

# Bethany Banner

*The Newsletter of  
Dover Bethany UM Church  
4510 Bull Road  
Dover, PA 17315  
717-292-2716  
www.dbumc.org*

*Rev. Salvatore E Buonocore  
Pastor*

## January 2023



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

## A New Year A New Opportunity A New Denomination

Wow!!! 2022 could be the poster child for a Dicken's novel... "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

All of the contrasts in the Dicken's quote ends on the negative. For Dover Bethany, our contrasts of 2022 have all ended on the positive!

Your vote to disaffiliate was 98%. Your vote to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church was 96%. The unity and agreement within our church family has been phenomenal. I cannot begin to express my gratitude in regards to your concerns, thoughtfulness, prayers, preparation and support through all of this.

Now, the more difficult work begins. How do we take this momentum and this opportunity, promise and potential of a new start and harness it for mission, ministry, outreach, evangelism and worship?

Over the last three months, there has been a team of sixteen people that have been wrestling with these concerns. I have been calling them our launch team. They will be yoking with our church board of directors to harness these possibilities and strategize our next steps.

I am both thrilled and anxious at the same time. We have some exciting ideas that we think will work great, but some of this we have "never done it that way before" and we have no guarantees regarding results. There is some in trepidations and concerns and a whole lot of faith and prayers.

I have this overwhelming sense that we are on the cusp of something great for God. I think God is going to work in some surprising, exciting and new ways. I have no idea what exactly that is going to be, I just know it is going to be powerful! I have more questions and concerns than I have answers. This is an exercise of faith and trust in what God wants us to do and to be.

I am strapped in and ready for the ride! I hope you are also ready and excited!

"Take Risks" and God Bless,  
Pastor Sal



**GLOBAL**  
METHODIST CHURCH



## Dover Bethany Restaurant

We are looking for a number of people to host a Dover Bethany Restaurant night at their home during the winter months of January and February 2023. This is both a fellowship and fund raising opportunity for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. Hosts set the menu, price, number of available seats and date. You can team up with a friend to do the hosting duties. Guests pay to come to your “restaurant” for a the meal and fellowship. Thank you for considering hosting a “restaurant” night at your home. You can sign up on your Communication Card or contact the church office for more details.

## Informational Meeting: Next Steps

On January 15th, after church, Pastor Sal wants to share with the congregation what the Launch Team and the Board of Directors have worked on to date. The major concern that is driving all of this is that we cannot just change our denominational name and continue to do the same things we have always done and somehow expect different results. This is the beginning of a new chapter in what God wants to do with us and through us.

## Celebrating our History and Heritage

June 25th will be our last day as a United Methodist Church and we want to celebrate our past. We would like to put together some type of memory book that we can give to each of our church families. It will be a book to remember, celebrate and give thanks for our history here at Dover Bethany. We are looking for any old photos and/or documents you might have that we can borrow and copy. For example: we need some photos of those softball teams that some of us have heard so much about! Any old bulletins, interesting facts or occurrences. Even any brief stories or memories. Put this date on your calendar and make sure you don’t plan your vacation, family reunion or some other event on that Sunday!

January 2023 Volunteer Schedule	1	8	15	22	29
<b>Greeters</b> ( <i>Sanctuary doors, child care entrance and the entrance by the office</i> )	Dennis & Joan Wilt Carolyn Blymire Deb Kemper	Joanna Yingling Barb Mazol Donna Snyder Pat Smith	Steve & Carla Green Elaine Myers	Bob & Carol Sarver Curt & Kathy Lamparter	Jeff & Lynette Stief Jack McLeod Jim Willour
<b>Nursery</b>	Tracy Henze Jeanne Spahr	Steve Green Ginger Lehr	Margie Burkhart Denise Brulinski	Ray Neiman Carla Green	Carolyn Blymire Mark Burkhart
<b>Head Usher</b>	Rich Crager	Ray Neiman	Jeff Stief	Jack McLeod	Rich Crager
<b>Hospitality Center</b>	Mark Burkhart Margie Burkhart	Jeff Stief Lynette Stief	Ray & Linda Deneen	Marlin & Kathy Aughey	Becky & Kevin Drawbaugh
<b>Counters</b>	Sue Hoover & Barb Mazol				

## Christmas Song Service

We have more Christmas songs than we could ever get into our Advent and Christmas services SO... we are going to have one night to sing as many as possible before we put them away for another year.

