



*~ REFLECTIONS ~  
December 2024*



*Delta Community Presbyterian Church  
~ Rev. Dr. Douglas Schoonover ~*



**DCPC**

1900 Willow Lake Road  
Discovery Bay, CA 94505  
**Phone/Fax:** (925) 634-0184



**Email:**

deltachurch@dcpcfamly.org

**Website:** dcpcfamly.org



**All God's Children  
Christian School**

**Phone/Fax:** (925) 513-8006

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# *Elders and Deacons*

## Session Elders

**Dale Anderson**  
Administration & Personnel

**Open**  
Buildings & Grounds

**Open**  
Christian Education

**Marlanna Bathel**  
Clerk of Session

**Open**  
Fellowship

**Open**  
Finance

**Connie Beeby**  
Membership

**Jenny Rodrigues**  
Missions

**Open**  
Outreach

**Fred du Pont**  
Worship

## Deacons

**Mary Anderson**

**Ruthanne Barber**

**Linda Hengl**

**Shirley Jennings**

**Janet O'Connell-Mangham\***

**Judy Mitchell**

**Jeanne Zwemer**

**\* Head Deacon**

## Staff and Others

**Rev. Dr. Douglas Schoonover**  
Pastor - Direct Line

**John McMillan**  
Commissioned Pastor

**Mary Torok**  
Church Office / Office Manager

**Cindy McMillan**  
Music Coordinator/Pianist

**Janet Nelson**  
Historian





## PASTOR'S CORNER

Happy December everyone,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the last month of 2024. I pray that you all had a blessed Thanksgiving with friends and family. We are now preparing our hearts and minds for the season of Advent. "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. We would like you to grow in your faith during this season of Advent, and share your faith with others. We encourage you to invite someone to church during the month of December as a gift to them. Before coming to worship, please read the Scripture for that Sunday. Let God speak to your heart as He prepares your mind for wonderful things, rich with his blessings.

### **December 1, 2024 - 1st Sunday of Advent**

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Gospel: Luke 21:25-39

Sermon Series: "Waiting for the Promise"

Sermon: "The Promise of Descendants"

### **December 8, 2024 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**

Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-4

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Sermon Series: "Waiting for the Promise"

Sermon: "The Promise of Deliverance"

### **December 15, 2024 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Sermon Series: "Waiting for the Promise"

Sermon: "The Promise of the Messiah"

### **December 22, 2024 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-9

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Sermon Series: "Waiting for the Promise"

Sermon: "The Promise of a Baby"

### ***December 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.***


A service of Scripture and Carols

Peace,

Pastor Doug



# DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>1st Sunday Of Advent</b> Worship Service <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Communion</i> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 3:00 p.m. Board of Deacons Meeting 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:15 a.m. AGC Chapel Service 3:00 p.m. Choir Practice  <b>JOIN THE CHOIR</b>	<b>6</b> Set-up Victorian Holiday Market 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 	<b>7</b> Victorian Holiday Market 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 
<b>8</b> <b>2nd Sunday Of Advent</b> Worship Service <b>10:00 a.m.</b> 	<b>9</b>  Celebration of Life <b>Richard Schmidt</b> 11:00 a.m. DCPC Sanctuary Reception to follow	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:15 a.m. AGC Chapel Service 3:00 p.m. Choir Practice 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>15</b> <b>3rd Sunday Of Advent</b> Worship Service <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Communion</i> 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 3:00 p.m. Session Meeting	<b>18</b> AGC Spirit Day <b>Christmas P.J. Day</b> 	<b>19</b> 9:15 a.m. AGC Chapel Service 3:00 p.m. Choir Practice 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 
<b>22</b> <b>4th Sunday Of Advent</b> Worship Service <b>10:00 a.m.</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm 	<b>25</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship Service <b>10:00 a.m.</b> 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i> 				 

