

# D. U. C. C. DIGEST

Dover United Church of Christ

December, 2019

## **Open and Affirming Covenant**

*The congregation of Dover United Church of Christ, in the spirit of Christ's invitation, "Look, I have set before you an open door," welcomes all who seek to know and share God's love. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person and celebrate the diversity in which God created us, each in God's image and loved by God. We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming persons of every race, language, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, and economic status into full membership and participation in the life, worship, rites and sacraments of this church. We commit to model a community of faith that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, reconciliation, healing and wholeness of life for all people.*

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.  
(Romans 15:7)*



## **Music and Fellowship Abounds All Season Long!**

You will want to mark your calendars for some very special events coming up in Advent!

**December 1**—stay after worship and help with decorating the church for the Christmas Season or sit and write Christmas greetings to Homewood residents. We will provide lunch at noon and carols as we work. Then at 1:30 p.m. we will carpool to *Tiny Tim's Christmas* at the Little Theatre in Mechanicsburg. (This replaces the Guild's traditional Christmas party at the church)

**December 8**—Renaissance will join us in worship! Hear the select choir from Dover High School and share the season with them.

**December 15**—The Hershey Handbell Ensemble returns at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Don't miss this beautiful concert hosted by the Guild! Last time they were here, we filled the sanctuary! A freewill offering will be received.

**December 21**—Join Barchue Guar and his guests as we celebrate Christmas with the Legacy Foundation. Concert to beginning at 6:00 p.m.

And of course we will have music from our choir and handbells all season long!

## **Blue Christmas Service, Wednesday, December 19**



Have you lost someone close to you in the past year? Will Christmas not be the same without them? Do you struggle with less daylight and feel kind of "blue" this time of year? Do you struggle with family issues at the holidays such as divorces, people not getting along, and all the demands from every direction? Do you tire of all the consumerism and just want a quiet place to be with God for a while? Then join us for our Blue Christmas Service on Friday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. This will be a prayer service where we offer up our lament, remember those not with us this year, and find God in the quiet.

**MISSION STATEMENT OF DOVER UCC**...gathered in joyful community as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ, we commit ourselves to the hearing, believing, and doing of His Word, shaping our lives by supporting one another, worshipping God, promoting justice and spreading the Gospel.

## Pastor's Reflection

Hope...Just as November challenges us to consider gratitude...December causes us to consider HOPE. It may seem like a challenge...after all, we have the longest night in December. Our schedules are filled to overflowing in December. We watch the last of leaves that have desperately clung to life finally fall and may see the first snowflakes or even inches of snow remind us that winter is here. Families will gather and sometimes be reminded that it isn't so easy to be with each other. And for some, they will be reminded that the ones they so loved to share the holiday with are not here anymore.

However, in December we spend the month preparing for Christmas—that day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. When that day comes and God breaks through all our defenses (and our hopelessness) Isaiah 35:1-2 says, "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing." It goes on to describe a time when a highway—the Holy Way—shall be made for God's people to travel on without fear. Verse 10 goes on, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

DO NOT LOSE FOCUS in this hectic season! Remember that we come to celebrate the in-breaking of HOPE and LOVE and PEACE and JOY! If we spend our time preparing for these things, we shall indeed be blessed!

*Pastor Eva*

Pastor Eva's cell phone number is 717-418-9627. Please call any time for pastoral emergencies. Her office hours: Mondays, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **E-Mail:** [pastor@doverducc.org](mailto:pastor@doverducc.org).

**Do you have a prayer concern? Call Gina Nell at 515-0314.**

### December Scriptures:

December 1: Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

December 8: Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 15: Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 22: Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

December 29: Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23



*Christmas Eve Services - 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.  
Services will include Scripture Readings, Anthems, Carols,  
Communion and will close with Candlelight.*



# DECEMBER NEWS



*“Don't let worry occupy the part of your heart  
where faith should live.”*

*Thank you's...*

Dear Friends, On behalf of the people we serve, thank you for your and generous gift of \$349.50 received on November 5. What a blessing to receive such generous support! Thank you dear friends!  
*Eric Saunders, Executive Director, New Hope Ministries*



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:  
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY  
9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 2020 DIGEST IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8.  
Early submissions will be most appreciated.**

**MORNING CHATTERS...** meets the last Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. at Dover Valley Restaurant. If you are interested in going to the DECEMBER session, please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The next meeting will be Tuesday, DECEMBER 31.



