

THE TIDINGS

February
2021

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See Page 2 for more info in this month's
Letter from the Pastor

Doylestown Presbyterian Church

Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

Voices from the Past Visions for the Future



DPC Celebrates
Black History Month

Doylestown Presbyterian Church is committed to creating a more compassionate, caring, and just world. To get there we must learn from the past, listen to and learn from those with us in the present, and actively work to shape the future. As we celebrate Black History Month, we look within to tell the stories of those families of color with connections to our congregation and the denomination throughout their long histories. And we highlight the ways in which we can all engage in change. We invite you to explore the various offerings on our website by clicking bit.ly/DPC-BH as we grow together as a community of love and faith.

What the World Needs Now...



It's clear that excitement is growing for this very special program of music and reflection set for Valentine's Day. Many have already submitted photos displaying the many ways love fills your heart. It's not too late to contribute, so check dtownpc.org to learn how to send us your images to be included in the video!

What the World Needs Now...will be an opportunity for you to hear from Pastor John Willingham as he helps us consider love in our relationships with others, from God, and through our actions as a body of faith. He will share personal accounts of how he has experienced such love with his words underscored and enriched by musical selections from DPC member Bev Fulgham.

This SAM Committee-sponsored event will be available on our website beginning at **2 pm on Sunday, February 14** and any time later.

Ash Wednesday



See Page 3 for details on how
to receive ashes on Feb. 17

FROM the PASTOR

On the first Sunday in February, we will have a virtual congregational meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. As has been our custom for that event in pre-Covid days so will this one include the election of officers, a financial report from our Treasurer—including a glimpse of the new budget—and acting upon proposed changes in my Terms of Call. What will be different this year, aside from it happening online, is a recommendation that DPC sell a piece of property.

Our church has owned the house at 112 Mechanics Street (abutting the graveyard) for 40 years. From its earliest days to the end of last year, the property served as home for our church sexton. Knowing of Suren Mamedov's plans to retire at the end of 2020 and of a new staffing model that no longer includes a full-time sexton, but instead relies upon a cleaning service to maintain our physical plant, the Property Committee spent several months last year exploring the best use for the house moving forward.

They brought in a structural engineer to determine what it would take to address repair and upgrade needs, learning the price tag was approximately \$70,000. It considered proceeding with that work and then leasing the house as a residential or commercial property, or for the church to keep it for future ministry purposes. It contacted two realtors to get an idea of what the property could garner in a sale as-is and received an estimate of around \$500,000. After those explorations, the committee proposed and our Session concurred in recommending to you the sale of the house, including the parking spaces that are on the alley-side of the property.

Only the congregation can approve real estate transactions and thus that matter will come before us as part of the virtual meeting on February 7th. Should the congregation concur in that proposal, you will then be asked to approve a motion allowing the Session to determine how the proceeds from the sale will be used. Both actions require majority concurrence.

Certainly there will be an opportunity during the meeting to raise questions about the proposal, but if you would like clarification sooner, I would encourage you to

contact Linay Richards, our Director of Finances and Operations, Property Committee Moderator Tom Petro or me. An email has been sent to all members which provides background on all of the motions in that gathering, including a Frequently Asked Questions document related to the recommended sale.

Yet whether you have questions at this point or not, I urge you to join us at 10:30 that morning as once again we seek the leading of God's Spirit on this and all the matters before us as a body of believers. I look forward to "seeing" you then!

John

*Only the congregation
can approve real
estate transactions...*

SESSION REPORT January 25

At its meeting on January 25, the Session:

- Approved recommendations from the Family Ministry Task Force for efforts that will strengthen our ongoing commitment to the strategic plan and Matthew 25 effort
- Approved the 2020 statistical report for General Assembly showing a year-end membership total of 1478
- Approved the 2021 operating budget totaling \$1,980,905
- Learned that the 2020 Payroll Protection Program loan of \$146,475 has been forgiven and that we are not eligible for the 2021 PPP



Check your email or visit our website to find all the supporting documents outlining the agenda items outlined in the letter above. Join us for this significant time as a family of faith!

