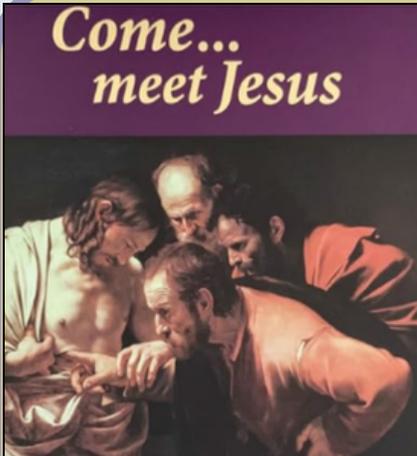


THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter
March 2026



There's something about seeing Scripture come to life in artwork that stirs our spirit and speaks to our soul...experiencing the sights, imagining the sounds, and feeling the emotion as if you are there.

Come...meet Jesus presented by author Rich Timmons. We gather in the Celtic Cross Room this **Thursday, March 5** at 11 am for lunch and this enlightening presentation covering the incredible story of Jesus through the eyes of a select few master artists and the sacred writings found in the Gospels. Registrations are already up to 30 people - a wonderful group - but it's not too late to join in! What better time is there to walk in the shoes of our Savior than the season of Lent? This event is sponsored by The Perennials group. The cost is \$10 payable only at the door.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY](#)



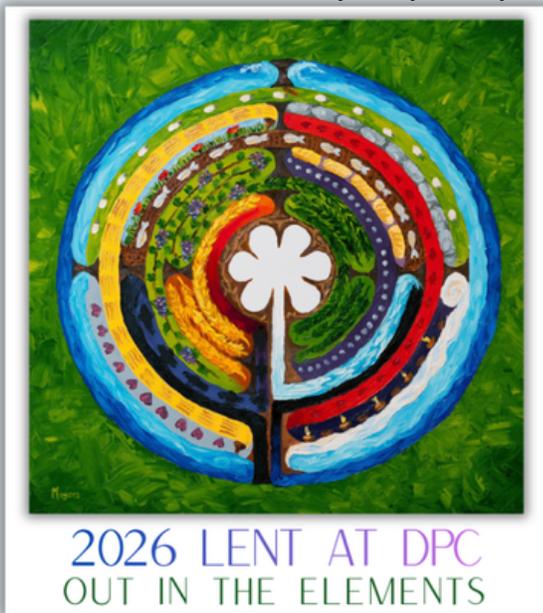
Exploration of Pathways to Immigration Justice. We are thrilled to welcome **Rev. Dr. Samuel Arroyo** on **March 8** from **9:30 to 10:15** when he will focus on immigration's biblical and theological impact, and **Professor Zeke Hernandez** on **March 15** at **4 pm** when he will address economic impact.

Both presentations will occur in the Celtic Cross Room. We are excited to continue these important discussions as a community. To revisit a special video in which Pastor Becca and two DPC members reflect on the topic and look forward to these two upcoming guest speakers, [CLICK HERE](#) or scan the code below. For more details about Rev. Dr. Arroyo and Professor Hernandez, **see Page 5.**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND...

- A glimpse at DPC's Holy Week Schedule as we move through Lent on **Page 2**
- Some joyful photos of a busy February at DPC on **Page 4**
- A look back at the results of several critical mission efforts and others on the horizon on **Pages 7-8**
- Inspiring words from DPC Youth on Pages **11-13**
- **And much more!**



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, Livestream available.

Good Friday, April 3

Worship at 12:00 pm, in-person only.

Easter Sunday, April 5

We rejoice in the glory of Jesus' resurrection during 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.

While Lent has already started, it's not too late to follow along with DPC's 2026 Lenten Devotional, **Coming Back to Life**. The devotional suggested a weekly ritual that we encourage you to incorporate into the rhythm of your week at home.

Printed copies are available at the entrances to the sanctuary. To download a digital copy, [CLICK HERE](#).



