

Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

THE TIDINGS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter
March 2025

Restore Unto Me the *Joy...* Lent 2025

Throughout the season, you are invited to share in the **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper by intinction every Sunday during the 8:30 am service**. On the first Sunday of Lent, **March 9**, Communion will be offered at both worship services.

Children are invited to bring forward shelf stable food items during the Times with the Children in 10:30 worship. Food will go to the Doylestown Food Pantry. This Lenten practice can extend to all ages, as you are also invited to drop food in collection areas located at both entrances to sanctuary and Andrews Hall lobby by the office.

Your DPC Deacons have contributed to a special Lenten devotional booklet with a focus on ways in which God helped to restore joy in their lives. It will be available in the sanctuary beginning the first Sunday of Lent on March 9.




Ash
Wednesday

As we begin our Lenten Journey, there are several opportunities to receive ashes on

March 5.

We invite you to...

- **Drop-In** for ashes and a prayer in the Celtic Cross Room below the sanctuary from **8 to 9 am**
- **Drive-Thru** for ashes along Mechanics Street from **12 to 1 pm**
- Join in an **Intergenerational Worship Service**, where ashes will be administered, beginning at **5 pm** in the sanctuary, followed by an interactive art project for all ages downstairs until 6 pm
- Receive ashes and a prayer at the **Community Labyrinth** at the corner of Ashland and Pine Streets from **6 to 7 pm**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND...

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A Letter from Pastor Mac



Our Book of Common Worship says, “Lent comes from an old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith - through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Lent traditionally begins with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, a moment when we remember our mortality and our need for God. Often Psalm 51 is referred to at the beginning of Lent.

In the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Psalm 51 is called a “prayer for cleansing and pardon.” Some of the most well known words from that Psalm are verses 10 to 12: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me, Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me, Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.”*

This Lent, through worship and the arts, weekly Communion (8:30 am Sundays), devotionals, faith formation groups and more, we will be centering in on what it means for God’s joy to be restored in us. Could it be that joy is not something we have to manufacture or pretend to have in a demanding and hectic world, but something that God has already provided?

A good place to start in our restoration process is the prayer from the Psalmist: “Let me hear joy and gladness,” Lord!

I look forward to seeking God’s restorative joy together!

With Care,

Throughout Holy Week a **Prayer Labyrinth** will be set up in the Celtic Cross Room to allow for personal reflection during that time. Keep watch for times and details.

Holy Week

SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 13: We gather for worship at 8:30 (with Communion) and 10:30 am.

Maundy Thursday, April 17: We gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm to experience the sharing of the Lord’s Supper. Special Music by Romantic composers Rheinberger and Puccini, featuring the Chancel and Ecumenical Choirs, String Ensemble and Mina Choi, Organ.

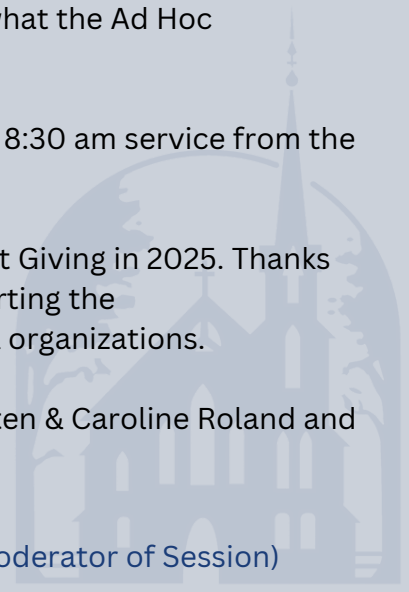
Easter Sunday, April 20: We rejoice in the glory of Jesus’ Resurrection during identical worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 am. Nursery care, Children’s Worship Time, and the Livestream will be available during the 10:30 am service.

February Session Update

The DPC Session met on Monday, February 24. The following are highlights of that meeting:

- Pastor Mac reviewed a document from the 204th PC(USA) General Assembly called “Seeking to Be Faithful Together: Guidelines For Presbyterians During Times of Discussion.” The full document can be accessed by [clicking here](#).
- The Session "received with gratitude" a thorough and in-depth report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration Justice.
 - The Ad Hoc Committee was chaired by Allen Childs and members of the committee were Joanne Chaikin, Brynne Hunter, Jim Kmetzo, Dave Sager, Lindsay Shull, and Julie Toner.
 - The Ad Hoc Committee met nine times over a six week period to address the following question posed by Session: "what would it mean for DPC to align itself with the PC(USA) to support immigration justice in the Doylestown Community and what would it mean for DPC to become a Sanctuary Church?"
 - The Session is now taking time to prayerfully discern what the Ad Hoc Committee presented to them.
- Session approved serving communion by intinction at the 8:30 am service from the First Sunday of Lent through Palm Sunday.
- Session approved recipients of \$157,339 in Mission Budget Giving in 2025. Thanks be to God for the generosity of the congregation in supporting the mission/outreach of 16 different local, national and global organizations.
- The Session opened their meeting with a devotion by Kristen & Caroline Roland and concluded their meeting in communal sharing and prayer.

