



Delaware Headwaters Charge

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

Fall 2024 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.



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 Contact Information

Pastor Dawn Richards

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Our wonderful thrift store run by the Hobart United Methodist Women in Faith is now open. Thank you for donating, shopping and helping. Please drop off your treasures any Thursday or Saturday during our operating hours. For emergency requests call Pastor Peggy or 607-538-9691.

**Volunteers are
desperately needed.**

A Message From Pastor Dawn

A Word from the Heart....

What is the purpose of the church? Is it to meet the member's needs? Is it to do outreach and ministry in the community? Is it to make disciples? I have been reflecting on these questions this summer in preparation for school starting again and meetings ramping up because of Charge Conference. I have outlined below suggestions on how we can "be the church" through these areas.

Meeting member's needs: What are ways in which we check up on each other? What are ways we lift each other in prayer? What are ways we make sure each and every person in the church feels heard? What are ways in which worship helps people grow spiritually? The reason this is important is because church members can't fulfill Jesus' mission if they are running on empty. So here are some opportunities to meet each other's needs:

- Begin a Card ministry
- Begin a Casserole ministry
- Attend the Prayer meeting
- Serve on the Worship team
- Other ideas?

Outreach and ministry in the community: This does not mean inviting people to church, it means going OUT of the church and ministering to people in the community. Here are some opportunities to do this:

- Come to Soup's On
- Help with the crafts, Soup's On or worship at the Sr. Living

- Go to the Blessing of the Animals and hang out and talk to people
- Volunteer at the Thrift Shops
- Go to Youth sports activities to support them
- Christmas Feeling Fund
- Other ideas?

Making disciples: First we have to know what it means to be a disciple, that means doing a Bible Study or reading spiritual books. Second, we have to be willing to go outside our comfort zone and share our faith with someone. Third, it means we have to have activities that we can invite people to come to.

Invite people to Soup's On and/ talk to people you don't know at Soup's On.

Attend a Bible study

Begin morning devotional practice with prayer and scripture reading.

Attend and invite someone to the Prayer Meeting

Take someone to lunch and as you are listening to them, see if there is a way to share how God has helped you this week.

Go on the Prayer Walk

Help with the Youth Group/VBS

Other ideas?

Please bring this to your Ad Council's and discuss what does it mean to you to "be the church" and see what ideas your church member's might be able to do. Please reflect on this and see how you are "being the church".

Come and try our Prayer Meeting

One of our newest ministries is the monthly Prayer Meeting, presently

meeting at Gilboa. You might ask what a prayer meeting is and why we do it. A Prayer Meeting is like a small worship in that we begin with some quiet music, have a devotion or scripture, then move into Intercessory prayer. No one is asked to pray out loud, simply to lift concerns. It is confidential. We lift a prayer after each category of intercessions. Then we conclude with a benediction. The service lasts about 30-45 minutes. We have been following this with a potluck—breaking bread together like the early Christians. Why do we do this? First, because intercessory prayer and worship are spiritual disciplines that we are called to practice. Second, because we are in a difficult time right now with so much grief, illness, division, violence, negativity and war that need our prayers. The Prayer Meeting helps us lift these prayers, but also immerses us in the peace of prayer. Third, it is an informal time of both worship and fellowship which allows us to get to know each other better. So why not come and give it a try. Our next Prayer Meeting and Potluck is on Wednesday, Sept. 18th at 6p.

Ministry at the Assisted Living Center

Our Charge is involved in a variety of ministries at the Stamford Assisted Living Center on Buntline Dr. and we would love for you to join us in those ministries. This is a wonderful way to serve our seniors in the community. Worship is at 3p on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Crafts are on Sept. 9th and the 23rd at 9:30a. And Soup's On is on Sept. 27th from around 10-12:30. For more information on the crafts and Soup's On

please contact Dianne Langer 607-652-2197.