**PLEASE NOTE:** Pastor Eva's Bible Study will be changing the time on the first Tuesday of the month. On the first Tuesday, it will be at 1:00 p.m. Other Tuesdays we will still meet at 11:00 a.m. and then go to lunch. We are studying the Psalms. Come and join us!

Please check the bulletin board for ministry opportunities to serve—needed especially **are greeters and people to host fellowship on Sundays beginning September 8. To host fellowship, make coffee (directions provided), hot water, and have something cold to drink. If you would like to provide something to eat, it is more than welcome but not necessary!**

**Suicide Survivor Support Group:** Dover UCC hosts a suicide survivor support group the first Tuesday of the month in the Council room at 6:00 p.m. The group will be led by York County Suicide Prevention Coalition. Contact Cindy Richard (717) 227-0048 [crichard@penn-mar.org](mailto:crichard@penn-mar.org) for more information.

### **Additional calendar items:**

Adventurers #67 - Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. -  
Cub Scout Pack #67 - Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.  
Boy Scout Troop #67 - Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary - Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (Except the summer months)

**“Food Bank Sunday” is the first Sunday of every month...** Items may be brought to church and placed in the grocery cart located in the Fellowship Hall.

**NOVEMBER DONATIONS MADE TO NEW HOPE MINISTRIES:**

FOOD	123 pounds
PERSONAL GOODS	27 pounds
SCHOOL SUPPLIES	7 pounds

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

**We moved the basket for New Hope to the vestibule so we have a better reminder of the need for personal care items and paper goods. Food and personal care items can all be placed in the shopping cart. Remember... pick up extra soap, shampoo, deodorant or clean and/or laundry supplies. These are gratefully accepted from clients when available. Thank you!**

**Carols and Lunch!**

December 29, as we look to the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, we will worship at 10 a.m. and following worship, we will have a fellowship meal of pork and sauerkraut! Didn't get enough singing of Christmas carols? Never fear! We will spend the service on December 29 remembering where our carols came from and singing them to our hearts delight!

**Hershey Handbell Ensemble Returns December 15 at 3:00 p.m.!**

On Sunday, December 15, we will host the Hershey Handbell Ensemble at 3:00 p.m. Be here early to get a seat, because when they were last here, it was a full house! Having entertained at the White House and now doing six concerts this season, we are privileged to have them come to us. Formed in 2004, this auditioned community handbell ensemble is based in south-central Pennsylvania. The 16 member group plays seven octaves of Malmark Handbells, Handchimes, and assorted other instruments. There are no tickets but a free-will offering will be received. Bring your friends and family, your neighbors and your co-workers!

**Worship Time to Change in January 2020**

At the Congregational Meeting, it was decided to experiment for one year with our worship time. Beginning January 2020, Dover UCC will begin worship at 10:00 a.m. This will mean that adult education time will begin at 9:00 am and last for 40 minutes. At 9:40 there will be a fellowship time between the education hour and worship. Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. This will be true until Memorial Day. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, we will worship at 9:00 a.m with NO adult education time following worship. Then at Labor Day, we will resume our new schedule. We will see what effect this has on increasing worship attendance and will consider how it is working at the Congregational Meeting in November 2020.

**Book Club in December**

Book Club will be meeting in December on Wednesday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m at Cheri Swartzbaugh's home. For those who want something very different...we will be reading *The Christmas Sweater* by Glenn Beck. (Yes, that is right, Glenn Beck. For those of you who know him as a far right radio commentator, you may see him in a different light when you read this book.) When 13 year old Eddie receives only a sweater for Christmas from his single mom, he is obviously disappointed. He throws the sweater on the floor of his room and quickly forgets about it. But when tragedy strikes, Eddie begins to see things differently. All participants are encouraged to wear a Christmas sweater to the meeting. This book can be purchased for as little as \$3.50 on line or borrowed from the York County Library system.

