

THE DOVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
45 West Canal Street, Dover, PA 17315
Eva O'Diam, Pastor

First Sunday in Advent - Hope

November 28, 2021

Communion

WELCOME FRIENDS!

*On this first Sunday in Advent, Lord, help us to prepare ourselves
for celebrating Christmas with enthusiasm and sincerity.*

Masks are required to be worn during the service and to social distance.

PRELUDE

"Prepare the Way O Zion"

Lau

***Our time of worship begins as the prelude is played.
Please maintain a meditative silence.***

SINGING TOGETHER

**You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
No matter where you are on life's journey.
You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
come and join with us, we're united in the church of Christ.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hope in a chaotic world!

All: How our world needs Hope today!

One: Into a world of violence, occupation, poverty, disease, refugees, religion gone wrong,
and more...

All: Into such a world came the Christ child – the Hope of the World.

One: And so we come to worship today hoping for hope itself.

**All: We come placing our faith and hope in the Christ of Christmas, who has come, is
with us now, and who comes again and again.**

One: We welcome the Advent of Incarnational Hope.

All: We welcome one another to worship.

+ HYMN (See below)

"All Earth is Waiting"

TIME WITH THE YOUNG OF HEART

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

One: Today is the beginning of Advent— the preparation time for celebrating Christ's birth.
We are here because God's promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born.
God's promise is kept each Sunday when we worship because Christ is in our midst.
God will keep the promise to come again in glory.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:2

One: "For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will
arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you."

One: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world.

The Candle of Hope is lit.

One: Let us pray. O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds and so that we may be a people of hope in our world.

All: Amen.

HYMN (See below)

“The King of Glory”

COLLECT

One: Let us pray. Bless, O God, the “darkness” and all that scares me. Bless it and help me to find Your Presence in the “darkness.” Help us to know Your Hope that comes to us in this Season of Advent. And all God’s people say,

All: Amen.

One: God is still speaking.

All: Are we listening?

CONTEMPORARY WORD AND SCRIPTURE

From *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, by Barbara Brown Taylor

For now, it is enough to say that “darkness” is shorthand for anything that scares me--that I want no part of--either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out. The absence of God is in there, along with the fear of dementia and the loss of those nearest and dearest to me. So is the melting of the polar ice caps, the suffering of children, and the nagging question of what it will feel like to die. If I had my way, I would eliminate everything from chronic back pain to the fear of the devil from my life and the lives of those I love--if I could just find the right night-lights to leave on... But when we run from darkness, how much do we really know about what we are running from? If we turn away from darkness on principle, doing everything we can to avoid it because there is simply no telling what it contains, isn’t there a chance that what we are running from is God?

Luke 1:26-33

²⁶ When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his ancestor. He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his reign.”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

One: The Word of our Still-Speaking God!

All: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

MEDITATION

“Holy Darkness: Don’t Run”

Pastor Eva

ANTHEM

“Bring Us Hope”

INVITATION TO GIVE

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of promises and possibilities, we admit that we color the world according to our own limited vision and our own fears. We are often unjust in our judgments and fearful in our relationships. We are haunted by our own brokenness which we have not confessed. Help us to entrust them to your forgiving care. May we let go of our brokenness and our fears, that we may renew our covenant with you and live constructively with one another. In the spirit of Jesus who shows us hope in the midst of our darkness, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: God is our hope and God's mercy is new every morning. God embraces us as whole people and invites us to know that love in the midst of our fears and our unlovliness.

All: Thanks be to God!

SHARING COMMUNION

One: Welcome to this Table of Hope and possibility.

All: It is God who welcomes us and says there is enough for all who will come. So let us remember, pray, bless and receive.

One: You are Emmanuel, God-with-Us.

We do not have to wait to celebrate your coming into our world.

You are with us in our preparations, anticipation and longing.

We thank you for your Presence!

All: You are our God of Hope.

