

# LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

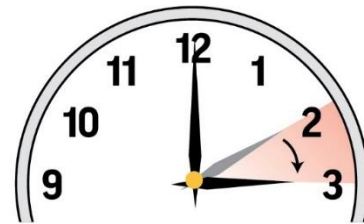
MARCH 2025, ISSUE 3, VOLUME 88

72 Ambrose Street, Rochester, NY 14608; Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
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## SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 9th** at 2:00 am. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 8th.



### MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

Women's History Month is an annual observance to highlight the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. For more information about Women's History Month, please see the last page of this newsletter.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I grew up in a house of readers. I recall my father always having at least one book on the go. Most of his books were about organizational development or leadership issues. At the time, I used to give him a hard time because I thought those books were boring. I couldn't understand why someone would spend their limited time away from work reading books about work, or at least work related topics. After all these years, I have to say that I finally understand. He was focused on using his spare time to make him a

better person, more aware of how he could do his job well, and to a stronger leader. Each time I visit my mother in Canada, I find myself browsing the thousands of books on that remain on my father's bookshelves. More often than not, a few books on organizational development or leadership make their way back home to Rochester with me.

I find that books about organizational development and leadership are a great way to learn from others how to be a better leader. However, I also find watching other leaders in action a great way to hone my skillset and grow in my personal capacity. Over the last few years, I have had the privilege of working alongside two people who I find to be very capable leaders in our community. I have learned, and continue to learn, a lot from them.

The first person is Dr. Angela Sims, President at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Dr. Sims is an ethicist and administrator par excellence. Working alongside Dr. Sims in my previous role as Chair of the Board of the Seminary, I learned not only some of the skillsets required in Academic administration and leadership, I have learned how important a vision and a focus are in order to help move an organization from where it is to where it can be as it fulfills its mandate.

The second person is our Executive Minister, and LABC member, Rev. Dr. Sandy Hasenauer. I am not writing this in order to gain any sort of bonus points, but I wanted to share a few observations that I have seen in how Sandy has helped steward the Board of Cameron Community Ministries these past few months. Sandy is the current Chair of the Board at Cameron, and if you've been following along, Cameron has had a difficult few months. I am incredibly encouraged about the future of Cameron thanks, in large part, to the effort by the Board as a whole, but in particular thanks to Sandy's efforts. Sandy has demonstrated to me and others how it

is possible to step up into difficult situations, and to lead with persistence and grace. Cameron has a great future and that is thanks, I would argue, to the efforts of Sandy.

My father looked to books on organizational development and leadership in order to grow in his capacity. I have found an affinity for similar books as well. However, I have found that one of the best places to learn is from others with whom we come alongside in shared efforts. We learn from others who pass their heart, their skill, and their dedication to those in their midst.

How are you developing as a person of faith? Are you engaging in this faith walk with others who are able to serve as inspiration and encouragement? Are you learning from others? Are you the person that others may be looking to for guidance and inspiration? I think that one of the most important things about being part of a faith community is that we are on this journey of faith, through all the ups and downs, with others. When we succeed, there are people we can share those successes with. When we struggle, there are others to help lift us up.

I want to challenge you to look around you and find those people who are you able to look up to and, if possible, say thank you. That might be the encouragement they need. Even if you can't say thank-you out loud, perhaps offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their role in your life. And be mindful that in your faith walk people may be looking to you for encouragement and inspiration. Allow that to guide you in your relationships with God and with others.

Above all else, let us continue in our walk as a community of faith, learning to follow our living and loving God together.

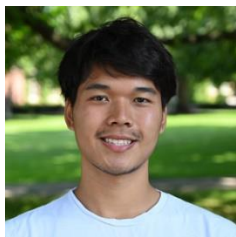
Blessings

*Michael*

## *The Polaris Leadership Summit*

Congratulations to Khual Mung (Mark) and Aye Wathy Myint for being accepted into the prestigious Polaris Leadership Summit for 2025. The Polaris Leadership Summit is based at Princeton Theological Seminary and is funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation.

