

THE TIDINGS

October
2020

Doylestown Presbyterian Church



From an outdoor wedding, worship services, and hymn sings, to finding new ways to connect our members and cultivate the faith within our children and youth, DPC's ministries continue to forge ahead.

Carrying on with creativity



See inside for details of our return to Central Park for outdoor worship on World Communion Sunday **October 4** as we share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and honor our 50-year members!

Be a bridge for Christ
and a beacon of His love



FROM the PASTOR

Every family has happy and sad times; moments of celebration and loss. It is also true that one of my great privileges as a pastor comes when invited into such tender occasions for others as the officiant at a wedding, baptism, or funeral. What occurs far less frequently are those moments when the personal and professional sides of my life intersect and I preside at such milestone events in my own family. Let me quantify just how rare such occasions have been.

Through the end of 2019, I had led or assisted at 144 weddings in my thirty-three years of ordained ministry, but only thirteen of those events involved a bride or groom related to me. I had presided or helped with 263 funerals during that same stretch of time with just ten of them being occasions celebrating the life of a family member. I had officiated at 316 baptisms during those years as well, but only twice for someone with whom I have any DNA in common. I offer all of that background as numerical evidence of yet another way this year has been unusual.

It began in January when my oldest cousin died and I officiated at his funeral, occurring in the church where I served as pastor for eleven years before coming to DPC. The following month, I placed the waters of baptism on my grandson in our sanctuary, just as I had done with his big sister four years earlier. In July, I led a graveside service in western New York to honor the amazing woman who was my mother-in-law for three decades and then last month, I was both father of the bride and co-officiant at the first street wedding in DPC history. Two of those moments occurred pre-COVID 19 and two bore the clear effect of this pandemic both in regards to timing and location. All of them were emotionally rich and profoundly meaningful.

Some pastors choose not to blur the role of family member and pastor in such occasions wanting in the case of my events only to be the grieving cousin or proud grandfather, thankful son-in-law or beaming father. I completely understand such reasoning for at the baptism of our children I was the father who stood with Lori and answered the questions posed to us by a clergy friend who then offered the sacrament itself. Yet I have no regrets in choosing a different role in recent family events, due both to what they allowed me to say and what those times said to me.

For when I led the funeral celebrating Don's 69 years on this earth, I was comforted again by the "old,

old story of Jesus and his love." When I placed water three times on Benjamin's head, I received tangible proof once more that we serve a God whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. When I commended the soul of Rowena to her Maker, I was also blessed by the reminder that in life and in death we all belong to God. And when I pronounced Bryan and Emsley "husband and wife," I celebrated not only the love they had found in the other, but how all of us received God's love before we took our first breath.

Certainly not all of you have the same vocational opportunities, but we all have moments when our personal and professional lives can reveal the nature of God's care and presence and call. We all have times at milestone events when the words speak not only to the honoree, but to ourselves. Thus, while like many of you, I am ready for 2020 to end due to all of the challenges and disruption it has brought, I hope that in its last quarter you remain attentive to the enduring work of our Creator in your life and that of others. All in such a way that you might celebrate the fact that you are an integral part of God's family, too, and thus claim anew the blessing of that gift.

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John

SESSION REPORT

September 28

AT ITS MEETING THE SESSION:

- Shared in an exit interview with representatives from the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry reflecting on Josh Gill's time with us.
- Hired Candi Young as the Youth, Tweens, and College-Age Connections Coordinator, a part-time role.
- Began reflections on what our next Associate Pastor role would look like
- Made changes in membership roll. Total as of 9/28 is 1479



We are thrilled to once again gather in Central Park to praise God together. We encourage you to bring your own Communion elements - which can include bread, crackers, wafers, juice, or water - as we share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper marking World Communion Sunday. The gathering will be the collection point for the first of our monthly food drives to benefit the Bucks County Housing Group, so please bring some items to donate.

The Senior Adult Ministry Committee will also be honoring the faith and dedication of DPC's **50-year members** during the service, including the four newest additions to this group, **Ron and Joy Feigles**, and **Paul and Virginia Hendrixson**.



