

THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter

May 2025



DPC Dads Spring Hike. Dads are invited to meetup at High Rocks State Park in Pipersville (parking lot on Tory Road) on **May 3** at 7:00 am. No RSVP needed!

DPC Moms Meetup. The moms gather for a casual night out on **Friday, May 9** at 7:00 pm at Hops/Scotch located in the Marketplace of Doylestown (22 S. Main Street). No RSVP required!

DPC at the Ballpark. DPC is taking over Citizens Bank Park on Friday, **June 20** at 6:45 pm against the Mets. 75 tickets have been reserved in Section 304, in the outfield. **May 5** is the last day to reserve your tickets! Visit www.dtownpc.org to save your seats today!

Afternoon of Games. All are invited to an afternoon of table games and fun on Wednesday, **May 14** from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm! BYO Lunch - beverages and dessert will be provided. This is a free event and no gaming experience required!

Memorial Day Street Picnic. We look forward to once again joining with the community for this very special day in Doylestown on **May 26**. Volunteers are always needed and anyone who has helped in the past will tell you how fun and rewarding it can be. Visit bit.ly/DPC-MDP to Volunteer today!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND...

- A chance to get to know composer Benedict Sheehan - and discover his unique connection to DPC - before his concert here on May 18 - **Page 3**
- An update on Seminarian Jamie Neal's journey within our church - **Page 6**
- The opportunity to participate in another fun and rewarding Community Food Collection - **Page 7**

...and so much more!

A Conversation with Pastor Mac

The following is a chat between Pastor Mac and Worship, Music & the Arts moderator Mark Strasburg.

Mark: So Mac, why is in-person worship at DPC so meaningful to you?

Mac: For me, worship is a weekly reminder that something bigger than myself is at the center of the universe, aka the Triune God. I feel that worship produces thanksgiving, peace, joy and communal hope. I think the ritual and rhythm of it is very important in a world that throws us out of sync. Mark, why is in-person worship important to you?

Mark: After a hectic week, I enjoy the rich time I spend in worship with my church family. It's a wonderful way to stay connected to those I care about. I learn about their lives and if there's anything I can do to help. It's also an opportunity to meet new people and strengthen my church community.

Each of us has our own unique relationship with God, but worshipping with others brings us together and helps us grow in our faith. It's a way to share our faith with others and learn from each other. Mac, why is it important we are still live-streaming worship after the pandemic?

Mac: It's most important for people who cannot physically come to worship anymore to remain connected to the community of faith they love and, in many cases, poured their life into. It's also useful for people recovering from illness who are temporarily away from in-person worship. I know some who like to worship through the livestream when they are on vacation or a business trip. But in those cases I also think it's good to visit another church in-person to see how other communities worship. Mark, I know you listen to the **DPC Podcast**, why do you like that?

Mark: I wish I could attend worship every Sunday, but it's not always possible. Having other ways to stay connected to the church is really helpful. Whether it's listening to a missed sermon or following along with a sermon series, it keeps me in sync with the others who were in worship. I usually listen when I take an evening walk. Sometimes, I even re-listen to a sermon because I want to think about a particular passage more deeply. Any last words from you, Pastor Mac?

Mac: Only that as summer comes and we move to 9:30 am worship, if you're in town and physically able to do so, I hope you'll commit to the rhythm and ritual of in-person worship. As Psalm 118:24 says, *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*



**CLICK
HERE!**



Click the button or scan the code to watch a quick, fun video featuring Mark, Mac, and others explaining how listening to the **DPC Podcast** presents an easy way to hear Sunday's sermon on-the-go if you can't be here in-person! It is posted every Tuesday on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts!

The Music of BENEDICT SHEEHAN



DPC is thrilled to welcome composer and conductor **Benedict Sheehan on May 18 at 4:00 pm** as he leads the DPC Chancel Choir and the Bucks County Ecumenical Choir in the next concert of the Celebrate the Arts series.

