

Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter
September 2026

Welcome Eric Gillette DPC's New Youth Director

After starting August 24, Eric had an eventful first week at DPC: meeting staff and getting ready to kick off the program year. He was thrilled to meet many of you following worship on August 30. Eric is finishing Masters of Divinity and Masters of Christian Education dual program at Princeton Seminary, lives in Princeton with wife and son, and is currently a research assistant for the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Seminary.

To learn more about Eric, visit www.dtownnpc.org/eric. He will typically be in the office Tuesdays during the week and of course on campus on Sunday nights. Be sure to say hello!



"Hey y'all, I am so excited to be working here at DPC as the youth director. I'm currently in my last year of seminary and have many years of experience working alongside youth in a variety of roles. I am from West Texas, graduated from Texas Tech University, and love to watch football of any kind (Go birds). I look forward to getting to meet everyone and am planning for a great fall semester with our youth!" -Eric, Director of Youth Ministry



DPC's 2026-2027 Program Year begins!

September 13

DPC moves to two worship services at **8:30 and 10:30 am**.

Education Hour, in between services, offers classes and fellowship for children, middle schoolers, youth, and adults.

See **Page 2** for more details.

Wednesday Club, Celebration Choir and Sunshine Singers get started on **September 9!**

Youth Group and Youth Choir kick off on **September 13!**

To learn more about offerings for Children and Youth, check out **Pages 14 and 15**.



Many Growth Groups are about to get started for the Fall season.

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



Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 resumes on **September 13**



Sunday Mornings at DPC!

Classes for children and adults kick off Sunday, **September 13** between 8:30 and 10:30 worship! Coffee and fellowship on the bridge after each service.



On **September 13**, DPC returns to our two worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 am.

We also kick off Sunday education hour [for children](#) and [adults](#) between services (9:30-10:15). Children's Worship Time (CWT) for young children, CWT+ for older elementary school-aged kids is available during the 10:30 service.

We are excited to once again offer Sunday morning [adult classes](#):

- **The Word Among Us:** 9:15 am, AH-213, where participants study and appreciate the beauty of Scripture and how we can use it in our own devotional times with God. Led by Dick Cornelius and Margaret Thoresen.
- **Good News and Other News:** 9:30 am, DPC Library, where current events are discussed while reflecting upon the story from the perspective of faith. Led by Christo Claassens, Jenny Danzis, Ken Johnson, and Jay Stough.
- **How Are You (Really)? Prayer Practices, Parenting, and More:** 9:30 am, AH-209. Whether you are a grownup who has dropped off their kid for Sunday School or looking for rhythm in your weekly life, come enjoy this new offering. It will be a time to check in and share, lift one another up in prayer, and center on a brief spiritual practice of prayer or scripture. Led by Lindsay Shull & Art Shull.

Mac's Meanderings

Doylestown Hospital and Visiting You!

September Greetings All! One of the things I have absolutely loved about being in Doylestown is how close the hospital is to the church and how easy it is to visit DPC members there. When I was pastor in Raleigh, NC for 15 years our church members could be at any number of hospitals around the city. Sometimes it was hard to find folks.

The Doylestown Hospital pastoral care office is amazing. The Reverend Maggie Ainslie does a fantastic job with the chaplaincy program there and assisting ministers like Becca and myself when it comes to visiting church members.

Just so you know, Becca goes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I go on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and Margaret Thoresen, our Parish Visitor, does a lot of her care via the phone. Deacons sometime bring flowers on Sunday. For my first year-and-a-half here, the pastoral care office had excellent records of patients' denominational affiliation and specific church. Becca and I could walk into the pastoral care office (as "official volunteers" at the hospital) and find out which of our members were there. Easy peasy.

It is no longer "easy peasy." As some of you know, with the change to Penn Medicine, Doylestown Hospital has a new database system. In the transfer to this new system, they no longer have records of your denominational affiliation and what church you belong to. When you check into the hospital, volunteers are supposed to collect religious information if you choose to give it to them, but sometimes it gets missed. Needless to say, it could take years to build back the database with religious affiliation information.

I share all this because it has become more important than ever for you to let your pastors know when you are going to have a procedure or you're in the hospital. I realize some of you are very private about your health and don't want attention while going through something. But many of you really do appreciate having us come and pray with you and a family member before, during, or after a procedure. We can only do that if we know what's going on and where you are.

