Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter

April 2026

HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 29
Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am.
DPC Hop following later service.

Maundy Thursday, April 2
Worship at 7:00 pm with Communion,
Livestream available.

Good Friday, April 3
Worship at 12:00 pm, in-person only.

Our Book of Order says, *"We gather to worship God on the Lord's Day (Sunday) because the gospels testify that Jesus rose from the dead early on the first day of the week. The Lord's Day is also called the "eighth day" of creation, a sign of the new creation that has begun with Christ's resurrection."* Holy Week is a journey through Jesus' trials and self-giving love that lead to the empty tomb. You are invited into this transformative journey from death to abundant life. It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

- Pastor Mac

He Is Risen!

Easter Sunday, April 5

- Identical worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 am.
- Egg Hunt between services at 10 am.
- Livestream will be available during the 10:30 am service.
- Nursery care will be available during both services.
- Beautify the cross in the churchyard following both services (flowers provided).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND...

- Some news and frequently asked questions about DPC's new Online Church Community Realm on **Page 4**
- An upcoming class series focused on being a welcoming and inclusive church on **Page 6**
- Two unique opportunities for fun and fellowship on **Page 8**
- **And much more!**

Mac's Meanderings

Officer Training

In March and April I get the privilege of meeting with the people you elected to be the next class of elders and deacons at Doylestown Presbyterian Church. Our Book of Order says, *"When persons have been elected to the ordered ministry of ruling elder or deacons, the session shall provide a period of study and preparation…".* This is one of my favorite things to do each year because it is a "deep dive" into:

- What it means to be called by God
- How we function and are governed
- What we believe as Presbyterians

We are using a training resource called *Being Reformed, Faith Seeking Understanding: Ruling Elders/Deacons*. I have used this resource for years in my last church. It has important reminders that I find to be very helpful for all of us to remember. Here are a few examples:

- When someone is called to be an elder or deacon in the Presbyterian Church, it is a three stage process: 1. A sense in the individual that they are called by God to serve in this time and place. 2. The affirmation of the congregation through discernment and vote. 3. A concurring judgement of the Session that these individuals are called. I love how this process has communal accountability built into it. We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in all three stages.

- Clifton Kirkpatrick writes, *"The purpose of our governance is not to balance political interests in the church, but to enable elected spiritual leaders (ministers and elders) - together in prayer, dialogue, and reflection of God's Word* - ***to best discern the mind of Christ for the church and the world."***

- Discernment is central for officers and for all of us. The training resource gives a basic formula for discernment: *"listening prayer, gathering information, listening prayer, holy conversation, listening prayer, reflection/evaluation, and more listening prayer. God is at the center of every spiritual discernment process. Prayer permeates it. Listening prayer is 20 percent talking to God and 80 percent listening to God."*

Please hold your Session and Deacons in Christ's loving light as they lead us.

With Care,

Mac

March Session Update

The Session met for their stated meeting on Monday, March 23. The following are highlights from that meeting:

- Shared in small groups how we experience Christ's light.
- Received orientation on the *Realm* Church Database.
- Elders reviewed lists of members who have not been active at DPC for 2 years or longer.
- Approved two baptisms for July 2026.
- Approved a fund-raising hoagie sale for the summer youth trip.
- Approved the Legacy Fund Policy. A policy that supports a financial structure whichcombines the Memorials, Bequests & Gifts (MBG) Fund, the Endowment Fund, the Mission Endowment Fund, and other designated/undesignated accounts outside of the annual budget. This is intended to enhance awareness, transparency and growth for DPC's financial assets in the coming years.
- Approved an outing organized by the Earth Care Subcommittee to visit a local native plant garden.
- Approved a banner for the church in Pride month (June) using the scripture from John 13:34: *"As I have loved you, you also should love one another."*
- Approved two speakers for a four-week series focused on listening to stories, asking questions, and exploring how we can continue to create a church that reflects Christ's welcome to all people, including members of the LBGTQ+ community.
- Collected feedback on the focus of a future one-day retreat for the session.
- Closed the meeting lifting up prayer requests out of our lives, our relationships, and for the world.

