



Delaware Headwaters Charge

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

Fall 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.

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*Join us each Sunday
for Sunday School
at 10am*

Bloomville UMC

Bloomville UMC Sunday School is up and running. One of the many strengths of the Bloomville UMC is our Sunday School program and the support from our parents and community. We invite all youth to join us each Sunday at 10am.

The Sunday School ministry is looking for adults to serve BUMC kids this year! All lessons and materials will be supplied, along with children who are eager to learn! Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and energy for this very important mission of our congregation. You will be amazed at what a fulfilling role this is! Please see Janis Beken for more information.

Thank you goes out for the generous donations that help us sustain this wonderful program.

Township Celebration

Township UMC celebrated their 200th anniversary of its sanctuary building in July with a service, presentations and picnic. It's history and heritage were honored by present and former pastors, community members, friends and families.

Parishioner and organist Barbara Ackerley graciously shared her opening greeting for the blessed event. . .

"Hello everyone. It's good to see you all here today.

I am the church building and I am 200 years old. I have been blessed to be a place where many have come to worship. It was God's purpose for me and I am thankful that so many faithful Christian have come here to worship or we might be just one of those sad and empty little churches.

This church was started way back in pre-Revolution days. Settlers came from Stamford Connecticut. When the war broke out, they returned to Connecticut and when the war was over they returned to the Township Valley. After being settled, they felt the need for a place of worship.

Prior to this the circuit riders fulfilled their needs. So in 1794 a society was formed. This was the beginning of the Township Methodist Church. It was called First Methodist Church.

On Jan 13, 1823 it was voted to build the church. It was then named Township Methodist Episcopal Church of Stamford. The framed was put up, enclosed, but not furnished. They only had rough benches (the ones you are sitting on now) until 1829. The cost was \$500.00.

Many changes have been made over the years. The pulpit was originally a raised pulpit with steps, so the people upstairs could listen and sing along with the other parishioners. Through the years many improvements and gifts have been donated. The baptismal font, the pulpit Bibles, handwork in the form of the Lord's prayer and probably the most precious is the painting of Jesus walking on the water. The painting was done by Rev. P. St. John Coleman. He was a minister of our church at the time in 1912. Fluorescent lights were donated to light up the painting. A horse block that was by the driveway was moved and is now the landing at the front entrance to the church.

In 1983 the church was raised and a new foundation was installed. Also added were new carpet, electric lights, cushions for the benches, new furnace, new roof, new windows, and new ramp. The bell was put back on the church roof. A new exit door was installed in the back of the church.

Well, enough about this church building. It's about 200 years of Christians who have come to worship and commune with one another, as we are doing today. They are the ones who have made it a church. The world has changed drastically over 200 years. But there is still one thing that has not changed and that is our Mother Church, the first one in the Township Valley.

There have been 96 minister who have served our church and Pastor Peg will make it 97. The church used to be filled to the brim with Township families, but times have changed. Only a few come to church now, but remember it only take two to make a congregation.

It's sad that religion has taken a backseat to our society today. Here's a question to ponder on. . . Do our young people know about Jesus, The Golden Rule, The Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, the 23rd Psalm? All of these are not suggestions, they are tenets to live by and follow. God is our rock and foundation and he is the reason we are 200 years strong. Thank you all for coming to help us celebrate 200 wonderful years."



A Word From Pastor Dawn

A Word from the Heart....With all the changes we have experienced in the Delaware Headwaters charge, I have been doing a lot of meditating on how we can most effectively be the church of Jesus Christ, within these configurations. Roman's ch 12 is very useful for looking at how we function as a "charge" or an individual church. Romans 12:4-6 reads: "A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That's how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another. God has also given each of us different gifts to us".

As I have met with the Mountain Beacon Parish, and our Charge teams (SPR, Mission

and Ministry and Worship), I have seen this at work. Everyone's input has been important. Each person's contribution has led to a greater ability to do God's work. It has been so good to have representatives from the various churches because we have a wider scope of ideas and thoughts. I see this also in our individual churches. In preparing for Charge Conference, people's expertise and abilities help us Peg and I complete our paperwork so much better. I invite you to contemplate this question these next few months. Each of you is an important part of the body, how are you using your gifts to better the church/charge?

