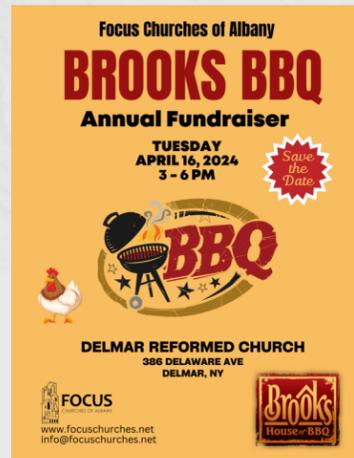


Delmar Reformed Church
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The Informer

Delmar Reformed Church

EASTER 2024

RECAP: Winter Get-a-Way to Camp Fowler



A small band of folks from DRC recently made a trip to Camp Fowler, where they were welcomed

by a joyous abundance of snow! The hope for the trip was to craft space free from worry and hurry to rest, play, and connect with God, creation, and one another.

That hope was surely met, and so many fun memories were made along the way. The kids especially had a blast while shoveling snow into the face of poor Pastor Jake. *[The snow was so fresh and so dry that the kids literally shoveled snow at one another with their sleds, Pastor Jake and his glasses bearing the brunt of the damage.]*

Kids and adults alike cherished extended time outdoors, whether sledding, [safely] traversing a frozen Sacandaga Lake, or stargazing on a

wonderfully clear night. They toured camp grounds, delighting in sunshine that burst its way through snow-spattered evergreen trees, even stopping along the way to admire a Narnia-esque light post planted in the middle of camp.

When indoors, they feasted on good food lovingly prepared by Lisa Rakoczy, and laughed uncontrollably as Isis Axford defended her case in an epic game of Apples to Apples. During a slow afternoon, Nancy Landrigan and Pastor Jake facilitated a conversation centered on the trip's theme, "Be Like a Tree." Have you noticed how often tree imagery is implemented in the narrative of Scripture? Maybe there's an invitation in there for us!

All in all, the trip was a success. Stories were shared. Memories were made. Community deepened, and we can't wait to do it again next year! Until then, stay tuned for more opportunities to visit Camp Fowler, including this coming July and August for Camp Fowler's various summer programs. Check out campfowler.org/summer for more information.



Church Events

- Mar 7th & Apr 4th Lunch Bunch - 12:00 p.m.
- Mar 7th, 10th & 17th Inquirer's Class - 6:00 p.m. & 11:30 a.m.
- Mar 8th & Apr 12th Community Movie Night - 5:30 p.m.
- Mar 9th & Mar 23rd Men's Bible Study - 8:00 a.m.
- Mar 10th & Mar 23rd Confirmation Class - 2:00 p.m.
- Mar 10th & Mar 24th Middle School Youth Group - 3:00 p.m.
- Mar 10th RPM Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 16th & Apr 6th Moms' Time Out - 9:30 a.m.
- Mar 16th RPM's Grounds for Giving - 6:00 p.m.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 24th Palm Sunday Service

10:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 28th - Friday, March 29th Walk the Labyrinth

9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday

Thursday, March 28th Maundy Thursday Service

7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 29th Good Friday Service

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 30th Easter Egg Hunt

9:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 31st Easter Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.



Community Movie Night

As it's becoming tradition here at DRC, the church hosted another community movie night on Friday, February 9, when about 35 people gathered inside Fellowship Hall to watch "Inside Out." The night was a meaningful moment of interaction with the Mom's Time Out group that regularly meets inside our building, the floor flooded with energetic young ones and their heroic mothers close by.

We're set to do it again on Friday, March 8, and we're planning to air a showing of Disney's "Cars." Come on out for free pizza, popcorn, desserts, drinks and more!! And be sure to tell a friend or two, or twenty. We just ask that you RSVP with Kim to help us buy an appropriate amount of pizza.

Community Movie Night – Every second Friday of the month. Pizza at 5:30 pm. Movie beginning at 6:00 pm.



An Upcoming Sabbatical

Friends, I am excited to share news of my upcoming sabbatical, a purposeful time of rest and reflection I'll be embarking upon this summer. Some professions offer sabbaticals after certain periods of time working. In our regional church, called the Classis of Albany, ministers working in our area are granted a 12 week sabbatical every seven years of service. The idea is to retain ministers, help the minister and church to purposefully reflect on their ministry, and refresh them for continued ministry together. There is also a provision to set aside funding each year, so that a fund is established which can be used every seven years.

