

THE TIDINGS

January
2021

Doylestown Presbyterian Church

Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

DPC DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Next Collection Set for Sunday, January 17



Organizers didn't know what to expect when they asked DPCers to bring food donations to the outdoor worship service back in October. But they weren't surprised to see an outpouring of generosity as dozens of people dropped off items to be distributed by the Bucks County Housing Group to those in need. And it didn't stop there. The operation moved to the church campus in November as volunteers and DPC Youth collected hundreds of pounds of food from cars that pulled up the driveway. Mission Committee member Nancy Roe said the efforts are another example of this "caring and giving congregation."

"I have seen multiple examples of love in action over the past 20 years. The need is great in our community right now," said Nancy, following December's collection when more than 600 pounds of food was donated - which is more than double the previous month. "It was heartwarming to have car after car drive up and seeing our youth receive the donations. The food was immediately delivered to the pantry for distribution, some of which I saw handed out (to those in need) as we were unloading."

Added DPC Youth volunteer Molly Blore, "I love to see how people really give to the food drive and how it shows they care for those needing food. I was truly honored to see the heart of people and to be a part of this amazing drive!"

DPC's Mission and Community Outreach Director Erin Rizk applauds all who have stepped up and encourages the enthusiasm to continue into the New Year, when pantry shelves will continue to need replenishing. The Drive-Thru Food Drives will continue every third Sunday of each month, with the next collection being **January 17** from **10:30 to 11:30 am** under the bridge on Mechanics Street.



SUREN SAYS THANK YOU

On behalf of his entire family, longtime DPC Sexton Suren Mamedov wishes to thank the entire congregation for all the well wishes, cards, and comments on social media from those congratulating him on his retirement after nearly 30 years on the job. Suren says it was an amazing feeling to open the more than 75 cards that were presented to him during the Dec. 20 worship service and he is humbled and grateful.

FROM the PASTOR

Later this month, a transfer of power occurs in Washington, D.C. On January 20, Joe Biden takes the oath of office as our 46th President, a moment that also marks a shift in the political party represented by the White House occupant. That kind of change has happened 25 times in the past, the first being when John Adam's term as 2nd President ended with the election of 1800. Adams was so upset that he did not attend the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson, the first of three departing Presidents to skip such an event, too. Yet from a historic perspective, that day in 1801 was more important for demonstrating that a peaceful transfer of power could occur. It is something that we cherish about the American understanding and practice of democracy.

One doesn't have to be the President to experience or wield power as it is something that shapes life for all of us. Sixty years ago, two psychologists (French and Raven) identified six bases of social power that still resonate as true:

- reward—the ability to give a benefit when someone complies with your wishes
- coercive—the possibility of punishment when one does not comply
- referent—times when someone wants to be or avoid being like another
- legitimate—authority that comes from a position or role
- expert—the specific expertise or knowledge someone possesses
- informational—something you know about a specific situation

The researchers note that the last form of power is the most transitory.

In this season of life when our nation is experiencing a transition of power, I thought it would be helpful for us as a congregation to focus on power from a Christian perspective. All of the bases named by those researchers are part of our everyday life to varying degrees, but Jesus spoke about power in a different way. My hunch, too, is that as we move

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further into a year of discerning what it means to be a Matthew 25 church committed to dismantling racism that we will come face-to-face with questions of power. Thus, beginning this month, we will spend five Sundays in worship giving close attention to what Jesus teaches and reveals about power.

While I cannot predict where that time of Biblical pondering will take us, I trust that God's Spirit will lead us in the journey. And, as always, my prayer is that the discoveries to come will cause us to respond in faithful ways that bring greater honor to the source of all power.

John

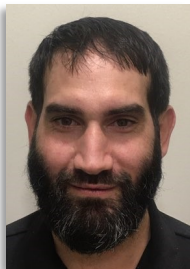
SESSION REPORT

December 21

AT ITS MEETING, THE SESSION:

- Elected Shirley Greenlee as treasurer effective 1/1/21 while expressing its profound appreciation for Bruce Bengtson and his ten years of faithful service in that role.
- Approved the hiring of Marco Derro as Maintenance Engineer effective 1/11/21
- Set the 2021 housing allowance for the pastors
- Determined that the recommendation to sell the 112 Mechanics Street (the house where our sexton currently lives) will come to the congregation at its 2/7/21 meeting
- Took a first look at the 2021 operating budget. It will be finalized in January
- Approved changes in the roll. Total membership as of 12/21/20 is 1476

WELCOME MARCO!



