

Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

THE TIDINGS



Doylestown Presbyterian Church's Digital Newsletter

April 2025

Holy
Week



Palm Sunday, April 13: We gather for worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am in-person and also via Livestream for the later service. Following 10:30 service, join in the DPC Hop in Andrews Hall for a light lunch and a family friendly scavenger hunt!

Prayer Labyrinth, April 15 through April 18: Open in the Celtic Cross Room from 12 to 1 pm. Come for a time of reflection through stations along the path.

Maundy Thursday, April 17: We gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm to experience the sharing of the Lord's Supper with special music featuring the Chancel and Ecumenical Choirs, string ensemble and Mina Choi, Organ. Prayer Labyrinth open in the Celtic Cross Room before and after worship. This service will be available via Livestream.

Good Friday, April 18: Our friends at Second Baptist Church of Doylestown (6055 Swamp Road) invite you to attend a special service from 12 to 3 pm with a focus on the 7 Last Words of Christ.

EASTER
SUNDAY

We rejoice in the glory of Jesus' Resurrection during identical worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 am. Time with the Children will happen at both services, along with Nursery Care available for ages 9 months to 4.

Children's Worship Time, CWT+ and the Livestream will be available during the 10:30 am service. Join in an **egg hunt** between services on the ramp in Andrews Hall at 10 am.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND...

Pastor Mac make the connection between two feathered YouTube stars and Holy Week - **Page 2**

Opportunities to strengthen our connection through fellowship - **Page 4**

A variety of ways to give back and get involved through Mission - **Page 6**

...and so much more!

Restore
Unto Me
the Joy...

A Letter from Pastor Mac

"Eagles and Easter"

This past month, a DPC member made me aware of a YouTube livestream of two bald eagles named Jackie & Shadow. The couple have a nest in Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino County, California and recently had three eaglets. I tuned into this livestream when there was a huge snow storm at Big Bear Lake. At that point, one of the three eaglets had died. I have to admit that I became somewhat obsessed with watching this livestream and how Jackie & Shadow cared for their eaglets in harsh winter/spring conditions.

One of the things that stands out to me is the tenderness and brutality taking place in one nest. On one side of the nest is death: Smaller birds and fish that Jackie & Shadow had killed to feed their eaglets and themselves. On the other side of the nest is life: Jackie & Shadow tenderly and gently feeding small bits of their deceased prey to the eaglets in an effort to keep them alive in the snow, wind, and rain.

As we approach Holy Week, I am mindful of the stories in the gospels of Jesus' last week of life: They too have tenderness and brutality.

The brutality of humans who are threatened by Jesus' ministry, influence, and authority among the people. The tenderness of this God-human who selflessly laid down his life for the love of people and all of creation. Indeed life can be both brutal and tender (and everything in-between). I am thankful that Jesus intimately understands the breadth of the human experience and that we are not alone in all we go through and experience in life.

Thanks be to God for the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



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.

The next session occurs April 13, with new members joining on April 27. Another session happens in June. Registration for either session now open!

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

March Session Update

The Session had two meetings since the last issue of Tidings:

- A called “one issue” meeting to prayerfully discern any actions related to the Ad Hoc Committee recommendation on immigration.
- A monthly stated meeting.

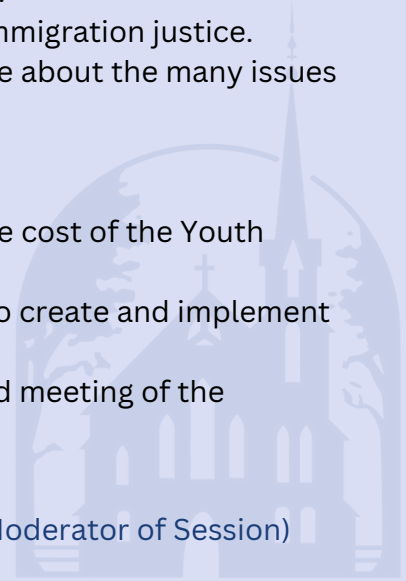
At the called meeting on March 10, Session:

- Affirmed the following Presbyterian Church (USA) Statement on Immigration: *“Guided by our faith’s call to welcome the stranger and belief in the inherent dignity of all people, the Presbyterian Church (USA) actively advocates for and works towards more just immigration laws and processes.”*
- Approved asking the Mission & Justice subcommittees to:
 - Explore ways that DPC can support immigrants and immigration justice.
 - Offer opportunities for the congregation to learn more about the many issues of immigration.

