

Celebration



*August 13, 2021
Church Newsletter*

Interim Pastor's Message

Dear DUPC family,

In last month's article, I said, "The 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." And then I promised you more on that next month. Well, now it's next month, so let me elaborate a bit on what that process is like.



It's broadly accepted by experts in the field of transitional ministry that there are five "focus points" on which a congregation needs to spend time and energy before it is ready to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee and begin actively searching for its next installed pastor. Those focus points are:

1. Heritage – who are we, where did we come from, where have we been, how did we get to this point, what are our successes and struggles, how did successes emerge from struggles?
2. Mission – what are our core visions and values; where do we place our focus; who and what do we believe we are we called to be?
3. Connections – who do we relate to outside the congregation (presbytery, ecumenical partners, neighborhood, non-profits, etc.)? Do any of those connections need adjustment in any way?
4. Leadership – what kind of leaders do we have, and what kind do we need? What kind of structure do we have, and what kind do we need?
5. Future – how do our core values take shape in the future – that is, how do we move forward, what are some next steps, toward achieving our goals and dreams?

(By the way, some of you who have gone through other interim periods in the life of this or other congregations, may remember these being called "process tasks" and having somewhat different names, like "coming to terms with our history" instead of "heritage." Beginning in 2012, the interim training networks began to adopt the language of "focus points" rather than "tasks" and to describe them in the way I've outlined here. I think this was a helpful change in language; we can talk about that more at some point if you'd like.)

(Continued from previous page.)

How does this all get done? A Transitional Team will be chosen by the Session, after soliciting input from the congregation as to the makeup of that Team. Then the Interim Pastor will act as “coach” to the Transitional Team, as the Team decides what are the best ways to go about engaging this particular congregation in the self-reflection involved in the five focus points. The Team (not the Interim Pastor) will eventually write a report to the Session, describing all that has been learned in the process. Finally, the Session (not the Interim Pastor) will decide when the congregation is ready to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the search process.

When will the Transition Team be formed? When the Session (not the Interim Pastor) judges the congregation is ready to get started.

How long will all of this take? That is impossible to say; every congregation is different. As a very general rule of thumb, the time from the start of the Interim Pastorate to the choosing of a new installed Pastor is, more often than not, somewhere between 18 and 24 months – but sometimes it is longer, and sometimes it is shorter.

As always, both your Session and I welcome your questions and your input. I look forward to being on this leg of your journey with you!

Peace,
Laurie

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

Notes from Our Session

We are returning to the practice of sharing highlights from our Session meetings. For further information, or to send your comments to Session, email session@downtownpresbyterian.org.

- Session will work to determine how to do Online donation (Venmo, Cash App, PayPal, etc.)
- We will be supporting Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School's (CRCDS) Christian Faith and the LGBTQ Experience Lectureship Series on September 28, 2021. As a community partner of CRCDS, DUPC will make an annual financial contribution not to exceed \$400 from the Virginia Davidson Fund and offer the church as a space for a future activity.
- Until further notice, when the health department sets the risk level as "substantial", we will adhere to CDC recommendations and require masking for all in the building. (Serving food and drink at indoor receptions is precluded while the risk level is high.)
- Meet Laurie Tiberi and "ask her anything!" A Congregational Conversation was scheduled for Aug 11, 2021 07:00 PM.



On Aug 11th the first of several "Meet the Pastor – a Congregational Conversation" was had, with over 30+ people in attendance on zoom. Stay connected for information about upcoming Congregational Conversations.

Flowers in Worship



Beginning on Labor Day Sunday, September 5, we will have memorial flowers in worship from the florist.

There will be two bouquets as usual: one next to the pulpit; the other, next to the lectern. You may choose to have one or two bouquets. The price of the flowers has increased: one bouquet will be \$35. and two will be \$70.

If you would like to give flowers in memory of a loved one, please call Jane Coons: (585) 473-1725 or email: janecoons@gmail.com.

*Thank you,
Jane Coons*



Liturgist's Rotation Schedule

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:

- ✓ Susan Richane
- ✓ Callie Babbitt,
- ✓ Ed Saphar

If none of the alternates are available, please email worship@downtownpresbyterian.org for assistance.

