

Delmar Reformed Church
 386 Delaware Ave.
 Delmar, NY 12054
 www.drchurch.org

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 Delmar, NY
 Permit # 5



DRC's SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday, June 8
 9:00 a.m.

Bring rakes, gloves, etc.

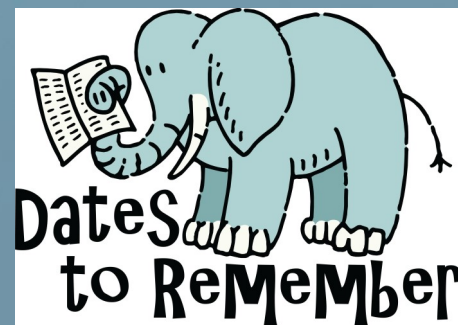
Be ready to help spruce up the outside of DRC.

Coffee and donuts will be served to those who help.

SAVE THE DATES! (kids version)

- April 28, May 12 & May 19 Children's Chime Choir Rehearsals
- May 5 Breakfast with the Pastors Grades K- 4
- May 19 Children's Sunday
- June 2 Breakfast with the Pastors Grades 5-7
- June 23 High School Graduate Recognition and All Church Picnic
- June 23 Last Day of Sunday School

Parents will receive further information about these dates via email and direct mail. Contact Lisa with any questions.



The Informer

Delmar Reformed Church

SPRING 2024

Temporary Church Sexton Needed

Our long time church sexton, Mark Vissat, is currently recovering from health concerns. Over the past few years, Mark has been responsible for cleaning, landscaping, and taking care of many weekly duties at the church. In consultation with him, we hope Mark will be returning for a reduce role in the future. A recent meeting of Personnel, Property, and Consistory leaders has resulted in a plan for what is next for this position. In the coming days, we will be breaking this 30 hour a week job into three parts: landscaping, cleaning, and sexton duties. Hiring professionals for landscaping and cleaning is already underway. While we anticipate Mark's return in mid to late May, we are seeking an immediate hire until then for 9-15 hours a week to help in our building. Might you, or someone you know, be interested?

Our interim sexton would help with setting up and breaking down various rooms before and after use, keeping the indoor and outdoor property free of garbage, taking out the trash, light cleaning after groups, and helping with various needs as they arise. Help with touch up painting and light repairs is a plus, but is not required during the coming weeks. The sexton will work with Kim Gallo and the church office to set up a schedule and outline weekly duties. Most work is likely to be needed in the morning or later in the day. This could be a perfect job for someone to supplement what they already do, or who has regular day time commitments. Pay is \$20/hour. Please reach out to Kim Gallo, or Pastor Chris, to respond to this immediate opening 518 439-9929.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Delmar Reformed Church looks forward to celebrating Confirmation Sunday, June 2, with our six students who are part of the confirmation class. Since the fall, students have been meeting with Pastor Chris and Pastor Jake to learn about and discuss: the Bible, the Trinity, church history, prayer, church life, the sacraments, and many other topics! Our students were also paired with adult mentors from the congregation for one-on-one mentoring and faith exploration.

Mentors do not serve as experts, but as fellow travelers who support the confirmands as they make their faith journeys. Along with parents, ministers and Sunday school teachers, mentors serve as adult role models who provide a safe, confidential place to share struggles, joys, doubts and concerns. Each mentor and mentee received a packet of worksheets to help guide their discussions. They are encouraged to meet outside church, to share activities they enjoy such as: sporting events, performances, lunches and service activities. Please continue to pray for our students and our wonderful volunteer mentors! They are: John Barr and Bob Hussar, Jake Hussar and Don Sindon, Ava Kourt and Nancy Landrigan, Kinley Logsdon and Katie Hodge, and Grace Venter and Beth Kourt. Make sure to attend worship on June 2 to see them make their public proclamation of faith. As a reminder to our students, upcoming classes will be held on April 28 and May 12.



