



Bethany Banner

AUGUST 2021

The Newsletter of
Dover Bethany UM Church
4510 Bull Road
Dover, PA 17315
www.dbumc.org

The Groundhogs Are Back!

I've spent a couple of years trying to rid my upper field of groundhogs. This year we are haying the field instead of cutting all that grass. It's like putting out a neon welcome sign and "leaving the light on" for all the local groundhogs to move back in! I've got holes everywhere!

Now I know groundhogs are God's creation and are not demonic, but it reminded me of a scripture passage.

***"When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."* Matthew 12:43-45 NIV**

Spiritually, we cannot just "clean house". We must fill the house with something else. Nature hates a vacuum. That is why we have been emphasizing holiness and sanctification this summer through our Sunday sermons.

Personally we must remove the old sinful and destructive habits, replacing them with new spiritual disciplines or practices. As a church, we must not simply preach and teach sound, orthodox doctrine, but we must be practicing and living them out, unless something worse like spiritual pride or arrogance or self-righteousness takes root.

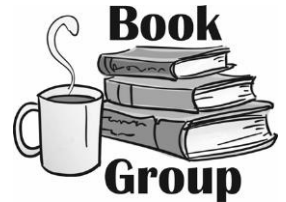
As we prepare for a denominational split, the split is not the goal in and of itself. We have mission and ministry, outreach, and evangelism that must to be done now. Cleaning our spiritual denominational house is not the end goal. If we clean our spiritual house yet doing nothing else, we will end up in a worse spiritual condition than we are now.

Let's get to work. Not just cleaning, but being filled with Holy Spirit and then following through with obedience and service in God's mission and ministry.

"Take Risks" and God Bless,
Pastor Sal

SUMMER BOOK CLUB

You can still join in our summer reading by reading our book for August. Sign up on your Communication Card to participate. You must purchase your own book. Let us know if you want us to order you a copy or if you will obtain a copy yourself. See Pastor Sal for more details.



- The date for July's book discussion "**Knowing God**" is **Sunday, August 15th, 1 —5 pm.**
- **August: *Interior Castle* by St. Teresa of Avila**
170 pages containing St Teresa's vision of a crystal castle with 7 chambers each representing a different stage of our soul's development.



PRELIMINARY (UNOFFICIAL) VOTE ON DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

As many of you may know, we are looking at a split within the United Methodist denomination between those who are of a traditional/conservative bent and those who are of a progressive/liberal mindset. This cannot be addressed until our next General Conference, which will not be until Aug 29-Sept 7, 2022.

The symptoms of this division revolve around human sexuality, which is reflected in issues like same sex marriages and the ordination of LGBTQ individuals. These are only the symptoms. The actual issues have a deeper theological and doctrinal root.

Even though the General Conference is over a year away, we are going to have an informative get together and a preliminary vote on what direction Dover Bethany will be considering. Some other churches have already starting to do this.

Sunday night, September 12th at 7 pm, we will meet to discuss options regarding a denominational split. Our current options would be to stay with the United Methodist Church or join the Global Methodist Church. There are a couple of other options that do not seem as feasible, but we will look at them

After the informational time we will have an unofficial vote to see what direction we should begin planning for. Again this is an unofficial vote. We are simply testing the waters so we can begin to prepare for our future direction. All are welcome to attend the meeting but the voting is for church members.

Food Team Needs Your Help!!

To enable us to provide meals for funerals and Wonderful Wednesdays, we need to update our record of volunteers. If you are interested in helping to prepare and serve meals and/or desserts, reply on the communication card or call Michael Lehr or Kathy Aughey.



Dover Bethany United Methodist Church Calendar						August 2021
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am Adult Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	2	3 9am Ladies' Bible Study 7pm Board of Directors Mtg	4 9am-2p Mission Central Trip 7p Wonderful Wednesday	5	6	7
8 8am Adult Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 7p A Night of Worship Concert	9	10	11 7p Wonderful Wednesday	12	13	14
15 8am Adult Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	16	17 9am Ladies' Bible Study	14 7p Wonderful Wednesday	15	16	21
22 8am Adult Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:45am Sunday School FOOD BANK Sunday	23	24	25 7p Wonderful Wednesday	26	27	28 7am Men's Covenant
29 8am Adult Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	30 Counting/Sorting Shoebbox Donations 6 – 8 PM	31				

A Night of Music – August 8th

Sunday night, August 8th at 7pm, the Praise and Worship team is going to lead us in a night of music. The selections will be favorites from our team members who are recipients of our scholarship fund. The rest of the team will select some favorites to round out the night's music – therefore you are going to get a mixed assortment of musical styles, old and new. We will have a special offering that night to help boost our scholarship fund.

August 2021	1	8	15	22	29
Greeters	Curt & Kathy Lamparter	Pat Smith Nancy Snyder	Steve & Carla Green	Carolyn Blymire Deb Kemper	Mary Lauer Mary Fetrow
Nursery	Tracy Henze Jeanne Spahr	Steve Green Becky Drawbaugh	Jeff Stief Mark Burkhart	Sonja Crisamore Carol Sarver	Carolyn Blymire Carla Green
Head Usher	Bob Sarver	Jeff Stief	Rich Cramer	Ray Neiman	Jack McLeod
Counters	George & Ruthie Laird				

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Dover PA 17315**

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***Knowing God
Growing in Faith
Serving Others
Sharing the Good News***

Here is your shopping list for



**Operation
Christmas
Child**

SHOEBOXES

Our Packing Party goal is 1000 boxes. We still need:

- large or small color books
- 24 pack crayons
- 10 or 12 pack pencils
- pencil sharpeners
- loose leaf notebook or spiral notebook
- stuffed animals

We also need toys, other school/craft supplies and any other personal or fun items.

Remember donations need to be **NEW ITEMS** – no military toys or knives; candy or gum; liquids; food; seeds.

We will be sorting and counting donations on Monday, August 30th from 6 to 8 PM. You do not have to come for the full two hours – come as you can to help with this project. Thank you for your generous support.

PACKING PARTY WILL BE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13th! Mark your calendar and save the date!