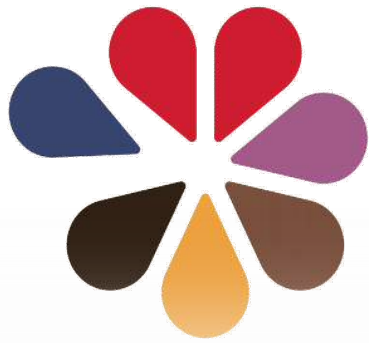
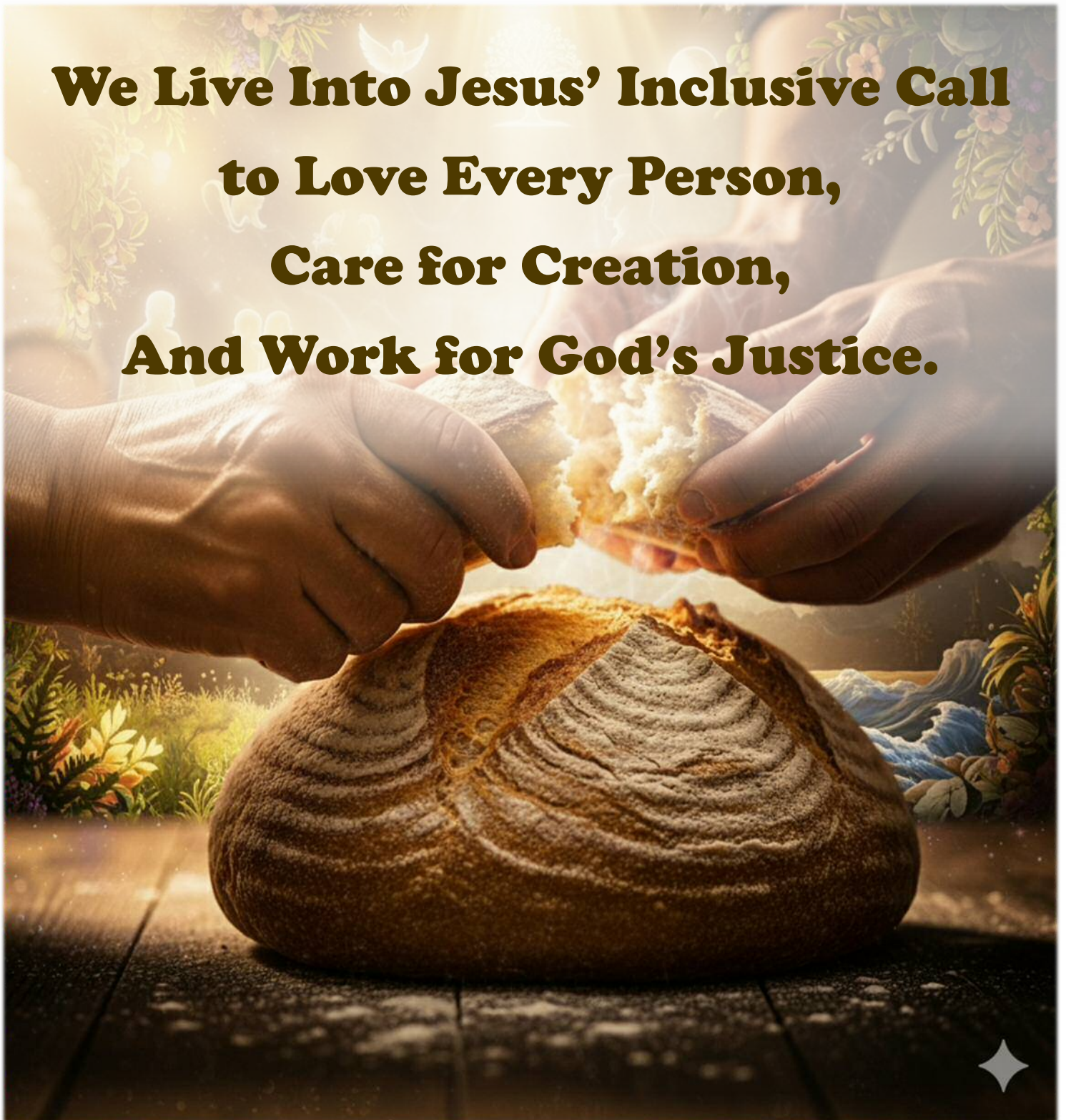




