



Dr. Baruch Whitehead Lauded

In February, the Ithaca Common Council awarded the J. Diann Sam's African American History Month recognition award to Dr. Baruch J. Whitehead for his outstanding contributions to the community. The award, given annually since 2004, recognizes individuals of remarkable leadership and courage during African American History Month.

A mentor, activist, and Associate Professor of Music Education at Ithaca College, Baruch was commended for his significant impact on education and community-building, and his dedication to using music to eliminate barriers and connect communities. Baruch co-founded the Community Unity Music Education Program (CUMEP) with Alan Fe Nunn. In 2010, he founded the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers (DCJS), a chorus dedicated to preserving the formal concert style of the Negro spiritual. Named in honor of Civil Rights pioneer and former Ithaca resident Dorothy Cotton, who had served as Education Director for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where she worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., DCJS has performed on national and international stages, such as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC and Carnegie Hall, NYC.

Baruch organized the January 26th concert at Ithaca College to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event began with



Dr. Baruch Whitehead directing the joint orchestra and choirs during the Martin Luther King Jr. celebratory event Ithaca College's Ford Hall on January 26, 2024. Photo by Bill Reynolds

eight local clergy, led off by our own Reverend Debbie Bennett Reynolds, reading Martin Luther King's Letter from Birmingham Jail. Featured in the memorable event were the Ithaca College's Chorus, Treble Chorale and Choir, Jazz Vocal Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra and the Dorothy Cotton Singers and Youth Singers, and guest soloists. The concert culminated with the world premier of "Let Justice Flow Down/We Shall Overcome" by Stan Spottswood and Zamen El Salaam (*A Time for Peace*) by Nazareth-Faith Kasem and Yair Dalai, and arranged by Baruch Whitehead. (See sidebar on page 5 for background and lyrics.)

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First Baptist Church in Ithaca is a nurturing and inclusive community. Guided by Jesus' Teachings, we strive for Social & Ecological Justice and embrace the Baptist tradition of Bible, Soul, Church and Religious Freedoms.



Winners! FBC Youth, accompanied by coach Amy Aittima on the left, proudly display the trophy from the Stre-Ball tournament that they regained at the SOLID Youth Retreat at Camp Casowasco the weekend of February 2-4, 2024. More information and pictures in page 3.

Lenten Offering Going Deeper on Our Spiritual Jour- neys: Learning Together in Lent

Wednesdays 12:30-1:30
February 21, 28,
March 6, 13, and 20th;
In person and on Zoom.
Videos, experiential learn-
ing, and personal sharing
will be used to explore
Centering Prayer and other
spiritual practices that can
deepen our spiritual lives.

Meditative Retreat at the Abby of the Genesee

(see page 5)
April 12-14

The Worship Committee
has arranged an opportu-
nity for interested church
members to experience
a weekend retreat at the
Abby of the Genesee, a
Trappist Monastery, near
Geneva, NY.

During the retreat we are
invited to participate in
any or all of the seven
short daily liturgical
services, from a.m. until
evening. Folks will also
have opportunities for
walks outdoors and quiet
time for personal prayer
and reflection. We will pre-
pare and share our meals
together.

The cost is \$180. It will be-
gin after 3 p.m. Friday and
end after lunch on Sunday.
If necessary, one can sign
up for one of the two days
for \$90.

We will stay at Bethlehem
House, which has 17 single
beds room. Linens and
towels will be provided.

Please contact Tony
Lister at 607-319-10-95 to
reserve your place no later
than March 31st.

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From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

The Lectionary, Bible Freedom, and the Role of Scripture in Our Life Together



Rev. Debbie Bennett
Reynolds

What is the "lectionary" and how does it work? How we pick our scriptures for worship each week? Why do we use Bible readings at the center of our worship? How do we understand the Bible as a progressive Christian church?

