

THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter

October 2025



In gratitude, we look ahead to the coming year and plan to find ways to give our time, talents and treasures. To learn more about DPC's 2026 Generosity Campaign read Pastor Mac's letter on Page 2 and meet the members of the Generosity Subcommittee on Page 3. It all leads to the joyous time when we gather together for Commitment Sunday on **November 2!**



Doylestown Presbyterian Church

All-Church Potluck

OCTOBER 5 11:30 - 12:45

Following the 10:30 service on **October 5**, World Communion Sunday, we join in Fellowship Hall for a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family and celebrate our heritages and traditions.

- Enjoy a variety of traditional dishes
- A "passport" that will help all engage with one another
- Prizes
- An intergenerational cake walk
- All-church picture at 12 noon sharp!

This is a time to bring a food or drink from your heritage or an old family recipe that you'd be excited to include in a food festival type atmosphere. The items will be offered at tables around Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to include ingredients and/or description on a separate card to give everyone a better idea of what they are enjoying and why it might be meaningful. If you'd rather bring one sweet treat (cake, pie, cookie bunch) for the interactive, intergenerational cake walk to give away, you can sign up for that too.

Sign up today to bring a sweet treat, a savory meal from your heritage or family tradition, help with setting up or cleaning up, or assist with children's activity tables.

To sign up or RSVP, [CLICK HERE!](#)



Mac's Meanderings

We Don't Want to Assume You Know

Some of you have been around churches for a while and you know about the financial underpinnings and structure. For others, this is completely new. I thought I'd write a few "101" details about this as we enter the 2026 Generosity Campaign. So here goes:

1. The 2026 Generosity Campaign asks people to pledge a percentage of their time, abilities, and financial resources to Christ through the local church.
2. A **"pledge"** of a certain dollar amount from each household allows the church leadership to plan for the upcoming year's **annual budget**. This budget covers costs for worship, education, fellowship, mission/outreach, and congregational care. Our staff, volunteers, and building facilitate all these things.
3. Sometimes in worship we talk about presenting your **"tithes and offerings."** Tithe language comes from the Bible when, in a more agrarian society, farmers would bring 10% of the bounty of their fields to the temple in thanksgiving to God for the harvest. Although most of us are not farmers, we use tithe language to talk about returning to God a percentage of our household income. An **"offering"** was historically what one gave to God above and beyond their tithe.
4. We currently have 567 households who could potentially pledge. In 2024, 263 DPC households made a pledge to Christ's ministry through DPC. We hope to increase the number of households that pledge in 2026.
5. How much "time, talent, and treasure" you decide to pledge is a decision between you and God. **Small and large pledges are all important!**
6. DPC does not receive funds from the larger denomination (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) to support its annual budget. DPC is totally reliant on your generosity and commitment.
7. Sometimes I use the phrase **"prayerful discernment"** when talking about pledging time, talent, and treasure. I know many of you are super busy, but I'd ask for you to listen to the campaign messages "prayerfully" and then "discern" what Christ is calling you to commit. Each of us needs to slow down and listen for the Spirit's wisdom regarding the resources we have been blessed with.

Thank you in advance for your care and commitment to Christ through the church!

BE KNIT TOGETHER

The below photos and quotes come from the members of the 2026 Generosity Subcommittee who are running our fall pledge initiative. They each share briefly why they are pledging their time, their abilities, and financial resources to Christ through DPC.



DeeDee
Cox

"As an over 50+ year member of DPC, I feel that as a church community, we are able to follow Christ's message through the generosity found within each of us."



Dennis
Parenti

"The members at DPC are like family to me. I think the leadership team is efficient and respectful in the use of our funds and I really like that the mission funding is local, regional and global- helping where truly needed."



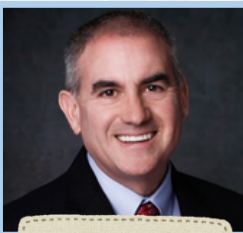
Anne
Murray

"I am committed to DPC because I have been nurtured in my faith by the members of the DPC and would like to give that back to other members and our community."