Your Missional Apportionments

Ever wondered where your apportionment dollars go? Each newsletter, I will be highlighting some of those programs. Today I want to share a program that could benefit people in our communities.

"Done in a Day" started as a response to Superstorm Sandy. It was a program designed to engage small volunteer teams in the recovery effort by assigning them to locations and projects that were well organized and managed, and with a specific task for a day. The catch phrase was, "Start early, end late—done in a day!" While the Sandy recovery effort continues to go on, we are also looking to transition this ministry, and the many skills and energies of our volunteers to continue their efforts, but on more local levels. "Done in a Day" seeks to work with churches to identify local homes and homeowners who are in need, who may not be able to afford repairs, or who many need some TLC through home repairs. A priority should be given to low-income families, seniors, persons with disabilities, single-parent families, and others with special needs or circumstances. Local churches would provide the volunteer labor for the effort, and the Missions office will assist with funding.

How might we use this program to benefit our communities?



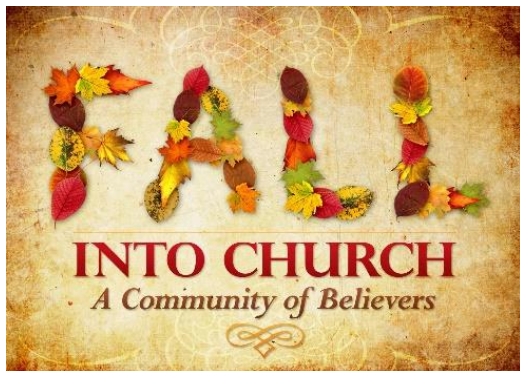
The 2023 VBS program at Bloomville UMC was a great success! Our theme this year was Flight Express, Flying High With Jesus. Children were able to participate in bible lessons, games, singing, crafts, and supper, which all centered around flight.

Bible verses were taught through fun activities during lesson time and children learned how to care for God's many creations and obey his word.

Our mission this year was to collect for the Heart of the Catskills Animal Shelter.



We are very grateful for all of the kids, parents, teachers, volunteers and individuals who helped to make this year's VBS such a wonderful adventure!



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 Peg's Letter

Greetings to Everyone in the Name and Spirit of Our Divine Parent,

Michael and I have been here for almost three months now and once we figure out where to hang our pictures, finish setting up our books, and hang a few more curtains we should be all settled in. We want to say that we have felt most welcomed by all of you. From the refrigerator that was stocked when we came into the house, to the people that stopped by and said, "How can we help you?" to those who have happily given us information when we asked, we have been made to feel at home, and we want to thank you for welcoming us into this beautiful community.

Now this doesn't mean that I haven't had a few slip-ups and confusions, but it is here that you all

have shown your true Christian spirit by being patient with me and allowing me to learn on the job. I thank you all for your guidance, especially this summer with Township's 200th Anniversary and Bloomville's Vacation Bible School, both events were so much fun!

I also continue to ask you to keep giving me information that I need to know because it takes a whole year for a minister to live and see the seasons of a church and a community. I'm looking forward to spending the Advent/Christmas season with you and learning about all the new (for me) celebrations that I will experience.

I know that we are all on a learning curve with the new configuration of churches, charges, and parishes. Please see the article below that explains all this. This new system has been designed to help provide churches with a pastor. Yes, Pastor Dawn and I are sharing seven churches, but we hope that because we are all part of one community that we can work together to bring God and Jesus' love to our people.

If you have any ideas how we can be stronger together let us know, I would love to hear any idea, no matter how crazy it sounds; sometimes crazy works and with God all things are possible.

With the love of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit,
Pastor Peggy Laemmel

A Bit of Humor

Here are a few comments from kids who have interesting views on the Bible, church, and theology:

- Noah couldn't do much fishing while he was on the ark because he only had two worms.
- Jesus had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.
- As the offering plate was being passed, a 4-year-old said, "You don't have to pay for me, daddy. I'm under 5"
- It says, "The Lord thy God is One," but I think He's a lot older than that.

