



# Delaware Headwaters Parish

Bloomville, Hobart, Stamford, Township UMC Churches

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

## July/August 2020 Newsletter

### Delaware Headwaters Parish

*Rev. Kwang-il Kim & Pastor Paul Moller*

Parsonage (Rev. Kim) & Parish Office (Thursdays)  
607-538-9691

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Pastor Paul's cell: 607-287-2462

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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](http://www.delawareheadwatersparish.com)

[pastordelawareheadwatersparish@gmail.com](mailto:pastordelawareheadwatersparish@gmail.com)

### 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.

The sudden arrival of chaos in our world has intruded on the peace of our lives. It is hard to know at this moment what the upcoming weeks and months will hold. But God's people know that our Lord remains unchanged in His power and grace. Christians may have the confidence of **Psalm 46:7**, "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

As we go through this uncertain time, we can be certain that God is with us and that our churches will do what we can to help each other through this. Out of an overabundance of caution, we are making several changes for the coming weeks. The list is enclosed. This may include changes in worship times for Bloomville and Stamford. Please continue to check your email, or Facebook, or website for the latest updates. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.

# *The Journey Continues*

Over the last months, we have been diligently doing all we can to invite people on a journey with Jesus. But we realized that our old normal is not going to happen... at least not right now. We have already started re-envision what it looks like to be Christ's beloved community (the Church). We are still a community, working together to understand what that means in this time and this place. At this time we have an opportunity to open ourselves to the new things God wants us to do. Thankfully, we are rooted in our strong footing of Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit!

Our church councils stand under the authority of our bishop, Thomas Bickerton, who has been working with many advisors to create guidelines for how/when United Methodist Churches in our conference can begin meeting in-person again. The reopening guidance closely follows our State's phase-in plan.

Gathering for worship isn't going to look like it once did – what we all dreamed of and hoped for. We begin by asking the most important question. . . why do we want to come back to in-person worship right now? The answer: because we all miss the community and connection that worshipping in person provides.

Here is **The NYAC Guidelines/Protection Protocol** for all congregations and visitors to Delaware Headwaters Parish Churches, developed in conjunction with the Bishop.

## **Please –**

- Use discretion. Use your best judgement. If you don't feel comfortable, we have an online version for you. Especially if you are in the vulnerable category of 65 and older and have underlying medical conditions.

- Do not enter the church building if you experience fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath.
- Wear a face mask during worship and other attendance in the church building. Keep social distancing at least 6 feet away from your neighbor in the pews and in other spaces of the building.
- Cover cough or sneeze and throw tissue in the trash. Go home immediately if you feel sick during worship.
- Know that each church will follow a cleaning regiment and we have cleaning supplies available.
- Stay home when you are sick or not feeling well and utilize online worship option.
- Observe the markings in the pews that delineate social distancing. All family members will be encouraged to sit together. Children will remain seated with their families. No Sunday School.
- Obey signage.
- Know an attendance log will be kept for each service.
- Understand we will utilize "No touch" alternatives with "Passing of the Peace", collection of the offering. Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from pews.
- Follow us on Facebook or our website where you can see online worship services
- **No** congregation hymn singing. **No** choir. **No** fellowship hour. **No** Holy Communion through intinction or with the use of individual cups/breads. **No** Baptisms will be administered. Funeral services will be done within the latest state and CDC guidelines. All weddings will be delayed until further notice. **No** VBS. **No** fundraisers or social activities involving food preparation.

As you can see there are some challenges ahead of us. This is not a perfect solution. Some confusion is sure to happen, but this is a

start. We do realize that not all people feel comfortable gathering at this time, but thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to gather for worship. One of the biggest responsibilities facing us as a congregation is this: How do we remain connected and together, safe and healthy, and still find ways to worship the Living God?

Finally, we want to tell you how much we miss seeing you in person. So many of you have communicated the same to us. It's been a hardship, but we are convinced that God can make incredible good come from this time if we keep trusting Him, loving and supportive one another, and serving our community and world. We are learning how to be the body of Christ under new conditions - and we are mindful, as always, of Paul's words in I Corinthians 12 that "when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer - and when one part rejoices, we all rejoice!".