Maintenance Engineer

We are excited to welcome Marco Derro to the DPC team. Marco will be our new Maintenance Engineer focusing much of his time on maintaining and improving our church facilities and equipment. He comes to us with plenty of facility maintenance/HVAC experience. He will serve as the primary contact for all contractors and our service providers, while working closely with Rob Colantonio for the next three months as they transition the role. Marco will serve as the liaison to the Property Committee.

Marco will be starting at DPC on January 12 and will be working three days a week. He can be reached at marcod@dtownpc.org or 215-348-3531 x 227.

CODE BLUE. The Code Blue Shelter will be moving to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church for the month of January. Please consider volunteering to help staff the shelter. If you have not already gone through the volunteer training, you can do it online this year at <https://co2ssh.org/volunteer-training>. CSSH is constantly monitoring COVID-19 guidance from the CDC and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is working closely with the Bucks County Health Department to ensure safety precautions are in place - for our overnight guests and our volunteers. Code Blue is an ESSENTIAL, LIFE-SUSTAINING SERVICE and we need you!



Wrapping Presence

More than 4,300 cards were collected and

delivered to 1,600 residents of the 16 nursing homes that the Wrapping Presence program serves. The cards were lovingly created by students and written out by Marne Dietterich. Also delivered were hundreds of calendars, cookies, and door decorations.

LIFE

MILESTONES

BAPTISMS

Nicholas Isaac Hoffman, son of **Michele** and **Henry Hoffman**, December 13

BIRTHS

Benjamin Lin Moore, son of **Sandy** and **Allison Moore**, December 19, grandson of **Peggy** and **Mike Moore**

DEATHS

Mary Lou Rettstatt, January 29, 2019

Norma Moyer, sister of **Nancy LaRosa**, November 24

John Roth, brother of **Tom Roth**, December 7

Charles Rushton, December 12



Keep watch for details of the Winter/Spring Growth Group session, which will run from Sunday, **January 31** through Saturday, **March 27!**



To learn more about our Moms and Dads fellowship groups and our Adult Education offerings (BibleTalk, Good News and Other News, iLIGHT, and The Word Among Us) and to join via Zoom visit www.dtownpc.org/adults.

A Word from the Peace & Justice Committee:

For many, an increased level of eagerness and anticipation accompanied the countdown to 2021. The challenges of 2020, including COVID-19, racial injustice, and the intensification of political ideologies have left us exhausted and anxious for change. The promise of widely available vaccines produces hope that 2021 will mark the beginning of a post-COVID reality. Coming out of this Christmas season, however, we do well to remember that our trust is not in time, but in Christ, the fullness of time. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared in his 1967 speech, *The Other America*, time alone does not heal all wounds:

"...we've got to get rid of one or two false notions that continue to exist in our society. One is the notion that only time can solve the problem of racial injustice. I'm sure you've heard this idea. It is the notion almost that there is something in the very flow of time that will miraculously cure all evils...And it may well be that we will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words of the bad people and the violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around and say wait on time.

Somewhere we must come to see that social progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals. And without this hard work time itself becomes an ally of the primitive forces of social stagnation. And so we must help time, and we must realize that the time is always right to do right."

The struggle for racial justice persists and Dr. King's words remain just as relevant today. As we enter this New Year, let us cling to Christ, the source of our life and hope, and the One who calls us to work tirelessly for justice.

During this month in which we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the Peace and Justice Committee and the Esther Brigade encourage you to read or watch Dr. King's speech, *The Other America*, and to reflect on the ways you can support our congregation's Matthew 25 initiative to dismantle racism and its intersectionality with poverty. The video and transcript can be found here: <https://www.crmvet.org/docs/otheram.htm>



Doylestown
Presbyterian Church

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127 East Court Street
Doylestown, Pa 18901

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

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

December 31, 2020
Time Sensitive Material
Please deliver within 5 days

Services and Celebrations!

Even in the midst of a pandemic, the warmth and dedication of this Church Family shone bright during this Christmas season. Thanks to the contributions from our talented musical ensembles, our faithful children and youth, and the support from the entire congregation, we were able to celebrate Jesus' birth in unique, creative ways online with a Family Pageant, Candlelight Communion Service, and a Virtual Service of Lessons and Carols. The combined views on YouTube stand now at more than 1,400! Thank you all!

