



Pastor's Page

I look out my office window this second day in April and instead of signs of spring . . . I see snow! It is a fitting metaphor for life right now: Easter, the most joyous celebration of the church year, again observed virtually. He is risen – and we are still mired in this time of social distancing and social upheaval. I'm sure most of you saw pictures of that enormous shipping vessel stuck in the Suez Canal – another fitting metaphor for life right now: after more than a year of COVID protocols, we all feel stuck, or at least I do.



I hope you are able to find time to worship with the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday videos before Easter Sunday morning. They remind me that God knows, intimately, our disappointments, frustrations, and pain. Holy Week – is not a weeklong celebration, not a voyeuristic experience of pain, and not a romanticized view of suffering – but a profound acknowledgment of human vulnerability to forces beyond our control whether they are forces of nature (like hurricanes and viruses) or human cruelty. The Good News of Easter is that LOVE wins. This is the perfect year to walk through the difficult days of Holy Week – to realize that God in Christ shares our vulnerability and understands our frailty. Then as the sun rises on Easter Sunday morning, we can greet the good news of 'He is Risen!' with hope in our hearts even if there are tears in our eyes – because the snow will melt, ships will sail, and Love will win.

See you, virtually, and maybe in Zoom fellowship this Easter!

Blessings, *Pastor Karen*

COVID Update



As you have noticed, we are still virtual. **We are currently experiencing an increase in case, infection rates, hospitalizations, and death even though more and more people are getting vaccinated.**

Session and the task force monitoring Albany County, New York State, national trends, and CDC regarding when in person worship is possible. We are hoping it is soon. We know that until everyone is safe, no one is safe. We know that if we continue to act with care, the day when we can gather safely will come sooner than if we yield to frustration and stop observing safety protocols.

Delmar Presbyterian Church Activities Calendar

April 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7 pm Maundy Thursday	2 7 pm Good Friday	3 Easter Vigil
4 EASTER 10 am Livestream worship	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>FAMILY PROMISE WEEK FOR DPC - MEAL PREP ONLY</i>						
11 10 am Virtual worship with Westminster	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10 am Livestream worship	19	20 7 pm Session Meeting via Zoom	21	22	23	24
25 10 am Livestream worship	26	27	28 1 pm Ladies Who Care via Zoom	29	30	

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

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 will be held in May – All are Welcome to Attend

Worship and Activities for the 2021 Season of Easter

Exploring the “New Thing” God Has Done in Jesus

Easter Sunday – April 4, 2021 / Communion

Mark 16:1-8

2nd Sunday of Easter – April 11, 2021

Worship with Westminster Presbyterian Church of Albany *

3rd Sunday of Easter – April 18, 2021

1 John 3:1-7

4th Sunday of Easter – April 25, 2021

1 John 3:16-24

5th Sunday of Easter – May 2, 2021 / Communion

Worship with New Scotland Presbyterian Church

6th Sunday of Easter – May 9, 2021

Worship with New Scotland Presbyterian Church



DPC Fellowship on Zoom will follow all services



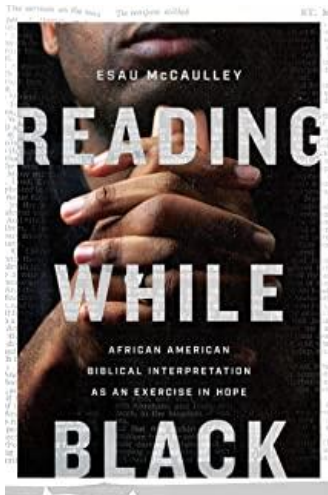
*Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY invites you to join us for online worship on Sunday, April 11th with Special Guest Preacher Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart, Co-Moderator of the PC(USA) 224th General Assembly.

Elona Street-Stewart is a descendant of the Delaware Nanticoke Tribe and is the first Native American to serve as a Moderator of the PC(USA) as well as the first to serve as a synod executive in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A ruling elder and a longtime staff member of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, she has served in the synod since 1994. Before taking the position, she had been the synod's associate for racial ethnic ministries and community empowerment.

Spring Book Discussions

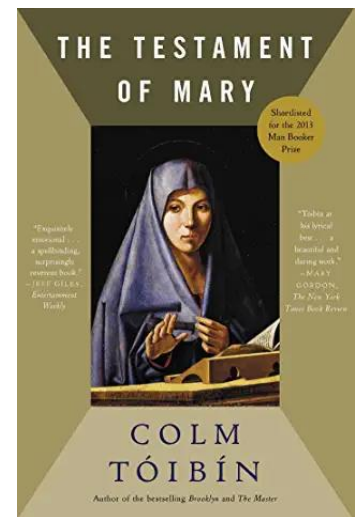
Two books are slated for this Spring's Book Discussions, one each in May and June:

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



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.



