



## Pastor's Page

### Psalm 130:5-6 (NRSV)

*<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.*

*<sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen watch for the morning,  
more than watchmen watch for the morning.*



Christmas just never seemed to arrive. Really, any special occasion crawled slower than an ant through molasses. Birthdays. Easter. Parties. Camp. But, especially Christmas. In what I'm sure was a desperate bid for sanity, my Dad did not allow the Christmas tree to be put up until December 15. There were other special attractions that helped fill the time: school programs, church programs, special TV shows, baking cookies, wrapping presents, writing cards.

One Christmas Eve, my sisters and I were jumping around, barely controlled. We wanted Christmas morning – but were unwilling to go to bed. My Dad leaned back from the dinner table and said, "You will sleep. I put sleeping pills in your hamburgers." Now, we were totally crazed, afraid that we would *sleep through Christmas*. Of course, father had not put sleeping pills in our dinner. In fact, my father is something of a kid himself and was up at 4 a.m. telling the rest of us to get out of bed!

I know that none of us will sleep through Christmas – especially if you have children! But it is all too easy to 'sleep' walk through this Holy Season of Advent in a rush to get to Christmas; distracted by the excitement of lights, parties, special programs and your long to-do list. Advent is meant to be a season of waiting and preparation: not waiting and preparing for parties and presents – but watching attentively and preparing our hearts for the Christ child to be born again in us.

I pray for you a meaningful and blessed time of waiting with joyful expectation for Christ's arrival.

Pastor Karen



# December 2017

**Bells of Praise: Thursdays at 6:30 pm**

**Choir Rehearsals: Sundays at 9:00 am**





**Women's Bible Study: Resumes Jan. 8**

**Living the Questions Bible Study – Fridays at 7:30 am**

**Women's AA: Sundays at 7:15 pm, Tuesdays at 12**

**Closed Meeting AA: Thursdays at noon**

**Prez Deadline for January: December 17**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 am Communion 11:15 am Fellowship and Hanging of the Greens	6 pm Scouts	7 pm Christian Ed Mtg.	12 pm		5 pm Rental	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 am Worship and White Manger 11:15 Cookie Festival 1:30 pm Rental						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am Worship and Christmas Pageant		7 pm Session				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 am Worship 11:15 Refreshments 6:30 pm Worship 10 pm Communion		Office closed				
31						
10 am Worship 11:15 Refreshments 5 pm Rental						

	Hostess	Greeters	Deacon in Charge	Acolytes
3	Ginny Gajewski	Drew and Mary Wilson Hyde	Jan Messina	Nate Phang
10		Lee and Lois Hessberg	Randy Morse	Greta Hertz
17			Drew Hyde	Nick Rees
24			Jack Gajewski	Nate Phang
31			Jack Gajewski	Lauren Jack

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### ***And on to the Christmas Pageant...***

We made it through our second module with great success. We have added an altar in our “sanctuary room” with three candles representing God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Each week, the child whose birthday is closest to the Sunday gets to light the candles as we say our prayer. (The candles are extinguished before we leave the room.) We have added another part to our prayer - what we are thankful for. The “sanctuary room” is where we read our scripture each week, answer questions, and give the children an opportunity to discuss what they have heard.

Pastor Karen blessed us with the other classroom, which we are very grateful for. This gives us a space to do our work and allows us to leave our supplies out for the next week. The children were happy to have the new space and have put it to good use while making their scripture posters of *The Healing of the Ten Lepers*.

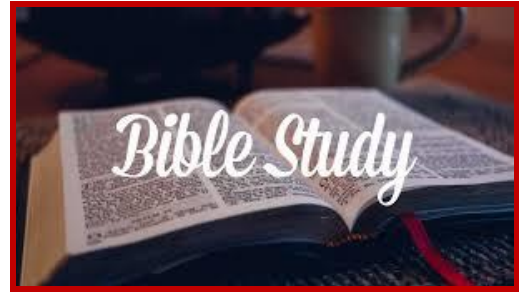
For the Christmas season the children are each creating a manger scene along with a book of their own interpretation. I am always excited to see how each child expresses what she or he hears from scripture.

The children will be presenting their Christmas Pageant on December 17<sup>th</sup>. I am sure you will want to be there for all the children in their pageant attire, and to see their version of the Christmas story.

The children and I wish one and all a reflective Advent season as we await the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Joani Jameson, Director of Youth and Families

## ***Adult Education***



The **Ladies' Monday Morning Bible Study** group will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup>. All women are welcome to join us!

The **Friday Morning Bible Study** is held at 7:30 a.m. in the library and is open to all. We are also using “Living the Questions.” This series explores questions about how we approach our Christian faith in the modern world, and includes video segments presented by many prominent theologians and ministers. We will conclude “Living the Questions” on December 15<sup>th</sup> and resume in January with an equally challenging new study.

