

Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter
October 2026



For all you need to know about DPC's **2027 Generosity Campaign "Spirit, Open My Heart,"** see **pages 3-4** as we journey together toward **Gratitude Sunday, Nov. 1.**

BETHEL COAT DRIVE

OCTOBER 18 -
NOVEMBER 9

It's time to collect new and very gently used children's and adults' warm winter coats for Bethel Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. We need children's coats in all sizes (18 months, 2T, 4 through 16). If you plan to donate NEW larger-sized coats, please use the sign up at bit.ly/BPC-Coats to designate which size you are purchasing.

New hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves, as well as socks (children's, women's, and men's), are also welcome. We encourage you to drop off donations in the marked bins at the Andrews Hall entrance. Coats should be brought in **by Monday, November 9.**



560 Coats were donated by DPC members and delivered to Bethel Presbyterian Church in the annual drive headed up by the Arnold Family last year. Let's see if we can top that number this year!

DPC has some unique events this month. Learn more inside!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 11

Outdoor worship at 8:30

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Wine & THE WORD

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With Nate Stucky of the Princeton Farminary

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FOUR-HANDS PIANO CONCERT

October 18

featuring José Meléndez & Ting Ting Wong

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Mac's Meanderings

Primary & Secondary Imagination

In September, Pastor Becca and I preached a four-part sermon series on the question, "Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?"

This is a question normally answered by those being ordained and installed as elder and deacon. I reminded the congregation that it's a good question for all of us to answer, especially as we enter a new fall season of ministry.

I wanted to reiterate one thing, in this space, from my imagination sermon in Sunday, September 20th. I talked about Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He was an English poet, literary critic, philosopher, and theologian who lived from 1772 to 1834. He was very interested in the imagination. He believed in a primary and a secondary imagination:

- **Primary imagination** is seeing God at work in the world.
- **Secondary imagination** is taking that experience with God and sharing it with others in artistic ways that draw them in.

What Coleridge is talking about here is a real spiritual practice. It requires listening and paying attention to what's happening around you and not just moving onto the next thing. Then, once you've noticed God, you need to take the time to communicate that experience in a creative way to someone else. In doing this we help others to experience the reality of God's work in the world.



One of the ways we can wake up to all that God is doing is to pray the prayer that we are singing each week in worship: *Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart. God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.* (Glory to God Hymnal #692)



With Care,



To hear our wonderful Chancel Choir sing the chorus, click this photo!



Spirit open my Heart



2027 Generosity Campaign

*"For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."*

MATTHEW 6:21

Come celebrate
God's faithfulness on
Gratitude Sunday:

Sunday, November 1
8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.
DPC Sanctuary

A Spiritual Journey

God invites you to **open your heart** more fully to love and grace. Over the next several weeks, you will receive spiritual reflections and resources to guide you on a journey of prayer, gratitude, and discernment.

God welcomes you to pause each day to listen, recognize blessings, and prayerfully consider how you are being called to respond with a generous, grateful heart through the church.

To easily refer back to all of
this information
and more, visit
www.dtownpc.org/spirit



Campaign Snapshot

Campaign Metric	2027 Giving Goal	2026 Results
Total Pledged	\$1,500,000	\$1,377,291
Number of Pledges	275	264
Participant Rate	50%	47%
Average Pledge	\$5,454	\$5,217
Median Pledge	TBD	\$3,000
Time & Talent Pledges	165	149

A Suggested Giving Pathway

As you grow in your discipleship, consider this pathway of gratitude.

Exploring Giver

Begin to give a
certain amount
regularly.

Growing Giver

Plan what
percentage of your
income to give.

Intentional Giver

Increase the
percentage of your
income, moving
towards 10%.

Deepening Giver

Begin to tithe
(giving 10% of your
income).

Pinnacle Giver

Step above and
beyond the tithe!

Spirit open my Heart

2027 Generosity Campaign



As you prayerfully consider making your 2027 Estimate of Giving to DPC, think about proportional giving (10%, 5%, 2.5%, etc.) based on your weekly and/or annual income. This allows you to gift a percentage of God's resources, and if led to, faithfully increase your giving.

