

The Delmar Prez

Interim Pastor's Page

The Rising

Some of you may suspect that I, being from New Jersey, have enjoyed the music of home grown Bruce Springsteen. Following 9/11, he composed songs for an album called "The Rising" that I have enjoyed reflecting upon. The songs give me hope as I remember my own thoughts, feelings, and prayers when four planes were hijacked and used in terrorist attacks. I knew some of those people – some of them Presbyterian deacons, elders, and members-- who were killed that day. That day's events, and that years earlier – on April 4, 1968 when Martin Luther King, Jr was shot – gave me pause to ask, "How does hope rise from tragedy?"

Different people will differently answer or ignore that question. One theological grounding for my answer is the Christian story of Christ's death. "How does hope rise from tragedy?" Like so many prophetic voices before him and since, Jesus was struck down for speaking lovingly and truthfully. When what is wrong crushes what is right, when suffering afflicts the innocent, I turn to the cross and ponder what happened to Jesus. I ponder the "why's?" Sometimes I question God's judgment and God's absence. I hear Jesus crying from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And then I wait. I listen for what God will say or do.

Admittedly, I do not always get an answer—or sometimes it comes later, even years later. Often, I just go on doing what I believe is right. Sticking to a schedule. Staying in touch with family and friends. And sometimes I get a nudging that I have not yet seen the fullness of what God is capable of doing in human life. The resurrection reminds me there is more than what I can imagine or conceive. There is a rising.

Many of us come to Easter knowing "the end of the story." A happy ending, of sorts. Jesus rises.

Yet, there can remain things within us we will not let rise from death to life. Abuses and hurts unhealed. Grudges held onto. Disappointments we never forgave in ourselves. Sadness that there is nothing to look forward to anymore. Doubts that there is any truth in the Easter message that even the dead rise to new life. Or: we can find Jesus showing us the way into a future we might never have known. At some point, our cognitive questioning joins a heartfelt tug "to come and see," to believe and live into the future God makes possible by grace. Healing. Release. Forgiveness. At last, a smile grows upon our face that something good has come to us. A tearful joy wells up within us.

The Gospel writers invite us, in the words Springsteen sings: "Come on up for the rising. Come on up, put your hands in mine." It is what Jesus said to his own disciple Thomas when he wanted to know whether Jesus truly rose from the dead. "Put your hands in mine."

Bob Foltz-Morrison
Interim Pastor

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Palm Sunday	April 1	10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday	April 5	7:30 PM
Good Friday	April 6	7:30 PM
Easter Sunday	April 8	10:00 AM

Pastor Bob's Contact Information

Revs. Robert and Leslie Foltz-Morrison, 74 Delaware Avenue, Apt. B, Delmar, NY 12054
Apartment Phone: 518-512-3594 Bob's cell: 908-432-0408

APRIL EVENTS AT CHURCH

<u>Sunday, April 1</u>		
Palm Sunday/ OGHS Offering		10:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt		11:30 AM
<u>Monday, April 2</u>		
Boy Scouts		6:00 PM
<u>Tuesday, April 3</u>		
Boy Scouts		6:30 PM
<u>Thursday, April 5</u>		
Maundy Thursday Service		7:30 PM
<u>Friday, April 6</u>		
Good Friday Service		7:30 PM
<u>Saturday, April 7</u>		
Sanctuary Open for Prayer		12-3 PM
<u>Sunday, April 8</u>		
Easter Service and Communion		10:00 AM
RPMs leave for Mission Trip		
<u>Tuesday, April 10</u>		
Cub Scouts		6:30 PM
Vision Seekers Meeting		7:00 PM
<u>Sunday, April 15</u>		
New Members Orientation		9:00 AM
Worship		10:00 AM
Confirmation Class		11:30 AM
<u>Tuesday, April 17</u>		
Session Meeting		7:00 PM
<u>Saturday, April 21</u>		
Bethlehem Art Assn. Workshop		9:00 AM
Spring Cleanup Day		9:00 AM
<u>Sunday, April 22</u>		
Worship / New Members Welcomed		10:00 AM
Confirmation Class		11:30 AM
BCHS Celebration Committee		6:00 PM
<u>Sunday, April 29</u>		
Youth Service		10:00 AM
Confirmation Class		11:30 AM

