

THE TIDINGS

November
2020

Doylestown Presbyterian Church

Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

Welcome Back!



It is with great joy and excitement that we resume in-person worship service on Sunday, November 8th at 9:30 am! Whether you choose to worship on-site or online, we will continue to walk together during these times as a united DPC Family!



Our Peace and Justice Committee addresses the coming Advent Season on page seven as we prepare to light our Advent Wreath Nov. 29



See page three for details of the health and safety plan developed by our Re-Opening Task Force

FROM the PASTOR

As part of its February meeting, the Session approved DPC becoming a Matthew 25 church. That designation means we understand our calling as followers of Jesus Christ is to be active in the world around us. Thus, your officers voted to become part of that denominational initiative (www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/). The name derives from that chapter of Matthew's gospel and in particular the verses where Jesus speaks about our responsibility towards the "least of these who are my brothers and sisters."

The next month, our leaders appointed a task force composed of a representative from each of the standing committees of Session and two at-large members of the congregation to consider and recommend a proposed emphasis for DPC. The PCUSA suggestions were that we focus on one of three themes: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, or eradicating systemic poverty. The decision was completely up to us. After six months of prayer and study, listening and exploration together our task force recommended in October and the Session approved a DPC focus on dismantling racism and its intersectionality with poverty. The task force was not dissolved afterwards, but asked to develop a process for coordinating Matthew 25 efforts moving forward. The team enthusiastically agreed and that work has now begun.

I firmly believe it to be the right decision for this moment in time. National events of recent months have made it clear that injustice growing out of racism continues to plague our land and its citizens. In the six gatherings I held over the summer after the death of George Floyd, in my Growth Group underway now, and countless informal conversations in-between, members of DPC have repeatedly asked "How can we be part of the change?" While there are no easy answers for a problem that is visible and insidious, widespread and personal, it is the kind of challenge to which we are called if there is to be a different future.

To help provide a shared Biblical context for the work ahead, my sermons for the first three Sundays of November will focus on the 25th chapter of Matthew's gospel. Those verses contain three parables from Jesus that we will consider in turn. As

is true of the entirety of Scripture, I expect diverse and faithful conclusions within our community about what our Savior would want us to know and do, just as there will be wide-ranging thoughts among our members about how we best focus on the challenge of racism in our land and in our hearts.

Even so, while I cannot predict where any of these conversations will lead, I remain confident that as long as we remain open to the leading of God's Spirit and are equally committed to staying in relationship with each other even when we disagree, that the path forward will become clear. Thus, I'm eager to continue that vital work together and to discover with you how we can be part of the change.

...members of DPC have repeatedly asked "How can we be part of the change?"

John

SESSION REPORT

October 26

AT ITS MEETING THE SESSION:

- Approved the recommendation of the Matthew 25 Task Force that the focus for DPC be to work on dismantling racism and its intersection with poverty
- Requested that the task force develop a plan for implementation and church-wide efforts related to the goal
- Approved a revised staff model that includes the search for an Associate Pastor whose focus will be on educational and family ministries; requested the Nominating Committee to prepare a proposed slate for an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to present to the congregation for election
- Approved donating \$14,000 from the COVID-19 Assistance Fund to groups that work directly with issues of food security
- Approved changes in the roll. Total membership as of 10/26 is 1478

DPC'S RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

"Our nine-member team brings together their talents and expertise in various technical, professional, and medical backgrounds. Worship service can be very personal and meaningful to you, so it is with an abundance of caution that we have laid out these regathering plans."

— Dr. Jim Kmetzo, DPC Re-Opening Task Force

Details of DPC's plan to offer in-person worship, in addition to our continuing Livestream broadcasts, include:

- Mandatory mask-wearing
- Social distancing
- The recording of names and email addresses in the event that contact tracing becomes necessary

We invite you to visit www.dtownnpc.org to find a letter from Pastor John Willingham, as well as an instructional video which provides a glimpse of what to expect if you choose to worship in-person.

The DPC staff continues to work remotely unless they choose to come into the office as needed. The best way to contact a staff member is through their email or by leaving a message on their office phone. If you have items to drop off or pick up at the office, we ask you to send an email to dpc@dtownnpc.org or call 215-348-3531 and leave a message. In-person meetings can be scheduled; however, there are size/room limitations.

