

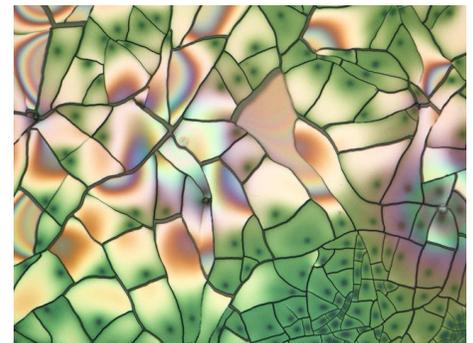


## Pastor's Page

In a recent worship service I invited the congregation members to respond to the question "What brings you joy?" on brightly colored post-it-notes during children's time. The children drew pictures responding to the same question. Then we posted them on a board. It made for a bright and joyful picture of how we experience happiness and meaning.

Here are some of our responses: friends, family, quiet time with God, rocks, creating and building something, waking up every morning, a magnificent view, jokes, a good book and a great place to read, birds and music, a walk off home run in the 9<sup>th</sup>, flowers, colors, animals, sunrise over Bach field, doing unexpected nice things for people, sunshine, good thoughts, grandchildren, dogs, morning coffee with my cat and a good book, when the student becomes the teacher, finishing my to-do list, nature, gardening, mountains, lakes, a beautiful star filled night sky, sharing a meal with people I love, road trips, good food, yard work, doing something really well when I have the time to do it, worshiping with church family on Sunday mornings. The children's drawing revealed a love of books, their home, flowers, bugs and color.

We are blessed to have our lives filled with those moments, people and things that bring us joy – those moments that add richness and meaning, those moments that make all the mundane or difficult tasks we routinely undertake worth it. When I was a biology student I remember one professor – who back in the day, had been on the leading edge in electron microscopy – who reminisced about how she hated the tedious nature of preparing slides for the electron microscope. However, it was worth all the toil to have the hidden world revealed.



Microscopic Plant Cells

One of the blessings of summer is, for most of us, the time to enjoy what tedious toil makes possible: vacations, more time out in nature, more time with dear friends and extended family, more time to read stretched out on a beach or laze in a hammock. As the days of summer come to an end, I pray that you will experience more joy.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John that he came to bring life and a more abundant life. There are those that build a 'prosperity' gospel from verses like that one. Of course we know that Jesus' life was not about having the most stuff. Other religious traditions (in times past, even our own) seem to revel in removing all possible joy from life, except a meager kind of piety. I think both of those are distortions of the gospel. I think Jesus calls us to the mindful now – deeply appreciating the joys of the present: God's love for us and God's gifts to us – revealed in family, friends, nature and maybe, maybe in those tedious tasks.

Blessings on all your days, *Pastor Karen*

# August 2018

Bells of Praise: resumes in Fall

Choir Rehearsals: resumes in Fall

Women's Bible Study: resumes in Fall

Women's AA: Sundays at 7:15 pm, Tuesdays at noon

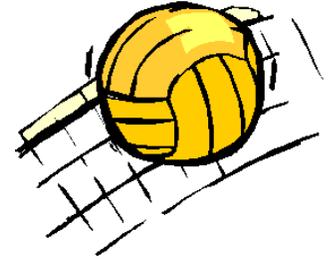
Closed Meeting AA: Thursdays at noon

Prez Deadline for September: August 19

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
				4 pm Chicken and Corn Roast Setup	6 pm Chicken and Corn Roast	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 am Communion 11:15 Coffee Hour		5:30 pm Book Discussion at Coopers	12 pm Ladies Who Care Picnic at Henry Hudson Park ( <b>women &amp; men invited</b> )			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour	7 pm Building and Grounds Meeting					
19	20	21	22	23	18	25
10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour		7:15 pm Session Meeting				
26	27	28	29	30		
10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour		5:30 pm Book Discussion at Lewises				

