



Pastor's Page

Sometime over the Thanksgiving weekend the radio began playing "Christmas" music. Some of the music is silly "He's coming down the chimney, down," or "Santa Baby." Others like the Trans-Siberian Orchestras rendition of Carol of the Bells is heart-thumping exciting. And, of course, lots and lots of Carols. I may not like every selection, but there was definitely a festive sound to it and, except for the tendency to have "...coming down the chimney, down," stuck in my head I mostly enjoyed it. Then December 26 it is back to regular programming. I guess they did not get the memo: the Twelve Days of Christmas STARTED on December 25 – not ended!



In older times, the 12 days of Christmas were days of celebrating and joy. The waiting was over – the Christ Child has arrived. Advent, the days preceding Christmas were to be days of reflection and preparation – preparing our hearts, not the house. But, soul-searching is not very popular. And those in the business of selling stuff glommed on to the days before Christmas as the ultimate shopping time. That same Thanksgiving weekend the malls were decked, and bargains dangled to get us in and enjoying the "most wonderful time of the year." It is all well and good, but maybe if we are in a hurry to pack away the tinsel and toss the crumbled

wrapping paper we might just throw out the baby with the bath water.


Perhaps reclaiming the 12 days of Christmas would give us a little time to reflect on the light of Christ coming into our world and into our lives. The craziness of the secular holiday season is in the rear view mirror and, even with its delights, don't we also need gracious time to be settled in mind and spirit? Time on a quiet evening to contemplate a candle and wonder at God's love for all of humanity? Time to welcome that love anew into your heart and life?

Perhaps the gift you can give yourself during these 12 days of Christmas is a little quiet time. Slow down. Sit in the room with the tree all aglow, sip hot cocoa or tea, or a glass of mulled wine. Read the first chapter of the Gospel of John. Where in your life do you want more light? Where are you experiencing darkness? Ask God for illumination – for surely that is what the Lord is about. What did we hear on Christmas Eve from Isaiah? "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined."

May God's light shine on you now, into the New Year and always,

Pastor Karen

January 2019

Bells of Praise: Thursdays at 6:30 pm				Women's AA: Sundays at 7:15 pm, Tuesdays at noon		
Choir Rehearsals: Sundays at 9:00 am				Closed Meeting AA: Thursdays at noon		
Women's Bible Study: Mondays at 10:00 am				Prez Deadline for February: January 20		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
HAPPY NEW YEAR		1	2	3	4	5
		OFFICE CLOSED				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10 am Communion 11:15 Coffee Hour		CE Mtg. 7:30 Scouts 7:15 Bible Study 3:45 & 6 pm Dinner 5 pm				Folk Dancing 6:30 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 am Choir 10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour	B&G Mtg 7 pm Scouts 6 pm	Bible Study 3:45 and 6 pm Dinner 5 pm Session 7:15				Rental 5 pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 am Choir 10 am Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour		Bible Study 3:45 & 6 pm Dinner 5 pm	Ladies Who Care 12 pm			Brunch setup 4 pm
27	28	29	30	31	 Epiphany	
9 am Choir 10 am Worship 11:15 ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH		Bible Study 3:45 & 6 pm Dinner 5 pm				

	Liturgists	Readers	Hostess	Greeters	Deacon in Charge	Ushers
6	Linda Krzykowski	Mary Greagan	Sarah Carroll	Jim and Evan Finke	Randy Morse	Randy Morse and Ginny Gajewski
13	David Rees	Mark Hansen		Jack Family	Drew Hyde	TBD
20	TBD	Seanie Greagan		Patrick and Sarah Carroll	Steve Zayas	Sabrina and Steven Zayas
27	Laura Scott	David Scott		Melissa and Mary Fleischut	Jack Gajewski	TBD

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Happy New Year one and all!

I pray for each of you the opportunity to find a moment, or two, of peace each day.

Now that Christmas is past and the baby has been born, I have had an opportunity to reflect on your children's Christmas Pageant. Your children are amazing!



We have made Communion Plates, unleavened, gluten-free bread to be served on those plates, and delivered the Communion elements to Jesus's table. Each child felt proud to carry their own bread and plates; they treated that Sunday with respect. Maybe the children could use their plates again to bring Jesus's bread to his table.

We have been blessed with two new friends in our elementary class who have jumped right in with both feet. Landon was very excited to be Joseph this year, and Lilah was very happy as a Wise Queen as long as there was glitter and gold. Anna was very certain that she was to be the angel that would carry baby Jesus, and she did, perfectly.

Miss Cheryl and the Pre-School class are excited to be welcoming Kat Pollan to join their ranks. Miss Cheryl and Kat will be working together with our smallest disciples creating the bulletins for when we are in

worship. And other "projects" to share. Thank you, Kat, for your willingness to be a part of these children's faith journeys.