Weekly events:

Background to the Bible Readings – 9 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship Service – 10 AM
 Women’s Bible Study - Monday 10 AM
 Banner Crafters – Wednesday 10:00 AM
 Bells of Praise– Thursday 6:30 PM
 Choir Rehearsal – Thursday 7:30 PM
 Women’s AA Meeting – Sunday 8:00 PM

**PREZ DEADLINE for May
 April 22**

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

April 1 (Palm Sunday) Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Phil. 2:5-11, Mark 11:1-11
 April 5 (Maundy Thursday) Exodus 12:1-5, 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35
 April 6 (Good Friday) Isaiah 52:13-54:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42
 April 8 (Easter) Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Cor. 15:1-11, John 20:1-18
 April 15 Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31
 April 22 Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48
 April 29 Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

READERS

April 1 Gary Lind
 April 8 Mark Hansen
 Readers needed. Please sign up in Narthex.

DEACON IN CHARGE

April 1 Art Prostick
 April 5 Pam Taft
 April 6 Pam Taft
 April 8 Dave Austin
 April 15 Bob Phang
 April 22 Art Prostick
 April 29 Art Prostick

USHERS

April 5 Danika and Doris Jensen
 April 6 Bob and Linda Miller Lowry

WELCOMING HOSTESS

April Shirley Darmer

GREETERS

April 1 Robert and Ellen Barker
April 8 Brian and Linda Krzykowski
April 15 Eunice Jones and Ginny Hazard
April 22 Judy Riopelle and Jean Somerville
April 29 Jeff and Robin Young

ACOLYTES

April 1 Evan Finke
April 8 Amelia Hertz
April 15 Matt Phang
April 22 Mary Fleischut
April 29 Katarina Rees

REFRESHMENTS

April 1 Phyllis Howell
Volunteers needed. Please sign up in Narthex.

COMMUNION SERVERS (subject to change)
Nathaniel Cady, James Finke, Melissa Fleischut, Jack Gajewski, Doug Hamlin, Lee Hessberg



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On April 1, Palm Sunday, the children will bring forward their One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offerings. Please encourage your children to think of ways to earn and collect spare change for their offerings. Children should put their offerings in the fish-shaped banks that they received in church school. (More fish banks are available if needed-please ask your child’s church school teacher.) The children will process into the sanctuary on Palm Sunday and lay their fish bank offerings in the net at the front of the sanctuary. This is a beautiful and long-standing tradition of Delmar Presbyterian Church. Also on Palm Sunday, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt which will be done outside, weather permitting. On Easter Sunday, the church

school will not be in session so that children and teachers can join their families during the service.

Our schedule for the month of April is as follows:

April 1: Palm Sunday – Church School in session – please have your child(ren) bring their fish banks as offering - Easter Egg Hunt after the service

April 8: Easter Sunday – No Church School

April 15: Church School

April 22: Church School

April 29: Church School



Questions or concerns, please contact Mary Prostick at 475-9574 or prostick@mac.com.

Thank you.

Submitted by Mary Prostick

RPMs

Mission Trip Donations Still Needed!

While each person contributes toward the cost of the trip, though our transportation costs are much lower this year, we have taken on a higher materials fee to help the residence in Claryville best we can without the burden of telling them that we do not have the funds. Your contribution is tax-deductible and will entitle you to a complimentary dinner when the group returns and shares information about their experience.

