



## Pastor's Page



Texans, especially West Texas, observe the changeability of local conditions remarking: "If you don't like the weather, just wait a bit – it'll change." Or as the weatherman in the play Greater Tuna puts it "Hail in the early morning giving way to devastating heat by midday, followed by high winds, thunderstorms and tornadoes in the afternoon and locusts, we'll be

covered in locusts . . . ."

We've had a New York version of this lately with the weather shifting from hot and steamy to damp and cool and back again. Should I wear a tank top or a sweater? And then there is the ever changing and, at least to me, quite confusing guidelines (?) for addressing health concerns regarding Covid.

A parishioner recently sent me a picture of this sign on a restaurant:

- Mask Policy -  
To be consistent with CDC and NYS guidelines,  
we have no idea whether you need to wear a mask or not.

It seems impossible to forecast the best or safest measures to take. The good news is still good – infection rates are down and, in Albany County 65% of eligible people have received at least 1 dose of the vaccine. The concerns are still real – those 11 and under are not eligible to be vaccinated and the increased presence of the Delta variant is on the rise.

The leadership of DPC is still 'staying the course.' That is requiring masks in worship, maintain social distancing, and not having congregational singing. Like West Texas weather this could all change quickly! I did read an article recently that said while dating the start of a pandemic is fairly easy, dating the end of a pandemic is problematic. So, my prayer and hope is we

continue to stay calm, be patient and treat one another gently. I believe we can all get across the finish line together even though we are all weary of hearing about and being impacted by the pandemic.

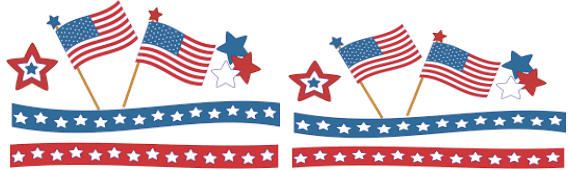
This summer I am preaching the semi-continuous readings from the Revised Common Lectionary which follow the stories of King David of Israel. His anointing by the prophet Samuel to be the next King of Israel was a new start – but it wasn't a smooth transition and there were many bumps along the way. I am reading these stories through the lens of our changing times and the 'new start' we are experiencing as we practice hybrid worship: in person and live streaming. I am hoping that Israel's story can provide insight and encourage our hope in God's faithfulness.

I will be gone some in July to take care of some family concerns and then to enjoy the mountains of Alaska for a time of renewal and rest with my sister. I hope your July is full of fun and beauty.

Blessings, Pastor Karen

## July 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> Bells 6:30 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 HOLIDAY</b> 10 am Communion in person and Zoom	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Office Closed	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bells 6:30 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Fellowship Hall Rental
<b>11</b> 10 am Worship in person and Zoom	<b>12</b> <b>FAMILY PROMISE WEEK</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Care Ministry Mtg 7 pm	<b>15</b> Bells 6:30 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10 am Worship in person and Zoom	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Support Ministry Mtg. 7 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Bells 6:30 pm Core Ministry Mtg 7 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>

<b>25</b> 10 am Worship in person and Zoom	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	
--	-----------	-----------	--

Sundays: 10 a.m. worship followed by Zoom fellowship

Mondays: 10 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m. Background to the Scripture Readings via Zoom

NO Ladies Who Care this month

### ***CORE MINISTRY***

Core Ministry focuses on spiritual growth through worship and faith formation opportunities for people at all ages and stages of their journey with Christ.

Elders assigned: Ravi Bolleddu, Tricia Hertz, Nina Nichols

Next Meeting July 22, 7 p.m. via Zoom – All are Welcome to Attend

---

*Remember to notify the office if you plan to attend in-person worship.*

### ***Sermon Series: A New Start***

July 4 (Communion) - David is anointed King over Israel – Pastor Karen

July 11 – David brings the ark of the Lord to Israel – Pastor Karen

July 18 – God appoints a place for the people of Israel – TBD

July 25 – David and Bathsheba - Lawrence Stewart

### ***Christian Education***

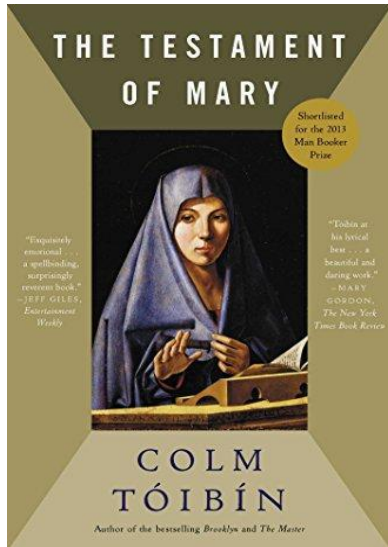
Families with unvaccinated kids are invited to meet up at 9:15 a.m. on the lawn outside church for a brief children's service/lesson before regular worship.

