

***Nominee for Deacon (Continued) —Class of 2025***

**Jim Kuhlman**

After joining TPC in 1987, Jim and his wife Julie were married here in December of 1988. They raised two children, Scottie and Shelby, within the church, sliding down the waterslide at BeeTree, glowing over their turns as Joseph and Mary on Christmas Eves and beaming with pride as they were confirmed. In the wake of Julie's passing in 2013, their family has begun to grow again as Scottie and Bekah were married in 2020 and Shelby and Kent are about to be married this June. In addition, Jim will become a grandfather in July, thanks to Scottie and Bekah.



Jim has enjoyed being a Deacon three times before at TPC as well as an Elder and has found a deep family of friends within the church. He has learned to pray here. Territorial as ever, he can be found most Sundays in the same worn pew, respectfully lip synching each hymn.

Jim taught Art for 42 years in Baltimore County as well as at Johns Hopkins University Graduate School and managed swim clubs for 24 summers. He remains in Fallston and currently enjoys painting watercolors of Bermuda, travelling back up to NYC as often as he can, reading, swimming and thinking. In a few weeks, I suspect that there will be another interest as well...



**Judith Rietz**

Judith and her family joined TPC in 1987 after moving here from Steubenville, Ohio, and has been active in TPC ministries ever since. She has served as an elder on Session, a member of the Christian Education Committee, and as a representative to the Board of the Towson Presbyterian Preschool. She has also enjoyed mentoring confirmation students, serving as Co-Chair of the Strawberry Festival for nine years, teaching a Senior High class, participating in the Community Lunch program, and helping out with Coffee Hour.

In 2014, Judith retired after 48 years of teaching in primarily first grade classrooms in Pittsburgh, PA, Toronto, OH, and Baltimore County, MD.

She is the proud mother and grandmother of her daughter, Rachael, and her three sons, Austin, Nicholas, and Hayden John. Spring and summer vacations to Sanibel Island and Chautauqua, NY are a part of her family's many travel adventures.

**Susan Shockley**

Susan joined TPC in 1992, and has served two previous terms as deacon. She is a member of Circle 13, Mary, Martha, and Me, Student Support Network, CORE, and loves being a part of small group book studies.

Pre-Covid, she was a member of a Sunday Community Lunch team, and during the time TPC was closed due to the Covid lockdown, began taking Graul's donations previously used for SCL, to ACTC, which are delivered each Sun after church. She heads up the coffee hour fellowship. She also co-hosted the TPC Inaugural Baking Event along with Ro Nicolosi.

In her free time, Susan enjoys getting together with friends, baking, and spending time with her cat, Annie.



**2022 CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Dotsie Bregel	Ann Miller
Joseph Clark	Carol Openhym (Chair)
Phyllis Grey	Amanda Palmer
Andrew Kays	Melanie Ponsi
Kevin McKenna	Rob Carter <i>ex officio</i>



**Nominees to the Session & Board of Deacons**

The 2022 Congregational Nominating Committee of the Towson Presbyterian Church excitedly nominates the following slate of faithful leaders to serve on our church's Session (the governing board of the church) and Board of Deacons (the member-care board of the church).

***Nominees for Elder—Class of 2025***

**Joseph Clark**

Joseph Clark is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Towson University. At TU, he teaches and researches within the areas of international relations and security studies.

Originally from Fayetteville, Arkansas, Joseph lives in the Lutherville-Timonium area with his wife Nicole. They have three children: Isabella (20), a rising senior at TU; David (15), a rising sophomore at Dulaney High School; and, Will (9) a soon to be fourth grader at Pinewood Elementary School.

Joseph was drawn to TPC by the inclusive and compassionate spirit evident the first time he attended a service—Ash Wednesday 2018. He joined TPC in 2019. He appreciates (and is immensely thankful for) the church's curious, thought provoking, and at times challenging, approach to our faith—and its amazing, diverse, and supportive congregation. As a member of TPC he has had the joy of serving on the Board of Deacons and assisting Joel and Jenness with the youth. In his spare time, Joseph enjoys reading, hiking, photography, and watching the Orioles (because a little suffering is supposedly good for the soul).



**Jessica Krueger**

Jessica Krueger has been a TPC member for the past 8 years. She has enjoyed serving as a Middle School Youth Group leader, on the Earth Corps Committee, Property Committee, and lead the way for TPC to receive a stormwater design grant for several rain gardens in the parking lot and courtyard through the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Professionally, Jessica is a civil and stormwater design project engineer, and enjoys making a positive impact in the environment. Jessica is a proud Virginia Tech Hokie and Johns Hopkins Blue Jay!

Jessica enjoys spending time with her husband, Derek, two kids, Oliver and Alice, and Australian shepherd, Kayda. She enjoys running, hiking, traveling, and reading.