### Good advice for the current crisis:

**Keep the Faith.** Focus on God and His Eternal Word in times of fear and uncertainty.

**Stay Connected.** Be intentional about reaching out to check on others, and allowing them to check on you.

**Shine Your Light.** Look for small acts of kindness and expect God to do great acts of faithfulness.



## Prayers as a congregation:

- For our nation as it confronts the COVID 19 virus and all that it entails
- For our local, state and national leadership as they keep the needs of the people at its forefront during this tumultuous time.
- For the UMC as it makes decisions for its future, that they may exemplify the commands the Lord has given us in preaching and teaching His Word and making disciples
- For our families as they teach their children at home.
- For our community members who had to modify their lives and adjust to the new day to day living.
- For celebrations and for grieving hearts.
- For those who cannot speak for themselves and need support
- For our Pastors who have learned to be creative meeting the needs of the congregation
- For our churches as we cope with supporting one another while we socially distance ourselves from each another.
- For our front-line workers in all fields of life.
- For all people as we examine the patterns of racism in our hearts and our world systems.

Do all the good YOU CAN.

**BY** all the means **you can.**

IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN.

**IN ALL THE PLACES**  
**YOU CAN.**

At all the times YOU CAN.

To **ALL THE PEOPLE**

**AS LONG** **you can.**

**as you ever can.**

john wesley

Angels'  
Attic



Thank you to all who keep checking our  
Facebook page!

Until the coronavirus pandemic is over and  
the volunteers are able to gather and work,  
Angel's Attic will be closed, **indefinitely**.

We will **NOT** be accepting any donations  
for a while.

**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!**



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

- Visit our website at  
[www.delawareheadwatersparish.com](http://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, Angels' Attic*.
- Enjoy our newsletter. Notify us by email  
to get added to the newsletter mailing  
at-  
pastordelawareheadwatersparish@gmail.com

# THANK YOU

Our church volunteers are the unsung heroes of our churches and the lifeblood of our Parish. 'Thank you' are two words sometimes we don't say enough especially during this crisis. Volunteers have generously given their time and dedication just to keep our churches running smoothly. We appreciate this selfless effort as you mowed lawns, fixed sidewalks, planted and tended gardens, ran errands, donated food, made and donated masks, delivered groceries and supplies, donated blood, tutored, donated to the animal shelter, attended in person and virtual meetings, kept the books, cleaned the churches, donated technology expertise and needs, donated financially, donated financial expertise, sent cards, called on shut-ins, fixed & painted, helped with construction projects, and served our children through technology to name a few of the acts of generosity we have witnessed. We are grateful to all the people who have given their time, energies and talents to see the kingdom advance.

## *Congratulations*

**to our 2020-2021 Delaware  
County Dairy Princess Jillian  
Hungerford and Alternates  
Jessica Coleman and Morgan  
Kuhn! Here's to the beginning  
of a new year of advocating for  
the dairy industry!**



## Are We Listening?

In times like this I miss the voice of historic leaders who found a way to brilliantly weave reality with prophecy, peace with justice, and love in the midst of times when it is so very easy to hate. One of those amazing, God-led leaders was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the midst of a context that created chaos and controversy, it was Dr. King who said, *“Certain conditions continue to exist in our society, which must be condemned as vigorously as we condemn riots. But in the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard.”*

Today, what Dr. King referred to as a “riot” is typically more accurately framed as an expression of internal fear, pain and suffering forced outward. It’s much like an unattended pot, filled to the brim which overflows when heat is applied. Today, that heat is Covid-19. That heat was Ahmaud Arbery. That heat was George Floyd. And what we’re seeing is an overflow of being unheard, downplayed and unimportant.

When human beings feel unheard, frustration rises. When someone feels unheard, they feel downplayed and unimportant. When someone feels unheard, they believe that no one is listening and hurt turns into anger.

It begs the simple question: Are we listening to what is being said?

