



DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

***We Live Into Jesus'
Inclusive Call***

***to Love Every Person,
Care for Creation,
and Work for God's Justice.***

February 8th, 2026 11:00 AM
5th Sunday after Epiphany

*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.*

Many: Light shines in the darkness for the godly. They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.

One: Good comes to those who lend money generously and conduct their business fairly.

Many: Such people will not be overcome by evil. Those who are righteous will be long remembered.

One: They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly.

Many: They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. Amen.

*Hymn

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound
(Verses 1-4, Music may be found on page 6.)

MCKEE

Time with Young Disciples

Robin Sheikh

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Many: Generous God, help us to shine your light into dark places.
Give us courage in the face of uncertainty. Bring us back,
again and again, to the central truth of your love for all humanity.
Amen.

First Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Music for Reflection

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

*"Tell me, where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost, so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling from far away,
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.*

*Rise up, follow me, come away is the call,
With the love in your heart as the only song;
There is no such beauty as where you belong,
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home."*

Text: Michael Dennis Browne

Second Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon

New Light

*Hymn

Together We Serve
(Music may be found on pg 7.)

SAN ANSELMO

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 I'll Trust in the Lord and Do the Best I Can Adolphus Hailstork

*"When my heart is feelin' heavy, and I'm almost gittin' lonesome,
I trust in the Lord and do the best I can.*

*When my mind's in doubt, and my courage falters,
I trust in the Lord and do the best I can.*

Take heart, have hope, and be of good cheer.

Stand up, sing out, for the vict'ry is near.

I'm gonna march out, gonna lift my voice and sing!

Hallelu! Hallelujah!

Elijah Gebers, soloist

Text: Joseph Fletcher Jordan, from Willard C. Frank, Jr., *My People—Our Church:
The Jordan Missions and Schools, Norfolk and Suffolk, Virginia, 1886-1986*

*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

*Hymn

This Little Light of Mine American Negro Spiritual
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. . .
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. . .
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine. . .

Benediction

Postlude Praeludium in F-Sharp Minor Dietrich Buxtehude

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. Katie Jo Suddaby
Liturgist: Gail Mott

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

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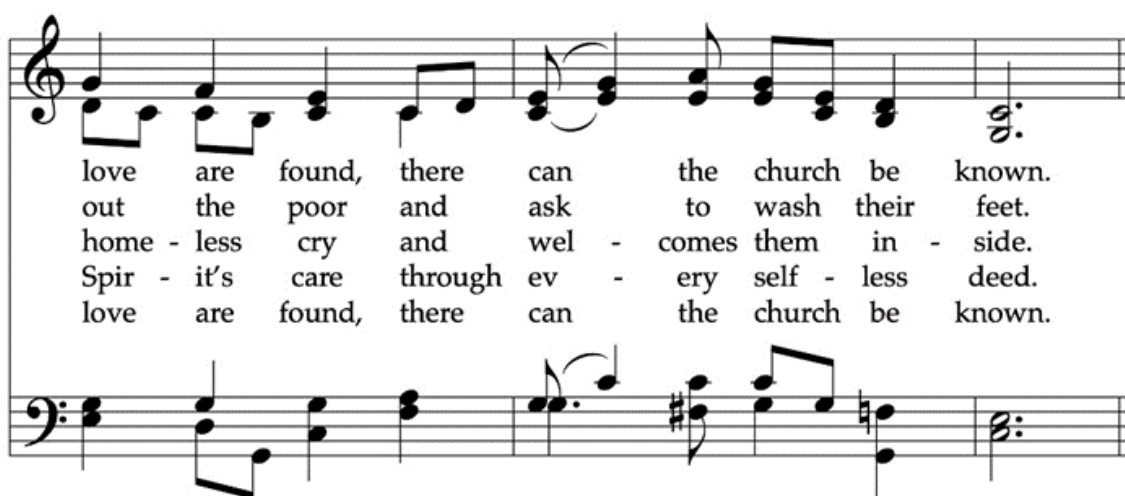
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound



1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by



walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and



love are found, there can the church be known.
 out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.
 love are found, there can the church be known.

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2005

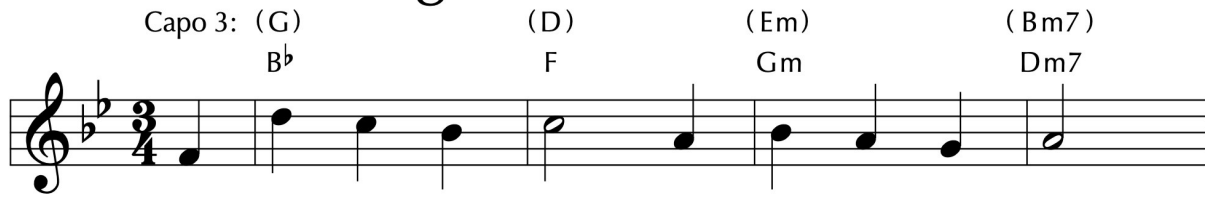
MUSIC: African American spiritual; *Jubilee Songs*, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940

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MC KEE
CM

Together We Serve

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1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
We of - fer a home to those who will come,
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.

Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

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

Tuesday, February 10

10:30AM Psalms+ Bible Study
6:30PM Deacon's Meeting

Wednesday, February 11

3:00PM DEIB Mtg, Zoom
7:00PM Choir Practice

Thursday, February 12

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

Sunday, February 15

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship - Music Sunday
Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary
7:00PM Sophia Circle, Zoom

Thank you to...

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



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>.

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

[Click here to view the brochure and details about the event.](#)

Or scan the QR code below:



If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Simpson (simpsfam37@gmail.com)

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**

**Feb.
8**

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.

Grania Marcus



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**

**Feb.
22**

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.

Kehar Kahn



Sundays, 9:45AM—The Shaw Room 

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
Baker Mohammed, Bookkeeper	Ed Verna, Maintenance
Moses Nhial, Maintenance	Lee S. Wright, D.M.A., Director of Music Ministry
Penelope Paredes, 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, 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

www.DowntownPresbyterian.org

