



Delaware Headwaters Charge

Through God's love and in community with one another, we welcome you!

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to the Delaware Headwaters Charge!

The Delaware Headwaters Charge has brought together Bloomville UMC, Conesville Chapel, Gilboa UMC, Harpersfield UMC, Hobart UMC, First Presbyterian Church/Stamford UMC, and Township UMC under the direction of Pastor Dawn Richards and Pastor Peggy Laemmel. We are happy to have you as a member or a visitor to our churches. God has been doing wonderful things in our communities . . . we invite you to come, share in the fellowship, take root, and grow with us.



There are two ways to stay informed about our Charge.

- Visit our website at for news and updates: www.delawareheadwatersparish.com
- Follow us on Facebook. Facebook groups can be found by searching for
 - *Bloomville United Methodist Church*
 - *Delaware Headwaters Charge*
 - *Angels' Attic*
 - *Conesville UMC-Conesville*
 - *Harpersfield United Methodist Church*

Pastor Contact Information

Pastor Dawn Richards

20 So. Delaware St
Stamford, NY 12167
dawnmarie.richards@yahoo.com
405-808-4407

Pastor Peggy Laemmel

PO Box 315
Hobart, NY 13788
margaret.laemmel@nyac-umc.com
914-584-5221



Our wonderful thrift store run by the Hobart United Methodist Women in Faith is now open. Thank you for donating, shopping and helping. Please drop off your treasures any Thursday or Saturday during our open hours. Emergency requests 607-538-9691. **Volunteers are desperately needed.**

From Pastor Dawn

A Word From the Heart.....

Psalm 29:11 reads: Let the LORD give strength to his people! Let the LORD bless his people with peace! This is an important verse for these anxious times that we live in. Anxiety and worry are one of the top issues people say that they are experiencing right now. The Hebrew word peace (shalom) as David uses it does not mean an absence of conflict.

There will always be conflict in the world because people rebel against God. What this verse means is that when our focus is on God, when we KNOW without a doubt that our strength is in the Lord, then we can feel at peace within. Shalom/peace is a wholeness in body, mind and spirit that comes from a strong relationship with God. Rather than focusing on all that is wrong with the world, we are called to focus on the good that God is doing in the world. We are called to lean on God's strength.

I find this to be a daily task. The minute I start feeling anxious, especially when reading the news, I turn to God. I lift my worries and concerns to God and then LET GO! I think the letting go is the hardest part of this. Sometimes I have to let go over and over. Deep breathing and repeating verses like the one from Psalms really helps.

So, my friends, may you experience the strength God brings to us and may you experience peace/shalom!

Blessings, Dawn

Experiencing God in Creation and in Fellowship

How do you experience God? Many people respond with "in creation" or "in fellowship with others". We have several opportunities for you that provide that experience of God. First, there are the Walks. Most Wednesdays at 3p we have a Prayer Walk on various sections of the Catskill Scenic Trail. How far we walk depends on the abilities of the people walking. We lift needs in prayer and then as we

walk, we fellowship together. Harpersfield has begun a walk on Mondays at 8:30a meeting at the Grange Hall. We only walk a mile at a slow pace and fellowship together. Finally, there is Prayer, Tea and Fellowship at the Stamford parsonage, the third Wednesday of the month (except June). We lift situations in prayer, have refreshments and fellowship. You are welcome to come and join us for any or all of these activities.

The Importance of Ministry With Others

Our membership vows make it clear that we are all "ministers" in that we are all to be doing some type of ministry in which we demonstrate the love of Jesus to others. As we write our Delaware Headwaters Charge Mission and Ministry Plan, we will have two goals in which we are inviting YOU to participate in as a type of ministry.

One goal will be Ministry to Seniors. The Surgeon General's report a few years ago, named loneliness and isolation as one of the number one problems in the US. Homebound seniors and those in nursing homes or senior living centers often experience this.

We have several ministries to seniors already. At the Robinson Terrace Senior Living Center on Buntline Drive we offer worship twice a month on the first and third Tuesday at 3p; a Soup's On, Crafts and we are trying to form a United Women in Faith group which will meet monthly. For you, it would be mostly a ministry of presence. Coming to participate shows them that people still care about them. Another ministry some have talked about doing is a Visitation ministry, where "two by two" (just like Jesus sent his disciples out), people visit those who are homebound, or in nursing homes or senior living.

I was recently visiting one of our church members in a nursing home and her words said it all. She said, "I feel like I have been forgotten". Our ministries can help people know that they are not left behind. They are loved and cared about. It is a powerful ministry and I invite you to join us in it!