Liturgist for September 2021

9/05 Sally Allison

9/12 Kim McConnell

9/19 Lea Kone

9/26 John Williams

Thanks again for serving our conversation in this important role!



**The DUPC Justice League Invites You
to Show Your Support
for the Following Events!**

For more information about each event,
click on: [Black Kids Matter Event](#) or [Matthew 25 Week of Action](#)

[Black Kids Matter Event](#) in Penfield Sept. 11.

[Matthew 25 Week of Action](#) will be August 23-29 this year and will focus on marginalized people:

Monday: International Struggles

Tuesday: Plight of Poverty

Wednesday: LGBTQIA Resilience

Thursday: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Friday: AAPI Hate

Saturday: Black Lives Matter and #Give828

Sunday: Gun Violence and Mass Shootings



*August is the month known for heat and sun,
swimming and vacations and lot of summer fun.
Even if you're home just dreaming of the beach,
may all your birthday wishes be well with in your reach. - DRS*

*Kathy Wolfarth McCray
Lauren St.Germaine
Dayle Bird
Sally Allison
Pedge Richards
Jane Coons
Fran McDowell
Cori Rainbeaux
Nancy Kennedy*

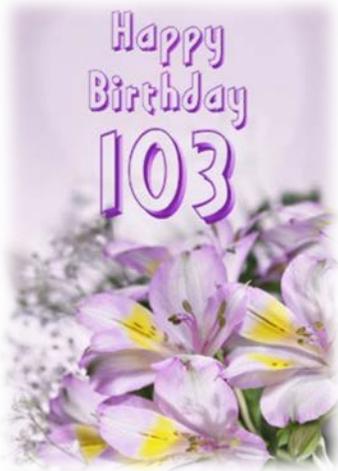
*Henry Ehindero
Deborah Smith
Gail Mott
Isabel Morrison
Laura Richane
Stephen Gaylord
Kay Wallace
Rev. Jane Spahr*

Happy Birthday to each of you!

Please let us know if we missed your birthday.
We want all celebrating August birthdays to be recognized.

**Best wishes to all,
Downtown Church Deacons**

DPC Parishioner Pedge Richards turns 103



You haven't seen Margaret "Pedge" Richards in the pew on the front right side of the sanctuary for a few years, but on Wednesday August 11th she turns 103 while living with one son Ross, daughter-in-law Jeannie, and their family outside Chicago.



A couple weeks ago Pedge's other son Rob and his wife Ursula who live in Germany, were able to fly in to celebrate for a week with Pedge after being grounded with travel restrictions for 18 months.

Pedge loves her grandchildren's and great-granddaughter's visits. Pedge's address with Ross and all is, 1140 Forest Ave, Wilmette, IL 60091.

Thanks for your prayers for Pedge!



*Wishing You a Very Happy Birthday, Pedge!
From DUPC Church Members & Friends!*

GRANDPA WINDSOR INTRODUCES NASIR THOMAS ASAMOAH-WINDSOR WITH GREAT PRIDE & JOY!

My son Edem grew up in DUPC. He's now serving in the US Navy aboard the USS Roosevelt in Europe.

He and his wife Anya had their first child in May.





Hello everyone,

This year Session approved for DUPC to officially join the Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society (RocActs). RocACTS has three Task Forces that focus on advocating for change on specific issues that affect our community, impact equality of life for our

residents, reflect on structural racism and require citizen education. The three Task Forces are:

- Justice System (formerly known as Criminal Justice)
- Education
- Poverty/Jobs/Housing

Various members of the DUPC Justice League will be participating in RocActs. A big congrats to Windsor Wade who was voted last month to the RocActs Board. Windsor will also participate on the Education Taskforce. Elaine Johnson will participate on the Education Taskforce. Jonathan Nwagbaraocha will participate on the Justice System Taskforce.

This month ROCActs has scheduled an ice cream social to meet and learn more about RocActs and opportunities to get involved. Please read below for more details.

RocActs Ice Cream Social

The Rochester area has been enjoying beautiful weather the last couple of days. You may be thinking that an ice cream cone would be an ideal treat. And you would be correct!

To satisfy that summer craving, you are invited to come celebrate the end of summer and RocACTS!!

On Sunday, August 29 from 3-5 pm, RocACTS is holding an ice cream social on the grounds of St. James Church in Rochester. The attached [flyer](#) has all the details as well as the picture below.

