



The Ambassador

DELTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Words From Wendy

I am very excited for Delta, and encourage you to read the information from the Strategic Planning Team to learn more about plans for the future. Sue Settle has written an article that describes their process and how they lived into our vision.



Words
From
Wendy

Maundy Thursday

We will celebrate Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm on March 28. We have invited Dimondale to join us.

On the first Maundy Thursday, the night Jesus was to be arrested, he gathered with his disciples in an upper room to celebrate the Passover. Every year religious people celebrated the Passover, which reminded them of God delivering them from slavery in Egypt and leading them to the Promised Land. This meal, called the Seder, included specific foods that served as reminders of what God had done in the past. They dipped parsley or celery in salt water to remind them of God's promise of new life in the Promised Land and the tears they cried during slavery. They ate unleavened bread to remind them that their ancestors had fled in such haste that they didn't take time to allow the bread to rise before baking it. Jesus gathered with the disciples that night to remember God's deliverance from slavery in Egypt into the Promised Land,

Jesus added to the meal and transformed it into what we remember on Maundy Thursday. He lifted the bread as a reminder of his body, which he would give for us on the cross the next day. He shared the cup as a reminder of the new covenant that would be made through the spilling of his blood during the crucifixion.

When we gather on Maundy Thursday this year, we will remember. We will remember God's deliverance from slavery in Egypt and from sin and death. Join us as we share in the Lord's Supper and remember.

Good Friday

We have been invited to share in Good Friday worship at First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale* at 7:00 pm on March 29. On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. We are reminded of his suffering and death as we await the Good News of Easter morning.

* *First Presbyterian Church, 162 Bridge Street, Dimondale MI 48821 (517-646-6183)*

Easter Breakfast

Again this year we will have a Continental Breakfast before the Easter worship service. We will have various pastries, fruit, juice, coffee, tea, and water. The breakfast will begin at 9:15 am in the sanctuary. Thank you to the Deacons and Spiritual Life Committee for providing the food.



Easter

Join us as we celebrate Easter at 10:00 am on Sunday, March 31. We will have food and fellowship prior to the service (9:15 am). We will celebrate Christ's triumph over death with butterflies, balloons, and by flowering a cross. Join us as we celebrate the most important day of the Christian year.

Strategic Planning Team: Following God into the Future

“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4)

The Strategic Planning Team truly rejoices in the Lord!! We have been on a challenging “journey” as we anticipated and prepared for our pastor’s retirement. This journey has been unlike the typical travel-type journey as we entered this journey without a roadmap – no GPS or even a foldable paper map! Amazingly though, as the team reflected on the process near the conclusion of the journey, we realized that we did, in fact, have a road map all along and that our guide was God. The roadmap? Delta’s Guiding Principles! These principles were developed jointly by the Session and Deacons as they discerned what should guide our congregation at Delta. These principles are noted each month on the Session’s meeting agenda as a reminder that God is always present.

Here are the guiding principles and the impact they had on the Strategic Planning Team. God continues to be our guide!

- A. **God is for us** – The Strategic Planning Team believed all through the process of discerning Delta’s future that God is for us and with us, and with our faith in God, he would be our “guide” throughout the journey.
- B. **God is at work in us, through us, and around us** – Each member of the Strategic Planning Team brought their own personal perspective to the journey. Also, we realized that we were just a part of the plan and needed to work through this journey while establishing communication with the congregation. We needed to be open and transparent with the congregation and we did that. This occurred through the team’s dedication and communication with the congregation via a congregational survey, discussions, and presentations. And we did it even though we could share only as much as we knew, even though many times we had to say “We don’t know yet”. God was working through us and it continued to be important to have communication with opportunities for feedback.
- C. **Watch, learn, and participate in what God is doing** – The Strategic Planning Team watched for and searched for ways to continue on the journey. This led to learning about the Presbyterian Foundation Project Regeneration and enlisting their support in discernment for the future. The team read the book The Sailboat Church which included a 40 days of prayer commitment by each member of the team. During the 40 days we were to continue our reading, pray, and listen for guidance (remember God is our guide!). At the end of the 40 days we once again met with the facilitator from Project Regeneration to discuss and discern what we learned and had occurred to us during that time. It became apparent that now the path on our journey was becoming clearer and more concrete.
- D. **Be not afraid** – As the pathway became more pronounced there was some concern as the team was contemplating something that in the past would most likely not have been considered. We needed to be open to doing something that none of us had ever experienced and was outside of our mental model of what a church could look like. The scary word “change” was now a critical part of the conversation and we realized that if this was to work there needed to be a strong and broad consensus within the congregation. We continued to have a strong belief and faith that God was still guiding us and the path held promise.
- E. **Turn your worries and hopes into prayers**- Now, with a sense of where God was guiding us and what the path could look like and with the realization that changes would indeed need to occur there were worries. But there was also good news – there was hope! So the worries and hopes were prayed over and the team continued to listen for guidance.
- F. **God’s got our backs** – The process that the Strategic Planning Team embarked on was a step in faith for all of us, and regardless of how much praying and planning we did, no one can know if it is actually going to work or not. The team spent numerous hours discerning separately and together, explored and sought new ways to listen to and answer God’s call, and to follow the path as our journey continues. We are encouraged and delighted by the decision to become a “yoked” congregation with First Presbyterian Church, Dimondale, knowing that this a new “norm” and that the road map was aptly guided with faith in God’s plan for Delta. Ultimately, God does have our backs and we are excited for what is to come. Rejoice!!

