

Fall 2022

Volume 13, Issue 4

View more photos from church events via our website: upcbgm.org/programs-and-events/photo-gallery

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel: upcbgm.org/youtube

Worship Series: Listen to the Voice of Creation

September 4 – October 2



The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation. It began in 1986 in the Orthodox communion and has since been embraced worldwide by member denominations in the World Council of Churches and Reformed Alliance of Churches. The Season begins September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

This year's theme is "Listen to the Voice of Creation," and we will be joining with churches around the globe to listen to the voice of the waters, the animals, and the cosmos. We will also be reflecting on the biblical stories of Creation, when God's voice speaks to remind us that we are a part of the whole and created to be stewards of its goodness.

The order of worship will be slightly different during the Season of Creation, as we open ourselves to the world beyond our walls. We will use language of praying with the rest of creation, using prayers and reflections from the global church. We will sing a Zulu chorus that means "What have we done?" during each prayer for wholeness and repentance. And we will share the scriptures communally, using a responsive format that will invite you into the telling of the story as you hear it read.

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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



We will have a Wonder Table in the sanctuary, over by the PrayGround, where we will share different symbols of creation and its care. You are invited to visit the Wonder Table to see the weekly offerings and to share your own treasures as you feel led to do so.

One of the features of the Wonder Table is a large map of the world, with colored pencils provided for coloring. You are welcome to color a part of the map before, during, or after worship if you would like to be a part of creating a new thing.



September 4 — *Listen to the Voice of Creation. Psalm 19.*

In this first week, we begin by recognizing our relationship to all things, and to the way in which God's love and God's work can be seen in the whole world. Using liturgical materials from around the world, we will imagine a different relationship to the rest of the created order, including the land on which we live.

September 11 — *Listen to the Voice of the Water. Job 38:1-18.*

Water covers two-thirds of the planet we call home, and the chemical composition of ocean water is strikingly similar to that of human blood. In this passage from Job, God says that the oceans are the waters of birth for all of life, and challenges Job to see the wisdom that undergirds all of the created world. What is our relationship to the watershed we live in, to its rivers and streams, and to the oceans that surround us?

September 18 — *Caring for Creation. Genesis 1: 1-25.* Chris Burger preaching.

Chris and Cindy Burger have spent 50 years living a life dedicated to caring for creation. Chris finds in the first 25 verses of Genesis a powerful affirmation of the goodness of creation, and of God's celebration of that goodness. We are called to hear again that celebration, and to rein in our sense of domination and privilege so that we can participate in restoring original goodness to our world.

September 25 — *Listen to the Voice of the Animals. Numbers 22:21-39.*

What will it take to get our attention? In this story from the book of Numbers, God gives literal speech to a donkey, forcing Balaam to recognize God's protection of a particular people and a particular place. There are echoes of this story in the threatened extinction of many creatures and in our growing recognition of the fragility of life in our world. How can we listen to the voice of the animals, and find our way back to harmony with our fellow creatures?

A part of this service will be a blessing of the animals, and you are invited to send a photo of your animals, past and present, to Scott (media@upcbgm.org) by September 15 if you would like to include them in the slide show during the worship service.

October 2 — *Listen to the Voice of the Cosmos. Psalm 19 & Proverbs 8:22-31.*

On this last Sunday of Creation Season, we return to Psalm 19, and reflect this time on the vastness of creation — the wonders that are being revealed as we develop the ability to see farther and farther into the space beyond our atmosphere. The Proverbs text tells us that Wisdom was the Creator's companion, and reminds us playfulness and delight are a part of the created order. As we celebrate Worldwide Communion Sunday, we join all of creation in delighting in God's wisdom and the marvelous universe of which we are a tiny part.

Pastors' Ponderings



*Kimberly P
Chastain,
Pastor*

This summer, as we reflected on “Seven Marks of Vital Congregations”, we tried out a new technology (QR codes in worship!) and a new form of congregational feedback (quick questionnaires designed to be completed in the worship service). I promised that I would provide a report on the results, so here is a short summary of what I learned. (I sent a one-page summary of each of the questionnaire results to the Session; if you would like to see the individual summaries drop me a note and I’ll send them to you.)



The first thing I learned is that not everyone wants to respond to a questionnaire, even in the context of a worship service. Our worship participation is around 50 each week — 25–30 in person and about the same number online — but the most responses we ever had to the questionnaires was 20 (5 hard copy and 15 online). This is not really a surprise, since I don’t like responding to questionnaires either. But it highlights the need for finding more ways to communicate in the congregation — how we can engage with each other about the things that matter in our church community and in our lives?