The Difference Between a Charge and a Parish

Delaware Headwaters Charge:

Conesville Chapel, Gilboa, Harpersfield, Stamford, Hobart, Bloomville and Township

Pastors: Dawn Richards and Peggy Laemmel

A **Charge** is a church or group of churches that share a pastor/pastors and have a shared Charge budget for salaries, utilities, compensation, etc. Each church also has its own individual budget. In a charge, there are "charge committees;" i.e. Ad Council, SPR, Worship, Ministry and Mission, etc. Each church can hold its own meetings to discuss business within that church; each church has its own service with the exception of a few shared services; each church has its own Trustees and officers. Because of the limited number of pastors in the Conference, most churches are now part of a charge. We are stronger together!

Mountain Beacon Co-operative

Parish: Delaware Headwaters Charge, Jefferson, West Fulton and North Blenheim.

Pastors: Donna LeRoy, Peggy Laemmel, Mike Gebhard and Dawn Richards

Laity: Lynn Albano, Russ and Laurie Bedford, Karen Ogborn, Rick VanValkenburg and Janine, and Jane Ware.

A Cooperative Parish is a geographic group of churches with a Parish Coordinator, laity and pastors working together to determine mission and ministry that we can do in our communities. We are stronger together!



Delaware Headwaters Youth Group

Now that we have a good number of confirmed youth in our churches, Pastors Dawn and Peggy are excited to start a youth group. We want to provide our youth with meaningful fun experiences, that will help them to grow in Christ, and give them the tools and strength to be productive adults.

If you would like to assist, or have ideas about activities, please contact Pastor Peg. We will be posting a meeting time on Facebook, the web-site and in the bulletins.



2023 Charge Conference

Our Delaware Headwaters Charge Annual Charge Conference will be at the Hobart UMC on **October 14**, 2-5pm. This will be organized like last year. DS Rev. Monk has informed us that all the churches in the Mountain Beacon Parish are invited.



Save the date . . .

Bloomville UMC
Annual Turkey Supper
Oct.21st
Drive-thru only
3pm-sold out
By donation
Please follow the signs



Save the date . . .

**Bloomville UMC
Annual Pancake Breakfast
Nov. 18th
Dine-in
8am-Noon
By donation**

News from Alain & Katherine Niles

Dear Friends

Interesting fact: half of Togo's population is under 15 years old. This means, our hospital is always full of pediatric patients. We get to love on these little ones and care for them, which is a daunting task.

Last month, while working in the hospital, I was called to go help resuscitate a newborn. The mom, who was pregnant with twins, came and successfully delivered the first one, but began having complications with the second one and was rushed to the OR for an emergency C-section. Our surgeon moved quickly, got the second baby out, and handed me this little boy with no pulse and no respiratory rate. We jumped into action and eventually got a pulse, but the child was not breathing on his own. I spent 15 minutes bagging (breathing for the child) until he finally, slowly began breathing on his own. Several days later after spending time in our NICU on CPAP and receiving great care from our nurses, the baby was

discharged with his brother and mother. Several weeks ago the mom followed up with me in clinic with her two healthy boys. What a miracle! And what a testimony to this family of God's love for them and a wide-open door to share about how great God is.

On Sundays we attend a very small gathering in a home with a few believers. We just finished studying the book of James together. Pray for these believers and for our group to grow in depth and in outreach.

In late July we had the privilege of flying to France to go hiking with some dear friends, visit my parents and pop over to the US to attend a very special wedding celebrating Will and Natalie DeKryger. It was a very brief break, but packed full. The kids had a blast with their grandparents while Katherine and I enjoyed a few days alone on our whirlwind trip to the wedding.

We've really enjoyed our summer break, and Caleb has loved having a chameleon as a pet. Next month, school starts up again....Hooray! Katherine has been busy planning and preparing for the upcoming school year. We have new teachers arriving and lots of details to come together. Please pray for the school books to arrive as they are stuck on some shipping container....somewhere.