The Polaris Leadership Summit brings together young adult Christian leaders from a variety of fields—tech and AI, consulting, the creative arts, finance, publishing, nonprofit, ministry, and more. Though leaders serve in diverse spheres of influence, their leadership is shaped and motivated by their Christian faith. Those who attend will deeply explore their own stories of faith and leadership, reflecting on how their personal stories intersect with God's story. Compelling stories of faith and leadership will be celebrated during a storytelling festival.



Aye Wathy is an academic advisor for first-generation and low-income students in Rochester, NY. His main goal is to help high school students graduate and attend college. He also serves as an assistant Chair for the Rochester Karen Baptist Church and as the Sports Manager for the East-Coast-North Karen Baptist Churches, where he coordinates sports tournaments that are affiliated with that region. Aye Wathy loves sports, music, adventure, hiking, and camping. He is also a current student at a seminary in Rochester, NY.



Khual loves working with young people and helping them grow closer to God through worship. He is committed to helping young people with their mental and spiritual development and uses music as a source of inspiration. Khual has a strong connection to his hometown and hopes to one day return. He also wants to act as a link between the American and Burmese communities, assisting American-born children in understanding the stories of their ancestors, connecting with their history, and appreciating the sacrifices made by their parents.



It is a tradition at LABC to recognize the season of Lent with weekly soup suppers during those 40 days of preparation between Ash Wednesday and Easter week.

This year, we will be using this time together to explore some of the pressing issues on the political landscape through the lens of scripture and reflection. You are invited to some or all of these soup suppers.

Topics (subject to change)

- Wednesday March 12, 2025 (6 p.m.) – Immigration
- Wednesday March 19, 2025 (6: p.m.) – Community Dinner (we serve together)
- Wednesday March 26, 2025 (6:00 p.m.) – Citizenship
- Wednesday April 2, 2025 (6:00 p.m.) – LGBTQI+
- Wednesday April 9, 2025 (6:00 p.m.) - TBD

### FROM OUR FRIENDS AT AWAB (Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists)

Dear AWAB Family,

As I write, I have in my mind 6 extended conversations I’ve had in the last 72 hours alone with LGBTQ+ individuals as well as members of families with LGBTQ+ loved ones. As we navigate here in the U.S., the mind-spinning and heart-wrenching absurdities of what is coming out of the Oval Office in the White House, my heart is heavy for how these absurdities are affecting people I know, and you know. Family members. Colleagues and co-workers. Neighbors. Church congregants. Youth. Children. And perhaps even yourself.

I am also aware within the queer community, our trans siblings are currently experiencing perhaps the most intense hurt and anxiety. To be clear, no one is to be “erased” from our community. **While the federal government can remove the “T” from LGBTQ+, LGBTQ+ cannot be whole without the “T.”**

In moments, it’s easy to wonder, “What is happening?” “What can I do?” “To whom can we turn?” “What resources can help?”

If you’ve asked any one of these questions, you’re not alone. Members and friends of AWAB around the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, and across the continents of Africa and Europe have been wrestling with the impact of the Trump administration...even though it’s only in its first month of office. And so, as we will be dealing with a lot over the next several years, I believe it’s helpful to pace ourselves.

For now, and for mental health’s sake, it’s important to moderate our news intake, but please don’t ignore the news altogether. Stay informed with as many current developments as you’re able to manage. Be aware of what is happening nationally but don’t forget to stay connected to what is happening in your own community too. Reach out to loved ones and friends. If you’re straight identifying, your queer family members, colleagues, co-workers, and friends will need you to step up, speak out, and be present. If you’re queer-identifying, remember you’re not alone. You have queer siblings across the Baptist landscape that will stand with you through all we’re experiencing. Currently, AWAB is facilitating monthly queer-Baptist clergy conversations. These gatherings have given me hope and I believe they can for others, too. If you are queer and work (or have worked) within a local ministry, you can register to participate [here](#).

