



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed

July 31, 2022

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 a.m.

**Please stand, as you are able. Assisted listening devices are available in the Narthex and the Philips Foyer.*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Aria

Flor Peeters

WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Deuteronomy 5:6-9, and The Book of Esther)*

One: The One who created all humans, who formed us in the womb, tells us this:

All: **You are fearfully and wonderfully made in My image.**

One: The One who hears the voices of peoples long silenced, tells us this:

All: **I will walk beside you and I will lift you up.**

One: The One whom Esther worshiped, the only one to whom she bowed down, tells us this:

All: **I am the LORD your God, you shall have no other gods before me, you shall not bow down to them or worship them.**

One: The One who nurtures us, who calls us by name, tells us this:

All: **I am the Lord your God. You are precious in my sight and I love you.**

**OPENING HYMN 307*

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM Rhondda

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wilmesherr

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creating and rescuing God, your power amazes us. Yet even in our amazement, we take too long to turn to you, forgetting that you are the power that makes, saves, and sustains us. Even when we claim your power, we often do so for our own success and comfort, ignoring your command to use your power on behalf of the weak, the small, and the vulnerable. In Jesus Christ, you show us that you are on the side of all people, but never at the expense of the weakest among us. Forgive us when we try to hoard you for ourselves or try to control who has access to your love. Forgive us when our greed, our control, or our scandals keep others from knowing you. Redeem us and transform us, O God. Open our hearts, our lives, and our ministries, that we may become a doorway to your realm. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO PARDON HYMN 71

Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me

Allison Melton, mezzo soprano

(soloist on stanzas; congregation on refrain)

First Song

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT

Kathryn Hecker

Leader: We now go our separate ways.

Adults: **May God be with you there.**

Children: **May God be with you here.**

Children are invited forward. Following the Inter-generational Moment, children ages 4 to 3rd grade have the option of attending Children's Chapel, for June and July held in the Nursery. For pick up after worship, exit the sanctuary through the door by the piano and walk past the reception desk and take the stairs up a half level. Then, go through the glass door, and the Nursery is directly across the hall. If you need assistance finding this space, please ask an usher. Today's Children's Chapel Leader: Catherine Carter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Esther (selected verses)
(pew Bible, page 444, OT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Summer Sermon Series: Strong Women of Faith

SERMON

“Esther”

Dr. Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Declaration of Faith)

Rev. Wilmesherr

Hope in God gives us courage for the struggle. The people of God have often misused God’s promises as excuses for doing nothing about present evils. But in Christ the new world has already broken in and the old can no longer be tolerated. We know our efforts cannot bring in God’s kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now Jesus is Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

Dr. Speed

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

Rev. Wilmesherr

(Please sign and pass the **Ritual of Friendship Register** at this time so that we might know your concerns and keep you informed about the life and ministry of this community of faith.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Teach Me, O LORD

Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.
[Psalm 119:33]

*DOXOLOGY 606

Old Hundredth, L.M.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Scan the QR Code on the back of the bulletin to give online!

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN 620

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Lauda Anima

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Speed

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Allegro Maestoso (from WATER MUSIC)

G. F. Handel

† † †

Music

Matthew McMahan, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Chancel Choir

† † †

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
in honor of the July 30 wedding of

Alexandra Vlk

and

Robert Peterson

(grandson of Jim & Margaret Newsome)

in loving memory of our son

Wayne Garner Holbrook

and my beloved husband

Charles David Holbrook

by Pat Holbrook

15-Year Anniversary for Our Senior Pastor

Join us on Sunday, August 7th to celebrate Todd Speed's 15 years as our Senior Pastor. We'll recognize Todd during the worship service and continue the celebration at the Kick Off Sunday lunch that follows. To help commemorate the occasion, Todd is asking each of us to answer the question "What do you love about DPC?" Blank cards will be available at the reception desk later this week and in the Narthex and Philips Foyer for the next few Sundays. Please join us in person to show our appreciation for his leadership and service to Decatur Presbyterian Church. Post "What I Love about DPC" messages on our Facebook page! Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to register for the lunch! Questions? Marianne Adams, adamsmm@bellsouth.net



SCAN ME

† † †

Open Date on DPC's 2022 Flower Calendar

We have one open date on the 2022 Flower Calendar—September 18. Please contact Lee Smith, our Flower Coordinator at smithle@bellsouth.net if you are interested in sponsoring flowers for worship on that date.

