



Pastor's Page



Last year I gave myself a present - one which I might have resented from anyone else - A Daily Dose of Positive: 365 Day Perpetual Calendar. Because I can be contrary (psssst - don't tell my daughter!) If anyone else had given it to me I might have dismissed it as 'Pollyannaish.' I really can't say why I bought it but it has been a good friend through these long difficult months. With the start of the new year I flipped the calendar back to the beginning. Here is the "daily dose of positive" for today, February 5th: Broken Crayons Still Color.

Some years ago, I went on a retreat with 500 or 600 hundred Presbyterian women in the hill country of Texas to a Presbyterian Retreat Center called Mo Ranch. It was a week long experience with worship, workshops and lots and lots of fun.

I attended one workshop on making stained glass. The woman who led it was a survivor of the bombing of Dresden, Germany by the allies in WWII. It seemed, to the young girl that she was, that every glass window in the city was broken and lying in pieces. As a part of her recovery and return to wholeness, she began creating beautiful works of art from broken pieces of glass. I don't have images from the workshop - it was long before smartphones. However I remember the beauty of light shining through broken pieces of glass and the joy of creating something new and beautiful from a colorful pile that could have been discarded as useless or worthless.

During a class at seminary, when someone made a comment about the brokenness of the church - the Church Universal which is divided into so many fractious pieces and denominations - the professor replied, "Broken glass reflects more light."

And then there is Kintsugi, the Japanese art of putting broken pottery back together with gold - built on the idea that in embracing flaws and imperfections, something is created that is even stronger and more beautiful.

Broken Crayons Still Color. I have felt broken. I have felt heartache: for the long, long months of isolation and worry; for the acrimonious discord in our nation's political life; for economic uncertainty and the financial hardships suffered by so many; for all the unnecessary deaths caused by hard-headedness ---- and I feel we are so broken as a nation - as a society - as a community - how do we go on from here?



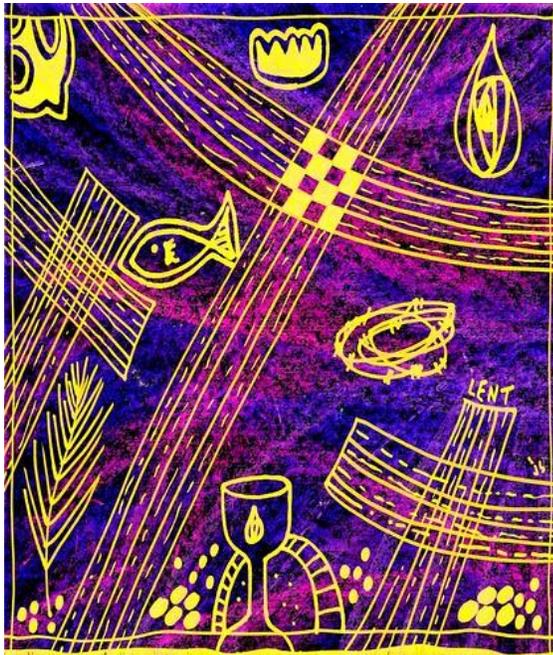
And there it is on my silly daily dose of positive: broken crayons still color. We don't have to have it all together to create something beautiful, useful, worthy and strong. We go from where we are - and by God's grace even our flaws and imperfections, filled with the Spirit can be used to hold and pass on blessings.

We will be entering the Season of Lent soon. Often it is perceived primarily as a season to repent and lament - but I think that is an incomplete understanding of the weeks that lead us to Easter. It is a time of honesty, yes - acknowledging our brokenness, but also a season of grace. Lent can seem as cold and barren as a snow covered field, but it is also the time when beyond our sight the earth is preparing for new life. As we acknowledge our barrenness to God, we may feel broken, but by grace God's Spirit works laying gold in the broken places and reminding us that broken crayons still color. We may feel broken and downtrodden, but God is in the business lifting up, binding up, remaking and transforming lives.

Where are you feeling broken these days? Where is your heart hurting? Lent is for you, for us - a sacred time dedicated to hope and renewal so we can greet the coming Easter with great joy.

May we travel with God during the holy season of Lent and discover beauty and hope in the midst of brokenness. May we color boldly -- even with the tiniest of broken bits of crayons!

