



NORTH STAR

October 2023

Making Disciples...Making a Difference

Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am
North Presbyterian Church
921 College Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-2048

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October, 2023
A Letter from Pastor Hansen

A few months ago, I wrote in this space about an orchid that sat in the window of my office. I talked about how it had been in my family for about 30 years and how I was trying to nurse it back to health. Alas, my efforts were not successful. In mid-September, I was adjusting some of the potting materials and the crown of the orchid fell off revealing a rotten core. I gently pulled the plant out of its pot and placed it in our compost pile.

When the crown of the orchid fell off, I must admit, I felt defeated. The plant had been entrusted to my care and it was my direct link to two people I love dearly, but who have died, my grandfather and my Aunt Martha. And then I remembered that all things die. As sad as I was to see that the plant had died, I also felt a sense of relief.

As much as I enjoyed caring for the plant and enjoyed its blooms, it had also become a burden. No one told me that it was up to me to keep it alive. No one told me that if it died, I would be disappointing someone. I created those narratives. I forgot that just as all things have a beginning, all things have an end. I made it my goal to prevent the plant from dying – as if I could prevent a plant that ordinarily lives only 15-20 years from dying thirty years after my grandfather purchased it. I had forgotten to take joy in just having the plant.

A beloved professor of my seminary, whom I had met, but not taken a class from, recently died from cancer. In a letter she wrote to the seminary this past summer, she challenged the community with the following words: “I pray you choose joy. Anything else is a waste of time.” In the midst of cancer and dying, Dr. Waters chose joy.

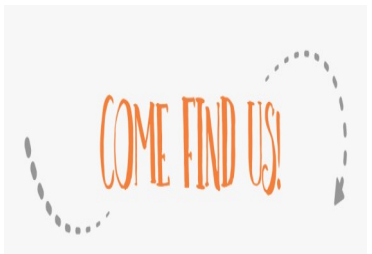
In our lives, we often forget the importance of joy. It is easy to take what brings us joy and turn it into a burden of unreasonable expectations and self-imposed disappointment by seeking to prolong what needs to end. The writer of Ecclesiastes got it right when they wrote that everything has a season. Some seasons are brief and some last decades, but eventually all seasons come to an end.

Created by the Living God who moves among us and lived among us, it is no surprise that we live in a world of seasons and changes. A world that, try as we might, we cannot force to stand still. A world in which we were created to find joy in all its different seasons.

Joy can be found in so many places: in baptisms, in the Lord’s Supper, in worship, serving in a food pantry, volunteering at the local library, in bible studies, in the activities of our daily lives, with loved ones, and in solitude. Just as we are not all alike, what brings us joy is not all alike. Joy can be found in so many places, even in the midst of sorrow.

With fall beginning, it is as good a time as any to reflect on what brings you joy. For in the words of the Rev. Dr. Sonia Waters, “I pray you choose joy. Anything else is a waste of time.”

Warmly in Christ,
Pastor Evan



<https://www.facebook.com/North-Presbyterian-Church>



<https://www.northpres.church/>



JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

**If you would like to donate Chancel flowers (suggested donation of \$42),
please contact Lori Lee at 607-739-3176.**

Available Sundays for October and November 2023 are:

October 8, 15 & 29 and November 5, 12, 19 & 26.

Please take the flowers home to enjoy after the service.

If you are not in the sanctuary on
your chosen date,
we will be in touch with you to make a plan.

October Worship Volunteers

Tech Booth

October 1	Steve Allison
October 8	Steve Allison
October 15	Bill Furnas
October 22	Bill Furnas
October 29	Steve Allison

Ushers

October 1	Phil Carpentier, Pat Richards
October 8	Jerry Russell, Joe Rolls, Bob Russell
October 15	Wendy Swatling, Barb Duryea
October 22	Amanda Korfmann, Ann Motley
October 29	Tim & Cheryl Allison

Communion

October 1	Linda Palmer, Tim Allison, George Batrowny Sylvia Tuller, Janice Williams
October 15	Steve Allison, Jim Mosher, Linda Palmer TBD

Greeters

October 1	Jerry Harding
October 8	Tim Allison
October 15	Joan Barneski/Alice Kain
October 22	Ann Motley
October 29	Allie & Scott Sevey

Youth Reader

October 8	Payton Hoskins-Thomas
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Counters

October 1	Annette Stevens, Jim Mosher
October 8	Janice Williams, Dolores Cummings
October 15	Allison Sevey, Wendy Swatling
October 22	Phil Carpentier, Jeff Richards
October 29	Cindy & Kurt Kalweit

Wee Worship

October 1	Liz Wilson, Wally Ferriter
October 8	Deb Stamp, Payton Hoskins-Thomas
October 15	Ann Motley, Becky Kowulich
October 22	Allie & Scott Sevey
October 29	Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea

Worship Assistant

October 1	Linda Palmer
October 8	Wendy Swatling
October 15	Tim Allison
October 22	Kurt Kalweit
October 29	TBD

Coffee Hour

October 1	Bobbi Furnas, Pat Richards
October 8	Cindy Kalweit, Annette Stevens
October 15	Wendy Swatling, Janice Williams
October 22	Karen Wilson, Liz Wilson
October 29	Cheryl Allison, Barb Duryea

