# The Word



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# **Ministers Musings**



Rick and I drove to Charlotte, North Carolina at the end of April to be present at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. General Conference occurs every four years (or eight when there's a pandemic) and it gathers United Methodists from all over the globe to make decisions about how the church will witness to the gospel and to the love of Christ for the next four years. Important decisions were made; love was proclaimed; justice was embraced; joy was

experienced. The most significant decisions made were identified as 3 "R"s.

- 1. *Removal.* Language was eliminated from the Book of Discipline and from the Social Principles of the UMC that said, "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." That untruth, and rules based on that untruth, have been taken out of our guiding rules and regulations. This decision is historic. It was wonderful to be part of the gathered fellowship celebrating the decision!
- 2. *Regionalization*. The General Conference voted to re-organize the United Methodist Church to enable churches in the United States to make decisions about some aspects of our work with regard to our own ministry and mission, which may be different from the ministry and mission of other churches in other places. The decision on regionalization is a change in the by-laws of the UMC and has to be ratified by a vote across Annual Conferences over the next quadrennium.
- 3. *Revised Social Principles.* The Board of Church and Society presented the General Conference with a fully updated revision of the Social Principles. They were slightly amended and then passed with enthusiasm. The Social Principles had not been significantly updated since 1976. The new document has a lot to say about creation care, about the ethics of global capitalism and commerce, about how we live together as families, neighbors, and the human family. It will be available in printed final form in January 2025.

Thanks for supporting me as an observer at General Conference. It was so good to be part of this new day and new hope for the United Methodist Church.

Back on the home front, I aim to print a few copies of my sermon each Sunday for those who are interested. I can email copies out, too; just send me a request at revcathy@gmail.com.

Grace and peace, Pastor Cathy

## **Every Sunday in June is special.**

Every week something wonderful is happening. Plan to be at worship!

- June 2 the Kids' Club choir sings in worship, and there's a pot-luck lunch after worship.
- June 9 Izzy Garrigues-Cortelyou will be our **guest preacher** while Pastor Cathy is at the New York Annual Conference. Izzy is a queer transfemme musician, UMC deacon candidate, former local pastor, and lifelong United Methodist. She grew up in Michigan and currently lives in Massachusetts with her wife, Beth.
- June 16 We'll celebrate the choir on the last Sunday they sing this season.
- June 23 **Volunteers** make our food ministry possible. We'll honor all those who work through the food pantry and the bi-monthly food distributions to help our neighbors through tough times.
- June 30 We'll **worship at First Presbyterian Church** with Presbyterian churches throughout the area. First Presbyterian is at 3 Clinton St.; worship is at 10:30 am.

#### Announcements

The Women's Open Circle Summer Picnic will be held at the parsonage, 23 Prospect St., on Thursday, June 20, at noon. All women of the church are invited to come, whether or not you've ever been to an Open Circle meeting before. RSVP to the church office or to Pastor Cathy by Sunday, June 16.

Meredith McCann is graduating from Delaware Academy on Saturday, June 29. Congratulations, Meredith!

A Baccalaureate service for graduating seniors in the area will be held at the Abundant Life Church on June 23 at 4 pm. Pastor Cathy will preach at the service, which is sponsored by the Delhi Clergy Association.

Fran is having surgery on June 19 and help with light sexton duties would be much appreciated as she recovers. To volunteer contact Pastor Cathy.

# **Highlights of May Parish Council**

The May meeting of Parish Council opened with devotions by Carol Greene. She shared a reading that was drawn from Psalm 100:4 and talked about counting our blessings .

For the Topic of the Month we continued our discussion of Community Outreach and Witness. On June 23<sup>rd,</sup> during worship we will be recognizing individuals who have helped with the food pantry or the food giveaway program. There will be a coffee hour after worship and individuals will receive a thank you gift.

Council decided to represent the church on July 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Fair on Square. We will probably give out cookies as we did last year. Anyone that would like to greet people and sit at the booth would be welcome.

There was discussion of recognizing the Play School in church possibly at the end of September or the beginning of October. Children and parents would be invited to worship and coffee hour. We will need to discuss this with Pam Savage before making plans.

Due to the addition of many after school activities at Delaware Academy concerns were expressed about the number of children that would be attending Kids Club the next school year. It was suggested that having something at our booth on the square about our Kids Club would be helpful. Pastor Cathy will update the church information on our pamphlet.

Eloise Henault reported that Play School board has not had a meeting but there will be a bottle drive on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bagels and Cream from 9-1. Ruth will be making ice cream with the kids this week.

The Treasurers Report as of May 5<sup>th</sup> was reviewed and discussed. Laura indicated that income should be at 33% for this time of year and was only at 26% and expenses were at 30%. Overall we are doing okay at the moment.

