

The oldest extant manuscript of the Nicene Creed, dated to the 6th century. *Public Domain.*

Doylestown Presbyterian Church The 1700th Birthday of the Nicene Creed

August 31, 2025
9:30 am

All Are Welcome in God's House

The Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

(Persons nearest the center aisle are asked to sign and pass the Act of Friendship pad toward the outside aisle. Please keep the cover open as the pad is returned.)

Prelude

Spirit of the Living God

arr. S. Nielson

*Call to Worship

— Romans 8:26; Psalm 104:30,35

The Spirit helps us in our weakness,
interceding with signs too deep for words,
The Spirit of God renews the earth.
Bless the name of the Lord!

*Hymn 481

I Believe in God the Father

GENEVAN 42

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues,
open ears, and a new community of faith.
We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us.
We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love,
or live as a people made one in Christ.
Have mercy on us, O God.
Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with
a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(a moment for Silent Reflection and Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News of the Gospel!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Congregational Response 581

Gloria Patri

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

*The Sharing of the Peace of Christ

The Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you. **And also with you.**

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

***Bolded** text invites the congregation to respond*

Time with the Children:

(After the message, children ages four through sixth grade may leave for Children's Worship Time. Parents may pick up their children in Room 207, located across the bridge, following worship.)

First Scripture Lesson: Titus 3:1-8

Pew Bible, NRSV (NT), p. 215

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

There Is a Reason
John Doran, Guitar & Vocal

by Ron Block

(Ushers will collect prayer request cards during this time.)

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

God of power and grace, fill us with the wisdom of your word and the understanding of your Spirit so that we may be your church: a people with dreams and visions at work in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: John 14:15-27

Pew Bible, NRSV (NT), p. 109

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

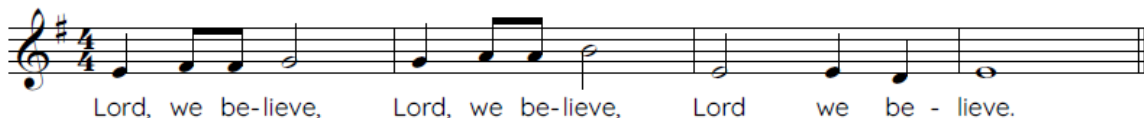
“The 1700th Birthday of the Nicene Creed - Part 3”

Rev. Dr. Mac Schafer

*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

Sung Response:



We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. *(Sung Response.)*

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. *(Sung Response.)*

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. *(Sung Response.)*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

(To give online or via text message, click the "Give" tab at the top of our website, or scan the code on the right.)



Offertory

Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost

arr. M. Archer

*Congregational Response 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

*Benediction

*Postlude

Postlude in D

H. Willan

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Welcome to Worship at Doylestown Presbyterian Church!

Assisting: Rev. Jamie Neal **Lay Leader:** Mary Shull

The **flowers** are given today in memory of Burton and Dorothy Hess and Harold and Shirley Kube by Tom and Barbara Kube and family.

New Life! The rosebuds in the chancel celebrate the births of Cameron William Kukulka, born August 12, to Mark and Cailyn Kukulka; the proud DPC grandparents are William and Linnea Kronmiller; and of Rhodes Andrew Murray, born on August 22, to Rachel and Kurt Murray; the proud DPC grandparents are Bob and Anne Murray.

Christian Sympathy. The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the friends and family of Lois Howland on her death on August 23. We hold this family in prayer in their time of loss.

DPC Sunday Schedule: Services at 8:30 and 10:30 am, with Education Hour in between, begins on **September 21.**

Join together for **lemonade and fellowship** after worship in the church yard.

New visitors to DPC are invited to pick up a **Welcome Bag** available in the narthex inside the red doors. Thank you for joining us today!

The Nicene Creed

In the first three centuries, the church found itself in a hostile environment. It was threatened not only by persecution, but also by ideas that were in conflict with the biblical witness. In C.E. 312, Constantine won control of the Roman Empire. Attributing his victory to the intervention of Jesus Christ, he elevated Christianity to favored status in the empire. “One God, one Lord, one faith, one church, one empire, one emperor” became his motto.

Some in the church affirmed that the divinity of Christ, the Son, is of the same substance as the divinity of God, the Father. This can be seen in the line “begotten not made, of one being with the Father,” which became a crucial difference going forward and the basis of the Trinitarian language we still use today.

Constantine convened a council in Nicaea in C.E. 325 during which a creed was written. In 381, a second council met in Constantinople. It adopted an expanded form of the 325 creed, now known as the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed is the most ecumenical of creeds. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joins with Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and most Protestant churches in affirming it.

—from *The Book of Confessions*





TODAY - Bagels after worship! (note location change) Families are invited to gather in Andrews Hall Room 213 (near the bridge) after 9:30 am worship to end summer and welcome the new school year. Following the snack we'll head down to Fellowship Hall for some fun. See you there!



The Earth Care Team reminds you to **Save Your Sneakers!** Donate old pairs of sneakers to keep them out of landfills. Sneakers can be dropped off in boxes located at the entrance to the sanctuary building inside the red doors and in the Andrews Hall lobby **September 7, 14, and 21**. For additional information about this effort, visit www.gotsneakers.com.

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Are you or someone you know interested in exploring membership at Doylestown Presbyterian Church? Join an Inquirers' Class! Faith is a journey.

No matter where you are on that journey, we invite you to participate in this class to learn about the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the core values and ministries of DPC, connect with church leaders and other Inquirers, and reflect on your own spiritual journey. The next class is on **September 7**. Visit www.dtownnpc.org/membership to learn more, see future sessions, and sign up today.