## DEACONS



Remember the first Sunday of the month is Deacons' Sunday. You will find envelopes on the pews you can use. This time of the year need seems to be greater so any small gift would be helpful. Thank you.

Peggy Mull, Deacons Moderator

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### *Hanging of the Greens*



Join the DPC family as we decorate our building for Advent and prepare for Christmas. We will gather after church on Sunday, 12/3, for fellowship, seasonal crafts, and decorating. This will be a festive event and we will need help from congregants of all ages, so please plan to stay a little late that day.

If you have questions about this event or would like to help plan, please contact Beth Walthall at [elizabeth.walthall@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.walthall@gmail.com) or (518) 439-1986.

### *Ladies Who Care*



On Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> we will gather at Irene Harbison's home for a potluck luncheon and carol sing. Come and join us for *food, fun, fellowship and song*.

When: Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at noon

Where: 17 Northwood Court, Slingerlands

Please bring: A salad to share – beverages and desserts will be provided.

RSVP: to Irene – [mireneharbison@gmail.com](mailto:mireneharbison@gmail.com) or Pam Taft - [pamtaft73@gmail.com](mailto:pamtaft73@gmail.com) or sign up in the narthex.

## WORSHIP



### **Advent Devotional Guides**

This Advent, the church is pleased to provide “Finding Christ at the Center of Our Advent Journey,” a daily devotional guide put together by the faculty, staff and students of Austin Theological Seminary. We hope you will use this Advent season of preparation as a time to continue devotional study, if it is something you already practice, or to try it out, if this is something you are not currently doing.

To join with fellow travelers along the way, we are offering two digital ways to connect. You can link to a Facebook discussion group moderated by Sarah Lewis from the church's Facebook page. Or you can join an e-mail list that I will moderate. The Facebook link will be live around the first Sunday of the season, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the e-mail group will start around then, too. If you would like to join the e-mail group, or have any questions, please e-mail me at [cewalthall@gmail.com](mailto:cewalthall@gmail.com).

Claiborne Walthall, Worship Committee Chair





# Cookie Festival

Sunday December 10  
During Coffee Hour

## Christmas Cookies

\$4 a Dozen

Sign up in Narthex if you can Bake or  
Assist as a Table Volunteer

Proceeds donated to the  
Bethlehem Senior Services

## SESSION DIGEST

### Highlights of the November, 2017

#### Session Meeting

- Rev. Pollan welcomed this year's confirmation class to the Session meeting and acknowledged that Katarina Rees, Evan Finke, Mary Fleischut, Matt Phang, Amelia Hertz, and Will Storrs have successfully completed this year's confirmation class. Each member of the class that was present at the meeting described their community service experiences, read an affirmation of faith, and explained why they chose that particular affirmation of faith. Session approved Evan Finke, Mary Fleischut, Matt Phang, Amelia Hertz, and Will Storrs as new members of our congregation. They will be received as new members in worship service on December 3.
- The Chair of the Congregational Life Committee presented a recommendation from the joint Subcommittee of the Congregational Life and the Buildings and the Grounds Committee for replacement of the current range/oven in the kitchen. The current range is very old and difficult to use. Session approved a maximum expenditure of \$3,500 from the Capital Improvement Fund to replace the current stove with two gas ranges with two ovens in each. The estimate includes the purchase of the two ranges, delivery, and hookup of gas lines by a plumber. There will be a future recommendation for replacing, or adding, other appliances in the kitchen.
- The Chair of the Personnel Committee circulated a written proposal of the 2018 Pastor compensation package and other staff salaries and benefits, which was approved by the Personnel Committee. A discussion followed, and the proposal was approved by Session.
- A discussion took place regarding a \$4,736.25 grant that our church received from the Jermain Legacy Account. Rev. Pollan asked for any ideas for the use of the funds. The Christian Education Chair proposed that a revolving fund could be established which would allow members who had a good idea to be able to obtain a small amount of money quickly to fund a special activity. The grant could fund dozens of small projects or new initiatives. A written proposal and written guidelines for the use of the fund will be developed.
- Session received a written and in person report from the Chair of the Financing Committee outlining the income and expenses through October 31. Pledges received are higher than anticipated as we are 83% through the year and pledges received are at 86%.
- Session received verbal reports from the Chair of the Christian Education, Communications, Worship, and Nominating Committees.
- Session held a discussion regarding the current woods beautification project.

- Session approved the October 17, 2017 Session Meeting minutes.
- Session established communion dates of December 3<sup>rd</sup> (pew service) and 24<sup>th</sup> (late service, by intinction), 2017.
- Session approved building requests from: Lynda Spielman, for member Water Color classes on April 14, 21, 28, & May 5, 19; Jim Crouce, for Cub Scouts Pack 272, on the first Mondays, 6-7pm; and from Jessica Freitag, for a Birthday Party for her son, December 10, 1:30 – 7pm.
- And, Session established their next meeting to be held Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

### ***“New Views” Woods Project is Underway***

As you know, DPC is in the midst of an exciting landscaping project.

