

Celebration



September 10, 2021
Church Newsletter

Interim Pastor's Message



I'm going to guess that most of you, when putting together a list of your favorite books, don't include the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (USA). ☺

In fact, I'll guess further that for many if not most of you, this is an almost completely unfamiliar book, and that you might suppose that it's full of dull "points of order" like precisely what number constitutes a quorum in a meeting of the congregation.

But actually, the *Book of Order* is full of interesting theology! As Part Two of the Constitution of our denomination, it provides the necessary points of connection between what we do and why we do it. In other words, it explains not only *how* we structure our corporate life as Presbyterians, but what the *theological foundations* are for those structures.

For example, it begins, on the very first page, with an explanation of what the mission of the Church is:

"The good news of the Gospel is that the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— creates, redeems, sustains, rules, and transforms all things and all people. This one living God, the Scriptures say, liberated the people of Israel from oppression and covenanted to be their God.

By the power of the Spirit, this one living God is incarnate in Jesus Christ, who came to live in the world, die for the world, and be raised again to new life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ announces the nearness of God's kingdom, bringing good news to all who are impoverished, sight to all who are blind, freedom to all who are oppressed, and proclaiming the Lord's favor upon all creation.

The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ.

Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God's mission."
(F-1.01)

"Participating in God's mission." That is our calling, as individuals, as congregations, and as a denomination.

And during this interim/transitional period in the life of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, you will be considering, among other questions: "What do we believe God is calling us to do, in this time and this place, to fulfill our particular role in participating in God's mission in the world?"

It's not an easy question, and there are many possible answers.

But I know that you will approach this question with deep love and respect for each other, and with your hearts and minds open to the leading of the Spirit. I look forward to seeing, down the road, where your group discernment will lead you!

Peace and all good,
Laurie



Liturgist's Rotation Schedule

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

Liturgist for September 2021

9/12 Kim McConnell

9/19 Lea Kone

9/26 John Williams

Liturgist for October 2021

10/10 Sally Allison

10/17 Nancy Brown

10/24 Sally Allison

10/31 Kim McConnell

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.



... "And you too have come into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine."

Mary Oliver
"When I Am Among the Trees"

To those of you who came into the world in September,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Best wishes to each of you.

Linda Speer

Giok Oey

Taylor Duerr

Reed Summers

Benjamin Duerr

William Duerr

Jane Duerr

Ian Eckert

Mattie Swartz

James Rees

Claudette Mitchell

James Tiefenthal

Marcia Summers

Please let us know if we have missed your birthday. We want to light a candle for you too.

Peace and love,
The Deacons of the Downtown Church



Bring your own picnic lunch and relax, chat, and reconnect with church members!

ALL CHURCH PICNIC
Saturday, September 25th,
12 Noon
at the Ellison Park Circle Pavilion.



Celebrating Keisha, the Voice of The Downtown Church



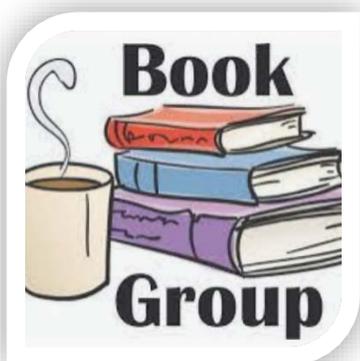
A masked 20th Anniversary party was held August 30th for Keisha Betts to celebrate her 20 years of employment with the Downtown Church.



The personnel team planned the event to honor Keisha and celebrate the warm welcome she gives all who contact the church. Of course, we are also grateful for all the other work Keisha does for us all as well.

It was a joyous occasion where many expressed their joy of working with Keisha over the years. The hope was expressed by several that she will be with us for another 20 years.

The beautiful plant is a butterfly attraction for Keisha's garden from the Deacons. The Session presented a gift certificate for Keisha to buy something for her home.



The monthly Book Group is starting back up on the 3rd Friday of each month.

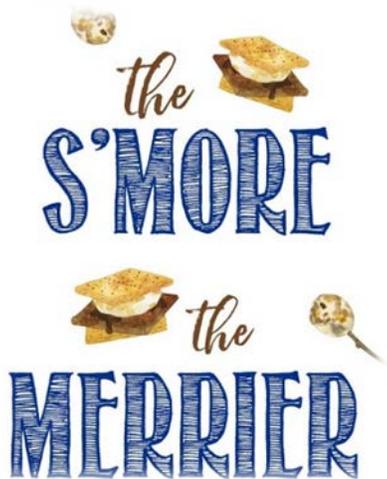
On September 17 at Noon, we will be discussing the first few chapters of Karen Armstrong's book, "The Lost Art of Scripture; Rescuing the Sacred Text."

