Denbigh United Presbyterian Church November 2026



Faith Weaver Friends

Now that Upward Soccer is over for the fall, we return to Faith Weaver Friends on Wednesday evenings! We will meet for dinner & faith based activities on Wednesdays in November (with the exception of 11/25) as well as December 2 and 9. Join us for faith, fun, and fellowship beginning November 4.

Holiday Meals & Gifts

Our Outreach Ministry is collecting monetary donations to help provide food and gifts for families this holiday season. Last year, we were blessed to serve over 30 families! There are many ways to get involved, including delivering meals, packing food bags, and wrapping gifts. Thank you for helping us share Christ's love and make the holidays brighter for families in our community! Stay tuned for more information.

The Agape School – Open House

We are excited to announce that The Agape School, a Christ-centered school, will be opening in Fall 2027! Kindergarten enrollment is now open. Join us for an Open House on **November 10 from 6:30–7:30 PM** to learn more about the school, mission, and educational opportunities offered. We look forward to sharing this exciting new ministry with you!

DUPC

302 Denbigh Blvd.
Newport News, VA23608
(757) 877-2048
www.denbighunitedpres.org
session@denbighunitedpres.org
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

DIGEST

Inside this issue

FWF/Meals & Gifts/Halloween/Agape 1
Staff/Session..... 2
Worship/Master Schedule 3
Presbyterian Women/Prime Timers.....4
Finance/Adult Education 5
Children's and Youth Ministries.....6
Congregational Care Committee (CCC) 7
Operation Christmas Child 8
Outreach 9
Agents of Grace Sunday..... 10
Agents of Grace Photos 11
Congratulations..... 12
Anniversaries/Birthdays 13
Thoughts/Prayers 14
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever..... 15
Website Presence 16

Church Staff

Senior Pastor
The Reverend Deborah Dail

Associate Pastor
The Reverend Boone Clayton

Office Manager
Autumn Goodwin

Director of Music Ministries
Jane Martin

Accompanist/Organist
Al Buchanan

Accountant
Kayla Brown

Janitorial Service
Lovett Services, L.L.C.

Session Update

- Approved DUPC Financial report through September 30, 2026
- Approved Stated Session Meeting minutes of August 13, 2026
- Elected a Commissioner to the October Presbytery meeting
- Approved Communion dates for 2027
- Elected Mark Tessarolo as Clerk of Session for 2027
- Elected Joan Minarik as Treasurer for 2027
- Elected Mark Tessarolo as Bookkeeper for 2027
- Received committee reports

In-Person and Facebook Live Worship				
Attendance	**10/4**	**10/11**	**10/18**	**10/25**
Worship (in-person)	75	88	107	117
Nursery (+ helpers)	4	4	4	5
Facebook Live	141	x	131	174
YouTube	33	48	27	53
TOTALS (as of 10/31/26)	253	140	269	349
Join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. live on YouTube and Facebook.				



FINANCE REPORT THROUGH
September 2026

Total Income:	**$282,829.65**
Total Expenses:	**$357,937.25**
Difference:	**(75,107.60)**

Worship With Us This Fall

New Worship Series Begins November 1

Join us beginning November 1 for our new series titled "Changemakers." Who are Changemakers? What do they do? People who put their faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Jesus was a Changemaker. The Good News is… so are we. Made in the image of God, sharing in the purposes of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, we are the "assets" we've been looking for. Our wealth lies in the Compassion, Collaboration, Creativity, and Empowerment that sustains us through change, for change, for the sake of a better world.