As we look ahead to the performance, DPC's Director of Communications Christian Menno shares his experience in meeting Benedict late last month...



Recently, Benedict visited the church to lead the singers in another round of evening rehearsals and I was there to meet him and conduct a video interview (keep watch for that soon).

As I waited for his arrival, the anticipation grew. His list of accomplishments is honestly kind of intimidating. He is a three-time GRAMMY-nominee and American Prize Winner, who has been called "one of the leading voices in religious classical music in the 21st century," and whose pieces have been performed by ensembles all over the world. I felt a twinge of nervousness when choir member Joanne Morris leaned to my ear and whispered, "he really is a master."

Then Benedict appeared. Within a few moments, all my anxiety melted away. I quickly felt at ease with this softspoken man who emanated kindness and humility. Having seven daughters (you read that right) has a way of affecting a person, he joked. Benedict has made the rehearsals family affairs, bringing wife Talia (who grew up in DPC) and some of his daughters. As the interview progressed, Benedict talked about living with a significant stutter - a subject he has been open about. This speech difference has in many ways shaped his ability to write music and enhance his passion for the craft.

"What I try to do is listen," he said. "I listen to the sounds around me. I listen to the ways that people talk. As a person who has a stutter, it's always been a challenge for me to be able to talk the way I want to, but I think it also gives me an appreciation for the way language works and I'm often just deeply inspired by the sound of words and the way that sound can convey meaning."

It was a series of inspiring words written by his wife's late grandmother Miriam Montgomery that recently helped him compose a piece commissioned by DPC along with his mother-in-law and DPC member Susan Darville. The text was in the form of a poem written by Miriam, who was a beloved fixture at DPC for more than 70 years and passed away last year at age 102. She penned the poem when she was just 23-years-old in 1945 shortly after Germany surrendered to the Allied Forces. The poem (and now the choral/organ piece) is called Victory. The words implore the reader to pause in celebrating, and to reflect on the horrific realities of war, reminding us there is still work to be done to make the world a more caring place, rid of oppression.

The piece will be unveiled during the May 18 concert. No tickets are required and a free-will offering will be received to help support the Celebrate the Arts series at DPC. A reception will follow in the Celtic Cross Room.

"It's been a joy to be here and to work with this really dedicated chorus here at DPC," Benedict said. "They're such a friendly and joyful and yet skilled group of singers who give their whole hearts and souls to singing and just making a beautiful sound."



April Session Update



- The Session sustained the examination of the class of 2028 officers-elect. The ordination & installation of new elders & deacons will take place on Sunday, May 18 at both services. The officers-elect completed a four-session training with Pastor Mac in the month of April. The officers-elect presented beautiful and personal Statements of Faith for their examination.
- The Session received into membership by Profession of Faith Carina Dignetti who participated in the 2025 Confirmation Class joining on May 4.
- Upon the recommendation of the Finance & Property Standing Committee the session approved the retirement of two internal loans: A \$100,000 loan from the Mission Endowment Fund and \$92,800 loan from the Endowment Fund. This was made possible due to two generous bequests received by the church in the first quarter totaling \$399,078. These funds were originally borrowed in 2013 for a pre-payment on the construction loan and the second was in 2019 for mold remediation and repairs. Thanks be to God!
- The Session approved a recommendation by Christian Education Standing Committee to hire Dr. Peter Enns, a biblical scholar, author and co-host of the Bible for Normal People podcast. Dr. Enns will preach on Sunday, September 14 with a post worship discussion.
- The Session approved a recommendation from Membership, Connections & Outreach Standing Committee that former members who wish to rejoin the congregation are required to participate in at least the second Inquirer's Class (aka new members class).
- At a called meeting of Session on Sunday, April 27, Elders voted to receive seven new members.