Let's start with the lectionary. The Revised Common Lectionary is a set of scripture readings for Christian worship services. There is normally a reading from Hebrew scriptures (the Old Testament), a psalm, a gospel reading, and a reading from one of the letters ("epistles") in the New Testament. This gets varied after Easter when readings from the book of the Acts of the Apostles are substituted for the one from Hebrew scriptures for a few weeks. The 4 readings are based on the day and season of the church year and usually have a thematic connection - sometimes much more clear than others! The purpose of the lectionary cycle is to cover all the major stories and themes of the scriptures and to include most of the Bible.

The lectionary works on a 3 year cycle – with Matthew, Mark and Luke each being the primary gospel for a year in the church calendar. John never gets its own year, so passages from John get inserted at different times throughout all 3 years. The church year begins with Advent and ends at the end of November with Christ the King Sunday. In many denominational traditions, all four lectionary readings are always read in worship. Others, like ours, usually choose only one or two to focus on.

These readings are chosen by a committee representing the Protestant Christian denominations that use the Revised Common Lectionary. You can easily look it up online and find the readings for every Sunday of the year. Roman Catholics have their own lectionary, which is often the same, but not always. The Catholic Church also has a daily calendar of readings, called the Daily Office.

Many Baptist churches and most evangelical Christian churches do not use the lectionary at all. Some of us have had the lectionary readings shape our worship experiences for years, maybe without realizing it. For others of us, this is not what we grew up with or what we have experienced elsewhere.

As a worship planner and preacher, I have continued what was already the tradition here at First Baptist. We usually use the lectionary because it provides structure and discipline to our worship themes and sermons. Otherwise, we would be tempted to only focus on the readings we like and are comfortable with. Because we choose only one or two readings, this is still a risk for us. We focus a lot on the gospels and tend to neglect the Hebrew scriptures and the letters. I've been thinking about this, and I may try to do a couple of sermon series this year in response. I did preach several Sundays this fall from Paul's letters, and a few of you commented that you found this helpful. (Paul tends to have a pretty negative reputation with liberal Christians, but he still has a lot to teach us!) I value the freedom we have as a Baptist church: we choose to use the lectionary – but we're not obligated to do so. We are free to use whatever scriptures we want and for special Sundays we often do so.

The lectionary is a resource that helps us in our engagement with the Bible. As a progressive Christian church, we take the Bible seriously but not literally. It is a rich and complicated source book for our faith and mission. The Bible is a collection of many types of writings, put together over a long span of time, and it is often challenging to know how to read and understand it. It takes study. It is not – as some want it to be – a simple How-To book with all the answers in black and white. The Bible provides us with the witness of Jewish and Christian people of faith across the generations. It shows us very fallible humans, trying to know God and relate to God. It offers us resources for prayer and praise. It reveals to us much about who the Divine is - but those revelations are always limited by the culture and times in which they were experienced and written down. It gives us the stories of the teacher and healer, Jesus of Nazareth. It shows us the faith of the first Christians who came to believe in Jesus as the Christ, their Lord and Savior, the crucified and resurrected revelation of God's self-giving love, whose Spirit continued to inspire and empower them in life, in death, and in life beyond death.

As a congregation we are committed to "Bible freedom" - which means we all have the freedom and the responsibility to study and interpret scriptures for ourselves. There are no "right" answers or interpretations, and no pastor or preacher has the corner on the truth. Often, our questioning and wondering and imagining may be more helpful than answers to our engagement with scripture. Together we study and we reflect, we worship and we pray. The resources of scripture help lead us into deeper relationship with God – the sacred, the Holy, the source of our life and love. The Spirit's guidance, the work of Biblical scholars and studying and reflecting with other people, all help us find meaning in the words of scripture. Let's continue to take the Bible seriously – and let's keep exploring and learning together!

SOLID Youth Retreat: Camp Casowasco Feb. 2-4

An Opportunity to Connect with Other Youth

Eight youth from First Baptist joined about 25 other youth from various churches for the annual SOLID Youth Retreat at Camp Casowasco from February 2-4. The retreat gives the youth an opportunity to connect with other youth groups from around the state. It focuses on how teenagers can have a solid faith in an ever-changing world. The goal is that youth have a wonderful time doing awesome activities and living in community for a weekend while growing in their relationship with God and learning what it means to have a solid faith.