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/hd0kV8mzTXO7syD3A3mExg#/registration>)

Additionally, in the flood of what is impacting queer-affirming communities, please use the resource page linked at bottom of this article to find organizations that are providing a breadth of resources for this most challenging time. Keep visiting AWAB’s website for news and events within our Baptist family.

The season of Lent is just around the corner, and often, the liturgical ritual we're invited to consider is giving something up. This year, I invite us to consider what we might take up. Let's put our faith into action by intentionally reaching out to those we know and for whom an extra measure of support will be needed. Let's also consider how we can put to action our faith by writing our legislators, attending a rally, or volunteering in some capacity so as to make life more hopeful for ourselves and others.

As the weeks, months, and years unfold, know you can reach out to AWAB. There will be a listening ear and open heart ready for you...ready to provide you with support and encouragement as we experience together these challenging times.

I conclude with the words of Amanda Gorman from her work, The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country which she offered on January 20, 2021:

*That even as we grieved, we grew,  
That even as we hurt, we hoped,  
That even as we tired, we tried.*

AWAB Family...you are loved, and you are not alone. Together let's keep growing, hoping, and trying.

*Brian Henderson*



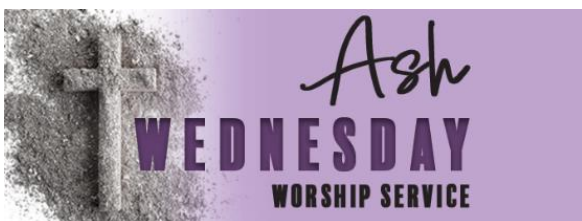
**THE WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING "BE YOU" MOVIE SERIES:** Join us this coming **Saturday, March 1 at 6:00 pm** in Classroom 1 (the Conference Room) for the movie "Will and Harper" starring Will Ferrell and Harper Steele who have been friends for 30 years. However, Harper tells Will in an email that he has transitioned to a woman. In this intimate, honest, and heartfelt documentary, Will and Harper hit the open road together to process this new stage of their friendship and reintroduce Harper to the country that she loves -- this time, as herself. This movie is for mature audiences only. If

you plan to attend, please use the church office entrance.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: A NEW YEAR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2025 FROM 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM.** Mark your calendars! This luncheon will be hosted by the Myanmar Fellowship at LABC. There is a sign-up sheet available at the Welcome Center for those who are planning to attend. Also, there is an additional sign-up section for those who can contribute salad or dessert. The main course, which will be cooked and provided by our Myanmar Fellowship will be herb marinated baked chicken, garlic mashed

potatoes and mixed vegetables. A vegetarian meal will be available upon request. Please feel free to talk to Soe Win or Hkadin Lee if you have any questions regarding the lunch or if you would like to help out in any other way.



Join us this coming Wednesday, March 5, for an Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:00 pm. This is the beginning of the 40 days of Lent which ends on Maundy Thursday. Our Lenten soup suppers will begin on Wednesday, March 12 at 6:00 pm and will take place each Wednesday in Lent except for March 19 when we will have our Community Dinner.

*Our Church Family*

- We continue to keep in our healing prayers **Peter Jameson**, as well as the **Jameson family**, as Peter continues treatment for a medical condition.
- Please keep **Shaun Gonzales** in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to recover from a recent eye operation.
- Doris and Bill Perkett** celebrated their 50th anniversary on December 21, 2024. If you would like to send a letter or card their address is 7418 Spring Village Drive, Apt. 402, Springfield, VA, 22150. Following is a picture of their family at the anniversary celebration.



### *A Note from Lee Foster about a Former Choral Scholar*



I had the privilege to attend the Carnegie Hall debut of **Alexandra Rose Hotz**, our former soprano Choral Scholar with **Chun-Hsin (Cynthia) Lin** as collaborative pianist. Ali was absolutely amazing and was likened to be “a young Joan Sutherland,” by the woman who restarted the competition after Covid and who was one of the judges. High praise, indeed, for Joan Sutherland was one of America’s finest opera singers.