Matt
Rizk

"God has blessed me throughout my life, and pledging of time, talent and treasure is my way to express gratitude for these blessings. The more I give, the stronger my faith grows and the closer I feel tied to Christ's community."



Chris Nardo
(Chair)

"I have been fortunate to receive numerous blessings in my life. In return, DPC provides me with the opportunity to volunteer and give back to the faith community that has supported me and my family."



Linay
Richards

"Attending worship, classes, and fellowship events fills my spirit and then the many ways that DPC nourishes and supports the communities near and far makes it easy to pledge my support for Christ's ministry through our church."



Mac
Schafer

"Katy & I pledge a percentage of our household income to Christ through the local church annually because all we have is a gift from God in the first place. It is out of thanksgiving that we return a portion of what we have to God."

September Session Update



The Session met three times in September:

- Twice to welcome three new members.
- Once for their stated meeting on Monday, September 22.

Here are the highlights from the stated meeting:

- Pastor Mac did training on serving the Lord's Supper and its history.
- Session discussed how their calls to the membership of the church went. Elders & Deacons called all the households in the church to:
 - *Invite them to worship and brunch with Peter Enns,*
 - *Ask if members had a prayer request,*
 - *And to see if we could get updated photographs for our new online directory.*
- Session approved a list of agreements they will abide by in their conversation and discernment at meetings. They are as follows:
 - *Take space, make space;*
 - *Stay on your learning edge;*
 - *Challenge ideas, not people;*
 - *Oops, ouch, appreciation;*
 - *Take responsibility for impact;*
 - *Humor is okay.*
- Session heard a report from Dennis Parenti, the elder liaison to the Generosity Sub-Committee. Elders were encouraged to make lead pledges for 2026 by October 20.
- Session approved making Earth Care Interest Group a Sub-Committee.
- Session approved a new hiring policy for the Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual.
- Session approved the selling of lithographs of Daniel Garber's Green Pastures painting as a fundraiser for planting native plants on the church property.
- Elders closed the meeting by discussing their reactions to Peter Enns' sermon and brunch conversation.

-- Linda Cacossa (Clerk of Session) & Mac Schafer (Pastor & Moderator of Session)



Many thanks to the congregation for their steadfast and faithful giving over the summer months. We typically experience a dip in giving during the summer months, but only saw signs of this in August this year. Our income (pledges, non-pledge and other income) through August is about \$23,000 below budget, and expenses are under budget by \$80,000.

We encourage you to keep up with your pledges either through online giving while you are away or by mailing a check to the office. If you are unsure where you stand with your pledge, you can contact Linay Richards in the office. She can let you know the balance remaining for the current pledge campaign that ends December 31, 2025. If you have any questions or want to see the full financial report, please contact Linay Richards, Director of Finances and Operations at linayr@dtownpc.org or by calling the office (215-348-3531).

-- The DPC Finance Sub Committee

As of August 30	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD
Income	\$979,497.34	\$1,002,512.39
Expenses	\$1,053,182.70	\$1,133,119.44
Net	(\$73,685.36)	(\$130,607.05)

WHAT'S happening

AT



**Animal Blessing
Worship Service.** Our
early service on
Sunday, **October 12**
at 8:30 am will be
outside in the
churchyard along
Court Street.

Dogs, cats, birds, fish and more are our family members. This is a short service to thank God for the pets in our lives. Please bring your well behaved animals on leashes, in cat carriers, fish bowls, etc. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. If your beloved animal can't come, we ask you to bring a picture. Our pastors will come around to bless your animal during the service. Our confirmation class will provide pet treats, water bowls and more. We look forward to cats meowing, dogs barking and birds chirping in praise of God!



October 17 at 7 pm- DPC Moms Night at Laurie To's home. Feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert to share, if you'd like. Friends welcome! To RSVP and to receive the address, speak to Megan Craig or email the church office at dpc@dtownpc.org.



