



CREATIVITY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT &
COMMUNICATION

Metropolitan Association, NY UCC Newsletter

December, 2021

Ministering to the
Metropolitan Association
Churches and Ministers.

**BLESSED ADVENT AND
CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

EADMIN@METROUCCNYC.ORG

BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

*I will bless God at all times...
God's praise will continually be in
my mouth...I sought God...God
answered me...God delivered me
from all my fears... Oh, taste and
see that God is good! God is near
to the brokenhearted and saves
the crushed in spirit. (From
Psalms 34).*

In thinking of God's goodness, my
mama would ask, *who wouldn't
want to serve a God like this?!*

For me, Psalms 34 encapsulates
the spirit of Advent hope, peace,
joy and love. To paraphrase
Thomas Paine: These are the
times that are trying our souls!
Everywhere you turn there are
troubles, heartaches, and pain.
Surrounded on every side by
burdens too difficult to carry and
fearful of being in battles we

cannot win, the Psalmist declares
with trumpet clarity, O magnify
God with me! Turn to the One with
a love that will not let us go and
join in sweet communion to find
grace and mercy in time of need.
And we, the Board of Directors,
did just that! With a call to come
together in a Season of Prayer,
we are laying it all on the line.
Every Wednesday, we gather to
bless, praise, seek, taste, and see
God who is near to the
brokenhearted and saves the
crushed in spirit. We are joined in
prayer by members of our
Association as well as with the
UCCNY Conference. Fresh winds
blow when we seek God with our
whole heart. When we do, God
makes a way out of no way!

As we pray for God to meet needs
in the face of soaring food prices
and food shortages, we bless God
for Pastor Jerry Greene, James
Thomas and the Hollis
Congregational Church who has
given Metro an opportunity that
allows our member churches to

feed the communities we serve
with fresh foods from the
Caribbean, Spanish and soul food
cuisines. As sibling Board
member Rev. Ron Garner mourns
the passing of his brother, Bob,
we pray knowing that God is able
to fill him with the peace that
passes human understanding. As
we pray together with our
Conference, we know that God is
able to work all things together for
our God.

We bless God at all times: in
season and out—praise is what
we do for we are
#METROSTRONG!

Light the 3rd Advent Candle as
*fields and floods, rock hills and
plains, repeat the sounding joy.*

With Advent Joy...
Rev. Dr. Ruby M. Wilson

The harvest is plentiful...

THE METRO ASSOCIATION IS IN A SEASON OF PRAYER!

The Association Board and Members are in a season of Prayer. Incline your ear to the voice of God in this Advent Season. We are praying for healing, discernment, peace, love and joy as we move in this troubled world. Join us every Wednesday at 6:45pm for 30 minutes of prayerful power.

Zoom in with us:

<https://metrouccnyc.org.zoom.us/j/84298516582?pwd=Vno4Y0pZVGhYzF2dnhwZnB0c2RqUT09>

**MEETING ID
842 9851 6582**

METRO OFFERS POLITY CLASS MID-JANUARY:

The Metropolitan Association is offering a UCC Polity Class this January. If you are new to the UCC, seeking Privilege of Call, or just want to know more about our history and polity (governance structure), as well as all this unique denomination has to offer contact our Executive Director at eadm@metrouccnyc.org to register. Classes start in mid January. The

class will be taught by Rev. Henry Simmons virtually.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH'S EMPATHY PROJECT:

"The extraordinarily expensive, life-altering, physically dangerous trial that is pregnancy and child rearing is often considered the most important role we might ever choose to fill with our lives. To parent probably should be a sacred gift. In reality, life is really, really hard. But in reality – jobs don't pay the bills, hearts get broken, people leave – and children take an unbelievable amount of time, energy, financial resources, and love. Neighborhoods aren't safe, schools don't meet standards, and we can't be sure we have social or community safety nets to count on.

Jesus treasured children and women! He probably would have dream for children to have all that we dream for them to have: that they grow up in safe neighborhoods full of trees and playgrounds, that they have plenty of nourishment, with loving adults surrounding them, great schools and caretakers, and a world where they know God's love and how cherished

they are in His creation. He also certainly would have dreamed of a world where women were treated with respect, as he modeled time again."

[The Empathy Project | About Judson's Empathy Project](#)

METRO MINISTRY FAIR!