Ali won the grand prize for The Joy of Singing’s 60th International Art Song Competition with three auditions singing art songs by Joseph Marx, Jean Sibelius, Lili Boulanger, and Tom Cipullo.

New York audiences are far less prone to give a standing ovation than are Rochester audiences, but after a cheeky, well-performed encore, the entire audience of about 250 instantly rose to stand. Congratulations to Ali. We will continue to watch her career.

Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

**THE AGING GRACEFULLY & JOYFULLY GROUP WILL MEET ON MONDAY MARCH 3 AT 1:00 PM. Hope to see you there.**



**Missions  
Committee**

The following prayer is being shared with us by our LABC Mission Ministry:

### ***A Franciscan Benediction***

*May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships  
So that you may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.*

*May god bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and  
To turn their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done  
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.*

**This month the mission team will be collaborating with Hkadin Lee and the Catholic Refugee Services to provide goods for recent immigrants. Please see Hkadin's article below for instructions.**

## **THE LOVE AND RESPOND PROJECT:**

### **REFUGEE OUTREACH**

**Hkadin Lee**

Since November 1st, 2024, 3 resettlement agencies have welcomed 250 refugees from around the world. They are legal and finding a place to resettle in Rochester. Some are still in the 90 day resettlement period and are under the care of agencies. But others are post 3 months and some are way passed their resettlement period. But, they still need help.

Resettlement agencies are only capable of helping refugees based on the federal grants & generous donors from the communities. The needs are always greater than what they can possibly provide to the new comers, even with federal grants.

As we all know our current administration has suddenly frozen federal grants to all the resettlement agencies across the U.S. There are many refugees who have been admitted in the U. S. already. This is where we as a Rochester community have been called to help.

As a church family & Myanmar communities, we all are so familiar with the needs of others and always find ways to respond to them quickly.

I have contacted Catholic Family Center, one of the agencies in our area, and came up with the way we can help these new comers in our land.

I have also reached out to the Myanmar Churches in our area; including the Myanmar Christian Church, the Karen Baptist Church of NY, Rochester Karen Baptist Church, Rochester Chin Christian Church & Gospel

Baptist Church as well as the Karenni & Karen Buddhist Communities, the Shan Community and students from Myanmar to come together to participate in this project.

To make the project more efficient, each church & community have been asked to donate 2-3 particular items for collection. I will coordinate pick up of the items collected with the Catholic Family Center contact person. Monetary donations are also accepted. Checks may be made out to LABC and please write Love & Respond Project on the memo line.

I am asking our LABC family for 3 items to be collected for the months of February and March, 2025.

The items are:

- **All Purpose Cleaner**
- **Kitchen Cleaner**
- **Trash Bags**

A collection box will be available in the narthex on Sunday mornings. You are also welcome to drop off your donations at the church office Monday to Friday during office hours.

Thank you all for your Love & Support to the new strangers in our land.

As written in Leviticus 19:33-34

*Do not take advantage of foreigners who live among you in your land.  
Treat them like native born Israelites, and love them like you love yourself.*

## Churches called to be bold and flexible in immigration ministries

Baptist News Global, Jeff Brumley, February 13, 2025

**Donald Trump's aggressive crackdown on immigration** is pushing faith-based groups to be more bold, flexible and creative in their ministries to immigrants, a panel of experts said during a webinar hosted by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

The session was designed as a primer on the immigration crisis for advocates, clergy, educators and legal professionals concerned about the well-being of immigrants and refugees.



Lisa Harris Lee

"People of faith and goodwill want to actively participate in defending the rights of their loved ones, neighbors and co-workers who are being targeted," said **Lisa Harris Lee**, director of the ABHMS Healing and Transforming Communities unit and the webinar organizer. "They are seeking information to do that. We know the immigration policies in this nation are complex and complicated. We do not all agree on the best response. But most agree that mass deportation, threats, and disregard for sensitive locations is hostile and unjust."