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



Our members have the opportunity to remember or honor loved ones as well as provide our church with beautiful arrangements for Holy Week. Flowers and palms will be artistically arranged throughout the Sanctuary. If you would like to help make this offering possible, please complete the form shown below:

I would like to make _____ donation(s) at \$15.00 each. PLEASE PRINT NAMES

Easter
Flowers



In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

From: _____

Make checks payable to DPC (note “Easter Flowers” on it). Mail to the church office or place in the offering plate. Names must be received in the church office **no later than noon on Monday, April 7.**

Name: _____ Phone or Email: _____

Meet the NEW MEMBERS



Cindy Beck

Cindy lives in Hartsville with her husband Rob. She has two adult children, Michael and Caitlyn. She currently works in manufacturing sales but also has a history of employment with state government. Cindy loves to travel, recently joining her daughter on a work-related trip to Thailand, Laos, and Kenya.



Jan and Terry Chapman

Jan and her husband Terry (a retired Presbyterian minister) have been married for 35 years and have two adult children. She is a licensed psychotherapist, working with adults and trauma, and has been in practice for more than 40 years. Jan enjoys walking, hiking, card making, antiques, and finding a good cup of coffee with her husband Terry.



Elizabeth and Ross Gabrielson

Elizabeth and Ross live in Solebury with their school-aged children. Elizabeth is a food educator, chef, and wellness coach, and serves on the boards of both the Historic Carversville Society and the Solebury Baseball and Softball League. She loves to travel, walk her dog Archer, practice yoga, and watch her children play music and sports. Ross is an Investment Analyst and commutes to New York City several days a week. He is also a private pilot, regularly flying out of Doylestown Airport, and enjoys travel, volunteer board work, and watching his children pursue their extracurricular interests.

Kathleen Graham

Kathleen lives with her family in Doylestown. She serves as the Executive Director of the Securities and Exchange Commission Historical Society, is active in the National Press Club and the American Society for Association Executives, and supports multiple nonprofit organizations, including Dress for Success and the Robert F. Kennedy Book and Journalism Awards. In her free time, she and her husband Rob Gormley enjoy exploring the beautiful art, history, and nature that Bucks County has to offer and making delicious meals for their family.



Meet the NEW MEMBERS



Marcy Huang

Marcy lives with her husband Li-Chung in Jamison and is a chemist, serving as Director of Regulatory Affairs for Merck. She plays the viola for DPC, as well as for the Bucks County Symphony Orchestra. In addition to her passion for music, Marcy enjoys listening to audiobooks, putting together jigsaw puzzles, and kayaking on local lakes.



Millie and Dave Merrick

Millie and Dave moved to Doylestown about two years ago. They have three grown children and three grandchildren (so far!). Millie is enjoying her status as a retiree, as it gives her time to explore the local area and travel. Dave, retired from a career in fundraising, enjoys traveling, gardening, woodworking, fishing, and running his smoker.



Mayo Pujols

Mayo and his wife Amy live in Buckingham. Their younger son Jason is a senior at Penn State; their older son Alex passed away last year. Mayo works as the Chief Technology Officer for a biotechnology start-up focused on developing treatments for rare diseases. In his spare time, Mayo enjoys traveling, home improvement projects, playing bass guitar in a classic rock and blues band, collecting and restoring vintage bass guitars and audio equipment, and staying physically active through tennis, golf, pickleball, walking, and biking.

Katy Schafer

Katy, a native Floridan, has been married to Pastor Mac Schafer for 32 years, and together they have four adult children. Prior to her move to Bucks County, Katy served as the Director of Children and Family Ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, North Carolina. As an alumnus of Princeton Theological Seminary, Katy is looking forward to attending seminary events and reconnecting with old friends in the area. She enjoys searching for shark teeth at the beach, traveling, spending time with her Maine Coon cats, and going on long-distance walks with Mac.





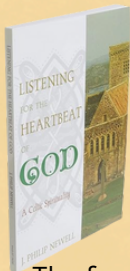
Some new groups are beginning soon and many ongoing groups welcome new members. Be sure to visit www.dtownnpc.org/growth-groups to view the full list and to join in. This week we are highlighting three groups about to get underway. We welcome you to sign up today!



Waking Up with the Word - This group meets Tuesdays during Lent at 7 am beginning **March 11** in the DPC Library.

Pastor Mac Schafer leads this group which will focus on the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. No previous Bible Study experience needed.

Tuesday Night Group - This group will meet on Zoom Tuesday evenings during Lent at 7 pm beginning **March 11**. Pastor Becca Bateman will focus on the theme of "Restore unto me the joy of my salvation" through several familiar stories of Scripture.



Brown Bag Lunch with Pastor Mac - This group will meet Wednesdays during Lent from 12 to 1 pm beginning **March 12** in the Celtic Cross Room.

