



# Hope, Gratitude and *Solidarity*



**TIME IS RUNNING OUT—TAKE ADVANTAGE NOW**  
Special incentive available till Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE to our CONGREGATIONS

Congregations and their members have an incredible opportunity to help the environment and local green innovation economy while also producing much-needed income, by participating in DCIC's partnership with

Nexamp Community Solar.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#).



**nexamp**

## CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



**October 18, 2020**

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world. Ending Hunger One Step at a Time is the official motto of the CROP Hunger Walks, community wide walk events organized by religious groups, schools and others across the nation to support Church World Service, a faith based organization that helps communities across the globe deal with hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised are returned to the local communities that host walks.

Since 1975, DCIC has participated in the CROP Hunger Walk, walking six miles throughout the city of Poughkeepsie. This year, the CROP Walk will be held virtually. Teams and individuals who walk can get creative about how to raise money. People can walk miles around their block or find a local trail. Virtual walks can be a car parade or donation drives that don't include walking. Even though the walks may be virtual, the need is REAL.

To walker or to donate, please visit:  
<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/poughkeepsieny/>  
or contact Taylor W. Holbrook, Chairman at [taylor.w.holbrook@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.w.holbrook@gmail.com).

## Get to Know Your Board

**HIGHLIGHTING: Susan Karnes Hecht**

Susan Karnes Hecht is the President of Vassar Temple, which was founded in 1848 and is the oldest Reform congregation in the Hudson Valley as well as a charter member of the DCIC. Susan is proud of Vassar Temple's active participation in the interfaith community, particularly cooperative efforts on refugee resettlement and supporting Lunch Box at Dutchess Outreach. She believes that interfaith relationships are crucial in addressing the significant problems that we face and that local efforts are where this starts.

Susan is especially focused on environmental work. She believes that faith leaders, as trusted messengers, must serve as role models to push forward on climate justice. She serves as Climate Smart Task Force Chair for the Town of Poughkeepsie, where she is also a member of the Conservation Advisory Commission. She is a founding member of Citizens' Climate Lobby's chapter in NY's 18th Congressional District and works with this non-partisan organization on federal carbon pricing legislation. She is the driving force behind the establishment of the DCIC-Nexamp Community Solar partnership.

Susan recently retired as Clinical Coordinator at the Mid-Hudson Regional Early Education Center. She and her husband, David, are parents of a music teacher and a chemist. In her spare time, Susan studies cello and is an avid gardener currently engaged in turning her home property into a pollinator haven.



- SONG -

## “I Don't Do Much Travelin' Anymore”

DCIC loyal supporter Pat Lamanna who is  
also our Fair Trade Bazaar organizer  
and a member of the  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

[CLICK HERE](#)

### REQUEST FOR HELP -

*Please respond to St. Thomas Episcopal  
if able to help.*

**845-373-9161**

[AJ@StThomasAmenia.com](mailto:AJ@StThomasAmenia.com)

“Good morning!

I'm AJ Stack, the new-ish priest at St. Thomas  
Episcopal in  
Amenia. I arrived just before the pandemic...

I'm writing to see if perhaps the network of faith  
communities through DCIC might be able to help  
out a ministry here in our part of the county.

The Food of Life/Comida de Vida food pantry at  
St. Thomas has grown exponentially since  
March and we're making twice monthly trips to  
Highland with a 15-ft U-Haul truck to pick up  
about 5,000 pounds of food. Since the pick-up  
site is an hour's drive from us, it's becoming diffi-  
cult to find the volunteers we need to help load  
the food onto the truck in Highland. With enough  
volunteers (3-6, usually), we can typically load  
everything in 10-15 minutes.

\*\*\*\*Might you be able to connect me with some  
nearby faith communities who may have mem-  
bers who'd be willing to volunteer twice a month  
to help load?\*\*\*\*

Highland is in Ulster County, but the park-and-  
ride where we pick up our food is VERY easy to  
access from Poughkeepsie.

Many blessings!  
Rev. AJ Stack”

## Let Us Pray Together...

*I offer this prayer for us all at the time of the Jewish New  
Year, Rosh Hashanah, and the Jewish Day of Atonement,  
Yom Kippur.*

On Rosh HaShanah it is written, on Yom Kippur it is sealed:

That this year people will live and die,  
some more gently than others  
and nothing lives forever.

But amidst overwhelming forces  
of nature and humankind,  
we still write our own Book of Life,  
and our actions are the words in it,  
and the stages of our lives are the chapters,  
and nothing goes unrecorded, ever.

Every deed counts.

Everything you do matters.

And we never know what act or word  
will leave an impression or tip the scale.

So, if not now, then when?

