

GOSPEL NEWS

*The Newsletter for the St. Charles United Methodist and
Dover Community Church*

March-April 2018

Pastor: Rev. Heather E. Klason

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Worship Times: 8:30 am St. Charles & 10 am Dover Community Church

Shalom

This morning I heard the news that the Rev. Billy Graham had died at 99 years of age. It brought back memories of the times I had been a special counselor at rallies. In his lifetime he did much to bring about change by his willingness to meet with and pray with world leaders, spiritual and movement leaders such as Martin Luther King, and generations of U.S. Presidents. Today the conservative evangelical church has lost much of the thread of those early days and many seem to have forgotten the Gospel he preached - the one that calls us to be a catalyst for change and be the ones who welcome the broken-hearted and left out, who validate the stories of those harmed and work to bring about change to systems that hurt, harm and hold people down. One of his legacies was the practice of the altar call. The history of that goes back to Rev. Charles Finley who began that as a response against slavery – stand for the abolishment of slavery – people came forward to commit to Jesus and to sign a document committing to the abolition of slavery. The practice for Rev. Billy Graham was a powerful message – it is not enough to say you believe, it is not enough for faith to remain an intellectual activity – it needs to be a commitment of your whole self to Jesus, including putting your body on the line – all in!

We are in the season of Lent and then the season of Easter. The ministry of Jesus, the journey to the cross, the death and then resurrection should remind us that ours is an embodied, incarnational faith. It is not and never has been enough to say “I believe”. Today we have many powerful witnesses to the need for an incarnational faith – one that says we are ‘all in’ to bring about change. Whether it is the “Me Too” movement which has begun the long process of validation of women’s stories and changing the systemic devaluation of women and our culture of violence toward women, or “Silence is Not Spiritual” which seeks to change even the false narrative and interpretation of scripture we have built over generations that has justified even within the church treating women as less. Or the “Everytown USA” movement begun after the massacre at Sandy Hook, horror being relived right now at Parkland, Florida, a movement which includes mayors, communities and mothers who have said “Enough is Enough” and now the students who will not be ignored or silenced. Or “Black Lives Matter” or “LGBTQ Movement”. Each of these movements and many more today, are comprised of people putting their whole selves on the line to bring about change. It is exactly what Jesus did here on earth.

Are all these people motivated by faith in Jesus Christ? Maybe not. But it is God’s movement, acknowledged or not, to reclaim the dignity and preciousness of all of God’s children. Jesus came to correct the narratives that were begun by those in power who claimed to speak for God, but spoke only for their own interests and power – who created God in their own image. It is what we are again a witness to today. Jesus today on earth would embody the change needed by non-violently confronting the false narratives that subjugate, devalue, harm, and even kill any person. He lived with those disciples -teaching, showing and empowering them to do all that he was doing. The stories were then given to us along with the Holy Spirit so that we too would put our whole selves into bringing about the upholding of the sacredness of all life and the equality and inclusion of everyone by God.

So where are you being called to go “all in”? Where are you, are we, being asked to do more than just saying “I believe”? The altar call was a metaphor for getting to our feet and committing with more than just words of assent, but with our whole selves to being an active part of the kingdom of God now. Jesus did not come to earth to just forgive sins or just to die on the cross. His life and death and resurrection are a call to an embodied faith that answers by saying, “Here I am Send Me” and then joining in to make a difference for all people.

So, where are you being called to go ‘all in’?

Pastor Heather

From the Pulpit - March and April, 2018

March 4 – “Contemplate God’s Glory” - Focus Text: Psalm 19

This week: It is so easy to just fire off an email or Facebook update or Twitter “tweet” or text message without thinking much about it. Challenge yourself to be more mindful of your words in these contexts this week. Take a deep breath before you respond to anything and make space in your heart before you start typing or texting. Notice how this mindfulness affects your sense of connection to others.



March 11 – God’s Love is Steadfast – Focus Text: Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22

This week: Spend an entire day being thankful for everything that happens, no matter what happens.

Take a digital camera with you throughout your day, take pictures of moments of gratitude and post them to Facebook, Flickr, or your personal blog with your reflections on what it was like to be intentionally thankful throughout the day.

March 18 – “God’s Love Is on Our Hearts” - Jeremiah 31:31–34

This week: What has God written on your heart? Make a list of what you hold most dear.

Cut out a heart shape on a piece of paper – it doesn’t have to be very big. Write a favorite quote, a word of encouragement, something you love on it and find a public place to put it. Leave it at a coffee shop, post it on the bulletin board at work, put it in a book your loved one is reading for them to discover.

