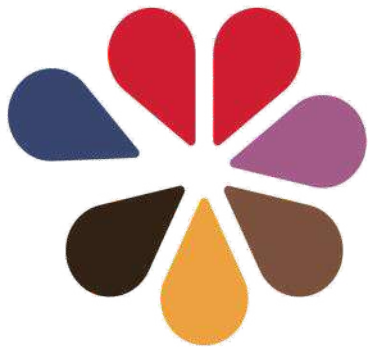




DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Celebration of Worship

March 1st, 2026 11:00 AM

Second Sunday in Lent

[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

Clair de lune

Claude Debussy

During this season of Lent, our gathering music will draw inspiration from the rhythm of our feet on this journey. You are invited to walk your own path through the sanctuary during this prelude time each week. Notice the rhythms of your feet and of your breath. How do we take steps together and individually that nourish our spirit and move us forward? You are encouraged to help everyone experience this time of meditation by greeting friends silently and saving conversation for after worship.

Words of Welcome

Rev. Kristina Hansen

Announcements

Callie Babbitt

Chime

*Introit

Kariotas habundat

Hildegard of Bingen

*"Divine Love overflows into everything,
From the very depths raised high above the constellations of stars,
And tender—most tender toward all creation,
So that it gives, to the highest king (Jesus), the kiss of peace."*

*Call to Worship

One: Arise, dear sisters and brothers – siblings all!

Arise and lift up your hearts unto the Lord!

Many: God is calling us to celebrate, to witness, and to struggle for justice together -

One: to reach out to each other as God reaches out toward us!

Many: We come to worship the God of Life!

One: Then let us worship together with faith and trust – and with all our hearts and strength!

Prayer of Invocation

**God of the ages, we come into this holy space asking for your blessing,
only to find that the abundance of your love is already around us!**

Open our eyes to see the blessing of your creation in the beauty all around us.

**Open our ears to hear the blessing of your word
as it is proclaimed in story and song this day.**

**Open our hearts to experience the blessing of faith
through the gentle touch of a friend or the supportive smile of a stranger.**

**And open our doors, that we may become instruments of your blessing
to a world still in need of your grace.**

All this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to prayer together...

**† 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.**

***Hymn**

When Morning Gilds the Skies
(Verses 1-3, Music may be found on page 8.)

LAUDES DOMINI

Time with Young Disciples

Rev. Hansen

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**One: Christ of the comfortable, you would call us from our security and
sameness down that unknown path which leads to God's heart.**

Many: With trust, we would place our hands in yours, and follow.

**One: Companion of our sleepless nights,
you would beckon us out of the shadows of our fears,
calling us to bring our doubts and questioning hearts along.**

**Many: With humility, we would listen to those answers
we do not expect, or even understand.**

One: Eternal Word which creates out of nothingness,
you would fill us with life where we see only emptiness, you would
keep your promises when all our promises lie littered on the ground.

Many: We long to be transformed by your grace into faithful disciples.

(Please take this moment of silence for your own private prayer.)

One: Keeper of every moment,

Many: walk with us, we pray.

One: Watcher in the night,

Many: stay with us, we pray.

One: Spirit of new life,

Many: be in us now and always. Amen.

Scripture Song of the Day

Psalm 121

(Responsively)

All singing:

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in God's shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Speaking Response:

One: I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?

Many: My help comes from the Creator, the Maker of heaven and earth.

One: God will not let your foot slip—

The Holy One who watches over you will not slumber;

Many: indeed, God who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

One: God watches over you—

God is your shade at your right hand;

Many: the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

One: God will keep you from all harm—the Creator will watch over your life;

**Many: The Creator will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.**

All singing:

And God will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.

Music for Reflection We Shall Walk through the Valley in Peace

American Negro Spiritual, Arr. Moses Hogan

"We shall walk through the valley in peace.

For Jesus himself will be our leader. We shall walk through the valley in peace.

We will meet our loved ones there. . .

There will be no trials there. . ."

Second Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

Sermon

Begin and Trust

Rev. Hansen

*Hymn

Guide My Feet

American Negro Spiritual

1. Guide my feet—while I run this race. . . (3x)

For I don' want to run this race in vain.

2. Hold my hand. . . 3. Stand by me. . . 4. I'm your child. . .

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Who Is at My Window, Who?

Welford Russell

"Who is at my window, who? Go from my window, go.