In general, respondents feel good about our congregation, its work, its relationships, and its future. We have weathered the chaos of the pandemic years well, and we are generally moving in a direction that is supported by most of the people who responded to the questionnaires. Special mention was made of our worship life and our music program, of the card committee that works to honor all of the special occasions and needs in our community life, and our openness and hospitality.

The things respondents wish we would do more of are: finding better ways to integrate new folks into our community, teaching more about prayer and meditation, and finding stand-alone events that bring people in our community together outside of worship. I’d love to hear more about these wishes, especially since the first and the third seem to speak directly to the communication question — how do we reach out, how do we let people know when something is happening, how do we follow up to be sure that everyone who wants to be included has gotten the word?

An interesting insight that I gained is that a number of respondents feel proud of our congregation and its witness, without feeling particularly engaged in that witness: respondents feel good about the community meal, the food pantry, and the active presence of various leaders in community events, while acknowledging that not many among the congregation participate actively in these things. Respondents feel informed about issues but not confident about participating. Several expressed a desire to be better equipped and trained to engage with people who live in different circumstances than the average congregant. I’d love to know more about what kind of training or equipping would help people feel able to engage?

I also accumulated a list of suggestions that were mentioned, once or more than once, that I hope we will be able to implement in the months and years ahead: more potlucks and picnics, more time and space for meditation and prayer, more sharing of personal stories both in worship and in other gatherings.

One of the things that I, as pastor, hoped is that these tools (questionnaires and reflection questions) would begin a conversation, and invite everyone to share their insights and their energy

in this time of discernment. How shall we move into the future that God is already inviting us to create?

Let me know what you think.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Kimberly

Greetings friends!

I hope everyone has had an exciting or restful summer, whichever way you like it! We have missed those of you who have been away or at home resting from a busy year. I am excited to see you as everyone trickles back to worship during the months of September and October, as that is the pattern here at UPC.

For me, this summer was a little of both. Some of the program year busyness subsided and there was time to think and dream. I was able to attend my daughter's graduation from Cornell and have been greatly enjoying having her



home for a gap year as she applies to veterinary schools to hopefully go next fall. I was also able to go on study leave to Pittsburgh with some dear seminary friends for both learning and fun. But there was still plenty to do here at church to keep me out of trouble.

With the downtime, I was able to join Kimberly in preaching some of the 7 Marks of Vital Congregations series. It was fun to be a part of a series and I really look forward to the discussions that will come out of what we learned together as well as from your feedback from the questionnaires.

This summer I also helped with tabling for the Binghamton University Interfaith Council during the new student orientation weeks. We got to meet a lot of students

and families and be a witness to what interfaith cooperation looked like as we tabled together. And then we also tabled at UFest on August 27th to welcome both new and returning students to campus. The incoming students are very excited to be on campus and to get involved after the last few years of Covid.

The 225th General Assembly for the PCUSA was also this summer. General Assembly is where decisions get made for our denomination. Each Presbytery sends one Pastor and one Elder as commissioners. They do committee work on overtures sent to the Assembly and then are part of the body of the Assembly to vote on those overtures. Each committee had listened, learned, discussed, prayed, and then made recommendations to the body. As the Co-Stated Clerks for our



*Becky Kindig,
Associate Pastor*



Presbytery, Chris Burger and I were resources for our commissioners and attended both the committee meetings and the Assembly online. There was a lot that happened this year since the last General Assembly two years ago was at the beginning of the pandemic so all business from that Assembly was postponed until this one. But it was



good work, and much was accomplished to further the work of Presbyterians to spread God's justice and love to our communities and the world. And our new Co-Moderators were elected at this Assembly. Rev. Shavon Starling-Lewis and Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace began their work moderating the Assembly and will take the next two years to travel across the nation listening to congregations, presbyteries, elders, and pastors to find ways to empower and equip us for the work God is calling us to in this time. If you're interested in an overview of the decisions that came out of GA, contact the church office and we can send it to you.

We are continuing to create Sunday school packets for our Young at Heart. Marilynn Guinane and I worked together this summer to send lessons with coloring pages, scripture, word searches, and a craft or activity to go with the worship theme each week. It has been fun and enriching to think of ways to help families do these lessons together at home. This is one of those outside-of-the-box ideas Covid made us think about that really has been a blessing. More children are able to participate and parents are equipped to have these faith conversations at home. So we are happy to keep these going! But now that Covid is manageable with vaccines and masks, we also want to find times to gather the kids so that they can spend some time together too. It is so important to have community together that we don't want to miss benefits that come from that as well. So we will be thinking of ways to do this in the coming weeks.



