



Bethany Banner

September 2020

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

Will Churches Permanently Close Due to Covid?



Simple answer: Some, yes. As many as 1 in 5 churches could permanently close as a result of shutdowns stemming from the coronavirus pandemic, according to David Kinnaman, president of the prominent Christian research organization, Barna Group. He noted that although many churches have opened as states' shutdown orders are loosened, their services have had "a lot less people coming. So simply reopening a church doesn't fix the underlying economic challenges."

The United Methodist Church, for example, reported a 26% drop in collections for the denomination in the month of April, compared to the same time last year.

Also, a "State of the Plate" poll taken by the National Association of Evangelicals - the findings of which were released in late April - found that nearly two-thirds of churches have seen a drop in giving since mid-March. The NAE survey of about 1,000 churches found that 34% of churches reported a decline in giving by 10-20% or more; 22% reported a decline of 30-50% or more; and 9% reported a drop of 75% or more.

Dover Bethany is not in that boat. You have been faithful, resourceful and generous during this stressful time. We have seen an increase in giving over the last several months! We have not only continued our mission giving, but expanded it. We have grown stronger and more connected as a church family during this crisis. We are greatly blessed. Praise God for His faithfulness and provision for us.

Besides, we as the church don't exist for ourselves and for our own existence. That should never be our focus. **We existence to bring others to Jesus and share the tremendous blessings of God's love with others.** Where God guides, God provides.

Continuing to exercise our faith: "Take Risks" and God Bless,
Pastor Sal



Solar Project

We would like to put a dent in our electrical use and we think solar will be a good long term stewardship use of resources. Our goal is \$100,000 for 100 solar panels. That will eliminate about 60% of our church electric bill.

Please place your gifts in the offering plates and mark them for the solar project. We will run this through the last Sunday of October. We hope to break ground in November and to have things up and running a few weeks later. We will also need some hands on deck to help offset some of the labor costs by doing some of the work ourselves.

Sunday School: Are we ready?

Some of you have been ready all along! **We'll take a vote by using your attendance.** If we see not many are coming or if we're having some logistical problems, we will again put a pause on Sunday School.

Beginning Sunday, September 13th:

- The Helping Hands class which meets at 8am in the chapel will meet in the fellowship hall where we can better practice social distancing. The class will begin their quarterly lessons in Genesis 37, studying the stories of Jacob and Joseph. They will start on the first lesson of the quarterly one week late.
- Our 10:30 Adult Sunday School Class will continue in the Fellowship Hall. They will begin a study: ***Proverbs & Parables: God's Wisdom for Living*** by Dee Brestin.
- The class that was meeting in the Higher Ground room will meet in the sanctuary. They will continue with a video series and time of fellowship.



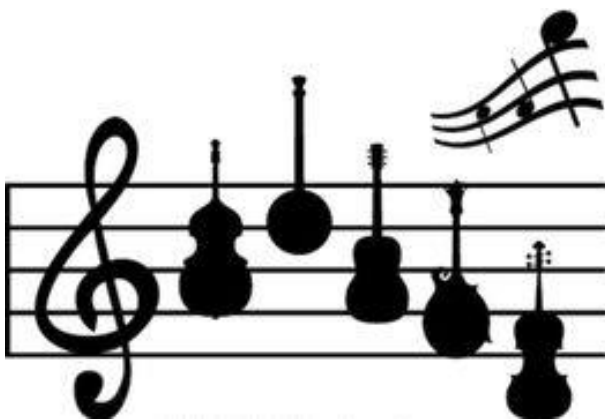
- Children's Sunday school and nursery will continue to meet in their regular space. Our last Kid's Connection mailing will be the week of Labor Day. The mailing has been our "Sunday School" for the kids during the Covid crisis.

Please keep face masks on while moving through the building. Once you are seated at a safe distance from others you can remove them. Teachers: if you would like face shields, please let the office know and we will order some.



Outdoor Southern Gospel Concert

Saturday, September 12th at 6PM (Rain date: Sunday, September 13th at 6PM)

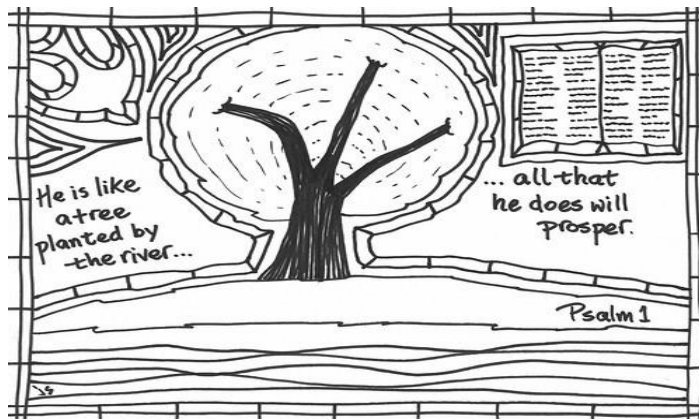


Our Praise & Worship Band is getting off their blessed assurance and holding a southern gospel music concert. The concert will be held in the same fashion as our drive-in parking lot services. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair to sit outside your car, just please honor social distancing rules and wear a mask when not in your car or seated in your seat.

A love offering will be received to go toward the solar project. In case of rain, the concert will be held on Sunday evening, September 13th. If it rains on Sunday evening, the concert will move into the sanctuary, will all social distancing and required masks like morning worship services.

Hope to see you as we enjoy many of our gospel favorites and maybe a new gospel gem or two!

Sept 2020 Volunteer Schedule	6	13	20	27
Sanctuary door Greeters	George & Ruthie Laird	Steve & Carla Green	Ray & Bertie Neiman	Glenn & Mary Fetrow
Nursery	Jack McLeod Steve Green	Kathy Lamparter Becky Drawbaugh	Carolyn Blymire Carla Green	Ellen Krause Ginger Lehr
Head Usher	Ray Neiman	Jack McLeod	Rich Cramer	Bob Sarver
Counters	Sue Hoover Barb Mazol			



Dover Bethany United Methodist Church Calendar						September 2020
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9am Ladies' Bible Study	2 9am-2pm Mission Central Trip	3	4	5
6 9:15am Worship	7 LABOR DAY	8	9	10	11	12 6PM Outdoor Southern Gospel Concert
13-SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS! 8am Helping Hands Class 9:15am Worship 10:45 Sunday School for All Ages RAINDATE for Outdoor Southern Gospel Concert at 6PM	14 7pm Alzheimer & Dementia Meeting	15 9am Ladies' Bible Study	16	17	18	19
20 8am Helping Hands Class 9:15am Worship 10:45 Sunday School for All Ages FOOD BANK Sunday	21	22	23	24	25	26 7am Men's Covenant
27 8am Helping Hands Class 9:15am Worship 10:45 Sunday School for All Ages	28	29	30			

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

Operation Christmas Shoebox Packing Party **Mark your calendar: Saturday, November 14th**

8am to 6pm (We will sign up for 2 hour slots to help pack.)

Goal: 1000 boxes

We still need the following items as well as donations for postage:

- 138 Washcloth
- 33 Soap bars
- 100 Coloring books
- 372 10 or 12 pack pencils
- 425 packs of loose leaf paper or 70 page spiral notebooks
- 360 stuffed animals

We also need any other toys, school supplies or miscellaneous/personal items.

THANK YOU for your generous support of this mission project!

