



Delaware Headwaters Parish

Bloomville, Hobart, Stamford, Township UM Churches

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

November/December 2018 Newsletter

Delaware Headwaters Parish

Rev. Dee Stevens & Pastor Paul Moller

Parsonage (Pastor Dee) & Parish Office :
607-538-9691

Rev. Dee's email: pastordeestevens@outlook.com

Pastor Paul's cell: 607-287-2462

Pastor Paul's email: Paulwmoller@gmail.com

Bloomville United Methodist Church

35 Church St.

PO Box 3

Bloomville, NY 13739

Worship: 11am

607-538-9440

Hobart United Methodist Church

186 Maple Avenue

PO Box 205

Hobart, NY 13788

Worship: 11am

607-538-9691

Stamford United Methodist Church

88 Main St.

Stamford, NY

Worship: 9am

607-652-7350

Township United Methodist Church

3835 Town Brook Road

PO Box 205

Hobart, NY 13788

Worship: 9am

607-538-9691

Parish office email:

pastordelawareheadwatersparish@gmail.com

Welcome to the Delaware Headwaters Parish!

The Delaware Headwaters Parish has brought together Bloomville UMC, Hobart UMC, Stamford UMC, Township UMC under the direction of Rev. Dee Stevens 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 a wonderful thing in our community . . . 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.



The Bloomville United Methodist Church
Community Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, November 17th
8am-12pm

All are welcome!
Free will donation



From the Pastor

Angels'
Attic



As Fall comes to an end and Winter begins, many people begin to think about the giving season. The season of giving often begins with Thanksgiving and ends with the New Year. During this time, people tend to be more cheerful and thoughtful of others.

It takes many people all year to save up the money that they plan to spend during this time of year. The other option is you spend all year paying off the credit card purchases made during the holidays.

During this season, people put a lot of time and energy into giving, and it can be exhausting. In the end, most of the stuff people get for the holidays is stuff that we want, not so much what we need.

Instead of buying things, I have a suggestion. Why not fill this giving season with experiences instead of things. Instead of presents, why not plan to experience something in this world that you have yet to see or do? You could go see a play, concert or performance. Go to one of the remarkable state or federal parks. Go visit family that you may not usually see. Do something that is on the bucket list and takes others with you.

The best gift we can have is *life*. God has given us life, and we should use our life to the fullness of its beauty and to God's glory. God created this creation and said it was good. Maybe it is time you go and experience what makes it great, and share it with others.

Blessings,
Pastor Paul

Angels' Attic is closed until May 2019. Thank you for donating, shopping and helping this year. Your treasures may continue to be dropped off on the front porch. A clean-up is schedule for March.

We are in need of volunteers. Do you love thrifting and want to donate your time? Angels' Attic is looking for volunteers to assist shoppers, helping to organize the store and keep up with incoming donations! Volunteers are needed Friday 1-4pm and Saturday 9-1pm. Won't you join us?

In our hearts



Our sympathy is extended to the family of Arthur Henry "Hank" Van Buren, 82, of Hobart, who passed away on Oct. 15, 2018. Hank was a life time member of our community. A funeral service was held on Friday, Oct. 19, at the Hobart United Methodist Church, with burial in Locust Hill Cemetery, Hobart.



Youth Fellowship

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold. You share your time and talents without any compensation, so it's crucial to acknowledge your contributions and let you know how much you are valued. The compassion you show to the people we serve is an inspiration for us all. You're such an important part of our churches, and we hope you know that. We're so happy you shared your talents with us. You generously give your time and talents to make our events and programs run smoothly. The impact is immeasurable. Volunteers have the most amazing superpower of all.

Kids Sunday started in October, and it was a blast of cold air, but a great time. Big thanks to all who participated. Next gathering will be on Sunday, November 18 and December 16. The December gathering we will go caroling all are welcome to join in. Kids Sunday is every 3rd Sunday of the month from 12-3 for ages pre-k to 12th grade.

What is the "Hanging of the Greens?"

Our church is preparing for Christ's coming, which includes hanging greenery traditionally associated with everlasting life. Greens such as cedar for royalty, fir and pine boughs for everlasting life, holly symbolizing Jesus' death and ivy representing the resurrection are used.



