

Announcements

September 29, 2024

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[9/29 – 10/3] Pastor Becky is on vacation this week.

[9/29] **United Ringers handbell choir – Sundays, 11:30am–12:30pm** in the Sanctuary. Our handbell choir plays 2–4 octaves of Malmrk handbells and handchimes, providing music for worship about once a month. If you're interested in learning how to play, please inquire. New members are always welcome! No previous experience needed. No auditions to start. If you can count to 4, you can learn to play!

[9/30] **Deadline for submissions for the Fall 2024 issue of the UP-Beat Newsletter.**

[9/30] **Bible Study – Mondays, 1–2pm** on Zoom or in Pastor Kimberly's office. 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. Our general format is to read the introductory material for each section, then read through the Biblical texts and talk about what it meant for early Christians and what it might mean for us today.

[10/2] **Sewing Group – Wednesdays, 10am–1pm.** The Sewing Group meets at the church each week to craft quilts, mittens, hats, scarves, pillows, and more. At noon, those who can't join them in person are welcome to "Zoom in" for their lunchtime social hour. All are welcome; bring your lunch and enjoy the company.

[10/2] **UPC Choir – Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30pm** in the Music Room. The vocal choir provides music for worship most every Sunday.

To join UPC's "Zoom Room" online:
upcbgm.org/zoom

To dial as a phone call:

(+1) 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 865 274 8433

We welcome new members at any time, and we would love to have your participation!

[10/4] **Zoom Happy hour – Fridays, 5–6pm.** After more than four years of "Zooming" together, our weekly social-distance gathering is still going strong. 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 with friends near and far.

[10/5] **Stop the Bleed/Narcan Training – Saturday, October 5, 6–8pm** at UPC, presented by Broome Action Medics. Get trained in life-saving Narcan and Stop the Bleed techniques. A short training in basic first aid will also be included. Childcare is available upon request. Questions & childcare registration: broomeactionmedics@gmail.com.

LOOKING AHEAD:

[10/4 – 10/6] Pastor Kimberly will be on vacation starting on Friday, October 4. Pastor Becky will lead worship on Sunday, October 6.

Get Involved! Without any doubt, the ministry of our congregation depends largely on the dedication and selfless contributions of volunteers — the incredible individuals who give generously of their time, energy, and unique talents. Here are some ways you can help us do Christ's work in our community:

Community Meal & Pantry: Each Tuesday at 5pm, we offer a sit-down meal that is free for anybody, serving about 100 people a week. Volunteers are needed during the day on Monday and Tuesday to help with food preparation, and on Tuesday evening to serve the meal and clean up afterwards. On Wednesdays from noon to 5pm, we run a free food pantry that also offers personal care & hygiene items when they're available. Volunteers help staff the pantry, and donations of non-perishable food and personal care items are always welcome. Contact Kitchen Coordinator Sherry Conklin: meal@upcbgm.org

Worship services: You may not have noticed how many people are involved in our Sunday morning worship services, but most weeks there are at least a dozen of us, and often there are more than 20: folks who read prayers and scripture, greet visitors, share musical talents, operate technology, set up refreshments, help serve communion, or provide support and ideas behind the scenes. If you'd like to take part, contact Worship Team chair Suzie Raboy: sraboy54@stny.rr.com

Music at UPC: Music is an important part of our coming together. 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.

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.



Our ministry teams are always welcoming new team members. If you'd like to help with or learn about the workings of the church, talk to one of the pastors or the elders on Session: **Card Committee**, Margaret Davis mdavis.margaret@gmail.com; **Finance**, Andy Chadwick cchadwick1@stny.rr.com; **Hospitality**, Sally Hunt shunt1@stny.rr.com or Sherry Conklin meal@upcbgm.org; **Mission**, Pastor Kimberly pastor@upcbgm.org or Sherry Conklin meal@upcbgm.org; **Personnel**, Cindy Burger csburger@frontiernet.net; **Property**, Pastor Becky bkindig@upcbgm.org; **Sewing Group**, Cindy Burger csburger@frontiernet.net; **Worship & Music**, Margaret Davis mdavis.margaret@gmail.com.