One final note: we take your privacy very seriously and so does the Doylestown Hospital pastoral care office. HIPAA laws are very important. So please know we have a high regard for confidentiality. We also are happy to visit you if you are in hospitals farther away (i.e. Pine Run Health Center, Lansdale Hospital, etc.) We consider it a great privilege to be able to walk along side you in difficult times.



With Care,

Looking for an easy way to alert your pastors of life news - or simply to log your online attendance? Learn more about DPC's **Digital Connect Card** on **Page 4**

Connect with DPC

As Pastor Mac addressed in this month's *Meanderings* (on Page 2), letting your pastors know about important moments in your life ensures that you will receive the pastoral care that might help you along your journey. This can include:

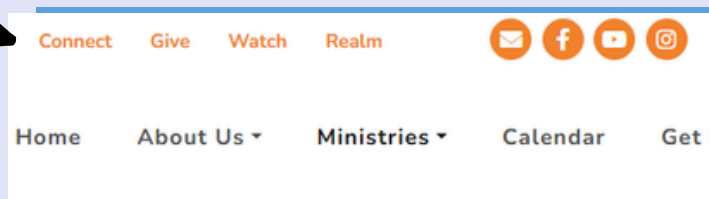
- **Sharing a joy** (like the birth of a new child or grandchild)
- **Sharing a concern** (like news of illness, or an upcoming surgical procedure or hospital stay)

You can call or email the pastors directly - or call the church office (215-348-3531) - but a very simple way to reach out is through [DPC's Digital Connect Card](#).

This is also the place to log your online attendance after watching the worship service via livestream.

There are three ways to access this card online:

Website: Head to www.dtownpc.org and click the orange word **"Connect"** at the top of the screen.



Email: Open the weekly worship preview email from DPC (sent each Friday at 4 pm) and click the button that reads **"Connect with Us"**



Bulletin: In the "Worship Notes" section, scan the QR code or follow the instructions in the note titled **"Let's Connect!"**

Let's Connect! Do you have a Prayer Request? Would you like to share a joy or concern with the pastors, or other members of your DPC family? We want to hear from you! Visit www.dtownpc.org and click "Connect" at the top of the page to contact us or scan this QR code with your smart phone camera. This is also the place to learn more about our various ministries, programs, mission efforts and the many ways that you can get involved.



Spirit
open my
Heart
2027 Generosity Campaign

From **September 27 to November 1** the DPC Generosity Committee will be encouraging each of us to go on a spiritual journey as we consider God's call in relation to our resources. You will be receiving an invitation to this journey the last week of September.



August Session Update



The Session had their stated meeting on Monday, August 24. The following took place:

- Bridging the Spectrum co-leaders, Judy Chang Cody and Brynne Hunter, presented to Session. Bridging the Spectrum is a group focused on exploring what it means to be a welcoming and inclusive church for friends of the LGBTQ+ community. The group offers space for participants to share with one another and engage topics that affect this community. Friends and allies are welcome. Judy and Brynne shared what the group did last year and what it hopes to do in the future. Session is discerning with Bridging the Spectrum what type of group they will be moving forward.
- Session approved:
 - The Library Committee request to host children's author Andrew Rosenbaum at a November 22 event.
 - A Finance Committee recommendation to "pass the offering plate" at 8:30 am worship service beginning on September 13.
 - Making Scouting Troop 24 Boys and Troop 24 Girls into a single "Troop 24." This will help with the number of volunteers needed for certain leadership positions.

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



Church Financial Update: July 2026

1. Budget

- **Total Income to Date (YTD):** \$981,094 (Budget: \$916,515)
- **Total Expenses to Date (YTD):** \$983,578 (Budget: \$995,229)

2. Ministry Impact

- Summer Camp (aka Vacation Bible School) for kids age 4 to 5th grade was full of energy and excitement.
- The Bag Piper group added a special element to worship on Scottish Communion along with a special treat of shortbread during fellowship time.
- Masonry work continued and repairs were made to the sidewalk to keep our facility looking its best.

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.*



The refurbished
datestone near the
Church St. doors



In August, 12 awesome DPC Youth and leaders spent the week at the Montreat Youth Conference exploring what it means to Wonder and Wander as part of their faith journey.

To hear how the youth described their experience during worship [click here](#).