I also want to say thank you for all of your prayers, healing thoughts, cards, and well wishes while I had Covid in August. It was a rough week and half, but I am feeling much better! Covid did aggravate my Myasthenia Gravis a bit and I am still experiencing some lingering fatigue, but it is subsiding as I remember to take things a little easier and give myself some grace as you all gave me to stay home and heal. But I do greatly appreciate all your thoughts and prayers that helped me get through. Thank you so much!

Blessings to all of you as we enter the fall!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Becky

Music Notes

Music is an important part of our coming together at United Presbyterian Church. We are excited to make music with every resource that we have, and to use a variety of styles — not all at once, but intermingled. What emerges is a vibrant worship service with music that includes everyone who wishes to participate.

Choir rehearsals will start in mid-September. No previous experience needed. New members are always welcome!

UPC vocal choir (*starts 9/14*): Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30pm in the Music Room (next door to the Chapel)

United Ringers handbell choir (*starts 9/18*): Sundays, 11:30am–12:30pm in the Sanctuary

We also invite instrumentalists and vocalists who'd like to share their gifts to talk with any of our music leaders about providing special music for worship — you can call the church office, email music@upcbgm.org, or speak with them in person after worship. All musicians must be fully vaccinated and boosted.



Our Church Family

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

We worship together on Sundays at 10:00am, both in person in the sanctuary and online. 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.upcbgm.org/zoom), 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 fully vaccinated, and the singers/instrumentalists 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.

Feast of All Saints — Sunday, November 6

We will be celebrating the Feast of All Saints with our traditional Bouquet of Remembrance, but in order to do so we need your help! If someone you love has died in 2021–22, please send their name to Suzie Northrop Raboy at sraboy54@stny.rr.com by October 28 and let her know if you will be able to come to the service on November 6 to place a flower in the bouquet yourself.

If you are not able to be present, we would like to bring you a memorial flower to keep for yourself and also a flower to place in the bouquet. One of the pastors or members of Session will come to your home to visit briefly — outdoors, masked, and distanced. We'll take a photo of you holding both flowers and naming your loved one, and then that will be shown while the flower is placed in the bouquet. You should let us know as soon as possible if you would like to be included in this remembrance so that we can schedule the brief visit.

If there is someone from years past that you would like to remember, please send us the name and (if possible) a photo of the person you are remembering. We will read their names and place a flower in the bouquet for them, and we will have a slide show featuring our “communion of saints” during the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. The Bouquet of Remembrance will be the centerpiece of the table on which the elements are consecrated. If you need sending a photo, please contact the church office (607-722-4219 or office@upcbgm.org) and let us know.



Session Highlights

These are some of the recent activities that the Session reviewed and approved:

- We have begun to allow those who so desire to stand for the singing of hymns during the worship service. As always, everyone is encouraged to “rise in body or spirit”.
- We are in the process of setting up direct payroll deposit.
- Doug Jones preached on “Certainty and Authenticity in Religion” on July 10.
- United Presbyterian Church again participated in the New York Landmark Society’s annual Sacred Sites tour on July 24.

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!

Supporting Our Mission and Ministry

We are able to receive tax-deductible contributions online through our website (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; **Finance,** Lou McKeage or Andy Chadwick; **Personnel,** Lou McKeage; **Worship & Music,** Suzie Raboy or Andy Chadwick.

Programs & Events

LUMA returns to Binghamton UPC!

LUMA Projection Arts Festival was started in 2015, and our congregation has been a sponsor of the Festival since 2017. In 2018, we hosted the first ever indoor event of the festival, “Transfiguracio”, featuring the Binghamton Philharmonic and a team of creators from Barcelona. In 2019, we hosted “Sviatovid,” a 360-degree projected sculpture created by Akira Wakui of the BARTKRESA Studio.

This year, we are hosting a very special performance by Snow Raven (Haar Suor), an indigenous Siberian wisdom-keeper. At 10pm on Friday September 9 and Saturday September 10, Snow Raven will present “NEOshamanism: The Arctic Siberian Sound Journey,” a 30-minute performance of her unique combination of authentic Sakha (Yakut) traditional shamanic sounds deeply rooted in nature, and modern, cutting-edge, electronic musical forms.

