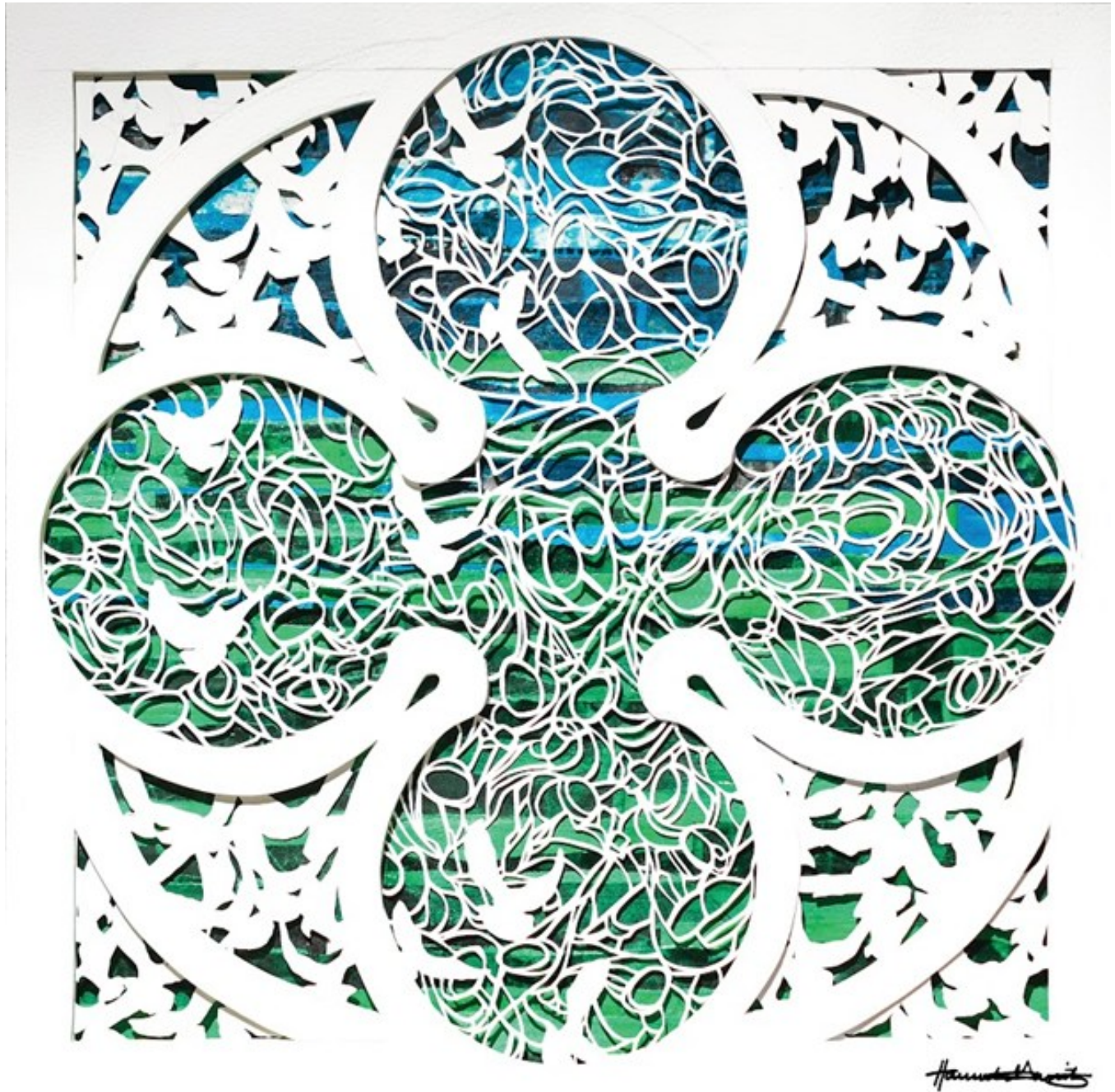


# THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter Sunday  
April 5th, 2026



"Meet Me in Galilee" by Hannah Garrity  
Hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay  
Inspired by Matthew 28:1-10

## Gathering in God's Name

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

### WELCOME

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*A Joyous Prelude*

Bob Burroughs

(Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary.)

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

**On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.**

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

**But today, we know the good news is alive and well.**

The good news is dancing!

