



## Pastor's Page

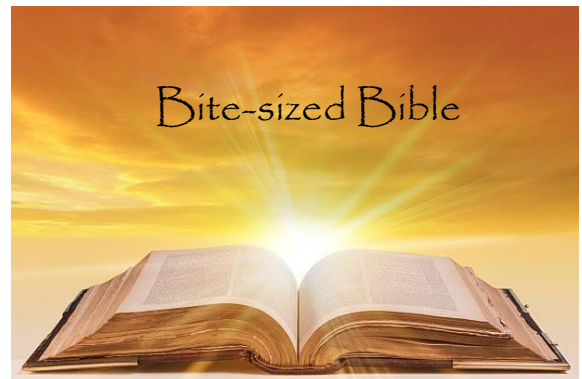
Happy New Year! *I pray your new year will be full of goodness and an ever increasing awareness of God's grace in your life and in the world.*

Here at Delmar Pres some **new** endeavors are underway: the first **Messy Church** will be held this Sunday afternoon from 4-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Messy Church is interactive and intergenerational. It is an opportunity to worship and explore faith in a **new** way. I hope you'll come and praise God through creativity, song and fellowship!

Another new opportunity is called **Bite-sized Bible**. The purpose is to provide a better understanding of the over-arching story of the Biblical witness and how it inspires, informs, supports and challenges our faith.

The Bible is the foundational text of our faith and, one could say, of Western culture. We hold the majority of these texts in common with those of Jewish and Islamic faith. So knowing more about the Bible is good not only for our faith but also having a greater understanding of our own culture and those around us.

I'll post a brief paragraph on **Google Classroom** Monday through Friday, along with a Biblical source and some questions. The watch word here is BRIEF. So, of course, there will be little nuance and lots and lots of details will be left out. I'll be brief, but it is still from my perspective. So let me give you my understanding of Biblical Authority. First, there is a spectrum of how Christians view the Bible: from those who believe the Bible is literally true with each word dictated by God, all the way to those who see the Bible as completely a human endeavor – and lots of stops in between. My view of the Bible is somewhere in between the two extremes: I encounter the Bible as written by humans with all the limitations that implies (limitations of time and culture, prejudice and self-interest); I hold in tension with that the belief that the Spirit is at work in and through scripture. I believe the Spirit was at work as our elders in the faith struggled to express their faith and I believe that the Spirit is at work as we read and interpret the Bible. I do not think we are unfaithful if we challenge or disagree with something we read in scripture – in fact, I think that is an important way we open ourselves to being engaged by the Spirit in the here and now. So, read some of my postings or all of them. Disagree with how I outline a story or what I find to be important. Just think about the questions. Or let's talk – via email – in person through Google Classroom. But let us open ourselves in this New Year to the transforming power of the Word and the Spirit. To participate go to 'google classroom.com' and on their homepage on the top bar is a plus sign [+] click on that and choose join a class. A dialogue box will open and when prompted enter this code: **7c8fmu3**. If you have trouble, contact me or the office.



Blessings, *Pastor Karen*

# January 2018

**Bells of Praise: Thursdays at 6:30 pm**

**Choir Rehearsals: Sundays at 9:00 am**

**Women's Bible Study: Mondays at 10 am**

**Women's AA: Sundays at 7:15 pm, Tuesdays at 12**

**Closed Meeting AA: Thursdays at noon**

**Prez Deadline for February: January 14**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	OFFICE CLOSED	6 pm Scouts			Bldg Rental 1:30 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>DEACONS' SUNDAY</b> 10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 Fellowship Mtg 4 pm Messy Church	6 pm Scouts	7 pm Christian Education Mtg				Dancing with Bible Verses 6:30 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour			6:30 pm Scouts			Bldg Rental 10 am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>FAMILY PROMISE WEEK</b>						
10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:30 am Spanish Mass Field Trip			12 pm Ladies Who Care			Brunch setup 4 pm
28	29	30	31			
10 am Worship 11:00 am <b>ANNUAL MEETING &amp; BRUNCH</b>						

	Hostess	Greeters	Deacon in Charge	Acolytes
7	Sarah Carroll	Jo Hyde and Midge Trivers	Randy Morse	Greta Hertz
14		Gail Chase and Sarah Carroll	Dan Lewis	Nick Rees
21		The Lowry Family	Dan Lewis	Lauren Jack
28		Ron and Carolyn Tweedie	Jack Gajewski	Greta Hertz

**THANK YOU TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS!**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### *Our Savior has arrived . . .*

And again, a new year has begun filled with hopes and dreams. For me 2017 held a gift I never imagined, to be hired to be the Director of Children and Families in your church. I have had a wonderful time getting to know your children, admiring the gifts of your teens, and watching the really big confirmation class openly say they believe. I am looking forward to see what this new year will bring.

