

Celebration



August 1, 2022
Church Newsletter

Interim Pastor's Message

God and the Language of Flowers

A few years ago I read a novel I very much enjoyed, called *The Language of Flowers*. This debut novel by Vanessa Diffenbaugh tells the story of Victoria Jones, who, after a childhood and youth spent being shuffled from one foster home to another, learns to use her knowledge of the "language of flowers" to help others.

It turns out that in the Victorian age, it became a very popular pastime to learn the symbolic meaning associated with each flower, and then to use those meanings to deliver messages that, for one reason or another, couldn't be spoken out loud. For example, basil symbolized good wishes; black-eyed Susans represented justice; candytuft meant indifference; lilac stood for the joy of youth. You can read more about the various flowers and the meanings assigned to them [here](#), or simply by googling.

So my first question for you all, DUPC family, in these warm August days, as the flowers of our gardens slowly rotate with the passing of the days, is this: If God were to send you a small bouquet of flowers (we'll assume God is acquainted with the meanings attached to the various flowers), which flowers do you think God would choose for you? What message do you think God feels you need to most receive right now?

And then, my second question: what bouquet of various messages do you think God would assemble for this congregation? What feelings, thoughts, images do you think God would like DUPC to dwell on at this particular time?

If you do this exercise, I invite you to describe the imaginary bouquet you imagine God assembling for DUPC in E-connect. (And, if you like, a picture of the flowers in your garden as well would be lovely!)



Thank you for Serving as Liturgist!

Liturgist

8/7 Nancy Brown

8/14 David Lee

8/21 Kim McConnell

8/28 Lea Kone

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.

Sunday's Congregational Gathering in the Hallock Lounge to share one last time with the Transition Team our thoughts and hopes for DUPC's future.





*Kathy McCrae (Wolfarth)
Stephen Gaylord
Lauren St. Germaine
Margaret Richards
Nancy Kennedy
Dayle Bird
Sally Allison*

*Fran McDowell
Coriander Rainbeaux
Henry Ehindero
Deborah Smith
Gail Mott
Isabel Morrison
Laura Richane*



Session Notes

JULY, 2022 Session Notes

- Session proposed an early December "Budget 101" Session. (How the budget works - including the endowment). Even though the congregation doesn't approve the budget, increased financial literacy will help us all understand how our budget works. The Final budget will be presented at the annual meeting.
- As a result of adopting the DUPC Community Code of Conduct, the Session voted to create a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. The DEI Start up team will include Justice League members, Windsor Wade, Jonathan Nwagbaraocha, Grania Marcus, and Session Member, Sally Allison
- Session committed to opening Stated Session meetings with a Land Acknowledgement and to encourage DUPC committees/teams to do the same.
- We welcome Amelia Borges, our new Sunday School teacher, who is on board and off to a good start!

DOWNTOWN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – ATTENDS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our congregation was represented at the Teen Empowerment exhibit of [Clarissa Uprooted](#) by a group from the Justice League and Elders.

There was a lively discussion after we viewed the exhibit. One thing I took away was to think about how we as a church can connect with the folks around us, with Clarissa Street as an amazing example. I was especially taken by how much music, theater and the arts were prevalent. That is something we have in common - a great love of music and expression of our beliefs through the arts.

Besides me (Coriander), Grania and Elaine-- Bob Richane, Sam King, Mary Rees and my mom Marilyn, were there. If you were there at any time and want to share your experience, please do so via eConnect or even one on one.



PHOTOS OF DOWNTOWN PEOPLE AT THE PRIDE PARADE



Meet Our Choir Members!

While the choir takes a well-deserved break from worship leadership over the summer, I thought it would be nice to keep you connected with the singers through sharing some of their stories with you. Here is the third of four installments in this series. . .

Emmalouise St. Amand



1. When did you start singing with the DUPC choir, and what drew you to do so?

I started singing at DUPC after moving back to Rochester in 2018 to begin a graduate program at Eastman. I had begun singing as a church musician regularly while completing a master's degree in Miami, and I wanted to continue to do so in a different denomination.

2. What is something that you particularly enjoy about singing here?

I enjoy the range of music that we sing at DUPC. I previously worked at more conservative Catholic churches, where our repertoire was much more limited in style. At DUPC, we sing spirituals, songs from

films and pop, renaissance counterpoint, and traditional hymn settings. The omniverousness of musical taste here really keeps it interesting to me as a singer!

3. What non-musical activities bring you joy?

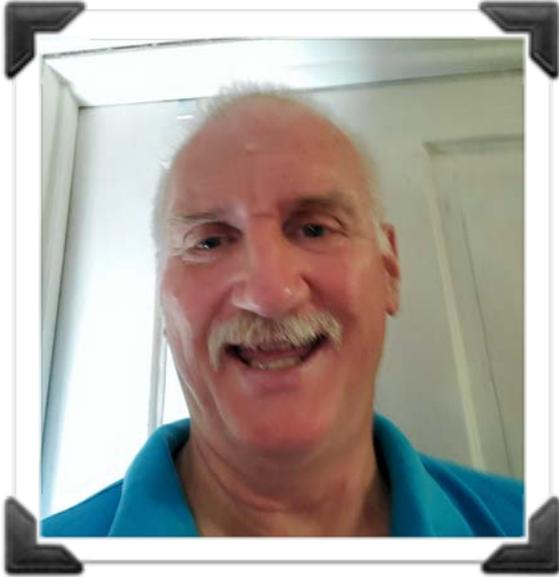
I like to do fiber crafts like knitting and sewing, and I like getting outside with my dog, Moxie.

