



# Delaware Headwaters Parish

Bloomville, Hobart, Stamford, Township UMC Churches

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

## May/June 2020 Newsletter

### Delaware Headwaters Parish

*Rev. Kwang-il Kim & Pastor Paul Moller*

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PO Box 3

Bloomville, NY 13739

Worship: 11am

607-538-9440 or 607-538-9691

#### Hobart United Methodist Church

204 Maple Avenue

PO Box 205

Hobart, NY 13788

Worship: 11am

607-538-9691

#### Stamford United Methodist Church

88 Main St. PO Box 133

Stamford, NY 12167

Worship: 9am

607-538-9691

#### Township United Methodist Church

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PO Box 205

Hobart, NY 13788

Worship: 9am

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### Welcome to the

### Delaware Headwaters Parish!

The Delaware Headwaters Parish has brought together Bloomville UMC, Hobart UMC, Stamford UMC, and Township UMC under the direction of Rev. Kwang-il Kim and Pastor Paul Moller.

As we go through this uncertain time, we can be certain that God is with us and that our churches will do what we can to help each other through this.

Our Parish has always been a close one, and that continues to be the case whether we gather face to face or not. Praying for one another is one of the most important parts of our worship, and so we encourage you to continue to pray for one another during our time apart - and feel free to reach out to us as well.

We appreciate everyone's patience, understanding and support during this unprecedented time. As the crisis of COVID-19 passes, our churches will be here, waiting for your return. It's the people who love God and your local churches who will get us through.



## Ministry in Confinement

Our Clergy and congregations in the DHP have found ways to adapt and adjust their ministries within the confines of social distancing guidelines due to the coronavirus pandemic.

We hope you have been able to join us each Sunday, as we have been socially apart, either on our website or on the phone link organized by Pastor Paul. Here you have found a joint service shared with Rev. Kim and Pastor Paul. This includes a children's message for our young at heart, scriptures, and special message. Please let us know any concerns, prayer requests, needs you have.

## Laity Leading the Way

Our volunteers have always been the backbone of our Parish. We are indebted to each of you and your ongoing service. At this time we want to give a shout out to Bloomville UMC members, Alice and Steve Tucker, who have donated several hours to the launch and upkeep of our virtual and online worship services for the Parish. They are glad to have the time and the equipment to help out the Parish in this unprecedented time. "This Parish is amazing," said the Tuckers. "We are trying to find ways to bring some joy to our communities in the midst of the crisis. It's been a joint effort thanks to Pastor Paul and Deidra Hill." The Parish is relying on several forms of communications including recorded services posted to the website along with Pastor Paul manning the Sunday morning phone link.

## Continue Tithing

**Please mail your tithes and other offerings to:**

**Bloomville:** Beverly Rockefeller, 191 Scotch Hill Road, Bloomville NY 13739

**Hobart:** Ralph Beisler, 107 Sheffield Lane, Hobart, NY 13788

**Stamford:** Debbie Coager, 290 Roses Brook Road, South Kortright, NY 13842

**Township:** Ginny Austin, 16385 County Highway 18. Stamford NY 12167



(Editor's note: This is an excerpt from Bishop Bickerton's April 22 update.)



*For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servants to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

Galatians 5: 13-14 (NRSV)

**Dear Friends,**

Yesterday I opened my mail to find a "prayer square" sent to me by a friend in Ohio. This kind and wonderful gesture encourages the recipient to hold the piece of cloth in their hand or place it in their pocket as a reminder to trust in God's grace in times of need. With the news of my father's infection from the Coronavirus, as well as the steady number of reports flowing into my office of others who are infected, these gentle reminders of the ties that bind us together in loving devotion and prayer mean so very much.

The news filling the air waves is providing words of encouragement about the flattening of the curve of this virus. Yet, the news is also filled with emerging anxieties. Mental health difficulties, cabin fever, economic struggles, and questions of when to re-open are now growing. Adding to the struggle is the reality that different regions of the country are responding in different ways based on their context.

