



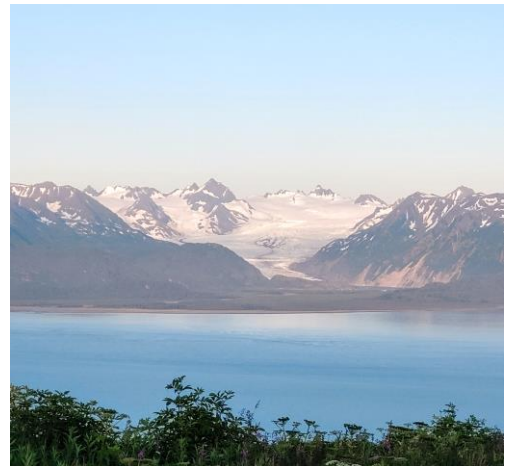
Pastor's Page

Expected and Unexpected Blessings

What did you do over the summer? I hope you enjoyed some time away from your regular routine. Sometimes, no matter how well you plan, the unexpected happens. It certainly happened to me and my siblings this summer.

I met up with my sister Janis in Portland, Oregon in mid-July. We went to Salem, Oregon to talk with our brother. We weren't looking forward to it. His health had deteriorated and for his safety [and my financial well-being] he needed to look for a living situation that would offer some kind of ongoing support. Janis and I were pleasantly surprised that the conversation went well, and David started talking steps toward better health and a different living situation. We felt blessed and hopeful.

My planned itinerary had me traveling back to Alaska for two weeks for Alaskan blessings – majestic mountains, sparkling streams, and fresh air. If you've been to Alaska, you know that every moment offers beauty. To the right is a view of mountains across the bay near Homer, Alaska.



Perhaps surprisingly, the quiet of my sister's sanctuary of trees and meadows nestled in the wilderness near Willow, Alaska was particularly restorative and satisfying. I could spend hours listening to the wind through the Aspen trees and watching the leaves quake. We meandered along, picking wild blueberries or just sat. I felt very blessed to be there.

Then we received word that David had fallen and was in the Salem emergency room awaiting a diagnosis. David spent over 18 hours on a gurney in the hallway because the ER was jammed with COVID patients. It turned out that he had an unstable vertebrae fracture and needed a delicate surgery. They transported him to Portland and I flew back to Oregon rather than Albany, New York as I planned.

The surgery was successful – but David’s lungs were bruised by the fall, and they weren’t performing as they should. He spent over three weeks in ICU as the medical staff worked to help his body heal. He is now at a specialty rehab hospital and then he will go to another facility for long-term physical and occupational therapy. It was a tense, difficult time. I am so thankful for the Session for working with me and approving this emergency leave. That was definitely a blessing. I was blessed by receiving emails and cards from you letting me know David and I were in your prayers, and I was blessed by feeling a little less alone.

In my absence, I knew the church would be blessed by both the staff and the leadership, and they went above and beyond. I’m grateful to Lawrence Stewart for fulling the pulpit so ably, for Lynda Spielman, David Andersen, Irene Harbison, Carol Scott and Dana Hebert for meeting weekly to consider the needs of the church. They blessed the church and by doing so they also blessed me.

Other unlooked for blessings include my former church – Salem First Presbyterian Church – helping with transportation and especially for those who came and helped sort, pitch, and pack the house. The church there has an interim head of staff (Brian), and he was there for my brother, my sister and for me. David is leery of ‘Christians’ and not always open to discussing matters of faith. So, I was grateful for Brian’s sensitivity when he visited David and his pastoral care of me – pastors need pastoral care, too! A very special unlooked for blessing was David’s friends and colleagues from the community radio station that he helped get on the air. As Janis and I packed up David’s belongings, they showed up in force to help pack David’s enormous pile of books, his computers, and all the other things.

Janis and I felt overwhelmed by David’s situation and all the details we needed to address.





And closing the house there, while it needed doing, was filled with the last physical bits of our parent’s life. Sometimes it was slow going – oh, the pictures!! Old reel to reel tapes, boxes and boxes of slides – not the PowerPoint kind – and, of course, box after box of physical photographs. We threw a lot away, we found treasures that we laughed over and some we cried over.

And through every difficult day there were constant reminders that God was with us – in meals dropped off, in boxes someone helped pack, in notes of caring, and even in the unexpected blessing discovered in letting go.

May we keep our eyes open to God’s presence in every good day and through all the bad ones, too. Blessings, *Pastor Karen*

October 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 10 am Communion/ Church School	4 1 pm Monday Painters	5	6	7 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	8	9
10 10 am Worship/ Church School	11 1 pm Monday Painters 5 pm Rental	12	13	14 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	15	16
FAMILY PROMISE MEALS WEEK						
17 10 am Worship/ Church School	18 1 pm Monday Painters	19 7 pm Session Mtg Via Zoom	20 5:30 pm Rental	21 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	22	23
24 10 am Worship/ Church School	25 1 pm Monday Painters	26	27	28 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	29	30
31 10 am Worship/ Church School						

Sundays: 10 a.m. worship followed by Zoom and in-person fellowship

Mondays: 10 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m. Lectionary Study via Zoom

Thursdays: 6:30 p.m. Bells of Praise

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

Worship

We will celebrate communion on **Sunday, October 3rd**. Dan Rain, Recycling Coordinator for the Town of Bethlehem, will be our guest speaker both in adult and children's worship. There will be a period of questions and answers following the service.