Four large-group sessions, led by Rev. Alison Schmied, give youth the chance to explore the importance of asking tough questions, listening for the answers, and living their life in the way God would want them to. After each large group session, youth groups meet to dig deeper into their walks with God and how the message relates to their lives. Between sessions, groups fill their time with high- and low-energy activities such as the annual Stre-Ball tournament, Theme Night prep and presentation, and craft making. All combine made SOLID the perfect mix of fun and faith.



First Baptist youth with leaders Amy Aittima, on left, and Laura Ward, on the right.



Highlight of the weekend for FBC youth was playing and ultimately winning the annual Stre-Ball tournament.



Dr. Baruch Whitehead, Associate Professor of Music Education at Ithaca College, conducting the Ithaca College orchestra and the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers at the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration January 26, 2024.

Photo by Tony Lister

Birthdays Celebrated



Anne Farrell's, on the left, and Laura Peter's February birthdays were celebrated at the Pancake Brunch with singing and the cake pictured below.



Pancake Brunch Feb. 11th
The Community Room was again filled to capacity with FBC members and friends enjoying the annual Pancake Brunch hosted by the Hospitality Committee. Gluten-free pancakes were made to order for those who asked for them. The freewill offering totaled \$590 and was designated for the Cross-Cultural trip to a mission in Guatemala planned for early July.



In the kitchen pictured below, Bruce Chandler tends to the coffee.

Kids Helping Kids (In Africa)



First Baptist Sunday School children above, with Carol Fleming and Meg Gillard, have decided to collect their Sunday offerings to send to the Pepe preschool at the Evangelical Baptist Church in Bamako, Mali, Africa. On the left, FBC children are pinpointing Mali on the globe. On the right, Mariam Keita stands with some of the children from the preschool located in the church's compound.



Communion Table Display: Each Sunday members of the Flower Committee, Barb Fry, Andrea Staf-feld, Tina Hilsdorf and now Carrie Stearns, decorate the Communion Table with beautiful bouquets of flowers and/or other creative displays. This beautiful winter candle display was created by Barb Fry.

Sanctuary Dish-to-Pass Feb. 23th



On Friday Feb. 23rd, Anne Horst hosted the sanctuary family from Peru and members of the FBC Sanctuary group at her home for a evening of conversation and a dish-to-pass.

Photo by Tony Lister

With Whom Does FBC Affiliate?

Rochester Genesee Region

By Anne Farrell

Thank you for the opportunity to give you a brief update on the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region. I am one of your elected delegates to the Region and last fall I was elected to serve on the Executive Board as its Secretary. I also have the privilege of being a member of the Ordination Review Committee.

I'm a lifelong American Baptist from a long line of Baptists, but I realize that many of you are less familiar with our denomination as I am, so I first want to share a bit about the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA). We are a denomination that celebrates diversity and is nationally recognized as the most racially inclusive Protestant body. Our churches are also diverse in worship styles, cultural mores, and approaches to Scriptural interpretation. The autonomy of the local church is paramount, which means congregations independently choose to affiliate and that's why our name is American Baptist Churches plural.

Among the denomination's 33 regions, the Rochester/Genesee Region is especially known for embracing this diversity, which is expressed in this excerpt from its mission statement: *"We respect one another as children of God, holding one another in positive esteem, even when we hold different understandings of belief and celebrate with different traditions."* Because of this embrace, some progressive churches that are not geographically located within the region, including First Baptist Church in Ithaca, have chosen to affiliate with RGR. The Region currently has 48 members, including churches in California, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Tennessee and, of course, New York. At our February delegates meeting, we joyfully admitted a new church, Abundant Life Faith Center of Rochester. Abundant Life is a non-denominational congregation that sought out the benefit of cooperating with other churches in ministry and chose membership in ABCRGR because of the denomination's racial diversity and long history of ordaining women to pastoral ministry. The Executive Board is excited that we have two more churches requesting membership.

