



Pastor's Page



The first month of the New Year is gone. Can that be right? I keep trying to weave something about seeing, perceiving, casting a vision and the year 2020. Get it? 2020 perfect vision? Oh well. Truly, I am ready for a new decade and a new beginning – are you?

The session retreat in early January included Bible study and prayer. In small groups the first evening, we studied passages around Sabbath keeping in the Hebrew Scriptures. The next evening we looked at Jesus' prayer life in the Gospel of Luke. And you know what? While my plan was for the Session Elders to think about Sabbath, the Spirit kept poking me.

I attended the retreat tired – a very busy season of Advent and Christmas that included mission work and memorial services. And the Spirit murmured – “Karen, have *you* been taking Sabbath? Karen, have *you* been praying? Karen, have *you* been attending to your spirit?” Hmmm. Well. But, there's so much to do!

Pastors can also struggle with their prayer life. I struggle getting quiet enough. I struggle sometimes because I don't “feel” prayerful. In the box is an ancient Celtic prayer that sums up much of our difficulty and offers the simplest yet best remedy – pray anyway!

Also, here are some of my favorite helps: Pray as You Go – google it and you will find a podcast with scripture, beautiful music, prayers and questions to get you thinking; Headspace – a meditation app – not expressly Christian but helpful for learning to quiet the mind; and this book “Kneeling with Giants” by Gary Neal Hansen – he is a Presbyterian pastor and a professor of Christian History. In this book he provides historical background about various prayer practices and gives suggestions for trying out these different forms of prayer. Perhaps you will discover you are enriched by Benedictine ruminations or by entering the Cloud of Unknowing. Let us pray

Blessings, *Pastor Karen*

Praying with the Spirit



Sometimes when I pray,
I utter the words,
but I do not feel or thing
them.

Sometimes when I pray,
I utter the words,
thinking about what I say,
but not feeling.

Sometimes when I pray,
I utter the words,
and I both think and feel
what I say.

An act of will cannot
make me feel,
nor stop my mind
from wandering.

An act of will can only
make me utter.

So I shall utter the words,
And let the Spirit do the
rest,
guiding my mind and heart
as the Spirit wills.



February

Bells of Praise: Thursdays at 6:30 pm				Women's AA: Sundays at 7:15 pm, Tuesdays at noon		
Choir Rehearsals: Sundays at 9 am				Closed Meeting AA: Thursdays at noon		
Monday Study Group: Mondays at 10 am				Prez Deadline for March: February 17		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
						1 pm Winn Wedding
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:15 Church School 10 am Communion 11:15 Refreshments 11:15 Deacons Mtg.	1 pm Monday Painters		3:45 pm Study 5 pm Dinner 6 pm Study			2 pm Bowling for Beds
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:15 Church School 10 am Worship/Kids 11:15 Refreshments 11:15 New Members 11:15 Environ. Justice	1 pm Monday Painters		3:45 pm Study 5 pm Dinner 6 pm Study			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:15 Church School 10 am Worship/Baptism Ordination/Installation 11:15 Refreshments	1 pm Monday Painters	7 pm Session Mtg. 6:30 Scouts	3:45 pm Study 5 pm Dinner 6 pm Study			
23	24	25	26 ASH WEDS	27	28	29
9:15 Church School 10 am Worship 11:15 Refreshments	1 pm Monday Painters 6 pm Scouts 6:15 Scouts		12 pm Ladies Who Care 3:45 pm Study 5 pm Dinner 6 pm Study 7 pm Service			3 pm Rental

	Liturgist	Reader	Hostess	Deacon
2	David Rees	Laura Scott	Linda Miller Lowry	Midge Trivers
9	Matt Cooper	DPC Children		Midge Trivers
16	Irene Harbison	Charles Scholes		TBD
23	David Andersen	Sue Kilgallon		TBD

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Church School

We are currently in Module 4 of our Sunday School program year. Our leaders are Dan Lewis, Matt Cooper and Nate Cady. We are studying Mark along with the congregation. Our next children's presentation will be on February 9th.

Adult Education Tex Mix Discussion Group

We have begun a five-week discussion group on Wednesday afternoons using the DVD "Tex Mix: Stories of Earthy Mysticism," featuring storyteller Tex Sample, a contributor to the Living the Questions series. Each session will feature several of Sample's short stories in conjunction with suggested Bible verses and discussion questions. As before, groups are invited to attend the afternoon (3:45-5:00PM) or evening (6:00-7:15 PM) session, with a supper to be shared in between.



