



## Pastor's Page

One of the readings for Sunday is from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. After the salutation, Paul begins the letter with this: 'We always give thanks to God for all of you.' It is a sentiment which resonates with me.

The work of the church, both worship and mission, do not happen alone. We are in this together. In fact, that is God's plan – we are called the 'body' of Christ, not the individually packaged pieces of Christ. Before the crisis of the current pandemic, Sunday mornings came together with support from more people than you might imagine: Deacons, choir members, elders, greeters, ushers, Sunday School teachers, nursery helpers, bell ringers, readers, communion preparers, audio-visual volunteers, office support, special musicians, Minister of Music, and even a preacher.



And you know what? Virtual worship also relies on many to take place – and I want to give a BIG shout out to Laura Scott who has done a lot of the very heavy lifting in videoing and editing needed to get worship service online. Also, it has been a joy to have so many of our children leading us in the Two Great Commandments. Thank you so much to Maddie and Anna, Jacob, Lisa and Prince, Micah and Caleb and this week (May 3), Calvin.

We have enjoyed music shared by adults – James Carroll and Dan Lewis, Seanie Greagan, Jack Gajewski, Ron Tweedie and Tricia Hertz, and children: Dylan and Jacob. DPC children Ella and Dylan have been regularly helping their father with children's time. You are all a blessing to me and to the church. Thank you to all who have been readers – Sam Messina, Evan Finke, Irene Harbison, Nancy Braaten, Jacob and Mary Greagan and all those who have led the

Lord's Prayer in worship – Ed Taft, Matt Cooper, Tricia, Amelia, Greta and David Andersen.

**Your voices remind us of our connection to one another, and are a comfort in this time of separation. Thank you for being bright lights in a dreary time.** I also give thanks for you whose responsibilities have left little time or energy to participate producing worship. Thank you for the work you are doing in and for our wider community. I give thanks for those who have engaged with the decision-making process that so often can seem like a thankless task. And I give thanks for all those who have kept up their financial commitments to the church helping us move forward through uncertain days.

Paul also says that he makes mention of them in his prayers constantly 'remembering before our God and Father [their] work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.' Dear ones, you are all in my prayers as we travel through this time of pandemic and all the worries that go with it.

Blessings and hope as we move forward in faith, *Pastor Karen*

## Worship through the Month of May

Pastor Karen

Right now – May 1 – our Governor’s PAUSE Order expires on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Does that mean we will resume in person worship on May 17? No. Here’s what is being discussed among the COVID-19 Task Force and what will be discussed with Session at our regular meeting on May 19.

**First**, we will most likely have a delayed return to in-person worship. That is, if businesses open during the week of May 17 our earliest in person worship will be three weeks later in early June. This delay to starting in-person worship after businesses reopen is to monitor infection rates to see if it is safe for us to begin to gather in person.

**Second**, if infections do not ‘spike’ we most likely will begin in person worship in phases. Bible studies and meetings of committees and session will likely continue via Zoom. Sanitizing the building and keeping it disinfected is an important part of our ability to gather safely in the building.

**Third**, online worship will continue to be a vital part of our life together for several reasons. Regarding COVID-19, people like me, over 60, represent an increased vulnerability which won’t decrease until there is a vaccine or reliable treatment. Also, online worship enables us to stay connected to members and friends who are miles away or unable, for any reason, to be in the building in person. And online worship empowers us to widen our circle to those who are seeking, but leery of entering a church building.

As we begin to be able to worship in person, *how* we do online worship may undergo change: right now, we are recording the pieces of the service and then they are edited together, and links sent out. When we can gather, worship will most likely be live streamed. It will still be possible to record folks from a distance and share readings or music with the congregation via our screen in the sanctuary. And practices in worship are likely to be altered as well: wearing masks, sitting every other pew, substituting no touch methods for the Passing of the Peace along with changes to how we observe communion.

