

# Celebration



October 1, 2021  
Church Newsletter

## *Interim Pastor's Message*

### *What is a Presbyterian, anyway?*

Well, we could say "We're the Christian group with the most difficult name to spell" and that would be certainly be true!

But there's more we could say in answer to that question, and a transitional, interim time is a good time for a congregation to review its identity – as a specific congregation, but also as a part of particular branch of the Christian "family tree." So: what is a Presbyterian?

First of all, we need to back up a minute and understand the difference between "Presbyterian" and "Reformed." You probably have heard someone say at some point "Well, in the Reformed tradition, we..." and you might have thought "Wait a minute, I thought we were Presbyterian! What's this "Reformed" thing about??"

The difference is simply that the word "Reformed" (with a capital "R") describes theology, and the word "presbyterian" (small "p") describes polity (that is, how a church governs itself.)

The word "presbyterian" is from a Greek word meaning "elder." (If you've reached the age where you need reading glasses, your optometrist may have told you that you have "presbyopia" = "elder eyes"! ) So, a presbyterian form of church government is characterized by councils comprised of Elders and Ministers of Word & Sacrament (sessions, presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly.) [The other forms of church polity are episcopal and congregational, which have a different system of authority and of connection between congregations.]

The word "Reformed" describes that branch of Protestant Christianity that traces its heritage back to a particular subset of the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Reformers (including John Calvin and John Knox) and which emphasizes as a central proclamation the sovereignty of God -- the holiness, power, and freedom of God, who in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit creates, redeems, sustains and rules all that is in righteousness and love.

*(Continued on next page.)*

*(Continued from previous page.)*

Other emphases of the Reformed tradition are the unmerited favor (“grace”) through which God elects people for salvation and service; a covenantal life marked by concern for good order in the Church; faithful stewardship of God’s creation that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of the gifts of God’s creation; recognition of the human tendency toward idolatry, which recognition calls the people of God to work for the transformation of society; and being “the Church reformed and always being reformed according to the word of God.”

So: “**Reformed**” describes a church’s theology; “**presbyterian**” describes its form of government (polity.) That’s why we can say, for example, that the Dutch Reformed Church has a presbyterian form of government, and the Presbyterian Church (USA) has a Reformed theology.

But the question remains: why does our name have to be so hard to spell??? 😊



## CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION AFTER MEETING THIS SUNDAY!

Hi DUPC family,

Just a reminder that after our official Congregational Meeting this Sunday at 7:00 (to elect members to the Nominating Committee), y’all are invited to stay on the Zoom call for an informal conversation with the Session members and me.

Like the one we had in July (or was it August??) this will be a chance for you to ask questions, provide feedback, or argue about the Bills’ chances of winning the Super Bowl this year.

Hope you can join us!

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](mailto:Ltiberi@downtownpresbyterian.org)

585-325-4000 ext. 23

*Thank you*



*My profound thanks for the presentation at the September 12 worship service honoring my time as Clerk and Co-Clerk of Session.*

*It has been a privilege to work with all of you in seeking to make this congregation an instrument of God's peace and justice.*

*Bill Mackey*



## **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 October 2021**

10/03 Pat Tweet  
10/10 Sally Allison  
10/24 Sally Allison  
10/17 Nancy Brown  
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](mailto: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](mailto:worship@downtownpresbyterian.org) for assistance.

# Sunday Flowers

Every Sunday we have two bouquets of flowers in the sanctuary in memory or honor of a church member or friend. These are given by members of the congregation. Following the service, the two bouquets are brought to shut-ins, people celebrating special occasions, or sometimes a guest musician.

If you would like to provide a bouquet in memory of a loved one or friend on one of the Sundays in October please let Joan Mackey (381-6257) or Carol Snook (227-4465) know. The cost of each bouquet is \$35.00.

The flowers add beauty to our sanctuary, they honor loved ones, and bring joy to their recipients.