You are the One Promised Long Ago, who came surprisingly as one of us, a child. You experienced the fullness of humanity while inviting us into the fullness of divinity.

One: You brought hope....

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

+ HYMN (See below)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SONG

Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together, together in love.

+ BENEDICTION

+ CHORAL AMENS

+ POSTLUDE

The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of Arlene and Henry Miller
by Wayne and Dodie Gross.

(+All Who Are Able Are Invited to Stand)

Today's Greeter: Nancy Schubert

Elevator Operator: Anna Gladfelter

Reader: Tonia Reinert

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the increase of Covid-19 cases, even if you are fully vaccinated, with the rise of the Delta variant of Covid-19, we are requiring masks to be worn during the service and to once again social distance. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**4 Helpers are needed during worship service
on Sunday mornings!
We need 2 greeters (masked and gloved) to hand out bulletins and offer hand
sanitizer.
An elevator operator - A reader.**

All music is printed with permission under CCLI #2015774

"All Earth is Waiting"

1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor y el sur - co a - bier - to, la
 2 Di - ce el pro - fe - ta al pue - blo de Is - ra - el: "De ma - dre vir - gen ya
 1 All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One, and o - pen fur - rows, the
 2 Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el, "A vir - gin moth - er will

o - bra del Crea - dor; es el mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad,
 vie - ne Em - ma - nuel," se - rá "Dios con no - so - tros," se - mi - lla se - rá,
 sow - ing of our God. All the world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty;
 bear Em - man - u - el": One whose name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be,

re - cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. (4 dar - nos li - ber - tad.)
 con, él la es - pe - ran - za al mun - do vol - ve - rá. (4 brings us lib - er - ty.)
 it cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth.
 through whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.

- 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will
 have to be made plain;
 o - pen new high - ways,
 new high - ways for our God,
 Who is now com - ing closer,
 so come all and see,
 and o - pen the door - ways
 as wide as wide can be.
- 4 In low - ly sta - ble
 the Prom - ised One ap - peared,
 yet feel that pres - ence
 through - out the earth to - day,
 For Christ lives in all Chris - tians
 and is with us now;
 a - gain, on ar - riv - ing
 Christ brings us lib - er - ty.

"The King of Glory"

Refrain (Unison)

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es. voic - es.

sfz

Verses

1 Who is the King of glo - ry: what shall we call him?
 2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
 3 He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion,
 4 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
 he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
 he took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
 and he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
 or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

**Welcome to Dover United Church of Christ,
an Open and Affirming Church.**

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)*

**Large print worship materials are available.
Please see an usher.**

This Week at Dover UCC:

Monday	OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Petals – 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. TNT – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Zumba – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	MORNING CHATTERS – 9:00 A.M. - At the church —serving French toast with warm syrup and blueberries Kids Club – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Yoga – 5:30 – 6:30 p.m./6:45 – 7:45 p.m. (Sanctuary or Youth Room) Girl Scouts – 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Church Office closed Backpacks – 9:30 a.m. Petals – 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Bible Study – 6:00 p.m. In person or zoom Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Bell Choir – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Boy Scouts – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Yoga – 5:30 – 6:30 p.m./6:45 – 7:45 p.m. (Sanctuary or Youth Room) Choir – 7:00 p.m.
Friday	Facilities in use – all day.
Saturday	Yoga - 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (Sanctuary or Youth Room) Christmas Decorating – 9:00 a.m. – ALL ARE WELCOME!
Next Sunday	Second Sunday in Advent - Worship – 10:00 a.m. ADULT FAITH FORMATION – 9:00 A.M. in person or request the zoom link Contact the Pastor if you would like the zoom connection. We will study <i>Learning to Walk in the Dark</i> by Barbara Brown Taylor. Four books are available or order for your Kindle. WORSHIP – 10:00 a.m. - In-person, live stream on Facebook and Uberconference. at 717-297-0740. MISSION MOMENT: Bethany Children's Home Benevolent Offering DEADLINE for New Hope Christmas Blessings & Gifts for Homewood

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

Do you have a prayer concern? Call Nancy Schubert at 717-292-2113.

