



Delaware Headwaters Parish

Bloomville, Hobart, Stamford, Township UM Churches

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

March/April 2020 Newsletter

Delaware Headwaters Parish

Rev. Kwang-il Kim & Pastor Paul Moller

Parsonage (Rev. Kim) & Parish Office (Thursdays)
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Bloomville United Methodist Church

35 Church St.

PO Box 3

Bloomville, NY 13739

Worship: 11am

607-538-9440 or 607-538-9691

Hobart United Methodist Church

204 Maple Avenue

PO Box 205

Hobart, NY 13788

Worship: 11am

607-538-9691

Stamford United Methodist Church

88 Main St. PO Box 133

Stamford, NY 12167

Worship: 9am

607-538-9691

Township United Methodist Church

3835 Town Brook Road

PO Box 205

Hobart, NY 13788

Worship: 9am

607-538-9691

www.delawareheadwatersparish.com

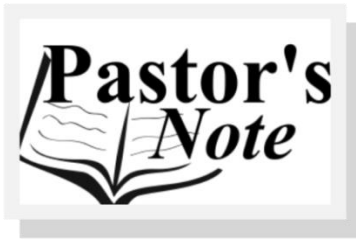
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Welcome to the Delaware Headwaters Parish!

The Delaware Headwaters Parish has brought together Bloomville UMC, Hobart UMC, Stamford UMC, and Township UMC under the direction of Rev. Kwang-il Kim and Pastor Paul Moller. We are happy to have you as a member or a visitor to our churches. The worship services take place on Sundays at 9:00am [Stamford and Township UMCs] and 11:00am [Bloomville and Hobart UMCs].

God has been doing wonderful things in our communities . . . we invite you to come, share in the fellowship, take root, and grow with us. If you would like to speak with one of the pastors, please, let us know.





From – Rev. Kim

Christ Is Risen, Hallelujah!

“When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then he said, ‘Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ He said further, ‘**I am** the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.” [Exodus 3:4-6, NRSV.]

In the Gospel of Luke 20:27-40, there is an interesting argument on the issue of resurrection between Jesus Christ and the Sadducees. The Sadducees, one of the Jewish religious sects in Jesus’ time, did not believe in the Resurrection of the dead nor a future life based upon their canon - Moses’ five books of the OT. They asserted that there was neither resurrection nor a future life. Their theological viewpoint attributed all to free will and rejected the idea of a spiritual world. Thus, they denied a belief in the existence of angels and demons, too.

Jesus did not agree with such a belief system of the Sadducees, especially with their rejection of the resurrection of the dead. Jesus had a unique understanding by turning that issue of resurrection of the dead into an irrevocable and unshakable truth based upon the very same canon by which the Sadducees firmly denied it.

In order to clearly understand the gist of the argument between Jesus and the Sadducees, we need to see what is going on in this Exodus text. Actually, it is part of the dialogue between God and Moses on Mt. Horeb which describes *God’s call of Moses at the burning bush*. In this dialogue, God identifies Himself as **the**

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the very ancient fathers of Moses and his people.

Chronologically speaking, this dialogue was happening after roughly 600 or 700 years later since the three fathers of Moses had already been physically dead and buried.

However, for Jesus, if Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been truly dead, how could it be possible for this God to still identify Himself as the God of these dead fathers of Moses? Jesus Christ, in this argument, challenges his opponents, the Sadducees to rethink of the most fundamental questions concerning the nature and identity of their God, *YHWH* - our God: **Is our God the God of the dead or the God of the living? Is God dead? or Is God alive?**

If this God calls himself still the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who, in fact, had been physically dead for about 600 or 700 years long, then, these three fathers of Moses must have been still alive in the eyes of this living God. This is the very focal point of Jesus’ logic as he describes our God as the living God and supports the resurrection of the dead as the irrevocable and unshakable truth. In other words, As far as God is alive, No death could be. Our life originated from that of God is eternal, no death in it.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ!

Here is the message of Resurrection of all human beings in Christ, our Lord of resurrection: **“Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to Him all of them (all human beings) are alive.”** [Luke 20:38, NRSV.] Therefore, each one of you and I are alive in this living God. Therefore, as Paul the apostle proclaimed: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O Death, is your victory?” “Where, O Death, is your sting?” This is the message of Resurrection of the dead which we God’s children are proclaiming. “Because He lives, we live also.”