Sunday night, January 8th at 7 pm. Bring a car load of folks with you. We will sprinkle in a couple of special music numbers with all the congregational singing.

## Calling All Possible Choir Members

We would like to put together one choral number for our Christmas song service. We will only have 2 practices: Saturday night, January 7th at 7:30 PM and Sunday morning at 8 AM. We have borrowed some music for this and have a link for you to listen to: The Majestic Manager <https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&productID=11393425&type=audio>



## Un-decorating the Church

We are gathering on Wednesday night, January 11th at 6pm for pizza and to put away our Christmas decorations. Please sign up on your communication card so we know how much pizza we need.

## Mission Central Volunteers

Until further notice, our volunteer schedule for Mission Central will only be every other month beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, then April, June, August, October and Decemb4er. The need is still great, but the supplies coming in have dwindled significantly. If you feel led to donate to Mission Central, pocket folders, children's scissors, pens, and pencils for their school kits are needed. The schedule for our months will be posted on the bulletin board in the lobby.

## Operation Christmas Shoebox Ministry

After Christmas sales are here! Keep your eyes open for items for the shoebox gifts. This is a great time to get an assortment of things at a great price. Thank you for your generous support of our shoebox program.

Dover Bethany Church Calendar						January 2023
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15am Worship No Sunday School  <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>	2 Office Closed  7pm Women's Group	3 9am Ladies' Bible Study  7pm Board of Director's Meeting	4   7pm THE CHOSEN video series	5	6	7
8 8am Helping Hands Class 9:15am Worship 10:45am Other Sunday School Class	9   7pm Men's Group	10	11 9am Stitches of Love  6pm-Pizza & Un-decorating the church	12	13	14
15 8am Helping Hands Class 9:15am Worship Informational Meeting for the church following worship	16   7pm Women's Group	17 9am Ladies' Bible Study	18   7pm THE CHOSEN video series	19	20	21
22 8am Helping Hands Class 9:15am Worship 10:45am Other Sunday School Class  FOOD BANK Sunday	23   7pm Men's Group	24	25 9am Stitches of Love  7pm THE CHOSEN video series	26	27	28
29 8am Helping Hands Class 9:15am Worship 10:45am Other Sunday School Class	30   7pm Women's Group	31				

## Reflections on our Wesleyan Heritage for the New Year

On Monday, May 11, 1755, Wesley introduced what became known as the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service. Wesley referred to this service as “another means of increasing serious religion practiced by our forefathers, and attended with eminent blessing; namely, the joining in a covenant to serve God with all our heart and with all our soul.” Approximately 1,800 persons attended the first service held at the French church in Spitalfields, London. In John Wesley’s journal that day he concluded, “Surely the fruit of it shall remain forever.”

Since that time, Methodists have gathered on January 1<sup>st</sup> or the Sunday after to reaffirm their covenant with God for the New Year. The early Methodists gathered at 4:00 AM. The following excerpts are taken from Wesley’s Journal describing his thoughts on the services and on the covenant he re-affirmed each year with God at the New Year.