December Dates to Remember

Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness. December 6 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. This service of worship will offer silence, song, scripture, reflection and comfort for any and all who face the holidays with loss, sadness or isolation. A recording of the service will be available later on dtownnpc.org.

Virtual Service of Lessons and Carols. December 27 at 9:30 am. Since we won't be able to gather for our traditional Lessons and Carols services this year, the DPC Music Ministry is bringing this meaningful tradition to your home instead! On Sunday, December 27, instead of our normal in-person or live-streamed worship service, we will be presenting our Lessons and Carols service online beginning at 9:30 am. Though the format may be different, the service will still feature the beautiful opening hymn "Once in Royal David's City," the traditional readings that lead us on a journey through God's promise and Christ's birth, and a wide variety of music from all of our ensembles here at DPC. We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with all of you through music!

HELLO!

From Your Board of Deacons

CAREGIVERS' CORNER



November is National Family Caregiver Month. More than 65 million people across America provide care for family members or friends. The myriad of services and support rendered by family caregivers goes largely unnoticed in our society even though this work is estimated to be worth approximately \$400 billion annually. As we enter this month of Thanksgiving, we acknowledge with gratitude the many family caregivers who faithfully tend the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of their loved ones.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

— Matthew 25:35-36

LIFE MILESTONES

Baptisms

Fiona Rose Hosey and **Dottie Mae Hosey**, daughters of **Jessie** and **Max Hosey**, **October 3**

Harper Lily Seidle, daughter of **Jessica Seidle**, **October 25**

Births

Nathaniel Lake Ward, son of **Julia Lake Ward** and **Chad Ward**, grandson of **Fredda** and **Larry Lake**, **July 26**

Henry Chatham Brown, son of **Reed** and **Meghan Brown**, grandson of **Kathy** and **Flav Brown**, **October 9**

Lyla Elizabeth Brown, daughter of **Palmer** and **Laura Brown**, granddaughter of **Kathy** and **Flav Brown**, **October 14**

George Henry Wood, son of **Brian** and **Lenna Wood**, grandson of **Sam Wennberg** and **Lola Cooley**, **October 15**

Deaths

Helen Van Artsdalen, **October 1**

What's Happening

SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP. We invite you to join the day's preacher in 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. To join in, visit:

bit.ly/2SgCaSO Meeting ID: 818 7247 9291 - Passcode: 003276

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:

- 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

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**.

READ AND CHAT. **November 11, 1 pm in the churchyard if weather allows or in the Celtic Cross Room.** The book we are reading this month is *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett. For more information, contact Joyce Baral at dpc@dtownpc.org. Join us!



HISTORIC DOYLESTOWN CEMETERY TOUR. Any community's history is defined by its people. And many of those men and women who helped create Doylestown's story remain here today, in their final resting place in Historic Doylestown Cemetery. Join us on Monday, **November 9 from 10 to 11:30 am** for a special private



walking tour of the cemetery grounds, which include burial locations of Civil War veterans, Doylestown VIPs, and hundreds of others who contributed to this area simply by living their everyday lives.

Sign up soon by sending an email to dpc@dtownpc.org (please include "cemetery tour" in the subject line) as there is a limit of 25 spaces available. For those who have

trouble walking, one golf cart, which can fit up to six people, will be available.

The cost to attend is a \$10 contribution to the Doylestown Historical Society at the start of the tour. Meet at the cemetery office at 215 E. Court Street (in front of the water tower).

FOUNDING FATHERS UNVARNISHED! The political backstory of our country's founders is well known, but have you ever wondered more about their childhood or family lives? On Thursday, **November 19 at 11 am**, the Senior Adult Ministry Committee welcomes Don Applestein, who will present *Founding Fathers Unvarnished: Revolutionary*

Relationships. Applestein will call on his experience as a docent at the National Constitution Center to present this unique view of Washington, Franklin, Jefferson and others. The virtual presentation will be accessible for free via

Zoom. "People typically have a compartmentalized view of people from this era from what they learn in school," says Applestein. "This presentation will show what it was really like to live during these times." Stay tuned for details of how to join!





