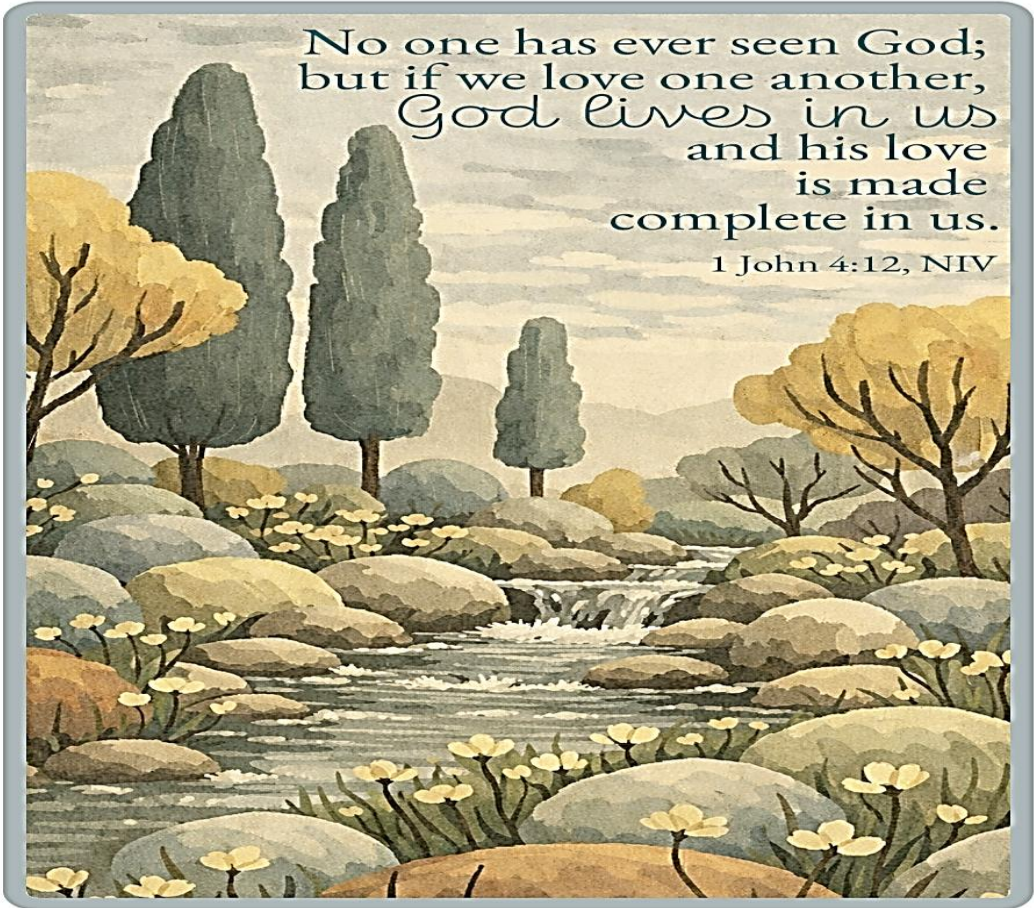


The Word



Published by The United Ministry of Delhi

Celebrating 50 Years of Faith, Music, and Community

July/August 2026

Pastor's Reflection

July 2026

Finding God Beyond the Church Walls



During my recent vacation in San Francisco, I had the opportunity to read Sara Miles' *City of God*. I began the book expecting to learn about creative ways of renewing the church. Instead, I encountered a deeper question: *Where is God already at work, and are we willing to follow?*

The reality is hard to ignore. Churches across America face declining attendance, increasing religious fluidity, and a growing number of people — especially younger adults — who claim no religious affiliation. Yet this does not necessarily mean that people have stopped searching for God. Many are encountering the sacred in places far removed from Sunday morning worship.