In order to actually hear what is being said, we must filter out the noises that drown out the real message being spoken. We have to filter out the noise created by those who are looting and promoting violent actions around us. We have to filter out the desires of some to retaliate with like actions in an effort to somehow level the playing

field. We have to filter out political motivations that attempt to take a situation like we are facing and use it to create political advantage or promote a political position. The filters have to be in place to remove the noise so that we can truly listen to those who feel unheard.

And when we do, what is it that we hear? What is truly being said?

While there is much being said, I have heard three distinct things these past few days. People are saying, **“We are sick.”** Literally and figuratively, we are sick. We are only now emerging with some sense of life in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is not over. We have lost 105,000 people in less than three months. Thousands remain ill. And many of those have been infected because of systemic racism and limited access to vital resources. Lower economic security, inadequate health care, jobs that don’t carry with them the luxury of a “work at home” option and living arrangements that can’t allow for social distancing have created a scenario that have made us sick. All of this has built and built over the last three months and the frustrations are spilling over. Can you hear it? We are sick.

**We are tired.** George Floyd’s death tipped us into an international outcry: “We are tired!” We are tired of witnessing unjust actions that demonstrate how ineffectively we have dealt with racism for years. We are tired of being victimized by people in power who have maintained their superiority by suppressing people and making them less than the human beings they were created to be. We are tired of a justice system that is broken, a government that is more concerned with a party or a re-election than they are with creating solutions to help us address systemic racism, injustice, and feelings that have reached a breaking point. We are tired of speaking in the moment and not seeing anything change over time. There are many who are angry and desperate for something to truly change. Can you hear it? We are tired.

**We are dying.** The list of names is long. George Floyd is the latest. The list of those victimized by

racial injustice and privilege is long. And each time another victim surfaces, it is only a matter of time before another headline takes priority and the memory of the name fades. But this time, those who feel unheard are crying out. Enough is enough. This just can't go on. We are dying.

**We are sick and tired and dying.** And as a result, there are mass protests taking place across the country. Hats off to those who have felt the need and found the courage to take to the streets in non-violent protesting. Hats off to police officers who have taken off their helmets, put down their batons and simply said, "We want to walk with you. We really do." Hats off to those who are truly working for George Floyd's death to not just be another number and another disappointing verdict. Hats off to anyone who is able to filter out the noise, remove the temptations, and simply say, "I hear you and I stand with you."

I have described three feelings. And when someone reads this, they will inevitably say, "He didn't mention this," or "He forgot that," or "I wish he had said this." And if you are one of those people, in all likelihood, you are right. You see, for everything we hear, there is something we always miss. These are days when there is not one teacher, one prophet, one ear. These are days to teach one another, seek prophetic words that will inspire one another, and use as many ears as possible to make sure that we are listening to the cries of voices all around us.

Sally and I have just returned from a quick trip to Charlotte, North Carolina, to see our daughter, son-in-law and, of course, our two-year old grandson. Amazingly we had a few days with nothing on the calendar, so we masked up and drove eleven hours to be with our family. On the way home, we were traveling north through very congested traffic when we came upon an "express lane." With EZ-Pass in place we eased to the left and encountered an empty highway. We breezed along with no traffic in front of us. But to our right there were trucks, and old cars, and lots of traffic. Our journey was easy but right next to us were those who had to fight the traffic and the consequences of not having an "easy pass."

As we drove, it became clear that we were driving in an illustration. There we were, people who were benefitting from the privilege of having a road empty of traffic all because we could afford the toll. Next to us, just a lane away, were those who were not offered the privilege because their vehicle was prohibited or because they did not have the means to take an easier route.

You see, systemic racism and acts of injustice are just a lane away. And, as long as we continue to isolate ourselves on the road of the easy pass many of us have been given, we will just drive by and not hear the cries of frustration and pain that is within the range of our hearing. Can you hear it? We are sick. We are tired. We are dying.