Direct Link: bit.ly/2NNdzFH
Meeting ID: 879 3047 7564
Passcode: 049661

**Or you can dial in by calling: 1-929-205-6099
and enter the same Meeting ID and Passcode**

Ash Wednesday



We begin Lent on **February 17** with a time to recommit ourselves to our God who loves us.

Lent is a season of self-examination and reverence when we join Christ as he walks toward death and resurrection. On Ash Wednesday we enter Lent, by taking to heart God's invitation to remember our humanity, our failings, and our desire for closeness and reconciliation with God.

We are offering three times to receive ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand:

7:30 to 8:30 am
11:30 am to 12:30 pm
4:30 to 5:30 pm

To receive ashes, enter the red doors of the Narthex where a pastor will offer you ashes and a worship resource. Worship for Ash Wednesday will be offered through Bridges and Beacons. Masks and distancing will be practiced as part of this worship offering.



If you are searching for a way to enhance your connection with God beyond Sunday worship service, DPC's adult education offerings provide a meaningful time to learn, converse, and dig deeper.

Visit dtownnpc.org and click the "Adult Ministries" tab for a complete listing of all the classes along with brief videos giving you a glimpse of each.

There you'll also find information about DPC's various fellowship opportunities that occur during the week including casual Zoom discussion groups for Moms and a monthly gathering of DPC Dads.



BOOKS for Newborns

The Library donates a new book in honor of each child born to or adopted by DPC families. The following books were donated in 2020:

DATE OF BIRTH

January 31, 2020
March 2, 2020
March 4, 2020
April 15, 2020
May 26, 2020
June 29, 2020
July 26, 2020
July 30, 2020
September 18, 2020
October 9, 2020
October 14, 2020
December 19, 2020
December 25, 2020

CHILD AND BOOK

Noah Filippo DiClemente, *Crocodile's Crossing*
Themelis Mark Cathopoulos, *Binkle's Time to Fly*
Willow Elizabeth Fohl, *Bruno's Hat*
Charlotte Deborah Hobbs, *God's Big Plan*
Arthur Matthew Johnson, *Where Is Home, Daddy Bear?*
Benjamin Nikolas Mamedov, *Who Is My Neighbor?*
Nathaniel Lake Ward, *The Marvelous Mustard Seed*
Nicholas Isaac Hoffman, *The Gentle Carpenter*
Isla Juliet Quinn, *Growing in God's Love*
Henry Chatham Brown, *Brian the Brave*
Lyla Elizabeth Brown, *The Night of His Birth*
Benjamin Lin Moore, *Home by Another Way*
Jack Anthony Chovan, *Little Porcupine's Christmas*

PARENTS

Stephanie and Phil DiClemente
Ellen and Terry Cathopoulos
Ellen and Brandon Fohl
Katie and Tyler Hobbs
Sibele and Ken Johnson
Natalia and Vladimir Mamedov
Julia and Chad Ward
Michele and Henry Hoffman
Lindsay and Spencer Quinn
Meghan and Reed Brown
Laura and Palmer Brown
Allison and Sandy Moore
Alexandra and Adam Chovan

Job Opportunity!

DPC is seeking a dedicated, creative, and engaging individual to fill the role of Interim Director of Tweens and Teens. We want to leave no stone unturned in the search for the right candidate, so if you feel you may be this person, or know someone who may be interested, please refer to our website for the [full job description and list of qualifications](#) and contact us at jobs@dtownnpc.org.

An Amazing Story to Tell...



2020 has been a year to remember. We have had to make many changes to our everyday life, we have had to spend more time in our homes, and we have had to learn to adapt to constantly changing plans. Despite all the ups and downs of 2020, our members and friends have been amazingly faithful and dedicated to supporting the ministry of DPC! In early 2020, the session approved a budget that had a total income estimate of \$2,112,938. This was all at a time before we truly understood the impact that COVID-19 would have on our lives. We are so pleased to report that our 2020 actual income was \$2,111,187. We came in \$1,751 less than budget. Honestly, this is an amazing story to tell.