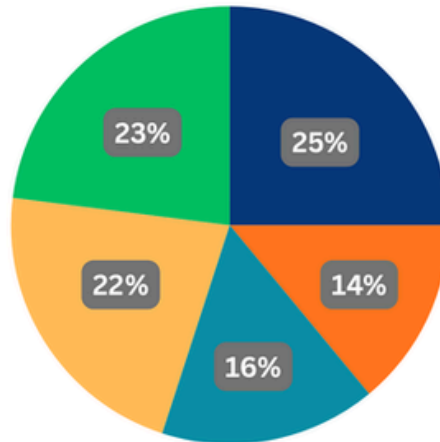
Weekly Income	2.5%	5%	10%
\$675	\$17	\$34	\$68
\$960	\$24	\$48	\$96
\$1,443	\$36	\$72	\$144
\$1,925	\$48	\$97	\$193
\$2,400	\$60	\$120	\$240
\$2,850	\$72	\$143	\$285
\$3,850	\$96	\$193	\$385

Annual Income	2.5%	5%	10%
\$35,000	\$875	\$1,750	\$3,500
\$50,000	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000
\$75,000	\$1,875	\$3,750	\$7,500
\$100,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000
\$125,000	\$3,125	\$6,250	\$12,500
\$150,000	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$15,000
\$200,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000

Impact of Your Pledge

The ministries of DPC strive to be part of 5 different categories: Worship, Faith Formation, Mission/Outreach, Congregational Care and Fellowship. All these parts help us to be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love at DPC, in our community, and in the world. **Our total budget for 2026 is \$1,729,980.** This chart helps to show how the total current budget fits into these categories.

2026 Operating Fund Budget



- Worship
- Faith Formation
- Mission/Outreach
- Congregational Care
- Fellowship

Come celebrate God's faithfulness on **Gratitude Sunday:**

*Sunday, November 1
8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.
DPC Sanctuary*

Have questions?

Your Generosity Team has answers! Be sure to check out the FAQ section in the link below.

To easily refer back to all of this information and more, visit www.dtownnpc.org/spirit



September Session Update

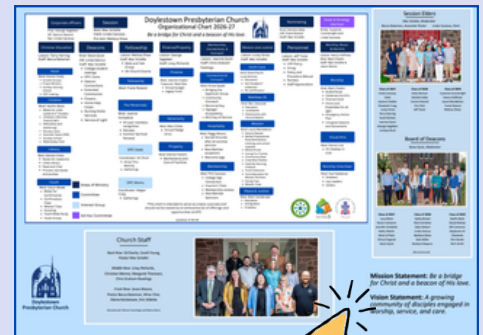


Session met two times this month:

- The first meeting was on Sunday, September 6th to receive five new members.
- The second meeting was their stated meeting on Monday, September 28th. At that meeting Session:
 - Heard a report from Generosity Committee moderator Allen Childs.
 - Heard a report from the Finance Committee that they will pilot two small "Tap to Give Kiosks" made by Colletin for easy giving for those who don't carry cash or check.
 - Approved the Mission Committee's suggestion that the Thanksgiving Offering go to Bethel Presbyterian Church.
 - Affirmed Bridging the Spectrum as a Growth Thru Action Group that will be under the Connections & Outreach Committee
 - Expressed their appreciation to Reverend Becca Bateman for her five years of service at DPC.

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

DPC operates through constant collaboration among our leadership Groups and Committees of the Congregation.



Interested in seeing how everyone fits together? **Click the photo** above to view the latest version of the **DPC Organizational Chart**.

Financial Corner

Church Financial Update: August 2026

1. Budget

- **Total Income to Date (YTD):** \$1,094,468 (Budget: \$1,052,989)
- **Total Expenses to Date (YTD):** \$1,124,708 (Budget: \$1,136,168)

2. Ministry Impact

- Hosted a work group of 8 from New York who worked with Habitat for Humanity.
- Middle School mission week offered times of learning about local missions, volunteering and food & fellowship!
- DPC's Backyard Block Party in the street was a great time connecting with each other and lots of good food.

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.





Tickets Still Remaining!

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.

Cost is \$25 per person. Max of 50 people.
Doors open at 5, event from 5:30-7:30.

[CLICK HERE to get your tickets!](#)

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.

Interested in learning a little more about Dr. Stucky and the Farminary? [Click Here](#) for a wonderful article about it's 10th anniversary.

