

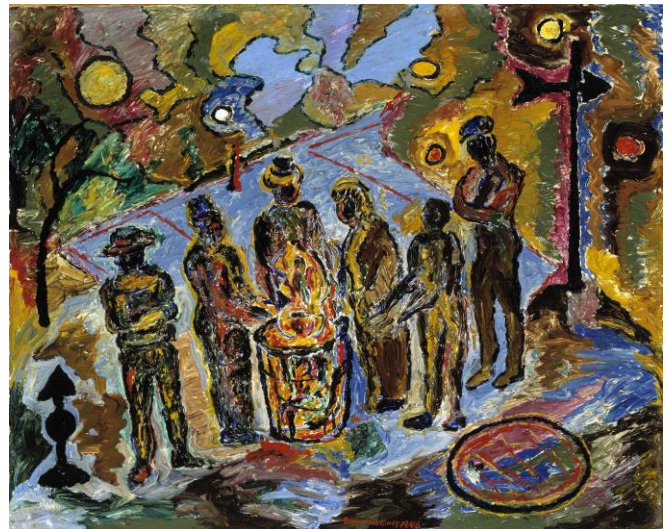


## Pastor's Page

There is a photocopy of a painting by Beauford Delaney entitled *Can Fire in the Park* in "Imaging the Word" – a resource for interpreting scripture. It is located in the Smithsonian American Art Museum. It is colorful, which might suggest a happy theme. Here the vivid colors highlight the need of the homeless folks gathered around a can fire. Around the fire is heat, life, and community.

This month as we celebrate Pentecost perhaps we are not homeless, but we are surrounded by so many needs for ourselves, our community, and the world.

One of the readings for Pentecost Sunday tells how the Holy Spirit appeared as tongues of fire over those gathered to wait for its coming. Fire is frequently employed as a symbol for God's Holy Spirit. We need the warmth which nurtures life and the community the Spirit creates.



The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church encourages the church to listen to each other – because we believe the Holy Spirit dwells within us and so, the more people you listen to, the more you hear of the Spirit. It is that listening and sharing which also helps us build community and enjoy its warmth.

### Flame-dancing Spirit

Flame-dancing Spirit, come,  
Sweep us off our feet and  
Dance us through our days.  
Surprise us with your rhythms;  
Dare us to try new steps, explore  
New patterns and new  
partnerships,  
Release us from old routines  
To swing in abandoned joy and  
Fearful adventure. And  
In the intervals  
Rest us  
In your still centre. Amen.

Janet Morely, in  
The St. Hilda Community


Another resource I enjoy collects poems and prose for each Sunday in the church year. In the text box is one for Pentecost. Also a fire image – a flame-dancing Spirit. Sounds dangerous and maybe fun and challenging.

As we move towards another shift and plan for reengaging in person – what do you feel? Excitement? Uncertainty? Confusion? Joy? Yep – all that and more. We've been learning new steps and there are more new steps and patterns ahead.

And whenever I feel overwhelmed by the avalanche of information or the difficulty navigating guidelines or the deep longing to physically connect with one another – I remember the Holy Spirit dwells within.

As we prepare to observe and celebrate Pentecost, may God's Spirit ignite joy and fuel our willingness for faithful adventure. Blessings, *Pastor Karen*

# May 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
<b>2 CROP Walk</b> 10 am Worship with NSPC	3	4	5	6	7 Deadline for Mother's Day photos	8 Spring Clean Up Day 9-12
9 10 am Worship with NSPC	10	11	12 Care Ministry Zoom Call 7 pm	13	14 Deadline for Pentecost reading	15
16 10 am Worship on Zoom with Pastor Karen	17	18 Support Ministry Zoom Call 7 pm	19 Scripture Study resumes 11:30 am	20 Core Ministry Zoom Call 7 pm	21	22 Family Promise Concert Livestream
<b>23 Pentecost</b> 10 am Worship on Zoom	24	25	26 Ladies Who Care 1 pm	27	28	29
<b>30 Trinity</b> 10 am Worship on Zoom	31					

Sundays: 10 a.m. worship followed by Zoom fellowship

Mondays: 10 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m. Background to the Scripture Readings via Zoom

