

# Eastertide 2022

Volume 13, Issue 2

View more photos from church events via our website: [upcbgm.org/programs-and-events/photo-gallery](http://upcbgm.org/programs-and-events/photo-gallery)  
Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [upcbgm.org/youtube](http://upcbgm.org/youtube)

## Worship Series: The Prayer That Jesus Taught Us

April 24 – May 29

The prayer that Jesus taught the disciples appears in only two of the gospels, yet it is one of the most widely used and influential parts of the Western Christian tradition. We still pray the prayer the way that our ancestors learned it in the 17th century, finding comfort in the beauty and poetry of Stuart England and Scotland. Because the King James translation used language and cultural concepts that are not part of everyday life and culture in the 21st century, it is useful to pause every now and then and think about its meaning, both when Jesus taught it and in our lives today.

This series looks at the prayer that Jesus taught in depth, phrase by phrase, and invites us into a deeper relationship with the prayer and how we can deepen our relationship with God and with God's calling when we pray. We will also look at a variety of translations, paraphrases and versions of the prayer, exploring how changing the language changes its impact on us.

During this series, you are encouraged to pray using the prayer Jesus taught three times every day, in the version we use in worship for the week. In the early church, the custom was to pray upon rising, at 3:00 in the afternoon, and at the end of the day. You may prefer to pray at mealtimes, or to choose other times.

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Our mission is to follow Jesus Christ by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.

*Everyone is welcome here*



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON



**April 24, "Teach Us to Pray" — Scripture:** Luke 11:1–4; Matthew 6:7–15

**Lord's Prayer version:** from the New Zealand Prayer Book ([upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/nz](http://upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/nz))

This first week, we looked at the two stories that describe Jesus teaching a prayer to his disciples. In Matthew, it is part of the great Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus lays out his vision for building the reign of God. In Luke, the disciples go to Jesus and ask him to teach them a prayer "as John taught his disciples". We'll talk about the similarities with the Kaddish, which was written about that time, and look at the first words of the prayer as we learned it: "Our Father, who art in heaven."

**May 1, "Keeping It Holy" — Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10–20

**Lord's Prayer version:** ecumenical, based on Common English Bible ([upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/ceb](http://upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/ceb))

What is holiness? Why do we pray that God's name will be made or kept holy? This second part of the prayer focuses our attention on the ways in which we understand God as complete and all-encompassing, as well as on the ways we can live and act so that others can see God's amazing goodness. The reading from Ephesians tells us how to prepare ourselves to live in the reign of God in a world that seems far away from the love and mercy that God's holiness shows and brings into creation.

**May 8, "Thy Kingdom Come" — Scripture:** Micah 4:1–5; Luke 17:20–21

**Lord's Prayer version:** The disciples' prayer (enfleshed paraphrase) ([upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/disciples](http://upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/disciples))

In this short text from Luke, Jesus tells us that God's reign is already among us. We have everything we need to build a new world, if only we have the eyes to see and the heart for the work. And in the beautiful vision that Micah describes, "they shall all sit under their own vines and fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid". Can we imagine a world where no one is afraid? Can we find the courage to pray for it to come into being?

**May 15, "What We Need for Today: Bread and Forgiveness" — Scripture:** Matthew 5:23–24, 43–48

**Lord's Prayer version:** paraphrased by the Lake Street Kids, Evanston, IL ([upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/lakestreet](http://upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/lakestreet))

It may seem strange to put these two petitions together, so that we are asking "give us the food we need for today and forgive us as we forgive others". But they are linked together in the gospels consistently, especially in John's gospel, where it seems that God's grace is the bread of life. The human temptation is to require people to earn forgiveness, bread and healing, and Jesus turns this around, offering people what they need so that they become empowered to build a new world.

**May 22, "Testing Times and Outright Evil" — Scripture:** Proverbs 30:7–9; Luke 12:13–31

**Lord's Prayer version:** paraphrased by Open Door Community, Atlanta ([upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/opendoor](http://upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/opendoor))

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil... the strangest of the petitions, and the most confusing in King James English. What do we mean by temptation? What is evil, and how do we know it? We humans find ourselves tempted by our strengths and our desire for perfection, but we imagine that we only do harm when we are weak. Asking God to save us from being tested is another way to pray that we will trust enough to follow where God leads, and not try to improve on "doing justly, loving kindness, and walking humbly."