Thank you

The RPMs would like to thank everyone for their support of RPMs throughout the years, especially with the support of the annual coffeehouse and mission trip. We will share our experience with all of you on **May 5th at 6:00pm at the Delmar Reformed Church for our Thank You Pasta Dinner**. We will share stories from the trip and show a slide show. We hope to see you there!

Midnight Run Reflection

The essay below was written by RPM Senior, Emily Slingerland for a class assignment. I asked her if I could share it in the church newsletter because I feel it truly explains the event through the eyes of those who have attended. Enjoy ~ Beth

Midnight Shoes



I'm lost in a sea of clothes, unable to leave until black bags swallow every item. Pants, shirts, and a pair of enormous shoes have their place among the clutter. Everything must be sorted. Everything must be bagged. Everything must be labeled. Once the donations are categorized, we pass them out on the streets of New York City.

My youth group was huddled into the office of the Midnight Run, an organization designed to bring food and clothing to people living on the streets. The room glowed with warmth, welcoming us as we sat in metal folding chairs. Once we settled down, a speaker launched into a story about his difficult past. He'd lived on the street, lost his job, went to jail, and still tried to provide for his family. The man told us how the Midnight Run gave him the opportunity to change his life, even if he didn't know it at the time. "Most homeless people are proud," he said. "It's not that they're proud to be homeless, it's that they don't want to admit they are." When he was homeless, he hadn't always wanted to accept or acknowledge help. Before we left for the Run, he advised, "don't forget to be understanding if they don't thank you for your help."

We went to six stops on our journey that night; we jumped out of the car into the freezing February air, ready and armed with bags of warm clothing. People lined up and were allowed to choose three items. We helped them search for what they needed and served them cups of hot soup.

With each stop, the supplies dwindled, and by the last stop, there wasn't much left to offer. A man looked around at us, clutching a bundle in his arms. He was trying to get someone's attention, but no one was listening. I caught the words "size fifteen shoes." I left my post, darting over to the shoes, frantically asking if the massive shoes I'd seen earlier were still around. Holding them with care, I sped back to the man and offered them to him.

The man didn't look at me, just took the shoes and walked away. As fast as he had appeared, he disappeared through the crowd, blending into the buildings beyond the street corner. Where would he go? His silence made me realize that I wasn't there for me; I was there for him. All I knew was that I provided him with something he needed. He may have lost his job a month ago, a year ago, or five years ago, or was struggling with other hardships, but it didn't matter. What mattered was that at that moment, I'd been able to help make his life a little easier with those midnight shoes.

The RPM Alumni will be getting together this July to do another run. We will always accept donations so think of Midnight Run when you are doing your spring cleaning. You can contact Beth at RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com or 518-596-2116 if you have donations!

RPMs Meetings

April 1st & 22nd

7:00PM – 8:00PM

Delmar Reformed Church

Sunday, April 8th-14th

Mission Trip

Claryville, NY

Presbyterian Church Spring Clean Up Day

April 21st

9:00AM-12:00PM

SESSION DIGEST

The following are the major items that were acted upon at the February 21st Session meeting.

The Session received and approved a request for the baptism of Ella Cady by her parents Nate and Christa for Sunday March 25, 2012.

The session received and approved a request from the Worship Committee to have Ken Applegate serve as a supply minister to preach on Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012 in the absence of Interim Pastor Bob Foltz-Morrison.

Elder Dan Lewis and Lisa Allendorph brought news of the work of the Vision Seekers. They provided background on the process and timeline for their work. The major work product of Vision Seekers is the congregational survey that is scheduled for Sunday, March 4th. The Vision Seekers will tally the survey responses and hope to have a Vision Seeker's Report completed by Easter Sunday. The report will be widely available and it is anticipated that this will be a valuable resource to Session and to the Pastor Search Committee.

The Session reviewed the ongoing budget issues for 2012; noting the continued shortfall of pledges to the total operating budget. We approved actions to reduce the deficit while keeping areas of church life growing that need such attention.