For a fun recap video and lots more photos visit www.dtownpc.org/montreat

6-8TH GRADERS MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION DAYS



Middle School Mission Days allowed children to show their compassion for others as they volunteered at several locations, both locally and beyond, including Pine Run, Bethel Presbyterian Church, Hunting Park Christian Academy, and at DPC with Caring For Friends. To see a full recap video of their journey [CLICK HERE!](#)



Thanks to all of your energy and enthusiasm, DPC's All Church Backyard Block Party on Aug. 23 was a perfect end of summer celebration. From planning, to setup, to serving, to cleanup – many hands make easy work -- and many, MANY side dishes prepared and brought by all of you. Good food, great times, and special memories. Thank you to all who made this event so fun.



To see the full photo gallery and recap video visit www.dtownnpc.org/blockparty



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



WHAT'S happening

AT



Back to School Moms Brunch on the Bridge!

Wednesday, **September 2**, 9:30-11 am.

The kids should all be at school, heading back to school, or almost there, so come and join other moms to celebrate this new season if you are able! We'll start AND finish conversations with other adults and enjoy warm cups of coffee together. Childcare available in the nursery.



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!

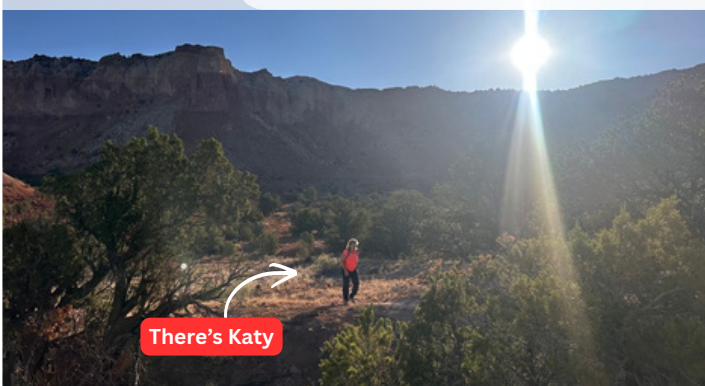


Save Your Sneakers! DPC's Earth Care Committee invites you to donate old sneakers to keep them out of landfills. Sneakers can be dropped off in boxes located at the entrance to the sanctuary building inside the red doors and in the Andrews Hall lobby **September 6, 13, and 20**. Last year you donated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

To learn more, visit www.gotsneakers.com

Learn about Ghost Ranch

You are invited to join Katy and Mac Schafer for a presentation on **Ghost Ranch** on Wednesday, **September 30** at 5:30 pm in Andrews Hall Room 213. Ghost Ranch is a Presbyterian Church (USA) property and treasure. This camp and conference center welcomes people all year for educational opportunities, retreat, reflection, rest and recreation. The ranch has hiking trails, a dinosaur museum, a labyrinth, art and spiritual classes, tremendous meals, a pool, horseback riding and more. Join us as we share our photos and experiences and gauging interest in a future a DPC retreat in this magical southwestern oasis. Interested in learning more? Check out their website: www.ghost ranch.org



WHAT'S happening AT



On **October 4**, we gather with our friends at Second Baptist Church of Doylestown for a special time of lunch and discussion to continue our relationship as neighbors in Christ and foster meaningful discussion about an important topic explored in the film *Jesus Was a Migrant*.

We join at 12:00 pm at Second Baptist Church of Doylestown, located at 6055 Swamp Road. This gathering is sponsored by DPC's Matthew 25 Subcommittee and SBCOD's Christ and Cultural Humility Program. There is no cost to attend. A free-will offering will be received.

From the filmmakers: *"The film deals with the lived experiences of migrants and asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border. Some of what you will see and hear is difficult."*

Following the screening, we will engage in a faith-based conversation touching on several of the central questions posed by the filmmakers, including: ***If Jesus cared for the foreigner, how should His followers respond today?***

**CLICK HERE
to Register**



Library Nook



Meet Donna Line, avid reader and regular patron of our church library. In her volunteer role, Donna is moderator of DPC's Visual Arts Committee, and active on the Mission Committee, but in her downtime, she can be seen reading a book she selected from one of our shelves. She says, "I lean toward reading historical fiction and recently,

I've been drawn to the new **Shelf Talkers** in the library where members shine a light on books they've recommended. They're helpful in calling attention to books I may have otherwise missed!" As Donna does so often, come visit our library and see why she is a regular patron, and why Shelf Talkers are attracting readers of all interests, too!



Come Get the Scoop at the DPC Library!