Christians as Voting People of Faith

montreat.org/faith-and-voting

The Church Cannot Be Silent, but What Should It Say? Confronting White Christian Nationalism and Pursuing Racial Justice in our Politically Polarized Nation – Wednesday, October 9, 2pm. This fall, Montreat Conference Center is excited to host a virtual conversation with Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History at Columbia Theological Seminary, William Yoo. This discussion will explore the intersection of politics and faith. This event is free of charge and open to the public.

In recent years we have witnessed the reemergence of white Christian nationalism, an ideology that interprets the founding of the United States as a white and Christian nation and insists that our country should be governed under these racial and religious priorities. William Yoo identifies the historical inaccuracies and roots of white Christian nationalism and offers counsel on how to talk with others about this specific ideology and larger questions about race, politics, and faith. This virtual event also engages the history of American polarization and treats how Christians today can speak the truth in love and effectively pursue racial justice in our congregations and wider communities.

Register for the event at montreat.org/forms/2024-faith-and-voting-sign-up

About Our Guest Lecturer: William Yoo is Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History at Columbia Theological Seminary and author of several books, including *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church* and *Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and the Making of American Christianity* (January 2025).

A second discussion with Prof. Yoo will take place in person at Montreat on Tuesday, October 8, on the topic “Was Not our Blessed Lord a Political Preacher? How the Abolition Movement and Proslavery Christianity Shaped the Relationship between Faith and Politics in the United States.” This conversation is being recorded and will be made available for viewing after the event. Learn more at montreat.org/faith-and-voting.

Questions? Email Carol Steele at carols@montreat.org.

8 HABITS OF EVANGELISM

a participatory Zoom study group led by Rev. Dr. Greg Garis, Lead Presbyterian for Transformation
Monday evenings at 7:30pm through Oct. 14

It's not too late to join in this study group designed to equip ourselves to join God's mission of justice, liberation, and hope, brought to us by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Each week, participants will watch a video together via Zoom and then engage in discussion of the material. This week we will watch and discuss chapter 6, Justice, pp. 35–40. The booklet can be accessed online and/or downloaded at bit.ly/3LZRWwD. Weekly readings are not required, but they will help in learning.

Why This Study? “Evangelism is not a tool to gain new members for our churches. This ministry is not an instrument to help people gain access into heaven. The work of evangelism is much more expansive in its scope and meaning. Evangelism is a way of life that is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit, moving through common practices in the community of faith, enabling and empowering the body of Christ to live more deeply into the love of God and the lives of others.” —*8 Habits of Evangelism Resources*

Contact Greg Garis with questions: greg@susvalpresby.org or 607-323-4477.

Zoom link for the weekly Monday night meeting: bit.ly/3yQ2kUN

Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Faith Formation Scholarship ***(Revised information as of 9/12/24)***



Introducing a new presbytery scholarship to support church members and sessions attending spiritual and congregational vitality conferences and workshops!

The Presbytery wants to encourage you to find opportunities to nurture spiritual life and congregational health — such as a church conference, workshop, retreat, or seminar that will strengthen your faith or better equip you to help your congregation. We have a new Faith Formation Scholarship program for church members and sessions which builds on a generous donation and presbytery budget funds. We offer it in a spirit of generosity and hope you will seek good opportunities.

The Faith Formation Scholarship offers substantial support of the registration fees for church conferences and programs — up to 75% for programs from PC(USA) groups like seminaries, Montreat, or the Stony Point Center; less for programs from ecumenical partner denominations or other Christian programs. We ask that you also request support from your own session, but their support is not a requirement to receive ours.

More information and the online application are at susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship.

Questions? Contact Elder Scott Kindig, cclefchair@susvalpresby.org, or call the Presbytery office, 607-323-4477.

Stumbling toward the Light: Changing Our World – September 30 – October 2

A hybrid workshop from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Join activist, singer/songwriter, and author David La Motte and the South Central Region of the Association of Partners in Christian Education (SCRAPCE) to explore the language of change and the idea that small changes can make a big impact. La Motte will guide us as we learn how, with creativity, change happens in community, and the all-important work of discerning the call to be God's "change agents".