Christ is Risen! Halleluiah!

Upcoming Events

March

- 1 - Communion
 - 3 - Hobart UMC Council
 - 8 – Daylight Saving Time begins
 - 13 & 14 – SKCS Drama Club Play – “Sister Act”
 - 15 - Kids’ Sunday
 - 16 - Bloomville UMC Council – cancelled
 - 29 - 5th Sunday at Bloomville UMC. Holy Baptism
- No other services

April

- 5 - Psalm Sunday/ Communion
- 7 - Hobart UMC Council
- 9 - Maundy Thursday, Township UMC, 7pm
- 10 - Good Friday Service, Hobart UMC, 7pm
- 12 - Easter – Sunrise Service, 6:30am, Hobart Cemetary
 - Regular services
 - Community breakfast at Bloomville UMC, 8-10am followed by Egg Hunt at 10:15.
- 19 - Kids’ Sunday
- 20 - Bloomville UMC Council, 10am
- 29 - Parish Council, Hobart UMC, 7pm

Bickerton Joins Others to Craft Plan Preserving UMC

FROM LOCAL REPORTING AND UM NEWS REPORTS

New York Conference Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton is among a diverse group of United Methodist Church (UMC) leaders and advocacy group members from around the world who have created a proposal that would preserve the church while allowing traditionalist-minded congregations to form a new denomination.

Details of the proposal called the “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation,” were released January 3 in a nine-page document along with a press release and a detailed list of frequently asked questions.

“This work has provided a pathway for separation which leaves the current United Methodist Church

in place while blessing groups that feel as if they can no longer remain,” Bishop Bickerton explained.

“After 47 years of debate over differing theological perspectives, we cannot reconcile our differences without some feeling that there are winners and losers. We want to avoid a repetition of the hurtful manner in which the 2019 Special Session of General Conference unfolded, prevent the dissolution of The United Methodist Church (UMC), and provide a graceful way for other Methodist denominations to emerge.”

The 16-member group came together as an outgrowth of a consultation initiated by bishops from Central Conferences located outside the United States. Representatives of traditionalist, centrist and progressive advocacy groups joined with bishops from the United States, Africa, Europe and the Philippines to reach the agreement with the help of high-profile mediator Kenneth Feinberg. Those who signed the proposal have promised to support only the protocol leading up to the 2020 General Conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The protocol expects that a new traditionalist Methodist denomination will be created. Once formed, the new (traditionalist) church would receive \$25 million over the next four years and give up further claim to the UMC’s assets. An additional \$2 million would be allocated for potential additional new Methodist denominations that emerge from the UMC.

In acknowledging the historical role of the Methodist movement in systematic racial violence, exploitation and discrimination, the protocol also allocates \$39 million to ensure there is no disruption in supporting ministries for communities historically marginalized by racism.

According to the bishop, this work is still in development. He stresses that “legislation is being prepared for the General Conference delegates to consider and the period of transition will take several years to accomplish if the General Conference embraces this work.”

While the work accomplished by the mediation team marks much-needed progress, the bishop

acknowledges that it is not accomplished without a sense of sadness and loss.

“The results we anticipate in this work is not without heartbreak. As I have stated throughout the NYAC parish events this fall, we need to be anticipating change taking place within our denomination. We will not look the same as we do now. That reality is closer to us now than ever before,” Bickerton said.

“In the midst of the work that is presented today, as well as the conversations that emerge in the days to follow, we need to exercise great care for one another in the midst of our disagreements for the sake of the mission of the church as a whole.”

In expectation of a need to personally connect and minister to all NYAC members, the bishop began a series of face-to-face meetings with clergy and laity in every cooperative parish within the annual conference, focused on openness about the future and support.

“I pledged in the parish meetings that we would walk through these days together, no matter one’s theological preference or desire. This is an extremely important time for us exercise the love of God through the Holy Spirit to enable us to together get through these days of transition.”

The bishop says there will be more information in the upcoming days and weeks, adding that he “pledges to continue to be transparent in providing opportunities for conversation and dialogue each step of the way.”