	Liturgists	Readers	Hostess	Greeters	Deacon in Charge	Ushers
5	Ravi Bolleddu	Mark Hansen	Judy Riopelle	Irene H/Jean S	Randy Morse	Ed & Pam Taft
12	Bob Lowry	Melissa Fleischut		Jen J/ Sally J	Sarah Carroll	TBD
19	Matt Cooper	TBD		The Stearns	Jan Messina	TBD
26	Dave Austin	TBD		The Cadys	Jan Messina	TBD

*Thank you to our volunteers!*



## CHICKEN AND CORN ROAST

Friday, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm

Fellowship Hall and front yard for volleyball,  
outdoor games and campfire fun!  
Grilled chicken skewers, veggie burgers, hot dogs,  
corn-on-the-cob, watermelon, salads, and s'mores!

Please invite a friend to join us  
for this special fellowship event.

Sign Up In the Narthex,  
or call the church office at 439-9252,  
or Email: [office@delmarpres.org](mailto:office@delmarpres.org).

Able to help with Prep or Clean Up?  
Call church office or email: [office@delmarpres.org](mailto:office@delmarpres.org).

Good Food, Fun and Fellowship!  
Hope to see you THERE!!

## Note from the Office

The Office Admin will be away the week of August 12. Email and phone messages will be checked, but may not receive an immediate response. Please save routine matters for her return. Thank you!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Church School

As the thunder crashes around me my mind repeats, "God must be bowling with the angels." My Mom used to say that to me and my siblings during summer thunder and lightning storms. We all still love a good storm.

I sent out the scriptures for the Fall Modules last week. And now the fun begins! Sarah Lewis and I have been in conversation about a really great year long time-filler project, among other things.

Cheryl's class will prepare the bulletin covers on the Sundays the children share our scripture lesson. I am looking forward to seeing what Cheryl and her teammates come up with this year for their lessons! (Pastor Karen's Humor Sunday hat?)

I am so thankful for the creative intelligent volunteers who share their talents with me and all your children. I look forward to creating Sunday School with you both.

If there is anyone in the congregation that has a gift to share with the children, please let us know. We may be looking for just that skill to work on a module which moves along quickly,

meaning it would only be one Sunday with guided assistance.

Give it a thought. I am very happy to answer any questions.

Happy Summer!

Joani Jameson, Director of Youth and Family

### Adult Education

#### Summer Book Reads

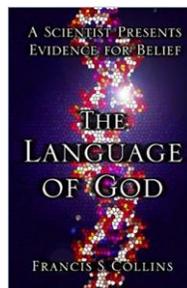
There will be two books to read and discuss this summer. Both come highly recommended.



First is *Eco-Reformation* by Lisa E. Dahill and James B. Martin-Schramm, a collection of essays that call for ecological justice as part of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance of the reformation.

**Discussion date:**

**Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Coopers'**



Second is *The Language of God* by Francis S. Collins, a book in which the author advocates theistic evolution, arguing for God from biology, astrophysics, psychology and other disciplines.

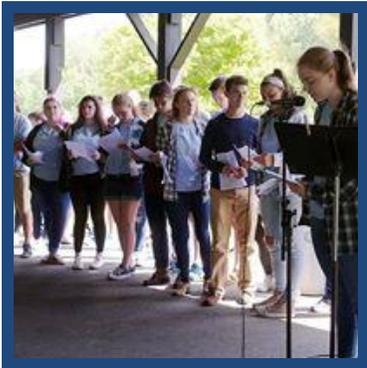
**Discussion date:**

**Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Lewis'**

## RPMs

### **Calling ALL 9-12th graders!!!**

Come check out RPMs Senior High Youth Group!



