

THE DELMAR PREZ

585 DELAWARE AVE., DELMAR, NY 518.439.9252

APRIL 2022

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Pastor's Page

I was so excited to see the evidence that my tulips survived the winter! *There they are* - the brave shoots emerging from the cold ground, green with promise. Now, I am not the best gardener – or even second best. I am way down on the good gardener list. So, it always feels like a moment of triumph to see the brave shoots emerging to my lackluster care. Now, that lackluster care does not mean that I don't try – I do! But my thumb, if not black, is a very pale shade of green. I should have a genetic boost: my father was a gifted gardener as was my mother's mother. I once tried to help along one of my dad's plants by adding some fresh soil to the garden plot. We never saw any sign of that poor plant ever again. I remember Dad and I standing by the patch of ground. "All I did was add some fresh soil!" I said. "Hmmm," responded my dad. "Can't imagine what happened. Did you put fresh dirt anywhere else?" Probably imagining the whole flower garden dying unexpectedly. I keep trying. And sometimes things do come up as they are supposed to.



Two years ago, worship leaders were reeling with the COVID shut down and trying to get our minds around doing the biggest celebration of the church year – a remembrance that is at the very heart of our shared faith – virtually. More than one Biblical commentator noted that we were having a very Biblical Easter: for like that first Easter so very long ago we, like the disciples, were in our homes behind closed doors afraid. I certainly felt 'entombed,' cut off from the normal joy of the season, all my joy as deeply buried as any tulip bulb.

I looked up last year's Prez article and in it I commented on the sad anniversary of another virtual Easter celebration. I also noted that as I wrote the article there was snow (SNOW) on the ground. It seemed a fitting metaphor for another celebration of feeling more frozen than festive. Do you remember that huge shipping vessel stuck in the Suez Canal last Easter? There were pictures of enormous earth movers that looked like toys in comparison trying to dig it out. That was me – and maybe all of us – digging for all we were worth against the enormous challenges of the day: COVID, financial difficulties of prolonged shutdowns, and the ever-present vitriol of public life.



These last two years have been grueling. We have all been changed by the pandemic. We are all changing all the time, but there are seasons when the change is faster and more obvious. Challenges to 'traditional' norms of Christian life, including a more secular society and less interest in church attendance were already being noted across our country. The pandemic experience has exacerbated all the troubling trends. And sometimes it seems the garden will not survive; the ship won't sail.

The Chinese character for 'crisis' is made by combining two symbols: the symbol for 'danger' and 'opportunity.' In that first Holy Week there most certainly was a crisis – God's realm represented by the grace and love of Jesus where the needs of the poor and marginalized were championed confronted realm of military might and religious acquiescence for the benefit of the few. No way would the Jesus movement overcome the powers that be. 'Good Friday' seemed to prove that out. But then came the eighth day – the first day of God's new creation and the startling news of the empty tomb.

This Easter we continue hybrid worship: people are in the sanctuary, and we livestream the service for those who cannot attend in person. There are green shoots emerging from the cold ground. We are in a process of transition and transformation. We are not what we once were, but we do not yet know what we will be. There is danger here – that we will be discouraged by challenges and that in response to the anxiety of the time we will be in conflict with one another. As we make decisions, whether about masks or programs or building issues, there will be differences of opinion. Some of these opinions will be strongly held. Let us commit ourselves to be hard on principles (ideas, policy) and being soft on people. We can disagree about decisions and ideas and tenaciously love one another at the same time.



When I read the gospels and the book of Acts it is amazing to note how many conflicts the early church experienced. What held them together was not agreement but the Spirit of the Risen Christ. My prayer for us in these next days, weeks and months is that we discover with joy the opportunities that abound in these tough times. Opportunities to share the gospel in new ways. New opportunities to grow in faith, in love and in service. I am looking forward to welcoming a new colleague and working with the new Music Director to 'sing a new song' (as the Psalmist says).

Last year even though I lamented the snow – it melted. And that stuck ship sailed. Holy Week and Easter grounds my faith in reality and in hope. Christian faith knows that life is difficult – the cross is at the very heart of our faith after all. However, our faith does not end on Good Friday because Sunday is coming so that hope will always have the last word. So, let's embrace being 'Easter' people: being recreated by the One who makes all things new.