In order for the “Protocol” to be implemented, legislation incorporating its terms will have to be presented to the GC2020 and then be adopted by the delegates there. Such legislation is currently being drafted and will be presented to one or more annual conferences meeting in special session for adoption as a petition to the 2020 gathering. Under ¶507.6 of the *Book of Discipline*, legislation from an annual conference must be adopted by March 20 in order to be considered by the GC2020. Alternatively, such legislation can be scheduled at the discretion of the Committee on Reference or moved as a substitute for a petition already pending before the 2020 General Conference.



WIC meets at the Baptist Church in Stamford on the first Thursday of each month. Volunteers and contributions of diapers, children’s clothing and/or toys are always needed. Delaware Headwaters Parish supports WIC with its diaper mission, Blissful Baby Bottoms, and your generous donations are greatly appreciated.



Fifth Sunday

2020

March 29 – Bloomville UMC @ 10am
May 29 – Stamford UMC @ 10am
August 30 – Township UMC @ 10am
November 29 – Hobart UMC @ 10am

The logo for Joint Worship Service features the words "Joint", "Worship", and "Service" in a stylized, overlapping font. A red silhouette of a person with arms raised is positioned behind the word "Worship".



In our hearts



There are many ways to stay informed about our Parish and the news that might affect you.

- Visit our website at www.delawareheadwatersparish.com
- Follow us on Facebook. Facebook pages can be found by searching for *Bloomville United Methodist Church, Delaware Headwaters Parish, Hobart United Methodist Church, Angel's Attic.*
- Enjoy our newsletter. Notify us by email to get added to the newsletter mailing at- pastordelawareheadwatersparish@gmail.com



April 5 – **Palm Sunday**, Regular services

April 9 – **Maundy Thursday**, 7pm, Township UMC

April 10 – **Good Friday**, 7pm, Hobart UMC.

April 12 – **Easter**

- Sunrise Service, 6:30am, Hobart Cemetery
- Regular services at all churches
- Community breakfast at Bloomville UMC, 8-10am followed by Egg Hunt at 10:15

So come and join us in worshipping, and Praising God! You are welcome any time!

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Isabell Flower, 96, passed away on December 18, 2019 at her home in Hobart. Mrs. Flower was a former member of the Eastern Star, Hobart United Methodist Church and the Hobart Civic Club. At Isabel's request there were no calling hours or funeral service. Contributions in memory of Isabel may be made to Helios Care, 297 River Street Service Road, Suite 1, Oneonta, NY 13820 (www.helioscare.org).

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Fern K. Craft, 73, of Stamford, passed away January 20, 2020. A memorial service and celebration of Fern's life was held on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the MacArthur Funeral Home, Stamford with the Rev. Kwang-il Kim. Private burial will be held at Locust Hill Cemetery in the Spring.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of JoAnn Bower, 78, of Bloomville passed away on January 7, 2020. She was an active in the community and at the Bloomville United Methodist Church. Memorial donations in JoAnn's memory may be made to the Bloomville United Methodist Church or the Bloomville Fire Department and EMS. A gathering of remembrance was held on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at the Bloomville United Methodist Church. Private interment will be held at Riverside Cemetery, Bloomville in the spring.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Mary Betz, who passed away January 22, 2020. Mary was an active member of the Hobart community and very involved and supportive of all aspects of church life.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Eric Swart, who passed away February 1, 2020. A celebration of life was held on Feb. 7th at the MacArthur Funeral Home and reception at the Bloomville UMC.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bill Coleman, who passed away February 19, 2020. Bill was a prominent and supportive member of our local community. A service of remembrance was held February 25th.

Angels'
Attic



Will re-open in May (2020).
Volunteers needed

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The 2019-2020 Sunday School year has been very busy! For the last five months we have studied the various character traits of Jesus, as well as how they are reflected in ourselves and our actions towards others. The kids have learned valuable lessons and heard Bible stories about love, responsibility, attentiveness, confidence, and compassion. Our Christmas season was filled with joyful discussions of the spirit of the season and how we all could bring that type of joy and happiness to others. Just recently the kids have been introduced to the Beatitudes with Karen Ogborn, and have done many fun games and activities! As the school year continues we will be looking at even more character traits and continuing in our journey to develop our own sense of who Jesus is and what an important role He plays in our lives.

