



JANUARY 2022

Number 531

Pastor's Page

"New Day's Lyric" by Amanda Gorman

May this be the day
We come together.
Mourning, we come to mend,
Withered, we come to weather,
Torn, we come to tend,
Battered, we come to better.
Tethered by this year of yearning,
We are learning
That though we weren't ready for this,
We have been readied by it.
We steadily vow that no matter
How we are weighed down,
We must always pave a way forward.
This hope is our door, our portal.
Even if we never get back to normal,
Someday we can venture beyond it,
To leave the known and take the first steps.
So let us not return to what was normal,
But reach toward what is next.
What was cursed, we will cure.
What was plagued, we will prove pure.
Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,
Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we
foresee,
Where we weren't aware, we're now awake;

Those moments we missed
Are now these moments we make,
The moments we meet,
And our hearts, once all together beaten,
Now all together beat.
Come, look up with kindness yet,
For even solace can be sourced from sorrow.
We remember, not just for the sake of
yesterday,
But to take on tomorrow.
We heed this old spirit,
In a new day's lyric,
In our hearts, we hear it:
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
Be bold, sang Time this year,
Be bold, sang Time,
For when you honor yesterday,
Tomorrow ye will find.
Know what we've fought
Need not be forgotten nor for none.
It defines us, binds us as one,
Come over, join this day just begun.
For wherever we come together
We will forever overcome.

Gorman's "New Day's Lyric" was posted by Instagram on its official Instagram page, alongside a video of Gorman reciting the poem in an empty theater.

Amanda Gorman is the incredible 23-year-old poet who wrote the inspiring poem for Biden’s inauguration about a year ago. She just wrote this stunning poem for the beginning of 2022. There is so much consolation and hope in her words: “withered, we come together;” “battered, we come to better;” and this “we steadily vow that no matter / how weighed down / we must always pave a way forward.”



I do not want to presume that my relatively privileged white life knows the struggles of an African American one – however, I do believe that everyone in the world knows something of feeling weighed down at the beginning of this year and all of us together must pave a way forward – in the small scale of families and churches and wider landscape of communities and nations.

Maybe you are also feeling a little battered by life, by the daily barrage of bad news, by isolation, by a feeling of ‘stuckness’ – or is it just me? If you *are* feeling a bit battered – and even if you’re not – join me this Epiphany Season in reaching for what is next. In trusting that the ‘Good News’ of Christmas is really good and really true – Emmanuel is with us. God is with us. And if God is with us, I believe that “*solace can be sourced from sorrow.*” And that “we remember, not just for the sake of yesterday, but to take on tomorrow.” Because that is the “why” of Jesus’ mission to help us embody God’s realm of peace and justice here and now. On the corner of Delaware and Cherry in Delmar, New York.

The Season of Epiphany this year lasts through February. Whether you worship with us online or come in person you will see the star of Bethlehem on the cross. Why? Because I don’t want us to forget that Christ has come. We toss out the tree and pack up the ornament and put away the crèche. But let’s not forget that Christ has come. And the world should be different. Arise, my friend, your light has come!

One more poem:

“The Work of Christmas” Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

My friends, let us do the work of Christmas – *Pastor Karen*

**** January 2022 ****

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 New Year's Day
2 10 am Communion	3 10 am Bible Study	4	5 11:30 am Lectionary Study	6 6:30 pm Bells	7	8
9 10 am Worship	10 10 am Bible Study	11	12 11:30 am Lectionary Study	13 6:30 pm Bells	14	15
16 10 am Worship	17 10 am Bible Study	18 7 pm Session via Zoom	19 11:30 am Lectionary Study	20 6:30 pm Bells	21	22
23 10 am Worship & Annual Meeting	24 10 am Bible Study	25	26 11:30 am Lectionary Study	27 1 pm Zoom Seniors Who Care 6:30 pm Bells	28	29
30 10 am Worship	31 10 am Bible Study					

Welcome David Vredenburg!

Our good friend David A. Vredenburg will be our guest organist for January and February. David is resident of Mechanicville, NY. A graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College, the Dolmetscher Institut of the University of Vienna, Austria and Christ (formerly) Concordia Seminary, St. Louis/Chicago, he served in various capacities in Lutheran congregations in Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, Manhattan and on Long Island and taught at Molloy College, St. Joseph College (both on Long Island), General Theological Seminary (Episcopal), Manhattan and Catholic Central High School in Troy, NY. David retired after serving as Organ Consultant of the Architecture and Building Commission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, and served as director of music in diocesan parishes (Holy Spirit, E. Greenbush, St. Helen's, Schenectady, St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph in Rensselaer and All Saints on the Hudson, Mechanicville/Stillwater).