November 1: Collaboration
November 8: Compassion
November 15: Creativity
November 22: Empowerment

Important Dates:

November 1: All Saints' Sunday/New Series Begins
November 25: Recorded Thanksgiving Service aired on Facebook and YouTube beginning at noon
November 29: First Sunday of Advent/New Series/Decorate for Advent and Christmas
December 4 and 5: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (7 p.m. on December 4 and 3 p.m. on December 5)
December 8: Blue Christmas Service, 7 p.m.
December 11: Christmas Caroling starting at 2 p.m.
December 13: Christmas Family Potluck
December 24: Christmas Eve Services at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday's November 2026 Master Schedule

	1	8	15	22	29
Greeters (front/rear entrances)	MORRISON, BILL/JANET MULLEN, EMERY	MURPHY, BOB/ROSEMARY SHILDT, ELI	SKAAR, BECKY SPRUILL, DOUG NYENTY, MARTHA	HULL, DONNA HUNT, CONNIE KEFFER, KAM	ARDARY, PAUL TERRY, PAT HAKE, KWIN
Ushers	SCHMIDT, AMY STALLS, LEA ANN	MILLER, MARTHA MORRISON, BILL	HULL, DONNA HUNT, CONNIE	MURAWSKI, SANDI MULLEN, EMERY	MINARIK, JOAN NYENTY, MARTHA
Youth Reader	CLAYTON, ELIAS	NYENTY, MARTHA	SHILDT, ELI	HAKE, KWIN	MULLEN, EMERY
Children's Moment	CLAYTON, BOONE	KYLE, JEAN	MURAWSKI, SANDI	DAIL, DEBORAH	SPIVEY, KRISTI
Nursery	CLAYTON, JULIE KEFFER, ADDY	HUNT, CONNIE MULLEN, EMERY	MILLER, MARTHA LLOYD, MOSES	MINARIK, JOAN HAKE, BECCA	WOOLLUM, EMILY JAMES, AUDREY
Welcome Table	MORRISON, JANET	MURAWSKI, SANDI	SCHMIDT, AMY	EDWARDS, THEAL	JOY, BETTY
Counters	MILLER, CHARLES MORRISON, BILL	SKAAR, BECKY SPRUILL, DOUG	AMES, DEBBIE PENNELL, DALE	CRIPPEN, SARA FERRI, MARLENE	HUNT, CONNIE HALL, TERRY
Preparation of Elements	JOY, BETTY				
Communion	HUNT, CONNIE JAMES, DEREK				

Presbyterian Women

Our **Presbyterian Women's Day Circle (Esther Circle)** will meet for its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 17 at 10 a.m. in the conference room.

The **Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle (Priscilla Circle)** will meet on November 17 at the home of Dale Pennell.

For more information about our day or evening circle, please contact:

- **Day Circle — Amy Schmidt:** (757) 713-1345
- **Evening Circle — Debbie Ames:** (757) 880-7494

Prime Timers

- We invite you to our November event, "Friendsgiving" lunch! This will take place at Cracker Barrel on Jefferson Avenue on Thursday, November 12 at 11:30 a.m. In addition to their regular menu, they offer a turkey dinner on Thursdays. Reservations may be made after worship on November 1 and 8.

- In December we are again going to support our Ft. Eustis students as they depart for their Christmas block leave from Patrick Henry Airport. Our donations will provide our young soldiers with meals and snacks as they leave and return from their holiday break. You may give your donations to Elaine Minch or Janet Morrison anytime up to December 13.



Top row: Barbara Norman, Bonnie Williams, Jackie Judd, Elaine Minch
Bottom row: Kathleen Rohlfs, Fred O'Keeffe; Bill Johnson, Carolyn Vassos



Top Row: Claire Dick, Janet Morrison, Terry Harrison, Nancy Phillips, Kristi Spivey, Rosemary Murphy
Bottom row Charles Miller, Martha Miller, Theal Edwards, Bob Murphy

Finance

Tips for holiday giving:

As we approach the holiday season, we are asked to give for many needs. It can be confusing and overwhelming. DUPC has 3 different areas for giving over the holidays. First is Christmas Joy. This money is sent to PEVA and is used to support past, present and future leaders. Please put "Christmas Joy" on check and/or use the special envelope.