Snow Raven is passionately engaged with activism on behalf of the rights and lands of all far northern Indigenous peoples. You can see videos of her work and learn more about her unique gifts at <https://genekeys.com/contributor/snow-raven/>

This will be offered as a first-come, first-served event, but organizers are reserving a few seats for UPC members. You can learn more about the LUMA Festival at <https://lumafestival.com/>



Workshop on International Migrants

Saturday, October 1, 1:00–4:00pm at the Ruston-Patinkas' cabin (425½ Hurd Rd, Harpursville)

Rain date: Saturday, October 8

Currently, international migrants comprise 3.5% of the global population, compared to 2.8% in the year 2000. In 2019, regionally, Europe hosted the largest number of international migrants (82 million), followed by Northern America (59 million) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (49 million). You are all invited to join us for a discussion about migration patterns around the world, how UPC is currently providing assistance to migrants, and what more we might do in the future.

We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of relaxation and contemplation at the Harpursville mountain cabin of Dave Ruston and Greg Patinka. (Dave tells us, "Look for balloons as there is not a house visible at 425½.") Please RSVP at 607-727-6451 so we can plan accordingly.

Observations from the Kitchen

by Sherry Conklin, Community Kitchen Coordinator

The Community Meal and Pantry have been very busy over the summer. The number of guests we are serving for the meal and in the pantry is continuing to rise. More and more people are living on the streets due to evictions and a lack of affordable housing. Binghamton still has developers that are creating more student housing and luxury apartments. The emphasis seems to be on beautification of the area at the expense of the housing-insecure people. The development and beautification of the block around the Mirabito/Rumble Ponies Stadium has displaced another large group of low-income people. Serving this population is overwhelming at times and sometimes seems hopeless. I thought I would share a few stories of gratitude from the guests that we serve.



Volunteers prepare servings of desserts for the Community Meal. We serve an average of 220 meals each week. Around ⅓ of those are served to guests who eat in Fellowship Hall; the rest are take-out meals.

Our pantry works on the honor system, so our guests get to shop and only take what they need. I do have a few restrictions on the number of certain items that they can take. Most people are very appreciative of this system. I have had several women be almost in tears when I tell them they can shop on their own and I don't need to watch. People are so surprised when I tell them I do not need to check their bags when they leave.

We have families come in with children and I try to keep a special treat for them sometimes when they leave. They love getting ice cream or candy or cookies – special things that mom or dad cannot afford to get them. I always ask the parents first. I get lots of smiles and hugs that way.

The Muslim families that come in often do not take our meat offerings, so I keep frozen fish for them and again they appreciate this so much.

One of our guests always brings a gift first. This guest found a pair of shoes and then asked if it was okay to take the shoes and still get peanut butter and jelly.

We have been able to give out a few donated microwaves and toaster ovens to some of our guests that had no way of cooking in their rooms. We also supply dishes, glasses, flatware, and can openers to those that need these items.

We maintain a limited clothing giveaway for anyone. We are always looking for new underwear and socks to give out to the homeless. In the winter months we give out gloves and scarves, most which are knitted by the First Ward Knitting Group.

We have enrolled in a future program from the Food Bank which will supply both baby and adult diapers and will be available soon.

We have a supply of toys that parents may choose from for birthday presents.

I want to give a big “thank you” to the volunteers that keep the program going: Laurie, Ann, Karen, Suzie, Julie, Tomika, Tory, Bob, David, Randy, Tina, James, Cindy, and Andy. Some volunteers are here each week, and some have special days. Suzie has become the main dishwasher. Dishwashing is a 2-person job, so I am always looking for that extra person to help her.

Our pantry is always in need of: T-shirts that can be made into bags, reusable grocery bags, can openers, and hygiene items, especially for women.

Empowering Parents Group

Thursdays, Sept. 22 – Nov. 10, 11:30am–1:00pm at First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City

The Empowering Parents Group is designed for parents, grandparents and other caregivers who provide guidance to children and young adults. It is a peer-supported group funded in part by the United Way of Broome County and the Community Foundation of South Central New York.

What is an Empowered Parent? An empowered parent has value as a caregiver to children of all ages. Empowered parents seek to understand and practice moral and spiritual nurturing. Parents are empowered through a continuously supportive community.

What you can expect: Parents and caregivers of all ages, with or without children, will find a loving, respectful, non-judgmental environment where we will discuss the concepts of:

- Self
- Relationships

- Boundaries
- Communication
- Discipline
- Peacefulness

Practices include group participation, homework, and presentation skill-building.

