

# CROSS ROADS

Where the Acts of Faith meet

An occasional newsletter of South Presbyterian Church

Summer 2023



Is only 6 months away, but it will be a *significant* year in the history of South Presbyterian Church. 2024 will mark the 175<sup>th</sup> year since our founding (195<sup>th</sup> for those hailing from New Life Presbyterian), and it will begin our second *decade* as a 100% missional church without the benefit of a centralized location. To kick off that year-long celebration, we will be having a special **Gala Celebration** in September.



	<p><b>SAVE THE DATES!</b> <b>PLAN TO BE THERE!</b> <b>September 22, 23, 24</b> <i>Potluck ... Planning ... Fellowship ... Discussion</i> <i>Reception ... Communion Worship</i> <b>Rev. Ray G Jones, III</b> Director of Education, Theology &amp; Evangelism for the PC(USA)</p>
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In a nutshell, here's what to expect.

## **Friday Evening All-AoF Potluck.**

Even if you are not a regular attendee of worship, you are a part of the AoF Community and at a potluck on Friday night (time TBD – at the Carmen Clark Lodge at 777 Westfall Road in Brighton), Ray Jones will be with us to help us begin to map out “What’s Next for South.” As we enter our second decade with the Acts of Faith, are we called to just keep doing what we’re doing? ... add or subtract something? ... and how do we prepare for Pastor Deb’s retirement in early 2025? Everyone’s input is needed. Please plan on being there.

## **Saturday Afternoon at Third Presbyterian Church – 2 Events. Please consider the second for sure!**

At **1PM** we will host a panel discussion with Ray and other members of those doing creative ministry in the Rochester area as well as a couple of our own members to discuss with other churches in the Presbytery (and beyond) what lies ahead and “How do We Get There?” Susan Orr, the Presbytery Leader and a member of our eWorship AoF will be the moderator of that discussion.

At **3PM** there will be **Presentations and Reception**. We are inviting our elected officials and other partners from the community to celebrate the many things we have accomplished. There will be a reception and all AoF’s are asked to have a member of that AoF present, and a table presentation that describes their ministry and who they are.

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On **Sunday, 1PM at Fellowship of Faith**, Rev. Ray and Pastor Deb will lead us in a **Communion Service of Dedication** as we head into the next phase of our faith journey together and dedicate ourselves as well as our new communion table. All are welcome to attend!

We are currently working on some of the details:

- Getting a secure transport for those who want to go from the Meadows to Third Presbyterian on Saturday afternoon
- Contacting our special VIP invitees
- Figuring out the role for the Deacons and the Session on those days
- Starting to create the printed program for those attending the events



We have already:

- Secured the Carmen Clark Lodge
- Secured the use of Third Presbyterian Church (who is graciously covering all of the building costs except the sexton's overtime)
- Secured a \$1,000 grant from the Presbytery to help pay for food and expenses related to Ray Jones' visit
- Secured lodging for Ray with the Sisters of St. Joseph on Gregory Street (they have housed our visitors many times in their convent – a beautiful place with a gorgeous chapel)

There are many details for something like this. **If you would like to volunteer to help with food, set-up, take-down, or greeting people and handing out the programs, please contact the office ASAP.** Once Pastor Deb returns from vacation, there will only be three weeks before the event. We need to have as much done ahead of time as possible.



## A New Act of Faith?

The online streaming series about Jesus and his followers titled *The Chosen* has become the topic of two of our newest Acts of Faith. In-Person Discussion will be led by Holly and Darryl Powell at their home on Monday nights in the fall, while Zoom discussions will take place online with Pastor Deb, Tuesday evenings. Both will begin after Labor Day. **If you are interested in one or both of these groups, please let Pastor Deb or Holly Powell know.**



**The Church Office will be Closed on **September 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day**, and Kevin will be on vacation the remainder of that week. If you need pastoral support, please contact Pastor Deb directly.**





## eWorship in August

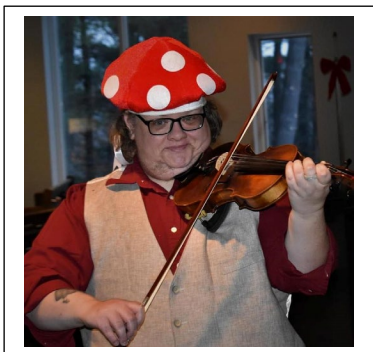
With Pastor Deb on vacation for the month of August, our online and DVD worship ministries will continue. During those four weeks, we will be re-broadcasting

services from throughout this last year as part of our “The Best Of ...” series. So, whether you are traveling on vacation or hanging out at home, remember to log on to our eWorship Service on our YouTube channel (**South Church Rochester**) and let the Holy Spirit unite us across time and distance as we worship the Living God.

## Welcome to YET ANOTHER (!) New Member



Our third new member in as many months joined South during our July Session Meeting (see the article inset at right)..