In reflecting on the five decades of worship and fellowship with DPC, Joy Feigles expressed kindness and thanks on behalf of she and her husband.

"Our faith and church are valuable and necessary pillars in our lives and we are grateful for these blessings," she added. Over the years, the couple has been active in many aspects of church life, with Ron serving twice as an Elder and Church School Teacher. He has donated generously to DPC, including a computer system in 1996. Joy has always shown a passion for helping others and was named Volunteer of the Year by the Bucks County Council on Alcoholism in 1981.



Ginny Hendrixson has long served as Church School Teacher along with her daughter Lauren Ford. The former Elder said recently that she was proud to call herself a member of such an accepting Church.

"The church has made my experience with God much stronger," added Paul. "We've had two outstanding ministers (in Dr. Barger and Dr. Willingham) and they, no doubt, have been a big part of that."

Ginny called her family's relationship with the Church "a two-way street," because while they have felt served spiritually by DPC over the years, they always tried their best to give back - by volunteering, donating items to DPC through their furniture business, supporting charities, and fostering friendships within the congregation.

HELLO!

From Your Board of Deacons

CAREGIVERS' CORNER



The social distancing and extra time spent at home necessitated by COVID-19 precautions has been hard on caregivers and their loved ones alike. With the colder months approaching, now may be a good time to plan weekly fun projects and virtual get-togethers so that each of you have things to look forward to regularly. Consider YouTube arts and crafts lessons, virtual museum tours, family dinners or neighborhood tea parties via Zoom. Put it on the calendar and make it a point to keep yourself and those in your care engaged. Keeping connected to the outside world, even in a pandemic, is important to everyone's mental well-being.

*"Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."
Proverbs 11:25b*



Members of our congregation have generously been giving financially to a fund that is available to members who might need some help during this time of unemployment, diminished income, or special unplanned expenses. As we are the body of Christ to each other we care for the needs of our fellow members. If you are in financial need, please let your brothers and sisters in Christ help you meet that need by emailing Pastors John or Pauline for confidential assistance.

What's Happening

NEW! SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP. Beginning **October 11**, the day's preacher will lead a weekly online discussion group based on that day's message. The group will meet virtually on Zoom **each Sunday at 2 pm**. The discussions are meant to be interactive conversations, focused not on feedback on the sermon per se, but a time to reflect on what the message stirred within you. The aim is to come to a better understanding of your ongoing role as a follower of Jesus. To join on October 11 or any following Sunday, visit: bit.ly/2SgCaSO
Meeting ID: 818 7247 9291 - Passcode: 003276



READ AND CHAT. October 14, 1 pm in the churchyard if weather allows or in the Celtic Cross Room. The book we are reading this month is *The Rent Collector* by Cameron Wright. For more information, contact Joyce

Baral at dpc@dtownpc.org. Join us!

Schedule for the program year:

November 11 – *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett

December 9 – *Christmas Bells* by Jennifer Chiaverini

January 13 – *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss

February 10 – *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See

March 10 – *Small Great Things* by Jodi Piccolt

April 14 – *Where the Green Star Falls* by William Jack Stephens

May 12 – *Stay* by Catherine Ryan Hyde

WRAPPING PRESENCE EVENT. The longtime host and partner of Wrapping Presence's annual fundraiser, UNO Pizzeria in Warrington, will instead be the beneficiary of the event, dubbed a



“**reverse fundraiser**” as a thank-you from the group. Those comfortable dining out or picking up meals to go are invited to the restaurant at 1661 Easton Road on **October 20**. If you place an order by phone by calling 215-491-1212 be sure to mention you are affiliated with Wrapping Presence and you will receive a coupon. Don't forget to thank the staff for all their support!

SCOUT FLAG COLLECTION. Boy Scout Troop 48 is collecting torn and worn American Flags as part of a **virtual flag retirement ceremony** which will be recorded and distributed to area nursing homes.