Our members have the opportunity to remember or honor loved ones as well as provide our church with beautiful arrangements for Holy Week. Flowers and palms will be artistically arranged throughout the sanctuary. If you would like to help make this offering possible, please complete the form shown below:

I would like to make _____ donation(s) at \$15.00 each. PLEASE PRINT NAMES

Easter
Flowers



In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

From: _____

Make checks payable to DPC (note "Easter Flowers" on it). Mail to the church office or place in the offering plate. Names must be received in the church office **no later than noon on Monday, March 23**. Names will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletins.

Name: _____ Phone or Email: _____

February Session Update



Session met for their stated meeting on Monday, February 23 via Zoom due to a snowstorm.

At that meeting, Session:

- Received an update on the two houses the church owns on Mechanics Street (#109 & #112) from Property Committee Chair Jay Stough.
- Received a report from Treasurer Matt Rizk and Finance Chair Dave Sager on the future organization of a "Legacy Fund" that will include Memorials, Bequests & Gifts (MBG), the Endowment Fund and the Mission Endowment Fund. Session approved the initial concept and will review policy related to this proposal at their March meeting.
- Approved the Mission Subcommittees' proposal of 14 organizations to support with mission funds in the 2026 annual budget. Approximately \$10,000 remains unallocated for support opportunities that may arise during the calendar year.
- Session approved the formation of a Strategy & Goals Ad Hoc Committee. Clerk of Session Linda Cacossa and Pastor Mac Schafer will begin discerning who might serve on this Ad Hoc Committee.
- Session discussed in breakout groups a podcast on current church demographics and religious trends in America: The Interesting Times podcast - A conversation between Ross Douthat and Ryan Burge.

Session had a called meeting on Sunday, March 1 to have dinner with 11 Confirmation students and their families. These new members will be welcomed at 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, March 8.

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



Church Financial Update: January 2026

1. Budget

- Total Income to Date (YTD): \$196,385.80 (Budget: \$113,066.28)
- Total Expenses to Date (YTD): \$118,610.80 (Budget: \$144,263.58)
- Brief Note: Our income is higher than budgeted due to some pledges paid in full at the beginning of the year.

2. Ministry Impact

- In January, your generosity allowed for the sidewalks, the parking lot and DPC drives to be plowed and shoveled so people could safely come to worship and events in our buildings.
- And for Pastor Mac & Becca to have pastoral contact with 131 people.

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.

Ministry in Motion!

Along with our friends from Second Baptist Church of Doylestown, the Matthew 25 Subcommittee organized another Lunch & Learn event to benefit the Bucks County NAACP.



The DPC Dads Group hit the trails for their annual winter hike and the DPC Moms Group got in the kitchen to serve up a warm meal for our guests at the Code Blue Shelter.



The Connections Subcommittee welcomed author and wellness coach Tracey Gates for a wonderful gathering centered on the power of kind words.

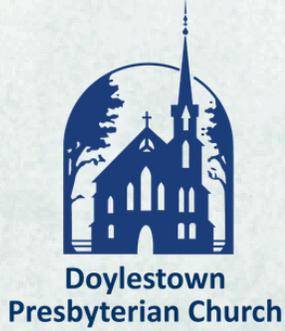


It was an evening of spiritual song last Friday as the Celebrate the Arts Concert Series brought together the Princeton Theological Seminary Singers, the DPC Chancel Choir and the Bucks County Ecumenical Choir.



Pastor Becca was joined in the chancel on Sunday by DPC Kids who helped with the Prayers of the People. On Monday, the Library was the meeting spot for the Monday Morning Men's Group. To learn more about our small groups, which always welcome new faces, visit www.dtownpc.org/growth-groups





Doylestown Presbyterian Church

Exploration of Pathways to Immigration Justice



Rev. Dr. Samuel Arroyo - *Biblical & Theological Impact*

March 8 - 9:30 am in the Celtic Cross Room: 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 - 4:00 pm in the Celtic Cross Room: 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.

Shelf Talkers Are Now in the Library!

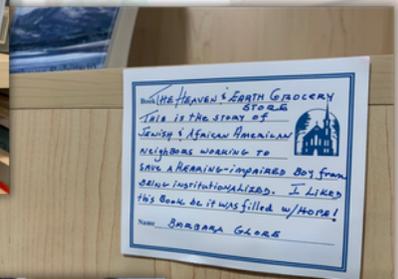
Looking for a good book to read?