Sept. 6 at 10:30 am



Get the Scoop at the DPC Library! Join us after 9:30 am worship on **September 6**, and see what's new and exciting in DPC's Library! Come enjoy a cup of ice cream, take part in a children's project, browse the shelves, or take a moment to celebrate the space that is more than a library: it's open every day to enjoy a coffee, visit with friends, play a game, or look for your next read.

Come scope out puzzles galore, new book acquisitions, cards for writing notes of kindness, and an exhibit focused on Pastor Mac's recommendations: there's something for everyone! Your library is more than just books; it's your free trip to everywhere!

Music & The Arts



New Choir Robes! For the first time in decades, the DPC Chancel Choir will be wearing brand new robes (try to guess the color)! Be sure to come to worship on **September 13** at 10:30 for the great unveiling!

Interested in joining the Chancel Choir? Rehearsals are every Thursday from 7-9 pm beginning **September 10**. Reach out to Jason Moore, Director of Music & the Arts at jasonm@dtownpc.org to learn more.

Hymn Sing! One more chance to enjoy a fun, energetic hymn sing before the start of worship on **September 6!**



We are all ready to Celebrate the Arts in 2026-2027! The concert series is set and the visual art display schedule is ready! Keep watch in your mailbox for the full brochure or check out

www.dtownpc.org/cta today!

Spring Workshop and Concert. DPC is thrilled to welcome composer Karen Marrolli 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.



Get your Tickets today!

Wine & the Word - October 16

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. You must register and pay in advance to secure your spot. Please use the link below to sign up and then drop off the payment either in the offering plate or at the church office. [CLICK HERE to get your tickets!](#)

DPC MISSION

Visit with Our Mission Partner Friends of PEB

The mission statement of the Friends of PEB is: Transforming lives in Pakistan through supporting Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) schools to provide inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education.

Cheryl Burke, their Executive Director, and Veda Gill, their Missions Representative, will be visiting with us on **September 27** during the Education Hour starting at 9:30 am in the Celtic Cross Room to give us information on what projects and scholarships the Friends of PEB are supporting with donated mission dollars.

Adults and youth are invited to learn about the history of schools in Pakistan, the long-standing involvement of Presbyterians in education in Pakistan, and how the system is different from the American experience.

A PARTNERSHIP WITH PURPOSE!

Friends of PEB has a long-standing record of transparency, accountability, and lasting impact, partnering with communities in Pakistan for over 17 years to expand access to quality education.

18
Building Projects Done

25
Current Schools

3,100+
Scholarships Given

88%
Graduation Rate

Source: friendsofpeb.org

School Supplies Collection

In August, DPC collected school supplies for Bethel Presbyterian Church and Hunting Park Christian Academy, two of our Philadelphia mission partners. Many thanks to our generous donors as we exceeded our goals and even had funds left over for general donations. HPCA donations were brought down with the Middle Schoolers during their August week of Mission service, and Bethel donations were brought down with the work crews for the Bethel hands-on exterior and interior renovations and the Thursday neighbor food distribution.



WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is sponsoring on **World Communion Sunday (October 4)** a Special Offering in support of causes including the environment, gun violence prevention and response, human trafficking, hunger, poverty, reproductive rights, racial equity, LGBTQIA+ ministries, women's ministries, global ecumenical liaisons in national and international mission, and relations with other churches and faith traditions. Dedicated envelopes will be available in the pew holders beginning **September 27**.



Red Cross Blood Drive at DPC
35 amazing donors gave blood
during the American Red Cross
Blood Drive on Wednesday,
August 26. We look forward to
seeing you again on **December 30**,
from 12 – 6 pm. Thank you for
giving the gift of life!

DPC MISSION

Fellowship and **FOOD**

On **September 20**, our **Community Meal** in Fellowship Hall goes back to the school year start time of 12 noon, following the end of our second worship service. If you'd like to get involved with bringing food or helping serve for this month's meal, visit bit.ly/DPC-CM to sign up to volunteer—or just stop by for lunch!



An awesome group of DPC Youth helped out at the August Community Meal!



That same Sunday, please drive by under the Bridge and drop off your nonperishable **food donations** for local food pantries. No sign up needed. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need! The **August collection** was divided between Bethel Presbyterian for their Thursday food bag distributions (**200 pounds** of canned goods), and the remaining **300 pounds** was donated to the Bucks County Housing Group's Pantry. We continue to have requests from clients especially for coffee and tea, condiments (like ketchup and mayonnaise) juices, nuts and dried fruit, paper products, and personal care and toiletry items.