**THE
PLASTIC
CHALLENGE**



Please check your mailboxes for a very important message from the children of DPC. They are very excited to announce their joint project with the Earth Care Task Force to reduce the use of plastic in our daily lives. Your household will receive an invitation to participate, a reply form and instructions on how to keep score of your points. The kids have designed this project which includes the creation of a website and prizes for the winning team and for best ideas from your household. You will be hearing more about the Plastics Challenge in the coming weeks. Should you have questions, please contact David Andersen at David.andersen@albany.edu.

October Worship

Sermon Series: The Upside-Down Kingdom

October 3, 2021

Text: Mark 10:2-16, Title: Where the Children Are Blessed
Communion / Special Speaker Dan Rain

October 10, 2021

Text: Mark 10:17-31, Title: Where the Last Are First

October 17, 2021

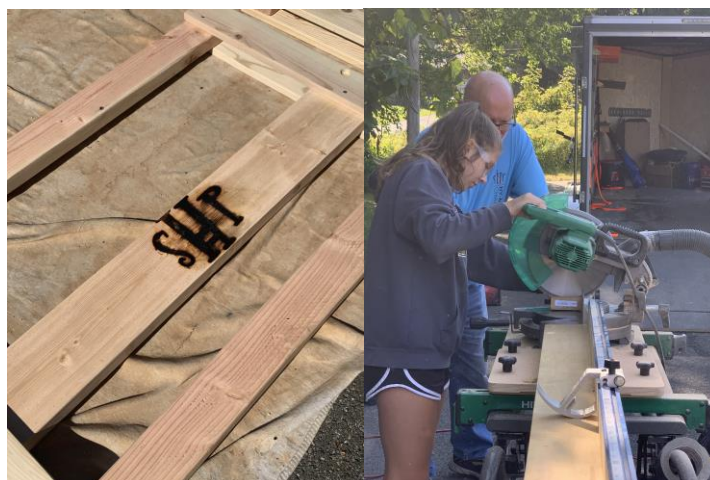
Text: Mark 10:35-45, Title: Where the Least Are the Greatest

October 24, 2021

Text: Mark 10:46-53, Title: Where the Blind Can See

RPMs Bed Build – Our Youth in Action!

On Saturday, September 25th the RPMs Youth Group along with church members built 30 beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that donates beds to families in the Capital Region where a child does not have his or her own bed. We put together all the pieces for the beds, making the head and foot boards, and the railings. When the beds are delivered, they are assembled and the child is given the bed, a mattress and bedding. Thank you to all who came out to help! For more information visit <https://www.shpbeds.org/>.



Sleep in Heavenly Peace
Bed Build
RPMs – September 25th

The RPMs are back meeting in person at the Delmar Reformed Church about every other Sunday from 7:00PM-8:00PM and invite all high school students to join us. Our next meeting is Oct. 3rd and our next fun activity will be an Amazing Race themed day on October 17th. For questions contact RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com.

Beth Gould, RPMs Leader

Family Promise Meals

This month DPC and B'nai Sholom take our turn providing meals to our Family Promise families. Currently there is one family at the center, a mother and daughter. Our schedule is:

Oct.10 Diane Mbombo
Oct.11 B'nai Sholom
Oct.12 Linda Krzykowski
Oct.13 B'nai Sholom
Oct.14 Cady family

Oct.15 Ellen Kelly Lind
Oct.16 Irene Harbison

Thanks volunteers!

October is Reduce the Use of Plastics Month



As a part of our commitment to being an Earth Care Congregation, the month of October will be devoted to plastics. We will be welcoming to the October 3rd church service Dan Lilkas-Rain, the Town of Bethlehem Recycling Coordinator.

We all want to do our part by recycling as much as possible but knowing how to "recycle right" can be confusing, especially with changing messages from the media about recycling and plastics. This

talk with Bethlehem's Recycling Coordinator will address: What plastics should you recycle in Bethlehem, and what should be left out of the bin? How to recycle different items, including "hard to recycle" materials? What are some alternatives to "single use plastics," and are there any current statewide efforts to address plastic recycling or single use plastic pollution? Dan will also speak with our children during the worship hour and then return to the sanctuary after the service for Q and A with the adults.

Pam Taft,
Earth Care Task Force Member

Peace and Global Witness Special Offering – October 3rd

Collected on World Communion Sunday, a gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations contribute 25% of this offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

You are invited to bring your gift in person on Sunday, give online, or send by mail. Please designate for "Peacemaking." Thank you for your participation in this important ministry.

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.

What's New?

The Support Ministry has several projects under discussion currently, such as resurfacing and striping the parking lot, creating the Bob Horn memorial space, and designing and installing an air-handling system for the sanctuary. Elders and volunteers are busy working out details and contacting the experts. Not to mention all that is required in keeping our building safe for weekly in-person worship.



Fall Clean Up Day – November 6th

Our traditional fall clean up 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.

October Events Around the Area

Wednesday, October 13

Capital Area Council of Churches Fall Awards Dinner

The Italian American Community Center is the site of a dinner on October 13, starting with a social hour at 5:00 pm. Dinner is \$75 and includes a choice of meals. Registration for the dinner can be completed online or by contacting the CACC office at (518) 462-5450, capareacc@gmail.com.

5 pm Social Hour

6 pm Dinner

6:45 Awards

Thursday, October 21

Chicken Barbeque \$14.00

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Hosted by the Delmar Ladies Auxiliary

½ chicken, coleslaw, corn on the cob, roll and cookie.

Please call to pre-order dinners: 518.858.3241