Blessing of the Animals

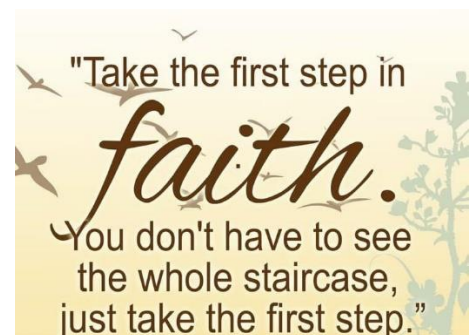
Our charge is part of the Mountain Beacon Parish and one of our yearly community outreach ministries is the Blessing of the Animals. This year it will be held on Sept. 22nd from 12-3 at the Tractor Supply in Stamford. Please come and hang out, bring your pet, help bless the animals, and meet and greet community members. Pastor Donna will be there from 12-1p; Pastor Dawn from 1-2p and Pastor Peg from 2-3p.

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



From Pastor Peg

Where did the summer go? So much happened in the months of June, July, and August. First of all, I would like to thank all the people who stood in for me when I was terribly sick with bronchitis and couldn't preach back in June, as well as those who preached during our Annual Conference time and when I was away in Colorado for my brother's wedding. I give thanks for the great people of our churches, who are willing to step up in an emergency.

My brother's wedding was wonderful and filled with family from all over the world coming together and celebrating. We had a wonderful time, the bride was beautiful, the groom handsome, and everyone danced into the night – although I found out how breathless it is to dance at 9,000 feet. Besides enjoying family and the natural splendor of the Rocky Mountains, I also was able to attend a service in Carbondale, CO at a lovely Methodist church. The regular minister was away but the supply preacher was the District Superintendent. Unfortunately, I couldn't talk to him for long because he was headed out to preach the third church in the charge! Like Dawn and I, the church's minister has to preach three sermons a week. I had a nice talk with the members during coffee hour. Like us, they're a group of small churches in a rural area (more ranching than farming) and are doing a lot of good in their community.

I was reminded talking to them that it's not the size of the church but the heart of it that says if a congregation is healthy. Pastor Dawn in her letter challenges us to think of how we can strengthen our own hearts by meeting member's needs, outreaching with ministry in our community, and making disciples. As we make our way through this program year, and head on down to the holidays, let us all think of how we can strengthen the hearts of our church in Jesus Christ.
With Love in Christ, *Pastor Peg*

Youth Group: 1st Meeting Saturday September 21, 5-7 pm @ Hobart UMC. Dinner, Fellowship and Meeting to Plan the year.

Last year we started our Youth Group which met every Third Saturday of the month, from 5 – 7 pm. Youth from the 6th grade and up joined us for dinner,

fellowship and games indoors and outdoors (weather permitting).

During the summer Jane MacIntosh-Martin opened her house to the kids and they were able to have a few days of lake boating and swimming. Karen Ogborn led them on a Bible treasure hunt and Pastor Peg set up rock-painting, and taught them how to play bocceball. Pastor Dawn led them in a prayer-paddle on the lake. Unfortunately, we couldn't watch the film we had planned because a thunderstorm and a downed tree caused a blackout for about 9 hours. The kids were troopers and enjoyed their evening time by candle and flash light.

This year with a lot of youth coming into 6th grade we are going to have a dinner and fellowship meeting on September 21 to decide if we should have one Youth Group or two and to plan our year. We will need to have it at the Hobart fellowship hall because the Bloomville kitchen is being redone. If you know of someone (they don't need to be a member of the church) who would like to join, please invite them.

Vacation Bible School

Our Vacation Bible School in August was a lot of fun. The theme was *Game On! With Jesus!* From Monday to Thursday we had a sports-based learning experience about how God and Jesus are with us in our lives. Laurie Procida and all the support crew who put together the program and created a baseball stadium decoration for our church. Many people came together to organize and serve great dinners and snacks; presented Bible lessons; helped the kids make crafts, and got the kids moving with athletic challenges. Horace the Dragon came back and learned what sports were and how to play them fairly and took his new ideas back to his fellow dragons at Mine Kill park. Thursday was our final day with parents and dinner, and everyone played games. We also raised \$100 for the Putt-Putt Forward ministry which went to the local miniature golf course so that kids can continue to play for free.

Many thanks to all those people who helped decorate, monitor, took pictures, taught, and cooked and serve food. Thank you to all our volunteers, adults, youth and parents who worked so hard to support this program. We could not have done this and had such a great time without your help.

Bloomville Kitchen

This summer the men of the church went in and started a long-planned project to take apart the kitchen countertops and cabinets in preparation to install new ones. Before that happened the women went into the kitchen and emptied out all of the cupboards, and sorted through many years of accumulated kitchenware. Duplicates were distributed to local thrift shops and now we have a more efficient collection of kitchen supplies.