## DEACONS

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Josie Walthall
11	Callie McGinn
17	Chris Hyde
19	Nancy Scholes
22	Kat Pollan

23	Karen Pollan
24	Samantha Zayas
25	Sarah Lewis
28	Elizabeth Mow

## CORE MINISTRY

Core Ministry focuses on spiritual growth through worship and faith formation opportunities for people at all ages and stages of their journey with Christ.  
Elders assigned: Ravi Bolleddu, Tricia Hertz, Nina Nichols

Next Meeting May 20 at 7 pm via Zoom – All are Welcome to Attend

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### **Worship for May**

DPC Fellowship on Zoom will follow all services

Because Pastor Karen is away the first two Sundays in May, we are invited to worship together with New Scotland Presbyterian at our usual time of 10 am. Zoom links will be sent for the service and for fellowship.

### **Pentecost is May 23 – Help Us Celebrate!**

A Reading for Pentecost based on Acts 2: 22-24

*Jesus of Nazareth,  
a man proved to be from God  
with deeds of power, wonders, and signs . . .  
this man was crucified and killed  
But God raised him up,  
having freed him from death,  
because it was impossible for him to be held in  
its power.*



On Pentecost, Peter witnessed to the work of God in Jesus of Nazareth to a crowd of people from all over the Roman Empire and they each heard Peter's words in their own language.

Let's celebrate Pentecost by sharing Peter's witness in a variety of languages.

Please record a video of yourself saying the above sentence in another language. This can be done with a smartphone or over zoom. Please leave 3 seconds of silence before and after you speak. You can then place your recording in the link supplied below. If you have questions about the link or recording you can call Dan Lewis at 518-321-4799.

Deadline is May 14.

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/Uf3poFpaYl8kmbP9APfO>

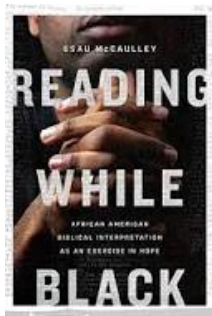
## Spring Book Discussions

Two books were chosen for this Spring's Book Discussions, one each in May and June:

- 🌈 May: "Reading While Black / African American Biblical Interpretation As An Exercise in Hope" by Esau McCaulley
- 🌈 June: "The Testament of Mary" by Colm Tóibín

Both books are available in paperback, and copies of each continue to be available to borrow or to purchase in the church office. The books are also available from Amazon and local booksellers, along with the library (hardcopy and e-book). Dates, days and times for the discussion groups (via Zoom) will be announced in upcoming weekly email updates.

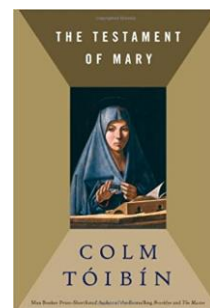
**Please let the office know (email or telephone) which of the discussions (or both) you'd like to join, and if you prefer daytime or evening.** (Sign-up isn't required to participate, but it helps with planning. All are welcome, regardless.) And please use the time now to begin or continue reading!



May's book selection is a recently published (2020) and timely discussion of the place of Christian faith in the struggle for justice. New Testament scholar Esau McCaulley argues for reading and interpreting Scripture from the perspective of Black church tradition and experience, as a means of understanding and addressing issues of justice in our times. Ultimately, he intends it as an exercise in hope, calling for a conversation between Christians of diverse backgrounds, cultures and social locations. He shares his experience growing up in the Black church and how it led him to interpret and understand Scripture within that experience. As readers we will come to know

that experience and to gain, he intends, a fresh understanding of Scripture for ourselves. It's a timely Eastertide reading for our time.

June's selection is entirely different: Author Colm Tóibín's portrait presents Mary, the mother of Jesus, seeking to understand the events that led to "the narrative of the New Testament and the foundation of Christianity." Hers is a uniquely mother's perspective, often at odds with Jesus' followers who sought to understand his death differently from hers, and to shape the narrative that gave rise to the gospels and the early church. Entirely a fictionalized account, as we have no historical record of her life, this is a portrait of Mary apart from and at odds with the person we "know" from centuries of church teachings, artwork and tradition. In Tóibín's telling, Mary becomes a tragic heroine of relentless eloquence. His account will likely both move and upset us, and certainly transform our image of Mary, as the overleaf states, "forever." This, too, is a timely Eastertide reading.