Both books are available in paperback. We will provide copies of each to borrow or to purchase (whatever amount you wish), by mid-April. 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 published in the May PREZ and weekly email updates. Please use the time now to begin reading!

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 will be held in May – All are Welcome to Attend

Family Promise Week: April 4 - April 10



DPC is providing five meals and B'nai Sholom will provide two meals to our Family Promise families during the week of April 4th. Thank you to our volunteers: Irene Harbison, Dave Rees, Ellen Kelly Lind, Steven Zayas and Diane Mbombo. Happy Easter to our friends at Family Promise!

Zooming with Ladies Who Care

Planting 263,000 Tulips...Every Year!

Wednesday, April 28th at 1 PM

Ladies and gents are invited to an eye-opening and eye-appealing presentation by former Albany City Gardener, Judy Stacey. Born with a yen to dig in the dirt, Judy became interested in public beautification when she lived in England and Australia over a seven-year period. When she was appointed as Head Gardener for Albany, she was given only one instruction, "Make the City Beautiful."



Within four years, Judy had increased the number of tulips planted in Washington Park from 60,000 to 263,000, had 464 floral displays throughout the city and had enlisted 61 neighborhood groups in the city's beautification. Judy retired from the city in 2011 and started her own gardening business, and last year she became head gardener for the Albany International Airport. Judy also finds time as a Master Gardener to volunteer at the Ten Broeck Mansion gardens in Albany.

Clothing and Book Donations

It's Time to Clean Out Your Closets!

We are partnering with B'nai Sholom to collect Spring and Summer clothing for donation to those in need in our region. We will collect CLEAN, GENTLY USED clothing and shoes.

Please be sure to SORT TWICE: BY GENDER (male/female/unisex) AND ALSO BY AGE (infant/child/teen/adult). Be sure to label your bags according to size and gender.

...And We Will Collect Books, Too!

We and B'nai Sholom are partnering with the RED Bookshelf (check them out online - www.theredbookshelf.org) whose mission is to inspire children to read. Their vision is for each child in Albany to have the opportunity to own books because having books in their home equips them with the tools for better literacy and achievement. We will collect GENTLY USED and NEW books.



Please put your clothing and book donations in our DPC donations room (or phone the church office at 518-439-9252 for pickup by a fully-vaccinated volunteer). **The final day of these collections will be April 24th.**

RPMs – Easter Mission Week

The RPMs Youth Group will spend this year's school spring break participating in a local Mission Week. Early in the school year it was decided not to plan a Mission Trip away since there were so many uncertainties with the COVID-19 Pandemic and travel restrictions, so instead we decided to spend the week volunteering locally with many different organizations. The work that we will be doing includes:

- Building bunk beds with the organization *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*, who donates the bunk beds to kids who do not have their own beds.
- Refreshing the Kids Club room at the *Boys and Girls Club* in Albany.
- Serving lunch at the *City Rescue Mission*.
- Helping prepare a new, temporary building for the *South End Children's Café* so they can bring back all their students while maintaining proper social distancing.
- Making and sending cards for church members; packing toiletry kits for three different organizations
- Sorting food at the *Regional Food Bank*
- Holding a meal packaging event with *Rise Against Hunger* where the youth group will package 15,000 meals.

We are very excited for a week filled with many different opportunities, and the ability to still gather and start to return to "normal." We look forward to sharing photos and stories of the week afterwards. As always thank you for your support of our youth group!

CROP Walk

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.

Filling the Albany Street Pantries

The non-perishable food items we collected for the Albany street pantries on our National Day of Service food drive have long since been used up. Anyone may restock the Albany neighborhood street pantries at any time. Three that are easy to find are:

Our Lady of Americas Shrine Church
273 Central Avenue

Grassroot Givers
522 Washington Avenue

South End Children's Café
235 Warren Street



Mary Wilson Hyde and mom at the
100th birthday parade by her brother's truck.
Thanks to all who joined in her celebration.

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:

Dave and Deborah Andersen dla@albany.edu
Ginny Gajewski vwgajewski@mac.com
Irene Harbison mireneharbison@gmail.com
Sue McCreary suemcrider@gmail.com
Charles and Nancy Scholes ncscholes@verizon.net
Ed and Pam Taft 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

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 will be held in May – All are Welcome to Attend

Spring Cleanup Days – May 1 and May 8

Mark your calendar now for the first two Saturdays in May from 9 AM to Noon. We will join forces to transition from winter to spring as we mulch the beds and playground, trim shrubs and do general outdoor maintenance to keep DPC beautiful. Bring your gloves and yard tools if possible. Coffee and donuts provided!



Office Update

The office manager will be away from April 7 to 15. Email and phone messages will be checked periodically. For urgent matters, please contact Pastor Karen directly at pastorkaren@delmarpres.org.