Here is the latest update from my office:

1. **Churches in the New York Annual Conference will Remain Closed.**

We will continue to take our lead from the decisions made by our state government officials. New York has extended the stay at home order until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Connecticut has extended it until May 20<sup>th</sup>. **For that reason, our churches will remain closed through May 24<sup>th</sup> at the earliest.** I know that this is difficult. But we must stay the course and continue to remain focused. We will evaluate our next steps moving forward once we receive direction from these officials but, for now, we will remain closed.

2. **Be Mindful of Grief, Anxiety, and Self-care**

Read the scriptures. Dive into daily devotions. Call on one another. Remain in touch with your need for a spiritual friend or colleague to talk with. Take care of yourself even as you are caring for others.

3. **Begin Planning for What's Next**

It is my prayer that we will be re-opening our churches in the not too distant future. But until then, we have the gift of being able to begin imagining what that day will be like. We can also begin working for that day with intentional planning.

**Here are some suggestions I commend:**

- ***Plan for possible multiple services***
- ***Is it possible to continue your online service?***
- ***Rethink how you receive an offering***
- ***Begin thinking now about how things like Vacation Bible School and ongoing Sunday School & Children's Church may need to be altered for this season.***
- ***What are you doing now to sanitize and sterilize your church building?***

- ***If social distancing regulations are recommended, how will you deal with things like "Passing the Peace," Greeters, and creating an atmosphere that is respectful but also welcoming?***

4. **Continue to Live into our Principles**

Please remember, this is not a time for "me," it is a time for "we." As Galatians states, "*do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servants to one another.*" Continue to create opportunities for high touch with no touch. Pray for one another. Intercede for one another. And above all else, love one another.

In her wonderful book, *Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season*, Joyce Rupp shares this wonderful poem, entitled "Blessing Prayer for Healing:"

*May you desire to be healed.*

*May what is wounded in your life be restored to good health.*

*May you be receptive to the ways in which healing needs to happen*

*May you take good care of yourself.*

*May you extend compassion to all that hurts within your body, mind, spirit.*

*May you be patient with the time it takes to heal.*

*May you be aware of the wonders of your body, mind, and spirit and their amazing capacity to heal.*

*May the skills of all those who are caring for you be used to the best of their ability in returning you to good health.*

*May you be open to receive from those who extend kindness, care, and compassion to you.*

*May you rest peacefully under the sheltering wings of divine love, trusting in this gracious presence.*

*May you find little moments of beauty and joy to sustain you.*

*May you keep hope in your heart.*

This is my prayer for all of you.

The Journey Continues, . . .

**Thomas Bickerton**  
**Resident Bishop**

## *From Rev. Kim*

### **"The Scent of Jesus' Resurrection"**

(예수부활 향기)

The Rev. In Sik Jee, a missionary and Poet

지인식(선교사, 시인)

The seed of life is springing up. Out of the fertile soil  
of the faith in the resurrection of the dead.

부활신앙 옥토에서 생명씨앗 올라오네

The Covid19 virus nested in the midst of us  
Has been drifted by the perfect tempest of darkness,  
어둠의 바람타고 온 코로나 바이러스 19

Though this day-to-day journey of life  
is threatened by the thunderous sound of silence;  
소리없는 생명위협 매일의 삶, 옥죄여도

Stands here strikingly the faith in Jesus the Christ risen  
From the dead, the Lord of Resurrection.  
죽음에서 부활하신 예수안에 있는 믿음

Who on earth dares to control over the power of  
prayers and praises of the saints?  
성도들의 기도찬양 어찌 이길수 있으랴?

Courageous women who ran through the pitch-black  
valley of Death turned it into the Dawn of New Life!  
새벽을 열며 달려간 용기있는 여인들의

The indomitable faith in the resurrection of Christ  
Jesus Is filled up with their faith and love toward Jesus;  
예수사랑 믿음따라 부활신앙 예수향기

Spread it out to the end of the earth  
until the Lord Christ comes again!  
땅끝까지 전파하세 주님오실 그날까지!

**My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, our  
Lord of Resurrection!**

I wish all of you a deeply blessed journey of  
resurrection in Christ Jesus in this critical and  
challenging time of Covid19 virus pandemic.