Look no further than the DPC Library!

New Shelf Talkers are highlighting books, which members and friends have read and are recommending.

And YOU can help, too! Follow the simple directions found on the shelf by the Junior area, and identify an interesting book you have read to add to the growing Shelf Talkers!

There are so many outstanding books in our Library that are not to be missed!



WHAT'S happening AT



Celebrate the Arts: Peace Like a River is the next visual art display in the Celtic Cross Room. This includes any bodies of water/God who made the water. Any photos or art depicting water: lakes, rivers, falls, ocean can be submitted to the church office by **March 5**. If framed, include a wire on the back.



Mark your calendar for these upcoming **Celebrate the Arts** concerts!



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.

If you are interested in joining the choir and taking part in this special concert, now is the time to join in for rehearsals each Thursday evening.



Creating your account on DPC's new ministry tool called **Realm** can actually serve as a Lenten practice, offering a chance to grow closer to your neighbors, friends, and church family.

You'll love to use it each day to:

- sign up for events
- access the member directory
- keep track of your financial giving
- and so much more!

For details and full instructions, visit www.dtownpc.org/realm



Earth Care



Do you use a single serve coffee maker? They are so convenient. But did you know that there are approximately 573,000 metric tons of coffee pods waste accumulated each year? You can do something about that! These numbers and more can be found in an informative article that DPC's Earth Care Subcommittee invites you to read. It sheds some light on a popular way to make your morning coffee. [CLICK HERE](#) to read.

DPC MISSION

Code Blue at DPC: Thank You!

Without our many dedicated volunteers, we could not have fed and housed our **16-28 guests** each night (and one complete day of being snowed-in with the blizzard of February 22-23). Each night, all the supplies and air mattresses have to be laid out, and each morning everything has to be cleaned and put away so the room can be used during the day. The shelter was open **21 nights**. To staff the kitchen, so our guests could be fed dinner and breakfast, and have a lunch to take with them, over **115 different people volunteered** - some two, three, and even four different nights. It takes a lot of groceries to feed all those guests each day: **39 people** purchased and donated **297 different items**. Thank you to all! In March the shelter moves to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and will still need volunteers to help shelter and support the homeless. To learn more about how to help, visit: www.co2ssh.org/new-volunteer-training

To see a heartwarming, personal thank-you from a Code Blue guest, see **Page 13**.



From Mission Subcommittee Moderator Laura Mendelson:

“Show me your budget—and I’ll tell you what you value.” Alternatively, there’s the line from the film *Jerry Maguire*: “Show me the money!” At our February meeting, we recommended that Session distribute our remaining 2025 unallocated funds to the **Bethel Presbyterian Church** food program (\$2,000), **Bridging the Gap Africa** (a 7KvA diesel welding generator, a 3.2-ton Tirfor winch, a concrete mixer, and new truck tires, adding up to \$5,512), and **Vita** (\$2,465.30), for a total of \$9,977.30.

Based on our promise to designate 10% of annual stewardship pledges for Mission, after much discussion we recommended that the 2026 **Be Knit Together** Generosity Campaign sum of \$162,114 be distributed to the **Philadelphia Presbytery** for mission (\$80,000), **PC(USA) Global Ecumenical Liaisons** (\$4,000), **DPC Mission Trips** (\$4,000), **Americans for Native Americans** Zuni eyeglass program (\$3,000), **Bethel Presbyterian Church** food program (\$8,000), **Christian Legal Clinics of Philadelphia** (\$4,000), **Community Pantry** of Gallup, NM food program (\$4,000), **Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless** (\$10,000), **Doylestown FISH** (\$3,000), **Feed My Starving Children** food packing event in May (\$10,000), **Friends of PEB** (the Pakistan Education Board) (\$9,000), **Hunting Park Christian Academy** (\$6,000), **Vita** (\$34.70), and **Welcoming the Stranger** (\$7,000), leaving an unallocated (emergency) fund of \$10,079.30.

Please visit the [Mission + Community Outreach pages](#) of the church website or our bulletin boards in the Celtic Cross Room and Andrews Hall Church Street foyer for more information on our Mission Partners.



