

THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter
February 2026



The Powerful Gift of Being an Appreciator

With Special Guest Tracey Gates

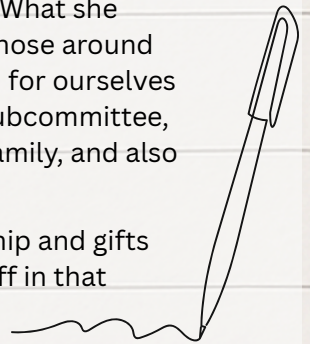
Saturday, February 21 at 10 am in the Celtic Cross Room

Joy deepens when it is shared, and connection is often where joy begins. Kindness ambassador and author Tracey Gates will guide us through ways we can cultivate the space to create a more meaningful and abundant life filled with empowering, uplifting, and connecting energy simply by sharing our kind thoughts.

[Click Here to
RSVP or visit
bit.ly/DPC-TRACEY](https://bit.ly/DPC-TRACEY)

In Tracey's book, *The Power of A Few Kind Words: Create a More Meaningful Life One Letter at a Time*, she shares her quest to write a handwritten unexpected letter of appreciation to a different person every day for one year. What she found on her transformational journey is that being interested in those around us is one of the kindest and most nourishing things we can do both for ourselves and others. In this free gathering sponsored by the Connections Subcommittee, we will explore how this can strengthen bonds within our church family, and also out into the community and the greater world.

Tracey is a longtime member of The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville (NJ). Her leadership and gifts were greatly appreciated by both Mac and Katy Schafer during the years they served on staff in that congregation.



2026 LENT AT DPC OUT IN THE ELEMENTS

As our Book of Common worship says, "Lent comes from an old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith - through prayer, spiritual disciplines, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ."

As I read over the lectionary scriptures for Sundays in Lent, a common theme emerged. Things we experience out in God's creation: plants, wilderness, birth, water, mud, valleys, sunrise, and more. With all this in mind our theme will be **Out In the Elements**. We'll explore how God uses creation to deepen our faith and discipleship over this six week period.



For much more about Lent at DPC, including Ash Wednesday and our Lenten Devotional, see **Page 2**

2026 LENT AT DPC: OUT IN THE ELEMENTS



As we begin our Lenten Journey, there are several opportunities to receive ashes on **February 18**.

We invite you to...

- **Drop-In** for ashes and a prayer in the sanctuary from **8 to 9 am**.
- **Drive-Thru** for ashes along Mechanics Street from **12 to 1 pm**.
- Join in a **Family Lenten Experience**, at **5 pm**, during which children and families will enjoy a light dinner and rotate through several interactive stations, including making the ashes to be used during the 7 pm worship service.
- Receive ashes and join together for a **traditional Ash Wednesday Service** in the sanctuary at **7 pm**.



Coming back to life

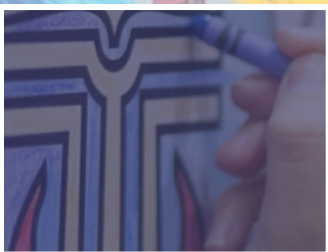
Devotions and Activities For Lent



On Sunday, February 15 we will make available printed copies of our 2026 Lenten Devotional, Coming Back to Life. The introduction to this devotional says, "During winter, much of the world goes to sleep. And in spring, a truly amazing thing happens, no less amazing because it happens every year: The world comes back to life...we'll explore two great books - the Book of Scripture and the Book of Nature - looking for treasures that can help bring us back to hope, back to love, back to life!"

The devotional suggested a weekly ritual that we encourage you to incorporate into the rhythm of your week at home.

Click Here to
download a
digital copy



Wednesday Lent Group - Ain't It Great Bein' Presbyterian! Led by Mac Schafer in the DPC Library at 7 to 8 am Wednesdays during Lent. Mac provides insight into the denomination and also hot coffee! No need to register, just show up! Open to all, but newer members especially encouraged to attend.



Mac's Meanderings

Pursuing Unity in Times of Disagreement

Back in 2018, the Reverend Don Meeks, a minister from Greenwich Presbyterian Church gave a keynote talk to the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in St. Louis, MO. He handed out these great blue cards that were titled, "My Covenant for Pursuing Unity in Times of Disagreement." I've always appreciated his thoughtful urgings, which are undergirded in scripture. Here they are:

In light of John 17:20-23,
I will pray for and live towards
unity with other Christians.