The RPMs Youth Group is an Ecumenical Fellowship comprised of three churches: the Reformed, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches in Delmar. Any 9-12<sup>th</sup> grader is welcome to come and join in on the fun. We meet on Sunday nights at the Reformed Church, where we connect with one another about everyday things that are affecting the lives of youth today, and of course just have fun! The RPMs also spend the year doing local community service, we travel to New York City to do a Midnight Run, go on retreats, and travel for our annual mission trip in the spring. This is a great group! For more information please email Beth Gould at [RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com](mailto:RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com)

#### **September Schedule:**

Sunday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>

First RPM Meeting | 7:00pm-8:00pm | Delmar Reformed Church

Sunday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Students & Parents Meeting | 7:00pm-8:00pm | Delmar Reformed Church



**Save the Date:  
Rise Against Hunger  
Community Wide Service Project!**



**September 29<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Delmar Presbyterian Church**

The RPMs will be hosting the fourth annual *Rise Against Hunger* (formally known as *Stop Hunger Now*) packaging event and inviting members of our church community to participate again this year. We will pack 20,000 dehydrated meals to be shipped around the world to feeding programs. Small children through those that are young at heart are encouraged to come, as there are jobs for everyone!

**The RPMs pay \$.34 per meal (that's \$6800!!!) so donations to help offset the cost are *greatly appreciated*, and you can donate online here:**

<http://events.stophungernow.org/Reformed>

**SIGN UPS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 25th  
ARE REQUIRED.**

Please RSVP to Beth Gould at  
[RPMsYouthGroup@Gmail.com](mailto:RPMsYouthGroup@Gmail.com) or sign up  
online here:

<http://events.stophungernow.org/Reformed>

## DEACONS

### *Ride Share Ministry*

We have several members of our church community that often need rides to church. We would like to develop a list of people (with phones numbers) that would be willing to provide rides at times. The riders would have this list and would give you a call to see if you could provide a ride that Sunday.

Maybe you would be willing to say you would do this every third Sunday, then people would know when to try you. This is a great service to members unable to drive but would so much like to attend church.

Thank you for considering giving of yourselves in this way. I know it would be so greatly appreciated.

Please contact me at [prmull70@gmail.com](mailto:prmull70@gmail.com).

Peggy Mull,  
Moderator of Deacons

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

7	Beth Walthall
8	James McGinn
8	Casey Wilson
9	Packy Carroll
13	Matt Lowry
18	Sarah Hamilton
19	Christopher Lowry
22	Lillian Masters
22	Jean Somerville

Don't see your name? Add your information to the birthday lists in the fellowship hall or email the office at [info@delmarpres.org](mailto:info@delmarpres.org).

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### *Ladies Who Care to Host Picnic for Ladies and Gents*



Women and men are invited to a summer gathering at the Henry Hudson Park by the Hudson River in Bethlehem.

**Date:** Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> - if rain we'll move to the church.

**Time:** Noon

**Please bring:** A bag lunch. (Dessert and beverages will be provided.)

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or RSVP to either:

Pam Taft (439-9281)  
[pamtaft73@gmail.com](mailto:pamtaft73@gmail.com) or

Judy Riopelle (439-3075)  
[jjriopelle@gmail.com](mailto:jjriopelle@gmail.com)

Directions:

Take Wemple Road to RT 144 South. Turn left on Barent Winne Road, which will become Lyons Road as it proceeds south along the river.



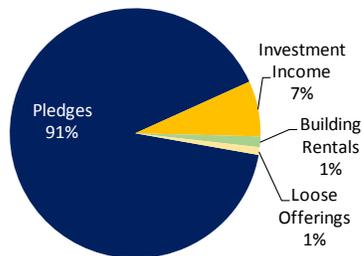
# FINANCE

## **Church Income on Target Through Half the Year**

Halfway through the Church’s financial year, income for our annual operating budget is on target. The Church follows a calendar financial year (January to December), so June 30 marked the halfway point in the financial year. Total income was \$126,440, or 50.2 percent of the amount budgeted for 2018.

Pledges are the primary source of revenue for our Church but are not sufficient to support all our costs. Pledges account for 91 percent of the Church’s budgeted income, investment income provides 7 percent and building rentals and loose offerings amount to about 1 percent each.