Church Events

- Apr 28th DRC's Knitting/Crocheting Group - 11:15 a.m.
- Apr 28th - May 5th Family Promise Week
- Apr 28th & May 12th Confirmation Classes - 2:00 p.m.
- Apr 28th Middle School Youth Group - 3:00 p.m.
- May 2nd Lunch Bunch - 12:00 p.m.
- May 3rd Mug N' Muffin Flower Arranging - 6:00 p.m.
- May 4th & 18th Moms' Time Out - 9:30 a.m.
- May 5th CROP Walk - 12:30 p.m.
- May 6th Outreach Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- May 7th Elders Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- May 7th Consistory Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- May 9th Visitation Meeting - 4:00 p.m.
- May 10th DRC's Movie Night - 5:30 p.m.
- May 11th & 25th Men's Bible Study - 8:00 a.m.
- May 19th Children's Sunday - 10:00 a.m.
- May 31st Friendship Singers Concert - 7:30 p.m.

Not Just a Building, A Beacon

Over the past few months, we've developed an *invitation statement* that welcomes others, recognizing the church as, "A place to gather. A Community in which to belong." Seeking to serve our congregation and the many folks in our community we welcome into our doors and onto our property, we will be undertaking some specific projects in the months to come.

- Installation of a ramp leading into the kitchen in the rear of the building. This access ramp will enable easier usage of our building, establish an additional barrier free entry, and allow us to continue to host voting and blood drives in Fellowship Hall.
- Front porch maintenance. We are rebuilding our front sanctuary porch and stairs. We do not intend to change the look or use, but ensure the safety and function of the front entrance for years to come.
- Painting of the steeple, columns, and side of the church. After reviewing a number of bids, consistory has hired a local company to scrape, prep, paint, and do small repairs on the columns, steeple, front façade, and driveway facing exterior wall, getting underway any day!

As you might imagine, these projects will involve an investment of time and finances to keep up the maintenance and care of our "beacon of a building". A generous lead gift of \$10,000 has been received. Consistory has approved an additional \$43,000 from our Capital Reserve Fund, which will exhaust what we have set aside for these projects. Would you prayerfully consider supporting these projects? If you are able to make a donation, please consider directing it to our Capital Reserve Fund. Please speak with Susan Leath, the church treasurer, for more information.

Attention High Schoolers: New Plans for RPM's Underway!

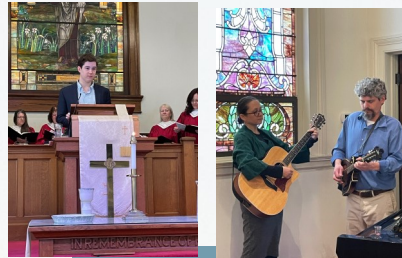
Recently, the RPM Youth Group Board met to talk about the future of the group. In consultation with current RPM leadership, it was decided to transition the group away from a paid leadership model and to a volunteer led partnership between our churches at this time. The decision was made primarily because of the decline in attendance in the past couple of years. Each of our churches is hoping to reengage with our youth in the months to come. To that end, Pastor Jake and Pastor Chris will be joined by some great volunteers to continue the middle school youth activities we've been enjoying and include high schoolers from DRC and the other churches, too. We are hopeful that ideas and plans we are making will work to bring together and serve our current youth in new ways, as well as look toward new possibilities in the future.

We would like to thank Alaina McCreary and Autumn xxx for their leadership over the past two years and look forward to working with our partners at the Presbyterian and Methodist churches on new ideas and activities to come. While we plan to have a new look for the high school group in the coming months, **all students in middle and high school are invited to join for fun and fellowship at a special combined event from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 19!** Friends are welcome!

The Easter Season - A Celebration of Mission

Did you know that Easter isn't just a day, but a season in the life of the church? For seven weeks between Easter and the celebration of Pentecost (pente, meaning 50 days after Easter) we live out the joy of resurrection and new life as followers of the risen Lord! At DRC, we've kicked off the Easter season by focusing on how we live out our call to serve others as Christian in mission, incorporating a Moment for Mission and other opportunities for connection each week in worship and outside of it.

We began the season and the month of April by highlighting our recent trip to Nicaragua and our partnership there. April 14 featured a focus on Family Promise and our upcoming opportunity to serve others in our community who are seeking permanent housing. (We need volunteers. See more information on page 5 for how to help!) In the coming weeks we will be hearing from Rev. Dr. Perry Jones in worship, who runs the Capital City Rescue Mission, Camp Fowler, and the upcoming CROP Walk. (See page 5 for more details.) We also have a special opportunity to serve in hands on ways – see more information here. May we join in proclaiming the risen Christ as we worship and as we serve those around us in the weeks to come!