For parents who are interested in subsequently attending indoor worship at 10 a.m., there is an opportunity to informally swap childcare. Some parents remain outside each week to socialize and supervise the kids while they hang out on the playground from 10 -11 a.m.



We hope you'll join us! If you are interested, please contact the church office, email Beth Walthall (elizabeth.walthall@gmail.com), or find us outside at 9:15 on an upcoming Sunday. (Rain location: fellowship hall with masks.)

### *Book Study*



For summer reading, consider the book, "The Testament of Mary," by Colm Tóibín, a New York Times Notable Book and shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. There will be a book discussion planned for September. Feel free to stop by the office for a copy.

Amazon review: PROVOCATIVE, HAUNTING AND INDELIBLE, Colm Tóibín's portrait of Mary presents her as a solitary older woman still seeking to understand the events that become the narrative of the New Testament and the foundation of Christianity.

In the ancient town of Ephesus, Mary lives alone, years after her son's crucifixion. She has no interest in collaborating with the authors of the Gospel. They are her keepers, providing her with food and shelter and visiting her regularly. She does not agree that her son is the Son of God; nor that his death was "worth it"; nor that the "group of misfits he gathered around him, men who could not look a woman in the eye," were holy disciples.

Mary judges herself ruthlessly (she did not stay at the foot of the Cross until her son died—she fled, to save herself), and her judgment of others is equally harsh. This woman whom we know from centuries of paintings and scripture as the docile, loving, silent, long-suffering, obedient, worshipful mother of Christ becomes a tragic heroine with the relentless eloquence of Electra or Medea or Antigone. Tóibín's tour de force of imagination and language is a portrait so vivid and convincing that our image of Mary will be forever transformed.

### **CARE MINISTRY**

Care Ministry is focused on effectively demonstrating and communicating DPC's core values within our church and out in our community. Being advocates and support for our neighbors near and far through social events, awareness activities, and relief efforts.

Elders assigned: Nancy Braaten, Irene Harbison, Laura Scott

Next Meeting July 14, 7 p.m. via Zoom – All are Welcome to Attend

---

## DEACONS

2	Emily Wilson
3	Dylan Cady
4	Karyn Rees
7	Ginny Gajewski
8	Abigail Cooper
8	Megan MacTavish
10	Deborah Andersen

14	Laura Krzykowski
18	Calvin Howard
20	Ed Taft
22	Dmitry Rees
28	Vji Bolleddu
28	Ravi Bolleddu



*Family Promise Week: July 11 – July 17*

DPC and B'nai Sholom are again teaming up to provide dinners for the guests at the Family Promise Day House the week of July 11-17th. We are very grateful to our faithful dinner providers!

Sunday, July 11 – Charles & Nancy Scholes

Monday, July 12 – B'nai Sholom

Tuesday, July 13 – Linda Kryzkowski

Wednesday, July 14 – B'nai Sholom

Thursday, July 15 – Gala ice cream party/Celebration for Family Promise students (Frieda, Osato, Rianna, Thelma, Cheik, and Jaky) who graduated this year, Family Promise graduate families, and Family Promise supporters. Sponsored by Stewarts, 6:30-8:30 PM, on the lawn and the parking lot between the



Day House (738 New Scotland Avenue, Albany) and Bethany Reformed Church. **All are welcome – please bring a lawn chair.**

Friday, July 16 – Steven Zayas

Saturday, July 17 – Diane Mbombo

---

## *Earth Care Task Force*

### CRICCC and Our Mission as an Earth Care Congregation

What is it and what does it have to do with our church?



CRICCC stands for Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition. CRICCC was founded in 2018 to bring together faith groups in the Capital Region working to protect our environment and to mitigate global warming. CRICCC currently has representation from 24 faith communities throughout the capital region.