“New Views” is the culmination of a two-year study involving the entire congregation. The goal of this woods beautification project is to make our church more welcoming, with increased visibility and attractiveness. In the process of doing this we will also remove dead and leaning trees, old stumps, and other debris, according to the Woods Beautification Committee proposal.

Anyone travelling through the crossroads of Delaware and Cherry Avenues will now be able to see our church clearly. More importantly, we want everyone to know that they are most welcome to visit us, to walk our

new trails, and to sit and rest while enjoying the trees, flowers, birds, butterflies, and wildlife that inhabit our property. Additionally, the project will enhance access to the church’s unique state-of-the-art playground, available to everyone in the community, including children with disabilities.



In both design and construction, our goal was to keep standing as many healthy trees as possible, and to create selective openings, windows if you will, for “New Views” of Delmar Presbyterian Church.

Submitted by Gail Chase

### ***Firewood Available***



Due to the “New Views” project, there is firewood available to those who can use it. The trees that are lying down can be taken for personal use. You are welcome to cut up and remove the wood, but only while there is no other work being done in the area.

## OUTREACH



This December we will again collect for White Manger Sunday on December 4<sup>th</sup> and for the Mitten Tree throughout the month.

White Manger Sunday is a moving ceremony we have been doing for years. Members bring a small gift wrapped in white tissue paper (one per family member). Led by our children, we

place our offerings under the Chancel Christmas tree. These gifts are donated to different charities each year. This year we will be giving them to the Hilltowns Christmas Collection. Parents shop for gifts from those donated. The staff and volunteers then wrap and tag these gifts, and the following week they are given out at a party attended by parents and children. Although any gift is appreciated, teenage gifts are often in short supply including: CDs, gift cards, books, games and clothes. Teenage boys prefer dark clothes. Immediately following worship on White Manager Sunday, we will unwrap the donated gifts. Help in unwrapping and bagging the gifts is always appreciated. It is also fun to see what has been donated!



The Mitten Tree is our other annual December event. To participate all you need do is bring hats, mittens or scarves and place them on the tree located in Fellowship Hall. These will be periodically removed and sent wherever need is greatest. We collect throughout the month of December.

## SAVE THE DATE!!

International Folk Dancing  
with Three Congregations  
Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm



All are welcome on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm to participate in international folk dancing to be held in the Fellowship Hall at Delmar Presbyterian Church. Three congregations, Delmar Presbyterian, B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, and Journey United Church of Christ, are jointly sponsoring this fellowship activity that will aid Family Promise, a cause that they all participate in and support.

Leading the evening will be Joan and Jim Savitt, who are very experienced folkdance teachers. They have taught at dance festivals and local folk dance groups. As members of B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation and Family Promise, they will make a gift of their teaching for the cause. The simple international folk dances they will teach will include some dances from Israel. Everyone will be included in a big circle and will all help one another.

There will be a break in the middle of the dance evening for socializing and refreshments supplied by the three congregations. The freewill donations will be given to Family Promise.

Submitted by Richard and Charlotte Stearns





## COMING SUNDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>

Where: Fellowship Hall  
Time: 4 p.m. – 7p.m.  
Who's invited: Everyone!!  
Theme: Epiphany



### *What is it???*

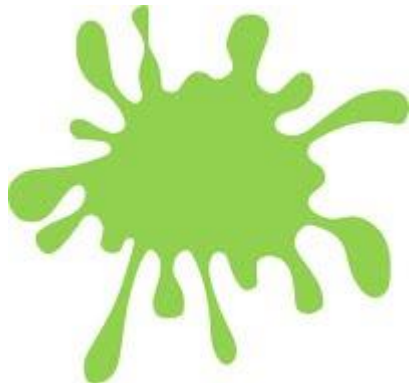
Messy Church is a church gathering that employs crafts, creativity and hands on activities as a way to explore faith and provides opportunities for people encounter Jesus in a new way. Messy Church started in the UK as a part of The Bible Reading Fellowship, which believes, with the historic churches, in one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Churches are getting messy throughout the world!

### **All-ages**

Messy Church is for adults and children to enjoy together: you are never too young or too old to take part.

### **Creativity**

Messy Church uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together.



### **Hospitality**

Messy Church reflects a God of unconditional love and welcomes regular church attenders and those who have never been in church. It is an oasis of welcome and a safe space in which to thrive. Messy Church is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together – whether it's a plate of sandwiches to share, or a bowl of soup.

### **Celebration**

Messy Church reflects a God of joy who wants his people to have life in all its fullness.

