



A Statement of Repentance, Lament and Solidarity from the Capital Area Council of Churches

June 2020

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter stood up and spoke up. He spoke the uncomfortable and dangerous truth that those in position of privilege had used their power to kill Jesus who did not deserve death (Acts 2:22-23). Just a few days ago we watched as George Floyd, a black man, was handcuffed and while he was laying on the ground a white police officer knelt on his neck for over 8 minutes resulting in his death. Three other officers stood around and did nothing to prevent his death even as observers pled for relief. He called for his mother; he cried out that he couldn't breathe. We, members of the Capital Area Council of Churches, cannot stand around and do nothing. We are called to stand up and speak out – even when, perhaps especially when, the truth is uncomfortable and feels dangerous.

We, as Americans, have too long ignored the evils of white privilege and systemic racism. We, as followers of Jesus, have too long been complacent and complicit about both white privilege and systemic racism. We believe that all people are created in God's image (Genesis 1:26). Racism and white privilege reject this foundational biblical claim. Our Lord Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31). We repent of our apathetic responses to racism. We repent of ignoring the cries for justice from our brothers and sisters of color. We repent of our preference for the status quo and tranquility even when it comes at the cost of another's pain. We lament the ongoing suffering caused by this injustice and the societal structures that reward some and punish others based on the color of their skin.

In this time of mourning for the loss of life, we pray for healing and hope. The prophet Jeremiah warned against 'healing the wound lightly saying peace, peace when there is no peace (Jeremiah 8:11).' To heal the wounds caused by racism, we believe the church is called to attend to the ways we contribute to racism, within and beyond the church. We must examine ourselves and remove the debris of prejudice and privilege. Acknowledging the work white Christians need to take up, we also commit ourselves to standing with our brothers and sisters seeking justice to prevail in our communities. We seek to fully embody the "Beloved Community."

And we are not without hope. When the risen Christ met his disciples – the ones who had betrayed and deserted him – he offered 'peace (John 20:26).' The risen Christ still calls forth peace. Not a simplistic, watered down peace that is enforced by guns. Rather a transformative peace of changed hearts and spirits, changed atmosphere and environment brought about by the Spirit. The Hebrew word for peace, shalom, means more than physical healing. Shalom expresses a wholeness that encompasses the entirety of human existence. We pray for a holistic peace based in justice which flows from God's love for all of humanity and through every system. We long to be partners with God in living justice and loving our neighbors.

WORSHIP



Plans for the summer and going forward

- Through the end of July worship will be online only.
- In August we plan to experiment with live-streaming worship. This will be a controlled opening of around 12 people or so to lead the streaming service. We will still be able to share videos of our friends reading scriptures and leading worship by projecting the videos on the screen. The live-streaming worship will be recorded and then posted on the website, Facebook, and through email links.

Plans for the summer and going forward

The plan for September and beyond is to be determined. It may be that we may try worship with small numbers. However our concern is that most experts are warning that the coronavirus infections will surge in the fall. So we will wait and see.

Next Communication

The task force and session will continue to meet over the summer to monitor the information about the virus to determine when in-person worship is safe. You can expect to receive an update from leadership in late July.

However worship, study and fellowship occur, Delmar Presbyterian Church will be alive, following Jesus, doing our best to continue Christ's work.

Submitted by the COVID-19 Task Force and Session

DEACONS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Spring Clean Up - Quarantine Style



Who - Anyone who needs to get out to the house

What - Choose a task from the list or make up your own

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AfHA51NjhFsSrr1fp_FGKvuBL8_hE11T-K81pCqCrDo/edit?usp=sharing

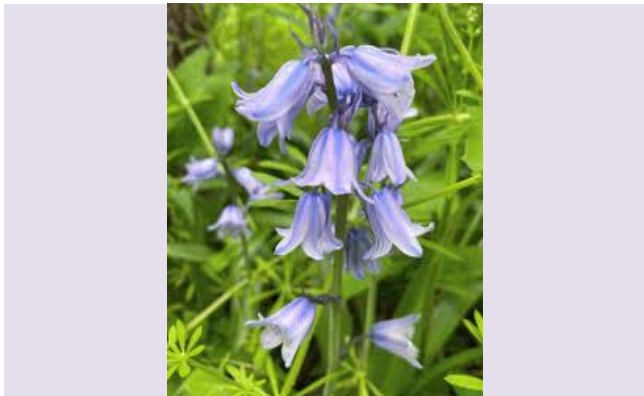
When - At your convenience, just give us a tentative date so we can have supplies and tools ready

Any questions: contact Matt Cooper 734-945-3646 mattpennycooper@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Earth Care Task Force: "Keep Calm and Hike On!"

