

# Celebration



July 16, 2021  
Church Newsletter

## Pastor's Message

A black fountain pen nib is shown at the end of the "Pastor's Message" text, as if it has just finished writing the word "Message".

Dear Friends,

First and foremost: THANK YOU to all of you who have given me such a warm welcome! Your warm smiles and words have made me start to feel at home very quickly, and I want you to know how much I appreciate it. (I was frankly amazed at how many came out in the torrential rain for the "meet and greet" at the park on Thursday – y'all are Rochester tough, indeed!)



I want you to know, too, how very helpful the staff has been in getting me settled in and oriented (although, in such a large facility, I still feel like I need a compass!) They have been friendly, quick to offer help, and very patient with my many, many questions. It's going to be terrific having such great folks to work with.

I'm sure you're all eager to hear more about what this interim period might be like, how it works, and what its purpose is. Let me just say for now that interim (a.k.a. "transitional") period is one in which the congregation spends time reflecting on the past, examining the present, and considering toward what future you believe God may be leading you. I hope and believe that you will find this to be a very valuable time, and one which will help the [eventual] Pastor Nominating Committee know what is most important to look for in evaluating candidates to be your next installed Pastor. More on that process in next month's article!

For now, I just wanted to say that I look very forward to getting to know you all, and look forward to doing that in whatever ways work best for each of you: face to face conversations, phone calls, Zoom chats, emails, etc. (For now, at least, I will not offer Facebook as a way for us to get acquainted, for the simple reason that Facebook is, well, a bit of a minefield. I have seen far too many misunderstandings and arguments break out on Facebook, and far too many people hurt that someone didn't respond to a particular post, to think that it is the best way for a pastor and congregants to begin to

learn about each other. I'd much rather we get to know each other the old-fashioned way – through actual conversations.

I do invite you, however, if you'd like to do so, to follow me on Instagram – there you will find pictures about my life outside of my position as your interim pastor. (Fair warning: many of them will be about our pets, who are, right now, Stella the backsliding beagle, and little Henry David, our kitty.) They provide our household with endless entertainment and laughter, and we are routinely slain by their cuteness. ☺

Finally, if there's ever anything on your mind, anything you'd like to talk about, or something you'd like me to know, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. It's what I'm here for.

The Lord bless you and keep you,

Laurie



## THE DEACONS' YEAR IN REVIEW



Here is a list of the Deacons who have served faithfully during this historic year: Barb Ames, Jane Coons, Henry Ehindero, Andrea Folan, Helen Ganotis, Stephen Gaylord, Marie Gibson, Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock, Ellen Horn, Bonnie Lloyd, Joan Mackey, Sandy Morales, Kelley Sheils, Carol Snook and Windsor Wade. Give them a thumbs up!

The Deacons met the second Tuesday of each month via Zoom...and we found that we liked it! As a matter of fact, we plan to continue to meet via Zoom when we reconvene this fall. We will meet in person in September and then, when the days get shorter and colder, we will stay in the warmth of our homes and look at a screen of familiar faces!

Our theme this past year was: "Thinking of you with love." In addition to our traditional Christmas and Easter tokens, we made rotating deliveries of flower bouquets, big red apples, cards, or clementines. There were a few church members who were not on our special care list, but we were able to help them out as needs arose.

Our church "Postcard Project" hopefully reached each member or church friend. The Deacons thank our church office staff who made this a very easy process. There will be one more postcard in August. Stay tuned!

Now that in-person church is happening, memorial services will be forthcoming with Covid protocol in place. The Deacons will provide receptions for these. When our meetings resume in the fall, the Deacons will consider bringing special care people who are able, to church through contracted transportation.

Every Deacon should feel a great sense of accomplishment for their efforts. Thank you to all.

### **MARK ANDERSON BEGINS A NEW ROLE WITH THE CHURCH**

In January, Mark indicated to the Session that he would like to be relieved of some of his responsibilities beginning July 1. So, the Session's Personnel Committee has been working with Mark to define a new role. As many of you may know, Mark recently became a grandfather. Whenever you mention it, a broad smile breaks out on his face. He is clearly enjoying his grandfather status. Now also, having reached the normal retirement age, you can understand his desire to spend more time with family and grandchild.

So, beginning July 1, Mark transitioned from his position as the Director of Church Operations to a new, less time consuming, relationship. Under the new arrangement Mark will be available as a consultant to assist the Church on a variety of technical, building and personnel needs as they arise. Without supervisory responsibilities, Mark can generally work from home, and visit the Church only as helpful.

