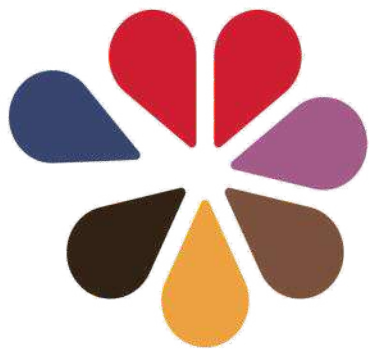




DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



September 13th

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 - Children not in nursery care will be invited forward during the "Time with Young Disciples" 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>.

Thank you to...

Pastor: Rev. Kristina Hansen

Liturgist: Gail Mott

Chancel Choir Members

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

Alto: Lillian Gundersen, Ruth Dunlop Alyssa Koh

Tenor: Jason Cloen, Mark Darling, Gavin Kosmack

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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Coming up at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

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

Tuesday, September 15

10:30AM Sacred Studies Group
6:00PM Session Meeting, Hybrid

**NOTE: Next Sunday, September 20th,
is our first ever Fringe Worship!**



Wednesday, September 16

4:30PM Sunday Forum Mtg, Zoom
7:00PM Choir Practice

Thursday, September 17

10:00AM Personnel Meeting, Hybrid

Sunday, September 20

9:45AM Sunday Forum, Hybrid
10:00AM Choir Warm-up
10:45AM Nursery
11:00AM **Fringe Worship
With All-Community Choir**
11:15AM Sunday School
12:00PM Refreshments, Sanctuary
7:00PM Sophia Circle

Celebration of Worship

September 13th, 2026 10:00 AM
16th 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 All Glory Be to God on High, BWV 663 J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome Reverend Kristina Hansen

Announcements Gail Mott

Chime

Introit Love Is Little Shaker Hymn
Arr. Kevin Siegfried

*"Love is little, love is low, Love will make our spirit grow.
Grow in peace, grow in light, Love will do the thing that's right."
Gavin Kosmack, soloist*

*Call to Worship (*Chalice Worship 187 mod.*)

One: O Bread of Life,

Many: we come with minds that are hungry for truth.

One: O Water of Life,

Many: we come with souls that are thirsty for forgiveness.

One: O Spirit of Life,

Many: we come with wills that are searching for direction.

One: In this holy place may God feed us, refresh us,
forgive us, empower us,

Many: and send us on our way rejoicing!

*Hymn

God of Great and God of Small
(*Music may be found on page 9.*)

GOD OF GREAT
AND SMALL

*Prayer of Invocation (*Mishkan T'Filah, p. 423, mod.*)

Gracious God,

the souls you have give us are pure.

You created them, you shaped them.

You breathed them into us,

and you protect them within us.

For as long as our souls are within us,

we offer thanks before you - Adonai, our God

and the God of our ancestors,

Source of all Creation.

Praised are you, O God,

in whose hand is every living soul

and the breath of humankind.

Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*Mishkan T'Filah, p. 463, mod.*)

Source of our Being,

When justice burns within us like a flaming fire,

when love evokes willing sacrifice from us,

when to the last full measure of selfless devotion,

we demonstrate our belief in the ultimate triumph

of truth and righteousness,

then goodness enters our lives and we can begin to change the world.

If people fall, can they not also rise?

If they break away, can they not return?

What human instinct knows the time to turn back?

What cue sparks the conscience of the soul?

We pray to sense this day anew, attuned to the call of sacred living.

(A moment of silence is observed for listening and personal prayer.)

One: Holy One, You call each of us beloved. Each of us cherished.
 Each of us desired. Each of us sacred.
 Many: For this, we give you thanks now and forever! Amen.

Time with Young Disciples		Pastor Kristina
First Reading	Rally Day Poem "We're Going Back to School" (See insert)	A Twinkl Poem i.e. anonymous
Music for Reflection	Until Love Is Spoken	Karen Marrolli
<i>"Grant us gentleness in power. Grant us strength to face this hour, to forgive, to offer grace, and nurture peace in every place. Grant us hope when all seems dire. Grant us faith to spark a fire, to fiercely burn, to drown the night, and set the world ablaze with light. And when we meet resistance and our call puts us in danger, grant us patience and persistence to stand up for friend and stranger. Grant us courage to be kind. Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear, so only love is spoken here. And when our path of justice leads us to the dreadful fight, grant us vigor, and entrust us with the power to do what's right. Grant us courage to be kind. Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear, so only love is spoken here.</i> Text: Karen Marrolli		
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 18:21-35	
Sermon	Forgiveness and the Impossible Math Problem	Pastor Kristina
*Hymn	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Verse 1: There's a wideness in God's mercy, Like the wideness of the sea; There's a kindness in God's justice, Which is more than liberty.	IN BABILONE

Was there ever kinder shepherd
Half so gentle, half so sweet,
As the Savior who would have us
Come and gather at His feet?