**May 29, "Kingdom, Power, Glory" — Scripture:** Ephesians 1:15–23; John 17:20–26

**Lord's Prayer version:** Mother's Prayer by Rebecca Solnit ([upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/mothers](http://upcbgm.org/lordsprayer/mothers))

These final words of the prayer as we have learned it do not appear in the gospels. The "power and glory" appeared in the second century; the "kingdom" first appeared in the divine liturgy of St John Chrysostom, in the fifth century, and by the ninth century the closing of the prayer had reached its final form. On Ascension Sunday, we will be considering what it means to say that our God has "the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever." Is that a supremacist claim, or a challenge to believers about how they set priorities in their lives? Do we find comfort in the formula, and how might we pray differently in a world where there are no absolute monarchs?

## Pastors' Ponderings

### What Shall I Preach This Summer?

Every year about this time, I ask for suggestion for summer preaching. This year, I got some actual suggestions back! I haven't closed the ballot box yet, but here are some of the suggestions I have received so far:

One of my favorite stories in the Bible and a great book that could go along with it...Jesus as A Shepherd...Psalm 23. The book is *The Shepherd Trilogy* by Phillip Keller, one of my very favorite books...as well as topics.



*Kimberly P Chastain,  
Pastor*

"Queering Jesus" — Who was the beloved disciple, and what about the night that Jesus spent teaching "the mystery of the kingdom of God" to a youth wearing only a linen cloth? I think these are interesting things for thought. I know they could be somewhat controversial to some. Would it matter to Jesus's message if he was gay or trans in his earthly life?

certainty and authenticity in religion

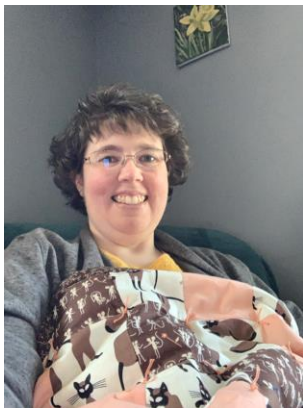
### Caring for Creation

I'd like to hear about the minor prophets or the Apocrypha.

"Why join the church?" Why join organized religion? At a time when people have many options for affiliation, many options for providing service to others, and many options for finding that which brings them meaning, what does the church offer beyond these? At a time when our tribal identities are formed more by our politics, educational levels, and cultures, why identify with a church? At a time when we are looking unblinkingly at the destructive forces of the church in the past (and present), such as sex scandals in the Catholic and Baptist Churches, such as wars fought in the name of religion, such as Sundays being the most segregated day of the week, why should we look past these transgressions and join the church?

What do you think? Let me know if you would "vote" for any of these topics or if there are others on your mind. But be warned... if it is clear that you know more about the topic than I do, I might ask you to preach!

Pastor Kimberly



*Becky Kindig,  
Associate Pastor*

Greetings friends!

Many of you know that I had surgery on March 7 to remove my thymus gland as a way to stop the progression of my Myasthenia Gravis. The surgery went well, and I am so glad that I listened to the surgeon about taking the whole 6 weeks off. It was a minimally invasive procedure through my side, but they had to collapse my lung to get to my thymus gland and my lung was more aggravated by that than I had anticipated. So thankfully, the surgeon knew best, and I just had to give it the time it needed to heal.

**I wanted to say thank you to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, gifts, snacks, and healing vibes you sent my way while I had surgery. I greatly appreciated all the space you gave me to recover and the love that you shared. You all are the best congregation ever!**

The picture is me in my motorized recliner where I rested and recuperated with the quilt the Sewing Group made for me, adorned with cats. It's so fun and beautiful! And behind me on the wall is one of the

paintings from Linda Cook DeVona, who gave them to us in February to be given to people who needed something cheerful, and it definitely helped. Thank you for these gifts.

I also want to thank several people who covered my big church tasks while I was out. Marilyn Guinane and Pastor Kimberly took over creating the weekly Sunday school packets for all of Lent and Easter week. Morgan and Cindy Chadwick took over the Easter Egg hunt and gift bags. And Andy Chadwick took my place for handbells. Thanks also to Sally Hunt and Sara Lieberman who made sure that Scott got birthday cake since there was no way I could bake one 6 days post-surgery. Thank you!

I started back to work the week after Easter and have been easing my way back into things, being careful not to overdo it. While I did have surgery, this does not cure the Myasthenia Gravis, so I will always need to make sure I am not tiring out my muscles which are being attacked by this disease, and I must be careful not to get sick since I am on strong immune-suppressant medication.

