



Pastor's Page

welcome
back

Do you remember the 70's sitcom 'Welcome Back, Kotter'? The theme song to the show has been running through my mind and I just listened to it on YouTube – a of happy – and *groovy* – piece of nostalgia! I scrolled through some of the comments there were people eager to blast this theme song on speakers as they go back to school, the office place, gym, restaurants – in fact, the restaurant chain *Applebee's* ran an ad with this theme song playing, and ends with a voice over saying, 'Welcome back America, it sure is good to see you.'

I admit, I wondered about blasting this tune over the church building speakers when we 'are back!' However, 'welcoming' people back to church obscures an important truth: church has never been closed – use of the building has been curtailed, but the church, is **US** and we've still been the church – loving God and loving neighbors. That is absolutely, positively true . . . and yet, not worshiping in person, in the same place has been a very real loss. And our building is a sacred place made so by the years of memory, prayers, baptisms, communions, Christmas pageants, hymn singing, memorial services, weddings, laughter, tears, and benedictions.

Session has decided to open the building for in person worship starting June 13th. There will still be safety protocols in place because our young children are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, there may be unvaccinated people who attend worship, and vaccinated folks coming to worship may be going home to people who are not. So, we are asking you to RSVP through the church office (by phone or email), sign in and wear a mask. Some pews will be unavailable so that social distancing can be maintained. Bibles and hymnbooks will not be in the pews. Passing the Peace will be by gestures – namaste, peace signs, hand waves or fingertip air kisses.

Live-streaming worship will continue so that we can include those who cannot be physically present, those who experience great difficulty being physically present, and to increase our outreach through the media so many use. Continuing this important component to our outreach means our worship space will have more 'stuff.' *Please be patient* as we discover the best use and flow. *Please be excited* that we have another tool to extend DPC's ministry and another method to extend God's love. Please consider if becoming a part of our tech team is way you can serve.

And Welcome Back!! Blessings, *Pastor Karen*

June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Office Closed	2	3	4	5 Presbytery Meeting
6 Baptism 10 am Worship on Zoom	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Reopening 10 am Worship in person and Zoom	14	15 7 pm Session Mtg.	16	17	18	19
20 10 am Worship in person and Zoom	21	22	23 Ladies Who Care 1 pm Via Zoom	24	25	26 Lynk Memorial Service 11 am
27 10 am Worship in person and Zoom	28	29	30			

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

DEACONS

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Matt Cooper
1	Anna Walthall
2	Ron Tweedie
7	Brendan McGinn

15	Cheryl Gardiner
18	Hannah Lowry
23	Gary Lind
23	Bob Lowry



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 in July– All are Welcome to Attend



Welcome back to worship! DPC is reopening for in-person worship on Sunday, June 13. **Please email or call the office during the week so we know you are coming.** We look forward to seeing you again! Wearing of masks and social distancing will be required. Live streaming will continue as usual. DPC Fellowship on Zoom will follow all services.

Baptism

Sunday, June 6, 2021

- Josephine Walthall -

Parents, Claiborne and Anna Walthall

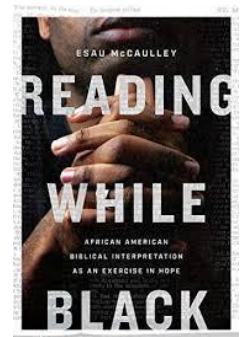
Grandparents, David and Deborah Andersen

Book Study

“Reading While Black” by Esau McCaulley

Thursday, June 6 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom

New Testament scholar Esau McCaulley argues for reading and interpreting Scripture from the perspective of Black church tradition and experience, as a means of understanding and addressing issues of justice in our times. Ultimately, he intends it as an exercise in hope, calling for a conversation between Christians of diverse backgrounds, cultures and social locations. He shares his experience growing up in the Black church and how it led him to interpret and understand Scripture within that experience. As readers we will come to know that experience and to gain, he intends, a fresh understanding of Scripture for ourselves. Join us for a discussion about this timely work. Copies are available in the office or on Amazon.





Graduate School
Mary Greagan



College
Cordelia Ahner
Kevin Hansen
Greg Hyde
Bailey MacTavish
Samantha Zayas



High School
Lauren Jack
Nate Phang
Nick Rees

Youth Group Focuses on Local Missions This Year

The RPMs Youth Group spent this year's spring break participating in a local Mission Week as opposed to our traditional Mission Trip where we travel away from home. Throughout the week the students had a wide range of experiences volunteering with many different groups and learning about some of our local not-for profits along with a few nationally based ones.