† † †

Prayer Squares Are Back!

The Prayer Square Ministry has restarted. Please stop by one of the baskets located in the narthex, Philips Foyer, or at the reception desk to pick up a square. Prayer squares can be for yourself or someone you know who needs a little reminder of the love that surrounds them.

† † †

A Conversation with Chris De Pree about the James Webb Telescope Images and Theology

Interested in the James Webb telescope images? Want to learn more about what we're seeing and what it means? Join Agnes Scott College Professor of Astronomy, Dr. Chris De Pree and Columbia Seminary's Professor of Theology, Dr. Martha Moore Keish, Professor of Christian Ethics, Dr. Mark Douglas, and Professor of Old Testament, Dr. Bill Brown who will ponder these questions. **Wednesday, August 3, 8-9:30pm EST** This online event is free and open to the public. Zoom Link: <https://ctsnet.zoom.us/j/81745136091>.

† † †

Women's Retreat August 27

The Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington will join us as our guest speaker and will explore with us the Ten Commandments. Bethany is a pastor in East Tennessee, a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, and creator of Sacred Calls: Zoom adult Christian Education. Throughout the day we will ground our understanding of God in this well-known and much beloved text while developing a fresh perspective on its call to community. We will dabble in love languages and creative writing together, so come ready and willing to see your church family with new eyes.

When: August 27th, 10 am-4 pm **Where:** Decatur Presbyterian Church

Cost: \$25, includes snacks, lunch, and materials

Childcare available for all children at no extra cost, please let us know in advance if you plan to bring your children so we can plan accordingly. Registration is available online or by calling the church office.

† † †

Families Retreat at the Calvin Center August 20 & 21

Families of children and youth are invited to the Calvin Center for a Retreat August 20 & 21. You may come for the day or stay overnight. All children, youth, and their families are welcome! This is the kick off retreat for families to reconnect. Come enjoy canoeing, archery, swimming, worship, games, and more! Use this QR Code to register!

† † †

A Note—and an Opportunity!—from Our Missionary on the Border

Rev. Mark Adams and his wife Miriam Maldonado Escobar, our PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Serving with Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, Sonora and Douglas, Arizona, will join us for worship at DPC on September 18. Below is an update from a recent email about their upcoming Interpretation Assignment:

*This fall, we are pleased to facilitate a trip just for you, called "A Week in the Borderlands." The trip is scheduled for **October 31 through November 5**, and we'd love it if we could have a representative from at least 12 of our supporting churches join us. We will personally be introducing you to each of our ministry partners, and you'll visit their sites, meet their people, and witness the blessing of their ministry to the community. For more information and to register for the trip, visit fronteradecristo.org and complete the Individual Registration Form. Note that you need a current passport for this trip, as most of our time will be spent across the border in Agua Prieta. Peace, Mark & Miriam*



Families
retreat

The Fellowship Class invites you to join our first Sunday morning gathering on **Sunday, August 7** in the Upstairs Conference Room located just off the elevator on the upstairs floor. We will have coffee and light refreshments. We want to get (re)acquainted with each other and share ideas of what our Sunday school class can be this Fall. Our intent is to create a welcoming and belonging atmosphere where we can learn and grow in our faith together. If you are new to the Fellowship Class group, we would love to have you join us so please come on! For information about the **Saturday, August 6th BBQ** at the home of Joe & Reynolds DeLisle at 6:30 pm, email info@dpchurch.org

Look what's coming up!

Look for more information in our announcement slides and church emails on these events (if you're not receiving our emails, please contact dhowell@dpchurch.org):

August 7--Kick Off Sunday. Join us as we kick off the new program year--and lunch by Moe's after worship! Let us know you will join us for lunch by registering at <https://tinyurl.com/lunch87> by **Tuesday, August 2.**

August 10--Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs resume

August 20-21, Family Retreat at Calvin Center, registration is open!!

August 27, Women's Retreat at DPC--registration is open!

"Follow Me" Sermon Series Taking a Break

We are taking a break from the Follow Me Curriculum for our Summer Sermon Series on *Strong Women of Faith* and a series in the fall on the Vital Congregations Initiative. We will return to the curriculum October 2 with the Theme: "Practice Generosity."



WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 Church
Actively Engaged in the World

A Bold Vision and Invitation:

- Building Congregational Vitality
- Dismantling Structural Racism
- Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Scan this code with your smart phone to give online!



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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