At the stated meeting on March 24, Session:

- Approved a Hoagie Sale Fundraiser on May 4 to defray the cost of the Youth Mission trip this summer.
- Approved the formation of a Generosity Subcommittee to create and implement the fall 2026 pledge initiative.
- Elected three commissioners to attend the April 29 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

-- 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: _____

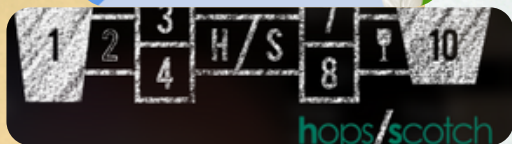
Make checks payable to DPC (note “Easter Flowers” on it). Mail to the church office or place in the offering plate. Names must be received in the church office **no later than noon on Monday, April 7.**

Name: _____ Phone or Email: _____



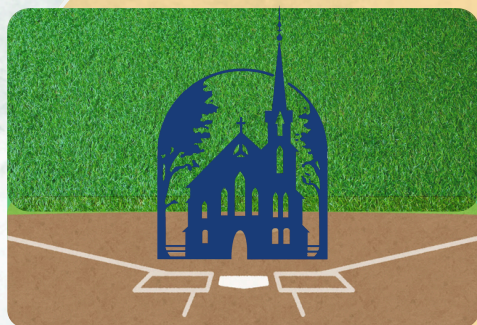
DPC Dads Spring Hike!

The dads braved the cold during last season's winter hike so now they are eager to hit the trail again and soak up the Spring weather! On **May 3**, at 7 am, Dads are invited to meetup at High Rocks State Park in Pipersville (parking lot on Tory Road). No RSVP needed but don't be late! Talk to Art Shull in person, or send an email to dpc@dtownpc.org if you have questions.



DPC MOMs Meetup at Hops/Scotch!

The moms gather for a casual night out on Friday, **May 9** at 7 pm at Hops/Scotch located in in the Marketplace of Doylestown (22 S. Main Street). There are several restaurants to get food from, so come hungry or come just for the chance to get out with friends! No RSVP required and new faces are always welcomed! If you have questions, talk to Megan Craig in person, or send an email to dpc@dtownpc.org.



DPC at the Ballpark!

Another amazing baseball season is underway. Come and join in with other DPC members and friends to cheer on the Phillies! DPC is taking over Citizens Bank Park on Friday, **June 20** at 6:45 pm against the Mets. Let's cheer the team to victory together! 75 tickets have been reserved in Section 304, in the outfield. Bring your mitts – we might need to catch some homeruns.

- Tickets are \$54 per person (\$57 if you pay online).
- You are on your own for transportation, but we will ask about carpooling options on the form and will provide you with contacts of people who want to carpool.

- Registration/ticket purchases will be due by Monday, **May 5**. Please confirm tickets by filling out the [ticket request form HERE](#) and then submit payment via 3 methods below. (Please note: tickets are guaranteed upon receipt of payment.)
 - You can drop cash or a check off in the Church Office or offering plate.
 - You can send a check (payable to Doylestown Presbyterian Church) by mail (Doylestown Presbyterian Church, 127 E. Court Street, Doylestown, PA, 18901).
 - You can pay online, by visiting our giving page [HERE](#) (note: the cost is \$57 per ticket online).

WHAT'S *happening* AT



Big News! We are thrilled to have been recertified by the PC(USA) as an **Earth Care Congregation** for a third consecutive year as of March 2025! The push to first attain this certification came a Growth Thru Action Group developed by the Peace and Justice subcommittee which now continues as the Earth Care Interest Group. The PC(USA) describes the distinction as a way to celebrate environmental ministry across 4 major areas of a congregation's life: worship, education, facilities, and outreach in the community.

DPC's Carbon Footprint Challenge continues with new activities and eco-friendly suggestions added to the stations located in the Celtic Cross Room and outside of Room 213 in Andrews Hall. Be sure to check it out, learn how you can participate, and enter to win a fun giveaway prize soon!

Members of DPC have been invited to attend a talk by renowned climate scientist **Dr. Katharine Hayhoe** hosted by Wayne Presbyterian Church (125 E. Lancaster Ave. in Wayne) on Friday, **April 4**, at 7:30 pm. Dr. Hayhoe is a professor at Texas Tech University, Chief Scientist for The Nature Conservancy, author, and an evangelical Christian. She will give a presentation on Climate Change, Faith, and Culture: Finding Common Ground. No RSVP required.



"Lilies of the Field" is coming to the Celtic Cross Room as the next installment of the Celebrate the Arts visual display series. Members and friends of DPC are invited to submit pieces to the church office by 10 am Thursday, **April 3** to be included. Work must have hanging wire on the back and labeled with your name, media, and title as we highlight flowers—some of God's most stunning creations. Be sure to stop by on Sunday before or after worship to experience the beauty!



