



**CHURCH
INFORMATION**

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Neill S. Morgan, *Pastor*
903-814-9343

Eric Waggoner,
Director of Music

Terrie May,
Program Assistant

Henry J. Postel,
Pastor Emeritus

Good Tidings . . .

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends,

I am preparing to lead a **Sunday morning newcomers class**, "How to Speak Presbyterian" beginning **January 9, 2022 at 9 a.m.** If you or someone you know is interested in the class, please let me know soon. You can email me at neill.s.morgan@gmail.com or call or text me at 903.814.9343. If I have an idea how many people plan to attend, it will help me prepare the class appropriately and reserve a room that is the right size. Childcare or Sunday School for children and youth will be available at the same time. We will also provide a Zoom link for anyone who would prefer to participate remotely.



Whether you are already a member or are thinking about joining Darnestown Presbyterian, this class will deepen your understanding of our mission and ministry.

The class will include general information about Presbyterian theology, history, and form of government and also some information specific to our congregation — traditions, history, and how to get stuff done around here — all questions answered.

Attending this class does not obligate anyone to join the church, but it will prepare you to make an informed decision about membership and how you might best use your gifts for God's purposes.

I am planning for ten classes on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., beginning January 9, 2022. Though we receive new members and baptize throughout the year, Easter (which falls on April 17, 2022) is a traditional time for baptisms and joining the church. For those who wish to join the church, this class will prepare you to make that decision by Easter.

Blessings,

Neill Morgan
903.814.9343



Friday, December 24

5:00 pm Family
Worship Service.

8:00 pm - Candlelight
Worship Service.

Sunday, December 26

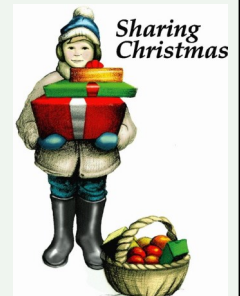
10:30 am - Lessons
and Carols Service

Holiday Giving Program

Thanks to your loving support, Darnestown Presbyterian served Thanksgiving meals (many via gift cards this year in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic) to **50 families in the Montgomery County's Holiday Giving Program** administered through **Germantown HELP**.

Right now we're assuming that all of these families are enrolled in the program for Christmas as well. But through your generous donations, **our hope is to be able to serve 50 or more families at Christmas**. So if you'd like to adopt a family and provide Christmas dinner and gifts for the children (via gift cards or traditionally by 'contactless' delivery), **please contact Rob Garretson at rgarretson@gmail.com or 301-980-4043**.

Financial donations to the program are still welcome and will allow us to serve more families for Christmas.





Help Needed! On **Sunday, December 5**, we will go to the Food Pantry at **Germantown HELP** at **1:00 p.m.** to package boxes for needy families. We meet at the Germantown Methodist Church. **If you can help**, please contact Rob Garretson (rgarretson@gmail.com)

Our Food Drive for the HELP Pantry will be held during January.

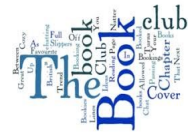
Book Club: December 2021

Read, Think, Dessert...

May the Glory of the Season live in your heart as you prepare for the coming of the Christ child and all the days of your life.

The Book Club will not meet in the month of December, but don't let that keep you from reading a good Christmas story, the book of Luke has a beautiful one! (Luke 2:1-7) A few good books for Christmas are: Comfort and Joy by Kristin Hannah, The 13th Gift: A True story of a Christmas miracle by Joanne Huist Smith, The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel, Christmas Jars by Jason F. Wright (there are 3 books), Santa Cruise by Fern Michaels, The Mistletoe Murder: And other stories by P.D. James.

We will resume meeting in January 2022, reading "The Rose Code" by Kate Quinn. Meeting Date: **January 25, 2022: 7:30 pm** in the Gathering Area at DPC.



The **Joy Offering** will be received during Advent and through Christmas! One half of the total will support specific work of the PC (USA), caring for denominational staff and providing scholarships at our colleges. The other half we send to a particular mission or ministry – this year to the Medical Benevolence Foundation, which works with churches and medical professionals in several developing countries to expand health care and train local people to care for their fellow citizens. MBF says: "God called the Church to serve the poor and we faithfully went and fulfilled the call....Our role is not to do the work for them – that would be toxic charity. Instead, our role is to equip the medical ministry of the Church in each country to use the gifts God has given them, so they can be who God has created them to be." (Quotation from Medical Benevolence Foundation at www.medicalmission.org)



As MBF works in Malawi, Haiti and elsewhere, with its partner churches, it has these goals: Christian witness, excellence in medical care, sustainability, accountability, partnership, and building competence by enhancing skills. We hope you will share your Christmas joy through this special offering!