If you have any questions, please call the RocACTS office at 585-546-7669 or email the office at roc.acts@rochesteracts.org.

We hope to see you all on the 29th!

The group Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society, Inc. (RocACTS) is an interfaith community organizing project of multi-racial, interfaith, urban and suburban congregations and groups that will train and empower citizens to create systemic change and shape the political, social and economic decisions that impact their lives. *We seek to build relationships and to build trust. We need to listen to others and from listening, we learn.*

RocACTS

Celebration



Ice Cream Social *Sunday, August 29, 2021* *3 - 5 pm*



Meet the New Board of Directors
Thank our outgoing leadership
Renew Relationships, Make New Friends

WHERE: St. James Church, 130 Brett Road, Rochester, NY 14609
(On the grounds, plenty of parking)



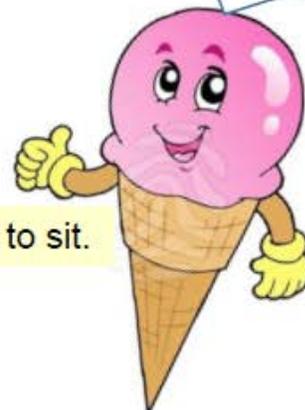
Masks required outdoors if unvaccinated.
Everyone needs to mask indoors.



Check website @ rocacts.org for updates

Please bring your lawn chair if you'd like to sit.

Free will donations gratefully accepted.

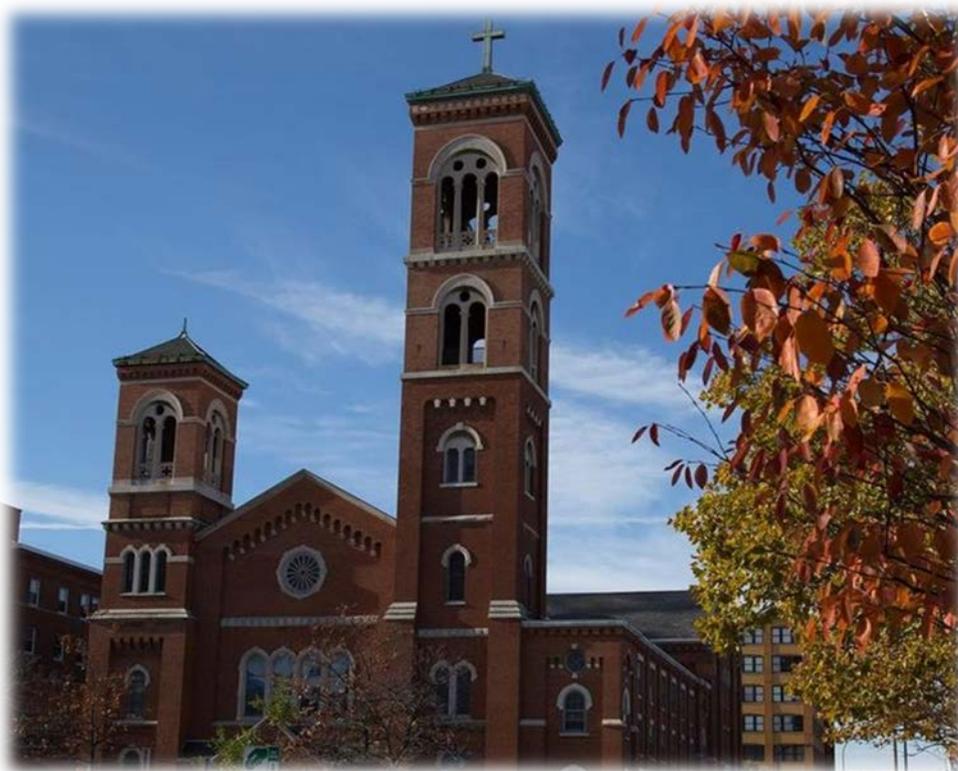


*Hope you'll
join us!*

The Next issue of **Celebration** arrives
Friday, September 10, 2021.



Please submit articles, snapshots,
and announcements to:
pcrudup@downtownpresbyterian.org
by noon on Monday, September 6th.



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

office@downtownpresbyterian.org