Blessings,
Pastor Karen



WORSHIP

Worship for February and March

Season of Epiphany

February 7
Mark 1:29-39 Jesus Teaches & Heals

February 14
Mark 9:2-9 Transfiguration Sunday



Season of Lent

February 17 Ash Wednesday

February 21
Genesis 9:8-17 Rainbow Promises

February 28
Genesis 17:1-7,
15-16 An Everlasting Promise

March 7
John 2:13-22 Broken Promises

March 14
John 3:14-21 Beyond Promise

March 21
Jeremiah 31:
31-34 The Heart of Promise

March 28 Palm Sunday

April 1 Maundy Thursday

April 2 Good Friday

April 4 Easter /Resurrection Sunday

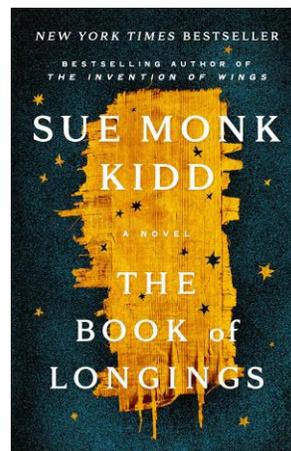
DEACONS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Michele Zayas
4	Diana Wildemann
6	Sarah Carroll
9	Nancy Braaten
12	Nina Nichols
13	David Scott
19	Julia Cooper
19	Sherry Putney
19	Steven Zayas

Book Suggestion for Lent *by Jack Gajewski*

"The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd



A wholly fictional but compelling account about the woman Jesus marries and their respective journeys before and during their marriage, and then their separation as Jesus leaves home to follow John, and then continue to do so following John's death.

While the focus of the novel is primarily upon the life of the woman Jesus (might have) married, it is also very much about who he might have been, as well. Fascinating story and journey, imaginative, and very much in the realm of possibility...



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Zooming With Ladies Who Care

Ladies and Gents are welcome!

Until it is safe for in-person gatherings, our programs will be on Zoom and they are scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month at 1 PM. Look for a link in your email.

Pam Taft and Judy Riopelle, Coordinators

Hospice – Who, What, When, Where, How?



Wednesday, February 24th - 1 pm via Zoom

Ladies and gents are invited to join us for a Zoom presentation on Wednesday, February 24th at 1 PM to learn about and discuss the concept of Hospice, palliative care and issues for end-of-life care. Nancy Braaten, RN MSN will share her expertise and experience as a former Hospice Nurse at St Peter's Hospice Inn. Hospice and palliative care can provide a special kind of care that focuses on allowing patients to live with dignity, where and how they want to live and with the best quality of life possible.

“You treat the disease, you may win, you may lose. You treat the person, I guarantee you’ll win, no matter what the outcome.” Patch Adams

EARTH CARE TASK FORCE



Electric Car Ownership

Delmar Presbyterian Church's designation as an Earth Care Congregation calls on all of us to think of the big and small things we can do to live faithfully through a reformation of our relationship with creation. Theologians think of this as nothing less than a metanoia - a deep change of mind, hearts, attitudes and actions. There is no recipe for getting this right. We all struggle through with the decisions we make and the lifestyles we choose.

Ellen and I decided a year ago to take the plunge and purchase an all-electric vehicle (EV) as our one and only car. While we were vexed by all of the usual concerns about whether this could work in the real world, I am happy to report that we are very pleased with our decision. We know it's the right thing for the environment but we find our car fun to drive, economical to operate, and usually easy to keep charged.

Our car is a 2019 Kia E-Niro. It is a small hatchback and except for some unique blue trim, a plug hatch instead of a gas cap, and a small brand badge that identifies it as "eco-electric" it looks like any other car. It has an EPA estimated range of 239 miles on a single charge. We've gotten between 215 and 305 miles per charge in real-time use.

Aren't electric cars expensive? The initial sticker price can be scary but a federal tax credit (\$7500) and NY State rebate (\$2000) made it only slightly more expensive than the gasoline counterpart. But also consider that electricity is cheaper than gasoline and EVs have lower maintenance costs (fewer moving

parts to break and no oil changes). Independent analysts have shown that total cost of ownership is actually less.



The Lind's car charging at the Town Hall

How do you charge your car? There is a bit of a learning curve here but it's really pretty straight forward. We installed a level 2 charger in our garage that uses a dedicated 240 volt plug (similar to what you use for an electric dryer). Once or twice a week we simply plug it in and five to seven hours later we have a fully charged car. Consider how many hours your car sits in your garage and you quickly realize that this is really more convenient than trips to the gas station. Public charging stations are becoming increasingly available. Locally, public chargers are available at Bethlehem Town Hall, Elm Avenue Park, and at the Slingerlands rail trail parking lot. Businesses are also installing chargers including Delmar Animal Hospital, Chili's in Glenmont, and Adams Station Apartments.



