

# THE TIDINGS

May  
2021

Doylestown Presbyterian Church

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

## *A Joyful Return!*



On Sunday, **May 2**, at 9:30 am, we once again open our doors to offer in-person worship service in our Sanctuary! The decision comes after much prayer and discussion from our Re-Opening Task Force, which has determined we can do so safely. Pastor John Willingham provides further insight within his letter found on Page 2 and the full list of health protocols can be found at [www.dtownpc.org/return](http://www.dtownpc.org/return). Keep watch in your email and on the website for a detailed instructional video, which will provide a glimpse of what to expect.



While we are excited to once again welcome you inside, we know that some may not be ready to return. Thus, for those of you who will choose to worship still from home, know that our Livestream will continue to serve as a vibrant, engaging experience each week. Together we will continue to walk together along this journey of faith - online or in-person!

Prepare to enter a world of breathtaking beauty and natural wonder! On **May 20**, at 10 am, the SAM Committee hosts a trip to **Hortulus Farm in Wrightstown** - "where history and horticulture meet" - for a special private guided tour!

## GARDEN GETAWAY



The cost is a discounted \$20, payable upon arrival. The 1.5-hour tour of the 30-acre gardens requires mobility as the grounds are not wheelchair friendly. There are only 25 spots available so visit [bit.ly/SAMGardenTour](http://bit.ly/SAMGardenTour) to register online today!

# FROM the PASTOR

I suspect most of you have heard that in-person worship at DPC resumes on May 2. Like you, I am thrilled we can re-open our doors and safely be together again inside our sanctuary. During these months of livestream-only worship, the lay readers and deacons who gathered inside for a particular Sunday, and those who came into that space as part of our Holy Week observances all spoke of how meaningful it was to be back in a room that holds such significance and memory. Thus, to start doing so on a weekly basis gives many more people that same opportunity and to see each other. Still, our worship experience will be different from pre-COVID days and thus want to speak to what it will be like, no matter what form you choose.

For those who gather in the sanctuary, masks and social distancing will be required. The latter necessity may well mean you cannot sit in your favorite spot as the sanctuary capacity is capped currently at 100 persons; on Sundays when a larger number arrive, individuals will be directed to the Celtic Cross Room or Fellowship Hall where the service can be broadcast internally. The external doors will open at 9 to allow our team to be ready for your arrival. Wherever you are seated on our campus, the service will be a mix of live and pre-recorded moments. The Children's Message and many of the musical offerings, for instance, will be of the latter variety and projected onto the wall behind the choir loft. While I can promise you the preacher for the day will be physically present, other worship leaders may not. Also, because singing inside remains a risk we will only have one hymn each Sunday—the closing one.

For those of you who will continue to join us online, please be assured of my commitment to make it a worshipful experience for you as well. While it's true that prior to COVID, we would live-stream the service, basically in those days it was a broadcast of what was happening in the sanctuary. We have learned a lot during the past year about how to help persons worshiping remotely participate fully and those lessons will shape what happens moving forward. We will continue to show all of the responses and lyrics on the screen, elicit prayer concerns ahead of time, and when observing the Lord's Supper invite you to join us, too. The preacher will not be looking only at those in the room, but while scanning the room will continue to speak directly to the camera, too. We have developed a Digital Connect Card that will make it easy for you to pass on information to us

and we have created the option of giving by text. All of those steps are meant to ensure you are fully part of that day's congregation as well.

Thus, while many aspects of worship will not be the same as before, what will endure is our continuing resolve to provide ways for all who gather—in-person or online—to offer their praise, to experience the life-giving nature of God's Word and presence, and to find ever-more faithful ways to respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thus, however you join us in the coming weeks, know of my anticipatory joy once more in sharing that experience with you!