The newest member of our “wee kirk” is **Coriander (Cori) Wolfgang Rainbeaux**, who comes to us by Letter of Transfer from the Downtown United Presbyterian Church (DUPC). Cori, who defines as a non-binary person, uses the words “they and them” to describe themselves, and is a

creative whiz in both visual arts and music, though they are now studying computer programming online.

Cori worships with us through our YouTube channel, usually, but recently came to Fellowship of Faith to meet many of us in person.

Additionally, they have now joined the ranks of the eWorship Leaders creating meaningful worship services for our YouTube and DVD ministries, so you may get to know them there.

**If you, or any other member of one of our Acts of Faith, would like to become an official, voting member of South Presbyterian Church, please let Pastor Deb or one of the elders know.**

## One More “New Thing”

We are all aware of how South has been redefining things for years – vibrant ministry without a church building – worship in non-traditional space at a non-traditional time – a Session that meets online with 2/5 of it being non-local and living out of state – inviting pledging and full participation across multiple locations – creating a new classification of membership (Constituent Member). But how do we grow or welcome new members of South Presbyterian Church when we don’t all worship in the same place at the same time? ... when some people’s whole experience and definition of church rests within one of the “other” AoF’s?

One of the precepts of the AoF Model is that all Acts of Faith are equal and no one is more important than the others – not even Sunday worship. So how do we bring in and welcome new people who want to join us?

When someone wishes to join South as a full, voting member and claim our congregation as their Faith Community, they are invited to do so through learning about us through an Act of Faith and then answering the membership questions in front of the Session.

So far, we have had two active members join us this way. The Session pauses its business meeting and welcomes the new member in an online prayer service where the new person answers the membership questions. It is really inspiring for us all.


It’s new ... it’s different ... and it’s working!

# What's the plural of HIATUS?\*

Whatever you call it, several of our Acts of Faith are taking a little break from their regular meeting times to accommodate vacations and ... well ... just to give everyone some much needed rest and relaxation.

BUT ... that also means that when they resume, it is the *perfect* time to join one of these. If you have been contemplating signing on, but didn't want to do that mid-year, then when they gear up in the fall could be "baby bear" (i.e. "just right"). ALL of our Acts of Faith encourage you to stay committed to it only as long as it continues to give you **energy & excitement**.

If there is **Zoom** by the name, the group meets online all (or most) of the time. You can get the Zoom Link from Kevin in the office or by contacting a group member.



**Cuppa the Bible**  
ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

*You supply the "cuppa" -  
the Spirit supplies the message*

**Zoom** Lectionary-based.  
**MONDAY, 10:30 a.m.**

**Cuppa** looks ahead at what our worship will be based on in two weeks. Through study and sharing, we are given a heads-up on God's message for us.



**Zoom** **EVENING PRAYER**

Prayer Service in real time  
**THURSDAY, 6 p.m.**  
**Contact the Church Office for the link**

**Evening Prayer** is the perfect way to connect mid-week as we are both challenged and comforted through sharing, prayers and scripture.



**e-Worship**

Uploaded services in advance of Sunday worship.  
Recorded by volunteer leaders at home and edited by our staff.  
"Script" is provided; 4-6 days to record your 5-minute piece. If you wish to join us,  
**Contact the Church Office**

Our **eWorship** offerings include our weekly online worship on YouTube as well as our DVD ministry. Commitment is for 5-10 mins/month.



**Food for Thought**  
Community Book Group

Building community through our love of books, ideas, and each other. Group meets weekly (zoom) and once a month in person while zooming.  
**Zoom HYBRID**  
**Check Online Calendar**

**Food for Thought** is our longest-running AoF and is a Community Book Group that dives deep into the application of our faith as we support each other.



**Ring for Joy**

Adult Bell Choir open to all. No prior experience or audition required. *Vacations in summer.*  
**WEDNESDAY, 5:30 p.m.**  
*St. John's Meadows  
(1 Johnsarbor Drive, 14620)*


**Ring for Joy** will be starting its third full season in the fall. You do not need to know how to read music or ring bells. This group rings, prays and shares life together.



**Sing for Joy!**

Mid-week opportunity to sing church- and non-church songs.  
No Audition.  
*Vacations in summer.*  
**WEDNESDAY 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
*St. John's Meadows*

Want to sing more? **Sing for Joy!** may be just right for you. Every week begins with a sing-along with whomever is there. No prior experience needed. Sundays optional.



**WATER from the Well**  
Friday Bible Study

Online Bible Study for Thinking & Questioning People.  
**FRIDAY, Noon to 1 p.m.**  
**Contact the Church Office for the Zoom Link**  
**Zoom**

Friday lunch hour Bible Study, **Water from the Well**, will be starting an in-depth look at the Gospel of John beginning 9/8/23.

**Come and try some of these out.** If you don't like it or it's not your cup of tea ... you don't have to stay. Most start up the week after Labor Day. Check the calendar on our website for exact dates, times and locations. [Click here for Calendar.](#)

\*I thought it might be "Hiati," but that never caught on. (Maybe too much like Haiti. 😊) According to the online dictionary, it is either Hiatus or Hiatuses. – *Pastor Deb*



With **The Acts of Faith**, we have multiple choices for achieving each of the 4 Activities for a Healthy Spirit. Each one of these needs to be done **at least** once a month.

SOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# healthy spirit

Do each of these at least once per month to have a healthy spiritual life.

**Worship** - celebrate that there is something greater than you and that that "something" loves you very much

**Study** - expand your knowledge of spirit, Bible or theology through writings, conversations, videos, etc.

**Fellowship** - socialize with others on a similar journey

**Service** - do something for someone else as an act of compassion and Grace

monthly workout plan

## Church Bulletin Bloopers

These sentences, with all the bloopers, actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.  
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The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'  
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Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.  
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Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.  
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For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.  
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Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

In response to an **Emergency Appeal from Cameron Community Center**, we are continuing to collect **Peanut Butter & Jelly** for them throughout the summer. ([CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Cameron Community.)

 **June Food Drive sponsored by the Deacons**  
**Peanut Butter & Jelly**

**Collecting donations for Cameron Community Ministries**

- > through Fellowship of Faith
- > by mail to the office
- > using electronic giving at [SouthPC.org](http://SouthPC.org)

  
You're the peanutbutter to my jelly!

*Financial gifts are also welcome.*



## What's in a Logo?



Each of our Acts of Faith has a distinctive personality and purpose. These unique descriptors are easily visible in the logo used by that AoF. In fact, often groups find their own mission and purpose shaped by how they are represented graphically. The same can be said for our newest AoF, **Soul Sustainability** – the group that so many of you have generously supported with your contributions to get them launched and off the ground. Recently, the group unanimously approved its new logo – created by one of its members, Enuma Okafor.

On first glance, it might seem a little startling to see a skull equated with an Act of FAITH, but look closely. These twenty-somethings are thinking and talking about sustaining their souls ... about sustaining the planet ... about furthering their own connection to Spirit (notice the

Third Eye reference) and their bond to nature. It very accurately represents them and the Good News that we are all empowered to share: that this world is not all there is, and that even from death can come new life.

When asked for a report for this newsletter, the group responded:

**Soul Sustainability is an experimental Act of Faith affiliated with South Presbyterian Church. Currently, our group is made up of three members of South Church, and two non-members. Our goal is to come together as a group of individuals and participate in various activities that we feel will help with personal growth, life skills, and sustaining our souls.**

Their recent activity was a hike in Canandaigua, NY where two other friends joined the fun (pictured at right).



## Book of Confessions & Book of Order are now FREE for Download

Presbyterians are known as “the People of the Books.” While that might often seem to be a reference to how much reading, education and studying we do, it’s also a reference to the fact that we have two things that bring us to being Presbyterian – the Bible and the PC(USA) Constitution. Our constitution consists not only of rules and the polity that regulates our group experiences (the Book of Order) but also a historical compilation of what we have believed in various times and places (the Book of Confessions).

Both are now available online for FREE to download and read if you are interested. You may access them here:

<https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/constitutional-services/constitution/>

Pastor Deb, of course, encourages **all Elders on Session to have a nodding acquaintance with the Book of Order**, but it is also informative to read some of the earlier confessions and see how our theology has developed and changed over the years.

*Happy Reading!*

## “Back-to-School Kits” for Kids

In addition to feeding the children in the Lyle-Otis Neighborhood of the city, Cameron Community Center ALSO provides them with **Back-to-School Supplies** if they have need.

### If you want to contribute supplies:

Please call the Office (271-5078) and arrange with Kevin how to get them to the Irondequoit church.

### If you want to contribute money for someone to purchase the supplies:

1. Make your check payable to South Presbyterian and in the MEMO line, write “Cameron”
2. Put cash in an envelope for Fellowship of Faith and write “Cameron” on in
3. Pay online through our website and in the drop-down line, choose “Other” and say “Cameron”

### LAST DAY OF THIS DRIVE:

**Sunday, August 20th**



### Wish List

Cameron is once again distributing backpacks filled with school supplies to K-12 students. Donations of the following items for this year's Back-to-School Resource Fair are greatly appreciated! We will take donations up until **August 25**.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ● Notebooks                 | ● Rulers  |
| ● Bookbags                  | ● Child's blunt tipped scissors (right and left-handed) |
| ● Number 2 pencils          | ● Glue sticks   |
| ● Folders                   | ● Crayons   |
| ● Pens – black and blue     | ● Protractors   |
| ● Elmer's glue              | ● Composition books                                     |
| ● Sharpie's                 | ● Index cards   |
| ● Binders – 1" and 2"       | ● Standard Calculators                                  |
| ● Loose leaf notebook paper | ● Personal organizer/planner                            |
| ● Markers                   | ● Dry Erase lap boards                                  |
| ● Colored pencils           | ● Tissues   |
| ● Erasers                   | ● Construction Paper                                    |
| ● Pencil Pouches            | ● Lunchboxes or Lunchbags                               |
| ● Highlighters              | ● Hand sanitizer  |
| ● Index Cards               |   |
| ● Pencil sharpeners         |   |