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

Worship in January – The Season of Epiphany

Theme: Arise! Your Light Has Come!

January 9, 2022, Baptism of the Lord Sunday

The Light of Love: Take Me to the Water

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Luke 3:15-17-21-22

January 16, 2022, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

The Light of Enough: Let's Have Some Wine!

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12:1-11, John 2:1-11

January 23, 2022, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Dedication of Pledges / Congregational Meeting - Election of Officers

The Light of Good News

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke:4:14-21

January 30, 2022, 4th Sunday after Epiphany

The Problem with the Light

Jerimiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30

A big Thank You to all our worship readers – if you would like to read and haven't been asked, PLEASE email the office! We are sorry for the oversight and would love to have you read!!

A Little History about Epiphany

Epiphany celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates the visit of the Three Wise Men who followed the star to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The day has also been referred to as Three Kings Day and Little Christmas by both Irish and Amish Christians. The Feast of the Epiphany concludes the twelve days of Christmastide and is the traditional end of the Christmas season.



As early as the fourth century, churches of the Eastern Roman Empire were celebrating Christmas on January 6. Those in the West were celebrating on December 25, which is why some places refer to the Feast of the Epiphany as Old Christmas. Since then, many cultures

have developed their own names and traditions to celebrate this day. For example, in Scandinavia, they celebrate what they call Little Christmas Eve on December 23. In Spain, children traditionally did not receive their presents on Christmas Day but instead on January 6, in commemoration of the day the Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In Ireland, they also call Little Christmas Women's Christmas, because Irish men take on the household duties for the day. Other popular traditions include singing, chalking the door, having one's house blessed, eating a three kings cake, going to church, and winter swimming.

It is also customary for many Christians to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve, although other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas, the conclusion of the Epiphanytide. According to the first tradition, those who fail to remember to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve must leave them untouched until Candlemas (February 2, 2022 – 40 days after December 25). The Season of Epiphany lasts until Lent begins which means we get eight Sundays of Epiphany – eight Sundays to explore the what has come among before we start the journey toward the cross.

Background to the Sunday Scriptures Resumes

Wednesday, January 19, with an overview of the Gospel of Luke and a closer look at 4:14-21. A Zoom link will be sent out on Tuesdays.

Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 10 a.m. Led by Carol Scott and Lawrence Stewart. Currently they are taking a look at the Book of Thomas. Contact Pam Taft for a Zoom link: Pamtaft73@gmail.com

Experimental Writing Group

Write Your Life

Requirements:

Openness, Confidentiality, Caring,
Limited to 5 People

Sign Up by January 21.

Commit to meeting weekly via zoom for 1.5 hours

First meeting will be short as we discuss format.

First meeting scheduled for Thursday January 27 at 2 pm. Open to change the date and time for participants.

Email: PastorKaren@delmarpres.org



Attention All Music Makers

We would like to record your beautiful music for worship.



Our Tech Team can record you at the church – they have even been known to make house calls!
Just let email the church office!

Let's Make Beautiful Music Together

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

DEACONS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4	Jacob Lewis
7	Carol Scott
12	Jack Braaten
12	Nina Nichols
13	David Scott

19	Julia Cooper
19	Sherry Putney
19	Steven Zayas
31	Juliet Wilson

Zooming with Seniors Who Care

Birds and More Birds!

An Introduction to Our Feathered Neighbors

All are invited to join Drew Hopkins, NYS DEC educator, to learn about the wonderful flying and twittering creatures that live just outside your door, in your local park, and almost anywhere you go. More than ever birds offer us a great opportunity to connect with the outdoors. See what they are up to as we explore the basics of bird watching, bird feeding, and bird behavior.

When: Thursday, January 27th at 1 PM

Where: Stay warm and cozy at home and join us on Zoom for this enticing presentation

How: A Zoom link will be sent to you on Wednesday the 26th.