The Earth Care Task Force wants to remind the congregation of the many opportunities we have in or near Delmar to de-stress by taking a hike and getting some fresh air and exercise with family and friends in natural places while social distancing. In addition to the popular Five Rivers Environmental Center and the paved Rail Trail which extends from Albany to Voorheesville, there are many "pocket preserves", little pockets of nature along Delaware Ave., which are preserves of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC). www.mohawkhudson.org



The eighteenth and newest MHLC preserve, **Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary**, opened on June 3, 2020. It is located at 46 Narick Rd, Selkirk, about 8 minutes from the Bethlehem Town Park. It is a lovely bird sanctuary with many trails, including the "Blue Trail" having many spring flowers along the Onesquethaw Creek. The property was recently transferred from Audubon International to the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. A history and description of the property with a trail map can be obtained on the MHLC website. The website is a wealth of information on all their preserves and all things environmental. The Conservancy was founded in 1992 and has

protected more than 12,000 acres of land in Albany, Schenectady and Montgomery counties. The MHLC office is located here in Delmar at 425 Kenwood Ave., near the 4 Corners.

The MHLC Board of Directors is well represented by DPC members: Sarah Carroll is Chair and Claiborne Walthall is the Vice Chair. The Winn Preserve in the Town of Knox was donated by Merle Winn's parents, Hudson and Nancy Winn, long time members of DPC.

"Keep Calm and Hike On!"

Nancy Scholes

DPC Earth Care Task Force

New Members Update

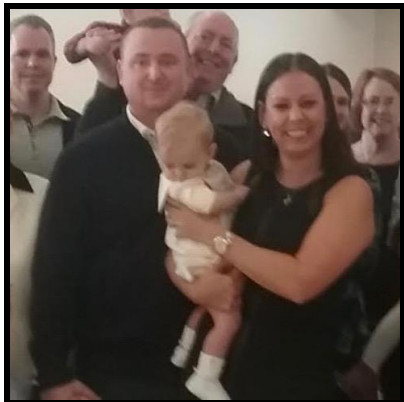
Our church joyously welcomed new members to our church on Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Cheryl Gardiner was introduced to the congregation by Matt Cooper, who as parents of a preschooler and a kindergartener, is so appreciative of Cheryl's service as a Sunday school teacher at DPC. Cheryl was born in Somerset, Pennsylvania. She was raised in Albany and grew up in the First Presbyterian Church in Albany. She played in the bell choir and eventually started teaching Sunday school.



Cheryl moved to the Big City for college. She graduated from Mill's College of Education and earned a master's degree plus 30 credits from NYU. She worked for the NYC Department of Education where she was a pre-k, kindergarten, and a first grade teacher and a staff developer. She also was a rape crisis volunteer for the now closed St. Vincent's Hospital. She served at First Presbyterian Church in NYC as a deacon and Sunday school teacher.

Recently she has returned to Albany. In March, 2018, Cheryl started attending worship at DPC and shortly thereafter became a Sunday school teacher. She is very much loved by our preschoolers and kindergarten children.



Rick and Valerie Root were introduced by Sarah Carroll, who reported that Rick and Val were both born and raised in the town of Bethlehem and have known each other all that time. This coming summer they are celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary.

Valerie is a registered dietitian and works for the Office of Mental Health. Rick works for the Town of Bethlehem Department of Public Works. He also has done much volunteer work, currently serving as a volunteer firefighter for the Elsmere Fire Department and has been a past assistant chief for the Delmar Fire Department.

Rick enjoys doing projects around the house as well as hunting and fishing. Valerie, besides working full time outside the home and being a mother of their four boys (Micah, Caleb, Seamus, and Bodie), enjoys cooking, reading, running, and going for walks.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of our congregation, please contact Pastor Karen Pollan.

Ginny Gajewski, Welcoming Committee Chair

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Delmar, NY 12054

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