In light of Matthew 7:3-5,
I will acknowledge my own
prejudices, excesses and
failings before I attempt to
criticize or correct other
Christians.



**In light of Proverbs 18:13
and James 1:19,**

I will seek to listen with
understanding before
speaking my own concerns.

In light of 1 Peter 3:15-16a,
I will contend for my
convictions with gentleness
and respect out of reverence
for Jesus Christ.

In light of Romans 12:10 and 18,
I will trust that the intentions of those with whom I disagree are honorable,
and speak the best of what I see in their efforts to serve Jesus Christ.

These encouragements, no doubt, can be difficult at times. We will certainly fail from time to time. But ultimately these are good reminders to hold ourselves accountable to.

Let's transform our conflicts!

PS: Here are the scriptures referenced above...May the Word of God dwell in you richly...

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. - **John 17:20-23**

Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye. - **Matthew 7:3-5**

love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. - **Romans 12:10 & 18**

If one gives answer before hearing, it is folly and shame. - **Proverbs 18:13**

but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. - **1 Peter 3:15-16a**



January Session Update



The Session met for their stated meeting on Monday, January 26 on ZOOM due to the snow storm. At the meeting, Session:

- Discussed a devotional by Dennis Parenti on kindness in breakout groups.
- Discussed an article from the January 2026 Presbyterian Outlook called, *Discovering Sustainability as a Church* by Tim Hart-Anderson in breakout groups.
- Approved:
 - the 2026 Annual Budget
 - the 2025 PC(USA) Statistical Report
 - Matt Rizk to be treasurer of the church for 2026
 - Funding a legal review of a updated CPP policy
 - Rich Timmons speaking to the Perennials group on March 10th on meeting Jesus through art
 - Frank Fabian, Dave Sager, and Jeff Toner as Presbytery Commissioners for the February 10th stated meeting of Presbytery
- Received the Pastor's 2026 Housing amount for Session records.

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



At the February 1 Congregational Meeting the newest officers of the church were elected:

Ruling Elders: Elizabeth Craig (1-year term). Class of 2029: Suzanne Courtwright, Henry Hoffman, Laura Mendelson, Frank Roland, Melissa Shaw

Deacons: Lucy Blore (1-year term) Class of 2029: David Bishop, Cindy Beck, Kaitlin Beck, Bill Cameron, Stephanie Di Clemente, Kim Nardo, Rich Smith

[Click Here for a digital copy of the meeting booklet](#)

Worship & The DPC Library: The Saint John's Bible

Recently the library of DPC acquired the seven volume set of the Saint John's Bible by way of an anonymous donation. It is the first handwritten illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in over 500 years. The project was conceived by Donald Jackson the former Senior Scribe and Illuminator at the Crown Office in the House of Lords. It took a team of artists 15 years to complete 1,100 handwritten and designed pages in partnership with the Benedictine Monks of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota.

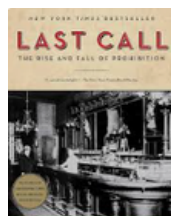
If you'd like to have a look at this amazing work please visit the library. A volume of the set is always on display on a wooden stand. Also purchased is a small book that describes in detail each illumination in the Bible. These volumes will be used on the communion table in worship along with a large lectionary edition of the gospels.



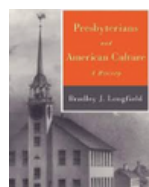


DPC Dads Group, facilitated by Art Shull, occasional meetups and outings.

DPC Moms Group, facilitated by Megan Craig, occasional meetups and outings.



Sunday Evening Men's Group led by Tom Richards - 7:30 pm at The Plumsteadville Inn is ongoing as the group continues studying *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* by Daniel Okrent.



Monday Morning Men's Group led by Cameron Craig - Selected Mondays at 8 am in the DPC Library. The group will begin examining *Presbyterians and American Culture* by Bradley J. Longfield on Feb. 16.



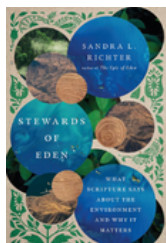
Tuesday Mornings Waking Up with the Word led by Mac Schafer - 7 to 8 am is ongoing in the DPC Library studying the scripture for the upcoming Sunday.