We will be planning an event to celebrate Mark's tenure later in the summer, probably September. Until then, we want Mark to know we have nothing but appreciation and admiration for his contributions. Thank you Mark for all you have done over the last seven years.



Your DUPC Church Family



*Happy Birthday*  
wishes to everyone born in the month of  
**JULY!**

In our minds and hearts let's light up the sky in celebration of  
All those in our church family having July birthdays.

John Hultz	Alexander Vine
Bob Carlisle	Margaret Adams
Peg Meeker	Sandra Cain
Grania Marcus	Edwin Saphar
Susan Riblett	Douglas Potter
Kelley Sheils	

## **GARDEN FLOWERS**

We are in need of flowers in our August worship service from member's/friend's gardens.

The dates are:  
August 1,  
August 8,  
August 15,  
and August 29.

If you would like to share your garden flowers in August, please call Jane Coons at 585-473-1725 or reach her via email at [janecoons@gmail.com](mailto:janecoons@gmail.com).



# Class of 2021

*Congratulations graduates!*

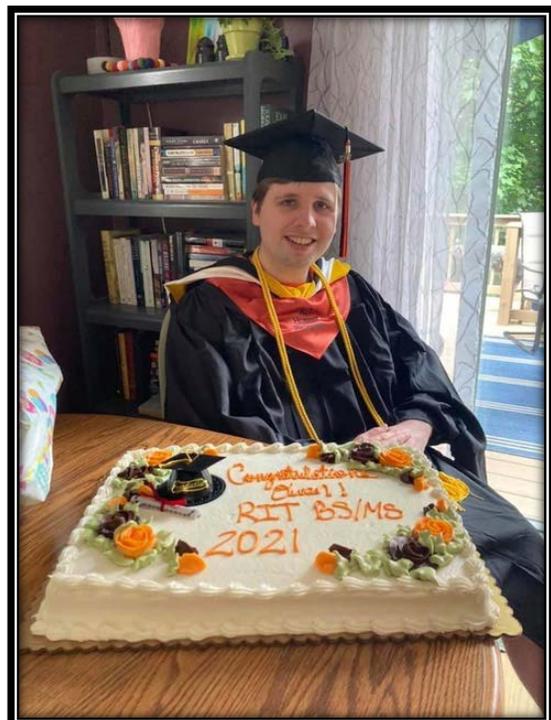


**CONGRATULATIONS,  
EMILY FOLAN!**

*Pictured with  
Tom & Andrea Folan*

**CHEERS TO OWEN WIGGNS!**

*Pictured with Becky Wiggins*



## SENATOR JEREMY COONEY HONORS LOCAL CARIBBEAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADER WITH STATE AWARD FOR HER DECADES OF SERVICE

(Rochester, NY) - Senator Jeremy Cooney (D-Rochester) honored local Caribbean American business and community leader **Florence Pearl Rugless-O'Mealley**, 95, with a New York State Senate Commendation as part of *Caribbean American Heritage Month*. Mrs. Rugless-O'Mealley is an entrepreneur and currently the Deacon at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church (DUPC).



Mrs. Rugless-O'Meally has also served on the Board of Directors of the Sojourner House for several years and now sits on its Advisory Council. She was the vice president of the Genesee Street Merchants Association, Board Member of United Nations' Rochester Chapter, a member of the NYS Cosmetology Association, and a member of the Grapevine Association - a multicultural group that addressed diversity issues in Rochester, NY.

The Senate Commendation Award recognizes exceptional people who have made a lasting contribution to their community through volunteerism, leadership, and charitable work as well as enriching the social, health, and educational well-being of their fellow citizens.

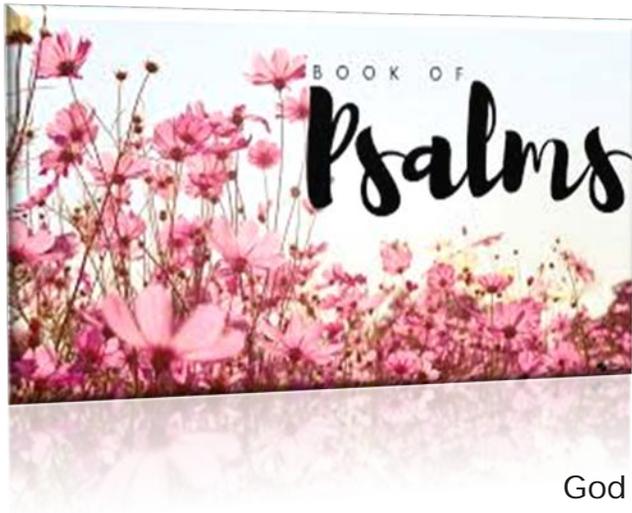
### Senator Jeremy Cooney

"Florence has dedicated her life to serving Rochester. She has impacted countless lives in the Caribbean American community through her leadership - as a business person and as an advocate - as well as through her mentorship of young people. It is an honor to recognize her with the Senate Commendation award during Caribbean American Heritage Month."

