

# D. U. C. C. DIGEST

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Dover United Church of Christ

February, 2021

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## **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)*

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## ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 17

This year, we will remember Ash Wednesday a little differently. On Ash Wednesday, you may worship at whatever time you please by watching a video that will be on our Facebook page. It will be scripture, poetry, and music, reflecting on why we remember Ash Wednesday and suggesting our theme for Lent. Then to receive ashes, you are invited to drive by the church either from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Pastor Eva or Spring will meet you and give you a white mask with ashes in the form of a cross. The mask is yours to wear through the Lenten Season and beyond. (Just remember when washing it, the ashes will come out.)

The following thoughts by Fay Gentzler, recently put together in a book by her family, will form the theme for our Lenten time this year...

“There is a richness here—a gorgeous flowing richness of unending abundance.

But, that doesn't mean it guides us.

Our ways within and beyond our control speak of something different  
of lack of fear, of something other than an acknowledgement of God's endless river of grace.

But, how do we step into the river? Do we step into it with trust?

Do we trust the current of God's generous gifts? Or do we run from the river?

For when we run from the river we turn away from God's abundance.

Now is the time to begin something new. Now is the time to trust differently.”

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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.

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## Pastor's Reflection

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. Where did this observance come from? In the early Christian church, the length of the Lenten Season varied, but eventually it began six weeks before Easter. This provided only 36 days of fasting (excluding Sundays). In the seventh century, four days were added before the first Sunday in Lent to establish 40 days of fasting—an imitation of Jesus' fast in the wilderness.

It was the practice in Rome (remember Christians were all catholic at the time) for penitents to begin their period of public penance on the first day of Lent by being sprinkled with ashes and dressed in sackcloth. They were required to remain apart until they were reconciled with the Christian community on Maundy Thursday (when the Last Supper would be remembered) and the whole community would celebrate the Eucharist. Eventually these practices fell into disuse (eighth to tenth century) and the church began the practice of placing ashes on the heads of the entire congregation.

There is NO mention of Ash Wednesday in the Bible. There IS a tradition of associating the wearing of ashes as a sign of repentance that predates Jesus. You can find references in Daniel, Esther, Samuel, Isaiah and Jeremiah that associate ashes with the act of repentance.

So what are we to do with this practice? Some say we do not need to wear ashes on our heads at all. Not all Christians follow this practice. Many do...and we will offer the wearing of ashes this year at Dover UCC. Why? I think it is especially significant to wear ashes this year. In a year when we have seen protests relating to Black lives being lost, terrorists from within the United States, police pushed to the brink, food lines lengthen, schools closed, businesses lost. In a year when we have lost so many lives to Covid-19, to remember that "we are dust and to dust we shall return" (as God said to Adam as he was told to leave the Garden of Eden) is to know that God formed us and it is to God we will return. As we distribute masks with the sign of the cross on them, we will remember we are God's and it is to God we will return—each of us in our own time. It is a sobering thought, AND it is a statement of faith. God is holding your life—we believe! The cross on the outside of the mask that we wear to protect others (and ourselves) from a deadly virus, is also a SIGN OF WHOSE WE ARE!!!

The number of cases is slowly coming down...the virus is changing to different strains because it wants to win...but we know WHOSE we are...and we *can double mask* AND *receive the vaccine* when it becomes available AND *wear our cross of ashes* AND *draw close to our God and one another*. **And God will win out in the end!** As we journey to Easter...when we will again say...Hallelujah!

*Pastor Eva*

Pastor Eva's cell phone number is 717-418-9627. Please call any time for pastoral emergencies. **E-Mail: [pastor@doverducc.org](mailto:pastor@doverducc.org). Her office hours: Tuesdays, 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 Nancy Schubert at 717-292-2113.**

## *A Thank you..*

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and lovely fruit basket. We are enjoying apples, oranges, tangelos, tomatoes and candy. Especially during this Covid-19 time, we appreciate your warm thoughts. Best wishes to all for a better 2021. Happy New Year to all.