I pray you will be able to attend – in person or virtually – some of the special services this Holy Week. Walking through the dark Garden of Gethsemane increases the joy found in that other garden on Easter morning.

May God richly bless your Easter celebrations and fill you with renewed hope.

Blessings, *Pastor Karen*

APRIL 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Bible Study Mondays at 10 am Lectionary Study Weds. at 11:30 am AA Meetings Tues, Weds., Fri. At 12 HAPPY EASTER!			1	2
3 Communion 10 am	4	5	6	7	8	9 Bldg. Rental 8 am – 5 pm
10 Palm Sunday 10 am Deacons 12 pm	11 Communion 12:15 NSPC	12 Communion 12:15 NSPC	13 Communion 12:15 NSPC	14 Maundy Thurs. 7 pm DPC	15 Good Friday 7 pm DPC	16 Prayer Vigil 10-12 DPC
17 Sunrise 5:45 am Easter 10 am	18	19 Session 7 pm	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 10 am	25	26	27	28	29	30

SERVICE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Palm Sunday	April 10	10 a.m.	Delmar Presbyterian
Monday Communion	April 11	12:15 p.m.	New Scotland
Tuesday Communion	April 12	12:15 p.m.	New Scotland
Weds. Communion	April 13	12:15 p.m.	New Scotland
Maundy Thursday	April 14	7 p.m.	Delmar Presbyterian
Good Friday	April 15	7 p.m.	Delmar Presbyterian
Prayer Vigil Saturday	April 16	10 a.m.-12 p.m.	Delmar Presbyterian
Easter Sunday – Sunrise	April 17	5:45 a.m.	Thacher Park Overlook
Easter Sunday Service	April 17	10 a.m.	Delmar Presbyterian

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: David Andersen, Claiborne Walthall

Exciting Developments

The Core Ministry team has been very active this month taking stock of all our many functions and discussing plans for the future. We have hired a new music director, Brian Reynolds, who will have his first Sunday with us on May 1. We held a mini-retreat on Saturday, March 26 to review all of our many activities, make some plans for the spring and summer, and meet with a prospective substitute pastor for the period of Pastor Karen's clergy rest and renewal period this summer (stay tuned for more in the coming weeks).



From the March 26 meeting, we are working on a survey of the congregation concerning the weekly worship broadcast and other communications issues, making plans to engage more members of our church family in core ministry activities and responsibilities, and encouraging people who have drifted apart from us to reconnect with our church family.

The faith formation part of core ministry has continued providing high-quality church school programming for our children and youth, with units on music, art, Lent and oral

history completed or underway this spring with a series of dedicated teachers. Meanwhile, our youngest Presbyterians continue to receive tender guidance from Cheryl Gardiner.

Great things are happening with the core ministry, and there are plenty of ways to be involved this spring and summer. Please contact elders Claiborne Walthall or David Andersen if you want to be part of this exciting area of our church's life.

Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 10 a.m. Currently they are taking a look at the Book of Thomas. Contact Pam Taft for a Zoom link: Pamtaft73@gmail.com

Lectionary Study

Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. we discuss scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. This study is led by Pastor Karen. A Zoom link is sent out in advance.

RPMs

Mission Trip 2022

The RPMs are finally taking a mission trip again. The RPMs are headed to New Rochelle, NY in April during spring break. The group will be working with the Fuller Center for Housing of Greater New York City. The Fuller Center's mission is to help provide adequate shelter for all people in need through the New York Metropolitan Area.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS TRIP A REALITY!!! While each family contributes towards the cost of the trip, the remainder of the expenses is covered through fundraising activities, corporate donations and assistance from congregations. To donate please make your check payable to "RPM Seniors". You can deliver it to the RPM mailbox at the Church Office.

This year we are giving our traditional Grounds for Giving Coffee House a "facelift." Instead of an evening event in March we are moving it to late May in the afternoon after church so that we can hold part of it outdoors on the Delmar Reformed Church patio area. We will still have music from Brian and Lauren Axford as we have the past few years, light food and desserts and of course our silent auction!