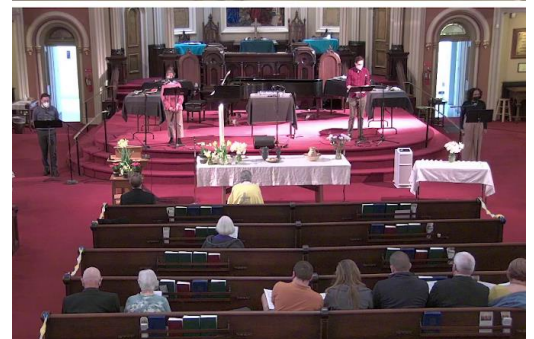
That being said, I am so happy to be back doing the work God has called me to be doing. And it's great seeing those of you who are at church and talking to others of you on the phone, and of course putting together the Sunday school packets that our Young At Heart receive in the mail. I missed you all and am thankful to be back.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Becky

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## Music Notes

Easter this year seemed like a real resurrection for those of us in the music programs. "Love Is Come Again" sung by our section leaders began the service. Sara Lieberman, choir member, offered to resurrect her skills in playing trumpet for the choir piece! (Who knew she even had that skill?) And she did a great job punctuating the John Rutter piece, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Again", conducted by Aimee Backus. For Communion, Aimee Backus and I played flute and piano duo Gaubert's "Madrigal". Congregation hymns accompanied by organ and flute led the traditional Easter hymns! The United Ringers handbell choir, directed by Austin Shadduck, uniquely ended the service with "Festive Celebration". It felt very "normal" but new, and many people, including children, participated, all wearing masks and respecting our health guidelines... but it all felt joyful! AND what has become the new norm, masking and social distancing was respected and observed.



As we adjust to this rhythm of caution, we still feel the beauty of making music. That is the constant. We are all more flexible, more forgiving, more creative and inventive to adjust to fluctuating numbers, masks, and respecting science in our choirs and worship. It is a gift to be together and we hope you all will join in person or on YouTube. Better yet, if you have the desire and time, join a choir! Play an instrument? Volunteers, Margaret Davis (violin) and Lana Ogden (recorder) often

enhance our hymns or choir anthems. Speak to one of us in the music program. We will find a place to include you! Or just come and sing the hymns! We are changed, but we still make music!

Peace,

Rebecca Mebert, Music Coordinator, Accompanist

PS: Farewell to Aaron Whitney, who very generously gave of his time in both bell and voice choirs. Your move to Florida leaves us missing you!! Literally! Stay Well!

## In-person Choir Rehearsals

Our choirs have resumed with in-person rehearsals. All participants must be masked and must present their COVID vaccination cards, which will be scanned and kept on file.

**UPC vocal choir, Wednesdays,  
6:30-7:30pm in the Library Lounge**

Newcomers (fully vaccinated and boosted) are welcome as always!

**United Ringers handbell choir, Sundays,  
11:30am-12:30pm in the Sanctuary**

If you're interested in learning how to play handbells, please inquire. If you can count to 4, you can learn to play!



## Our Church Family

### Join Us for Worship — in person, online, or over the phone

We have returned to the sanctuary for in-person worship on Sundays at 10:00am. The service is livestreamed on our public YouTube Channel [upcbgm.org/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpCBGM), our Zoom room [upcbgm.org/zoom](https://www.zoom.us/j/9123456789), and our website, and is also accessible on YouTube any time. Those who can't access the worship videos online can call in on the phone to listen live on Sunday mornings, using the Zoom information listed below. So if you are not ready or able to come "in person", you are welcome to participate as you are able.



If you're joining us in person, here's what you need to know:

- We wear masks and keep social distance, and the pews are marked to help us sit safely.
- We keep the inside doors open throughout worship, and air filtration units are deployed throughout the sanctuary to enhance your safety.
- Pastor Kimberly removes her mask while preaching and leading prayers, to accommodate those who rely on lip-reading to assist their auditory processing.
- Offering plates are placed by the doors of the sanctuary, but we do not pass them during the offertory. You are still invited and welcome to give online at [upcbgm.org/giving/donate](https://www.upcbgm.org/giving/donate)

Everyone is welcome to join us as we pray, hear God's word read and proclaimed, share our joys and concerns, and experience worshipful music. Our music is presented in person. All of our musicians are masked and fully vaccinated, and the singers at the front of the sanctuary are at least 15 feet away from the first row of pews.

Our worship guide is available for download from our website each week, and it can also be mailed to you if downloading is not an option.

If you have been missing the time of shared prayer, join us at 9:30 before worship – either in the Chapel at church, or on Zoom – for a time of sharing and praying for the needs of our community. To join the Zoom room online, go to <https://upcbgm.org/zoom>. To call in: Dial 1-646-558-8656, then enter Meeting ID: 865 274 8433 #, then press # again, and then enter passcode: 42456 #

It would be good to have you with us.