“Life is what we are alive to. It is not length but breath... Be alive to... goodness, kindness, purity, love, history, poetry, music, flowers, stars, God and eternal hope.” Mattie Babcock

*Mary and Eva*

## FEBRUARY NEWS



### *“Risky Business”*

*It's a risk to have a husband, a risk to have a son;*

*A risk to pour your confidences out to anyone;*

*A risk to pick a daisy, for there's sure to be a cop;*

*A risk to go on living, but a greater risk to stop.*

*~ Ruth Mason Rice*

## February Scriptures:

February 7: Psalm 111

February 14: Psalm 147

February 21: Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

February 28: Psalm 22:23-31; Mark 8:31-38

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH DIGEST IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14.**

**Early submissions will be most appreciated.**



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY**

**9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**



*Our Christian sympathy is with the family and friends of Dorcas Tanner who passed away on January 7; with Sonia Dittenhafer on the death of her husband Frank on January 11; the family and friends of Janet Ickes who passed away on January 16; and Sandy Markle, Carol and Neil Stayrook on the death of their mother Martha Markle on January 18. Please keep these members and their family members in your prayers.*

## Adult Faith Formation meets Sunday's at 9:00 a.m.

The Adult Faith Formation continues to meet on Sunday, January 3 at 9:00 a.m. by zoom. We are studying ***When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times*** by Pema Chodron. The chapters are short and very readable and is available on Amazon.com or BetterWorldBooks.com. It is in print form, on CD, or download to your Kindle. Don Gardner and Pastor Eva will lead this book. This is a book that Don Gardner has testified has changed his life and again and again he returns to glean more from the pages. Pema Chodron is an American Buddhist nun and will demonstrate how order can come to disordered lives. Included in the book are:

- ways to use painful emotions to cultivate wisdom, compassion and courage
- ways to communicate that lead to openness and true intimacy with others
- practices for reversing our negative habitual patterns
- methods for working with chaotic situations
- ways to cultivate compassionate, energetic social action

Join us for this interesting discussion! Pastor Eva will send out the zoom link the week before. If you do not receive it, and would like to be part of the class, please let her know.

## *Evening Bible Study Opportunity*

Starting on Wednesday evenings join us for Bible Study. Why not make it your Lenten Practice? We will look at the early church that did not have the traditions and history that we have...they were just beginning as groups following Jesus. Paul was teaching them how to be the community of Christ! We will begin with Galatians, then move to Ephesians and then see where we are led next! We will discuss what Paul is trying to say, what speaks to us, and with what words we might struggle. We will begin at 7:00 p.m. You may join us in person OR by zoom. Each week, Pastor Eva will send out a zoom link to those interested. Join us every week or as you are able. We will have a good time looking at the Word and sharing our thoughts about God and God's love!

## *Thank You!*

Many of you have been faithful in sending in your offerings each week even when we have not been meeting in our building. That has made a world of difference as we pay the bills that are still coming in and strive to care for our staff by continuing to pay them. **Please remember our monthly mission offering—Lancaster Theological Seminary.** If a check is to be divided, mark in the memo how it is to be divided. Offerings can be mailed in, paid by your bank's bill paying service, or dropped in the mail slot at the church. The mail is picked up each day and offerings are safely kept for deposit which is still done each week. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving!

## Special Olympics Plunge

The plunge scheduled for February 2021 has been cancelled. There are just too many risks and limitations to safely be able to hold the annual Plunge. Bill, Michael, and I would like to thank Pastor Eva and her "faithful plunge team" for helping York County to raise money annually for our program. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Dover UCC congregation who also donated money on behalf of Michael. The good news is that we did not have a need to use much money in 2020 so we are financially good for 2021. Many thanks to everyone --- Bill, Karen, and Michael Plappert

*Not too late to join the discussion....*  
*A Promised Land by Barack Obama Book Club's Next Read*

This is how the New York Times describes this book, "Presidential memoirs are meant to inform, to burnish reputations and, to a certain extent, to shape the course of history, and Obama's is no exception. What sets it apart from his predecessors' books is the remarkable degree of introspection. He invites the reader inside his head as he ponders life-or-death issues of national security, examining every detail of his decision-making; he describes what it's like to endure the bruising legislative process and lays out his thinking on health care reform and the economic crisis. An easy, elegant writer, he studs his narrative with affectionate family anecdotes and thumbnail sketches of world leaders and colleagues. "A Promised Land" is the first of two volumes — it ends in 2011 — and it is as contemplative and measured as the former president himself."