Flags can be dropped off in bins as the following times and locations:

- October 7 from 3-4:30 pm in the DPC parking lot
- October 20 from 11 am-3 pm and 4-9 pm in the UNO lobby
- November 2 from 10-11:30 am in the DPC parking lot
- November 17 from 6-7:30 pm along Mechanics St. under the DPC bridge

OUTDOOR HYMN SING #2! Sunday, October 25 at 12 noon in the Church Yard. By popular request, we will be hosting another outdoor hymn sing! Bring your mask and a lawn chair, and join us for another fun afternoon singing your favorite hymns. Email requests in advance to markh@dtownpc.org. Feel free to bring a lunch to enjoy after the event on the church grounds! Also, be on the lookout for an upcoming Bridges and Beacons devotional hosted by Mark that will include special interviews from several of you who attended last month's hymn sing!





ADULT CLASSES

****Please note: If weather cooperates and our October 4 outdoor worship service goes on as planned, both iLIGHT and The Word Among Us will not host a class, while Good News and Other News will run from 8:30 to 9 am. BibleTalk! will still meet at its normal time and all other classes will return to their usual schedule on October 11.**

Bible Talk! — This class welcomes all adults to come learn from a different Christian professional or Bible scholar each week as they share a Biblical lesson and discuss how it applies to our Christian walk. We believe "BIBLETALK!" will be a class you won't want to miss. Meets **Sundays, 8:30 to 9:30 am** on Zoom. Coordinated by Tim Liebig.

Good News and Other News — Current events are discussed while reflecting upon the story from the perspective of faith. Meets **Sundays, 8:30 to 9:30 am** on Zoom. Led by Christo Claassens, Jenny Danzis, Pauline Sexton, and Jay Stough.

iLIGHT — Diverse Topics, Diverse People, Demanding Times. Learning In God's House Together! Topics, units, and formats will vary, from book-based to new media like podcasts and sometimes just "round table" discussions. We see ourselves as a "learning community" rather than a class, and will adapt our approach with the input of all of our participants. All are welcome! **Sundays, 10:45 to 11:30 am** on Zoom. Join us in our journey! Led by Steve Spadt.

The Word Among Us — This class will embark on a study of one of the most beloved books of the Bible. The 150 Psalms are amazing expressions of heartfelt praise, petition, and prayer offered by the Hebrews as they worshiped God. There are many types of Psalms (e.g., praise, thanksgiving, and lamentation), reflecting the joys and hardships of real life. Join us as we study and appreciate the beauty of each of the Psalms and how we can use them in our own devotional times with God. **Sundays, 10:45 to 11:45 am** on Zoom. Led by Dick Cornelius and Margaret Thoresen.



MOMS OF YOUNG CHILDREN. These casual gatherings welcome moms (of infants through elementary school aged kids) together to share life, motherhood, and faith. It is so important, especially during

these trying times, to connect and relate to other women who are in relatively the same season of life; to offer support and encouragement to each other.

This group meets virtually on Zoom from 8-9 pm on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** of each month. We know all of us have very busy schedules and you may not be able to come to every meeting, no problem! Please attend when you can, as often as you can.

**** On October 28th, we will welcome DPC's own Nancy Roe as a guest speaker. Nancy will use her knowledge as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner to talk about resiliency in children and how we can foster it, especially during this tough year. ****

Co-leaders: Krista Spadt and Jenny Baker

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP. We welcome mothers with children ranging in ages from about 7th grade through college. This is a very casual group, focusing on a new scripture, devotional, or thought that leads the discussion each week.

The group meets virtually on Zoom from 7:30-8:30 pm on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays** of each month. Please attend when you can, as often as you can.

Co-leaders: Jenny Baker and Krista Spadt



DPC DADS. A time of fellowship and support for fathers with newborns to college-age children. The group is meeting **every third Tuesday** at 8:00 pm on Zoom and thus on **October 20** this month. Once each quarter the group will meet in person. The Zoom link will again be sent via email. Led by John Willingham.

DPC CONNECTS CONTINUES TO GROW

Be a part of our new Facebook Group!



