

# THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter  
January 2025

## What you can expect...

- A short worship service at **10 am**
- Wreath Laying on African-American graves

## Service opportunities include...

- Meal packing with Caring For Friends.
- Assembling snack bags for Hunting Park Christian Academy.
- Crafting American ribbon pins for immigrants and refugees assisted by Welcoming the Stranger.
- Hot cocoa and bake sale (by donation), with proceeds benefiting the African American Museum of Bucks County.

## Day of Service at DPC January 20

For months, several DPC committees and groups have been planning to make the Day of Service at DPC become even more meaningful and energizing to all involved. And this year, Seminarian Jamie Neal has seen first hand what care and collaboration can make possible.

"Everyone's efforts have been vital in bringing this day to life," Jamie said. "Each service activity reflects our core values and demonstrates God's love, compassion, and justice. Our aim is to serve our community and honor Dr. King's legacy through our actions." In addition to the Children, Youth, Matthew 25, Mission, Connections & Outreach, Hospitality, and Peace & Justice ministries at DPC, Caring For Friends (CFF) is once again at the forefront of this important day. "All these meals will directly benefit the isolated and homebound in the area," noted Karen Cameron, a longtime member of CFF's steering committee at the church. "I am excited by the thought of more people and families coming together on this day!"

To sign up to donate food, or baked goods, or to volunteer for the Day of Service at DPC, visit [www.dtownpc.org/day-of-service](http://www.dtownpc.org/day-of-service)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND...

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DPC is once again hosting the **Code Blue Shelter** in February! We will need help in staffing the shelter throughout the month.



For information about volunteer training sessions visit <https://co2ssh.org>  
If you would like to help in the kitchen you can sign up here: [bit.ly/DPC-CB](http://bit.ly/DPC-CB)  
If you would like to purchase groceries, sign up here: [bit.ly/DPC-CBG](http://bit.ly/DPC-CBG)

**Thank you for supporting this critical effort which offers our homeless neighbors a warm meal and a warm place to sleep during the coldest months!**

# A Letter from Pastor Mac



Friends, what a joy this first month at Doylestown Presbyterian Church has been. Thank you for your kind welcome, for a lovely Advent & Christmas season, and your patience as I learn names and faces. I have loved beginning to meet you individually, at committee meetings, after worship, around town, and during social gatherings. Thanks also for wearing your name tags and updating your individual/family photos in the DPC online directory. All this will really help me in these early days as pastor. One of my favorite things about being a pastor is getting to learn about who you are and all your amazing life experience.

As we enter into 2025, we also enter the season of Epiphany. Epiphany literally means manifestation or revelation. The PC(USA) Book of Common Worship says, *“The symbolism of light is important - not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it suggests the bright dawning of God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ’s light in the world.”*

DPC is the first church I have served that has stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The three other congregations I have been pastor in had clear windows in their sanctuaries. I’ve been intrigued by the messages of DPC’s windows and will use them for sermon themes in the weeks and months leading up to the season of Lent.



The winter solstice was December 21st. The amount of daylight will grow longer everyday. May this be a metaphor for the light of Christ that we hope will grow stronger in each of our lives. The Gospel of John 1:5 says, *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

May the light of Christ guide us together!

## December Session Update

*The DPC Session met a week earlier than normal (Monday, December 16th) due to the Christmas holiday. The following are highlights of that meeting:*

- Upon the recommendation of Property & Finance Standing Committee, the Session approved going to a one-year stewardship cycle run by a team of church members for the 2026 pledge campaign.
- The Session amended two motions from the Mission & Justice Standing Committee and voted to form an Ad Hoc Committee (a temporary committee formed for a specific purpose and disbanded when purpose is concluded) to study what it would mean for DPC to align with PC(USA) on immigration justice, and study what it would mean to be a Sanctuary congregation.
- Six elders were approved to be commissioners at the January 28th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Philadelphia at Swarthmore Presbyterian Church.
- Elders met in groups of three or four people and answered questions with each other from John O’Donahue’s “At the End of the Day: A Mirror of Questions,” from *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*

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



WEDNESDAYS



# WHAT'S Happening

The DPC campus is always buzzing on Wednesday evenings! Our littlest ones (ages 4-Grade 1) meet Ms. Geri in Andrews Hall at 4:30 pm to rehearse songs to be sung during worship as the **Sunshine Singers**. Then kids in grades 2-6 gather at 5:00 pm in the choir room as part of the **Celebration Choir** (singers and ringers). Those kids then join others for food, faith, and fun for **Wednesday Club**—which is being reimagined for the new year featuring snack and activities from 5:30 to 6:30 pm!

