



Delaware Headwaters Charge

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

Summer 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the Delaware Headwaters Charge!

The Delaware Headwaters Charge has brought together Bloomville UMC, Conesville Chapel, Gilboa UMC, Harpersfield UMC, Hobart UMC, First Presbyterian Church/Stamford UMC, and Township UMC under the direction of Pastor Dawn Richard and Pastor Peggy Laemmel. We are happy to have you as a member or a visitor to our churches. God has been doing wonderful things in our communities . . . we invite you to come, share in the fellowship, take root, and grow with us.



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*
 - *Angels' Attic*
 - *Conesville UMC-Conesville*
 - *Harpersfield United Methodist Church*

Pastor Contact Information

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Our wonderful thrift store run by the Hobart United Methodist Women in Faith is now open. Thank you for donating, shopping and helping. Please drop off your treasures any Thursday or Saturday during our open hours. Emergency requests 607-538-9691. **Volunteers are desperately needed.**

Office Hours

Delaware Headwaters Charge
Office Hours with
Pastor Peggy and Alice Tucker
9-3pm, Thursdays
at Hobart UMC
607-538-9691

Or you may contact the Pastors
directly for their assistance

Subject to change as needed



Bloomville United Methodist Church had the honor and blessing to welcome into the life and service of our congregation our 4 Confirmands. We welcomed our confirmation students into the Body of Christ, our church family and celebrate their commitment on May 11.

Save the Date

Mountain Beacon Outdoor Worship and
Potluck at Minekill State Park July 20, 2025
at 10am. **No other services that day.**

Vacation Bible School. Bloomville UMC.
Aug. 4-6, 5:30-8pm

Blessing of the Animals at Tractor Supply
in Stamford, Sept 22nd



Community Potluck will continue in the fall. All these events will be posted on Facebook, the website and in the weekly bulletins.



News From Pastor Dawn

A New Vision for the UMC

(from the New York Annual Conference materials)

Shaped by a profound Wesleyan heritage, the people of The United Methodist Church are stepping in faith into a new season of ministry. Since 2021, the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table have journeyed together in prayerful collaboration, seeking God's wisdom and discerning a hope-filled vision for this unfolding era in The United Methodist Church.

THE VISION

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

LOVE BOLDLY:

We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life.

[Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35]

SERVE JOYFULLY:

With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy.

[Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10]

LEAD COURAGEOUSLY:

Following Jesus' example, we seek to resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. [Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10]

In this new season, God is calling United Methodists to embody this vision as we:

- Grow and form disciples
- Develop Christ-like leaders
- Stand in solidarity with the poor and the most vulnerable
- Seek health and wholeness for all people and creation

In July, we will have a meeting of leaders from each of the churches to begin to put together a Ministry Plan to fulfill this Vision in our charge. Please let Pastor Peg or Pastor Dawn know if you are interested in serving on this Task Force.

A Word From the Heart....

The first week of May I took a Spiritual Retreat of Silence and Solitude for both my own spiritual well-being and for continuing Education. During the retreat I worked through two books. Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson and Addiction and Grace by Gerald. I highly recommend both books if you want to deepen your walk with Jesus. Soul Feast details how to practice the spiritual disciplines of: Study, Prayer, Worship, Sabbath, Fast, Self-examination, Spiritual Direction, Hospitality and developing a Rule of Life. Gerald May in his book, Addiction and Grace writes about how to some extent, we are all "addicted" or "attached" to things that draw us away from God. It is a more in-depth psychological look at how our thoughts, feelings and behaviors draw us away from God and how Grace draws us back to God.

If you are not doing any spiritual reading right now, besides these books, there are some others that are designed to help us in our walk with God. The book we are using for our Bible Study called The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life by Adam Hamilton also details some of the spiritual practices or disciplines that help us draw closer to God. Daniel Wolpert's book Creating a Life With God: The Call of Ancient Prayer Practices is a gem for those who want to deepen their prayer life and make it more meaningful.

Why is spiritual reading important? Besides studying the Bible, spiritual reading can give us different perspectives on ways

in which we can be more in line with God's will, help us draw closer to God and help us to feel more joy filled and hopeful. I would love to hear about your favorite books that are spiritual reading!

Upcoming Chicken BBQ Fundraisers

One way we can support each other in our Charge, is to attend the Fundraisers that our churches are doing. Gilboa is having a Chicken BBQ on May 25th , beginning at 11a until sold out. It will be cooked by and held at the Grand Gorge Fire Dept. Halves are \$10 each. Various salads will be \$3 for 6 oz and chips are available as well. Funds to be used for mission and ministry.

Stamford will be holding their Chicken BBQ on Flag Day, June 14 th across from the Church. Chicken is from Brooks. It will begin at 4p until sold out. Halves are 10\$ each. Funds are to be used for mission and ministry.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Youth Rally

The Mountain Beacon Parish is working together with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes to host a youth rally with coaches teaching different skills and drills on August 9th from 9a-12p and Archibald Field in Stamford. Youth will need to talk to their school coaches to sign up online. Please spread the word. All community schools in this region are invited to participate.