Anyone in our church can become a member of this group and reap the benefits of their expertise. Just reading through the website gives tremendous information. I have been a member for a few months and would encourage others to become members to help represent our church through this organization. Meetings are every other month and they condense emails to one weekly email.

This Mission Statement helps understand the belief of the organization:

We make Care of Creation a central moral priority by working in solidarity to mitigate the climate emergency and to preserve and restore natural resources and biodiversity for present and future generations. We accomplish this in accordance with our values by educating ourselves and our faith communities, advocating for the environment, reducing our carbon and waste footprints, and adopting behaviors that will ensure the sustainability of life in all its diversity on Earth.

CRICCC has 4 main Committees to support this vision:

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Renewable Energy  | • Communication and Education |
| • Toward Zero Waste | • Advocacy                    |

Please take a minute and look through the website and consider adding your name to the list of members advocating for God's creation: [www.capitalcreationcare.org](http://www.capitalcreationcare.org)

*From the Earth Care Task Force to the Congregation*  
*Read and Stay Tuned .....*

The DPC Earth Care Task Force met on June 29, 2021 via zoom. As we plan the reopening of our church for in-person worship and for social events, we share with the congregation some specific steps we believe we need to take NOW toward our goal of "Zero Waste" and our responsible use of plastics.

We agreed to focus on three areas:

1. **Reduce waste**
2. **Reduce our use of single-use plastics**
3. **Ensure that all recyclables are properly recycled**



By our next meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 7:30 PM via Zoom, members of the Earth Care Task Force will have researched:

- ❖ The exact types of plastic, paper, steel cans, etc. our town recycles
- ❖ The proper types of waste and recycling bins we need to have in the fellowship hall/kitchen and outside in the playground area
- ❖ Clear signage for each bin
- ❖ The CLYNK program for recycling "deposit" bottles and cans



**Ready to Host an Event Again?**

Consider reviewing this web site when planning your event. Tips and information on making the event Earth Care Friendly.

[Prepare For a Zero Waste Event - ZWCD.pdf -](#)

[Google Drive](#)

Nancy Braaten, Earth Care Task Force

***SUPPORT MINISTRY***

Support Ministry enables the work of the church by faithful stewardship of the church's resources. Elders assigned: Jim Finke, Dave Rees, Lynda Spielman.

Next Meeting July 20 at 7 p.m. – All are Welcome to Attend

*Pledges*

Thank you for keeping up with your pledge contributions to the church over the first half of the year. Our pledge income is a bit below where we were anticipating through June. As we move into the summer months and vaccine rates increase, the opportunities for travel have increased. If you have the opportunity to travel; travel safe. As a reminder DPC's website has a convenient and easy method of paying your pledges on-line using a credit card. Staff are in the office to receive mail if you prefer to use that method. Or, as we re-open feel free to bring it with you on Sunday!

Blessings, Dave Rees

### *Highlights of the June 16, 2021 Session Meeting*

The Session recorded various email votes which were approved as follows: 1- building use requests for a Family Promise concert on May 22, and the use of the Fellowship Hall for a Quaker memorial service for July 10; 2 – for the Bell Choir to rehearse without masks; 3- Reopening date and continued live streaming of worship as of June 13; 4 – Baptism of Josephine Walthall on June 6, 2021. These constituted a report from the Core Ministry.

Other reports from Care and Support Ministries were received. The Care Ministry reported on DPC involvement and support for a number of activities, such as the Albany Crop Walk, Soul Fire Farm, and Family Promise. A complete list is noted in their meeting notes of May 12. The Support Ministry reported on their work in securing proposals for an air handling/air conditioning system, landscaping and design steps, COVID update, and the annual audit of the church's books. Pledges are running behind and a special appeal will be made.

The Session had a general discussion on how the Session reorganization was going. The arrangement is to be continued for the time being.

The session approved the following motions: to discontinue contact tracing and to continue requiring masks during worship; to allow the Minister of Music to work with fully vaccinated unmasked singers who are 12 feet away from the congregation, and to move the Minister of Music's AC unit to the organ side of the sanctuary.

Pastor Karen advised that she is officiating at a number of funerals, and of her vacation plans for mid-July to early August.

Lynda Spielman, Clerk of Session