Reservation is required. The group is limited to eight participants. Enroll early. Contact the Outreach Coordinator in one of the following ways to answer a few short questions. Office Phone: 607-797-0836; Email: amessa2020@gmail.com

Save the Date: "A Season of Hope" with Joe Jencks

Saturday, December 3, 6pm, at First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City

Enjoy the profound voice and acoustic talents of internationally acclaimed musician Joe Jencks in this free concert event. First Pres JC is hosting this concert as a gift to the community and a celebration of their "This Day" project, the name for their weekly community meal on Wednesdays.



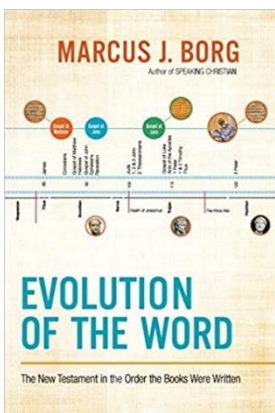
UPC's "Zoom room"

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. 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 #

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



Bible Study

Mondays, 12:30-1:30pm, Chapel or Zoom Room

We're reading from Marcus Borg's *Evolution of the Word: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were Written*, and everyone is welcome to join us in person or on Zoom. Copies of the book are available in the church office.

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.

Zoom Happy 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.



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.

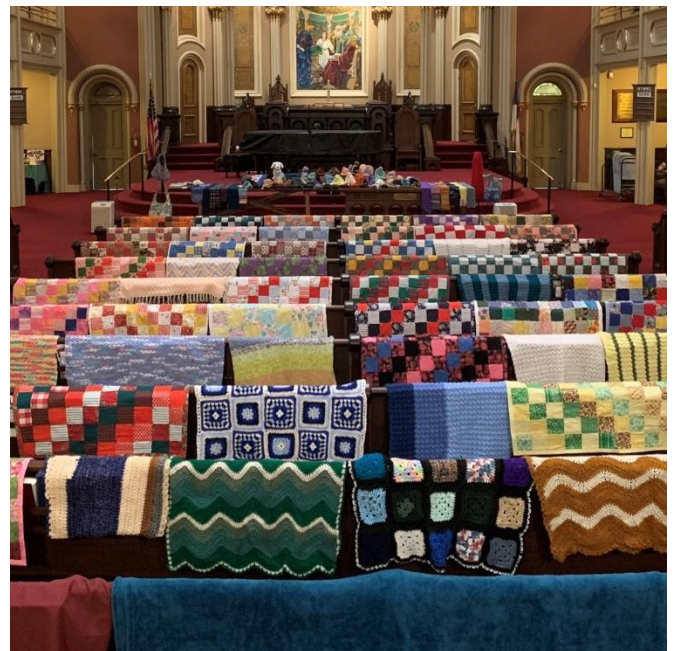
Our donations are given to:

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



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.



Cindy and Chris Burger delivered three quilts to Camp Sunshine in April. The camp was thrilled to receive the quilts. They reopened for families in March of this year after having been closed for two years due to the pandemic.

Joys and Concerns



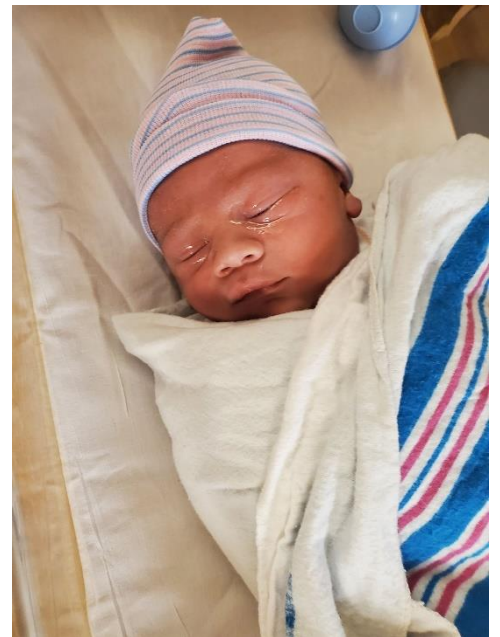
Celebrating New Life!