I thank God regularly for giving me this opportunity to share our faith stories with your children while we learn and most of all have fun.

If anyone feels they have a gift that could be shared with the children while we work on a Module please talk with me or send me an email.

Thank you, Sarah Lewis and Cheryl Gardiner; there is no way I could do this without each of you. You are very talented women making a wonderful impact on the children's faith journeys.

On to Module 4 . . .

Joani Jameson
Director of Youth & Family



Women's Bible Study



We will resume our study of Isaiah on Monday, January 7, at 10 am in the Library. Please feel free to join us at any time for a great time of learning and fellowship.

Winter Bible Study



“Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis”

From the overview...

“We are living through perilous and polarizing times as a nation, with a dangerous crisis of moral and political leadership at the highest levels of our government and in our churches. We believe the soul of the nation and the integrity of faith are now at stake.

Jesus is Lord. That is our foundational confession. It was central for the early church and needs to again become central to us. If Jesus is Lord, then Caesar was not—nor any other political ruler since. If Jesus is Lord, no other authority is absolute. Jesus Christ, and the kingdom of God he announced, is the Christian’s first loyalty, above all others. We pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). Our faith is personal but never private, meant not only for heaven but for this earth.

The question we face is this: Who is Jesus Christ for us today? What does our loyalty to Christ, as disciples, require at this moment in our history? We believe it is time to renew our theology of public discipleship and witness. Applying what “Jesus is Lord” means today is the message we commend as elders to our churches.”

**JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT
DISCUSSION!**

Thursdays

January 8 to March 9, 2019

3:45 pm First Session

5:00 pm Shared Meal

6:00 pm Second Session

For the Children:
Planned activities during the second
session

Lesson Schedule

Session 1: Civil Discourse and Followers of Jesus

Session 2: Jesus Is Lord: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis

Session 3: Made In God’s Image and Likeness

Session 4: We Are One Body

Session 5: To Protect and Seek Justice

Session 6: Truth Is Morally Central To Our Personal and Public Lives

Session 7: Christ’s Way of Leadership Is Servanthood

Session 8: Go Into All Nations Making Disciples

Session 9: Change the World through the Life and Love of Jesus Christ

OUTREACH

Bowling for Beds



Mark Your Calendars!

February 9, 2019

2:30 pm

Del Lanes in Delmar

Two games, shoes, pizza, soda and prizes!

Signup sheet will go up in January.

All ages are welcome.

**Volunteers Needed for
Coffee Hour**



Please sign up in the narthex
Thank you!

DEACONS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4	Jacob Lewis
7	Carol Scott
12	Jack Braaten
	Nina Nichols
13	David Scott
19	Julia Cooper
	Sherry Putney
	Steven Zayas
31	Juliet Wilson

Don't see your name? Add your information by emailing the office at info@delmarpres.org.

WORSHIP



Why not fill your New Year with more music? Both Bells of Praise and the choir always welcome new members. Now is an especially good time

to join, as we begin a new season in the church. Reading music is not necessary for choir - we learn by ear most of the time; basic music reading is helpful for handbells. Bells of Praise will resume rehearsals Thursdays at 6:30 beginning on January 10; Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on the 13th and sing in worship that day. Come and "make a joyful noise!"

Carol Scott, Minister of Music

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

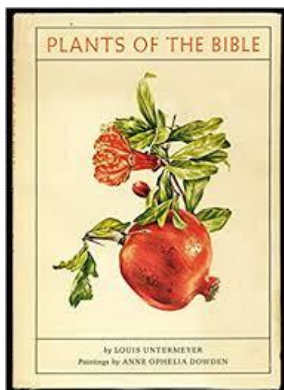
Ladies Who Care



Ladies Who Care Presents "Plants of the Bible"

We will journey through the Bible looking at verses in which plants are cited. In Deuteronomy "Seven Species" are mentioned. Using these seven plants as a guide, we'll learn about the plants and look at the context in which each plant is written.

Numerous flowers and herbs are also described in the Bible. What are they and what are their biblical settings? Please come and enjoy some time in fellowship as well as making some discoveries about Bible horticulture!



Pam Taft, a lover of plants, has put together this PowerPoint presentation. The program is dedicated to Ginny Hazard, who, many years ago, gave Pam the book, Plants of the Bible, by Louis Untermeyer.

When: Wednesday, January 23rd at noon

Where: Church library

Bring: A bag lunch – Dessert and beverages will be provided

RSVP: Sign up in the church Narthex or contact Pam at pamtaft73@gmail.com or Judy Riopelle at jjriopelle@gmail.com

International Folk Dancing



**Saturday, January 12th at 6:30 pm
at Delmar Presbyterian Church**

Join us at the church for an evening of Folk Dancing and support Family Promise at the same time!