Sara Miles tells the story of discovering Christ on the streets of San Francisco. Through Ash Wednesday liturgies, she came to recognize our shared mortality and God's call to repentance and transformation. She found that while paradise may be imagined as a garden, heaven is experienced as a city—a place where God meets people amid brokenness, poverty, diversity, and hope. God has always been remarkably free to appear wherever people least expect: in a burning bush, a wilderness, a manger, a prison cell, and, yes, on city streets.

Her story reminded me of the vision of evangelization described by theologian Mortimer Arias in *Announcing the Reign of God*. He argues that authentic evangelization must be **biblical, evangelical, incarnational, and conflictive**. It is rooted in Scripture, centered on the good news of Christ, embodied in everyday life, and courageous enough to challenge the powers that diminish human dignity. Evangelization is not merely persuading people to come to church. It is joining God's mission wherever God's reign is already breaking into the world.

As we enter July, our hearts also long for peace in a world scarred by war, violence, and displacement. Whenever peace seems possible, we are reminded that reconciliation is not only the work of governments but also the calling of God's people. Every act of hospitality, every conversation across differences, every meal shared

with a stranger, and every effort to restore hope becomes a witness to Christ's kingdom.

Perhaps the question before us is not simply, "How do we bring people back to church?" Rather, it is, "How do we become the church wherever God sends us?" Our worship should prepare us not to remain inside these walls, but to recognize Christ in our neighbors, our communities, and those who often go unseen.

May this month inspire us to step beyond familiar boundaries, carrying the good news with humility, compassion, and courage. For the God we worship on Sunday is already waiting for us in the streets on Monday.

Grace and peace,

Premkumar Immanuel Clement



Parish Council's June 2026 Meeting

6/15/26 Parish Council meeting

Called to order by Carol Greene 6:40 PM

Present: Gideon Frisbee, Ruth V, Carol Greene, Susan Frisbee, Eloise Henault (zoom), Barb Jones, Joe Greenfield (zoom), Stephanie Trass

Excused: Fred Onasch, Pastor Prem

Devotions: Carol shared a devotion of sharing recent joy and laughter and asked that all share a recent joy.

Topic of the Month: 50th Celebration Committee continues their hard work. Planning is well underway for the musical event on Saturday July 18 and advertising is going out. Thank you notes and reminders are going out. We are almost up to \$18,000 in pledging for this celebration. A press release will be going out about our culminating event on October 25th.

Approval of Meeting minutes: - May 18, 2026. Joe moved to approve,

Susan 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Reports were provided for April and May. Barb made a motion to approve the reports, 2nd Joe. Motion carries unanimously.

Finance: Finance met on June 1. We reviewed the financial reports. Parsonage utilities are high. Trustees will look into Meadow Electric for a potential reduced rate. Giving statements will be going out soon.

Trustee's Report: Trustee's will transfer funds from investments for the budget, and from investments to the money market. Working on some electrical repairs with Mike Simmonds. The heat has been turned off and summer ventilation opened. Trustees decided not to purchase a new color printer, and we will use DBS for color printing needs. Glen and Jeff continue to manage the yards at both properties. We did receive a new insurance policy from Church Mutual.

SPR: Prem's Visa was approved recently, and he is now set for a few years.. SPR will meet in July.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Prem is currently on vacation but submitted a report that was read by Stephanie. Prem attended the New England Annual Conference in Manchester, NH from June 3-6th. He was happy to inform us that his Visa was successfully changed from F1 to R1. Many thanks to all involved, Barb, Carol, Deb, Fran, and the Council for all of the support. Completed one in person pastoral visit and one virtual. Attended the funeral service of Ethan Kennedy at the Delhi Community Church and shared words of comfort with the bereaved family members. Prem had the opportunity to attend the memorial for John Bramley with his family. Prem will return from vacation on June 23.

Church attendance: no numbers reported.

Playschool -: Eloise - \$363.65 raised from the can collection. Memorial Day bake sale raised \$366.33. Play School Board met on June 1. They have 8 kids signed up for next year already. There will be a basket raffle at the Fair on the Square. Pam reports that all went well to end the school year.

Mission: Had a successful Food give away on May 23rd.