**DOWNTOWN**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**We Live Into Jesus' Inclusive Call  
to Love Every Person,  
Care for Creation,  
And Work for God's Justice.**



Celebration of Worship  
September 7th, 2025, 11:00 AM  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Communion Sunday

[Click Here to Watch](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person (and pronunciation) or event, and additional information you'd like to share. Prayer Requests will be collected during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Prelude

Healing Streams

A communal meditation on the healing power of water

Words of Welcome

Rev. Val Fowler

Announcements

John Dehority

Chime

\*Introit

Over My Head

AMERICAN NEGRO SPIRITUAL

1. Over my head, I hear music in the air (3X)

There must be a God somewhere!

2. Over my head, I see glory in the air. . .

3. Over my head, I feel healing in the air. . .

\*Call to Worship

One: God Whispers your name: "Come and worship."

All of us: young, old, sister, brother, cousin, friend, guest.

One: God gently calls our names again and again: "Come and worship."

All of us: proud and strong, humble and weak, lost and searching,  
joyous and sad.

One: From a whisper to a shout: "COME AND WORSHIP!"

All of us: word-arrangers, finger-painters, rope jumpers, slow walkers, belly-laughers, soul-singers.

One: Right here, right now: light shines, joy brims, and God beckons: "Come and worship."

All of us: ALL of us, here. ALL of us, now.

\*Hymn

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!  
*(Music may be found on pg 7.)*

HYMN TO JOY

Time with Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, how easily we human beings forget that we are a human family. Differences of color, custom belief, nationality separate us. Heathy pride in heritage all too easily becomes a desire for superiority. We pray on behalf of our human family:

Forgive our acts of hatred and destruction.

Forgive us for forgetting that all of life is your gift.

Forgive us for a loss of kindness and compassion.

Forgive us when we forget that you redeem the whole world.

Most of all, forgive us that it is the children of the world who most often suffer the most. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Let us proclaim the good news:

All of us: God so loved the world that God sent the only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world may have life.

One: Let us not only proclaim that good news, but also live it, with and for all.

All of us: In Jesus Christ we are made free. Thanks be to God!

Scripture

Isaiah 30:18-26

Music for Reflection

Like a Healing Stream

Bruce Harding

*"Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth, Good is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding, promising revival and rebirth... like a healing stream.*

*Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed, God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation, yearning for an end to want and need... like a gentle rain.*

*Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water rushing on to distant shore, God is carving out a channel in a new direction, calling for an end to hate and war... like a river strong.*

*Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, Spirit water with a love both deep and wide, God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow: God will always challenge and provide!*

*Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,  
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream."*

Scripture

Revelation 7:9-17

Sermon

Break the Bread of New Creation

Rev. Fowler

\*Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West  
(Verses 1-3, Music may be found on pg 8.)

ST PETER

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Shine On Me

American Negro Spiritual

Please join in singing the refrain:

**"Shine on me, shine on me! Let the light from the lighthouse shine on me." (2X)**

\*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Let songs rise up from earth below;  
Let stars and galaxies enthrone;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

\*Hymn

Immigrants

Leslie Lee & Steve Gretz

(Verses 1-2, Music may be found on pg 9.)

Service of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Telling the Story

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

† Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit 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 Spirit,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Music at Communion

Let Us Break Bread Together

American Negro Spiritual

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: For the healing you have given us in breaking  
the bread and pouring the cup,

**All of Us: We thank you, God of mercy and grace.**

One: For the community you have restored to us sharing  
life and giving life,

**All of Us: We thank you, God of creation and steadfast love.**

One: For the courage and strength that you have promised us,  
even when we feel lost and unsure,

**All of Us: We thank you, God! Make us all to be nourishment for these**

starved times, food for those around us who are hungry for justice and hope. Let compassion, kindness and grace live and breathe through us—a sign of Christ with us and among us. Amen.