Community Meal. If you'd like to get involved in this month's Community Meal, which happens at 12 noon on **March 15**, 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 February 15 collection! Thank you for helping our neighbors!

The next collection occurs Sunday, **March 15**. This month's recipient will be the food program of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. Their immediate needs include canned vegetables and fruits, and also soups.



Undie Sunday - THANK YOU! In total, **407** pairs of underwear, socks, and undershirts - for men, women, and children - were donated in February! The items will be brought to Bethel Presbyterian for distribution to those in need through their clothing program. Many thanks to those who donated!

During the season of Lent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) collects a Special Offering, **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through this Offering to share God's love with people experiencing need.



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. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent. Special Offering envelopes are available in your pledge envelope box or in the pew holders on **Palm Sunday, March 29**.

CHILDREN'S *Ministry*

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Tony Baccari and Mike Paradiso led Bible Super Bowl for the second year in a row!



Wednesday Club spent many weeks capturing scripture in creative, team-building food challenges.



The Children's Ministry Committee had a great turnout for the showing of *Abominable* on February 15.



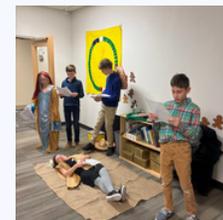
The Nursery and Sunday School classes continue to provide a nurturing, yet vibrant, place for our young ones on Sunday mornings. The Older Sunday School class led Time with Children on Youth Sunday, February 8.



Ash Wednesday included a Lenten Family Experience where families came out to cut and burn last year's palms and the ashes were used later in the event. We made prayer chains, applied ashes, and enjoyed each other's company over a light dinner.



February 22 was a busy morning! Our 4 year olds received their very own *Beginner's Bible*, CWT+ performed two skits for the CWT class, Sunshine Singers sang, and Mac presented five Cub Scouts with a "Jesus and Me" patch and certificate in worship.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8

Celebration Choir sings in 10:30 am worship

March 15

Sunshine Singers sing in 10:30 am worship.

March 11, 18, 25

Celebration choir & Wednesday Club meet! One week we'll walk to Our Lady of Mt Carmel's Stations of the Cross (weather permitting).

March 29

Sunshine Singers sing in 10:30 am worship. ALL children invited to process into worship waving palm branches. & DPC HOP following worship with lunch and activities all ages.



The snow will eventually melt and the temperatures will rise. We are planning a week you won't want to miss! Registration is open for DPC Summer Camp! [Click HERE](#) to sign up today!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Looking Back

ICYMI Youth Sunday was February 8 and we couldn't be more proud of our youth and the messages the seniors shared with the congregation!



Element Youth Group in February spent time to prepare and serve dinner to Code Blue guests, as well as packing lunches for the next day. Often lunches included not only yummy food but a valentine, joke or kind message.



On March 1 the Youth Choir sang in worship and our confirmands participated in a mini retreat followed by dinner with Session surrounded by their families.



Looking Ahead

CONFIRMATION

Sunday!

March 8

Join us at the 10:30 am service as we welcome 11 new members to our DPC family. Help us celebrate by filling the Coffee Hour tables with cross sugar cookies. Cookie cutters available by emailing Katy at KatyS@dtownpc.org.



Sign up [HERE](#) to make cookies!

No Youth Choir

5:45-7:30 pm Element Youth Group

March 15

No Youth Choir

5:45-7:30 pm Element Youth Group

March 22

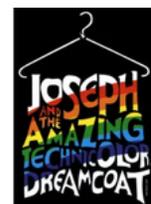
5-5:45 pm Youth Choir

5:45-7:30 pm Element Youth Group

March 29

Element Youth Group is going to see "Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at CB East, 2 pm. No charge for youth but we need an RSVP to save a seat. No evening choir rehearsal or Youth Group.

RSVP to Katy at KatyS@dtownpc.org.



YOUTH SUNDAY

On February 8, both worship services were led by our DPC Youth who are involved in the life of the church in so many ways. Below are the messages delivered by high school seniors Caroline and Kyle who reflected on the theme *"Where Do You Belong?"*



Caroline R.

Where do I belong?

