

# THE TIDINGS

September  
2020

Doylestown Presbyterian Church

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



## Outdoor Hymn Singing

Join Mark and Mina for fun and fellowship as we come together to sing our favorite hymns! We will gather on **Sunday, September 13** at 4:00 pm in the yard in front of the church. Bring your mask, a lawn chair, and your best

singing voice! Requests will be taken during the event, but email your favorite hymns ahead of time to [markh@dtownpc.org](mailto:markh@dtownpc.org) to make sure they end up on our "set list." In the event of rain, the event will be postponed until a future date and a notice will be posted on church social media. We hope members of our community of all ages will join us!



## DPC CONNECTS!

**Our new Facebook Group for community and fellowship**

Personal connection is something all of us at times may have taken for granted. But during these last few months it has become clear—many truly yearn for that in-person interaction with their DPC family. With that in mind, we invite you to join **DPC Connects** — which will help you find others willing to meet up. It could be as simple as an impromptu walk in the park, an informal get-together in your backyard, plans to go kayaking or fishing, or even just online conversation. Whatever your passion, this page is meant to help you meet with fellow DPCers who share that interest. Just go to **DPC's Facebook page @dtownpc** and click on **"Groups"** to request to join.

## New Website!

DPC will soon have a brand new website! Stay tuned for more details about the launch of the brighter, better **DTOWNPC.ORG!**



Check inside for all the upcoming classes and events for the new program year— including details of our new children's learning experience **Seeds of Faith.**

## 9:30 Livestream

Our Livestream worship has now moved to 9:30 am. We hope you can tune in or watch the recorded version later that morning!

# FROM the PASTOR

One of the ongoing challenges of life today is how to strengthen our sense of community amidst a pandemic. It is a question faced by families and schools, workplaces and athletic groups. And certainly it is an ongoing theme of our shared life at DPC, too.

With the exception of last month's outdoor service at Central Park, we have not been able to gather in person for worship since March 8 and will not do so until indoor restrictions ease. Even so, your responses as people of faith have not stopped. Prayers and deeds of compassion are still occurring. Learning and planning have taken on creative forms. Acts of generosity and witness continue to inspire. Still, the life of faith is not intended to be experienced alone as we all need ways to strengthen our relationship each another.

Recently, our creative staff met to think about new ways our members can gather even with social distancing and masks. One of the ideas was the launching of a new Facebook group called "DPC Connects" for members and friends of our church. We will have a hymn sing in the churchyard on September 13 and another outdoor service on October 4, too. Details about each of those activities is in this newsletter. Other ideas are in the works, too, focusing on things we can do outside while the weather permits and ways to continue building community as we move into cooler days. Let me tell you about two other opportunities that are starting soon.

Later this month, a group called DPC Dads begins as a way of fostering relationships for fathers of children who range in age from newborn to college. All men blessed with that title know fatherhood is a learn-as-you-go experience that is joyful and

frustrating, fun and hard—sometimes all at the same time! Thus, it is the kind of journey that is best strengthened by gathering with others who are living that experience. The group begins on September 15.

Starting in October, the day's preacher will host an online sermon discussion group on Sunday afternoons. Unlike my seminary preaching classes, the purpose of those gatherings will not be "constructive" feedback on the sermon itself, but focus on such questions as what you heard in that day's message, what it stirred in you, and what connections it made to your life as a follower of Jesus in 2020. Since sermons are usually one-way, these gatherings are meant to be conversations; to ponder how the Word took on flesh in you that day.

Of course, none of the opportunities outlined above can replace the experience of being together in person for worship and study, service and fellowship, but they can help deepen our sense of community even so. Thus, I encourage you to take advantage of one or more of these new ventures and to pass along your ideas of other gatherings that would be of interest as well.

Even though COVID-19 continues to shape every aspect of life, I am convinced we can emerge from this season stronger and better disciples of Jesus Christ; something that occurs best when we are together. I look forward to sharing in such moments and discoveries with you until and after this pandemic ends.

*John*

## SESSION REPORT

At its meeting on August 24, the Session:

- Approved the live-stream and in-person worship (when it returns) to occur at 9:30 a.m.
- Approved a job description for an Interim Director of Youth, Tweens, & College-Age Ministry
- Learned of youth ministry plans for the upcoming program year
- Received an update from a Family Ministry Task Force focused on ways to strengthen our ministry with that generation in our church
- Approved Adult Education classes to start virtually this fall
- Approved the revised contract for Roberta Kearney that includes responsibility for all educational and family ministries
- Received an update from the Matthew 25 Task Force
- Approved changes in the roll. Total membership as of 8/24 is 1491



# MISSION

**St. Bernard's Project Volunteer Days** - This past summer, a group from DPC returned to the Jersey Shore to work with the St. Bernard's Project to rebuild a home that was damaged in Hurricane Sandy. The family has been displaced since the massive storm eight years ago and is hoping they may finally be able to return home by this Christmas. St. Bernard's Project is depending on DPC to help complete this home, and we have planned to return on **October 1 and 2** to help again! It will only be our group on site along with a few SBP staff members, and COVID safety protocols will be followed at all times.