There are a lot of ‘likely(s)’ and ‘may(s)!’ That is because there is a lot of uncertainty. The task force, the session, and I are following guidance from our governing bodies and health professionals along with input from our congregation to make the best choices that we can.

What won’t change is our mission: to share and show the love of Jesus; to live out the Two Great Commandments – to love God with all our minds, with all our hearts, with all our soul, and with all our strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. What is also certain is that God is with us and post Easter we know that God can change ‘dead ends’ into new life, new realities and new possibilities.

I believe that God is doing something new among us. On good days I am excited about that. On bad days, which I have, I struggle. But whether I am having a good day or a bad day, God is still at work, God can still be trusted, and God will see us – you and me – through.



## WORSHIP



Our weekly worship service has moved online for the time being. We invite you to join us by visiting our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/Delmar Presbyterian Church](https://www.facebook.com/DelmarPresbyterianChurch).

Also a weekly email with a Zoom link for Sunday fellowship is sent to members and friends. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact the office at [office@delmarpres.org](mailto:office@delmarpres.org).

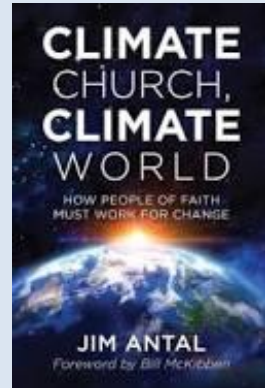
If you are still struggling with Zoom and other tech needed to stay in touch with us during the week, please contact the church by email and someone will be dispatched to help you either by phone or in person when needed. On Sundays Jack Gajewski is available to help with zoom support. [jgajewski@mac.com](mailto:jgajewski@mac.com)

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### *Church School*

Children have been receiving coloring pages from Illustrated Ministry tied to the liturgical season. Various children have participated in worship by leading the Two Great Commandments and providing recorded music. Plans to follow the Narrative Lectionary year 3 in the fall are under way.

### *Adult Education*



On Wednesday afternoons, we will study the book "*Climate Church, Climate World*" by Jim Antal. The theme of the book meshes with the 2020 focus of engaging the membership of DPC around issues of social, economic and environmental justice.

We will start our discussion on Wednesday, May 6, with Pastor Emeritus Larry Deysse facilitating. To prepare please read the preface and the first chapter.

Copies of the book are available at the church where they can be picked up (or delivered - just let us know). The cost for the book is \$25. Please reimburse as you are able. Just write a check to DPC and put "Jermain Fund" on the memo line. It is also available on Amazon.

Please share this with anyone who may be interesting in joining.

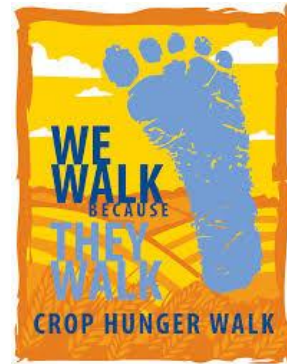


## DEACONS

## OUTREACH

# MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Josephine Walthall
11	Callie McGinn
17	Chris Hyde
18	Merle Winn
19	Nancy Scholes
22	Kat Pollan
23	Karen Pollan
24	Samantha Zayas
25	Sarah Lewis
28	Elizabeth Mow



### 2020 CROP Hunger Walk COVID Style

The CROP Walk will be a bit different this year. All registration and giving will be done online. Walking will be done solo or in safe groups using social distancing. Your support is needed more than ever to help people here and around the world facing hunger.

Anne Crawford is our contact person for this event. She will need people/families to sign up as virtual walkers. Each virtual walker needs to contact Anne for a Walker Donation Envelope. They will then complete the top of the envelope and sign it. Next, walkers should donate and then collect donations from sponsors, placing checks, and cash inside the envelope.

Donations can also be made by credit card online: [crophungerwalk.org/albanyny](https://crophungerwalk.org/albanyny). On this page, donors will scroll down to "Find Team" and select Delmar Presbyterian Church. They can donate to our team or a specific walker.