A Note From Pastor Chris:

Many of you have spoken to me about plans for my upcoming sabbatical, to take place mostly this summer. Thank you for your prayers and support as I prepare for this time away. I'll begin my time with a weeklong visit later this month to see my younger stepbrother and his family who works as a Naval Science Officer, stationed in Singapore. I'll then return to regular duties before a longer time away over the summer. In addition to your prayers, I'm asking for your support in two specific ways during the summer weeks. First, please pray for and support Pastor Jake as he takes on increased responsibilities and workload in my absence. Secondly, if you might enjoy spending some time with a wonderful canine companion, our family dog Wicket is available for visits while the Vande Bunte family does some traveling. Wicket is very well behaved and a very good dog. Of course, we might be a bit biased! If a visit from her might be of interest to you, please contact Pastor Chris or Ellen Vande Bunte for more information about potential dates. Thank you for your care for our family!

One Day Mission Project: On Saturday, April 27, we join area Reformed Churches to help rehab a parsonage at Third Reformed Church, at 20 Ten Eyck Ave in Albany. We will be joining our efforts to spruce up the property and house to help make it ready for temporary and long term housing. Coffee and snacks will be provided and a light lunch for those who RSVP. Come for some or all of the day, from 8 am to 4 pm. For more information and to sign up to help, please contact Rev. Dirk Gieser, who is heading up the project. dirk@ererca.org

May Mission Trip: Join folks from the DRC family as we travel to New Bern, NC, May 25-June 1 to help with hurricane and flood recovery. Contact Paul Hesse, our trip leader, for more information. paul.hesse@dot.gov

Middle School Youth News

Join Pastor Jake, Sharon Schultz, and Pastor Chris for some more fun, fellowship, and faith reflection in the coming weeks. We meet from 3-4 p.m. April 28 (after Confirmation Class) and at a special combined event open to our high school youth and friends on May 19 from 2-4 p.m. Plans are also underway for a special June meeting too. Keep an eye on the bulletin for future information. Please contact one of our leaders with any questions you may have.



CROP Walk Returns on May 5

The CROP Walk is a long standing walk for hunger relief efforts which takes places annually around the U.S. and other countries. Originally conceived to help countries ravaged by war receive hunger relief, the walk continues to support emergency and long term projects nearby and around the world. 25% of all money raised stays right here in the Capital Region!

Once again, it is easy to join the DRC walk this year. We will continue to be connected to the larger Albany Area walk. As in recent years, we will have a "satellite walk" walk right here in Delmar, joined by our friends at Unionville Reformed and others. Our route starts and ends at DRC, using the rail trail, and features a return stop at Stewart's for ice cream! Walkers of all ages can walk at their own pace on a timed walk. Walkers can join us at the church stairs for a 12:30 departure.

There are two ways you can participate:

- 1) Walk the CROP Walk. Bring yourself, friends, or family. Sign up on the Delmar Reformed Church team (events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/delmar-reformed-church) and then spread the word to raise donations.
- 2) Support our walkers. Make a donation to one of our walkers, or the whole team. Speak to Linda Mayou for more information, or visit: events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/delmar-reformed-church and find a walker to support.

Speak to Linda Mayou after worship, or see bulletin inserts for more information about the CROP Walk.

"Understanding the Bible" with Dr. J. Todd Billings

For three-consecutive Sundays in May (May 12, 19, and 26), we will be showing a video lecture series entitled "Understanding the Bible" after worship in Fellowship Hall. The mini lectures are provided by Pastor Jake's academic mentor from seminary, Dr. J. Todd Billings, Professor of Reformed Theology at Western Theological Seminary.

Each video lecture is between 10-15 minutes. We will watch the video together before Pastors Chris and Jake facilitate large-group discussions to engage further with the material. We imagine the video and conversation together lasting no more than an hour, so you can expect to be done by 12:30 at the latest.

The first lecture is titled, "How to Read and Understand Scripture as the Word of God." Dr. Billings then encourages us to consider "How Our Cultural Context Impacts the Way We Interpret Scripture" in the second lecture, before concluding the series with a third lecture focused on "How to Resolve Differences in the Way We Interpret Scripture."

