

Announcements

October 13, 2024

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[10/13] United Ringers handbell choir rehearsal, 11:30am–12:30pm

[10/14] Bobbie Hickling memorial service, 10:30am; luncheon to follow

NO Bible Study

Session meeting, 6:30pm

[10/15] Worship & Music Team meeting, 9:30am

[10/16] 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.

UPC Choir rehearsal, 6:30–7:30pm

[10/17] "Shura" film screening, 6:30pm (see details on back page)

[10/18] Harvest Happy hour, 5pm at the Chadwicks' (173 Gatewood Blvd., Apalachin).

A variety of beverages, as well as savory and sweet snacks (including gluten-free), will be provided. No need to bring a snack to share or a beverage unless there's something specific you like to eat or drink (or a recipe you're eager to try). If you can't be there right at 5 pm, please come whenever you can as UPC Happy Hour is usually Happy **Hours!** There is plenty of parking and an entrance to the house that has one step if multiple stairs and steps aren't your thing. For pet lovers, sorry, but we don't have any; for those with allergies, it's a pet-free house, so no worries. If you need a ride, please contact the church office or contact Cindy or Andy at cchadwick1@stny.rr.com. Hope to see you there!

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

[10/20] Gail Kocourek & Dave Ruston will reflect on the work of the Tucson Samaritans during worship, 10:00am

NO United Ringers rehearsal

Potluck luncheon after worship:

You're invited to bring a dish to share; or just come as you are — there's always plenty of food! The Hospitality Team will provide coffee, tea, juice, water, and place settings. Cake will also be provided as we celebrate birthdays for the month of October!

[10/21] 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. 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.

Faithful Voting 2024: Living Out Our Values at a Hinge Moment

Monday, October 14, 7:30pm – a *Presbyterians for Earth Care Webinar*

Our faith values call us to demonstrate love of neighbor in the public sphere. We are at a hinge moment for the environment. People of faith are a hinge voting group. Good fruit comes from good trees. Marqus Cole, Organizing Director of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (IP&L), will share a call to shared values and vision for the types of policies that care for creation. He will introduce resources such as the national IP&L Faithful Voter Reflection Guide and the “Ballot Ready” tool in preparation for the upcoming election. Marqus will conclude with an important call to action and will be available to answer questions. Register at bit.ly/4eXTNyl

Three Steps to Savings and an Energy Efficient Home – Tuesday, October 15, 7pm

a Susquehanna Group of Sierra Club event, at the Vestal Public Library or on Zoom

We are pleased to have Devin Bialy give us a presentation on Three Steps to Savings and an Energy Efficient Home. The following major points will be covered:

- First will be energy efficiency, insulation and air sealing, as well as incentives available for these projects.
- Second, we’ll talk about heat pumps and their incentives.
- Finally, we will cover solar and renewable energy, with a focus on ways you can save money.

Devin Bialy has been serving the Southern Tier as a Community Energy Advisor with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, since June of last year. He enjoys researching solutions to economic hardship and wasteful systems. For many years Devin has been involved with Scouting America, earning the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 225 of Vestal, NY. He enjoys gardening, especially composting.

This general membership meeting is free and open to the public. Membership in Sierra Club is not required, but we encourage it. Our meetings are recorded and can be found on our website sierraclub.org/atlantic/susquehanna. Zoom link: bit.ly/4dD946M

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. southerntiersingers.org

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 to understand how culture and identity impact how racism permeates your community, whether you perceive it or not. You’ll learn tools to help 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. Open to everyone in the Synod, the only cost to register is the actual cost of meals and lodging.

Pastor Becky & Scott Kindig, Cindy & Chris Burger, and Pastor Kimberly all plan to attend and we hope to see you there too! Register at synodne.org/synod-preassembly-2024.

Housing Justice for Broome County Forum & Fair

Saturday, October 26, 12–3pm at UPC

Join the One County Many Faces Broome 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 info, go to ocmfbroome.org, contact Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier (JUST) at justice.southern.tier@gmail.com, or call Rozann Greco at **607-348-3868**.