Due to this, we have been able to continue ministering in new ways to our church and our community. Boxes have been created for our children and youth to help them (and their parents) continue to learn and study God's word. We have continued with many adult education groups and Growth Groups over Zoom that have continued to nurture and help us grow in our faith. We have installed and ordained new Elders and Deacons who continue to lead our congregation and support our members. We have grown in our devotional lives by watching Bridges and Beacons and have stepped up our Livestream worship services to

make it a better viewing for all at home. We've had Zoom committee meetings and task force meetings, Zoom fellowship and Zoom prayer groups, and so much more. Oh, the amazing stories we can tell.

Outside of our doors, we have been able to provide over \$200,000 of support to organizations helping our neighbors most in need in our community and around the world. Highlights of our mission work this year included helping a woman get back into her Jersey Shore home eight years after Hurricane Sandy made it uninhabitable; aiding Broad Street Ministry with their COVID response in the face of explosive need, particularly after their storage pod was destroyed; and addressing growing hunger needs everywhere, including in the Southwest Native American communities served by our partners Americans for Native Americans and the Community Pantry. In total, our congregation has supported nearly 30 organizations this year, serving as "a bridge to Christ and a beacon of His love" to those struggling amongst us.

As we move into 2021, we are still not out of this pandemic yet. At times, it is hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we are blessed to know that God is with us. We will continue to find the blessings in the hard times and give thanks for the good times. Praising God in all that we say and do. We see amazing and exciting new chapters being added to our story in 2021!

*Linay Richards,
Director of Finances and Operations*



The Membership Committee *will* be holding a Stepping Stones class this spring for new members interested in joining DPC! Any visitors who would like information on joining DPC or to sign up for the class, contact us at dpc@dtownpc.org. Please include "Stepping Stones" in the subject line.



While our Winter Growth Groups have already begun, you can still sign up even if you've missed the first week! If you are seeking spiritual fulfillment, topical discussion about important issues, or even just a time to interact and reflect with others, joining a Growth Group could be just what you need during these times.

To see all of the different offerings and to register, visit: dtownpc.org and click on the [Growth Groups](#) box.



HELLO!

From Your Board of Deacons

CAREGIVERS CORNER

The term quarantine fatigue sums up our collective frustration and impatience with the restrictions placed on us by the COVID-19 virus. Caregivers in particular may have felt an increased sense of loss and isolation during the past year. And while the pandemic has taken away much, it has also given time to reflect, observe nature, or learn a new skill.

Can we reframe our thinking about the past year? What have the months of restrictions given you? What gifts can you discern from the new patterns of daily life imposed by the virus? As the year continues to unfold, how is God working in your life?

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

Isaiah 41:13

HELP IS HERE! The Deacons remind you too that the [DPC COVID-19 Response Team](#), [DPC Cares and the Home Help Corps](#) are ready to provide care. If you or someone you know needs assistance during these times, we ask that you please do not hesitate to reach out. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please visit our website and review our Get Involved page.

Once again, your Deacons would like to recognize your college students and military members with a token of our appreciation. If there has been a change in residency for your son/daughter since September, please call and update the church office. We'd like them to know they are missed and are in our thoughts and prayers.

Confirmation Update



Nineteen young people are part of this year's journey as they discover what it means to call Jesus their Lord and Savior. Our five-month curriculum emerges out of our collective reading of the gospel of Luke and practicing what Jesus is doing with regard to prayer, simplicity, and serving others.