While I'm about to enter my 20th year of ministry, I also am coming to a full seven years here at DRC. Can you believe how time flies?! A few of you have been helping me to think about what a sabbatical might look like for a little bit now. In February, consistory approved a plan I submitted to them for this time away. One part of the time away is to rest and recharge, to spend time with my family here, and provide for a little more time than normal to visit our family in NJ, VA, MI, and Canada. I will even have the opportunity to visit my step brother and his family. He is on a three year assignment as a Naval Science Officer in Singapore. The initial few weeks of my time will be spent organizing the weekly Bible studies I've written over the years. My hope is to compile them in

some fashion to be offered to our sister churches, thinking that especially for churches without a pastor, this might be a helpful resource. It might also help me reflect on areas in the Bible I haven't preached on

Typically, the greatest disruption to the church during a sabbatical is finding fill-in leadership. Thanks to Pastor Jake, we have that already lined up. He will be supported by other area ministers, as well as guest preachers a few different weeks, so that he can have some time away of his own too. I will be away and not in communication from mid-June through the end of August, in order to be least disruptive to the regular life and ministry of the church.

I don't know what this time away will hold. I might learn something. I might rest. I might come back changed. I might be pretty similar to who I am right now. I look forward to the blessing it will be for me and for my family. I offer you great thanks for your support, encouragement, and care over these first seven years together.

In Peace,
Pastor Chris



Children's Breakfast and Easter Egg

Mark your calendar for a special Easter event for our children, which will be held on Saturday, March 30 at 9:00 a.m. We will begin with a light breakfast for the whole family. Then Pastor Chris will offer a special story about Holy Week with the children, followed by crafts and an Easter egg hunt. The hunt is open to all families of the church, their friends, neighbors, and relatives. Each age group, from toddlers through fifth grade, will take turns searching the church property for special treats that morning. This event is fun for the whole family! Older youth are invited to help hide all of the eggs and participate as well. You will want to make sure to join us. Speak with Lisa Rakoczy (lisa@drchurch.org) for more information.

Middle School Youth Group Update

All students in grades 6-8 are welcomed to join the Middle School Youth Group as we meet to talk about our faith, get to know one another and have fun! Our meetings in March and April will include fellowship, service, and reflection opportunities. Friends are always welcome! Speak with Pastor Jake or Pastor Chris for more information. Mark these upcoming dates on your calendar.

March 10 and April 14, 3-4 p.m. – We meet for games, fellowship, and reflection.

March 24, 3-4 p.m. – Stuffing eggs for the children's Easter Egg Hunt on March 30.

Save the Date: May 5, 12:30 p.m. – Join in fundraising and walking in the CROP Walk, raising money to support hunger relief here and around the world. The walk starts and ends at DRC.

First Communion Classes Offered for Grades 2 and Above

Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is celebrated at DRC on the first Sunday of each month. Ultimately, having your child participate in communion during worship is a decision parents should consider and speak to their children about. While some parents desire that their children wait until confirmation, the church offers a communion class for all children in second grade (and those older who have not previously taken it) to teach our students about the meaning and symbols of communion. The classes are available again this April.

After completing this two week class, students are welcome to participate in the sacrament during worship. The pastors will lead these special classes after worship on April 21 and 28 from 11:15 to noon in Bennett Parlors. On May 5, our students will be invited to join in the sacrament of communion during worship and will be recognized. If you are a parent of a student in grade 2 and above who has not participated in this class and would like to, please speak to Pastor Chris or Lisa Rakoczy.

CROP Walks 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. You can join that group. Just like last year, we also plan to have a DRC contingent walk right here in Delmar! Out route starts and ends at DRC, using the rail trail, and features a return stop at Stewart's for ice cream! Walkers can join us at church for a 12:30 departure.

There are two ways you can participate:

- Walk the CROP Walk. Bring yourself, friends, or family. Sign up to be part of the DRC team and then spread the word to raise donations.
- Support our walkers. Make a donation to one of our walkers, or the whole team.

Speak to Linda Mayou, or see bulletin inserts in the coming weeks for more information about the CROP Walk.