We are planning a virtual Ministry Fair this winter to highlight the work you are doing in your community! Is there a ministry within your congregation that excites and inspires you? Is there a ministry that serves the community in excellence? We want to know about it! Send us a 3-5 minute video that we can share with the Association. We want to show off and show out to the Glory of God! This Ministry Fair will help you highlight what your congregation is doing in the community! Tell us about your ministries that are Spirit inspired and so we can **SPOTLIGHT YOUR MINISTRY**, spread the word and sow a seed into the ministry! Send short video clips to Our Executive Director, Rev. Kris Watson at eadm@metrouccnyc.org

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR CHURCHES:

ST. PAULS LUTHERAN UCC

Rev. Bolla Moses reports that he is the Senior Pastor, having assumed the ministry after Dr. Christopher Solomon. He is pursuing my PhD studies alongside pastoring this church at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

St. Paul's Lutheran holds its worship virtually every Sunday at 10 am EST.

At present, the church has Sunday School ministry going on at Zoom. They also have the Women's Fellowship, but due to the pandemic this group has stopped all the activities. The Women's fellowship is typically very active in conducting community oriented activities, but now they have stopped because of COVID, and are planning to resume some of the activities in the next few months.

At present, they have hybrid service catering to parishioners both online and in-person. Most of the members are from the

Caribbean Islands, Trinidad, Guyana, Barbados, etc. They also have a few German and Indian families. The Pastor hopes that this community continues to exist for others and become more inclusive community sharing the love of God irrespective of caste, color, creed, race, gender, and sexual orientation.

#METROSTRONG CAMPAIGN!

#METROSTRONG

Campaign focuses on connecting our churches with each other, partnering with unaffiliated ministries that are working with people living on the margins, raising funds for our mission, seeking grants to help clergy and churches and continuing to provide outstanding service to our members and affiliates.

Eadmin@metrouccnyc.org

HELP US TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF OUR ASSOCIATION BY MAKING A YEAR END DONATION BY DECEMBER 1, 2021. MAIL CHECKS TO: METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION, UCCNY AT

**102-19 34TH AVENUE,
CORONA, NY 11368**

OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE DONATIONS PAGE AT [Donation \(eservicepayments.com\)](http://Donation(eservicepayments.com))

Metro Spiritual Life Committee offers the CLERGY CLINIC

The purpose of the Clergy Clinic is to keep clergy connected to the Association, assist clergy with navigating the challenges of ministry and enhance growth. The SLPC Support for Pastors, Clergy and Lay, partners with the Committee on Ministry to provide essential avenues of communication and prayer. The team: *Rev. Erv Graves, Rev. Carolyn C. Blair, Rev. Dr. Floyd R. Blair*, are available to ensure that your needs are met. **We are asking that all pastors and clergy update their information for the directory as requested by the Metro Office.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT A CONDITION OF MINISTERIAL STANDING IS COMPLETION OF YOUR ANNUAL INFORMATION REVIEW FORM. PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WHEN REQUESTED!

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION WANTS YOU TO SAVE THE DATE! BISHOP DWAYNE ROYSTER, Senior Pastor of Faith UCC in Washington DC, and founder of the Society for Faith and Justice will be our keynote preacher for our Martin Luther King Day Celebration.



Bishop Dwayne D. Royster, a leading voice in modern faith-based activism, wants to change the world. Whether he is serving as a pastor, challenging the status quo as a political activist, educating and empowering communities as a radio show host, or encouraging and inspiring audiences around the country as a writer and public speaker, Bishop Royster's work is fueled by deep faith and passionate commitment

to bringing about social justice.

OFFERING FROM THE PRACITCAL RESOURCE CENTER:

[Lenten Resources from A Sanctified Art](#)

Wednesday, January 11, 2022
2:00 - 2:30 PM

Leader - Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Learn more about Lenten Resources from A Sanctified Art.

Lisle Gwynn Garrity (*she/her/hers*) is a Pastorist (*pastor + artist*), retreat leader, and creative entrepreneur seeking to fill the church with more color, paint, mystery, and creativity. In the midst of a rapidly reforming church landscape, she is convinced that new models for ministry are emerging all over the place, we just have to be willing to discover and pursue them. She founded A Sanctified Art with the conviction that, in order to thrive, the church needs more creative expression and art-filled freedom.

We will be sharing your name and email with A Sanctified Art so that they can follow up with you.

Lenten Resources From A Thoughtful Christian

Tuesday, January 18, 2022
2:00 - 3:00 PM EST

Leader - Katie Snyder and Michael Hilliard

Explore resources and curricula for the 2022 Lenten season that will work for any size congregation. We will explore great group study options, free downloadable resources, Bible studies, other relevant books, and Lenten devotions that your congregation will find useful for Lent 2022. We are also offering a discount on our resources for those who attend the webinar.

