

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021, ISSUE 4, VOLUME 84

72 Ambrose Street, Rochester, NY 14608; Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
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“
THE VERY FIRST EASTER
TAUGHT US THIS: THAT
LIFE NEVER ENDS AND
LOVE NEVER DIES.

Fate McGowan

*Wishing All a Happy
and Blessed Easter!*

“Hope is being able
to see that there
is light despite all
the darkness.”

DESMOND TUTU

We hope you will join us for the following Holy Week Zoom Services:

Maundy Thursday Online Communion Service

Apr 1, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89237043446?pwd=SndNMHN5ZXRRmZlveHVldTg0Y0VxQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 3704 3446

Passcode: 929234

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 892 3704 3446

Passcode: 929234

Good Friday Service

Apr 2, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87458573591?pwd=YUtrZHJFUzhTLOMzTlItUC9aVTh1UT09>

Meeting ID: 874 5857 3591

Passcode: 795251

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 874 5857 3591

Passcode: 795251

Easter Sunday Service

Apr 4, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88676132163?pwd=SkJEQU5WNTFPL3Bsbkk2N3F1Yks2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 886 7613 2163

Passcode: 446554

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 886 7613 2163

Passcode: 446554



YOUR PASTOR'S ARTICLE

One year of Covid-19. As I write this note to you, today (Thursday March 11, 2021) marks exactly one year of Covid-19 in our community. I know that this reality has impacted each of us in different ways. Some have known loved ones who have become ill and, in the most horrible of cases, died. Others have faced the painful realities of isolation. Still others have struggled with job loss and financial insecurity. Each of us, to varying degrees, have grieved the challenges of being kept apart from loved ones, near and far. We have all been impacted by Covid-19 during this past year.

I know that we are not over this pandemic just yet, though we appear to be moving in the right direction. More and more of you are receiving your vaccinations. You may work in front line services and are being given your vaccinations through your places of employment. Others may be getting your vaccination because of your age, and it is coming down more each day. Younger and younger people are being vaccinated and very soon we hope to reach "herd immunity" whereby more people are vaccinated than not, and we will turn the tide of this horrific pandemic. The general message is that the end, we hope, is in sight.

As we move past this year ... anniversary? I want to thank each of you for being part of this journey with me and with each other. Together we have come this far.

To our staff, thank you so much for adjusting and learning how to do your jobs in entirely new ways. Working remotely is a challenge in many jobs, but in people-facing jobs it can be a real challenge. From learning how to use Zoom in new ways, to spending more and more time on the phone, I appreciate what you've all done so far. Some (Lee, Julia and our Choral Scholars), you've been recording, editing, and doing things that you've been doing since you were very young in entirely new ways that have challenged, frustrated, and excited you no doubt. You have faced this with brave faces and done so well. Each person on our staff have been beyond wonderful and have made this past year not only manageable but as good as it could/can be, and I think that has been a blessing.

I want to thank our congregation, which is each of you, for adjusting your ways of doing things. From worship online, either as a preplanned and prepared service, or on Zoom as we've been doing things recently, you've adapted so well. For Adult Education and Sunday School, you've attended and engaged in such powerful ways. I've learned so much from each of you and I know you have from one another. It's been different, but we've all endeavored to do our best.

You have discerned needs and found ways to meet those needs. Whether it is a Zoom gathering for prayer, or a Zoom or Viber group that is used to share needs, you have found various ways to adapt to the challenges of the day. So much adaptability. There are so many more examples of this type of ministry. I'm so proud to be part of this community.

We are not at the end of this pandemic, but we pray that we are getting there. It is hard to believe that what we thought would be a two-week forced stay at home time has become one year and we are moving into our second. We need to recognize what we have lost, and it has been so much. But we also need to honor what we have gained. We have gained a new sense of the need for community, and the desire to create it in new ways. We have gained a new sense of how much people mean to us and how we long for the experience of connection.

Thank you, finally, for your support of me. It has been one year since I have been to Canada. It has been one year since I have been with my son. This has been a very painful year. However, you have held me in prayer, in conversation, and in love. I am thankful for each of you. As we are doing what we can to move into this new year, I wanted to thank you all for being part of this LABC family.