500 Pounds of Food
Donated during
August Food Drive!



In August, at our third Tuesday **Caring for Friends** packing, **18** enthusiastic and energetic Middle Schoolers packed **181 meals** (as part of DPC's Middle School Mission Week). They assembled meals of casseroles (six of which they contributed), vegetables, and side dishes made by members of our congregation. We welcome new volunteers--our next packing date is **September 22**.



Pic Stitch

Happy 5 Years
at DPC!



Congratulations to Pastor Becca Bateman and Jason Moore, Director of Music & the Arts, who both began here at DPC 5 years ago this month!



New Member BBQ



On Friday, August 17, 45 people gathered at Mac & Katy Schafer's house for a Friday evening of fellowship. 35 people were new members and 10 were Membership Committee members and spouses. New members brought delicious side dishes, the Membership Committee brought dessert, and Pastor Mac grilled chicken, sausage and veggie burgers!



INQUIRERS' CLASS

Are you or someone you know interested in joining DPC? The next Inquirers' Class is **September 6, joining September 20!**

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

Looking back at August...

- CWT continued their Summer Book Club series, including a trip to the library.
- Children were invited to bring their backpacks to church to receive a blessing and a tag.
- We had the perfect day to eat, run and play at the All Church Block Party!



Children's Ministry

[Click HERE!](#)

For a printable brochure with the full children's schedule and details about all offerings.

You can sign up anytime at www.dtownnpc.org/children-family

Looking ahead to the Fall...

Children's Ministry & Nursery Offered Sunday Mornings

Infants 9 months-2 yrs AND 2 yrs-PreK
K-Second Grade
Third-Fifth Grade

All beginning September 13

Children's Choir & Fellowship Offered Wednesdays

Sunshine Singers (age 4 to 1st Grade)
Celebration Choir (Grades 2-5)
Wednesday Club (Grades 2-5)

All beginning September 9



YOUTH MINISTRIES



A LOOK AHEAD TO THE FALL...

DPC's Youth Ministry offers our next generation of young leaders ways to bond, to help others through mission efforts, and to enhance our worship experience.

Fall Program Begins September 13!

Sunday School for 6-8th Grade in Room AH-202 (9:30-10:15 am)

Pop-Tarts in the Parlor for Grades 9-12 (9:30-10:15 am)

Middle School Youth Group in the Celtic Cross Room (4:15-5 pm)

Youth Choir & Bells in the Choir Room (5-5:45 pm)

Dinner all together in the Celtic Cross Room (5:45-6:15 pm)

High School Youth Group in the Celtic Cross Room (6:15-7 pm)

Confirmation begins September 27!

For details and to sign up visit www.dtownnpc.org/youth.



A LOOK BACK AT AUGUST...

August was a busy month for our youth! Check out **Page 6** in this newsletter for pictures and recap videos of the high school trip to Montreat, NC and Middle School Mission Week.



Click [HERE!](#)

To see the complete DPC Youth Schedule and Handbook!



We are so thrilled to have Eric Gillette here as DPC's new Director of Youth Ministry! Check out **Page 1** in this newsletter to hear from Eric directly and be sure to visit www.dtownnpc.org/eric for a more in-depth look at Eric's experience and career.

Ministry in Motion!

This summer DPC took over TWO ballparks! In July a great crew saw the Phillies take on the Yankees, and in August a group enjoyed some minor league action at the home of the Ironpigs in Allentown.

DPC members were proud to join with others in Frenchtown on August 9 to sign a Treaty of Renewed Friendship organized by the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania. The gathering in the small Upper Bucks community was just one stop on The Rising Nation River Journey – a two-week, 330-mile journey down the Delaware, that happens only once every four years. The treaty is about collaborating with conscientious community organizations and individuals to work toward common goals of Lenapehonk Indigenous Awareness and Environmental Stewardship.



The DPC Moms Group shared a spiritually enriching morning with Pastor Mac experiencing the Community Labyrinth in Doylestown on August 8.



DPC hosted a work crew from Walkill Reformed Church, located in Walkill, NY, August 3 through August 8. They came to this area to work with Bucks County Habitat for Humanity and needed a place to stay overnight and have access to a kitchen for meals. The leader of the workgroup is the brother of Tom Haldeman and a former member of DPC.



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