Minekill Worship July 19th at 10a

It is that time of year again for our Community and Parish worship at Minekill State Park. We will meet at the Middle Pavilion and have worship followed by a potluck. This is a great opportunity to meet others in our Parish, to see the children and youth in the Parish and to be in God's creation. This is also a wonderful opportunity to invite a neighbor or friend who does not have a church home to join us. There is something non-threatening about worshipping at a State Park, versus inviting them to church. This is also a great opportunity to invite your kids, grandchildren and great grandchildren! There will be crafts for the children, there is a play ground close by and it is beautiful there. Mark your calendar and join us!!!

FRIENDS OF MUSIC of Stamford NY, Inc.

3rd Sunday April – November at 3pm

1st Sunday of December at 3pm

First Presbyterian Church
96 Main St. (NYS Route 23)
Stamford, NY 12167



Love. Grow. Serve.

Bloomville Youth Group

Thank you to EVERYONE who makes our Youth Programs so successful.

We appreciate your willingness to try new things.

We appreciate your love of church and youth.

We appreciate your generosity and giftedness.

We appreciate your faith and willingness to nurture.

We appreciate your leadership and passion.

And most of all, we appreciate you!



Office hours

Delaware Headwaters Charge

Office Hours

with

Pastor Peggy and Alice Tucker

9-3pm, Thursdays

at Hobart UMC

607-538-9691

*Or you may contact the Pastors
directly for their assistance*

Subject to change as needed

From Pastor Peg

In July I will have finished my third year here and will be starting on my fourth. I cannot tell you how much I've enjoyed working with you all in this wonderful community of faith that our Delaware Headwater Charge is, along with our Mountain Beacon Parish.

Christianity is in many ways about making and strengthening connections of love. Connections with our own spirituality and our relationship with God. Strengthening the connections with our family members and friends to be more loving and supportive. Strengthening our ties to people in our community so that we can live in a place of caring and support. And strengthening our connections to the greater area around us and the world through our missions and

ministries. I have been privileged to witness people in our churches and communities show that desire for loving connections again and again with their actions of love and support for others.

As we move forward, I would like to know how we can strengthen our ties to each other. How can we work together to make each other strong in our faith? Do you have any ideas that will bring our church communities closer together? Let me know. I'm looking forward to another year serving you all with and in Christ's love.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: On June 14, while Pastor Peg and Pastor Dawn are at Annual Conference, the churches of Township, Bloomville, and Hobart will join together to worship at the Bloomville church at 10 am. Pastor Paul Moller will be preaching for everyone and this will allow him to reconnect with all the church members. There will be a fellowship coffee hour after the service.



United Women in Faith

UWF: From January through April the United Women of Faith have held their monthly meetings at the Robinson Senior Living Center. This has allowed them to include residents of the center in their programs. In February we made *Valentines from God* and in March we looked at *St. Patrick's Prayer*. In April we had a discussion of *Grace in Our Lives*.

In May we met at Betty Reed's house in Delhi for lunch and had a program on *Expanding an Idea*. On June 17th we will meet at Cathy Rappleyea's in Unadilla for lunch. We will continue to meet in July and August at Robinson Senior Living, at 2:00 pm, on the second Wednesday of the month. UWF is open to all women of faith, and everyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Nancy Beisler at 607-434-0120 or Pastor Peg at 914-584-5221 for further information.

Angels' Attic: Angel's Attic is now open. Hours are Thursday 10 am – 3 pm and Saturday 10 am to 2 pm. (We accept donations during these times) We have a variety of clothing, toys, household goods, books, and jewelry. All of our proceeds go to the United Women of Faith local charities. Please stop in and see what treasures you can find.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Youth Group: Our two Youth Groups, Junior and Senior, have been meeting during this school year and exploring the different ways we can grow in Christ. Our lessons start with a meal and then move onto a lesson in what it means to be a Christian. Unfortunately, the weather has been very cold and rainy this winter and we haven't had many chances to meet outside, but our youth have been spending time crafting and learning how

to play various board and card games. The 2025-2026 school year has seen all of our youth grow in understanding of their faith. We are proud of their many contributions to our church and our communities

Youth Retreat at the Lake

Jane Macintosh Martin has offered to once again host a two-day Youth Retreat.

July 14, 1:00 pm

to

July 15, 5:00 pm

Food, Swimming, Boating, Crafts, Scavenger Hunts, Prayer Paddles, and Lots more!

More info coming.

All are welcome.