Let us continue to do what we must do to bring this horrible pandemic to an end. Let us then prepare to look at it in the rearview mirror as something that has, we hope, brought each of us closer in our love for each other and our collective desire to be part of this community we call LABC, and this community that we love called

Rochester. May it be something we look back upon as a turning point in helping orient us more strongly towards our desire to serve the community in which we live, and the people with whom we interact each day.

Thank you.

Michael



*A Note From Your
Assisting Minister,
Susan Maybeck*

Today is the first day of spring (as I am writing this) and a lovely day it is. I just walked from the Pittsford Lock to the Jewish Community Center along the canal. I am trying to walk as much of the canal as I can by starting at the last place I stopped. I wonder how far I'll get this summer. I am hopeful that I can accomplish my goal!

And hope is what I want to talk about today. We have signs of hope around us. Spring! Flowers peeking up! Sunny warmer weather! Getting my second vaccination in a couple of weeks!

I know that we won't celebrate the hope that comes with Jesus Resurrection on Easter for 2 more weeks. But since I so often talk freely about despair, disappointment, and feeling down, I wanted to focus on hope in this message today.

Surely we do experience despair, disappointment and feeling down. And that is exactly why hope is so powerful. Because in spite of the difficulties of 2020, you and I still have hope.

After all hope is a major emphasis of the gospel. We are continually told: For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But, if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:24

Frederick Buechner defined hope (he calls it Wishful Thinking) in another way: Christianity is mainly wishful thinking...Dreams are wishful thinking. Interplanetary travel is wishful thinking. Sometimes wishing is the wings the truth comes true on. Sometimes the truth is what sets us wishing for it.

And a final quote from Ann Weems in her brief poem "Easter Morning"

*The stirring wildness of God
Calls brittle bones to leaping
And stone hearts to soaring.
Old women dance among the stars.*

May you and I continue to hope and hope and hope!

Susan

<i>In Time of Silver Rain</i>	<i>by Langston Hughes</i>
In time of silver rain The earth puts forth new life Again.	In time of silver rain The butterflies lift silken wings To catch a rainbow cry
Green grasses grow And flowers lift their heads	And trees put forth New leaves to sing In joy beneath the sky.
And over all the plain The wonder spreads Of life, Of life, Of life	When spring And life, Are new.

CHURCH BUILDING RE-OPENING PROTOCOL

A NOTE FROM YOUR MODERATOR

Dear Friends,

I hope that all of you have been enjoying these first days of warm weather as spring begins here in Rochester. The warmer weather and the good news that vaccinations for COVID-19 are rapidly increasing have created the happy conditions that allow us to begin to think about the re-opening of our church building for in-person worship. The Church Council met recently in a special session to discuss what information we would use to guide our reopening decision. We decided that we would use the following three criteria.

- 1) **70% of adults in the Finger Lakes Region have received at least one dose of vaccine.**
- 2) **Hospital and ICU beds are available at acceptable levels in the Finger Lakes Region based on the NYS criteria for this metric.**
- 3) **Transmission factors in the Finger Lakes Region are 1.0 or less.**

These values were chosen so that this area would be at or near herd immunity conditions and so that there is no evidence that a surge due to any of the more transmissible variants of the virus that we know are in our community is underway.

Until we can meet in person we will begin holding outside communion services in May (weather permitting) as we did in the fall. All of the precautions of masking and distancing will continue to be observed as we work to keep each other safe.

I write this letter to you with joy in my heart! I am proud of our congregation for making the well-being of all of us our priority, for adapting to on-line worship during this challenging time, and for continuing the work of mission, Christian education, and caring for one another during this most challenging time of a pandemic. Thanks be to God for each and every one of you.

In Christian love,

Laura



A NOTE FROM THIS LABC MINISTRY

ABC Earth Care Benefit Concert

April 8th, Thursday, 7:00-8:00pm online

*A free concert of secular and sacred music celebrating hope for the future of our natural world.

*With classical, folk, and popular music, everyone has a voice.

*A freewill donation to benefit local and global organizations successfully working to reverse climate change.