DPC is hosting Presbytery of Philadelphia's Fall Fest 2025.

This is the 8th Annual Fall Fest – a day of learning, fellowship, and inspiration for the whole Presbytery!

On Saturday, **October 18**, representatives from churches in the Philadelphia Presbytery are invited from 9:30 am to 3 pm.

As part of being a host, we will need volunteers at different times to welcome people, help give directions and help with lunch.

We need assistance with:

- ***Parking attendant 8:30 to 9:45**
- ***Morning Hospitality 8 to 9:30**
- ***Greeters 9 to 12**
- ***Greeters 12 to 3**
- ***Bake Cookies (3 doz) or brownies**
- ***Help with lunch set up and clean up 11 to 1:30**

If you are interested and available to help, please let us know by emailing dpc@dtownpc.org and letting us know what you'd like to assist with.

If you are interested in attending and to see a full list of scheduled workshops, visit <https://presbyphl.org/event/fall-fest-2025-a-presbytery-wide-equipping-event-for-all/>

THE PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA

FALL FEST 2025!

A PRESBYTERY-WIDE EQUIPPING EVENT FOR ALL



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2025
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
DOYLESTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COST: \$10.00 (LUNCH)
REGISTER AT [PRESBYPHL.ORG](https://presbyphl.org)

WHAT'S happening AT



UNITY IN DISCOVERY: A BUS TOUR



Doylestown
Presbyterian Church



Join Matthew 25 Subcommittee for a special bus trip to Philadelphia with our friends from Second Baptist Church on Saturday, **November 15**, with the bus departing from the DPC parking lot at 8:45 am. Together we'll visit:

MOTHER BETHEL AME CHURCH, the mother church of the nation's first black denomination. Founded in 1787, the church rests upon the oldest parcel of land in the United States continuously owned by African-Americans.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM IN PHILADELPHIA, the nation's first museum to capture the history of the African American community.

The cost is \$48 for adults, \$40 for children (age 12-18) and includes transportation, bus snacks, museum admissions, museum docents. Bring a bagged lunch to eat together in the museum. Keep watch for payment and registration details on **October 10**.



Growing in faith is never easy. Joining a small group can connect you with those searching for answers and seeking a meaningful relationship with God and others.

Be sure to check out the full list of groups at www.dtownpc.org/growth-groups and sign up today!

DPC's Sunday morning adult classes are in full swing and are always welcoming new faces:

- **The Word Among Us:** 9:15 am, AH-213, where participants study and appreciate the beauty of Scripture and how we can use it in our own devotional times with God. Led by Dick Cornelius and Margaret Thoresen.
- **Good News and Other News:** 9:30 am, DPC Library, where current events are discussed while reflecting upon the story from the perspective of faith. Led by Christo Claassens, Jenny Danzis, Ken Johnson, and Jay Stough.



DPC MISSION



PDA and Buckets of Blessings. One of the key tools Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) uses in its response to natural disasters is the "emergency response bucket"-- five-gallon buckets filled with essential cleaning and recovery supplies.

These "Buckets of Blessings" provide tangible support to families facing the difficult work of rebuilding their lives. DPC's Mission Committee is collecting the items to fill 10 buckets. Please sign up to donate items at bit.ly/DPC-BB and drop them off in the collection box in the Andrews Hall lobby by **November 2**. At Advent All Together on November 30 we will assemble the Buckets for delivery to the Presbytery offices, to be transported to the national offices in Louisville.



Peace and Global Witness Special Offering - October 5. On World Communion Sunday, the PC(USA) sponsors this collection for peacemaking and global witness work worldwide, regionally, and locally.

This year our local project is our mission partner, Welcoming the Stranger, an educational non-profit that since 1999 has offered free classes in English as a Second Language (ESL), computer skills, and United States citizenship exam preparation to adult immigrants and refugees in the Philadelphia metro region. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).