**The good news is on the loose!**

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

**Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.**

Let us worship our good-news God.

### \*INTRODUCTION

*Joyful Bell Processional*

Nancy Cappel

The quilt and chalice processed and presented are from the Woodland Presbyterian Church.

### \*HYMN 232

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

### \*CONFESSION

Gracious God, we want to be Easter people.

**We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.**

We want to follow the women who ran to look for you.

**We want to follow the angel, who said, "Be not afraid."**

But we are afraid.

**And we don't know where to look.**

And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.

**So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.**

We are best intentions and best laid plans.

**We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias."**

We are on our way, but we are not there yet.

**Show us how to embody your good news in this world.**

**Show us how to be your Easter people.**

(silent prayer)

With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias,” we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God’s love at bay.

So join me in this good news declaration:

**Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.**

**This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God.**

Let the people say,  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 399 *God Welcomes All*)

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God’s love is strong, and it never ends.*

## SACRED CONNECTION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

### **Encountering the Living Word of God**

#### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy One, all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story. All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost its sting. All over the world, people are gathering together, praying for a glimpse of you. So like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here. Speak to us today. Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in our midst once more. With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb. We sing alleluia. We bow our heads. We listen for you. Amen.

#### FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:1-6 (OT p.733-734)

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### SECOND LESSON

Matthew 28:1-10 (NT p.33-34)

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### SERMON

*Fear and Great Joy*

Rev. Zach Sasser

## Responding to God's Word and Call

\*HYMN 246

*Christ Is Alive!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Again*

Philip W.J. Stopford

Christ the Lord is risen again; Christ hath broken every chain.  
Hark, the angelic voices cry, singing evermore on high: Alleluia!

He Who gave for us His life, Who for us endured the strife,  
is our Paschal Lamb today; we too sing for joy and say: Alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss comfortless upon the cross  
lives in glory now on high, pleads for us, and hears our cry: Alleluia!

He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save;  
now through Christendom it rings that the Lamb is King of kings. Alleluia!

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed, Christ, Thy ransomed people feed;  
take our sins and guilt away, let us sing by night and day: Alleluia!

Michael Wisse; Catherine Winkworth, trans.

\*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 607)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore.  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is good and right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION ANTHEM                      *Christ Our Passover*                      Everett Titcomb

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Proper Plainchant Communion for Easter Day

COMMUNION MUSIC                      *Morning Light*                      Barry Braman

## \*PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

\*HYMN 248                      *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY                      Toccata from *Symphony No. 5*                      Charles Marie Widor  
(Please remain quietly seated during the Closing Voluntary.)

**Worship Notes:** Today is an historic and holy day! Certainly, this is because it is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, but it is also the first Sunday that members of the Woodland Presbyterian Church have come to claim The Downtown Presbyterian Church as their siblings in faith and their new church home! The quilt and chalice processed and presented in worship today are from the Woodland Presbyterian Church. In the coming months, we will continue to lift up their rich history of faith, even as we celebrate our own, as we become one congregation. Join us on April 26th for a potluck lunch celebrating their historic faith and the ministry of hospitality that we now share with them.

**PrayGround:** Worship is a time of faith formation for all ages that extends throughout our lives. The “PrayGround” is a place set apart, within our sanctuary, where young people and their parents may worship while expressing creativity and wonder. A nursery is also available for children under the age of 5. It is located through the History Room and to the right.

**Additional Worship Leaders:** Thanks be to God for our Handbell Choir under the direction of Dr. William Taylor. All music copyrights are covered by ONE LICENSE #A-736957.

**Liturgy:** Today’s liturgy is from *A Sanctified Art, LLC*. Our bulletin cover was created in reflection upon Matthew 28:1-10. In the artist’s statement, Hannah Garrity offers this reflection, “The crowd dancing within the cross celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, fearlessly awaiting his arrival in Galilee. The Roman weapon of oppression, the cross, inflicts but a pause in the steadfast and abiding ministry of revolutionary love offered by Jesus in his public ministry...God has overcome death. Hallelujah! Around the dancing figures in Galilee, patterns of doves disperse outward. The good news...is alive in the world. Do you remember? The cross is empty, yet full. Overcome. Go and you will find Jesus, free in the world in the faces of strangers and neighbors.