The second area is the Christmas Shoeboxes or Samaritans Purse. The money donated helps to pay the cost of mailing the donated shoeboxes all over the world. Members can also fill a shoebox with gifts for children. Put "Operation Christmas Child" in the memo section of your check.

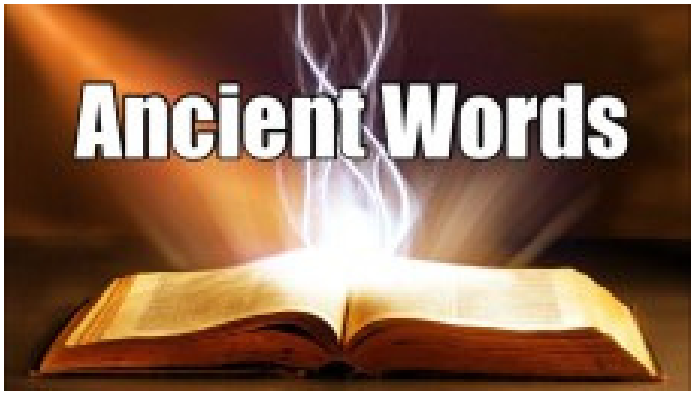
The final offering is for Holiday Meals and Gifts. This money stays at DUPC and provides meals over Thanksgiving and Christmas for church and community families in need. It also provides gifts and undergarments to children at Christmas. Please put "Holiday Meals and Gifts" on the memo section. You can also give to this online.

If you wish to donate cash, write on an envelope where you would like the donation given. Always, any gifts and prayers are welcomed. If there are questions, you can always contact the pastors or the treasurer Joan Minarik (757-329-1582 or jominarik@me.com).

Adult Education

Adult Sunday School Class—Fall Quarter—Ancient Words

Ancient Words is our Sunday morning Bible study based on a plan for reading and studying the Bible in a systematic way. Through November 29, we will study a variety of Old Testament books to dispel the myth that there is a God of wrath there, but a God of mercy in the New Testament. The class meets in the Library Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15. Whether you are well-grounded in the Bible or want to be, you are welcome.



Children's and Youth Ministries

Sunday School Classes

Children'sandyouthSundaySchoolclassesareofferedweeklyat9:15a.m.Breakfastis provided. We hope to see you there! Please contact Kathy Baldwin, Jean Kyle, or Jessica Shildt if you are interested in volunteering to teach Sunday School, drive children to and from church, or sit with children during worship. Join us for Fun, Fellowship, and learning about our Faith!

Kathy ***kmbwin@gmail.com***, **Jean** ***jsekyle@cox.net***, or **Jessica** ***jessica.shildt@gmail.com***

Sunday School Lessons

Sunday, November 1 & Wednesday November 4th (FWF Starts):
Lesson 10: God Makes a Covenant With Abram—Genesis 15:1-18
Bible Point: God has good plans for us.

Sunday, November 8 & Wednesday November 11th:
Lesson 11: Abraham Has Three Visitors—Genesis 18:1–19:29
Bible Point: God does amazing things.

Sunday, November 15 & Wednesday November 18th:
Lesson 12: Isaac Is Born—Genesis 21:1-6
Bible Point: Thank God for his gifts.

Sunday, November 22, No FWF:
Lesson 13: God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael—Genesis 21:8-21
Bible Point: God always hears us when we pray.

Sunday, November 29 & Wednesday December 2nd:
Advent Lesson – Hope, Peace Joy & Love

Children's Sunday School				
	**10/4**	**10/11**	**10/18**	**10/25**
Teachers	5	5	5	2
Students	20	21	23	24
Visitors	—	—	1	1
TOTALS (as 10/31/26)	**25**	**26**	**29**	**27**