## THE GUILD

**Dover Guild Cookie Sale – Delivery date is Sunday, December 15 or Monday, December 16. All orders are due by Sunday December 8.** \$7.00 per dozen in Chocolate Chip, Sugar, Peanut Butter Blsosom and Oatmeal Raisin. Order form is posted on the bulletin board. Extra forms are available on the table in the Narthex. Procees will go to the Rafiki Foundation to help support the Lighthouse Academy in Kenya.

### HOMEWOOD AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Homewood Auxiliary Membership Drive Is Currently Underway... See Shirley Hutchins to renew your membership in the Auxiliary for just \$3.00. For two people joining who live at the same address, \$5.00. Any questions, contact Shirley at 717-515-0314. She will be accepting dues until December 15.

### FROM THE OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

It is that time of the year again and I see from our many donations that **Christmas Blessings for New Hope** will be a success with all the many donations. All items need to be to the church by **Sunday, December 1st**. Anything brought in after that date should be taken to the New Hope office in Dover.

The Christmas stockings that were decorated and filled will go to the **All Star students and children at New Hope's Kids Club**. The gift cards and cash given will be used to make Christmas merrier for 5 students at **Hoffman Home**.

Many thanks to everyone who ordered sandwiches for our Guild/Outreach fundraiser for **Micro lending**. We made \$215 for this project. Thanks go out to my many helpers. There is a reason I don't work in high finance or food preparation!

Please remember we need volunteers each month for the **back pack program** and the **All Star Breakfast**. Rumor has it the backpack packing may come to Dover, I will keep you posted on that information. See the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

Our planning meeting for **Evangelism/ Outreach** will be on **January 8th at 6:30** at the church. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend. We would like to continue some programs we already have in place and perhaps add or change some we do currently. Please consider attending. We **LOVE** to have new voices and new ideas.

As I look at the end of a wonderful year I like to reflect on what we have accomplished. Not only have we visited other countries and states this year, but helped fix roofs in Daytona Florida and Hartman Center right here in our backyard. To me, it is all the people we have touched. I don't have enough space to thank everyone for all their volunteer hours from Revs games to sandwich sales. This congregation has the heart of a megachurch. We might be small, but we are mighty. Let us enter into 2020 with the generosity and love you have shown so many this past year.

Reflecting this holiday on the love and kindness of others,

Tonia L. Reinert, Evangelism/Outreach team leader

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Monthly All-Star Breakfast**

**Last Friday of each month**

**Hot breakfast ready at 7:55AM**

**The next breakfast will be**

**Friday, December 20.**

## DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

If there are any changes for the bulletin, please contact the church office at least one week ahead. The cost of Altar Flowers is \$30.00 and special arrangement is \$30.00. Please make all checks payable to Dover UCC. If mailing your check, send it to the church office, 45 West Canal Street, Dover, 17315. If payment is included in the offering envelope, please indicate "altar flowers" on the envelope. **If you would like to order a special arrangement in honor or loving memory, please contact Gina Nell at 717-515-0314.**



### DECEMBER

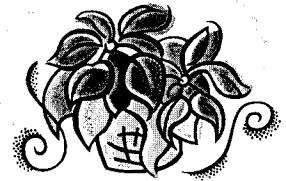
December 1	Ben & Josie Crone
December 8	Gerry Reider
December 15	Tom Miller
Special	Gina Nell
December 22	Sandy Markle
December 29	Verda & Scott McFadden

### JANUARY

January 5	Terry & Pam Emig
January 12	Bill & Karen Plappert
January 19	Carl & JoAnne Fry
January 26	Phil & Nancy Brown

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

There is a birthday listing for two months posted on the bulletin board as you enter the church. Please add your name to the calendar if you are not already listed and we'll be sure to include your name in the future. Why not send someone on the list a card and wish them a Happy Birthday!!