It begs the question: What can and should we be doing? Peaceful protesting, acknowledging the pain that the sin of racism is inflicting upon people of color, not being silent as we call out the injustices around us, and genuinely saying "I hear you and I want to walk with you," are important steps. I pledge to do that. I plan to listen carefully and deeply not only to come to a better understanding but to solicit the voices of those who have not been heard in order to meet the needs that they are expressing. And I aim, as I always do, to weave together the social context with the biblical mandate that gives us the purpose and direction we need to move forward as disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we navigate these turbulent waters, seeking spiritual guidance for the steps we take, I pray that you and I will never use our Bibles as a prop for a photo opportunity. It's not just "a" Bible. It is "our" Bible. Open it tonight. Read it. It will describe to you the journey of a people who could never get it right and a Savior who never got it wrong. And when you raise your Bible in public, you will know what it says inside.

**It speaks of peace.** When the order of the day was an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, Jesus said: *Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.*

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

**It speaks of Justice.**

*Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*  
(Amos 5:23-24)

**It speaks of Hope.**

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.*  
(Psalm 130:4-6)

**It speaks of Love.**

*Keep alert, stand firm in your faith,  
be courageous, be strong.  
Let all that you do be done in love.*  
(I Corinthians 16:13)  
And as the writer of Philipians says,  
*Keep on doing the things that you have learned and  
received and heard and seen in  
me, and the God of peace will be with you.*  
(Philipians 4:3)

Dr. King was right. A riot IS the language of the unheard. In fact, tonight, it is more than a riot. All around us, there are non-violent protesters, loved ones of victims, and generations of people who have put up with racism their whole lives and feel like their lives don't matter. They are speaking in whatever way they can. They are sick and tired of this.

Can you hear them? Are you listening?

The Journey Continues, . . .

*Thomas Bickerton*



# Vacation Bible School

With so many unknowns and the safety and health of our kids and volunteers being of utmost importance, we have decided to **cancel** Vacation Bible School for the summer of 2020.

It is disappointing, as we always look forward to VBS, seeing God work in the lives of our kids and through our volunteers, but we are confident this is the right decision. Our church will be missing the ear-splitting squeals, messy spills, sweet singing, enthusiastic clapping, stomping and joyous laughter of children running through the church during vacation Bible school this summer.

We certainly look forward to offering VBS next year. Please help spread the word!

## Please Continue Tithing

**Please mail your tithes and other offerings to:**  
**Bloomville UMC:** Beverly Rockefeller, 191 Scotch Hill Road, Bloomville NY 13739  
**Hobart UMC:** Ralph Beisler, 107 Sheffield Lane, Hobart, NY 13788  
**Stamford UMC:** Debbie Coager, 290 Roses Brook Road, South Kortright, NY 13842  
**Township UMC:** Ginny Austin, 16385 County Highway 18. Stamford NY 12167

# *A Message From Rev. Kim*

## **“My daddy changed the world!”**

Today, our country has been severely struggling over the unjust and inhumane death of a black man named Gorge Floyd in Minneapolis, MN. Wikipedia describes the very moment of George Floyd’s death as follows: “Floyd was arrested on a charge of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a grocery store in the Powderhorn park neighborhood of Minneapolis. According to the store clerk, the bill was an obvious fake and Floyd had refused to return the purchased cigarettes when challenged. He died after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, pressed his knee to Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes during the arrest. Floyd was handcuffed face down in the streets. While two other officers further restrained Floyd and a fourth officer prevented onlookers from intervening. For the last three of those minutes Floyd was motionless and had no pulse, but officers made no attempt to revive him. Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd's neck as arriving emergency medical technicians attempted to treat him....”<sup>1</sup>

Almost 9 minutes (8 minutes 46 seconds exactly)!!

I can hardly imagine and digest this police officer’s psychological shape while pressing his knee on Gorge’s neck for almost nine minutes while George was crying out continuously, “I can’t breathe!” “I can’t breathe!” and “I can’t breathe!” He was unarmed and handcuffed face down in the street.

As we well know, George Floyd is not the only one killed by the police officers across the country. This kind of cruel and inhumane police brutality and murder, especially toward black young men have been ceaselessly

occurring again and again and again across the country. In its list are Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Philandro Castile, Justin Howell, Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks ... you name them. There are countless black people who lost their precious lives in this kind of unjust and unreasonable manner.

