



# **DOWNTOWN**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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



Photo courtesy of Peace Walk

Celebration of Worship  
February 1, 2026 11:00 AM  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

[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 | Aria | Dietrich Buxtehude<br>Arr. Willard Nevins |
|---------|------|-------------------------------------------|

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Words of Welcome | Rev. Deb Swift |
|------------------|----------------|

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Announcements | Callie Babbitt |
|---------------|----------------|

Chime

|         |             |                    |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|
| Introit | Into a Time | Adolphus Hailstork |
|---------|-------------|--------------------|

*"Into a time of turmoil, we bring our sense of peace;*

*Into a time of doubt, we bring our gift of faith;*

*Into a time of fear, we bring our light of hope;*

*Into a time of loss, we bring our treasured memories;*

*Into a time of silence, we bring our uplifted voices;*

*Singing a song of wonder, awe, mystery, courage; Singing life itself.*

*Into this time, we come singing life itself. "*

Text: The Rev. Randolph W.B. Becker

\*Call to Worship (Responsive; *Adapted from Psalm 15*)

One: We gather from around the world, not to perform our faith, but to live it.

**All: Not to prove our worth, but to practice integrity of belief.**

One: We come asking not, "What do we believe?" but, "How shall we live our faith?"

**All: Teach us the way of truth and trust.**

One: A way that speaks honestly, that refuses harm, that keeps its word, that does not profit from another's pain.

**All: Teach us a faith that is lived, not just spoken.**

One: This is not the loud way. It is not the easy way. But it is the way that endures.

**All: We come ready to walk this way together. Speak to us, Spirit. Shape us in love.**

\*Hymn

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

SHOWALTER

*(Music may be found on page 8.)*

Time with Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Refresh/Reset Prayer of Realignment (Unison, *Inspired by Micah 6:8*)

**All: Spirit of Justice and Mercy, alert us when we drift toward comfort instead of courage. Re-center us when kindness feels inconvenient and humility feels risky. Realign us with what matters most: to do justice in our daily choices, to love kindness in a harsh world, and to walk humbly, knowing we do not walk alone. Clear away the noise that distracts us. Strengthen us for the way we are called to live. Lead us again into faith that is real, embodied, and alive, We ask in your most sacred name. Amen.**

First Reading (responsive)      Matthew 5:1-12 (MSG)

One: When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

**All: "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.**

One: "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

**All: "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.**

One: "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

**All: "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.**

One: "You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart— put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

All: "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

One: "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

All: "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Music for Reflection

My Lord, What a Moanin'

American Negro Spiritual

*"My Lord, what a moanin,'*

Arr. Adolphus Hailstork

*When the stars begin to fall.*

*You'll hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations under ground,*

*You'll hear the sinner moan to wake the nations underground.*

*You'll hear the people shout to wake the nations under ground.*

*Lookin' for my God's right hand when the stars begin to fall."*

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-31

Sermon

Living our Faith

\*Hymn

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

REPTON

*(Verses 1, 2 and 4, Music may be found on pg 9.)*

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music                      Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness                      Scott Perkins

*"Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy your praises render.  
Bless the One whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded;  
he, though heav'nly, high, and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.*

*Now in faith I humbly ponder over this surpassing wonder  
that the bread of life is boundless though the souls it feeds are countless;*

*Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, truest friend and dearest treasure,  
worthily let me receive you, and, so favored never leave you."*

Text: Johann Franck, trans. Catherine Winkworth

**\*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 (*Unison*)**

**In a world where so many people are made to feel that they don't matter;  
In a world where too few people are willing to do justice, love kindness  
and walk humbly; In a world where being blessed by possessions is often  
confused with the blessings of God; We dedicate ourselves – who we are,  
what we have, and who we will become – to the teachings of the One who  
preached compassion and hospitality. Bless these gifts and all whose lives  
will be touched by them, we ask, O God. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

**All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly**  
*(Verses 1-2, Music may be found on pg 10.)*

**HOLY MANNA**

**Service of Communion**

**One: May the Spirit be within you.**

**All: And also within you.**

**One: Lift up your hearts.**

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to our Creator God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: ... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.

One: ... Great is the mystery of faith;

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

(Pastor Sings) Through Him, With Him, In Him ... In the unity of the Holy Spirit ... All honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

(People sing) A-men.

One: O God, today you have called us together to be the church.

All: No matter where we come from. No matter what we look like. No matter what language we speak. Unite us now at your table, and make us one in Christ Jesus.

#### † 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.

One: "... " Whenever you drink it, do this remembering me.

All: Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the power of New Life.

#### Sharing the Bread and Cup

Music at Communion    Meditation on "Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness"

#### Prayer after Communion

All: Holy Spirit and Risen Christ, Thank you for welcoming us at your table of Grace. Keep us from coming here for solace alone, But always bring us back here to fill us with The strength needed to be your followers and your

exemplars in today's world. As we learn every day to recognize you in new ways, Teach us how to see you more clearly, Love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly every day. For we long to be people of the Way Who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God as you teach us to do every day. Amen.

