

May/June 2025 Communiqué
John Calvin Presbyterian Church
50 Ward Hill, Henrietta, NY 14467
Office Phone: 585-334-2130

Celebrating Resurrection and the Quotidian Pentecost

From the blast of the birthing
Of ten thousand galaxies
Jesus, son of Joseph and Mary
And son of God,
Exploded outward from his tomb
In radiant light and love
to fill the earth and the whole cosmos
with the fullness of divine life.

Paul of Tarsus penned it well
In a letter to his Ephesian friends:
“God has put all things under Christ’s feet
And made him head of the Church, his body:
The fullness of him
Who fills the universe in all its parts.”

I look up into the Easter sky,
Beyond the limits of this small galaxy
Far beyond the boundaries of my mind
Into billions of galaxies that glow
Like flaming Easter flowers
Filling the garden of the universe.

Oh, beyond comprehension,
Too vast for my little mind,
Is the mystery of Resurrection,
Is the wonder of the Easter nighttime sky,
Is the body of the Risen Christ,
The whole and holy Church to which I belong.

Edward Hays, “Psalm of the Resurrection” in Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim

Edward Hays' "Psalm of the Resurrection" reminds us Easter is not contained within one day but has implications far beyond our Easter Sunday celebrations into the entire creation of life where God's vision for an abundant and sustainable life comes alive in the interdependent relationships between stars, sun, sky, wind, sea, mountains and valleys, flowers and vegetables and fruits, and humanity. This psalm captures for me the celebration of God's new life in Christ still unfolding during the Eastertide season extending from Easter Sunday to Ascension Sunday to Pentecost when the next element of God's new creation-the Church-springs forth with the Holy Spirit blowing over the gathering of disciples as over the watery chaos before God's Word spoke creation into existence.

While Eastertide does continue the truth-telling Lenten narrative, doing so with the disruptive awareness that the imperial power of domination and its imperial religion are unmasked as false hope, it also brings into sharp focus the good news of a resurrected life by a covenant-making God, who breathes life into Creation and whose spirit offers freedom and the real hope for peace and justice, drawing us into a life-giving relationship with each other and all life.

Easter Season call us to reflect on the ever-present possibility of transformation, turning points, and radical change that no one other than the spirit of the living Christ might imagine. On this journey, we are called to join the faithful witnesses whose lives and communities become testimonies to the realm of God for which we live forward, becoming the community empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the body of Christ in the overwhelming moment of Pentecost, coming just 50 days after Easter.

Just as Eastertide gives way to the fireworks of Pentecost, so will the loud rushing wave of apostles crashing into the street with their testimony of God's actions aimed at reforming God's people lead us onward to the daily faithfulness of Christ's followers living together as God's Beloved Community. Their struggles and trials to be the beloved community will instruct us along our own long, stony path of faith as we, too, seek to be God's beloved community in the quotidian reality of our lives when tasks of our daily living may be imbued with prayer, seeking the wonder of God's new heaven and new earth coming alive around us and within us.

May we seek resurrection in every waking moment and in our nights of healing rest and refreshment.

May Christ's peace be with you all,

Pastor Carson



Worship Leaders for 2025 - May and June

May 4	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	June 1	Pulpit Exchange Pastor
May 11	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	June 8	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser
May 18	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser	June 15	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser
May 25	Guest - Rev. Dr. John Odom	June 22	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser
		June 29	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser



May 25th - Guest Pastor, Rev. Dr. John Odom

June 1 - Pulpit Exchange - Pastor Carson will be preaching at another church, their pastor will be preaching at JCPC

June 22nd - Potluck following worship

Also from Session - Other items of note:



JCPC New Mission/Identity Statement developed by the congregation as follows:

***We follow Jesus Christ and welcome everyone
to share in our worship, fellowship, study and service to all.***

- Ongoing discussion & meetings regarding our roof repair/replacement
- Ongoing building maintenance and grounds upkeep

- **Mission donations**

\$200.00 was sent to the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester

\$750.00 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the California Fires (\$200.00 from Deacon's Mission Fund, \$200.00 from the General Mission and Outreach line and \$350.00 from the congregation).

Honor Flight Benefit Concert raised over \$1900.00 - JCPC Choir performed as part of the concert.

Concert April 27th Benefit Concert at JCPC for Rochester's homeless population. All Donations will be given to "Streets for Christ."

- An anonymous donor has offered to donate a new boiler to the church.



PER CAPITA, JUST IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING

By Carl DelleFave

Recently, the subject of our church per capita obligation was a topic of discussion at the session's monthly meeting. It came to me that I knew very little about per capita...how it's used...how it's determined...and why it matters. So, I thought I would share with you what I've learned. First, I went to the PC-USA website. It turns out that it's a wealth of well thought out information on this and many other topics concerning Presbyterians.

What is per capita? The official definition: Congregations, through their sessions, pay an annual amount of money per church member (per capita apportionment) to their presbyteries.

