



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 6th

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 6 years and under either in the church library or C-23 on the second floor. Check with an usher. Parents are welcome to stay with their children if they would like.

Sunday School - Is on summer recess and will return in the fall. Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the "Time with Young Disciples" and then will remain in the service.

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>.

Thank you to...

Pastor: Rev. Deborah Fae Swift

Liturgist: Nancy Brown

Musicians: Ruth Dunlop and Lee Wright

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

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NOTE: Today is the last Sunday of our Summer Worship time. **Next Sunday, September 13th Worship will begin at our regular time of 11AM.**



Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 6

9:00AM Musicians' Warm-up
9:45AM Nursery
11:00AM Worship
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary

Monday, September 7

Labor Day - Buildings Closed

5:00PM Justice Team Mtg., Zoom

Tuesday, September 8

10:30AM Sacred Studies Group
6:30PM Deacons Meeting, Zoom

Wednesday, September 9

3:00PM DEIB Mtg via Zoo
7:00PM Choir Practice

Thursday, September 10

11:00AM Worship Team Mtg, Zoom
5:00PM Finance Team Mtg., Zoom
7:30PM Property Team Mtg., Zoom

Sunday, September 13

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM **Worship—Rally Day**
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary
4:00PM Sophia/Psalms+ Picnic

Celebration of Worship
September 6th, 2026 10:00 AM
15th Sunday after Pentecost

[Click Here to Worship Online](#)

*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 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

Meditation on "As the Wind Song"

You may wish to reference the middle hymn on page 12 while listening to the prelude. It is new to our congregation.

Words of Welcome

Reverend Deb Swift

Announcements

Nancy Brown

Chime

Introit

Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris Akers

Please join in singing the refrain: arr. Richard Smallwood

**"Lead me, guide me along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
O let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Jesus, lead me."**

*Call to Worship

One: God meets us in what we know —

Many: and in what we have not yet imagined.

One: God meets us in the traditions that have carried us —

Many: and in the possibilities still waiting to be born.

One: When the way ahead is clear —

Many: God is with us.

One: When the way ahead disappears into uncertainty —

Many: God is with us there, too.

One: So we come with our memories and our questions,
our gratitude and our uncertainty, our hope and our love.

Many: We come to listen for the Spirit
and to discover what this moment asks of us.

One: Let us worship the Living God.

*Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
(Music may be found on page 10.)

CWM RHONDA

*Prayer of Invocation

God of mercy, sometimes we hold tightly to what we know
because the unknown frightens us. Sometimes we confuse familiarity
with faithfulness. Sometimes we protect our own comfort
while failing to notice who is hurting beyond us. There are times
when we become so concerned with what we might lose
that we cannot see what might be waiting to be born.

And then there are times when we simply do not know what to do.

Meet us here, Loving God, in whichever of those “times” we happen
to be living in this now moment. Forgive what needs forgiving.

Heal what needs healing. Loosen what needs releasing.

Awaken what has fallen asleep within us.

And lead us again toward love, we ask. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: Hear the good news: God does not wait for us
to have everything figured out. Grace meets us here
— in this moment, in this unfinished life, on this unfinished journey.

We are forgiven. We are loved. And we are free to begin again.

Many: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Time with Young Disciples

Pastor Deb Swift
(Or other person)

First Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

Music for Reflection Sure on this Shining Night Samuel Barber

*"Sure on this shining night of star-made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me this side the ground.
The late year lies down the north. All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder
wand'ring far alone of shadows on the stars."*

Text: James Agee

New Testament Reading Romans 13:8-14 *The Message*

Sermon Does Anybody Ever Really Know Pastor Deb Swift
What Time it Is?

*Hymn As the Wind Song WAIRUA TAPU
(Music may be found on page 12.)

