



October 12, 2025



**UNITED CHURCH
of PITTSFORD**

American Baptist & United Methodist

Liturgist: Bev Barnett

MC/Worship Leader: 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

Musical Selection

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN #127 (ALL)** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

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

For the healing love you have offered to us; for the patience you have with us; for your presence that will never fail, we give you thanks, O Lord. Bring our hearts and spirits to you that we may grow in our faith and service to you by serving others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you people!

ALL: With shouts of joy we celebrate the good news of God's love.

ONE: Open your hearts to the warmth of God's redeeming love.

ALL: God has poured such wonder into our lives!

ONE: Come, let us worship God with hearts and souls and voices!

ALL: Let our praise ring to the rafters and ascend to the heavens! AMEN.

***UNISON READING**

Turn again to the Lord, for you are beloved of God and have been given many blessings. Rejoice in God's love for you. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 NRSV

***MEDITATION HYMN #534 (ALL)** Be Still, My Soul

SCRIPTURE

Luke 17:11-19 NRSV

PASTOR TRIBUTES

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE: KERSTEN STEVENS

Medley - *How Great Thou Art / How Great is Our God*

Total Praise - Donnie McClurkin

***INVITATION HYMN #526 (ALL)**

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

PASTOR TRIBUTES (continued)

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**

PASTOR CLOSING REMARKS

***RECESSIONAL HYMN #585 (ALL)**

This Little Light of Mine

BENEDICTION

***CLOSING HYMN**

Amen

POSTLUDE

Musical Selection

~ *Those who are able may stand!* ~

Special Musical Guest Kersten Stevens



Kersten Stevens – Queen of the Violin – is a genre-defying artist and composer whose electrifying, luminous performances turn every stage into a sanctuary. A Yale alumna and six-time winner of Amateur Night and Showtime at The Apollo, she has shared the stage with Christian McBride, Faith Evans, Regina Carter, Kim Burrell, and Keyon Harrold. Her performances have moved icons like President Barack Obama, Angela Bassett, Babyface, Usher, and Denzel Washington.

Kersten's journey began at age three, when she first picked up the violin. By twelve, she had discovered jazz – unlocking a lifelong passion for improvisation and genre-bending expression. Her early talent earned top honors from the NAACP ACT-SO Awards and the Hal Jackson's Talented Teen competition. A graduate of Yale with dual degrees in Music and African American Studies, she went on to study under legendary jazz violinist John Blake, Jr., **honing a sound that is technically masterful, spiritually rooted, and creatively boundless.**

Her latest album, *QUEEN RISING* — co-produced with 9x GRAMMY-winner Christian McBride — **debuted in the JazzWeek Top 40**. The project features McBride on all tracks and showcases reimagined classics like Earth, Wind & Fire’s “Fantasy” and Donny Hathaway’s “Someday We’ll All Be Free,” alongside bold originals like “You’ve Been Crowned” and “Beginnings and Endings.”

A cultural force and spiritual presence, Kersten has been featured in *Vogue*, *WBGO*, *All About Jazz*, and *The Black Gospel Blog*. **She is a voting member of The Recording Academy (GRAMMY Awards)**, and her performances — whether in concert halls or sacred spaces — invite audiences not just to hear, but to feel.

UCP Senior Pastor
Reverend Julius David Jackson, Jr. (Pastor JD)



Born in Centreville, Mississippi to the late Rev. Julius D. Jackson, Sr. and Josetta A. Jackson, Rev. Julius David Jackson, Jr. (J.D.) spent the first year of life in Monroe, Louisiana until his family relocated to Rochester, NY. He attended Rush-Henrietta Roth High School and in 2018 received the distinguished alumni award from the Rush Henrietta Alum Association. He completed his undergraduate education at Monroe Community College

and the Rochester Institute of Technology and holds both an Associates Degree and a Bachelors Degree from those schools. He obtained his Master's Degree in Divinity from Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School (CRCDS) where his first cousin, Rev. Dr. Bobby Joe Saucer, distinguished alumni of 1968, also graduated. He is a former member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Rochester, NY, under the direction of his father and a former member of Aenon Baptist Church, Rochester, NY, under the direction of Pastor Rev. James L. Cherry, Sr.. Prior to his graduation from CRCDS he served as a licensed staff minister, and became a member, of Genesee Baptist Church, under the direction of Pastor Rev. Dr. Vera Miller also in Rochester NY. He served has served as the Senior Pastor of the East Aurora Christian Church in East Aurora, NY from May 2013 to May 2016. He served for a year as the Senior Pastor of Salem United Church of Christ, Rochester, NY, prior to accepting the invitation to serve as acting Senior Pastor of Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church (August 1, 2017) In addition to serving as acting Pastor at Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian church, he also began serving as a Chaplain at St. John's home (January 2019), also in Rochester, NY. He remained at both Trinity and St. John's until he was elected in September 2022 and began serving November 2022, as Senior Pastor of the United Church of Pittsford, Pittsford, NY.