The Rochester/Genesee Region has established three priorities: Anti-Racism, Mental Health, and Eco-Justice. The Region provides resources and education on these topics and has created collaboratives to allow congregations and individuals with shared interests to cooperate in exploring ways both the Region and local congregations can address these critical issues.

Another current initiative is to assist churches as they adapt to post-pandemic realities. During the pandemic, RGR provided resources to help churches transition from in-person to online and hybrid worship. Now the Region is offering grants to churches as they continue adapting. Another important function of the Region is to assist pastoral search committees, and the Ordination Review Committee provides guidance in the ordination process so that an individual's ordination, which is always the sole prerogative of the local church, can be recognized by the denomination.

Our FBC budget includes \$8,500 for United Mission giving to ABCUSA. Of that, 65% is returned to RGR to support its ministries. Our Executive Minister, the Reverend Sandy Hasenauer, recently received congratulations from the national denomination because RGR member churches not only sustained, but increased United Mission support, while other regions were in decline. Also, of the America for Christ Offering collected in April, 29% of the offering returns to the RGR to support its ministries.

Upcoming events the Region is sponsoring include the 2024 MissionFest on May 3 & 4 at the First Baptist Church of Rochester; a Trail Clean Up in the High Peaks Region of the Adirondack Mountains in the Summer 2024 (specific date to be determined) which is open to hikers age 14 and above; and a mini-retreat at the Princeton Seminary Farm in conjunction with the fall delegates meeting that will be held in New Jersey in September.

Finally, I encourage you to visit RGR's website at www.abcrgr.org to read the mission statement in its entirety. It will give you a more complete sense of the Region's purpose and values. You can also learn more about the collaboratives and how to join if interested.

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The Abby of the Genesee

The Abbey of the Genesee is a Roman Catholic community of contemplative monks belonging to the world-wide Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (O.C.S.O.) more commonly known as Trappists. We are part of the larger Cistercian family consisting of monks and nuns founded by Sts. Robert Alberic and Stephen in 1098. We were founded from the Abbey of Gethsemani, Trappist, KY in the spring of 1951. As Cistercians we follow the Rule of St Benedict, and so are part of the larger Benedictine family as well. Our lives are dedicated to seeking union with God, through Jesus Christ, in a community of sisters or brothers.

Written in the sixth century, the Rule of St. Benedict continues to bring meaning to those who seek happiness and holiness—among people who are part of religious orders and lay people alike. It provides useful perspective and guidance on serving others, especially the infirm; showing hospitality, even to strangers; maintaining a balance in one's daily schedule; and reverencing Christ and His word.

This book of precepts is the formative inspiration for Trappist life and a guide for ordering our daily existence. It describes important concepts, such as obedience, silence and humility. It suggests ways to handle sacred practices and everyday tasks. And it helps define roles, relationships and expectations for those living in community. The constitutions of our order interpret Benedict's rule for our time. We frequently revisit the rule and reflect on how we might honor the vision of St. Benedict in the context of a modern world so radically different from his.

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Zamaan El Salaam (A Time for Peace)

By Yair Dalai. Nazareth-Faith Kasem

In 1993, in Oslo, Norway, a Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was signed. This Accord, secretly negotiated behind the scenes between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Isaac Rabin, gave Palestinians limited authority in education, health, social welfare and tourism, but reserved issues of security and foreign affairs for the Israeli authority. It stopped short, however, of embracing a Palestinian State and left the status of Jerusalem unresolved.

An Israeli musician committed to building bridges between Israelis and Palestinians is Yair Dalal (picture below), whose music illustrates the diversity and rich heritage of Israeli society. As the son of Jewish-Iraqi parents, Dalal grew up listening to both Arab and Jewish musical traditions. In 1994, Dalal performed at Oslo as Israelis and Palestinians celebrated the anniversary of the signing of the Peace Accord. His song 'Zaman el Salam' ('Time for Peace') combined a huge chorus of fifty Israeli and fifty Palestinian children, accompanied by the Norwegian Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Zubin Mehta. 'Zaman el Salam,' written in both Arabic and Hebrew, signifies togetherness, harmonious co-existence, and equality, Arabic Lyrics:

Like an ocean – peace, my love, Has a wide embracing soul.