Sunday, April 12th  
Guest Preacher

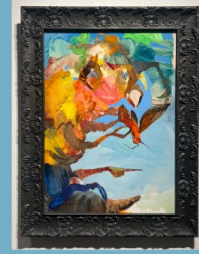
Stacy Rector

Save  
THE  
Date

Woodland Sunday  
Potluck Lunch  
April 26<sup>th</sup> after Worship.

# April Art Crawl at the Browsing Room Gallery

The Browsing Room is very pleased to announce *Creature Comforts*, a solo Julia Martin exhibition.



**Exhibit Dates:** March 14th - April 25th, 2026. **Opening Reception** in coordination with DADA-Nashville's downtown art crawl: Saturday, April 11th, 6-9 PM

**About the Exhibit:** *Creature Comforts* is a collection of recent works in oil, featuring fantastical narratives, to entertain and spark imagination. The most memorable storybooks from my childhood starred humanized animals and magical creatures. As an adult, I am still dazzled by them all and often crack myself up likening day to day routines and interactions to that of a Richard Scarry book. Rendering what images come forth in the swirling chaos of under-paintings is made a much richer experience when a new creature rears its head. Each one takes me on its own little adventure, as I expect they will you.

**About the artist:** Julia Martin was born and raised in Nashville, TN. Though she studied Fine Arts at The School of Visual Arts', her studio practice of 20 years has solidified her as a self-taught artist. An integral member of Nashville's Art Community, she opened her namesake gallery in 2013. Best known for her vibrant, otherworldly portraits, Martin's work has expanded to hand carved polychrome sculpture and more abstract composition. Guided by intuition Martin's hand is distinctly emotive and unmistakable.

Staff  
Time Off

Zach will be out for Continuing Education from Monday, April 6th to Monday, April 13th.

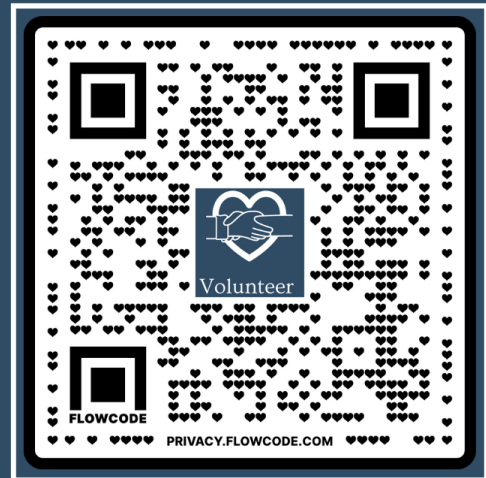
If there is a Hospitalization or other Pastoral Emergency, please call the church office and select Pastor Zach's extension to be forwarded to his cell phone.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Serve Meals with us!

Saturdays 8:30-10:30

Scan here to sign up!



## **OUR MISSION**

Gathering in the heart of Nashville, we are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ.  
We seek the welfare of the city as we seek the kingdom of God.

We are a historic church working to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation.  
Together we actively share God's grace and love through worship, education and service,  
and through being an active voice in promoting justice and peace in our community  
and the world.

## **OUR VALUES AND ETHOS**

- Belief in God's love and in Christ's ministry
- The desire to welcome and embrace everyone. No exceptions.
- Service to God, service to our neighbors
- God's gift of creativity

## **SESSION LEADERSHIP**

### Class of 2026

Michael Arwood

Ruth Butler

Dave Coleman

### Class of 2027

Matt Abfalter

Jack Henderson

Dixie Williamson

### Class of 2028

Stephen Coleman

Glenda Harris

Dennis Shepard

Dixie Williamson, Clerk of Session

Rachel Hayes, Church Treasurer

## **THE CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Zach Sasser, Pastor

Dr. William Taylor, Director of Music & Organist

Paulino Jarquin, Building Manager

Sarah Hoehn, Administrative Assistant

Allison Shearouse, Accountant

## **PARKING FOR DPC ATTENDEES**

Parking for Sunday worship is in the SP+ garage at **147 4th Ave. N.** The entrance is on 4th Avenue. Parking in this garage is complimentary on Sundays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you parked in the SP+ garage today, please ask a greeter for a voucher sticker.

To learn more about the missions and ministries of DPC, visit: **dpchurch.com**