Looking Ahead:

Thursday, February 24 at 1 PM on Zoom

Shakespeare in the Garden – Presenter,
Cathie Gifford, Master Gardener Volunteer,
Albany County

Thursday, March 24 at 1 PM on Zoom

Finding Your Roots: Genealogy 101- Presenter, Dr. Ed Taft



WHAT: **Food drive for local micro pantries**
B'nai Sholom and Delmar Presbyterian Church, our partner congregation in Family Promise the Capital Region (FPCR), will collect non-perishable food to stock the micro pantries established in Albany by Openworld Relief. During the pandemic, Ish, FPCR's van driver, has been stocking these pantries at least twice a week, so that those in need of food have free 24 hour access to it. We will also share our collection with the micro pantry sponsored by Bellevue Reformed Church in Schenectady.

WHEN: **Sunday, January 23, 2022, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM**

WHERE: **B'Nai Sholom Reform Congregation 420 Whitehall Rd, Albany, NY**
Delmar Presbyterian Church Corner of Delaware Ave & Cherry Ave
Delmar, NY



- Suggested items:**
- Breakfast/granola bars
 - Cereal
 - Peanut/Nut Butters
 - Jellies/Jams
 - Pop-tarts
 - Pancake Mix/Syrup
 - Fruit cups
 - Beans
 - Packets of mashed potatoes
 - Mac n Cheese
 - Cooking oil
 - Pasta
 - Sauce
 - Rice/Instant Rice Meals
 - Tuna fish
 - Canned soups



Non-perishable food for micro-pantry boxes located in West Hill of Albany which are accessible 24/7

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.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Ecclesiastical / Corporation Meeting of the Delmar Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2021, via Zoom. An email link will be sent out to everyone.

The purpose of the meeting will be:

- To elect Elders and Deacons.
- To elect members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee.
- Vote to approve the Pastor's compensation.

At this meeting, annual reports will be received, information about the Operating Budget for 2022 will be provided, and other such business transacted as may properly come before the meeting.

Lynda Spielman, Clerk of Session

Session Notes for November Meeting

The Session as a whole met at on November 23, 2021 (called meeting), and December 14, 2021 (scheduled). Many email votes were taken prior to those dates, and since we had no quorum for a scheduled October meeting, these were approved and recorded. Key among them was signage to support the church school use of the Fellowship Hall and the resealing of our parking lots by Luizzi Asphalt Services as proposed by Support Ministry. We approved the disbursement of mission monies to Cornerstone Ministry in November, and the balance of 2021 mission funds of \$6,000 to seven area missions in December as proposed by Care Ministry.

We also approved the budget for 2022 to be presented to the Congregation and accepted the Earth Care Task Force reports highlighting recycling improvements and intent to continue as an Earth Care congregation. In December, we accepted Laura Scott's resignation as elder, and Carol Scott's as Minister of Music. We also reviewed our Session structure and decided to proceed with it for another year, but with more frequent full Session meetings to focus on ministry and growth.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Spielman

2022 Stewardship Update

Soon you will be receiving your 2022 pledge form. Stewardship "campaign," as it is referred to when we are talking about money and church finances, gave me the opportunity to reflect on how Stewardship relates to that process and why we refer to it as Stewardship. Definitionally stewardship is an "ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources". That definition that we use when developing our spending plans and subsequent "ask" of you assumes that you entrust the Session to exercise good and thoughtful care of the resources that you pledge to Delmar Presbyterian Church.

Taking a larger view of Stewardship, we are taught in the Bible that everything on earth and in the universe was created by God and that they are his. We have a right to use and manage these gifts but are instructed to use them wisely and with care. We have not always done that. From terrestrial waters to space above the earth, we have not always practiced good stewardship. Our role is to enjoy and use them wisely. Our Children Education's Recycling Challenge program to encouraging reducing waste and recycling was a great example of our resources teaching the practice of stewardship of our environment.



There are a great many inequalities in the world today. From those that have decent jobs, housing, opportunities for self-betterment, people-centric governments. To those that have none. Our role is to help restore that balance as stewards of God's creation. Our financial commitments help us bring better incomes to people throughout the world through the Presbyterian's Self-Development of People programs. Hosting and attending the Fair Trade

Fair allows craftspeople from around the world to increase their living standards. Our hosting and participating in "Rise Against Hunger," an organization that helps feed refugees, provides needed food to counter war and famine induced hunger.

These are a few examples of the impact Delmar Presbyterian Church has had on improving people's lives in our local community and throughout the world. It is easy during this time of uncertainty to lose sight of what our roles are as stewards. While the pandemic marches on and frustrations mount, remember our mission as Stewards: improving the lives of others and caring for all that God has entrusted to us does not rest.

Peace,
Dave Rees