Use the pews envelopes and indicate on the memo line of your check "Joy Offering"; you can give electronically via the church website, or you can mail a check to the church. Remember, that with these special offerings, if we each give a little, we'll really accomplish a lot!



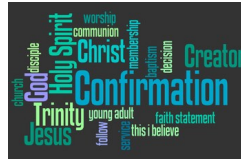
*Thankful for the prayers,
encouragement, cooperation
and support of the Congregation,
we wish for you all the joys
and blessings of Christmas.*

Your Church Staff,

*Neill, Eric,
Terrie & Carole*

December Calendar for Confirmation Class 2021:

- December 2** Session 6: What Does It mean to Be a Disciple of Jesus?
- December 9** Session 7: What Does It mean to Show Christ's Love?
- December 16** Session 8: Will You Devote Yourself to the Church's Teaching? And Session 9: Will You Devote Yourself to the Church's Fellowship?
- December 23** Will you Devote Yourself to the Breaking of Bread? And Will You Devote Yourself to the Prayers?



Special Dates:

Saturday, December 11, 10 am to 2 pm – At the home of Neill and Nancy Morgan. Timeline of the Church, a special lunch together, Polity of the Church and Session 12: Are you Ready to Cross Over? And a lot of FUN with Nancy!

Sunday, December 19, 9:45 am to 10:15 am – Meeting with the Session to present Statements of Faith and be received into membership of DPC.

11:30 am- Special Coffee Hour in Honor of the Confirmands.

Friday, December 24 Confirmation Service during the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service. Please invite your extended family and friends to attend the Worship Service.

Thank you all for being a wonderful class and asking great questions. You will each be a Blessing to the Church,

– *Peace and Blessings, Rev. Neill Morgan and Terrie May*



Please mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 18** for the annual **Wreaths Across America** ceremony and laying of wreaths on the graves of all known veterans in the DPC cemetery. This is a worldwide event to help REMEMBER fallen U.S. veterans, HONOR those who serve, and TEACH children the value of freedom. **We will meet** in the church gathering room (through the main double door entrance from the parking lot) beginning **around 11'ish** for a munchies and social time. If you would like to provide cookies, sweet bread, or cheese and crackers for this event please contact Terrie May, terriemay2017@gmail.com

The welcoming ceremony will be held in the Church Parking Lot near the Cemetery entrance beginning at **12 pm**, followed by the laying of wreaths in the Cemetery. Everyone is welcome – please invite family and friends! This is an **outdoor event** and will be held rain or shine (or snow!), so please dress appropriately for the weather.

Please contact David Layton (laytond@gmail.com) with any questions.

Newsletter Deadline:

December 15 for the January, 2021 issue. Please email your articles to dpchurch@comcast.net



Santa is coming to Darnestown!

Please join us on the Church Patio for cookies and Hot Chocolate as we see Santa coming to Darnestown on Sunday, **December 5, 2 to 4 pm.**

Darnestown Presbyterian Church will be on Santa's route so don't miss out on the fun, fellowship, and cookies. This event is provided by Darnestown Civic Association, and Santa will be driving through our parking lot, most likely on the earlier side of the event. Please bring a lawn/camp chair to set up along the sidewalk in front of the Church building.

Then plan to attend the **Christmas Tree Lighting in Heritage Park at 5:00 pm.** Santa is Coming, Don't Miss Him!



Youth Group December 2021

"I never thought it was such a bad little tree... It's not bad at all, really. Maybe all it needs is a little love." -Linus.

Isn't that true of all of us, a little love will help us all flourish! This is the season of Love, God's love for all His people, Christ's Love brought into this World, and Loving kindness we show more this time of year than any other. As we celebrate the season let us keep in mind God's Love for us helps us to show Love for others. Advent gives us time to prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Christmas. **Advent Blessings, Terrie**

December Calendar

Sunday, December 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent – First Sunday – Service to others: Volunteer at the Food Pantry, do a nice deed for a family member or friend, bring items for Germantown Help to the church Mission closet. One act of kindness to others. **** See the need below as we help to support families in need in Frederick, Maryland. ****

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm- Cookies and Hot Chocolate Bar on the Patio at DPC, join us in **waiting for Santa** to drive by the church parking lot. Fun, Fellowship, and Christmas Cookies!