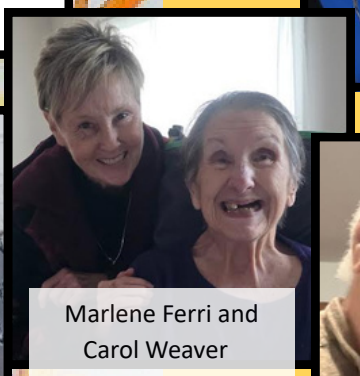
Congregational Care Committee



Elaine Minch, Joanna Daniels, Esther Uma



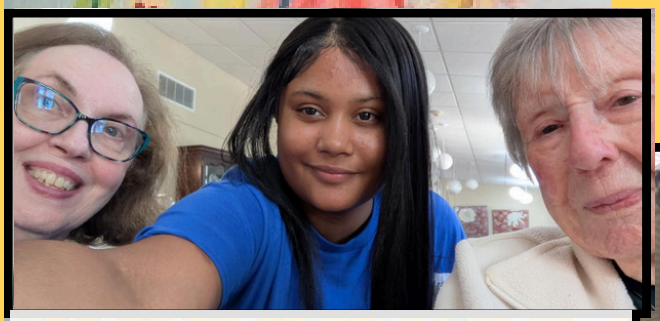
Elaine Minch, Helen Highsmith, Esther Uma



Marlene Ferri and Carol Weaver



Keith Pennell and Paul Sunday



Amy Schmidt, Youth, Jackie Ledbetter



Carolyn Woodard, Bernie Rogers, Melissa James

On October 18, our Agents of Grace visited members of the congregation. Not pictured; John and Betty Mayes with Amy Schmidt & Youth.

The next scheduled meeting will be November 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the library.



Carolyn Woodard, Helen Thiessen, Melissa James

National Collection Week: November 16-23, 2026

DUPC's Collection Deadline: November 15, 2026

We will again collect shoe boxes filled with gifts to be sent to boys and girls in need around the world. Each box is an opportunity for a boy or girl to experience the love of God in a tangible way and hear the gospel. Many boys and girls who receive shoebox gifts also join in the Samaritan's Purse follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey.



Ways You can Help!

1) ***Pray***. for the children who will receive a gift.

2) ***Pack a shoebox***. Use your own shoebox or a pre-printed shoebox, which will be available at the church. Instructions will be in a brochure for your convenience.

3) ***Donate items***. If you are unable to fill a shoebox, you can donate smaller toys, hygiene items, and school supplies (no liquids or edible items). Our Youth will take these items and fill boxes.

4) ***Donate money***. Donations to help pay for postage will be needed for these boxes. Please make checks out to **DUPC** (Memo: Operation Christmas Child)

All supplies and brochures will be available in the narthex on October 4.

Please bring your box back on or before **Dedication Sunday, November 15, 2026**. Thank you for considering becoming a part of this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Morgan at (757) 358-1046.



Bonnie Williams took pictures of **Nancy Williams**, **Barbara Norman**, and **Janet Morrison** after they assembled **30** Operation Christmas Child boxes last year.

Outreach

Evangelism

- In September, our worship service was viewed **446** times on Facebook, and 161 times on YouTube.

Menchville House

- Menchville House needed to replace their old van that was used to transport their guests. Their goal was $68,000. A generous grant was given to them for $10,000 to start the funding. Langley Federal Credit Union stepped up, in an amazing gesture of generosity and funded the remaining balance that they needed to buy the new van.

- During the month of September, eight individuals were able to transition to positive housing destinations, and 48 people found the shelter and support they needed.

THRIVE

- From September 4 - October 1, THRIVE had 6,881 visits to the 'Need Help' on their website.
- THRIVE has expanded their capabilities for assistance to the community by having 16 bilingual volunteers on their staff that represent seven different Latin countries.
- Pantry items needed: rice, jelly, beans, pasta, broth, cleaning spray.

Clothes Donation Ministry

- The next event will be on Sunday, November 15, with set up on Saturday, November 14. Anyone wishing to assist in this ministry, please contact Sheila Stevens at (757) 718-5100.

Individual Family Needs

- Provided food and non food items, to three families.
- Purchased $70 bus pass for a community member.
- Transported a community member to a doctor's appointment.

Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

- During the month of September, Hunger Relief Month, VPF set a goal of raising $50,000 to provide immediate hunger relief to the community. They succeeded! That is the equivalent of 150,000 meals to families and individual experiencing food insecurity.

2026 Agents of Grace
A Fruitful Day of Ministry

- Agents of Grace Sunday was October 18. On that day the church was a sea of blue, with many of our members and friends wearing their Agents of Grace T-shirts. Agents of Grace, a special day held annually in October, is when church members gather to do a little extra for the church and others. It is a day of intergenerational fellowship and working together to accomplish specific goals. This year, 80 people served on ministry teams. Others donated food, toothbrushes, and/or money.

- The **"Lunch Bunch**" team, led by Becky Skaar, served a great lunch and then the ministry teams were off to serve. The "Lunch Bunch," besides preparing and setting up for the lunch, handled all the clean-up and dishwashing.

- The **"Hymn Sing"** team went to sing for residents of The Hidenwood. Led by Jane Martin, this group did two performances (one of which was for the Memory Care Unit) and brightened the lives of those who listened to and sang along with hymns and Christmas carols.

- The **"Hallmark Moment**" team, led by Sarah Phillips, enjoyed fellowship and prayer as they wrote 70 cards of encouragement and prayer for people in our church family.

- The **"Butterfly Garden**" team, led by Joan Minarik, added 10 plants to the garden outside the breezeway, while the **"For the Beauty of the Earth"** team, led by Sandra Kochersperger, planted wildflower and pollinator seeds to make a natural barrier between the soccer field and Denbigh Boulevard.

- The **"Menchville House"** team, led by Sandi Murawski, prepared and delivered a great meal to the 48 residents of this transitional home for men, women, and children in need of temporary shelter and support.

- The **"Visitations"** team, led by Marlene Ferri, visited 8 church members in four different adult care facilities. They shared hugs, smiles, and well wishes from the congregation, as well as a goodie bag for them to enjoy.

- The **"Crop Walk"** team was led by Kathy Baldwin and Jessica Shildt. Eight children and two adults joined others for a three-mile walk to support Church World Service. The team members delivered our church's contribution of $500.

- The **"THRIVE"** team, led by Jean Kyle, was composed of adults and children. They sorted and counted all the generous donations of food and toothbrushes. Even the smallest child helped carry the donations to the church bus for delivery to THRIVE.

- The **"Neighbors in Need"** team, led by Debbie Ames, helped two neighbors with yard work, including pulling weeds; trimming hedges and flowers; and raking, bagging, and disposing leaves. Two youth and three adults served.

- **Donors** who contributed funds, food, and toothbrushes made the ministry of the "THRIVE" and "Crop Walk" teams possible.

- Thank you to Al Buchanan and Debbie Ames for co-leading Agents of Grace and to Autumn Goodwin for administrative support.

- Our 2026 Agents of Grace Sunday was very special as church members of all ages enjoyed the fellowship and the day of ministry. Thanks to everyone for the prayers and the many gifts of talent, time, and treasure.

2025 Agents of Grace
A Fruitful Day of Ministry



Hymn Sing



THRIVE



Butterfly Garden



For the Beauty of the Earth



Butterfly Garden



Hallmark Moment



Visitations



Menchville House



Lunch Bunch



Butterfly Garden



Crop Walk

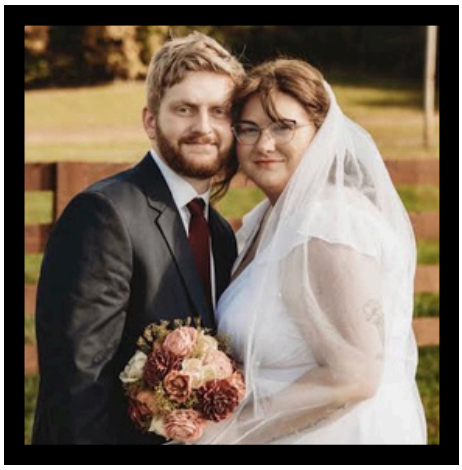


Neighbors in Need
(Yard Work)

Congratulations



Our friend Don Bickhart turned 90 on October 7. DUPC family members Dale Pennell, Mary Lee and Jay Dunn, and Dan and Deborah Dail traveled to Richmond for Don's Birthday Party.