Gary Lind, Clerk of Session

NOTES FROM OUTREACH



Sharing Brings Joy. To Others, to God, to Us.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Offering Received April 1

2011 was a record year of Presbyterian response to disasters: an earthquake and tsunami in Japan; 1500 tornadoes across the United States – including one in Massachusetts; Hurricane Irene flooding our region; flooding in the Ohio Valley and Upper Midwest; heat waves and fires in the Southern Plains. Yet you were there to help in person and through your offerings.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is but one part of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Another part is the Presbyterian Hunger Program that provided seeds and tools for thousands of Haitian farmers alone, in addition to farmers in other parts of the world and aid for food pantries across the United States.

The third part is the Self-Development of People. Long after disaster struck Louisiana, Presbyterians still are there to provide economic development, as rebuilding the local fishing industry. Across the country, around the world sustainable economic development by those seeking to lift themselves out of poverty goes forward through your gifts to One Great Hour.

One Great Hour of Sharing touches people in more than 100 countries since it began in 1949 after World War II. Be generous. Your gift reaches around the world.

Schoharie United Presbyterian Church Update

With the additional help of some DPC members and the Young's and Taft's trucks, Bebb Stone has moved back into the church manse. Restoration continues on that building, the newly renovated Christian Education building, and the sanctuary. The church is hosting the next meeting of Albany Presbytery churches Saturday, April 24th. Thank you DPC. Check out their website for more details and photos: <http://www.steepleconnect.com/schoharieupc>

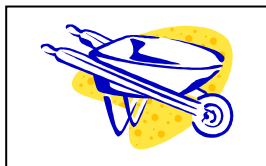
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Ongoing

Many places where you have heard there has been a natural disaster from a storm, fire, earthquake, or flood PDA is either on the scene or working with our partners. Even at human tragedies as when a

Congresswoman or high school students are shot, a Presbyterian church burns, or people want training to know how to respond--PDA is there. We have few employed staff but many networks and deployed volunteers. If you feel you would like to send a donation at the time when a tragedy has occurred, simply send a check to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Church (USA), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700; Call PresbyTel to give by phone (800) 872-3283; or Text PDA to 20222--This provides \$10 to support disaster response where needed most. If you want to volunteer to help, get information from the PDA website: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pda>

NOTES FROM BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Spring Clean Up Day!



**Saturday, April 21st
9 AM to 12 PM**

Refreshments provided.

Looking ahead: Garden Day, Sat., May 12, 9AM-12PM

NOTES FROM FINANCE

Giving Update

For the month of February the church received pledges & income of \$17,916 and incurred expenditures of \$19,132 for a net budgetary loss for the month of \$1,216. We provide this information on a monthly basis so you know how the Church is managing the resources for which you have entrusted us.

Dave Rees, Chair, Finance Committee

DEACONS UPDATE

That Little Blue Envelope

Have you ever noticed the little blue envelopes that are available in the pews each Sunday? Those envelopes are used to fund a crucial component of our church's ministry, the Deacon's Fund. The Deacon's Fund is administered by the deacons and its funds are used throughout the year to assist those in our church and immediate community who may be experiencing sudden or unexpected hardships. A recipient's identity is kept strictly confidential. The Deacon's Fund is separate from other church funds and it relies solely on the generous contributions of our congregation using

***First Church in Albany
Give a Meal a Month
- April -***



Coffee, drink mixes, gelatins, puddings, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving cream.

Monetary donations are always welcome to help defray pantry expenses.

WANTED

For those of you who haven't managed to go completely green, or for those of us who managed to be plagued with way too many plastic and paper bags: the food pantry is an excellent place to recycle them. Each family we serve receives a minimum of two plastic and two paper bags (we double bag them for safe walking). Already this year we have purchased \$250 worth of bags and they won't last long.

Submitted by Rev. Barbara Morgan
Community Outreach
First Church in Albany



those blue envelopes.