Witness: - Fred - absent

Building Use: Laura Mills requested the use of 100 yellow chairs for a

wedding on the village square on September 4th..

The Delaware County Amateur "HAM" Radio operators will be holding a 24 hr event on the Court House Square June 27th-28th and for the 2 or 3 people who will be there all night, are requesting use of the church bathroom. Kevin Brown, Bovina Fire chief made the request.

Motion by Gideon to approve both requests, second Susan. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting of Parish Council will be August 10th, 2026.

Joe moves to adjourn, Gideon seconds, motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gideon Frisbee



If you've been involved in the United Ministry's choir program over the years, you're invited to be part of the choir again for this special concert! Rehearsal will start at 10am on Saturday, July 18th - please RSVP to sing by July 10th by emailing office@umdelhi.org!



50 Years of Music

50 years of faith, music, and community - and we're just getting started! Our music ministry has always brought the joy, the talent, and the spirit, and now it's time to celebrate BIG.

Join us

Saturday, July 18th

2 p m

**The United Ministry of Delhi
1 Church Street, Delhi NY**

for an unforgettable

50th Anniversary Concert!

You'll hear incredible performances from United Ministry's amazing musicians AND singers - past and present!



Play School Presents

RAFFLE BASKETS AT FAIR ON THE SQUARE

to support local early learning opportunities*

FRIDAY
JULY 17

4:30PM -
8:00PM

📍 Court House Square in Delhi



* all proceeds directly benefit The Play School Program

A Look Back at Our Pastors

Fifty years. Many faithful pastors. One shared story. Each month, we'll feature memories from pastors who served our church — in their own words.

Rev. Lisa Heckman



Dear friends at The United Ministry of Delhi,

Greetings and congratulations as you celebrate your 50th anniversary!!!

How ever did it get to be 50 years already, huh?!?

I have such good memories of UMD and Delhi. I loved the blended Methodist and Presbyterian connections, showing that ecumenicism is not only possible but a blessing. Okay, so twice the denominational paperwork and meetings wasn't always fun, but learning our differences and celebrating our similarities only made the Ministry stronger. I sometimes flashback to the registration line at my first Methodist Annual Conference on Long Island, seeing and hearing the multitude of cultures and ethnicities around me and just loving it. "This", I said to myself, "this is what God's Kin-dom looks like!"

UMD is blessed with a wonderful collection of Kin-dom dwellers, too. Sadly, in the almost 20 years since I left you, some I knew have moved onto their heavenly home, and the kids I confirmed are now among the adults organizing this anniversary. Again I ask, how did that happen???

A lifelong lover of music, that is certainly a highlight for me of the United Ministry. Singing in choir, first under Sandy's leadership, then with Pat. I remember Barb Onasch and I singing together in the back row, getting in trouble occasionally when something gave us a fit of the giggles. But what beautiful music we all made together! There was also the chime choir Pat created every year from the Council's winter retreat day. Delhi is also where I learned to play the hammered dulcimer – thank you, Sandy Reynolds!



I've carried a silly little reminder of you all with me all these years ... this is Chester. He was given to me at one of the Christmas bazaars. I hung him from the dash in my car on the way home and he has hung there in every car I've had since. I look at him and smile with good memories.



Lisa came to us in October of 2001 and stayed through February 2006.

Delhi in the beautiful Delaware Highlands was a great place to live and serve. I pray that I was as much of a blessing to The United Ministry as you were to me. And I pray that you will continue to be a blessing to Delhi and Delaware county for many years to come.

Grace and Peace.

Lisa

Rev. Lisa S. Heckman
Lewistown Presbyterian Church
17 East 3rd Street
Lewistown PA 17044

Rev. Charles Colson . . .

. . . pastored The United Ministry from October 15, 1981 until June, 1991.



Patty and Ethan Colson

Chip and Patty Colson and Don Haight



Our Changing Family

On Sunday, June 14, we recognized our 2 graduating Seniors: Delaney McCann and Olivia Kruppo. Two amazing young women, now off to new adventures:

Delaney McCann

During High School, Delaney participated in jazz band and concert band. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is active in FFA, FCCLA, and Youth Alive. She is also a member of the Delaware County Holstein Club, 4H, and was the Delaware County Dairy Ambassador last year. She is a member of the Junior Dairy Leaders through Cornell University.



