

# The Belltower

June - July 2018

A Monthly Publication of Dunnellon Presbyterian Church



*Declaring and Demonstrating the Promises of Christ*

Dear DPC Members and other Friends,

## **Unintended Consequences: A Catalyst for Grace**

In my sixty years of being a Christian and over thirty as a pastor, I have discovered that some of the most profound experiences of grace in my life have come through situations that were not meant to intentionally produce an experience of grace. I have attended, lead, or participated in hundreds of worship services with hundreds of well-planned liturgies with the finest of music and preaching. I have attended gatherings of all types, each intended to produce grace-filled moments of holiness and wonder. There have been many experiences of grace in my life of the Church, but I have found that even as well planned as we are as Presbyterians, how decently and in order we invoke Grace's presence, that grace is often carried through, and is essentially, an unintended consequence.

Many of us have heard stories of unintended consequences, some of which have produced great pain, while others may have produced great gain. I can recall a number of stories about unintended consequences, perhaps the most profound example of pain being the Black Death, one of the most devastating pandemics in human history. Oriental rat fleas that travelled on Asian Black Rats spread the disease. Much later it was pointed out that in the years prior to the Black Death, zealot Christians had been actively eradicating the cat population, thus allowing the rat population to flourish. They believed cats were the vessels for Satan's spirit. Fewer cats, less of the Devil, right? In their zeal, they could have never imagined being (at least partially) responsible for up to 60% of Europeans dying.

On a much lighter and fun note, sometimes unintended consequences produce gain. Folklore claims that in 1853 American chef George Crum (aka George Speck) was preparing dinner at the Moon Lake Lodge resort in Saratoga Springs. French fries were popular at the restaurant and one day a diner complained that the fries were too thick. Although Crum made a thinner batch, the customer was still unsatisfied. Crum finally made fries that were too thin to eat with a fork, hoping to annoy the extremely fussy customer. The customer, surprisingly enough, was happy - and potato chips were invented! Unintended consequences.

At the last meeting of Presbytery, I experienced one of those moments of grace that was an unexpected consequence of the action of others. It had already been a busy day at the Presbytery meeting and we were enjoying a worship service replete with buoyant congregational singing, earnest prayers, a fine sermon delivered by Holly Inglis, as well as commissioning our commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly. Gary Hardesty invited us to the Table with an Easter greeting. As Gary, alongside co-celebrant Moderator-elect Diane Watkins were readying the elements, we were asked if we would hold the elements until all had been served, so we could commune together in a unifying action. The bread was passed, and each of us took a well-cut rectangle of dark bread and held it until all were served. Unlike other situations (in which similar instructions had been given regarding the partaking of the elements) we were not immediately instructed to eat of the bread together. Instead trays of cups were immediately being passed. The thought that came to my mind was, "how am I going to hold the bread, pass the tray, select a small cup of juice without spilling either my cup, or God forbid, the whole tray?" And then came the unexpected moment of grace.

Faced with the challenge while sitting on the end of the row, three options or choices became available. One, I could simply be served by the server. With bread in my one hand, I could simply hold my bread, take a cup and let the server decide how to serve the rest of my row. Secondly, I could use my one empty hand to hold the tray of cups and serve the person to my right, trusting that I would figure out a way for me to pick up a small cup of juice from the tray. Or thirdly, I could put down my bread in my lap and use two hands on the tray so I might pass and hold the tray while still securing the liquid portion “of the visible and outward expression of an invisible and inward grace.” My neighbor, elder Jean Kennedy made it easy. She put her piece of bread in her lap, allowing me to hold onto my bread awkwardly taking the cup as she received the tray from the server and passed it to elder Joh Lybass after retrieving her own cup. When all had been served we ate and drank together demonstrating that symbolic unity desired by the co-celebrants.

Reflecting upon that moment I found grace in the awkward moment that led to producing unintended consequences. Grace that was unexpected, not preplanned or contrived.

First, I found grace in contemplating being served. Flashes of scenes from the life of Jesus flew through my head. I thought of when Jesus was in the home of Simon the leper and an unidentified woman pours an entire jar of pure nard over Jesus’ head anointing him with a perfume that filled the air in the room, of Mary in Lazarus’ home as she pours perfume on Jesus’ feet and washes Jesus’ feet using her hair and finally, Jesus washing the feet of his disciples in the Upper Room and Peter’s resistance. The remembrance of the grace that is found in the humility of sometimes simply receiving and not having to reciprocate flooded over me. The very possibility of the grace of Sabbath rest expressed in being served, and being able to focus upon the gift of the sacrament was present in the awkward moment.