Youth Usher

October 1	Analyse Ferriter
October 8	Mackenzie Mosko
October 15	Alexii Hoskins-Thomas
October 22	Charlie Wilkinson
October 29	Wally Ferriter

TOGETHER WE MAKE A FAMILY



October 1:
Theresa Houck
Hayden & Aubri

October 8:
Erin & Donald Jacob

October 15:
Michaela Johnson

October 22:
Kurt & Cindy Kalweit
Erik, Christian

October 29:
Jim & Becky Kowulich
Michael, Joseph

**Jesus tells us
to pray without ceasing
for the good of God's people.**

Our Homebound Friends

October 1:
Rita Dery
550 Wilmette
#217
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

October 8:
Theresa Gublo
456 Roe Ave.
Elmira, NY 14901

October 15:
Laurie Burdick
608 Walnut St.
Elmira, NY 14901

October 22:
Marlene Carpentier
501 Larchmont Rd.
Elmira, NY 14905

October 29:
Joseph & Glenda Solowiej
2383 Rt. 352
Elmira, NY 14903

*Please send
a card to
our
Homebound
Friends*



Welcome!

**We would like to remind everyone
that they are welcome to attend
Session Meetings.**

**If you are interested in attending one,
please contact the church office.**



Weekly Prayer Chain Email

Did you know that you can pray or be
prayed for? You are invited to let the church
office know how you would like to be
involved.

We are stronger together.



Children and Youth Ministry October 2023

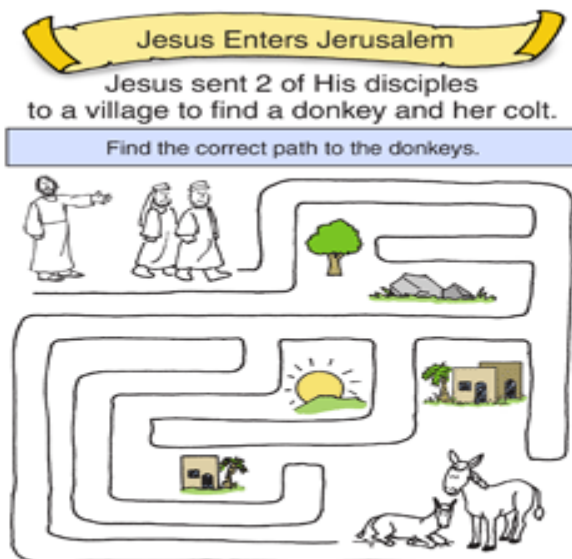
The leaves are starting to change and the air has a crisp feel, Fall is here. September flew by so quickly. Rally day was wonderful with the children, all ages, leading the service. Backpacks were blessed and Sunday school, both children and adult, began once more. Youth group had its first outing with an intergenerational work day for “Cities Rise” on Sept. 16th. They helped with cleanup and other tasks in Elmira. On Sept. 24th, the combined youth groups of North Pres. and First Pres. got together for fun, food, games, and some bible study led by Kate Hansen and Amanda Korfman. Pastor Hansen manned the grill, cooking hamburgers and hotdogs. We are so blessed to be sharing these experiences with our friends from First Pres.

October looks to be just as busy as September. As we settle into Sunday school, we have many other things planned throughout the month. On October 14th youth and their parents will be meeting at Bradley Farms from 2-4pm to enjoy the corn maze and all the fun activities. October 29th, we will gather at First Pres. for Trunk or Treat. If anyone would like to participate in decorating a car, please call the office and let us know. This year they are asking for a biblical theme. Setup will start at noon and Trunk or Treat will be held from 1-3pm.

On October 18th, youth ministry will begin registration for Christmas stockings for our pantry families. We will also be collecting items for the stockings and collecting hats and mittens for area shelters. We will be putting some hats and mittens in our Pantry and the food box in front of the church as well. With the cool weather setting in, people, young and old, will need such items to stay warm. As we count our many blessings, let’s think about how we can pay those blessings forward.

Blessings in Christ,

Deb Stamp, Dir. of Children and Youth Min.



Did You Know?



- If you would like to be prayed for or know someone who would like to be prayed for, please contact the church office. A prayer request will be sent to our prayer partners. If you would like someone to pray with you, a request can be sent to one of our prayer partners or Pastor Evan and someone will connect with you.
- Remember to check our bulletin board for NPC and Community Announcements/Information.
- Lost something? Be sure to check the lost-and-found bin in the church office.



Parking Lot Worship:

- Please use only the North Entrance (towards Roe Ave.)
- Please tune your radio to 1700AM.
- Please exit through the South Entrance (towards the college).



Sanctuary Worship:

**Please join us for in person
Worship on Sunday mornings
at 9:30 am.**

**Check out our facebook page or
church website for special services
throughout the year, including
Monthly Wednesday and weekly
Lent and Advent services.**



Zoom Worship

- Zoom service link will be emailed each week for those who would like to participate via Zoom.