We thought it would be fun to look at what goes on inside the thinking of a President of the United States. This book is available from BetterWorldBooks.com or Amazon or can be downloaded to your kindle or found at the library. Join us on Tuesday, February 2 at 5:30 pm, at the church, in person or by zoom to share your thoughts...

**Wanted: Additional helpers for the Church's Livestream Team**

As we all know, our church has relied on Facebook Livestreaming to bring the Sunday service into our homes since the beginning of the pandemic. Many months later our congregation continues to rely on Facebook Livestreaming and Uberconference for our worship services.

The Livestream Team is in the need of additional volunteers with this ministry. Being a technical genius is not a necessity. Some familiarity might be helpful. Training will be provided. Please consider helping us. If you would be willing to help with this ministry or have questions or interest, please contact Pastor Eva, or Cathy Dietrich (717-792-9630).

**DECEMBER – JANUARY DONATIONS MADE TO NEW HOPE MINISTRIES:**

FOOD	46 pounds
PERSONAL	3 pounds
BLANKETS	5 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!**

**Suicide Survivor Support Group:** Dover UCC hosts a suicide survivor support group the first Tuesday of the month in the Council room at 6:30-8:00 p.m. This group can meet face-to-face or remotely but you **must register** first either through Facebook, their website or calling Cindy. Cindy Richard (717) 227-0048 [crichard@penn-mar.org](mailto:crichard@penn-mar.org) for more information.

**MORNING CHATTERS... has been suspended for now.**  
**We will let you know when the next one will be.**

## Thank you's...

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, texts and well wishes during Jeff's surgery and recovery. It means the world to us!  
*Jeff and Cheri Swartzbaugh*

Dear Friends, On behalf of the people we serve at New Hope Ministries, thank you for your very kind and generous gift of \$276.88 received December 3. Your generous financial gifts and abundant prayers today bring help and hope to our neighbors in times of need. Together, let's share the love and hope we have in Christ with the people we serve every day. Thank you for your kindness. Gratefully,

*Eric Saunders, Executive Director, New Hope Ministries*

Dear Friends, thank you for your generous contribution of \$45 which we appreciate more than ever in these challenging times. Your compassionate support is helping impoverished communities. I have seen the resilience and resolve of the people and communities we assist. And I have been deeply moved by the generosity of people like you, who give hope and opportunity to people in need, here in the U.S. and around the world. May God bless you for your kindness.

*Rev. John L. McCullough, President/CEO Church World Service*

## FEBRUARY 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.**



### FEBRUARY

February 7 Gina Nell  
February 14 Nancy Schubert  
February 21 Jeff & LouAnn Fenstermacher  
February 28 Helen Landis

### MARCH

March 7 Randy & Annette Masenheimer  
March 14 Millie Murray  
March 21 Sandy Markle  
March 28 Ben & Josie Crone

**PLEASE NOTE: The following dates need sponsors for the Altar Flowers: May 30 and October 31. If you're interested in sponsoring the Altar Flowers for any of these dates, please contact Gina Nell at 717-515-0314. Thank you.**