Featuring Musicians from Across the Region:

Brighton: Joanna Frank, classical cellist

Geneseo: the late Miche Fambro, singer, song-writer and guitar

Greece: Steve Gretz and Leslie Lee, singers, song-writers and guitar

Louisville, KY: Elizabeth Weaver, Allison Hammond, Louie Bailey, sacred music trio

Oberlin, OH: Peace Community Choir, sacred choral music

Ogden: Fred Dean, folk music pianist

Rochester: David Labman and Eastman student vocalists, classical choral music

Two Beneficiaries:

Local: RENEW Climate Fund of the Rochester Area Community Foundation [RENEW Climate Fund | Rochester Area Community Foundation](#) provides energy efficiency and weatherization for low-income home owners in the Greater Rochester area.

International: Savory Institute [Support Holistic Management & Regenerative Agriculture | Savory Institute](#) facilitates regenerative agriculture hubs for farmers across the world.

Three Ways to Register: Go to: <http://greecebaptistchurch.org/creation-collaborative.html> or send an email to office@greecebaptistchurch.org, or call 225-6160 X1. Registered participants will receive the zoom link.

Three Ways to Make a Donation:

- Donate directly to one or both of the organizations listed above, before, during, or after the concert.
- Or make a donation through the yellow DONATE button at [Greecebaptistchurch.org](http://greecebaptistchurch.org), and send an email to office@greecebaptistchurch.org indicating your name, the date, the amount, and purpose of your donation.
- Or mail your check to Greece Baptist Church, 1230 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY 14626, indicating the purpose of your donation.

Endless Benefits:

A memorable evening of music during Covid. A win-win-win for people, their pocketbooks, and the planet. The benefits of energy efficient homes continues year after year. Educating farmers to care for the earth is passed on from farm to farm, from generation to generation.

Media Contact: Cheryl Frank 585-730-1719 cell, cherylmfrank@yahoo.com

Green Tip of the Week: GATHER is a film portrait of the movement amongst Native Americans to reclaim cultural identity through food sovereignty. Join a movie screening and discussion panel. Thursday, March 25, 6:00-8:30pm. Get tickets here: <https://story-spaces.com/events/gather-watch-party-and-discussion-msjj4l>.

KEN'S KORNER, MUSINGS OF YOUR OFFICE MANAGER



I usually take Lilly for a walk at 6:00 in the morning and as of late it has been pretty cold outside. It's still dark at that time, and I have my flashlight in hand. The sun's warming light is still hidden below the horizon at 6:00 am. But, now, as Lilly and I walk we are beginning to become more aware of "the resurrection" of earth's life-force which lay dormant during the winter. Lilly barks now when she hears the quacking of the ducks who are beginning to nest near the pond behind my condo

complex. She barks at the geese honking as they fly above in their almost symmetrical triangles. (Lilly still hasn't figured out that they are about 100 feet above us and totally out of reach!) She has also begun to bark at the bushes and trees around the complex where the migrating songbirds are beginning to set up their nests for the season. When I look at the ground with my flashlight, I am noticing the sturdy leaves and shoots of the daffodils and irises piercing through the still very cold soil. The buds on the trees are getting plumper and waiting for the warmth to return before they show their delicate leaves and flowers. It's a wonderful time of year. It's a wonderful time to show our appreciation to God for the abundant gifts and wonders He/She has given us.

And, even with the pandemic still raging around the world, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Through the God-given talents and intelligence of our scientists, vaccines have been developed and are now available for all of us to take. (I hope you will schedule your appointment. I took my first one on March 8 and will return for the second on March 29th. The only thing I experienced was a slightly sore arm.)

So, on Easter Sunday, let's not only celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead but also celebrate the return of spring and the return of hope through the new vaccines that have been developed. It's been a long year, and I think we are entitled to a long and joy-filled celebration in the months ahead.

HOW IS THE DATE OF EASTER DETERMINED?

The following article from the Old Farmer's Almanac and written by Catherine Boeckmann will help to explain it.



The date of Easter is related to the full Moon.

Specifically, **Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or just after the spring equinox.** Yes, it's a bit confusing at first read!

Let's break it down: In 2021, the spring equinox happened on Saturday, March 20. The first full Moon to occur after that date rises on Sunday, March 28. Therefore, Easter will be observed on the subsequent Sunday, which is Sunday, April 4.

In Christian calendars, the first full Moon of spring is called the "**Paschal or Passover Full Moon**" (which we'll explain further below). So, to put it another way: Easter is observed on the Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon.

What Happens When the Full Moon and Spring Equinox Occur on the Same Day?