You may come for one or both days, and if you'd like to stay overnight the group will be lodging at Camp Evans, which is clean with ample room to spread out safely. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for one or more days, please contact Erin Rizk, [erinr@dtownpc.org](mailto:erinr@dtownpc.org). We hope you will consider joining us for this mission fulfilling work!



**The Peace and Global Witness Offering** - Each year on World Communion Sunday (**October 4**), we collect the Peace and Global Witness Offering, which helps to address systems of injustice across the world and to advocate for peace and justice through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. 75% of

the offering will go directly towards PCUSA's peacemaking efforts around the world, and the remaining 25% will be sent to DPC's mission partner, Christian Legal Clinics, in Philadelphia. This urban legal ministry seeks to address injustice and poverty. You can contribute to this offering with the envelope found in your offering box or on the DPC website. Thank you for your generosity!



**Rolling Harvest Food Rescue** - Our mission partner Rolling Harvest works with local farms to provide fresh produce to those in need in our community. There are opportunities each week to help with harvesting and weeding, as well as

distributing food at weekly markets. Erin Rizk and some other DPCers will be going to Gravity Hill Farm **September 5** from 9 to 11 am. If you'd like to join, please email Erin at [erinr@dtownpc.org](mailto:erinr@dtownpc.org). All are welcome! This is a great chance for those of all ages to help others while being outdoors and socially distant.

**Habitat** - Habitat for Humanity is currently renovating a home in Croydon for a family. Right now they are working on the second floor, and the roof has been completely removed (meaning that it is the work is outdoors and a COVID-safe volunteer opportunity). They are looking for volunteers to help who have previously volunteered with Habitat on other projects. If you are interested, please contact Erin Rizk at [erinr@dtownpc.org](mailto:erinr@dtownpc.org).



**Feed My Starving Children update** - It is with great sadness that we share that all Feed My Starving Children mobile pack events have been canceled through February 2021, including the Central Bucks

event. DPC has proudly participated in this ministry each fall for the last several years, and it was a highlight for many. FMSC is conducting experimentation to modify the MobilePack event packing process with a focus on the safety and well-being of volunteers.

**Code Blue update** - DPC's Code Blue dinner team volunteers continue to help CSSH by providing delicious home-cooked dinners for their homeless guests on Monday and Thursday evenings at the Doylestown YMCA. The program has been extended through September, and probably longer. DPC's Community Meal is continuing on a very limited basis by providing meals for our homeless guests each **third Sunday** of the month. For more information or if you'd like to volunteer, contact Erin Rizk at [erinr@dtownpc.org](mailto:erinr@dtownpc.org)

## LIFE MILESTONES

### BIRTHS

**Ruth Everly Bird**, daughter of **Corbin** and **Heather Bird**, granddaughter of **Kristen Wittman**, **July 17**  
**Nicholas Isaac Hoffman**, son of **Henry** and **Michele Hoffman**, **July 30**

### WEDDINGS

**Jay Horwath** and **Elizabeth Eberts**, **August 1**  
**Josh Bernard** and **Jennifer Whitaker**, **August 14**  
**James Darville** and **Sheryl Ann Sunnongmuang**, **August 15**

### DEATHS

**Charles Smith**, father of **Rochelle Young**, **July 30**  
**Joyce Morris**, mother of **Skip Morris**, **July 31**  
**Bonnie Bertini**, **August 5**  
**Doris Brown**, **August 11**  
**Mary Shortall**, sister of **Deirdre Shaffer**, **August 23**

# A NEW PROGRAM



## Signups open now! Fall Groups start soon.

We are excited to offer six groups this fall! Signups are open now, with groups beginning in the coming weeks. Groups are open to everyone, including non-members of DPC, and serve as a means for people to gather together based on spiritual needs, stages in life, and common interests. We learn, ask questions, pray, and socialize—with most groups this year occurring on Zoom, while others in outdoor, socially-distant settings. There is something for everyone! Sign up today as enrollment is first-come, first-served. **To join, visit [bit.ly/2EQ740i](https://bit.ly/2EQ740i)**

**Men's Group (book study to be decided at first meeting).** This group is led by Cameron Craig and will meet every other Monday starting on Sept. 14, 6:45 to 7:45 am, outdoors at Burpee Park. Open to men.