# WORSHIP COMMITTEE

## Thoughts from the Worship Elder

### Is Christmas About the Gifts or the Celebration of Jesus' Birth?

In preparing for this message, it came to mind that most of us know about the birth of Jesus (aka: Immanuel) who was born to the Virgin, Mary. I do not wish to reiterate this historical story that came into being as promised; however, I will refer to you Matt 1:18 - Matt 2:23 (NIV). In this time of gift giving, we tend to forget the greatest gift of all, God's gift to us in his son, Jesus Christ. I have often not desired, over the years any gifts for myself at this time of the year due to my understanding of Jesus' birth and its meaning. I realized the greatness of the gift that God the Father gave us in providing His Son for our salvation. Thus, it has been difficult for my family to buy and give me gifts due to my spiritual conflict with this act of gift giving. I already have the greatest gift ever provided to me. I am not suggesting that you stop giving gifts at this time of the year at which we celebrate the birth of the greatest gift of all. However, I am suggesting that a discussion be had with your children and others in your family regarding the birth of Jesus and what deep meaning it has for you and those who believe in Him. Yes, the Magi did bring gifts for Jesus; however, the only other gift to those surrounding Jesus at the time of His birth was Jesus himself, whom God the Father provided to the world. Remember, this holiday is about Jesus. May God bless this holiday in your home by making it "Holy." May He bless your families on this very important day and in all future days. May this be a wonderful Christmas for all of you as the Christian world celebrates the birth of Jesus.

**Joy to the World for Christ is born and still lives!**

Fred du Pont  
Worship Elder



# Missions

## Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Be the hands and feet of Jesus; volunteer with Delta Christian Community Food Pantry! Our mobile food pantry delivers groceries to families in need at 3 locations on Tuesday mornings, 52 weeks a year. Whether you can help once a week, or once a month, at one location or all three, you can be a part of this great ministry. We set up at the following times and locations each Tuesday:

**8:30 a.m.** - St. Anne Catholic Church

**9:30 a.m.** - Calvary Christian Church, in Knightsen

**10:30 a.m.** - New Covenant Church, on Bethel Island

Come check us out! See our website for more information: [www.deltafoodpantry.com](http://www.deltafoodpantry.com) or call Jenny Rodrigues at 925-625-2651

"For I was hungry and you fed me" Matthew 25:35

## Would you like to help the Food Pantry?

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

1. Egg Cartons - NO flats please.
2. Rubber Bands - To fasten egg cartons closed.
3. Plastic Grocery Bags - Flattened please.
4. Zip Lock Bags - quarts and gallons.



Please drop any items off in the Food Pantry Container  
Located in the Church Narthex

Thank You,

Jenny Rodrigues  
Missions Elder



# Delta Christian Community Food Pantry

## Distribution of food on Tuesdays

**8:30 a.m. - St. Anne Catholic Church, Byron**

**9:30 a.m. - Calvary Church, Knightsen**

**10:30 a.m. - New Covenant Church, Bethel Island**

**Serving 120 - 150 families weekly.**

## December Focus

**Canned "Heat & Eat"  
Beef Stew, Ravioli  
Chili, etc...**



- Food, clothing, & household goods
- Self-help resources
- Donations of food & money are appreciated!
- Donated items can be placed in the container located in the narthex of Delta Community Presbyterian Church.

**Volunteers are welcome!**



# **Children's Ministry**

**Come join us every Sunday for Sunday School,**

following Children's Story Corner. Sunday School is more than just learning. We begin with a prayer, then work on an activity unique to each week's lesson.

The children are engaged with a weekly Bible verse, and discussion.

They get to create a work of art incorporating the verse, and then close the activity with prayer.

To stay up to date and learn more about our Sunday School program, check out our church webpage at:

<https://www.dcpfamily.org/sundayschool>

For more information contact the Church Office at:

(925) 634-0184 or [deltachurch@dcpfamily.org](mailto:deltachurch@dcpfamily.org)







## Be a Part of the LEGACY!!!



Our Growing for God Building Campaign is about more than just buildings. It is about a ministry vision that started over 20 years ago. A vision of children learning about God in an environment filled with love and compassion. A school that would meet the educational needs of children for years to come. A church growing with those families and meeting the spiritual needs of the community around it. And with our new buildings, the legacy will continue and grow even stronger. We would love for you to be a part of this. Please click on the link and watch a video that takes you on a journey. A journey of faith. A journey of God's blessings. We pray that you will be a part of it. Please share this with all your friends.

<https://www.dcpfamily.org/building>

We just celebrated our 35th Anniversary as a church. What impact will your giving have 35 years from today? What impact will new families bring to our church and our community? We already have AGC Alumni returning as staff to the campus, paying it forward. Students are graduating from college and contributing in big ways to the world.