Unfortunately, when the men removed the countertops some structural issues were uncovered. But being the intrepid men of God who get things done, they kept on going and having been fixing the problems. The kitchen is now being rewired to bring us up to code, water damage is being repaired, the floor is being fixed, and new cabinets and counter tops are being installed. When this is all done, we will have a new better functioning kitchen.

In the meantime please keep the Bloomville Kitchen Construction Project in your prayers so that all repairs will be done swiftly, with safety to all those who are donating their time and efforts.

United Women of Faith:

The United Women of Faith have started their program year with their first meeting on Wednesday, September 11, from 2 pm, at Nancy Beisler's house: 107 Sheffield, Hobart. The next meeting will be at Kathy Rapplyea's house on October 9, in Unadilla, NY. We will car-pool from the Hobart parking lot at 12:30. All are welcome to join us

Since May, Angel's Attic has been open for business and we have had a steady stream of customers. There is a lot of new stuff that comes through regularly. Plus, they have a large selection of beautiful greeting cards for only 10 cents each. The Attic will continue to be open through the first weeks of December and are starting to display their fall, winter, and Christmas decorations. They are always happy to accept donations, so if you clean out your closet or cupboard and don't know what to do with those items that you don't use any more, they will be happy to take them off your hands. All the money raised goes to missions.

THE MORE WE KNOW, THE BETTER WE CAN CARE!

If you or anyone in your life needs care, love, prayer and support, please contact our pastors. Delaware Headwaters Charge Churches care about you!

Soup's On!



Soup's On or our Community Dinner is back. All these events will be posted on Facebook, the website and in the weekly bulletins.



Back 2 Youth Group

Organizational meeting will be Sept. 21, 2024 at 5pm. We want to take this opportunity to get together and talk about new visions and goals for the youth group this year. We encourage all parents to join us so that we may get your input as well. New ideas are always welcome.

Vacation Bible School

At Bloomville UMC

Vacation Bible school was the highlight of summer. Our VBS program this year was called “Game On”. There was an emphasis on discovering who we are in Jesus Christ, trusting Him as Savior and Lord, celebrating our salvation, and turning to the ultimate playbook—God’s Word—for every answer. The program included Bible stories, activities, songs, arts and crafts, games and other engaging activities that taught our kids concepts pertaining to the Bible. VBS couldn’t exist without the students, parents, organizers, volunteers and photographer. So to everyone, we say THANK YOU!









SUNDAY SCHOOL

At Bloomville UMC

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will resume this fall. Sunday School starts back in full swing during the 10AM service. We will have a "One Room" class for all children. After a fun-filled week of VBS, we are looking forward to seeing children's smiling faces on Sundays.

Can you spare one hour every couple of months to help in the Children's Sunday School classroom? We could really use an extra set of hands. School will be held during church and teachers are volunteering their time to prepare a lesson. We are still looking for volunteers to help with Sunday School. With enough volunteers, your turn would come up once every couple of months. Please consider being part of this very important ministry.



Save the Date. . .

Bloomville UMC

Turkey Dinner Take-out November 2nd

Pancake Breakfast November 16th



September 22, 2024

Tractor Supply, Stamford, NY

All friendly, well-behaved, vaccinated, companion animals either on a leash or in a carrier are welcome.

Gilboa UMC ladies led crafts at the Assisted Living Center. The residents had a lot of fun!



Join us for our Annual Charge Conference on **September 28, 2024 at Hobart UMC at 9am**. Let's join with our neighbors in the Mountain Beacon Parish as we conduct our business and set our leadership. Your presence and votes are important. We hope to see you there!

