

The Delmar Prez

Delmar Presbyterian Church
585 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054 (518) 439-9252
www.delmarpres.org office@delmarpres.org



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Number 529

Summer has ended – although we have had warm days and warm nights until very recently. As I drive around Albany and Delmar the roads are littered with colorful leaves and I see yards decorated with headstones, huge spider webs, skeleton’s half buried, inflated ghosts and ghouls. The stores are full of wrapped candies and costumes for pint sized princesses, pirates, Frankenstein(s), Unicorns, cowboys, and cows, too. And don’t forget the costume for the dog!



This is a season of color, the scent of pumpkin spice, the sounds of a crackling fire and excited children. In this season – with all the fun – there is also darkness. The days grow shorter. The fall leaves so beautiful herald the coming of a season of waiting. The Celts believed that the days around Halloween – All Hallow’s Eve – were particularly significant. They thought it was a time when the veil between this world and the unseen world was thin. It was a time to remember and honor ancestors which through the years morphed into an observance of All Saints Day. A lot of Halloween practices is bravado: “Death, I’m not scared of you” – when in fact we are.

The poem on the page is a modern poem written in the Celtic tradition of acknowledging both joy and fear, mystery and dread. Of course, this awareness is not limited to the Celts. I think most cultures ritually remember their ancestors and struggle to understand human impermanence. The Disney movie Coco celebrated the Mexican tradition of Day of the Dead. If you haven’t seen it, it would be worth your while to enjoy this Halloween. It explores the connections between those

Summer Is Ending

Samhain is here.
Summer is ending.
We bring in the harvest.
We turn back the clocks.

All Hallows’ Eve is here.
We remember our ancestors.
We get up to mischief.
We face up to death.

All Saints’ Day is here.
We name our favorites.
We recount their deeds.
We give thanks for their lives.

All Souls’ Day is here.
We remember our friends and families.
We tell their stories.
We smile and we weep.

Halloween is here –
spooks and skeletons.
Scary stories.
Tricks and treats.

Pumpkins to carve.
Apples to bob in water.
Bonfires to build.
Rituals to perform.

Heaven and earth are close;
the dead are very near.
We are caught up in the mystery
of living and dying.

What are we afraid of?
What is it about death that scares us?
What do we think about Hell and Heaven?
Who can we talk with about our fears?

Death is a part of life.
Fear and courage are both needed.
Summer is ending.
Halloween is here.

Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publishing

who have died and the living with sensitivity and beauty – and some humor, too.

I read this recently: “We have an ever-shrinking amount of time with those we love.” That is the bite of this season, the falling leaves, and Halloween decorations.

So, light the Jack o’ Lanterns to keep the dark away. Pass out treats to keep the spirits from ‘tricks.’ Perhaps pull out some old photographs and tell some stories of those who have passed on. Smile and weep. *And remember to be swift to love, make haste to be kind – for we travel the road together for such a short time.*



Blessings, *Pastor Karen*

November 2021

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." Psalm 28:7

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 10 am Bible Study	2 Polling Place 6 am-9 pm	3 11:30 am Lectionary Study	4 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	5	6 Fall Cleanup 9 am-12 pm
7 10 am Communion	8 10 am Bible Study	9	10 11:30 am Lectionary Study	11 Bldg. Rental 5-10 pm 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	12	13 Beth. Art Assn. 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
14 10 am Worship	15 10 am Bible Study	16	17 11:30 am Lectionary Study	18 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	19	20
21 10 am Worship	22 10 am Bible Study	23	24 Red Cross Blood Drive @ DPC 1-6 pm	25 	26 Office Closed	27
28 10 am Worship	29 10 am Bible Study	30				

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

November Worship

Sermon Series: Gifts of Love

October 31, 2021

Text: Mark 12:28-34, Title: The Greatest Commandment

November 7, 2021

Text: Mark 12:38-44, Title: The Greatest Gift
All Saint's Day Observed (Communion)

November 14, 2021

Text: Hebrews 10:11-25, Title: A Community of Love

November 21, 2021

Text: Revelation 1:4b-8, Title: The King of Love
Reign of Christ Sunday (Communion)



Church School

This month DPC children will report back to the congregation on the results of the Plastic Challenge. Nice work, kids! Also ahead is preparation for Advent and plans for a possible Christmas Pageant.



