



January 18, 2026



UNITED CHURCH
of PITTSFORD

American Baptist & United Methodist

Special Guests: Rabbi Or Zohar and Temple Sinai

Liturgist: Charlie Page

Music Director: Alan Murphy

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 #519 (1-3)**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

***INVOCATION (in unison)**

God of all creation, in your divine providence and wisdom, you have called us, your children, to be living witnesses to your truth, love and justice in the world. We ask today that you continue to give us the grace and strength to be instruments of your mercy and compassion in a world that is often filled with hatred, bigotry and indifference. This day we bow before you in humble submission, in remembrance and thanksgiving for the life and legacy of all your faithful servants who stood in the face of great obstacles. We ask for that same strength, that only you can provide as we face difficult days ahead. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: There have been many dreams, many dreamers.

Today we remember Martin Luther King Jr. who dreamed of justice rolling down like the waters, of a beloved community where all people find kinship, belonging, dignity and love.

ALL: We, too, dream of justice and your beloved community. May we, like Dr. King, respond with our voices, with our lives and in your love.

ONE: Awaken us to our dreams, Holy God — and to your voice speaking from within them.

ALL: Awaken us to your world, Holy God — and to the places where our greatest joy can meet the world's greatest need.

***UNISON READING**

Gracious God, there are times when instead of thinking too highly of ourselves we think too little of ourselves. Keep us encouraged so that when you call us to serve using our gifts, that you give us, we are affirmed to use those gifts to their full potential. Amen!

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 49:1-7 NRSV

***HYMN #474 (1-3)**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

SCRIPTURE/PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER

John 1:29-42 NRSV

Pastor Rev. Julius David Jackson, Jr.

GUEST SPEAKER

**RABBI OR ZOHAR
TEMPLE SINAI**

***HYMN #533 (1-5)**

We Shall Overcome

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#572 (1-3)**

Pass It On

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Musical Selection

~ *Those who are able may stand!* ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for coffee in Howard Hall.

Please see inserts.

CALENDAR

TODAY

Mon., Jan. 19

Tues., Jan. 20

Wed., Jan. 21

Sun., Jan. 25

Sat., Jan. 31

Sat., Jan. 31

Sun., Feb. 1

Wed., Feb. 4

Sun., Feb. 8

Mon., Feb 23

UCP Annual Budget Meeting

King Day Celebration at Eastman 10 am

UCP Fundraiser at The Distillery

MLK Event at UCP – 7 pm

MLK Event at UCP – 3 pm

Pastor JD Speaks at Nazareth Univ.

PUNS Cleaning Day – 8 am to 5 pm

Annual Congregational Meeting

Valentine's Day Piano Concert – 7pm

Scouts/Jersey Sunday

UCP Fundraiser at Tom Wahl's

Lectionary Texts for next week (January 25, 2026)

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1,4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12:23

Rabbi Or Zohar

Rabbi Or Zohar came to serve as Temple Sinai's Senior Rabbi in the Summer of 2024. Rabbi Zohar moved to Rochester with his family from the Galilee, Israel, where he served for eight years as the Reform Rabbi of the Misgav Regional Council. Previously, Rabbi Zohar served as the rabbi of Congregation Ma'a lot Tivon in Kiryat Tivon, and as the founding rabbi of Kehilat Halev, one of the Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism in Tel Aviv.



Parallel to his work at the pulpit, Rabbi Zohar served as the founding director of the Spirit of the Galilee, an organization that promotes inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue between Jews, Christians, Muslims and Druze in northern Israel. His work helped to reduce conflict and increase trust and collaborations between Jewish and Arab communities in that region.

Rabbi Zohar is a composer of sacred Jewish music. As part of the duo "Feliza & Or Zohar", he has released 4 albums of original sacred Jewish music, toured extensively throughout North America and Europe. His liturgical compositions are published in TMP's musical compilations such as Shireynu and Libi Bamizrach.

Rabbi Zohar is a lifelong student and researcher of Kabbalah and Jewish spirituality, seeking to integrate these paths of ancient wisdom in relevant and approachable ways in contemporary contexts. He has taught Kabbalah and Jewish Spirituality both in Israel and as a scholar in residence in congregations throughout North America.

Rabbi Zohar was ordained at the Jerusalem campus of HUC-JIR in 2012. He received his MA (Summa cum laude) in Jewish Philosophy from Tel Aviv University, and a BA in Jewish Thought and Indian Studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Rabbi Zohar is married to Feliza, and together they have 4 children.





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

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