5:00 pm- Lighting of the Christmas Tree in Darnestown at the Heritage Park (next to the Harris Teeter in Darnestown).

Sunday, December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - Advent Potluck Dinner and Viewing of a Nativity Collection at DPC.

Saturday, December 18 - Wreaths Across America Celebration at DPC Cemetery, 12 noon. Light refreshments and music will precede the service in the Gathering Area and Lower Narthex at DPC. All are welcome. If you would like to provide cookies, sweet bread, or cheese and crackers for this event please contact Terrie May at terriemay2017@gmail.com

Sunday, December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent

9:45 am to 10:15 am - Confirmation Class to meet with the Session of DPC.

11:30 am- Coffee Hour to Celebrate the Confirmation Class of 2021.

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm - Youth Group Christmas Party in the Gathering Area at DPC. We will solve a Nativity Escape Room, share a Festive Meal, and Celebrate.

****Please bring Laundry Detergent to support a title one elementary school in Frederick, MD- Butterfly Ridge Elementary. This school has 228 families living below the poverty line. Please help support them in this very basic way during the holiday season.****

Friday, December 24 - 5:00 pm Family Worship Service. This is the service that will receive our Confirmation Class of 2021: Audrey Ackerman, Jenna Fuhrmann, Georgia Mostrom, & Carl Munter. Light Refreshments after the service.


8:00 pm- Candlelight Worship Service. All are Welcome! Refreshments will be provided after the Worship Service.

Sunday, December 26 - 10:30 am – Lessons and Carols Worship Service.

Speaking of Gifts...

If you're looking for a meaningful way to honor "someone who has everything" during the holidays, **consider a gift of a donation** to support those who are in need. Check out the Presbyterian Giving Catalog at: <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org>.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 9:00 – AV Tech training
5 – 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 1:00 – Work at HELP Food Pantry 2:00 – Santa Drive-By 5:00 – Tree Lighting	6 7:00 – Session	7 7:00 – Circle for All	8	9 10 – Mary Lydia Circle 7:00 – DPW Board 7:00 – Membership	10 9:30 – Bible Study	11 10-2: Confirmation Retreat
12 – 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 11:30 – Worship Comm. 5:00 – Advent Potluck Dinner 7:00 – Purl & Pray (Zoom)	13 7:30 – Mission	14 7:00 – Circle for All	15 7:00 – B & G	16	17	18 12:00 – Wreaths Across America Ceremony
19 – 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:00 – Sunday School 9:30 – Session 10:30 – Worship 5:00 – Youth Christmas Party	20	21 7:00–Stewardship	22	23	24  5 & 8 –Worship Services	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>
26 10:30 – Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

DPW News

DPW's Annual Bazaar – Thank you!

The DPW Board would like to thank everyone who made this year's Bazaar a success. Our amazing crafters and bakers, those who donated gently used items, our setup and Bazaar day helpers, and those who shopped that day – we thank all of you! It was a great day of fellowship and fun, and we raised over \$18,000 for our missions and programs.

Note: We plan to have a table of items for purchase after service on **December 12** just in case you need a few stocking stuffers!

Annual Epiphany Tea

DPW cordially invites ALL church members to join us for our annual holiday tea -- it's a co-ed event this year! Mark your calendars to join us after service on **Sunday, January 9, 2022** in the Gathering Room and lower Narthex for refreshments, fellowship and entertainment. More details will follow.

DPW Budget/Annual Meeting

The DPW budget committee has begun discussion of the 2022 budget, so please let us know if you have a mission or program you'd like us to consider! Please contact Cheryl Dottermusch at cdottermusch@comcast.net or (301) 646-4928. Upon completion and distribution to all women in our congregation, we will review both the proposed budget and planned programs at our annual DPW meeting in January.

Mary Lydia Circle will meet for their annual holiday lunch this month in lieu of a study session. We will meet at noon on **December 10** at Café Roma at 12166 Darnestown Road (across from QOHS). Join us! For information contact Alice Frenck at 301-869-2137 or Betty Petrola at (301) 385-2520.

Circle for All

Men and women of DPC and their friends – please plan to join us for our evening Circle for All Bible Study. We will meet **December 14 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library and Zoom. This session's studies revolve around the "What My Grandmothers Taught Me" Horizons study guide. For information contact Neill Morgan at 903-814-9343.

Purl and Pray will meet **via Zoom Sunday, December 12** at 7 p.m. Join us - Winter is a great time to learn! Contact Ellen Terry at eterryphonehome@gmail.com for more information.