\*Hymn

## Immigrants

Leslie Lee &amp; Steve Gretz

*(Verses 3-4, Music may be found on pg 9.)*

### \*Benediction

## Postlude

## Let Us Break Bread Together

# American Negro Spiritual

## Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to one another.

## Thank you to...

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Val Fowler

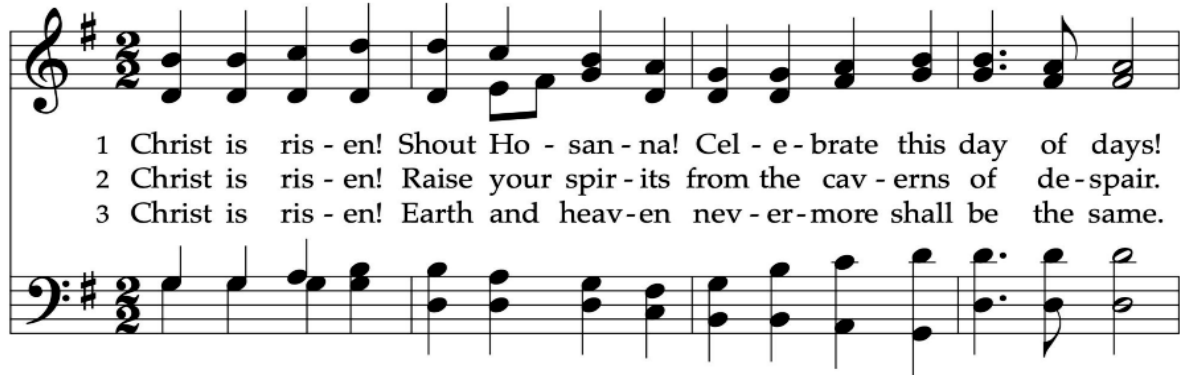
Liturgist: John Dehority

Musicians: Alan Jones and Lee Wright

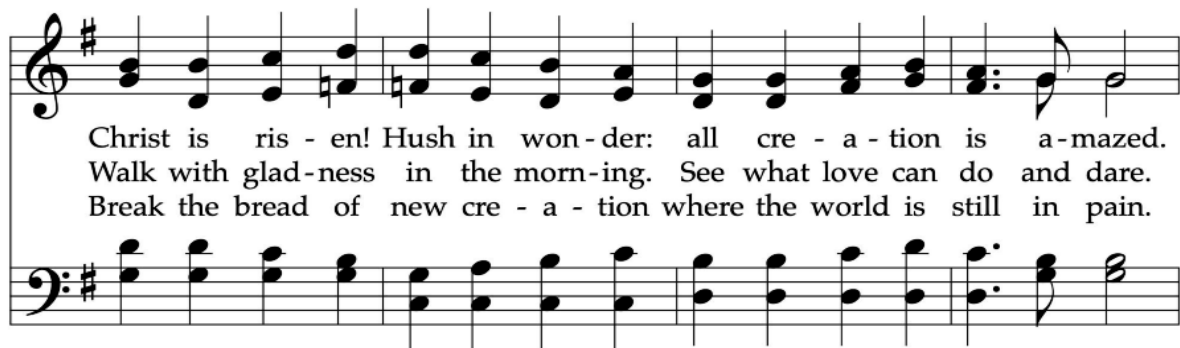
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We continue to welcome a wide variety of worship leaders. The Worship Team and the Session encourage you to consider what speaks to you in each worship experience and share your feedback with them. This feedback is vital as decisions are made about our pastoral leadership. Next Sunday, we will welcome Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby.

# Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248



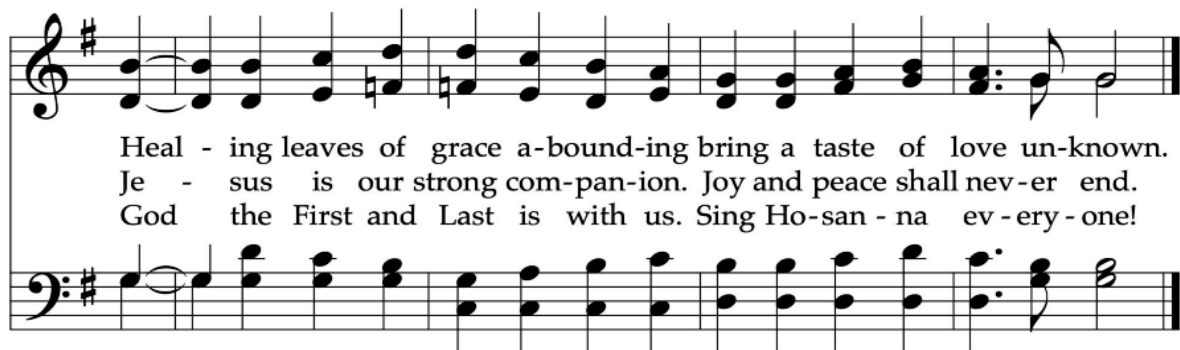
1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.  
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1984

MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt.

Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

HYMN TO JOY

8.7.8.7.D

# In Christ There Is No East or West 318

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in  
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their  
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -  
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in

him no south or north, but one great fel - low -  
 high com - mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the  
 e'er your race may be. All chil - dren of the  
 him meet south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.  
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.

TEXT: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.  
 MUSIC: Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836

ST. PETER  
 CM  
 (alternate tune: MC KEE, 317)

## Immigrants

1. All of us are immigrants in this state of grace.  
None of us inherit it; we all must find a place.  
Lifted up by mercy and held in love's embrace,  
All of us are immigrants in this state of grace.

2. All of us are wanderers, strangers on this earth.  
Race and class and family are accidents of birth.  
They tell a bit about us. They don't tell what we're worth.  
All of us are wanderers, strangers on this earth.

3. All of us are instruments, voices in this song.  
We do our best to play our parts; sometimes we get them wrong.  
Working out the harmonies we strive to get along.  
All of us are instruments, voices in this song.

4. All of us are shooting stars across an endless night.  
Each one burns a different course, a brilliant burst of light.  
We glow for just a little while, then trail off out of sight.  
All of us are shooting stars across an endless night.



## Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

### Sunday, September 7

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid  
10:00AM Choir Warm-up  
10:45AM Nursery  
11:00AM Worship, Rev. Val Fowler  
11:15AM Sunday School  
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary

### Tuesday, September 9

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study  
6:00PM Deacons Meeting

### Wednesday, September 10

3:00PM DEIB Meeting via Zoom  
7:00PM Choir Practice

### Thursday, September 11

5:00PM Finance Team Mtg, Zoom  
7:30PM Property Team Mtg, Zoom

### Sunday, September 14

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid  
10:00AM Choir Warm-up  
10:45AM Nursery  
11:00AM Worship -  
Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby  
11:15AM Sunday School  
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary



We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people,  
care for creation, and work for God's Justice.

### ***Welcome Visitors!***

**Nursery Care** is available for young children beginning in the library and moving to C-23 on the second floor. Parents are welcome to come up with their kids if they would like.

**Sunday School** Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the "Time with Our Youth" and then will follow their teacher to the Sunday School room.

**You may place your offering** in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online, you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



† **We seek** to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

**This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary** – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position.

\* **An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

**We hope you will join us** after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

**Joys and Concerns** – If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person (s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the Deacons.

## The Downtown Church Staff

|                                                          |                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist                      | Robin Sheikh, Office Administrator &<br>Sunday School Teacher |
| Jason Cloen, Associate Musician                          |                                                               |
| Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations                   | Ebony Smalls, Evening Receptionist                            |
| Alan Jones, Associate Musician                           | Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead                             |
| David Mear, Business Manager                             | Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor                         |
| Moses Nhial, Maintenance                                 | Ed Verna, Maintenance                                         |
| Penelope Paredes,<br>Nursery Coordinator                 | Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,<br>Director of Music Ministry          |
| Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper<br>& Receptionist Coordinator |                                                               |

## Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session  
Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock - co-Moderators of Deacons