**Sources of Income for 2018 Church Operating Budget**



We have received \$115,162 in pledges, or 50.5 percent of the amount our approved budget assumed we would receive – thank you to everyone for keeping up on pledges.

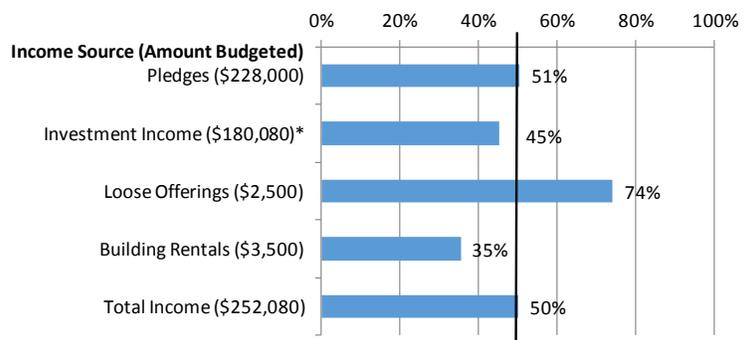
Investment income is a much smaller share of the Church’s total income but is more complicated to explain. The income is derived from small interest earnings on bank accounts and from returns on our Permanent Endowment, Manse Fund, and Capital Replacement Fund. (All churches in our Presbytery are required to maintain a manse for their Pastor or a fund to purchase one.)

The Church uses dividends from the Manse and Capital Replacement Funds to support our operating budget. Through 2015, the Church also used dividends from the Permanent Endowment for annual operating costs. But that year, the Session approved a new policy directing that Endowment dividends no longer be used to support operating costs. Instead, the Church would use an amount based on the average increase in the total value of the Endowment over five years to support either the operating budget or the new Stewardship Fund. Other non-profits apply similar policies to endowments.

For each of the last three years (2016 through 2018), the Session budgeted \$15,000 in Permanent Endowment Income to support the annual operating budget. The Session has never used the full amount that the policy would permit and in 2017 we were able to achieve a balanced budget using less Endowment income than we had planned (\$9,101 instead of \$15,000). We hope, someday, that pledges will be sufficient to support all operating costs and that any investment income might be saved to support investments in the Church when needed.

The accompanying chart shows how income received from each source compares to amounts budgeted halfway through the year.

**% of Budgeted Income Received Through June**



*\*Assumes half of budgeted Endowment income received through June*

(continued)

Again, investment income requires more explanation. We have budgeted \$18,080, including \$15,000 in Endowment income and \$3,080 in dividends. But we will not actually withdraw any Endowment income until later in the year, so the chart reflects an assumption that half the Endowment income has been received, plus \$683 in actual dividends received.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Lowry, Finance Chair

## SESSION UPDATE

### Highlights of the June 26, 2018

#### Session Meeting

- Session accepted two donations of \$1,000 each. The first was from the Quimby family, and funds will be applied to the Stewardship Fund and the Permanent Endowment Fund. The other donation was from the Sargent family, and funds will be used for Congregational Life activities and to support the Deacons' Fund.
- The Christian Education Committee reported that there is a summer work plan in place. The Young Adult Coaching Program is progressing well, and the teens are actually planning activities themselves. A written update of the YAC team was presented. The Tuesday evening activity program for the fall was discussed.
- The Buildings and Grounds Committee gave some background on the new sidewalk at the entry on the Cherry Avenue side. Funds were approved by Session to be expended out of the Capital Replacement Fund. The plan is to add a

railing in the future to match the one at the other entry.

The woods dedication was very well received and the woods subcommittee appreciated the recognition. There are some areas where the grass did not grow as anticipated. Efforts will continue to fill in these areas with grass.

Session approved \$1,700 to be expended out of the Capital Replacement Fund to fill in and seed the edges of the new parking lots to create an even edge where the grass meets the asphalt.