After an orientation meeting with parents on January 10th we held an online pizza party on January 17th after distributing pizza makings and a box of Confirmation goodies the day before. Our young people will be blessed with the prayers of more than 22 adults who are praying for each young person and for the leadership team. Please join them by holding the leadership team: Pastor Roberta, Phil, Glenn, Melissa, Terry, and Kim, Ethan, Jill, Sharon, Mike and all our young people in prayer.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

WE FOCUS ON GOD'S CALL TO BE PEACEMAKERS

BREAKING, BLESSING, BUILDING: A Call for the Common Good

A FREE Live-Streamed Gathering designed for church leaders and members, not just pastors! Although they are welcome, too! **March 5-7, 2021**

NEXT Church seeks to follow God by strengthening the relational fabric of church — connecting healthy tissue to healthy tissue. We do this by cultivating congregations and leaders who work in sustained, effective, and faithful ways to promote God's transformation of our communities for the common good.

This conference is led by NEXT Church a network of leaders — church members, ruling elders, youth leaders, educators, pastors, seminarians and professors — within and beyond the Presbyterian Church (USA) who believe the Spirit is moving powerfully in the church today, even as what it means to be church is changing.

This conference will give you the opportunity to hear outstanding voices in the church today, including keynoters Rev. Lenny Duncan (author of *Dear Church & United States of Grace*) and Dr. Christine Hong (Professor of Educational Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary). There will be breakout sessions and workshops you won't want to miss ... and all for free! Go to nextchurch.net and click on the National Gathering tab to sign up today!

LIFE

MILESTONES

BIRTHS

Adeline Claire Schaefer, daughter of **Alicia** and **Eric Schaefer**, granddaughter of **Virginia Buckham** and **Stuart Chalmers**, great granddaughter of **Barbara Buckham**, January 13

Paloma Simone McGavick, daughter of **Jack** and **Sarah McGavick**, granddaughter of **Kim Rainey** and **Scott Nichols**, January 19

DEATHS

Joan Stearns, mother of **Amy Parenti**, December 29
Eleanor Allshouse, mother of **Amy Edenson**, December 31

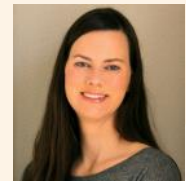
Officer Nominees to be Presented at Congregational Meeting on February 7

RULING ELDERS



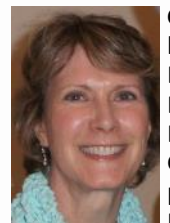
Doug Barnett. Doug and his wife, Maria, live in Doylestown with their two children. Doug is employed by Dexter LLC. He is active in Growth Groups and is on the Membership and

Mission Committees. He believes that DPC is a scriptural anchor, always discerning and showing God's love through fellowship and commitment to mission. He would like to see relevance in the wider community as societal changes accelerate.



Tanner Benson. Tanner and her husband, Andy, live in Doylestown with their two children. She is a clinical psychologist at the VA Medical Center. She is active in Growth

Groups, the Adult Education Committee and the Matthew 25 Task Force. She believes that DPC's strengths lie in member engagement, mission work, adult education, and music programming. She views children's programming as an area for ongoing growth. She has been impressed with the creativity and dedication of the children's education staff in coming up with ideas for engagement at home.



Glenda Childs. Glenda and her husband Allen own the Doylestown and Lahaska Book Shops and lives in Doylestown. She is active in Growth Groups and previously served as a Deacon. She believes that

DPC's strengths lie in the welcoming congregation which is committed to each other and the community. She would like to see an offering of a variety of ways to worship and serve.



Judy Cody. Judy and her husband, Kieran, live in Doylestown. She works as an independent marketing strategy consultant. She has previously served on Session and on the

Forward Together capital campaign, and she is actively involved in the music program. She believes DPC's strengths lie in the dedicated community of members which is led by a talented pastoral team and supported by a wonderful staff and robust army of volunteers. She would like to see DPC assess how we can increase our relevance to community members seeking a church home.



Jenny Danzis. Jenny and her husband, Loren, live with their children in Doylestown. She has previously served on Session, on the Adult Education Committee, as a

Church School teacher, and as an usher. She believes that DPC's strengths lie in the faith community which offers many pathways for congregational involvement and mission opportunities. She would like to increase the membership of the church and worship service attendance.