The Sunday School children have also been collecting for the World Vision program. They decided on purchasing a goat, rabbits, and chickens, for a disadvantaged family in Africa. They are well on their way to their goal and get more and more excited when they see the offering adding up each week!!

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Sunday morning (April 12th) at 10:15 am, for any children that are interested! Weather permitting the eggs will all be hidden outside, so bring a basket and a coat, and get ready to have some fun. Please join us for the Easter service afterwards at 11:00!

The final day of Sunday School this year will be May 10th (Mother's Day). There will be a small recognition ceremony to honor our children and recognize our teachers and helpers. There will also be a special treat for all of the moms!

Be on the lookout for dates and times for Vacation Bible School during the beginning of August! We look forward to having you come join us for fun, excitement, games, snacks, crafts, Bible stories, singing, and maybe even some crazy adventures!

Vacation Bible School is coming in August 2020

Bloomville UMC will once again have VBS this summer. Volunteers are needed to make this another successful event for the children. Niki Dibble will have more info soon.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Sunday School

Kids' Sunday

Thank you to EVERYONE who makes our Youth Programs so successful.

We appreciate your willingness to try new things.

We appreciate your love of church and youth.

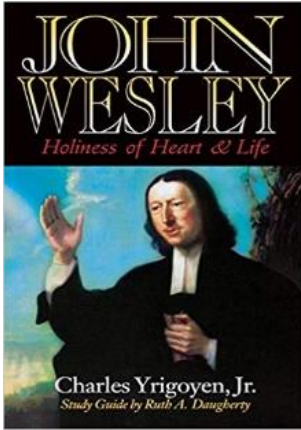
We appreciate your generosity and giftedness.

We appreciate your faith and willingness to nurture.

We appreciate your leadership and passion.

And most of all, we appreciate you!

DHP Lenten Book Club:



A Lenten Season of holy reading (*Lectio Divina*) will begin on Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 pm at the Hobart United Methodist Church as follows:
All Parishioners are welcome!! Please bring

your own copy of this book with you (can be purchased on Amazon)

Reading Schedule:

Session I: John Wesley: A Person of Faith in an Age of Need, Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 pm

Session II: "Plain Truth": Main Themes in John Wesley's Theology, Wed. March 11, 6:30 pm

Session III: "Works of Piety": Spiritual Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition, Wed. March 18 6:30 pm

Session IV: "Works of Mercy": The Practice of the Holy Life & the Transformation of the Society.
Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 pm

Session V: Wesley's people in North America Wednesday April 1, 6:30 pm

Session VI: Renewal in the Wesleyan Tradition Wednesday April 8, 6:30 pm

Alain & Katherine Niles' Update

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year from Mango, Togo!

We arrived in Togo in time to celebrate the New Year!

We are counting our blessings in this transition as we see God's provision in wrapping up our time in New York and in starting up our time in Togo. We have also experienced the bitter-sweetness of transition: the bitterness of saying goodbyes, the sweetness of saying hellos.

Our first evening in Mango, we greeted a Togolese friend. His response in seeing us was, "If only death was like that...You don't see someone for a time, and then you see them again." ...Sounds like a description of Heaven!

"Everywhere we go, it's cold." :-> That is NOT what we were expecting to hear when we got to Togo, but that is what Caleb said the other day when everyone here was talking about how "cold" it has been. The weather has been a pleasant surprise in our return. We expected to keenly feel the heat after leaving the cold of New York. But these first days back have been the coldest we have ever had in Mango! Down to 60 degrees Fahrenheit some of the mornings when we have woken up. Brrr! We are grateful for these days of cool before hot season.


Our family is excited to jump back into life and ministry here. Each day we continue to greet and reconnect with friends. Camille and Caleb just started back to school with their new teachers and their other missionary kid friends.

Thank you to so many who gave toward Hospital funds in their end-of-year giving!

Thank you for praying for our family and the ministry in Mango!

Alain, Katherine, Camille, Caleb, & Mia-Joy



 Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Delaware Headwaters Parish
PO Box 205, Hobart, NY 13788
Bloomville, Hobart, Stamford, Township
United Methodist Churches
Rev. Kwang-il Kim & Pastor Paul Moller

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