3	Jessica (Crone) Smith	23	William Fox
	Josie Crone	25	Christine Rupp
8	Cathy Dietrich	27	Hannah Holliday
14	Jon Emig	29	Holly Fox
16	Dodie Gross		Mary Kelly
17	Jeff Swartzbaugh	31	LouAnn Fenstermacher

### VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Lay Reader:	<b>YOU! Sign up on the Bulletin Board</b>
Altar Guild:	Anita Hensel, Christine Rupp, Debbie Markle
Shut-In Visitor:	Mary Duttera

## PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Gerry Shaffer  
3411 Sycamore Road  
Dover, PA 17315  
717-292-2867

Deloris Crone  
Providence Place #218  
3377 Fox Run Road  
Dover, PA 17315

Hilda Eyster  
74 Chesapeake Estates  
Thomasville, PA 17364  
717-792-0496

Charles (Grace) Bates  
1811 W. Philadelphia St.  
York, PA 17404  
717-843-0467

Fay Gentzler  
1920 Trolley Road #229  
York, PA 17408  
(614) 325-1635 (cell)

Grace Trimmer  
Haven at Springwood  
Horizon Unit  
2321 Freedom Way, York 17402

The following people have agreed to visit:

JAN - Millie Murray & Kay Fickes  
FEB - Verda McFadden & Betty Snook  
MAR - Gina Nell & Nancy Brown  
APR - Mary Duttera & Doris McCallister  
MAY - Annette Masenheimer & Spring Davidson  
JUN - Carol Stayrook & Anna Gladfelter

JULY- Nancy Brown & Gina Nell  
AUG -  
SEPT- Dennis Hall  
OCT - Carol Stayrook & Tonia Reinert  
NOV - Cathy Dietrich  
DEC – Mary Duttera

Remember our members at the Brethren Home Community (with cards)

Jack Strausbaugh - Wayne & Dodie Gross

Please call Anita Hensel at 717-792-0029 with any changes or additions.

## CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING 2019

On Christmas Eve, we receive a special offering? For what or whom? The Veterans of the Cross—those who have served as active and retired clergy and lay employees, such as the one who said this... ***"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives." "...thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime'."*** These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering. You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in the 2018 Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering. This year's theme is "The light is surely coming." Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

## NOVEMBER – DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER



November 25, Monday  
November 26, Tuesday

**Office Hours: 9:00 – 1:00**

Facilities in use – 7:00-10:00 a.m.

All Star Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.

Morning Chatters – Dover Valley Restaurant – 9:00 a.m. **No Bible Study**

Handbell rehearsal – 7:00 p.m.

November 28, Thursday  
December 1, Sunday

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

*First Sunday in Advent*- Worship & Communion - 9:00 a.m.

*Benevolent Offering*

"Hanging of the Greens" – decorating the church – following worship

Lunch will be served at noon

Carpool to "*Tiny Tim's Christmas*" - 1:30 p.m.

**Deadline for Christmas Blessings for New Hope**

December 2, Monday  
December 3, Tuesday

**Office Hours: 9:00 – 1:00**

Bible Study – 1:00 p.m.

Suicide Survivor Support Group – 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. (Conference Room)

Stewardship Team – 6:00 p.m.

Handbell rehearsal – 7:00 p.m.

**December 4, Wednesday**  
December 5, Thursday  
December 6, Friday

**Church Office closed**

Prayer Group – 6:00 p.m.

Facilities in use – 8:00 a.m. - ?

Choir practice – 7:00 p.m.

December 8, Sunday

*Second Sunday in Advent* Worship - 9:00 a.m.

*Advent Concert – Renaissance - during worship*

**MISSION MOMENT: Bethany Children's Home**

Education Hour: 10:30 a.m.

**DUCC Digest deadline**

**Deadline for cookie orders**

December 9, Monday  
December 10, Tuesday

Church Council – 6:30 p.m.

Backpacks at New Hope – 10:00 a.m. from the church

Bible Study – 1:00 p.m.

Handbell rehearsal – 7:00 p.m.

December 12, Thursday

ONA – 5:30 p.m.

Choir practice – 7:00 p.m.

December 14, Saturday

Facilities in use – 8:00 a.m. - ?

December 15, Sunday

*Third Sunday in Advent* Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Education Hour: 10:30 a.m.