- The Congregational Life Committee reported that the Sunday School picnic was a success with over 50 people in attendance. The committee assisted with the Shirley Sargent service. The Chicken and Corn Roast will be held August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Activities are being planned for the fall.
- The Communications Committee explained that the family plan has been updated. The bulletin boards have also been updated, and the committee would like to create a community and church events board. Regarding name tags, a lot of people are wearing them now that they are located in the narthex. There was a discussion regarding possibly changing the type of name tags. The current ones with pins are difficult to apply to a shirt or blouse, and they are more expensive to replace. The general consensus was to try the clear plastic tags with gator clips because they are a much lower cost and easy to put together and change. A written copy of the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes was presented.
- The Finance Committee reported that the pledges are ahead of schedule. Discussions will take place soon regarding the Stewardship campaign for

2019. A written summary of income and expenditures through May 31 was submitted.

- The Personnel Committee requested that elders begin checking with staff over the summer in preparation of the 2019 budget. The pastor appraisal form has not been sent to the congregation in the recent past because new feedback has not been received.
- There was a discussion regarding a shorter version of the bulletin, as a majority of people are following the screen during worship. There would still be a few copies of the longer version available. The general consensus amongst Elders was that this is a good idea and should be implemented on a trial basis.

Rev. Pollan reported that her study leave in Washington, D.C. was a wonderful experience. She will be planning messy church for the fall.

Session approved the following items:

- The minutes from the May Session meeting.
- Set Communion for July 1 by intinction.
- Building Requests from Lynda Spielman (member) art class 9/8, 15,22 10/6, 20, 27; Bob Lynk (member) Bethlehem Art Association 11/10; Dee Foley (nonmember) Monday Painters – many are members of the Bethlehem Art Association – every Monday excluding holidays, 1-4 pm.
- The next Session meeting to be held Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:15 p.m.

## Camp Fowler Open House - Sat., Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30 - 6:30 pm



This summer, you're invited to get a taste of what summer camp is really like! Each summer we invite everyone up to Camp to experience what Camp Fowler is like in the summer. Trust us when we say it's a truly unparalleled experience.

Get a tour of camp, swim in Sacandaga Lake, take a wander through our Camp Store, eat some of the best barbecued chicken you've ever had, and spend time getting to know your fellow Fowler people. This is a great event to bring someone to who has never been to Fowler before. Come celebrate with us before the summer is over!

### **Details:**

The Summer Celebration will happen between 1:00 and 6:30.

Beach open 1:00-4:30, weather permitting.

Storytelling & Songs from 4:00-5:00.

Dinner from 5:00-6:30 (tickets available on website:

<https://www.campfowler.org/summercelebration>

*Watercolor Classes*  
*Starting Sept 8<sup>th</sup>*  
*Lynda Spielman, Instructor*



Learn and/or improve your watercolor painting skills in this fall series of 7 classes. Classes will focus on techniques, color, values and composition for still life and landscape paintings. Lynda teaches by demonstration and exercises with a focus on skills and personal expression in painting with this exciting medium. Individual attention and fun are guaranteed. Beginners are welcome. A materials list will be provided upon registration.

Delmar Presbyterian Church  
585 Delaware Avenue  
Delmar, NY 12054

**Dates:**

**Saturdays, 9:00 – 12:00**  
**September 8, 15, 22 and October 27**

**Fridays, 9:00 – 12:00**  
**September 28, October 5, 12**

**Fees:**

**\$30 per class; \$27 if prepaid**  
**5 classes minimum**

**Location:**

**Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585**  
**Delaware Avenue, Delmar**

Lynda Spielman is a member and an award winner of the Bethlehem Art Association, and has more than 15 years experience in teaching adult classes privately and for community groups. Contact her at **718.463.5679** or at [lyndaspelman@aol.com](mailto:lyndaspelman@aol.com) for information and to register.