The poem above is my translation of a Poem  
titled "The Scent of Jesus' Resurrection"  
written by a friend of mine, The Rev. In Sik Jee,  
a poet and a retired missionary who served the  
Lord in Cuba for many years. About two weeks  
or so ago, he sent me this poem to translate  
into English. This is how this English Version of  
this Korean poem has come out.

As you can taste this beautiful and inspiring  
poem, our poet eloquently reveals such  
dynamically conflicting powers between the  
threatening and merciless killer Covid19 Virus  
and the Resurrection life of Christ Jesus, our  
Healer. It is absolutely amazing for this poet to  
juxtapose such ironical and paradoxical images,  
that is, the very life-killing power of Covid19  
Virus and the life-giving power of Christ Jesus,  
the Lord of Resurrection.

Yes! It is truly creative and insightful for this  
poet to put those two very contrasting images  
side by side, especially in such a strangely-  
intertwined season of Covid19 virus pandemic  
and our Lord Christ Jesus' Resurrection. Such  
mysterious and wizardly combination of those  
two confrontational images not only backs up  
the highest beauty of this poem but also  
pitching up our poet's poetic imagination and  
tension even further.

In the first stanza below, this poet clearly  
shows us the very nature of our authentic life  
reflected upon Jesus' life of resurrection from  
the dead as follows:

***"The seed of life is springing up  
Out of the fertile soil of the faith in the  
resurrection of the dead."***

Here, the Resurrection Life of Christ, in the eyes of this poet, is the very source and ground of our life here and now and beyond which Christ Jesus, the Lord of Resurrection alone is able to give us.

The Covid19 virus nested in the midst of us has been drifted by the perfect tempest of darkness.

Now in this second stanza, our life is being overwhelmingly threatened by this horrible killer Virus, especially in such a critical and risky moment of today's Coronavirus pandemic situation as this. As of this moment of writing this article, almost 40,000 and over precious lives in our country alone, and almost 170,000 innocent lives globally have been destroyed by this horrible, dark and merciless life-killing Coronavirus pandemic.

**4 "Stands here strikingly the faith in Jesus the Christ risen from the dead, the Lord of Resurrection. 5 Who on earth dares to control over the power of prayers and praises of the saints? 6 Courageous women who ran through the pitch-black valley of Death turned it into the Dawn of New Life!"**

In these stanzas above, we are invited to boldly face our poet's powerful prophetic sermon on the resurrection power of our life in Christ Jesus. Needless to say, these stanzas strongly urge us to remind of the following lines of Paul the Apostle in his letter to the Romans: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" [Rom.8:35] "No, all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." [Rom.8:37]

Thus, our poet, Rev. Jee finishes his powerful and inspiring poem as follows:

**7 The indomitable faith in the resurrection of Christ Jesus is filled up with their**

***faith and love toward Jesus;  
8 Spread it out to the end of the earth  
until the Lord Christ comes again!***

YES! As Paul the Apostle proclaimed such a never-failing and never-changing love of Christ toward us, feeble, helpless and hopeless humanity, no matter who you are, no matter where and when you are, we will absolutely make a final victory over such merciless, dark and life-destroying Covid19 virus and its pandemic in Jesus the Christ, our Lord of Resurrection now and always.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ!

This merciless killer Coronavirus shall pass eventually simply because it can't/won't outlive our Lord, Christ's Resurrection Life. Therefore, let us boldly spread this Christ's Resurrection power and our resurrection life in this Christ out to the end of the earth until He comes again as our poet, Rev. Jee preaches in his beautiful and inspiring poem.

May the Lord's life of resurrection and healing power embrace your bodies, minds and spirits and be upon all our neighbors - our fellow human beings who are suffering from this life-killing Covid19 virus now and always.

**In Christ, our Lord of Resurrection!**

*Rev. Kim*





# News From Alain & Katherine Niles

Dear Friends,

If this were a normal update, we would tell you about how Alain stepped in to cover maintenance at the hospital at the beginning of March, on top of overseeing the chaplains. We would tell you how we got to go with two other couples on a Saturday morning moto ride, even crossing a river by canoes (motorcycles and all), to a nearby village to visit a former hospital patient. We would tell you how we worked to finish typing and compiling a chaplaincy training booklet (from training material used in 2014) to be used to train more chaplains for the hospital in the future. Or we would tell you about how Alain killed a green mamba this last month or how we went to see hippos just a few miles north of town.