All are welcome to participate in the video lecture series and no RSVP is necessary. Dr. Billings is a beloved professor of Pastor Jake's, and he has provided a wonderful opportunity for various church communities to learn together in this way. We hope to seize the opportunity after worship in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 12 - and then again on May 19 and 26!



Worship Schedule:

Holy Week and Easter brought incredible gatherings and meaningful worship to DRC. Our church family joining together to remember the Last Supper and consider our faith roots in the Passover celebration. We bore witness to the crucifixion during a service of gathering darkness on Good Friday. We joined to proclaim, "He is risen!" at two services on Easter Sunday, filled with church family, friends, and visitors. Along the way, we waved Palms after a winter storm, walked the Labyrinth in contemplation, and saw our middle schoolers hide 600 eggs for our children to find at our annual Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt. Join us for the coming weeks as we live into the new life of the resurrection, celebrating a theme of mission during the season of Easter.

Sunday, April 21 – Today we gather for worship and welcome Rev. Dr. Perry Jones to the pulpit. Perry will offer the Good News and a word about the Capital City Rescue Mission. Our Moment for Mission will focus on the upcoming CROP Walk on May 5.

Sunday, April 28 – Our sermon is based on the unfolding story of the early church in the book of Acts. We will hear a Moment for Mission about Camp Fowler and their upcoming anniversary celebration on May 25.

Sunday, May 5 – Today in worship, we continue to reflect on the story of the first Christians in the book of Acts. We celebrate the sacrament of communion in worship. Our "month of mission" concludes with the CROP Walk after church. See more information on this page.

Sunday, May 5, F.e.a.s.t. 5:30-7:00 p.m. – Our gathering begins with a shared meal and continues with worship and Bible discussion. This month's potluck theme, in honor of the CROP Walk, is "portable food" or things you can eat without needing to sit down. All are welcome!

Sunday, May 12 – We begin a series on the book of Daniel today in worship, as we explore the faithfulness of this prophet and his friends. Celebrate new members joining during worship today. Remember to stay after worship for the first of a three part series on reading the Bible from 11:30-12:30.

Sunday, May 19, Pentecost and Children's Sunday – Today, our series on Daniel continues with a reflection on his friends' encounter with God in the midst of the fiery furnace in Daniel 3. We join to celebrate our children and youth as they help lead us in worship. Wear red today in honor of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit! Our workshop on reading the Bible continues after worship.

Sunday, May 26 – We continue to reflect on the trials of the prophet Daniel in worship today from Daniel 4. The third and final session of our workshop on reading the Bible takes place following worship.

Sunday, June 2, Confirmation Sunday – Join in worship today, as we praise God for our confirmation students and their public proclamation of faith. We also join in the sacrament of communion during worship. Our series on Daniel concludes with a reflection on the story of the lions' den in Daniel 6.





Wondering about Camp Fowler? Not sure if your child is ready to attend?

This summer, Camp has the answer for you! The “Me and You” week is designed for a parent, grandparent, or other significant adult to accompany one or more children for a mini-week (3 days) of camp. Kids and adults will stay together, eat together, share daily camp life, and participate in a variety of camp activities led by Fowler’s awesome summer staff. “Me and You” is intended for children in 1st-4th grades. Have questions? Contact Nancy Landrigan (who will be attending this week with her granddaughter). Make some unforgettable summer memories this year at Camp Fowler. www.campfowler.org

Also this summer Pastor Marcy will be the camp chaplain along with her husband, Gene the week of July 7. Pastor Jake will be the camp chaplain the week of July 14, and Nancy Landrigan will be volunteering the week of July 28. One of these weeks would also be a great time for your child to attend camp.

DRC gives a \$50.00 stipend to all DRC members who would like to attend camp. This year’s coupon code when you are registering is DELMAR2024.

Camp Fowler wants any child that would like to attend camp to do so. They have additional finance support on their website, or call Lauren at the Camp Fowler business office and she will be glad to help you, 518-631-6789.

Uncle Kent is looking for both male and female camp counselors, along with kitchen and maintenance volunteers for July 14-19. Let Pastor Jake know as soon as possible, if you’re interested and available to volunteer in any of those ways!