- **January 1, 1756** – “We had a large congregation at four in the morning. How much are men divided in their expectations concurring the ensuing year! Will it bring a large harvest of temporal calamities, or of spiritual blessings? Perhaps of both; of temporal affections preparatory to spiritual blessings.
- **Friday, January 1, 1762** – “We had, I believe, pretty near two thousand of the society at Spitalfields in the evening...God was in the midst, while we devoted ourselves to him in the most solemn and explicit manner.”
- **Sunday, January 1, 1764** – “We met in the evening for that solemn purpose. I believe the number of those that met was considerably larger than it was last year. And so was the blessing: Truly the consolations of God were not small with us. Many were filled with peace and joy; many with holy fear, and several backsliders were healed.
- **Monday, January 1, 1770** – “About eighteen-hundred of us met together: It was a most solemn season. As we did openly “avouch the LORD to be our God, so did He avouch us to be his people.”
- **Tuesday, January 1, 1771** – “A large congregation met at Spitalfields in the evening, in order to renew, with one heart, and one voice, their covenant with God. This was not in vain, the Spirit of glory, and of God, as usual, rested upon them.
- **Sunday, January 1, 1775** – “We had a larger congregation at the renewal of the Covenant than we have had for many years: And I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for fresh manifestation of his grace, healing all their backsliding.”
- **Sunday, January 2, 1780** – “We had the largest congregation at the renewal of our covenant with God, which ever met upon the occasion; and we were thoroughly convinced that God was not departed from us. He never will, unless we first depart from him.”

### The famous prayer from this service is:

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you,

exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.



**Let us recommit our hearts and lives to our Lord as we start the new year.**

## Financial Life of our Church

### GENERAL FUND 11/30/22 – To Date

#### **REVENUE**

Contributions	
General Fund/Sunday School	263,136
Other Donations	6,040
Memorial Gifts	4,210
Other Income	1,953
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>275,339</b>

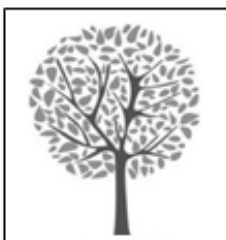
#### **EXPENSES**

Conference – Shares of Ministry	18,837
Human Resources	
Pastoral Support	95,633
Lay Employees	32,915
General Operations	
Church Administration	7,588
Church/Parsonage Utilities	18,318
Property Maintenance	49,235
Taxes, Insurance, Fees, etc	22,751
Team Expenses – Serving, Growing, Sharing, Knowing	27,558
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>272,835</b>

**BOTTOM LINE** **+ 2.504**

Some of the Workforce grant that our Early Learning Center received earlier this year has been spent as follows:

- Sign-on bonuses – 2 staff- total = \$ 2,000
- Referral bonuses – 2 staff - total = \$ 1,500
- Christmas bonuses – all staff - total = \$ 1,150



#### Endowment Fund –

- Principal – 1/1/22 - \$ 74,201  
                  9/30/22 - \$ 80,353
- Income – 1/1/22 - \$ 5,443  
                  9/30/22 - \$ 5,952

#### Balance Sheet – 11/30/22

Checking Account – \$ 198,338  
Money Market Account - \$ 146,643



We received a bequest from the Janet Neiman Estate. Specific bequest was \$ 1,000. Less an abatement of \$ 119.48 left a balance received of \$ 880.52.



Our total assessed Shares of Ministry for 2022 have been paid to the Susquehanna Conference. All have been paid at the rate of 100%. Amounts paid are:

- Benevolence - \$ 5,434.12
  - Connectional Ministry - \$ 8,087.13
  - Clergy Support - \$ 8,707.48
- Total = \$ 22,228.73

Reserve Fund Activity –  
Jan – Nov 2022:

Receipts – Offerings - \$ 11,826  
Expenses – Payment toward Carl Redding's student loan - \$ 5,250



### EARLY LEARNING CENTER –11/30/22 – To Date

#### **REVENUE**

Tuition, Camp Fees	386,647
Grants and Awards	226,277
Fund Raisers, Misc.	140
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>613,064</b>

#### **EXPENSES**

Employee Salaries/Benefit	375,029
General Operations	32,796
Program Expenses	100,124
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>507,949</b>

**BOTTOM LINE** **+ 105,115**

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**Dover Bethany  
United Methodist Church  
4510 Bull Road  
Dover PA 17315**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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

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## **Something New is Happening on Wednesday Nights Beginning January 4<sup>th</sup>!**

We are changing up our Wednesday nights. We are no longer gathering for a meal, but are joining together to watch "The Chosen" in the sanctuary beginning at 7 PM. "The Chosen" is a very popular and well done series on the life of Jesus. After each episode, we will have a time of discussion.