Adalyn Rose, born 7/12
to John & Erica



Amelia Joy, born 8/27
to Ben & Margie



Josiah, born 9/2
to Jessica & Felix

(not pictured) Elijah, born to Doug J.'s brother-in-law

Celebrating a Career Achievement: Jessica Lane-Rwabukwisi was honored by SUNY this spring. She shared her joy with us:

“This Spring I had the honor and privilege of being selected for the 2022 Award for Individual Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) by the SUNY Career Development Organization. The Award is given to a career services professional who has made significant contributions or initiatives to promote DEI and ensure impactful service to students and incorporate an inclusive and intersectional lens to the field. My supportive and synergistic team nominated me for this award, and I could not be more grateful and proud to work with such amazing colleagues at Binghamton University’s Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development.

“This work is always done in partnership and in solidarity with others. Thank you to my mentors, teachers, and colleagues for sharing their stories, wisdom, and ‘gracious space’ to reflect, grow, and create more inclusive environments. I am indebted to Dr. Marguerite Wilson and Mr. Lawrence Parham, may he rest in power, for the impact they have made on my life and all of us at the Fleishman Center.”



Joys: Morgan C.’s white coat ceremony; Chris & Cindy, 50th anniversary; Emma, completed application to veterinary school (prayers as she anxiously awaits responses, expected in December); Dave & Greg, successful mission trip to Guatemala; Bill & Joyce, traveling to Maine to see family & friends; surprise visit from Phil, Eleanor, and Lucien

Newlywed: Tom & Christina; Will & Jeanine

Grieving: Ibeth & family, death of her mother; Sue, experiencing sudden loss; Van Dunk family; Maida T., death of brother Stephen; and **Friends & Family of:** Kathy; Mary; Christopher; Allie & Paula; John Jr.; Joe Perkins

Health & Wellness: Jon M., kidney stones; Aston, broken arm & shoulder; Suzie’s sister; Eve B., recovering from accident; Kathe; Greg’s mom; Ethel; Larry D., kidney stones; Jean, fall; Bill D., appendicitis; Shawn L. & Grace H., virus; Sharon L. & Dave D., surgery; Nolan, 3rd degree burns from dirt

bike accident; Larry, facing medical tests; Tinker, recovering from surgery

Recovering from Covid: Chris & Cindy B.; Sherry C.; Becky K.; Greg P.; Dave R.; Dave S.’s wife

Living with Cancer: Molly; Amy H.; Romeo; Dick D., in palliative care at home; Ms. Sally

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

Other Concerns: We pray for

- Businesses affected by State Street tear-up
- Monkeypox outbreak
- Ukraine (continuing)
- Flooding in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi
- Extreme heat on West Coast and Europe
- Migrants on Mexican border
- Afghan refugees
- Those living with chronic illness, dementia, or unknown illness and having tests

Recent & Upcoming Birthdays

August

- 4 Marion Adams
- 10 Aimée Backus
Judy Westcott
- 14 Linda Hessian
Leonard Hoover
- 15 Brian Hugenbruch
- 19 James Spencer
- 23 Ed Hickey
- 28 Gail Covert
Elizabeth Rose Jurena
- 30 Cindy Burger
Margaret Davis

September

- 4 Ethan Nyamuame
- 6 Clyde Jones
- 7 Sherry Conklin

- 9 Morgan Chadwick
Julie Njoroge
- 20 Emma Kindig
- 28 Brian Morse

October

- 2 James McKeage
Patrick McKeage
- 4 Lauren Hickey
- 7 Kathy Preston
- 11 Philip Hazen Westcott
- 15 David Ruston
- 16 Dean Ogden
- 24 Bill Campbell
Marian Palmer
- 27 Shelby Livingston
- 29 Ken Mebert
- 30 Kristine Valashinas



November

- 2 Julia Jurena
- 4 Gail Wilson
- 7 Sally Menges
Lana Ogden
- 16 Dean Ogden
- 19 Margaret Sands
- 22 John Wilson
- 25 Elizabeth Boland-Hayes
Fred Russell
- 30 David Sands



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON



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Address Service Requested

Blessing of the Animals and Potluck Picnic

Sunday, September 25

On Sunday, September 25, the worship theme for the week is “Listen to the Voice of the Animals”. A part of this service will be a blessing of the animals. You are invited to send a photo of your animals, past and present, to Scott (media@upcbgm.org) by **September 18** if you would like to include them in the slide show during the worship service.

Then after worship, all are invited to join us for a church family potluck picnic. Bring a dish to share — Session is providing the grilled chicken and drinks — and plan to enjoy this time of fellowship, in the front yard if the weather allows (in the Library Lounge if it is pouring).

A message that came through loud and clear in the Quick Questionnaires this summer was how much we have all missed being together. We hope that this will be the first of many more opportunities to gather, as the weather and the world allow!