-- Melissa Shaw (Clerk Pro tem) & Mac Schafer (Pastor & Moderator of Session)

Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Philadelphia

On Tuesday, April 29, the Presbytery of Philadelphia had their stated meeting at Carmel Presbyterian Church in Glenside, PA. The Presbytery has four stated meetings a year. DPC's Session elected six commissioners to this meeting (pictured below). Pastor Becca & Mac are also voting members of the Presbytery. At this meeting:

- We heard a report from Executive Presbyter Ruth Santana-Grace centering on Christ's resurrection work in the larger church.
- We voted on the 226th General Assembly proposed amendments to the Book of Order.
- We prayed with and for the members of Berean Presbyterian Church who had a fire in their church.
- We welcomed the Reverend Jihyum Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of the Interim Unified Agency of the PC(USA). She preached during worship.



Special thanks to our commissioners for carving out a large portion of the day to serve the larger church and discern the mind of Christ together.



WHAT'S happening AT



Mark your calendar for...

Pastor Mac's *Service of Installation*

The Presbytery of Philadelphia and the Session and Congregation of Doylestown Presbyterian Church joyfully request the honor of your presence at the Service of Installation of The Reverend Dr. MacHenry G. Schafer II as Pastor and Head of Staff
Sunday, June 29, 2025
at three o'clock in the afternoon.

A Reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.



Summer *Waking Up with the Word* with Pastor Mac

begins **Tuesday, May 13th** @ 7:00 am in the DPC Library.
This will be a weekly gathering throughout the summer.

The group will center on the scripture text that will be preached on for the upcoming Sunday. We will read the scripture several times and discuss the following questions in relation to the text:

- What is a word or phrase that stands out to you from the text?
- Can you allow the word or phrase to develop into a memory from your life? and
- What is Christ calling you to do through this passage?

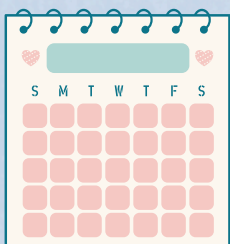
As you can tell by the above questions, you don't need to be a biblical scholar or have any previous bible study experience. The other cool thing is you don't need to prepare for this group and you can miss sessions if you are out of town. It doesn't build through the weeks (other than just getting to know folks as we reflect together).

I'll have coffee and bibles there at 7 am. No need to RSVP.

Also save the dates for...

- **Summer Spiritual Renewal** at DPC on the mornings of **June 16-19**, from 9-11 am.
- A **Fall Retreat** at Spruce Lake, **October 6-8**.
- A bus trip to experience "**Noah**" at **Sight & Sound Theatre** in Lancaster, **November 6**.

All of these wonderful events are presented by the Senior Adult Ministry.



Jamie's New Venture

Though our beloved Seminarian Jamie Neal officially ended her Princeton Seminary internship contract with DPC at the end of April, we are delighted to have her continue in ministry here at DPC in the capacity of Seminarian for Youth Ministry!

DPC recognizes Jamie's gifts and talents and Jamie has continued to feel called to DPC. Jamie has accepted a position to stay here as part time staff, with primary responsibilities in youth ministry and worship leadership. She will continue to be at Princeton Theological Seminary to complete her M.Div as well as an additional masters degree program in Christian Education.

Said Jamie: "One word to describe my year-long internship is *transformational*. DPC has blessed my life and ministry immeasurably, and I'm excited to embark on the next venture—continuing to learn and grow alongside all of you!"



Jamie will become ordained in the Assemblies of God (AG) church on May 5. Though there are differences in recognition of clergy between the Presbyterian Church (USA) and AG, we are both Christian denominations with mutual respect for one another. She will continue in leading in worship, in bible study, and intergenerational offerings. She also will continue offering her gifts for our music ministry! The most notable difference will be that we will add Rev. in front of her name when printed.

Jamie has an adventurous summer planned, mostly away from DPC. She will be leading the high school youth mission trip (June), fulfilling her military commitments, and visiting family before returning to DPC in the fall. Jamie, the youth leaders, and the youth subcommittee have planned some summer activities and have the start of a great youth calendar set for the fall.

Here are a few things youth leaders and parents are saying about how thrilled they are to have Jamie be a part of DPC!