Our current deacons are Liza Ahner, Dave Austin, Ginny Gajewski, Pam Hamlin, Paul McGinn, Bob Phang, Art Prostick, Judy Riopelle and Pam Taft. Please stop one of them at the next coffee hour and ask them about the Deacon's Fund. You will likely find that they feel their work with the fund is one of the most important and rewarding aspects of serving as a deacon.

The challenge of keeping the Deacon's Fund adequately funded during our difficult economic times is increasing just when these funds are most needed. Please remember the little blue envelope and consider supporting this important aspect of our church community. If you choose to make a cash donation and would like the church to keep a record, you may write your name and number right on the envelope.

VISION SEEKERS

Dear Congregation,

Many thanks for taking the DPC Survey recently. We have received 99 responses and this represents just under half of our confirmed members. This will give us general trends relative to the congregation with a reasonable degree of certainty.

In the coming weeks we will use the data to better understand the makeup of our congregation and our core values. This information will become part of our mission study report and will help to inform both the congregation and our new pastor about our desires and goals. In the coming weeks we will have "white boards" set up during coffee hour to present some of the data in an effort to generate discussions and conversations among us. Don't be shy about talking to your fellow churchgoers about the results!

Some of you have expressed concerns regarding the confidentiality of the data we collected. The Vision Seekers have discussed a code of conduct regarding the data and all have agreed that protecting your privacy is our top priority. At this time only one member of the vision seekers has access to the

entire data set. As we review the data, we will inspect the data for correlations while simultaneously protecting the identity of individuals.

Once the mission study report is crafted and disseminated we will destroy both the physical and digital versions of the data to protect everyone's privacy. If you have questions regarding any specific process, please contact a member of the Vision Seekers or direct your question to Pastor Bob.

Thank you for your help - we look forward to completing the Mission Study report!

Sincerely,
Dan Lewis on behalf of the Vision Seeker team

Daniel Lewis
<http://www.rpi.edu/~lewisd2>

SPORTS UPDATE



Softball will be starting our 41st season the last Thursday in April. Contact Greg Turner 768-2955 or Bob Lynk 439-3948 to find out where and when. The schedule is not out yet.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CROP Walk



**Sunday, May 6, 2012
First Lutheran Church
646 State St., Albany 12203**

Musical entertainment starts at 1pm, the WALK steps off to the music of a bagpiper at 1:30 pm. Walkers can choose between a 4.5 mile loop with rest stops and the shorter "Golden Mile" loop. Refreshments will be served in the church after the Walk.

Come join us for one of the most successful CROP Walks in the US! Last year, the Albany CROP WALK moved up a notch to rank #7 in the nation in terms of funds raised, with a total of \$102,672. One quarter of funds raised were directly distributed by the Capital Area Council of Churches to 30 food pantries and 12 soup kitchens in Albany County. The remaining 75% was used by Church World Service for hunger relief and development programs around the world.

If you wish to contribute, checks should be made out to CWS/CROP. There will be a CROP WALK table at the DPC coffee hour on Sundays, April 29 and May 6. Walkers who raise at least \$30 will receive a local "CROP Walk 2012 T-shirt.

HELP END HUNGER – ONE STEP AT A TIME

Nancy Scholes
ncscholes@verizon.net

In Memoriam

**Memorial Service for Doris Turner
Saturday, May 5, 2012**

11 AM

Graveside Service – Forest Lawn Memorial Park
Elmira, NY

Sally Bosse

Friday, May 11, 2012

11 AM

Delmar Presbyterian Church
Delmar, NY

Ladies Who Lunch



Wed., April 28th

Noon

Bring your lunch.

Dessert and beverage provided.



**Ladies Who Lunch
June Luncheon Alert**



Watch next month's Prez for information regarding the Ladies Who Lunch June luncheon.