In the awkward moment, and in that which actually happened, I found grace in the act of the woman putting her bread down in her lap in order to serve others and receive the grace that was found in her serving the cup. There is grace in being willing to risk that which is precious, so as to serve others and in doing so receive grace upon grace. A voice that I imagined to be Ulrich Zwingli’s, screamed in my head for a moment, “lighten up, it’s only bread, so what’s the big deal she put it down in her lap”. Never-the-less, her willingness to put down something precious, for me so that I might fully enjoy this remembrance, remains in my mind.

Finally, I reflected upon the grace that was received and practiced so that somehow all were served and I did not hear the crash of a tray full of cups or a call for “cleanup on the center aisle.” The silence was an expression of grace that is found in cooperation, creativity and problem solving that is possible in the community that is truly focused on being there for one-another. The phrase “one-another” is used some 100 times in 94 verses in the New Testament. One third of the “one another” uses are dedicated to urging church unity. Another third of the “one-another” passages instruct us to love one another. Fifteen percent of the passages stress humility and deference among believers, while the final 15% or so of the “one-another” passages speak of truth telling, encouragement and hospitality. We demonstrated we were there for one another and that practicing that forgiveness about which Holly preached might be a possibility.

I was surprised by the grace found in unintended consequences. May we each find ourselves blessed in such a way, yes even in our work and worship as members of Dunnellon Presbyterian Church.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Jeff*



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Results for APRIL:



**Revenue:** April marks the beginning of year 2 of our 3-year stewardship campaign. While contributions were significantly down, it does appear some of the shortfall is timing (either catching up from or contributing prior to going away, etc.). I do hope the shortage in giving is not from a perceived notion that since we're in the black year-to-date your commitment to your pledges and to this congregation is no longer needed, it is.

**Expenses:** The expense favorability is from \$2,121 stewardship campaign costs incurred last year and \$895 timing of the annual pest control contract that is being paid in May compared to April last year. Offsetting this favorability is (\$1,508) *Per Capita Apportionment* (Presbytery charge) paid one month later than in previously years.

I would like to take a moment to thank those (you know who you are) who have taken the time to offer words of encouragement concerning these monthly Treasurer Reports. It's easy to adopt a "why bother" attitude when it appears no one is reading them... Thank you.

Until He returns or takes us home,  
Craig Henry

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## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

**Church Office Phone:** 352.489.2682

**Office Hours:** 9:00 am -1:00 pm, Mon - Fri

Email: [dunnpreschurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:dunnpreschurch@bellsouth.net)

Website: [www.dunnellonpcusa.org](http://www.dunnellonpcusa.org)

[www.facebook.com/DunnellonPresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/DunnellonPresbyterian)

*If you have any changes to your  
address, phone, email, or family data,  
please call the office or email your changes.  
Thank you for keeping our records updated!*

## Thank You Notes

*I would like to thank everyone for their phone calls, cards and concern when Bob was ill. I would also like to thank everyone for all the sympathy and caring I received upon his passing. I am so blessed to be a part of this congregation. There aren't enough words to express my appreciation.*

*With much love to you all.  
Marilyn S.*

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*Thanks to all of you for your calls, notes, and prayers during my recent illness.*

*Your thoughtfulness is so very appreciated by me and my family. I am fortunate to be part of such a caring congregation.*

*Janet E.*

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## *A Special Thank You to Kathy A. DPC Office Volunteer*

Kathy began volunteering to "fold" Sunday bulletins when they actually had to be folded by hand. Kathy and her Dad, Bob A., would come to DPC together and fold and collate bulletins as a team for Judy M. (DPC's secretary 2007-2014). Since September 2014 Kathy has been the "Friday Afternoon Bulletin Volunteer" for Cheryl, while "Dad" runs his errands. Our printer/copier folds the bulletins for us, so Kathy has been collating your Sunday bulletins and inserts beautifully all these years! Kathy also prepares the mailing of bulletins to DPC Members and Friends who are ill or who can no longer attend church services. She even decorates the envelopes with seasonal stickers to "entertain the postman" and the recipient. Kathy's service and dedication to her Dunnellon Presbyterian Church Family is invaluable. Kathy always greets visitors with a beautiful smile and asks how we can help them. I thank Kathy for being the hard working, caring, thoughtful, and loving woman she is, always caring about her church family. I look forward to working with Kathy for many more years! Kathy, we appreciate you and love you!

Cheryl H., DPC Office Secretary

## **PRESBYTERIAN MEN**

### **June and July Men's Breakfast**

**Thursday, June 17, 2018 at 8:00 am**

**Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 8:00 am**

The June and July Men's Club meeting will be held at the Purple Sage Café at 8:00 am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

Please notify Don K. by the Monday before the breakfast if you plan to attend.

Call 352-489-2682

or email dunnpreschurch@bellsouth.net

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## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

### **PW Coordinating Team**

No Meetings in June or July.