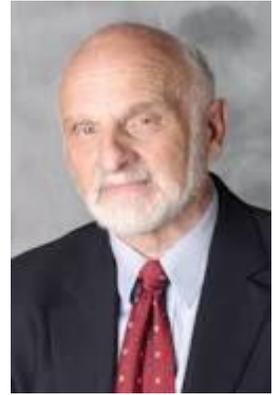
TEX SAMPLE

Tex Sample is a specialist in church and society and a much sought-after lecturer, storyteller, workshop leader, and consultant. He is a pastor and the

Robert B. And Kathleen Rogers Professor Emeritus of Church and Society at The Saint Paul School of Theology. He has published 12 books. His provocative forthcoming book with Abingdon Press is *Working Class Rage: A Field Guide to White Anger and Pain*. He lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Lenten Reflection and Group Study

Lent begins this year on February 26th, Ash Wednesday, culminating with Holy Week and Easter Sunday in early April. In the weeks between please plan to attend a special Lenten series from the *Living the Questions* series: *Countering Pharaoh...Today*. Featuring noted old testament scholar Walter Brueggemann, *Countering Pharaoh...Today* highlights the Israelites' journey from slavery to covenant and how we continue, and repeat, that journey today, because, in Brueggemann's words, "Pharaoh has immense power always to draw us back into slavery."



Countering Pharaoh...Today is a DVD-based study planned around five weekly sessions, each with its own focus and emphasis. The format will be the same as our ongoing weekday sessions, with group study at either 3:45 or 6:00 p.m., with a simple "soup" supper between from 5:00 - 6:00. Some very light reading will be recommended prior to each session, with handouts provided in advance. Each session will be a distinct topic, building on the previous ones, but attendance at all five is not required to benefit from and enjoy Brueggemann's engaging speaking style and ability to give "old" material new life and application. He will challenge us to new thinking, and restore the meaning of covenant, as we progress through Lent and anticipate the Easter event in 2020.

More details will be provided in the weekly email updates and worship service announcements. Please consider joining in this compelling reflection on the historical and contemporary meaning and demands of covenant.

RPMs

Midnight Run Clothing Donations



Warm Winter Clothes and Toiletries needed for the Midnight Run on March 21st. We are looking for donations of the following:

Items Needed:

Warm coats (large and extra-large – dark colors preferred)
Durable Pants (Large sizes preferred. Blue jeans preferred over khakis)
Tube Socks
Underwear (sizes 32-46)
Sweatshirts (especially hoodies – large and extra-large – dark colors preferred)
T-shirts
Gloves
Hats
Belts (sizes 32 – 46)
Boots/Sneakers (men's sizes 9-14)
Toiletries (wash cloth, tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorant, tissues, lotion, chapstick, shampoo, conditioner, soap, razors, shaving cream – travel sizes preferred)

Please bring your items to the donation (Coat) room to be collected at the beginning of March by the RPMs. Thank you!

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
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 service will be held on Wednesday, February 25th, at 7 pm at DPC. We will be joined by our friends at New Scotland Presbyterian Church.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Ladies Who Care

Wednesday, February 25th at Noon

Let's learn more about one of DPC's missions - *partnership with Unity House in Troy*. And who could inform us better than Nina Nichols who serves Unity House as Assistant Director of Development?!

The mission statement of Unity House is as follows: Unity House is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people living in poverty, adults with mental illness, victims of domestic violence, children with developmental delays and their families, people living with HIV/AIDS, and others whose needs can effectively be met by Unity House services and philosophy.

Unity House provides direct service and works toward social justice. "We help individuals identify their strengths and needs, draw upon their abilities, and access community resources. We educate, collaborate with others, and advocate to influence public policy and to create awareness of the people we serve and the issues they face.

With passion and integrity, Unity House embraces the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights. We work together to open the doors of access and opportunity for everyone, particularly those in greatest need."

Bring: A bag lunch (dessert and beverages will be provided)

When: Wednesday, February 25th at noon

Where: DPC's Library/Lounge

RSVP to Pam Taft, pamtaft73@gmail.com,

Judy Riopelle, jjriopelle@gmail.com, or sign up in the Narthex.

New Members Exploration Class **Sunday, February 9th after worship**

Thinking of becoming a member of DPC, or know someone who might? We invite you to attend an Exploring Church Membership class Sunday, February 9th following worship in the church library. Let us know you are coming by contacting the church office at 439-9252 or office@delmarpres.org All are welcome and there's no obligation.