Tuesday Night Growth thru Action Group: Bridging the Spectrum led by Judy Chang Cody and Lauren Mentzer - 7 pm on Zoom is ongoing, centered around LGBT+ topics and exploring what it means to be a welcoming church.



Tuesday Evening Group - The Lost Gospels led by Pastor Becca Bateman and Dennis Parenti - 7 pm in AH-209. This group examines texts purposely left out of scripture while sharing personal faith journeys.



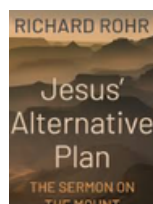
Tuesday Night Group - Stewards of Eden led by Diane Paul and Janet Roberto meets on Zoom on selected Tuesdays beginning Feb. 10 at 7 pm to study this book by Sandra Richter exploring what scripture says about the environment and why it matters.



Wednesday Lent Group - Ain't It Great Bein' Presbyterian! Led by Mac Schafer in the DPC Library at 7 to 8 am Wednesdays during Lent. Mac provides insight into the denomination and also hot coffee! No need to register, just show up!



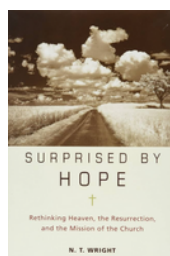
Wednesday Afternoon Read & Chat - 1 pm every 2nd Wednesday of the Month in the DPC Library, February's book is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.



Wednesday Evening iLIGHT led by Steve Spadt - 7 pm, every other Wednesday starting soon on Zoom, studying *Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount* by Richard Rohr.



Thursday Morning Women's Group led by Nancy Roe - 9:30 am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month in the DPC Library examining women of the New Testament from a variety of sources.



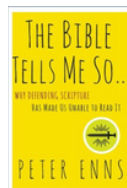
Thursday Evening Women's Group led by Linay Richards/Ann Petro - 7 pm to 8 pm at DPC on selected dates is ongoing, studying *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* by N.T. Wright.



Friday Morning Group led by Jeff Toner and Terry Herring - 7:15-8:15 am beginning Feb. 13 in DPC Library, studying the video series *NOOMA* by Christian teacher Rob Bell.



Friday Morning Walking Group led by Melissa Shaw - special events through the winter with outdoor walking sessions resuming in the spring.



Saturday Morning Men's Group led by Jay Stough - 7:30-9 am at DPC, studying *The Bible Tells Me So...* by Peter Enns.



For full details about each group and to sign up today just visit www.dtownpc.org/growth-groups



Are you considering or do you know someone who should consider the Youth Director role at DPC? The youth at DPC enjoy both meaningful and fun gatherings and being a part of an amazing church. We're looking for someone who can build relationships with middle and high school students AND we want you to bring your gifts, your imagination, and your sense of calling. If you are interested in being a part of invested volunteer leaders and engaged families to cultivate moments for young people encounter God, this is a place for you. For questions or to apply, visit www.dtownpc.org/employment-opportunities or email pastor Becca at BeccaB@dtownpc.org

As we continue growing together as a community of faith here at DPC, we are placing renewed focus on supporting our youth and nurturing their spiritual development.

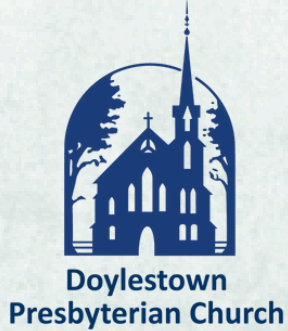
Beginning this year, we will recognize our **Youth Sunday (February 8)**, **Confirmation Sunday (March 8)**, and our **Graduation Celebration (May 31 9:30 am service)** as separate occasions throughout the church calendar. Each of these milestones plays a meaningful and distinct role in the life of our church, and celebrating them individually will allow us to honor their unique significance.

Through these dedicated services, we look forward to creating joyful and meaningful moments of recognition for our young people - moments that reflect who they are and where they are on their faith journey.

Individually and collectively, these celebrations reflect our mission at DPC to include, support, and uplift all people at every stage of their walk with God.

