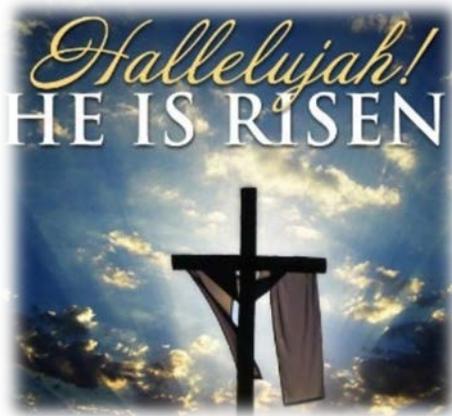


Celebration



April 1, 2022
Church Newsletter

Interim Pastor's Message



Talking about the variations in the 4 gospel accounts of the first Easter Sunday, the eminent Presbyterian preacher and author Frederick Buechner writes,

"It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it. It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth.

If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster.

Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself.

When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty.

That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt."

And what that "something unimaginable" was, as Buechner wrote in another sermon, was that "he somehow *got up*, with life in him again, and the glory upon him."

That is the good news which the Church is soon to celebrate: that, as St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, "...in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died... for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

And so as we walk through this 3rd season of Lent in this pandemic; as we watch and weep over the horrors of the invasion of Ukraine; as in the news and in our own lives we are far too often forced to face the reality of death, we cling to and rejoice in the central proclamation of our faith, with which we will open our worship on Easter Sunday: "Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!"

Peace and all good,
Laurie

Pastor Laurie's Weekly Schedule

For your information, here is Pastor Laurie's weekly schedule: Pastor Laurie's days off are Fridays. Also, Wednesdays are her sermon-writing day (at home.) She answers emails and calls on Wednesdays when the sermon is done -- usually late in the afternoon. Ltiberi@downtownpresbyterian.org | 585-325-4000 ext. 23



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 10

11:00AM Worship

In-person and Livestreamed

Maundy Thursday, April 14

6:30PM Service of Communion and Tenebrae in the Shaw Room

Good Friday, April 15

10:00AM Meet in Highland Park at the Pansy Bed for a
Meditative Walk & Community Time

Easter Sunday, April 17

6:30AM Brief outdoor sunrise service with the congregation of
Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue

11:00AM worship in celebration of the Resurrection
In person and Livestreamed

Liturgist

APRIL 3, LEA KONE

APRIL 10, JOHN WILLIAMS

APRIL 17, KIM MCCONNELL

APRIL 24, SALLY ALLISON

Thank you for serving as liturgist! We are so glad you'll be sharing your voice as we worship together.

If you are serving as part of the liturgist rotation and you are unable to serve on a certain Sunday, please contact one of the alternates to line up your own substitute. Then email Penny Crudup at pcrudup@downtownpresbyterian.org to let her know who will be serving in your place.

Alternates/substitutes are: Susan Richane, Callie Babbitt, and Ed Saphar. If none of the alternates are available, please email worship@downtownpresbyterian.org for assistance.



The Easter memorial bulletin insert, in Easter Sunday's bulletin, will list loved ones remembered or honored by donors to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Checks may be made payable to DPC or Downtown Church. These gifts must be received by Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022.

Instead of many Easter Lilies, two bouquets of Spring Flowers will serve as memorials on Easter Sunday. In addition, an arrangement of flowers will adorn the Communion table. This arrangement will be delivered to the Presbyterian Home after our church service.

To remember or honor a loved one with your gift, complete and return the form below to the Downtown Presbyterian Church's Business Office by April 10, 2022.

Please print or type:

In memory or honor of:

From: _____

Please return the completed form with your donation by April 10, 2022 or email it to the church office at office@downtownpresbyterian.org.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

DOWNTOWN UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY FORUM COMMITTEE
& THE JUSTICE LEAGUE
BRING YOU



Zoom ID: 858 6361 0716 - Passcode: 385022

Spiritual Journeys

April 3rd - Jonathan
Nwagabaraocha

April 24th - Ed Saphar

Spiritual Guides

David Lee presents:

April 10th - Rev. Pauli Murray

May 1st - Rabbi Abraham

Joshua Heschel

SUNDAY FORUM, APRIL 10, 2022

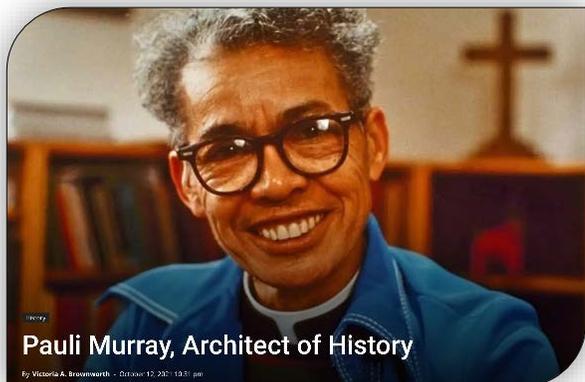
9:00 - 10:00AM ON ZOOM

Spiritual Guides

David Lee. (Presenter)

Pauli Murray (1910-1985): "I speak for my race and my people"

Who was Pauli Murray, and why is she important as a spiritual guide in difficult times?



She was more than the sum of her remarkable parts – a civil rights and feminist lawyer; a writer of poetry, memoir and landmark legal papers; a tenured professor and an Episcopal priest; a survivor of depression and transgender identity struggles.

Her life reminds us of the possibilities that spiritual strengths make possible.

NOTES FROM APRIL SESSION

Session Notes

In their March 15 meeting, Session approved the following motions:

- Finance Committee recommendation for the use of [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) Payment Processing to establish an on-line giving capability on our website to facilitate giving by members, friends, and visitors to the church.
- Personnel's job description for a Sunday School teacher for a Multi-Age Class 5-12, along with permission to begin the search.
- Approved Carol Snook's generous donation and decided that we hang the Ukrainian flag inside the Hallock Lounge front window for 2 months, and revisit at that time.
- Approved Justice League's request for DUPC to sponsor the *Combatants for Peace* program that will be held May 22 at Temple B'rith Kodesh.



To Our Friends Born in April

Mary Ruth Powley

Nadia Morales

Robert Dowd

Lea Kone

Vicki Romig

Tucker Ruderman

Catherine Ruderman

Carol Snook

Carolyn DeHority

Nancy Simpson

DEACONS
Leading through Serving.

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

In February, after learning more about how to help Afghani refugees in the Rochester area, the Board of Deacons voted to donate \$500 to Keeping Our Promise, Inc. Henry Ehindero wrote a wonderful letter accompanying our donation, writing in part: "Together with our neighbors, near and far, we seek to live into Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of the Beloved Community. Thank you for helping us to support one another on our sacred journeys."

In March, the Board of Deacons received a phenomenally generous donation in memory and honor of Jane Coons. This donation was given lovingly by her sister, Esther Laventhol, who resides in New York City. This donation has been deposited into the Deacon Flower Fund. Jane was one of our "flower ladies". She was always concerned that there would not be sufficient funds to cover the cost of Sunday flowers. She worked diligently to find people to supply their garden flowers during Rochester's growing season as well as urging people to donate for memorial flower bouquets. Suffice it to say, Jane's sister's donation will allow us to have beautiful Sunday flowers for literally years to come.

HELLO FROM ALL OF US ON THE "T" TEAM!



We are so honored to be called to help guide the congregation in this time of transition. Over the next few months, we will be encouraging you to reflect on 5 Focus Points for our church: our **heritage, mission, connections, leadership** and **future**.

We will seek to engage you, the congregation, in various ways as we gather your input on these five focus points. For the first focus point, Our Heritage, we are looking for your feedback through an online and mailed survey which is forthcoming. It is our hope that your timely responses will help to order our steps as we move forward as a faith community.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to any of us individually or through the team's email: dupctransitionteam@gmail.com

Raina Boupavong: raina.boupavong@gmail.com

Marie Gibson mgibson@frontiernet.net (585-472-3137)

Becky Parks: jimandbeckyparks@gmail.com (585-645-3000)

Windsor Wade: windsor.wade2@gmail.com (585 953-8483)

Coriander Wolfgang Rainbeaux: corianderwolf@gmail.com

Laurie Tiberi: ltiberi@downtownpresbyterian.org

Lenten Blessings,
The Transition Team

**New Job
Opportunity
Posted!**

Please help us find a Sunday School Teacher for our beloved children by sharing the attached job description.

Thank you for your help!!!