SHOPPING LIST

October Food Pantry

Shopping List:

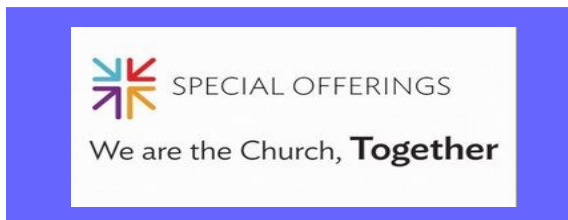
The following items are needed this month for the Food Pantry:

Boxed Stuffing
Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes
Canned Gravy

In addition, if your dentist gives you toothbrushes, floss, or toothpaste, and you don't need it, the pantry does! Monetary donations are also welcome.

Committee/Coordinator	Email Address
Audit	audit@northpres.church
Buildings & Grounds	campus@northpres.church
Building Use	building_use@northpres.church
Clerk of Session	session@northpres.church
Deacons	deacons@northpres.church
Education	education@northpres.church
Fellowship	fellowship@northpres.church
Finance	finance@northpres.church
Mission & Outreach	mission_outreach@northpres.church
Nominating	nominating@northpres.church
Staff Relations	staff_relations@northpres.church
Tech & Communications	tech_com@northpres.church
Treasurer	Financial_sec@northpres.church
Worship & Music	worship@northpres.church

Staff	Email Address
Church Administrator	office@northpres.church
Director of Youth Ministries	youth@northpres.church
Music Director	music@northpres.church
Organist	organist@northpres.church
Pastor	pastor@northpres.church



Special Offerings for October:

- Food Pantry

Meet the Staff

Pastor Evan Hansen
 Open Door Office Hours: T & W 1:30-4pm

Pastor

Paul Holland

Music Director

Sharon Reynolds

Organist

Randy Cornell

Pianist

Deb Stamp

Director of Children
& Youth Ministry

Gretchen Duffy

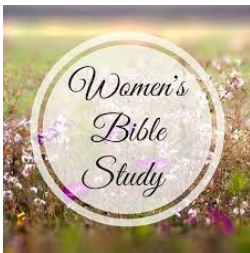
Office Administrator

NOTICE: As CDC/NYS guidelines change, please stay tuned to our FB page & website for updates.

Reminder

Important Reminders:

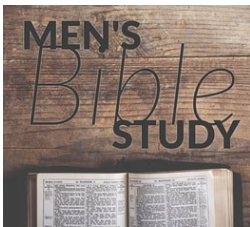
- The church office needs your contact information. Please let us know if anything has changed.
- If you need to contact the church office for any reason, please feel free to email office@northpres.church or call (607) 734-2977 Tues-Fri 9am to 3:30 pm.



Women's Bible Study
meets Tuesdays at 6:00pm in the Library. They will be discussing the book "Now That Faith Has Come", a study of Galatians. For more information, please contact Suzie Hoskins or the church office.



Wednesday Noon Bible Study
is studying anxiety. If you would like more information or study materials, please contact Bobbi Furnas or the church office.



Men's Bible Study
Meets Tuesdays at 4:00 pm in the Brisbane Rm. and will study the book, "We Believe, A Study of the Apostles' Creed", a line-by-line study of the Apostles' Creed. If you would like more info, please contact Kurt Kalweit, Steve Allison or the church office.



Sunday SCHOOL
ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD
Growing in Faith Together



Sunday school meets weekly at 11:00 am.



Praise Band rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

The Good News Singers' practices are on Sundays at 10:45 am.



Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.



Bell Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm.





The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee spends most of its time reviewing the financial statements of the church and monitoring the budget. What we also do is see the benefits of the donations made by all of us that support North Presbyterian's mission. We see funds allocated to Christian Ed on display in the youth at Rally Day. We hear funds from Worship & Music bringing us a varied and uplifting worship experience. We see money spent on our facilities making our church building a resource for hundreds in our community through blood drives, yoga, AA and more. We see God at work every month when we meet. Over the next month we will be sharing the many ways our contributions make this possible.



Second Place East, Inc.



**October donation
Request:**

Paper Towels



BORDER BUDDIES MINISTRIES

*Bringing the heart of Christ to
the heart of Honduras.*

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Elmira:

Glenda and I have been so blessed by your church in all the support that you have given us throughout the years. We haven't been home in almost four years and miss seeing everyone.

We will be hosting a Reconnection Tour and were wondering if you could announce these dates and place when we will be presenting. Your Pastor and Congregation are welcome to come and worship, hear a message and share a time of prayer together. This will empower us to see everyone in the **nine days** that we will be home.