**Ministries and advocacy groups must be ready** to pivot when administration policies change, said **Mar Imsong**, executive director of Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries and ACE Center for New Americans.



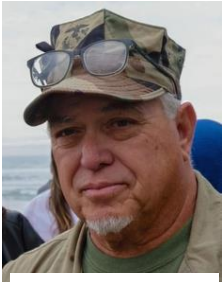
Mar Imsong

That's what volunteers and staff at the center had to do after a Department of Homeland Security memo announced humanitarian parole status now can be paused or terminated, effectively expanding ongoing detention and deportation efforts to include Haitians, Venezuelans, Ukrainians and others in the country legally, Imsong explained.. "We have been working mostly with parolees, people who have come here legally and have work authorization. These humanitarian parolees are mostly people who came here during the last administration, so the situation is really changing all the time."

**One result included a significant drop** this month in attendance in English-language classes and an after-school program at the ACE Center. "So, we had to start providing transportation for our children to come to the center and we have people going to homes to help people with their homework," Imsong said.

Imsong advised immigrant advocates to expand and rely heavily on networking efforts to identify partners to weather current immigration challenges. “We are collaborating with like-minded organizations, and that’s the way to go forward in a time like this. We have to collaborate and network with as many people as we can.”

Advocates must be prepared for the bone-crushing anguish and despair immigrants feel during the deportation process, said **Robert Vivar**, a former deportee now serving as immigration and border missionary for The Border Church, a nondenominational community serving migrants and deportees in San Diego, Calif., and Tijuana, Mexico.

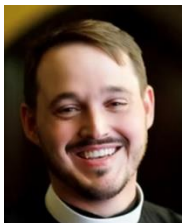


Robert Vivar

“**One of the big problems when you’re deported** is that you don’t accept where you’re at and you try to look for ways to be able to return back. And, unfortunately, many times you don’t seek to return legally, but rather you seek to return in an illegal manner, which can really be frustrating and dangerous,” the California resident said.

He advised immigrants facing deportation to strengthen their relationships with Christ and to not lose hope. “You need to be a productive member of your community so that you are not a burden on your family. And at the same time, you need to keep your mind occupied on positive things because of the trauma, the depression, the anxiety that you go through. It is very easy to fall into ill relationships and into negative things that will only hurt any opportunity for you to be able to return legally to the country that you left behind.”

But there seems to be little chance deported individuals will be able to return to the United States under the current administration, Vivar said. “The main part of Border Church is to bring hope and increased faith to families that have been separated by the broken immigration system, and also to bring hope to our migrant community seeking protection in our country.”



Michael Woolf

**One action churches can take** is to embrace the sanctuary movement by declaring all properties off limits to federal agents and law enforcement, said **Michael Woolf**, senior minister of Lake Street Church, a sanctuary congregation in Evanston, Ill.

“It certainly means opening your church up as a place of safety and refuge during times of crisis. It means saying, unequivocally, that you’re not going to cooperate with ICE. This is a theological claim about the belovedness of those who are facing deportation, and it’s about their worthiness, their inherent human dignity that can’t be stripped by ICE.”

## An Invitation from GRCC Faith In Action Network

Please save the date for an **Interfaith Prayer Service** to express solidarity with immigrants and refugees sponsored by GRCC Faith in Action Network. It will be held on **Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm at the Greater Harvest Church, 121 Driving Park Ave**, in Rochester. More details will be forthcoming.

