**10th Anniversary Celebration**

**Partnership of Zimbabwe and Denver Presbyteries (PZDP)**

**2005 - 2015**

The Partnership with Zimbabwe Presbytery celebrates our tenth year of relationship. The PZDP has focused primarily on developing relationships through travel back and forth between Denver and Zimbabwe. Currently more than 90 percent of our churches have welcomed delegates from Zimbabwe to preach, participate in worship or lead classes. In addition people from eighteen different churches have been delegates to Zimbabwe from Denver Presbytery. The travel began in 2004 with the arrival of Max Chigwida, Wilbert Sayimani and, a young minister, named Paul Neshangwe. The first delegation from Denver included Jean Demmler, Julia Henderson, Janet Schlenker, Russ Kane and Tom Sheffield. Since that time we have developed two new mission partnerships (the Zimbabwe Mission Partnership predates the presbytery to presbytery partnership) and a task force related to the Presbytery of Zimbabwe. With Paul’s coming and his intensive work on the partnership, we also began a program of short-term service, whereby ministers of Denver Presbytery are enabled to serve in Zimbabwe for a month and a mentoring program that pairs a retired Denver minister with a student preparing for ministry in Zimbabwe and encourages email exchanges and support.

In celebration of the ten year anniversary of the partnership, PZDP is offering a variety of ways to worship together, have fun together, and learn more about Zimbabwe.

We will kick off our celebration at the August Assembly on **August 8th** as we celebrate all that has been accomplished during the ten years of partnership. Meet the Long Leave couple, The Rev Garikai and Gladys Mufanebadza.

On **August 30th,** break out your sunscreen, your favorite summer recipe, and any photos or memories you would like to share about Zimbabwe or the partnership. We will have a picnic at Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church at 1:30 p.m. This will be a time of sharing memories, photographs, and remembering the many visits, delegations, long leave couples, our time with the Neshangwes, and of course, a time to break bread together. All who have a heart for Zimbabwe are welcome to attend. We do ask that you bring an entrée, side dish or dessert and RSVP through our website at <http://denpres.org/events/2015/8/30/pzdp-10th-anniversary-picnic> .

**Saturday, September 19th** will be a field trip to the Chapungu Sculpture Park in Loveland, where we will see an exhibit comprising of 80 pieces and covering 8 sections which include Nature and the Environment, The Family, Custom and Legend, Village Life, The Role of Women, The Spirit World, The Role of the Elders, and Social Comment. The pieces vary in size from 4 feet to 11 feet and weigh 500 pounds to 3 tons. Following the sculpture park we will have lunch at a restaurant in Loveland. Carpooling will be available and will leave the Presbytery Center at 8:30 a.m. and Good Shepherd Presbyterian at 9:00 a.m. Please R.S.V.P. for this event to Rev. Kim Graber at (303) 921-4292 or kimjgraber@gmail.com so we will have a number for lunch and so we know who would like to carpool.

**September 29th** we will have a Presbytery wide book study led by The Reverend Russ Kane. We will be reading *Zenzele: A Letter For My Daughter* by Nozipo Maraire.

*Maraire evokes the moving story of a mother reaching out to her daughter, a student at Harvard, to share the lessons life has taught her and bring the two closer than ever before. Interweaving history and memories, disappointments and dreams, Zenzele tells the tales of Zimbabwe's struggle for independence and the men and women who shaped it: Zenzele's father, an outspoken activist lawyer; her aunt, a schoolteacher by day and secret guerrilla fighter by night; and her cousin, a maid and a spy.*

This event promises to provide insight and deeper understanding into the life and culture of our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe. In so doing, we would expect to see our own lives, culture and faith in a fresh light, too.

The book study will be held at Central Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29th.

On **October 17th** we will have the opportunity to learn more about the country of Zimbabwe as we view two very different films:

*Zimbabwe: State of Denial;* Thirty years after becoming a nation, and 30 years after Robert Mugabe and ZANU PF came to power, Zimbabwe does not appear to have fulfilled the hopes that so many had at independence. Both ZANU PF and the MDC appear to be in a state of denial about the true condition of Zimbabwe at 30, and this cannot be the best way for the country to start its fourth decade as a nation. A country which was meant to have buried the racism of [white minority](http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/apartheid-did-not-die/) rule has once again become a place where some Zimbabweans are more equal than others. A land which once exported billions in agricultural products will, it seems, spend another year reliant on [food aid](http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/land-rush/).

*Music by Prudence* tells a self-empowering story of one young woman's struggle who (together with her band) overcomes seemingly insurmountable odds and in her own voice conveys to the world that disability does not mean inability. In addition to its sheer emotional punch, Music by Prudence has become the cornerstone of an advocacy campaign and has been embraced by the UN, Human Rights Watch and by the disability community as an unprecedented portrayal advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities.

The film festival will be held at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Popcorn will be included!!

The celebration will culminate at our assembly on **October 27th** with a worship service which will encourage us to look toward the future of the partnership. Our delegates from Zimbabwe will be here for this assembly.

In honor of the ten year anniversary of the partnership, the three Zimbabwe related mission partnerships: The Connecting Mission Partnership, The Zimbabwe Mission Partnership, and The Lomagundi Clinic Mission Partnership, have been working together to raise money for a well to be built in Zimbabwe at a location determined by the Presbytery of Zimbabwe. With the help of Mission Coworker, Doug Tilton, it is looking very hopeful that the well will become a reality. It looks as though Kadoma, in central Zimbabwe will be the location for the well. Not only will this be a joint project among the three mission partnerships, it is also a joint project between the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa (of which the Presbytery of Zimbabwe is a member), and the PCUSA World Mission because there is a CCAP church and a UPCSA church close together in Kadoma.