What about long trips? This year probably hasn't been a good test case for how hard it will be to do long trips in our EV. COVID concerns have severely limited our travel. But we did make several trips to NY City and trips to the Adirondacks and the Pocono Mountains that were relatively uneventful. The key is to plan ahead. There are any number of phone apps that will plan your route and map the available chargers. There are level 3 fast chargers available on the NYS Thruway and Northway. These chargers can provide an 80% charge in 45 to 60 minutes. So stretch your legs, get a cup of coffee, and soon you will be on your way.

What's the outlook? Electric vehicles are the future. General Motors recently announced that it will do away with all gasoline powered cars by 2035. The Biden administration has made EVs a central part of its climate agenda. The federal fleet of 645,000 vehicles will be replaced by EVs. And his agenda calls for the construction of 500,000 new public charging stations by the end of 2030. In NY programs like "Charge Ready NY" and "DC Fast Charge" promise significant expansion of EV infrastructure.

Bottom line! I am an EV enthusiast. If you are considering a new car purchase, an EV should definitely be a consideration. I am happy to share my experience or answer any questions. Reducing our carbon footprint is one step in protecting our environment. A few bumps related to early adoption of EV technology is well worth it for a better future for our grandchildren, Charlie and Eleanor.

Gary Lind
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OUTREACH

National Day of Service



The combined food drive with DPC and B'nai Sholom was a great success! Many dozens of cars came through our parking lots loaded down with groceries and paper products for local food banks. Word spread through Facebook and Bethlehem Next Door, creating a very generous response from the community. Our thanks to Becky Marvin, Laura Scott, Irene Harbison, Dave and Nick Rees and all who helped. We hope to join with B'nai Sholom in the future for more community outreach.



Thank you to our donors and volunteers!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

December 15, 2020

The Agenda was approved. The November Session meeting minutes were approved.

Earth Care Task Force

Nancy Braaten provided an update "For the Earth Care Congregation" to be read aloud and entered into the meeting minutes:

"The PCUSA Earth Care Review of Earth Care Congregation Applications will not disqualify any renewing certification because of point totals from last year. They will be honoring the intended work whether it was applied or not as the outcomes were not in our control.

They still want us to complete the application and have posted the new application for renewing congregations online. It needs to be completed between Jan.1 – Feb.15. I (Nancy) am starting to review it and will work with members of the committee and the heads of Worship, Education, Outreach, Building and Grounds and Pastor Karen to complete this application."

Custodial Position

Tricia Hertz is still considering taking the position.

Nominations

The committee is working on lining up replacements for Deacons and Elders who will be completing their terms of service at the end of the year.

Budget

Finance Chair David Rees shared a proposal for the 2021 budget.

Stewardship

A letter has been prepared and a 2021 pledge packet will be mailed to members and friends.

Pastor's Report

Thanks to Sarah Lewis and Carol Scott for their work on the Christmas Pageant; live-streaming continues along with Zoom fellowship; Christmas Eve and the following Sunday will be pre-recorded; a tech grant is being prepared for submission to Albany Presbytery; the annual meeting will be virtual.

Permission was asked to utilize a prerecorded Matthew 25 worship service in January, and permission was asked to do a switch with New Scotland Presbyterian Church (one week we all watch DPC service, the next week we all watch NSPC service) to allow NSPC and DPC worship leaders/support time off. Permission was unanimously given.

Building and Grounds

The two broken doors in the fellowship hall have been repaired. The hot water heater is leaking.

Unanimous approval was given to have the water heater replaced.

Next Session Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Submitted by Ravi Bolleddu, Clerk of Session



January 19, 2021

Ministry of the Church

The agenda and December meeting minutes were approved. Also approved by consensus:

-Recommitment of DPC to the Earth Care Pledge for 2021

-Communion via Zoom on February 7, 2021

-Combined special services with New Scotland Presbyterian Church on Ash Wednesday, and noon Communion on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Strategic Planning: Reorganization

Discussion about Church Restructuring Plan which Session approved at their last retreat and considered in prior Session meetings.

2021 Financial Report and Stewardship Update

Pledge packets had been mailed to the congregation which included a proposed budget for 2021. Pledge responses were coming in.

Annual Meeting

The meeting will be held on January 31, 2021. A Nominations Update was presented. A slate of new Elders and Deacons was discussed.

Communications

Communications will oversee the implementation of the family/parish plan in the future. The need for communication between members and Elders/Deacons has become a priority during COVID-19. The hope is a strengthening of the heart of our church (its people).

Pastor's Report

Pastor Karen will be the guest minister at St. Vincent de Paul congregation on January 24 as part of their ecumenical program. Nina Nichols will preach at DPC on that date. The 2021 Lenten series is being planned.

A request that DPC donate to the Capital Area Council of Churches for their Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund was unanimously approved for a donation of \$500.

Next Session Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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