November 17, 2017

2pm

Hobart United Methodist Church

This is the time when our churches share with our District Superintendent what our Parish has been doing for the past year. All are invited to attend.



There are several funds that are overseen by the Board of Trustees including Endowment, Organization, Restoration and Memorial. When a loved one has passed away, families and friends often donate to the Memorial Fund. The purpose of the Memorial Fund is to provide individuals the opportunity to memorialize a loved one through contributions to church. The “Memorial Fund” is a way to remember the faithful departed by family and friends who want to pay tribute to a life well lived. It is used to purchase items which contribute to worship at any of our churches. As special projects or suggested uses arise within the church, the Memorial Fund has fulfilled such requests.

In the past few years, memorial gifts to our churches have been used for sanctuary items, carpeting, altar items, music needs, recognition plaques, technology and equipment upgrades, worship needs, hymnals and various structural updates.

Your generous gifts are welcome to each of our churches in memory of a loved one. The Board of Trustees will honor any planned donations received via a check, a personal will or estate directive as required by

law. The person's name and the words "memorial fund" should be in the check memo field of any donation. All gifts are used in a manner that will enhance our Church's ministry or can be used per specific request of the donor. Please see the addresses listed to send in a donation.

THERE
IS ALWAYS
something
TO BE
grateful
FOR



The Bloomville UMC Sunday School is held during the 11:00 am service. Our Sunday School is a time-honored tradition that serves PreK - 12th grade.

Sunday School will be doing a month long study of thankfulness and those that we have to be thankful for. The kids will take a look at all of the various individuals that they have in their lives

and how each of those individuals contributes to their overall well-being. Kids will participate in activities and create fun take aways to not only recognize who they have to be grateful for, but ultimately (our main goal) is to realize and understand that all of the blessings in our lives come from God, and that we can show our thanks to Him in many ways as well!

For the Christmas season kids will be examining what Christmas means to them. We will be taking a look at the events leading up to the birth of Christ, the promise of a Savior (and what that means for our lives), what gifts we would bring to the baby Jesus and sharing how we celebrate this special occasion. There will be plenty of activities and games for kids to participate in as well!

We would like to have a Sunday afternoon where the kids stay and make special ornaments for their trees at home, or even the church tree. A note will be sent home from Sunday School with more information. A quick check will be made with the parents to see which day might work best and then we'll go from there!

We are in need of teachers, juices and snacks and we will be asking for craft items as the needs arise. We thank you for the support you give to allow us to try new ventures to educate our youth!



As winter weather approaches, just a reminder that DHP churches will be open for worship on Sundays, regardless of the weather. . . except in very extreme conditions such as a hurricane, "100-year" flood, sub-zero temperatures, high winds, icy roads, blinding blizzard conditions, power failure, etc. . . (you get the idea)

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 Facebook page when in doubt.



Sunday, Dec. 23 -

* 9am, Stamford UMC

Monday, Dec. 24 -

* 5:30pm, Bloomville UMC

* 5:30pm, Hobart UMC

* 7pm, Township UMC

Upcoming Events

November

- 1 Bishop's Retreat
WIC, Stamford Baptist Church
- 4 Communion
Pastor Dee at Robinson Terrace
- 5 Noon prayers with Pastor Dee
- 7 Food Bank at Bloomville Episcopal Church, 2-5pm
- 8 Parish Council, 7pm
- 12 Noon prayers with Pastor Dee
Hobart UMC council, 7pm
- 17 Pancake breakfast, Bloomville UMC, 8-12pm
Charge Conference, 2pm,
Hobart UMC
Soup's On, 5:30
- 18 Friends of Music, Stamford UMC, 3pm
- 19 Noon prayers with Pastor Dee
- 21 Thanksgiving Eve Service @
Township UMC, 7:30
- 26 Noon prayers with Pastor Dee

December

- 2 Communion & Hanging of the Greens
Carols & Lessons, St. Peter's
Episcopal Church, 4pm
- 3 Noon prayers with Pastor Dee
- 8 Community Chorale of the
Catskills, Margaretville UMC,
7:30pm
- 9 Community Chorale of the
Catskills, Gould Church, 2:30pm
- 10 Noon prayers with Pastor Dee
- 17 Noon prayers with Pastor Dee
- 24 Noon prayers with Pastor Dee
Christmas Eve, Bloomville 5:30
Christmas Eve, Hobart, 5:30
Christmas Eve, Township, 7pm
- 30 5th Sunday at Stamford UMC, 10am
- 31 Noon prayers with Pastor Dee