Since DPC Connects was established just more than one month ago, the Facebook group has served as a place for conversation, the sharing smiles and causes of celebration, and a means of organizing casual outdoor, in-person meetups. All of these connections are so dearly needed during this time and we are thrilled to see more than 100 people have joined the group! If you haven't yet, just search Doylestown Presbyterian Church on Facebook, click on Groups and then request to join DPC Connects. You'll need to provide answers to a few basic membership questions before being approved. Thank you to everyone who has worked to maintain our DPC family throughout these difficult months.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE



“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them....God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good” Gen 1: 27 and 32

In a 2018 sermon delivered at the National Cathedral, the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II said, “I still believe in the prophetic power of the Bible – a book my father said you can’t read honestly without also making a commitment to work for justice.”

In May of 2020 the police killing of George Floyd awakened the conscience of many to the racial injustice that has permeated our country since the first slaves were brought to the Virginia colony in 1619. One result of this and other killings was mass protests that were organized across the country. Folks in our congregation

also wanted to make sense of this. To facilitate this, John Willingham hosted six gatherings for members to join in conversations about race. In addition, with the support of the Peace and Justice Committee, a small group of women acted on a PC(USA) initiative to host a Week of Action to focus awareness on racial inequality. In these ways the issue of racial injustice was being raised and thought about in our church.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made it difficult to have in person classes concerning the history of racism in our country and to seek out people of color to learn about their experiences of living in a racist society. However, we believe it is of vital importance to hear the voices of those marginalized by racial injustice. Therefore, we encourage everyone to learn more through the written words of people of color.

To the books on racism that Peace and Justice had already added to the church library, we recommend several more written by people of color.

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

The Third Reconstruction: How A Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear by The Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II

How to Be an AntiRacist by Ibram X. Kendi

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration In The Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

And **VOTE**. As John Lewis said, “The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society.” So be it.



Peace and Global Witness Offering. October 4

is World Communion Sunday, and DPC will join congregations across the denomination to promote and receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering. The offering enables the PC (USA) to promote peacemaking and

reconciliation and addresses systems that perpetuate violence. A portion of the offering will be sent to Christian Legal Services, an urban legal ministry that seeks to address injustice and poverty in partnerships by bringing volunteer



attorneys into neighborhoods where their services are needed most. You can donate

by mailing a check to the church office or on the DPC website.

DPC Responds to Hunger! As the COVID pandemic continues, the number of individuals needing food assistance in our community has grown. DPC is responding by hosting a monthly food drive for the Bucks County Housing Group. Our first collection date will be at the Outdoor Worship service on **October 4!** Starting in November, the collection will be the **third Sunday** of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Drop off will be in the alley behind DPC (entrance off of Church Street). Current needs

can be found at <https://www.bchg.org/make-a-donation.html>

Winter Clothing Collection. We are collecting new or gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarfs to be donated to Bethel Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, one of the poorest neighborhoods in need. Please contact Maureen at 215-997-1150 to work out pick-up or drop-off locations. Please make sure all items are clean. The deadline is **November 10.**

Jersey Shore. A group from DPC is returning to the Jersey Shore the first week of October to continue working on a home that was destroyed in Hurricane Sandy. The woman who lives in the home is eagerly hoping to be back home by Christmas. Please keep an eye on DPC communications to learn about additional dates later this fall and to see pictures from our latest trip.

Mission Market. On-line opportunities to support DPC's Mission Partners and others will be available beginning in November. Americans for Native Americans, BARC, Equal Exchange, Good Reasons Dog Treats, Spring Rolls benefitting Vietnamese orphanages, Ten Thousand Villages, Women's Bean Project, and the Women's Recovery Center will be offered. This year's Giving Tree will be available through SignUp Genius. Watch for details coming soon!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Our offering for children and their families during COVID-19 began with the posting of yard signs and the distribution of story Bibles. Story Bibles were delivered to the children who would have received a Bible in May. Family "seed" kits will be delivered at the beginning of October. Our hope is families have found ways to adjust to the new school schedule before introducing this low-key time of faith into their family life.



YOUTH, TWEEN, & COLLEGE-AGE MINISTRY



With the beginning of the school year we know families are busy adapting to lots

and lots of changes while trying to set up some simple routines.

This fall our Youth and College-age ministry Leaders and Committee want to support our young people with some simple, easy opportunities to get together. While the weather still makes gathering outside feasible we will be offering a mix of events

from "pop-up" events which come together in a short time frame of 3-5 days to scheduling some gatherings that happen on the same day a couple of weeks apart.