Environmental Justice and Reducing DPC's Environmental Footprint



Feb 9th Following Worship

Stay to talk about ways we, as a church, can reduce our Environmental Footprint and determine projects and approaches we can take to make an impact. These may be short term and some long-term goals to decrease waste and become more eco-friendly. Please bring ideas and any information on areas to explore.

We will gather either at a far table in Fellowship Hall or possibly in Sanctuary.
Nancy Braaten

Refuse – Reduce -- Reuse – Recycle – Rot

OUTREACH

Love Kits



On Sunday, February 16th, after worship, in the Fellowship Hall, we will be assembling emergency toiletries kits for the **Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless on Sheridan Avenue in Albany**. IPH finds these kits of basic toiletries very helpful to provide to homeless individuals who arrive at IPH with virtually nothing. Because we are assembling the toiletries kits on a date close to Valentine's Day we call them "**Love Kits**".

Thank you for the many items that have been donated! There is still a need for: **Bath soaps, deodorants, small shaving creams, packs of single-use razors, and chap sticks**. Please place your donations in the bin in the collections (Coat) room. Thank you!

Family Promise **Week of March 8 – 15**

You can help by signing up to prepare a meal, spend an evening hosting or sleeping over at the church. Help is also needed to prepare rooms before arrival and to break down rooms when the week is over. This important ministry helps fragile families get back on their feet. Check with Dave Rees for more information: Drees21@verizon.net. Look for the signup sheet on the Outreach board.

International Folk Dancing **Fundraiser for Family Promise**

B'nai Shalom – Coming in March



Interested in learning some international dances and getting some exercise? The Savitt's from B'nai Shalom (friends of Charlotte and Dick Stearns) are offering to teach and lead some international dance calls at the Temple B'nai Shalom on either March 15th or 22nd. An offering will be made to benefit Family Promise. If you may be interested, they'd like a headcount so they can plan accordingly. Look for more info in the March Prez.

Please contact Becky Marvin from B'nai at beckymarvin4574@gmail.com for more information. **Thanks, and get moving!**

You Are Invited



To the wedding of
Merle Winn and Aggie Leahy

Saturday, February 1, 2020
at Delmar Presbyterian Church
Reception to follow

SESSION

Highlights of the January 21, 2020

Session Meeting

The Finance Committee Chair presented a 2020 proposed budget which was approved at the meeting. A written outline of pledges received and expenditures incurred through December 31st was distributed.

The Christian Education Committee distributed the minutes from their July 9 meeting.

The Administration Committee Chair informed Session that the new computer for the office has been delivered and will be set up in the near future.

The Communications Committee and Building & Grounds Committee will be working together to improve the sign at the Cherry Ave. entrance.

The Worship Committee Chair reported that there will be a need for 13 worship leaders during the pastor's sabbatical. Nina Nichols, Bob Criswell, Carol Scott, and Jack Gajewski will lead us for most the worship services. For the remaining Sundays, there will be plans to invite agencies we support with mission dollars who also incorporate advocacy in the work that they do.

The Nomination Committee Chair announced new elders and deacons to be elected at the Annual meeting.

Plans for the upcoming Annual meeting were discussed.

A written summary of the recent Session retreat was presented, and an overview of activities and initiatives were highlighted.

A written summary of Rev. Pollan's sabbatical was distributed and discussed. This will be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

Session also took action on the following items at the meeting:

- Approved the minutes from the December Session meeting.
- Approved Nina Nichols as Presbytery Commissioner and Ron Tweedie as Alternate Presbytery Commissioner.
- Approved the establishment of the Gloria Fund to be used for special music projects (a donation was received by the LaForte family in honor of Gloria LaForte).
- Approved communion dates of February 2nd pew service & Ash Wednesday February 26th by intinction.
- Approved combined special services with New Scotland Presbyterian Church, Ash Wednesday, Noon communion on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Our church is the hosting site for Ash Wednesday, Noon Communion on Holy Tuesday and Maundy Thursday.
- Approved building use requests from a church member and a community member.
- Approved the OGA Session Annual Statistical Report for 2019 submitted by the Clerk of Session.

The next Session meeting was established for Tuesday, February 18th at 7 p.m.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Meet in the library following worship
Refreshments will be served
Child care upon request
RSVP to pastorkaren@delmarpres.org



EMPTY BOWLS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Delmar Reformed Church
12:00 – 2:30 pm
\$25 per person, children under 10 free



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
7 pm Delmar Presbyterian Church

Delmar Presbyterian Church
585 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054

