



Bethany Banner

February 2021

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

Be Glad! Rejoice! Sing for Joy!

For our church family who are 70 years old and above, we have started up weekly phone calls. We are doing this because we cannot meet to have in-person worship. On Wednesday, January 27th, this was the verse I emailed the phone team to share with our church family: ***“But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.”*** Psalm 5:11 New International Version

We have been bombarded for the last year with negativity. And it is extremely difficult not to absorb that negativity and reflect it back through our own lives. I have done my fair share of belly aching and complaining, perhaps more than my fair share. And I must say that the persistent habit continues. I’m sick of it and I want to see change.

And then I read Psalm 5:11. It uses phrases like “be glad,” “sing for joy,” “rejoice in you.” It takes these celebrative attitudes and actions while talking about “taking refuge.” To take refuge is to find a safe and secure place to be.

The person responsible to do all the action of the verbs is me. In this verse, there is only one verb in which God acts. God spreads His protection over those who love Him. As a result, we are the ones who turn to Him for refuge. We are the ones who are to sing and be glad and rejoice.

I’ve got to be honest. My heart has had difficulties in reflecting that over the last year. I am tired and weary of this insidious attitude of griping and complaining. It is time to come out of all this darkness and remember Who is in control.

I stumbled across this quote from a book entitled “Victory in the Wilderness” by John Bevere: “The Wilderness is not a negative time for those who obey God. Its purpose is very positive: to train and prepare us for a new move of the Holy Spirit”

Perhaps all the issues of 2020 and now 2021 are simply preparing us for the next move of the Holy Spirit. I need to snap out of my own negativity, focus on the goodness of God and not miss the next wave of God’s spirit.

May revival and renewal come to Your church, Lord Jesus!

Pastor Sal



BUT LET ALL THOSE WHO TAKE
REFUGE IN YOU
REJOICE, LET THEM
ALWAYS SHOUT FOR JOY, BECAUSE
YOU DEFEND THEM.
LET THEM ALSO
WHO LOVE YOUR NAME BE
JOYFUL IN YOU.
PSALM 5:11

SOLAR UPDATE

There have been multiple meetings with Adams Electric, our lawyer and 2 companies pursuing bids. It has been a complex mess of regulations, logistics, pouring over years of electric bills and trying to work out the best options for the church. A solid bid has finally come in on January 26 and we hope to have the other bid by January 30, then we can move forward.



We have gone back and forth between trying to supply all the church's electrical needs, which includes the parsonage, or simply covering the church's electric. Due to regulations from Adams, it looks like we are only going to pursue the church's electrical needs. To include the parsonage would either have to trench across the parking lot or place a separate array at the parsonage. We are not going to do either of those right now.

Good news is we should be in a healthy place financially to get it done. Thank you for your patience, your generosity and your prayers.

COVID UPDATE

We are watching the data and metrics for York County and are waiting for numbers to fall back to where they were at Thanksgiving before we stopped in-person services. Good news is numbers are falling but we just don't know when we'll hit the mark for us to come back into the church building.

Pastor Sal would like to see us back in the building on Feb. 7th BUT it will probably be Feb. 14th (Valentine's Day). It all depends on the numbers for York County and how we are doing. Thanks for your patience and understanding. We understand that some of you may be more at risk and/or are not comfortable coming back in person. So, even if we get back in the building, we will continue to stream on Facebook and broadcast in the parking lot.



The food pantry continues to keep busy. Please stop by on Friday mornings or Sunday mornings (please have a mask on in the building). Don't feel bad picking stuff up for yourself. If we can help you stretch your grocery budget, that's great. We do end up throwing some perishables away that do not leave the building fast enough. If you know someone who can use some help stretching their grocery dollars, drop off a box for them. It's a great way to show God's love to our family, friends and neighbors.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

One of the concerns of not meeting in-person on Sundays was financial. Many of you already give electronically. If you wish to do that, please visit our web site to find out how to do that or call the church office.

Praise God that with all the disruptions of 2020, your faithful stewardship, generosity and obedience left us with a \$30,000 balance at the end of year! We have been able to support some additional missions this year and pursue the solar project.

The Amazing Tragedy and Faith Behind this Famous Hymn



Horatio G. Spafford was a successful lawyer and businessman in Chicago with a lovely family - a wife, Anna, and five children. However, they were not strangers to tears and tragedy. Their young son died with pneumonia in 1871, and in that same year, much of their business was lost in the great Chicago fire. Yet, God in His mercy and kindness, allowed the business to flourish once more.

On Nov. 21, 1873, the French ocean liner, Ville du Havre was crossing the Atlantic from the U.S. to Europe with 313 passengers on board. Among the passengers were Mrs. Spafford and their four daughters. Although Mr. Spafford had planned to go with his family, he found it necessary to stay in Chicago to help solve an unexpected business problem. He told his wife he would join her and their children in Europe a few days later. His plan was to take another ship.

About four days into the crossing of the Atlantic, the Ville du Harve collided with a Scottish ship, the Loch Earn. Suddenly, all of those on board were in grave danger. Anna hurriedly brought her four children to the deck. She knelt there with Annie, Margaret Lee, Bessie and Tanetta and prayed that God would spare them if that could be His will, or to make them willing to

**When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Chorus: It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul

And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts, your minds through Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:7

endure whatever awaited them. Within approximately 12 minutes, the Ville du Harve slipped beneath the dark waters of the Atlantic, carrying with it 226 of the passengers including the four Spafford children.

A sailor, rowing a small boat over the spot where the ship went down, spotted a woman floating on a piece of the wreckage. It was Anna, still alive. He pulled her into the boat and they were picked up by another large vessel which, nine days later, landed them in Cardiff, Wales. From there she wired her husband a message which began, "Saved alone, what shall I do?" Mr. Spafford later framed the telegram and placed it in his office.

Mr. Spafford booked passage on the next available ship and left to join his grieving wife. With the ship about four days out, the captain called Spafford to his cabin and told him they were over the place where his children went down.

According to Bertha Spafford Vester, a daughter born after the tragedy, Spafford wrote "It Is Well With My Soul" while on this journey.

Dover Bethany United Methodist Church
4510 Bull Road
Dover PA 17315

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Knowing God
Growing in Faith
Serving Others
Sharing the Good News

PEANUT & RAISIN CLUSTER SALE - Price: \$2/bag

Carol Hake will ensure the implementation of food safety procedures for her church family by wearing mask and gloves while making the peanut & raisin cluster, and have your name on the bags that you order, so you can feel confident in ordering. The sale is to raise money to help with her great granddaughter's medical bill; Anyla Sweeney, who is 2.5 years old and has been diagnosed with diabetes that causes liver problems, and she also has rare blood cancer. Available by ORDER ONLY, so please call Carol Hake (717) 266-5325. Last day to order: **Friday, Feb. 5**, Pick up: **Sunday, Feb. 14** at church parking lot.

Please keep Anyla and the whole family in your prayers during this difficult time. Thank you.