Another faithful crew from DPC headed to Gallup, NM, in September 2026. The team rolled up their sleeves volunteering at the Community Pantry, which serves as a critical organization helping those in need in the region. The trip also led to connections with elementary school students, wildlife, and experiencing the beautiful scenery and culture. For those who may have missed the Diaries from the Southwest series on social media – or for those who would like to revisit the amazing photos, please click the link to see the full gallery!

Southwest Mission Trip



To see the full photo gallery visit
www.dtownnpc.org/sw26



WHAT'S happening

AT



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 11, 2026

8:30-9:15 AM

ALL WELL BEHAVED PETS WELCOME!

BRING YOUR PET, A STUFFIE, OR A PHOTO TO BE BLESSED



OUTDOOR WORSHIP
SERVICE - CHURCHYARD

DON'T FORGET YOUR
CHAIR OR BLANKET!

FREE CAT & DOG TREATS!

IF IT RAINS, (HUMAN) WORSHIP TO BE HELD INSIDE THE SANCTUARY



Our free time is so limited, but being in community with others is always so nourishing. New this September-December, is a "join when you can" part fellowship/part small group for moms in which we will gather to discuss a topic, learn about and from each other, and support one another.

Each month, facilitator Megan Craig will send out an email reminder, along with a podcast episode to listen to before attending. That podcast episode will be the general focus of our time together, but it is not mandatory.

Feel free to BYOB or a small snack to share.

The next gathering is **Friday October 23** at 7 pm at Megan's home.



Enjoy this pretty neat full circle moment that occurred last month during the DPC Mom's Brunch on the Bridge to mark the end of summer/back to school. In Pastor Becca's hands is a copy of the new PC(USA) Planning Calendar – which features a great photo of a previous gathering of the Moms Group on the page for November 2027. The photo shows them helping to prepare the meal for our guests at the Code Blue Shelter (which DPC hosts each February to provide a warm meal and a safe place to sleep for those in need during the coldest months).

Interested in learning more about the Moms Group or joining in their upcoming monthly gatherings?

Visit www.dtownpc.org/growth-groups or email dpc@dtownpc.org and we'll put you in touch with Megan Craig.

WHAT'S happening AT



College-Age Connection. Supporting and encouraging our college-age members who are off at school or in the military is so important. DPC's College-Age Connection Ministry (formerly known as Church Mouse) is one way to let them know they are still part of this church family with care packages and notes. (The Deacons and Youth Group will continue to send care and love each year as well.) To learn more and get involved, visit www.dtownnpc.org/college-age or email the church office at dpc@dtownnpc.org. Parents of college-age members, please help us update their contact info!



Are you or someone you know interested in joining DPC? The next Inquirers' Class is **November 8, joining November 22!**

INQUIRERS' CLASS

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

Library Nook

PURRING IN THE STACKS: THE SECRET LIFE OF DEWEY THE CAT!

Did you know that this plush little cat hides out among his favorite books in the DPC library, and only a few readers have ever found his hiding place among the hundreds of chapters he likes to read?

Dewey the Cat curls up and awaits visitors of all ages - - children and adults alike - - to his literary kingdom. So, no matter your age, come visit the stacks: children's, juniors, biography, fiction, and non-fiction, and see if you uncover where Dewey is hiding this week.

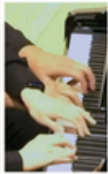
To be sure, you'll know him by his big, big smile because he'll be happy that you, a special reader, have been successful in finding him!



Save the Date! On **November 22**, the library will be hosting author Andrew Rosenbaum. He'll read his new children's book **GO BIRDS: A Child's Favorite Words** about the one-of-a-kind football experience in Philadelphia and talk about his journey to publication.

Music & The Arts

FROM VIENNA TO BUENOS AIRES



FOUR-HANDS PIANO CONCERT

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18 AT 4 PM



FREE-WILL OFFERING
NO TICKET REQUIRED
WWW.DTOWNPC.ORG/CTA



FEATURING
JOSÉ MELÉNDEZ
& TING TING WONG

Travel across continents and centuries in From Vienna to Buenos Aires, a dazzling piano four-hands concert featuring José Meléndez and Ting Ting Wong. This vibrant program journeys from the elegance of Mozart and the charm of Fauré to the colorful modernism of Poulenc and the passionate rhythms of Latin America with Astor Piazzolla and Zequinha de Abreu. Along the way, audiences will experience beloved works by Ravel, Beethoven, Gluck, and Tchaikovsky, all brought to life through the dynamic interplay of two pianists at one instrument. From refined Viennese brilliance to fiery tango and Brazilian flair, this concert promises an unforgettable musical voyage filled with elegance, energy, and virtuosity.



