



## CREATIVITY, COMPASSION AND COMMITMENT

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# Metropolitan Association, NY UCC Newsletter

December 24, 2020

Ministering to the  
Metropolitan Association  
Churches and Ministers

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born... Luke 2:6

It was not a minute too soon nor a minute too late. KJV renders this point in time as *the days were accomplished*... In other words, it was the Kairos moment. The time had come, the day was here, and Mary and Joseph were at the designated place, to participate in the divine fulfillment: **the birth of the Christ.**

Stitch by stitch like a weaver's quilt, moments in time come together fulfilling God's purposes. This time, our time, a time of COVID-19, COVID-1619, Distant/Remote Learning, ZOOMING, and Massive cyber-attacks, is a time when *the hopes and fears*

*of all the years* are converging in this present moment; the time when the Christ comes.

We have met difficult times; and as stated in the last speech of Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, "*we've got some difficult days ahead.*" These words, I suppose, were in the minds and on the lips of Mary and Joseph, traveling the long and dusty road to Bethlehem, with an impending pregnancy and no room in the inn. But not a minute too late nor a minute too soon, Jesus is born. God's majestic, magnificent creativity, once more on display in the birth of a newborn baby reminding us that God has not given up on us!

Churches and clergy covenanting together as the Metropolitan Association, through this very different year, enduring the passing of our

beloved Louise Manigault, we stand strong together, in this time of the pandemic storm. We stand committed to strengthen our relationship with God and with you. We pray for your support as we continue the modernization of this Association on this virtual platform.

On behalf of the Executive Committee—*Rev. Dr. Gary Percesepe, Joycelynn Howell, Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaffer, Mary Dewar, Rev. Charles Watterson—the Board of Directors, Interim Executive Administrator Rev. Dr. Kris Watson, Claudette Spence, Aja Harris, Rev. Ervin Graves and Rev. Dr. Anesta Vanoy, **it is our honor and privilege to serve you.***

It is my prayer, that we always remember that there is a Christ, God Incarnate, Word

made flesh, God visible in human form, who comes, concerned about the issues of our times, the problems of our world and the pain and pressure of the people.

The Christ is born, and He comes to touch us, heal us and to breathe peace upon us. *“Let every heart, prepare Him room...while fields and floods, rock hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy.”*

And on behalf of my family, *Diamond, Jasmin and Jordan*, and the church I serve, *Safe Haven UCC*, we wish everyone, a blessed holiday season and a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2021.  
*Rev. Dr. Ruby Wilson*

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### **Special Thanks for our Metro Association Advent Offering:**

Every Monday during Advent, Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper, A/K/A the Dolly Momma brought her wisdom, wit and humor to an intimate gathering to explore the new and the next. What a delightful

experience to fellowship together and to bring our serious and irreverent questions about Advent themes: How do we experience joy and peace and hope in such a broken and tumultuous world? If you missed it recordings are available.

E mail Aja Harris at [metronyoffice@metrouccnyc.org](mailto:metronyoffice@metrouccnyc.org).

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### **NEW YEAR, NEW CHURCH!**

### **OUR OFFERING FOR 2021: BRICKS AND MORTALS**

Join Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper and the staff from Bricks and Mortals every other Monday in January beginning January 4, 2021 -February 1, 2021 to learn how you can transform your church property into an asset to be a blessing to others.

Bricks and Mortals offers the churches of the Metropolitan Association an opportunity to learn how to repurpose church property for effective ministry and community engagement.

“I frequently consult about “Bricks and Mortals,” about church buildings and what an asset they are in the 21st century. They appear to be a problem but are actually an opportunity. By “Bricks and Mortals” I mean the extraordinary opportunity that exists hidden in plain site around religious buildings. The

possibilities for adaptation are endless! And interesting.

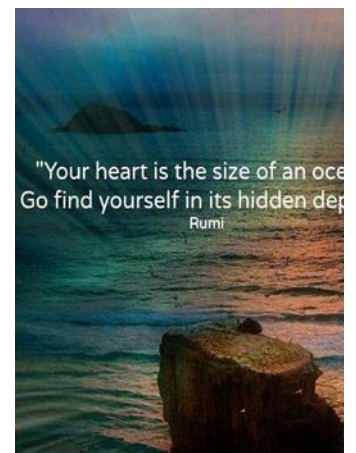
Congregations may be getting smaller, maintenance costs getting larger -- and Spirit can find ways to see ways forward!

