



Delaware Headwaters Charge

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

Holiday 2023 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*
 - *Hobart United Methodist Church*
 - *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 closed. Thank you for donating, shopping and helping this year. Please keep all your treasures and drop them off next May. Emergency requests 607-538-9691

Soup's On!



The Missions and Ministry Team has decided that Soup's On will continue as a joint effort by all the churches in the Charge. The next dinner will be January 6, 4-7pm at Hobart UMC hosted by Harpersfield UMC. Please watch our Facebook pages or the website for announcements.

Township UMC will be pausing for the winter after January 14th service and reopening March 24, 2024

Mission & Ministry

We invite you to explore the many ongoing ministry and mission opportunities at each of our churches! Meet, learn, serve God and our communities in many ways! Each church has unique opportunities to fulfill your call to ministry.

For more information about support available, please contact Pastor Dawn or Pastor Peggy.

If you are in need of pastoral services or interested in scheduling a baptism or joining the church, please contact one of the pastors.

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



As winter weather approaches, just a reminder that Delaware Headwaters Parish churches will be open for scheduled worship, except in very extreme conditions. Always use good judgment and err on the side of safety when inclement weather hits the area. Phone a friend or check the church's website or Facebook pages when in doubt.

Bloomville Food Pantry

Starting January 2024, our days of operation change~~ Open the 2nd and 4th MONDAYS, 1pm-3pm. When arriving at 464 River St., simply take the handicap ramp to the second door (to the new building behind St. Paul's Church). Thanks to the generous support and donations from the community and Bloomville Community Pride, our shelves are stocked. Don't let food insecurity be a burden, we are friendly and ready to help you!



The Bloomville United Methodist Church wishes to thank EVERYONE for their continued support of our church and community. We enjoyed seeing you all at our Turkey Supper Drive-thru, Pancake Breakfast, Sunday services and December activities sponsored by the Bloomville Community Pride. Our Youth Group will start up Jan 20th at 5pm. We look forward to seeing you in 2024 at our services and upcoming activities. Please watch our Facebook page for announcements.

Alain & Katherine Niles' Update

Dear Friends,

We have just finished one of the busiest seasons at the Hospital of Hope. Our hospital is usually very busy because of malaria and Typhoid season. This year was exceptionally bad. We hit multiple records in number of emergency room patients, inpatients, deliveries, blood transfusions, etc.... All around, busy!

We usually get a large number of patients from Burkina Faso who come across the border for care. Recently, with all of the unrest, many of the northern patients are afraid to risk their lives to drive through some dangerous areas to get across the border and down to the Hospital of Hope. Despite them not making it, we were flooded with local patients from within Togo. We are so thankful we were blessed with some incredible short term medical staff who helped us through the busiest of times.

There have been many incredible stories of God's healing in people's lives through quality care at the hospital. Recently, a pregnant woman came in pre-eclamptic and seizing. We were able to calm her seizures just in time to rush her to the OR for an emergency C-Section. The baby had no pulse or respiratory drive, so I resuscitated with our midwife and eventually got a heartbeat and stabilized the child's breathing. Both Mom and baby survived and were discharged healthy! I was able to have a good conversation with the family and rejoice with them that the ordeal ended well.

When there are highs, there are often many lows. Malaria season can be a discouraging time as children are rushed in unresponsive, anemic and lifeless, often too late for us to save them. While writing this letter, I was trying to think of how many children I ran codes on and pronounced dead over the last 3 months and I can't even remember. I filled out more death certificates than I have all year.

Despite the death and sadness, it is often in grief that we have the most opportunities to show and share the love of Jesus. Our hope is beyond the grave in the One who conquered death.

Our house church is growing, maturing and faithful in getting together. We have been meeting in different homes in the neighborhood. We are working our way through 1 and 2 Peter and how to deal with suffering and persecution as a believer. Some of our friends who attend have faced rejection, persecution and loneliness for their faith and we are working on becoming a community for them. Pray for our group that God would raise up leaders among them.



Katherine is teaching and helping lead in the missionary kid school while a colleague is on furlough. The school is well set up and the students are thriving. Our kids love school. Camille is doing a lot of self-study while also working on French and piano. Caleb is always looking for lizards, insects, animals and the occasional snake. Mia-Joy has gotten into sewing and loves playing with her friends.



This week, I taught a church history course to our nursing students. This is one of the last Bible courses in their program. They will be graduating in July and are eager to jump into work in the hospital. We are so proud of these 15 students who are excelling in their nursing skills, but also maturing and open to issues of faith. Their questions about the Bible are so good and our hope is that they will keep growing in their knowledge and understanding of Christ.