Pick up your household's BLESSING JAR! Our Theme this Christmas is ***Hope in a Chaotic World!*** One of the ways we recognize Hope is to look for our blessings. This year, every day of DECEMBER, we would like you as a household to take time to list blessings each day. If there is more than one in your household, you can all write on the same slip of paper. Fold the paper up and put it in your blessing jar. **On the First Sunday of the NEW YEAR** every family is asked to bring (or arrange for someone to pick it up and bring) your blessing jar to the church where we will experience SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS!!!! Even in a chaotic world, may God open our eyes and hearts to name our blessings!

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2022 ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

MORNING CHATTERS... meets THIS WEEK at 9:00 a.m. **AT THE CHURCH!** Our December meeting will be Tuesday **DECEMBER 21. SEE YOU THERE!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

DEC 4 – DECORATE THE CHURCH – 9:00 AM

**DEC 5 – ITEMS FOR HOMEWOOD AND NEW HOPE BLESSINGS TREE
ARE DUE AT THE CHURCH.**

DEC 12 – 3:00 PM - VISIT WITH SANTA

AND AT 6:00 PM CAROLING & REFRESHMENTS

DEC 15 – 2:00 PM - LIVE NATIVITY AT DOVER UCC

Anyone can sign up themselves (or their animals!) at tinyurl.com/doverxmas.

We will also be receiving donations of non-perishable food items for New Hope!

DEC 19 – 2 PM – RENAISSANCE IN CONCERT – HERE!

The Grace M. Trimmer scholarship to which our church contributed \$15,000 - a portion of Grace's generous gift to us is now standing at \$22,127. We thank the Markle family for their contribution to the fund of \$5,000 from Martha's estate. The fund continues to grow as others are making their own contributions in memory of Grace or in honor of Pastor Eva's anniversary of 40 years in ordained ministry.

Initially, we had decided the fundraising would end in October and the check presented in November. However, as is often the case, plans changed and now we are presenting the check on December 5 during the worship service. So if you still want to contribute there is time. Just put your gift in the offering plate and mark the envelope "Scholarship Fund."

Next Sunday, we will turn the scholarship money over to Dover Dollars for Scholars. Plan to be with us!!!

Thank you to all those who have given or who plan to give. Some deserving Dover graduate is going to be blessed.

Evening Bible Study in-person and by Zoom

Our evening Bible Study by zoom continues on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. This study will be both in-person in the conference room AND by zoom. Please contact Pastor Eva for Zoom link. Currently, we are studying "The Unexpected Teachings of Jesus" by John Coleman.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR HOMEWOOD
CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE RESIDENTS
UNSCENTED BODY LOTION - KLEENEX
BOX WILL BE PLACED FOR THESE ITEMS OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY
DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5.**

**ANY SEAMSTRESSES... HOMEWOOD IS IN NEED OF LAUNDRY BAGS
AND SOAKERS.
IF INTERESTED, DIRECTIONS ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.**

Homewood Auxiliary Membership Drive Is Currently Underway... See Anita Hensel 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 Anita Hensel at 717-792-0029. She will be accepting dues until December 19.

**COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 - 8:30 - 10:30 AM
CAN YOU HELP? INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOR!
SIGN-UP POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARD. THANK YOU!**

The filling of backpacks for school children is baaaaack!

Dover UCC's has been assigned one week each month (usually the first week) to go and fill backpacks (actually plastic bags) that are then transported to the elementary schools for students. NEEDED are 3 or 4 volunteers each month. Our next packing date is December 1. We will carpool from the church to New Hope in Dillsburg until construction is completed on the Dover facility. We will leave at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning on the days we are scheduled. Each time we do this, we will put together food for about 100 children who will have food for the time they are not in school.

**UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL MAGAZINES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP DURING
REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS AND ON SUNDAY MORNING.**

November 28, 2021