*"I'm so glad that I live in a world where there are Octobers"*

L.M. MONTGOMERY IN ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

*Best wishes to all members and friends celebrating birthdays in October.*

*Greg Babbitt  
Nancy Brown  
John DeHority  
Raina Bouphavong  
Stephen Lloyd  
Dee Miller*

*Bob Richane  
Jim Parks  
Ray Allison-Stork  
Ed Gregor  
David McDowell  
Jimmy Parks  
Bill Mackey*

Please let us know if we have missed any October birthdays. Each person is special and not to be missed.

Peace and love,  
Deacons of the Downtown Church



# *“A Picture Worth A Thousand Words . . .”*



I spent two wonderful weeks, Aug. 28 - Sept 12 enjoying the company of my son's family, Anya his wife and Nasir my 3-month-old grandson.

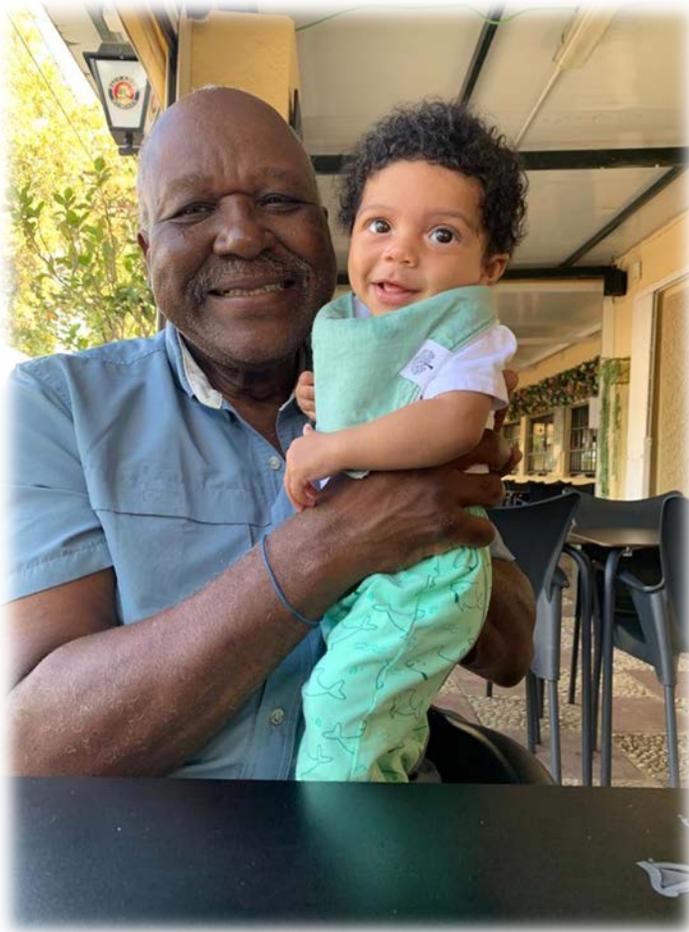
Azure blue skies, brown hills and the wine dark Mediterranean Sea makes Andalusia Spain just beautiful.

God's blessings are never ending.

Edem sends his warmest regards.

Namaste,

Windsor





## DUPC DEACON UPDATE

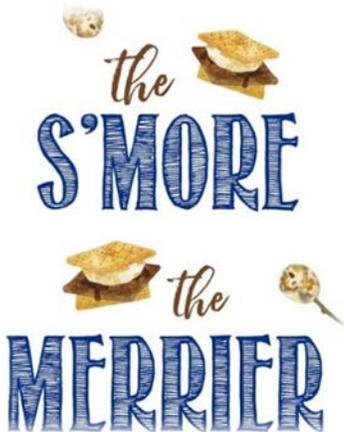
The Board of Deacons has resumed Zoom meetings after taking July and August off. Most members checked in with their special care people during the off time.

We had our September meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, with very good Zoom attendance. Rev. Laurie Tiberi offered an opening prayer.