We are providing lunch and will be talking to our churches about what foods to provide. And we would love to have as many people come help as possible!!! We want to show our support for the youth in our communities. The hope is that we will then be able to start some FCA groups in the schools. This is a great way to teach them about Jesus Christ.

Minekill Community Worship on July 20

On Sunday July 20 th at 10a, the Mountain Beacon churches will worship together at the Middle Pavilion of Minekill State Park. If you have not yet come to one of our Minekill Worship services, this will be a great year to come. Bathrooms are close, and for those with walking issues, you can be driven right to the pavilion.

Our theme for worship is "Hope and Joy". Worship is always followed by a potluck. The offering will go towards food and supplies for the FCA rally. And for those who want to take advantages of the activities at the park afterwards, the pool is open, there are hiking trails and you can rent kayaks. This is a great event to invite friends and family, and bring your grandchildren. Children's activities will be offered by Pastor Peg.



A Note From Pastor Peggy

United Women of Faith

The United Women of Faith is wrapping up their season (Fall – Spring). Our final meeting will be a bring & share picnic on June 11, 2:00 pm, at Kathy Rappleyea's: 21 Buckhorn Rd. Unadilla, NY 13849. We will be carpooling from the Hobart Methodist Church at 12:30.

In March, Rev. Donna LaRoy did a program on Forgiveness and Pastor Peg introduced Forgiveness Jars. In April, Dorothy Wetmore hosted a tea at her house. In May, Kathy Rappleyea did a program on Miracles in Our Lives, with examples from her own life of little miracles that add up to big things. Our program for June will be sharing and visioning. All women in our charge are invited to attend; you don't need to be a church or UWF member to attend. Come and enjoy our fellowship.

Angels' Attic

Angels' Attic is now open for the season. Thursdays from 10-3 and Saturdays from 10-2. We sell used clothing, shoes, jewelry, kitchenware, small household items, and books. (No electronics or large pieces of furniture.) All the proceeds go to funding mission work of the United Women of Faith. We also offer our items to those in emergency need. Angels' Attic is in need of volunteers to help with sorting, cleaning and selling our goods. If you would like to volunteer please contact Pastor Peg at 914-584-5221 or call the church office at 607-538-9691.

Township United Methodist Church 3835 Town Brook Rd

We are now open for the year. Please come by and worship with us at 8:30 am on Sunday morning.

Township UMC Picnic

Sunday, July 27, 12 noon at Township UMC. Come and celebrate the Township Church's birthday. All members of the community are invited. The picnic is bring & share food or drinks. We hope to see you there.

YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Groups got started in January once the kitchen was done. Both the junior and senior youth groups enjoyed fellowship, bible study, and games, as well as delicious dinners cooked by Pastor Peg and the parents of our kids.

Our youth want to create a ministry project for the next year – Here are some of the ideas: Work with the humane society, a local nursing home, a local food bank, the Christmas Feeling Fund, or the local fire-department. (If you have an idea for our youth, please let us know.) We are looking forward to our summer programs of the Youth Sleep-Over at Jane's Lake; Worship at Minekill Park, and Vacation Bible School.

Pastors Peg and Dawn would like to thank all the parents who have supported our youth events and evenings. From helping to chaperone our monthly meetings to cooking delicious dinners and making brownies you have helped us make the time together great.

Youth Sleep-Over @ Jane's Lake July 16 & 17: Weds & Thurs.

Last year Jane Macintosh-Martin very kindly offered her house for a youth sleep-over. Several kids participated, some sleeping over for the two days and some only for one. We had a great time playing games, doing scavenger hunts, swimming and boating the lake (Pastor Dawn did a prayer paddle) and working on crafts. This year we want to extend the invitation of all the kids who are in both our junior and senior youth groups to come and enjoy two days of fun. Please contact Jane Macintosh-Martin or Pastor Peg if you would like to participate.

Confirmation

This year four of our youth made the commitment to join our church on May 11: Brynn Moody, Anna Smith, William Smith, and Hollyn Tucker. To honor their commitment, we had an all-charge service so that members from all of our churches could attend. Bibles were gifted to them and there was a reception after with cupcakes and cookies. Our youth are all very active in church activities and we are fortunate to have them. Of special note they participated in the Jefferson Seder to welcome the Passover and Easter Season. It is wonderful to see them all grow in their faith.

Vacation Bible School

**Monday August 4 – Wednesday August 5
5:00 – 8:30 pm**

We haven't yet decided on the theme of our VBS, but we are starting to work at collecting material and ideas for crafts, bible stories, games, music, a mission, and science projects. Our basic schedule is dinner followed by activities. More information is coming soon.



Pastor Peg's Letter

Hello Everyone!