4. Would you like to share anything else about yourself with our congregation?

I completed my undergraduate study in vocal performance and music education at Ithaca College and my master's in voice from the Frost School of Music at the University at Miami. I'm now a Ph. D. Candidate in musicology at Eastman, where my research interests include issues of embodiment, voice, and popular music. My dissertation is about amateur and semi-professional Black girl groups in 1950s and 1960s America. I also teach undergraduate early music history classes at Eastman, and voice lessons at Eastman Community Music School.



Mark Darling



1. When did you start singing with the DUPC choir, and what drew you to do so?

I got involved with the Downtown Presbyterian Choir through First Inversion. After the October 2014 debut concert, Lee invited me to sing with the Downtown Presbyterian Choir for Advent Special Music. I thoroughly enjoyed the quality and feeling of the whole experience. The people in the choir were friendly and down to earth. The musicianship was extraordinary, and I felt very at home in the open and diverse church community. I joined the choir a few weeks later, and I have been a choir member ever since.

2. What is something that you particularly enjoy about singing here?

I have performed with First Inversion for all 8 years of its existence. First Inversion feels to me like an extension of church choir. We not only rehearse and perform in the church spaces, but the programming is consistent with the styles and values of the music we sing in church services. In fact, many of the singers from First Inversion turn up in church choir as members, subs, or guests.

3. What non-musical activities bring you joy?

Choral music is my hobby. Before the pandemic I routinely sang with Eastman Rochester Chorus, Finger Lakes Choral Festival, Finger Lakes Camerata and Chorale, Hobart-William Smith Chorus, Victor Community Chorus, First Inversion and Berkshire Choral Festival- devoting three to four evenings a week to rehearsals. In addition to singing, my hobbies include kayaking, cross country skiing, e-biking, and endlessly repairing our 200 year old farm house. For my actual job, I work for the Catholic Diocese of Rochester as Director of IT Infrastructure, where I have been since 1989.

4. Would you like to share anything else about yourself with our congregation?

I live on a small farm in Farmington, commuting a half hour each way to Rochester for choir practice and services. I've been married for 40 years, with two children and twin 5 year old grandsons.



John DeHority



1. When did you start singing with the DUPC choir, and what drew you to do so?

I don't remember exactly when I began singing with the choir. I bet it's getting into the vicinity of 10 years now. I enjoy being a part of the process of creating something beautiful. The music we make together is usually just that--beautiful.

2. What is something that you particularly enjoy about singing here?

I'm not a professionally trained musician, but I get to work with a bunch of people who are. The challenge of singing with these amazing musicians has stretched me, educated me, and made me a better musician too.

3. What non-musical activities bring you joy?

My nick-name at Camp Whitman is "Boat Man." I love boats--boats that sail, boats that paddle, boats with motors. Even more I like to share my love of boats and boating with the staff and campers. Hopefully some of them have caught the bug from me and will include boating in their lives more often.

4. Would you like to share anything else about yourself with our congregation?

At this point I've lived too long to have a "short bio." I grew up in suburban Chicago, where I was active in Boy Scouts and the regional youth chamber orchestra. I used to play cello. I picked up a cello very briefly this summer--I absolutely do not play cello any longer. It was mortifyingly awful. In the middle of high school my family moved to Syracuse, NY. Thus began my sojourn as a New Yorker. I attended Earlham College, in Richmond, Indiana. There I had the wonderful good fortune of meeting and falling in love with Carolyn Berquist. Since Carolyn was two years behind me in college, I was motivated to remain in Richmond after I graduated. I accomplished that by enrolling at the Earlham School of Religion, where I earned my MDiv. That led to my ordination as a Presbyterian Minister in 1980. In 1985, after earning yet another masters degree (this time in Computer Science) I left the ministry to work as a software engineer and research scientist. I joined the Downtown Presbyterian Church in 1985 when Geneva Presbytery asked me to lay aside my ordination as a minister.

My journey with all of you at DUPC is better known. In my early years here Carolyn and I predominantly attended C-II. After C-II ended, we continued to attend Adult Forum. Eventually I gave in to my long-time desire to try singing with the choir. Once I started I was hooked!



Group & Circle Summer Meeting Schedules:

Bible Study Group will be taking July and August off. We will resume our studies beginning Tuesday, September 6th. A link will be sent via eConnect around that time.

Sophia Circle will rest for the summer months and resume either zoom or in person on September 11th. Venue to still be decided.

Here is our schedule and our selected books:

Friday August 19th Noon

O! WILLIAM, BY ELIZABETH STROUT

Friday September 16th Noon

THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY, BY AMOR TOWLES

Hope to see you at one or more of our meetings. Happy Summer!

AUGUST 2022

MEETING AND EVENTS

Newsletters arrive the 1st of every month.

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of every month.

Monday, August 1, 2022	4:00PM	Transition Team Zoom Mtg.
Wednesday, August 3, 2022	5:30PM	Justice League Zoom Mtg.
Thursday, August 4, 2022	5:00PM 7:00PM	Worship Team Zoom Mtg. Engagement Team Zoom Mtg.



Sunday, August 7, 2022	10:00AM 11:00AM	Worship Coffee Hour in the Narthex
Monday, August 8, 2022	4:00PM 7:00PM	Transition Team Zoom Mtg. Engagement Team Zoom Mtg.
Thursday, August 11, 2022	5:00PM 7:30PM	Finance Team Zoom Mtg. Property Team Mtg.



