



Pastor's Page



I saw a meme recently, something like “Welcome to the 97th day of March.” It was on my Facebook feed around March 25th or so. And it expressed exactly how I felt. Governor Cuomo’s executive order that sent all non-essential personal home to work was signed on March 16th. It has only been a little over two weeks, but it seems like months. In the week previous to March 16th there had been more and more in the news about the need for social distancing and the particular risks of COVID 19. Albany Presbytery sent guidelines to our churches. One of them was to form a task force which we did. Their recommendation

which Session approved was to suspend in person worship for the remainder of March.

Since then we have provided recorded worship services on March 15, 22 and 29. We’ve held two Zoom Wednesday studies and just this week, the Monday Bible study met on Zoom. Session has met twice on Zoom – our regular March meeting and a special meeting. The Task Force has met via Zoom several times and a worship planning team did so as well. Since mid-March, I’ve been at two presbytery-wide Zoom meetings, attended a national Zoom meeting and hung out with some fellow clergy women via Zoom.

Our daily lives have been so altered and our worries for our community deep and real. I think what bothers me the most is the uncertainty – not knowing how long we will be practicing social distancing and not knowing when our lives will return to normal. Session recently approved continuing the suspension of in person worship another two weeks – and I think that it is very likely that the suspension of in person worship will last longer.

Rev. Holly Cameron and I are working on a virtual plan for Holy Week, and all over the world pastors and churches are struggling with how to celebrate Easter when we are not physically together. I was having difficulty getting my head around the idea when I saw this quote: “The first Easter did not happen at a church. It happened outside of an empty tomb while all the disciples were sequestered in a home, grief-stricken and wondering what was going on. So, we’re all going to be keeping things pretty Biblical this Easter” (Rev. Dr. Emily C. Heath).

Plans are still underway, and they will be shared with you as details are ironed out. Please let me, the office or the deacons know if you need help – or if you are able to provide help. We have a list of people who are able to go grocery shopping and run errands.

We are people of hope and we are Easter people. Resurrection people. We know that no matter how difficult and trying times are – even when the very worst happens – God is at work. And even though we are separated by distance we are together in Christ’s Spirit, bound by God’s love.

Keeping all of you in my prayers, holding you all in God’s light – *Pastor Karen*

WORSHIP

Palm Sunday Worship

Join us online

Easter Sunday Worship

Join us online

Holy Humor Sunday

To be determined

3rd Sunday in Easter

To be determined



DEACONS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Ted Putney
3	Claiborne Walthall
17	Katie Chase
17	David Rees
18	Linda Krzykowski
19	Sigrid Braaten
27	Dana Hebert
28	Jan Messina
28	Charlie Wilson

OUTREACH



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

In Isaiah 58, the author is addressing a people who have returned to Jerusalem, where the Temple—God’s house—was in shambles. I imagine it was a heartbreaking scene. And in that rubble, the prophet challenges the people not to rebuild the building or to restore their religious rituals, but to care for the hungry, the weak and the vulnerable—the prophet called the people to become the house of God.

We are called to become, as Isaiah promised long ago, “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in”. Together, we become the household of God.

During this time of crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic threatening, we are reminded that the most vulnerable in our midst suffer first, most and longest. One Great Hour of Sharing has, for over 70 years, supported the most vulnerable among us. Because of our support, the Church is able to deepen its commitment to serve. In the days ahead, staff of Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be working with presbyteries to identify and support essential congregational ministries, especially in anti-poverty work.

The Church’s response to the present crisis will begin with the most at-risk communities across the country and around the world, as well as those facing spikes of racism in response to this disease.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional, or spiritual—and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat.

During these uncertain times, we depend on our Church, faith, family and God's grace to see us through. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. We are the Church, **together.**

Let us pray:

Draw all people together, gracious God, and make us your house. Let our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing create a home and a wholeness for people in need, especially those suffering from the impacts of the current crisis, so that the whole human family will know your love. Amen.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

Through your congregation

Online: presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs

Text SHARING to 56512 to receive
a link to a mobile giving site



Earth Care Task Force

An exciting message from the Presbyterian Church USA:

“I wanted to let you know that you have been certified as a First Year Earth Care Congregation for 2020. It's been amazing to read about all the ways in which Presbyterians are being good stewards of creation.

We will be updating the Earth Care Congregations listing and map that can be found online at

www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.”

What does this mean?

The session committed to a focus on Environmental Justice for the coming year, focusing on God's Creation and what we can do to restore and relish the mastery of creation.

The session accepted the Earth Care Pledge set out by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and then completed the application to become an Earth Care Congregation.

Becoming an Earth Care Congregation commits to an ongoing organizing framework for Worship, Education, Facilities and Mission to work together to becoming stewards of God's earth.

This recognition will inspire us to learn more, study more, and become faithful followers of God's natural world.

Nancy Braaten, Chair
Congregational Life Committee

A MESSAGE FROM ALBANY PRESBYTERY

Dear Friends,

March 27, 2020

This is an extraordinary time that we are living through. All aspects of our lives have been disrupted and, in some cases, upended. Students are not in school, streets in many towns look empty, businesses have closed and you cannot sit down for a good meal at your favorite restaurant.

Just three weeks ago we were all worshipping in our churches, seeing our friends, singing hymns and praise songs and hearing the Word preached. Now we are watching our pastors preach 'on-line' via Facebook, Zoom or Go-to-Meeting. Our church buildings are closed for the most part; all is quiet. Or so it may seem.