In the Spotlight



Thank you to the Hungerfords



A day on the farm



Youth group outing with the Hungerfords



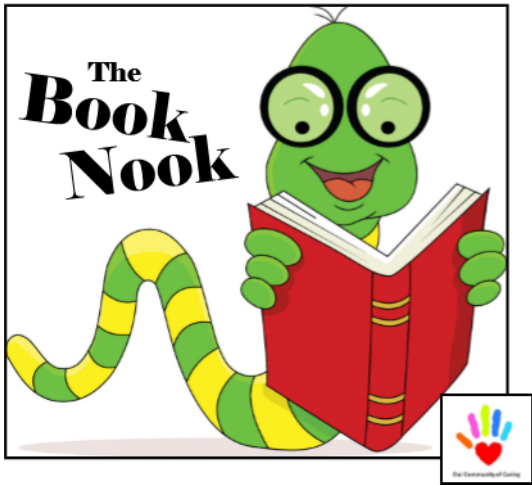
Barbara Ackerley's leadership on
Laity Sunday



Blessings of a baptism



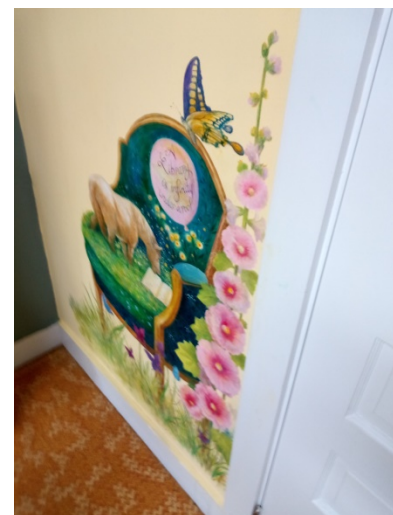
UMW Award to Bev Rockefeller



Bittersweet words this month, as I announce that The Book Nook is closed for the season. We will reopen in May of 2019. If you need to return borrowed books or would like to share thoughts about the library, please contact me at 845-282-6397 or spyingheart@hotmail.com. Also please continue to follow on Facebook for updates on plans for the 2019 season, as well as notices about possible "pop up" hours of operation throughout the winter.

Thank you to everyone who helped bring joy to the space during the 2018 season,
Julie Rockefeller

Photos from a fun summer at the Book Nook



A Library is infinity under a roof!

Judith Cheng

Five things you may not know about Christmas

We know the stories in the Bible, attend Advent and Christmas Eve worship each year, listen to tons of Christmas carols, and have seen just about every Christmas movie and special. We United Methodists know a lot about Christmas, but like most things there is always more to learn. Here are a few lesser-known tidbits.

John Wesley never published a Christmas sermon

If you search for Christmas sermons by John Wesley, you won't find any. He never published one.

One reason may be that when the Puritans rose to power in mid-1600s England, Christmas fell out of favor. Authorities passed laws attempting to prohibit the celebration of Christmas. On Christmas Eve, some towns even sent criers to call out, "No Christmas! No Christmas!"

It wasn't until the mid-1800s, that Christmas had a resurgence in England. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were of German background, and popularized the Christmas tree tradition in England. The popularity of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* published in 1843 may also account for the holiday's resurgence.

John Wesley's Methodist movement began in England during those 200 years of Christmas suppression. As a result, there is no evidence they celebrated Christmas other than with a special worship service.

Many of the English emigrants to America at this time were also Puritans who were suspicious of Christmas celebrations. In 1600s Boston they passed a law under which people were to be fined 5 shillings for not working on Christmas. It was not until 1870 that Christmas became a national holiday in the U.S.

Some speculate the Methodist preachers may have chosen to begin the founding conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church on Christmas Eve 1784 because they were all available. Methodists would later refer to that gathering as the Christmas Conference.

Charles Wesley wrote a popular Christmas song

John Wesley never published a Christmas sermon, but his hymn-writing brother Charles wrote songs for the season from the very beginning. The first Methodist hymnbook, *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739), includes Charles' "Hymn for Christmas-Day." The song begins, "Hark how all the welkin rings, 'Glory to the King of kings.'" Another Methodist preacher would change the opening line to words we know much better, "Hark! the Herald Angel Sings."