On October 16 Tawna Garriott and Tristan Clark celebrated their marriage at Whistle Hollow Farms. Tawna is the daughter of Kimberly and Randy Garriott.

We praise God for the birth of John Parker Canaday (not pictured) on Wednesday, October 7. Parker is the son of Michael and Ciera Canaday and the grandson of David and Lisa Canaday.



December 2026 Digest Deadline

Monday, November 16, 2026

In our Thoughts and Prayers . . .

Anneliese Collins
Aurelia Grant
Bernie Rogers
Bill and Ellen Percival
Brennon Andrews
Candace Gray
Carol Weaver
Dave and LuAnn Jusino
Dave Anson
Don Bickhart
Evalene Hicks
Geoff Rogers
George Ashby
Gerry Ellis
Helen Thiessen
Jackie LedBetter
Jeanne Kent
Jim Robinson
Joe, Brenda, and Sho Bender
Joan Apley
John and Betty Mayes
Karen and Harold Wertz
Joan Minarik
Nell Sienko
Owen Spivey
Robin Huffman
Sandra and Tara Fairfield
Shannon Scott
Tommy Joy
Toni Powell
Verni Saunders
Will Cooper



OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Michael Cohen	***Cameron Dail***	***Grey Davenport***
Lazaro Durruty	***Nixon Fombele***	***Morgan Henretta***
Kevin Huss	***Tom Joyner***	***Daryl King***
Buck Maple	***Josie Maple***	***Jacob Mayes***
Jake Blackburn	***Joshua Silva***	***Gabriel Williams***

RESERVES

Savannah Gore,Derek James,Christian Jones,and Jeff Shildt

OUR MISSIONARIES

Bruce and Deb Robinson
Meredith and Sandy Elder

We express our sympathy to the following families. May God bring comfort and hope to all who grieve.

† *To the family and friends of* ***Michael Minarik*** *who died on September 5.*



November 2026
Birthdays/Anniversaries

DAY	NAME
1	Helen Highsmith
3	Laurel Amos
4	Melissa James
4	Sarah Phillips
5	Anneliese Collins
8	Brittany Hall Pratt
9	Joan Minarik
9	Kathleen Rohlfs
9	Paul Reynolds
A10	Terry and Leone Harrison
11	Brenda McGowan Raasch
13	George Hake
15	Emily Phillips
15	Linda Nyenty
16	Rick Pauley
17	Dan Easter
17	Joseph Sienko
18A	Chris and Sandra Kochersperger
19	Kevin Huss
19	Rosemary Murphy
20	James Uma
21	Elias Clayton

DAY	NAME
21	Steve Moore
22	Henry Schwarting
23	Charles Miller
A24	Preston and Rebecca DuHamel
24	Barbara Shefelton
24	Shirley Rucker
24	Taylor Roach
26	Lea Ann Stalls
27	Ben Ellis
A28	Dexter and Pat Morgan
30	Pam McCullough



Stay Connected & Up to Date! 📅✨

While you won't find our usual calendar in this month's Digest, there's still plenty happening at Denbigh United Presbyterian Church!

Don't miss out on all the exciting events, activities, and opportunities for fellowship coming your way! To stay in the loop, visit our website at www.denbighunitedpres.org or check out our Weekly Update for the latest news and upcoming events.

We can't wait to see you at our next gathering!



Denbigh United Presbyterian Church Web Presence

We are at the following links . . .

www.denbighunitedpres.org

@denbighpres

dupc_nn

@denbighunitedpresbyterian/streams

session@denbighunitedpres.org