Pastor Andy Pollock and his congregation at Fresh Start has graciously offered for us to use their **Miracle Mile Campus at 2447 Elmira-Corning Rd. (the Miracle Mile) in Elmira Heights.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Andy at: 585-483-5039 or email:

pastorandy@freshstartumc.com

“Reconnection Tour”

Place: Fresh Start Campus on the Miracle Mile

2447 Elmira-Corning Rd. (the Miracle Mile) in Elmira Heights.

When: October 2023

Wednesday 18 - Thursday 19 - Friday 20

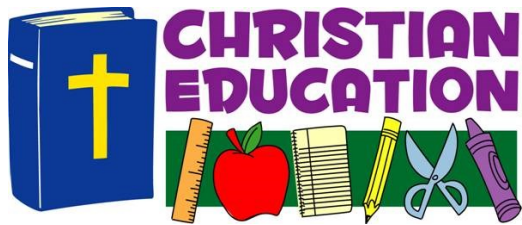
Worship starts at: 6:30pm

Michael and Glenda Miller

Missionaries for Border Buddies Ministries Inc.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

<http://www.borderbuddies.org>



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Upcoming Events



**Our Joint Youth Group will
be going to the
Bradley Farms Corn Maze
on Oct. 14 from 2-4 pm
Please contact Deb Stamp
(youth@northpres.church) for
more details or if you will
need transportation.**

It's time to sign up for Pantry Christmas Stockings!
Registration will be from October 18 thru November 15 in the
Food Pantry. If you would like to help this year, please
contact Deb Stamp at youth@northpres.church.



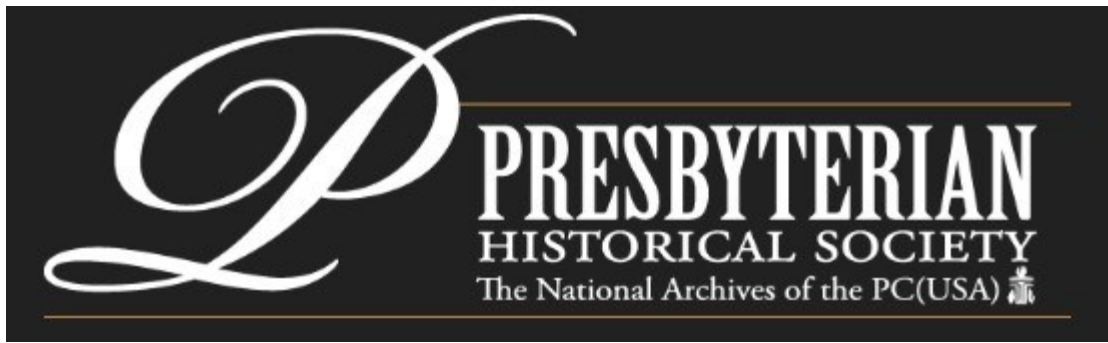
Trunk or Treat at First Pres

October 29

Set up at noon

Event from 1-3

Design your favorite bible themed
“trunk” and join in the fun!



Melva Costen at the Interdenominational Theological Center presidency celebration dinner, October 7, 1993.

Remembering Melva Costen

"Let's continue our worship. You're just going to have to follow the cantor," begins Dr. Melva Costen at the beginning of a [seminar on African American worship](#), leading the group in the Zulu church song Thuma Mina. The group sings "Send me Jesus, send me Lord." Dr. Melva Wilson Costen, Presbyterian intellectual, and key source in the study of African American church music and worship, died September 8 in Atlanta. She was 90 years old.

Melva Ruby Wilson was born in Due West, South Carolina, May 29, 1933, and graduated from Harbison Junior College in Irmo, South Carolina in 1948. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) in 1953, a Master of Arts in Teaching Music from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1964, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Georgia State University in Atlanta in 1978.

While attending JCSU, Melva met Jim Costen and the two married at the campus chapel on May 24, 1953. The couple moved to Rocky Mount, North Carolina to serve Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church, and inexorably, to work in the Freedom Movement. Melva recalled in a 2013 [interview](#) that in 1962, Jim and his minister colleagues smuggled Martin Luther King Jr. from Raleigh to Rocky Mount in a funeral cortège. "This was where we really could have been killed."