*John*

*Our worship experience will be different from pre-COVID days and thus want to speak to what it will be like, no matter what form you choose.*

## SESSION REPORT

At its meeting on April 26, the Session:

- Approved the Matthew 25 Action Plan
- Received update on the work of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
- Received report on the April meeting of the Presbytery with a highlight of Christen Blore being approved for ordination
- Approved a search committee for the Director of Music and the Arts consisting of: Jane Antheil, Judy Cody, Olivia Ferrara, David Fryling (moderator), Kelly Huggins, Price Jones, Bob Miller, and Eileen Telly
- Approved leadership for the "Be Renewed" One Fund initiative to occur in the fall: Bob Maxwell and Julie Toner—Executive Directors, Campaign Manager—Linay Richards, Communications Director—Christian Menno, Discipleship Coordinator—Michele Hoffman
- Reflected on questions about future priorities that arose from the Family Ministry Task Force report.
- Approved changing the name of the Children's Education to the Children's Ministry Committee.
- Approved leadership roles for the 2021-22 Session
- Approved changes in the roll. Membership total as of 4/26 is 1481

# What's Happening



**Church Mice and College Students.** Our “usual” college academic year is ending, and we have nine seniors graduating this year. Good

luck and blessings to all! We need our remaining students, rising juniors and seniors, to send updates (contact info and course of study for next year) to [churchmouse@dtownpc.org](mailto:churchmouse@dtownpc.org). Signups for next year are online at the church website ([www.dtownpc.org](http://www.dtownpc.org)) under Ministries, College-Age. Open to all of this year’s high school graduates...and also those who started college last year and didn’t ask for a Mouse (because of virtual classes?), please join us. Congregation members who want to experience one-on-one personal mission are welcome to check out our ministry through the College-Age webpage. Be a Church Mouse!



#### **Flag Replacement.**

You may have noticed vibrant, new American Flags marking the gravestones of the military veterans buried in our historic graveyard. We thank Mike and Cheryl Paradiso for donating them out of kindness and generosity!

**Library News.** The Library has recently received books in memory of loved ones: In loving memory of Maryanne Costello, a devoted reader, from the Roth Family: *Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah, *Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes, *Lost Book of Names* by Kristin Harmel, and Jacqueline Winspear’s Maisie Dobbs series books 2, 3, 4, and 5. In loving memory of Elzada James Lukens who touched our hearts by Charlotte Kane and Doug and Kaye Mohline: *And God Said Play Ball*, *Baseball as a Road to God*, *Dugout Devotions*, and *One Line Drive* ... all reflecting Elzada’s love for our Lord and baseball! Glenda Childs gifted the Library with a copy of *The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country* by Amanda Gorman.



**Matthew 25 Update.** Be on the lookout for a new section on our website that highlights DPC’s work as a Matthew 25 congregation with the stated focus of dismantling structural racism and its intersectionality with poverty. Our denomination [recently published an article](#) about our Black History Month recognition and the Presbyterian Mission Agency will visit with us soon to produce a special video to further shine a light on this important moment for our church!

## CAREGIVERS' CORNER



### HELLO! From Your Board of Deacons

Love those who nurtured you. Love those whom you so gently nurture. Happy Mother’s Day to all who care for others with the devotion of a mother’s love.

*“As a mother comforts her child, so I shall comfort you...”*

— Isaiah 66:13

**Summer Spiritual Renewal!** Mark your calendars and prepare to start your summer with a sizzle! Summer Spiritual Renewal (formerly known as Adult Vacation Bible School) will offer insights on Scripture, opportunities for fun and fellowship, and life lessons beyond the Bible. The Senior Adult Ministry Committee is proud to sponsor this outdoor event at Bush Park in Doylestown **June 14 - 17** with a program presented by Brian Russo, Associate Minister of Youth and Senior Adults at Chestnut Hill Presbyterian Church. Adults of all ages are welcomed. Stay tuned for more details.