Generally, if the full Moon occurs on the same day as the spring equinox, Easter is observed on the subsequent Sunday. However, there is a caveat:

Long ago, the Christian Church decided to simplify the process of calculating Easter's date by **always observing the spring equinox on March 21**, despite the fact that, astronomically speaking, the equinox date changes over time and is many times earlier than the 21st.

This discrepancy between the *astronomical* equinox date and the Church's *observed* equinox date can sometimes cause confusion, as it did in 2019, when the full Moon and the astronomical equinox occurred on the same day—Wednesday, March 20.

According to the formula above, this should have meant that Easter would be observed on Sunday, March 24. However, because the Church observes the equinox on March 21, the full Moon technically did not occur "on or just after" the equinox, meaning that the next full Moon would determine Easter's date instead. Thus, in 2019, Easter was held on Sunday, April 21, after the full Moon on Friday, April 19.

ROCHESTER
WITNESS
FOR
PALESTINE



Film Program: *'Til Kingdom Come*
March 29 (Monday) and following: watch

April 5 (Monday) at 8:00 pm: discussion with Don Wagner and Jonathan Brenneman.

Register at this website: <http://witnesspalestinerochester.org/til-kingdom-come/>

With an estimated 30 million Christian Zionists in the U.S., it's important for us to unpack the subject in this movie and discussion. The movie highlights a Baptist church as its pastors encourage an impoverished Kentucky community to donate to Israel in anticipation of Jesus's impending return.

"As Christian Zionism continues to grow within Western Evangelical churches and para-church agencies, we are reminded that it is now a significant political force in shaping U. S. policy in the Middle East. Additionally, its global reach through satellite broadcasting and the internet adds another significant challenge to Christian missions. Now the gospel of Jesus Christ is represented in a militant, Crusader, Western Zionist construction that is not only hostile to Muslims and Arabs, but is an utter contradiction to the message of love, reconciliation, and good news to the poor and marginalized, whatever their economic status, political orientation, race or creed." Rev. Dr. Don Wagner.

Watch on PBS or streaming

National broadcast: March 29 (Monday) at 10:00 pm local in the Independent Lens series (9:00 pm in some time zones).

Many stations repeat the program on another digital channel.

PBS Passport (donation required to your local public broadcaster.)

It may stream from the Independent Lens website.

Rochester Broadcast Times:

WXXI 21.1 March 29 (Monday) at 10 pm.

WXXI 21.2 March 31 (Wednesday) at 8:30 pm.

WXXI 21.2 April 1 (Thursday) at 1:30 am.

(You can also access this program from your DVR.)

Discussion Leaders:

Don Wagner: wrote his doctoral dissertation on Christian Zionism while serving as the National Director of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign. He co-founded Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding in the late 1980s. From 1995 - 2010 he was a Professor of Middle East Politics and Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at North Park University. He became the national Program Director of Friends of Sabeel North America until his retirement in 2016. He is the author or co-author of 5 books.

Jonathan Brenneman is a Palestinian-American Christian. He was a frontline activist of Christian Peacemaker Teams Palestine Project in Hebron/Al-Khalil from 2012 to 2014. Later he was the Israel/Palestine Partners in Peacemaking Coordinator for Mennonite Church USA, where he facilitated the writing, passing, and implementation of the Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine Resolution. He currently serves as Communication Manager of Friends of Sabeel North America.



CHRISTIAN FAITH AND THE LGBT EXPERIENCE

For many years, Lake Ave. has helped support a lecture series called "Christian Faith and the LGBT experience." In the past, these presentations took place at Lake Ave. or another area church, but in recent years the presentations have moved to Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. This spring, the lecture is being presented "virtually" through CRCDS as a part of their spring lecture series.

Date: April 6, 2021 1:30 - 3 pm

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Cady II, Senior Pastor at Asbury UMC in Rochester

To register: crcds.edu/2021springlectures

This presentation is open to the community and there is no registration fee. It is an opportunity for learning, but also a time for renewal of one's commitment for inclusion and justice in God's diverse community. Even as we are separated by social distancing and prevented from large "in-person" gatherings, we continue to need education and spiritual renewal.