Sunday School Teacher
Downtown United Presbyterian Church (Downtownpresbyterian.org)
Rochester, NY

Job description

Multi-age Class -- 5-12 years, meeting 36-40 weeks of the year.
45 minutes teaching plus up to three hours of preparation and set-up.
\$100 per week (\$25/hour)

Responsibilities

- Create lesson plans in line with several previously selected curricula.
- Prepare and oversee lessons and creative activities.
- Ensure that the designated area of the Sunday school is clean and presentable and follows COVID guidelines.
- Assist children in completing assigned projects.
- Oversee the attendance record.
- Willing to work with a rotating volunteer assistant teacher.

Requirements

- High school diploma required. College courses or degree preferred.
- Experience working with and/or teaching youth preferred.
- Commitment to Presbyterian faith tradition or to a closely aligned faith tradition.
- Good understanding of planning and developing lesson plans.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Successfully pass a background check.
- Attend annual sexual harassment training as mandated by NYState and Child Abuse Prevention Training.

Downtown Presbyterian Church is a community of faith that takes to heart the call of Christ to share God's love, welcome all, feed the hungry, heal the broken-hearted and so doing, transform our life together so that the blessings of God's grace can flow to everybody, no one left out.

Interested candidates should call or text Mary Rees (585) 350-8763 or email mrees5880@gmail.com.



News about Family Promise (which used to be RAIHN)

The apartment model will continue. Our guest families will continue to be housed in apartments, three in the Day Center Building and three in a building nearby. You may remember that when Covid closed our buildings, we first found ways to provide shelter for these families in motel rooms. This was a “best we can do for now” solution, and over time the RAIHN team has been able to fix up the Day Center and find apartments in the neighborhood to house our families in housing crisis. We extended this plan a few months at a time, never guessing it would be so long before the Covid restrictions eased. Within the past few months, Family Promise has come to the decision to make the apartment model permanent.

The good part: Housing more people than we could in the churches, more stability for the families, more chance for parents to feel a sense of competence and control of their own lives.

The not so good part: We miss time spent with families, and they lose the chance to get support and comfort from volunteers.

What we’re planning to do about it: Organize activities at the Day Center, probably including activities for whole families, activities just for children so parents can have time to themselves, tutoring for whoever needs it.

New plans for using gift cards

Gift cards that let each family buy food has been the arrangement for the past several rotations, and we’ve appreciated the way those gift cards came in quickly. Every sign-up sheet was full within twenty-four hours. Our last rotation, and what is actually the last week of the rotation system for the whole Family Promise Network, will begin on June 26th. Starting in July, the rotations end, and so does the system of gift cards going directly to each family.

The staff has recognized that most of our shelter families are eligible for food through SNAP, WIC, or both. Beyond that, Family Promise is developing a stronger partnership with FoodLink to fill in the rest.

What are we going to do? Becky Parks and I will listen to what you have to say. At the last coordinators meeting, we were reminded that gift cards “with no strings attached” would continue to be more than welcome (so would checks). Blinds for the apartments. Brooms and mops and other cleaning supplies for the apartments and for each family moving into their own home. Paint for the apartments and for the Day Center.

How would you feel if we kept up a rotation of giving. We could pick an easy to remember week, say the first or last of the month every three months. I could make that a time to update you on what Family Promise is doing, and all of us could use it as a time to lend a hand.

Prevention, Diversion, and Re-housing

Everyone who has worked with Family Promise knows that our biggest goal would be to put ourselves out of business because there were no more families in Rochester in housing crisis. We are a long, long way from that, but in the past two years, we've expanded our reach way beyond the shelter program in being able to help more and more families **before** they no longer have a place to live.

The Prevention, Diversion and Re-housing program is doing just that. Since January 1st, 808 households have requested assistance.

469 in January

206 in February

133 in March

And of those, 17 families have been assisted through the Prevention, Diversion and Rehousing Program And 52 families have been assisted through ERAP funding for a total of \$285,258.

Two significant volunteer opportunities:

Helping establish and endowment fund for Prevention, Diversion, and Re-housing: Do you have skills in grant writing? What about major fund-raising? Throughout the Covid period, Family Promise has been able to draw on special government funds to help families who were on the brink of losing their housing. Each of those families might have needed the shelter program, but didn't because timely help with rent got them past a situation, often caused by loss of work or illness, that could have been the tipping point. That government funding is winding down. Family Promise wants to build up an endowment fund that will keep the Prevention, Diversion, and Re-housing program going for many years. Is this something you'd like to help happen?