Questions or comments?

Jack Gajewski ([jgajewski@mac.com](mailto:jgajewski@mac.com)) & Sarah Lewis ([seralou@nycap.rr.com](mailto:seralou@nycap.rr.com))

## CARE MINISTRY

Care Ministry is focused on effectively demonstrating and communicating DPC's core values within our church and out in our community. Being advocates and support for our neighbors near and far through social events, awareness activities, and relief efforts.

Elders assigned: Nancy Braaten, Irene Harbison, Laura Scott

Next Meeting May 12 at 7 pm via Zoom – All are Welcome to Attend

### CROP Walk – Sunday, May 2

#### Walk – Give – Change the World

We're participating in the 2021 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger.

We're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world. Please donate to our team today!

Visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/delmar-presbyterian-church> to sign up or donate.



### Walk with Friends!

Meet at the Rail Trail by the Stewart's near Elsmere at 1 pm on May 2 to walk with your DPC friends. Contact Pam Taft with questions: [pamtaft73@gmail.com](mailto:pamtaft73@gmail.com)

### Vaccinated Volunteers

Are you in need of a visit, a walking buddy, help running errands or going to appointments? There are DPC people standing by awaiting your requests. Feel free to contact a volunteer on this list to make arrangements:



Lisa Allendorph [lisa.allendorph@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.allendorph@gmail.com)  
Dave and Deborah Andersen [dla@albany.edu](mailto:dla@albany.edu)  
Ginny Gajewski [vgajewski@mac.com](mailto:vgajewski@mac.com)  
Jack Gajewski [jgajewski@mac.com](mailto:jgajewski@mac.com)  
Irene Harbison [mireneharbison@gmail.com](mailto:mireneharbison@gmail.com)  
Mary Wilson Hyde [daddyhyde@yahoo.com](mailto:daddyhyde@yahoo.com)  
Sue McCreary [suemcridr@gmail.com](mailto:suemcridr@gmail.com)  
Charles and Nancy Scholes [ncscholes@verizon.net](mailto:ncscholes@verizon.net)  
Ed and Pam Taft [pamtaft73@gmail.com](mailto:pamtaft73@gmail.com)

Would you like to be a helper? Let the office know. Only send in your name if okay with it being shared. [office@delmarpres.org](mailto:office@delmarpres.org)



We invite you to honor Mom by sending an image to be included in New Scotland Presbyterian's worship service on May 9. Please send your photos/videos to Kat Pollan at [newscotlandpc@gmail.com](mailto:newscotlandpc@gmail.com) no later than May 7.

## Zooming with Ladies Who Care

Wednesday, May 26 at 1 PM  
Ladies and Gents are Invited!

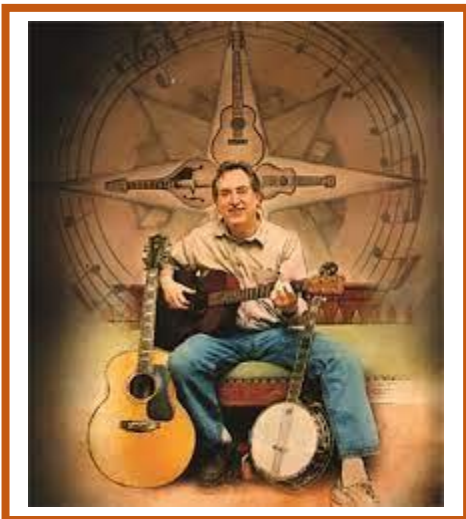
Please join us for an intriguing program entitled: "400 Years of Bethlehem History." This program will be a virtual visit to the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse Museum, home of the Bethlehem Historical Association. During this Zoom event, Karen Beck, BHA President, and Susan Leath, Bethlehem Town Historian, will use current exhibits at the museum to explore our local history. Current exhibits include: School Days, Native American Connections, Rivers, Roads & Rails, Bethlehem and the Woman Suffrage Movement and more!



