

Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter
August 2026



On Sunday, **August 23**, following worship in the sanctuary, DPC is having an **All-Church Backyard Block Party**!

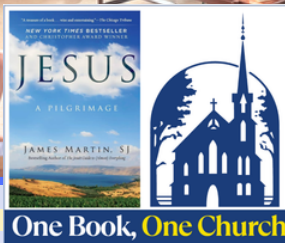
We're shutting down Mechanics Street for a few hours so we can be in community together, catch up with one another, and eat some great food! There will be games and music as well.

No RSVP is necessary. All ages and stages are welcome. Come to church in relaxed clothing and remember to wear your name badge!

The church will provide **Blooming Glen barbeque, drinks, and a surprise dessert**; gluten-free options will be available. We're asking those attending to **bring a favorite picnic side dish to be shared**. Dishes should be dropped off at the Celtic Cross Room kitchen between 9:00 and 9:20 am that Sunday morning, and should include a short description.

Let's end summer together with a DPC celebration. . .mark your calendar!

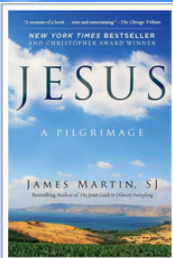
Volunteers for easy setup, event help, and cleanup are warmly welcomed!
To volunteer, visit bit.ly/dpcblockparty or scan this code:



One Book, One Church

This summer, **8 Growth Groups** are traveling through **Jesus: A Pilgrimage** by Fr. James Martin. It reads like a delightful travel log of his journeys to biblical sites and brings new light to familiar scriptures. Martin's companions were his fellow Jesuits and friends; ours are each other, gathered in our small groups.

On **Page 2**, you'll find more photos of our groups, as well as testimonials that illustrate how sharing in this journey has helped us come to know Christ, and those who walk that road with us. Also, you learn about the culmination of our summer study together with a very **special event**.



One Book, One Church

Testimonials



"Those of us DPCers living at Pine Run are very lucky to have our own Growth Group here and conducted by Becca. There are usually 10 of us and the discussions are very intelligent and especially interesting since 2 of us have visited the Holy Land."

This book has helped me to better understand the Gospels and Jesus and his place in my life." - **Susan Rork**

"What surprised me most about reading the book in a group was how every participant's background and experience enriched the discussion of Jesus' 'everyday' life on Earth."

- **Dwight Price**



"As our group shared our formative experiences of growing up with family, friends, and community, we were moved by considering that Jesus, the Son of God, lived an ordinary life, much as we have."

- **Marilyn Weichman**



"The author is down to earth, engaging, and I really enjoy his levity - even when crawling into a tomb! Being a part of a Growth Group has allowed me to hear other people's views. We come from all different backgrounds and different things they've done in their lives. I will absolutely look to join another group in the future." - **DeeDee Cox**



A note from the Adult Education Committee: As DPC members journeyed through this book, we noticed something. We were especially moved reading that journey through the eyes of a companion outside our own tradition, a Catholic priest, seeing Christ from a vantage point we don't often sit with. It left us with a question worth carrying further: how might we be further enriched by the vantage point of others walking this same journey — companions whose traditions differ from ours, but who have also spent a lifetime asking who Jesus is? What might they see that we don't?

Martin's pilgrimage ended when the book did. Ours doesn't have to.

DPC will be offering an **interdenominational dialogue** with clergy from around our area, moving from reading about companions to actually sitting with them. Think of it as the next leg of the pilgrimage: still asking the same question Jesus put to his own followers: "Who do you say that I am?" but now in the company of others who've spent their lives wrestling with that question in their own way.

Stay tuned for details and a save the date as this next leg takes shape, we're excited to see where the road leads.

Mac's Meanderings

Ghost Ranch: Process Over Product

I just returned from a week in Northern New Mexico and a place called Ghost Ranch (<https://www.ghostranch.org/>). Their mission? *Ghost Ranch stewards a place of great beauty to nurture the human spirit and mind, discover the sacred, and care for creation.* It is located 65 miles west of Santa Fe and is a 21,000-acre ranch owned by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

This was my fifth or sixth time there, but I hadn't been since the early 2000s when we lived in Arizona and our children were small. The ranch has an amazing history:

Species of dinosaur remains have been discovered there, Georgia O'Keeffe lived and painted there, and a ton of movies have been filmed there, including the 2023 Academy Award winner for Best Picture, *Oppenheimer*.

Beyond that history, today they offer all sorts of classes: from birding to preaching, from watercolors to poetry, from children's camp to wilderness first aid. The ranch has tons of hiking trails, communal meals, a labyrinth, a pool and lodging. I'm often amazed at how many Presbyterians have never heard of Ghost Ranch.