[Caring for Frontline Workers](#)
Thursday, January 27, 2022

7:00 - 8:00 PM EST
Leader - Harriet Wilkin

This webinar is for pastors and for laity who are involved with pastoral care, to help understand the challenges Front line workers, including First Responders have been experiencing not only through the pandemic, but in their everyday work life. This webinar has been designed to give helpful tips and

resources for your toolbox. What is presented in this webinar may also help you provide pastoral care to military veterans.

OFFERING FROM THE NY CONFERENCE:

***The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson Book Discussion**

Sponsored by the Center for Racial Justice and the “New & Right Spirit” antiracism program

January 12 – March 9, 2022

(no session March 3 – Ash Wednesday)

6:30-8pm EST

via Zoom

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson tells the story of the 55-year exodus of almost six million people of African-descent as they changed the face of America. The story is told through the lives of three incredible

people—who fled the South in search of better lives and greater equality.

Join Ms. Courtney Williams, doctoral student and the Huel D. Perkins Fellow in the Department of Sociology at Louisiana State University and Rev. Gary Smith, director of the Center for Racial Justice, as they create “brave multiracial space” to learn from these historical figures and one another. The book discussion will run **Wednesdays, January 12 thru March 9, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. EST.** We will take a one-week break on Ash Wednesday, March 3. The book can be purchased through a variety of bookstores, however, we encourage you to purchase it through a black-owned book seller (see <https://bookshop.org/lists/black-owned-bookstores-2021> for options in every state).

WORSHIPPING IN THE CHURCH? WEAR A MASK! New York City will implement a sweeping vaccine mandate for all private employers that will take effect Dec. 27, Mayor Bill de Blasio said, calling it the first mandate of its kind in the U.S.



IF YOU, A FAMILY MEMBER OR CONGREGANT NEED HELP WITH FOOD FOR THIS CHRISTMAS PLEASE CONTACT HOLLIS AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Rev. Jerry Greene, Senior Pastor 211-04 Hollis Avenue, Queens Village 11429. HOURS OF OPERATION: 8am-11am: The Food Pantry is open every Tuesday. If you have special needs or an immediate need contact James Thomas at 516-528-2422

Rising to meet the challenges of the ever-growing food shortages,

the Metropolitan Association, in partnership with the Hollis Avenue Congregational Church Food Pantry has set up distribution centers to provide 1000 meals through 6 of our member churches. Meals and boxes of groceries will be distributed on December 23 at the Congregational Church of South Hempstead, and Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church in Long Island, Sacred Fellowship Ministries in Brooklyn, Grace Congregational Church in Harlem, Christ Church in the Bronx, Safe Haven UCC, Hollis Avenue Congregational Church in Queens. To God be all the Glory!

JOB POSTINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Music Minister for Broadway United Church of Christ

Broadway United Church of Christ is a small but dynamic congregation in Manhattan (New York City). We are a progressive church with a prophetic ministry and a congregation who is musically informed and engaged. Our tastes are quite diverse, and our highest priority is music that feeds our minds, challenges our values, and enlivens our souls. Located in a city of unlimited talent, our dream is for our next music director to help build a program, around a core group of professionals, that urban people will find compelling and attractive.

December 2021 #METROSTRONG

Responsibilities

- Assist the senior pastor and work with the staff in planning and executing all worship services.
- Ensure the choir and other special music is prepared to provide a well-executed, diverse, and inspiring experience for the congregation.
- Build a music/arts program that is an asset in attracting a diverse community who gathers to worship and scatters to serve.
- Recruit, equip, motivate, and supervise musicians and artists.
- Develop musical teams and ensembles for services.
- Utilize the arts, including drama, literature, graphics, and video, to enhance a comprehensive worship experience.
- Direct and coordinate special events as appropriate.
- Communicate faithfully with the senior pastor and staff.
- Participate in the life and ministry of the church.

Qualifications

- A spiritual person seeking faith through Christian traditions.
- Love and respect for a diverse community.
- Progressive values that passionately support an end to racism, sexism, homophobia, etc.
- Attested musical skills and competence.
- Ability to organize, coordinate, and motivate musicians and technical team members.

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!

Share this newsletter with your congregation!