Handling phone calls at the Day Center: Would you like to work directly with families calling in to seek help? If you could commit half a day a week, or even half a day a month, you could give a member of the Day Center staff time to work with people already in the system. If you want to go one step further, the Day Center staff is ready to work with you to help you learn how to give the most immediate help when someone calls, collecting data, making referrals, and so on. This would be both interesting and challenging, and it's a job that could grow even more interesting and challenging over time.

Are there other ways to help?

There certainly are. One that I'm excited about is tutoring, starting as soon as school is out in the summer and going on after the school year starts. This program is still in the most embryonic stage, but I want to do everything I can to make it the best it can be,

because there are so many kids out there who lost a **lot** of ground during distance learning.

Here's one thing we could think about. Lots of kids need help with reading, and that need will go on. I think many volunteers feel fairly comfortable doing that.

I want to talk about math. Math is cumulative. If you went to distance learning in the middle of third grade, kept on at it through fourth, and then showed up in a classroom in fifth, you might be just fine if everything worked and if you could ask your family when you got stuck. On the other hand, if you missed a lot of days because the connection was sketchy and nobody could help you, or give you a little push when you needed one, there's a very good chance that multiplication is still a mystery, and here you are expected to do it with fractions and decimals.

Summer tutoring will mean that the tutors won't have day to day or week to week assignments from a teacher, so I'm wondering.

Quite a few of you at Downtown Presbyterian are engineers and accountants and other kinds of math whizzes. Couldn't we work together to address this? Outfit a math lab at the Day Center? Put together some games and challenges that would intrigue the kids? Maybe have some kits that a volunteer tutor could use to make a session interesting? This is just the very beginning of an idea, but I think it has possibilities. Please let me know if you like it and could help take it further.

And we remember eighteen years of RAIHN. As I think back through all our years of hosting, I have lots of good stories, and I know many of you do too. Let's get them out there – we might even want to find a way to put them into a little book – one that is really a love letter.

We were given the gift of being able to put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, beds in the resting place . . . and to know that often, often, Christ comes in the stranger's garb.





APRIL 2022

MEETING AND EVENTS

Newsletters arrive the 1st of every month.

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of every month.



Sunday, April 3, 2022	9:00AM	Sunday Forum via Zoom
	11:00AM	Worship – In person & via Live Stream
Tuesday, April 5, 2022	10:30AM	People of the Passion in Scripture, Art & Music Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2022	5:30PM	Justice League Meeting via Zoom
	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
	6:30PM	Dinner Dialogues via Zoom
Thursday, April 7, 2022	5:00PM	Worship Team Meeting via Zoom
	7:00PM	Congregational & Community Engagement (CCE) Meeting via Zoom



Sunday, April 10, 2022	9:00AM	Sunday Forum via Zoom
	11:00AM	Worship – In person & via Live Stream
	7:00PM	Sophia Circle via Zoom
Monday, April 11, 2022	7:00PM	Engagement Team Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, April 12, 2022	10:30AM	People of the Passion in Scripture, Art & Music Zoom Meeting
	6:30PM	Deacons Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, April 13, 2022	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 14, 2022		Maunday Thursday
	5:00PM	Finance Team Meeting via Zoom
	6:30PM	Maundy Thursday Service – In person
	7:30PM	Property Team Mtg.
Friday, April 15, 2022		Good Friday
	10:00AM	Meditative Walk & Community Time in Highland Park; walk begins at the Pansy Bed
	12:00PM	Round Table Book Group



Sunday, April 17, 2022

Easter Sunday

- 6:30AM Outdoor Sunrise Service with the congregation of Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue
- 9:00AM SundayForum via Zoom
- 11:00AM Worship – In person & via Live Stream

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

- 10:30AM Psalm Bible Study Group via Zoom
- 7:00PM Session Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

- Newsletter Deadline
- 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal



Sunday, April 24, 2022

- 9:00AM Sunday Forum via Zoom
- 11:00AM Worship – In person & Live Stream

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

- 10:30AM Psalm Bible Study Group via Zoom

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

- 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Downtown United Presbyterian Church
121 North Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, New York 14614
585-325-4000

office@downtownpresbyterian.org