March 25 – “Love Arriving” - Mark 11:1–11

This week: What does it mean to come in someone else’s name?

Think about the various responsibilities you have throughout the week; in whose name do you come in each of them? How might it change what you do or how you approach what you do if you understood yourself to be coming into each situation in the name of God?

Easter

Jesus sends the disciples out with the blessing, “Peace be with you.” During Lent, we journeyed inward to find the laws of God written on our hearts. The Easter season is our time to move back out into the world, empowered by the Spirit we have encountered within.

Choose a project for yourself, your family, group or faith community that brings the peace of the risen Christ out into the world during this season.

April 1 – “Love Comes to Life” – Focus Texts: John 20:1–18; Mark 16:1–8

This week: In this year, we have two gospel stories of the Resurrection from which to choose. In John’s gospel, Mary Magdalene has an encounter with the risen Christ. In Mark, the women see the empty tomb and are told by “a young man, dressed in a white robe” that they will see Jesus in Galilee. In John, Mary announces what she has seen; and in Mark, the women run away in fear.

Read both stories side by side and simply reflect on the differences. What is your own Easter experience like?

April 8 – “Love Is a Response to Grace” - John 20:19–31

This week: In this story, Jesus appears to the disciples when they are locked away in fear and breathes upon them with a word of peace and empowerment. Think of the last time someone calmed and empowered you. When have you done the same for someone else?

Make it your mission this week to look for occasions to breathe peace into a situation of fear.

April 15 – “Witness to Life Eternal” – Focus Text: Luke 24:36b–48 and I John 3:1–7

Here it is again – another story like last week from John’s gospel (John 20:19–31) when Jesus encounters the disciples after the Resurrection and greets them with a word of peace. This encounter, however, doesn’t seem to calm the disciples but stirs them up. When does being a Christ-like peace bearer stir things up?

Do some reading on the Internet about peace bearers like Martin Luther King, Jr. or organizations that protest against nuclear armament. Explore your own sense of call to being a peace bearer.

April 22 – “Love in Truth and Action” - John 10:11-18

Jesus identifies himself in terms that people of his day and culture could understand – “I am the good shepherd.” Being a good shepherd is linked to knowing the sheep and laying down one’s life for the sheep.

Although this is a metaphor for Jesus caring for his followers, think about people in our current culture who work with and advocate for animals. How can you support their work?

April 29 – “Shepherd and Beloved of God” - Psalm 23, I John 3:16 and John 10:11-18

Jesus explains that God is like an expert gardener – an image well understood by the people who lived in Jesus’ agrarian times. Today we can still identify with this imagery’s meaning in our lives. We might already know that if we do not stay connected to the source of life we will not flourish. We will not bear fruit. The connection, to the source of life and community, is vital to our Christian faith. When we forget, how do we become reconnected?

Plant something new in your garden or on a windowsill and watch it grow. If you don’t have a “green thumb,” get a head start by planting something that’s already flowering or producing fruit, such as a basil plant or flowering bush.

Shmita

The word in Hebrew literally means ‘release’, but is called the sabbatical year, the seventh year of the agricultural cycle mandated in the Torah in the Land of Israel, a time of Jubilee.

From the District Superintendent:

*“Your pastor will be engaging in **Shmita: A Year of Learning, Reflection and Regeneration**. This is a required, intentionally designed process for clergy to participate in once every seven years. The clergy will be engaging in a 360 degree emotional intelligence leadership assessment, attending a 3 day retreat around healthy practices for well-being and effectiveness in ministry, be in a conversation group with two other clergy to reflect on healthy boundaries and resilience in ministry, and create a leadership development plan for the next chapter of their ministry.*

*There is biblical precedent for every seven years to be a jubilee year, where we take a Sabbath break, and let the ground go fallow so it can be renewed for the next season of harvest and growth. There is also a new requirement in the Book of Discipline that every clergy engage in assessment of their ministry every 8 years. We also have the expectation that clergy will renew their Boundary and Ethics training every five years. We are combining these requirements into what we are calling **Shmita**”*

I am a part of the first 25 clergy who are participating in the roll out of our Conference’s compliance with this new directive. The commitment is as follows

Retreat (25 clergy) – Completed January 22-24

Workplace EQ 360 (LeaderWise) – areas of self-regard, self-actualization, emotional self-awareness, emotional expression, assertiveness, independence, interpersonal relationships, empathy, social responsibility, problem-solving, reality-testing, impulse control, flexibility, stress tolerance and optimism (survey done by self, manager [DS], peers, direct reports, family & friends)