Verse 2:

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
As our love grows ever deeper,
We reflect God's living word;
And our world becomes illumined
By the kindness of our God.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1854; revised
Celie Katovitch and Pat Youngdahl, 2018

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

Coming Out of the Dark

Emilio Estefan, Jr.,
Jon Secada, and Gloria Estefan
Arr. Sam Stanley

"Why be afraid if I'm not alone? Life is never easy, the rest is unknown.

And up till now for me it's been hands against stone.

I spend each and every moment searching for what to believe.

Ref.: Coming out of the dark I finally see the light now, and it's shining on me.

Coming out of the dark, I know the love that saved me you're sharing with me.

Starting again is part of the plan, and I'll be so much stronger holding your hand.

Step by step I'll make it through, I know I can.

It may not make it easier, but I have felt you near all the way. (Ref.)

Forever stand on the rock of your love. Can't nobody stop me! Watch me!

Ever and ever stand on the rock of your love is all it takes no matter what we face. (Ref.)

Alyssa Koh, soloist

*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 (*faithandworship.com, mod.*)

Holy One, we acknowledge that all things have their origin with you.

These gifts we freely give to further your purpose in this place,

in our community, and in the wider world. Amen.

*Hymn

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

(*Music may be found on page 10.*)

Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on "Lauda Anima"

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.

God of Great and God of Small 19



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
 2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and des - ti - ny,
 3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
 4 God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,
 God of nev - er - end - ing power, yet be - side me ev - ery hour,
 God of day and dark - est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
 God of now and days be - fore, God who reigns for - ev - er - more,

Refrain



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

Although it uses remarkably simple language, this text affirms a great mystery: beyond all our powers of explanation, God holds together all the opposites that seem to pull us in one direction or another. Yet God is present to them all and also to us; for that we give praise.

TEXT: Natalie Sleeth, 1973

MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1973; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012

Text and Music © 1973 Carl Fischer, Inc.

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

7.7.7.7 with refrain



Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.



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.

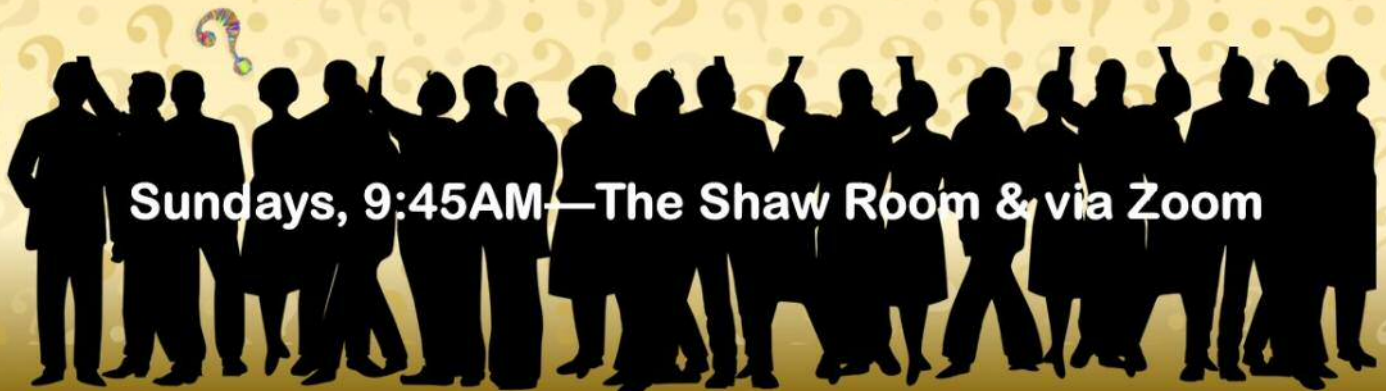
We've Been There! September 20 **Panelists: Sarah Fitts-Romig,** **Nancy Simpson & Rev. Deb Swift**

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



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
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

121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614

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email: office@DowntownPresbyterian.org

www.DowntownPresbyterian.org



We're Going Back to School

We're going back to school; we might feel sad to say goodbye,
But friends are just like sunshine – they will help the tears to dry.

We're going back to school; we might feel nervous at the door,
But joy will soon take over when we see our class once more.

We're going back to school; we might forget a rule or two,
But soon we will remember as we gently talk them through.

We're going back to school; we might do things a different way,
But new will turn to normal as we practise day by day.

We're going back to school; we might not say that we are scared,
But don't forget: a problem gets much smaller once it's shared.

We're going back to school; we might have grown-ups who are new,
But we will get to know them and they'll get to know us, too.

We're going back to school; we might be facing things unknown,
But doing them together means we'll never be alone.

We're going back to school, where we will laugh and learn and play,
Then head back home for cuddles once we've had a lovely day.





September 15 - 26

**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>