Hostesses:

Sherry Putney & Joan Hyde

Place:

Sherry Putney's house
141 Barent Winne Road
Cedar Hill
Selkirk, NY 12158

Program:

Book Discussion on the novel,
"Abide with Me,"
by Elizabeth Strout

Cost:

To be determined

Date:

Late June

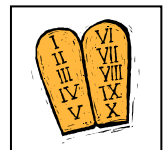
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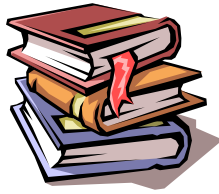
Sherry Putney
767-9579

ssputney@earthlink.net

DPC RECEIVES GIFT OF MOVIE

Thanks go to Kay Latta for her donation of a collector's edition DVD of the 1956 classic movie, "The Ten Commandments" to the DPC library. Starring Charlton Heston, Anne Baxter and Yul Brynner, the picture was nominated for seven academy awards, including Best Picture. In addition, the DVD includes special features and commentary, plus the 1923 version of the movie. Please be sure to sign out any materials borrowed from the library, then bring home and enjoy!





LIBRARY BOOKS

Several new books have been added to our library. These are excellent resources for the study of Christian life, and practical guides for grief and planning a successful church project:

Gone From My Sight: The Dying Experience by Barbara Karnes, RN (a hospice nurse)

In Defense of Civility: How Religion Can Unite America on Seven Moral Issues That Divide Us, by James Calvin Davis, Ph.D.

Projects That Matter: Successful Planning & Evaluation for Religious Organizations, by Kathleen A. Cahalan

Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He Was What He Did, and Why He Matters, by N.T. Wright (from the Lenten study)

Spiritual Classics: Selected Readings on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines, edited by Richard J. Foster and Emilie Griffin



Books for Parents and Grandparents

Exploring the Bible with Children

Living the Bible with Children

Let's Talk about God

Something More: Nurturing Your Child's Spiritual Growth

Teaching Your Children about God

Finding God at Home: Family Life as Spiritual Discipline

All these books can be found in the 3rd/4th grade classroom as a loan to you from the interim pastor.

CRTC CLASSES FOR APRIL

In the Potter's Hand: Spiritual Formation, with Sister Kitty Hanley; TBA: Begins April 11; A Lay Theological Education Program 20-hour course. \$275; \$250 to Audit. Reg. deadline: March 26, 2012.

Dr. Randall Zachman/ Fr. Dennis Tamburello Dialogue, Siena College, April 20, 6:30-8:30 pm, \$25 by Mar. 23, \$35 thereafter.

Works of Love: The Challenge of Being a Disciple, w/ Dr. Randall Zachman, Siena College, April 21, 9am- 4pm; Explore the call to discipleship through the theology of Soren Kierkegaard—Dr. Zachman makes it understandable for everyone! \$85 by Mar. 23; \$95 thereafter; Combined with Friday Dialogue: Both events \$105. Reg. deadline: April 5, 2012.

Letters

Dear Friends at DPC,
I wish that I could report that all goes well here, but we must recognize that there is no known cure for senile dementia. It is good to have the help of our daughter and her husband in caring for Margaret. May all go well with the church members and with your excellent interim pastor.

Fred Tubbs
6423 Clearview Road
Boulder, CO 80303-3005

Dear Friends,
Spring is right around the corner, I hope. Many of us are pouring over the seed catalogs and planning our gardens. Think about planting a bit extra for our food pantry clients. They truly appreciate fresh produce. Not to say that your generosity and support throughout the year is less appreciated. I don't know how we would manage without your

ongoing generosity and support of this shared ministry.

February is always the shortest month of the year, even in leap year. The party always experiences a decline in February, too. Perhaps it is because winter is finally getting the best of us or it could be that tax refunds are making it unnecessary to seek assistance. In any event, we serve fewer people. We only served 103 families or 237 people. That still averages out to over 3,500 meals.

Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Rev. Barbara Morgan
First Church in Albany