A note from Mary Lee Reiff:

"Little did we imagine when the Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless (CSSH) asked if DPC would host a Community Meal on the third Sunday of each month what God had in store for us. From the first Meal in October, 2015 until now, the outpouring of support from both the congregation and community has been nothing short of incredible. For 10 years, each month's SignUpGenius fills so quickly that no phone calls for help have ever been made. Even during Covid, the meals continued each month in takeout containers handed out in the alley behind Andrews Hall - but still our congregation provided the needed food every month. What began as a ministry for our homeless guests has resulted in a great blessing for everyone involved ... volunteers and those coming to enjoy the meal alike."

If you'd like to get involved in this month's Community Meal, which happens at 12 noon on **October 19**, just click bit.ly/DPC-CM to sign up to volunteer—or just plan to stop by for lunch!

Monthly Food Drive. In September we delivered 552 pounds of food and care items to the Doylestown Pantry. We also received compliments on the variety of items donated, in particular the 3Cs (Cleaning supplies, Condiments, and Coffee!). Thank you for helping our neighbors—the next collection occurs Sunday, **October 19**.

DPC MISSION



Bethel Coat Drive - October 19 through November 2. It's time to collect NEW and very gently used children's and adult's warm winter coats for Bethel Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. We need children's coats in all sizes. If you plan to donate NEW larger sized coats, we ask that you use the sign up at bit.ly/BPC-Coats to designate which size you are purchasing.

New hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are also welcome. We encourage you to drop off the winterwear in the Andrews Hall entrance. Coats should be brought in by Sunday, **November 2**.



Bridging the Gap Africa. On **November 2**, Harmon Parker, Founder and CEO of our mission partner Bridging the Gap Africa (www.bridgingthegapafrika.org), will be worshipping with us. He will be in the Celtic Cross Room during the Education Hour, describing some of the life-changing work this organization does, joined by Terry Herring, a member of DPC and also of the Board of Directors of Bridging the Gap. Come learn how to put into practice being a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love!

Diaries from the Southwest



visit

bit.ly/DPCSW25

to experience another wonderful mission trip during which our faithful crew experienced culture, learned about history, appreciated God's creations, continued the longstanding relationship of compassion with the Community Pantry in Gallup, New Mexico, and so much more. Click the link to see personal thoughts from the crew along with amazing photos from throughout the trip. We hope you may be inspired to join a future trip or continue to support these efforts in any way that you can.

Meet the NEW MEMBERS



John Alexanderson

John and his wife Diane live in Doylestown; they have two grown daughters and two granddaughters. Before retiring, John worked as a schoolteacher, school bus driver, life insurance salesman, and radio DJ (he is still active with a radio station in the Outer Banks of North Carolina). In his previous churches, John devoted his time and talents in many ways, including singing in the choir, playing handbells, participating in bible studies, organizing a church softball team, and exercising his leadership skills as a Deacon, Elder, and Clerk of Session.



Dan Sonnelitter

Dan grew up in Buffalo, New York but has lived in the Philadelphia area for more than 40 years. Widowed in 2004, Dan married DPC member Linda Gelcius in 2008 and, together, they have a blended family of five children and two grandchildren. Retired for eight years, Dan worked in sales and management positions within the building products industry. In his free time, Dan enjoys working around the house, traveling, spending time with family, and watching the Buffalo Bills, Penn State Nittany Lions, and Philadelphia's professional sports teams.