The DPC Chancel choir debuted new robes last month - we all agree that the group looks as good as it sounds!

Our Organist and Director of Youth Music, Mina Choi, recently participated in the Dan Forrest Fellow Workshop. As one of six selected composers, Mina spent three days developing and refining her compositions with acclaimed composer Dan Forrest. We are delighted that one of the pieces she worked on during the workshop will be performed on Christmas Eve by our Youth Choir and Chancel Choir.



On **November 14**, DPC is hosting a choral workshop titled **Singing for A Lifetime** led by Ms. Claire Ma, leading singers through vocal exercises exploring singers' unique vocal color as well as large group choral instruction.

Participants will enjoy lunch together followed by performance opportunities. The workshop is presented by the Bucks County Choral Society. Tickets are \$25 and include clinician, music, and lunch. They can be purchased at www.buckschoral.org by **November 1**.

Meet the NEW MEMBERS



Walt French

Walt and his wife Emily live in Springtown and have two young adult children. An ex-Marine and self-described conservative, Walt was first introduced to DPC through an invitation to present his story of navigating his response after one of his children informed him that he was transgender. An officer with PFLAG (a parent and ally support group) Walt works to educate parents and grandparents on how they can support their LGBTQ+ children, regardless of where they fall on the political or religious spectrum.



Matt Graham

Matt recently relocated to Doylestown from Buffalo, NY, and has two children. As an architect who works in Center City, he is currently involved with the new 76ers/Flyers Arena. Matt is passionate about building community, volunteering, mentoring, and learning. He dabbles in performance and conceptual art, and enjoys hiking, cultural travel, new and old films, theater, collecting books and records, and general exploring/rambling/wandering.



Lorraine Gross

Lorraine and her children have been residents of Solebury Township for over 30 years. She grew up at DPC and has many special memories of that time, some of which include the Advent Workshop, bible school, youth group, and confirmation class with her sister Louise. Lorraine is a realtor at Class Harlan Real Estate of Doylestown, licensed since 2004.



Ray Lynch

Ray has two adult sons and lives in Furlong with his wife Lisa Kimbro, having recently relocated from the Bryn Mawr area. Following a career as a financial leader of major cancer centers, Ray is now enjoying retirement. His interests include cycling (both road and gravel), photography, walking, reading, and cross-country skiing.



Dawn Saur

Dawn lives in Doylestown Borough within walking distance of the church. She has been coming to worship at DPC for about 18 months and appreciates how welcoming the congregation has been. Dawn is a published author of several resource books and cookbooks. When not writing, she loves reading, swimming, and spending time at the senior center.

DPC MISSION



WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8).

Presbyterian Church (USA) is sponsoring its first World Communion Sunday Special Offering beginning on **October 4** to support throughout the year those denominational ministries supporting racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Special envelopes will once again be in the pews this Sunday.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a video from PC(USA) that offers insight as to why this offering is so meaningful.

Fellowship and **FOOD**

Our **Community Meal** in Fellowship Hall begins at 12 noon on **October 18**. If you'd like to get involved by 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!

Also on **October 18**, please drop off with our volunteers under the Bridge your nonperishable food donations for local food pantries. Most needed items include juices, coffee and black tea, condiments (like ketchup and mayonnaise), paper products, and personal care and toiletry items. In September, Bethel Presbyterian Church received canned goods for their Thursday food bag distributions (they are spending up to \$1,000 a month for food supplies serving an average of 275 per week). The remaining 172 pounds was donated to the Bucks County Housing Group's Pantry in Doylestown to help our local neighbors in need.

In September, at our third Tuesday **Caring for Friends packing**, seven volunteers packed 93 meals from casseroles, vegetables, and side dishes made by members of our congregation. We welcome new volunteers--our next packing date is **October 20**.



CHILDREN'S

MINISTRIES

Looking back...



September 6 we had a great group join us at Kids in Worship training. Look for some new ushers, greeters and lay readers coming soon!