RPMs

Chris and Beth Gould announce the arrival of Maggie Catherine, born October 10.
Address: 5803 Depot Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

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

DEACONS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Abby Dasari
1	Carolyn Tweedie
4	Greta Hertz
4	Seamus Root
4	Bodie Root
5	Moses Torres
6	Henry Fleischut
9	John Moser

9	Richard Root
18	Linda Miller Lowry
21	Bill Garvey
26	Lynda Spielman
27	Brian Krzykowski
27	Bill Storrs
28	Ella Cady
28	Peggy Mull

Seniors Who Care November Gathering – December 15



Please circle Wednesday, December 15th on your calendars! Linda and David Van Deusen will be treating us to “Holy Day and Holiday,” a musical potpourri, which promises to entertain and infuse us with the Christmas Spirit.

This unique and creative program will include the viewing of both religious and secular musical selections performed by well-known performing artists as well as scriptural and inspirational readings to help us all reflect on the Christmas season.

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at noon. Please bring a bag lunch – a dessert and beverages will be supplied. In accordance with DPC’s COVID policy, we ask that you wear a mask except when eating or drinking. We will also respect and accommodate individual distancing preferences.

Thanksgiving 2021

We are again revving up to donate supermarket food cards to needy neighbors. As in previous years, we at DPC are partnering with the school nurses in our five Town of Bethlehem elementary schools – Eagle, Elsmere, Glenmont, Hamagrael, and Slingerlands. The school nurse selects five families in her school who can use a small hand of friendship at Thanksgiving.

We may look at the names of the schools and wonder about needy families in that population – but sadly there is actually dire need throughout our town. The school nurses see it, and we help them tend to it a bit at Thanksgiving. Each local school nurse will have five \$75 Hannaford food cards to distribute.



A number of years ago a DPC member, who was a public health nurse, told us about some of the many challenges of poverty faced by the families of children attending Arbor Hill Elementary School in Albany. DPC Outreach "adopted" Arbor Hill Elementary to be included in our Thanksgiving outreach. The nurse at Arbor Hill contacted us several weeks ago asking anxiously if we were going to remember Arbor Hill this year. Well, of course! Fifteen \$75 Walmart cards will go to Nurse Sue at Arbor Hill. Why Walmart cards? Because there is no supermarket in the Arbor Hill school district area, so families must take the bus to the Glenmont Walmart to shop.



The total cost of the 40 Thanksgiving gift cards is \$3000. Session approved taking this amount from the Outreach Designated Mission account. Last year we offered the congregation the opportunity to donate toward helping feed our neighbors and ... to our amazement and joy, donations poured in to cover the amount! If you would like to write a check to DPC, with "Thanksgiving food cards" on the memo line, you will be helping a needy neighbor and receiving credit on your pledge donation account.

Food Pantry

Session has approved our participation in helping to stock the Food Pantry in Selkirk. There is a need for laundry detergent, dish soap and body wash – any brand. Please drop your items in the donation room and they will be delivered. Thank you.

Little Food Pantries

There are five “Little Food Pantries” located on neighborhood sidewalks in Albany where anyone can donate non-perishable items (beans, rice, canned fruit, tuna fish, canned vegetables, soup, coffee, tea, cereal, cooking oil, granola, breakfast bars, paper goods, soap – or anything that can withstand outdoor temperatures). People in those neighborhoods stop by the little food pantries and take whatever they need/can use.