Summary of Strategic Planning Team Update

Summary of Strategic Planning Team Update to the Congregation at the March 24 Congregational Meeting

- The Strategic Planning Team (SPT) has been coordinating with Rev. Ben Rumbaugh and the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale over the past several months to explore the possibility of hiring Ben to be a full time pastor working half time for each of the two congregations (aka yoking).
- We are happy to report that we have arrived at a “Covenant for Cooperative Ministry” for the two churches sharing one full time pastor.
- At the March 24 meeting, we presented:
 - A brief recap of the activities since our last update in December
 1. March 18 – Delta Session voted to present the following three motions to the congregation to be voted on at the April 14 Congregational Meeting:
 - a. Approval of the “Covenant for Cooperative Ministry” between Delta Presbyterian, Dimondale First Presbyterian and the Rev. Ben Rumbaugh
 - b. Call the Rev. Ben Rumbaugh as half time Designated Installed Pastor
 - c. Approve the terms of call for Ben
 2. March 21 – Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) approved the three motions above.
 3. March 22 – Dimondale Session voted to present the above three motions to their congregation for a vote at their March 24 Congregational Meeting.
 4. March 24 – First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale approved the above three motions at their Congregational Meeting.

NOTE: The Delta meeting was taped and the video recording is located on the Delta Presbyterian website (deltapresby.org) under the “SPT Cooperative Ministry” tab on the left side of the page. The “Covenant of Cooperative Ministry” and the Terms of Call are also located under the “SPT Cooperative Ministry” tab. Printed copies of both documents are also located on the Commitment Center.

Important Dates:

You can check these dates/times for up-to-date information anytime at the deltapresby.org website “Calendar” tab.

- **Sunday, April 14** - Wendy and Ben will do a pulpit exchange. Ben will be available to greet the congregation before worship and after the Congregational Meeting. There will be a Question and Answer period with Ben during the meeting.
- The congregation will vote on the following motions at the meeting:
 - a. Approval of the “Covenant for Cooperative Ministry” between Delta Presbyterian, Dimondale First Presbyterian and the Rev. Ben Rumbaugh
 - b. Approve calling the Rev. Ben Rumbaugh as Delta’s Part-time Designated Installed pastor for a two year contract.
 - c. Approve the terms of call for the Rev. Ben Rumbaugh
- **Sunday, May 19** - Wendy’s last service and 3:00 PM retirement celebration with program and supper (sign-up sheet at the Commitment Center.)
- **Sunday, May 26** - Delta Worships at Dimondale 10:00 am service (Memorial Day weekend, no pulpit supply at Delta)
- **Monday, June 1** - “Covenant for Cooperative Ministry” begins
- **Sunday, June 2** - Delta Worships at Dimondale 10:00 am service
- **Sunday, June 9** - Dimondale worships at Delta 10:00 am service
- **Sunday, June 16** - begin two services - Delta service at 9:00 am and Dimondale at 11:00 am

Here are links to some articles that Ben found about yoked relationships. Check them out!

New Hope Presbytery, North Carolina

- <https://congregationalcorner.wordpress.com/2016/08/18/yoked-congregations-well-muscled-and-powerfully-built/>

Altamont Reformed Church – Helderberg Church, Upstate New York

- <https://www.faithward.org/two-churches-one-pastor-an-old-model-for-the-present-and-future-church/>

The Strategic Planning Team thanks the congregation for their prayers and support throughout our planning sessions. We are very excited about the path God has led us on. This is by no means the end of the journey. We have gained a new pastor and additional traveling partners on our journey and there will be many opportunities to participate as a new traveling family.

Reflecting on the Past: 40 Years of Ministry in One Month

Forty is a significant number in the Bible. Here are just a few of them: during Noah's flood, it rained for 40 days, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years on their way to the Promised Land, Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days after his baptism and before he began his ministry. These are just a few of the stories. Wendy has been in ministry for over 40 years, with her first paid job in ministry starting in the late 70's while she was in college.

Following worship on April 7, 21, and 28, Wendy will share stories from her experiences in ministry in response to your questions for 20 to 30 minutes. On the 7th and 28th she will preach on topics related to those forty years.