## LIFE

## MILESTONES

### BAPTISMS

**James Grover Stein**, son of **Courtney Stein**, April 11

### DEATHS

**J. Earle Yerkes**, grandfather of **Sandra Krone**, April 1  
**Edith Prundeanu**, mother of **Connie Prundeanu**, April 7  
**William Henry**, grandfather of **Jason Henry**, April 8  
**Connie Bald**, mother of **Crystal Clemente**, April 19



## PROPERTY TOUR



As we explore the congregation's options regarding the future of church-owned properties located at 109 and 112 Mechanics Street, members are invited to tour the 112 building on **May 16** from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The recently-formed 109/112 Mechanics Street Task Force has been working to determine the best course of action and your input is vital to this process. For background and an overview of the previous actions and future steps, visit the task force's homepage at [www.dtownnpc.org/mechanicsstreet](http://www.dtownnpc.org/mechanicsstreet) and keep watch in your email for future updates and opportunities to offer feedback.

Please note that this open house event is for DPC members only.



## STRESS-FREE GIVING!

Convenient for you and consistent for your church

Our electronic giving program allows you to set up recurring or one-time contributions through checking or savings accounts, credit or debit card. It is as easy as visiting [www.dtownnpc.org](http://www.dtownnpc.org), selecting "Giving" at the top right section of the website, and clicking "Give Now," or you can Text to Give (with a credit card) by sending a text to 833-906-2067, enter the amount you want to give, and press send.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Linay Richards at [linayr@dtownnpc.org](mailto:linayr@dtownnpc.org)

## PCUSA Office of Public Witness

*"Do you know what I want?*

*I want justice – oceans of it.*

*I want fairness –rivers of it.*

*That's what I want. That's all I want."* Amos 5: 23-24 (The Message)

Presbyterians can find ways to focus on God's direction to bring about peace and justice through the PCUSA Office of Public Witness. This active and inspired office is the public policy and advocacy arm in Washington and has served us for 75 years. We look to this resource to guide us in International issues, National advocacy and education regarding all issues that cause and can solve sins of injustice and unfairness to all, creating public policy with legislators and all who seek to reframe policy and action to be in line with God's desire of us. They provide a wealth of resources in the form of training opportunities, on-line and in person, and invite all Presbyterians to participate in, along with brothers and sisters of all faiths. Looking to learn more about our denomination's actions, materials and ways to defeat racism? Is the PCUSA at all involved with gun control solutions? Would you like to explore the Syrian situation from the eyes of a Presbyterian? Visit [bit.ly/PublicWitness](http://bit.ly/PublicWitness) and sign up for their free online newsletter. Peace!



Even though the four-week series **Waste, Race, and a Matthew 25 Environment** began April 25, we encourage you to join in the remaining class sessions on Zoom. Visit [www.dtownnpc.org/events/dpcenvironment/](http://www.dtownnpc.org/events/dpcenvironment/) for full details and the Zoom link.

# Welcome New Members!

We received 5 new members on Sunday, April 25

We are proud to have them join our DPC Family. Please say "hello" when you see them!



**Lisa Adelman** lives in Doylestown with her husband Steve. She is a registered nurse and has been involved with DPC with her children and growth groups. She enjoys outdoor activities, exercise and running. She has three adult children.



**Justine Frank** lives in Drexel Hill. Justine grew up at DPC and has recently moved back to the East Coast from California. She is looking to renew her connections with DPC and is interested in volunteering.



**Stephanie Hansen** lives in Doylestown with her husband Jamie and their two children, William and Abigail. She is a former teacher who enjoys bike rides, yard work and family time. Jamie is a DPC member and physician at Doylestown Hospital.



**Mary Mulder** moved to Warrington from Kentucky with her husband John. John is a retired Presbyterian minister. Mary is a retired college writing professor who loves research and writing. Mary and John have two adult children.



**Fadia Rizk** moved from Allentown to Warrington. She is a retired Drug and Alcohol Counselor and enjoys volunteering, cooking and traveling. She has two sons, Dave and DPC member Matt Rizk.