Grounds for Giving Coffeehouse

Sunday, May 22, 2022 | 11:30am-2:00pm

Delmar Reformed Church

Cost: 2 tickets for \$25 / Students \$5.00

While we know the event is after the mission trip we are looking at this as an overall RPMs Youth Group fundraiser to help offset costs for not only the mission trip but also Rise Against Hunger, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and other programs that the RPMs participate in that all have a cost associated with them.

For more information: RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com or Beth Gould 518-596-2116

Rise Against Hunger – Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came out to volunteer for our Rise Against Hunger Event on March 27th. We had 61 volunteers and packages 15,000 in record time!



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: Ravi Bolleddu, Irene Harbison, Lynda Spielman

DEACONS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Ted Putney
3	Claiborne Walthall
5	Caleb Root
17	Dave Rees
18	Linda Krzykowski

19	Sigrid Braaten
27	Dana Hebert
28	Jan Messina
28	Charlie Wilson

Sigrid Braaten's 99th birthday is April 19



Cards from her church family would help her celebrate.



Sigrid Braaten
22 Pasinella Way
Cohoes, NY, 12047

Zooming with Seniors Who Care

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Tips and Gadgets for Performing Everyday Tasks

All are invited to this very practical and informative program

Sue McCreary, OTA, will present a program on tips and gadgets to assist with everyday tasks. As we age, we gain wisdom, but we also lose dexterity, strength, and range of motion. Sue will address dealing with arthritic hands as well as suggestions for useful simple equipment for aging in place. Kitchen tasks such as opening lids and dressing tasks such as buttoning buttons on a shirt will be demonstrated. Efficient problem-solving strategies with everyday tasks such as buckling a seat belt will also be presented. Hands-on experience, references and handouts will be included.

(Bring your own bag lunch. Dessert and beverage provided.)

Wednesday, April 27, 2022: 12:00 PM Lunch, 12:45 PM Program
Delmar Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

Note: For those who missed Ed Taft's talk on Genealogy 101 - Finding Your Roots, the recorded video may be found on the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/david.van.deusen/videos/931129324163135>

It is found under the More/Community area of the Facebook page.

Earth Care Task Force

Food Loss and Food Waste

Have you thrown away any food lately?

Old and been in the fridge too long, purchased and did not use?

Wondered who grew, harvested, processed and transported that food to our table?

Over the next few weeks, learn about Food Loss and Food Waste and the effect on the environment and how we are called to act out our faith in preserving God's creation.

Confronting Food Waste



As God's children we are entrusted with the responsibility to protect creation. Now is the time, as the Reverend Jim Antal says, for every congregation and person of faith to set a moral example through our own words and actions. And it is in this spirit that the ad hoc Earth Care Task Force has set out a focus in the coming months on the environmental impacts of food production and food waste.

Terrence Fretheim contributed an essay in the book "Eco-Reformation" that has helped me to better understand the Biblical imperative to confront the climate crisis. He suggests a deep dive into Genesis chapters 1- 2 to understand that God did not create the world alone. Rather, all of God's creatures have key roles in the creative process. Creation is an ongoing interdependent process and what we do counts. God charges us to be energetic and constructive in working with the creation through continuing changes as creation moves into the future.

And so it seems wholly consistent that we move from the Garden at creation to a deeper spiritual understanding of our responsibility to better steward our relationship to the food we eat and the food we waste.

The USDA uses the general term "food loss and waste" to describe reductions in edible food mass anywhere along the food chain. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, food is the single largest category of material placed in municipal landfills, where it emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Municipal solid waste landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 14.1 percent of these emissions in 2017.

Wasted food isn't just a social or humanitarian concern—it's an environmental one. When we waste food, we also waste all the energy and water it takes to grow, harvest, transport, and package it. And if food goes to the landfill and rots, it produces methane—a greenhouse gas even more potent than carbon dioxide.

The United Nations estimates that one in nine people in the world do not have access to sufficient food to lead a healthy life. More people are reported to die from hunger every day than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. But at the same time, nearly one-third of the food that is produced in the world is lost or wasted due to one reason or another. Food wastage, which includes both food loss and food waste, is not only morally irresponsible, but also causes huge economic losses as well as severe damage to the world around us.