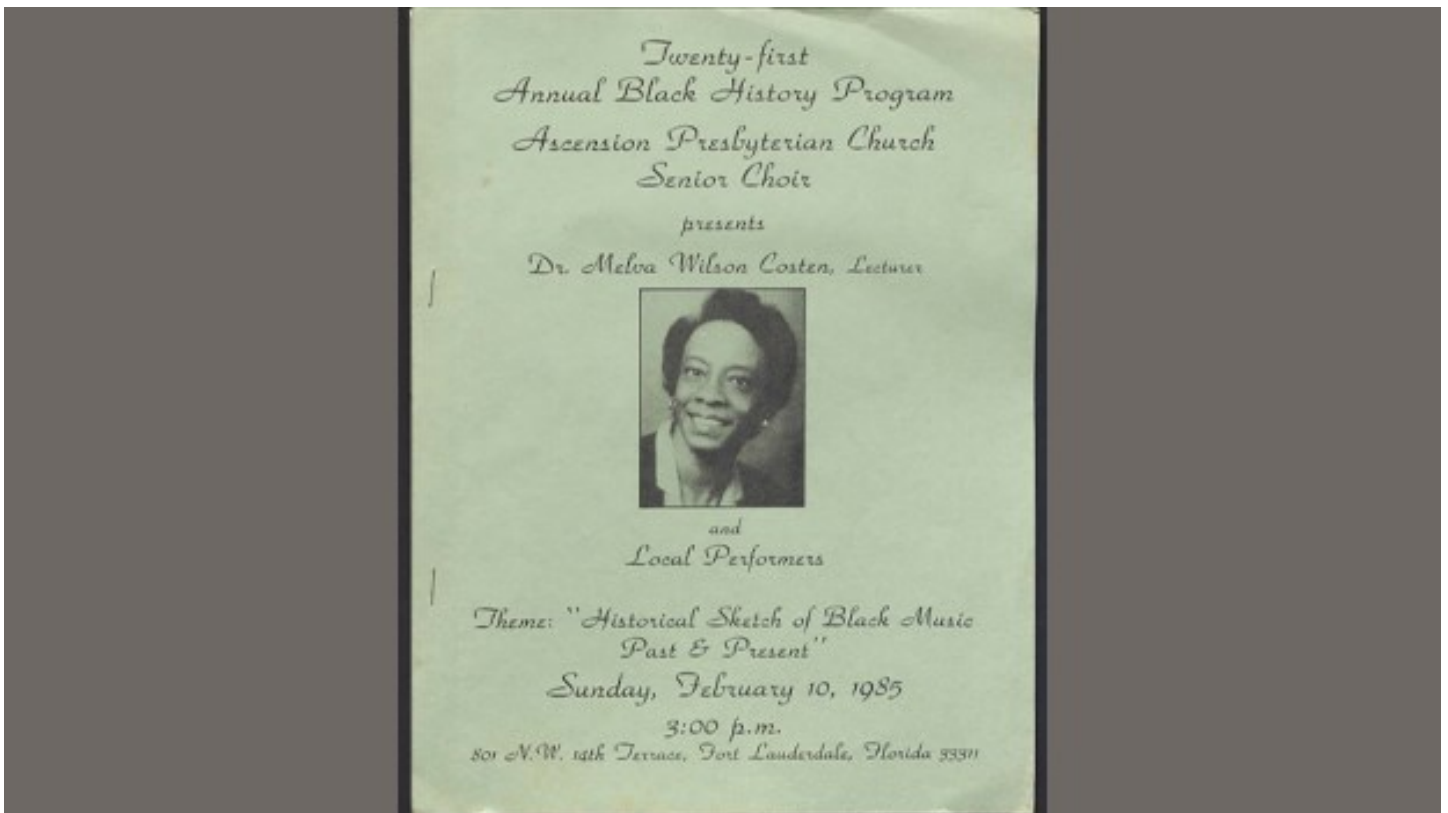
When Jim was called to be pastor of the Church of the Master Presbyterian Church in Atlanta in 1965, Melva served as director of music. Melva joined the faculty of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in 1973 and became the Helmar Nielsen Professor of Music and Worship in 1987, also directing the Center Chorus. She retired in April 2005 and later became Visiting Professor of Liturgical Studies at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

Her chief written work, *African American Christian Worship*, was published in 1993, with a second edition following in 2007. It traces the development of new forms of Christian worship, derived from the "common historical taproot" of African life in diaspora and under slavery, from secret worship in "brush arbors" or "hush arbors" out of the sight and earshot of slavers and overseers, through to contemporary gospel rap music.



Women in Theology and Ministry Oral History Program [oral history interview with Melva Costen](#), October 1, 2008.

Melva and Jim were the centers of a vast extended family, "because they adopted everyone," remembers Valerie Izumi. Melva was the first of Izumi's mentors: "She taught me valuable lessons about Presbyterian history, Black Presbyterianism, how to navigate within a white church with a strong sense of heritage and history. Because of the faithful witness and examples of Melva and other Black leaders who did not abandon the church, my formation was further developed and strengthened. And I stayed, too. I am grateful beyond words to have known her, to have been in her presence, for the impact she had on my life and the lives of so many others. Rest in power, rest in peace."



Twenty-first Annual Black History Program at Ascension Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, February 10, 1985.

The Costens' family extended to Philadelphia, where Melva served on the Presbyterian Historical Society's Advisory Council.

PHS Executive Director Nancy J. Taylor reflected on Melva's legacy: "I first learned about Melva as the person responsible for the beloved 'Blue Hymnal.' In fact, she chaired the committee that produced that 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), but that accomplishment was just one of many ways she shared her love of music and her commitment to education and to civil rights with the church and wider community." Taylor continued, "It was an honor to have her serve on the PHS Advisory Council. Melva and her family supported our African American Leaders and Congregations collecting initiative, and I am glad we were able to process the [James and Melva Costen Papers](#) in 2022 as part of the African American Leaders and Congregations Collecting Initiative."

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

New York Avenue Presbyterian Church continues its discussion on moral injury.

Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock delivers the second of her McClendon Scholar-in-Residence lectures

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — [Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock](#), an author and scholar and the senior vice president for moral injury programs at [Volunteers of America](#), continued her discussion on moral injury on Saturday at [New York Avenue Presbyterian Church](#) in Washington, D.C., by emphasizing the church's role in moral injury recovery through ritual.

Brock, this summer's [McClendon Scholar-in-Residence](#) at the downtown Washington, D.C., church, spoke last month on moral injury. Read a report of that talk [here](#). She also preached Sunday at the church that [President Lincoln attended regularly](#) during the Civil War.