All ages are welcome!

A free will donation will be taken at the door in support of Family Promise.

This popular event is led by Joan and Jim Savitt, very experienced folkdance teachers. They have taught at dance festivals and local folkdance groups. The simple international folk dances they will teach will include some dances from Israel. Everyone will be included in a big circle and will all help one another. As members of B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation and Family Promise, they will make a gift of their teaching for the cause.

There will be a break in the middle of the dance evening for socializing and refreshments supplied by the three congregations.

Folk Dance Fund Raiser for Family Promise jointly sponsored by:

- Delmar Presbyterian Church

- B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation
- Journey United Church of Christ

If you are able to help with baking, set up, or help with greeting and making people welcome during the event, please contact Ginny Gajewski. This is a great ecumenical effort to support Family Promise.

Want To Help Out With An Event This Year?



Needed – one good organizer to help with a luncheon for Seniors in Bethlehem.

Luncheon – March 11, 2019 at the Lutheran Church

About 35 – 40 seniors

What to do – involves organizing volunteers to provide a main dish, salad or vegetable, bread and dessert and deliver to the Lutheran Church March 11, 2019.

The Bethlehem Senior services sponsors a lunch monthly for elderly seniors in Bethlehem. A home cooked meal and socialization are welcomed by many elderly that do not get out regularly.

The Delmar Desperados will be providing entertainment after lunch – our own Ron Tweedie!

So – here's a chance to help out our seniors in the area!

If you can organize this event, or if you want to help with cooking, or want more information,

contact Nancy Braaten Braaten.jack@gmail.com or 518-928-1836 Always thankful for our volunteers!

SESSION

Highlights of the December 18, 2018

Session Meeting for the Prez

- The Congregational Life Committee notified Session that the Christmas Cookie Festival was a great success with over \$400 raised to help Bethlehem seniors. The committee thanked Robin Young and all of the other volunteers who made this event a success. Session approved a folk dancing fundraiser for Family Promise, to be held in January.
- The Buildings and Grounds Committee informed Session that they have received price quotes for lighting of the large cross at the front of the church. The lighting will replace the old lighting that was installed at this location. Session approved funding from the Capital Replacement Fund for this work. The Committee also will be obtaining quotes on stripping and finishing floors in the hallway and fellowship hall. This is badly needed as it has not been done in many years. The Committee will also be working with the Worship Committee to discuss needed repairs and possible minor improvements for the sanctuary.
- The Christian Education Committee reported that there is a series of Tuesday afternoon/evening discussions being planned beginning January 8.
- The Finance Committee Chair presented a possible budget for 2019, which indicates a substantial deficit. This is due to a decrease in pledges received. A sub-committee of Elders has been formed to discuss this matter. Session will be

receiving updates on their progress and the congregation will be receiving more information regarding our financial status in the very near future. Written reports were also distributed outlining expenditures and income from January 1 to November 30, 2018.

- The Outreach Committee announced that they made their end of the year allocations to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund and to two homeless shelters in our area.
- The Nominations Committee notified Session there are two elder positions to be filled for next year. Any member interested in serving as an Elder should contact Sarah Lewis.
- The Worship Committee reported that the organ is in need of and repairs and upgrades. Session approved funding for this work out of the Capital Replacement Fund, as the upgrades will be long term.
- The Personnel Committee reported a luncheon was held in December for the church staff.

Pastor Karen reported the following activities and initiatives during the last month:

Followed up with Alexandra Lusak and Holly Cameron regarding a shared seminary intern for August through December of 2019.

Held regular meetings with the music director to plan worship, crafted sermons, adapted liturgy for regular worship.

Continued to meet with the confirmation class and their adult advisors

Met with high school and middle school aged youth and the Christian Education committee and to staff plan Christian Education activities.

Attended Advent Tuesday meetings.

Worked with the Christian Education committee to plan the January through February Tuesday meetings.

Made pastoral calls with various individuals.

Attended the last Step Training meeting held by the Presbytery at no cost to our church. Step Training is a workshop / seminar that explores themes in church transitions / transformations.

Session also approved the following items:

- The minutes from the November meeting of Session
- Communion date of January 6
- Building Requests: Private Parties: Sridhar Pentyala (Albany Teluga Assoc, a not-for-profit), thank you luncheon, December 22 from 9 to 4; Srinivas Voleti, social gathering on January 13 from 1 to 7 p.m.; Liz Poole, Quilting Group fabric swap/fundraiser on Saturday April 13, 9 am to 6 p.m.

The next Session meeting was established for Tuesday, January 15 at 7:15 p.m.