During that same service we were finally able to formally welcome those who joined our church family in 2020!



**Vincent and Sharon Giranda**



**Jessica Hosey**



**David and Maureen Martin**



**Scott Nichols**



**Clinton Polchan**



**Jessica Seidle**



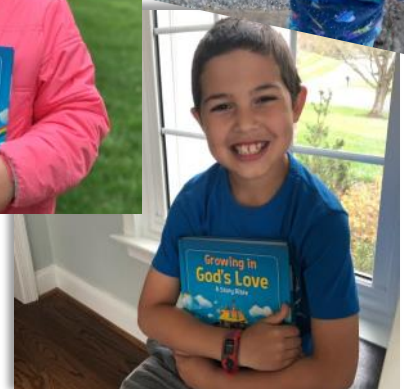
# MINISTRY

*in motion*

**EASTER IN THE PARK** We felt so blessed to see so many of you attend our Easter celebration by attending in person and for those who watched later in the day online! Thank you to George Segelken and Becky Colburn for these wonderful photos!



**BIBLE BOXES** Our DPC children, ages 4 years, 2nd grade and 4th grade, received age-appropriate Bibles along with a box with tools, art supplies, and activities to help their Seeds of Faith continue to grow. Thank you to Pastor Roberta and our Children's Education volunteers for delivering the boxes!





# MISSION



**Rolling Harvest Food Rescue.** Rolling Harvest, a DPC Mission Budget supported organization, offers a number of volunteer opportunities at local farms to help with planting and harvesting surplus crops. These crops are then distributed to local food pantries and meal programs. Days and times that you can help with the harvesting vary depending on what crops are ready. There is a "standing" volunteer time on **Saturday mornings** from 9 am - 11 am at Gravity Hill Farm in Lambertville. You can sign up for the Rolling Harvest app and be notified of available times and go on your own. We would also like to organize some DPC days when a group of us can go, but they are often fairly short notice. If you would like to be on the contact list for these group days, you can sign up here: [bit.ly/DPC-RH](https://bit.ly/DPC-RH) Rolling Harvest allows children 10 and over to volunteer. Visit [RollingHarvest.org](https://RollingHarvest.org) for more information.

**Pentecost Offering.** Each spring, the PC(USA) collects the Pentecost Offering to support programs that nurture and encourage the faith of its young people and address the needs of at-risk children. Sixty percent of the offering is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency working with at-risk youth and the remainder is sent to a local organization chosen by the congregation.

The mission committee has chosen Hunting Park Christian Academy as the recipient of this year's Pentecost Offering. Hunting Park is located in a diverse, inner city neighborhood of northern Philadelphia. The funds will go directly to their scholarship fund, which makes a high-quality, faith-based education accessible to all students regardless of their family's income.

The offering falls at the same time as HPCA's annual "Race for Education," which will be held on **May 5 - 6** and raises funds to support the school's scholarship fund. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer at the race or be a "special runner" on your own closer to home and raise funds in support of HPCA, you can find more information at [www.hpcaphilly.org/news/race-for-education.cfm](https://www.hpcaphilly.org/news/race-for-education.cfm)

In addition to supporting HPCA through our yearly mission budget and special opportunities like the Pentecost Offering, DPC pledged to provide four Hunting Park students with an almost full scholarship for grades Pre-K through eighth grade as part of our first capital campaign nine years ago. Our sponsored students are now in 7th grade and have one more year left at HPCA! We are so grateful to have the opportunity to support children in our community – all of whom deserve a quality education.

**For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...** New Record Alert!! Thanks to your amazing donations, 1,580 pounds of food and \$300 in grocery gift cards were collected for the Bucks County Housing Group during April's food drive. These totals are the highest since we began the monthly drives in October! In addition, as we slowly begin to return to the "Community Meal" on a hand-out basis for now, 24 meals were prepared and \$375 in gift cards to area restaurants were donated for our homeless friends. This was all possible because of your incredible generosity. DPC holds its food drive on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 10:30 - 11:30 am on Mechanics Street.