We invite the congregation to submit questions for Wendy. The questions should include everything from serious to funny and give Wendy an opportunity to leave some interesting and lasting stories, experiences, and words of wisdom as she begins her retirement adventure. You can ask your questions by writing them down at the Commitment Center. There are sample questions to prime the pump. You can also ask questions during the conversation. Grab a cup of coffee and join us for a time of sharing together.

Retirement Gift Fund

Session has established a Retirement Gift Fund for Wendy's upcoming retirement in May. If you wish to contribute, please designate your donation as "Retirement" on the check memo line or envelope. Donations can be placed in the offering plate on the table in the narthex, mailed to the church or dropped off at the office. Thank you.

Office News



The church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, April 1 & 2.

Memorial Service for Suzanne Martin Butler

On Saturday, April 27, we will celebrate the life of Suzanne Martin Butler, the daughter of Mary Ann Martin. Suzanne died December 27, 2023. Visitation will be here at the church at 12:00 pm, with a service at 1:00pm, followed by a luncheon. The Deacons are asking for your help with providing cookies. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Commitment Center after Easter.

Spotlight on Mission

Thank you for your continuing support of our mission projects. For April, we will be collecting t-shirts and undergarments.



Opportunities to Serve

We are in need of volunteers to serve in a variety of tasks. Check out the Commitment Center to see what the opportunities are. Currently, sign-up sheets include:

- Serving as greeters on Sunday morning.
- Providing food for the fellowship time after worship on Sundays.

Financial Update (from the Resources Committee)

Here are the February Financial Results:

	Pledges	Total Receipts	Expenses	Income over (under) Expense
February	\$ 6,400	\$ 8,730	\$ 15,640	\$ (6,910)
YTD	\$ 26,100	\$ 29,340	\$ 29,670	\$ (330)
% of Budget	20.40%	21.30%	17.70%	



Cause to Rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say Rejoice. Philippians 4:4

We continue to rejoice because God continues to work in and through us.

We rejoice that we will be celebrating the baptism of Henry Lyon on Easter Sunday.

We rejoice in all the members who have made butterflies for our Easter worship.

We rejoice that troop 111 has 2 new Eagle Scouts

We rejoice that Starlight Theatre is once again using our building for their spring production of "The Fantasticks".

We rejoice in the members who participated in the Lenten Dialogues on Sunday morning: Frank Jackson, Art Kelley, Ellen Jackson, Jim Dexter, Meredith Jackson, and John Elsinga.

We rejoice that Ellen Jackson and Fran Johnston have agreed to cover in the church office while Gayle recovers from a stroke.

We rejoice in the plans for the future of Delta Presbyterian Church.

What gives you cause to rejoice around Delta? Let us know and we will include it here next month.



In a World of Disaster, Hunger, and Oppression

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. We participate in this offering during Lent. Our gifts improve life for people around the world and here in the United States.

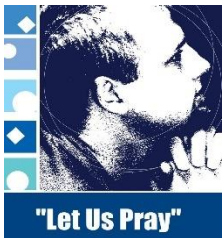


Birthdays

Mar 28	Frank Jackson	Apr 14	Cindy Schilling
Mar 31	Doug Dykstra	Apr 20	Henry Lyon
Apr 5	Mary Jo Kelley	Apr 21	Fran Johnston
Apr 7	Mary Koehler	Apr 28	Ann Ryan
Apr 9	Mary Mead	Apr 29	Richard Mead
Apr 13	Shelly Shinevar		



Let Us Pray



Pray for Delta, Dimondale, and the Rev. Ben Rumbaugh as they prepare to embark on a new relationship. Also, pray for the following people: week of March 31: David & Holly Brock, Georgia Brown, Bob & Jan Buchanan, Kerri Buchanan; week of April 7: Denise Colosky, Jim Constandt, Jim & JoAnn Dexter, Donna Dickert; week of April 14: Lisa Dingwell, Doug & Maureen Dykstra, Carolyn Elliott, Stacy Elliott and Trenten; week of April 21: Nancy Ellis, John & Jane Elsinga, Mark & Kelli Fech, Ronda Fort; week of April 28: Joe & Trudie Frick, Betty Gaffney, Flora Gilber, Julianne Hebert, Holly Henning.

Per Capita

The Per Capita amount for 2024 is \$40.05 per member. You can use the special envelope that is in your envelope packet or just mark the memo line of your check "Per Capita". Your support of the per capita frees up money for other ministries.



Per Capita

Capital City Ringers Concert-April 22

The Capital City Ringers will have a concert here at Delta on Monday, April 22, 7:00 pm. You don't want to miss this!

