



CROSS ROADS

Where the Acts of Faith meet

An occasional newsletter of South Presbyterian Church

April 18, 2023



It's hard to believe that we are completing our first decade as a missional church outside the church building. We have learned a lot of things. Some of our Acts of Faith (AoF's) have come and gone; others are still going strong, and from the beginning, one of our challenges has been keeping each other informed about what is happening in other groups that we

don't belong to. We're all part of the same congregation.

As we continue to try and find the best ways to share information and keep us all connected, we are giving this publication a try, using the Presbytery newsletter as a model for how best to do this

(<https://pbygenval.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2023/04/E-News-APR-041123.pdf>).

While most of us are familiar with the traditional "church newsletter," we now know that the carbon footprint of using all the paper to print those (plus the cost to mail them out) makes that model outdated.

What we are testing here is a newsletter that will primarily be online, with only a few copies printed for those who do not have internet access. By having something online, we can include other online links to things that you might wish to follow for more information. (A very few copies will be printed and mailed to those who do not have email.)

The items where we need to have a quicker response (such as Prayer Requests, special time-sensitive announcements, etc.) will still be sent out as our eNews from either Pastor Deb (pastor@southpc.org) or Kevin (office@southpc.org) in the office.

IF YOU HAVE AN ITEM THAT YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT *Cross Roads*, please email it to Carly (clogan546@gmail.com). That includes written articles, links to other online information, pictures of our AoF's that you want to share, etc.

WE WILL USE ONLY FIRST NAME AND LAST INITIALS to identify people unless they are staff members where their identities are public record. We aim to keep us all safe in this internet-based world.

Special Meeting of the Congregation of South Presbyterian Church

The Session has called for a Special Meeting of the Congregation to approve the revised Terms of Call and any other related business, as needed, for

**Sunday, April 30th, following Fellowship of Faith
(approx. 2PM) at Chestnut Court of
St. John's Meadows.**

*We anticipate the meeting will take
approximately 7 minutes or less.*



Making Plans for the Summer

One of the original Acts of Faith, Food for Thought, is making plans for the summer – whether to take time off, and if so, how long for their hiatus to be. They are finishing up one book and about to start another. Three weeks of the month, the group meets through zoom, but their next meeting will be at the Elmwood Inn on Wednesday 4/26 at 2:45 for the last chapters of their current book. They will be looking at their next read, *Soil and Sacrament* which could/should take them into early summer.

The group consists of community members who are not otherwise part of South, as well as those who have been around for decades. Additionally, this last spring they have welcomed a new member, Dave E., a member of Irondequoit Presbyterian Church. If you wish to join this group either with the next book this spring, or in the fall, please contact Carol S. through the church office. Learn more about FFT on our website: <https://southpc.org/2019/06/03/food-for-thought/>

It's What We Do

While some of us are able to come together for worship on Sunday afternoon at St. John's Meadows, that remains an impossibility for others. We now have 17 volunteers who trade off as eWorship Leaders for our recorded services every week.



Most recently, we were joined by three members of Irondequoit Presbyterian Church who are also leading worship now on our recordings. The same recordings are used (with a different beginning and ending to talk about their congregation) for IPC every week, as well. Leaders from both churches (as well as shared music from both services) help everyone to feel connected. Throughout Lent and Easter, South had **111 views** on our YouTube Channel. IPC had an additional **104 views** on the IPC YouTube Channel. Maybe this is part of God's new definition of church.

If you would like to lend your voice and volunteer about 15 minutes a month to record a portion of the eWorship service, please let the office know.

Worship Without the Internet

Every week between 10 and 15 people join us with the same readings, prayers, sermon and music that we have in Fellowship of Faith and on our YouTube eWorship service, but they do it without internet connection. Thanks to Kevin's hard work in the office, we produce DVD's of our online services every week and mail them to individuals and groups (including Cobbs Hill Manor) who cannot access our worship any other way. Recently, one of the women who relies heavily on her DVD's told our Deacons that she really feels the presence and support of our church through the DVD she receives every week. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



Learn more about the eWorship program <https://southpc.org/eworship/> and our DVD Ministry on our website: <https://southpc.org/2022/07/13/1861/>



New AoF Replaces *Prayerful Pause With the Pastor*

For those of you who have been missing Pastor Deb's daily video series, *Prayerful Pause with the Pastor*, take heart. She will be launching a NEW series that she describes as "mostly daily" on

South's YouTube Channel in early May. **Q&A Today** will be short videos where she answers questions about theology, applying faith to current events, what different things mean in the life of the church, why do we do things the way we do, what makes Presbyterians different from other churches, and more. But she needs your help!

If you have a question that you would like her to answer, please send it to her (pastor@southpc.org) and put Q&A in the Memo line.



Andy in his Easter shoes!

Soul Sustainability

What should a church do when all of their ministries are centered around the needs and interests of adults over the age of 60 yet three of their members are in their 20's? Why, have them start their own Act of Faith, of course.