The Session also met two other times in March: Once, electronically, to approve a baptism and in early March to have dinner with 11 Confirmation students, listen to their statements of faith, and welcome them into membership. Thanks be to God!

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

Financial Corner

Church Financial Update: February 2026

1. Budget
   - Total Income to Date (YTD): $330,531.66 (Budget: $256,080.85)
   - Total Expenses to Date (YTD): $271,927.16 (Budget: $285,881.35)
   - Brief Note: Our income is higher than budgeted due to some pledges paid in full at the beginning of the year.
2. Ministry Impact - one example of your generosity at work
   - This month, your generosity supported the Code Blue shelter at DPC (open 21 nights in February, 16-28 guests each night).

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to the ministry of Doylestown Presbyterian Church.
For a detailed financial report, please contact Linay Richards, Director of Finances and Operations.

Many of your have created an account in ***Realm*** and we are all starting to learn the ins and outs of the new app.

One lesson learned is that in order for other church members to see your contact information (address, primary phone, and email), the **privacy settings** need to say "Anyone in the Church." This is the same information that was in the Church Life app that we had previously.

In order to continue to enable members to connect with one another and create an even better community, we will be updating all DPC members, over the age of 18, to have their privacy setting changed to "Anyone in the church" for the home address, primary phone number, and email address. This change will happen on April 15th and if you have an email listed with the church, you will get a Realm Notification regarding this change.

If you do not want other church members to be able to see this information, please contact the office at 215-348-3531 or **dpc@dtownpc.org** **before April 15.**

Frequently Asked Questions

www.dtownpc.org/realm
to sign in or learn more

I need an email invitation. What do I do?
Please contact the church office at (215) 348-3531 or dpc@dtownpc.org.

How do I get to Realm on my computer?
You must first respond to the invitation email and activate your profile. After you have activated your profile, go to Realm through the church website or Realm website (www.onrealm.org). Then click on "login" and enter your email address and password.

What if I forgot my password?
You can go to the Realm website (www.onrealm.org), enter your email address and you will be sent an email to reset your password.

Is there a mobile app for smartphones and tablets?
Yes. To use the app, you must first respond to the invitation email and activate your profile. (If you did not receive an email, contact the church office.) To download the iOS or Android app, search for "Realm Connect." (The full name of the app is "Connect – Our Church Community" from ACS Technologies.)

Can I make changes to my personal and contact information?
Yes! We encourage everyone to update their profiles as needed. To see your personal and contact information, click on the arrow next to your name in the upper right corner of your screen (or "More" in the app). Select "My Profile" to check the information about you. Click on "Edit Profile" to change any of this information.

Should I upload a photo to my profile?
Yes, please! In a church as large as ours, it's helpful to connect names and faces. Head-shots are best! To upload a photo from your computer, click on the circle containing your initials and follow the prompts.

Ministry in Motion!

The Perennials hosted a wonderful luncheon with guest speaker Rich Timmons, who spoke about his book "Come...meet Jesus" which tells the story of Jesus' life through the work history's greatest artists.

The Confirmands enjoyed some fellowship on the bridge on March 8 when they became members of DPC following months of learning and service.

Plumstead Christian hosted a Pastor Appreciation lunch on March 9. Pastor Becca and Pastor Mac enjoyed songs the students prepared as well as lunch with some DPC kids.

The educational series Exploration of Pathways to Immigration Justice conclude with a presentation from University of Pennsylvania Professor Zeke Hernandez.

Sharing Stories: on Faith and LGBTQ+ Inclusion

Sunday Mornings, 9:30-10:15 | April 12, April 19, April 26, May 3

All classes will be held in the Celtic Cross Room, except for April 26 (location TBD)

> Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
>
> - John 13:34

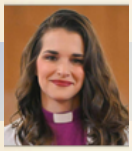
This spring, the Adult Education Committee invites the congregation to a four-week series during the education time between services focused on listening to stories, asking questions, and exploring how we continue to create a church that reflects Christ's welcome, including all people.

This series is hosted by the Growth Group *Bridging the Spectrum*, a group focused on exploring what it means to be a welcoming and inclusive church for members of the LGBTQ+ community, which meets Tuesday evenings by Zoom.