Get the Scoop at the DPC Library. See what DPC's new and improved library has to offer following 9:30 am worship on **September 7**. All visitors will get a tasty cup of ice cream, and kids will receive a fun bookmark to color and a little surprise to take home! Our Library is more than just books...hang out, play games, enjoy a coffee, chat with friends, all while finding your next read.



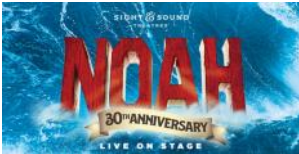
2026 Pilgrimage Information Meeting. Pastor Mac is considering leading a pilgrimage in 2026 along St. Oswald's Way in northeast England. Come on Tuesday, **September 9** at 7 pm in the Celtic Cross Room to learn more about St. Oswald's Way and the details of a journey like this. Topics include: history, locations, accommodations, spiritual growth, mileage, physical preparation, packing, meals, travel and more. No sign up necessary to attend this first informational meeting.



Peter Enns at DPC - September 14. The Bible is the book for our lifelong journey of faith. This summer 100+ people of DPC engaged in reading “The Bible Tells me So,” by Dr. Peter Enns. Many shared that they found themselves more curious about the Bible and came up with interesting questions to dive into scripture in ways they had not thought to before. They found his unique writing style to be personal and also professional as well as pastoral. DPC is delighted to have Dr. Enns a part of **9:30 am** worship and also stay for a brunch Q&A. Sign up! To RSVP for brunch (\$10 per person), visit bit.ly/DPC-ENNS



Fall Retreat at Spruce Lake—October 6-8. Join in an enriching program "Walking in Wisdom" in the heart of the Pocono Mountains in northeastern Pennsylvania. This year's retreat will be guided by Spruce Lake Leaders and include others attending from outside DPC. Registration and payment is through Spruce Lake's website, but we encourage you to first visit www.dtownpc.org/2025-retreat for easy instructions to follow. Sign up today and feel free to invite your friends and family to come along!



“Noah” at Sight & Sound Theatre - November 6 - sign up today! We board a comfortable coach bus to Lancaster for this inspiring performance of “Noah” followed by lunch at the world-famous Shady Maple Smorgasbord. Sight & Sound's productions are visually stunning and the talented performers will leave you with lasting memories and a rejuvenated spirit. The cost is \$175 per person (which includes show ticket, transportation, lunch, and tax). Visit bit.ly/DPCNOAH today to reserve your spot! Payment is due by **September 15!**



DPC Moms and Dads Scavenger Hunt. Explore the cultural hub of Doylestown Borough like never before while testing your knowledge and working as a team at DPC's scavenger hunt through town. Join in this friendly competition hosted by the DPC Moms and Dads groups and created especially for us by our fellow DPC Dad's company. Meet Saturday, **September 13** at 6:30 pm at the rear of the Doylestown Bookshop on Main Street and we will divide into teams. We will be walking through town, completing tasks, all before meeting up at Hopscotch to announce the winners, take a group photo, and have camaraderie over some well-earned food and drinks. The hunt will happen rain or shine!



On **September 21**, DPC and Second Baptist Church of Doylestown present a program centered on the film *The Cost of Inheritance*. This hour-long PBS documentary uses a thoughtful and nuanced approach to examine historical injustice and inequality. You are invited to view the film and join in discussion focusing on practical ways to address the complex issue of generational wealth in the United States. The gathering begins at 12:30 pm at Second Baptist (6055 Swamp Road). Lunch will be provided. There is no cost for admittance but a free-will offering will be received to help support this program and others.

To RSVP today, visit bit.ly/COST-FILM

SESSION

Mac Schafer, *Moderator*

Becca Bateman

Class of 2026

Diane Alexanderson
Charlie Babboni
Frank Fabian
Sue Haldeman
Melissa Shaw
Marty Starnier
Mark Strasburg
Rebecca Strauss
Marilyn Weichman

Class of 2027

Linda Cacossa, *Clerk*
Joanne Chaikin
Luray Gross
Terry Herring
Scott Nichols
Jeannie Quist
George Segelken
Lindsay Shull

Class of 2028

Andy Benson
Deirdre Hally
Dennis Parenti
Erin Rizk
Jeff Toner

BOARD OF DEACONS

Anne Hutchinson, *Moderator*

Class of 2026

Kyle Citro
Michele Hoffman
Anne Hutchinson
Sibele Johnson
Jane Kube
David Martin
Amy Pujols
Pamela Heck Rauh
Kristin Shields

Class of 2027

Karen Cameron
Jennifer Drollette
Kathy Maclin
Kevin O'Hare
Cheryl Osgood
Steve Quist

Class of 2028

Kathy Brown
Dick Cornelius
Sally Deibert
Linda Gelcius
Barbara Glore
Bob Miller
Barbara Skapura

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. MacHenry G. Schafer II, *Pastor and Head of Staff*

Rev. C. Rebecca Bateman, *Associate Pastor for Education and Family Ministries*

Mina Choi, *Director of Youth Choir and Bells, Organist*

Sharon Cummings, *Children's Worship Time Instructor*

Ed Davila, *Custodian*

Marco Derro, *Maintenance Engineer*

Chris Graham-Rawlings, *Member Engagement Coordinator*

Kayla Grone, *Nursery Worker*

Dalia Hamilton, *Nursery Worker*

Elaine Keckeissen, *Office Manager*

Geri McMullin, *Director of Sunshine Singers (volunteer)*

Christian Menno, *Director of Communications*

Jason Moore, *Director of Music and the Arts*

Sophia Nardo, *Nursery Worker*

Jamie Neal, *Seminarian for Youth Ministry*

Linay Richards, *Director of Finances and Operations*

Lindsay Stoffregen, *Nursery Worker*

Margaret Thoresen, *Interim Parish Visitor*

Candi Young, *Children and Youth Connections Coordinator*



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

www.dtownpc.org 215-348-3531