Inquirer's Classes Set for Those Wanting to Know More about DRC

- by Pastor Chris

The DRC family continues to welcome new visitors in worship and in our fellowship. For those who wish to know more about the church and may consider joining, we will have a two part "Inquirer's Class" meeting in March. Each class will be between 75-90 minutes and include refreshments. During the time together will have a chance to get to know one another better, discuss the reformed tradition and the Delmar Reformed Church, and discuss wider questions about our faith.

Session one:

The Protestant and Reformed traditions, and more about DRC (meets twice)

Thursday, March 7, 6 pm or
Sunday, March 10, 11:30 am.

Session two:

Continuing our discussion and Q & A

Sunday March 17, 11:30 am.

Our congregation is often referred to as a "church family", embracing those who are official members and those who attend regularly or occasionally and consider the church their home. While visitors new and long term are always welcome to participate in most every facet of church life (to serve on consistory, or vote at official meetings, one must be a member) joining a church family can mark an important step in the journey of faith. When we join, we make a commitment and are committed to. We become part of a family that we covenant to partner with, and who covenants to partner with us, through times of joy and those of difficulty.

If you are interested in attending, without obligation to join, please contact Kim Gallo in the church office – kgallo@drchurch.org. For questions, please contact me - cvandebunte@drchurch.org. **If you have previously taken the class and now wish to join, or wish to transfer your membership to DRC, please speak with Pastor Chris.** Praise God for this church family and all of those who are exploring new connections in our midst!

Confirmation Update

Delmar Reformed Church looks forward to celebrating Confirmation Sunday, June 2, with our six youth who are part of the confirmation class. Since the fall, students have been meeting with the pastors to learn about and discuss the Bible, the Trinity, church history, prayer, church life, the sacraments and many other topics! Our students were also recently paired with adults 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, Colin Bylsma and Steve Ingraham, Jake Hussar and Don Sindon, Ava Kourt and Nancy Landrigan, Kinley Logsdon and Katrina Barr, 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 March 10 and 24, April 14 and 28.

Worship Schedule:

We journey through the season of Lent together, leading up to Holy Week and the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. In Lent, a season of reflection, we are joining together to reflect on the ministry and life of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. Please join us for worship in the weeks to come.

Sunday, March 10 – This week, we reflect on one of the most well-known stories from the ministry of Jesus in Mark 12:28-44. We ask, "What does it mean to love God and love our neighbor?" as we consider why we hear these words often in worship.

Sunday, March 17 – Today, we explore the life and ministry of Jesus as it comes from Mark 13:24-37. Together, we ponder the words of Jesus as he declares he will come again.

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday – Shout "*Hosanna!*" as we join together waving our palm branches and welcoming Jesus triumphantly as the coming Savior! These traditional Palm Sunday themes will help us to explore Mark 11:1-11. Palms will be offered to all this Sunday in worship.

Thursday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday – Tonight we gather in our "Upper Room" as we surround the table with Christ and remember his Last Supper with his disciples. We reflect on the events of that night long ago and their meaning for us today as Jesus hosts us at the table. For this service, we will meet in Bennett Parlors and share in a special time of communion. This service is appropriate for all ages.

Friday, March 29, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday – This approximately 30 minute service will feature the reading of the last words of Christ from the cross. Prayer and special music will help us consider the day of Christ's crucifixion and death as we encounter gathering darkness in the sanctuary.

Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday – Sunrise at 8:00 a.m. Service at 10:00 a.m. Today, we gather to rejoice that our Savior has risen! Our festal worship service will feature special music as we celebrate the miracle of Christ's resurrection and its meaning for us today. We will consider the account of Mark's gospel as we hear the events leading up to the first Easter morning and what happened that miraculous dawn!

Sunday, April 7 – We gather for worship in the season of Easter to celebrate the risen Lord! Join the church family in worship as we celebrate the sacrament of communion.

Sunday, April 7, F.e.a.s.t. 5:30-7:00 p.m. – Our gathering begins with a shared meal and continues with worship. The pot luck theme is spring – use an ingredient that comes from the ground. All are encouraged to attend!