I used some of my continuing education time to take a Drawing Meditation class. This course interested me because I try to do a small drawing every morning as a part of my daily spiritual ritual and rhythm. Ever since I was a little kid I have liked to draw and sketch. What I loved about this class was it was more about process than product. Meaning the goal was not to have a polished drawing at the end of each day.

To the contrary, the goal was to become more aware of our body, mind and spirit, more aware of what we see and hear as our hands used charcoal, pencils, and pastels on paper. Through guided meditation, the instructor helped me notice my pace and where pressure resided in my body. She helped me be attentive to my breath and more thankful for the gift of my hands.

It confirmed to me that God often calls us to be more attentive to our human processes than end products. How we engage in the production of things can be more important than the result. I hope you'll think about where this applies in your life. Our following of Christ is a process that takes attention, time and curiosity. It is more about the journey than the end result.

On Wednesday, **September 30** from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in room 213, Katy and I will present a short forum on Ghost Ranch if you're interested in learning more. God uses places of retreat to restore and refresh us for our day to day life.

There is a quote from Lesley Poling-Kempes' book *Ghost Ranch* that I'd like to conclude with: *"It's difficult to talk about Ghost Ranch in a few words," a magazine editor once said, "You end up sounding like an advertisement for God and New Mexico. But then, maybe that's what Ghost Ranch really is."*

With Care,



Nominations for Ruling Elders and Deacons

The Nominating Committee will soon consider Deacon and Ruling Elder candidates to be elected in early February and begin their service in June of 2027.

We are looking for gifted individuals with strong faith and dedicated discipleship founded on their love and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our Deacons lead in ministries of compassion and witness and our Ruling Elders lead in the discernment of God's Spirit and the governance of God's people. The committee will be recommending members who seek the mind of Christ in all matters before us and represent the diversity of our congregation.

Your perceptions as to fellow members who possess such gifts are critical to the committee's work. If you have a recommendation of someone (including yourself), please complete this form and place it in the offering plate, drop off at the church office or contact

Deirdre Hally, moderator of the Nominating Committee, who can be reached at dpc@dtownpc.org "attn: nominating." The deadline for submitting nominations is **August 23**.

Candidate's name: _____

Candidate's Qualification and Attributes: _____

Examples of ways the candidate has shown leadership and/or faithful discipleship: _____

Additional comments: _____

Your name (optional): _____

Baptisms July 2026



The Shaw Family
July 5



The Yannarella Family
July 12

Financial Corner

Church Financial Update: June 2026

1. Budget

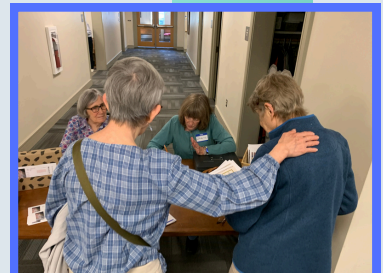
- **Total Income to Date (YTD):** \$820,523 (Budget: \$788,778)
- **Total Expenses to Date (YTD):** \$872,403 (Budget: \$865,362)

2. Ministry Impact

- Provided space for the Meals on Wheels volunteer luncheon
- Lots of spiritual formation and fellowship happened on campus in our Summer Spiritual Renewal 4-day event
- Gave thanks for a great program year at our congregational meeting

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.



WHAT'S happening AT



Friday Walk and Talk Group.

This ongoing fellowship group will continue to meet at Hanusey Park in Doylestown Friday mornings at 8:30 am. This is a perfect way to connect with friends or make new ones. No RSVP required. Just stop by!

DPC Moms Labyrinth Walk. Moms are invited to join Pastor Mac on Saturday, **August 8** at 8 am for a meditative labyrinth walk at the community labyrinth in town. We meet at corner of S. Pine Street and E. Ashland Street in the borough. Join fellow moms as we start our day in calm, reflective community together. This would be rain or shine, so come with umbrellas or rain gear, as needed!



Rising Nation River Journey 2026. Join with other DPC members in Frenchtown, NJ to witness the Signing of a Treaty of Renewed Friendship organized by the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania and supported by DPC's Matthew 25 Committee. This event only happens every four years. The significance is not just the two-week, 330-mile journey down the Delaware, it is also the signing of a treaty that marks the brotherhood between the Lenape Nation and the people living along the river. The festivities in Frenchtown on **August 9** go from 2 to 5 pm with the signing at 3 pm. DPC representatives will sign the treaty on behalf of the church, noting that we are a Matthew 25 and Earth Care congregation. This is an opportunity for families to participate in a very meaningful event.