Keeping our Promises

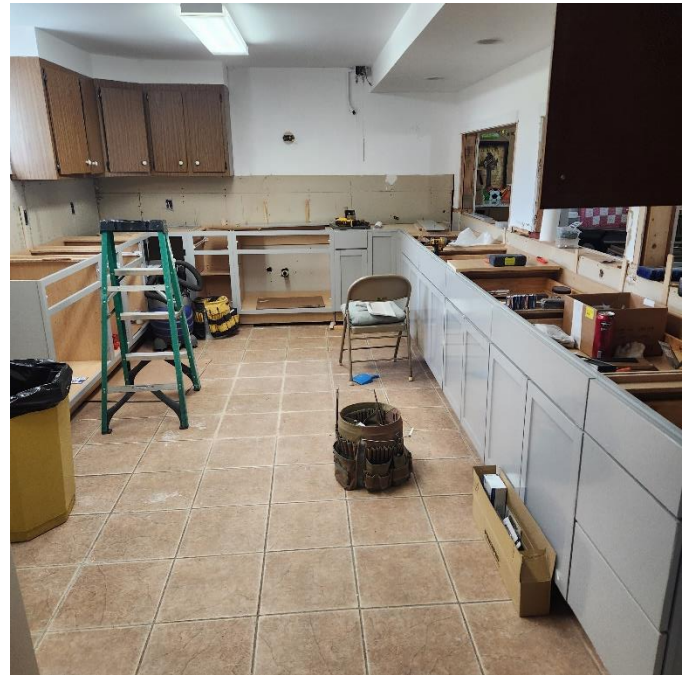


Prayers ~ Presence ~ Gifts ~ Service ~ Witness

Updated Church Kitchen

Bloomville UMC is upgrading the kitchen! With the guidance and support of our talented members and volunteers we are making valuable upgrades for church events and outreach opportunities. Our church kitchen has always been a way to support and advance our ministries and promote fellowship and hospitality.

Thank you to everyone for your time, talents, gifts and abilities in ministry and mission.



We can't wait to see the finished project!





SAFE SANCTUARY

We have upgraded our Safe Sanctuaries policies. The Safe Sanctuaries Policies and Guidelines help to define and set the standards for abuse prevention and risk reduction strategies for local churches. These policies include covenants, agreements, and forms to be used.



Thank you, Volunteers!

We are incredibly grateful to God for you and your loving service to the Church and the community. We want you to know that your work has not gone unnoticed. God bless you for your generosity, and thank you for being a blessing to others.



APPLE PRESSING
COMMUNITY PICNIC

October 6th • 1pm-4pm

BLOOMVILLE PARK

If you are able -please bring apples to press, a dish to pass and a quart jar with lid to bring some cider home!

DO YOU HAVE APPLES YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE?
IF SO, MESSAGE HEATHER SMITH FOR PICK-UP!
(WE DONT MIND PICKING)



New York Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church



New England Conference
The United Methodist Church

The New Hope Episcopal Area

The 2024 Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference ended with the announcement of six new reconfigured Episcopal Areas and the assigning of bishops to supervise those areas. The new six new episcopal areas are:

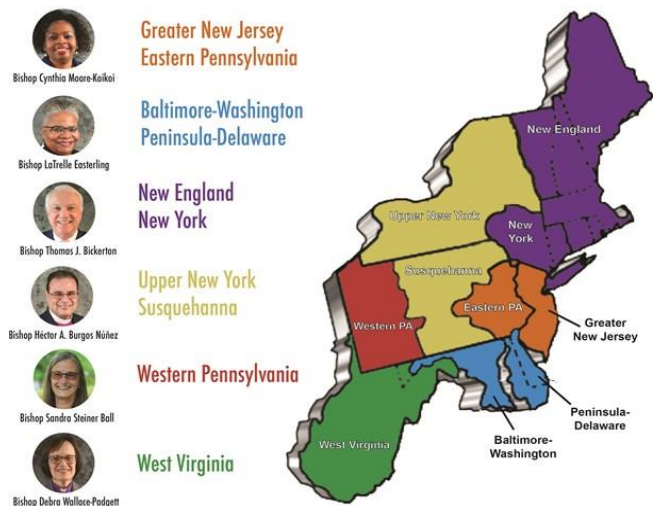
- Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware
- Eastern Pennsylvania and Greater New Jersey
- **New York and New England**
- Susquehanna and Upper New York
- Western Pennsylvania
- West Virginia and Holston (a joint arrangement with the Southeastern Jurisdiction)

This newly formed Episcopal Area—the **New Hope Episcopal Area**—encompasses the existing **New York Annual Conference** and the **New England Annual Conference** (which includes the remainder of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine). At the NEJ Conference, the New England and New York delegations decided that the New Hope Episcopal Area describes a sense

of hopeful anticipation for mission and ministry in this region of the Northeast.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton will continue to serve the New York Annual Conference as our Resident Bishop. He will also serve as bishop for the New England Annual Conference.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopal Areas



