



Delaware Headwaters Charge

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

Holiday 2025 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 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*

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Our wonderful thrift store run by the Hobart United Methodist Women in Faith will be closing Dec. 13. Thank you for donating, shopping and helping. Please hold your treasures until we reopen in May. For emergency requests call Pastor Peggy or 607-538-9691.

**Volunteers are
desperately needed.**

Veteran's Day Service

On November 13th Harpersfield UMC hosted our Veteran's Day Service. We not only honored our Veteran's and their families but also (because they don't have a special day) our First Responders and Police Officers. Dave Ogborn and Lloyd Tompkins were our speakers and Pat and Tom Hornbeck did a skit on the flag. We heard patriotic songs and took up an offering for the food pantry. This service was followed by a potluck dinner. We had several of our Parish churches present as well as a Veteran from the community.



Mission and Ministry at Senior Living in Stamford

One of the often neglected people in society are our elderly who are in Senior Living Centers or Nursing Homes. However, in the Delaware Headwaters Charge, one of our missions is to minister to those who live at the Senior Living Center in Stamford. We offer a monthly "Soup's On", Crafts and twice monthly Worship services. In addition, the United Women in Faith are also going to start meeting there in order to allow women who live there to join us. We would love to have you participate in these ministries. The Worship services are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 3p. You can contact Dianne Langer (Gilboa) about Crafts and Dianne or Lynn Albarno (Stamford) about Soup's On. The next Soup's On is December 12th. In the picture below, we see two of the ladies making Fall Wind Chimes.



Advent Meditation

I remember as a child being asked, "what do you want for Christmas" over and over. As an adult, in my family, we don't exchange gifts. I buy things for the grandchildren, but that's it. So, my answer as an adult to "what do you want for Christmas" is very different than when I was younger. I just want to once again experience the joy of the miracle of Christ's birth.

Someone once asked me what I meant by that, after all they said, why celebrate an event that happened so long ago over and over? For me, the miracle of Christ's birth is about the willingness of God to become vulnerable just so that we would

know and have a better relationship with God. It is about a God who chose peasant parents because God identifies with everyone, no matter what their social status is. It is about a love so deep that Jesus came to save us. It is a miracle in that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. But mostly, it is an opportunity to open ourselves just a little bit more to letting Jesus rule our lives.

Our Advent sermon series that the Worship Team chose is a reminder that Jesus also came to give us hope, peace, joy and love. As I think about those words, and think about the materialism of Christmas, I am once again reminded of the gap between Christian and societal values. For the big companies, Christmas is all about making money. But what about for you? What do you want for Christmas?

Advent Services

November 26th and 30th: Hanging of the Greens during worship times.

December 4th and 7th : Theme: Hope

December 11th and 14th: Theme: Peace

December 13th: Township Christmas Program

December 18th and 21st: Theme: Joy

December 20th: Community Christmas Concert 2p at Stamford

December 24th: Christmas Eve Services: Hobart 4p; Gilboa 5p; Bloomville 5:30p; Stamford 6:30p; Harpersfield 8p.

December 28th: Theme: Love

Knowing Our Spiritual Gifts.

Many people make New Year's resolutions, and some follow through and other's don't. This New Year, we are inviting you to make a resolution to learn what your spiritual gifts are and how to use them. Beginning in December, we will have copies of a Spiritual Gifts Assessment available for you to

take and learn your gifts. Then the sermon series for the first seven weeks of the New Year, will be about those spiritual gifts, how people in the Bible used them and how we can use them to make disciples and serve in the world. The Worship team felt that this would be a great way to start our New Year. So, be looking for that Assessment!

Ministries of Justice and Mercy

Imagine not being paid for over a month! If you don't have savings, how do you pay your bills? How do you feed your family? For federal employees that was their reality for a number of weeks. For those who lost benefits, that was a reality. Food pantries and thrifts shops were filled with people in need.

We have an opportunity to help through donating food for the food pantries in our area or in our churches. This is called justice and mercy ministry. Do you remember what Jesus said about his ministry: *The Lord's Spirit has come to me, because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor. The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers, and to say, 'This is the year the Lord has chosen.* Luke 4:18-19. We are called to continue to tell good news to the poor and to help those who suffer and one way we can do that is to make sure they have enough to eat.