Brock traced [moral injury](#) in veterans back to the 1700s, when it was labeled “nostalgia” or “homesickness.” By Lincoln’s time in the White House, moral injury was being called “soldier’s heart,” and throughout both world wars it was commonly known as “shellshock” or “combat stress reaction.” Clinicians identified it “Post-Vietnam Syndrome” until 1980, and post-traumatic stress disorder entered the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders in 1980. The fifth edition of the DSM revised it to “stressor-related disorder.”

“Your brain over-functions in its fear mode,” Brock said of moral injury’s effects. Moral injury “is not a mental health disorder. It’s a function of our being born moral,” and has three levels of severity: moral discomfort, moral distress and moral injury, which she noted is “the biggest factor for suicide among veterans” and is, as Rabbi David Blumenthal has pointed out, “a sign of mental and moral health.”

“People can seem OK. They can get on with their lives, but it will need to be processed at some point,” Brock told an audience listening both in-person at the historic downtown church and online. “It is crucial for the church to figure out how to help people with moral injury.”

“We may feel broken individually,” Brock said, “but we recover collectively.”

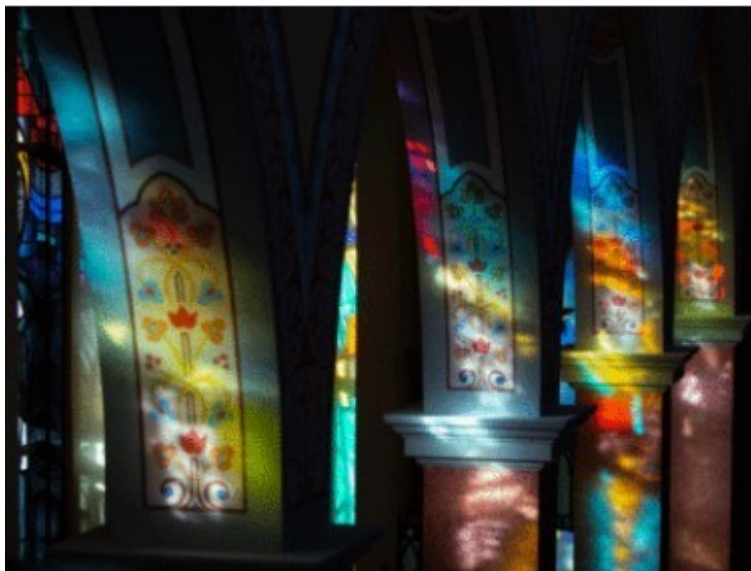


Photo by Jacob Bentzinger via Unsplash

She said that human beings are “social animals. We need friends, and there’s [an epidemic of loneliness right now](#) that’s bad for your health.”

Both our meaning systems and our moral behavior are social, and they’re reinforced through ritual, Brock noted. Parents and caregivers tell their 2-year-olds to say they’re sorry when they need to, “and eventually they get it ... Most of us are moral by habit. We just are nice to people and do our thing because we have been habitually trained in that behavior. Rituals are crucial to that process.”

In church, those are shared, repeated processes that “occur in liminal space and time.” It can be as simple as a hospital chaplain asking a patient, “May I pray with you?”

“If the patient says yes, a ritual has begun,” she said. Churches “are that kind of space, and so is the outdoors. You don’t have to build it. You just have to say, ‘This is the space.’”

“It’s counterintuitive for Protestants to go on and on about ritual,” Brock said. “The Protestant attitude was ritual is superstition ... Protestants focus on personal faith and subjectivity, and rituals are understood to be an expression of your personal faith.”

But in many cultures, that’s the minority opinion, Brock said. “You do the ritual because it’s the ritual. They don’t care about your own beliefs.” If belief in God makes you a better person, go ahead and believe in God, those communities might say. “It’s the ritual that’s effective,” such as tai-chi or mindfulness.



Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock

Even worship rituals many Christians consider innocuous enough, such as the passing of the peace, have been called hypocritical by some people. Brock pushed back on that: “You want a community where people who don’t like each other can greet one another,” Brock said.

Ritual can “pull you up out of the misery of your own feelings. You get to process your inner world with imagination and with empathy for others, and that relativizes how miserable you feel,” Brock said. We attend a friend or loved one’s memorial service “because you feel terrible that someone died who you cared about, knowing you will feel better in the end. You listen and trust, sing songs and listen to scripture and prayers, and you’re surprised sometimes how much better you feel.” Sometimes it doesn’t work, “but it helps people handle the fierce forces in life that otherwise would destroy you.”

Rituals work for many people, she said, because they engage people’s imagination. There’s movement and often group singing, both of which are “good for people. Rituals turn attention to the present time, focus perception and connect people.”

In fact, recovery from moral injury is like another ritual symbol for many Christians: a labyrinth, Brock said. “You keep moving.”

She offered a number of online resources for people who are helping others, including [this](#) and [this](#), a six-part podcast called “Soul Repair: After Moral Injury,” which Brock did with Dr. Susan Diamond.

