



## Pastor's Page

Happy New Year, Church!

In one way today, no matter the calendar designation, is just another day. However, turning the page on the calendar and seeing a new year means something to us – especially if there is a zero! So, Happy New Year and decade!



It is a time of starting anew – cleaning out closets, organizing the kitchen, grappling with paperwork, an exercise regime, decision to read more or differently, take up a new hobby, start journaling, begin a new eating plan, annnnd whatever else is on your heart or mind. A fresh new calendar seems to give us the mandate or permission to start afresh.

Over the last year at a Worship Committee meeting and at Session meetings we discussed introducing a new element to the Collection of the Offering on Sunday mornings, and the New Year seems like the time to try it out.

First, let me give you just a bit of background. What is the Offering about anyway?

It is THE response of the congregation to God's claim on our lives. Not just our wallets, but also our hearts, our talents and our time. In olden times when most people worked on a farm they brought a portion of the products they produced, whether that was animals or fruits and vegetables. Nowadays, most people work in other types of ways and they are paid in currency; and in the days not so olden, folks brought that currency to church for their offering – symbolically acknowledging that all we are and have is given to us by God. In the more recent past the symbol has taken a step back from the more organic connects – we wrote checks representing the currency we earned from putting God's gifts to us in action. And nowadays the symbol is even more obscured by digital giving.

This does not mean I am against digital, online giving! It can be an extremely faithful way to give and the symbol of our living – that currency – still is given to the church to fulfill the church's mission. In a conversation with a newer member, they mentioned the nearly empty offering plates that are passed on Sunday mornings. But it doesn't mean that giving is not happening. Some members give yearly or quarterly, or through their financial institution. And, even if we all gave our offering on Sunday morning – it would not capture the full breadth of our congregations giving to God. We donate time to work through our church and other worthy missions, we offer our talents and abilities – helping neighbors, children, serving on boards, singing or playing instruments in worship.



So the session approved putting cards in the pew racks – one you put in the plate to represent digital giving, another if you will be donating time in the upcoming week, and a third to acknowledge talents you are putting to use for God’s kingdom in the coming week.

We are hopeful that it will be a joyous way for the church to recognize, in a fuller way, all the giving that is taking place. We are hopeful it will serve as a moment of commitment for those putting the cards in the offering plate – a ‘pledge,’ if you will, to God that you will take time to visit someone, offer your talent in some way and, of course, a reminder that you give of your treasure. Look for the cards this Sunday and every Sunday as we offer our whole selves to God for the work of the kingdom.

Blessings this year and every day – Pastor Karen

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## **CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**The Annual Ecclesiastical / Corporation Meeting of the Delmar Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2019, following Sunday Worship, in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 585 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY.**

**The purpose of the meeting will be:**

- **To elect Elders and Deacons.**
- **To elect members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee.**
- **Vote to approve the Pastor’s compensation.**

**At this meeting, annual reports will be received, information about the Operating Budget for 2020 will be provided, and other such business transacted as may properly come before the meeting.**

**David Austin  
Clerk of Session**

# JANUARY

<b>Bells of Praise: Thursdays at 6:30 pm</b>				<b>Women's AA: Sundays at 7:15 pm, Tuesdays at noon</b>		
<b>Choir Rehearsals: Sundays at 9 am</b>				<b>Closed Meeting AA: Thursdays at noon</b>		
<b>Monday Study Group: Mondays at 10 am</b>				<b>Prez Deadline for February: January 20</b>		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
<b>5 EPIPHANY SUNDAY</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
9:15 Church School 10 am Communion 11:15 Refreshments		7:30 pm Christian Education			Session Retreat	
<b>12 BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
9:15 Church School 10 am Worship 11:15 Refreshments  Session Retreat	6 pm Scouts 6:15 Scouts					
<b>19 CHILDREN</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
9:15 Church School 10 am Worship 11:15 Refreshments		6:30 Scouts  7 pm Session	12 pm Ladies Who Care			
<b>26 ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
9:15 Church School 10 am Worship 11 am Annual Meeting / Luncheon 3 pm Scouts	6 pm Scouts					

	Liturgist	Reader	Hostess	Greeters	Deacon
<b>5</b>	Irene Harbison	Deborah Andersen	Beth Walthall	Cady Family	Sarah Carroll
<b>12</b>	None	Mary Greagan		Jack Family	Midge Trivers
<b>19</b>	Children	Children		Lewis Family	Jack Gajewski
<b>26</b>	Nina Nichols	Diana Wildemann		Andersen Family	Jack Gajewski

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### *Church School*

Church School resumes this Sunday following a two-week break for the holidays. We are beginning Module 4 which focuses on Jesus entering his ministry. Our leaders for this six-week module are Dan Lewis, Matt Cooper and Nate Cady. The children will participate in worship on January 19.

Parents are invited to stay during church school for fellowship, coffee and refreshments before worship begins.

### *Bible Study*



The Monday Morning Study Group resumes next Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am in the library. The group will begin a study in Mark that coincides with the narrative lectionary we follow in worship and church school.

All are welcome! We meet in the library.

## RPMs

### *Midnight Run Clothing Donations*



Look for donation boxes for our Midnight Run, which will be at each church and will run through February. We need lots of WARM WINTER items, preferably **dark** colors:

- Hats (Lots of these)
- Gloves (Lots of these)
- Coats (Lots of these)
- Sweaters and sweatshirts (large and x-large)
- Jeans (sizes 32 - 40)
- Boots and/or Sneakers (men's sizes 9-12, women sizes 8 plus)
- Long underwear
- Toiletries

Please bring your items to the donation room to be collected at the end of February by the RPMs. Thank you!