Joys and Concerns

The Prayer of Jesus

† Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Widmung (Dedication)

Robert Schumann

*"You my soul, you my heart, you my rapture, O you my pain,
You my world in which I live, my heaven you, to which I aspire,
O you my grave, into which my grief forever I've consigned!
You are repose, you are peace, you are bestowed on me from heaven.
Your love for me gives me my worth, your eyes transfigure me in mine,
You raise me lovingly above myself, my guardian angel, my better self!"*

Text: Friedrich Rückert

*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

**God of abundance, receive these gifts and the love
with which they are offered. Bless those who give,
bless those whose lives will be touched through these gifts,
and bless this community as it seeks to use what it has
with courage, compassion, imagination, and love.
May what we offer together become more
than any of us could make of it alone. Amen.**

*Hymn

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

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(Verses 1-2—Music may be found on page 11.)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Sacred is within you.

Many: And also within you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the One who holds us all.

One: Let us give thanks to the Holy Presence that is here with us.

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

Opening Thanksgiving

One: Let us Pray ...

And so we join with all who have ever sought
truth, justice, and compassion—
voices known and unknown—
in a song that never ends, saying:

Many: Holy... holy... holy...

Love that fills the universe...

Heaven and earth are alive with your presence.

Hosannah in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the sacred
Hosannah in the highest. Amen.

Story of the Table

One: We celebrate that when Jesus gathered with his friends ...

Let's Pray together:

Many: Spirit of Love ...move in this place.

Move in these elements— simple as they are—bread and cup...
and move in us.

Make this more than memory. Make it presence.

As we share in this meal, shape us— as living stones—
into a people who can carry your love into the world, we ask.
Amen.

One: ... He took bread... gave thanks... broke it... and said,

Many: This is my life— given for you.

Whenever you share this, remember me."

Communion

Music at Communion

The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Prayer – We Belong to One Another

One: We believe that God is still creating —

Many: and creation is not finished.

One: We believe that Christ is still calling —
Many: beyond the boundaries we have drawn.
One: We believe that the Spirit is still moving —
Many: through people and places we may not expect.
One: We believe that endings can hold beginnings, that uncertainty
can become holy ground, and that small gatherings
can carry enormous love.
**Many: We believe that wherever people gather in compassion,
courage, justice, and hope, the Sacred is already among us.**
One: We do not know exactly what lies ahead.
Many: But we will walk toward it together.
One: Because we belong to God —
Many: and we belong to one another. Amen.

*Hymn

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
(Verse 3—Music may be found on page 11.)

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Benediction

Postlude

Drawn Together in the Spirit
A cooperative postlude

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.



Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether 529



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Here we touch your gar - ment's hem.
 lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

This communion text calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.

TEXT: Percy Dearmer, 1931, alt.

MUSIC: Harold Friedell, 1957

Text © 1931 Oxford University Press

Music © 1957, ren. H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

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8.7.8.7.4.4.7

As the Wind Song

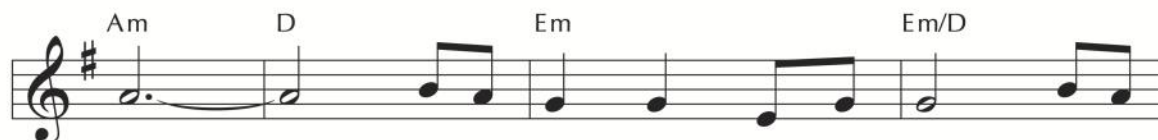
風之頌



1 As the wind song through the trees, as the
 2 As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the
 1 風之頌, 林中吹送, 輕風之
 2 彩之虹, 雨後高懸, 生之



stir - ring of the breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of
 hope that's born a - gain, so it is with the Spir - it of
 送, 心中振動, 上主的靈如風吹
 盼, 人間再現, 上主的靈如風吹



God, as the heart made strange-ly warm, as the
 God, as the green in the spring, as a
 送; 心溫暖, 奇異難明, 風浪
 送; 春天裡, 青山綠水, 線上



voice with - in the storm, so it is with the Spir - it of
 kite on a string, so it is with the Spir - it of
 中, 靜聽主聲, 上主的靈如風吹
 繫, 飛揚風箏, 上主的靈如風吹