Look for a Zoom invitation on May 25!

## Family Promise Fundraiser

Saturday, May 22 (time TBD)

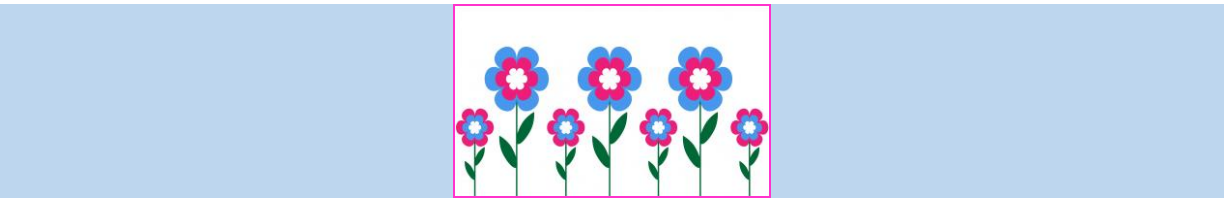


Our good friend, Phil Teumim, will perform a live concert from DPC on May 22 to benefit Family Promise. Our very own tech team will produce and stream the event.

Due to COVID, no guests are permitted to attend in person, but we invite you to participate online.

Please mark your calendar for now, and further details will be announced in the Friday update.

## Thank You from Mary Wilson Hyde's Mom



Dear DPC friends who came to Catskill or sent me a (100<sup>th</sup> Birthday) card,

Whenever I visit Mary and Drew on a weekend and come to your church, I really enjoy it.

For all who sent me cards or came to Catskill and had fun at our (birthday) "parade," I thank you.

The whole day was a shock! My friends and family were very secretive, so I was completely floored.

Thanks again – you all made this old lady very happy!

Love, Antoinette Wilson

## SUPPORT MINISTRY

Support Ministry enables the work of the church by faithful stewardship of the church's resources. Elders assigned: Jim Finke, Dave Rees, Lynda Spielman.

Next Meeting May 18 at 7 pm via Zoom – All are Welcome to Attend

## Spring Cleanup Day – May 8, 9 a.m. to Noon

On Saturday, May 8, we will join forces to transition from winter to spring as we mulch the beds and playground, wash windows and do general outdoor maintenance to keep DPC beautiful. Bring gloves. Coffee and donuts provided! Please RSVP to [office@delmarpres.org](mailto:office@delmarpres.org)



## Highlights of the April 20, 2021 Session Meeting

The Session approved the agenda of the February meeting and recorded various previously approved motions for room use by the Albany County to use DPC as a polling place on June 22 and November 2; Communion for Maundy Thursday and Easter, and an invitation to worship with the Westminster Presbyterian Church on April 11.



Soul Fire Farm

**Ministry of the Church:** Via the Consent Agenda, the Session approved a donation of \$1000 to Soul Fire Farm from the 2021 Outreach Designated Mission Funds, as recommended by the Care Ministry group.

**COVID – Reopening:** The Session had a general discussion in response to concerns and questions brought to them by the COVID Task members, soliciting ideas and holding a meeting shortly. The Session was asked to consider some form of opening in early June, to

review prior information sheets for a Safe Return to Worship and a review of previous traffic patterns and matters relating to safely worshipping. The Session approved the Task Force proceed with these items. The request to investigate installation of an air filtration system was also approved and referred to the Support Ministry team. The session also approved the proposal to have the Bell Choir rehearse in the Fellowship Hall.

**Financial Report:** The Session received the latest report. The audit will be conducted shortly.

**Committee as a Whole:** Stewardship 2022 - We were asked to start planning early. Themes and ideas are welcomed.

**Personnel:** Elders were assigned to specific staff to regularly check in on them.

The Session also received a Pastor's Report. A room use request to use the kitchen premises for a business was not approved.

The next full Session meeting will be June 15, 2021 via Zoom. Session Ministry Meetings: CORE- Thursday May 20th, CARE- Wednesday May 12th, SUPPORT – Tuesday, May 18th