## DEACONS

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4	Jacob Lewis
7	Carol Scott
12	Jack Braaten
12	Nina Nichols
13	David Scott
19	Julia Cooper
19	Sherry Putney
19	Steven Zayas
31	Juliet Wilson

### ***Deacons' Sunday***

The first Sunday of the month is Deacons' Sunday. Blue envelopes are in the pews for your gift at any time.



## WORSHIP

### ***A Musical New Year***



Would you like to have a more musical 2020? Choir and bells are always accepting new members, but this is an especially good time to come sing! Choir will rehearse this Sunday and sing at 10:00 a.m.; the anthem can easily be learned in one rehearsal. Bells of Praise will meet this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. to polish bells, organize folders and preview new music. It's a good time to learn how to ring, and a bit about how the bells work!



There's also a possibility of new musical groups. With a minimum of four school-age children, we could start a chime choir! (Maybe such a group could meet for 6 week sessions to make scheduling easier.) Or we could have a "Golden Bells" group for seniors, playing either chimes or bells for fun, meeting in daylight hours, with no pressure to perform in worship. Or maybe a 'just for fun' drum and percussion circle? See Carol Scott if any of those sound interesting, or if you have another idea!

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### *Ladies Who Care January Gathering*



Please join us and learn about Lee Bormann's experiences as Chief Deputy with the Albany County Sheriff's Office Command Staff. Lee, Dianne's Bormann's son, is also the Chief Pilot of the Albany County Sheriff's Office Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS).

With over 31 years of experience in many areas of law enforcement and emergency management, Lee will share information about the rescues and critical situations that entail much more than what we view on our television news!

When: Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon

Where: DPC library lounge

Bring: A bag lunch

Dessert and beverages will be provided.

RSVP: Pam Taft [pamtaft73@gmail.com](mailto:pamtaft73@gmail.com) or

Judy Riopelle [jjriopelle@gmail.com](mailto:jjriopelle@gmail.com)

or sign up in the Narthex

### *Annual Meeting Luncheon*

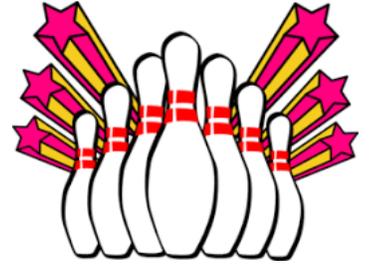
*Sunday, January 26*



We invite everyone to stay after worship on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> to enjoy a delicious luncheon while attending the Annual Meeting.

## OUTREACH

### **Bowling for Beds Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**



*Note from Cornerstone Campus Ministry:*

"I want to take this opportunity to let you know of a great opportunity for you and your church to make a huge difference! **On Saturday, February 8, 2020 we'll be hosting our annual "Bowling for Beds" Bowl-A-Thon to raise money for the Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter in Albany.** The event will be held at Del Lane, 4 Bethlehem Court in Delmar from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. and will include 2 games of bowling, shoes, pizza & soda and lots of prizes and other "free-bees" donated by businesses and community organizations.

"Homelessness and the need for additional shelter beds in Albany County continue to be a focus for the Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC). It is our belief that all people, regardless of a person's circumstances and behaviors, have a human right to obtain shelter from deadly weather and dangerous street living. Since 2000 the CACC as sponsor and First Lutheran Church of Albany as host have responded to this crisis by providing an Emergency Overflow Shelter with professionally trained staff, operating through the cold weather months, 7 days a week, 12 hours each day."

Note: The signup sheet is in the main hallway by the Outreach bulletin board. Please see Bob Lynk with questions.

## SESSION

### ***Highlights of the December 17, 2019 Session Meeting***

The Finance Chair distributed a written summary of the 2020 Stewardship Campaign results. The results so far are very positive. Members who have not yet submitted their 2020 pledges are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Written financial reports were received for the period January 1 to November 30.

Outreach submitted a written summary of recent outreach activities including Thanksgiving bags for needy families, the Fair-Trade Market, and Family Promise. It was decided that gift cards will replace the Thanksgiving bags next year. This will save a lot of work, and allow families to purchase the items they want for Thanksgiving.

The Nominating committee chair explained that calls will continue to fill vacant Elder and Deacon positions. Anyone interested in serving as an Elder or Deacon should contact Dave Rees.

The Administration committee recommended that the office computer be replaced with a new one at a cost of approximately \$550. Our current computer can no longer be supported. Session approved a maximum expenditure of \$650.

The Personnel Committee Chair distributed a document summarizing the December 10 meeting of the Committee which included three main topics, Rev. Pollan's sabbatical request, annual staff appreciation gifts, and staff compensation recommendations for 2020. The Personnel Committee, at their last meeting, approved Rev. Pollan's sabbatical

request. A 3-month sabbatical leave was included in the original terms during the seventh year of Rev. Pollan's service. Following a discussion, Session voted unanimously to approve the sabbatical leave with certain elements such as: the timeframe for the leave, a plan of activities and projects during the leave, and certain travel expenditures.

Session discussed the costs associated with the Session retreat to be held January 10-12 at the Carondelet House in Latham. Small groups of elders were formed to develop some possible discussion points and activities for the retreat.

Session also approved the following items at the meeting:

- The minutes from the November Session meeting
- Set communion for January 5 (pew service).
- Approved Mary Greagan as a new member. Welcome Mary!
- Building Requests from a member for an Eagle Scout award ceremony, and from community members for a social gathering and Girl Scouts meetings.
- The clearing of the membership roll of 9 members who passed away or transferred to another church during 2019

The next Session meeting was established for January 15th at 7 p.m.

The Annual Meeting will be held January 26, 2020 following worship service

Delmar Presbyterian Church  
585 Delaware Avenue  
Delmar, NY 12054