One of the ways you, and your teen can learn about these events is through the youth Facebook page, youth Instagram page and through the REMIND app.

Confirmation Class (for those in 8th grade and above), will begin in January 2021. Details on this will be provided in late November.

Youth come join a "pop-up" gathering on **October 4** following worship until noon! Meet up at the pavilion across the road (by the bathrooms).

Bring your own bagged lunch and water bottle, masks required. We will discuss the worship service/sermon, what spoke to you, what you heard, your thoughts. Games of Mafia and Frisbee will follow for those interested.



Welcome Candi Young as Youth Connections Coordinator

Candi has served DPC in many capacities, so we are grateful as she turns her organizational skills to the area of youth ministry.

As Connections Coordinator, Candi will be supporting our Youth Leaders as

they prepare "pop-up" and other events. She will manage the logistics of communication and coordination and track interactions between volunteers and young people to help us expand our outreach to more youth.

Notice and reminders of upcoming events will come under Candi's name through the REMIND app. If you need instructions on how to sign up for REMIND, contact Candi at candiy@dtownpc.org



Church Mouse Program Seeking Mice and College Students!

Wow! The 2020 college year has started, with some students online at home, some on campus with precautions. Either way, DPC members can help them stay connected to our church and their faith community through our Church Mouse Program.

The Mouse volunteer supports his or her assigned student during their studies, in various possible ways--sending notecards, reviews of church events, or small care packages throughout the academic year and, most importantly by praying for the student. To volunteer for this one-on-one mission service, or for further information, please contact Laura Mendelson (churchmouse@dtownpc.org).

For a student to participate (whether a newly minted freshman or an upperclassman not yet signed up), please visit www.dtownpc.org and use the dropdown menu under Ministries, to Tweens + Teens + College, to College Age. Enroll by clicking on the link and filling out the informational survey to help us learn of your interests and favorites.

Current students: Please update your email and USPS mailing addresses for this school year and tell us whether you are on campus or studying at home by going to the same College-Age webpage and clicking on the appropriate link.



**Doylestown
Presbyterian Church**

*Be a bridge for Christ
and a beacon of His love*

127 East Court Street
Doylestown, Pa 18901

ADDRESS SERVICE
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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Permit No. 208
Doylestown, PA

October 2, 2020
Time Sensitive Material
Please deliver within 5 days

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION FOR DPC MEMBERS OVER 70½ WITH IRAs

Tax legislation in 2018 increased the standard deduction while limiting benefits related to itemizing deductions. The law also added a new provision for charitable giving called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) for donations made from your IRA. If you are over the age of 70 and ½, you may want to look into making annual distributions from your IRA. Even though there are no Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) requirements for 2020 due to the CARES Act, you may still make a QCD. Normally a RMD or optional distribution of a larger amount is taxed as ordinary income. However, the QCD provision allows up to \$100,000 (per spouse) of IRA distributions to be made TAX FREE as long as they are directed to a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization like DPC. This applies whether you itemize or take the standard deduction. The check must be issued directly to the charity from the institution holding your IRA, and completed by December 31st of the tax year. It's usually done on a signed directive (a form provided by the financial institution).

To take advantage of this opportunity for the 2020 tax year contact your tax advisor or financial institution for advice well before the December 31 deadline. It is also possible to pay a 2021 pledge in 2020 to realize the QCD benefit in this tax year.

LIFE MILESTONES

Births

Isla Juliet Quinn, daughter of **Lindsay** and **Spencer Quinn**, granddaughter of **Craig** and **Nancy Myers**, **September 18**

Weddings

Katrina Kerr and **Wesley Garner**, **September 5**

Emsley Willingham and **Bryan Dacey**, **September 18**

Deaths

Dennis Terpening, husband of **Mary Terpening** and father of **Linda Rutkosky**, **August 31**

George Lewis, brother of **Barbara Julian**, **September 7**

Judie Turner, wife of **Jim Turner**, **September 10**

Gloria Brunner, mother of **Barbara Skapura**, **September 14**