We will meet again on  
Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

### **PW Quilt Circle**

**Tuesdays, June 12 and 26  
and July 10 and 24, 2018  
at 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Quilt Circle will meet on June 12 and 26 and July 10 and 24. If you would like to see what we are doing or might want to help, come join us for a day.

Any questions, call Jean Kennedy at 489-2682.

### **PW Life Member Nominations**

The Presbyterian Women Life Membership Nominating Committee is receiving nominations for the 2018 Life Member. Please contact a Committee Member, Carolle C., Barbara L. or Joh L., with your nomination(s).

## **EDUCATION**

Our last day of **Elementary Sunday School** was May 20<sup>th</sup>, and a Celebration took place on May 27<sup>th</sup>, in which we gave thanks, and assessed our progress as a staff.

I want to thank several of you for helping us to have a wonderful Sunday School experience: Cheryl, our secretary, for her timely ordering of curriculum and school supplies; Ali Tank for her instructional help; Kathy C. for providing delicious snacks; Charlotte B. for her timely management and discipline; Don and Sue K. for allowing our students to participate in ushering and choir; and, this congregation for your continuous personal and financial support in helping our youth attend Christian Summer Camp.

I am looking forward to another teaching year this coming September.

Sincerely,

Wayne C., Christian Education Coordinator

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### **Summer Schedule for Adult Bible Study Groups with Pastor Jeff**

**Dialogue & Dessert – Monday Evening  
Parsing with the Pastor – Thursday Morning**

For the **month of June**, please check your weekly Sunday Bulletin to see if "Dialogue and Dessert" on Monday Evening, and /or "Parsing with the Pastor" on Thursday Morning are meeting that week.

During the **month of July** both groups will take a summer hiatus until the week beginning with Monday, August 13, 2018.

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## **MEMORIAL GARDEN**

The engraving on the walls is now up-to-date. If anyone wants their name or a name of a person they wish to honor engraved on the wall, please contact Jean K..

It is a wonderful way to remember someone.

# DPC Community Activities

**DPC Annual Cookout**  
**Wednesday, JULY 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:30 pm**

~~~ Menu ~~~

**Hamburgers & Hotdogs & Fixins'**  
**Cole Slaw ~ BBQ Baked Beans**  
**Dessert**

**Patriotic Entertainment**

**All for just \$7.00 per person**

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Sign-up in the Narthex or**  
**call Church Office 352-489-2682**  
**by June 24<sup>th</sup>.**

## *Note from Canadian Friends*

*Dear Friends at Dunnellon Presbyterian Church,*

*"With many thanks to you for your kindness."*

*Enclosed is our annual offering toward the mailing the Belltower to us in Canada. We look forward to each publication. Thank you again for sending it to us.*

*We sorely miss our Florida winters in Dunnellon as we can no longer make the long trip. This newsletter is a wonderful "touch of home" with our Florida connections, especially the church that welcomed us so warmly.*

*We pray for God's Blessings upon all.*

*Fran and George McM.*

## **JUNE & JULY MOVIES WITH MEANING**

**Saturday June 2, 2018 at 1:00 pm**

The June 2nd Movie With Meaning is the 2017, R-rated, Academy Award winner for Best Picture and Best Director, *The Shape of Water*.

During the Cold War era, lonely Elisa works as a cleaning lady in a top-secret U.S. government laboratory. But her life is altered forever after she and a co-worker stumble upon a hush-hush experiment. **Cast:** Sally Hawkins, Octavia Spencer, Michael Shannon, Richard Jenkins

Netflix reviews were "mixed," to put it mildly:

*"One of the worst, dumbest movies we've seen in a long time. Don't waste your time or money."*

*"Truly an extraordinary film in every regard. Made in the way of a 1950s cold war tale, but with a modern twist. Great visuals. Very well written, very well directed, very well acted. Well deserving of the 'Best Picture' Oscar."*

So join us at 1:00p.m. on the first Saturday of June to watch and give your own review.

At least it (and the popcorn and drinks) are free (donations gratefully accepted).

**Saturday July 7, 2018 at 1:00 pm**

The July 7th Movie With Meaning is *Darkest Hour*, for which Gary Oldman won Best Actor by portraying Winston Churchill. Churchill's stirring defiance of the Nazi threat is the focus of this historical drama that depicts his fearless refusal to surrender Britain to Adolf Hitler and Hitler's relentless army during World War II's early days. It's rated PG-13.

According to one reviewer, "...probably the best portrayal of a historical character I've seen since Ben Kingsley's Gandhi."

If you dislike heat, summer's a bummer, so we'll concentrate on movies that make us feel good while still inducing thoughtful discussion. The seats aren't quite as luxurious as at the theater, but we still have air-conditioning and popcorn. Bring a friend or two and extra snacks if you feel so inclined.

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