**Metro NY UCC Association is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. January 4, January 18 and February 1, 2021 at 1pm**

**Topic: BRICKS AND MORTALS**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83780121418>

Meeting ID: 837 8012 1418  
One tap mobile  
+19292056099,,837801214  
18# US (New York)



***MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

**NEW YEAR, NEW CHURCH!**

Join us on January 9, 2021 from 10am-12pm as we welcome Rev. Dr. Michael S. Piazza, Senior Pastor of Broadway UCC, as he helps us reimagine Church in this post pandemic era.

Topic: Re-Imagine Church!

Time: Jan 9, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87092652094>

Meeting ID: 870 9265 2094

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,870 92652094# US (New York)

Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 1 PM EST  
Public · Hosted by [PRC - Practical Resources for Churches](#) and [New York Conference of the United Church of Christ](#)

Online Event

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HgPFGZB1RnShvK2DtKisaw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HgPFGZB1RnShvK2DtKisaw)

Leader: Joy Skjegstad  
Learn how small churches can effectively serve their community.

**STAY CONNECTED!!!**

PLEASE VISIT AND LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HAPPENINGS IN THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION!

SPREAD THE NEWS OF ALL THAT METRO ASSOCIATION IS OFFERING TO ITS MEMBERS, CHURCHES AND MINISTERS!

REACH OUT TO US TO SEE HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TALENT AND TREASURE!

DO YOU HAVE A BRIGHT IDEA OR PROJECT FOR US TO ENGAGE IN? SHARE IT BY E MAILING OUR INTERIM EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR AT [EADMIN@METRONYUCC.ORG](mailto:EADMIN@METRONYUCC.ORG)

*MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

## WHAT IS THE ASSOCIATION DOING?

This is a question we hear as we continue to reimagine and pivot into the pandemic/post pandemic reality.

The Association Board is working diligently on the following projects:

- ✚ Engaging the stakeholders of the Association in a listening tour to formulate ideas and suggestions about how best to serve the churches and ministers.
- ✚ Forming a task team to look at going 100% virtual in 2021.
- ✚ Providing opportunities for learning, fellowship and ministry through our Advent offering, Bricks and Mortals seminars every other Monday in January beginning January 4, 2021
- ✚ January 9, 2021 from 10am-12pm, we are offering a free session with Agile Church Consultants on how to navigate unprecedented change in the church landscape.
- ✚ Continuing fiscal management of the assets of the Association.
- ✚ Continuing examinations, Ecclesiastical Councils and Ordinations of Ministerial candidates via zoom.
- ✚ Starting an Association wide Bible Reading contest as a relationship building and fundraising opportunity in Lent.
- ✚ Beginning to plan the Spring Meeting of the Association

*Pastor, if no one has told you yet, you did a wonderful job this year. There is no evaluation that can judge what you had to do to keep Gods people together and find ways for them to grow. This was your best year of ministry, imagination, and service. Pat yourself on the back reverend, God is pleased. God saw your tears, anxieties, insecurities, and your willingness to press forward and serve anyway. Pastor, we celebrate you today!!!!*

## FOR CAREGIVERS!

### **“Lead Me Lord” Caregivers Phone Support Group**

*Teach me to do your will for you are my God;*

*May your good Spirit lead me on level ground. Psalm 143:10*

If you are a family caregiver you need support and resources

to maintain the strength needed to

be a good caregiver.

The Agape (Counseling) Ministry of St. Albans Congregational Church UCC invites you to join the

### **“Lead Me Lord” Caregivers Phone**

### **Support Group**

every first Sunday at 7:00pm.

For more information email Deborah Dee Brayton, LCSW-R,

Group Facilitator @ [DDB102020@outlook.com](mailto:DDB102020@outlook.com).

Caregivers remember to **P.R.A.Y.**

>Be **Prepared**

>Take time to **Relax**

>Stay **Active**

>Remember **YOU** are not alone!

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