There are times of ebb and flow In days of struggle and of sorrow, Between storms and thunder, Feelings burst out – my love,

Time for Peace – inshallah

Hebrew Lyrics:

There is a time, I know From faraway, I long like a lone star in the sky.

There are times of ebb and flow In days of struggle and of sorrow

Out of lightning, the rainbow glows And I will know, the time has come

Time for Peace – inshallah.



Yair Dalal

<https://posgrado.unam.mx/musica/pdfLR/session10/AI%20Tae%20-%20Voices%20of%20Peace.pdf>



Successful Tim Hembroke Community Dinner

The annual Tim Hembroke Community dinner during December was a rousing success with friends and visitors filling the beautifully decorated Community Room for a delicious dinner and then congregating in the sanctuary where each child received Christmas presents. Many thanks to Baruch Whitehead, the Hospitality, and Service and Justice Committees for making this annual event a resounding success and especially to Jenny Wurster for making the distinctive Christmas cupcake desserts for the event.



First Baptist Choir: Each Sunday, the FBC Choir under the dedicated tutelage of Director Belinda Adams and accompanied by Christopher Morgan Loy, lifts all up with special music.

FBC Congregational Highlights

At the January 28, 2024 Congregational Meeting, Treasurer Brian Baker reported that 2023 was a good year fiscally for FBC in line with expectations and ended with a more than a \$25,000.00 surplus. The Congregation unanimously accepted the Finance Subcommittee of the Resource Committee's recommendation, endorsed by the Church Council, to disperse of the Fiscal Year 2023 program budget surplus of \$25,206.32 as follows: Resource Committee: 60% (~\$15,123.80); Youth Cross-Cultural Exchange Trip to Guatemala: 20% (\$5,041.26); Enhancements to Worship and Programming: 20% (\$5,041.26) which would include technology to upgrades Zoom capability in the library.

Secondly, the Congregation unanimously approved the 2024 budget that included a \$25,000 increase from the 2023 budget to \$250,000. The 2024 budget includes an across-the-board 3.2% increase in staff salaries.

The Congregation also unanimously approved authorization of an "expenditure of up to \$75,000 for the purpose of installing a new tower roof, contingent upon obtaining additional input from the preferred roofing contractor, the Garden Subcommittee of the Ecological Justice Committee, an arborist selected by the Garden Subcommittee, and any other person(s) required to assess any current and potential damage to the church building caused by the concolor tree in order to determine whether removal of the tree is necessary to the project."

Resource Committee Update February 18, 2024

During Sunday worship on February 18, 2024, Bill Fry reported that the Resource Committee, Garden Subcommittee of the Ecological Justice Committee had met with an arborist and Steeplejack and had agreed the previous Wednesday, February 14th, that the 90-year-old concolor fir in front of the church would have to be taken down in order to install a new roof on the tower. No decision had yet been made about what to do with the wood from the trunk of the tree. Bill also reported that installation of heat pumps in the community Room third of the building is proceeding.

Service and Social Justice Committee (SSJC) Update February 19, 2024

Catholic Charities has set up an Interfaith Assistance Fund to accommodate requests for assistance such as those typically covered by the Pastor's Fund from people outside FBC. Area congregations are being asked to donate to the fund on a regular basis. For the coming year Debbie has pledged \$400 a quarter from FBC, to be taken from the Pastor's Fund, based on what was spent last year.

The Bread for the World campaign has asked congregations to write letters to congress representatives to pass a fair Farm Bill which legislates money for SNAP and the Food for Peace global nutrition program. Bill Phelan will set up a table with materials and information at the Sunday service March 10th; an announcement will be made toward the end of the service so people remember to participate. A Bread for the World representative will be speaking to the congregation via Zoom.