Sherri Hoynak. Sherri and her husband, Greg, live in Doylestown. She has previously served on Session, as well as on the Membership Committee, and as a Deacon. She is currently on the Adult Education Committee. She

believes that DPC offers a very caring and nurturing church which addresses the many needs of the congregation. She would like to see DPC leverage the current programs and processes to encourage involvement from new and current members.



Greg Jensen. Greg and his wife, Mary Claire, live in Langhorne with their two children. Greg is a professor at Cairn University. He has been active as a Church School teacher and as moderator of the Peace & Justice Committee. He believes

DPC provides a welcoming space that values diverse thoughts and opinions and has a strong emphasis on service. He would like to strengthen the youth program and will work towards making the church a welcoming place for people with disabilities.



Janice Thomas. Janice lives with her husband, Marty, in Doylestown. She is active on the Membership and Mission Committees, and the Matthew 25 Task Force. She

believes that DPC's strengths lie in the motivating sermons, kindness of the members, and grace in action. She would like to work towards assimilating new and current members more fully into worship and fellowship.



Katie Toner. Katie lives in Doylestown and works for the Heritage Conservancy. She has previously served as a Youth Elder, on the Youth Committee, and is currently leading a Growth Group. She believes that DPC's

strengths are the bonds we share with each other, our love of Christ, our commitment to thoughtful study of the Bible within its historical context, our desire to repent and grow as people, our generous actions, and our flourishing music program. She is excited to help get the Matthew 25 initiative off the ground now that we have discerned our direction.



Riley Blore (one-year term). Riley and her family live in Perkasio. She is a sophomore at Abington Friends School. She has been active in the music ministry, Club 456, Element

and two search committees. She believes that DPC's strengths lie in the sense of community in and out of the sanctuary and the music programs. She would like to expand and help grow the youth program and be a bridge between mission and youth.



Lauren Hunter (one-year term). Lauren and her family live in Doylestown. She is a Junior at Central Bucks High School West. She has been active in Element and the choirs. She

believes that DPC's strengths lie in its outreach to the community to help others through initiatives like Code Blue. She would like to see DPC focus on diversity and inclusion to make all feel welcomed and would like to work towards social justice.

DEACONS



Jim Blore (one-year term). Jim is retired and lives with his wife, Delana, in Doylestown. He is completing a three-year term as a Deacon and has previously served on Session, as a Church School teacher, and as an usher. He believes that DPC's strengths lie in the strong leadership, strong youth and music programs, and community outreach. He would like to see continued growth in membership with a focus on families with young children.



Mark Chaikin. Mark and his wife, Joanne, live in Doylestown. He is a Farmers Insurance Agency owner. He is involved in the Chancel Choir. He believes that DPC's strengths lie in the music program and the volunteer opportunities. He would like to work towards greater involvement of congregants in church activities and committees.



John Gwynne. John is retired physician and lives in Doylestown. He is serving on the History and Library Committees as well as the Matthew 25 Task Force. He believes that DPC's strengths lie in its staff and volunteers, the music program, and the volunteer opportunities. He would like to see the Matthew 25 initiative implemented throughout our church.



Mike Paradiso. Mike and his wife, Cheryl, live in Doylestown. Mike is a corporate trainer for Novartis. He has served on the Children's Christian Education and Personnel Committees, as a Deacon and Church School teacher. He believes that DPC's strengths lie in its location, dedicated congregation and volunteers, and its caring and generosity towards the members of the community at large. He would like DPC to work to retain our younger members and grow the youth program.



Dennis Parenti. Dennis and his wife, Amy, live in Doylestown. He works as a medical consultant. Dennis previously served on Session, has served on the Property and Membership Committees, and is currently on the Mission Committee. He believes that DPC is a caring church which offers numerous opportunities for Christian support and service to others. He would like DPC to rethink how to better meet congregants' needs in a post-COVID environment.