Flag Collection. Scout Troop 48 will be holding a Flag Retirement Ceremony at LakeView Retirement Home on **May 10 at 2:30 pm.**

Anyone with US and/or PA Flags that need to be retired in a respectful manner are encouraged to leave them in boxes located in the Mechanics Street entrance to the sanctuary (under the bridge) and in the Andrews Hall lobby beginning **April 27**. DPC members and friends are also welcomed to attend the ceremony.



Memorial Day Street Picnic!

We look forward to once again joining with the community for this very special day in Doylestown on **May 26**. Be sure to stop by, outside the church, for food and fun with your fellow DPC members and the entire Doylestown Community. Volunteers are always needed and anyone who has helped in the past will tell you how fun and rewarding it can be. Volunteer signup is NOW OPEN, so if you are interested, take a look at the list and visit bit.ly/DPC-MDP today!



SOUTHWEST MISSION TRIP

Another awesome crew is about to depart to Gallup, New Mexico to volunteer at the Community Pantry, which DPC has supported for more than 20 years. Please keep the group in your prayers and keep watch for updates as their journey unfolds!



FOOD DRIVE & COMMUNITY MEAL

DPC's monthly Food Drive occurs on Easter Sunday, **April 20**, from 9:15 to 11 am to help stock the shelves of the Doylestown Food Pantry and help those in need. Following the later worship service we join together at noon in Fellowship Hall for our monthly Community Meal with our homeless guests. A number of restaurants and stores have agreed to help supply part of the meal and we are grateful for their very generous donations. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up to volunteer your time or donate food for the meal—or just plan to stop by for lunch!



DOYLESTOWN COMMUNITY FOOD COLLECTION

Last year, DPC tried something new - organizing a special community food collection. It was an astounding success, with residents filling hundreds of grocery bags with food to help support those in need through the Doylestown Food Pantry. We are doing it again and this year it is bigger and better than ever! We are seeking volunteers to help drop off shopping bags to about 750 homes in Doylestown Borough on **May 16**. Two days later, on **May 18**, volunteers will visit those same homes to pick up any bags filled with food and transport them to Harvey Avenue in the borough. If you would like to learn more or sign up today, visit bit.ly/DPC-SFC.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MEAL PACKING

It's time once again to put on our hairnets, roll up our sleeves, and have a whole lot of fun as we help combat global hunger. We meet at Delaware Valley University on Sunday, **June 8**, from 1 to 3 pm. Visit bit.ly/DPC-FMSC to save your spot today for this one of a kind, high energy experience!

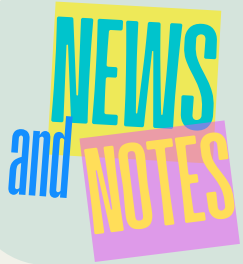
CHILDREN



DPC's Summer Camp happens July 7-11! 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. For more information and to sign up today, visit www.dtownpc.org/summercamp2025



CLICK HERE



• This Sunday, **April 6**, the Children's Ministry Subcommittee presents Bibles to the 3-year-old Little Lambs to help equip families for their faith journeys ahead.

- Wednesday Club and Children's bells and choir look forward to the End of the Year Party on **April 9!**
- All children are invited to process through the sanctuary during the opening hymn at the 10:30 am **Palm Sunday, April 13!** Just meet on the bridge before worship. Be sure to stick around for the fun DPC Hop scavenger hunt after church!

YOUTH



CLICK HERE

Summer Youth Trips

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



Raleigh Youth Mission Trip June 22-27 all youth entering 8th grade through 12th grade are invited to travel to Raleigh, NC. Youth and their leaders will volunteer through Raleigh Youth Mission at various locations alongside neighbors who are homeless, in poverty, or food insecure. Sign up today by paying a deposit.



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. Youth may apply to be a leader. Sign up today by paying a deposit.



Through out the year, the youth (and their leaders) at DPC participate in many "mission oriented" activities. They have made meals for the Code Blue Shelter guests, put together SMILE bags, shop and organize Easter baskets for families at the Bucks County Housing Group, and have two mission oriented events planned this summer.

To help fund these activities, DPC Youth will serve as your personal sandwich artisans during a hoagie Fundraiser!

CLICK HERE or to place your order and select your payment options by **May 1**. The cost is \$10 per hoagie along with chips. Hoagies will be available for **pickup on May 4** in the Celtic Cross Room following both worship services. Thank you for supporting our wonderful Youth! Talk to Pastor Becca or Kristen Roland if you have questions.