The children have now added two lines to our prayer; this Module we add one more. I have developed a curriculum for our three youngest pre-school children, Anna, Julia, and Juliet. I am in need of a person to help guide these wonderful young children to learn more about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the stories that hold us all together.

Their program will be based on the same scripture as the other class: they, too, will hear a version of the story; there will be a project to do, and discussion about the story (on a three-year-old level). I will provide everything for the day. One could just walk in and do the class with no prep at all. I am also willing to send the story to someone ahead of time. I would like the person learning with the children to be able to do the full module.

Module 3 will conclude on February 11 and will begin later in January. Sarah Lewis and I have noticed consistency is helpful for the children to stay interested in the class.

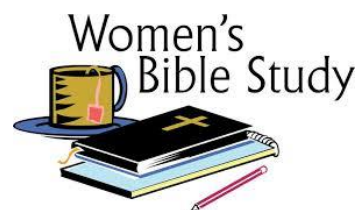
Please connect with me with any questions, concerns, even just to know a little more. Thank you for considering sharing your gifts with these eager young disciples. Happy 2018 to everyone!

Joani Jameson, Director of Youth and Family  
[joanimom2015@gmail.com](mailto:joanimom2015@gmail.com) 518.466.2299

## RPMS

Look for donation boxes for our Midnight Run, which will be at each church starting in mid-December and will run through February. We need lots of WARM WINTER items, preferably **dark** colors:

Hats (Lots of these)  
Gloves (Lots of these)  
Coats (Lots of these)  
Sweaters and Sweatshirts (large and x-large)  
Jeans (sizes 32 – 40)  
Boots and/or Sneakers (men's sizes 9-12, women sizes 8 plus)  
Long underwear  
Toiletries



The **Ladies' Monday Morning Bible Study** group will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. in the Library. All women are welcome to join us!

*Dear Church Family,*

*We can't thank you enough for your prayers, cards and caring words sent to our daughter, Heather, and Ed and me. How incredibly touched we were to see flowers from DPC at our son-in-law's memorial service. The love and support of friends like you help us to deal with our family loss.*

*With love and gratitude,*

*Pam & Ed Taft*

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### Ladies Who Care



#### **Creating Fabric Pins January 24, 2018**

January is a good month for staying warm, enjoying a cup of hot chocolate or coffee, being in fellowship with one another and using your hands to make a craft. Laura Scott will help us discover different ways of manipulating fabric and felt to create unique flower pins to wear in your hair or pin on your outfits.

Laura assures us that “this doesn't require any previous sewing experience. You just need to bring yourself and be prepared to have fun and let go of the rules of this world to see what happens when you let your creative side take over!”

Many of the beautiful banners and paraments that we enjoy in the church Narthex and Sanctuary have been created by Laura. Don't miss this opportunity to unleash your creativity under her expert guidance!

When: Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at noon

Where: Church Lounge

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

RSVP to Pam Taft at [pamtaft73@gmail.com](mailto:pamtaft73@gmail.com) or Judy Riopelle at [jjriopelle@gmail.com](mailto:jjriopelle@gmail.com) or sign up in the church Narthex.

## International Folk Dancing With Three Congregations

**Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

All are welcome on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm to participate in international folk dancing to be held in the Fellowship Hall at Delmar Presbyterian Church. Three congregations, Delmar Presbyterian, B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, and Journey United Church of Christ, are jointly sponsoring this fellowship activity that will aid Family Promise, a cause that they all participate in and support.

Leading the evening will be Joan and Jim Savitt, who are very experienced folkdance teachers. They have taught at dance festivals and local folk dance groups.

As members of B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation and Family Promise, they will make a gift of their teaching for the cause. The simple international folk dances they will teach will include some dances from Israel. Everyone will be included in a big circle and will all help one another.

There will be a break in the middle of the dance evening for socializing and refreshments supplied by the three congregations. The freewill donations will be given to Family Promise.

Submitted by Richard and Charlotte Stearns



### **DPC's Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon- Sunday, 1/28/18**

DPC will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, 1/28/18, following worship. Come for the meeting, stay for the food and fun! The meeting will be preceded by a delicious luncheon, prepared by the planning committee – a baked potato bar with toppings galore, salads, desserts, and Bob Lynk's famous coffee and tea. *(Childcare will be provided for the luncheon and meeting.)*

## OUTREACH



**Family Promise:** Our next Family Promise week is January 21-27. Look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Haven't volunteered in the past? Let us know, we will be glad to train you. There are many ways to serve. Contact Irene Harbison [miharbison@gmail.com](mailto:miharbison@gmail.com) or Dave Rees [drees21@verizon.net](mailto:drees21@verizon.net) with questions.

Submitted by Nina Nichols, Outreach Chair

## DEACONS

Remember the first Sunday of the month is Deacons' Sunday. You will find envelopes on the pews you can use. This time of the year need seems to be greater, so any small gift would be helpful. Thank you.