### Perspectives trip to Israel

Congratulations to Victoria Barics, who was chosen to go on the Perspectives trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories from Hillel of Binghamton University! Victoria, who you see every week as our soprano section leader, will be going with other Binghamton University student leaders of various religious backgrounds on May 24 through June 3.

The Perspectives trip seeks to educate both Jewish and non-Jewish Binghamton University students about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and bring to light the complexities of this conflict through nuanced dialogue, conversation, and in-person experiences. 25 student leaders were chosen, who commit to learning about the complex issues of the area and have meaningful conversations with each other and with the people they meet there, as well as continuing the conversation once they are back on campus in the fall. Victoria is a junior at Binghamton University studying for her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Philosophy, Politics, and Law, so what she learns from this trip will have a significant impact on her future endeavors. Pastor Becky heard about this trip through her work with the Binghamton University Interfaith Council and encouraged Victoria to apply.



Some of the things they might see, learn, or do on the trip are:

- Explore the multi-ethnic, religious, and national diversity of the Old City of Jerusalem.
- Hear multiple narratives from a wide variety of speakers and guests, including religious, secular, Druze, Christian, Jewish-Israeli, Palestinian, and Muslim voices.
- Learn about environmental issues in the Dead Sea Valley.
- Walk the streets of Jaffa, near Tel Aviv, for a Palestinian and Israeli perspective on this old & new city.
- Tour the separation barrier/security wall between Israel and the West Bank.
- Visit the Gazan, Syrian, and Lebanese borders to understand the regional context.
- Hear from Palestinian leaders and locals.
- Enjoy delicious cuisine, hike in the beautiful desert, and build community with a diverse group of fellow Binghamton student leaders.

When the students return, they are asked to give presentations about what they learned. Victoria has already said that she will be happy to talk to us about her experience as well.

Have a wonderful trip, Victoria, and we can't wait to see pictures and hear all about it!

## Marian Palmer has moved!

After a couple of miserable years recovering from a health crisis and then staying in her house during the pandemic, Marian has moved to a Senior Living center in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. The weather is better and she is closer to family there, and she doesn't have to go far to find someone to share a story or a meal with!

She had a small gathering in her home before she left, and Pastor Kimberly stopped in to join the fun. A couple of Marian's closest neighbors came over to bid a fond farewell. Marian's daughter Faith was helping with the moving details, and daughter Kristie zoomed in from Philadelphia!



Marian's furniture & precious things were all moved in & ready for her when she got there, and she's enjoying life and making new friends at Seashore Senior Living. She continues to join us for worship on YouTube, but it's hard to visit in the Zoom coffee hour, so she hopes that her long-time friends will give her a call at her new phone number: **386-689-8255**.

Her new address is in the most recently published church directory, but here it is again if you need it:

699 N. Dixie Freeway, Room 303  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168-6405

## When The Lord Came Riding In...

This year on Palm Sunday, we had a coats-and-linens collection for the "starting over" ministries we support. Luke's telling of Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem does not include palm branches; he tells us that people were laying down their cloaks and garments to make a way for Jesus. So we invited everyone to bring gently-used or nearly-new coats & jackets, bed linens, and towels to "make a way".

On the day that I first wrote the announcement of the special offering, a young woman came into the office with an assortment of donations — she has been helping her grandmother sort out her grandfather's possessions after his death.

She came back during holy week with linens, dress clothing for men, belts, and coats — adding to our offering and expanding the gifts. So we are grateful to Gabrielle Bohn-Blodgett and Mary Bohn as well as to all of the generous folks in our congregation, that their





memorial gifts for James Bohn came at a perfect time to enhance our understanding of the day!

The winter coats have been stored on hangers so that they will be ready for next year. The linens and blankets are in the former Care & Share closet, where the Relocation Assistance Program, Walk With Me, and other ministries have easy access. The lighter-weight coats were hung up in the hallway and most are now keeping others warm. And the

clothing, belts, and shoes are in the Walk With Me closet to assist people returning from incarceration.

Thanks to everyone who contributed generously to “prepare the way of the Lord” by caring for God’s people!

### Easter Sunday

Despite a chilly, windy Easter day, 11 children eagerly joined this year’s Easter egg hunt on the front lawn of the church. It didn’t take long for more than 200 eggs to be spotted and collected. (Perhaps moving quickly helped the participants stay warm!)

The eggs were returned for reuse next year in exchange for goodie bags filled with Easter-themed treats of hacky-sack balls,





activity books, crayons, puzzles, and stickers. We're happy that our egg hunt tradition could take place, as it was a fun time for all involved.