September 9 Sunshine Singers, Celebration Choir and Wednesday Club are off to an amazing start!



September 13 was a busy morning! Kids had their first glance at the cozy corner of activities to do before heading off to either Younger or Older Sunday School classrooms, Sunday School began, third graders received Bibles during worship, and CWT classes combined to make centerpieces and set tables for the Community Meal.



Upcoming Events...

October 4 is Communion. CWT classes will return early to participate with their families.



October 7 Sunshine Singers, Celebration Choir and Wednesday Club are *not* meeting but will resume the next week.



October 14 join us for Wednesday Club's Family Night! We'll enjoy dinner together and special activities for all ages!

October 18 Sunshine Singers sing in 10:30 worship! Meet in the Choir Room wearing yellow shirts at 10 am.

October 28 Wednesday Club Halloween Party! Wear your favorite costume.

AND,



Halloween-themed Family Fellowship, 5:15-6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Open to all families with young children!

LOOKING BACK...

September! The Sunday morning schedule has started! Sunday School for 6-8th grades in Room AH-202 (Youth Room) and Pop-Tarts in the Parlor for 9-12th graders. Join in 9:30-10:15 am.

Youth Choir/Bells began, as well as Element Youth Group!
Middle Schoolers (grades 6-8) meet from 4:15-5 pm and High Schoolers (grades 9-12) meet 6:15-7 pm. Youth Choir/Bells and dinner is in the middle. Youth had a chance to ask any questions they wanted and Eric randomly answered them all.

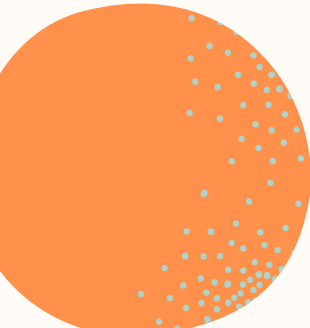
September 27 Confirmation began with twelve mindful youth!



YOUTH MINISTRY

COMING UP...

- October 4** Youth Choir, Element Youth Group
- October 11** Special: Blessing of the Animals, 8:30 am
& Youth Choir & Bells sing/ring at 10:30 am service
NO evening choir or Element Youth Group
- October 18** Youth Choir, Element Youth Group
- October 25** Youth Choir, Element Youth Group



A Message from the Earth Care Committee

What does PC (USA) and fossil fuels have in common? Not much! Presbyterian Church (USA) recently made an historic decision to remove the bulk of its investments from the fossil fuel industry.

This victory comes after 12 years of educating and mobilizing thousands of Presbyterians, Presbyteries voting to support it 147 times, and multiple overtures to the governing Presbyterian General Assembly. (Green Century)

The summer edition of EARTH: Earth Action, Reflection, Theology and Hope, a publication of Presbyterians for Earth Care, has this to say about the divestment process:

<https://presbyearthcare.blogspot.com/2026/07/a-brief-history-of-fossil-fuel.html>

If this interests you, there are steps you can take:

1. Choose sustainable funds and investments.
2. Avoid fossil fuel investments.
3. Support local and global climate projects.
4. Move your investments to a green bank.

What you decide to do can make an impact.



Ministry in Motion!

Several members of DPC's Matthew 25 Committee recently visited the newly opened, permanent location of the African American Museum of Bucks County in Langhorne. They found the experience eye-opening and educational and encourage others to see for themselves.



This is just a small sample of the used shoes donated by you which filled the chancel during worship in September. Thanks to your generosity all these shoes will be recycled and stay out of landfills. Keep watch for full results from this year's collection sponsored by the Earth Care Committee.

Ministry in Motion!

The DPC Library was buzzing last month as visitors of all ages "Got the Scoop" about what the space has to offer – along with a cup of ice cream! Thank you to the Library Committee for hosting this special gathering.



We kicked off the 2027 generosity campaign *Spirit, Open My Heart* with the soaring voices of our amazing Chancel Choir, the magic of our Joyful Bells ringers, some live painting, fellowship on the bridge, and of course education classes for all ages.

The Mission Committee was thrilled to host Veda Gill and Cheryl Burke from the **Friends of PEB** (Presbyterian Education Board) of Pakistan on September 27. This DPC mission partner helps provide Christian schooling for children.



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