Who calls there so like a stranger? Go from my window, go.

*Lord, I am a wretched mortal, that for thy mercy does cry and call unto Thee,
my Lord celestial. See, who is at my window, who?*

Remember thy sin and all thy smart, and all for thee what was my part.

Remember the spear that thirlit my heart, and in at my door thou shall go.

I ask no thing of thee, therefore, but love for love to lay in store.

Give me thy heart, I ask no more, and in at my door thou shall go.

Who is at my window, who? Go from my window, go.

Cry no more there like a stranger but in at my door thou go."

Text: Anon. pub. 1578, Edinburgh

*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

God of Grace and God of Glory
(Verses 1-2, Music may be found on page 9.)

CWM RHONDA

Service of Communion

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: May the God of great adventures be with you!

Many: And also with you!

One: It is God who is able to keep our hearts filled with hope and peace.

Many: We will offer our hearts to the One who is our Keeper.

One: Trust in the promises whose fulfillment we cannot see.

Many: We lift our songs to the One who is always with us...

One *(The Story)*: ...With those who toss and turn in the night,
with those who have responded to your call,
we lift our thanksgivings to you:

Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, Who neither slumbers nor sleeps.

All creation blesses your glorious name. Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is the One who comes to answer our questions. Hosanna
in the highest!**

One *(The Story Continues)*: ...As we continue on the journey to Jerusalem,
as we seek to leave our comfortable lives to follow,
we would talk about that mystery we call faith:

Many: Christ died, faithful to the end;

Christ was raised, so all creation might be saved;

Christ will come, to bring us to that home he will show us.

One *(The Blessing of the elements)*: ...And when our journey has ended
and we find ourselves in that land which you have prepared for us,
we will sing our glad songs to you forever,

Many: God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

One: On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us...

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Music at Communion Meditation on "Look Within" Meg Christian
Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery with which you have nourished us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves in your service for others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDA
(Verse 3, Music may be found on page 9.)

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...

Rev. Kristina Hansen

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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667 When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A so - lace here I
 3 Let earth's wide cir - cle round in joy - ful notes re -
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di -

cries: may Je - sus Christ be praised! A -
 find: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or
 sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let
 vine: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be

like at work and prayer to Je - sus I re -
 fades my earth - ly bliss? My com - fort still is
 air and sea and sky from depth to height re -
 this the e - ter - nal song through all the a - ges

pair: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 this: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ply: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

This is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

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, March 1

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

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

7:00PM Choir Practice

Sunday, March 8

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

Sunday Forum Next Week!

Replacing Exploitation & Scarcity with Sustainability Caring for Creation

Community Gardens and Farms: Creating Sustainable Prosperity
March 8
Presenter: Erin Turpin

From building community gardens at St. John's and St. Mark's Episcopal Church to introducing RIT students to Foodlink's Community Farm, recent college graduate Erin Turpin has been putting into practice her major in Sustainability and Sociology. Erin believes in nature-based learning and helping organizations understand and advance environmental justice.

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

[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)

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Rev. Kristina Hansen, Senior Pastor
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
David Mear, Business Manager
Baker Mohammed, Bookkeeper
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes, Nursery Coordinator

Robin Sheikh, Office Administrator &
Sunday School Teacher
Ebony Smalls, Evening Receptionist
Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

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

Session

The Rev. Kristina
Hansen, Moderator
Nancy Brown

Jason Cloen
John DeHority
Sally Allison

Jim Vesper
Pat Tweet
Mary Rees

Deacons

Andrea Folan
Helen Ganotis
Jacque Hancock
Elizabeth Katz

Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Sandy Morales
Gie Oey

Becky Parks
Carol Samuel
Kelley Sheils
Marilyn Terpening

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www.DowntownPresbyterian.org





On **Easter Sunday, April 5**, the Worship bulletin will again include an insert which will list your loved ones, remembered or honored, when you make a donation in any amount to the **One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering**. Payment can be made with cash, check (payable to Downtown Church **with OGHS in the Memo line**) or via credit/debit card through the church website on Tithly. (Please check "Other Gift" and include a note in the memo field.). Please submit your gift and information **by Monday, March 30, 2026**. (You can also make a donation to OGHS on Easter Sunday using the special envelopes that will be in the bulletin that day.)

To remember a loved one or honor a special person with your gift, complete and return the form below.