More Easter photos can be found in our Google Photos album:  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VdPA1dz3CskNUMTZ8>

## Surprise Snowstorm on April 19

Many of our folks found themselves without power and looking at changed landscapes when the recent storm dumped about 10 inches of wet, heavy snow around the region. Two of the trees at 42 Chenango Street broke, but fortunately Dave Ruston had brought his chainsaw home for the week, so he was able to cut the fallen parts into pieces for easy clearing.

We'll have to take the rest of this tree down, though, because it's near the electrical wires and it's pretty clear that the core of the tree is rotten!

Thanks for your help, Dave!

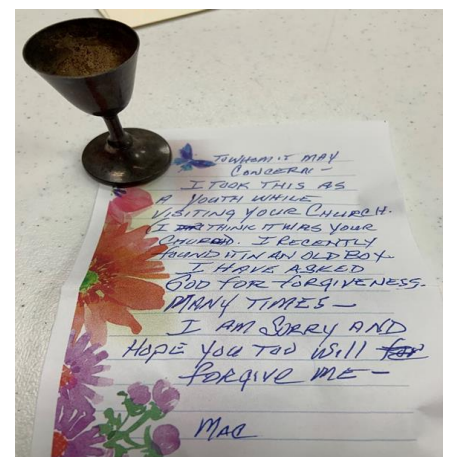


## Mystery solved!

Down in the vault of UPC, there are a whole set of sterling silver communion cups... minus one. We do not use them regularly, because they need to be polished and washed before use, then washed and polished before they are returned to the vault.

But everyone remembers that one was missing! It has been troubling hearts among legacy members of "Old First" for about 50 years.

So it is with joy that I am able to report that the lost communion cup has come home! It arrived in the mail with the note pictured here. Mac did not tell us his full name, or provide a return address, but I hope that wherever he is, he knows that we have forgiven him with our whole heart, and we are grateful to have one mystery solved!



### Our YouTube Channel

Did you know that you can “subscribe” to the UPC YouTube channel? Did you know that it won’t cost anything, and that when we have 100 or more subscribers, we get access to some special “perks” as a content creator?

Here’s how it’s done:

- Open YouTube to one of the United Presbyterian Church recordings, by following this link (<https://youtu.be/nn8ZBeTU0kw>) or searching on YouTube.
- Scroll down under the video until you see:



United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton

There’s a button over here that says “**SUBSCRIBE**”. Click on the button.

That’s it!

### Session Highlights

At recent meetings, Session took the following actions:

- Agreed to continue our policy of wearing masks in worship, but to allow people to be unmasked during our weekday programs and operations. We continue to monitor the Broome County COVID situation and will adjust this policy when it seems appropriate.
- Are working with the Community Meal to ease into indoor dining. This is a work-in-progress and will continue to be evaluated every month.
- UPC is primarily living off endowment income plus occasional principal. Session is trying to determine how best to have congregational conversations regarding the future.
- Committed to study the book *Shelter Theology: The Religious Lives of People Without Homes* by Susan J. Dunlap.

### Supporting Our Mission and Ministry

We are able to receive tax-deductible contributions online through our website ([upcbgm.org/giving/donate](http://upcbgm.org/giving/donate)). Contributions can be made by E-check or credit card, and can also be set up as a recurring gift.

We encourage you to lift up in prayer how God will use you to bless UPC in fulfilling our mission to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

### Get Involved!

Our church teams are always welcoming new team members. If you’d like to help with or learn more about the workings of the church, talk to one of the pastors or the elders on Session: **Card Committee:** Suzie Raboy; **Communications,** Sally Hunt; **Deacons,** Allison Nyamuame; **Finance,** Lou McKeage or Andy Chadwick; **Personnel,** Lou McKeage; **Property,** Bill Sands; **Spiritual Formation,** Lou McKeage or Andy Chadwick; **Worship & Music,** Suzie Raboy or Andy Chadwick.

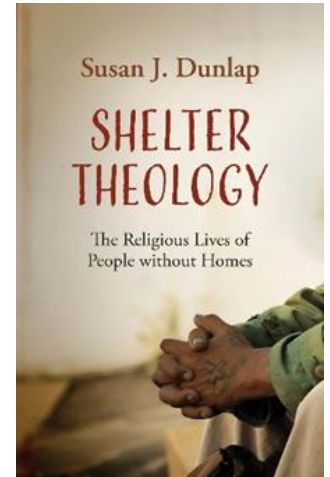
## Programs & Events

### Book Study: Shelter Theology, by Susan J. Dunlap

Several of us met on Monday, May 2, to discuss *Shelter Theology: The Religious Lives of People Without Homes* by Susan J. Dunlap. Rebecca Rathmell, who has worked in housing advocacy and outreach to people without homes for over 15 years, was with us. It was a thought-provoking conversation which we hope to continue with further meetings.