**ROCHESTER  
HYMN  
FESTIVAL**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 4:00 PM**

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION  
2 RIVERSIDE ST, ROCHESTER, NY

SING FAVORITE HYMNS ALONGSIDE HUNDREDS OF VOICES LED BY CHOIRS AND ORGANISTS FROM FIVE ROCHESTER CHURCHES.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION (EPISCOPAL)  
ST. LUKE & ST. SIMON CYRENE (EPISCOPAL)  
ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC  
INCARNATE WORD LUTHERAN  
BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN  
with Jeff Harp, narrator

❖

**FREE ADMISSION. ALL ARE WELCOME!**





**Colgate  
Rochester  
Crozer**

DIVINITY SCHOOL

# GOD IS *with us*

PSALM 46:10 - 11, NRSVUE

## SPRING 2025 LECTURE SERIES

**MARCH**

**3**

**7:00PM  
EASTERN**  
8PM - CENTRAL  
9PM - MOUNTAIN  
4PM - PACIFIC



### GENE E. BARTLETT CHAPEL SERVICE

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ann Kemper, CRCDS '07, Senior Pastor at Covenant United Methodist Church, Rochester, NY



**MARCH**

**4**

**7:00PM  
EASTERN**  
8PM - CENTRAL  
9PM - MOUNTAIN  
4PM - PACIFIC



### CHRISTIAN FAITH & LGBTQ+ EXPERIENCE LECTURE

Lecturer: Rev. JJ Warren, Colgate Rochester Crozer Faculty Affiliate, Vienna, Austria



**MARCH**

**5**

**7:00PM  
EASTERN**  
8PM - CENTRAL  
9PM - MOUNTAIN  
4PM - PACIFIC



### STANLEY I. STUBER LECTURE

Doctor of Ministry Student Panel

We are pleased to have our Doctor of Ministry (DMin) students share with us the ways they are integrating their CRCDS coursework into their distinct ministry contexts. The students will share their thesis proposals followed by responses from our panelists.



**MARCH**

**6**

**7:00PM  
EASTERN**  
8PM - CENTRAL  
9PM - MOUNTAIN  
4PM - PACIFIC



### AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY LECTURE

Christopher Hunt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO



## VIEWING OPTIONS



### IN-PERSON

Be part of the live experience on campus, engaging directly with our featured speaker on campus.



### VIEWING PARTY

Join us on campus to watch speaker(s)/presentations online, creating a shared viewing experience with the CRCDS community.



### WEBINAR

Stream the lecture live online from wherever you are.



### HOST YOUR OWN WATCH PARTY

Create your own gathering! Invite friends to join you in experiencing the lecture series, showcasing the impact of CRCDS in your own circle.



**REGISTER NOW**

**WWW.CRCDS.EDU/LECTURES**

ALLIANCE OF ASIAN AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

# VOICES OF HOPE

SHARE YOUR STORY.  
SHAPE THE FUTURE.

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JOIN VOICES OF HOPE! WE INVITE YOUNG ADULTS FROM MYANMAR/BURMA AND ITS ETHNIC COMMUNITIES TO UNLEASH THEIR CREATIVITY AND ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE.

READY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD?

1. IDENTIFY A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD.
2. SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL BY MARCH 15 AND BUILD A TEAM.
3. CREATE YOUR PROJECT: VIDEO, ARTICLE OR MORE!

**GET FUNDED!**

RECEIVE A STIPEND OF UP TO \$1000 TO SUPPORT YOUR PROJECT, BASED ON YOUR PROPOSAL.

SPONSORED BY PALMER GRANT

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**SUBMIT NOW & SPARK CHANGE!**

CREATIVE ADVOCACY TEAM (CAT)  
AAABCCAT@GMAIL.COM

THE GAMMA IOTA BOULE FOUNDATION, INC. PRESENTS  
 MOREHOUSE COLLEGE  
**GLEE CLUB** IN CONCERT  
 WHERE THE MAGIC OF THE NIGHT UNFOLDS  
 DIRECTED BY DR. DAVID MORROW '80  
 WEDNESDAY MARCH 12 • 1050 EAST AVENUE ROCHESTER NY 14607 • DOORS OPEN AT: 06:00PM  
 IN HONOR OF  
 BOBBY J. ANDERSON '69  
 &  
 KENNETH W. NORTON '68






UNITED CHURCH OF PITTSFORD  
 PRESENTS  
*Spring*  
**CRAFT FAIR**  
 MARCH  
 SATURDAY | 29 | 9 AM - 4 PM  
 2025  
 ARTISANS, CRAFTERS, and MORE!  
 123 S. Main St. Pittsford - FREE PARKING




FOR MORE INFO:  
[UCPITTSFORD.ORG](http://UCPITTSFORD.ORG)  
 585-586-6870



*An Art Show to help kids think about kINDNESS*

\*Children from age 5 to grade 12 are invited to do a piece of art which shows **kindness in action.**

\*Adults can help children think about ways to show kindness in their family, at school, or in the community (or all of these!)

