Delmar Reformed Church
386 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054
www.drchurch.org
518.439.9929
JANUARY 2017

9:30 am Traditional worship
11:15 am Contemporary Worship
Nursery & Sunday School at each Worship Service

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED
Info@drchurch.org

THE INFORMER
A Newsletter of Delmar Reformed Church
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday, February 5
10:00 am we will join with the congregations of the FOCUS churches for the annual worship service.
Worship at Westminster Presbyterian on State Street in Albany.
Meet at DRC at 9:30 a.m. to carpool OR
if we have 20 interested people, DRC will rent a bus, the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the church office.

Fundraiser, Sunday, February 12: Please join FOCUS Churches and the Hunger Action Network of New York State at the Elks Lodge, 25 S. Allen Street from 1 to 3 pm.
For only $25, you can pick out a beautiful hand-crafted ceramic bowl donated by area artists, and enjoy all the wonderful soup and bread you like. You can pre-register by calling FOCUS at 443-0460. All proceeds will go to feed the hungry and fight against the conditions that cause hunger. Free parking.

Mark your Calendar
- January 29 ~ One worship service at 10 am & Annual Congregational meeting & lunch
- February 2 ~ Senior Lunch
- February 5 ~ 10 am FOCUS Worship Service @ First Presbyterian Church, Albany
- February 5 ~ 4 pm Communion Service at DRC
- February 12 ~ One worship service at 10 am Pastor candidate preaching
- February 14 ~ Ruth Circle
- February 14 ~ Women of Wisdom
- February 11 & 25 ~ Men’s Breakfast
- February 20 ~ President’s Day Office Closed
- February 26 ~ One worship service 10 am ~ Shrove Sunday Pancakes & Lenten Projects
- March 1 ~ Ash Wednesday Agape Meal and communion

News from the Pastoral Search Team
The Search Team is pleased to announce that the candidate for Senior Pastor is coming to lead worship at DRC on Sunday, February 12 at 10 a.m.
This is a special time for DRC to come together as one body to hear the candidate preach. Directly after the worship service, there will be a congregational meeting where folks may express their thoughts about the worship experience and ask questions. Consistory will seek the will of the congregation regarding the candidate with a verbal vote.
Directly after this congregational meeting, Consistory will conduct a vote regarding the final approval of the candidate. Once Consistory approves, “a call” can be issued. The call is similar to an employment contract and must be approved by Classis. Once Classis approves the call, we can plan the installation service of our new senior pastor.

The Annual Congregational Meeting and Meal is Sunday, January 29 after the 10 am worship service. More information about the candidate will be shared during the meeting.
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the Search Team.
Susan Leath, Noreen Fargione, Co Chairs
Nicole Bielleter Rick Bird Mike Cooper
Eric Hannay Tom McIlroy Linda Miller
Tom Orsini Bob Samson Sharon Schultz
Marilyn Spencer Ana Webb Jessica West

Summer Mission Projects are being researched. (Possible July dates) Look for more information next
Sunday, January 29 ~ ONE worship service
There will be one worship service at 10 am followed by our annual Congregatio-
nal Meeting and a Lasagna Luncheon.
*Lasagna ~ meatballs ~ sausage ~ garlic bread ~ salad bar ~ dessert
Consistory and our Pastor will conduct an interactive meeting. We review 2016
(both the spiritual and financial). We will celebrate our successes and plan for
our future. More information about the pastor candidate will be shared.
Nominees for consistory (2 elders, 2 deacons and an *endowment team mem-
ber) are presented as well as the budget for 2017 for you, the congregation,
to vote upon.
Please call the office, 439-9929 with your RSVP for dinner and let us know if
you are able to help clean-up afterwards.
A Free-will offering will be taken. Childcare is provided.
*The Endowment Team manages the DRC “savings accounts”. Each member
serves a seven year term. These monies are used for filling the cracks when
emergencies occur or projects that have a long term 5 year+ lifespan. The next
newsletter will have an article with more information about the Endowment

Mug &
Muffin

Ladies,
Please join us for fellowship and inspiration, Saturday, February 4 at 10 am in
Bennett Parlors, in your walk with Jesus. All women of DRC and their friends
are welcome!
We will share brunch goodies, get to know one another, and hear some inspira-
tion of faith and thankfulness. DRC’s, Michelle McIlroy, will share with us
from her life, inspiring us to a life of love, joy and thankfulness.
*Bring your favorite mug!* - you will have a chance to fill it with goodness, as
well as share why it is special to you. If you have a brunch dish you would like
to share, you are welcome to bring it, but it’s not necessary.

Shrove
Sunday
Pancakes

Sunday, February 26 One worship service at DRC 10 am
Our DRC tradition of celebrating Shrove Sunday continues on February 26
after our 10 am worship service.
Let us treat you to a delicious pancake breakfast, while you get materials to
help you prepare for Lent. We will have Lenten devotionals for you as well as
lots of kids crafts and a special project for the adults, too. Each craft will repre-
sent an aspect of Lent that you can display or use to help enrich your ob-
servance of this most special time.
Join us!

Camp
Fowler
Day
Saturday,
January 14
35 Campers 10 adults
and 4 teen age helpers
had great fun at our
3rd Camp Fowler Day.
Our fantastic kitchen volunteers
kept everyone well-fed, providing
healthy morning and afternoon
snacks, dinner, and even a special
treat of indoor s’mores. All camp-
ers and volunteers agreed – YUM!