The focus will be Listening For the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality by J. Philip Newell. Participants are encouraged to read introduction and chapter 1 before the first class.

To join in any of these groups and to browse the complete list of all the new and ongoing small groups at DPC, visit www.dtownnpc.org/growth-groups today!

WHAT'S *happening* AT



Fat Sunday is this Sunday! We prepare for the season of Lent with a Mardi Gras celebration for all ages! We'll gather in Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 service for a pancake lunch, jazz music, mask-making, and closing with a parade led by the kids at 12:30! Don't forget to bring shelf-stable food items to be donated to the Doylestown Food Pantry!



Celebrate the Arts Presents: All Creatures Great and Small. Experience moving artwork in the Celtic Cross Room by members and friends depicting wild or domestic animals. The display is now open!



The Hofstra University Chamber Choir performs in the sanctuary at 7 pm on Saturday, **March 15**. The choir specializes in the study of traditional, contemporary and multicultural choral repertoire. Under the direction of Dr. David Fryling, Hofstra University's finest chamber ensemble is sure to provide you with a memorable musical experience. A free-will offering will be received.



DPC MOMs Meetup at Megan's House! The DPC Moms get together at 7pm on Friday, **March 21**. Come for a low key evening of appetizers and fellowship! No RSVP required, casual attire encouraged, and all ages of moms are welcomed! Pastor Mac's wife Katy Schafer plans to attend and this could be a wonderful way to get to know her in an informal setting. If you are interested, talk to Megan Craig in person, or reach out to dpc@dtownnpc.org or call the church office to request the address.

WHAT'S happening

AT



Carbon Footprint Challenge.
Join the DPC Earth Care Action Team as we examine our individual carbon footprint and view some actions to take that can mitigate climate change. Be sure to visit the displays outside of Room 213 and the Celtic Cross Room to check it out!

The Hospitality Subcommittee is seeking volunteers to join our coffee hour hosting teams. Teams of 4 are responsible for hosting coffee hour on a rotating basis once or twice every quarter.



Sign up as a team, couple or individual! This ministry is a great way to get to know people and to foster a welcoming sense of community among DPC members and visitors. If interested in learning more about becoming a Hospitality Assistant, please contact Chris Graham-Rawlings at chris@dtownpc.org.

Summer Youth Trips

This summer we are excited to have two opportunities for youth to experience mission trips in different and very meaningful ways. **June 22-27 all youth entering 8th grade through 12th grade** are invited to travel to Raleigh, NC to explore the hidden needs and struggles of people who are living on the margins within and around the City of Oaks. Youth and their leaders will volunteer through **Raleigh Youth Mission** at various locations alongside neighbors who are homeless, in poverty or food insecure.



Later this summer, **August 18-21, all youth entering 6th grade through 8th grade** are encouraged to join us for **Local - Day Mission Trips**. Youth and their leaders will volunteer at a different location each morning, enjoy our bagged lunches together, then stop for ice cream and discussion on the way back to DPC. Options we're looking at are Cradles to Crayons, Carversville Farm Foundation, Hunting Park Christian School and an activity at an area nursing home. This is also a perfect opportunity for older teens to join us and learn to embrace new responsibilities and strengthen their leadership skills.



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

SUMMER CAMP!
sign up today!

VBS
9AM-NOON

ACTING UP!
12PM-3PM

JULY 7-11
AGE 4-GRADE 6

WWW.DTOWNPC.ORG

DPC's Summer Camp is now open for registrations! Sign your kids up today for the awesome and enriching VBS program in the morning! And, back by popular demand, older kids can also join in for ActingUP music and drama camp in the afternoon. You won't want to miss this amazing week that always has all the campers (and their parents) buzzing all summer!

For more information and to sign up today, visit www.dtownpc.org/summercamp2025

Ministry in Motion!

DPC welcomed 10 **new members** into our congregation on February 23! Be sure to say hello when you see them on campus! Another Inquirers' Class is gearing up to begin **April 13** so if you know someone interested in learning more about DPC and potentially becoming a member, invite them to join in!



The Children's Ministry Subcommittee hosted a blockbuster event on February 16 when kids got comfy in their sleeping bags to watch *The Wild Robot* during Family Movie Night!

The new and improved DPC Library was the perfect setting to host a presentation by noted author, radio host, and award-winning sports columnist **Mike Sielski** on February 23. Mike discussed his new book *Magic in the Air: The Myth, the Mystery, and the Soul of the Slam Dunk*. Be sure to visit www.dtownpc.org/library to learn more about getting your digital library card and browsing the collection online!



Code Blue Update. A HUGE thank you to all who donated their time in the kitchen and contributed groceries and homemade baked goods as DPC hosted the Code Blue Shelter in February! During the 24 nights the shelter was open at DPC, there were 729 "heads in beds." The shelter was open double the amount of days it was last year, and without the efforts of everyone involved it would not have been possible!



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