Peggy Mull, Deacons Moderator

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 Carol Scott  
12 Jack Braaten  
13 David Scott  
14 Jacob Lewis  
19 Julia Cooper, Sherry Putney,  
Steven Zayas, Jr.

*Don't see your name? Find the birthday lists in the fellowship hall and add your information.*

## SESSION DIGEST

### Highlights of the November, 2017

#### Session Meeting

- The Chair of the Christian Education Committee presented a written proposal to create the Jermain Memorial Fund at Delmar Presbyterian Church; the proposal was approved by Session. This past fall, our church received a \$4,736.25 grant from the Presbytery's Jermain Legacy Account. The proposal included an explanation of the potential uses of the Fund, and outlined procedures for applying for use of the Fund. Small projects and activities in all ministry areas can be approved quickly after approval of the pastor and the appropriate Committee Chair.
- The Chair of the Congregational Life Committee reported that the cookie sale was successful, raising \$332 for Bethlehem Senior Services.
- The Chair of the Nominations Committee reported that the all deacon and elder positions have been filled for the new terms beginning in 2018.
- Session discussed clearing of the rolls regarding three members who have relocated.
- Session received written, and in person reports, from the Chair of the Financing Committee outlining the income and expenses through November 30, the amount of 2018 pledges received, and a proposed 2018 budget. Session approved the staffing portion of the 2018 budget and will approve the remainder of the budget at the January Session meeting.



- Session had a discussion regarding the current Woods Beautification project. It has been determined that a permit is needed from the Town of Bethlehem in order to continue with the project. The Woods Subcommittee is optimistic that the permit will be approved.
- Session approved the November 2017 Session Meeting minutes.
- Session established a communion date of January 7.
- Session approved building requests from Rebecca Kohn for January 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a children's birthday party; from Shilpi Dibuka on December 31, 2017 from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. for a New Year's Eve. Party; and from Rose Biggerstaff on January 6, 2018 from 1 to 7 p.m. for children's theatre.
- Session established the next Session meeting to be held Tuesday, January 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

## WORSHIP

### *SAVE THE DATE!!*

#### *FIELD TRIP TO A SPANISH MASS*

Sunday, Jan. 21



Please reserve January 21<sup>st</sup> for a special excursion sponsored by the Christian Education Committee for an interfaith visit to a Spanish language mass at Our Lady of the Americas on Central Avenue in Albany.

More details to follow.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

### *Firewood Available*



Due to the "New Views" project, there is firewood available to those who can use it. The trees that are lying down can be taken for personal use. You are welcome to cut up and remove the wood, but only while there is no other work being done in the area.

## SPORTS

### *Bowling*



In a Suburban Girls' Varsity Bowling match on December 16, Sierra Glass led the Bethlehem Team with a great 297 game and 718 triple. Nice going Sierra. It has been a pleasure watching you develop into a fine Bowler. Keep it up.

Bob Lynk

## Cookie Festival Thank You



Many, many thanks to the wonderful, generous people who baked and purchased cookies at the Cookie Festival on Dec 10. As you were able to enjoy some great cookies, we were able to donate \$330 to the Bethlehem Senior Projects to help support the many programs that help elderly socialize and maintain independence. We are blessed to have such a generous congregation!

Nancy Braaten and Robin Young

### **Notes from the Office**

Pledge envelopes for the coming year will be available in the Narthex. Giving statements will be emailed (or mailed) in January.



## **MESSY CHURCH**

**COMING SUNDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

Where:	Fellowship Hall
Time:	4 p.m. – 7p.m.
Who's invited:	Everyone!!
Theme	Epiphany

### ***What is it???***

Messy Church is a church gathering that employs crafts, creativity and hands on activities as a way to explore faith and provides opportunities for people encounter Jesus in a new way. Messy Church started in the UK as a part of The Bible Reading Fellowship, which believes, with the historic churches, in one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Churches are getting messy throughout the world!

### ***All-ages***

Messy Church is for adults and children to enjoy together: you are never too young or too old to take part.

### ***Creativity***

Messy Church uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect upon a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together.

### ***Hospitality***

Messy Church reflects a God of unconditional love and welcomes regular church attenders and those who have never been in church. It is an oasis of welcome and a safe space in which to thrive. Messy Church is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together – whether it's a plate of sandwiches to share, or a bowl of soup.

### ***Celebration***

Messy Church reflects a God of joy who wants his people to have life in all its fullness.

### **CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Ecclesiastical / Corporation Meeting of the Delmar Presbyterian Church will be held on **Sunday, January 28, 2018**, following Sunday Worship, in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 585 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY. The purpose of the meeting will be:

- To elect Elders and Deacons
- To elect members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee.

At this meeting, annual reports will be received, the Operating Budget for 2018 will be adopted, and other such business transacted as may properly come before the meeting.

David Austin  
Clerk of Session

Delmar Presbyterian Church  
585 Delaware Avenue  
Delmar, NY 12054