Finally, looking ahead.....

-We are losing a Togolese doctor and friend who is leaving to do further training. We are in the process of hiring another Togolese doctor to take his place. Pray that he integrates well.

-We are working on building a small water tower at our home to help with the water cuts and shortages.

-Mia-Joy turned 7, Caleb will turn 10 soon and in January, Camille will turn 14.

-End of Dec/early Jan we will be flying to Senegal to spend time with family and celebrate my parents' retirement and anniversary.

Thanks for reading, praying and supporting us!

Alain, Katherine, Camille, Caleb and Mia-Joy



News From Gilboa UMC

We participated in the Blessing of the Animals. It was a beautiful day shared with dogs, cats and people. Donations were given from Tractor Supply to give to the animals that stopped by. There are already plans of working with Tractor Supply next year to hold The Blessing of the Animals in their parking lot with donations and advertising.

Assisted Living Worship - Diane and Lynn, as well as both Pastor Dawn and Pastor Peg have been conducting services at Robinson Terrace Assisted Living. We are planning to do a Christmas cookie delivery as well this month. Everyone is welcome to join us.

We bought food and gift cards for the McClain Family after the Stamford fire. We also collected a donation for one of our churches family's who lost their home to fire.

Gilboa participated in Operation Christmas Child, the church members filled boxes to send to children that do not get a Christmas.

There was a craft day at Assisted Living on November 17th. Everyone had fun making Balsam Sachets from Vintage Hankies. Enjoyed to hear all the stories told by residents. Fun had by all!

We had a wonderful celebration of Hanging of the Greens, shared in scripture readings and decorating the church.

Currently everyone is making cookies, cookies and more cookies!



Updates From Pastor Dawn

Stamford Presbyterian/Methodist

Our Stamford Presbyterian/Methodist church has had a very busy few months. Members have assisted with Worship at the Assisted Living Center, provided food assistance to those in need and took a special offering for survivors of the Stamford fires. For the Holiday season, members collected baskets and items for the staff of Robinson Terrace, the Assisted Living Center and homebound members. They also hosted and volunteered by wrapping presents and hosting the distribution of the Christmas Feeling Fund. At the Christmas Eve service, a special offering will be taken for Disaster Relief.

Harpersfield

Harpersfield members have been actively involved in several community ministries. They help with Worship at the Assisted Living Center and hosted a Veteran's Day Worship Service. The Veteran's Day Worship was well received and will become a yearly tradition. They collected 22 shoe boxes for the Christmas Shoebox ministry. The merger with Grand Gorge has finally been approved by the court. Now members will be working on preparing the property to be sold. They continue to host potluck suppers after worship and many members are actively involved in service with the Grange. A special offering was taken for the survivors of the Stamford fire. And in December, the members participated with Gilboa in the Cookie Ministry, in which members made cookies and put them in tins. These will be distributed to residents at the Assisted Living Center.

Conesville Chapel

Conesville Chapel members and youth and children have been so giving to their community this year. They hosted an event to honor the Veteran's, made blankets for community members, sent notes to those in nursing homes and members this fall/winter. The Children and Youth presented a wonderful Christmas program on December 17th. The children and youth meet weekly for Sunday School and members meet for worship the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 4p followed by a potluck.

A Word from the Heart....

The New Year always brings us an opportunity for a Fresh Start...in fact that is the name of our sermon series for January until Lent begins. What does it mean to have a fresh start? Many people make resolutions, some of the most common are to lose weight, exercise more, get organized, learn a new skill or hobby, see friends and family more, save more money or spend less money, etc.

I think that those are very important ways to start the New Year, but I also think it is important to make a "fresh start" with some spiritual resolutions. For example, take up a new spiritual discipline that you might not be doing (spiritual disciplines are: prayer, bible study, worship, generosity, meditation and service). Or another example is to commit to doing the Lenten bible study that Pastor Peg and I will be leading. Or another that fits both exercise more and adding a spiritual discipline would be to start the Prayer Walk (Wednesdays at 3 on sections of the Catskill trail). We will be giving more practical examples of ways you can have a Fresh Start spiritually in the sermon series.

Some may think, "I am too old to start new ways of doing things". However, having a Fresh Start isn't necessarily about starting new ways as much as adding a little more God to your day. And we can all use a little more time with God! Blessings to all!!!

What you are helping do!