Walkers must turn in the donations collected to Anne before June 15, the date she must turn in our team's envelopes and collections to CACC. Please contact Anne with questions: [annec204@gmail.com](mailto:annec204@gmail.com)

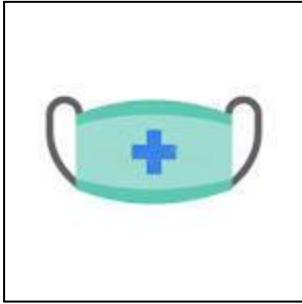
### **Welcome to the World Josephine!**

The Walthalls welcomed their newest daughter May 1 at St. Peter's Hospital. She and mom are healthy and well.



*Josephine Radcliff Walthall*  
*Born 5/1/2020*  
*7 lbs 14.5 oz, 20 inches long*  
[cewalthall@gmail.com](mailto:cewalthall@gmail.com)

## **Masks Ministry**



A big thank you to all the mask makers who volunteered their time supplying our local community and friends with free masks during this difficult time.

If you are in need of a mask for yourself or your family, please contact the church office and we will be happy to make what you need.

## **Updated Directory**

We know you want to stay in touch with each other right now. The DPC directory has been updated and posted to the webpage: [www.delmarpres.org](http://www.delmarpres.org)

## **SESSION**

### **Highlights of the April 21, 2020 Session Meeting via Zoom**

**Worship:** Following group discussion it was agreed that on-line worship will continue through May 17<sup>th</sup> – to include 4/26, 5/03, 5/10 and 5/17. The worship situation will be reassessed at our Session meeting on May 19, 2020.

**Personnel:** DPC will continue to pay its hourly employees for hours worked and provide support to the RPMs leader.

**Environmental Justice:** A proposal was made to host an educational event around Aug. 30, the Sunday nearest Sept. 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, or a Sunday between Sept. 1 and Oct. 1, the period known as the [Season of Creation](#).

**Building and Grounds:** Matt Cooper reported progress with his search for the most sensible replacement for our leaky water heater. Pam Taft suggested a local high schooler who is weeding around the church grounds.

**Christian Education:** – Lynda Spielman reported that children have been participating in Sunday worship by reading and through music. Monday morning Bible study continues on Zoom. Adult Ed sessions will continue on Wednesdays at 3:30pm.

**Communications:** Laura Scott has been extremely busy communicating on Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, email updates, coordinating Zoom meetings and filming and audio editing for Sunday worship. Laura thanks Jack Gajewski, Matt Cooper and Dan Lewis for their help.

**Finance:** Dave Rees reported that, despite the recent hits to our investments, the church is basically in a good financial position and account balances are just about where they should be at this time of the year.

**Worship:** Nina Nichols reported that five special Lenten services were planned. Nina Nichols, Shirley Greagan, Jack Gajewski, Nate Cady, Laura Scott, and Pastor Karen Pollan are participating in these Lenten services with worship around a theme and specially written calls to worship.

**Deacons:** Sarah Carroll reported that palms were delivered on Palm Sunday and Easter plants on Easter. Deacons continue their phone calls and are providing support to a family affected by COVID-19.

**Pastor's Report:** Video worship continued throughout March and April. Pastor Pollan included a Word file with bulletin on Easter Sunday. Zoom 'fellowship' time has been added. She is recruiting members to lead Two Great Commandments, Lord's Prayer, read Scripture, and coordinating with Carol Scott, Laura Scott, Nina Nichols, Shirley Greagan and

Nate Cady to provide worship coherence and vitality. Pastoral Care continues via email and text. Requests postponement of Sabbatical until summer 2021.

**Next Session Meeting:** Tuesday May 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM on "Zoom"



## Giving at DPC

We appreciate that so many of you are attempting to keep your pledges current. Contributions may be sent by mail, dropped off at the church, or done online at our webpage

[www.delmarpres.org](http://www.delmarpres.org)

Click on the "donate" button and indicate it is for a pledge.

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