

THE TIDINGS

April
2021

Doylestown Presbyterian Church

Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

EASTER IN THE PARK!

9:30 am - April 4

Central Park, 425 Wells Road



Easter is upon us!

Let's make this year's celebration one to remember as we gather in Central Park in Doylestown!

Worship begins at **9:30 am**. Don't forget your mask, lawn chairs and Communion elements as we will be sharing in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Prepackaged elements will also be available.

The band shell will be beautified with flowers and the park will be filled with the sounds of song and praise.

Young children will receive a special item from Pastor John recalling the discovery of that empty tomb long ago and learn how they can pass along the message to others, too.

You'll also learn how you can join the fight against hunger and you'll go home with a gift to help you in that effort.

Our DPC Youth have decorated an oversized picture frame for our fun photo station where you can take pics of your family in your Easter outfits. Join us as we celebrate our Savior's glorious resurrection!

A recording of the service will be posted to www.dtownpc.org/worship/watch-us-live/ later in the day. In the event of rain, the service will be Livestreamed and we invite you to join us from home.



Outdoor Hymn Sing!

Get ready to once again clap and sing in the churchyard! Join Mark Helms and Mina Choi as they lead another uplifting hymn sing on **Sunday, April 25 at 2 pm!**

Many of your favorite songs of praise will be offered and requests are welcomed! To suggest a hymn, email Mark at markh@dtownpc.org.



Lawn chairs suggested and masks required.

RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP?

Our Re-Opening Task Force has set a *tentative* date of **Sunday, May 2** for our return to in-person worship service in the Sanctuary.

The group has been working to insure that health and safety remain our top priority and will be monitoring the COVID situation closely in the coming weeks. A final decision will be made in late April to determine if all the latest data confirms our desire to re-open. Watch for more details as May draws closer.

FROM the PASTOR

As our world slowly begins to emerge from this pandemic, there is an eagerness to return to normal. The limitations of the past twelve months on worship and education, travel and eating out, gathering with loved ones and shopping are all beginning to ease. Such a shift is a welcome turn and releases our desire to resume aspects of existence we once took for granted. To be sure, many of those routines will come back just as before, yet before we rush back fully to all of our old patterns, it is appropriate to stop and draw-out the lessons gained during the past year.

Families learned, for instance, that being under the same roof all day brought challenges, but also the blessing of a less- hectic pace and simple joys in doing things together. Businesses discovered that many job functions previously limited to an office desk can be carried out well—and in some cases, better—remotely. Educators scrambled to offer digital learning and while thrilled by the return of in-person instruction, are beginning to consider how those new skills can be part of teaching methods in the fall. The best re-emergence from COVID-19 needs time to discern what aspects of the past should be set aside, what should return, and what should be transformed because of this experience. That same intentional work is happening at DPC.

Our Session and staff are currently engaged in a close look at the activities that occurred here prior to March 2020 and ones developed during the past year, to determine what approaches will best strengthen our witness moving forward and which ones should be tweaked or retired. Three colleagues joined me in an online workshop focused on the digital church, identifying tools that DPC can use post-COVID to better equip members and others outside our walls. As an example, our current Stepping Stones class has participants who have chosen to join without having yet set foot inside our sanctuary as they experienced us first, and thus far, still only online. The world has changed because of this pandemic and our ministries will do so as well.

I cannot tell you exactly what life will be like at DPC once we have emerged fully from the impact of COVID-19, but our central purpose of connecting people to God and each other will endure. Our call to equip people for faithful living at home and school, in

their business dealings and community existence will continue, too. Our commitment to be a bridge for Christ and a beacon that reflect His love will remain.

Yet, what will be different is how we do some of those things. My hunch is that our ministry will have a hybrid approach moving forward with a mix of in-person and online opportunities, moments we are physically together and ways we strengthen our virtual life so that others who may never visit Doylestown can still grow with us.

It would be a missed opportunity if by Easter of 2022 the life and rhythm of DPC was exactly the same as pre-COVID days. Thus, I'm eager to discover with you the kind of future that awaits; one that still brings glory to God and deepens the lives of faith for all ages as our best response to One who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

It would be a missed opportunity if by Easter of 2022 the life and rhythm of DPC was exactly the same as pre-COVID days...

John

SESSION REPORT

At its meeting on March 22, the Session:

- Hired Carrie Biermann as Interim Director of Teens and Tweens
- Created a Connections Task Force to further work on our commitment for hospitality in the fullness of DPC's life
- Approved a One Fund campaign for the fall of 2021 and hired Alan Wildes from Generis as the consultant
- Participated in a Racial Wealth Gap simulation developed by Bread for the World
- Approved changes in the statistical report. Membership total as of 3/22 is 1476



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.
 Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Your generous gifts provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Recognizing

that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future. If you would like to participate in this offering, you may do so with the envelope in your offering box, at the Easter service, or on the DPC website.