Teaching modules – Managing Stress, Cultivating Resilience, Emotions: Friend or Foe, Psychological Principles for Making Changes Last, Courage in our Work and Boundaries

Book Study and Discussion – Accountability group

David C. Olsen and Nancy G. Devor, “Saying No to Say Yes”

Burns, Chapman and Guthrie, “Resilient Ministry”

Dr. Henry Cloud, “The One-Life Solution”

Sabbath Reflection and Writing Time – April 13-27

Working on Learning and Development Plan (ongoing focus) – SMART goals

(S-specific, M-measurable, A-achievable, R-relevant, T-time-bound)

Writing a Leadership Manifesto

Jubilee Celebration – September 25th

Please hold me in prayer during this time. It is exciting and challenging at the same time!

Thank you to Rev Bruce Buller for providing worship leadership in my absence and Rev. Frank Jones for covering emergency call.

Pastor Heather



Lenten Worship Services

St. Charles, Dover, and Berea
Moravian join together each
Wednesday for a meal at 6:00 pm
Worship Service at 7:00 pm

Connections of/for Life

March 7 – Connecting with Your Soul
Dover Community Church

March 14 – Connecting with the Divine
St Charles UMC

March 21 – Connecting with Your Humanity
Berea Moravian Church



Confirmation Schedule – March and April, 2018

March 7 – Meet at Dover at 6:00 PM, Worship at 7
Planning of the meal for the 14th

March 11 – Confirmation class – 4:00-7:00 PM
Supper provided

March 14 – Prepare and serve Lenten supper
(as soon after 5 as possible)
Worship at 7 in St Charles

March 21 – Worship at Berea with meal
(Homework: Reading "The Wesley Challenge")

March 25 – 2:00-4:00 PM – Easter Egg Hunt at Dover School
Join the fun and help with the games!

March 28 – First Session on the Wesley Challenge

April 1 – Youth will lead Sunrise service at 8:30 at Dover

April 4 – Second Session on Wesley Challenge

April 11 – Third Session on the Wesley Challenge

April 18 – Regular class session (6:30-7:30)

April 27-29 – tentative dates for camp – TBA

Please Remember these People in Your Prayers



Vicki Marquart
Julie Gettler
Roy Holst
David Bishop
The Family of Jan Behrens
Wade Messerschmidt

*If you know of anyone in the hospital or in need of
prayers, visits, or would like communion brought to
them, please contact Pastor Heather.*



March & April 2018

Join the confirmation class in a 21 day study beginning
March 28.

Volunteers needed to be group leaders for the 21 day
challenge and will train together

The book is available for electronic readers, including the
participants book.

We will ordering books as the time grows closer.

**Sign up to participate – join confirmation to
make this an all church study!**



Each year it is our tradition to have
Easter flowers in our churches. If you
would like to order and share an Easter
flower with the church you please
watch for the clipboard during worship.



Thank you.

Maundy Thursday

We will gather at
St. Charles UMC
for both a meal and
worship at 6:00 pm.

Good Friday

Worship at Dover CC
at 7:00 pm.



Easter Sunday

8:00 am Joint Breakfast at .

Dover CC

8:30 am Joint Sunrise Service at

Dover CC

10:00 am Joint Worship at St. Charles UMC

Easter Egg Hunt

Sponsored by the Dover Community Church

March 25, 2018 1:00 pm at the Dover School

You can help by volunteering on March 25 (12:15 pm-2:30pm), donating prizes, and/or donating money for refreshments.

Come and join the fun

God must have plans for me to live to be 90 years and celebrate this special birthday with you and my my family. It was a complete—total surprise, as I thought I was going to the annual UMW Christmas Party. Thank you for the balloons, beautiful bouquet and corsage, basket of cards and gifts and for inviting my family to join us. What a special and joyous evening, ending with a delicious birthday cake. Thank you so much to Rory, Marcie, and Marion for putting this all together to celebrate this day. You are truly special and I love you all,

Thank you
for your birthday wishes

Myra



Many people have cell phones and have discontinued their land lines. Then it is hard to

contact one another without a phone book to consult.

We are planning to make a simple directory of the people of our churches.

If you **do not** want to be in the directory, please contact the church office.

Thank you.



(\$15 includes lunch)

please **register** by March 14th to
email@cumethodist.com
or 289 4019

March 17th
9:30am-2pm

HOLY LISTENING II!

Essentials for Caring Ministries

Are you a good listener? Want to use your talents?
Are you already a caring visitor? Want to be one?

