



Be Renewed

“...but those who hope in the Lord will RENEW their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Friends,

We are finally able to venture out. In-person worship has returned and school buildings are buzzing, many of us have enjoyed long-delayed reunions and returned to the office, too. We are eating out, hosting friends, and traveling again—all things we once took for granted. To be sure, masks are still visible and conversation still includes talk of booster shots and hybrid gatherings, but we are resuming cherished parts of life. The long months of COVID-19 have taken their toll and now it is time to Be Renewed.

The Reconnect gatherings of recent days were a first response to that felt need as many of your fellow members gathered to get caught-up, to laugh, and to ponder our life at DPC moving forward. One of the clearest signs of faithfulness during the pandemic was the continued financial generosity of our congregants even when we could not gather in person. Those gifts chiefly arose from commitments made to the Embark campaign that funded all of our ministries for 2020 and 2021. Now, as we look ahead to the next two years and emerge from a pandemic we launch Be Renewed.

The generosity initiative bearing that name will allow our congregation to further our vision to “Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love” in creative ministries for the next twenty-four months. A new Associate Pastor and Director of Music and the Arts have joined us recently and their gifts, when added to the faithful members and staff already here, hold the promise of exciting days ahead. Included in this packet are pieces to help you discover what Be Renewed can mean for all of us and your essential role in this effort. In addition to what you find there, I am asking you to:

- **Keep DPC and Be Renewed in your prayers**
- **Be present (in-person or online) for worship from October 17 through November 7**
- **Read all of the print materials and view the videos related to this effort**
- **Discuss the initiative with loved ones and then make your commitment on November 14**

In the coming weeks, we will reflect in worship on Scripture that encourages us to Be Renewed in our hearts, our thinking, our spirit, and our strength. All of those gifts are needed throughout a journey of faith, but they are especially relevant for this season of life that has been shaped by a pandemic.

I’m eager to discover with you all that God will do through us as individuals and as a church in this initiative over the next two years. Yet on this day, I give thanks for each of you and for the promise of how these days will cause us to Be Renewed in ways that bring God all praise and honor.

Faithfully yours,

John M. Willingham

Be Renewed

...AND TAKE HEART

Being renewed is a choice. Sometimes when we're dealing with chaos, fatigue, and frustration it is easy for those feelings to take root inside of us. But 2 Corinthians 4:16 gives us hope: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." You have a choice to be renewed and take heart! We have a choice to take heart in our vision as a church and how God is calling each of us to give generously to that make that vision a reality.

...IN YOUR THINKING

We cannot allow the challenges that we face right now to corrupt our thinking. Ephesians 4:23 tells us to allow the Holy Spirit to renew our thoughts and "to be made new in the attitudes of your mind." We can throw off the negative thoughts and be renewed in our thinking. As we each do this together it renews our thinking about our giving and generosity.

...WITH A STEADFAST SPIRIT

Psalms 51 talks about being renewed with "a steadfast spirit." Being steadfast means to be unwavering. The idea of renewal is to be reinvigorated. These challenging times can put strain on our relationship with God and our resolve to be faithful in many of the spiritual disciplines, especially giving. We need to be renewed with a steadfast spirit in our relationship with God, our church family, and our giving.

...IN YOUR STRENGTH BY HOPE

Isaiah 40:31 says this: "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." When we hope in the Lord our strength is renewed. Be Renewed is about each of us listening to the Lord and allowing our hope in God to give us the strength to be faithful in every aspect of our spiritual walk...including our giving. That may mean giving for the first time or taking a step of faith and grow in your giving. Just imagine the vision we can bring to reality through Doylestown Presbyterian Church if we all respond to Be Renewed!

Will you Be Renewed?

Will You...

Be Renewed and take **HEART**?

Be Renewed in your **THINKING**?

Be Renewed with a **STEADFAST SPIRIT**?

Be Renewed in your **STRENGTH** powered by **HOPE**?

Be Renewed isn't about giving more for the sake of giving more or to just start giving. It is about God changing you... speaking to you...and growing you spiritually to give and be generous in the way He wants for you.

Be Renewed isn't a transactional decision...it is a transformational response. God doesn't need our money, nor to give out of obligation.

God brings money into our lives so we can give and be a part of the life changing ministry our Creator wants to do here at Doylestown Presbyterian Church.

We are blessed to be a part
of a life-changing blessing to others.

Join us for worship each week of Be Renewed as we learn at an even deeper level how to be renewed. Start praying now each and every day of how God will ultimately want you to respond on Commitment Sunday, November 14.

