

# The Delmar Prez

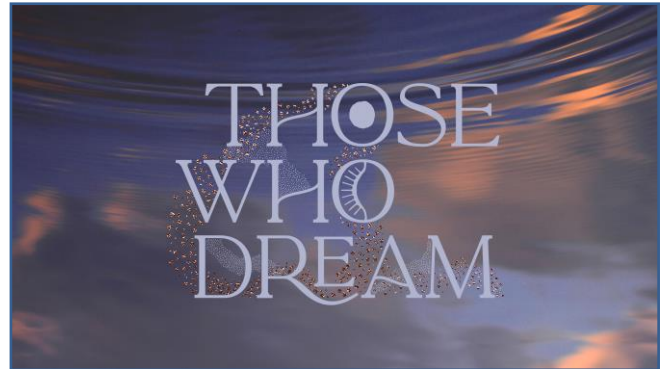


Delmar Presbyterian Church  
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Number 518

As you know, we have entered the season of Advent – a between time, a time of preparation, a waiting time. I feel as if we have been in a between time since March: between the start of the pandemic and the end of the pandemic; a waiting time; a time of preparing – but we're not sure for what. One of my favorite resources is a set of over-sized books linked to the Revised Common Lectionary. They are called 'Imaging the Word' and they connect Biblical texts and church seasons with art and literature.



The essay for Advent in Year B includes a picture by Salvador Dali: *Girl Standing at the Window*. The editors of 'Image the Word' reflect on the nature of Advent – a time of expectant, hopeful waiting which is akin to dreaming. They mention this picture saying "[she] waits with full attention for something. She looks expectantly out into the wide world beyond her familiar harbor. Attentive hope-filled, alert, with her whole being trained on the horizon, she watches for the sign: the break in the meeting of sea and sky, the cloud of smoke that heralds the messenger's arrival." So to do we wait for Jesus. And this year, maybe it is with a new intensity, a new awareness of our need for the Biblical promise of justice and peace.

This Advent – Epiphany season the church is using the artwork of *A Sanctified Art* as a unifying theme for the season. The artists and writers chosen theme for the season comes from Psalm 126 "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream." The Psalm was most likely written as the Israelites, exiled in Babylon, find they are going home. Their separation from the land and Jerusalem seemed like it would never end and that all they lost would never be recovered. Perhaps they felt afraid to dream.

*The Girl Standing at the Window* is waiting, yes, but I imagine she is also dreaming – of a reunion or an arrival and what her life will be like afterwards. For what are we watching, waiting, hoping, and dreaming? Vaccines? Gatherings with family and friends? A more stable, predictable future? A more equitable society? The public will to address inequities? An end to acrimonious public discourse? Does it feel like this time will never end? Are we afraid to dream and dream big? Not just a return to 'normal' but that we could reach 'better.' More justice. More equity. More peace. More prosperity for all.

I hope your Advent time includes times for dreaming. I hope that your Advent dreams are God's dreams. I hope that in this between time we find

unexpected blessings. I hope the darkness of the night is not fearful, but conducive for rest. I hope that in the coming of the Christ child we find our hearts filled with love and our Spirits strengthened to do God's will. May we be those who dream.

Blessings, Pastor Karen



Pablo Picasso's *Sleeping Woman*

## WORSHIP

### *Worship Plans for December*



### Christmas Eve

Join us for our online Christmas Eve service which will be available for viewing by 6 p.m. on our Facebook page.

We are welcoming people back for in-person worship on a very limited basis so we can test our procedures, monitor COVID developments in the community, and keep those involved in creating the service as safe as possible.

We are inviting 10 people to come each week. We ask that you call or email the office to reserve a spot and if the week is full you will be priority for the next week. If our county goes into orange and local cases start to rise we may have to shut back down and everyone will be notified if that happens.

However worship, study and fellowship occurs, Delmar Presbyterian Church will be alive, following Jesus, doing our best to continue Christ's work. Have questions? Please contact Pastor Karen at [pastorkaren@delmarpres.org](mailto:pastorkaren@delmarpres.org).

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### *Children's Pageant*



Would you like to be a reader for our virtual children's pageant? Please sign up by December 7th so we can start scheduling recordings. Follow this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABAA28A6FB6-dpcpageant> or call 518-598-9384. Thank you! Sarah Lewis

## DEACONS

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Ryan Kilgallon
2	Laura Scott
6	Mary Ingraham
7	Nate Cady
8	Bob Mattox
10	Irene Harbison
11	Jaiden Gray
11	Will Storrs
14	David Andersen
19	Tricia Hertz
19	Judy Riopelle
20	Sara Howard
20	Madeleine Walthall
27	Christa Cady
29	Ginny Hazard
30	Jo Hyde
30	Elizabeth Katz
31	Bob Criswell

## OUTREACH

### *Sharing the Joy of Christmas*



#### **White Manger**

Drop off donations during office hours  
December 1-4 and 8-11 between 8 am – 1 pm  
or Sunday mornings at 10 am

You are invited to participate in this year's White Manger Christmas by donating gifts for children of all ages for the Sheriff's Hilltowns Christmas celebration. Your donations, wrapped in white tissue paper, may be dropped off at the church the first two weeks of December, Tuesday through Friday mornings. Please contact the office to make other arrangements.