Solstice
Stories and
Songs
On a cold December evening, people of all ages
gathered at DRC to celebrate the solstice in story
and song.
Our guest storyteller and musician were “Uncle
Kent” Busman and Abbie Hileman. Those gathered
heard a variety of stories from Kent and an assort-
ment of winter and Christmas songs on guitar and
on banjo. A rockin’ rendition of “Go Tell It on the
Mountain” was sung by all.
This Camp Fowler Fundraiser is an annual tradition at DRC and is wonderfully
attended by people from all over the Capital Region.

Nicaragua
Education
Fund
Education is hope. The Nicaragua Education Fund was created
to provide a more secure future for our brothers and sisters.
As most of you know, through our Partnership with El Castillo we have been sponsoring teens
and young adults to stay in school and end the cycle of poverty in their community. More than 30
students have already completed basic computer and English language classes, and fifteen will
continue college studies in nursing, education, business, and other careers in 2017.
Many of you have responded with generous pledges already and we are almost there! If you can
help, please fill out the information, below, and drop it in the offering plate or at the Church
office. For more information, Peggy Becker at 475-9099
$70 – one student/one month, $420 one student/one semester, $840 – one student/one year
Name:____________________________________
Pledge Amount:__________ (annual, semi-annual, other)
Family Promise Update

Family Promise hosted Miriam and her son, Armando. Those who were able to spend time over Christmas week had a chance to meet them as they stayed at the parsonage. Miriam expects to begin working for the Red Cross in early January and Armando anticipates a job with a family friend installing air conditioners in Albany. Armando enjoys chatting with volunteers and playing card games.

A new family joined Family Promise toward the end of the year. Leamon & Ava and their three children, Khadijah, Samir, and Naimah are eager to find work locally and to secure affordable housing. Leamon has worked in a warehouse as a lift operator and is looking for similar work now. Ava has served in management, reception, and as a housekeeper. Sadly, they both became unemployed when the company they worked for near Atlanta closed. They came to Troy to live with family while looking for work but it was much too crowded so we have welcomed them.

As we begin a new year and plan for future host weeks at DRC, please pray for our guests, volunteers and supporters of this precious ministry. It is truly a mission program that requires many hands and many hours of service in order for it work well. For those who haven’t volunteered and are curious about Family Promise, a volunteer “how to” will be circulated that I hope clarifies how it works at DRC!

Stay tuned for details and keep your eyes open for fish!

RPM News

RPMs, the senior high youth group is an ecumenical group comprised of Reformed, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches.

Any 9-12 grade student is welcome to join in.

E-mail Beth Gould: RPMyouthgroup@gmail.com with questions.

Prayer & Praise

Prayers for healing: Carolyn Schultz, Brita Gieryc, Richard Hale, Pam Stewart
Prayers of Celebration: for the birth of Mackenzie Sanchez, daughter of Andrea and Steve Sanchez, granddaughter of Mona and Tom Larsen.
Thank you from Ariann Bazinet for the lovely Christmas basket.
Thank you DRC for your great generosity to the Christmas Adopt-a-Families. We provided approximately 100 gifts to local families.

What IS the Denominational Assessment ???

How much are the assessments this year? $93.59/each Active Member of DRC.
Where does the money go? Most of the money is paid to the General Synod ($52.23), national, and the Synod of Albany ($30.00), upstate NY. The remaining money ($11.36) goes to the classis, Albany area.
What is the money used for? Programs sponsored by Albany Synod include youth retreats, pastors’ retreats, and continuing education opportunities for all. The General Synod assessment supports structure for the ministry of RCA congregations and helps support theological education. The Classis, like the Regional Synod, uses assessments for administrative and program costs.
Why are we assessed? We are part of a covenant community and as such, we share what we have with each other. Our representatives to classis, regional and general synod meetings prayerfully discern God’s call to us and try to equally distribute the cost of our ministry.
How can we help? Our assessment bill at DRC is approximately 5% of our budget. Some people make a special gift to cover their assessment. The rest comes out of our general funds. If you would like to pay some or all of your assessment, please be sure to include “denominational assessment” in the memo line. Assessment contributions are tax deductible and included on your DRC giving statement, however they are not counted toward your annual pledge.

Grounds for Giving

Fundraiser to Benefit RPMs Spring Mission Trip
Saturday, March 18 ~ 6 - 9:00 pm
Fellowship Hall
Tickets: $15 or 2 for $25
Child Care will be provided prior sign-up is a must!
Tickets will be available during church fellowship hour, or e-mail: RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com and they will be available at the door.
Join the RPMs for our annual fundraiser to benefit the Spring Mission Trip (more information next month). The Sacandaga String Band will play and the RPMs will serve hors d’oeuvres and an array of desserts and coffees! As always we will have our wonderful silent auction.

FAQ’s

Things are getting fishy around DRC!

During Lent, DRC will participate in the World Hunger campaign. The theme is “Fish for Change” rooted in Luke 9:16-17, “Taking the 5 loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. They ate and were satisfied.”

For 20 years children and families have been filling World Renew’s orange Peter Fish banks with coins to help people in need.

Our participation can help remind us of how God used the offering of the people, multiplied it through His grace and provided enough for everyone.

By collecting our change in the distinctive orange fish banks, we can help continue this work. Devotional booklets and Peter Fish banks will be provided.

Stay tuned for details and keep your eyes open for fish!

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