Each week will engage in different dimensions of the story we share:

April 12 - *One Family's Story*

Walt French shares insights from his work with PFLAG supporting LGBTQ+ families as well as his own family story as a self-described conservative.



April 19 - *One Church's Story*

Rev. Cassie Heintz shares how Grace Presbyterian Church in Jenkintown has pursued deeper inclusion.

April 26 - *One Community's Story*

Marlene Pray, founder of Planned Parenthood Keystone's Rainbow Room, will reflect on supporting LGBTQ+ youth in our region.

May 3 - *Our Own Story: Today and Tomorrow*

Members of DPC will facilitate conversation about the experiences of youth in our own church community. We'll also brainstorm how DPC can continue our efforts to be welcoming and inclusive going forward.

For more details about these guest speakers and topics, visit **www.dtownpc.org/sharing-stories**

Growing Together in Faith: Growth Groups

One of the joys of this past Winter/Spring season has been seeing so many people gathering in 10 Growth Groups, around kitchen tables, in living rooms, and here at church, to read scripture, share stories, ask questions, and grow in faith together.
These groups are one of the most meaningful ways we practice discipleship at DPC. ***Faith is not something we figure out alone; it deepens when we listen to one another, wrestle with questions, and learn together.***

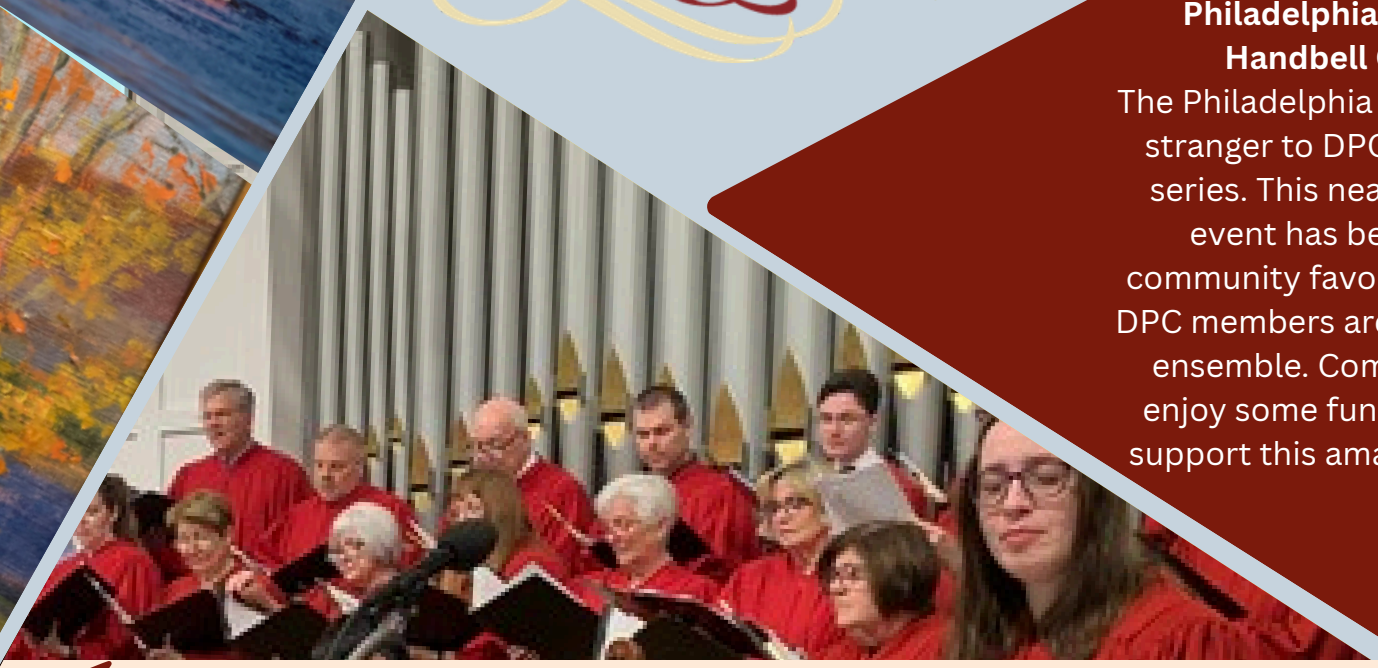
We are already looking ahead to summer and are excited to once again offer our **"One Book, One Church"** experience. This congregation-wide invitation will encourage us to read and reflect together as a community, with Growth Groups forming throughout the summer. **Sign-ups will open in May, with groups beginning in June and running through the summer.**
Wherever you are in your faith journey—curious, questioning, or deeply rooted—Growth Groups are a place where faith comes alive in conversation and community. We hope you'll consider joining one.
If you are interested in leading a Growth Group please speak with Adult Education moderator Kieran Cody or Pastor Becca Bateman.