Online attendance: \$75. (The PSV Faith Formation Scholarship will reimburse \$56.25.)

More info/registration: austinseminary.edu/lifelong-learning/upcoming/scrapce-2024

Creating a Culture of Community Partnerships – Tues., Oct. 1, 10:30am–12pm

Learn how to build strong, sustainable community partnerships from the success stories of the Tree of Life Center, the First Jamaica Community and Urban Development Corporation (FJCUDC), and the Bluestone Organization Project.

Join us for an inspiring webinar where Rev. Patrick O'Connor, Lead Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica and Chairman of FJCUDC, will speak about:

- Best practices for creating impactful community partnerships
- Lessons learned from successful projects
- Practical steps to implement in your community
- Valuable insights and strategies on fostering meaningful collaborations that drive community growth and transformation

Register at bit.ly/4dLcEZu

Exploring Culture, Identity, and Faith to Confront Racism— October 24–25

Pre-Synod Assembly event at the Hilton Albany

"Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity." (GA222, 2016, *Facing Racism*) The Synod of the Northeast brings us this day-and-a-half workshop series examining the interrelatedness of individual, interpersonal, institutional, and systemic racism. The workshops will provide frameworks and tools to understand how culture and identity impact how racism permeates your community, whether you perceive it or not. The tools will help you assess how power, privilege, and microaggressions operate so that every participant is empowered to take action within your sphere of influence. We will specifically address white racial consciousness in predominantly white institutions as a way to build stronger cross-racial relationships in service of a healthy multiracial future. This event is open to everyone in the Synod. The only cost to register is the actual cost of meals and lodging (if needed).

More info and registration: synodne.org/synod-preassembly-2024.

Pastor Becky & Scott Kindig, Cindy & Chris Burger, and Pastor Kimberly all plan to attend and we hope to see you there too!

Practical Resources for Churches (prcli.org) offers resources on a wide variety of topics including caring ministries, spiritual practices, small church life, social justice, and environmental stewardship. We're encouraged to check out all they have to offer and take advantage of the abundance of programs and information. Here are some upcoming webinars:



- **Managing Stress Before It Manages You – Thursday, October 3, 2–3pm:** In this webinar you'll learn an evidence-based tool to better combat stress and develop your resilience. bit.ly/3XE1Pap
- **The Writing Is Part of the Work: Crafting a Meaningful Anti-Racism Policy – Tuesday, October 8, 2–3pm:** Anti-racism can be a hot-button topic, and it always involves difficult work that is tricky to contain within a policy. Learn how to craft a policy focused on your specific congregation and what they need to learn, grow, and become more effective in building a beloved community. bit.ly/4e2dHrJ
- **Intergenerational Ministry Interest Session with GenOn – Thu., Oct. 10, 2–3pm:** Designed for church leaders to explore the benefits of an intentional intergenerational ministry approach and next steps to further develop intergenerational ministry in your church setting. Led by GenOn Ministries Executive Director, Liz Perraud, and Training Director, Betsy Dishman. bit.ly/3zJ5vxR
- **Truly Welcoming Environments for Today's Unchurched – Thu., Oct. 24, 2–3pm:** Every church thinks they are welcoming. Today's unchurched though have different ideas about what it means to be truly welcoming! This workshop will cover three aims of modern hospitality: safe place, people matter, joyful energy. bit.ly/3Xw6aKZ
- **Healing Fractured Communities – Tuesday, October 30, 2–3pm:** Are you experiencing fractures in your community? Fractures like racism, education inequality, and poverty, to name a few, plague those inside and outside of the church. Given our fractured landscape and the diversity of congregational contexts, "How can congregational leaders be both healers and agitators at the same time?" Being simply a healer ignores the underlying causes of the fracture(s) in a community, while being simply an agitator can mean others ignore you because your voice is monotone. Being a leader who lives in this tension inside a faith community and the public square requires a nimbleness that allows for being an ointment and an irritant when needed. This webinar will equip you to do ministry in a manner that not only impacts the church, but can transform the community. bit.ly/3NnibKJ

Other resources from PRC include:

- **What's Next:** A biweekly sharing of timely resources and upcoming webinars. The current (9/24/2024) letter is at conta.cc/3N1OvWE
- **Just One More Page:** A monthly book review blog. prcli.org/prc-book-review-blog
- **Cultivate: Growing in Faith:** Christian ed and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for all ages of adults and children. September's letter: bit.ly/3AUCuj6

Northeast Wee Kirk Conference — October 14-16

at Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA



This conference aims to inspire, equip, motivate, and encourage small churches and to provide rest and refreshment for the clergy and lay leaders of those churches. More than just another conference, in this retreat-type event, community and radical hospitality are hallmarks of this annual gathering.