That question has followed me through every stage of my life. It's a question that sounds simple, but the more you grow, the deeper it gets. Because belonging isn't just about where you sit or who you're with. It's about being known. It's about being claimed. It's about knowing that your life has a place in something bigger than yourself.

Our scripture today from Ephesians reminds us of something powerful, saying: "You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but members of God's household... built together into a dwelling place for God."

That verse tells us that belonging isn't something we earn but rather it's something God gives. Before we figure out where we're going, God reminds us who we already are.

When I think about where I belong, the first place that comes to mind outside my own family is this church. DPC has been more than just a building to me. It's been a family. A place where I've been welcomed, encouraged, challenged, and loved through every season of my life so far. This is where I've learned that faith isn't just something you talk about on Sundays, but something we live out together.

Growing up here, I've found belonging through Sunday school and youth group. Youth group was one of the first spaces where I felt comfortable being myself; first as a tag along while my parents volunteered at Element, then as a 456er spending time with tweens at Week of Awesomeness, Shark in the Dark, and Massenetta Springs. Over the years I've been able to ask questions, laugh loudly, and sometimes struggle openly. DPC has been a place where I've learned that faith doesn't mean having all the answers. It means showing up, even when you're unsure, and trusting that God meets you there.

Another place where I've experienced God's presence is through youth choir and bells. Singing together has taught me that worship isn't about perfection, it's about offering what you have. When our voices come together, I feel part of something bigger than myself. In those moments, I am not just singing notes; I am helping to create a space where God can dwell among us. Music has shown me that God meets us not just in words, but in harmony, breath, and shared joy.

When I look back on some of the most meaningful experiences here, they involve serving others. Taking part in mission-based opportunities at church like Wrapping Presence, cooking for the community meal and code blue, and volunteering for Vacation Bible School have allowed me to expand my church family beyond the youth I have grown up with. Mission trips to Massenetta Springs in Virginia and New Mexico have shown me that there are opportunities to demonstrate that God's love belongs to everyone.

As I grow older, my sense of belonging begins to change. I've realized that belonging doesn't mean staying comfortable forever. Sometimes it means being invited into responsibility. Serving as an elder has been one of the most surprising and meaningful ways I've experienced that. Sitting in conversations about faith, leadership, and the future of the church have helped me understand that God doesn't wait for us to be "ready enough" before calling us. God invites us to lead while we're still learning.

Through all of these experiences, I've come to understand that belonging isn't about fitting into a role, it's about being faithful where God places you. And that place shifts as you grow. (continued on next page)

As I prepare to graduate and head into nursing school next year, I feel that shift happening again. Leaving DPC feels hard, because this is where I've been shaped. But I also feel God inviting me forward, into new spaces, new communities, and new ways of serving.

Nursing, to me, feels like an extension of everything I've learned here. It's about showing up when people are vulnerable. It's about listening, caring, and being present. I believe God is shaping a place for me where compassion matters, where healing is holy work, and where simply being there can make a difference. I don't know exactly what that will look like yet, but I trust that God does.

My sense of belonging has changed as I've grown. It used to mean having a seat at the table. Now, it means being willing to step into the unknown, knowing God goes with me. It means understanding that wherever love, service, and faith are present—that's where I belong.

Thank you for being my church family. Thank you for helping me discover where I belong—and for sending me out, trusting that God is still building something beautiful. Amen.



Kyle C.

Sometimes, what begins as a simple “yes” or “sure I'd love to help out”, can later become an invitation to something deeper. When I agreed to serve as a deacon, I recognized the good impact that they have on the community and the valuable experience I would gain through the role.

What I did not realize, was that God was working through that opportunity to grow a stronger sense of connection and belonging later down the road for me.

At first, I thought of being a deacon through the lens of another responsibility alongside work, athletics, and school – a way to help, so to speak. However, God often meets us in these simple acts of service and reveal the purpose they hold over time. Becoming a deacon has allowed me to connect with people I would have never met otherwise, and I cannot thank my parents enough for pushing me to take this role.

As I've grown older and experienced more, I've started to notice this profound presence that God has in my life even more. In times of hardship or uncertainty, he's helped me to slow down and be grateful for what is and not what could be. Whether it be an injury that ends my season or perhaps just a bad grade on a math test, God has helped me see through these struggles and grow as a person because of them. He's blessed me with friends and family that I can rely on, a community that I can call home, and the motivation to keep going no matter what knocks me down.