DPC "Fill Your Bag Against Hunger" Drive

Starting Easter Sunday, we will be handing out re-usable grocery bags in support of our monthly food drive! We hope each of you and your families will fill up this bag each month and bring it back on the **third Sunday** of each month from **10:30 am - 11:30 am** on Mechanics Street. We will swap out your bag and ask that you bring it back again next month filled with food for our neighbors in need! We will have plenty of extra bags for you to share with your friends and neighbors and encourage them to join us in this ongoing project! If you are not able to get to church the day of the drive, we can help! You may leave your bag on your porch and email us at dpc@dtownpc.org (subject line: Food Bags) to let us know,

and a member of our mission crew will arrange to pick it up. Gift cards (\$5) from Burger King, Panera Bread, Walmart, Wawa, and Wendy's are also appreciated which help our homeless friends.

Last Month's Food Drive Results

We collected over 1,000 pounds of food last month and \$200 in gift cards to local food stores for our neighbors in need of assistance. The food went to the Bucks County Housing Group Pantry and the New Britain Food Larder. Thank you to everyone who donated!



New Britain Food Larder is Open!

Many of you may have heard that the New Britain Food Larder was closing. In a wonderful turn of events, a new director stepped up, and the Food Larder is open on Monday and Wednesdays from 8 am - 12 pm and occasional Saturdays from 10 am - 12 pm. If you would like to volunteer, call 215-345-9170.

Good Stuff Thrift Clothing Drive - Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who dropped off items last month! We collected over 3 vans of items. The profits will benefit nonprofits in our community, including Hunting Park Christian Academy!



With the anticipated increased availability of the COVID-19 vaccine, our DPC COVID Response Team volunteers are available to provide transportation to and from vaccine appointments, should it be needed. As always, if you have other needs (such as

grocery pick-up or tech help), volunteers are ready to assist. Visit bit.ly/DPCVaccines for details and to fill out our "Care Needed Form."

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

April 22, 2021 marks the 51st annual Earth Day celebration. This year's theme is "Restore Our Earth" and encourages individuals to consider steps they can take to confront various environmental crises and produce a healthier planet. A list of 51 action steps detailing the many ways in which you can participate this Earth Day and beyond can be found at www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/



HELLO! From Your Board of Deacons

CAREGIVERS' CORNER

Spring. Easter. A new beginning in a year that may already feel too long. God gives us a fresh start each day and again whenever we ask. May the increasing length of daylight and the joyous renewal of God's Easter promise help you, the caregiver, to resolve to care for yourself.

"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come..."

Song of Songs 2:11-12

LIFE MILESTONES

BIRTHS

Eric Robert Wolf, son of **Chris and Katie Wolf**, grandson of **Dick and Carolyn Wolf**, **March 9**

DEATHS

Tucker Thompson, son of **Jeff and Meg Thompson**, **March 8**
Peter Walsh, son of **Margaret Walsh**, **March 25**



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

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

WELCOME CARRIE BIERMANN!



Carrie began working at DPC on March 29 as our Interim Director of Tweens and Teens.

Carrie brings a wealth of ecumenical experience in working with tweens and youth, as well as children and adults in United Methodist, American Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

Faith has always been a part of her life. Early on she began teaching the Bible to children in her home church in New Jersey. In college at Eastern University, Carrie majored in Biblical Studies and Communications. She continued on to Eastern Seminary, earning a master's degree in Contemporary Theology, before going to the University of Edinburgh, Scotland for a masters in Non-Western Christianity, and then obtaining an MDiv from Palmer Seminary.

During her years in school, she served as director of a traveling drama ministry and she started a Swing Jazz Band. Carrie says she is a "big nerd" who loves reading, film, photography, gaming, D&D, LARP, and learning more about everything. "I am so excited to be here at DPC!" Carrie added. "I can't wait to meet everyone, and I know we'll have an amazing time following Jesus together!"

Carrie can be reached at carrieb@dtownpc.org. Please feel free to send her a hello!

GIVE BY TEXT!



DPC has another option for Electronic Giving to the General Operating Fund!

(Note: This is only available for giving with a credit card.)

- Send a text to: **833-906-2067**
- Then enter the amount you want to give in the message
- Press send.

You will then receive a registration link. (This only needs to be done once!)

After registration is complete (contact and payment information), you will receive a verification text.

If you want to repeat the same donation another time, you can text "repeat" or text a different amount.