Conference cost: \$175 double-occupancy. (The PSV Faith Formation Scholarship will reimburse \$116.67.)

Brochure & workshop list: bit.ly/4dY3QDB. More info & registration: wee-kirk-ne.org.

Monthly PC(USA) Book Study “Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Care for Neighbors and All Creation” — Fourth Sundays @ 7pm (Eastern) on Zoom

from Presbyterians for Earth Care and the Presbyterian Women organization

All are invited to join this virtual monthly book study. Patricia K. Tull, author of *Let Justice Roll Down*, describes her call for creation justice in this way: “When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone’s skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts.” Readers will learn about ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. Further, readers will explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in small and large ways.

Go to presbyterianwomen.org/product/let-justice-roll-down-english-edition to order the book (\$10). Zoom link for monthly sessions: bit.ly/3ZHyWlt

Preacher and Artist: Using Actor Training Methodology for Embodied Preaching — Saturday, November 2, 10am-3pm

A hybrid workshop from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Wrapped in humbled flesh, preachers are bodied vessels who miraculously proclaim, “Thus saith the Lord.” How can embodied practices expand the holistic spiritual practice of preaching preparation and proclamation? How can these practices form the preacher? This session will introduce activities based on actor training methodology that put theology and theories of embodied preaching on their feet. Participants are invited to explore enhancing their biblical, theological, and practical preaching practices with holistic embodiment techniques.

Led by Rev. Dr. Jaclyn P. Williams (Fuller Seminary)

Program cost: **FREE**

Register at austinseminary.edu/lifelong-learning/fpp

“Stained Glass Windows” Concert

Saturday, October 5, 4pm

at Tabernacle UMC, 83 Main Street, Binghamton

Mary Lou Muratori, pianist, and singer friends

A benefit concert for Tab’s outreach programs

Classical and Broadway Music

A free-will offering will be taken



Dining for Dollars – Thursday, October 17 at the Riverdale Banquet Hall in Endwell

The Broome County Council of Churches invites us to join them for an evening of fun, music, and raffles. Local clergy will entertain you while serving dinner for tips. All proceeds benefit Faith in Action Volunteers programs that help older adults in our community maintain their independence.

Doors open at 5:30 for social hour (cash bar). Dinner begins at 6:30. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions. Tickets: \$40 per person. Register by **October 7**.

Registration form is at broomecouncil.net/in-the-community/events1

Southern Tier Singers’ Collective “Memories from the Mediterranean”

Sunday, October 20, 4pm at St. James Catholic Church, 147 Main St., Johnson City

This concert features music of the Mediterranean region including Latin (Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony), Spanish, Italian, Greek, Turkish, and Arabic. The concert will culminate in the world-premiere commissioned performance of *Rumor Mill*, a work written by Palestinian-Jordanian composer Shireen Abu-Khader with text by Palestinian-American poet Naomi Shihab Nye. STSC will be joined in performance by Vestal High School’s Vestal Voices and the Binghamton University Chamber Singers. Free and open to the public with donations gratefully accepted.

Housing Justice for Broome County Forum & Fair

Saturday, October 26, 12–3pm at UPC

Join the One County Many Faces Coalition to discuss how our community can address the local housing crisis. We hope we can bring together our collective energy to focus on the desperate shortage of affordable housing. We aim to give a public voice to these needs and develop new long-term programs. Local and regional leaders will be joined by organizations working on housing justice issues. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, contact Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier (JUST) at justice.southern.tier@gmail.com or call Rozann Greco at **607-348-3868**.

More news from the PC(USA) can be found at susvalpresby.org/thursday-thoughts