In the coming weeks the Earth Care Task Force will be bringing more information for your consideration on how we can impact on these matters. How we shop for our food, how we prepare our food and how we dispose of our waste has an enormous environmental impact. Our individual choices matter. But also, we should consider opportunities to influence public policy, legislation, and corporate policies and actions as they relate to food waste. Please join us in the coming weeks as we explore this important topic.

¹ Eco-Reformation; Grace and Hope for a Planet in Peril, Ed. Lisa Dahill & James Martin-Schram, Cascade Books, 2016.

Submitted by Gary Lind, Earth Care Task Force Member

Food Dating

Wait! Are You Sure That Your Food Item Must Be Discarded?

When considering food safety, usage or waste, there is a lot for us to learn about food dating. What do the dates actually mean? According to Cornell Cooperative Extension, the definitions and recommendations are as follows:

“Sell-By” date tells the store how long to display the product for sale. You should buy the product before the date expires.

“Best if Used By” (or before) date is recommended for best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.

“Use by” date is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. The date has been determined by the manufacturer of the product and is not an exact science.



Are Foods Safe to Eat After the Date Passes?

With an exception of infant formula, if the date passes during home storage, a product should still be safe and wholesome if handled properly. Spoiled foods will develop an off odor, flavor or texture due to naturally occurring spoilage bacteria. If a food has developed such spoilage characteristics, it should not be eaten.

There are four simple steps to food safety:

CLEAN: Wash hands and surfaces often

- ✓ Hands should be washed with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils and countertops with hot soap water after preparing each food item.

SEPARATE: Don't cross contaminate

- ✓ Separate raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs from other foods in your grocery shopping cart, grocery bags and in your refrigerator.
- ✓ Use one cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meat, poultry, and seafood.

COOK: Cook to proper temperatures

- ✓ Use a food thermometer to measure the internal temperature of cooked foods. Color is not a reliable indicator of doneness.
- ✓ When cooking in a microwave oven, cover food, stir and rotate for even cooking.
- ✓ Bring sauces, soups and gravy to a boil when reheating.

CHILL: Refrigerate Promptly

- ✓ Refrigerate or freeze meat, poultry, eggs and other perishables as soon possible.

Submitted by Pam Taft, Earth Care Task Force Member

Food Loss and Food Waste – what can we do?

Challenge yourself all summer to purchase from one farmer's market or Farm Stand a week.

Food loss occurs at the production, post-harvest, and processing stages of the food chain.

Food Loss can be decreased by purchasing locally grown foods, decreasing the post-harvest transportation and processing stages of the food chain. We are fortunate to live in an area that has many local Farmer's Markets and Farm Stands available to us for locally grown produce and goods. There are just a few -

- Troy Waterfront Farmers Market – Saturday mornings www.troymarket.org
- Delmar Farmer's Market – Saturday mornings at Middle School – opening in May www.delmarmarket.org
- Farmer's Market at Methodist Church – Tuesday afternoons <https://www.delmarmethodist.org/content.cfm?id=324>
- Our Family's Harvest – Slingerlands, open in spring <http://www.stantonsfeurafarm.com/our-familys-harvest.html>



Community Supported Agriculture

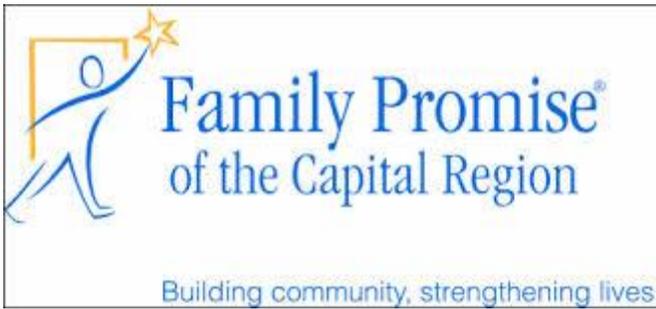
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or spiritually, the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production.

- Members share the risks and benefits of food production with the farmer.
- Members buy a share of the farm's production before each growing season.