We're hosting another **Congregational Care Seminar for current hospital, bereaved, life crisis, etc. visitors and those interested in being visitors!**

Event Includes:

- Training in the art of compassionate listening: a transformative practice
- Guidance in starting/developing visitation ministries in the local church
- Extending United Methodist theology to inform our emphasis upon compassion
- Providing an introduction to Hospice
- Developing and preserving good personal boundaries
- Worshiping and blessing together in a community with a common goal



Christ United Methodist Church
www.cumethodist.com • 507 289 4019 • email@cumethodist.com
400 Fifth Avenue SW, Rochester, MN 55902
Creating committed Christ-followers for the transformation of the world.

February 4, 2018



Members Present: Shelly Wegman, Betty Pedersen, Jennifer Mitchell, Geri Ihrke, Allan Fagan, Troy Henry, Dianna Pulley, and Pastor Heather

The meeting was opened with sharing of joys and concerns and a prayer by Pastor Heather.

- What's Next? We celebrate that both churches have met all financial obligations for 2017.
 - ◊ What are some new ways to be present, serving in our communities? What are some of the unmet needs we can be meeting?
 - ◊ Ideas can be communicated to and between board members.
- Joint Worship Services:
 - ◊ Easter Sunrise Service will be at Dover CC. Breakfast begins at 8:00 am. Service begins at 8:30 am.
 - ◊ Easter Worship will be at St. Charles UMC at 10:00 am
 - ◊ Joint summer worship will be in St. Charles at 9:00 am.
- Confirmed and faith partners reunion in the summer.
 - ◊ A Sunday homecoming of past and present confirmands and faith partners will be planned.
 - ◊ Pastor Heather will investigate when Kristi Moody could be available to accompany.
- Shmita: A Year of Learning and Reflection
 - ◊ Pastor Heather is now participating in this process to improve pastoral wellbeing and effectiveness.
 - ◊ Pastor Heather attended the "total Well Being" retreat January 22-24, 2018.
 - ◊ A two week sabbatical is part of this process.
 - ◊ Betty motioned that a two week sabbatical (April 13-27) be granted to Pastor Heather for Smita.
This motion passed.
- Dianna asked that both churches update the membership lists.
- The next newsletter will be March/April with Easter the main theme.
- Easter 'news' needs to be in by Feb. 23.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Joint meeting will be April 11, 2018 at SCUMC at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianna Pulley

Thank you for memorial gifts given

In Memory of Leola Hinckley

Jon and Teri Arnold
Barb and Roger Traxler
Gail and Keith Keller
Mark Roubinek and Sue Stefanich
Glen and Peggy Dabelstein
Dianna Pulley
Myra McKay

In Memory of Marlin Geisler, Sr.

Barb and Roger Traxler
Mark Roubinek and Sue Stefanich
Dianna Pulley

In Memory of Vannie Kvam

David and Cheryl Hinckley
Jon and Teri Arnold
Dianna Pulley

In Memory of Leon and Lorraine Sackreiter

In Memory of Hazel Voss




David and Cheryl Hinckley
Myra McKay
Jon and Teri Arnold
Dianna Pulley

In
Loving
Memory



The United Methodist Church
 St. Charles and Dover
 Pastor: Heather E Klason
 Church phone: 507-932-4966
 Pastor's cell phone: 320-290-7460
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March 2018

				1 No Assisted Living Worship Service	2
4 8:30 am SC Worship 9:30 am Sunday School SC 10:00 am Dover Worship 10:15 am Sunday School DCC	5	6	7 1:00 pm UMW 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Lenten meal 7:00 Lenten Worship at DCC	8 10:00 am Assisted Living Worship	9
11 8:30 am SC Worship 9:30 am Sunday School SC 10:00 am Dover Worship 10:15 am Sunday School DCC 4:00 pm Confirmation	12	13  Articles for Newsletter due in office	14 5:45 pm Conf. serve meal 6:00 pm Lenten meal 7:00 pm Lenten Worship at SCUMC 8:00 pm SC Ad Council	15 10:00 am Assisted Living Worship	16
18 8:30 am SC Worship 9:30 am Sunday School SC 10:00 am Dover Worship 10:15 am Sunday School DCC	19	20	21 9:00 am Ministerial 6:00 pm Confirmation Lenten service 6:00 pm Lenten meal 7:00 pm Lenten Worship at Berea Moravian	22 10:00 am Assisted Living Worship 	23
25 8:30 am SC Worship 9:30 am Sunday School SC 10:00 am Dover Worship 10:15 am Sunday School DCC 2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt DCC Confirmation	26	27	28 6:30 pm Confirmation	29 10:00 am Assisted Living Worship 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship at SCUMC	30 7:00 pm Good Friday worship at DCC
					31