As we close this letter out, we would ask you to pray for the difficult situation brewing just north of Togo in the country of Niger. There appears to be a lot of instability with the 7th coup in the Sahel region in the last 3 years. These conflicts have allowed for many terrorist groups to develop just north of us. This has also blocked many of our Burkina Faso patients from coming to the hospital. In fact, many of our patients recount treacherous journeys through check points, on back roads around minefields and even having to take planes and helicopters to get to the border to make their appointments. It's heartbreaking to see them suffer. Pray that we might be able to continue offering them quality care and the love of Jesus.

Serving at the Hospital of Hope,

Alain, Katherine, Camille, Caleb and Mia-Joy

Angels'
Attic



Angel's Attic, the wonderful thrift store run by the Hobart United Methodist Women in Faith, is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am – 3 pm. The last day of sales for 2023 will be December 9 when the store will be closed for the winter months and will open again in spring.

For next year we looking to expand our hours to Friday from 4 -7 pm. This way we can be open as the same time as the Hobart Farmer's market, hopefully generating more sales which will go to the local missions that the UMW sponsors. We need two volunteers who are willing to work for these three hours. If you are interested please let Pastor Peg, Wanda Palmatier, or Dorothy Wetmore know. Thank you for donating, shopping and helping this year. After Dec. 9, please keep all your treasures and drop them off next May.

Soup's On!



The Missions and Ministry Team has decided that Soup's On will once again start up as a joint effort by all the churches in the Charge. This will have a new look and new direction. Please watch our Facebook pages or the website for announcements. The first dinner will be November 4, 4-7pm at Hobart UMC.

MISSED A SUNDAY?

Check out Pastor Peggy's sermons online!

Pastor Peggy's latest sermons are posted on our website under *Resources*. Pastor Peggy also posts her sermons weekly at pastorpeg.wordpress.com.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

This June the UMW took a trip to Binghamton to the Methodist Children's Home of Binghamton and presented them with a check for \$2,000. Pastor Doug Clark was happy to receive the check which will go towards supporting the 40 children who live in the Home and another 500 children who are served in the community through various programs ranging from family medical assistance to counseling, education and other programs.

Recently the greater United Methodist Church has changed the name of the organization to United Women in Faith, but it's still the same organization: Dedicated to helping families through missions. Hobart's UMF runs Angel's Attic, a thrift store on Maple Ave, located next to the church and Parsonage. The money that is raised from this mission goes to other local and

Methodist mission projects which are decided on a yearly basis.

But now with our churches joining together into one charge we are hoping that people from all the churches in the area will look to this organization as the Delaware Headwater's Methodist Women in Faith. It is our hope that we can be a conduit for more mission in the area backed by the strength of all our church members.

This group meets monthly and if you are interested in joining UMF please contact Nancy Beisler @ 607-538-9772. If you would like to volunteer to work at Angel's Attic please call Dorothy Wetmore @ 607-538-9988.

UMF meeting Calendar

October 11, @ Cathy Rappleaya's
November 8, @ Betty Reed's
December 13, @ Dorothy Wetmore's
January 10, @ Coffee Hour Room
February 14, @ Hobart Parsonage
March 13, @ Coffee Hour Room
April 10, @ Dorothy Wetmore's
May 8, @ Betty Reed's
June 12, @ Cathy Rappleaya's
No meeting July & August

Food Bank Donations

We are currently collecting any non-perishable food items for our food bank. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Mission & Ministry

Mission & Service Opportunities - 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.

Congregational Care 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

Thank You

A special thank you goes out to Sheila and Don Fancher for their dedication to the upkeep of the Hobart UMC grounds and buildings. We wish them well on their new adventures.

There is an opening for the sexton's job at Hobart UMC. Please contact Barbara Hoover Stevens at 607-538-9797 for more information.



As winter weather approaches, just a reminder that Delaware Headwaters Parish churches will be open for worship on Sundays, 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.

Up Coming Events

Please see the bulletin or Facebook pages or the website for more information. We will be planning for the Advent Season and Christmas Eve services soon.



Thank you for your hard work and dedication as a volunteer for our churches. Your willingness to put yourself forward and lend your gifts and abilities not only helps with the task at hand, it contributes to creating a stronger ministry in our churches. Your ministry in all areas matter. Your compassion and kindness towards others are an inspiration to us all, and your efforts do not go unnoticed.