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? Develop the idea and share it by e mailing our Executive Director at eadmin@metronyucc.org

Does your church need pulpit supply? We have a diversity of ministers willing and able to help. Please reach out to eadmin@metronyucc.org or call Rev. Kris Watson on her cell at 646-523-1936.

- Sense of humor and positive attitude.
- Strong collaborator with the rest of the staff and congregation.
- Dependable, responsible, self-motivated, and creative.
- Bachelor's degree in music or theology (Master's preferred).
- Minimum five years experience in a church-related setting preferred.

Musical Competencies

- Ability to produce music using a wide range of traditions including Christian hymnody and congregational song, but with a focus on contemporary and culturally diverse music.
- Ability to lead worship and train others as individual and team worship leaders.
- Capable of adapting, arranging, and sequencing music or at least supervising those who can do these tasks.
- Producing and directing special events, musicals, and programs.
- Experience with technical aspects of in-person, online and hybrid worship services. For example, knowledge and experience with A/V systems, video editing and live streaming, etc. is a plus.
- Knowledge of the arts and willingness to include them in creating a transformational worship experience.

Hours and compensation are negotiable based on the candidate's skills and availability.

BROADWAY UCC IS ALSO LOOKING FOR A PART TIME CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

BUCC Church Administrator

Note: Job functions can be delegated to capable, trained Church volunteers; however, work must be supervised and reviewed by Church Administrator

Reporting to: Senior Pastor and/or Board President

Hours: 30 hours per week

Church move:

- Obtain bids from moving companies for move of office, storage and/or church worship operation.
- Work with staff at current location to facilitate move out of current space.
- Facilitate move with moving company(s) for all church possessions to new location or off-site storage.
- Work with staff at new location to facilitate move into new location.
- Maintain lists of inventories at church location and off-site storage

Communications

- Monitor physical mail. Pick up, distribute, respond, post mail. Try to eliminate junk and duplicate mailings.
- Monitor telephone calls to 212-316-5700. Maintain answering machine message, answer calls, retrieve

messages, forward, respond

- Monitor main email account (office@broadwayucc.org). Set up automatic messages, salutations, inbox defaults, etc. Read, forward, respond, send emails. Erase junk mail, spam, etc.
- Maintain database (in Breeze) for attendance, contact information and relationship categories adding and updating contacts. Train on new features of software if useful. Educate active members to use of church database.
- Maintain church calendar for program, events, meetings, etc. using website (and/or Breeze software).
- Act as church's liaison with website developer to maintain church's website content.
- Create and send weekly newsletter, church service reminder and other promotional notices.
- Upload services and/or sermons to Soundcloud, Facebook, You Tube, website.
- Invite people to events through social media, MailChimp, etc. using advertising funds to promote events.
- Coordinate volunteers for events or worship (using Signup.com, for example) for planning/reminders; emailing and calling.

- Send Board of Stewards' minutes to congregation members via Mailchimp

Program Coordination

- Facilitate/Support Nurture Committee or Mission Committee events, (adult ed classes, theatre outings, Thanksgiving and Easter dinners, mission programs, for example) by ordering books, food/drink/paper products/utensils, tickets, organize set up and clean up, etc.
- Facilitate use of volunteers for church programming
- Facilitate setup/cleanup for mid-week or special worship – chairs, altar, bulletin printing
- Reserve building space for services and meetings

FOR A FULL JOB DESCRIPTION
CONTACT michael@broadwayucc.org .

**YOUR YEAR END
DONATION IS TAX
DEDUCTIBLE**

#METROSTRONG: Our Association is following Christ, empowering our churches to change the world.

We are committed to be communities of justice and extravagant hospitality that are transformed by God's love.



The Metro Board extends a heartfelt and joyful Christmas blessing to all of our members and congregations! Be blessed, be a blessing and stay safe and healthy!

In October 2020, the Board President and Executive Director conducted a listening tour with the stakeholders of this Association soliciting ideas on how to improve the workings of the Association. Many of these ideas have been implemented and are under continual consideration.

Thanks to all of you who continue to provide us with ideas on how to strengthen our Association!

If you want to volunteer for Metro Association, there is a project with your name on it! Please contact our Executive Director.

We are starting the process of reviewing the BY-LAWS for revision and presentation to the delegates in the Spring,

We are preparing to offer a UCC Polity class for lay leaders and clergy this winter.

If you have an innovative idea for us, please reach out to our Executive Director, Rev. Kris Watson, and share it!

Email her at eadmin@metrouccnyc.org



SOW A SEED INTO THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION TODAY.