The week started out with a bunk bed build with the organization **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**. *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* is a national organization with a local chapter in Mechanicville. The RPMs built 22 beds which will be donated to kids in the Capital Region who don't have their own bed. When the beds are delivered the child receives the bed, a mattress and bedding set. A bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support for a child. All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads, and now 22 more kids in our local area will have that safe place to lay their head. We hope to make the bunk build an annual event every fall!



The following day the RPMs spent the morning at the **Boys and Girls Club** in Albany where they did a variety of projects including cleaning out their basement so that they would have more room for proper storage, inflating many, many basketballs, footballs and kick balls, washing windows and other projects as needed. Many of the RPMs had not been to the *Boys and Girls Club* in Albany before so it was great to learn more about the organization and meet the great people that worked there.

Wednesday the group split into two smaller groups with half serving lunch at the **City Rescue Mission** and the other half going to the **South End Children's Café** where they did a spring cleaning both inside and outside.

Thursday, the RPMs spent the day at the Reformed Church doing various things for our community including putting together 150 toiletry kits for 3 different organizations, making cards for the church family, counting change that was donated for Kekeli, Inc. in Ghana, organizing the RPMs closet and donating lots of clothing to the **Capital City Rescue Mission** and to **Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless**. The group ended the evening at the **Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York** sorting produce and packing food.

On the final day of mission week, the RPMs came together to package 15,000 meals with the organization **Rise Against Hunger**. Since the churchwide event in the fall of 2020 had to be cancelled, the RPMs felt it was important to hold an event with just the youth group. We hope to bring back the church-wide event in the winter of 2022. It was a great way to finish off the week together.

Throughout the week the students had time to also play games, get to know each other better and just have fun. Even though this year looked very different the RPMs are very happy to be able to come together for the week and give back locally and have a little bit of normalcy back. As always thank you for your support of our youth group!

Beth Gould, RPMs Director



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 in July – All are Welcome to Attend

Ladies Who Care The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy Wednesday, June 23rd at 1 PM Ladies and Gents are welcome!



Please join us for a virtual presentation that will highlight Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's connectivity work - creating a corridor of protected lands from the Catskills to the Adirondacks. The challenges facing this initiative and how it helps address climate change will be discussed.

Our speaker is Sarah Walsh, Conservation Director of MHLA. Sarah is responsible for the oversight of land stewardship and assisting with property acquisitions. She brings nearly ten years' experience in habitat restoration initiatives for bird habitat, riparian and wetland areas as well as experience in the protection of conservation lands, non-profit program development and trail planning.

Let's learn about this wonderful organization that we are so fortunate to have in our area! Look for a Zoom invitation on June 23rd for Wednesday, the 24th.

Vaccinated Volunteers

Lisa Allendorph lisa.allendorph@gmail.com
Dave and Deborah Andersen dla@albany.edu
Ginny Gajewski vgajewski@mac.com
Jack Gajewski jgajewski@mac.com
Irene Harbison mireneharbison@gmail.com
Mary Wilson Hyde daddyhyde@yahoo.com
Sue McCreary suemcrider@gmail.com
Charles and Nancy Scholes
ncscholes@verizon.net
Ed and Pam Taft pamtaft73@gmail.com

Would you like to be a helper?
Let the office know. Only send
in your name if okay with it
being shared.

office@delmarpres.org



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 in July – All are Welcome to Attend

Thank You!



Our thanks go to everyone who came out in early May to lend a hand in the outdoor maintenance of DPC. Mulch was spread, windows were washed and a dead tree near the playground was removed. Pansies are happily blooming near the entrances, helping to make our church appear vibrant and welcoming to one and all. Our individual contribution adds to the DPC community as a whole, and we appreciate our volunteers!

Being COVID Ready

As we look to reopening and gathering for in-person worship, we want to remind you our building goes through a weekly in depth COVID cleaning and sanitizing process for all surfaces and touch points. In addition, DPC staff maintains a daily in and out log for contact tracing, plus further cleaning of common areas such as the kitchen and restrooms. Hand-sanitizing stations are set up around the building and masks are available (and required) for everyone. While indoor fellowship following worship is not planned at this time, please feel free to greet one another outdoors. The COVID-19 Task Force will be evaluating DPC's policy as state and federal guidelines are updated.

Shredding Services

Currently there is a large locked bin in the sanctuary storage room ready to receive your outdated or unneeded documents. Once filled, the bin will be collected and returned to the off-site location. The containers are emptied into the shredder the same day they are picked up, which destroys the contents and bales the shredded remains. The bales are shipped to a paper mill where they are turned into pulp and then paper goods, such as bathroom tissue. You may contact the office to set up a time to use the collection bin, or feel free to use it following Sunday worship.