A NOTE FROM THE GREATER ROCHESTER COMMUNITY OF CHURCHES FAITH IN ACTION NETWORK

By Rev. Deborah Grohman

Friends,

We're glad that so many of you came to the GRCC Annual Meeting event on the Language of Praise and Grief, and we hope you found the presentations as powerful as we did. You have an opportunity to follow up on the themes of that night by participating in our annual Cross Walk, which is virtual this year and available throughout Holy Week, starting March 28. Based on the 7 Last Words of Jesus, this year's stops look at race as it intersects with life in Rochester: healthcare, education, the arts, hunger, violence, environment, and housing. Featured are Joe Prude (Daniel Prude's brother), the Community Garden Project, Bethany House, urban mural artists, Food Link, Nativity Preparatory School, and the Gandhi Institute. The following is the website (<https://tinyurl.com/RocCrossWalk>) where you will find the videos. You may engage them all at once, or perhaps one a day as a spiritual walk to the cross. Please share this with your friends and colleagues!

GRCC has long been known for its focus on justice and community. For some time we've been involved in specific work on race relations. This year due to unrelenting tragedies in Rochester and throughout the country, those have come together with renewed urgency. GRCC is pleased to have been able to present now 4 virtual events in the last 6 months that have provided insight on structural racism and systemic poverty, from which come calls to action. We believe we are called to fashion a community where no one is left out. This is at the heart of the teaching of Jesus. As we learn the deeper history of Rochester, we approach this work with deep humility and in a spirit of confession. We hope that you will join us in this work. Here are ways you can help:

- Please pray for the collective work of our county's communities of faith.
- Please share your insight and passion with us.
- Please contribute financially so that we can continue to offer programs that powerfully move this community forward in justice and peace. Checks can be sent to GRCC at 2 Riverside St, Rochester, 14613.

Our new website will soon be live and filled with opportunities to give and become involved. When it's published, you will find it at rocchurches.org.

We wish you a blessed Holy Week and hope that the Cross Walk videos (found at <https://tinyurl.com/RocCrossWalk>) will deepen your spiritual experience.



A NOTE FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Lott Cary (1780-1829)

Born a slave in tidewater Virginia, **Lott Cary** was transferred by his owner to work in a tobacco warehouse in Richmond. In this capacity Cary worked industriously and earned freedom for both himself and his family. While in Richmond, he joined First Baptist Church, became a preacher, and helped to organize an African missionary society. The American Colonization Society and the American Baptist

Foreign Mission Society also recognized his leadership and appointed him a missionary. Cary and his colleague, Colin Teague, sailed to Monrovia, Liberia, where they established the first Christian church in the colony and a school. Cary helped to create health regulations for Liberia and served as the colony's first black governor. He died in Liberia in 1829



Our Church Family:

- We extend our prayers and heartfelt sympathy to **Euan Morton and his family** as they mourn the death of Euan's mother in Scotland.
- Our prayers are with **Tom and Thekla Raisner** as they deal with health issues. Tom is currently at Fairport Baptist Homes recuperating and Thekla is currently at Heather Heights.



**Colgate
Rochester
Crozer**
DIVINITY SCHOOL

SPRING 2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

This Far By *faith*

MARCH **23**
11:00AM



INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Dr. Deborah J. Rogers, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Theology, Culture, and the Practice of Ministry

APRIL **6 - 9**



SPRING LECTURE SERIES

April 6 - The Christian Faith & LGBT Experience Lecture @ 1:30PM
April 7 - The Stanley I. Stuber Lecture @ 1:30PM
April 8 - The African American Legacy Film 1:30PM, Lecture @ 4:00PM
April 9 - The Helen Barrett Montgomery Lecture @ 1:30PM

APRIL **13**
11:00AM



INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Dr. Jin Young Choi, Professor of New Testament & Christian Origins and the Baptist Missionary Training School Professorial Chair in Biblical Studies

APRIL

22
5:00PM



VIRTUAL PREVIEW DAY

See what it's like to be a part of the CRCDS family, all from the convenience of your home!

APRIL

27
4:15PM

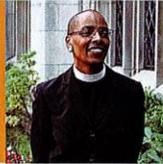


THURMAN SCHOLAR PRESENTATION

Exploring the Black Contemplative Tradition and Interpretation Through Howard Thurman with Rev. Dr. Shively T. J. Smith, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Boston University School of Theology

MAY

22
11:00AM



CRCDS GRADUATION

Join with our CRCDS community to celebrate the Class of 2021! This years commencement speaker will be The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:

WWW.CRCDS.EDU