The United Methodist Church

St. Charles and Dover

Pastor: Heather E Klason

Church phone: 507-932-4966

Pastor's cell phone: 320-290-7460




E-mail: scdumcs@hbci.com

Website: www.scdmethodist.com



**Minnesota
Annual Conference**
of the United Methodist Church

April 2018

1	Easter Sunday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:00 am Breakfast at DCC 8:30 am Sunrise service at DCC 10:00 am Easter Worship at SCUMC				1:00 pm UMW at SCUMC 6:30 pm Confirmation	No Assisted Living Worship		
8	8:30 am SC Worship 9:30 SC SS 10:00am Dover Worship 10:15 am Dover SS	9	10	11	12	13	14
		7:00 pm PPRC at SCUMC		6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Joint Ad Council at SCUMC		Shmita Retreat	
15	8:30 am SC Worship 9:30 am SC SS 10:00am Dover Worship 10:15 am Dover SS	16	17	18	19		20
Articles for May Newsletter due in office							
		Pastor Heather on sabbatical for Shmita retreat Rev. Frank Jones on call (507-292-7956 or 612-232-1059)					
22	8:30 am SC Worship 9:30 am SC SS 10:00 am Dover Worship 10:15 am Dover SS	23	24	25	26	27	28
Pastor Heather on retreat Rev. Frank Jones on call (507-292-7956 or 612-232-1059)							
29	8:30 am SC Worship 9:30 am SC SS 10:00 am Dover Worship 10:15 am Dover SS	30	31				



Birthdays and Anniversaries

March

1	David Kvam	St. Charles
2	Danielle Tilford	Dover
3	Tyler Sexton	St. Charles
	Amber Myers	Dover
4	Linda Ferguson	St. Charles
	Clair & Geri Ihrke	Dover
5	Alice Dabelstein	St. Charles
	Dale Bedtka	Dover
6	Dustin Olsgard	Dover
7	Jeff & Brenda Olsgard	Dover
8	Roger & Cheryle Ihrke	Dover
10	Mary Hanenberger	Dover
	Jeremy Magnuson	Dover
12	Daks Marquart	Dover
	Melinda Kieffer	Dover
	Adalyn Pearson	St. Charles
	Addisyn Kieffer	Dover
13	Brooke Boelter	Dover
14	Robert Bearden	St. Charles
	Weston Mitchell	Dover
15	Ed & Cathy Evans	St. Charles
16	Nicole Lewandowski	Dover
17	Ross Harps	Dover
18	Tom & Mickey Badker	Dover
20	Rick Hammel	Dover
21	Erin Ihrke	Dover
	Sandra Holst	St. Charles
22	Jim & Jody Tilford	Dover
	Bradley Karlen	St. Charles
24	Pat Stevens	St. Charles
	Dakota Schafer	St. Charles
25	David Hinckley	St. Charles
	Grace Magnuson	Dover
28	Keith Phelps	St. Charles
	Brett Decker	St. Charles
30	Thomas Bearden	St. Charles
31	Rebecca Geisler	St. Charles

April

1	Laremy Ellsworth	St. Charles
3	Luke Magnuson	Dover
	Marie Kvam	St. Charles
6	Roy Holst	St. Charles
	Zachary Ferson	Dover
	Hunter Brown	St. Charles
7	Dennis & Karen Sabatke	St. Charles
8	Robert & Marilyn Christie	St. Charles
10	Nancy Rentfrow	St. Charles
	Erin Tilford	Dover
11	George Schwoboda	St. Charles
	Lily Hutsell	St. Charles
12	Bill Harps	Dover
13	Tamara Doty	St. Charles
15	Joel Kieffer	Dover
16	Janell Dahl	Dover
	Brooke Candahl	Dover
17	Stacey Snitker	St. Charles
19	Patrick & Bernadine Stevens	St. Charles
	Kelly Pederson	Dover
21	Brad Biers	Dover
	Nicholas Dahl	Dover
24	Reuben & Tammy Torres	St. Charles
	Michael & Shaheen Christie	St. Charles
	Brenda Dabelstein	St. Charles
25	Alex Dabelstein	St. Charles
	Steve & Jill Harvey	Dover
	Jennifer Sackreiter	St. Charles
26	Bill Ferguson	St. Charles
	Mitchell McKee	St. Charles
27	Steve & Jenell Pearson	St. Charles

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Address Service Requested

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St. Charles, MN 55972

Address

Mailing