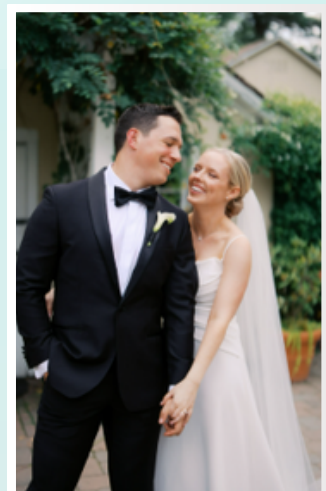
Baptisms & Weddings *September 2025*



The Cuiffitelli/Adelman Family
September 7



The Fay Family
September 21



Erin Adriaansen
and
Jonathan Brodeur, Jr.
September 12



The Volanti
Flute Quartet
with
Organist
Mina Choi



No tickets required
Free-will offering
Sunday, October 19
at 4 pm

The Volanti Flute Quartet, founded in 2002, by current and former members of the Westminster Choir College faculty offers works by living composers, 20th century as well as classics. This year, they will join forces with DPC's own, Dr. Mina Choi and explore works for flute ensemble and organ. The ensemble is described as having a "surprise shimmer and warmth". Join us to celebrate a new season of music at DPC.



Sunday, October 26
at 4 pm

The Bucks County Choral Society is back at DPC for another inspiring performance. This year, BCCS is pairing with Symphony in C and offering a truly amazing concert featuring the "Requiem" of Maurice Durufle. A masterwork of the choral tradition in the hands of some of the regions most outstanding musicians. A must see performance. Please note, this program is a ticketed event. Tickets may be purchased through buckschoral.org.



JESUS, OUR HOPE AND SONG

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

PRINCETON SEMINARY CHAPEL

FESTIVAL PROGRAM AT 2:30PM

CLOSING CONCERT AT 6:00PM

PRESENTED BY THE YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRIES AT
NASSAU PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AND DOYLESTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FREE ENTRY

Sing, Play, & Rejoice!

DPC's Music Ministry (including the **Joyful Bells** handbell ensemble and the DPC **Chancel Choir**) is full of kind, caring, welcoming people who are dedicated to making sure our worship is rich with beautiful music. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings.

DPC Instrumentalists join together throughout the year to glorify God in worship. We have two special upcoming services on **January 11** and **April 26** featuring larger ensembles. Rehearsals will occur in the weeks prior.

Interested in joining in or learning more? Contact DPC's Director of Music and the Arts Jason Moore at jasonm@dtownpc.org.



THE PROGRAM INCLUDES

- REHEARSALS
- WORKSHOPS
- FREE DINNER
- CONCERT
- COOKIE RECEPTION

CONTACT
INGRID LADENDORF
ILADENDORF@NASSAUCHURCH.ORG
MINA CHOI
DPCORGANIST@GMAIL.COM
ANDREW MEADE
ANDREWMEADE@GRACEHUMMELSTOWN.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

A look back

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME!

This Summer the CWT & CWT+ kids combined to build the Temple of Jerusalem!

They built with cardboard and tape. They built the holy of holies and learned God is bigger than one place. They prayed at their "wailing wall" and learned God holds all their prayers. They even put themselves in the temple with little cutout pictures!



CHILDREN'S CHOIRS & WEDNESDAY CLUB HAVE BEGUN!

The campus was humming with the excitement of having the Sunshine Singers, Celebration Choir and Wednesday Club return for the 2025-2026 program year!

Wednesday Club held a Fall Festival with different interactive booths each week and our theme is the beloved story, Jesus Calms the Storm. We asked the question, what tools does God give us so we can find peace? We've already had special guests lead us in games with the group and a meditative sticker coloring activity. We have many more guests to come!



FAMILY FELLOWSHIP!

We held our first of the year on September 24 and it was all about getting "Back in the Rhythm". It was a time for families to enjoy dinner, games and share the joys and challenges that come along with getting back on a schedule.



SUNDAY SCHOOL & 3RD GRADE BIBLES!

On September 7 our 3rd graders received Bibles during worship. Those who couldn't be here received theirs in Sunday School or Wednesday Club.

September 21 saw an energetic start to the year with our Little Lambs and Younger Elementary School classes making good use of our prop closet then parading to classrooms, telling jokes and singing songs to youth and adults alike in exchange for yummy treats. It's becoming quite the fun tradition!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

What's coming up?