Pastor Kimberly writes: "This short book raised issues for me about the ways in which our worship and prayer practices both shape and reinforce our cultural perceptions of God and other. It also deepened my understanding of the needs and challenges facing those without homes. I hope that we can talk about those issues, and also about how we can become more proactive and engaged in advocacy and outreach in Binghamton as the housing crisis is escalating, especially with the recent evictions in our neighborhood."

Pastor Kimberly is working to arrange another meeting time and date. If you're interested in joining this study group, contact the church office.



### Bible Study Starting Again

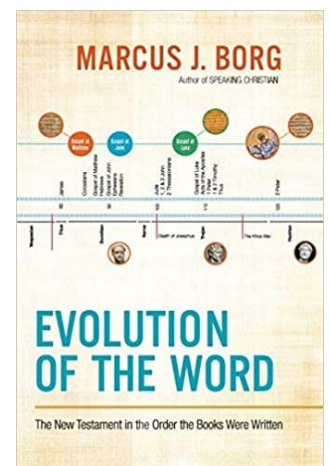
**Mondays starting May 16, 12:30 pm, Chapel or Zoom Room**

*Evolution of the Word: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were Written*, by Marcus Borg

We started reading this book during the pandemic, to learn about how Christianity developed in the early centuries and see how it affects our understanding of the New Testament. We stopped in June of 2021 because we were feeling overwhelmed by life (not by the book).

We are going to start again at the beginning on May 16 at 12:30 pm, and everyone is welcome to join us in person or on Zoom. This seems to be the best time for everyone who has expressed an interest, and it seems to be the best way to make sure that all of us go forward together.

The general format is to read the introductory material for each section, then to read through the biblical texts and talk about what it meant for early Christians and what it might mean for us today. We try to discipline ourselves to keeping the conversation to an hour every week.



Pastor Kimberly will place an order for books next week, so if you need a copy, let her know.

### News from the Kitchen

The Community Meal and Pantry have been very busy in the last 4 months. The number of families served in the pantry increases every month. So far those receiving "food stamps" are still getting extra benefits in the middle of the month for COVID relief. When/if those extra benefits stop, we expect to see a large increase to the use of the pantry. The Tuesday meals seem steady, feeding 75 to 90 individuals with meals numbering 190 to 230 each Tuesday.

In February, we started having our guests come inside and receive their meals selecting cafeteria style. These were still takeout only. Most of the guests liked this improvement as it gets them out of the cold,

rain, or snow while they are waiting to receive their meals. The guests are happy to receive their meal hot. Previously we prepackaged the meals to give out to go and most were cold by the time the guests got them. Some guests feel it takes too long to serve them this way, and they do not want to stand in line.

Session approved that starting April 26, our guests are able to dine inside in the Fellowship Hall. This will allow people to sit and should cut down on the long waits while still getting their meal hot. We will still have takeout available for those that do not want to dine in or those that take extra meals home. Seating at each table will be limited to comply with social distancing. We will be requiring masks for everyone if they are not seated and eating. Meals will still be “cafeteria” style to give our guests a choice and hopefully cut down on food waste. We are in hopes that using real dishes and flatware will cut down on the number of disposables that we have been using.

I had boiled 27 dozen eggs and had them available on Palm Sunday for children of all ages to come to fellowship hall after services and dye them. I had dyes, stickers, markers, and 2 egg spinning machines available for decorating. It was a multi-generational event for the Garcia clan with Ann, daughter Angela, grand-daughters Harley and Jazmine, and great-grandsons Jackson, Khiri, and Tyson!



I also had soup available, and Sara brought cheese and bread. Everyone enjoyed the event so this might become an annual event. I'm not sure who had more fun: the children or the adults!

The children were allowed to take home their favorites and the rest of the eggs were given out at the Tuesday meal and Wednesday pantry. All our guests thought these eggs were a special treat.

The spring snowstorm on April 19 made the Tuesday meal difficult. Laurie and I thought some people would still show up and we had already thawed out 80 pounds of ground meat, so we decided to cook an abbreviated meal to give out. We made sloppy joes, salad, and fruit cups for takeout. Morgan came in to

help and we managed to serve 35 people 114 meals. We gave out the meals in the lobby. Everyone that stopped by was very appreciative to have us there.

### UPC's "Zoom room"

Modern technology is marvelous! Thanks to the Zoom meetings system, we can gather virtually even though we can't be together in person. We've used our "Zoom room" for worship but also for prayer groups, book studies, hymn sings, and social times.

