churches. The presentation is intended for use at their gatherings and/or via their communication channels. It was filmed and produced by United Methodist Communications and is available for viewing below and [also for download on the NYAC video platform](#). The piece was also published on the denomination's official website.

The message builds off of points included in Bishop Bickerton's [Mid-Term State of The United Methodist Church Address](#) and his address to the Council of Bishops (see below) in which he encouraged members to "reclaim, revive and renew" the beloved United Methodist connection.

“It’s now time for you and me to work together to architect the next expression of United Methodism. The future of The United Methodist Church hinges on our ability to deeply pray that God will give us the strength and the courage to do what we must, what we have been called to do all along,” stated Bishop Bickerton. “Let’s offer our radical love, genuine hospitality, and sincere engagement.”

He stressed the importance of members inviting others to church as “ministry is always about building relationships and it’s always about taking someone along with you on the journey toward Christ-like holiness.” And that a renewed focus and response to making disciples for Jesus Christ is needed because “the missional work we have before us is absolutely vital.”

“What we have must be passed on with purpose and conviction,” he added. “Our ministries, our faith in Christ, our presence in communities around the world. These are vibrant, lifegiving, transformative opportunities to make this world a better place – the place that God envisioned for all of us. . . where everyone can thrive.”

**Future newsletters
will only be
available on the
website and no
longer mailed.**

Join us on July 2nd at 9:30am for a Charge wide worship service at Hbbart UMC to welcome our new ministers – Rev. Dawn Richards and Rev. Peggy Laemmel. We also welcome Harpersfield UMC, Gilboa UMC and Conesville UMC Chapel into the Delaware Headwaters Charge.

Delaware Headwaters Charge

PO Box 205, Hobart, NY 13788
Serving Bloomville, Hobart, Stamford, Township,
Harpersfield, Gilboa, Conesville

*Pastor Dawn Richards
& Pastor Peggy Laemmel*

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