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.” Learn about ecological systems, challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, possible ways to address the impact of human-made stress on our environment, and theological questions pointing to large & small ways to act and engage.

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

From the Ethiopian Mission Partnership Team: Preparing for our Ethiopia Trip

As we prepare for our time with our mission partners in Ethiopia, we want to share some ways you can help make this a fruitful trip.

Pray – Your prayers are so important to our success!

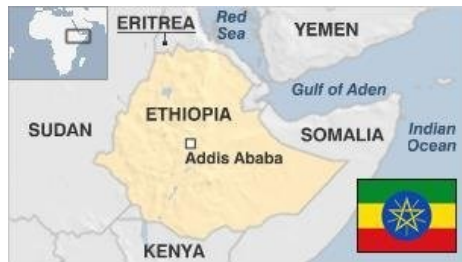
- Prayers for each one of us traveling.
- Prayers for protection from all harm before, during and after the celebration.
- Prayers for positive connections with old and new Synod leaders, and with our partnership friends in Dembi Dolo, Ethiopia.

Contribute – Here are some tangible needs that you can help with:

- Funds for new books at the Bethel Mekane Yesus School.
- Money for two laptops.
- Last, but **not** least, **pens** for children to use in school – old or new, as long as they write.

If you are able to help with funds or supply us with pens, please contact Junietta Brooks junietta68@gmail.com, Cheryll Berg thunderbirdatlatl@gmail.com, or Paul Huh pastor paul@waltonup.org.

Thank you for helping us to continue and grow our beloved partnership of 27 years!



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:



- **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, like racism, education inequality, and poverty, to name a few? 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 that not only impacts the church, but can transform the community. bit.ly/3NnibKJ

a conversation about

WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM in the Southern Tier

Sunday, November 3 ■ 4–6pm at UPC

Panel of speakers to include:

Prof. David Cingranelli, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Political Science

Rev. Douglas Taylor, pastor at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

Rev. Kimberly Chastain, pastor at the United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton

Rev. Peter Cook, Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches and Principal of The Religious Nationalisms Project

Rashida Tyler, Deputy Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches

Rev. Jim Ketcham, Chaplaincy Coordinator and Policy Lead on Criminal Justice Reform, New York State Council of Churches

Rev. Neal Christie, Executive Director of the Federation for the Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA) and Principal of The Religious Nationalisms Project

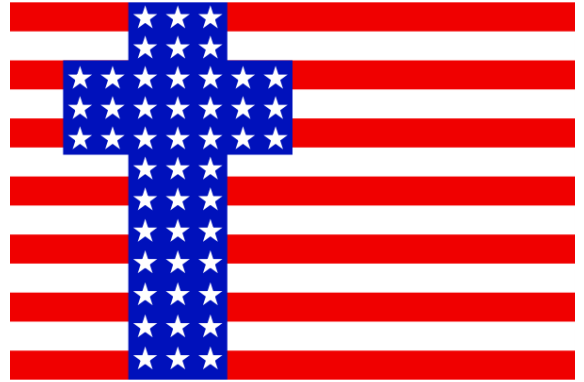


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presented by



**New York State
Council Of Churches**



**The Religious
Nationalisms Project**

- **Christian Nationalism and the 2024 Election – Tuesday, November 19, 2–3pm:** What role did Christian Nationalism play in the 2024 elections? How do our congregations and communities move forward after this polarizing campaign season? Rev. Dr. Brian Kaylor and Rev. Beau Underwood will lead a conversation on these and other topics at the intersection of religion and public life. bit.ly/3NnUDc8

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. October's letter: bit.ly/3TY9jSV

Volunteer Hospital Chaplain Information Sessions

The Broome County Council of Churches is recruiting volunteer hospital chaplains to work alongside their staff at UHS Hospitals. We're seeking individuals who would be willing to volunteer two hours a week to offer comfort and hope to patients and their families.

Chaplains play a vital role in providing spiritual care and comfort to patients and their families during some of their most challenging moments. If you feel you may be called to this meaningful ministry, we invite you to join us at an information session to learn how you can be part of this rewarding journey.