The Visual Arts Display "Peace Like a River" is currently open in the Celtic Cross Room

Celebrate the Arts

April 26 – 4 pm – Philadelphia Bronze Handbell Choir

The Philadelphia Bronze is no stranger to DPC's concert series. This nearly annual event has become a community favorite. Several DPC members are part of this ensemble. Come out and enjoy some fun music and support this amazing group.



May 3 – 4 pm – A Concert of Prayers and Psalms

Featuring the DPC Chancel Choir and the Bucks County Ecumenical Choir, this performance will feature musical settings of Psalms and Prayers. For centuries, composers have been setting sacred text to music. Sometimes sorrowful, often joyful, this concert will explore the many ways that composers have reflected on these meaningful texts.

Pearl S. Buck Historic Home Tour

Pearl S. Buck was a Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winning author in the early and mid-1900 and her best-known novel is The Good Earth, written in 1931. The Pearl S. Buck Homestead in Perkasie is a testament to her unique history, vast literacy achievements and humanitarian causes. The DPC Perennials group is sponsoring a guided tour of the Pearl S. Buck Historic House on **May 7** at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm for DPC Members and friends, with cost of admission is $15.00 (cash or credit card, paid at the giftshop). There are several gardens on the property and can be visited after the tour.

Since this historic venue is in Perkasie, PA attendees need to provide their own transportation or car pool with others. As this tour ends around lunchtime, we can use their picnic tables or patio near the Gift shop for a brown bag lunch. Otherwise, attendees can travel to the local Dublin area for lunch. Admission should be paid in the Gift Shop before the tour. Please arrive by 10:45 am at the latest.

Click Here to register today on Realm!

Or scan the code here:

Baseball season has begun! Come and join in with other DPC members and friends to cheer on the Phillies! DPC is taking over Citizens Bank Park on **Friday, July 24** at 6:40 pm against the Yankees. Let's cheer the team to victory together! 50 tickets have been reserved in Section 304, in the outfield. Bring your mitts – we might need to catch some homeruns.

Tickets are $53 per person ($57 if you pay online).
You are on your own for transportation, but we will ask about carpooling options on the form and will provide you with contacts of people who want to carpool.

Registration/ticket purchases will be **due by Friday, May 15.** Please confirm tickets by **registering for the event on Realm by clicking HERE.**

You can drop cash or a check off in the Church Office or offering plate.
You can send a check (payable to Doylestown Presbyterian Church) by mail (Doylestown Presbyterian Church, 127 E. Court Street, Doylestown, PA, 18901).
You can pay online, by visiting our giving page **HERE** (note: the cost is $57 per ticket online)

WHAT'S *happening* AT DPC

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Congratulations to DPC's newest members, the 2026 Confirmation Class who completed their journey on March 8!

Are you or someone you know interested in exploring membership at Doylestown Presbyterian Church? Join an Inquirers' Class! We invite you 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 set for **April 12** with new members being received on **April 26**. Visit www.dtownpc.org/membership to learn more and sign up today.

Baptisms
March 2026

Trajan
March 8

The Angelini Family
March 22

Flag Collection. As the United States prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, you will want to display your newest flags for the occasion to show your pride. So, now is the time to retire your old flags that may be worn, torn, or tattered. Scout Troop 48 will be holding a Flag Retirement Ceremony at Pine Run LakeView Senior Residence on **May 17** at 3 pm. Anyone with US and/or PA Flags that need to be retired in a respectful manner are encouraged to leave them in boxes located in the Mechanics Street entrance to the sanctuary (under the bridge) and in the Andrews Hall lobby **from April 26 through May 10**. DPC members and friends are also welcomed to attend the ceremony.