**Pond River Ocean Rain: Find Peace in the Storms of Life.** This group will examine the book by Charles Lattimore Howard and will be led by Janet Roberto and Lola Cooley. It will meet Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 29 through Nov. 17, 7:00 to 8:30 pm on Zoom. Open to anyone.

**I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness.** John Willingham will lead this book study on Wednesdays beginning Oct. 7 through Nov. 18, 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Meetings will be held outside DPC or in the Celtic Cross Room. Open to anyone.

**How to Be an Anti-Racist.** Katie Toner, Honor Ford, Judy Cody, and Laurie Foote discuss racial injustice as the group reads the best-selling book by Ibram X. Kendi with a special night Sept. 25 at 7:00 pm and then each Wednesday beginning Sept. 30 through Nov. 18, 7:30 to 8:30 pm on Zoom. Open to anyone.

**If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat.** The book by John Ortberg is the focus of this Women's Group led by Julie McCormack. It will meet on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 16 through Nov. 18, 7:00 to 8:15 pm on Zoom.

**The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God.** Terry Herring and Jeff Toner examine the reflective book by Dallas Willard each Friday beginning Sept. 25 through Nov. 20, 7:30 to 8:30 am on Zoom. Open to anyone.

## MUSIC

Given the inability to offer vocal ensembles due to COVID-19 restrictions, the focus right now is on instrumental groups which allow you to share your musical gifts safely.

### Joyful Bells

(Intermediate/advanced adult ringers)  
Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:15 pm, starting Sept. 17



### NEW! Beginning Bells for Adults

Begins in late Sept./early Oct.  
Rehearsal time TBD

### Festival Ringers

(6th—12th grade)  
Sundays, 4:00 to 4:45 pm, starting Sept. 27

### Celebration Ringers

(2nd—6th grade)  
Wednesday afternoons,  
starting Sept. 23  
Group A 4:30 to 5:00 pm  
Group B 5:15 to 5:45 pm



### Orchestra

String Ensemble  
(9th grade—adults of all skill levels)  
Rehearsal time TBD

Contact Mark Helms at [markh@dtownpc.org](mailto:markh@dtownpc.org) for more information or to sign up.

# YEAR BEGINS



## ADULT ED CLASSES START SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20



**Bible Talk!** — This class welcomes all adults to come learn from a different Christian professional or Bible scholar each week as they share a Biblical lesson and discuss how it applies to our Christian walk. We believe “BIBLETALK!” will be a class you won’t want to miss. Meets **Sundays, 8:30 to 9:30 am** on Zoom. Coordinated by Tim Liebig.

**Good News and the Other News** — Current events are discussed while reflecting upon the story from the perspective of faith. Meets **Sundays, 8:30 to 9:30 am** on Zoom. Led by Christo Claassens, Jenny Danzis, Pauline Sexton, and Jay Stough.

**iLIGHT** — Diverse Topics, Diverse People, Demanding Times. Learning In God’s House Together! Topics, units, and formats will vary, from book-based to new media like podcasts and sometimes just "round table" discussions. We see ourselves as a "learning community" rather than a class, and will adapt our approach with the input of all of our participants. All are welcome! **Sundays, 10:45 to 11:30 am** on Zoom. Join us in our journey! Led by Steve Spadt.

**The Word Among Us** — This class will embark on a study of one of the most beloved books of the Bible. The 150 Psalms are amazing expressions of heartfelt praise, petition, and prayer offered by the Hebrews as they worshiped God. There are many types of Psalms (e.g., praise, thanksgiving, and lamentation), reflecting the joys and hardships of real life. Join us as we study and appreciate the beauty of each of the Psalms and how we can use them in our own devotional times with God. **Sundays, 10:45 to 11:45 am** on Zoom. Led by Dick Cornelius and Margaret Thoresen.

## FELLOWSHIP

**DPC Dads** A time of fellowship and support for fathers with newborns to college-age children. The group will meet every **third Tuesday** at 8:00 pm on Zoom beginning **September 15**. Once each quarter the group will meet in person. Keep watch in your email for information on how to join. Led by John Willingham.



**Moms of Young Children Group** These are casual gatherings that welcome moms (of infants through elementary school aged kids) together to share life, motherhood, and faith. It is so important, especially during these trying times, to connect with other women who are in relatively the same season of life. This group will meet on Zoom from 8:00 to 9:00 pm on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** of each month. Please attend when you can fit it into your schedule. Our first meeting will be on **September 9**. Co-leaders: Krista Spadt and Jenny Baker.

### Read and Chat Book Discussion

The book group meets on the second Wednesday of each month beginning **September 9** at 1 pm and ends no later than 2:30 pm. Meetings will be held outdoors if weather allows or otherwise in the Celtic Cross Room. Contact Joyce

Baral 215-348-8335 for questions.

This month’s book is *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingslover.