Hershey Handbells – 3:00 p.m. – Dover U.C.C.

Facilities in use – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

December 17, Tuesday

Bible Study – 1:00 p.m.

Handbell rehearsal – 7:00 p.m.

December 18, Wednesday

Book Club – 5:30 p.m. at Cheri Swartzbaugh's

December 19, Thursday

Blue Christmas Worship – 6:00 p.m.

Choir practice – 7:00 p.m.

December 20, Friday

Facilities in use – 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.

All Star Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.

December 21, Saturday

Facilities in use – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Barchue Guar and his guests as we celebrate Christmas with the Legacy Foundation. Concert begins at 6:00 p.m.

**Calendar continues on next page**



December 22, Sunday	<i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> <b>Offering Received for Bethany Children's Home</b> Education Hour: 10:30 a.m. Facilities in use – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
December 23, Monday	<b>Office hours – 9:00 – 1:00</b>
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve</i> <b>Worship with Communion at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.</b> <b>Offering received for Christmas Fund</b>
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Merry Christmas</i>
December 26, Thursday	<b>Office hours – 9:00 – 1:00</b>
December 29, Sunday	<b>Carols and Lunch! Worship at 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Following worship – Pork and Sauerkraut</b>
December 30, Monday	<b>Office hours – 9:00 – 1:00</b>
December 31, Tuesday	<b>Office hours – 9:00 – 1:00</b> Morning Chatters – Dover Valley Restaurant – 9:00 a.m. <b>No Bible Study</b>
January 1, 2020	<i>Happy New Year!</i>
January 2 – Thursday	<b>Office hours – 9:00 – 1:00</b>

### Around the York Association...

**Hayshire UCC, 100 Haybrook Drive, York - Cookies with Santa – Saturday, December 7, beginning 4:00 p.m.**

- Bring the kids to meet Santa and enjoy a special story time to learn about the true meaning of Christmas. Cookies, juice, and hot chocolate for all. Enter the free raffle to win a Christmas themed stocking for your little one. Doors open at 4:00, Story Time begins at 4:30.

**St. Peter's Lischey's UCC - 5671 Lischeys Church Rd, Spring Grove  
Christmas Cookie Extravaganza & Christmas Craft Bazaar  
Saturday, December 14, beginning at 8:00 a.m.**

- St. Peter's Lischey's UCC is located just outside of Spring Grove. Come stroll through a cookie wonderland and choose from a wide variety of home-baked cookies and goodies in our downstairs fellowship hall, while our upstairs gathering areas will be well-stocked with hand-crafted gifts and decorations to impress your friends and family at holiday gatherings. For more information, please call the church office at (717) 225-3932.

DOVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
45 West Canal Street  
Dover, PA 17315



*December 2019*

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**DOVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
45 West Canal Street  
Dover, PA 17315  
(717) 292-3743  
[www.doverducc.org](http://www.doverducc.org)  
[office@doverducc.org](mailto:office@doverducc.org)

Worship Service 9:00 AM      Sunday School 10:30 AM (Children/Youth Activities)  
10:30 AM (Adult)

Pastor Eva O'Diam  
[pastor@doverducc.org](mailto:pastor@doverducc.org)

Willie Scofield	Secretary	Susan Storm	Organist & Choir Director
Sue McNeely	Bookkeeper	Annette Masenheimer	Financial Secretary
Terry Emig	Sexton		

**Youth Advisor – PERHAPS YOU?**

Guild Officers: President – Neil Stayrook; Vice President – Sue Storm  
Annette Masenheimer - Secretary; Millie Murray – Treasurer

**DOVER UCC CHURCH COUNCIL**

President – Jeff Millford	Vice President – Available
Treasurer – Annette Masenheimer	Evangelism/Outreach Ministry Team– Tonia Reinert
Council Secretary – Pam Rutledge	Music/Worship Ministry Team – Anna Gladfelter
Property/Grounds Ministry Team – Tom Miller	Membership Ministry Team – Jim Markle
Fellowship Ministry Team – Steph Brown	Faith Formation Ministry Team – Roxie Konzal