In a later publication, *Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord*, Wesley published 18 more hymns for the season. We still sing one of the songs in that collection, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus." The words in our United Methodist Hymnal today are almost exactly as Charles wrote them in 1745.

One wonders if Charles was the bigger fan of Christmas because his birthday is exactly a week before, December 18, 1707.

Nativities are filled with symbolism

What our nativities lack in historical accuracy is often due to the inclusion of powerful symbolism. For example, the baby Jesus figurine sometimes has outstretched arms, despite the angels' words to the shepherds that they would find him "swaddled and lying in a manger." The open arms are a sign of welcome, an invitation to receive the salvation we know in Christ. Other elements like animals, trees, and wells also have symbolic significance. Read "Nativity scenes: More than meets the eye" to learn more about your nativity set.

Many United Methodists also participate in *Las Posadas*, a symbolic representation of the nativity journey from the tradition of Latin American Christians. Each of the nine nights before Christmas, "commemorating the nine months Mary carried the infant Jesus in her womb and emphasizing his coming again," explains *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, the people travel together to a home where a host family is prepared for a celebration. When the procession arrives, they knock on the door and follow a liturgy that uses Scripture to remind everyone of the one who offered Mary and Joseph a place to stay the night Jesus was born, and our need to welcome Jesus into our lives. After the liturgy there is a piñata and food.

Joseph and Mary's journey

It may surprise even those who have been Christians for years, to learn how little we know about the man who raised Jesus. Joseph is only mentioned in 16 verses in the Bible and none of his words are recorded. The Bible tells us only two things definitively. His dad's name was Jacob, and

he worked as a craftsman, probably a woodworker.

Everything else we know about Joseph, we infer from how he responds to the news that an angel visited Mary, his betrothed, and told her she will give birth to Jesus. This could not have been easy news to hear, but even in this moment, Joseph acts nobly and faithfully. He does all he can to protect his new family and follow God wherever he leads.

One of the roads Joseph and Mary are called to travel is one from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Jesus is born. The approximate 100-mile journey on foot, with possible help from a donkey, took an estimated nine or ten days. In a podcast episode, the Rev. Adam Hamilton shares the response he received from a mom who was 9 months pregnant, "There's no way Joseph was getting me on a donkey, if that was me."

Red kettles have United Methodist links

When Christmas shopping, many encounter the red kettles and ringing bells of The Salvation Army. Not all will know that the Salvation Army has Methodist roots.

William Booth, a Methodist minister, started The Salvation Army in London in 1865. His passion for reaching the poor, homeless, and hungry with gospel of Jesus Christ led him to open a mission to meet people's physical needs. That mission continues to grow today.

Goodwill Industries is a similar organization with United Methodist ties. Methodist minister the Rev. Edgar J. Helms founded the organization in Boston in 1902. He hired and trained people in need of a job, to repair and resell donations he collected.

It comes to the point. You have everything you want. In fact more than you want. Or-- know what to do with. And then comes Christmas. The season for Americans to think about landfills and how much our Christmas gifts will be adding to them... Oh. And to think about baby Jesus...

So. I'm buying a goat. Not for me or anyone else I know. But a goat to change a life with.

Ten years of watching the Vacation Bible School mission tape in Richmond Hill finally caught up with me. Watching the video of Beatrice Biira in her torn red dress, slit in the back so she could grow--- her only dress in western Uganda-- doing family chores because there was no money to send her to school, bothered me every year. She was "on track to become one more illiterate African woman, another of the continent's squandered human resources," wrote Nicholas Kristof for the New York Times.

Then in Niantic, Connecticut, the Community Church children wanted to donate some goats for African Villagers through Heifer International. Heifer helps impoverished families all over the world.

The goat, the Biira family received, had twins. And soon they were able to sell and save from surplus milk and send Beatrice to school. Beatrice was 9 in the first grade. But she didn't care. She was learnin! And soon she was the top student in the school.

An American visiting the school was impressed and wrote a children's book, "Beatrice's Goat," about how the gift of a goat enabled a girl to go to school. Published in 2000 it became a best seller written by Page Mc Brier and illustrated by Lori Lohstoeter.