A review: At a time of intolerance and mutual incomprehension, The Lost Art of Scripture shines fresh light on the world's major religions to help us build bridges

between faiths and rediscover a creative and spiritual engagement with holy texts. (From Goodreads - https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/44072157-the-lost-art-of-scripture?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=p7ypS0tHeO&rank=19)

If you want to join the discussion, send your email to Marie Gibson at mgibson@frontiernet.net

SAVE THE DATE!



**Vespers and Smores on
Sat. Oct. 16th at 6pm, with a rain date of Sat.
10/23...**

For all ages! Enjoy a short sunset Vespers service led by Pastor Laurie around the campfire, and then get ready to cook up your favorite type of smore!

Additional details to follow, including location.

Woman's Group:

Our Church women gather at 7PM on the 2nd Sunday evening of the month, known as **Womanspace**.

Topics for spiritual discussion are explored in a confidential setting, including individual check-ins, sharing prayerful moments, poetry or scripture. Conversations range from delving more deeply into a recent sermon, talking about societal transformation, or discussing events in each other's lives. All women, members and friends are invited. Until further notice, we'll be zooming our meetings.

The next meeting is September 12. If you're already on the list, a reminder will be sent a few days in advance of the gathering. If you you'd like to join us, please send me your email. Marie Gibson – mgibson@frontiernet.net



Here are 2 photos from a summer WomanSpace gathering at Mary Rees's cottage on Canandaigua Lake

The photo was taken by Marilyn Terpening.



*The folks around the table are from the left,
Bonne Lloyd, Peggy Meeker, Marie Gibson,
Mary Rees & Nancy Simpson*

Don't Miss the

NEW Newsletter

DEADLINE!

Beginning this month (September),
Please have your newsletter material in
by **noon on the 20th of each month.**

Submit articles to:

office@downtownpresbyterian.org

*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

SEPTEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS

and Meetings...



Sunday, September 12	11am	Worship
Monday, September 13	7pm	Nominating Committee Meeting - Zoom
Tuesday, September 14	10:30am 6:30pm	Psalm Group – Zoom Deacons Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, September 15	7pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, September 17	12 noon	Book Discussion Group Meeting – Zoom
Sunday, September 19	11am 4pm	worship Pegasus Concert
Monday, September 20	12 noon 7pm	Newsletter Deadline Nominating Committee Meeting – Zoom
Tuesday, September 21	10:30am 7pm	Psalm Group – Zoom Session Meeting – Zoom
Wednesday, September 22	7pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 23	10am	Personnel Team Meeting - Zoom
Saturday, September 25	12 noon	All Church Picnic
Sunday, September 26	11am 7pm	Worship Called Congregational Meeting - Zoom
Monday, September 27	7pm	Nominating Committee Meeting – Zoom
Tuesday, September 28	10:30am	Psalm Group – Zoom
Wednesday, September 29	7pm	Choir Rehearsal

OCTOBER

UPCOMING

EVENTS

and Meetings...



Sunday, October 3	11am	Worship
Monday, October 4	7pm	Nominating Committee Meeting – Zoom
Tuesday, October 5	10:30am	Psalm Group – Zoom
Wednesday, October 6	5:30pm	Justice League Meeting – Zoom
Thursday, October 7	5pm 7pm	Worship Committee Meeting – Zoom Congregational and Community Engagement Meeting – Zoom
Sunday, October 10	11am	Worship
Monday, October 11	7pm	Nominating Committee Meeting – Zoom
Tuesday, October 12	10:30am	Psalm Group – Zoom
Thursday, October 14	5pm	Finance Committee Meeting - Zoom
Saturday, October 16	6pm	Vespers and Smores
Sunday, October 17	11am	Worship
Monday, October 18	7pm	Nominating Committee Meeting – Zoom
Tuesday, October 19	10:30am	Psalm Group – Zoom
Wednesday, October 20	12 noon	Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, October 24	11am	Worship
Monday, October 25	7pm	Nominating Committee Meeting – Zoom
Tuesday, October 26	10:30am	Psalm Group– Zoom
Sunday, October 31	11am	Worship

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Please submit articles, snapshots,
and announcements to:
office@downtownpresbyterian.org
by noon on the 20th of each month.

The Next issue of **Celebration** arrives
October 1, 2021.



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