Gideon reported for Trustees that since the last meeting they had a successful clean-up day on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the church with the help of the SUNY Delhi students and church members. The upstairs handicap toilet was repaired and exterior signs were remounted. The old TV and copier were removed from church and taken to the dump. An AC unit was purchased and installed at the parsonage.

Trustees to do list includes garden maintenance – weeding and new mulch. Carol offered to reach out to local contractors to get estimates for renewing the gardens. Trustees will see about sealing the parking lot and painting lines as well as replacing the gate latch on playground fence. The front doors need to be painted. At the parsonage the back room of house needs to have the underneath area enclosed.

Trustees also authorized the opening of a Money Market Account through Federated Hermes with \$75,000 being transferred from the New Covenant Balanced Growth Account. Council amended and their motion from April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to include the necessary information for the above account to be be opened. Trustees approved authorized traders for this account to be Gideon Frisbee, Ruth Vredenburgh, Margaret Baldwin and Jim Jacksto.

Discussion also took place about the Sacred Sites Grant and the need to get estimates for the rebuilding of the front steps hat are in line with village codes so that we can move forward with applying for this grant.

Stephanie reported that Finance Committee met and looked over the finance report which appears to be currently on target. Carol, Edie and Laura currently all have their own food pantry credit cards with which to purchase needed foods for the pantry and the food giveaway. A task force has been started to work on the O'Connor Grant and will meet next Wednesday with Deb Kearney, Fran Ackerly, Carol Greene and Barb Jones beginning the preliminary gathering of information. It was discussed that much of the information they will be gathering deals with the use of the building and will be useful when applying for other grants as well. Finance will meet on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Barb Jones reported that SPR will meet on Tuesday and that they will be starting to distribute evaluation forms to staff.

Pastor Cathy and Rick attended the United Methodist General Conference in Charlotte, NC where many significant events and changes occurred. Cathy also reported that Kids Club is over for the year but they will sing on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in church. Two of the children are aging out of the group and there are concerns because we don't have a group to serve this age group. She also reported she had made a number of pastoral visits during the month. There will be a guest speaker from Massachusetts on June 9<sup>th</sup> as she will be at Annual Conference with Rick and Evelyn. It was determined that since Evelyn had been elected the lay member to attend the Annual Conference that her expenses will be paid for by the church.

NOW reports included: Fred Onasch (Witness) reported that Men's breakfast is going again and he does refer diners to visit with Pastor Cathy when she is there at the diner.

Evelyn (worship) reported that the Joy Banner is now up in the Conference Room and that while Pat was on vacation Ruth and Sandy led the choir. There was also concerned expressed that many of the hand mics are not working as well as Pastor Cathy's. There also was a problem with the sound during the streaming but Deb was able to fix the problem.

Our meeting was closed in prayer.

Any questions about anything that goes on at our council meetings? Please feel free to contact me or any member of council.

Carol Greene

## Send Me an Email!



It's come to our attention that we do not have current email addresses for many people. Please send an email to the NECTED church office at <u>office@umdelhi.org</u> with 'Attn: Deb' in the subject line. Please use individual email addresses rather

than family email, so that we are able to contact individual. Please include in the email any information that we might not have or that might have changed: addresses, birthdate, phone, cell phone, etc.

## **Garden Renewal**



You may have noticed that the gardens in the front of the church have become quite overgrown and in need of tender loving care. Because of the many kinds of perennials that were planted and continue to flourish despite the weeds, restoring them is not an easy job and one that needs to be done by a professional who can get rid of the invasive weed without harming the rest. In addition, there are a few dead bushes that need

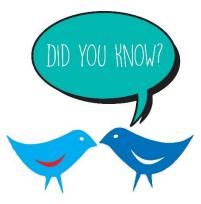
to be removed and the mulch needs to be replaced. The Parish Council discussed the need to revive the garden and to hire a landscaper to do the job. I am asking for your support to complete this much needed project. Any contributions would be appreciated and should be marked "Garden Renewal". They may be put in the offering plate or dropped off at the office.



Rev. Catherine Schuyler, Pastor at The United Ministry of Delhi will be preaching. Sponsored by the Delhi Clergy Association.

# Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet Thursday, June 20 at noon for our annual end of year picnic. Bring your own table service. Bring the dish you signed up to fix. The picnic will be at the Parsonage at 23 Prospect Street, Delhi. For more information call Beth Hildreth at 607-746-3015.