New Interim Director of Tweens and Teens Carrie Biermann has been out and about, getting to know the DPC community! She helped out all morning at the April food drive and is working hard to help organize the May 9 Youth Sunday worship service. In her efforts to get to know our 4th through 12th-graders, Carrie has begun sending a weekly digital newsletter called "What's Up Wednesday?!?!?" The emails will serve as a great way to connect with tweens, teens, youth leaders, and parents to shape this ministry together!



In volume 1, Carrie described the "Intro to the Bible Challenge," which includes chances to win fun prizes, and previewed awesome outdoor outings, featuring Movies in the Park, Capture the Flag, and Zombies vs Humans! Be sure to take a look at the April 21 email to help name your groups and to fill out a special Youth Survey, which will give Carrie and our volunteers the info they need to make this summer special. And keep watch for a revamped Tweens and Teens page on [www.dtownnpc.org](https://www.dtownnpc.org)!

**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!** Are you about to graduate from high school, college, or grad school? If so, we want to honor your achievement during the June 6 worship service. Please email us at [dpc@dtownnpc.org](mailto:dpc@dtownnpc.org) (include "Graduate" in the subject line) to provide us with your name and the school from which you are graduating.



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 28, 2021  
Time Sensitive Material  
Please deliver within 5 days

## Focus on Facilities

The Property Committee is charged with identifying the needs of DPC to preserve and protect the functionality, beauty, and history of our church campus. There are several significant, pending facility repair projects that the Property Committee is researching. In order to spread awareness about the items, we would like to share the following information:



### Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows:

Many of the windows in the Sanctuary are exhibiting significant deterioration and out-of-plane buckling such that a major restoration is required. We have been studying this issue over the past year, and several remediation cost estimates

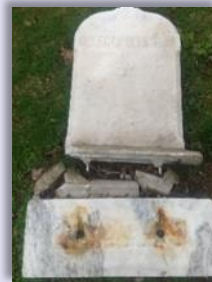
have been obtained from Stained Glass Restoration Specialists. The current condition is not a life-safety issue, but continued deterioration and inaction will inevitably lead to further degradation that could significantly compound the issue and increase the cost for the congregation. Current estimates to rehabilitate all the problematic windows are in the range of \$130,000, or \$60,000 for an initial phase to address only the most deteriorated windows.

### Parking Lot Restoration:

The Parking lot has started to deteriorate and could be a safety issue. The need to have it completely resurfaced should be done in the next year. This would include milling, paving and relining the current space. An estimated cost is around \$69,000.

### Painting of the Sanctuary Exterior Trim:

The trim on the exterior trim of the Sanctuary (especially second story and above) is beginning to peel and show exposed woodwork. We are working to get estimates to repaint the trim and also repair a small roof leak near the steeple. The estimated cost could be around \$35,000. Maintaining the sanctuary trim and mitigating water infiltration will avoid other significant cost for the congregation.



### Graveyard Maintenance:

DPC is blessed to have a historic graveyard (circa 1815) which is also the gateway to our church. Many early citizens of Doylestown are buried there, resulting in community interest and frequent visitors. A team of volunteers have worked hard over the last three years to preserve and document the memorials. Many repairs are needed - ten headstones have been identified for immediate action due to safety and other issues. Quotes range between \$3,600 and \$6,900.

### Organ Computer System Upgrade:

We have been informed by our Organ maintenance company that we will need to replace the organ's control system (computer circuit board) in the next couple years. The control system is currently 21 years old and as with all electronics, it will soon be time to upgrade. This will be a significant cost but we are waiting for the actual estimate.

The Property Committee will be working with the Finance Committee to look for ways to finance these projects in the coming year or two, if possible. If you have any questions about these projects or other matters related to maintaining our campus, please contact Tom Petro, Moderator of the Property Committee or Linay Richards, Director of Finances and Operations.