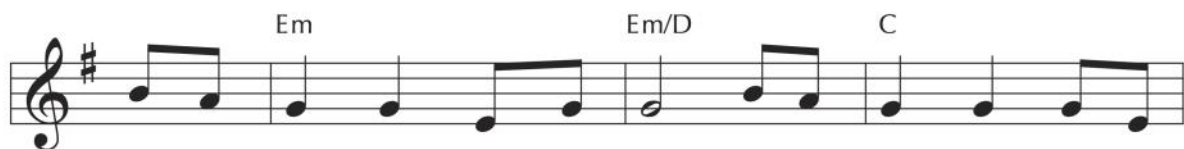


God. Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has
 God, mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come
 送; 眼不見, 心未明, 風來去何
 送; 大地萬象更新, 和平終實

Reversing the usual order, this hymn began with the music rather than the words. The composer (from Singapore) sent this tune to the author (in New Zealand) to see what text it might inspire from her. She also suggested the tune name, a Maori phrase meaning "Holy Spirit."



blown bring-ing life, bring-ing power to the world,
 true, bring-ing gifts, bring-ing love to the world,
 蹤, 給 世 人 賜 生 命 加 力 量;
 現, 給 世 人 帶 來 愛 和 禮 物;



as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -
 as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the wine at the
 火 之 舌, 跳 動 飛 舞, 心 深 處, 朝 思 暮
 麵 之 酵, 悄 然 膨 升, 盛 宴 上, 醇 香 美



sire, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
 feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
 想, 上 主 的 靈 如 風 吹 送。
 酒, 上 主 的 靈 如 風 吹 送。





Sunday Forum September 2026



DUPC Congregational Gatherings

Public Sunday Forums will begin again in October. For the month of September the DUPC congregation will be meeting to further discuss and discern our way forward.

No Forum—Labor Day Weekend September 6

We've Got Information to Share! September 13 **Current Members of Session**

Come hear from DUPC Session Elders who will provide updates on insightful meetings held with Spiritus Christi and the Rochester Friends Meeting (Quakers) during the summer months.

We've Been There! September 20 **Panelists: Sarah Fitts-Romig, Nancy Simpson & Rev. Deb Swift**

Our guest panelists will each share what they encountered and experienced as part of a congregation who decided to sell their building.

We Hear You! September 27 **Moderated by Pastor Kristina Hansen**

A dedicated time for DUPC congregants to provide feedback to Session drawing on information shared during the gatherings on September 13 & 20.

Sundays, 9:45AM—The Shaw Room & via Zoom






September 15 - 26

VENUE 



**DOWNTOWN
UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Liz Hogg
- Guitarist/Songwriter
September 16



A Pete Seeger Tribute
- Folk Songs & Sing-along
September 18-20 & 23-26



Samuel Clemens: Tales of Mark Twain
- History & Literature Interwoven
September 17-20



Hungry Ghost
- Guitar & Dance
September 17-18



Silver Rein II: A Goth-Folk Music Experience
- Cello & Vocals
September 18-19



The B Side of Broadway
- A Cabaret of Cut Show Tunes
September 19 & 23



La Diva de L'Empire
- Classical Music & Drag Meet
September 19



Folk Music Around the World
- The Archive Ravens
September 23-26



This City Will Eat You Alive
- Theatre Performance
September 23-25



Whelmed!
- Musical Parody of Parents & Their Grown Children
September 24-26



Mister Aubs.
- Spoken Word Poetry
September 24-26



A Funk Affair
- Premier R&B, Funk, & Soul Band
September 26



Sound of Sanctuary (SOS)
- Exploring the Sound of Rochester as a Sanctuary City
September 26



For More Information & Tickets:
<https://rochesterfringe.com>

The Downtown Church Staff

Jackie Beltran, Accounting Specialist
Keisha Betts, Nursery Coordinator
Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Shawn Bradshaw, Maintenance
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Rev. Kristina Hansen, Senior Pastor
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
David Mear, Business Manager

Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes,
Sunday School Teacher
Robin Sheikh, Office Administrator
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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