\*Hymn

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly  
*(Verse 3, Music may be found on pg 10.)*

HOLY MANNA

Benediction

Choral Response

Amen

Justin Wallace

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. Deb Swift

Liturgist: Callie Babbitt

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Cecelia Allchin,\* Isa Apodaca,  
Nicole Knickerbocker,\* Lindsey Puc, Joan Sussman

Alto: Alyssa Koh, Leah Rosenman

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Mark Darling

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHORITY, Elijah Gebers,

Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd, Sumner Tessier\*

\*on temporary leave

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

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# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,  
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

*Refrain*

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus,  
 lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on  
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.

## 731

Give Thanks for Those  
Whose Faith Is Firm

Capo 1: (D) E<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup> (Bm) Cm (G) A<sup>b</sup>



1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -  
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere  
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling  
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -

(D) E<sup>b</sup> (A) B<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (Em) Fm (A) B<sup>b</sup> (F#m) Gm



round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so  
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the  
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an  
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their

(Bm) Cm (G) A<sup>b</sup> (Em) Fm (A7) B<sup>b</sup>7 (D) E<sup>b</sup>



while they live and when they die how force - ful -  
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on  
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -  
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

(A7) B<sup>b</sup>7 (B) C (Em) Fm (G) A<sup>b</sup> (A7) B<sup>b</sup>7 (D) E<sup>b</sup>



ly they speak: the strong, who once were weak!  
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.  
 cerns they own: God's love through them is known.  
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.

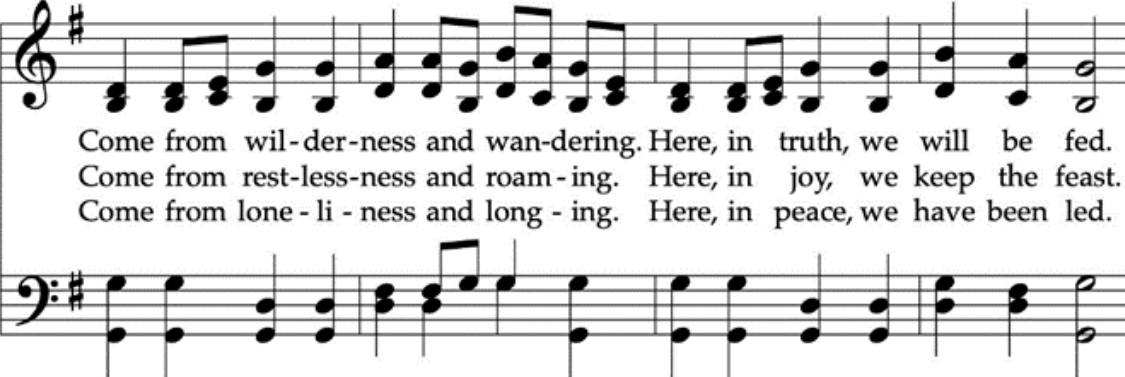
*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

The first three stanzas of this text are organized around the three great virtues—faith, hope, and love—mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:13. These have indeed been the marks of the faithful people of God always and everywhere, and the final stanza sums up our gratitude for them.

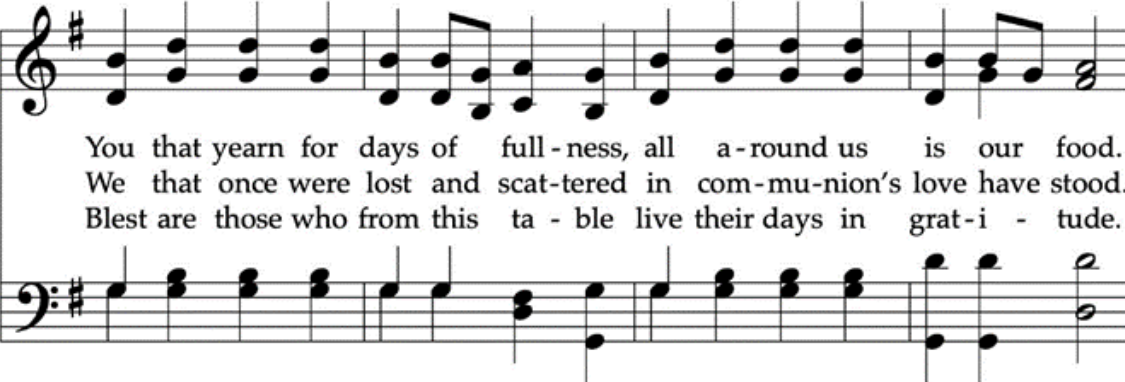
# All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The United Church of Canada minister who wrote this text was introduced to shape note tunes at the 1990 Hymn Society conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Afterwards she vacationed with friends nearby and worked out this text while humming this tune as she walked up and down the beach.