Who is George Floyd?

Our Judeo-Christian Scriptures proclaim about his identity and dignity as follows: “Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; ... So, God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female, he created them.’ [Gen. 1: 26a, 27] This is the understanding and interpretation of our Judeo-Christian Scriptures on George’s authentic identity, dignity and value as a child of God created in the image and likeness of God - Imago Dei.

Needless to say, our founding Fathers also proudly declared such high human Identity and value in the very Preamble of our Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This sacred and noble Declaration of Independence from the king of Great Britain clarified the spiritual nature and foundation of our country like this: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

This is who we Americans are. This is who George Floyd is. This is who we human beings on earth are. This is who each and every single one of white sisters and brothers is. This is why we all humanity are called to take a close look at Gods’ face - God’s image in the face of our neighboring human fellows, no matter who she/he is, no matter what skin



color he/she has, no matter what social status she/he has, no matter what national, cultural, ethnic background he/she is from. Therefore, Racism like “White supremacism” which degrades, distorts, and destroys our original and authentic human identity, dignity and value is the very No.1 enemy of our God’s Spirit of Creation. We must never forget that all humanity on earth are created in the midst of God’s love and grace according to God’s image and likeness.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., likely shared his thorough understanding of the ultimate reality, unity and solidarity of humanity as the inter-related, inter-connected and inter-dependent beings. He said, “All I'm saying is simply this, that all life is interrelated, that somehow we're caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.”<sup>2</sup>

The Rev. King, Jr. delivered a 17-minute speech, later known as "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which took place on August 28, 1963. In the speech's most famous passage--in which he departed from his prepared text, possibly at the prompting of Mahalia Jackson, who shouted behind him, "Tell them about the dream!"<sup>3</sup>

Here are some paragraphs: I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.' ... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their

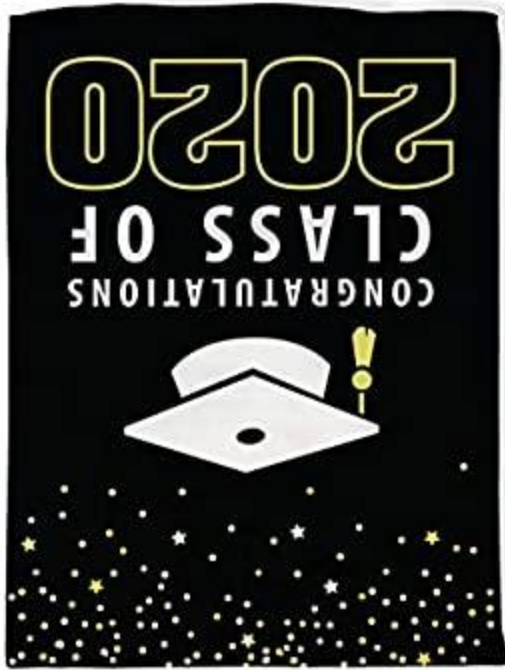
character.” I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little White boys and White girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.<sup>4</sup> In 1977, when the Presidential Medal of Freedom was posthumously awarded to him, President Jimmy Carter said, "Martin Luther King, Jr., was the conscience of his generation. He gazed upon the great wall of segregation and saw that the power of love could bring it down. From the pain and exhaustion of his fight to fulfill the promises of our founding fathers for our humblest citizens, he wrung his eloquent statement of his dream for America. He made our nation stronger because he made it better. His dream sustains us yet."<sup>5</sup>


My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, therefore, let us declare again that this dream of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is your dream and my dream until it finally comes true. This dream, absolutely, is the very dream of our country, the United States of America. This dream is the very dream of Gianna, George Floyd’s six-year-old little girl who shouted out, “My daddy changed the world!” Oh Yes! This dream is the very dream of God, our Author of life who will finally transform our country and globe to the racism-free country and world.

May God bless our racism-free country, the United States of America and all black, white and other colored sisters and brothers in it and the globe now and always.

Amen!





 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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