\*Children will illustrate their ideas in a piece of artwork (crayon, marker, collage, paint, etc. are all acceptable).

The ideal size of the drawings should be 9"x12" or 11"x18", but **any size is OK!**

\*Art may be submitted to Lake Ave. Baptist Church between March 1- 31 Lake Ave. Baptist Church-72 Ambrose St. 14608, Phone: 458-5765

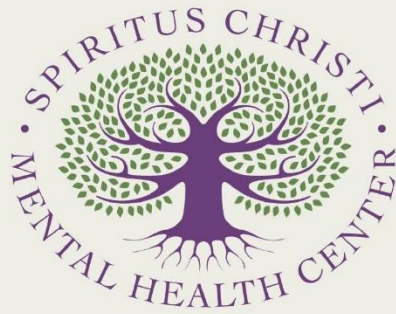
**DEADLINE: APRIL 1**

\*All artwork receives a "blue ribbon" award - Everyone "wins"!  
Please put name of artist and age on **BACK** of artwork.

\*Art will be displayed from Sunday, April 13 to Wednesday, April 16

**Art Show Activity Day - Sunday, April 13 from 11:00-1:00**

Kindness-themed activities -- refreshments -- fun **All**  
**ages are welcome!**



## Finding Solid Ground

We are offering a 7-week therapy group for adult survivors of childhood sexual trauma (prior to age 18). This group is a safe place to learn about how you've been impacted by what happened to you, to learn ways to cope with the effects, and to gain solid footing for healing and growth.

The group is offered from 4:30 - 6:00pm from April 24 through June 5.

Participants must commit to all 7 (90-minute) sessions, as consistent attendance is important to creating a safe group.

Group co-led by Lynn Acquafondata, LMHC & Jennifer Bateman, MHC-LP.

*"Group Therapy for sexual trauma helped me to heal from this journey and led me to a new and enriched life."*

*"Being with others really helped. I don't feel so alone anymore."*  
- Past participants

**Screening will be conducted to ensure safety and appropriateness of group members.**

**As with all our offerings, there is no cost to participants.**

**For more information contact Amy at 585-325-1186, ext. 114  
or at [contactmentalhealth@spirituschristi.org](mailto:contactmentalhealth@spirituschristi.org)**

Spiritus Christi Mental Health Center  
121 N. Fitzhugh St Rochester, NY 14614

585.325.1186  
[smentalhealth.org](http://smentalhealth.org)



Every year, March is designated Women's History Month by presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history. **Did You Know? Women's History Month started as Women's History Week . . .**Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women's History Week.

Subsequent Presidents continued to proclaim a National Women's History Week in March until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes the yearly theme. The theme for Women's History Month 2025 is **"Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations."**

The colors of Women's History Month are purple, green, and white. Each of these colors has its roots in the United Kingdom's women's suffrage movement that began in the mid-19th century but continues to have meaning today. Purple is recognized as the international color of women and gender equality. It symbolizes dignity, honor, justice, and visionary thinking. Green represents hope, growth, and new beginnings. White signifies equality, freedom, purity, and truth.

(Article from the National Women's History Museum)



- IN HONOR OF  
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH -

# March 11 at 7 pm

"GREAT LADIES OF SONG"

PIANIST JOHN WILLIAMS PRESENTS A  
NARRATED TRIBUTE TO GREAT FEMALE SINGERS OF  
POPULAR MUSIC OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS.

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