## ***Welcome Visitors!***

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

**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 children 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.



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

† **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.

\* **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.

**If you would like to honor someone or a special event with flowers** you can purchase a bouquet (\$35) for a future worship service by contacting Deacon Helen Ganotis at <helenganotis@gmail.com>.

## Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

### Sunday, February 1

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

### Tuesday, February 3

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study  
5:00PM Justice Team Mtg, Zoom

### Wednesday, February 4

7:00PM Choir Practice

### Friday, February 6

11:00AM Worship Team Mtg, Zoom

### Saturday, February 7

3:00PM *Arts Link-* Hailstork Concert

### Sunday, February 8

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



We give special thanks for the flowers . . .  
given in loving memory of our nephew Tom Maxim by  
Joe and Jacque Hancock.



## Sunday Forums—February 2026

### Jesus' Inclusive Call - Spiritual Journeys



**Susan Richane**

Susan's spiritual journey has been one of "thin places," where the boundary between earth and another realm feels permeable. In the words of Father Gregory Boyle, "The Beloved is found everywhere and anywhere. The Beloved in whom we "live and move and have our being" dwells in all that gets thrown at us every day. This journey will be shared as windows to the Holy, through story, poetry and reflection.

**Feb.  
1**

**Grania Marcus**

Grania grew up in the Episcopal Church, but has lived in many locations and has belonged to Episcopal, Catholic, UCC, and Presbyterian churches. She has often sought answers in theological writings and prayer, and as a member of DUPC's Psalms Plus group, continues to seek understanding and learn from her Psalm Psisters. Her faith in the love of God has led her to amplifying that love through justice work.

**Feb.  
8**



**Rev. Val Fowler**

Currently serving as the Moderator for the DUPC Session, Val has been a life long Presbyterian, growing up in several congregations—each a great church to be a kid. That nourished a life-long appreciation for faith communities, going to seminary, and a life as a pastor. The blessings and challenges of his life shaped his love of God as revealed in the person and work of Jesus. And ... his dedication to children.

**Feb.  
15**



**Kehar Kahn**

Born in a small town in Pakistan, Kehar's Spiritual journey began with a quiet but courageous yes to Christ at the age of 16. That choice carried him through valleys of danger, loss, and rejection, and across lands and churches—from Baptist and Brethren fellowships to a Presbyterian church in Bangkok, and finally to DUPC in 2024. His life has known many turns, but through every storm and silence, one light never dimmed: an unshakable faith in God.

**Feb.  
22**



**Sundays, 9:45AM—The Shaw Room** 

# Registration is Open!



## Presbytery of Genesee Valley's **CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DAY**

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

**8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Online via Zoom. FREE**

### **Session 1:**

1. **A workshop for Elders/Elder training -**  
Led by Rev. Colin Pritchard
2. **A workshop for Deacons -**  
Led by a Rev. Erin Jacobson
3. **A workshop on Grants –**  
Led by a panel of speakers
4. **Anti-racism training -**  
Led by Janette Henderson

**Worship:** Led by Rev. Twyla Boyer

### **Session 2:**

5. **Anti-racism training -**  
Led by Janette Henderson
6. **Stated Clerk training-**  
Led by Bethany Benz-Whittington
7. **Caring for our Immigrant Neighbors -**  
Led by a panel of speakers
8. **Can We Talk?**  
Led by Rev. Kirk Baker

**For registration link and class info: [Click here!](#)**

**Or scan the QR code below:**



**If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Simpson ([simpsfam37@gmail.com](mailto:simpsfam37@gmail.com))**

# *Arts Link*

at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

*presents*

## A Celebration of Adolphus Hailstork

Composer and Educator

*A Concert featuring college, community,  
and high school choruses.*

*Reception to follow.*

Saturday, February 7  
3:00PM



The Downtown United Presbyterian Church  
121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614  
585-325-4000

## 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                         |
| Baker Mohammed, Bookkeeper               | Ed Verna, Maintenance                                         |
| Moses Nhial, Maintenance                 | Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,<br>Director of Music Ministry          |
| Penelope Paredes,<br>Nursery Coordinator |                                                               |

## Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session  
Jacque Hancock and Carol Samuel - co-Moderators of Deacons

## Session

|                                   |               |            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| The Rev. Val Fowler,<br>Moderator | Jason Cloen   | Jim Vesper |
| Nancy Brown                       | John DeHority | Pat Tweet  |
|                                   | Sally Allison | Mary Rees  |

## Deacons

|                |               |                   |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Andrea Folan   | Stephen Lloyd | Becky Parks       |
| Helen Ganotis  | Grania Marcus | Carol Samuel      |
| Jacque Hancock | Sandy Morales | Kelley Sheils     |
| Elizabeth Katz | Gie Oey       | Marilyn Terpening |

121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614

Telephone: (585) 325-4000

email: [office@DowntownPresbyterian.org](mailto:office@DowntownPresbyterian.org)

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