## FEBRUARY 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!!



4 Tonia Reinert

15 Bev Fox

27 Archer Koogle

## FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER



February 2, Tuesday	10:00 AM Bible Study in person at the church or by Uberconference by calling 717-297-0750.
February 3, Wednesday	Girl Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship hall) Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. - You may join us in person OR by zoom. Contact Pastor Eva for the zoom link to those interested.
February 4, Thursday	Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
February 7, Sunday	<b><i>Benevolent offering</i></b> Adult Faith Formation – 9:00 a.m. Dover UCC by zoom. Contact the Pastor if you would like the zoom connection. WORSHIP – 10:00 a.m. live stream on Facebook and uberconference ONLY
February 8, Monday	<b>Dover UCC Council meeting – 6:30 p.m. – in person or by zoom. The congregation is welcome to attend, If you would like the zoom connection, please contact Pastor Eva.</b>
February 9, Tuesday	10:00 AM Bible Study in person at the church or by Uberconference by calling 717-297-0750.
February 10, Wednesday	Girl Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship hall) Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. - You may join us in person OR by zoom. Contact Pastor Eva for the zoom link to those interested.
February 11, Thursday	Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
February 14, Sunday	Adult Faith Formation – 9:00 a.m. Dover UCC by zoom. Contact the Pastor if you would like the zoom connection. 10:00 a.m. live stream on facebook and uberconference ONLY.
February 16, Tuesday	<b><i>DUCC Digest deadline</i></b> 10:00 AM Bible Study in person at the church or by Uberconference by calling 717-297-0750. Girl Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship hall) 5:30 PM – Book Club, in person or by Zoom; reading <i>A Promised Land</i> by Barack Obama
February 17, Wednesday	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> - Worship at your own pace on Facebook and receive ashes on a facemask provided by the church. Drive thru times for picking up your mask 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. OR 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. - You may join us in person OR by zoom. Contact Pastor Eva for the zoom link to those interested.
February 18, Thursday	Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
February 21, Sunday	Adult Faith Formation – 9:00 a.m. Dover UCC by zoom. Contact the Pastor if you would like the zoom connection. 10:00 a.m. live stream on Facebook and uberconference ONLY. - Communion be celebrated - Bring your own Communion elements.
will	
February 23, Tuesday	<b><i>MISSION MOMENT: Lancaster Theological Seminary</i></b> 10:00 AM Bible Study in person at the church or by Uberconference by calling 717-297-0750.
February 24, Wednesday	Girl Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship hall) Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. - You may join us in person OR by zoom. Contact Pastor Eva for the zoom link to those interested.
February 25, Thursday	Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

## PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

Deloris Crone  
Providence Place #404  
3377 Fox Run Road  
Dover, PA 17315

Gina Nell  
Providence Place #908  
3377 Fox Run Road  
Dover, PA 17315  
717-515-0314

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

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

The following people have agreed to visit:

JAN - Carol Stayrook	JULY- Nancy Brown & Gina Nell
FEB - Verda McFadden & Nancy Schubert	AUG - Tonia Reinert
MAR - Gina Nell & Nancy Brown	SEPT- Dennis Hall
APR - Mary Duttera & Doris McCallister	OCT - Millie Murray & Kay Fickes
MAY - Annette Masenheimer & Spring Davidson	NOV - Cathy Dietrich
JUN - Carol Stayrook & Anna Gladfelter	DEC – Mary Duttera

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

Jack Strausbaugh - Wayne & Dodie Gross

Call Carol Stayrook at 717-873-8862 with any changes or additions.

### DOVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

Members present: Steph Brown; Spring Davidson; Anna Gladfelter; Jim Markle; Tom Miller; Jeff Millford; Pastor Eva O'Diam; Tonia Reinert; and Pam Rutledge. Roxie Konzal was absent. Neil Stayrook was also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

Jeff opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Pastor Eva shared concerns and a prayer.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the December 2020 meeting were reviewed. Tonia moved to accept the minutes; Anna seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- There was no December treasurer's report, as Spring did not receive needed information from Sue McNeely. Therefore, both the December and January treasurer's reports will be given at the February Church Council meeting.