– Terry Herring, Vice Moderator of the Christian Education Committee





Doylestown Presbyterian Church

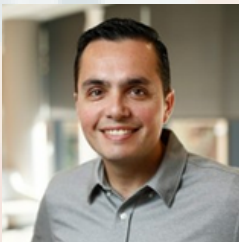
Exploration of Pathways to Immigration Justice

Due to recent wintry weather, this class series was forced to reschedule talks from Rev. Dr. Samuel Arroyo to **March 8** from 9:30 to 10:15, and Professor Zeke Hernandez to **March 15** at 4 pm. Both presentations will occur in the Celtic Cross Room.



Rev. Dr. Samuel Arroyo - Biblical & Theological Impact

March 8: Rev. Dr. Samuel Arroyo from Princeton Theological Seminary will present: "From Brokenness to Wholeness: Biblical, theological and ethical responses to migration." The presentation will highlight how biblical narratives, liberation theology, and Jesus' ministry challenge fear-based, nationalistic interpretations of faith. By centering the dignity and sacred worth of immigrants, this lecture urges faith communities to move beyond abstract moralizing toward concrete action—creating spaces of safety, justice, and holistic care that transform despair into hope.



Prof. Zeke Hernandez - Economic Impact

March 15: Professor Zeke Hernandez from the Wharton School / University of Pennsylvania will draw on insights from twenty years of research to highlight the ways immigrants contribute to the nation's economic vitality. He will also discuss how current approaches to immigration create practical challenges for businesses and the broader economy. This session offers a clear, research-driven overview designed to deepen understanding and dispel common misconceptions surrounding immigration and economic growth. **This talk will be offered at 4 pm.**

*A limited number of copies of Prof. Hernandez's book "The Truth About Immigration" will be handed out for free (first come, first served).

Attendance numbers were large for the first two sessions led by Juan Navia from Immigrant Rights Action / The Welcome Project PA and William Stock, Esq. from Klasko Immigration Law Partners. A packed Celtic Cross Room clearly shows how important this topic is to so many within the church and the wider community. We hope you can attend these final two sessions next month.



During his presentation, William Stock offered the following links as resources for further information. Please feel free to click and explore:

www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org

www.migrationpolicy.org

www.americanprogress.org

www.cato.org/immigration

www.klaskolaw.com

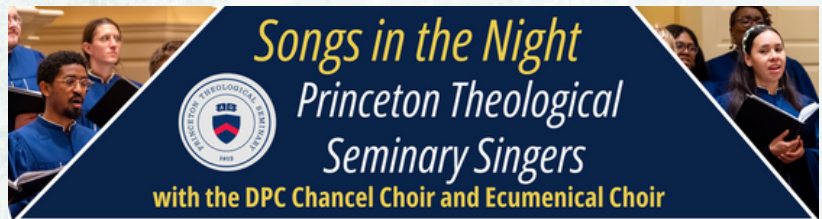
WHAT'S happening AT



Worship: Reverend Terry Chapman Preaching Valentine's Day Weekend

The Reverend Terry Chapman will be preaching on Sunday, February 15th at 8:30 & 10:30 am worship.

Terry is married to DPC member Jan. He is a retired Presbyterian minister and a spiritual director. Terry is a leader in Illumine and the Center for Purposeful Leadership. He preaches on Transfiguration Sunday and his sermon title is "Stewarding the Currency of Attention." In his own words, his sermon will be: *"A reflection on Transfiguration, holy listening, and the way our attention quietly shapes how we love in a distracted world."*



Sunday, February 22 4:00 pm
No tickets required • free-will offering

www.dtownpc.org



The next edition of DPC's Celebrate the Arts concert series features Princeton Theological Seminary Singers, the DPC Chancel Choir, and Ecumenical Choir. Join in the sanctuary on **February 22** at 4 pm for this memorable, uplifting experience titled **Songs in the Night:**
A liturgical Concert of Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs



If you are looking for a tangible way to help fellow members this year, consider volunteering for the Home Help Corps.

This dedicated group of volunteers is ready to help members with small home repairs and cleanup, packing or unpacking for moves, seasonal yardwork, errands, and transportation to appointments, etc.

In 2025 alone, HHC fielded:

- **38 requests** from members (many requests included scheduled future transportation needs)
- which resulted in **providing 78 rides** to appointments!
- While HHC also provided help with yardwork, home organization, and pick-up of donations, transportation was by far the most requested need.