The Deacons have completed part 3 of our all-church postcard project. We think and hope they were well received! We have resumed our rotation of special deliveries to our special care people. These deliveries include cards, small bouquets, or fruit. This time we delivered Honey Crisp apples to some!

We discussed Sunday flowers and what to do if we have some weeks when there are no flowers given in memory or in honor of someone. The Pittsford Florist has been very accommodating in making some small adjustments to our standing order for Sunday flowers.

We discussed joys and concerns of our special care people and concluded with devotions about “joy”.



# 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.



The Justice Ministry revamped as the Justice League in 2021 and has been busy working on many things. If you'd like to join the team, you can reach us at: [jm@downtownpresbyterian.org](mailto:jm@downtownpresbyterian.org) and you'll receive your own superhero name!

Here's a list of things we've been doing, in no particular order.

- Joined Riverside Presbyterian Group
- Participating in the Presbytery Racial Justice Working Group
- Installed the BLM and Pride flags outside our church building
- Informed the congregation how to change our names in Zoom, how & why to add pronouns as well
- Handed out information about R.O.C. Act 2020 and Daniel's Law at the Drive-up Palm Distribution
- Presented a two-part forum on what Police Reform really means based on the Showing Up for Racial Justice Toolkit for spiritual communities, which extended into Noon Coffee Hour discussion.
- Nancy & Jonathan have joined Free the People Elders and Allies meetings
- Joined RocActs - Windsor Wade is on the Board, and Justice League members are on other committees
- Supported Teen Empowerment with financial donation, and backing for a Presbyterian grant; took action inviting other faith communities to join TE's virtual fundraiser
- Said goodbye to That All May Freely Serve (as their work formally concluded)
- Re-joined and committed ourselves as a More Light church with More Light Presbyterians, with Session voting to send money earmarked for LGBTQ+ work in our church via the Virginia Davidson fund
- Re-joining CRCDS LGBTQ+ Lecture series with funds to come from Virginia Davidson fund for LGBTQ+ work

*(Continued on next page.)*



- Supported Alianza Agrícola with a financial donation
- Financial contributions to two organizations supporting Afghanistan refugees: Catholic Family Center and Keeping Our Promise
- Boosted PCUSA's climate change initiatives, and their actions and advocacy for Palestine on eConnect
- Asked Session for rent forgiveness for the Rochester Youth Association while the group incorporates as a 501(c)(3)
- Asking for rent reduction for Rainbow Seniors Roc Inc to meet
- Working on having our own Justice League section of the DUPC website
- Working to host a variety of online forums in conjunction with the Forum team during the Fall - More news to come soon!

In service,

Coriander Rainbeaux



## **Tenth Annual Witness Palestine Film Festival October 13 – 24, 2021**

The Witness Palestine Film Festival is back in its traditional format: in-person screenings each followed by discussion with an expert panelist. Giving thanks to its loyal festival audience over ten years, organizers are not charging admission for any of the five different screenings, which take place between October 13 & 24, 2021. For everyone's safety, the festival requires mask wearing during our programs.

The films offer a variety of perspectives, documenting a history of physical and cultural dispossession and the inspiring resilience of an indigenous people committed to self-determination. A schedule with times, locations, synopses of the films, and other details may be found at, [wpff.us](http://wpff.us).

The festival is a project of Rochester Witness for Palestine ([rw4p.org](http://rw4p.org)) a non-profit, volunteer group of justice-seeking people who speak and act in solidarity with the people of Palestine. Living now as refugees, under occupation, or suffering extreme hardships imposed by a harsh blockade, their stories – their history, their culture, their cries for justice – are rarely told in the U.S. We seek to give voice to these stories.

Joining with fellow advocates for Palestine, organizers present one film at St. John Fisher College and four at The Little Theatre.