You can join our meetings and worship services online via your computer, tablet, or mobile device by going to [upcbgm.org/zoom](http://upcbgm.org/zoom). If you've never used Zoom before, you'll be prompted to download the Zoom meetings app, which will ask for permission to use your microphone and your camera. We use our "Personal Meeting ID" for worship and most of our programs, so they're always in the same familiar place.

You can also call in over the phone, if you don't have a microphone on your device or you can't join online. To join as a phone call:

- dial 1-646-558-8656
- then enter our Meeting ID: 865 274 8433 #
- press # again, then enter the passcode: 42456 #

If you have questions or need help using Zoom, feel free to call the church office for assistance.

### Sewing Group: Wednesdays, 10am–1pm (with Zoom lunch hour, 12pm–1pm)

The Sewing Group meets every week in the Upper Lounge on the 2nd floor, working to create crib-size or lap quilts, decorative pillows, and walker "carry bags," as well as knitted hats, sweaters, mittens, scarves, and baby items. Anyone interested is encouraged to join them on Wednesday mornings starting at 10am. No special sewing skills are needed for cutting squares, design layout, pinning, tying, setting the table for lunch, or heating water for tea. Sewing machine and hand hemming skills are a plus.

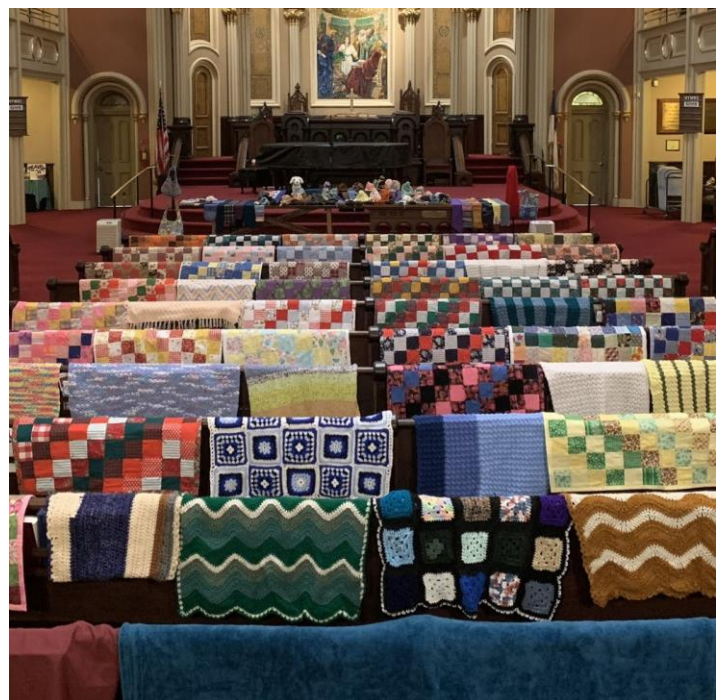
Our donations are given to:

#### Charities including

- Mom's House
- the YWCA
- Rescue Mission
- Birthright
- Meals on Wheels
- Camp Sunshine (for families affected by life-threatening childhood illness)

#### Care facilities including

- Willow Point
- Fairview Good Shepherd
- United Methodist Homes (Elizabeth Church & St. Louise Manor)
- Hilltop
- Bridgewater
- Absolute Care





***Are you unemployed, age 55+,  
and looking for work?***

**Ready to find a new sense of purpose?  
Ready to connect with people again?**

**A4TD can help with paid job training**  
(Remote options available)

- Train for available jobs
- Serve your community at local nonprofits
- Gain updated skills & references
- Connect with employers who have open jobs
- Receive help overcoming barriers to employment

**Apply at: [www.a4td.org](http://www.a4td.org)**

**For more information, call 607-222-2067**

This program is funded by the USDOL. No cost to program participants. Income restrictions apply.

as well as our homebound members, and guests in need who come to our UPC lobby. Any newborns in our congregation receive a quilt gift.

Each Wednesday at noon, those who can't join the Sewing Group in person at the church are invited to "Zoom in" for their lunchtime social hour. Everyone is welcome; bring your lunch and enjoy the company.

## **Zoom Cocktail hour: Friday eve., 5-6pm**

Bring your own beverage, "Zoom in", and join the fun as we catch up on the events of the week and share how we're doing. It's a great way to keep in touch while we it remains complicated to see one another in person.



