



# CROSS ROADS

Where the Acts of Faith meet

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*An occasional newsletter of South Presbyterian Church & the Acts of Faith Community*

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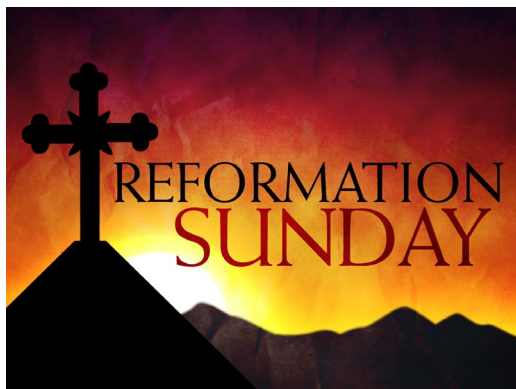
## **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

The Session of South Presbyterian Church has called for a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held following worship at Fellowship of Faith, 2PM at St. John's Meadows on **Sunday, October 15, 2023**

for the purpose of amending the by-laws to include:

- Permission to use Electronic Signatures for Session Minutes and other official documents
- Adoption of SPC's newly revised:
  - Sexual Misconduct/Prevention Policy
  - NYS Sexual Harassment Policy
  - Child Safety Policyand all related documentation.

(Copies of these documents may be viewed online at: \_\_\_\_\_)



October 29<sup>th</sup>

*Reformed and  
Always  
Reforming*



**If you would like to be part of an online Act of Faith to discuss the streaming show, *The Chosen*, [email Pastor Deb](#) before 10/16/23.**

If there is enough interest, the group will meet on alternate weeks by ZOOM. Each week we will discuss 2 episodes of the show. Season 1 will be the focus, then, for the first 8 weeks.

happy  
holidays!



An urban outreach  
community center

in the LYELL-OTIS neighborhood

(585) 254-2697

Cameron Community is a 40-year-old ministry that was started by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and the American Baptist Rochester Regional Churches to meet the extreme needs for food, clothing, housing, and job readiness in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood – part of the city's northwest "crescent." [CLICK HERE](#) to view their website. They are truly an amazing ministry and continues to meet the needs of hundreds of people with basic needs.

The staff and volunteers are beginning to get ready for their holiday season **Family Gift Drive**. I received an email this past week asking if we would like to participate in this annual program. Last year we participated through Irondequoit Presbyterian Church who has had a long-term relationship with Cameron. Cameron is one of IPC's primary mission programs.

This program provides **gifts for children**. The size of families ranges from 1-7 children, and **the suggested average spending is \$40-\$65 per child**.

Cameron will 'match' anyone interested with a family and send information about each child's special wishes to help with shopping selections. Cameron will send this information by October 30th. (We need to tell them how many children we will be responsible for by **this Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**.)

They ask that gifts be wrapped and labeled with the child's name that it belongs to. Gifts must be dropped off to us at South by December 10th. **Please email Pastor Deb or call the office by October 12th** if you are interested in getting involved. In the past, some of our **Acts of Faith have adopted a family together**. In that case, provide us with the contact person for your AoF. Be sure to indicate how many family members you/your group would like to shop for and/or if you would like to shop for multiple families.

## We Have Been Invited to Join Irondequoit Presbyterian Church in a Program of Third Presbyterian Church

### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual East Ave Grocery Walk – Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>



### Join or donate to the IPC team

Join our IPC team in a virtual 1 mile walk to benefit our local food pantries. We will be walking in the IPC neighborhood after worship on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please join us or donate to our team. Funds raised will benefit the Rochester Community Food Cupboard and the Irondequoit Community Cupboard.

If you sign up to join our team, your entire registration fee will go directly to Rochester area organizations providing food, hope and dignity for hungry people. If you are not able to walk with us, please consider making a donation to our team.

Below is a link to the website to sign up with the Irondequoit Presbyterian Team for our virtual walk and/or to make a donation.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Rochester/EastAvenueGroceryRun>

We invite all our team members and all who donate to our team to enjoy subs and drinks from Jersey Mike's after worship on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Subs will be prepared 'to – go' if you are not able to stay for a bit of fellowship time.

Please join us and make a difference!

Contact IPC Team Captain Carol Herring if you have any questions. If you would rather not donate on-line, but prefer to write a check, Carol can help you with that too.



**Susan Orr, our Presbytery's Transitional Leader & State Clerk invites you to participate.**

This is a book study that Norma and Pastor Deb participated in the spring.

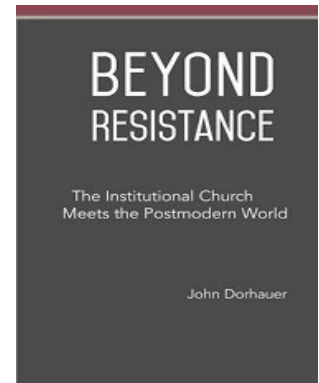
It is a book well worth reading and one which speaks to all of the things that

IPC is going through today.

Please consider it!

## *6-Week Book Study*

### *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World*



Have you ever read a book that so resonated with you that you scribbled all over the margins? This happened to me when I picked up John Dorhauer's [\*\*Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World.\*\*](#) Here's a taste:

*"If we can accept that some churches are going to die; if we can trust the capacity of our faith to sustain us through the grief and the pain that will come every time one does; and if we can shift our strategic approach to these deaths from reactive to proactive (meaning we have to be honest in our assessments with church leaders about their future); then we can have a very different kind of conversation." p. 27*

*"There is much more to see in front of us than a dying church. There is more to perceive than the diminishment of resources. There is more to experience than grief. It is time not just to hope against hope, but to discover what there is beyond the horizon of our grief that grounds us in hope." p. 61*

By the end of the book, I thought to myself, *I could have written this.* It so clearly describes my understanding of the deinstitutionalization of the Church, and our own experiences right here in PGV. And then I discovered this book was written in 2015. Before the acceleration brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yikes.

In the spring, over 50 people participated in a study of the book with me. The response was so overwhelmingly positive that I am delighted to share with you two important upcoming opportunities:

**Fall 6-week study** of the book, *Beyond Resistance*. **Mondays, Oct 16 – Nov 20, 9-10 a.m.**

[\*\*Register by clicking the link here.\*\*](#)

Purchase the book and read Chapter One: Death with Dignity for the first session.

On **Saturday, November 18**, we are delighted that **author John Dorhauer will share a presentation** with us on the learnings from the book. This event will be offered in-person for participants with the presenter Zoom-ing in (participants may attend by Zoom as well). There will be time for Q&A and a meal together. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 18 beginning at 9:30 a.m.** More details, including location and registration details to come.

**We claim ourselves to be *an Easter people*.** What does that mean, what does that look like in the context of Church in today's postmodern world? I look forward to continuing the conversation!

*Susan Orr, Transitional Leader, Presbytery of Genesee Valley*