



**March 22, 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**



**UNITED CHURCH**  
*of* **PITTSFORD**

**American Baptist & United Methodist**

**Liturgist:** Karen White  
**Music Director:** Alan Murphy  
**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Denise "Deni" Mack  
**Pastor:** Reverend Julius David Jackson, Jr. (Pastor JD)

*A hearing loop is available for the hearing impaired.  
Please ask the ushers if you need assistance.*

*\* Indicates: Those who are able may stand.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*HYMN #526 (1-3)**                      What a Friend We Have in Jesus

### **\*PRAYER OF GATHERING** (*in unison*)

Great God of Life, we have gathered here this day, aware of your presence. Although we can at times be overwhelmed by difficulties that threaten us, still you are present: you call us to see the potential of life in all moments. You give us hope when we see none around us. You offer life when we feel overwhelmed by death. Thank you, gracious God. As you infuse us with life, challenge us to share a message of life-giving good news with others. Amen.

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: As children of God, we dwell in the Spirit, and the Spirit dwells in us.

**ALL: We are alive in the Spirit through the righteousness of God.**

ONE: In humility and faith, we come to worship the One who gives us life, hope, and healing.

**ALL: God has brought us to this moment and will guide us still. Praise the Lord!**

### **\*UNISON READING**

Loving God, we know there are times we feel surrounded by hopelessness. We do not know where to turn. We feel life has left us and those we love and find ourselves longing for endings. Yet you, God, come to us even in those times. You challenge us. You remind us that you are a God of forgiveness, hope and life. You invite us to proclaim a message of life in the midst of despair. Receive, then, our

confession, and fill us with the breath of new life and forgiveness. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE**

Ezekiel 37:1-14 NRSV

**\*HYMN OF MEDITATION #420 (1-3)**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

**GOSPEL READING**

John 11:1-45 NRSV

**& PRESENTATION OF GUEST SPEAKER**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Dr. Denise "Deni" Mack

**"THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLS IN YOU"**

**\*INVITATION HYMN #298 (1,2 & 4)**

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

*During the invitation hymn, all are invited to come up and place their Lenten intention(s) in the basket under the Cross.*

**MORNING PRAYERS/ SHARING OUR JOYS  
AND CONCERNS**

Pastoral Prayer

**GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

*Musical Selection*

**\*Response:** #95 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication for Offering**

**\*HYMN #672 (1,2,4)** God be With You Till We Meet Again

**BENEDICTION**

## POSTLUDE

~ *Those who are able may stand!* ~

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for coffee in Howard Hall.

### CALENDAR

**March** - *Canned fruit month for food pantry*

March 26 United We Eat Out - at BJ's Restaurant

March 29 Palm Sunday

March 1-31 \*Get your new building code!

**April** - *Paper products month for food pantry*

April 1 Building access codes change

April 5 Easter Sunday

April 11 Black Heritage Gala 6:30 pm

April 13 William Warfield Foundation Luncheon

### Only 1 More Week to Get New Code!

On April 1st, we will change the building access codes and assign a new code to existing groups. After the codes are changed, the code you currently use will not work to access the building. **ACTION REQUIRED BY 3/31:** All UCP congregants who currently use a code will need a new access code.

To get your new access code, you have a few options:

- 1) Contact the office by email (anytime) or by phone during office hours (T/W/TH mornings) before 3/31.
- 2) Speak with Logan Hazen or Nate Schunk.

NOTE: The new code will not be active until 4/1. Please continue to use your current code until that date. Please see the FAQ insert. Contact the office with any questions.

### **April Food Cupboard**

In April, we will collect paper products for the Community Food Cupboard. They need paper towels, toilet tissue, napkins, etc. A special need is toddlers' diapers.

### **From the Missions Committee**

The Easter offering this year will be split between the One Great Hour of Sharing and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches, USA. Gifts support emergency relief projects to displaced persons, disaster rehabilitation, and funds for the development projects which address chronic needs.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is administered by the United Methodist Church as part of its Global Ministries, the mission, relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church, working with partners and churches in more than 115 countries.

### **Lectionary Texts for next week** **(March 29, 2026 - Palm Sunday)**

Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 27:11-54

## Our Special Guest

### Dr. Denise “Deni” Mack



Dr. Denise Mack has worked in interfaith relations for over 50 years. Deni was part of Rochester's ecumenical transition from Genesee Ecumenical Ministries to Greater Rochester Community of Churches to more inclusive interfaith collaborations. Deni was with national Gamaliel and Faith in Action networking including Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society. She was RocACTS chair of its

religious leader caucus and now is on the board again of GRCC Faith in Action Network and several GRCC task forces.

Deni worked for the RC Diocese of Rochester as Consultant to Religious Education leaders and served as Director of Religious Education in local parishes from 1974-1993 and as Pastoral Associate from 1993 through 2021. Deni is authorized to preach by Bishop Matthew Clark. See the website

[godswordmanyvoices.org](http://godswordmanyvoices.org) for weekly homilies applying biblical faith to life that Deni has scheduled for the last 11 years.

A documentary was made of Deni's call to God's service by German filmmaker, Laurenz Knauer. Deni co authored 20 Homilies by Roman Catholic Women with Roslyn Karaban. Deni and her husband Ron have 4 children, 11 living grandchildren and a great grandson. Since 1998 Deni researched and wrote stories of gallant women from Scripture & History and told these stories with a small group of women representing many faiths in universities, houses of worship, retreats and conferences. Her degrees are Masters in Education, Biblical Theology and Divinity and her Doctorate is in Ministry with concentration in Spirituality. She is a prayer guide and spiritual companion/director.

Deni and her husband Ron Mack moved from Irondequoit to Highlands of Pittsford in October 2024.

# UCP DOOR ACCESS CODE CHANGE FAQ

## **WHO will be affected by this?**

Any UCP member who currently uses an access code to enter the building will need a new code to enter the building.

## **WHY are codes changing?**

We are changing door access codes as a security measure.

## **WHEN will the codes change?**

The door codes will be changed on 4/1 - the week before Easter. The new code will be active mid-week and your old code will no longer work. **Please continue to use your current code until that time.**

## **HOW do I get my new code?**

**ACTION NEEDED by 3/31:** Please contact the office via EMAIL or PHONE (during office hours - T/W/Th mornings) to get your new code. Please be prepared to provide the code you currently use. You may also speak with Logan Hazen or Nate Schunk.

## **MAY I still use my old code, once the codes change?**

No. As part of the process, the old codes are deleted from the system. Once the codes have been changed that week, your old code will no longer work. Note that the new code will not be active until that week.

## **WHAT IF my new code doesn't work?**

Don't worry. We test the new codes to make sure they work. Plus, your new code is not individual to you - so others will use the same code. (We also test the old codes to confirm they are deleted.)

## **WHO may I call with questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact the office or speak with Logan Hazen or Nate Schunk.

**THANK YOU for your help with this process!**



UNITED CHURCH  
*of* PITTSFORD

*Each of you should give what you have  
decided in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

Scan this QR code with your cell phone to access  
UCP's secure giving page at [ucpittsford.org/give](https://ucpittsford.org/give).  
Once there, choose from the following funds:



General Offering  
Memorial Fund  
Capital Improvements,  
Repairs & Replacements  
Missions  
Music  
Christian Education  
Fellowship

For more ways to give, please see the  
**WAYS TO GIVE** card in the seatback.  
**Thank you for your support.**