DPC MISSION

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Please join with Presbyterians nationwide in contributing to the **One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering** during the season of Lent. The denomination's Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are supported by these donations.

Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Special Offering envelopes are available in your pledge envelope box or in the pew holders on **Palm Sunday, March 29.**

Community Meal. Girl Scouts from Troop 2372 did a fabulous job helping with March's Community Meal, from set up, to serving, to clean up. They even got a merit badge for their service! Special food items were prepared by the kids of Children's Worship Time.

It was a wonderful time of togetherness, with 95 people served!

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

Monthly Food Drive. You donated approximately **500 pounds** of food during the March 15 collection! Bethel Presbyterian Church in North Philadelphia gratefully received our delivery for their neighborhood food program.

The next collection occurs Sunday, **April 19.** The Bucks County Housing Group Food Pantry in Doylestown could use cleaning supplies, toiletries, soap, cereals, bottled juices, and peanut butter and jelly, in addition to canned goods. Thank you for helping our neighbors!

RACE FOR EDUCATION

Our mission partner **Hunting Park Christian Academy** has their annual **Race for Education April 22** to raise funds for student scholarships (Pre-K through 8th Grade). Visit https://www.hpcaphilly.org/news/sponsor-a-student-flat.cfm to read about Esther, Zenaiah, Eli, Hadison, Ashton, Emma, Ezra, Kristina, Valerie, and Dywane. Sponsorship **forms will be available on the Bridge during Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 19th.**

For the fourth consecutive year, the PC(USA) has certified DPC as an official **Earth Care Congregation.** In order to maintain this status, first attained in 2023, DPC members have participated in many ways to spread awareness, to educate, and to take action in preserving and cherishing God's creations. In celebration of this news, but also with the knowledge that there is still much work to be done, DPC's Earth Care Subcomittee invites you to follow along with this special calendar for April with tips and prompts to help care for and beutify this world together.

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		CLICK HERE or scan code to download a printable version of this calendar!	1 Go on a nature walk and find 3 shades of green. Take a picture!	2 Buy secondhand	3 Repair instead of replace	4 Speak up!
5 Cut down on food waste with meal planning	6 Support local farmers who use regenerative practices	7 Start your own compost pile or subscribe to a local composting service	8 Call or write about an issue that is important to you	9 Spark a conversation about the environment	10 Plant a native plant in your yard	11 Learn about the circular economy
12 Meditate on your relationshp with the land	13 Plan and prepare a meatless meal	14 Support local businesses rather than big box stores	15 Learn about a local environmental issue	16 Donate to your favorite environmental organization	17 Find an Earth Day event to attend	18 Take a bike ride with no distractions!
19 Consider ways to reduce your personal energy use	20 Take a hike!	21 Learn something new about climate	22 **Earth Day!**	23 On a dark night go outside and look at the stars! Grab a hot chocolate!	24 Take a walk at Peace Valley and count how many birds you see.	25 Visit a farmer's market
26 Visit the native plant garden at Cantral Park, Doylestown	27 Download the Cornell Merlin App to learn more about birds	28 Go vegetarian/ vegan one day/week	29 Repeat your nature walk from April 1 and take another picture to compare. See the growth!	30 Offset your travel footprint by donating to Presbyterian Tree Fund: https://pcusa.org/donate/e865715-tree-fund-restore-creation		

EARTH CARE SWAPS

Looking for environmentally friendly versions of some common household products? Visit www.dtownpc.org/peace-justice and click on the SWAPS button to view and print a handy list. An Earth Care Team member will be displaying some of the products on the bridge on **Care for Creation Sunday, April 19**. Be sure to stop by!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

What's been happening?

This group of CWT+ kids practiced then read the prayer in worship on **March 2**.

March 8 the Celebration Choir rang chimes in 10:30 am worship and Sunshine Singers sang in worship on **March 15**.

CWT and Sunday School classes have been focusing on Lenten stories and themes throughout the month of March. Older Elementary has been working on a "People on the Move" series inviting guest speakers who shared their experiences of moving to new countries. Thanks Christo (South Africa) and Edwin (Guatemala)!

