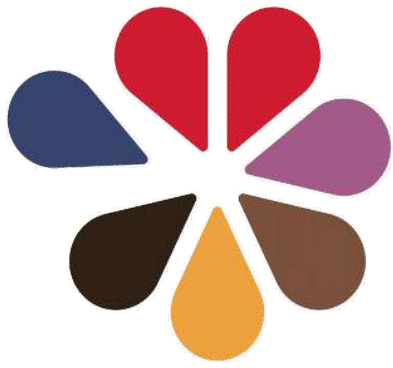




DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

Reformation Sunday

*Prayer Requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon
to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

P: May the mystery of you liberate us.

*Hymn

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
(Music may be found on page 8.)

ELLACOMBE

Time With Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

(Adapted from Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies*, p.10-12)

People: God of salaam, Here we are dangling one another
from the precipice without care or concern for our collective fate.
We have lost sight of our own faces, risking our humanity in favor
of supremacy. Guide us away from the edge of our undoing. Show
us what it means to be people of deep and abiding reverence for the
beauty and connectedness of everything everywhere. Train us out of
habits of degradation—incessantly competing to be worth more, to be
loved more. Keep us from the delusion of our dominion over earth, sky,
or star. Remind us that the dust beneath us transcends our own humble
existence, and let our hardened exteriors soften in the presence of care...
(pause for quiet reflection) ...Amen.

Liturgist: Let your soul receive this rest, the God who became seamstress,
the God who knelt in the garden to make clothes for Eve and Adam, covers
you now. As the divine meets your shame with tenderness, you are freed to
stand before the earth, neighbor, your God, and yourself. Amen.

First Reading

"Let This Silence Become a Bridge"

Drew Jackson

I wake in the morning and sink down into the quiet Center.

Before the news and the heartbreak.

Before the world becomes all fire and brimstone.

Tell me, is this salvation?

I could stay here, alone and away.

I could place my life in the company of the undisturbed.

But if I do, I will surely lose You.

Friend of Sorrows. Acquaintance of Grief.

Let this silence, then, become a bridge.
Let me walk it to where Love is.
At the edges. Amidst the rubble.
Trudging among the bones
Where the prophets call to the four winds
And a Voice cries out saying Live! Live!
Let this silence become a forgotten thing
If it does not lead me to the hill
Outside the camp.

Music for Reflection For God Shall Give the Angels Felix Mendelssohn
Adapt. from Elijah and Arr. Jack Levick, Alt. Tom Trenney
*"For God shall give the angels charge over you:
That they shall protect you in all your living keep you.
Their hands shall uphold and guide you,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone."*
Text: Psalm 91:11-12

Second Reading Luke 18:9-14

Sermon Righteously Regarding Others with Contempt... *uh oh!*

*Hymn What Does God Require of You? MOON
(Music may be found on page 9.)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

† 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.

Invitation to the Offering
Offertory Music

Yonder Come Day

American Negro Spiritual

" Oh, day, yonder come day,

Arr. J. David Moore

day done broke in-a my soul, yonder come day.

Well, it's a singin' day/a prayin' day/a cryin' day. . .

I was on my knees when I heard him say. . .

Sing Hallelujah day!"

*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.

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious One, you are the giver of every good gift.

Accept these offerings we pray, that through them we
may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with
you into camps outside our own. Amen.

*Hymn

Walk Together, Children

American Negro Spiritual

1. Walk together, children, don' you get weary, (3X)

There's a great camp meetin' in the promised land!

Refrain: We're gonna walk—and never tire, walk and never tire,
Walk and never tire—There's a great camp meetin' in the promised land!

2. Pray together, children, don' you get weary. . .

Ref: We're gonna pray. . .

3. Work together, children, don' you get weary. . .

Refrain: We're gonna work. . .

*Benediction

Postlude Improvisation on "Walk Together, Children"

*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...

Worship Leader: Rev. Laurel Nelson

Liturgist: Bob Richane

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Cecelia Allchin, Isabella Apodaca, Nicole Knickerbocker,

Lindsey Puc, Joan Sussman Alto: Alyssa Koh, Leah Rosenman

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Shawn Cox, Mark Darling

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers, Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd

Live Stream Team: Don Fairman, David McDowell, Jim Parks, Sally Allison

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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.

You may write to: session@downtownpresbyterian.org

OR worship@downtownpresbyterian.org

This feedback is vital as decisions are made about our pastoral leadership.

Next Sunday we welcome Rev. Tedd Pullano.



Respite & Restoration at Lagom Landing

We welcome Rev. Laurel Nelson to our service this morning. After spending her first six years of ordained ministry as the pastor of Wyoming First Presbyterian Church, Laurel and her spouse Rock Castor founded a residential gap-year program south of Conesus Lake called Lagom Landing. They ran this for 10 years, and have now transitioned the nonprofit into "Respite & Restoration at Lagom Landing." Adults of all ages are invited to 2-9 night stays reconnecting to the grounding rhythms of nature, the wisdom in their bodies, the strength of being in community, and the joy of creativity. Visit their website www.lagomlanding.com, and please spread the word about this ministry to family and friends!