ADULT CLASSES

****We invite you to visit the Adult Education page on our website at downtownpc.org/adults/sunday-morning/ to access the Zoom links and to view brief videos that describe the experience offered by each class. New members are always welcomed so please feel free to join in on Sunday and explore which class might fill your spiritual needs! Please note adjusted start times beginning November 8th.**

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. **Sundays, 8:30 to 9:30 am** on Zoom. Coordinated by Tim Liebig.
(*Shifting to 8 - 9 am beginning Nov. 8 on Zoom)

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

iLIGHT — Starting in November, we'll be tackling the relationship between science and faith. Science is having a bad year, under attack on some surprising fronts. But must we choose between science and our faith as the source of truth? Are they really at odds? As one iLIGHTer--a scientist--states, he does not accept "that science and faith are incongruous." Let's explore this, In God's House, Together! **Sundays, 10:45 to 11:30 am** on Zoom. Join us in our journey! Led by Greg Jensen and Steve Spadt.
(*Shifting to 11 am - 12 noon beginning Nov. 8 on Zoom)

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.
(*Shifting to 11:15 am - 12 noon beginning Nov. 8 on Zoom)

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. 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.

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. New members are always welcomed! We invite you to 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 of the month at 8:00 pm on Zoom and next on **November 17**. The virtual meetings offer an opportunity to share experiences and learn from others who are at different points along the journey of fatherhood. Once each quarter the dads will meet in person. The Zoom link will again be sent via email as the next gathering approaches. Led by John Willingham.





Thanksgiving Offering. Since Feed My Starving Children was not able to hold its annual community packing in October, DPC's entire Thanksgiving Offering will be designated for FMSC. With the pandemic creating a burgeoning hunger instability throughout the world, the need for support is even greater now. You may use the Thanksgiving Offering envelope in your DPC offering envelopes or designate FMSC on your check and mail to the church office. Thank you for giving generously!

DPC Food Collection. The need for food assistance has risen dramatically since the start of COVID. To respond to these



needs, DPC will be holding a food collection for the Bucks County Housing Group on the third Sunday of each month. You may drop items off in the alley behind Andrews Hall from 10:30 to 11:30 am OR by the Mechanics Street door under the bridge between 9 am and

11 am. Our next collection will be **November 15**. You can find a list of most needed items here: www.bchg.org/make-a-donation.html

Code Blue Update. We are sad to share that DPC will not be hosting Code Blue this year after nearly 10 years of hosting this important ministry each February. Due to COVID safety restrictions, the shelter will need to be set up in individual sections separated by plexiglass, which will need to be left up permanently for the month the shelter is in residence. Fellowship Hall is the only space large enough, which would have meant DPC would lose the use of this space and would also displace Building Blocks Preschool and Jazzercise. While we did not make this decision lightly, we made it knowing that Our Lady Guadalupe Catholic Church would be able to fill in as a host shelter for this year without displacing any of its programs.

Community Meal. During the COVID pandemic, the regular Meal has been suspended; however meals continue to be served on the third Sunday to our homeless guests. If you would like further information about helping with the meal, please inquire here: bit.ly/DPC-Meal-Info

St. Bernard Project Work Trip Scheduled. A group of nine DPC'ers returned to the Jersey Shore last month to volunteer with St. Bernard Project, an organization helping to restore homes on the Jersey Shore damaged by Hurricane Sandy. We helped with sheet rocking, spackling, and flooring in a home that was destroyed, leaving the Walters family living in temporary housing for the past 8 years. In an effort to get the family back in their home by Thanksgiving, another work trip is scheduled from **November 11 to 13**. For questions or to sign up, email dpc@dtownpc.org

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

DPC Giving Tree. This year's Giving Tree will be online! Despite not having a real tree with tags to take, you will still be able to bring a smile to many in need in our community. The Giving Tree will begin on **November 8**. bit.ly/DPC-GT, where you will be able to select gifts for children and individuals working with our community partners: Bucks County Housing Group, Code Blue, and Lenape Valley Foundation. Thank you for your participation in this important ministry. Questions? Please contact erinr@dtownpc.org.