## Be a part of the EXCITEMENT!

- Hall of Fame \$500
- Bronze Level \$1,000
- Silver Level \$2,500
- Gold Level \$5,000
- Platinum Level \$10,000
- Premier Level \$25,000

Donations via, Check, Cash, or QR Code  
Make checks payable to DCPC -  
**memo** "Growing for God Building Campaign"

Delta Community Presbyterian Church  
1900 Willow Lake Rd. Discovery Bay, CA 94505

*If you want a personal tour of the campus call  
(925) 634-0184 or email [deltachurch@dcpfamily.org](mailto:deltachurch@dcpfamily.org)*



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

# **VICTORIAN HOLIDAY MARKET**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024**  
**1900 WILLOW LAKE ROAD, DISCOVERY BAY**  
**9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**



JOINT EVENT  
DELTA COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
& ALL GOD'S CHILDREN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*All donations  
benefit AGC  
building fund*

## **Volunteers Needed**

### **For Fellowship Hall -**

Decorate Fellowship Hall  
Bake quick breads  
Make Soup  
Serve beverages, baked  
goods and soup

### **For Victorian Market**

Decorate Multi Purpose  
Room  
Staff Tables  
Santa Claus  
Children & Adult singers  
Check out & payment

Have you made  
items for the  
Victorian Holiday  
Market??

Please let Mary  
Anderson know  
what you have  
made and  
quantity.

Call or email  
Mary Anderson  
775-636-8729 home  
775-501-9303 cell  
[mary.anderson43@gmail.com](mailto:mary.anderson43@gmail.com)



# Poinsettias

As Advent begins Sunday, December 1, you have an opportunity to make a donation of \$25.00 per Poinsettia to be used in our church's worship service on Christmas Eve.

**Below are a few options on how to honor,  
celebrate or remember a loved one:**

- ❖ There will be **sign-up sheets** in the Narthex during the Advent Season.
- ❖ Email [deltachurch@dcpcfamly.org](mailto:deltachurch@dcpcfamly.org) Type "Poinsettias" in the subject line, then provide the following information....
  1. Your first & last name
  2. The full name of the person you are honoring
  3. A single short sentence of why you are honoring that person

**Note: you need to repeat the information for each Poinsettia**

- ❖ **Phone:** You can call Mary at the church office at (925) 634-0184 and provide the same information as above. Be sure to leave all the information and your phone number should you need to leave a voicemail
- ❖ **Donation:** Can be made by cash or check  
(You can mail your donation or stop by the church office)
- ❖ **Contact:** Janet O'Connell-Mangham (Deacon)  
at 925-240-6475 if you have any questions

**Your participation decorating our Sanctuary this holiday  
season is greatly appreciated by the Deacons.  
They also appreciate your donation**

**The Poinsettias will be available to take home  
after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.**





# *"ANGELS IN HEAVEN"*

## **Christmas Ornaments**

**Celebrate the memory of your  
"Angels in Heaven"  
this Holiday Season**



DCPC invites you to bring a picture of your family members/friends who have departed before us to Mary in the front office. Mary will make a copy of the picture and place it inside a special ornament which will then be hung in the Sanctuary for all to see, pray for, and remember along with you this Advent Season.

You may also email your picture to Mary at [deltachurch@dcpcfamly.org](mailto:deltachurch@dcpcfamly.org)

### **ATTENTION:**

If you gave Mary a picture last year and you would like to use it again, please let Mary know and she will re-hang it.

**Deadline to email/drop off a photo:  
Monday, December 16, 2024**





**We're fighting something  
we cannot see!**

**Delta Shadow Boxers**

# **Parkinson's Support Group**

**1st Wednesday each month**

**(except July)**

**Merrill Gardens**

**2600 Balfour Road**

**Brentwood**

**2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**This Parkinson's support group serves the Delta area of Contra Costa County (Antioch, Pittsburg, Oakley, Bethel Island, Knightsen, Discovery Bay, and Brentwood).**

**Please contact the coordinator to confirm the time and offer your contact information for subsequent communications.**

**Contact: Sue Schnittker 925 550-2756; [saresa@comcast.net](mailto:saresa@comcast.net)**

**We are fighting something we cannot see! Our goals are 1) Stay Social, 2) Stay Active, and 3) Stay Informed. Come join us!**