Save Your Sneakers! DPC's Earth Care Committee invites you to donate old sneakers to keep them out of landfills. Sneakers can be dropped off in boxes located at the entrance to the sanctuary building inside the red doors and in the Andrews Hall lobby **September 6, 13, and 20**. Last year you donated 149 pairs - so let's challenge ourselves to beat that number! To Learn more, visit www.gotsneakers.com

WHAT'S *happening* AT

The Perennials of DPC invite you to two wonderful events this upcoming fall. For full details and to register today click the links below! **The registration deadline for both events is September 16.**



Fall Retreat. On **October 1**, at 12 pm, experience the wonder of **Grounds For Sculpture** in Hamilton, NJ followed by an **overnight stay at the Erdman Center at Princeton Theological Seminary** for social activities and board/card games, breakfast together, a service at the Seminary Chapel, and lunch with the seminarians. For pricing details and to register, visit bit.ly/dpc retreat2026



Winter Wonderland. On **November 10**, we travel in style by comfortable coach bus to the amazing **American Music Theatre** in Lancaster, PA. Be swept away by the magic of the Winter Wonderland production, which is sure to put us all in the holiday spirit! The cost is \$149/person which includes motor coach transportation, show ticket, lunch at Shady Maple Smorgasbord. The bus departs DPC at 9:15 AM and returns DPC at 7:00 PM. To register today, visit www.dtownnpc.org/winter-wonderland



MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION DAYS

From **August 17-20** DPC middle schoolers will once again be visiting various organizations to give back and get involved! Interim Youth Director Katy Schafer shares her thoughts about the deeper meaning behind this awesome week.

"I'm personally excited to spend this time with our DPC young teens...This week is not just about giving back to others (which our youth are so eager to do), it's also about the time spent together - leaders and kids working hard, following directions, enjoying idle chit chat, being playful, sharing lunch, and lingering over ice cream. Daily devotional and processing time helps reinforce the "why" of what we are doing to be Jesus' hands and feet in the world, and how these actions can change our hearts."

To learn more, turn to **Page 12** or to register your teen today visit www.dtownnpc.org/youth



It's AUGUST, the peak of summer and hot afternoons with a good book! This month, let our library bring books directly to you for enjoying under a shady tree or in your favorite beach chair. Choose a book from a vast selection curated by our very own librarians: Chill out this summer and treat yourself by checking out a book after Sunday service in the church yard!

Beat the heat with a cool book . . .

Save the Date - Sunday, September 6 for our Get the Scoop! Ice Cream Social in the Library 🍦

Music & The Arts

Journeying Hymn Stories: This is My Story!

This is My Song! If you missed the first two weeks of this unique musical education offering, it's ok! Each class stands alone. Join Rev. Dr. Mina Choi as she examines classic hymns, recent ones, and the writers behind them. Class meets this Sunday **August 2 and August 9** at 10:45 am in the sanctuary.



Summer Choir continues! Just arrive in the sanctuary by 9 am on Sundays throughout the summer season to learn a simple anthem to be sung during the 9:30 am service. No experience needed! Childcare is available.

Hymn Sing! Two more chances to enjoy a fun, energetic hymn sing before the start of worship! **August 9, and September 6!**

Spring Workshop and Concert. DPC is thrilled to welcome composer Karen Marroli who will lead a weekend-long event on **May 22 and May 23, 2027**. Mark your calendar! If you'd like to learn more or be alerted when signups open next year, visit www.dtownpc.org/marrolli to be added to the alert list.

Save the date: October 16!

Wine & the Word

What can a farm teach us about faith? Jesus used this imagery regularly and can leave some of us scratching our heads.

Join in for an evening exploring wine through the lens of agriculture, scripture, and community featuring **Dr. Nate Stucky**, founder of Princeton Seminary's Farminary ("farm" + "Seminary") where theology grows literally out of the soil.



We will showcase 4 different wines that you can get in your local stores at a variety of price points (because we hope you might buy one of the wines again and share this wonderful experience with a friend as a faith conversation.) Non-alcoholic options will be available.

Expect rich conversation on creation, a fresh look at wine's sacred place in biblical tradition, and an evening that lingers with you long after the last glass. Come thirsty - for good wine, good company, and a story worth savoring.

October 16, 2026, at a nearby venue. Cost is \$25 per person. Max of 50 people. Doors open at 5, event from 5:30-7:30.

Details about location and transportation will be released upon sign up.