Worship

Thursday, March 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday

Communion

Exodus 12:1-14

Mark 14:12-26

Remember

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

John 20:1-18

Mary Magdalene Encounters

Christ

Sunday, April 7, 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

Holy Humor Sunday

Change for Change

Luke 18:18-30

God's Ridiculous Call

Sunday, April 14, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:36b-48

Shared Meals

Rev. Ben Rumbaugh

Congregational Meeting to call

Ben as Designated Pastor.

Sunday, April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

John 10:11-18

Of Shepherds & Sheep Dogs

Sunday, April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

I John 4:7-21

The Power of Love



Prayer Care April, 2024

Kirk Oudbier, severely broken leg, son of Jan Oudbier

Sharon VanCourt, recovery from hip replacement surgery

Jeremy, health concerns, VanCourt's great-nephew

Family of Ruth Frick, Ruth died March 4, stepmother of Joe Frick

Gayle Thorne, Administrative Assistant, recovery from stroke

Brian Kelley, health concerns, husband of Rev. Karen Kelley, Westminster Pres.,

Jackson

Amy Lewis, housing concerns, daughter of Denise Colosky

Brian and Verna Batterbee, Nancy Ellis' nephew and his wife, health concerns

Holly Brock, health concerns

Continuing Prayers April, 2024

Mary Ann Martin, health concerns

Shirley Twichell, health concerns, cousin of Denise Colosky

Lisa Dingwell, health concerns

Donna Dickert, continuing health concerns

Nate Batterbee, Nancy Ellis' grandnephew, recovery from massive stroke and heart surgery

Sue Keys, continuing recovery and adjustment from broken arm

Flora Gilbert, health concerns

Kathy Peters, at Masonic Home, Alma

Sharon McPherson, health concerns

Adam LaPratt, son of Roger LaPratt



SESSION

Class of 2024

Doug Dykstra

Chuck Jennings

Nancy Ellis

Art Kelley

Meredith Jackson

Sue Settle

DEACONS

Class of 2024

John Elsinga

Ginny Noble

Geri Jennings

Bonnie Reemsnyder

Mary Jo Kelley

Jane Thomas

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 6:00 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm <i>Boy Scouts</i>	2 Office Closed	3 9:30 am Prayers & Squares	4	5	6
7 2nd Sunday of Easter 10 am Worship Change for Change	8 4:00 pm Resources 6:00 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm <i>Boy Scouts</i>	9	10 9:30 am Prayers & Squares	11	12	13
14 3rd Sunday of Easter 10 am Worship 11 am Congregational Meeting	15 6:00 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm <i>Boy Scouts</i> 7:00 pm Session (Zoom)	16	17 9:30 am Prayers & Squares	18	19	20
21 4th Sunday of Easter 10 am Worship Communion	22 6:00 pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30 pm <i>Boy Scouts</i> 7:00 pm OCD Support 7:00 pm <i>Capital City Ringers Concert</i>	23	24 9:30 am Prayers & Squares	25	26	27 1 pm Memorial for Suzanne Martin Butler
28 5th Sunday of Easter 10 am Worship	29	30				

Updated Calendar

Check out the church website for an up-to-date calendar at www.deltapresby.org. Thanks to Art for his work on keeping it current.

The Ambassador

Delta Presbyterian Church
6100 W. Michigan Ave.
Lansing MI 48917
Phone: 517-321-3569
E-mail: office@deltapresby.org



March 28, 2024

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Wendy S. Pratt
Admin. Coordinator: Ellen Jackson
Clerk of Session: Meredith Jackson
Treasurer: Bill Stirling
Auditor: Joe Frick
Financial Secretary: Fran Johnston
Accompanist: Mengyao Zhao (Chloe)
Adult Choir Dir.: Ellen Jackson
Website Coordinator: Art Kelley

“We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us.” II Cor 5:20 .

We're on the Web!
www.deltapresby.org

Announcements

Let Us Know. When you have prayer requests, would like a visit, are going to be out of town, or have a change in your contact information, please email the office at office@deltapresby.org or call and leave a message on voicemail.

Ambassadors. Delta's newsletter, The Ambassador, is sent out once a month. If you are currently NOT receiving this newsletter by email and would like to, please let the office know and we will put you on the email list.

Communication. We will be posting important updates on our website: www.deltapresby.org and on our Facebook page. If you have not liked our Facebook page yet, please do so that you will be able to see the updates. If you are not currently receiving updates by email and would like to, please email office@deltapresby.org and let us know. If you no longer want to receive email and prefer to receive news and information via U.S. Mail, please call the office and leave a voicemail if the office is closed.

Contributions. If you are not attending worship, please mail or drop off your offerings to the church. Twice a month, Jim Constandt and Fran Johnston will come in to take care of them and get them deposited.

Website Calendar. If you have events that need to go on the website calendar, please let Art Kelley know.

Papergator. Feed our Papergator! The paper, books, and cardstock are recycled, and the church is paid for the amount collected.