WEDNESDAY CLUB FAMILY FUN NIGHT! OCTOBER 8 FROM 5:30-6:30 PM

Grown ups and siblings invited for a time of food, fellowship and tie-dye! Wednesday Club kids get a special t-shirt to dye that ties in with our theme of Jesus Calming the Storm and siblings join in the fun with a project of their very own.



SUNSHINE SINGERS SING & BAGELS! OCTOBER 26



The Sunshine Singers sing in the 10:30 am service. Families invited to stay for bagels after worship. We'll start in Room 213 and move to the gym for fun and games.



FAMILY FELLOWSHIP! OCTOBER 29 5:30-6:30 PM

Families invited to a Halloween-themed Family Fellowship in the Andrews Hall gym. Costumes are encouraged. We'll have pizza and activities.



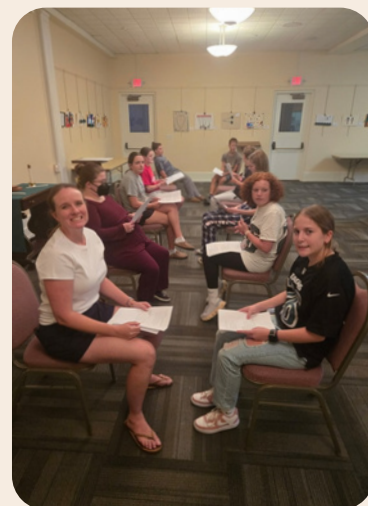


YOUTH MINISTRY

Looking back

ELEMENT YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF & FAMILY NIGHT!

We had a great turnout for our first evening of the year! The theme for this year is "Worship As A Living, Creative Journey". We'll explore together how worship flows through our church gatherings and into the rhythms of our daily lives.



YOUTH CHOIR SPOTLIGHT!

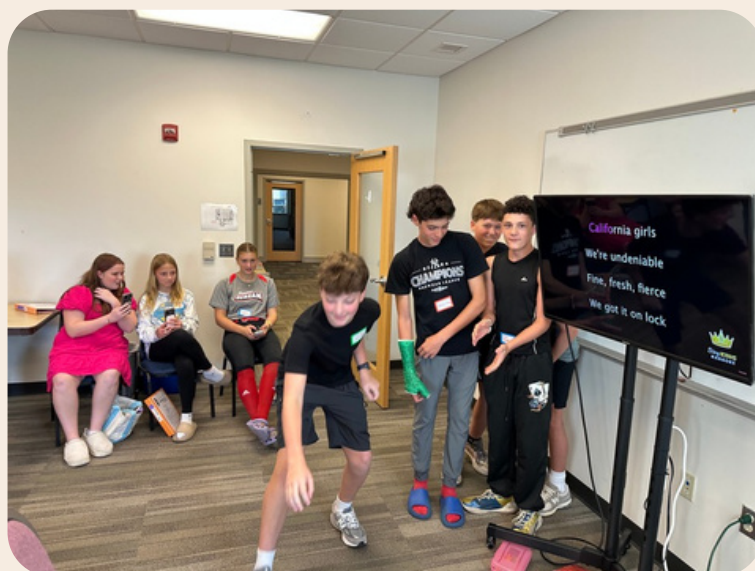
The Youth Choir sang in worship September 21 and it's a joy every time they share their gifts with us under the direction of Dr. Mina Choi.

CONFIRMATION, SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY!

Confirmation looks very different this year meeting in the evening for a shorter number of times but for longer periods of time. We have another amazing class of 10 youth.

We added a Sunday School class for Grades 6-8 and it's going strong learning about Characters in Scripture using the "Faces of Our Faith" curriculum.

Bible Study for Grades 9-12 is using The Lord's Prayer by Adam Hamilton to guide us as we explore how this important prayer applies to our daily lives.





YOUTH MINISTRY

Coming up!

YOUTH CHOIR!

October 5

The Youth Choir sings in the 10:30 am worship service!