On April 15th, five twenty-somethings met to discuss what they would like the church to be to them. Under the working title of **Soul Sustainability** (it's just in its infancy of discussion), the group would like their time together to focus on sustainability as it pertains to the planet, their future, taking care of each other, and sustaining the Spirit that lives within each one of us.

They have set a date for their initial meeting(s) and plan on developing their Mission Statement, graphic ID and their internal structure with shared leadership as they go.

Please pray for them as they work to redefine "church" from their own perspective.



The first meeting of Soul Sustainability: Imani, Jacques, Enuma, Carly & Concetta



Food Cupboard Needs and Expansions

The food cupboard – which is open on the second, fourth, and fifth Thursday mornings of every month – is increasing the number we serve as needs increase in our community. People are coming to us now by word of mouth and by phone calls to the church office. We are breaking our records and served 23 people the last morning that we were open.

Temple Beth Sholom, our partner who donates space to us for this ministry, did a small food drive among their members which really helped restock our shelves. Additionally, we recently accepted a Foodlink delivery.

Our hours will remain the same over the summer. We are juggling volunteer schedules to accommodate vacations, and are in still in need of help delivering food. In keeping with Foodlink directives, we serve residents of zip codes 14620, 14607, and 14610. However, we will not turn anyone away regardless of where they came from and serve those folks through donations from other sources. Through those other donations, we are also able to supply about 40 cans per month to the Temple's front yard "cupboard on a pole" where people can walk up and help themselves.

Needed at this time: dry food goods, female sanitary pads, cereal and canned fruit – which are very popular but not always available from Foodlink. These may be left at Fellowship of Faith or through accommodations made through the church office.

Scenes from our Spring Potluck with IPC.

29 attended. A great time was had by all.



Welcome to Our Newest Member

On Sunday, April 16th, the Reverend Holly Powell became a member of South Presbyterian Church after having been an Associate Member for a few years. Many of us know Holly as a member of Sing for Joy! and the Director of Ring for Joy!, but immediately following the portion of worship where we welcomed her as a member, she and Barbara Durfee joined Andy Pratt on guitar in a hammered dulcimer duet. Holly serves as the Co-Chair of our Deacons along with Barbara Durfee. We welcome Holly with open hearts and hands and thank God for adding to our number.



RECOMMENDED
BY
PASTOR DEB

GET USED TO DIFFERENT

By Pastor Deb

The Chosen is Changing Lives

It is rare for me to recommend movies, podcasts or even books. After all, we all have such varied taste. But this is different. **The Chosen** is the First-Ever Multi-Season Series About the Life of Jesus. Available on All Devices. **The Chosen** is the Free Show with more than 500,000,000 views around the world. Tens of Millions of People Won't Stop Talking About. Free Streaming. Watch on Any Device. As a personal testimony, it has really changed my own spirituality! Here are some ways that you can view **The Chosen** on any device. Just **CLICK THE LINK** or watch where you usually do and just search for **The Chosen**.

Netflix - <https://www.netflix.com/watch/81622759?trackId=255824129>

Prime Video - https://www.amazon.com/I-Am-He/dp/B091DFVFHW/ref=sr_1_3?crid=2M7BIR9IPB8UG&keywords=the+chosen+season+1&qid=1681871633&s=instant-video&srefix=The+Chosen%2Cinstant-video%2C130&sr=1-3

Angel Studios - <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/8dfb714d-bca5-4812-8125-24fb9514cd10/season-1/episode-1/i-have-called-you-by-name>

If you like what you see and would like to explore the real meanings behind it with others, I have purchased the interactive Bible studies for Seasons 1 and 2 and it might be fun to get together and talk about what it felt like to watch these depictions of Jesus and the Disciples.

The music is beautiful, the scenery and photography is wonderful, the acting is superb. It's quite a production.

One of the themes of this show comes about in Season 1 when Simon Peter is not understanding how Jesus does things. They were expecting a military leader as Messiah. And they were continually reacting to things as they would in their "before life" – before Jesus called them. Jesus looks at Peter and says simply: **"get used to different."** I can't help think that that is an appropriate phrase for all of us at South – get used to different.

South Deacons launch Drive for ACS

Throughout the month of May we will be collecting:

- paper towels,
- napkins,
- 13-gallon trash bags,
- Cascade liquid dishwasher detergent,
- dish soap,
- neutral colored dish towels,
- heavy duty paper plates and bowls and
- heavy duty plastic silverware.



Hope Lodge is a residence for persons living with cancer (and their caregivers) who are receiving treatment in Rochester. The Lodge is operated by the American Cancer Society and is located in the former Colgate Rochester Divinity School. If you have questions about this donation drive or are interested in volunteer opportunities at Hope Lodge please contact Holly Powell, 585-278-3037. Thank you for your support!



Hope Lodge®