Finally, Spring has arrived!!! I love spring because I can start to get out and garden. Gardening for me is more than just planting pretty flowers or vegetables, it's also a chance for me to connect with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I learned this from my father. Every day during the season, he would come home and change into his jeans and t-shirt and go out to work in the beautiful gardens that we had at our house. When I was little I wondered why he would "work" so hard after work, but as I got older, I realized that it was his time to connect to God, by putting himself into God's creation and tending it. My mother also had a time to connect to God – when she was cleaning! I asked her once why she didn't hire a cleaner and she told me that it was her time to meditate and pray. As a minister I believe in the power of prayer, and if you find that cleaning, gardening, knitting, journaling, silent meditation, or nature walks work for you and connect to God and his creation – then GO FOR IT!

This July will mark the two-year anniversary of Michael and I coming to this beautiful area. I feel that I'm really starting to understand the rhythms of the communities and I've learned so much about and from all of you. We want to thank all of you for your support during Michael's hand and kidney surgeries, my foot injury and bronchitis in June, as well as your sympathy when our beloved 16 year-old cat died. Your support for both of us shows how great your hearts are, and that we truly live in a Christian community of care. We are looking forward to another year among you. Thank you for your time and love and may we all continue to live in God's Grace and abounding love.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Peg

Alain & Katherine Niles' Update

Dear Friends,

It's entering the hottest time of year in Mango, Togo. We've had a lot of activity going on as we celebrate 10 years since the opening of the Hospital of Hope. We are juggling all the events, the continued ministry in the hospital, and additional loss with the recent passing of more friends. We also have some news about this coming summer. Read below for more!!

HEARTACHE

We wrote in our last letter about a Fulani patient with a complex medical history whose testimony of finding Jesus at our hospital was miraculous. He had just finished getting fitted for his prosthetic limb when his health took a turn and he was readmitted into our hospital. Unfortunately, he worsened and his family decided to take him home to die. Arriving back in Burkina we connected him with a local pastor. After he passed, his extended Muslim family refused to bury him as he had turned to Jesus, so his mother went to the pastor and, together with the local church, they buried him. We were so encouraged to hear of their steadfast faith during such a difficult time.

In December, one of our close friends who has worked at the hospital for 15 years began complaining of abdominal pain. After I consulted him, we sent him for a CT scan and found that a very aggressive liver cancer was spreading to his lungs. It was so very difficult to have to share the news with him. He had been part of helping build the hospital and was then hired as supervisor to our maintenance crew. He was a faithful worker and friend. Within a few weeks of his diagnosis, he died. Hundreds of people came out for his burial. We continue to

pray for his family and his kids to find true hope through their suffering and loss.

TRAINING

In December we celebrated the end of the year with our clinic staff and their families. It has been encouraging to see their dedication to the care of over 40,000 patients that came through our outpatient clinic last year alone!! We have prayed for a while about training some help to assist our providers in clinic. Before our colleague Melissa went on furlough, she was able to bring on a new nurse to be trained as a clinical practitioner. Paul is a strong Christian who has jumped right in and been a fantastic addition to our team. I have been spending my days pouring into him, not only teaching him medicine but also discipling him and mentoring him to be a great witness through his work. He signed his first contract with the hospital this week, and we are so excited for his career ahead and how he'll help reduce the heavy load we carry in clinic. In the months leading up to this, God also allowed the hospital to hire 4 new Christian Togolese doctors through the ICMDA (International Christian Medical and Dental Association). They have jumped in to work and ministry and we are grateful to have them be a part of the medical provider team. You can pray for them as they complete a Family Practice Certificate with us.

HOSPITAL OF HOPE - 10 YEAR CELEBRATION

It's hard to believe the hospital has been opened for 10 years. God has been faithful every step of the way! Can't say that is has been easy, but we are thankful for the staff, for the work that has been done, and for the platform the hospital has been for ministry in this region. Just this last year alone there were 1475 babies born at HOH

with over 320 C-Sections and more than 10,000 patients who were hospitalized! We kicked off the 10 Year celebrations in January by hosting a meal for all the former construction workers who helped build the hospital. It was great to reminisce about all of the work over the last 15 years, when I hired many of these men as our initial building crew. Initial Crew November 2009 Gathered Crew January 2025 At the end of January, we held a fun afternoon of team games with all the staff to have a time to celebrate and play together. (They are very competitive, to say the least, and there was a lot of cheering that went on!)

SUMMER IN THE USA

We are looking ahead to a quick 3-month furlough in the USA from July-September. We hope to visit as many of our supporting churches as possible and would love to connect with as many of you as possible. We are starting to work on our schedule and will keep you posted. We are hoping to find a trustworthy vehicle for the 3 months we are back to assist with all our travels. If you have any leads or ideas let us know.

Thanks for your prayers and for your support of the ministry here in Mango!

Alain, Katherine, Camille, Caleb & Mia-Joy



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