D P C MISSION

School Supplies Collection

The conference room in the Church Office is already **bursting** with your generous donations of school supplies and backpacks for Bethel Presbyterian and Hunting Park Christian Academy, two of our Philadelphia mission partners. The list of needs is already filled!

Please remember to bring your items to the collection boxes in the Andrews Hall vestibule. Return date is **August 7**. Thank you to all who have participated!

Your donations so far!



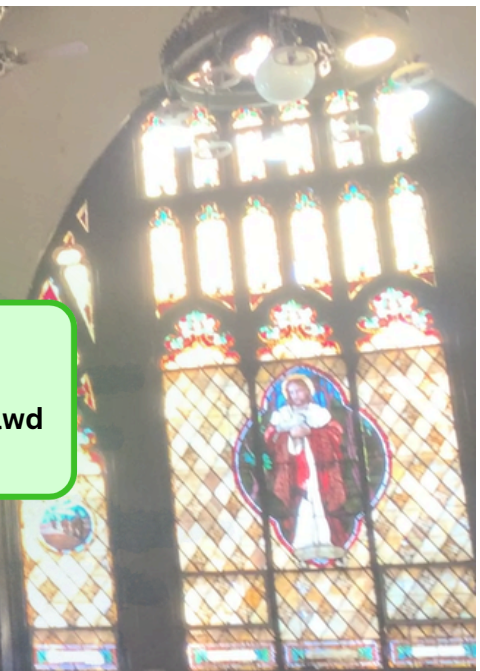
HANDS ON *at Bethel*



Bethel Presbyterian Church needs volunteers to help with surface preparation and painting of the exterior woodwork of their beautiful stained glass windows. Much of the work will involve ladders and scaffolding, including help with setting up and taking down the scaffolding. Some outside ground-level jobs and inside work are also needed. When you sign up, please indicate if you can do "scaffolding" or "ground-level" work in Comments.

Dates include **August 8, 18, and 22**. This is an excellent opportunity to help Bethel repair their historic physical building so the congregation is able to continue to increase their ministry to their community.

CLICK HERE
or visit
bit.ly/bethelwd
to sign up!



DPC MISSION

Fellowship and **FOOD**

On **August 16**, our **Community Meal** begins at 11 am in Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to get involved in this month's meal, visit bit.ly/DPC-CM to sign up to volunteer—or just stop by for lunch!

That same Sunday, please drive by under the Bridge and drop off your nonperishable food donations for the Bucks County Housing Group's Pantry. No sign up needed. In July, we donated **465 pounds**. Thank you for helping our neighbors! For the August collection, in addition to canned goods, BCHG could use coffee (ground and instant), condiments (especially ketchup) and salad dressings, toiletries, soap, paper products, and laundry detergent.



Caring
for Friends™



In July, at our third Tuesday Caring for Friends packing, **11 volunteers** assembled **102 meals** from casseroles, vegetables, and side dishes made by members of our congregation. We welcome new volunteers--our next packing date is **August 18**.



To make an appointment today,
scan this code



**Red Cross
Blood Drive**
August 26
12 pm - 6 pm
at DPC



The American Red Cross will be in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **August 26**, from 12-6 pm. Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> and after choosing the date, enter 18901 for Doylestown in the location bar. Schedule now and sign up to give the gift of life!

Meet the NEW MEMBERS

Katy Gregory



Katy grew up in Bucks County, and graduated from CB South. After that, she bounced around New York and New Jersey and spent the last seven years in Buffalo working as a federal prosecutor. A single mother of two children, Katy now lives with her parents, while working as an attorney in Philadelphia. Katy loves gardening (especially native plants). She has been a Master Gardener since 2023 and is a volunteer with the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Buffalo. She raises monarch butterflies each summer and brought her mason bees with her from New York when she relocated to Pennsylvania.

Skye Schafer



Skye is the youngest child of Pastor Mac Schafer and his wife Katy. He is entering his senior year at James Madison University (JMU) in Virginia, where he is studying business. Skye is part of the ROTC program at JMU and will serve in the Army following his college graduation.



INQUIRERS' CLASS

Interested in joining DPC? The next Inquirers' Class is **Sept. 6 and joining Sept. 20!**

Visit www.dtownpc.org/membership to learn more and register today!



September 13

DPC's Sunday worship schedule returns to two services.

8:30 and 10:30 am

with livestream available for the later service.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Children's Worship Time

Our Book Club is going strong! The kids are loving it and having fun building forts and reading by flashlight. Book Club continues through the month of August.