New Member Profiles

Dave Reichard

I grew up a Lutheran, worked six years for the Lutheran World Federation, joined the UCC when Maryann and I returned to the USA, spent three years going to the Methodist church, and now we are at DRC. After moving to the Albany area, we only visited two churches before deciding DRC was for us. The service reminded us of UCC. It seemed like a vibrant church, and we saw a choir we thought we would enjoy joining. We're excited to see an active church, with families involved, and a music program we enjoy. When I worked for the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland, my work related to development, disaster, and refugee assistance programs; I then spent one year in Malaysia coordinating transportation for Vietnamese refugees accepted for resettlement in other countries. Back in the U.S. I ended up in banking, but my transportation experience was used to clear KeyBank's nationwide checks (when we still used paper ones). I retired in 2014. I enjoy playing pickle ball, doing artwork, play bridge and pinocle, go to exercise classes, and cook. I often seem to be organizing something, like a new club, an art exhibit, or a family vacation. We have a grandson and two twin toddler granddaughters who live in Delmar that we spend a lot of enjoyable time with. Besides the choir and my overseas work, I spent 25 years as treasurer and being active in many church committees during my time in the UCC.



Maryann Reichard

I grew up in a Ukrainian Catholic church and have attended Christian churches as an adult. Before moving to this area, we researched several churches online before we ended up at DRC. We appreciate the music program and the involvement of families with young children. We have lived in the area for almost 2 years. I am a retired elementary teacher. We are involved in the lives of our 4 young grandchildren. My interests are walking/hiking, pickle ball, reading and music. I believe that we are on a spiritual journey, and I like to learn.

Theresa Riley

I was raised as a Catholic and recently I have come to the reformed faith. I ended up coming to DRC because it was a church in the area, one of which I was researching. This church excites me because of the opportunity to worship God with fellow Christians. My passion is seeking fellow Christians who want to worship God. I have been in the Albany area since 2001. I work in Technology Administration with the state of NY. I love music, dance, and being outdoors in nature. I come from a large family of 3 girls and 3 boys, and I am the youngest of 6.

Debbie Bartell

My name is Debbie Bartell and recently became a part of the DRC family. I have a varied background in the churches I attended. I was raised Catholic until I was 15. From there I went to the Episcopal Church with my mother and grandparents. I remained in the Episcopal faith until 2010 or so (23+ yrs). From there I attended a couple of different Evangelical churches before finally becoming a Methodist. It has been quite a journey, but through this journey I have strengthened my relationship with God, accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and have a hunger to learn more.

I first came to DRC just 5 years ago this month. I moved from the Finger Lakes area (Honeoye Lake) to be with my daughter, Ashley, and take care of my grandson, Aaron. My husband passed away in 2014 and I decided to retire from our local library in 2018. That left me free to move out here after Aaron was born. It was hard leaving family, friends, my church, etc. It was through MOPS that Ashley started coming to DRC so I just followed suit. I will be honest and say that I left DRC for a time. I was searching for a church to fill my spiritual need. As I was attending different churches there was a quiet voice in me saying to go back to DRC. So here I am. This time I felt it right to join the church.

I have enjoyed being on the committee for lunch bunch, going to Bible study and now becoming involved in outreach. I also usher when I can. I'm still trying to find my way in church. All my experiences before were a totally different type of involvement in church, so this is new to me. I am happy to be a part of the DRC family. Thank you for welcoming me.

Have You Explored F.e.a.s.t. Alternative Worship?

Our monthly alternative worship service "*Fellowship, eating and study together*" continues to meet the first Sunday of each month. Our intention is to join together in a simple, Biblically modeled way. Our gathering takes guidance from passages of early followers of Jesus meeting to eat together, fellowship with one another, join in faith discussion, and pray. In the same way, we meet from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. in the church lobby for food and fellowship before continuing into the sanctuary from 6:15-7:00 p.m. for an interactive time of singing, faith discussion, and prayer. We call the service "alternative" because it isn't what you typically associate with traditional or contemporary services. It is an interactive, Biblically modeled alternative.

Our pot luck theme in April is to include ingredients that have come from the ground, in honor of spring! Come and invite your neighbors to F.e.a.s.t. with you! *We next gather on April 7 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.*

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Rolls On

New faith discussion and Bible exploration awaits you each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, or via Zoom. Over 20 fantastic participants meet weekly for an hour- newcomers and veteran Bible students - to ask questions, dig deeper, and think together about how to apply scripture to our world today. (Coffee is provided for theological lubricant!) Each week we use the upcoming sermon's scripture passage as our study focus. The group has a new study guide each week to help direct our discussion. To be sent the guide each Tuesday, please contact Pastor Chris [cvandebunte@drchurch.org] or Pastor Jake [jchipka@drchurch.org]. All are invited to attend!