#### **Special Discussion:**

- Neil Stayrook asked to have a written request, stating the amount of money to be transferred from the treasury from Grace Trimmer's estate to the General Endowment Fund. Spring made a motion to move \$310,000 from the checking account to the General Endowment Fund; the motion was seconded by Jim and passed unanimously. Jim will forward the written request to Neil, Spring, Pam, and Sue McNeely.
- The Empowerment Team has been formed with Neil serving a chairperson. The team members are Mary and Craig Duttera; Annette Masenheimer; Barb Kimpel; Patrick Swatsworth; and Nicki Shepski. Mike Gibbs will serve as coach. Due to a grant, there is no cost for the



sessions. The first meeting of the Empowerment Team will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2021.

**Pastor's Report** (discussion points were as follows):

- Discussion was held regarding returning to in-person worship. Tom, Pam, and Tonia spoke in favor of returning to worship for those who feel comfortable doing so. However, Spring then shared the COVID statistics for York County and expressed the concern that it is not safe to return to worship at this time. Steph spoke in agreement with Spring's position. Pastor Eva felt that there are church members who really need to be present for worship. After further discussion, Tom moved that up to 10 attendees may be present for worship by calling the church office from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday to reserve a space. Tonia seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. This discussion will be revisited at the February Church Council meeting.
- Discussion followed regarding the Scouts' use of the church. Tom raised the question whether there could be any legal issues for the church. Pastor Eva will look at the insurance policy. Council members agreed that the Scouts may return to meeting at the church provided that they follow the posted safety protocols (i.e. masking, distancing, and sanitizing).
- The person who has been staying at the church seems to be following the written agreement with the exception of asking to be let in at inconvenient times.
- Pastor Eva is tentatively planning "drive-by" times on Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021) for those who wish to receive the imposition of ashes. The sign of the cross will be placed (using ashes) on face masks, which will then be distributed to those attend.
- Heritage Senior Center sent a letter asking for contributions to their building fund. For a contribution of \$3000, a plaque of recognition will be placed in the new building. As Dover UCC has a long history with the center, including volunteerism and participation in the services provided, it was agreed upon to support the building project. Anna Gladfelter made a motion to contribute \$3000 from Grace Trimmer's estate to the Heritage Senior Center building project. Jim Markle seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- The sound system installation is well underway and will be completed as soon as ordered components are available.

**Around-the-table Discussion:**

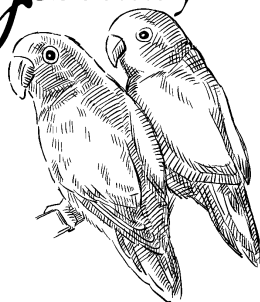
- Tom is seeking bids for painting the peeling window frames in the sanctuary and on the windowsill near the outside mail slot. Pastor Eva mentioned that there is a window frame in her office that is peeling and a light outside her office door needs to be replaced. The repaired plaster going down the steps also needs to be painted at some point. Other future items to be considered are the resealing and painting lines of the parking lot, refreshing the varnish on some of the pews, and replacing the carpet in the sanctuary.
- Tonia shared that the response to the New Hope Christmas Blessings was outstanding and food donations continue. She will share a Mission Moment for Heritage Senior Center on Sunday, January 17.
- Jim reported that the attorney who was handling Grace Trimmer's estate has retired, but his son will continue with the remainder of the estate matters. A check of around \$58,000 is still anticipated.
- It was suggested that an audit of the books be performed. Pastor Eva will ask Phil Brown if he will perform the audit.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m. Jeff closed with the prayer of St. Francis. The next Council meeting will be held on **Monday, February 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Pamela Rutledge

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

*February*



***2021***

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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)

Book Discussion 9:00 AM (Not during the summer)  
Worship Service 10:00 AM Children's Church (not at the present time)

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

Willie Scofield	Secretary	Susan Storm	Organist & Choir Director
Sue McNeely	Bookkeeper	Willie Scofield	Financial Secretary
		Barchue Guar	Sexton

**Youth Advisor – PERHAPS YOU?**

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

**DOVER UCC CHURCH COUNCIL**

President – Jeff Millford	Vice President
Treasurer – Spring Davidson	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