The information sessions will be held:

- Saturday, November 9, 11:00am at Arrowhead Parable Christian Store (1 Harry L Dr, Johnson City, NY 13790)
- Sunday, November 10, 6:30pm at Union Presbyterian Church (200 E Main St, Endicott, NY 13760)
- Thursday, November 14, 2:00pm at Binghamton United Presbyterian Church

Take the next step and connect with us: email Rev. John Snider john.snider@nyuhs.org or Rev. Rachel Helgeson rachel.helgeson@nyuhs.org, or call 607-762-2446.

How can we help those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene?

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is already on the ground in many places that were hit hardest. pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-helene.

The Black Mountain Presbyterian Church in western North Carolina has become a central place for many people to get supplies in the Asheville area and has been serving meals to hundreds of people each day. They have set up a link if people would like to donate money so they can continue to get the supplies they need for these meals: <https://onrealm.org/BlackMountainPr/-/form/give/HeleneReliefFund>.

Our presbytery leadership team is working on some other possibilities that may emerge in the days and weeks ahead, and they will keep us posted.

Also, Montreat Conference Center was severely impacted by the storm and will remain closed until further notice. As more information is available, updates will be posted at montreat.org.

Please keep in your prayers all affected by this disaster and all those working to assist with rescue, recovery, and cleanup.



Double the impact of a donation to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier: 2024 Turkey Drive Matching Challenge



The Food Bank of the Southern Tier is a major supporter of UPC's Community Kitchen programs, so we wanted to share this news with you:

The Food Bank of the Southern Tier is announcing a brief chance to double the impact of your gift this holiday season. Thanks to a generous pledge from Tioga Downs Casino Resort, gifts to the Food Bank right now can be matched — dollar for dollar!

Right now, 1 out of every 7 people in the Southern Tier is in need of food assistance. Because of high living costs, many of them will be making impossible decisions over the coming weeks ... like cutting back on groceries to offset the impact of high living costs. Everyone has the right to food ... accessible and nutritious food. Our goal at the Food Bank is for everyone to have the nourishment and peace of mind to thrive. When people thrive, our community thrives.

For a limited time, Tioga Downs will match every dollar donated to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. Every \$10 donated becomes \$20, helping provide enough food for 60 meals.

You can donate online at foodbankst.org/give2024td-digital, or mail a check to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, 388 Upper Oakwood Ave, Elmira, NY 14903-1129. If you prefer to give by credit card over the phone, call the Food Bank at **607-796-6061**.

Stony Point Center's 75th Anniversary Celebration — April 4-6, 2025

Please mark your calendars on April 4-6, 2025, and hold the date to celebrate Stony Point Center's 75th Anniversary Celebration!

As we begin our next 75 years in ministry, we would love to honor all those that made our first 75 years so remarkable!

Also, please take this time to welcome others to the celebration! Please share with us who we should be sure to invite, along with their email address or phone number.

We want to make sure that all who have had a hand in transformations or being transformed at this space are welcomed to come back. We'll raise a cheer for all we have been able to do through gatherings in this space to make the world a better place and to work together as we help "bend the arc of history towards justice." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

stonypointcenter.org



“Shura” film screening & discussion of Southern border crisis
Thursday, October 17, 6:30-8:30pm at UPC

Join Gail Kocourek from the Tucson Samaritans, who for more than 10 years has been a constant presence along the Arizona-Mexico border welcoming travelers from around the world. We will preview the short film documentary “Shura” (27 minutes), then have a discussion about the ongoing humanitarian crisis along the U.S. Southern border and how volunteers like Gail and Shura are the difference between life and death along the border.

Light snack will be provided.



“Shura” is a 2023 Oscar-qualified and award-winning documentary short film that follows Shura Wallin, an octogenarian woman who provides humanitarian aid to migrants in the Sonoran Desert in southern Arizona crossing the U.S.-Mexico border – the deadliest land crossing in the world.

Winner – The Best in Short Film, Rochester International Film Festival
Winner – Best Documentary, Mexican-American Film & Television Festival

More news from around the presbytery and across the denomination
can be found at susvalpresby.org/thursday-thoughts