COMMUNICATION

South Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York, celebrates the decision to sell its building to focus on faithful acts.

The 40-member faith community will salute its varied ministries in a big way this weekend.

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — This weekend, [South Presbyterian Church](#) in Rochester, New York, will celebrate the beginning of the second decade of selling its building and implementing its [Acts of Faith](#) community, a throwback to a first-century model of being the church.

After selling its building in 2014, the congregation — which now numbers about 40 — embraced a prayer it has prayed many times since: “Put us where you want us, God, and show us what to do.”



Nearly a decade ago, South Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York, sold its building to focus on investing in a wide array of ministries. The congregation, which worships each Sunday in a Rochester senior center, will hold a gala celebration this weekend.

2024 will mark 175 years since the founding of the church, and South Presbyterian [plans public celebrations](#) beginning Saturday. The Rev. Dr. Ray Jones III, director of [Theology, Formation and Evangelism](#), will join the celebration and help lead worship at a senior center where South Presbyterian worships.

“I continue to be thankful for God’s serendipitous grace in connecting me with the leaders of South Presbyterian Church,” Jones said. “I have learned so much from their courage and willingness to change. They boldly engaged the new thing God was doing in their midst by selling their church building and creating Acts of Faith across Rochester. They made the gospel decision to leave their building and go where the people live their lives in the community.”

“As their ministry continues to change hearts and lives,” Jones said, “this expression of the body of Christ exemplifies God’s faithfulness and love for all people.”

The Rev. Deb Swift, South Presbyterian Church’s pastor, said that 15 years ago, the congregation determined that if it held onto its building and made needed repairs, the church would run out of money in seven years. “I thought it was hyperbole, but it wasn’t,” said Swift. “We started doing these [Acts of Faith] ministries even before we sold the building.”



The Rev. Dr. Ray Jones III

Eventually a [1001 New Worshipping Community](#) was formed. Currently the church sponsors 14 Acts of Faith groups, which include:

[Cuppa the Bible](#), a weekly Bible study with this tagline: “You supply the ‘cuppa’ — the Spirit supplies the message.”

[Living Bread Ministry](#), where members bake bread regularly and offer a variety of loaves wrapped in new dish towels to anyone who may need encouragement or special prayers.

[Matthew 25 Discussion Groups](#), focused study groups dealing with the issues of racism, poverty, hunger and homelessness.

[Senior Spirituality](#), small support groups that first study the aging process with Swift and then accompany each other along the way.

[Soul Sustainability](#), a social group of 20-somethings working to sustain the environment, their spirits and themselves by creating a safe place to define their faith community.

Swift explains the Acts of Faith ministry model in a video that can be viewed [here](#).



The Rev. Deb Swift

“It’s about redefining church,” Swift said. “In our case, we embraced the first-century model when there was no centralized church location. We go wherever someone has an interest or a need, and we do organic, grassroots community organizing around that spiritual theme.” Each of those programs is an Act of Faith, she said.

“God finds a way to speak to us in a language we can understand,” Swift said. “We know that from the first Pentecost in [Acts 2](#), and who are we to say what someone else might experience as worship?”

During the pandemic, several Acts of Faith groups morphed into online groups, which has allowed them to build community beyond the Rochester area. The current array of 14 Acts of Faith groups includes participants from North Carolina, Florida, Utah, Washington state, New Jersey and Ithaca, New York. Ten ministries remain in-person in Rochester. Soul Sustainability, a group of five Millennials, is the most recent Acts of Faith group to form.

“I had them to dinner and I said, ‘If we are going to have a future, it’s going to be you,’” Swift said. “They were super excited.” One who’d trained as a graphic artist created Soul Sustainability’s logo — a skull with a flower growing through its eyeball. “I let the older folks know,” Swift said, pausing a beat. “They thought it was great.”

When one Soul Sustainability granting source didn’t come through, other Acts of Faith groups donated \$1,200 to pay for a few months of Soul Sustainability activities, including a trip to the local planetarium. One member told Swift, “That’s where I feel the presence of God. That’s where I see where I am in the universe.”

Each of the 14 Acts of Faith will make a brief presentation during the weekend celebration.

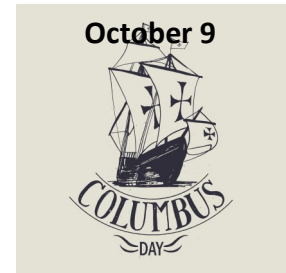
“This is a model anyone can do,” Swift said, and she wrote a case study how-to workbook, “The Church has Left the Building,” to show how it’s done. A separate nonprofit, Firebird Spirit, exists to work with other faith communities, including presbyteries, considering such a move.

A 1 p.m. panel on Saturday will explore the theme “What’s Next and How do We Get There?” Susan Orr, transitional leader and stated clerk of the [Presbytery of Genesee Valley](#), will emcee the event, and Jones and others will speak. After that, Acts of Faith groups will celebrate the many community partnerships that have formed over the last 10 years. [Third Presbyterian Church](#) in Rochester will host the celebration.

“This weekend, we just want to have fun,” Swift said. “Too rarely do we stop to embrace what God has done in our midst. God has done amazing things through this merry band of believers. They just keep saying yes to God.”