“Per capita is an opportunity for all members of the Presbyterian church, through mid-councils, to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians”

If you can say that sentence in one breath, you are doing better than me!! What it boils down to is that per capita money supports what we do, and how we do it, as Presbyterians. The many functions of our General Assembly, area Synods and Presbyteries are

supported by this funding in order that we mutually share the costs of coming together to discern how God's Spirit will lead us into the future. Some of these are:

- to bring our church's presence to ecumenical groups and gatherings in our nation and worldwide.
- to provide funding for expenses related to a General Assembly meeting, including the cost of holding the meeting.
- the costs associated with bringing together presbytery and synod church leaders for educational events and those who serve on permanent General Assembly committees.
- publish our Book of Order and develop other resources for our common spiritual growth including the administration of ordination exams.

Someone much wiser than me once told me "Don't tell me what you believe. Instead tell me how you spend your money and I can tell you what you believe." Today I invite each of us to review our per capita giving because it is vitally important that we have a loud and clear voice to bring Christ's message of compassion, service and love to places that now need it more than ever. Do it today because tomorrow depends on it.

Much Love and Many Blessings

From the Deacons

Is anyone interested in social events outside of church? I'm thinking bowling 🎳 , or golfing 🏌️ , concerts 🎵 or movies 🎬 , and lunch 🍕 or breakfast 🍳 dates with church members. If you are interested in any of these six events, call, text, or email me. I can coordinate with those interested in participating.

Nancy M - nmilizia@rochester.rr.com

Also, from the Deacon's...

Welcome to our newest member of JCPC, Carl S.

Carl is a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and has invested a great deal of time in leadership roles in the Church. He has been a Deacon, Elder and served as Christian Ed director for 30 years.

His main hobby has been golf, enjoying rounds with a group called the "geezers" at Wildwood Country Club in Rush.

We, at JCPC, have so enjoyed Carl's participation with us in worship and in Bible Study and we also appreciate his time and expertise in diagnosing the many roof issues we have in our building.

Thanks, Carl, for sharing with all of us at JCPC!





Attention all of you Singers, Instrumentalists and Music Lovers!

SUMMER MUSIC SIGN-UP

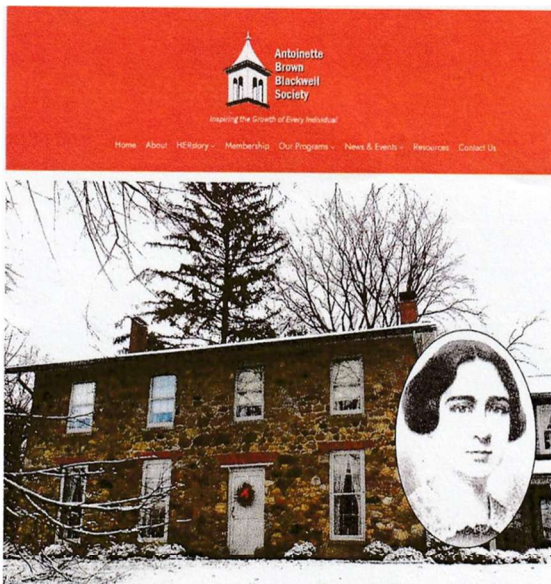
As you know, the choir does not sing for our services in July and August. We are looking for volunteers to provide special music for summer worship in place of the usual anthem. This can be a solo or group or even the suggestion of a favorite song you may want to have the congregation sing together.

There will be a sign-up posted at the back of the church. Please consider volunteering your talent and/or thoughts about music you would like to have in the summer as part of our worship. Also keep in mind how much we would enjoy welcoming family members - children, grandchildren, extended family and friends—to share their musical gifts as well.

Alla, our wonderful church organist/pianist can help provide any accompaniment you may need. Please work out a time to rehearse with her before service. If you have any questions, please ask someone on the Worship Committee.

We are looking forward to your input and participation for a fun, music-filled summer!

Thank you from the Worship Committee,
Ellen B, Carol J, Janet M, Anne R, Carolyn P, Martha Z



Visit our website at
www.antoINETTEbrownblackwell.org

Antoinette Brown Blackwell
 Henrietta's Own Suffragist
 Social Activist
 Women's Rights Leader
 America's First Female
 Ordained Minister
 1825 - 1921



Join Us in Celebrating
 Antoinette Brown
 Blackwell's 200th Birthday!

Buffet Luncheon & Presentation
 Saturday, May 24, 2025 12:00 pm
 Wild Wood Country Club
 1201 Rush West Rush Road

Rush, New York

Minister, Lecturer, Author, Mother:
 Antoinette Brown Blackwell's Storied Life



Author and scholar Katherine Fredlund, PhD,
 will present a talk on Antoinette's life as an
 activist, lecturer, and the first woman ordained
 a minister in the U.S.

Purchase tickets online at
www.antoINETTEbrownblackwell.org/luncheon-tickets or fill out this form and send it with your
 check made payable to the

Antoinette Brown Blackwell Society.
 Mail to ABBS, PO Box 133
 Henrietta, NY 14467

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone No. _____
 email _____

No. tickets at \$55.00 ea _____
 No. student tickets at \$40.00 ea _____
 Donation to scholarship fund
 (optional) _____
 Total enclosed

RSVP by Friday, May 16, 2025