

# THE TIDINGS

March  
2021

## Doylestown Presbyterian Church

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

Share  
and  
Celebrate!

Believe it or not, it will soon be *an entire year* since we gathered weekly in the Sanctuary for worship. The last time that occurred (under unmasked, socially un-distant circumstances) was March 8, 2020.

And while a year apart is no cause for celebration, it doesn't mean we can't unearth and appreciate the nuggets of joy which formed during these last 365 days. Let's share our blessings and reconnect with one another!

**We invite you to send us a single photo taken sometime in the past year to be included in a video shown during the March 14 worship service!**

These can be images of yourselves or loved ones or pets or your favorite spot to sit on your back porch. Feel free to look through your camera roll to find one from a few months back – or even take a brand new one. They can be sincere or staged – perhaps showing a satirical glimpse of some of the challenges many of us have faced (What did it look like for you to be a parent/teacher/work-from-home-employee all at the same time?). Let's have some fun with this!



Pastor John at his daughter's wedding



Mark Helms with his newborn niece

Please submit your photo to our Dropbox by **Tuesday, March 9.**

All you have to do is click this link: [bit.ly/3dO2UFE](https://bit.ly/3dO2UFE) and follow the steps to upload a photo from your phone or computer.

Also, keep watch for two very special anniversary editions of Bridges and Beacons on **March 22 and 24** as we say thank you to all of our guest leaders and viewers that have made these video devotionals so meaningful.

### Holy Week

**Palm Sunday, March 28**

Join us for a very special Livestream service at 9:30 am

**Maundy Thursday, April 1**

Our midweek edition of Bridges and Beacons will serve as our service on Thursday. Watch for details of Communion to be offered in the Sanctuary building.

**Good Friday, April 2**

A prerecorded service will be shared in the morning, with a time for prayer in the Sanctuary from 12 to 3 pm.

**Easter Sunday, April 4**

Join us in Central Park for a celebration of the Resurrection! Live at 9:30 (weather permitting) with a recording available later in the day.

### THE GENIUS BELT

PRESENTED BY THE MICHENER ART MUSEUM

Bucks County, Pennsylvania--the name conjures up images of colonial villages, pastoral vistas, and famous artists. Thanks to once cheap real estate, proximity to New York City, and the lure of country living, Bucks County became such a well-known haven for creativity that the New York media began to call it "the genius belt." On **March 18 at 2 pm**, the SAM Committee invites you to join in a virtual talk led by a Michener Museum docent for a look at Bucks County's early cultural "Golden Years." [Click Here](#) for details and the Zoom link or visit [dtownpc.org](https://dtownpc.org) under "Upcoming Events!"



Daniel Garber (1880-1958). *A Wooded Watershed*, 1926. Oil on canvas. James A. Michener Art Museum.

# FROM the PASTOR

While communication is a challenge in the best of times, the limitations of COVID have made it even more difficult. To be sure, current technology has helped and I have thought often during the past year how much harder this chapter of life would have been without such tools. Still, online fatigue is real and when joined with the lack of in-person contact, it would be no surprise if there are pieces of information you are missing—it's certainly true for me!

The same dynamic is present at DPC, of course, for creative videos and social media postings, live stream services and Zoom meetings cannot fully replace the important conversations that occur when we are together. Thus, in a small, but-still-imperfect-effort to bridge the information gap let me update you on a few things happening in our church:

- ***In-Person Worship*** While thankfully the number of coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to decline, the latest guidance from our governor's office still limits indoor gatherings to 10% of capacity which for us is about 40 people. Our Session decided early in the pandemic that we would wait on reopening until we could safely have 100 people in the sanctuary. We are planning to have our Easter service (April 4) at Central Park, but unfortunately until then we will worship exclusively via the live stream
- ***Associate Pastor Search*** The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has met every other week since January, been oriented by a representative of Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and just finalized the Ministry Information Form. That document describes DPC and the kind of person we are seeking as our Associate Pastor for Education and Family Ministries. Should you have suggestions of persons for the APNC to consider please pass on those ideas to [apnc@dtownpc.org](mailto:apnc@dtownpc.org). I encourage your prayers for this team as well.
- ***112 Mechanics Street*** In response to the congregation's decision last month to delay action on a proposal to sell that property, our Session has authorized a task force to explore other options. That team includes Phil Cacossa, Craig Eaton, Jeff Fulgham (moderator), Bev Jewusiak, Mary Lee Reiff, Nancy Roe, John Schumann, Julie Toner, and Lou White. Once they are organized

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that group will provide ways for you to pass on ideas, opportunities to tour the property and offer feedback prior to any future congregational action. That task force will strive to ensure that any member who wishes to be heard on this important matter will have multiple opportunities to do so.

That list doesn't even begin to enumerate all of the creative ways that this body of faith continues to learn, serve, and care, but hopefully addresses your most-pressing questions.

If not, I encourage you to reach out to any member of my incredible staff, one of our faithful officers, or to me as we stand ready to provide the answers, support, and encouragement you seek. Until that time, I pray that this season of Lent will be one of growth and discovery for you as we prepare once again for the celebration of an empty tomb!