Summer Camp, July 6-9

Children age 4 through 6th grade journeyed to the Wild West and explored bible stories that emphasized the key verse of the week: John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory.* The mornings included Music, Art, Games, Mission, Storytelling and Snack. In Mission, kids made 95+ cards that were put at each place setting at the July Community Meal and made cards that were sent to homebound DPC members. Each day children were asked, "Where Have You Seen God Today?" and they were ready with their answers! The children were delighted on Thursday to see a giant inflatable obstacle course for their Game time.

ActingUp! took place in the afternoon, and throughout the week, the kids learned basic acting techniques, built confidence, explored improvisation, and brought their creativity to life. On our final day, the kids presented a special showcase featuring a scene and song from the beloved Broadway musical *Godspell*.



July 22

Wednesday Club kids (2nd-5th graders) met at the labyrinth, painted and left inspirational rocks, then walked to Annie's Water Ice for a cold treat. It was a great time to connect and see how everyone's summer is going.

Family Fellowship Get Together. At the same time families of young children gathered at the Burpee Park Pavilion for popsicles and games. Everyone was encouraged to bring dinner and stay for more fun and fellowship.



LOOKING AHEAD...

August 9

- Communion, CWT will return early to worship



August 23

- Blessing of the backpacks, rescheduled date
- All Church Block Party!



August 29

- All DPC Event - Iron Pigs game, 6:35 pm start time



August 30

- Fall Program Round Up, all age leaders!



SAVE THE DATE!

September 6, Kids in Worship "Training"

Kids and their grown-ups invited to meet at the back of the sanctuary after 9:30 worship for an introduction to ushering, greeting, lay leading and being an acolyte. Lay leaders must be grade 3 or higher and acolytes in grades 4 and 5. RSVP to let us know you're interested CandiY@dtownpc.org. Can't make it, still let us know.

YOUTH MINISTRY



LOOKING BACK

Pop-Tarts in the Parlor!

Stop by any time between 9 and 9:29 am Sunday mornings for a Pop-Tart and check-in with a youth leader. We want to know how your summer is going. What flavor do you think this is??



Summer Singing

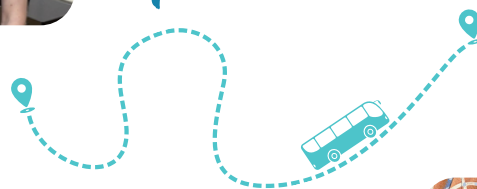
All youth grade 6 and up invited to sing in the choir with no commitment. Meet in the sanctuary at 9 am for a quick rehearsal. It's a fun, casual way to share your musical gifts with the congregation.

Summer Camp

Some youth were spotted helping out in various places during VBS. The incoming sixth graders shared some special time on the pottery wheel with Pastor Mac, helped to serve snack and wherever else they were needed. We had others in Art, Games and as Crew Leaders.



Thank you



WHAT'S COMING UP?

Montreat Summer Youth Trip August 1-8

Please pray for the 12 youth and 4 leaders heading to Montreat, NC for a retreat where they will explore how God calls each of us to be a new creation in Jesus Christ and to live a life of service and faith. They are excited to share their experiences and a lot of pictures when they get back!

Hosting the Community Meal August 16

Youth in grades 6-12 invited to help set up tables and serve lunch. This would be a great way to kick off the Middle School Mission Days. You do not need to participate in Middle School Mission Days to help at the Community Meal. Katy would love to see you at one or both events! Email Katy at KatyS@dtownnpc.org to reserve your spot!

Middle School Mission Days August 17-20

All 6-8th graders invited to join us for a meaningful few days of volunteer work in ours and surrounding communities. The cost is \$30, which includes a sweet treat and time to debrief each afternoon. Scholarships available. Email Katy Schafer with questions (KatyS@dtownnpc.org). Register at dtownnpc.org/youth/.



Ministry in Motion!

Usher Brian Rawlings offers the giving plate to Lillian, granddaughter of Deirdre Hally at a recent worship service.



Tables at the July edition of DPC's monthly Community Meal was enhanced by the beautiful cards made by our VBS kids!



Scottish Communion honored our denomination's Scottish heritage, while we also celebrated all of our various cultures. All enjoyed shortbread in the churchyard, music from our Chancel Choir and Philadelphia & District Pipe Band, and a wonderful job by this year's scripture bearer, Logan.



Ministry in Motion!

We invite you take a look back at DPC's **Wild West Summer Camp**. It was a time of learning, growing, showing compassion, and so much more. Thank you so much to all our campers and leaders for an unforgettable experience!

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch a recap video of the week!



Here we see Marne Dietterich reading one of the cards made by the children for our homebound members.



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