### Florence Pearl Rugless-O'Malley (Awardee)

"I was surprised that the Senator recognized my work. It was very gracious of him to take the time to present it in person, you don't see that kind of service very often."





## A PSALM-PSISTER SPEAKS

For the past 60 weeks, church members have been meeting, first in two groups, now combined into one, on Zoom to discuss the Psalms. We read one a week, and we are committed to study all 150! Great is our faithfulness! We have been assisted by pastors and by our wonderful Church Secretary, Penny Crudup, and facilitated by our dedicated Mary Bookout and Marie Gibson.

God moves in mysterious ways, and just prior to my joining the morning group, at week 20, a friend had suggested I read the Psalms as a boost to my spiritual life. When I learned of it, I welcomed this opportunity to participate as a gift from Spirit.

Our hour-long discussions sometimes run to 90 minutes, and our friendships have deepened as we have gotten to know each other better. Prior to this, "Bible study" didn't appeal to me much. I understood the social and spiritual value of reading the Bible in a group, but I never imagined that I would be calm enough to experience such benefits. Now I plan my day around 10 a.m. on Tuesdays. I glow with new understanding for several days after our meetings, and I enjoy anticipating our next Zoom gathering.

Reading the psalms in a group makes sense to us, since they were written to be performed in worship. We wrestle with the words, because of how they strike us, each of us in our own circumstances, each with a different perspective. We sometimes communicate during the week, after a particularly thought-provoking session.

We are not a large group, just ten, which gives everyone a chance to participate. We pray into and out of our time together, and I have meditated on how delighted Jesus must be with us, two thousand years after He walked the earth and spoke about Old Testament lessons with his followers.

We imagine new groups forming, adapted to the needs of the participants because anywhere two or more are gathered in His name, they are bringing love and peace on Earth. I once worried that nothing good would come from the pandemic. Now I know otherwise!

We are taking July and August off, but will resume our meetings September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to participate in a Psalm or Bible study group, please reach out to Penny at [pcrudup@downtownpresbyterian.org](mailto:pcrudup@downtownpresbyterian.org).

Pat Tweet

## POEMS AND SPIRITUAL WRITINGS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



Deanna Tiefenthal has been writing Haiku poetry for many years and is a member of the Rochester Area Haiku Group. She has led our WomanSpace group in learning to write Haiku and she also has had her work published. Here's some of Deanna's poetry and words on the topic:

*Haiku* Poetry can be short. Way short! Haiku is a Japanese poetry form. We English-language "haikuists" used to think of it as something very rigid, but it's much more flexible these days.

In rethinking Haiku the past couple of decades, here are some suggested "rules:"

- 3 lines
- present tense
- concrete images, often nature juxtaposed with another image
- a seasonal reference
- about 11 words (no need to count syllables, that's passe)
- no punctuation, occasionally a dash is used

Look for excitement when reading a haiku poem—you'll see a connection between two images. Here are a few examples from my haiku. Can you find the images?

Reentering the house  
to retrieve my mask  
the alarm goes off  
\*

Cold front arrives  
the warmth of Zoom chats  
with old friends  
\*

Election Day  
all the leaves  
aquiver  
\*

Pentecost worship in the woods  
birdsong  
in many tongues  
\*

First Amendment rally  
the deaf man  
ignores his parrot  
\*

Armistice Day  
the spider on the church wall  
survives  
\*

Thanksgiving Day  
breakfast check comes to  
\$16.20  
\*

Poetry  
in Motion

A decorative red feather graphic with a curved tail, positioned above the word "Poetry" in the logo.

The Next issue of **Celebration** arrives Friday, August 13, 2021.



Please submit articles, snapshots,  
and announcements to:  
[pcrudup@downtownpresbyterian.org](mailto:pcrudup@downtownpresbyterian.org)  
by noon on Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

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