Camp Fowler’s 70th Church Picnic

Come enjoy a day at your camp!

- 10am Tours and Boats
- Noon Lunch*
- 1pm Sing-a-long and Dedication
- 2pm Enjoy the grounds
- 4pm Depart

Saturday, May 25th • 10am - 4pm

152 PELCHER ROAD, LAKE PLEASANT, NY 12108

Mug N’ Muffin

On Friday May 3rd we will hold a Mug and Muffin evening event. Come to Fellowship Hall at 6pm with nibbles to share. At 6:30 we will have a simple flower arranging tutorial. Bring an average-sized mug in which to create your flower arrangement. We will work together to create simple but beautiful arrangement. Don't worry if you have never done it before; everyone is welcome! We will have a time of fellowship and laughter and everyone will leave with a work of art! Please look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We will need to know how many are attending to make sure we have enough supplies for everyone. If you have any questions feel free to see Julie Tootell.

Children’s Chime Choir

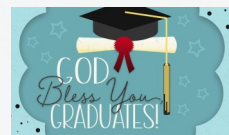


Handchimes

This spring, DRC will be rehearsing a Hand-chime choir for Sunday School aged kids. In past years we have used the handchimes sparsely, and the kids have always been very interested and inspired by them. In an effort to cultivate this interest, and grow their musical potential, we will be rehearsing after worship on Sunday mornings, at 11:15 in the music room, for about a half an hour, in the months of April and May. By meeting each week, it will give the kids a chance to become more familiar with the instrument, and allow us to grow as individual musicians, and as an ensemble. This will lead to us sharing some hand-chime music in worship on Children's Sunday. All kids are invited, and anybody who has any questions can always reach out to me at baxford@drchurch.org. Musically, Brian

DRC Loves Its Graduates

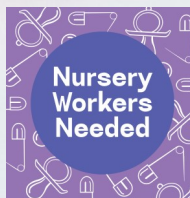
Whether the DRC church family has watched graduates grow up for one year or many years, we love to recognize the milestone of their graduation at a church service. This year, we will recognize our high school grads on June 23, and want to make sure we don’t miss anyone! If you know of any high school, college, or graduate school graduates, please let Lisa know by May 23 at Lisa@drchurch.org so we can list them in the Informer.



Thank You!

Thanks to your generosity, DRC is able to donate \$1030.41 from the Lenten fishbanks to Living Resources. As you may remember, Living Resources day program for disabled adults meets in the DRC classrooms each week day. We are so grateful to be able to support this program, and all of the many supports Living Resources offers to those with disabilities.

Looking for Substitutes in the Nursery



Beginning June 2, we are in need of a Nursery Director to welcome and care for the youngest members of our church family. If you love children, this could be a perfect Sunday morning job for you. This position could be shared between two people, as well. If you are interested but are unable to make a regular commitment, please consider volunteering to be a substitute. Background checks are required. Please contact Lisa at lisa@drchurch.org for additional information.

Breakfast with the Pastors!!

Preschool through 4th grade Sunday School Classes
Sunday, May 5, 9:00-9:40 am
Bennett Parlors

Join us on the CROP Walk after worship too!

Spring Lunch Bunch

For May 2 Lunch Bunch we are planning steak sandwiches on a roll, French fries and roasted broccoli and a surprise dessert. RSVP to the church office, 518-439-9929.

For the June 6 Lunch Bunch we are planning an outing to a restaurant.

Barnabas Reveal



We are planning the Barnabas Reveal for May 19 and the 10 a.m. service. Come and find out who your Barnabas Friend is and hear a bit about this awesome program.

Family Promise Week April 28 - May 4

We need many volunteers throughout the week and there still are lots of opportunities to sign up.

DRC will host 3 families. We need volunteers to bring dinner and others to stay overnight in the church office. Other volunteers are needed to set-up the rooms on Sun. April 28, and others to take down the rooms on Sun. May 5. Please sign-up in the Narthex.

Questions, quandaries or concerns? Please contact Kim at the DRC office 518-439-9929

Family Promise will be having a Spring Auction of different themed baskets and we’ve been asked to donate a basket for their fundraiser. We will be doing a chocolate theme basket and will be collecting chocolate items in the Family Promise box in the DRC office until Friday, April 26. Fingers crossed that together we’ll raise a lot of money for Family Promise!