But this is not a normal update. We realize that in the last month the world has been turned upside down. Many are longing for “normal” life as they knew it just a few weeks ago.

In our corner of the world, we were feeling somewhat removed from all of the news we were reading. It seemed surreal to think about Europe and North America experiencing a pandemic – with supply shortages, quarantines, drastic protective measures...Hasn't that been an aspect of life that we only experience here in our corner of the world in Africa?

But not anymore. It is the reality that the world is living right now.

What about Togo? Togo has started having reported cases of the coronavirus. We have not had any cases at the Hospital of Hope yet, but our staff and team have made necessary preparations – creating a special ward designated to care for patients with the virus, if they should come. Borders to neighboring countries have been closed, and this has greatly reduced the number of patients coming to the hospital at this time. All short-

term medical volunteers for the foreseeable future have had to cancel their trips because of travel restrictions. This means that the workload is left solely to our staff that is here on the ground. The kids started their spring break a week earlier than scheduled as Togo shut down all schools and gatherings after March 20<sup>th</sup>. And, like much of the world right now, we will be finishing out the year with homeschooling. We are so grateful for the 2 ½ months that Camille and Caleb got to have with their teachers here! They both learned so much! Thank you, Kelli Thayer and Megan Mackenzie, for teaching our kids with excellence! We appreciate you!!

What about our plans? We thought we were really stepping out in faith when we began the journey several years ago of pursuing further training for Alain with a goal of entering a Physician's Assistant program. We thought we were really “living by faith and not by sight” when we returned to Togo at the end of December before knowing if and when Alain would get into a P.A. program. And now, we are realizing this is just the beginning of “living by faith and not by sight” as Alain is accepted into a P.A. program that is slated to start June 4<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse in New York. Will the program still begin? And if so, will we be able to get out of Togo in time to begin the program? We do not know.

We do know, however, that we are right where we need to be, and that God will guide our steps in the days and weeks to come. Thanks for praying for us and for the Hospital of Hope! Let us know how we can be praying for you too!!

*Alain, Katherine, Camille, Caleb & Mia-Joy*



# In our hearts



Our sympathy is extended to the families of John Dratch who passed away in March 2020. Burial will be at the Locus Hill Cemetery at a later date.

Our sympathy is extended to the families of Leon Czaja of Bloomville who passed away on April 9, 2020. A private interment was held at the Riverside Cemetery, Bloomville. A celebration of Leon's life will be held at a date and time to be announced.

Our sympathy is extended to the families of Mary Williams of Stamford who passed away on April 11, 2020. A private service and burial was held in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Stamford.

## Vacation Bible School

### Vacation Bible School is coming in August 2020

If all goes well, Bloomville UMC will once again host VBS this summer. Volunteers are needed to make this another successful event for the children. Niki Dibble will have more information soon.



Thank you to all who keep checking our Facebook page!

Until the coronavirus pandemic is over and the volunteers are able to gather and work, Angel's Attic will be closed, **indefinitely**.

We will **NOT** be accepting any donations for a while.

**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!**



There are many ways to stay informed about our Parish and the news that might affect you.

- Visit our website at [www.delawareheadwatersparish.com](http://www.delawareheadwatersparish.com)
- Follow us on Facebook. Facebook pages can be found by searching for *Bloomville United Methodist Church, Delaware Headwaters Parish, Hobart United Methodist Church, Angels' Attic*.
- Enjoy our newsletter. Notify us by email to get added to the newsletter mailing at- [pastordelawareheadwatersparish@gmail.com](mailto:pastordelawareheadwatersparish@gmail.com)





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*forward*  
TOGETHER

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*Your Commitment Counts!*



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**Delaware Headwaters Parish**

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**Bloomville, Hobart, Stamford, Township**

**United Methodist Churches**

Rev. Kwang-il Kim & Pastor Paul Moller..

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