All of this kicks off again on **January 15!**

Visit [www.dtownpc.org/children-family](http://www.dtownpc.org/children-family) for details, the full schedule, and to register!

Save the date for a congregational meeting to occur **Sunday, February 2**, immediately following the 10:30 am worship service in the sanctuary. During the meeting we will:

- Elect Deacons and Ruling Elders
- Present the 2024 Financials and the 2025 Budget
- Review and vote on the Terms of Call for eligible pastors
- Act upon the recommendation of the Session to sell a cemetery to Plumstead Township

Keep watch for more details!



Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, Feb. 2  
Following 10:30 worship



FOOD DRIVE & COMMUNITY MEAL

DPC's monthly **Food Drive** occurs **January 19** from 9:15 to 11 am. Every donation makes a difference in the lives of those in need! 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 God's love. Keep watch for the signup link if additional needs become available.

The Winter/Spring **Youth Calendar** is now available! [Click here](#) or visit [www.dtownpc.org](http://www.dtownpc.org) for a special letter from the Youth Team and see what's in store as we enter 2025!



## Celebrate Bucks County

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DPC's Matthew 25 Subcommittee and Second Baptist Church of Doylestown's Christ and Cultural Humility group invite you to celebrate Bucks County African American History during a joint luncheon at Second Baptist on **Saturday, February 8**.

The afternoon will feature a stirring presentation from local author and historian Pat Mervine, focused on her book *Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County*. Proceeds will benefit the Bucks County African American Museum. More details will be shared soon, but in the meantime, save the date!





# INQUIRERS' CLASS

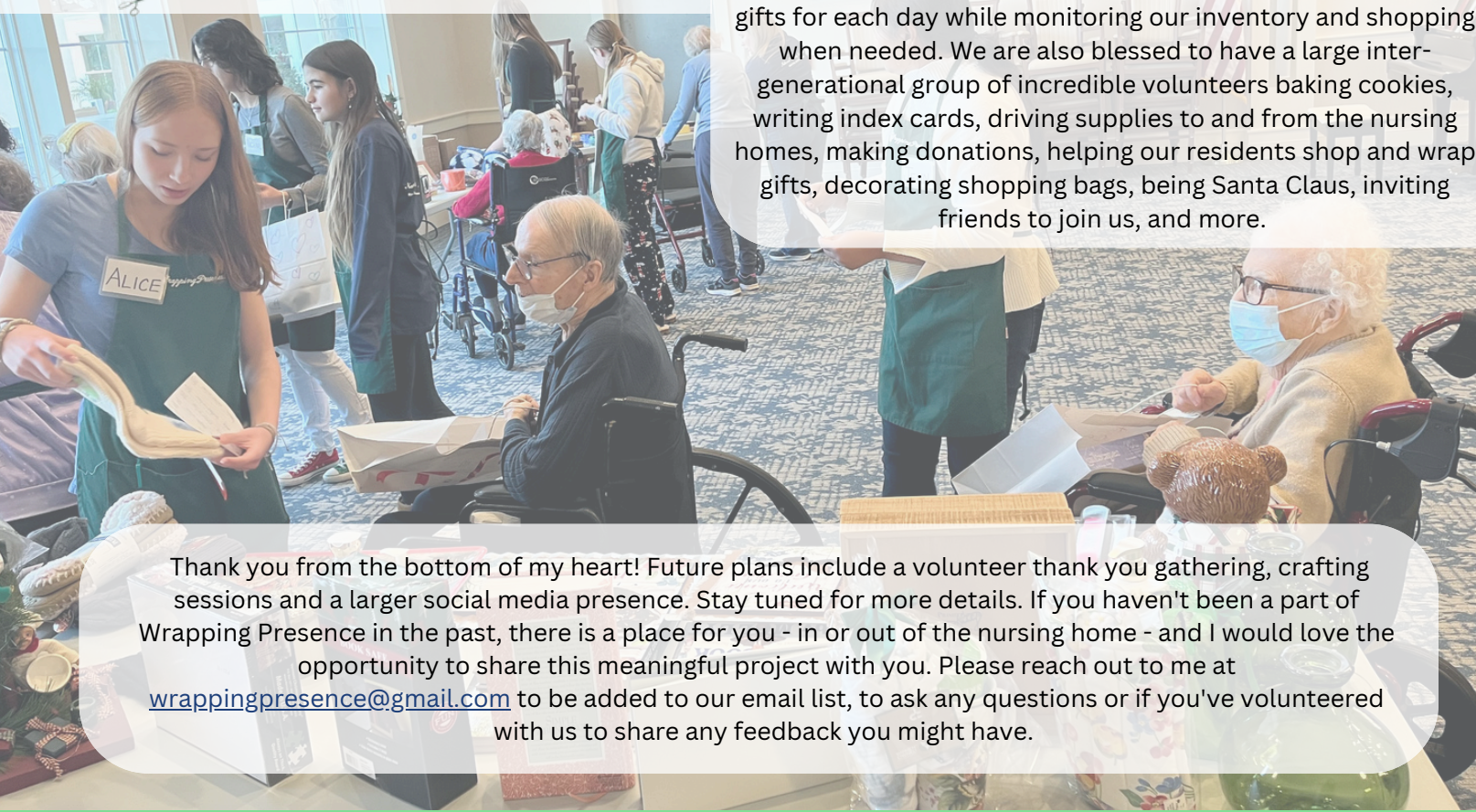
Are you or someone you know interested in exploring membership at Doylestown Presbyterian Church? Join an Inquirers' Class!