Each month both CWT classes work together to support the Community Meal. On **March 15** we made a colorful fruit salad and pudding dirt cups topped off with gummy worms...yum!

Wednesday Club has welcomed several special guests to lead interactive Lenten prayer stations and practices, including Resurrection Eggs, making seed paper and yoga.

Here's what's coming up!

March 29 Palm Sunday!

- Sunshine Singers sing in 10:30 am worship.
- *ALL* children invited to process into the sanctuary waving palms. Meet on the bridge at 10:15 am.
- DPC Hop after 10:30 worship. Meet in Fellowship Hall for lunch and Easter activities.

April 1 No Sunshine Singers, Celebration Choir or Wednesday Club

holy week

April 5 Happy Easter

No Sunday School classes, CWT and CWT+ will be held during the 10:30 service.

April 8 End of Year Parties for Sunshine Singers and Wednesday Club.

April 12

- Communion, CWT and CWT+ classes will return early to worship so children can participate with families.
- *MOVE UP DAY*! ALL 5TH graders invited to Element Youth Group.

April 19

- Sunshine Singers and Celebration Choir sing in 10:30 am worship.
- Wednesday Club is hosting the Community Meal. Look for signup!

DPC Summer Camp!

This just might be the best week of your summer! Friends welcome! Registration is open! Click HERE to sign up today!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Looking back

March 1 was a full day beginning with a rousing rendition of "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand" from our Youth Choir followed by a mini retreat for our Confirmands. The retreat ended with a dinner with Session members. Surrounded by their families, the Confirmands shared their Faith Statements.

March 8 was Confirmation Sunday when all the hard work by our Confirmands culminated into a beautiful morning where DPC received 12 new members. Later that evening Element Youth Group assembled over 20 care packages for our current college students.

March 15 Youth Group focused on The Fruit of the Spirit. When God's Spirit is growing in us, it shows up in the way we treat others.

March 22 is our annual trip to Target to purchase items to make Easter baskets for the kids living in the apartment DPC co-sponsors with the Bucks County Housing Group.

What's coming up?

March 29 A group of youth and leaders are going to see "Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at CB East High School. There are still a few seats available. No charge for youth. Email Katy at KatyS@dtownpc.org to join us! There will be no evening choir or Youth Group.

April Schedule

April 5	Happy Easter! NO Youth Choir or Youth Group
April 12	NO Youth Choir, come to Element Youth Group It's MOVE UP DAY! All 5th graders invited!
April 19	Youth Choir & Element Youth Group
April 26	Youth Choir sings & rings in 10:30 am worship NO evening choir, come out to Youth Group

Friends always welcome!

From Another Organ Bench

A note from DPC Organist and Director of Youth Music Rev. Dr. Mina Choi

While Jason Moore (DPC's Director of Music and the Arts) served on the DPC organ bench the past two Sundays, I had the privilege of playing several organ benches in Sweden—a trip filled with beautiful and meaningful experiences I am still processing.

I led a hymn festival in Jönköping, performed three organ concerts in Jönköping and Stockholm, and facilitated five workshops for pastors, worship leaders, and lay leaders. Together, we explored creative and meaningful ways to engage congregations in worship—on Sundays and beyond. Hosted by Equmeniakyrkan, these gatherings brought together more than 600 people who long to see renewed vitality in worship. Singing together reminded us how deeply it strengthens the body of Christ.

When I was 20, I visited a cathedral in the Netherlands where fewer than 20 people attended worship. That moment moved me deeply and shaped my calling: to help restore vibrant worship where people can encounter the living God.
My ministry beyond seminary and DPC focuses on helping churches rediscover God's presence through song, prayer, and testimony. At the hymn festival, a 60-voice choir sang "Come, Bring Burdens to God" (Glory to God, #851), offering a powerful invitation to lay our burdens before Christ.

Thank you, Jason and DPC, for supporting this calling beyond our church walls. I will continue this work in upcoming trips to Japan and Germany.

I've also launched a nonprofit, ***Project Illuminae*** ("radiant ones"), dedicated to sharing the transformative power of sacred music through artistic excellence, theological depth, and spiritual formation—especially supporting churches with limited resources.

Soli Deo Gloria!

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.dtownpc.org 215-348-3531