"I see Jamie's top achievements this past year at DPC in her jumping into the Youth Ministry with enthusiasm that Jamie shows in her personal knowledge of each youth—their name, their school, their likes and dislikes. She has taken time and care to know each of them, as an individual."

-Suzanne Courtwright

"Jamie has impressively jumped right into DPC - specifically the youth program. She has brought new ideas while taking on 'the old.' She had a confidence and a solid faith foundation that inspires and motivates all who interact with her."

-Megan Craig

"I hope Jamie continues to enjoy her time at a community church while she finishes her seminary work. She has been a steady presence this year for our youth and our youth committee and I'm very grateful for her contributions!" -Abby Kube

DPC MISSION

FOOD DRIVE & COMMUNITY MEAL



DPC's monthly Food Drive occurs on **May 18**, from 9:15 to 11 am to help stock the shelves of the Doylestown Food Pantry. **Last month you donated 640 lbs of food!** This month we are switching the focus to other items, including laundry detergent, dish soap, spray cleaners, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, garbage bags, along with personal care items: shampoo, deodorant, feminine hygiene, toothpaste, bar soap, hand soap and diapers (sizes 5 and 6) with wipes. Cereal, condiments, and coffee are always popular items as well!

Following the later worship service, also on **May 18**, we join together at noon in Fellowship Hall for our monthly Community Meal with our homeless guests. Bridge Valley Elementary is helping this month - they are celebrating their 20th Anniversary that weekend and have chosen to help at the Community Meal as a way to give back. If you'd like to get involved, just click bit.ly/DPC-CM to sign up to volunteer—or just plan to stop by for lunch!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MEAL PACKING



It's time once again to put on our hairnets, roll up our sleeves, and have a whole lot of fun as we help combat global hunger. We meet at Delaware Valley University on Sunday, **June 8**, from 12 to 2 pm. Visit bit.ly/DPC-FMSC to save your spot today for this one of a kind, high energy experience!

DOYLESTOWN COMMUNITY FOOD COLLECTION



Let's rally together and fill the volunteer spots needed to make this year's Community Food Collection something truly special! We are seeking folks to help drop off shopping bags to homes in Doylestown Borough on **May 16**. Two days later, on **May 18**, volunteers will visit those same homes to pick up any bags filled with food and transport them to Harvey Avenue in the borough. If you would like to learn more or sign up today, visit bit.ly/DPC-SFC.

Here's some thoughts from a volunteer from last year, Mark Chaikin, and a new signup, Barbara Glore:



"The reason I raised my hand to help is it seemed like a good way to meet other people in the church that I don't necessarily sing in the choir with or serve on a committee with.

And that's exactly what happened - we made new relationships with people we wouldn't necessarily see except for in the pews. It was really easy. They gave us the bags and a map and we walked on a beautiful Friday evening and delivered the bags to everybody's door. It took us about an hour and a half.

When I heard how much was collected from our neighbors, I realized how fortunate we are to have our church community as well as our local community."

- Mark Chaikin



"Working together to replenish the shelves of the Doylestown Food Pantry is a team effort that's worthy and fulfilling. Come join us. It will be fun, and we'd love to have you!" -Barbara Glore



Thank you to those who bought hoagies to help support our youth activities, mission efforts, and mission trips! Pick up your order in the Celtic Cross Room on Sunday, **May 4**, after both services.

The DPC Operating Fund is moving along in good shape. With the first quarter of 2025 behind us, the Finance Subcommittee is pleased to report that total income was slightly over budget by \$20,004 and expenses were slightly under budget by \$26,493. Thanks to the continuous generosity of DPC members and friends, we are on target to meet our financial obligations for the year.

In addition to the Operating Fund, DPC has three Legacy Funds: (Memorials, Bequests and Gifts, Endowment and Mission Endowment). While all of the Legacy Funds are important, there was a significant change in one of them this past quarter. We are pleased to report that DPC received almost \$400,000 in bequests in the first quarter. These undesignated bequests are set aside in the General Purpose Fund of the Memorials, Bequests, and Gifts Fund (MBG Fund) for special projects that fall outside of the annual budget for enhancements or innovative programs that creatively support the mission statement of DPC. Thanks be to God for these faithful saints for these gifts to DPC.