Since the beginning of United Ministry's food Giveaway program 6 years ago, Delaney has volunteered with the packing of the boxes and the delivery of them to the Senior Apartments in Delhi.

Delaney will be attending SUNY Cobleskill in the fall to study Dairy production and Management. We wish her well as she embarks on this new journey!

*Delaney lighting the Christ candle,
Christmas Eve 2014*



Olivia Kruppo



Throughout High School Olivia has earned strong academic honors, including membership in the National Honor Society and the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness.

Olivia is a four-year varsity athlete in cross-country, indoor track, and outdoor track. She has served as captain of both the cross-country and track teams, demonstrating leadership, commitment, perseverance, and teamwork both on and off the course. She is also actively involved in community service and mentoring programs, reflecting her desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Olivia has also found time to volunteer with the Food Giveaway programs and has served as an acolyte for the past two years.

In the fall Olivia will attend SUNY-New Paltz to study Speech-Language Pathology. We wish her well as she enters this new and exciting stage of life!



*Olivia lighting the Advent candles,
December 2014*



A blue rectangular banner with four white stars of varying sizes on the left. To the right of the stars, the word "JULY" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below "JULY", the word "Birthdays" is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

JULY Birthdays

Meredith McCann	7/01
Martha Fisher	7/03
Sarah Ackerly	7/05
Amber Gardner	7/06
Catherine Gardner	7/08
Don Trelease	7/09
Margaret Small	7/11
Lane Ackerly	7/12
Anna Tessier	7/15

Kurt Apthorpe	7/19
Barb Sturdevant	7/22
Dan Teitelbaum	7/23
Rowan Walsh	7/25
Chelsea Johnson	7/27
Diane Oles	7/27
Barb Jones	7/28
Darlene Dutko	7/31

A pink rectangular banner. On the left, there is a stylized white graphic of a flower or sunburst. To the right of the graphic, the word "AUGUST" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below "AUGUST", the word "Birthdays" is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

AUGUST Birthdays

Kiera Moyse	8/6
Christina Gardner	8/13
Dru Chatterton	8/16
Stephanie McCann	8/17
Jim Jacksto	8/19

Chris Hillis	8/20
Edie Campbell	8/27
Ann Peet	8/27
Ed Nichols	8/28

Coffee Hour Hosts/Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Coffee Hour

July 5 _____
July 12 _____
July 19 _____
July 26 _____
Aug 2 _____
Aug 9 _____
Aug 16 _____
Aug 23 _____
Aug 30 _____

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.



Flowers

July 5 _____
July 12 _____
July 19 _____
July 26 _____
Aug 2 _____
Aug 9 _____
Aug 16 _____
Aug 23 _____
Aug 30 _____

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

Lectors

July 5 *Carol Greene*
July 12 *Patti Kruppo*
July 19 *Ruth Kazmierski*
July 27 *Glenn Reynolds*

Aug 2 *Patti Kruppo*
Aug 9 *Gideon Frisbee*
Aug 16 *Ann Peet*
Aug 23 *Carol Greene*
Aug 30 *Ruth Kazmierski*

Word and Worship

Sunday, July 5

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;

Psalms 72; Romans 7:15-25;

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 12

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 25;

Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 19

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:1-19; Psalm 139:1-2, 23-24;

Romans 8:12-25;

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 26

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11;

Romans 8:26-39;

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sunday, August 2

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;

Psalms 105, 1-6, 16-22, 45;

Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;

Romans 11:1-2, 29-32;

Matthew 15:10-28

Sunday, August 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124;

Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-7, 23-26, 45

Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Summer Worship, Summer Joy

Even in the relaxed pace of summer, God is at work! Our Sunday services continue to be a source of joy and encouragement—join us each week for inspiring worship and meaningful community.

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