*John*

## SESSION REPORT

### At its meeting on February 22, the Session:

- Approved the Ministry Information Form for an Associate Pastor for Education and Families
- Discussed a strategy for reviewing the work and priorities of its committees; each group will begin that reflection at their March meeting
- Approved the 2021 mission budget totaling \$197,190
- Agreed to establish a task force to solicit congregational ideas and explore other options for the 112 Mechanics Street property
- Approved changes in the statistical report. Membership total as of 2/22 is 1474



**Good Stuff Thrift Drive.** Saturday, March 20 from 9 am - 1 pm DPC is hosting a drive for Good Stuff Thrift and will be accepting donations of clothing, household items, tools, decor, and gently used

toys and books. The proceeds will go to assist organizations helping children, including Hunting Park Christian Academy. Drop off is on Mechanics Street under the bridge, and large item pick-ups can be arranged.

**Monthly Food Drive Update.** Many thanks to everyone who helped make the February Food Drive another success: 1,100 pounds of food were collected, and 58 gift cards were donated for our Code Blue homeless guests. A special shout out to our amazing youth who are helping with this effort each month. The next Food Drive will be on Sunday, **March 21**, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. under the bridge on Mechanics Street.

**Code Blue Update.** As of February 22, the Code Blue shelter had been open for 66 nights this season and has been housing between 16-22 guests each night, 56 different individuals from our community over the course of the winter. Though DPC was not able to host the shelter this season because of COVID space restrictions, we have been able to open up our showers to Code Blue guests for February and March while they are staying down the street at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We are looking forward to being able to open our space back up to this vital ministry next season!

**NEXT Church Conference.** NEXT Church is a network of leaders and members across the PC(USA) who believe the church of the future will be more relational, more diverse, more collaborative, more hopeful and more agile. NEXT Church provides a hopeful space for robust conversations about the theology, culture, and the practice of ministry, supports strong, faithful leadership in a time of adaptive change, and encourages collaboration and creativity across congregations and geographies. They are fostering a conversation about how to follow Christ in our particular day and age and are seeking to strengthen the relational fabric of the PC(USA) so that congregations are strong and healthy enough to be a sustained, effective, faithful and moral voice that is engaged in the transformation of our communities toward the common good.

On **March 5 - 7**, NEXT Church is hosting a virtual national gathering called "Breaking, Blessing, Building: A Call for the Common Good," which will focus on how we as the church can address racism both in our faith communities and in the world around us, so that we may better recognize the just world God intends for us to build for all this people.

The Peace and Justice Committee invites the entire DPC congregation to attend. There is no cost, but you must register to participate. For more information, visit <https://nextchurch.net/gathering/2021-national-gathering/> or visit [dtownpc.org](http://dtownpc.org) under "Upcoming Events," or contact Erin Rizk at [erinr@dtownpc.org](mailto:erinr@dtownpc.org).



## HELLO! From Your Board of Deacons

### CAREGIVERS' CORNER

As we await the arrival of spring, seek ways to encourage yourself and the other caregivers in your life. Send some flowers, share an inspiring quote, or make a phone call. Try to create small pockets of joy in each day.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

1 Thessalonians 5:11



**Lent in the Library.** A wonderful collection of devotional books for Lent, DVDs, and jigsaw puzzles is available for your use in our DPC Library. Located in AH Room 118, the Library is open any time the building is open. Reminder: if you checked out books before the pandemic arrived, now would be a good time to find them and return them to the Library or the entrance lobby of Andrews Hall.

## LIFE MILESTONES

### DEATHS

Suzanne Roberts, February 13  
Bill Haeflein, February 26



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

March 1, 2021  
Time Sensitive Material  
Please deliver within 5 days

## UPDATE ON OUR EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES



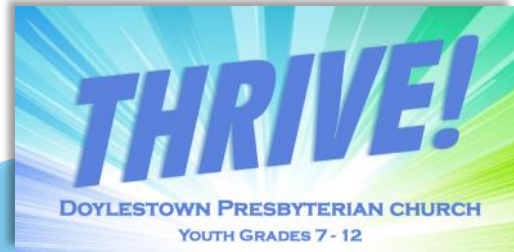
**Children's Ministry** – Families received a Lenten calendar with a suggested conversation starter or activity for each day.

**Tween & Youth Ministry** – Youth received a Lenten devotion with six stories about Jesus and bread. Each week contains ways to reflect on the scripture as well as six different bread recipes.

We continue to pray for our children, youth and their families as they navigate ongoing changes in school schedules and other activities.

**Confirmation Class** — “I have been so heartened and grateful for the participation of the nineteen youth and the ten adult Confirmation leaders as we all faithfully do our prayer walks, try different prayer practices, read the gospel of Luke and have faith conversations with one another. It has been a hard winter in our current COVID world with lots of snow and no snow days. The Confirmation leaders are always glad to learn from our youth as they prepare each week to discuss ways we get to know Jesus. I am filled with thanks for what we are doing together in these stressful times, as we keep our eyes on God.”

- Pastor Roberta Kearney



March 7 - S'mores at the Park 1-3 pm!

March 21 - Come out and help at the DPC food collection (every 3rd Sunday) 10:15 - 11:45 am.

March 28 - Online THRIVE! gathering (every 4th Sunday) 5:15 - 6:15 pm.

April 3 - Peace Valley service project, 9 am.



**2021 EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS.** Our members and friends have the opportunity to remember or honor loved ones as well as provide our church with beautiful arrangements on Easter Sunday. Flowers and palms will be artistically arranged throughout the Sanctuary or at the park (if weather allows). Please complete below and return it to the church office (127 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA 18917).

I would like to make \_\_\_\_\_ donation(s) at \$15.00 each. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES ONLY**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or Email (if we have questions): \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to DPC (note “Easter Flowers” on your check). **Names must be received in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday, March 24 (names received after that date will be placed in a subsequent bulletin after Easter).**