Church Events Continued

- **Mar 17th Ukrainian Egg Decorating - 11:15 a.m.**
- **Mar 21st Visitation Meeting - 4:00 p.m.**
- **Mar 28th - 29th Walk the Labyrinth**
- **Mar 28th Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 p.m.**
- **Mar 29th Good Friday Service - 7:00 p.m.**
- **Mar 30th Easter Egg Hunt - 9:00 a.m.**
- **Mar 31st Easter Sunday Services - 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.**
- **Apr 7th F.e.a.s.t. Service - 5:30 p.m.**
- **Apr 16th FOCUS Brooks B-bque - 3:00 p.m.**
- **Apr 21th & Apr 28th 1st Communion Class - 11:15 a.m.**

Prayers & Praise

Prayers of Celebration

...for the baptism of Grant Richard Branigan on December 10, son of Kimberley & Patrick, grandson to Rich & Donna Holley.

...for the baptism of Linda Zeh.

Prayers of Comfort

...for the Vande Bunte family on the loss of Ellen's father, I. Reed Feuster on October 22.

...for the Weiss family on the loss of their child on October 30.

...The Bylsma family on the loss of Terry's father, George Turner on December 3.

...Pam Brody on the loss of her mother-in-law, Feige on February 27.

Thank You

...DRC family for all the prayers and well wishes during my recent knee surgery. I appreciated all the calls, messages, and cards that helped me through surgery and recovery.

Kathy Nolan

...to my church family for all the cards, food, flowers, cookies, and prayers during my recent hospitalization and appendectomy. You truly know the meaning of family and showing up for others. I am so blessed to belong to this community and will work to show up for you all in the same way.

Ellen Vande Bunte



Join us for Pysanky (Ukrainian) Egg Decorating!

When: Sunday, March 17, 11:30 after worship
Where: DRC Fellowship Hall
Who: anyone 10 years and older

DRC's own Maryann Reichard learned how to decorate Pysanky eggs as a child. Taught by her Ukrainian aunt, Maryann has continued the tradition ever since then. This Lenten season, you have the chance to create your own eggs. The time needed to complete the process depends upon the number of colors you wish to use. We estimate about an hour for two colors. The workshop will end at 1:30 for those who wish to remain and use additional colors in their design. Please note that raw eggs are used.

Please sign up in the narthex so there are enough materials provided.

Contact Lisa Rakoczy at lisa@drchurch.org or call the church office if you have any questions.



You're Invited!

RPMs Coffeehouse

Saturday March 16th at 6pm
Delmar Reformed Church

Join us for
Live music with Sandra & Jim Mortensen
A special Paint & Sip hour
Hors d'oeuvres, coffee, deserts
Silent auction

\$25 for 2 tickets

Contact Alaina for tickets & questions
rpmsyouthgroup@gmail.com | 518-894-7749



Labyrinth Available for Holy Days

Consider this your official invitation to walk the DRC labyrinth.

A labyrinth is different from a maze - a maze is filled with starts and stops, aiming to confuse. With a labyrinth, there is only one way in, and one way out. Merely putting one foot in front of another, fans of labyrinths say that stresses fall aside and peace increases.

There is no one way to walk a labyrinth. So even if you have never tried before, come to Fellowship Hall and give it a try. There will be resources available to offer you suggestions. But you may find it worthwhile to light one of the provided candles and simply take the first step.

The labyrinth is available Holy Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Good Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Deadline for ordering flowers: Friday, March 22

NOTE: Make checks out to DRC with "Flower Fund" or "Grounds Fund" in the memo line.

Choice of Easter Plant

_____	Azalea	\$19.00
_____	Daffodils	\$ 8.50
_____	Mums	\$12.00
_____	Hydrangea	\$20.00
_____	Tulips	\$ 8.50
_____	I will pick up flowers after the service.	
_____	I will leave flowers in church to be delivered to a person at home.	

In memory/honor of: _____

Given by: _____
Names as they are to be printed in bulletin.