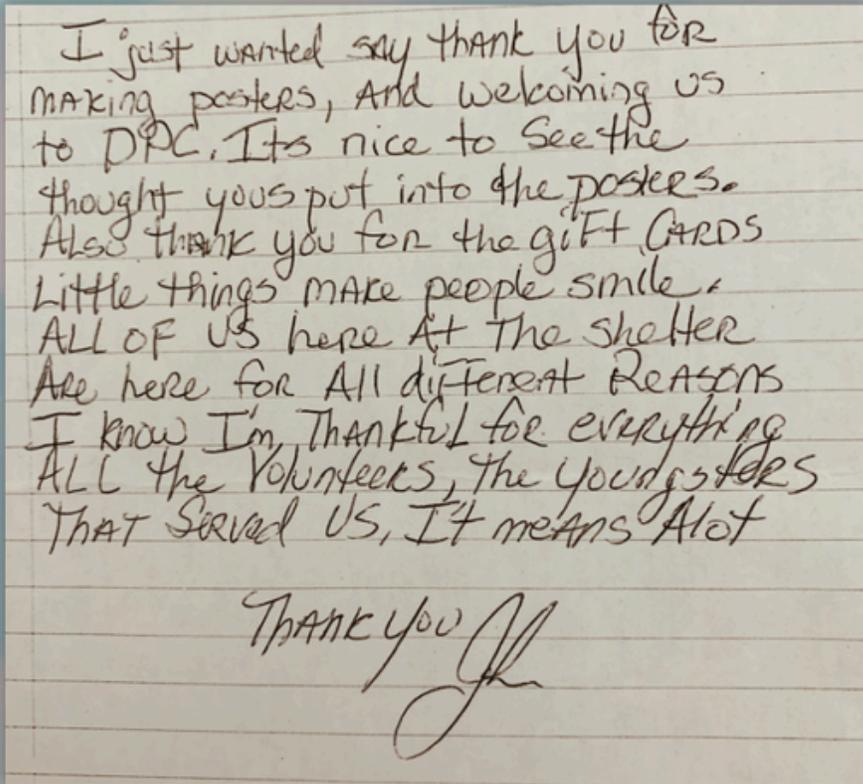
This powerful presence that God has in my life opened my eyes to see that success is not tied to personal achievement but rather the people and environment you decide to surround yourself in. My family, my church, and the teams I've been a part of throughout high school have shaped who I am as a person and let me grow without feeling like I had to “earn my place”. It showed me that belonging isn't about being perfect – it's about being present.

With that being said, I will admit I am definitely not the best at scheduling and planning around sports. However, whenever I get a text from Pastor Becca or Pastor Mac asking me to help out with something it fills me with sense of gratitude and belongingness. I realize that this is God's way of inviting me to serve my community and involve myself more. As I've grown, the meaning of “where you belong” has changed from something I never really thought about and just expected, to something that I yearn to understand more deeply.

Belonging now is different than the planned play-dates my mom used to set up for me in second grade, its more intentional, sometimes even uncomfortable. *(continued on next page)*

However, I know now that “Where I belong” isn’t where I feel most comfortable, but rather where God is calling me to be present. Beyond DPC, I believe God is shaping a place for me where I can combine the leadership I have learned by being a deacon, discipline that I have learned from wrestling, and the responsibility I have learned from being an older brother. I know I can dive headfirst into the next chapter of my life with people who I know will be there for me, and with the confidence that God is already present there ahead of time.

CODE BLUE *Thank you!*



It was a cold February here in Doylestown, which made the warm meals, warm shelter, and warm hearts that much more important as DPC hosted the Code Blue Shelter once again last month. Pictured here is a note from one of our grateful guests.

It reads:

I just wanted to say thank you for making posters, and welcoming us to DPC. It’s nice to see the thought you put into the posters. Also thank you for the gift cards. Little things make people smile. All of us here at the shelter are here for different reasons. I know I’m thankful for everything all the volunteers, the youngsters that served us. It means a lot.

Thank you,
John



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