#### **Mitten Tree**

November and December

Don't forget to create and collect warm weather gear for our Hilltowns children as well. We can use warm hats, mittens, scarves and socks. These items can be dropped off in the bin outside the office door. Thank you!

### ***Fair Trade Market Alternative***

*Message from Market Organizer Marilyn Kriss:*  
Since we won't be able to hold our traditional Black Friday Fair Trade Market this year, I'm going to set up a little shop in my Delmar basement, starting November 16, where you are welcome to come and browse. This year I'm featuring Living Traditions, a large collection of exquisite ornaments, coasters and other decorative and useful items made by Syrian refugees in a fair trade business in Turkey.



In addition, I'll gather some perennial favorites, including stitched treasures from Amani Ya Juu, organic fair trade beeswax lip balm by Zambeezi, whimsical children's hats crocheted in a refugee project in Istanbul, and lovely bags sewn by women in India who are no longer exploited in the sex trade.



Please call, text or email me to arrange a time when you can come and safely shop. I'd prefer that one or two people come at a time and of course with masks.

Cash, check and credit cards accepted.

Marilyn Kriss 518-928-1906  
[cmkriss79@gmail.com](mailto:cmkriss79@gmail.com)

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### *Zooming With Ladies Who Care Programs*



*Ladies and Gents are welcome!*

Until it is safe for in-person gatherings, the following programs will be on Zoom and they are scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month at 1 PM. The programs are listed below and details for each program will be in the monthly newsletters.

#### **Jan 27**

The Churches of Ethiopia – Pastor Karen Pollan

#### **Feb 24**

Hospice Care– Nancy Braaten & Pastor Karen

#### **Mar 24**

Albany Pine Bush – presenter TBA

#### **Apr 28**

Tulips and the Albany Tulip Festival – Judy Stacey

#### **May 26**

Bethlehem Historical Society – Susan Leath and Karen Beck

#### **Jun 23**

Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy – Sarah Carroll

Pam Taft and Judy Riopelle, Coordinators

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### *Session Highlights for October 20, 2020*

The meeting was held via Zoom. A quorum was declared. The consent agenda and September minutes were approved.

A **Report from the COVID Task Force** had been sent to each Session member. Among the Task Force's recommendations are:

- Who should come to church and when – Registering to Attend Sunday Worship

For now, up to 10 people may register to attend church by notifying the church office by Thursday or Friday. If more than 10 are interested, they will be put on the following week's list.

- Staying Safe – When Not to Come to Church
- Procedures Upon Arriving at Church & Inside the Sanctuary
- Dismissal & Leaving

*A motion was made, seconded, and discussed to admit 10 pre-registered attendees at Sunday worship, starting November 8, 2020. This was passed by unanimous vote.*

*Following a discussion on cleaning the church in the time of COVID, there was a consensus among Session members that a professional cleaning crew should be contracted to do a once-weekly cleaning of the public areas (bathrooms, sanctuary, narthex and library). The church will hire another person to do other custodial tasks for a few hours a week.*

A Report from the Restructuring Sub-Committee had been sent to each member of Session. After brief discussion, it was clear that Session needed more time to consider this report. The sub-committee was thanked



and the report was tabled until the November 17, 2020 Session meeting.

**Building and Grounds:**

The two broken fellowship hall doors will be repaired - to be paid for from the Capital Replacement Fund

**Communications:**

Laura is working with Mayan Hands on a way for DPC members and others to purchase holiday gifts from their crafters.

**Outreach:**

*A motion was made and seconded to send a \$1000 donation to South End Children's Café in Albany.*

The meeting closed with prayer.

**Next Session Meeting:**

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

***DPC Protections Against COVID***

The church building is being cleaned regularly in accordance with CDC guidelines. In addition, cleaning logs have been posted in the office and both restrooms to be updated each time an area is cleaned and sanitized. As a reminder, we ask each individual to wear masks and sign in when entering and leaving the building. Hand sanitizer is available at each entrance. Thanks for doing your part to help keep DPC a safe environment.

**Community Christmas Day Dinner**

Friday, December 25, 2020

Community Christmas Day Dinner is being handled in a new way due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Open to all residents of the Town of Bethlehem

Reservations **Required no later than December 14, 2020**

Please call Elizabeth at Bethlehem Senior Services 518-439-4955, #1176

***Goodwill offerings accepted***

**Dinners include**

Turkey and Ham, Dressing, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce  
Mashed Potatoes, California Medley, Peas and Onions  
Dinner Rolls & Pie

**Dinners contain salt, seasonings, sugar and dairy products.**

(We are unable to meet any special dietary restrictions at this time.) **ALL** meals will be delivered.

**Reservations** are required to receive a meal.

Delivery time is between **1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.** on December 25, 2020 and you **Must** be home between these hours to receive the meal

Meals will be delivered to your door, you **Must** be home to receive them.

You **Must** wear a mask when answering the door.

Meals will **NOT** be left at your door.

No one will be available to come back if you are not home.

Contactless delivery methods will be employed.

Limit of one meal per person per household.

# Children's Coloring Sheet