### Women’s Discussion Group

For mothers with children ranging in ages from about 7th grade through college to offer support and encouragement to one another. This very casual group will meet virtually on Zoom from 7:30 to 8:30 pm on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays** of each month. Please attend when you can, as often as you can. Our first meeting will be on **September 3**. Co-leaders: Jenny Baker and Krista Spadt.

# FRESH FAITH EXPRESSIONS FOR FALL

In the face of ongoing COVID challenges we in children and youth ministry will be supporting this vital work in different ways and places this fall. Rather than gathering in our building on Sunday morning we are turning to two of God's greatest blessings – the family and the outdoors – as our places for ministry. To mark this new time, our offerings will operate under fresh new names:

1) Seeds of Faith for children in preschool through 4th grade and 2) Thrive! for tweens, youth, and college-age young people.



**Seeds of Faith** kits are being prepared for families with children in preschool through 4th grade. Families will receive tips for playfully and imaginatively exploring their faith and God's word any time during the week. We are excited to introduce the new *Growing in God's Love* story Bible to our elementary school children. Each family will receive a preschool and/or elementary school story bible based on the age of their child or children. Kits will be available the week of **September 20.**

# THRIVE!

During this COVID time of stony ground and weeds we want to see our tweens, youth and college-age students Thrive! Tired of Zoom and hungry to be together – youth leaders are planning outdoor gatherings for fellowship, faith conversations and face to face interaction which abide by COVID safety guidelines of distancing and the wearing of masks. From these conversations study groups and mission projects will emerge. Keep watch for more details in the coming weeks.

## DPC UPGRADES

While the campus has been closed, the property committee has taken advantage of the quieter times to get some projects completed.

Many of these projects go unnoticed, so we'd like to highlight a few of them here.

- First Floor Women's Bathroom in Sanctuary – a floor joist was beginning to bend and crack so it was jacked up and secured.
- DPC Office – added a full wall to one of the cubicles to allow for some sound deflection and privacy.
- Quarterly Preventative Maintenance – during our summer maintenance, we upgraded the filters with MERV 11 filters, which provide additional protection from viruses and germs.
- New Electric Hot Water Heater – replaced the water heater in the Sanctuary building.
- Lightening Project in Sanctuary – rented a lift to replace burnt out bulbs for the chancel area and to replace the others. The new bulbs should last for years to come! 22 large fixtures and 4 smaller fixtures were fitted with

replacement LED bulbs. The lights will be much cooler and the participants will really shine beneath their glow.

Your continued faithfulness has allowed us to complete these projects (safely) as we wait to gather together again (in-person).



# MINISTRY



*in motion*

## WORSHIP IN THE PARK!

We had a wonderful experience together last Sunday in Central Park in Doylestown and we look forward to doing it again on Oct. 4! Thank you to all who made the day possible, including the dedicated volunteers from the Senior Adult Ministry Committee.

(Photos courtesy of William Thomas Cain/CAIN IMAGES)



## THANK YOU JOSH AND CRYSTAL!

The outdoor service also allowed for a heartfelt sendoff for Pastor Josh Gill, who has answered the call to lead Eastminster Presbyterian Church in York, PA, and a chance to thank Crystal Clemente, who is leaving her position as Director of Tweens & Teens after three years in that role.

Both were grateful for all the well-wishes on Sunday, with Josh adding that he will look back on his six years with DPC fondly and he very much appreciated the funny cookies, cards, notes, and gifts from the congregation.

(Photos courtesy of Amy Pujols)





**Doylestown  
Presbyterian Church**

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

127 East Court Street  
Doylestown, Pa 18901

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September 2, 2020  
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## **NOMINATIONS for Elders and Deacons**

**The Nominating Committee will soon consider candidates to begin their service in June of 2021**

Each year this group assembles to identify the persons whom God has chosen for leadership at DPC. The committee strives to recommend individuals who reflect the diversity of our congregation as these new officers join with current ones in seeking the will of Christ for all of the matters before us. The *Book of Order* states that we seek able, gifted persons of strong faith and dedicated discipleship because of their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Your perceptions as to fellow members who possess such gifts are essential to the committee's work. If you have a recommendation of someone (including yourself) for the committee to consider, complete this form and mail to the church office, send an email to [dpc@dtownpc.org](mailto:dpc@dtownpc.org) or talk with any member of the Nominating Committee: Steve Spadt - Moderator, Marie Cooper, Jonathan Craig, Steve Greenlee, Christine Jones, Kathy Maclin, Steve Quist, Mary Lee Reiff, Gavin Richards.

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Consider for the office of:

\_\_\_\_\_ Ruling Elder      \_\_\_\_\_ Deacon

Offices held at DPC and other committee, activity, or mission involvement:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

**We are grateful for your help in identifying the next group  
of faithful individuals whom God is calling to serve in our church.**