32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God



1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.



that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy



skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.

What Does the Lord Require of You? 70

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm)
B $\flat$ F Gm Dm

*1.
What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.
Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.
To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

(C) (G) (Am) (D) (G)
E $\flat$ B $\flat$ Cm F B $\flat$ Repeat as desired

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

walk hum - bly with your God.

and walk hum - bly with your God.

**The three melodic phrases may be sung consecutively, as a canon, or in any combination.*

This text is a very slight paraphrase of the latter part of Micah 6:8. That verse sums up in a single sentence the legal, ethical, and covenantal requirements of religion. The intertwining of these commitments can be suggested by singing these phrases in an overlapping canon.

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 26

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

Tuesday, October 28

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study

Wednesday, October 29

7:00PM Choir Practice

Friday, October 31

3:00 PM Space Use Mtg, Zoom

Sunday, November 2

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship - Rev. Tedd
Pullano
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 & 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, Nursery Coordinator	Lee S. Wright, D.M.A., Director of Music Ministry
Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper & 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, 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



Sunday Forum - October 2025

Caring for Creation: Environmentalism

Oct. 5 “Ice Cores, Methane and Global Climate Change: From Rochester to the Poles ”

Presenters: Dr. Vas Petrenko, Marky Mayanja , and Alex Ihle

The Ice Core and Atmospheric Chemistry Lab at The University of Rochester studies the changing composition of the atmosphere, how human activity impacts it, and how these influence Earth's climate. This presentation will include an overview of the current scientific understanding of climate change, its causes, and also highlight the research being done at the U of R. Our presenters will share photos and videos from their polar expeditions along with actual samples of ancient Greenland and Antarctic ice. Bring your questions!

Oct. 12 No Sunday Forum - Congregational Meeting after Worship

Oct. 19 “From Neighborhoods to Nature: Planning Our Climate Future.”

Presenter: Steve Howe, reporter for the Democrat and Chronicle

Steve Howe reports on weather, climate, and the Great Lakes for the Democrat and Chronicle, and will discuss the growing emphasis on local climate and environmental action, the role zoning plays in sustainability. Zoning codes and new large-scale projects such as the data center at the Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (STAMP) Steve will also share about groups and actions that are currently taking place. .

Oct. 26 “Plastics in Our Water”

Presenter: Kaeti Stoss, RIT Environmental Education Specialist

Kaeti is an educator at RIT's College of Science where she has delivered high quality environmental education for our region with a focus on water quality, the Genesee River, and other water bodies. She has led community engagement and education efforts for numerous projects related to water quality and plastic pollution. Kaeti translates science for the community in a way that is accessible and actionable.

Sundays, 9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room



Sunday Forum - November 2025

Working for God's Justice Locally and Globally

Nov. 2 "Making Policy in Community: Presbyterians Proclaiming Anti-Racism"



Presenters: Beth Laidlaw, Elder, Third Presbyterian Church and Pat Tweet
The Genesee Valley Presbytery has directed each church in the region to create their own Anti-Racism Policy with strategies and practices specific to that congregation. Elder Beth Laidlaw, from Third Pres. will share the process her church experienced, and Pat Tweet will summarize additional suggestions and guidance that the DEIB will use in crafting a policy for our congregation's approval on November 9th.



Nov. 9 "Federal Lawmaking with Local and Global Consequences: The View from the House Chamber."

Presenter: Representative Joe Morelle

Congressperson Morelle will speak about the role he has played in solving domestic problems and impacting global troubles and tragedies. Joe has been apprised of our church's progressive tradition, and welcomes questions about the daily challenges of bipartisanship.

Nov. 16 "From Sudan to Rochester to South Sudan: Always Seeking to Make a Difference."



Presenter: Mathon Noi

Mathon is the Vice President and Co-founder of Building Minds in South Sudan. He fled Sudan as a "Walking Boy" at the age of 9 and came to Rochester in 2001. Since then, he achieved his bachelor's degree in accounting and now lives in Buffalo with his family. He will share his story and its impact on the way he lives his life today, as well as the challenges of fulfilling the mission of Building Minds in South Sudan in a contentious political climate.

Nov. 23 "Answering the Call: Fighting the Powers That Be."

Presenter: Windsor Wade



Windsor's parents, Louis and Katie, fled the Jim Crow South in 1952. Ten years later, on a trip South to visit family, Windsor drank from a "Whites Only" fountain. Today, he is a long-time member of Veterans for Peace, and also a member of its national board. Heeding the Dalai Lama's admonition, "It's not enough to be compassionate, you must act," Windsor became a teacher and has continually worked for justice, including service with two local organizations, Metro Justice and the Gandhi Institute.

Sundays, 9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room