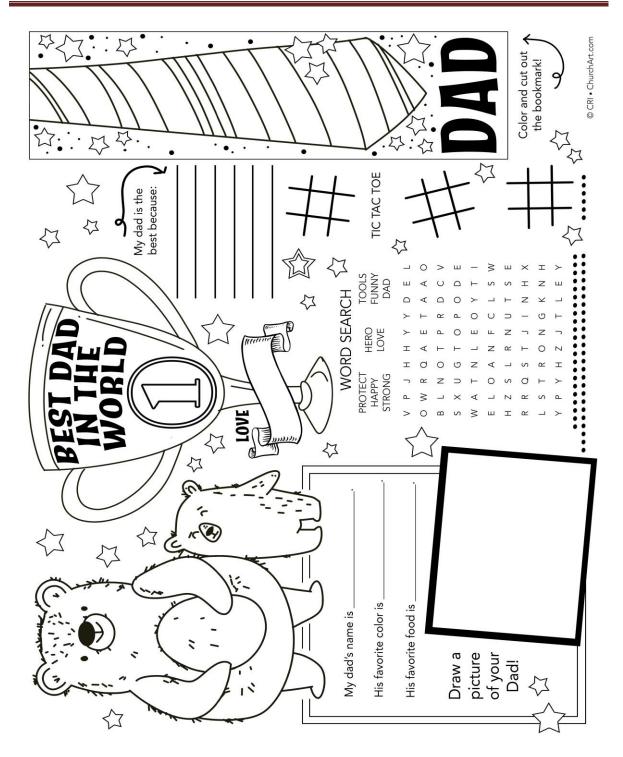
## Did you know . . .

. . . that an important mission for The United Ministry of Delhi is making our building available for use by people and groups that serve our community?

One of the organizations that uses our building in service to the community is the Al Anon Family Group. Every Wednesday at 12 noon in the Harder Room, Al Anon meets as a peer support group program of recovery for the families and friends of alcoholics

Al-Anon Family Groups, founded in 1951, is an international mutual aid organization for people who have been impacted by another person's alcoholism. There is no magic formula that enables one to help another person stop—or cut back—on their drinking. Alcoholism is a complex problem, with many related issues. Al Anon can help one learn how to cope with the challenges of someone else's drinking. Family and friends of alcoholics have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of others who have faced similar problems.

Visit al-anon.org to learn more about Al Anon and Alateen or to find a meeting in another area. A list of Al Anon and Nar-Anon meetings in Delaware County may be found at The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Delaware County www.adaconline.org.



# In the News





Carol Greene holding the award, with Edie Campbell and Pastor Cathy.

# Pentecost!

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate as the birthday of the Christian church. Over 3000 people were baptized at the first Pentecost and the first church was created. We had no baptisms this year, but we did celebrate the birthday of the church with lots of red - a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands



(Acts 2:3).

Evelyn Jacksto did a wonderful job of decorating the sanctuary for Pentecost!





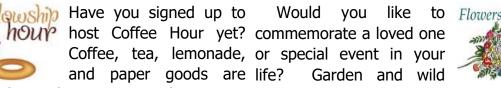




Amy Bishop	6/2	Abigail Tessier	6/14	Leanne Nabinger	6/26
Latham Gielskie	6/4	Crystal Kennedy	6/18	Mark Chatterton 6/27	
Faith Savage	6/7	Sandie Reynolds	6/20	Charlotte Hill	6/28
Allen Greene	6/9	Evelyn Jacksto	6/20	Susan Ackerly	6/28
Gillian Fisher	6/9	Deb Kearney	6/21	Corinne Jones	6/28
Francel Lykens	6/11	Scott Oles III	6/25	Wyatt Frisbee	6/28

## **Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary**

supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up flowers are always welcome! If you are on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call uncomfortable creating the arrangement, the church office to pick your date.

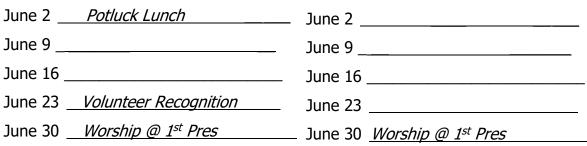




call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.

#### Coffee Hour

#### Flowers



Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

## Word and Worship

### Sunday, June 2

Second Sunday after Pentecost *Kids' Club choir sings in worship* 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

### Sunday, June 9

Third Sunday after Pentecost Guest preacher, Izzy Garrigues-Cortelyou 1 Samuel 8:4-20, 11:14-15; Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

Sunday, June 16 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost *Music Appreciation Sunday* 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

Sunday, June 23 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost *Celebration of food ministry volunteers in worship* 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49 Psalm 9:9-20 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

#### Sunday, June 30

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Joint Service with local Presbyterian Churches At First Presbyterian Church of Delhi 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

# Lectors

June

<u>2</u> Edie Campbell
<u>3</u> John Gaffney
<u>46</u> Barb Onasch
<u>20</u> Gideon Frisbee
<u>21</u> Ann Peet

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#### **Identity Statement**

We, The United Ministry of Delhi, worship and serve God in ways that recognize and reflect the strength found in our diversity. Our United Methodist and Presbyterian (USA) heritage and affiliation help define our supportive fellowship which welcomes, without judgment or discrimination, all who seek a relationship with Jesus Christ. All are welcome without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity or orientation, socio-economic status, disability, dress or any other status or condition which could separate Children of God. We celebrate that in our diversity is our strength!