For the things we can change, there is t'shuvah, realignment,

For the things we cannot change, there is t'filah, prayer,

For the help we can give, there is tzedakah, justice.

Together, let us write a beautiful Book of Life

for the Holy One to read.

- Rabbi Joseph Meszler

**OCTOBER 20, 2020 7:15 p.m.**

Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area &  
Dutchess County Interfaith Council Story Circle

*Jointly Present*

**Ebb and Flow: Stories of Hope  
& Perseverance**

For more information or to register and receive a  
Zoom link to join our circle email [ifsc@withourvoice.org](mailto:ifsc@withourvoice.org)

For more information [CLICK HERE.](#)



**DCIC's "OPG"**  
**(Oil Purchase Group)**

Petro in cooperation with the DCIC offers a great  
deal on heating oil to Dutchess County houses of  
worship and 501 C-3 non-profit organizations  
during the heating season.

The pricing structure for the 2020-2021 heating  
season starts September 1, 2020 and expires  
August 31, 2021.

If interested in more information, [CLICK HERE.](#)

## The CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS commemorates the 200th Anniversary of the First Vision of the Prophet Joseph Smith

Starting last week and continuing for the next six weeks, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be making individual donations to 200 non-profit food pantries that provide food to those in need across New York — one for each year since the First Vision took place in upper-state New York in the spring of 1820. Over 1,620,000 pounds of food filling 36 tractor trailers will be delivered to the 200 food pantries across the state. Local recipients include Saint Andrews and St. Luke's Food Pantry in Beacon, Fishkill Food Pantry, Pawling Resource Center, Beulah Baptist Church Soup Kitchen and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie.

The motivation for this initiative is to commemorate one of the seminal events of the Restoration by giving back in a small way to those in New York. We are grateful for the climate of religious freedom in New York that allowed the Church to be established. It is hoped that these donations will raise awareness of the good that local food pantries do throughout the state and highlight the great need that these pantries have for continued donations. In addition, it is also hoped that this initiative will highlight the meaningful impact for good that people of all different faiths and backgrounds can have when they work together.

To learn more go to Facebook: [#200in2020NY](#)

### **DUTCHESS RESPONDS FOOD CONNECTION**

Dutchess Responds Food Connection provides assistance to Dutchess County families in need of food or other critical necessities. To sign up for the program [CLICK HERE](#), fill out the online form or call 845-486-3555 and select Option 5.

### **THE ROLLING GROCER**

The Rolling Grocer provides groceries to families in need using an income-based tiered pricing system. To learn more [CLICK HERE](#).

**The Dutchess County Interfaith Council is excited to welcome JOHN McKENNA as our new Executive Director**

Recently, we conducted a virtual interview with John and asked him a few questions. Here is what he had to say....



[CLICK HERE for more.](#)

## TRUTH & PARABLE

Why are stories so powerful? This question has been addressed in a famous story told by Jacob Kranz, the Maggid of Dubno, an 18th century rabbi in Eastern Europe. Here is a poem based on his thought.

### Naked Truth and Parable

Naked Truth walked down the street one day.  
People turned their eyes away.

Parable arrived, draped in decoration.  
People greeted Parable with celebration.

Naked Truth sat alone, sad and unattired,  
“Why are you so miserable?” Parable inquired.

Naked Truth replied, “I’m not welcome anymore.  
No one wants to see me. They chase me from their door.”

“It is hard to look at Naked Truth,” Parable explained.  
“Let me dress you up a bit. Your welcome will be gained.”

Parable dressed Naked Truth in story’s fine attire,  
with metaphor, poignant prose, and plots to inspire.

With laughter and tears and adventure to unveil,  
together they went forth to spin a tale.

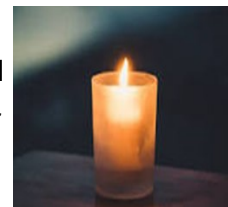
People opened their doors and served them their best.  
Naked Truth dressed in story was a welcome guest.

-- A Jewish tale retold as a poem by Heather Forest  
<http://storyarts.org/lists/index.html>

### **In memory of all those who have lost their lives due to Covid-19 . . .**

The number of confirmed deaths due to Covid-19 has surpassed 100,000. Those who have died were mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, beloved members of their community. In remembrance of those in our communities who have passed away from the virus, Dutchess Interfaith Council has established a “In Memoriam” page on our web site listing the names, ages, and a one sentence tribute of those who have died. [Dutchesscountyinterfaith.org](http://Dutchesscountyinterfaith.org)

[CLICK HERE](#) to leave the name, age and a one sentence tribute to be added to our websites “In Memoriam” page.



DUTCHESS COUNTY  
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Visit our web site at [www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org](http://www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org)



Be sure to find us and  
Like us on Facebook!