- In return, they receive regular distributions of the farm's bounty throughout the season.
- The farmer receives advance working capital, gains financial security, earns better crop prices, and benefits from the direct marketing plan.

Learn more and explore the many CSA's in our area:

Local Harvest There are many drop off points and varied days to pick up weekly packages. <https://www.localharvest.org/csa/>



Please consider participating in our Spring Into Action Online Auction. We are excited to be able to offer such a wide variety of items to include an assortment of gift baskets featuring food, wine, gift cards, gardening accessories, framed photography, arts and crafts, jewelry and much, much more. A preview of items will be available starting April 17 with bidding

starting on April 24 at noon. The auction closes at 7 p.m. on May 1. Link to auction:

https://www.biddingowl.com/Auction/home.cfm?auctionID=26208&utm_source=Family+Promise+of+the+Capital+Region&utm_campaign=b48b294974-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_03_09_06_28_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_05289b6bb6-b48b294974-365293484

Micro-Pantry Box Donations

Family Promise is pleased to be supporting the micro-pantries that are located in West Hill. The pantries were built by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association and installed by OpenWorld Relief as part of their outreach to the local community. These pantries are accessible 24/7 and located in neighborhoods that are in great need. We invite you to leave non-perishable food on the back porch of our Day Center located at 738 New Scotland Avenue and we will deliver the food to the pantries.



Suggested items include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small bags of rice • cereal • granola/breakfast bars • cooking oil • pancake mix • canned fruit or cups • bread | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • juice bottles or boxes • tuna fish • peanut butter • canned pasta dishes • pasta and bagged beans • canned vegetables • flour |
|---|---|

Grassroot Givers



Grassroot Givers urgently needs children's books, especially picture books. Each week they provide about 1,000 books to children through community and school programs. The Care Ministry has placed a basket in the Narthex to collect books.

For more information or to donate, contact: info@grassrootgivers.org

518-599-5157.

SUPPORT MINISTRY

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

Support Team Updates

HVAC

We are in the process of obtaining quotes for the ventilation and air conditioning system in the sanctuary which we had an engineering firm create for us. The use of the engineering firm has provided the bidders a standardized plan to base their bids upon. Prior submissions from local contractors varied in scope and equipment and the committee didn't feel confident that a particular design would meet our needs for adequate ventilation and provide air conditioning.

Fellowship Hall Floor

We have started meeting with flooring contractors to solicit bids to replace the flooring in the Fellowship Hall, hallway, vestibule between bathrooms and kitchen. These are the original floors from the building expansion and have deteriorated significantly in recent years, notably several areas in the Fellowship Hall. We are getting quotes to address the floors in the sanctuary as well, although we anticipate the sanctuary flooring renovations to proceed on a separate timetable.

DPC Signage

A contractor is coming out to look at the Delaware Avenue sign and determine why it isn't working. At this point we are not looking to replace it, but to extend its life.

Outdoor patio

We have our building plot scanned into a CAD system and are trying to find landscape architects that have some availability in their schedules to meet and discuss options for improving the outside appearance of our building on the Delaware Avenue and playground sides of Fellowship Hall.



OPEN HOUSE

As DPC looks toward the future and slowly coming out of the COVID induced shutdown, we are looking to stage an event on our property on Memorial Day of this year. This event will have the two-pronged goal of providing children in the community with some activities after the traditional town Memorial Day parade and showcasing some of the causes that we support in our efforts to promote social, economic, and environmental justice for all people. It would be akin to a fair.

We are planning on renting some inflatables such as a bounce house and another similar inflatable, as well as providing hotdogs, burgers, veggie burgers, drinks, etc.

The plan is to also invite some of our partners that we've supported over the years to set up booths or informational tables to let parents peruse while their children are enjoying themselves.

This undertaking will need volunteers for both the committee setting up this event as well people that can attend the event and assist with set-up, cooking, cleaning, supervision of inflatables, and break-down.

The committee needs volunteers to help with some of the following:

- Securing inflatables, food, grills.
- Poster design and advertising, placement of flyers throughout the community.
- Brainstorming potential partners to showcase, contacting them for availability, etc.

If you can help contribute some time to this event, please contact the office at office@delmarpres.org or Dave Rees at drees21@verizon.net.