Soul Sustainability is one of 14 members of the Acts of Faith community.



Finance Committee Meeting
October 11 at 9:30 am

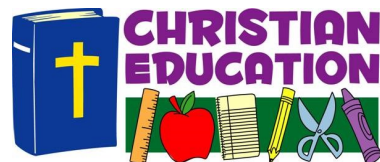


**Communication & Technology
Committee Meeting**
October 10 at 10:00 am




**Pantry
Stockings
Registration**
**October 18
thru
November 15**

**Christian Ed
Committee
Meeting**
**October 18
at 4:00 pm.**



Information to be included
in the November North
Star Newsletter is due to
the Church Office by
Tuesday, October 24.



Our local chapter of TOPS meets on Mondays at 5:30 in Willits Hall. If you're interested, please call the church office for information.




Community Meal at Grace Episcopal Church

Wednesday, October 11
Set up at 3:00 pm
Dinner at 5:00 pm



Music & Worship Committee Meeting
October 11 at 3:00 pm.



American Red Cross BLOOD DRIVE

Give Blood • Give Life

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on October 5 starting at noon. If you're interested in signing up to give blood, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 RED CROSS.




Yoga meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:45 in Willits Hall. If you're interested, please contact the church office for more information.

Board of Session will meet on October 8 at 6:00 pm.



There will be a church workday on Saturday, October 14 at 8:00 am.





Kindermusik meets on Tuesdays at 3 pm and Thursdays at 10 am and 5:15 pm. For information on how your child can participate, please contact the church office.



Fellowship



The next Saturday breakfast will be October 14 at 8:00 am. The menu will be:

- . Waffles
- . Cheese Omelets
- . Fruit
- . Coffee/Juice

Please join us!



Saturday, September 16, we shared breakfast with the ACTS group and members of First Pres. Thank you to all who participated!



Our next Wednesday Fellowship Dinner will be held at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, October 4. It will be a dish to pass meal. It is another opportunity to wow the crowd with your favorite dish. The Fellowship Committee will provide chicken rolled in parmesan bread crumbs as a main course. Reservation required. Please call the office by Tuesday, October 3, so that we can make seating accommodations.

NPC Board of Session

SESSION MEETING

March 19, 2023

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6:00 P.M. Dinner Meeting, Willits Hall

Elders present: Steve Allison, Tim Allison, George Batrowny, Suzie Hoskins, Kurt Kalweit, Annie LeFevre, Wendy Swatling

Elders excused: Jim Mosher, Linda Palmer

Moderator: Rev. Evan Hansen

Clerk: Cindy Kalweit

Treasurer: Patricia Richards (excused)

The Clerk determined that a quorum was present.

Rev. Hansen called the meeting to order, and the meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Hansen.

The minutes of the August 20, 2023 stated Session meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

The minutes of the August 27, 2023 special Session meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Session reviewed the Financial Statements including the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for August 2023. The Endowment Fund lost \$46,225.56 of market value in August. The Treasurer's report was received, with thanks, by the Session.

Motion by Annie LeFevre, second by Tim Allison to move the October stated Session meeting to October 8, 2023. CARRIED.

Following dinner, a discussion was held regarding the Introduction and chapter 1 of "Loving the Church You Lead".

The meeting adjourned in prayer at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kalweit,
Clerk of Session

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 World Communion Sunday 9:30 am -Worship Service 9:30am -Communion 10:30am-Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 	2 5:30 pm -TOPS	3 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 6:00 pm - Women's Bible	4 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 p m - Wed. Dinner 6:00pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm -Praise Band 7:00 pm - Worship Svc. 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	5 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 12:00 pm -Blood drive 1:00 pm -Nominating Comm Mtg 5:15 pm - Kindermusik 	6 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA 6:00 pm - Mosher Rehearsal	7 Kim Mosher Wedding 
8 9:30am -Worship Service 10:30am-Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 6:00 pm - Board of Session 	9 Columbus Day Indigenous People's Day 5:30 pm -TOPS 	10 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am - Comm & Tech Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 6:00 pm - Women's Bible 7:00 pm - B & G Mtg	11 Bulletin Info Due 9:30 am - Fin Comm Mtg 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Worship & Music 6:15pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	12 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 1:00 pm -Nominating Comm Mtg 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	13 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	14 8:00 am - Saturday Breakfast/Workday 2-4pm - Corn Maze at Bradley Farms 
15 9:30 am -Worship Service 9:30am -Communion 10:30am-Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 	16 5:30 pm -TOPS	17 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 6:00 pm - Women's Bible	18 Bulletin Info Due Pantry stocking reg. begins 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 4:00 pm - Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	19 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 1:00 pm -Nominating Comm Mtg 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	20 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	21
22 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School	23 5:30 pm -TOPS	24 Newsletter Info Due 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 6:00 pm - Women's Bible 	25 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	26 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 11:00 am - Deacons' Mtg 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	27 10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA	28
29 Trunk or Treat at First Pres 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School	30 5:30 pm -TOPS	31 Halloween 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 6:00 pm - Women's Bible 				