## Session

|                                   |               |            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| The Rev. Val Fowler,<br>Moderator | Lea Kone      | Jim Vesper |
| Nancy Brown                       | Bob Richane   | Pat Tweet  |
| John DeHority                     | Sally Allison | Mary Rees  |
|                                   | Sam King      |            |

## Deacons

|                |                    |                   |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Bob Carlisle   | Jacqueline Hancock | Becky Parks       |
| Andrea Folan   | Elizabeth Katz     | Susan Richane     |
| Helen Ganotis  | Stephen Lloyd      | Kelley Sheils     |
| Cindy Hamilton | Grania Marcus      | Marilyn Terpening |
|                | Sandy Morales      |                   |

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[www.DowntownPresbyterian.org](http://www.DowntownPresbyterian.org)





# **Sunday Forum - September 2025**

## ***Migrant Safety and Justice: Loving Every Person***

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### **Sept. 7 “The DUPC Protection Plan: Keeping All Safe”**

Presenter: Grania Marcus, Justice Team member

The current administration has terminated the protections from immigration raids that churches used to enjoy. What would happen if Immigration and Customs Enforcement were to try to make entry into our buildings? How do we ensure that all who come here feel safe and secure? Grania Marcus will discuss how we are preparing to protect our church from a potential ICE raid, and how this work challenges us as people of faith.

### **Sept. 14 “Witnessing Migrations: Tales from an Eldest Daughter”**

Presenter: Cassandra Bocanegra

Cassie is a senior manager with the Finger Lakes Region of the New York Immigration Coalition. She states, "Since I was born in Texas and had the privilege of being documented, I was taught to appreciate that privilege and use it to speak up when I saw injustices in my community. My family is mixed status and so I have had certain freedoms that others in my community did not, including the safety of using my voice." Come hear her experiences and stories growing up with immigration touching every part of her life.

### **Sept. 21 “Sanctuary at DUPC, 1984-86: A Marvelous Time”**

Presenters: Gail Mott with Mauricio Morales, Mary Bookout, and Don Fairman

Gail Mott has spent a lifetime with social justice activism in many areas including immigrant rights. She along with the other presenters will describe how DUPC and other Rochester congregations joined together to provide sanctuary in the Institute Building, and how that kind of need continues. It was not an easy time, but Gail recalls it as a marvelous time. What can we learn from these veterans of the struggle? What is it like to take risks for justice and inclusivity?

### **Sept. 28 “Worker Justice Center of New York: Protecting the Most Vulnerable”**

Presenters: Mary McConnell, Olivia Post-Rich, and Gabriel Marcano

In 2011 the non-profit Worker Justice Center was created when Farmworker Legal Service of NY and Workers' Rights Law Center merged. Today they have programs addressing human trafficking, workplace safety, and immigrant rights. Our guests will share about legal challenges to the for-profit Federal Detention Center in Batavia, and vigorous investigations of human Trafficking, What must change to prevent the dehumanization of those who are most at risk?

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***Sundays, 9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room***



# Arts Link

At Downtown Presbyterian Church

presents

**First Inversion**  
Presents

**This Land:**  
Celebrating Our Nation's Rich Cultural Landscape

the choir of **First Inversion**, with **Lee Wright**, conductor

**SUNDAYS, SEPT. 14<sup>TH</sup> AND 21<sup>ST</sup>, 4:00PM**  
**DOWNTOWN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,**  
**121 N. FITZHUGH STREET, ROCHESTER, 14614**

First Inversion is proud to announce that we are Artists In Residence with Arts Link at Downtown Presbyterian Church, partnering in ministry to build Beloved Community.  
[firstinversion.org](http://firstinversion.org), \$25/adult, \$5/student suggested admission donation, cash/check/credit accepted at the door

## Monthly All Community Choir Sundays:

September 21, October 19, and November 16

Music-led worship with community choir and congregational participation.

## Benefit Concert for WXXI:

Saturday, October 11, 2PM

hosted by Jessica Ann Best

in collaboration with Arts Link at Downtown Church

Featuring a variety of local musicians and ensembles.