

# THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter  
**November 2024**

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## MARTHA REDBONE

Experience the unique musical gifts of renowned vocalist, songwriter, composer, and music educator Martha Redbone on **Sunday, November 10 at 4 pm** in this free concert.

Along with collaborator/husband Aaron Whitby, Redbone's works give voice to issues of social justice, connecting cultures and celebrating the human spirit.

The performance occurs during Native American Heritage Month and is presented by DPC's Celebrate the Arts concert series, the Matthew 25 subcommittee and Americans for Native Americans. The concert is family friendly and includes an interactive component perfect for kids. No tickets are required, but a free-will offering will be received. A reception will follow.



With Christmas around the corner, the **Advent Mission Market** is an opportunity purchase gifts from organizations that give back to the community.

The market will be open in the Celtic Cross Room on **November 17, 24, and December 1** between worship services. [CLICK HERE](#) or visit Upcoming Events at [dtownpc.org](http://dtownpc.org) to check out an almost entirely NEW lineup of products!

DPC's **Giving Tree** can be found on the bridge **November 17** and **November 24!** Select tags from the tree for people receiving assistance from our mission outreach partners. Keep watch in your email and on the website for a list of items that can be selected online. Tagged, unwrapped gifts will be due back in the Andrews Hall Lobby by **December 1.**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND...

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## Doctrine of Discovery

A Review of Its Origins and Implications for Congregations  
in the PC(USA) and Support for Native American Sovereignty



**Doctrine of Discovery.** This special adult education offering invites you to explore the “Christian” Doctrine of Discovery from its earliest implementation over 500 years ago. Join in during the Education Hour on **November 10**, starting at **9:30 am** in the Celtic Cross Room, as we consider our response as Christians as we examine its troubling and unjust legacy, with impact on indigenous communities that continue to this day. Discuss options for redress, and acknowledge actions being taken by concerned citizens and our DPC community. This class is presented by Matthew 25 and Americans for Native Americans and offers another way to participate in Native American Heritage Month.



**Code Blue Training.** DPC is once again hosting the Code Blue Homeless Shelter during February and training has already begun for new volunteers that make this critical effort possible. You can visit [www.co2ssh.org](http://www.co2ssh.org) and select “new volunteer training” to train online anytime or view details of three upcoming in-person training sessions in the area. The first in-person session is **November 3** at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church at 1:30 pm.

**A Note From  
Transitional Pastor  
Tom Kort as he prepares  
to move on from DPC.  
His last Sunday with us  
is November 17.**



It seems like only yesterday that we were introduced to each other. It has been nothing short of delightful for me to share ministry with you this past year. The scriptures remind us that there is a time and season for everything under the sun. And every season is beautified in its own way. Now you are entering a new season of ministry as Mac and Katy leave the land of grits and join you in time for the season of Advent.

On my first Sunday with you I quoted Mother Teresa who said, “I am just a pencil in God’s hands” and it was time for DPC to start writing. Together we wrote a little footnote in the history of DPC, but now you are poised to write a new and exciting chapter after chapter.

I thank you for the invitation and privilege to be your transitional pastor. I leave with wonderful memories, everything from the church officers doing the bunny hop at our retreat, to donning angel wings for the nativity drive through, and most of all for your kind and generous support (and patience) listening to all my stories. Now you will write your own stories of faith and love. In the words of John Denver, *“Friends, I will remember you, think of you, and pray for you. And when another day is through, I’ll still be friends with you.”*

God bless. Tom

## As Pastor Pauline Sexton's final Sunday with us before retirement approaches on November 24, she looks back on her six years with DPC...



It's time for me to leave DPC and say Goodbye. I really don't like the word: Goodbye! It's a word of leaving, of going, and it means separation. It is also a word of release and blessing. So here are a few words of reflection on this blessed journey we've been on together as I take my leave as your Pastoral Care Assistant.

Reflecting on our years together creates a flood of wonderful memories and occasions. We've been through the isolation of a pandemic, the transitions of pastoral staff, we've had surveys, and task groups, strategic plans, and bold financial initiatives. There have been times of great joy and deep sorrow. We have been together; caring, loving, serving, helping, encouraging, blessing. For me personally, these years as one of your pastors have been blessing upon blessing.

So – I leave you with deep gratitude – for all the ways you have personally blessed me and how you continue to live out your faith in Jesus Christ as a witness and blessing to this community, our country and the world.

I leave with deep appreciation - of your energy for service, your creativity in finding new ways to connect what we believe with what we do, and your faithfulness to the many ministries of this congregation.