The Mountain Beacon Parish has set aside November and December to do food drives with each church being able to choose the food pantry they want to support. The Mountain Beacon churches in our area that have food pantries are: Conesville Chapel, Jefferson and North Blenheim. Please participate in this important ministry and give generously, because that is our call.

Merry Christmas

Pastor Dawn

Happy New Year and Merry Christmas

Doesn't that sound strange putting New Year's before Christmas? But in the Christmas calendar that's how it works. We finish the Christian year on Christ the King Sunday and then we begin Advent. The first week of Advent is the first Sunday of the Christian year. It's not the Julian calendar year, but the Christian year gives us a little reminder that as Christians it is not our job to conform to the world, but rather to work on making it better.

Have you ever heard the expression *It is what it is*? On the one hand it can prevent us from ranting against stuff we can't change. I have no control over the weather, or when I file my taxes, or the date of Easter. It doesn't do me any good to complain about those things since I can't do anything about them. It is what it is, and I have to work with them and get on with my life. But the expression can also be used to give up on things. We shrug our shoulders and say, "It is what it is," and go on with our lives as if things cannot be changed.

Sometimes we need to be reminded during the celebration of the Christmas season that God looked down on the world and thought: *This isn't how I want it to be, so I'm going to send my son to show people a different way. He will show them a different way to connect to me; a different way to love each other; a different way to open their hearts to the stranger and those in need. He will teach them a better way to love and be, and the world will be changed.*

Is the world perfect? Absolutely not! But it's better when we honor the incarnation of God into the world by loving each other better. By working toward a world of better justice,

equality, hope and peace. By bringing joy to each other any way we can.

To be a Christian is to stand against *what is* and to make it *what it can be*. This Christmas season open your heart to *what it can be*, and you might find that the joy of the season comes to you in unexpected ways.

Pastor Peg

UWF



United
Women
in Faith

All women are invited to our Christmas program on Wednesday December 10, at 2:00 pm. at Dorothy Wetmore's house
117 Pine St, Hobart.

The United Women of Faith meet every month on the second Wednesday at 2:00 pm. We always have a short program and then refreshments and fellowship. Below is our calendar for 2026.

January 7: Stamford Parsonage

February 11: Hobart Parsonage

March 11: Hobart Church Coffee Hour Rm

April 8: Dorothy Wetmore's House

May 13: Betty Reed's House; Delhi;
Luncheon: Bring a dish to pass

June 10: Catthy Rappleyea's House; Unadilla
Picnic: Bring a dish to pass



Angels' Attic has a lot of holiday decorations, as well as some great gift items waiting for you. Times of operation are Thursday 10 – 3, and Saturday 10 - 2 pm. They will be open until Saturday, December 13, when they will then close for the winter.



Youth Group

We will be having a special All Youth Christmas Celebration on December 14, from 5-7 pm. Dinner will be included.

Once 2026 comes we would like to have our groups meet on the same schedule that they did last year. Junior Group will be meeting the 2nd Saturday of the month, and the Senior Group will be meeting the 4th Saturday. Both meetings will be in the evening from 5-7 pm. Our working schedule is:

January: JR 10th; SNR 24th

February: JR 14th ; SNR 28th

March: JR 14th ; SNR 28th

April: JR 11th; SNR 25th

May: JR 9th; SNR 23nd

June: not decided – maybe an end of year celebration.

In Other Church News

Bloomville: On October 25 we hosted our annual Turkey Dinner. On November 13 we hosted our annual Hunter's Breakfast. Many weary hunters came in to be fed on the first day of hunting season. Baked goods were also sold and many people went home with goodies. Our new kitchen is a breeze to work in. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard setting up, cooking, serving and cleaning up. We're looking forward to seeing everyone next year.

Township: The Township church would like to invite everyone to their Community Christmas celebration. This is a special event because it is presented by the laity who tell stories, sing songs and lift up the best of the Christmas season. Our traditional offering is food wrapped in white paper to give to our local food banks. There will be a fellowship with Christmas goodies afterwards. Please join us.



Community Dinners

Our community dinners will take a break for December and January. We will resume our fellowship in February.