Our church “donations room” currently has a selection of items, food and paper goods, which would be welcome in any of these little neighborhood food pantries. We welcome a driver & friend delivery team to stock a pantry or two. This can be done any day at any time! Please be sure to check the expiration date of each food item and that the item is unopened (no expired or opened/partly used items are acceptable ... these should be discarded in the church trash can). The large pack of toilet paper is an exception. The t.p. rolls should be stacked on a pantry shelf so they can be taken individually.



The easiest pantries to find are:

Our Lady of Americas Shrine Church, 273 Central Ave. (N Lake St.) Albany
Grass Root Givers, 522 Washington Ave. (Quail St.) Albany
South End Children's Café, 25 Warren St. (Phillip St.) Albany

Cornerstone Campus Ministry Fundraiser



As in the past, area churches were given the opportunity to sponsor a Bake Sale to help raise funds for the upcoming Cornerstone mission trip. In lieu of pre-ordering baked goods, Session voted to send a check to support their efforts, and invited one of their members to speak to our congregation during worship in the coming weeks.

Red Cross Blood Drive at DPC – Wednesday, November 24

You can give the gift of life!

You are invited to the Red Cross Blood Drive at DPC on 11/24 from 1 – 6 p.m.



Fair Trade Partners – A Message from Mayan Hands

In lieu of the Fair Trade Market at the church, please consider going to our website www.mayanhands.org where you can find everything you have seen in previous years and more, and buy gifts for your family and loved ones. We have a lot of lovely new



products! Through your fair trade purchases, you will continue partnering with these hardworking and talented women, help them to feed their families and bring dignity and hope to their communities.

Shop on our website and we will ship the items to you or to your loved ones. You can include a gift message if you'd like.

Thank you for your continued support of Mayan Hands. Many blessings for you this holiday season

and in the New Year. Let's pray together that 2021 be an easier year for people all over the world, that we see the end of this terrible pandemic and a strong economic recovery.

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.



Fall Cleanup Day – November 6th

We need your help!

Our traditional fall cleanup day will be held on Saturday, November 6th this year, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Refreshments provided! Please bring gloves and yard tools if possible. Thanks to the volunteers who help maintain our little corner of God's creation.

A Note of Thanks to DPC



Dear DPC Family,

Time and again, in small ways and large, DPC has been a good neighbor in our community. As President of the Chadwick Square Park Association, I asked DPC if we could hold our Annual Homeowner's meeting in Fellowship Hall. That request was quickly approved and helped us out a lot, since the town government is not making space available to outside organizations at this time

and the Bethlehem Library meeting rooms were already booked.

But that was not all DPC did for us. We were allowed to use the speakers and a microphone, making our "hybrid" Zoom and in-person meeting, about the best we have ever had for our monthly and annual meeting during this time of Covid-19. And the story and the help does not end there. Pastor Karen provided some very useful information and Claiborne Walthall and Dan Lewis gave us their time and technical assistance, without which our Annual Meeting might not have even occurred.

Delmar Presbyterian Church's kindness greatly assisted our 8-member Board of Directors in having its mandated Annual Meeting of Homeowners. Beyond that, you have directly served the 212 families and individuals that live in Chadwick Square. For that, we thank you very much.

Sincerely, Sam Messina

November Events Around the Area

Saturday, November 20

A Day of Simple Giving (from Home)

Grassroot Givers is again hosting this annual community service event. As it was last year, this will be virtual event. Individuals, families, and community groups that can gather safely are invited to participate and film your work. Your videos will be included in a compilation video to be shared on social media on Nov. 20. Learn more and sign up at www.grassrootgivers.org. Email address is info@grassrootgivers.org



Sunday, November 21

TAUM Day at Ten Thousand Villages

When you shop at Ten Thousand Villages on 11/21 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and you mention TAUM at checkout, 15% of your purchase will go to support their programs. Thank you for supporting this Fair Trade event in support of Troy Area United Ministries!