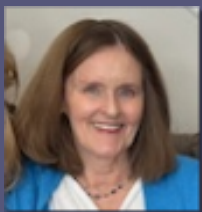
I leave with deep prayers – for you all to grow together in love for one another and in faith that the God of all grace is leading you out and on.

The Apostle Paul was very eloquent in his words of gratitude for the churches of the New Testament world. So, I will use one of his to sum up my thoughts:

*“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” (Colossians 2: 6)*

While I don't like the word Goodbye - I do like to take leave with the words ... “The Lord Be with You.” And so - The Lord Be with you...and thank you. I will forever hold you in my heart with love and thanksgiving.

*Pauline*



DPC is blessed to have member **Margaret Thoresen** serve as Interim Parish Visitor to help care for the congregation following Pauline's retirement at the end of November.

Margaret's compassion and faith will guide her as she visits the hospital and with members as directed by the pastoral staff. Margaret, who also serves as a co-leader of *The Word Among Us* class on Sundays during Education Hour, will fill this new role for a period of 90 days.

### **A Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness.**

For those seeking a sense of hope and renewed spirit, we invite you to join us on Sunday **November 17**, at 4 pm. We will gather to remember the losses of life, recognize we are not alone, and find strength through prayer and music. This special service is being prepared by Pastor Pauline Sexton with assistance from our Deacons. Join in the sanctuary or view live online at [www.dtownpc.org/watch-us-live](http://www.dtownpc.org/watch-us-live) or watch a recorded version later.



Congratulations to all the talented members of the DPC Youth Choir who participated in the **Princeton Youth Music Festival** on October 27!

They spent the day learning music, rehearsing, and connecting with other choirs from the area – culminating in a wonderful concert in the evening. The event was organized in part by DPC’s Organist and Director of Youth Music the Rev. Dr. Mina Choi, who also serves as the Chapel Worship and Music Coordinator at Princeton Theological Seminary.



From **November 22-24**, the youth are headed to **Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center** in New Jersey for a weekend of worship, connection, and fun activities. It’s not too late to register, but we ask that you contact Pastor Becca at [beccab@dtownpc.org](mailto:beccab@dtownpc.org) or Candi Young at [candiy@dtownpc.org](mailto:candiy@dtownpc.org). The cost is \$209—scholarships or reduced payment are available.

DPC’s monthly **Food Drive** occurs **November 17** from 9:15 to 11 am. Let’s pull together to get those donation numbers up! Following the later worship service we join together at noon for our monthly **Community Meal** with our own congregation, community members and homeless guests as we celebrate Thanksgiving.



## Food Drive & Community Meal

We are thrilled that our **Wednesday Club kids** (grades 2-6) and their families will be running the meal this month so plan to join in for lunch! Keep watch for the signup link if additional needs become available.



## Tales of Gratitude

DPC Elder Luray Gross will join our dedicated Sunday School leaders on **Sunday, November 24**, and share her gifts as a professional storyteller and educator with the children. Luray will offer “Tales of Gratitude” which display the values of generosity and giving thanks rooted in Scripture.

# Ministry in Motion!

The Earth Care Team transformed the bridge last month to present the second of a three-part series titled "Stewarding God's Creation." Click the link to learn all about [What's the Buzz About Biodiversity?](#)



**Wednesday Club** (Grades 2-6), and **Celebration Choir**, celebrated the spooky season with their annual Halloween party on Wednesday! A bridge became the setting for an exciting game of "The Floor is Lava"



The amazing transformation of DPC's Ruth I. Hughes Memorial Library is complete! Now the entire collection of books is now accessible online - so you can browse from home to see what is available before coming in! To access the online collection just visit [bit.ly/DPC-Library](http://bit.ly/DPC-Library) (be sure to bookmark the webpage for later) or visit [www.dtownnpc.org/library](http://www.dtownnpc.org/library). You can also register for a digital library card that will be used to check out books when you visit the Library.



# Advent *on the way*

## Advent All Together!

On December 1 enjoy lunch, grow friendships, and create keepsakes at this all-church event following 10:30 am worship in Fellowship Hall.

## Caroling

All are invited sing Christmas songs on December 1 at 4 pm. A group of carolers will depart from church to spread tidings of joy in the community. Festive dress encouraged! Contact Pastor Becca at [Beccab@dtownnpc.org](mailto:Beccab@dtownnpc.org) to get involved!

Stay tuned for details of all our other Advent happenings including:

- Pastor Mac Schafer's first Sunday preaching - Dec. 8
- Lessons and Carols - 1:30 pm, Dec. 15
- the sharing of a special DPC Advent Devotional.

DPC's Advent Season culminates in our **Christmas Eve** Worship Services

- 3 pm - Family Service and Pageant
- 5 pm - Candlelight Service
- 8 pm - Candlelight Communion Service