Linda Schumann. Linda has retired from Central Bucks School District and lives with her husband, John, Doylestown. She has been active in Joyful Bells and has served as an accompanist for the Youth Choir. She is member of the COVID-19 Response Team. She believes DPC's strengths lie in its strong volunteer base, the pastoral leadership, and youth programs. She would like to work towards a new Senior High choir along with creating an outreach program to engage our older adults.



Krista Spadt. Krista and her husband, Steve, live in Warrington with their two children. She is employed as a high school science teacher with Insight PA Virtual Charter School. She has served as a Church School teacher, women's group leader, and as the interim Children's Education Director. She believes that DPC's strengths lie in the wonderful and faithful congregation and the pastoral staff. She would like to promote a compassionate environment where visitors and members feel welcomed, encouraged, safe, and loved.



Eileen Telly. Eileen and her husband, Walter, live in Perkasie. She is a retired music teacher. She is a member of the DPC Orchestra and works with the Deacons to provide music for nursing home worship. She is a member of the Matthew 25 Task Force and the Worship, Music and Arts Committee. She believes DPC's strengths lie in the pastoral leadership, the music programs, service-focused opportunities and creativity during the pandemic. She would like to attract young families and hopes to implement the Matthew 25 ideas.



Olivia Ferrara (one-year term). Olivia is a sophomore at Central Bucks High School West and lives with her family in Doylestown. She has been active in the music ministry, Club 456, Element, VBS, and serving in the nursery. She believes DPC's strengths lie in strong music program and a sense of caring in the community. She would like to see a revitalization of the youth program and an increase in church attendance.



Mason Keller (one-year term). Mason and her family live in Doylestown. She is a sophomore at Central Bucks High School West. She is active in the Youth Choir, Growth Groups and the youth program. She believes DPC's strengths lie in good leaders, a friendly environment which brings everyone together and youth trips. She would like to build the youth program and have more community service opportunities.





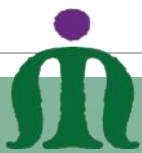
*Be a bridge for Christ
and a beacon of His love*

127 East Court Street
Doylestown, Pa 18901

ADDRESS SERVICE
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Doylestown, PA

February 2, 2021
Time Sensitive Material
Please deliver within 5 days



MISSION



DPC FOOD COLLECTION. We are so grateful for the overwhelming response to our monthly food collection! In January, over 1,000 pounds of food was donated, along with very helpful gift cards and cash donations for our Code Blue friends. The need for food assistance continues since the start of COVID. To respond to these needs, DPC has a monthly food collection for the Bucks County Housing Group on the third Sunday of each month. You may drop items off under the bridge on Mechanics Street from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Our next collection will be February 21. A list of most needed items is here: <https://www.bchg.org/make-a-donation.html>

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – Unfortunately the December Blood Drive had to be canceled due to a COVID exposure on the Red Cross staff. We will be hosting our next blood drive this summer! For questions, please contact Erin Rizk at erinr@dtownpc.org.

CODE BLUE UPDATE. This year the Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless (CSSH) needs more volunteers than ever to provide shelter to our homeless neighbors. Though we are not physically hosting the shelter this year at DPC, we can still assist as volunteers at other locations! Throughout the Code Blue season of December to March, they will be following the latest guidelines proposed by the CDC and the Bucks County Department of Health. All of the training is virtual and available on demand this year. For more information and other links to our online training programs, visit centralbuckscodeblue.org/volunteer. Any further questions, contact Anne Bishop at dpc@dtownpc.org.

ADVENT MISSION MARKET. Thank you to everyone who participated in the online Mission Market and Giving Tree. All of the gifts on the Giving Tree (over 150!) were purchased. As this online format was new this year, we are asking you to complete this brief survey so we can hear from you about the experience: bit.ly/DPC-Survey.

CHRISTMAS JOY AND CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERINGS. Because of the congregation's wonderful generosity, we collected \$4,535 for the Christmas Joy Offering and \$2,045 for the Christmas Eve Offering, which supported the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.