## **Donate to keep books flowing into the Broome County Jail**

***"Thank you, it is SO good to have books."***

It's amazing what a simple used \$5 novel can do. It is, after all, desperate times in our COVID hotspot jail. Most sections are locked down, meaning women and men often spend 20 hours or more locked in their cages. The jail's mass solitary confinement endangers everyone's health and sanity. Seeking freedom now, persons inside most often ask for books. Science fiction, novels of every description, history books, dictionaries, large print bibles, and Korans. The joy they bring is incalculable:

*"Having crossword books is wonderful... I get to actually engage my brain and think! It is a mindless, sad existence here... thank you again."*

*"You sent me Harry Potter, and I will be forever grateful. Thank you so much. You have no idea how much better life in here is with a good book. I look forward to hearing back. Thanks again!"*

The Book a Month Club, through Justice and Unity in the Southern Tier ([justicest.com](http://justicest.com)), provides one book at \$15.00 or under by request for those incarcerated in the BC Jail. The program takes requests from the JUST visiting/calling crew, letter, or the GettingOut website ([gettingout.com](http://gettingout.com)), and has the books sent, according to jail mandates, directly to the individual at no expense to them. The program has been supported solely by donations.

<https://tinyurl.com/bd6mu99s>

Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier  
JUSTI  
Fighting Mass Incarceration

**-2022 Fundraiser-**  
Donations are tax deductible

THOSE IN THE BROOME COUNTY JAIL HAVE GONE  
ALMOST 2 YEARS WITHOUT IN-PERSON VISITATION

Just \$15 can buy anywhere from  
1-3 books for our loved ones  
inside

You can donate by using JUST's PayPal ([tinyurl.com/bd6mu99s](https://www.tinyurl.com/bd6mu99s)) or Gofundme for Books (via [justicest.com](https://www.justicest.com)), or by check paid to "Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier", JUST, PO Box 93, Bible School Park, NY 13737. Please specify you want your donation to go to books. If you want to request a book for someone inside BC Jail, please write to Victoria Delaney c/o JUST, PO Box 93, Bible School Park, NY 13737.

All donations to the book drive in 2022 are tax-deductible.

## Joys and Concerns

**Expecting a Baby:** Phil & Eleanor, June (boy); Ben & Margie (& Evelyn), August (girl); Jessica & Felix (& Zander), September (boy)

**Gratitude:** Pastor Becky's return in health; Our music ministries; Generosity of Palm Sunday offerings

**Moved to Florida:** Aaron W. & Steve C.; Marion P.

**Grieving – Friends & Family of:** Aliza Spencer, 12-year-old shot in Johnson City; Gary Cook; John Thomas (Maida's brother-in-law); Merritt McCall (Kimberly's uncle); John Niehmer; Joe Perkins; Kathy (Suzie's friend)

**Healing:** Gary, Linda's father, all those who have tested positive for Covid-19, Joyce & Bill (various issues), Chuck, Darlene, Suzan, Tony A. (Barbara's friend, severe stroke), Bob (knee surgery)

## Recent & Upcoming Birthdays

**May**  
 7 Adana Brauer  
 Norma Stehli  
 8 Gary Ayres  
 13 Ellis Nyamuame  
 15 Eugene Favor  
 17 Shawn Landon  
 19 Nate Raboy  
 23 Barbara Geiser  
 28 David Berti  
 30 Char Smith  
 31 Cindy Chadwick

**June**  
 5 Alex Westcott  
 12 Sydney Brauer  
 Jean Hill  
 Sally Hunt  
 Darlene Ward  
 13 Madelyn Parsons  
 14 Taylor Chadwick  
 Jazmine Meade  
 20 Sharon Landon  
 Lou McKeage  
 21 Victoria Barics  
 Marilynn Guinane

22 Eleanor Hough  
 (Westcott)  
 23 Sara Lieberman  
 26 Bill Donohue

**July**  
 9 Ramona Auchinachie  
 11 Evan Kindig  
 19 George Cummings  
 Joyce Donohue  
 21 Doug Jones  
 22 Ann Garcia  
 28 Bobbie Hickling



**Living with Cancer:** Molly, Karen

**Homebound/Managed Care:** Bette A., Gail C., Kristie P., Marian P., Char S., Jim S.

**Migrants and those who minister to them:** Rachmani family, that they may find employment soon; Afghan Humanitarian Parole applicants who have escaped to Pakistan; Stehliks in Tucson working with border ministries

**Other Concerns:** We pray for

- All those affected by the recent storm
- Those living through a divorce
- Mass Shootings around the country
- Ukraine



*Everyone is welcome here*

**UNITED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON**



42 Chenango Street • Binghamton, NY 13901 • [www.upcbgm.org](http://www.upcbgm.org)  
☎ 607-722-4219 • ✉ [office@upcbgm.org](mailto:office@upcbgm.org) • 📘 UPCBinghamton

*Address Service Requested*

## Save the Date

**Sunday, June 26**

On June 26, we will have our annual June congregational meeting and picnic. Details will be forthcoming.