Sunday, May 4

Is Graduation, Confirmation, and Youth Sunday!

The Youth will lead worship, guided by this theme: In a world that has led to unprecedented times and unexpected challenges, we consider - "What grounds you?" We welcome the confirmands as the newest members of DPC and we celebrate our graduates. If you are a college or post-grad student, we want to include you! Reach out to the church office!

Join in a festive celebration on the bridge between services. There, all can sign letters to say thank you to all who helped make children and youth ministry possible this past year.



Spotlight on Engagement

“Lights...Camera...Livestream!”

Every Sunday morning at the rear of the sanctuary you will find members of DPC’s Audio-Visual (AV) Team hard at work. These highly dedicated and skilled volunteers play a vital role in ensuring the best possible worship experience, both for in-person participants and those joining remotely. Responsible for the soundboard, microphones, cameras, projectors, and livestream, AV team members rarely get a moment’s rest. As explained by Christian Menno, DPC’s Director of Communications, “What happens at the soundboard may seem like autopilot to the outside eye, but the process really is a detailed and collaborative effort. Team members must constantly think on their feet and anticipate what is coming next - including unforeseen tech issues. There is a high level of care and effort by everyone back there.”

Since COVID, DPC has been committed to virtual access to a number of ministry areas. Worship services typically receive between 150 to 250 views on YouTube – including people tuning in live, or later, throughout the week. Special services like Easter and Christmas Eve usually see those numbers double. As shared by Rev. Becca Bateman, “I was speaking with a member recently who just returned from two months of not being able to attend services in person. After one Sunday of ‘missing’ church, she remembered we posted it online. She tuned in and was delighted to be transported into the Sanctuary each Sunday morning. We are reaching a whole demographic of people in need of participating remotely, for the short term or the long term.”

AV Team members (Alan, Bob, Eileen, Jay, Laura, Mark, Mike, and Rob) work closely with Christian, and most of them have been serving together on the team for many years. Recently, two youth (Ryan and Tyler) have been added to the mix. Said Christian, “It has been really energizing to see youth with interest in this area of ministry. They have a technical acumen, breadth of knowledge, and understanding of terminology and technical concepts that they acquire naturally as part of being a teenager these days. The youth also can be very innovative and creative.”

As is a goal in any volunteer service, those engaged in the AV Team share a genuine love for what they do. “It is very rewarding and fun to be part of this exciting team,” says crew member Mike Paradiso. “You meet people all the time coming into and exiting the services, so you are constantly seeing people you haven't seen in a while and re-connecting with them.”

Eileen Telly shares, “I remember walking back to the [sound] board one Sunday and thinking, ‘this is so cool and interesting.’ One quick conversation with Christian and I was on the team! Truth be told, I have a lot of fun in the back behind the computer. It’s true that sometimes we all have an occasional ‘oops,’ but it is a joy to be part of the AV Team at DPC.”

This article was contributed by DPC’s Membership Engagement Coordinator Chris Graham-Rawlings.

If you are interested in learning more about DPC’s Audio-Visual Team, or you would like to suggest a group or volunteer to be highlighted in a future Spotlight on Engagement, please email Christian Menno (christianm@dtownpc.org) or Chris (chrisr@dtownpc.org).

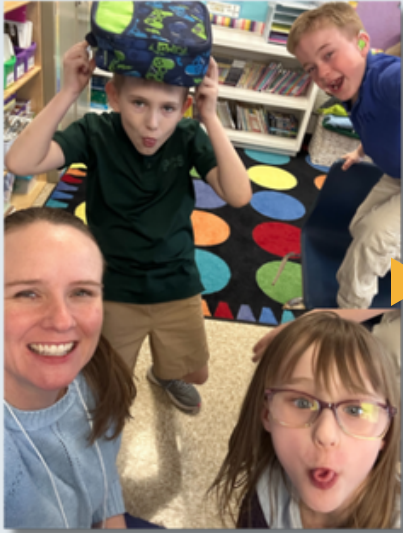


Ministry in Motion!

Ash Wednesday included Drive-Through ashes, a heartfelt, multigenerational worship service, and a rain-soaked outing at the Community Labyrinth with some faithful visitors who received ashes from Pastor Mac and Seminarian Jamie Neal.



Crafting, Pancakes, live jazz music, and a wild parade of both children and adults made DPC's first ever Fat Sunday event a memorable way to celebrate before the Lenten season.



Pastor Becca was able to pal around with some DPC kids while visiting Plumstead Christian for Pastor Appreciation lunch.



DPC's awesome Youth Group and dedicated leaders enjoyed Big Macs, Mac & Cheese, Rita's, and a visit from Pastor Mac last month!