Our volunteers are happy to meet new people and many new friendships and connections have been formed - what an added blessing! Just call the church office to volunteer or to make a request.

Home Help Corps



WHAT'S happening AT



DPC's Earth Care Subcommittee encourages you to learn more about exposure to plastics and how it can affect your health by reading [this article](#) from Plasticfreejuly.org



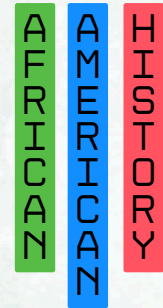
Are you or someone you know interested in exploring membership at Doylestown Presbyterian Church? **Join an Inquirers' Class!** The next class is set for **February 8** with new members being received on February 22. Visit www.dtownnpc.org/membership to learn more and sign up today.



Come...meet Jesus
presented by author Rich Timmons
Thursday, **March 5th** at 11:00 am
Lunch provided in the Celtic Cross Room
\$10, payable at the door only



Celebrate



Join with our friends from Second Baptist Church of Doylestown on **Saturday, February 7**, for the next **Lunch & Learn** sponsored by Second Baptist Church of Doylestown and Doylestown Presbyterian Church
"Frederick Douglass! The Lion of Freedom"

More than a reenactment.

More than a history lesson.

More Than A Performance Of Frederick Douglass's Speeches.

This is a transformational journey into the meaning of freedom.

- A one man show on the life of the great Abolitionist Frederick Douglass, written and performed by Darius Wallace with Q & A to follow performance.
- A delicious southern inspired lunch will be served prior to the performance.
- Proceeds will benefit the Bucks County NAACP Scholarship Program.

Saturday, **February 7** at Second Baptist Church of Doylestown, 6055 Swamp Road
12:00 pm (Doors open at 11:30 am)
Adults: \$35. Youth: \$25 (Up to Age 16)

REGISTER TODAY at bit.ly/DPC-SBCOD

Join in for this presentation covering the incredible story of Jesus through the eyes of 67 master artists and the sacred writings found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This event is sponsored by The Perennials group.

DPC MISSION



CODE BLUE at DPC

DPC Youth operated the Code Blue Kitchen Crew on February 1 as the shelter is already up and running.
The Shelter will be at DPC through February 27.

To Signup to be a part of the **Kitchen Team**, visit: bit.ly/DPC-CB

To Signup to be a **Grocery Shopper**, visit: bit.ly/DPC-CBG

While most grocery needs are filled at the moment,
please check this link each Friday to see an updated list of items needed!

UNDIE SUNDAY



Don't get your knickers in a twist, but we are renaming Super Bowl Sunday as... **Undie Sunday!** Beginning **February 8** (Super Bowl Sunday) through February 22, donation boxes will be located in the lobby of Andrews Hall, just inside the Mechanics Street entrance to the sanctuary, and in the front narthex by the red doors.

Bethel Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia through their clothing distribution (like the coat collection last fall) will make sure all donated new women's and men's underwear (sizes S-3X) and children's socks will go directly to those who need it most. Thank you for your care and compassion.



FOOD DRIVE & COMMUNITY MEAL



We delivered food, cleaning supplies, and personal care to Living Hope food pantry in Dublin and canned goods to Bethel Presbyterian's food program in January. The next food drive is **February 15**.

Kutz Elementary School students and their parents will be helping with the Community Meal on February 15 after the second worship service. The next food drive and meal is also set for **February 15**. [Click HERE](#) to signup to donate food or volunteer!

DPC MISSION



Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve Offerings

Doylestown FISH, a nonprofit that often serves as the front line in Bucks County for individuals who are in crisis, assisting clients with finding emergency shelter, making utility payments, and finding food, received \$4,850 from our November Thanksgiving Offering and \$5,519 from our December Christmas Eve Offering. Thank you for your generous contributions to this local aid organization.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Many thanks to those who donated blood in Andrews Hall on Tuesday, December 30. Each regularly collected pint (unit) of donated blood can be separated into red cells, platelets, and plasma, so helping three patients. The Red Cross sent us this message: "Thank you for your support of the drive. You did an amazing job. **We collected 26 pints on a 21-pint goal.** Wow! In those numbers were 3 Power Red donations. Your efforts saved the lives of up to 90 hospital patients. During a time when we are in a blood shortage this means so much." We hope to see you again in August at our next collection at DPC.