Andrea Mooney, Marlene Sack, and Judy Kennison joined the committee halfway through the meeting to discuss the frequency of donation requests made of the congregation. Everyone agreed there is a distinction between the four regular requests for the ABCUSA and other asks, and the discussion focused on the latter. Some points raised include: The frequency of asks has been increasing; there were 11 the past year, in addition to the 4 ABCUSA offerings; Some prefer to plan their spending through the annual pledge and unforeseen asks interfere with this ability; The recent schedule of annual requests has been helpful for planning; there is sometimes confusion about what is being asked for and how to designate the requests on checks; David Caughey used to highlight the total amount donated outside the church each year; in 2022 that was \$35,000 to \$38,000, including the roughly \$13,000 allocated by the budget.

Suggestions included: All requests go first to the Service and Social Justice Committee and then a presentation is made to the congregation to discuss the request; the four ABCUSA requests be put into the budget; cut back on random requests by vetting announcements made during services (these requests can still go into weekly email announcements or the *Visitor*); a Social Justice minute once a month during services, similar to AWAB and ecojustice Sundays, could highlight what's in the budget and present information about other causes.



FBC's Concolor Fir, *Abies concolor*

"Everything has a season ..." Ecclesiastes 3:1. Planted circa 1930 by a Town and Gown group to which Myra Fincher's parents were members, First Baptist's concolor (white) fir is a slow growing tree native to the western United States where it can reach heights of 130-150 feet. First Baptist's tree now towers over the church's roof and bell tower. In Colorado's and New Mexico's Rocky Mountains and California's and Oregon's coastal ranges, the tree is found from 6000 ft. to 11,000 ft. in elevation. In the wild this tree can live 100 years and longer but outside of its normal range one can consider 40 or more years to be an old tree. The Concolor has long, soft, flat, attractive blue-green needles that have a slight citrus smell when broken. Its smooth gray bark develops attractive deep, irregular furrows and irregular, flattened scales on mature trees. The oblong cones are held upright, and vary in color from yellow-green to purple.

Now, after serious and prayerful deliberation, the consensus of members of the First Baptist's Resource Committee, the Garden Subcommittee of the Ecological Justice Committee, an arborist and Steeplejack roofing company is that First Baptist's concolor fir will have to be taken down in order to install a new mandated roof on the belfry tower. When the tree is removed, the front of the church will be open to full view and the Pollinator garden can be enlarged.



Please keep in your prayers:

- Kris and Danny Scott & Zeta Pederson
- Suzanne Kilgore
- Kendrick Kemp
- Ron Drummond
- Marge Hansel
- Abraham Phelan
- Anthony Halman & family
- James (Nico) Schultz
- Debbie and Bill Reynolds

We can never underestimate this truth: No matter who you are, the biggest thing you do in any day is most often going to be a small act of kindness, decency, or love.

CORY BOOKER

Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

HOWARD THURMAN

If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change, our children's birthright.

AMANDA GORMAN



Amaryllis - Winter' lily

The Visitor - February 2024

Editor/publisher: Susan Eymann

Proofers: Tony Lister, Shella Chace, Judy Kennison

Contributors: Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Anne Farrell, Tony Lister, Amu Aittama/Laura Ward

Photos: Bill Reynolds, Tony Lister, Bill Phelan, Barbara Fry, David Caughey



The FBC Book Group, founded more than 40 years ago by Emily Young, Alice Damp, Jud Kilgore, and others still meets monthly now at Jud's home where they enjoy his gracious hospitality. Last month, many reread To Kill a Mockingbird, and watched the film starring Gregory Peck. Standing from left to right in the picture are: Tony Lister, Susan Eymann, Marlene Sack, host Jud Kilgore, Kris Scott and Amanda Ufford. Seated are Judy Kennison, George and Alice Damp and Carolyn Young. Photo by Lisa Kilgore

FBC Organization (updated December, 2023)