Faith is a journey. No matter where you are on that journey – whether you are new to the Christian faith, seeking to make discoveries and ask questions, or are simply looking for a new faith community – we invite you to participate in our Inquirers' Class. In this class, you will learn about the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the core values and ministries of DPC, connect with church leaders and other Inquirers, and reflect on your own spiritual journey. **Classes are being offered in February, April, and June and registration is now open!**



Visit [www.dtownpc.org/membership](http://www.dtownpc.org/membership) to learn more and to sign up today!

A Thank-You from Candi Young of



Wrapping Presence wrapped up another successful season helping area nursing home residents choose over 1500 gifts for family and friends that otherwise would not have been able to do so. I am honored to lead this important mission and none of it could happen without a dedicated trio of women who pull gifts for each day while monitoring our inventory and shopping when needed. We are also blessed to have a large inter-generational group of incredible volunteers baking cookies, writing index cards, driving supplies to and from the nursing homes, making donations, helping our residents shop and wrap gifts, decorating shopping bags, being Santa Claus, inviting friends to join us, and more.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart! Future plans include a volunteer thank you gathering, crafting sessions and a larger social media presence. Stay tuned for more details. If you haven't been a part of Wrapping Presence in the past, there is a place for you - in or out of the nursing home - and I would love the opportunity to share this meaningful project with you. Please reach out to me at [wrappingpresence@gmail.com](mailto:wrappingpresence@gmail.com) to be added to our email list, to ask any questions or if you've volunteered with us to share any feedback you might have.

## Reminder!

As Pastor Mac continues to get to know the congregation, two simple actions can help him - and all of us - be connected:

**Wearing your DPC name tags!** If you would like a DPC name tag, contact Elaine in the church office. Tags cost \$10 each. If you have a name tag, try to remember to wear it whenever you attend worship or an event.



**Updating your photo in DPC's digital directory!** Just email a photo to anyone on the church staff or to [dpc@dtownpc.org](mailto:dpc@dtownpc.org). If you still have not added the ChurchLife Directory app to your cellphone, just contact the church office and we can get you started.

# Ministry in Motion!

*Advent All Together* brought generations together as we ushered in the season with laughter, music, crafts, and fellowship! Many also got a look at the new and improved DPC Library!



The Sunshine Singers have a rousing rehearsal led by Ms. Geri, while over in the DPC Nursey, Marty offers story time to Royce



The DPC Youth and Alumni Choirs helped fill the sanctuary with songs of praise before candlelight transformed the darkened space into a beacon of Christ's light as we sang *Silent Night*.



Thanks to your generosity and the hard work of the DPC Dads, this year's Drive-Thru Nativity raised \$682 for Code Blue!



*Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love*