MLK Day of Service Food Collection for Bethel

Well over 200 snack bags were assembled during MLK Day activities, and almost 100 cans each of tuna, soup, vegetables, and fruit were collected and delivered to Bethel Presbyterian for their food distribution to the community on Thursday that week.

Southwest Mission Work Trip

There's still time left to join us for the 2026 DPC Southwest Mission Work Trip from **April 11 to 18, but deposits are due by February 9!** The work experience is at the Community Pantry in Gallup. DPC has generously supported the Pantry for over 20 years. If interested, please contact dpc@dtownpc.org. Brochures and registration forms will be on literature tables.





CHILDREN'S *Ministry*

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?



Sunday School, CWT, CWT+, Sunshine Singers, Celebration Choir & Wednesday Club are back in full swing in the New Year!



Great turnout for our first Family Fellowship of the year on January 28!

Families came out to support many organizations at our MLK Day of Service. on January 19.



Even though there is snow on the ground, it's a great time to make plans for the summer. Registration is open for DPC Summer Camp! [Click HERE](#) to sign up today!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 15

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

4-6 pm in the CCR

Pizza dinner included!

Bring a camp chair, pillow or blanket to get comfy and enjoy the show!



FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday, 5-6 pm. Join us for a light dinner and activities including a Lenten paper chain and the burning of last year's palms. Ashes will be used in the 7 pm service that evening.

FEBRUARY 22

It's always a joy to see the Little Lambs receive their Bibles and a bonus is that Sunshine Singers sing in 10:30 am worship.

YOUTH MINISTRY

*Youth have been spotted all over!
Where will they show up next?*



**MIDDLE
SCHOOL
SUNDAY
SCHOOL**



SERVING COMMUNION



MLK DAY OF SERVICE



CONFIRMATION



WEDNESDAY CLUB

**MAKING
DINNER &
SERVING
OUR CODE
BLUE
GUESTS**



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8

**YOUTH
SUNDAY!**

The Youth feel a part of so many places at DPC. Please come out to support them as they are excited to lead worship with sermons being given by high school seniors in both 8:30 and 10:30 am services.

February 18

Everyone invited to Fellowship Hall on Ash Wednesday from 5-6 pm for a light dinner and activities including a paper Lenten chain and burning of last year's palms. Those ashes will be used at the 7 pm service that evening.

February 22

Element Youth Group will be making and serving dinner to our Code Blue guests. If youth are able to stay until 8:30-9 pm that night, we would appreciate it. Pickup will remain under the bridge.

Summer Youth Trip!

We're so excited! There are 12 youth registered for the summer retreat in Montreat, NC from August 1-8. The theme of the week is Wonder & Wander.

Be on the lookout for a fundraiser to help families offset the cost of the trip and a signup for food and drinks to travel with the youth and leaders.

SAVE THE DATE:

MARCH 1 - MINI YOUTH RETREAT, 12-6 PM.
CONFIRMAND FAMILIES INVITED TO DINNER.

MARCH 8 - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY DURING
10:30 AM WORSHIP. JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



Ministry in Motion!

The four-part class series **Exploration of Pathways to Immigration Justice** filled the Celtic Cross Room with members and friends hoping to gain a better understanding of the complex issues surrounding immigration in this country. The series resumes in March.



The campus was buzzing with activity as DPCers and community members joined for a worship service and to help a wide variety of charitable organizations during this year's **MLK Day of Service at DPC**.



While the inclement weather policy led to a closed office recently, many still decided to be together for a fun and productive **staff meeting!**



February 1 was a busy day - Scouts led both worship services on **Scout Sunday**, and processed with wreaths **honoring African Americans** buried in our historic graveyard to mark the beginning of Black History Month, Sunday School kids brushed up on their scripture knowledge during **Super Bible Bowl**, and we joined in a **Congregational Meeting** during which DPC's next class of Elders and Deacons were elected.



Mission Statement: Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love.

Vision Statement: A growing community of disciples engaged in worship, service, and care.

www.dtownnpc.org 215-348-3531