Alain & Katherine Niles' Update

Dear Friends,

A young man entered my clinic room and found it difficult to explain his issues. He was agitated, uncomfortable and fearful, almost to the point of being terrified. I quickly realized his issue was less of a medical problem and more of a spiritually rooted problem. I decided to end our consultation and offered to come to his home and talk with him about his fears. He agreed to this. A few days later I headed out on my

motorcycle with our chaplain, Dieu Donné. We had to load the moto into a canoe and cross the Oti River and then drive through farming country to get to Amidou's home. He welcomed us in and we spent over an hour listening to how his anxiety had forced him to turn to a local Muslim traditional healer who placed a ring on his finger and bound him to evil spirits. We shared of the freedom in Jesus and spent time praying for him and for his situation. The next morning, Amidou received word that the traditional healer had died in the night (I should mention I prayed for Amidou to be freed not for this man to die...in case you were wondering). He was due to attend the funeral the next day but came instead to the hospital since we had invited him. He spent hours talking with our chaplains before giving his life to Jesus. As soon as he made the decision, he received a phone call that his mom and brother, who were on their way to the traditional healer's funeral, crashed their moto just outside the funeral site...they never made it to the ceremony. They were quickly brought to the hospital and I was able to check them out and then testify to God's hand in pulling them away from evil towards himself. It was an amazing moment watching this young man and his family literally get drawn to Jesus. Amidou has many challenges ahead, but pray for him to surrender daily to Jesus for the peace he is searching for.

Not every consultation turns into incredible follow up and patients turning to Jesus, but we rejoice even in the mundane visits of caring for diabetes, hypertension, heart failure and all the other diseases that kill you slowly. Being consistent in quality care helps us build relationships, and families in our town have grown to trust our care. In fact, I took care of a child in our malnutrition clinic, then cared for his brother with malaria and finally have been regulating his grandfather's blood pressure. The

platform for loving on these entire families is key to our ministry here.

The hospital's 3-year nursing program wrapped up this last month with 15 students graduating. Our hospital has the best nurses in Togo and we are thrilled to add this team to our staff. I played a minor role in helping organize the Bible courses offered throughout the program. The students, many of whom are Muslim or Catholic, were able to study God's Word and hear truth on a daily basis. It culminated with the nursing school graduation on July 6th. The nursing program director, Sharon, did a fantastic job in summarizing their training and challenging them for the future work ahead. I had the privilege of sharing the gospel message to them and their families. I spoke on the fruit of the spirit we desire to see in the lives of our nurses, but explained that this fruit can only come from the Spirit of God in them and that they can only have the Spirit of God in them if they are born again. This was a true contrast from their culture which teaches to do good works in order to be accepted by God. Pray the message of the gospel will continue to take root in their lives.

The MK school year wrapped up in the middle of June, and Katherine and the kids have been enjoying their summer break. Katherine has been putting finishing touches on the spelling program she created for the elementary grades at the MK school this last year. A camp of newly hatched chameleons was discovered and was the source of great joy and amazement. It was truly fascinating to get to see these tiny creatures close-up! A highlight for Caleb has also been getting to work with his friends at the farm behind our hospital (doing odd jobs and helping shepherd the sheep).

Knowing that the hospital will be entering the busy malaria season that usually continues through November, we are grateful that we were able to get away for a needed rest and family time. When needing rest, we always gravitate towards the mountains; so, we just wrapped up 10 days in Switzerland and France with lots of incredible hiking, camping at the base of the Yung Frau, hiking up the Grand Van in France, and enjoying the incredible beauty of the Alps and time with Alain's parents. We were able to celebrate our 18th wedding anniversary and both turning 40 this year. God has been so good to us.



What's coming up?

Well, most likely people will keep getting sick and our hospital will stay busy...

I hope to finish building a few more pediatric incubators for our NICU (a design one of our nurses got from Kenya).

Katherine will continue prepping for the fall classes she will be teaching, hosting meals, doing French literacy lessons with a friend, and doing 'summer break activities' with the kids.

Thanks for praying for the Hospital, for our team, for the patients who come through our doors, and for security and peace in our region!

Alain, Katherine, Camille, Caleb, and Mia-Joy