## ***Objector***

**Wednesday, October 13, 6:30 p.m.**

**St John Fisher College | Skalny room 141**

Like all Israeli youth, Atalya is obligated to become a soldier. Unlike most, she questions her family's legacy and seeks the truth about her government's practices. Despite her family's political disagreements and personal concerns, she refuses military duty and is imprisoned for her dissent. Her concern for Palestinian human rights disqualifies her for status as an official conscientious objector, but her actions sweep her family and community into a journey of political transformation.

## ***Solidarity: Five Largely Unknown Truths about Israel, Palestine and the Occupied Territories***

**Saturday, October 16, 4:30 p.m. | The Little Theatre, Little 5**

This is our annual overview program for all who seek background information. Through six primary interviews and more than two dozen other individuals quoted, director Bob Peck steps through the titular truths. E.g., "More Palestinians have been killed by Israeli than vice versa."

## ***Gaza Fights for Freedom***

**Sunday, October 17, 2:30 p.m. | The Little Theatre, Little 5**

Filmed during the height of the Great March Of Return protests, this documentary tells the story of Gaza past and present, showing rare archival footage that explains the history never acknowledged by mass media.

## ***Imprisoning a Generation***

**Saturday, October 23, 4:30 p.m. | The Little Theatre, Little 5**

Director Zelda Edmunds and narrator Hala Gores guide us through the stories of Palestinian children (three boys and one girl) detained the by Israeli forces. For example, Motaz Baraqa was arrested at age 13 and held for a month after more than 50 soldiers entered his home in Bethlehem.

## ***A program of shorts: The Present and Occupation & De Facto Annexation***

**Sunday, October 24, 2;30 P.M. | The Little Theatre, Little 5**

On his wedding anniversary, Yusef and his young daughter set out in the West Bank to buy his wife *The Present*. Between soldiers, segregated roads, and checkpoints, how easy would it be to go shopping?

Leading Israeli human rights lawyer Michael Sfard explains the Israeli government's decades-long project to settle Palestinian land on the West Bank, entrench permanent Israeli control, and prevent Palestinian self-determination and statehood. He chooses "four clusters of policies and practices that Israel has applied to the West Bank" to prove his point that the result is *Occupation & De Facto Annexation*.

# Witness Palestine Film Festival

October 13 - 24, 2021



## Film program with discussion @ SJFC

St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Avenue, Pittsford NY, Skalny room 141

Oct 13 6:30 p.m. *Objector*

## Film programs with discussion @ The Little

The Little Theatre, 240 East Ave, Rochester NY, Little 5

Oct 16 4:30 p.m. *Solidarity: Five Largely Unknown Truths about Israel, Palestine and the Occupied Territories*

Oct 17 2:30 p.m. *Gaza Fights for Freedom*

Oct 23 4:30 p.m. *Imprisoning a Generation*

Oct 24 2:30 p.m. *The Present* preceded by the short:  
*Occupation & De Facto Annexation*

**WPFf.us and Facebook**

celebrating our tenth anniversary; admission is free, no tickets required

# OCTOBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Newsletters arrive the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month!



Sunday, October 3	7pm	11am	Worship Called Congregational Meeting - Zoom
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 7pm		Worship WomanSpace - Zoom
Monday, October 11	7pm		Nominating Committee Meeting – Zoom
Tuesday, October 12	10:30am 6:30pm		Psalm Group – Zoom Deacons Meeting - Zoom
Thursday, October 14	5pm 7:30pm		Finance Committee Meeting – Zoom Property Team Meetig
Friday, October 15	12 noon		Book Group - Zoom
Saturday, October 16	11am 6pm		Memorial Service for Rev. Bruce Billman Vespers and Smores



Sunday, October 17	11am	Worship
Monday, October 18	7pm	Nominating Committee Meeting – Zoom
Tuesday, October 19	10:30am 7pm	Psalm Group – Zoom Session Meeting - Zoom

**Wednesday, October 20 12 noon Newsletter Deadline**

Saturday, October 23	11am	Memorial Service for Betty Smith
----------------------	------	----------------------------------



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
--------------------	------	---------



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

[office@downtownpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@downtownpresbyterian.org)