Please print or type:

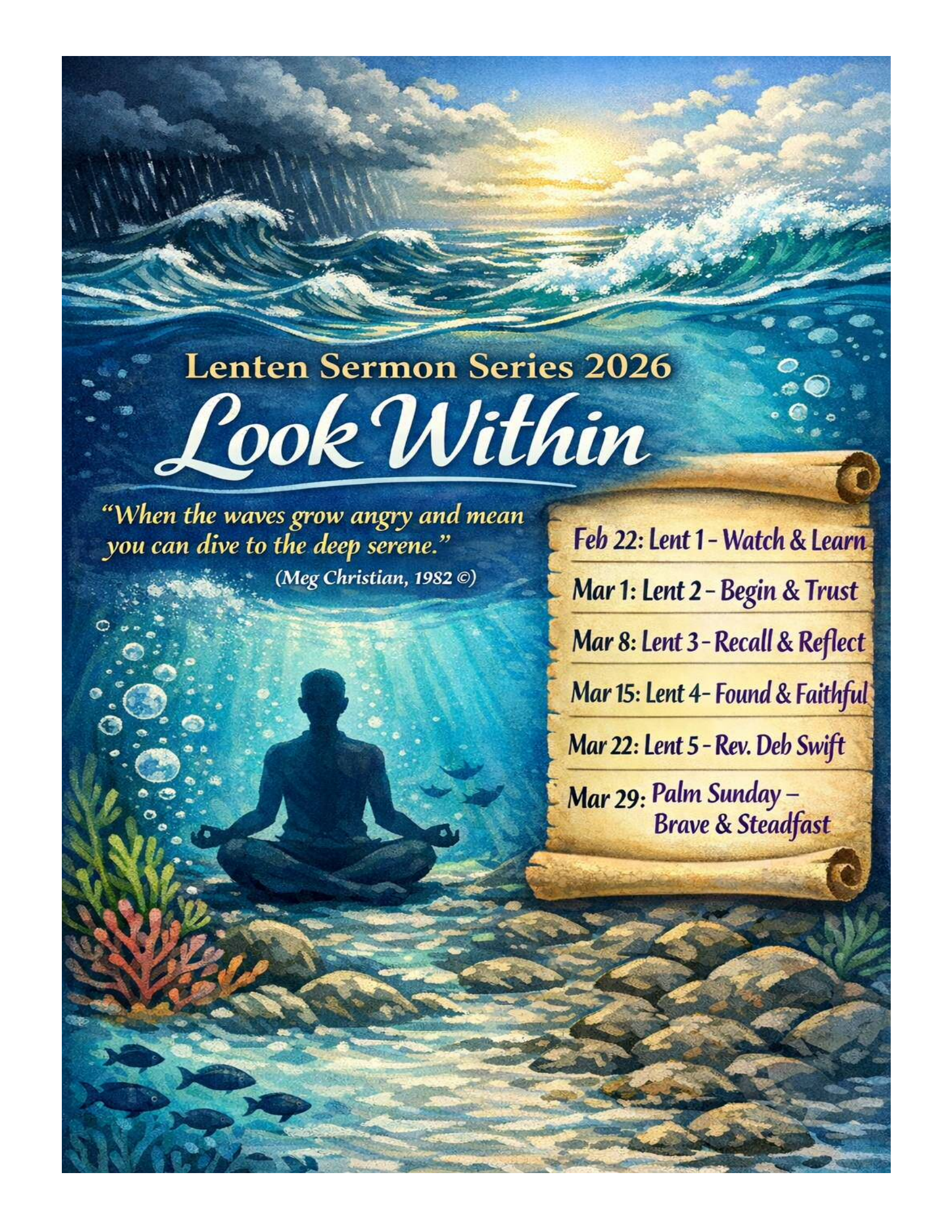
In memory or in honor of: _____

From: _____

**Please return the completed form with your donation
by Monday, March 30, 2026**

or send an email to the church office at
office@downtownpresbyterian.org.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Lenten Sermon Series 2026

Look Within

*"When the waves grow angry and mean
you can dive to the deep serene."*

(Meg Christian, 1982 ©)

Feb 22: Lent 1 - Watch & Learn

Mar 1: Lent 2 - Begin & Trust

Mar 8: Lent 3 - Recall & Reflect

Mar 15: Lent 4 - Found & Faithful

Mar 22: Lent 5 - Rev. Deb Swift

Mar 29: Palm Sunday -
Brave & Steadfast