*Nominees for Elder (Continued)—Class of 2025*

**Patty Rath**

Patty joined TPC in 2014, and has been blessing the community ever since. She joined the Adult Spiritual Formation at its inception five years ago, and has chaired the committee for the past three years. A member of the Session class of 2022, Patty is nominated for a consecutive term.

Now retired from serving at St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute as the Director of Recruitment & Advancement, she spends as much time as possible with her daughters and their families, which include four grandchildren. She also enjoys reading, gardening, travel, and participation in the TPC community of faith.



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***Nominees for Deacon—Class of 2025***



**Ross Bregel**

Ross and his wife Dotsie joined TPC in 1984, and have been actively serving the community of faith ever since. They have three adult children, Matt (girlfriend Heather), Jessica, and Jon (wife Chenlin) and a 3 year old grandson Paxton.

Ross has served TPC as an elder on Session, and has served on the Board of Deacons for quite a few terms. He's also served as a youth advisor, a member of a Sunday Community Lunch team, and a member of the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee.

Recently and happily retired after nearly 40 years as a primary care Optometrist in Federal Hill, Ross occupies much of his new found "free time" helping Dots in joyfully caring for Paxton while Jess works. The activity replaces a decaying tennis game and the Y assists in keeping the heart beating. Otherwise, some volunteer work, family time and travel, and their beloved church and church family fills his time and his heart.

**Kristie Burkett**

Kristie has been a member of TPC for 13 years, and feels blessed to be a part of this church family! Over the years, she has been involved with children's ministries as a Sunday school teacher and youth ministries as an advisor. She has also served as a Sunday Community Lunch team member, a small group leader, and has also previously served as a deacon. She is looking forward to serving our TPC community as a new member of the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee and again as a Deacon.

She is currently exploring a new career path that aligns with her love of teaching. Her favorite moments are spent with her family—husband Tim (who serves on Session), daughters Paige and Julie, and son Max. She enjoys long walks with their dog, Clover, reading and cooking (well, eating really). And she has recently taken up knitting, with hopes to graduate to the Prayer Shawl group sometime in the future!



*Nominee for Deacon (Continued) —Class of 2025*



**Rob Culp**

Rob and his wife, Kris, are the proud parents of Wes (23) and Evie (21). The family came to TPC in fall of 2008.

During the week, Rob serves as Partner Executive at SUSE, an open source software company. When he's not at work, Rob enjoys most anything outdoors, from climbing mountains to trail running to hiking with their dog at the BeeTree Preserve.

Rob is pleased to serve as a Deacon for a second term.

**Karen Drake**

Karen has been a TPC member for over 25 years, serving a variety of ministries including as a Deacon, church school teacher, a member of Pastoral Search committees, a strategic planning committee, and the Personnel Committee. She also has served at coffee hour and helped with Sunday Community Lunch.

Karen grew up in the Columbus area and attended Muskingum College, a Presbyterian College, earning a degree in Spanish and International Affairs. Early in her career, she worked at the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C.. After moving to Baltimore, she earned a Master's in Human Resource Management at University of Baltimore and subsequently led the HR team for over 20 years. Most of Karen's living family lives in Ohio and her son, Andrew, who was born in Baltimore, predeceased her.

Karen is semi-retired, but still serves as an HR Consultant and Coach. On a personal level, Karen enjoys meeting new people and seeking new adventures. She is a continuous learner, loves to travel and read and enjoys walks in the woods.



**Pat Keller**

A member of TPC since 1981, this will be Pat's fourth term on the Board of Deacons, which she has also previously led as Co-Moderator and Moderator. In addition to her commitment to deacon ministries, Pat serves across a wide array of ministries at TPC. She currently serves as TPC's Treasurer, a member of the Worship, Music, & Arts Committee, a facilitator of Mary, Martha, and Me, and has recently joined the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee.

Retired in 2011 after 25 years with the Baltimore County Public Schools, Pat also volunteers with Gilchrist Hospice Care, baking cookies. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her prized possessions: Brian, Dana, Camden, Bodie, and the fur Grandbabies Cruz & Iggy Rose.

**Julie Kreif**

Julie Kreif is a newer (returning) member of TPC, and has been a Presbyterian her whole life. She was a member when she first moved to Baltimore in 1987 and found her way back! She has served as a Deacon at prior churches. You may have seen her on one of the small group hikes, in the intergenerational garden, cleaning a stream, or ringing bells. She has been a longtime volunteer with Camp BeeTree, doing the post-camp Saturday clean-up with her family for years before helping on the weekdays in recent years.

Julie works as a safety officer in the rehab department at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She and her husband Lloyd have 3 young adults (LB, Connor, and Sarah) with everyone currently under one roof!