Family Fun Day: On Saturday, July 25, from 10 am - 1 pm we will have a Family Fun Day. This event will be offered to all of our communities in our parish and will be held at the Hobart Village Park (corner of Pine and Pearl St. in Hobart). If it rains, we will hold it at the Hobart Activity Center, in the gym, if it rains. (8 Pine Street, Hobart)

The event will consist of crafts and games for both parents and children, an interactive worship service, followed by a community picnic. The theme will be Soaring with Hope based on the scripture Isaiah 40:31: *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

We would like all our churches to be represented and participate in this event. We are in need of helpers and supplies. We hope that many of you can participate – many hands make light work. We will also be advertising this event, but we recognize that the best way to bring people is through personal invitation. It is our hope that our church families will attend and invite their family friends to come with them.

We are looking forward to making this a joyous event, in the tradition of seeking to fulfill Jesus' mandate to *go and make disciples*, and of bringing Christ's love to those outside of our buildings and into our communities.

Soup's On: On May 2nd the Hobart and Township churches sponsored the Soup's On community dinner. As usual the food was excellent and many people came, both from our churches and the community to enjoy the food and fellowship. Thanks to all the members of Hobart and Township who prepared the space and cooked as well as everyone who brought food to share. We raised over \$200 for our local food banks.

Soup's On!



Next Soup's On: June 6, 4:30 – 6:30 @ the Bloomville Methodist Church.

SOUP'S ON

June 6, 2026 4:30 – 6:30 pm

@ Bloomville United Methodist Church
36 Church St; Bloomville, NY 13739

Come and Enjoy
Fellowship, Good Food, Family Fun

ALL WELCOME

Free-Will Donations will Benefit

 **Our Local Food Banks** 

Coins for Lent: This Lent members of the Bloomville, Hobart, and Township churches participated in the Coins for Lent Challenge. This challenge, from the Methodist Discipleship website, challenges us to give coins every day for items that we find in our house, like how many shoes or backpacks we have. The challenge helps us to realize our blessings. While the members of the Hobart and Township church decided to donate their collections to individual charities, the Bloomville church chose to donate to the Heart of the Catskills. We raised \$300 for the cats and dogs that this wonderful organization helps.

Hobart News: If you've driven by the Hobart church by Pearl St. you might have noticed that the nine garden planter boxes at the back are being repaired and will be ready for use very shortly. These boxes were originally created by the Boy Scouts many years ago for a food and gardening project. Over the years the Girl Scouts then shared and eventually took over the boxes. The Girl Scouts still take

charge of four boxes every year, the pastor and her husband use some of them, and the others are used by community members. If anyone cannot have a small garden of their own and would maybe like to use one please call the church at 607-539-9691 on Thursdays or you can leave a message.

Township: Community Picnic

Every year the Township Church hosts a community picnic. This year it will be July 26 at 12 noon. Everyone from the community and all the churches of the Mountain Beacon Parish are invited. The picnic is a pot-luck so bring something to share, but don't worry, it doesn't have to be homemade. No need to worry about a rain day, since a large tent is used. We are all looking forward to seeing you.

Bloomville: Bloomville will host their Youth Sunday on May 31, at 10 am. We will be celebrating the youth of our church and their accomplishment as they continue to grow in Christ. All Are Welcome. Coffee Hour to follow.



Heavenly Father, we ask for Your blessing on America. Pour out Your favor on our people, land, and leaders. Bless us with peace, justice, prosperity, and revival. Protect us from harm and lead us in Your ways. May America be a light to the nations and a people devoted to Your glory. Lord, let Your blessing rest upon this land now and for generations to come. Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Lord, bless America with Your peace and favor. Amen.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
DONATIONS
& SUPPORT**



Missionary News

Alain & Katherine Niles' Update

Dear Friends,

We send warm greetings from Mango as we find hope in the resurrection of Christ! The work at the hospital is filled every day with wins and losses, life and death. It is our joy and privilege to share the good news of knowing Christ and the power of his resurrection (Philippians 3:10).

Baptism

In February, we celebrated the baptism of two local believers. This took place at the reservoir north of Mango with the grunts of hippos in the background. It was a joyous celebration accompanied by singing from those on the shore.

New Experiences for our Kids

In early March, Caleb got to have his first experience in the OR as he underwent a surgery to debride an infection that had developed in his foot. We are so thankful for the wonderful staff at the hospital – nurses, anesthetists, surgeons, chaplains – who took such great care of him! His foot healed quickly, and Caleb is back to his usual activities.

In the middle of March, Camille and a fellow MK took the SAT in Lomé, Togo's capital city. The double mother-daughter, 3-day trip turned out to be a great experience!

Mia-Joy and her classmates enjoyed dissecting owl pellets in their science class. We are so thankful for great teachers who invest in our kids!

May Travels

We will take a family trip in May and the chance to share at some churches in France and Germany.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support for our family and the ministry here in Mango!

Alain & Katherine, Camille, Caleb, & Mia-Joy



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INTERNATIONAL