If at any time you have questions about the DPC financials, please contact Dave Sager, Moderator of the Finance Subcommittee or Linay Richards, Director of Finances and Operations.

Thank you for your generous giving!

May 4 Youth Sunday

Come celebrate all of our Youth, Confirmands & HS Graduates

Reception
between services
9:30-10:15

**8:30 and
10:30 am**

Youth Leading both services

**Confirmands presented in
10:30 worship**

Youth Choir sings & rings

Video honoring our grads

**YOUTH
SUMMER
CALENDAR**

CLICK HERE



Congratulations to Luray Gross who won the drawing for the giveaway bag as part of the recently completed Carbon Footprint Challenge. Earth Care group member Marie Stevens was overjoyed by all the participation over the last few months, adding that "DPC members expressed engagement and greater awareness of ways they can personally have an impact on our carbon footprint."



Stewarding God's Creation Part 3. Join on the bridge **Sunday, May 11**, as the Earth Care Group presents the final installment of this series with interactive stations on residential stormwater management, lawns, the impact of climate change on oceans, a Youth survey corner, and more!

Meet the NEW MEMBERS

Debbie and Ron Blough



Ron and Debbie, who live in Furlong, have been married for 42 years and have two adult children and a Siberian Husky named Denver. Ron owned a project engineering company prior to his retirement. He enjoys gardening, lawn work, and helping family members with home improvement projects, as well as both fresh water and deep-sea fishing. Debbie is retired from PA Biotech Center in Doylestown, where she worked in accounting and fundraising, as well as leading their annual food drive. She currently volunteers at the Ann Silverman Clinic at Doylestown Hospital, and enjoys gardening, traveling, and home improvement projects.

Phyllis Hanson



After working for 30 years as a chemistry teacher and raising her two sons (now 32 and 27) in Ardmore, Phyllis moved to Pipersville, where she owns a microgreens farm. Combining her chemistry background with a certificate in functional nutrition, she has a passion for nurturing people back to health. Phyllis enjoys almost all handicrafts, particularly knitting.

Mark Kukulka



Mark lives in Jamison with his wife, Cailyn (a DPC member of 15 years) and their two dogs, Poppy and Porter. They are expecting a son in August. Mark works as a Scientist at Merck, and in his spare time he enjoys reading, cooking, playing video games, and being outdoors.

Lauren Mentzer



Lauren lives in Doylestown but frequently travels home to Delaware to see family. They work as a front-end web developer for ClassLink and have a cat named Soren. In their free time, Lauren enjoys playing video games and Dungeons and Dragons, reading fantasy books, crafting, spending time in the woods, and playing music on a variety of instruments.

Liliane Tietjen



Liliane lives in Pipersville with her eldest daughter and grandson; she has a second daughter who lives in New Jersey. Lilian owns a business brokerage that sells dry cleaner businesses in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. Her interests include the arts, tennis, music, and travel.

Jennifer Walentukonis



Jennifer grew up in the area and currently lives in Doylestown. She has two adult children – a son and a daughter – both of whom live in Philadelphia. A nurse by profession, Jennifer now works as a caregiver. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys anything to do with music, dance, and the arts.

Ministry in Motion!

With an eye on different ways that DPC can always be more welcoming, the Hospitality Subcommittee has put together some delightful Welcome Bags available to new visitors to the church.



Easter Sunday worship filled the sanctuary with celebration! Afterwards, we attached flowers to a bare cross as a symbol of the Resurrection, and our dedicated volunteers hosted the monthly Community Meal to bring joy and delicious food to members, friends, and our homeless guests.



The Sunshine Singers, Celebration Choir, Wednesday Club, and Element Youth Group all held their awesome End-of-Year Parties! Summer activities are on the way...



Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