Advent Mission Market. The Advent Mission Market, an opportunity for you to give a gift twice, with proceeds going to charitable causes, will also be online this year! Visit bit.ly/2Trkm7s to find your old favorites and some new items, as well as ordering and delivery information this year. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to give in a different way this Christmas!

Wrapping Presence. While nursing home visits are not possible this year, Wrapping Presence is doing a Christmas greeting card project. You can help by providing Christmas cards which can be signed: from a WP friend, love from one of Santa's elves, from a caring heart, or just the general closing of Peace at the holiday season, or something similar. Place your card in an envelope and seal it. Wrapping Presence is also collecting calendars to share with nursing home residents. Your cards and calendars can be dropped off on **November 17** from 6 to 7:30 pm under the bridge on Mechanics Street. If you need a different arrangement for getting the cards to Wrapping Presence, please email dpc@dtownpc.org



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Families of preschool children and families with elementary school-aged children recently received gardening kits from DPC's Children's Education committee for planting Seeds of Faith at home. Each family got an age-appropriate Bible story book for reading together. Parents got a Gardener's Manual with some tips for growing Seeds of Faith. Families of elementary-age children received ideas for reading Bible stories,

exploring what they hear with wondering questions to provoke curiosity, and simple family activities which can be done at the dinner table. Families will receive a new box in November to help them prepare for the birth of Jesus.



YOUTH, TWEEN, & COLLEGE-AGE MINISTRY

THRIVE!

Sunday afternoons through November 15, we are embarking on a

journey of gratitude. According to Dr. Amy Eva, Associate Education Director at the Greater Good Science Center, "grateful youth are happier and more satisfied with their lives, friends, family, neighborhood, and selves. They also report more hope, greater engagement with their hobbies, higher GPAs - and less envy and depression".

We will be using a framework designed by Giacomo Bono called, "Thanks! A Strengths-Based Curriculum" to help our teens better

understand themselves, connect with peers, understand the meaning of gratitude and cultivate it in their everyday lives.

During these gatherings, we will be looking to scripture and exploring students' identities and character strengths, capitalizing on those strengths and building positive, deeper relationships with those inside and outside our doors.

We are meeting in the Celtic Cross Room each Sunday at 4:45 pm, socially distant, masks required. COVID forms MUST be completed by a parent.



PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

As we enter Advent

This current time is one of deep divisions between people – friends, even families, have been unable to reconcile the differences they experience.

And yet, in the midst of these dark times, November 29 marks the beginning of our yearly wait for the arrival of the One we call the Prince of Peace. As we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus, the Peace and Justice Committee believes that reconciliation is possible. We look to the *Book of Confessions* and "A Brief Statement of Faith" to affirm this.

As you know, in 1983 the current Presbyterian Church (USA) was formed by the reunion of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the Presbyterian Church in the

United States. The 80 lines of the resulting confession "celebrates our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task."

In the spirit of hope, the Peace and Justice Committee shares these lines from "A Brief Statement of Faith:"

"In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'"



Doylestown
Presbyterian Church

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

127 East Court Street
Doylestown, Pa 18901

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Non-Profit
Organization
Permit No. 208
Doylestown, PA

October 30, 2020
Time Sensitive Material
Please deliver within 5 days



SPECIAL
Christmas Decorations
are planned for the
Advent and Christmas seasons!
REMEMBER OR HONOR SOMEONE

We will be decorating the Sanctuary and placing wreaths on the graves of veterans in the DPC graveyard this Advent and Christmas season. If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone to make these decorations possible, please make checks payable to DPC and specify "Christmas Decorations," mail to the office or place in the offering plate. A donation of \$15 is requested.

Memorials will be listed in the December 13 bulletin. **Due to space constraints, we can only print the names of people being remembered or honored, along with the names of the requestors.** All names for the listing **must be in the church office no later than December 4 at noon.**

I would like to make _____ donation(s) at \$15 each.

PLEASE PRINT

In memory of *(names of deceased only)*:

In Honor of *(names of honorees only)*:

Branch of service *(if honoring or remembering a veteran)*:

Requested by *(how you want your name listed)*:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____