"Beatrice was such an outstanding student that she won a scholarship, not only to Uganda's best girl's high school but also to a prep school in Massachusetts and then to Connecticut College... A group of 20 donors to Heifer International --coordinated by a retired staff member named Rosalee Sinn, who fell in love with Beatrice when she saw her at age 10--financed the girl's living expenses." -Nicholas Kristof wrote.

The economist Jeffrey Sachs heard Beatrice speak and jokingly devised the "Beatrice Theorem" of development economics: small inputs can lead to large outcomes. Sounds like Jesus and the loaves and the fishes, (Matthew 14:17-20). The same Theorem!

So I'm buying a goat for Christmas. How about you?

<http://www.heifer.org>

Peace for Your Spirits & Joy for Your Souls

Pastor Dee

The Hobart United Methodist Church

Inclusion Statement

Who We Are. . .

At Hobart United Methodist Church, we are you. We are newborn, you and old, and in between. We grew up in the village or on a nearby farm and we are new to these mountains. We've retired and we are just starting out. Some of us have always known a church life and some are brand new. We are people full of faith and also experiencing doubt, we are gay and straight, single, in committed relationships, with and without kids, conservative and liberal, with full and empty pockets, recovering and encouraging. We are united by a deep dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

In This Place. . .

We greet each other with handshakes, humor, and hugs in a sanctuary of belonging and connection. We seek truth, understanding, and authenticity in our relationships with God, ourselves, and each other. We celebrate sacred space, music, service, creativity, play and food prepared and shared as expressions of God's love. We cultivate carrots, curiosity and healing of body and spirit. We honor the generations by guarding spaces for ancient tradition and new expressions of faith, with plenty of room for canes and wheelchairs and for strollers. We extend love and grace to all people, celebrating the unique gifts of each person, knowing that you don't have to fit in to belong. We believe in God's sufficiency in our hearts, our families, and our community.

Our Beliefs . . .

As a United Methodist Church, the heart of our theology is grace that surrounds each and every one of us before we even considered turning toward God. We believe that our faith grows stronger in a community where we can experience belonging, acceptance and guidance. Our response to grace is to show God's love in our words and actions.

Our Vision . . .

We imagine a life together in which each person experiences connection to one another and to God. This connection propels us to live our faith through our work and words, with our families and with strangers, in our neighborhoods and across oceans.

Our Mission. . .

We celebrate the unique gift that each person is to our community and the ways God's grace is reflected in each of us. We honor our faith traditions that bind us to Jesus Christ, to each other and to the generations who have carried Jesus' story through the ages. We worship a living God, so we continually look for Jesus being revealed to us through new eyes and with humble hearts, leaving behind habits that hinder our mission. We listen for God's word in our community and seek ways to share with all of our neighbors. We welcome the opportunity for creativity, meaningful work and joyful time together, always with an extra place at the table for you.

Endorsed by the Church Council and by the Board of Trustees July 2018



Please Bring a Wish List Item:
Paper towels, Bleach
Canned pate cat food, Cat treats
Dry kitten chow food
Canned dog food, Sturdy dog toys
Dishwashing gloves size M, L, XL
Thank you!

Soup's On!



Saturday, November 17

@St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Community Center, 464 River Street in Bloomville

5:00pm to 7:30pm

Join in!

Connect with friends and neighbors and help strengthen our community.

Free! All are Welcome! Bring a Friend!

Bring a dish to pass, free-will donations gladly accepted.

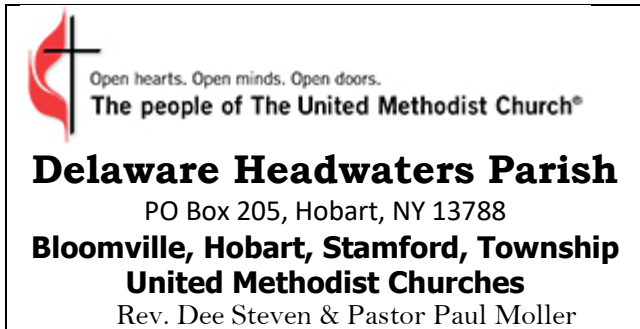
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***Celebrating the Rusyn
Cultures and Cuisines
Slovak, Czech, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish
with Martin Stefanichik***



Our Community of Caring



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