Our Apportionments help support many agencies like the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This picture is of one of the UMCOR depots, where all the supplies are collected for distribution to areas in which there have been either natural or man made disasters. Volunteers, like these folks sort through the supplies and organize them. Our apportionments are making it possible for cleaning supplies and health kits to be given to those who have lost their homes or had flooding. Food and medical supplies are given to areas in which there is war or famine. Grants are given to help people rebuild when they don't have insurance. You are helping people all over the world! Thanks be to God!



United
Women
in Faith

The United Women in Faith want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In 2023 the United Methodist Women changed their name to United Women in Faith. This was done after five years of research of how to update their programs to fit the needs of our changing world. The change of name was the result of a realization that our organization connects with many women of different faiths all over the world. So, although we are still a Methodist organization our name now reflects the work we do globally with many different cultures.

Our own organization is also open to all members of our community, whether you are part of our Delaware Headwater's Charge or if you are a community member who wants to participate in our mission efforts. Besides Angel's Attic, our thrift store, we have a lot of new ideas for programs in the coming year. We hope you'll join us at our monthly

meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm. The next meeting will be held at the Hobart Methodist church, on January 10th. We would love to have you join us.

Angel's Attic is now closed for the winter and will re-open in spring. However, if you or someone you know are in need of clothing (all ages), household items or baby needs please call the Hobart Methodist Church and someone will contact you

Pastor Peg's Christmas Letter 2023

Greetings to Everyone in the Delaware Headwater's Charge,

First of all, I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. December 26 will be the 6th month anniversary of Michael's and my move to this beautiful area of the Catskills. We've had such a good time since we came and have been enjoying the nature, fresh food, and the various wonders of the region.

Right now there's snow on the ground, which we can expect in the Catskills, but not necessarily in Bethlehem at this time of year. When I was a kid, I always wondered about all those hymns with snow, because I knew Jesus was born in the mid-East, where it's hot. But I later found out that during the night at this time of year it can be very cold, so the idea of a family staying warm in the stable is not out of place.

And that gets me to wonder about that first Christmas eve. A night when all the animals and people were snuggled inside their houses and under covers to keep away from the cold.

When Jesus was born, he was brought into a quiet world, not a noisy one. We are used to the noise of the angels singing, but really it was probably more of a Silent Night. But often that's how great miracles happen, not with a lot of fanfare but quietly, coming upon us one step at a time, until they're revealed to us, or until we finally notice them.

It gets me thinking: What miracles are quietly approaching us right now? That's one of the messages of the Christmas story, to expect miracles in unexpected places, like the Son of God, born in the unexpected and unlooked for manger.

I hope your Christmas and New Year's holidays are filled with expected joy, but I also hope that at some point you will find an unexpected miracle, either during the holidays or in the coming year. And I hope that miracle will lead you to a new a stronger relationship with our Divine Parent, our Brother Christ, and our Sister The Holy Spirit.

With Much Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,
Pastor Peg Laemmel

Christmas
Blessings



Soup's On

This month's menu will feature pasta dishes

Fellowship | Good Food | Family Fun



6
January
2024
4-7 PM

Hobart United Methodist Church
204 Maple Ave.
Hobart, NY

Free Entry

Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to pass and/or a donation to benefit those affected by the Stamford fire

This month's featured chef will be the Harpersfield United Methodist Church

Soup's On will occur the first Saturday of each month



Kid's Winter Art Festival

Join us in a day of family fun, featuring music, crafting, yoga, and tasting activities for children in grades K-12!

*Children in grades K-3 are asked to be accompanied by a parent or guardian

27
January
2024
12-3 PM

First Presbyterian Church of Stamford
96 Main St.
Stamford, NY

The day will start with a lunch of hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, tossed salad, and grapes available for all attendees.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND PLEASE CALL PASTOR DAWN RICHARDS AT 405-808-4407 TO HELP US BETTER PREPARE FOR THE EVENT.

Christmas Feeling Fund

The Christmas Feeling Fund is beginning its 53rd year where our local Santa, George Bergleitner, helped us believe in the spirit of giving in the Stamford, Jefferson, Gilboa and South Kortright (CSD) area for every family in need during the holiday season!

We provided fresh produce, dry goods, a ham or turkey, presents for the children and hats, coats and gloves for the entire family. Items for over 100 families were distributed on December 13th at the Stamford Presbyterian Church, with many volunteers assisting from the Rotary, boy scouts, youth from local schools and church members. Live music was provided on the piano by Mike Richards.

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who contributed in so many ways. We truly have wonderful communities.