On June 6 The Lost Rounders are offering a free concert to benefit Family Promise. It will be at Bethany Reformed Church, 760 New Scotland Ave., Albany, NY 12208, which is right next door to the Family Promise Day Center. They are always a fun show, so save the date.

Save the Date

Praise and Picnic in the park with our RPM friends from the Presbyterian and Methodist churches on June 9 at the Elm Ave. Park large pavilion. Worship starts at 10:00 a.m. A picnic will follow.

Delmar Reformed Church invites you to:

Community Movie Night

Moana | Fri. May 10

Pizza at 5:30 pm | Movie at 6:00 pm
FREE | All ages are welcome

386 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY, 12054

Community Movie Night

This monthly tradition at DRC is continuing to capture momentum, as 35 folks gathered for pizza, popcorn, and a movie in February before 45 more gathered in March. On April 12, we did it again and reconvened in Fellowship Hall to watch a showing of Disney’s Ratatouille with slices of Adriano’s pies in hand.

DRC is planning to host its final rendition of Community Movie Night on May 10 before taking a three-month pause for the summer. Keep your ear to the ground for rumors about an OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT on the church’s front lawn sometime in July though. In September, we’ll pick back up with our rhythm of gathering in Fellowship Hall on the second Friday of each month for Community Movie Night. We hope to see you there in May. Please RSVP with Kim in the church office via phone or email by Thursday, May 9.

Nicaragua Mission CEPAD/ El Castillo



For nearly 20 years, an important part of the DRC Mission Work is our outreach in Nicaragua and partnership with the rural community of El Castillo. More than 40 members of DRC, including a dozen-plus young people, have traveled on Mission trips to Nicaragua. We met the people of El Castillo in 2010 and created our Covenant Partnership with the community in 2013.

All our work has been facilitated by CEPAD—the Council of Evangelical Churches of Nicaragua. More than 50 years ago, Nicaraguan church leaders formed CEPAD to provide disaster relief after an earthquake destroyed much of the country.

Since then, CEPAD has continued to offer disaster relief as well as local development such as:

- Leadership Training,
- Pastoral Education
- Women’s Economic Development
- Sustainable Agriculture



CEPAD also helps churches visit Nicaragua and, as in our case, to develop covenant partnerships with rural communities. Partnerships are based on the mutual respect and needs of each partner.

We spent several years discerning with our Partners what that could look like. We observed that the community had a strong love of education. But in Nicaragua most students don’t make it to high school and far fewer still to college. Families don’t have the money, and the children are needed to work. For El Castillo and nearby communities, there is just one high school AND only on weekends. It can be up to a 2 hour walk one way to attend.

The El Castillo community leaders enthusiastically agreed when we suggested a college scholarship program. So many in our congregation have sustained this program with your gifts. Thank you for helping these young people reach their dreams. There are 20 attending college this year.

It hasn’t been easy for the students -- especially with COVID, but some really wonderful things have come out of this:

- More children are staying in school thru high school-- families tell us students are staying in school because they have hope.
- We visited the high school for the first time this year. It’s packed.
- There have been 9 successful graduates, and we expect 5 more this year
 - ◊One teaches in the elementary school in El Castillo.
 - ◊Another helps local farmers with sustainable agriculture practices.
 - ◊A nursing student helps local families get care while she studies.

This is an exciting mission area with a lot coming up this year. Get involved right away:

1. CEPAD mission workers Jhan and Ian Vellega will visit DRC June 28-30.
2. July 19-26 RCA invites young people ages 18-30 to visit CEPAD and see their work in Nicaragua. Scholarships are available -- sign up by May 18.
3. August 4-10 all adults are invited to visit CEPAD in Managua with day trips to communities. It is a perfect introduction to this ministry.
4. September 20-27, Help us host a delegation of three visitors from our Partnership in El Castillo. Can you help us plan the visit? Or maybe:
 - invite them for lunch or dinner?
 - take them on a walking tour of Delmar?
 - host a BBQ and corn hole challenge?

Be sure to reach out to Peggy Becker (518-423-6917) or Pastor Jake or Pastor Chris with any questions and to get involved.