October 26

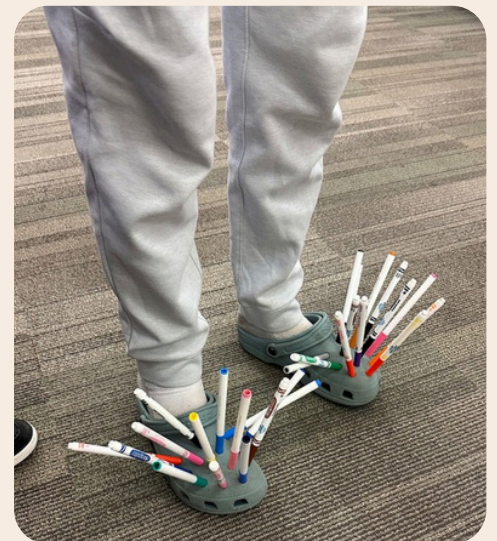
The Youth Choir participates in the Princeton Youth Festival and will depart from DPC at 1:30 pm.



ELEMENT YOUTH GROUP, SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION!

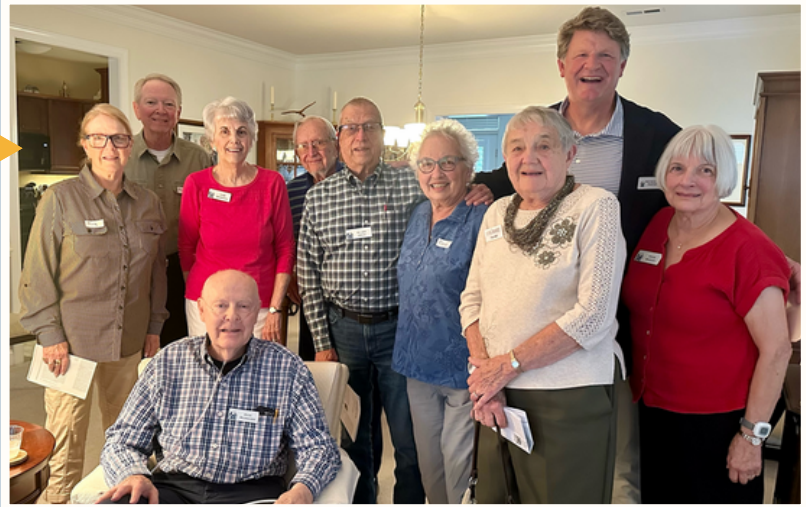
All of these things continue throughout the month and are wonderful! This picture represents so many things! It could be a way to count how many people came to an event, it could be how many new friends have been made, or even how many tacos one person ate in a sitting. It speaks volumes in it's simplicity and hopefully makes you smile too!

During Element Youth Group we have several speakers planned, some that are familiar to you and some that might not be. Stay tuned and plan to join us whenever you can. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Ministry in Motion!

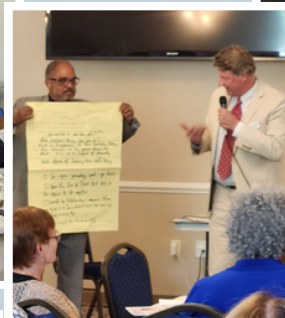
The DPC residents of Dock Woods Senior Living Community in Lansdale have started meeting with Pastor Mac every other Wednesday from now through the end of November to discuss articles from two periodicals: The Presbyterian Outlook and The Christian Century.



After a summer of studying as a congregation the book "The Bible Tells Me So..." author, professor and Biblical scholar Peter Enns preached during worship and join in a brunch and Q&A hosted by Pastor Becca on September 14.



Thank you to our friends at Second Baptist Church of Doylestown for partnering with DPC in presenting a screening of the PBS Documentary, "The Cost of Inheritance" on Sunday. Many joined in watching the film and taking part in meaningful discussion about the film's examination of historical injustice and inequality.



So much in addition to worship last Sunday - Sacred Grounds Fellowship Time, Sunday School, and Picture Day!



Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