In the midst of this pandemic, our church – and your local congregation – is very much alive! In these challenging days your pastor is working harder and in new ways to help connect with you – and connect you with each other. There may be 'business closings' around us, but the church is essential. And so is your pastor.

During this time, we want to ask several things of you to help your pastor and your church family during these difficult days:

- Pray for your pastor – that she or he be kept in good health. For those pastors that have children, please be aware of the additional strain he/she faces as the children are all at home. This means not every phone call will be returned immediately (and the same for an email or text). Be aware that your pastor is having to learn new ways of ministering and communicating with the congregation – and that is very stressful. Your pastor may well feel very tired and discouraged.

- Reach out and make contact with your fellow worshippers. Give them a phone call, send them a note, or write them an email. Keep in touch. And as you have personal needs please contact your elders or your deacons or your pastor and let them know your needs. This is indeed a stressful time for you, too. Some of you have lost jobs; others of you are fearful because of your age or health condition. Please reach out if you need support.

- Continue to financially support your church. Mail in your check or give electronically (if the church supports that). The obligations of the church – to pay for utilities, missions, loans, insurance (both property and medical) and salaries – continue in spite of the pandemic. Your church depends on your faithful stewardship.

We want you to know that the officers of Albany Presbytery are working to assist our churches. We do this by providing support for your pastor and connecting them to available resources they might need. And we are praying for you all during this time. Palm Sunday and Easter worship will likely be very different this year. But we will still celebrate these 'holy days' even if we do so in front of our computers, iPads or phones. But nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus – not even the Covid-19 virus! God is alive and well.

May the Lord Jesus be with you and bless each of you as together we all walk through these challenging times and uncharted territory.

In Christ's service and love,

Bill Henderson
Temporary Presbytery

H. Daniel Rogers
Stated Clerk

Rev. Rebecca Lawson Putman
Stated Clerk Elect

SESSION

Highlights of the March 17, 2020 Session Meeting

Strategic Planning – Focus 2020

To engage the membership of DPC in discipleship with social, economic, and environmental justice

Environmental

Becoming an Earth Care Congregation:

Nancy Braaten reported DPC was approved as an Earth Care Congregation. We appear as such on the Albany Presbytery website. Recycling will start soon. Laura Scott has developed a DPC logo for the reusable shopping bags we plan to order.

Session voted to spend up to \$300 for DPC reusable shopping bags –the money to come from Administration funds.

Pastor Karen added a report from the Corona Virus Task Force, comprised of: Pastor Karen Pollan, Nancy Braaten, Jack Braaten, Laura Scott, Carol Scott, Dan Lewis, and David Andersen.

They have met three times and will continue to meet frequently as the COVID 19 crisis develops. They are focusing, and making decisions on, five areas of concern:

- *After discussion, Session voted to subscribe to Zoon for group meetings.*
- A decision to suspend in-person worship through the end of March (29th).
- They have contacted people who use our facility to ask about their concerns.
- Laura Scott will put together the online worship service. Plans are to link the Adult Ed Wednesday 3:45pm class, “Countering Pharaoh”, to Zoom.

- A Congregational Care list is being prepared by Laura Scott, Deacon Jack Gajewski, and Pastor Karen Pollan. The Deacons will assume the responsibility of keeping in touch with DPC members and friends. They plan to make weekly contact with people on their list.

Congregational Life: A Social Proposal: Dave Rees shared ideas for a community event – a fun and informative day at DPC – perhaps like a carnival with bounce house, soda machines, badminton, horseshoes, barbeque grills – and information tables (like Family Promise, clean energy companies, Bethlehem Senior Services, etc.) set up where visitors can talk about issues. A date will be set at a later time.

Christian Education: Lynda Spielman reported that Christian Education for the children is being planned. A workshop by David Andersen, “Any Roads Climate”, which stresses commitment to the environment and synchs well with DPC’s commitment to work toward social, economic and environmental justice, is being explored as a multi-age outreach program for DPC and the community. A book, “Climate Church Climate World” has been recommended.

Communications: Laura Scott has updated our church signs and our website. She is working with Dana to update our church directory.

Outreach: We were having our Family Promise week, March 8 – 14, 2020, until Mary Giordano and the Family Promise Board decided it would be better to have the families’ shelter in place at the day center. Services for the families continue there and evening meals are being delivered.

Administration and Nominations: Dave Rees and Ed Taft will deal with an issue with National Grid.

Worship: Nina Nichols reported that five special Lenten services were planned. Nina

Nichols, Shirley Greagan, Jack Gajewski, Nate Cady, Laura Scott, and Pastor Karen Pollan are participating in these Lenten services with worship around a theme and specially written calls to worship.

Edwin Taft was installed and welcomed as a returning member of Session.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen Pollan remains excited about following the narrative lectionary. She has been texting our college students to keep in touch. A conference she had been planning to attend has been cancelled. And this year's Festival of Homiletics at the end of May, which she and Pastor Holly Cameron were looking forward to, may also be cancelled. Her sabbatical plans are uncertain.

Next Session Meeting: Tuesday April 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM on "GoToMeeting"

Giving at DPC

We appreciate that so many of you are attempting to keep your pledges current. Contributions may be sent by mail, dropped off at the church, or done online at our webpage

www.delmarpres.org

Click on the "donate" button and indicate it is for a pledge.

Updated Directory

We know you want to stay in touch with each other right now. The DPC directory has been updated and posted to the webpage: www.delmarpres.org

If you need a printed copy, please email the office and one will be sent.