First Baptist Staff

Pastor: Rev. Debbie Bennett Reynolds
 Office Manager: Janice Nigro
 Organist: Christopher Morgan Loy
 Choir Director: Belinda Adams
 Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator: Laura Ward
 Nursery Care Coordinator: Carol Fleming
 Nursery Care Assistant: Sarah Zipfel
 Custodian: David Hopkins
 Native Plants Garden Specialist: Sarah Zipfel

Elected Leadership

Council Trustees

Margie Latham: Moderator
 Andrea Mooney: Vice Moderator:
 Susan Eymann: Clerk
 Brian Baker: Treasurer

Council Committee Trustees

Josie Zanfordino: Ecological Justice
 Leslie Schultz: Education
 Anne Farrell: Hospitality and Nurture
 Bill Fry: Resource
 Bill Abeles: Service and Social Justice
 Steve Farrell: Welcome and Outreach
 Amy Doyle: Worship, Music and Spiritual Life

Council Member-at-Large

Carolyn Young

Non-Council Officers

Bill Fry: Assistant Treasurer
 Marlene Sack: Financial Secretary
 Elizabeth Pia-Miller: Assistant Financial Secretary

Nominating Committee

Andrea Mooney (chair) + 4 open

positions

Pastoral Relations

(2024): Mark Lawrence, Amanda Ufford, Barb Fry; (2025): Judy Kennison (chair) Bill Abeles; (2026): Lil Barron, Barbara Pease.

Reps to Affiliate Organizations

Two Delegates each for Rochester Genesee Region & ABC-USA
 Rich and Lil Barron; Anne & Steve Farrell.

ACT (Area Congregations Together): Shella Chace

AWAB: Shella Chace

Baptist Peace Fellowship: Leslie Schultz

Cornell Campus Ministry: Brian Baker

Kitchen Cupboard: Amanda Ufford;

Sue Hemsath

Tompkins County Workers Center:

Bill Abeles

Sanctuary Alliance: Anne Horst (chair),

Bill Abeles; Bill Fry; Leslie Schultz and others

Council Committees

Ecological Justice

Josie Zanfordino, Louise Mudrak (Co-chairs); Barbara Pease, Alice Grow, Amanda Ufford

Education Children's and Youth:

Leslie Schultz (chair), Debbie Allen.

Christian Ed Teachers: Baruch Whitehead; Sarah Zipfel; Meg Gillard

Hospitality and Nurture:

Anne Farrell (chair); Shella Chace; Meg Gillard; Tina Hilsdorf; Bruce Chandler, Andrea Staffeld; Steve Farrell; Alice Grow, Craig Riecke, Laura Peters

Resource Committee

Bill Fry (chair); Brian Baker, Rich Barron, Lou Carlucci, Dave Caughey, Steve Hilsdorf, Mark Lawrence, Bill Phelan Marlene Sack, Kris Scott, Carolyn Young Josie Zanfordino

Service & Social Justice

Bill Abeles (chair); Bill Phelan, Amanda Ufford, Marge Hansel, Shella Chase and others

Subgroup

Circle of Care: Linda Caughey (chair) Amanda Ufford; Sue Hemsath

Welcome and Outreach:

Steve Farrell (chair). Anne Farrell, Alicia Dixon-Garrard, Baruch Whitehead, Joe Haines.

Subgroup: Communications:

David Caughey; Mark Lawrence; Craig Riecke; Susan Eymann; Amy Bean Stowell; Lisa Kilgore

Worship, Music & Spiritual Life:

Tony Lister, Biz Pia-Miller (Co-chairs); Barb Fry, Kris Scott; Edie Reagan; Alice Grow; Regi Carpenter; Debbie Allen, Bronwyn Evans

Subgroups

Flower Committee: Barbara Fry; Tina Hilsdorf; Andrea Staffeld, Carrie Stearn

Labyrinth: Kris Scott

Sound/Audio Ministry: David Caughey; Bill Fry; Bill Phelan; Leslie Schultz

To correct listing, contact Susan Eymann (susan.eymann@transonic.com)