



Bethany Banner

January 2021

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

A NEW YEAR, A ~~NEW~~ REVISED PLAN

I am a list maker. The problem with this is my list is always longer than the time, the energy and the motivation I have to get it done. My lists also have deadlines, which always seem to get pushed back. It can be frustrating, but it can also be rewarding and it can be a spiritual wakeup call.

Look at these verses from Proverbs:

“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”

Proverbs 15:22 NIV

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”

Proverbs 16:3 NIV

“Plans are established by seeking advice; so if you wage war, obtain guidance.”

Proverbs 20:18 NIV



The making of lists is ok, but I need to spend some more time praying and seeking God's plans. I need to be listening to God's voice and His leading. Too often I assume I know what the best plan is, or that it is just simple common sense and I don't need to pause and give God time to speak. The result: hurried, frustrated, ineffective, time consuming, wasted energy, worried, anxious, and poor results.

If you are spending more time at home (we all are), turn the TV off and spend some quiet time listening to God for what He would have you plan.

“May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.” Psalm 20:4 NIV

Be Smart, Be Safe, Stay Healthy,
Pastor Sal

COVID UPDATE

There is not much to report. We are basically shut down until further notice. You may have heard this phrase concerning churches at this time: “We may be closed, but we are not out of business.” We are still in business. We are working to have services on line and in the parking lot. We continue to have the food pantry on Fridays. We continue to follow up concerns with pastoral calls. We continue the daily operations of the building. And we are struggling with how to continue our mandate of mission, ministry, outreach and evangelism while following COVID restrictions.

The main difference for us right now is that we are not in the building and we are not gathering together as a group. Please keep the church family in your prayers and support as we work on getting through this together.

PHONE TREE

Last spring when we were out of the building, we had a phone tree that called the entire extended church family once a week to keep everyone connected and informed. We want to re-start that again. We need this even more than in the spring, because we don't have the weekly contact of a parking lot service.



Volunteers on the phone tree will get a weekly email from me with an updated call list. The call list (depending on the number of volunteers) consists of 15 to 25 names. We ask volunteers to pass on info from the church, convey any praises or prayer requests from our church family, share a scripture verse and say a brief prayer.

If you can do that for us, please volunteer by calling the church office (717-292-2716) and let us know. We would like to get the phone tree up and running the week of January 10th. Thanks

ON THE RADIO & ON FACEBOOK

Don't forget that we continue to transmit the service thru your car radio in the church parking lot. You will need a church hymnal and a bulletin for the service. Tune into 89.9 FM.



We also continue to post services on Facebook. We are learning how to work new equipment and get the best picture and sound for our online streaming. You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch the service. Search our church name and you should be able to access our public Facebook page.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE DVD ISSUES

We were sorry to hear that many of you were unable to get the DVDs of the Christmas Eve Service to operate in your players. We are still working on our skills with technology and appreciate your patience in this matter.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Each Friday our church lobby is open from 9 till noon for food distribution to **ANYONE**. If you know of those who could use the assistance, please encourage them to stop by the church on Fridays OR load up a box on Sunday morning and drop it off to them. Let us work together to help those experiencing a need.

FINANCIAL NOTE

One of the struggles of not meeting together is our church finances. 3 out of the last 5 Sundays, our offering was below what our projected average offering needs to be. As soon as we can wrap up the 2020 finances we will send you a giving report and update.

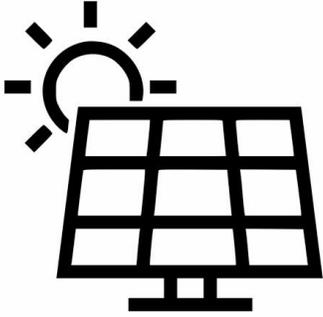
If you would like to give electronically, go to the church web site (dbumc.org). Under the heading "About Us" go to "Manage Online Contributions" and you can set up a secure account where your gifts will be electronically transferred to the church.

As of November, we were about \$30,000 plus for the year, so we should end the year well. With all the difficulties and confusion this year, the Lord has been faithful in providing and you have been faithful, obedient and generous in your giving and stewardship. Thank you.



You can also send your financial gifts directly to the church: Dover Bethany United Methodist Church, 4510 Bull Road, Dover PA 17315

SOLAR UPDATE



The church solar project has proved to be more complex and difficult than first imagined. It has not been as simple as hiring a contractor and doing the project. We have had to clarify and settle some things with the electric company, work multiple possibilities concerning the size of the array that the church would need and trying to get a couple different bids.

Some of you know that our first, very rough estimated came in at \$240,000. We have tightened that up and got a better handle on our electric usage and electric rates and now have a rough bid of about \$140,000. We hope to have a signed contract before the end of the year.

The church has taken \$93,000 from some investments and the church family has contributed about \$25,000. Therefore we have just over \$118,000 for a complete solar array. We are assuming a bid will come in at about \$140,000, so we are still looking for \$22,000. The system should pay for itself in about 12 years. Panels are under warranty for 20 years and converters for about 7 years.

You will have complete details when we finalize a contract. Thank you for your support and prayers.

THANK YOU!

Pastor Sal, Nancy, Emily and Evie would like to thank our church family for the cards, gifts and delicious homemade goodies we received for Christmas. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. May each of you have a very happy new year, filled with Christ's love and richest blessings.



A NEW YEAR'S REFLECTION

Do you take time for daily devotions – you know: daily time spent with God? It can seem intimidating if you have not tried. It can be as simple as reading a passage of scripture and spending time in prayer. You can enhance your time by using one of the devotional books that the church provides. You can worship by listening to worship music or hymns. It can be a time of study or time of reflection – but it will definitely be a time put to good use.

Let your New Year's challenge include daily time with God. Not only will it help to put Him first in your life, but it will give you His guidance and His presence in your daily journey.

A graphic for the New Year. It features a large, bold "2021" with "Happy New Year" written in a smaller font across the middle of the "0". The graphic is set against a white background within a grey banner-like frame.

Happy
New Year
2021

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

**NONPROFIT ORG
PRSRT
U S POSTAGE
PAID
YORK, PA
PERMIT NO. 325**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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