In 1999, J.D. founded the Rev. J.D. Jackson, Sr. Memorial Foundation, Inc. to honor his late Father. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded five scholarships to local CRCDS Students. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and former president of the Eta Rho Lambda Chapter of Rochester, a Past Master of Eureka Lodge #36 and a member of Rochester Prince Hall Affiliated Masonic Lodges; Haggai Chapter #41 H.R.A.M and Estella Chapter #7 O.E.S. and Bison Consistory #29 of Buffalo, NY. For his

fraternal and civic work, J.D. has received the following Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. awards: Award of Service from the Eta Rho Lambda Chapter and Alumni Brother of the Year (2007 and 2008) from the New York State Association Chapters of Alpha (N.Y.A.C.O.A.). The Rochester Urban League and TNT have awarded him for his Community Service and Networking and (October 6, 2018) he was inducted into the Rush Henrietta Alumni Hall of Fame. (Rush Henrietta, Charles H. Roth High school Class of 1983). Rev. Jackson has written or been featured in articles for Rochester, New York's Democrat and Chronicle, The Minority Reporter, Upstate Gospel Magazine, About Time Magazine and 55 plus magazine. He is a graduate of the United Way sponsored African American Leadership Development Program and has participated in the March of Dimes Walk America and the Muscular Dystrophy Association Annual Lock-up. Other community service activities include serving as a judge for the New Bethel C.M.E. Church and Friends of Frederick Douglass oratorical contests. He is a former member of the Monroe County Democratic Committee and has experience with local, state and national campaigns.

He is a 2001 Graduate of the African American Leadership Development Program and a recipient of the 2024 Rodney A. Young Award for Community Service, both being recognitions of the United Way of Greater Rochester, NY. Additionally, he has served on boards with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Greater Rochester Commission, Big Brother Big Sisters, the School of the Arts (SOTA) and AIDs Community Health Center.

In most recent years he has lead the Henrietta Interracial Clergy Council whose main focus facilitates the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations in the town of Henrietta. One of Rev. Jackson's most recent crowning

achievements was participating in the (Dec 4, 2019) Ribbon cutting of the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Plaza. Jackson, having sparked the initiative to illuminate the Frederick Douglass Monument, the first to an African American in the country, 10 years prior, the establishment of the plaza both achieves illumination of the statue and provides it a more prominent location within Highland Park in Rochester, NY. Additionally Rev. Jackson realized the fulfilment of another dream with the (August 15, 2020) County approved Legislation to officially rename the airport, the Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport (February 14, 2021). Both of these initiatives were pursued as a direct result of Jackson's involvement with the efforts for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C. and his Fraternity Brother, Civil Rights Icon Andrew Young's admonishment, at the November 13, 2006 Memorial Groundbreaking, which Jackson attended, to also "turn the dirt" when you return home to your local community. Jackson returned to Rochester and worked with Alpha Brothers to establish the first Alpha Douglass Day (Dec 27, 2006) in recognition of Douglass posthumous induction into the fraternity, December 27, 1921. On November 1, 2023, Rev. Jackson received the New York State Council of Churches' award for Excellence in Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. Rev, Jackson is the father of two sons, Julius David III (Trey) and James Anderson Samuel (JAS).



UNITED CHURCH
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GIVE. Scan this code with your cell phone to access UCP's secure giving page at **ucpittsford.org/give**. For more ways to give, please see the **WAYS TO GIVE** card in the seatback. **Thank you for your support.**

Announcements

Please join us for coffee in Howard Hall.

Pie Sale

Believe it or not - it's pie time again. We are selling pies for Thanksgiving. All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity. UCP is a member of the Habitat Interfaith Partnership (HIP), which is part of the Habitat Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders. Our pies will once again be supplied by Special Touch Bakery. Special Touch Bakery produces premium pies while providing meaningful employment opportunities to people of all abilities.

Cost:	\$20 each
Orders Due:	Sunday, November 9
Pickup at UCP:	Monday, November 24 -- 3:30 - 6:00 PM

Calling all Bakers!

We will have a bake sale on Tuesday, November 4th, Election Day, as polling takes place in Howard Hall. We will need your cookies, pies, bread, fudge, jellies, jams, and any other homemade items. We have had requests for gluten-free options too. A portion of the proceeds will be designated for missions. Watch for more information! Questions? See Verna Hazen.

Giving Statements

Quarterly giving statements are in the mailboxes in Howard Hall. If you would like your statement mailed, please contact the office. Any statements remaining in the mailboxes at month's end will be mailed. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Elderberry Express

Elderberry Express provides safe, reliable and affordable transportation to Pittsford senior citizens. We received a note of thanks for our recent \$500 donation. So far in 2025, volunteer drivers have taken 95 Pittsford Seniors to over 910 appointments. Please see their note and updated brochure posted in Howard Hall.

CALENDAR

Sun., Oct. 19	UCP 76th Anniversary / Homecoming/ Friends & Family Day 10 am & 3 pm services
Sun., Nov. 2	Coat drive deadline
Sat., Nov. 8	Pastor JD's 60th Birthday Celebration
Sun., Nov. 9	Pie Orders Due!
Mon., Nov. 24	Pie pick up at UCP - 3:30 - 6pm

LECTIONARY TEXTS FOR NEXT WEEK (Oct. 19th, 2025)

UCP 76th Anniversary

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm: 119:97-104

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8