

Announcements

October 27, 2024

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[10/27] **NO United Ringers rehearsal**

Coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, 11:15am-12:15pm

[10/28] **Bible Study – Mondays, 1-2pm on Zoom or in**

the Upper Lounge. 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.

[10/30] **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 come in person are welcome to "Zoom in" for their lunchtime social hour. All are welcome; bring a lunch and enjoy the company.

UPC Choir rehearsal, 6:30-7:30pm

[11/1] **Zoom Happy hour, 5-6pm.** Our "socially distanced" social gathering is still going strong after more than 4 years of Zooming together! Bring your own beverage and join the fun as we catch up on the events of the week and share how we're doing.

[11/2] **Organ recital, 2-3pm** (*see inside page for more info*)

LOOKING AHEAD:

[11/3] **Worship & Communion, 10am** *The Feast of All Saints*

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

Sunday, November 3 – The Feast of All Saints: The Bouquet of Remembrance



One of our cherished traditions at United Pres is the Bouquet of Remembrance, which we will build together to remember and honor the cloud of witnesses that surround us in the communion of saints. We will place a flower and read the name of each member of our community who has died during the year, and everyone is invited to bring flowers to place in the bouquet when we gather at the table for communion.

To assist us in making this remembrance, please send the names of all of those you would like to remember to the church office by **Monday, October 28**. Extra flowers will be available if you are unable to bring your own.

How can we help those affected by the devastation of Hurricanes Helene and Milton?

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is already on the ground in many places that were hit hardest by these two hurricanes. Details of their work and ways to donate can be found at pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-helene. (Relief efforts for both hurricanes are being managed through this portal.)

PDA is also asking for **clean-up buckets**. For more information on how you can help, go to pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/#bucket.

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:

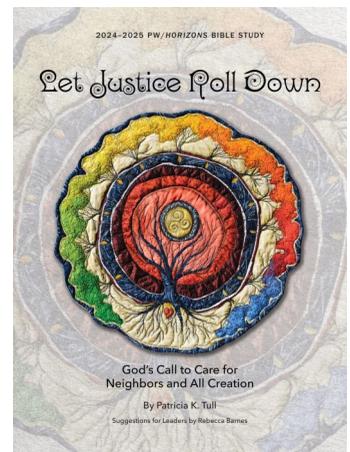
<https://onrealm.org/BlackMountainPr/-/form/give/HeleneReliefFund>.

Also, the PC(USA) Montreat Conference Center was severely impacted by the storm. They are aiming for a limited reopening in November and plan to host their scheduled 2025 events. 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.

Monthly PC(USA) Book Study “Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation” – *Fourth Sundays @ 7pm (Eastern) on Zoom* from Presbyterians for Earth Care and the Presbyterian Women organization Dates: Oct. 27, Nov. 24, Dec. 22, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, Mar. 23, Apr. 28, May 26

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/3ZHwWlT

Young Artist Series Organ Recital featuring Anne Spink – Sat., Nov. 2, 2pm at UPC
Co-sponsored by UPC and the American Guild of Organists Binghamton Chapter

Anne Spink is a native of the Willamette Valley in Oregon, and graduated in 2024 from Conservatorium van Amsterdam (Netherlands) with her B.Mus. in organ performance. She is currently pursuing her M.Mus. in organ performance at Syracuse University and is organ scholar for the Hendricks Chapel Choir, where she plays a diverse range of choral repertoire from Duke Ellington to Natalie Draper.



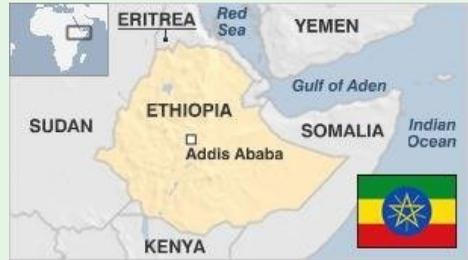
Her 1-hour program will include works of Buxtehude, Mozart, Bach, Laurin, and Vierne.



We invite all to attend, including, especially, children and youth. Sit in the balcony and allow them to watch and observe this incredibly interesting King of the Instruments. Planting the seed of possibility begins sometimes with a new experience. We'll also be projecting a camera view from the balcony onto the big screen at the front of the sanctuary, so if you sit downstairs you'll still get to watch this talented musician.

This recital is free and open to the public with donations gratefully accepted.

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 pastorpaul@waltonup.org. We'll be traveling to Ethiopia in early November.

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

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.

Reflective Writing and Discussion Zoom Sessions offered by the Presbytery of Geneva

October / November: Anxious about the election? We're invited to join our fellow Presbyterians in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions for a facilitated time of reflective writing and discussion — as often as you like. These sessions are being offered on Zoom. Here is the schedule and meeting info:

Date	Time	Meeting ID	Passcode
Monday 10/28	6pm–8pm	859 0444 9772	039825
Tuesday 10/29	1pm–3pm	891 8099 5758	962595
Thursday 10/31	10am–12pm	815 5320 5330	382924
Monday 11/4	6pm–8pm	859 0444 9772	039825
Wednesday 11/6	6pm–8pm	874 8071 3419	634027
Thursday 11/7	10am–12pm	815 5320 5330	382924
Tuesday 11/12	1pm–3pm	891 8099 5758	962595
Wednesday 11/13	6pm–8pm	874 8071 3419	634027
Thursday 11/14	10am–12pm	815 5320 5330	382924

Due to the diversity of political views and different ideas about the interplay of church and politics, these sessions are being offered as writing workshops using the AWA Method. Participants will complete short writing exercises and then share their work with the group, allowing the group members to provide feedback on the piece. This approach allows everyone the opportunity to express themselves in a safe, inclusive environment.

November / December: Find the holidays difficult? Join us — as often as you like — for a time of expressive writing. Here is the schedule and meeting info:

Date	Time	Meeting ID	Passcode
Monday 11/25	6pm–8pm	864 2480 6802	621918
Tuesday 11/26	1pm–3pm	865 9239 9395	450086
Monday 12/16	10am–12pm	897 8088 0609	410057
Thursday 12/19	6pm–8pm	829 4662 3774	143894

For more info about this approach to writing, see: amherstwriters.org/what-to-expect

Book discussion on “Generations: The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents – and What They Mean for America’s Future”

Thursdays Nov. 7, 14, 21, 6–8pm –OR– Mondays Dec. 2 & 9, 9am–12pm on Zoom

The Presbytery of Geneva invites us to a discussion of the book “Generations” by Jean M. Twenge, exploring how to apply this information to church contexts. Zoom meeting info:

Thursdays, 6–8pm, Nov. 7, 14, & 21 Meeting ID: 851 0686 9418 Passcode: 208802

Mondays, 9am–12pm, Dec. 2 & 9 Meeting ID: 890 2390 0994 Passcode: 765492

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. Most webinars are recorded so they can be watched later on PRC’s website. Here are some upcoming webinars:



- **Healing Fractured Communities – Tuesday, October 30, 2–3pm:** Communities find themselves fractured by racism, education inequality, poverty, and more. 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
- **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 most recent (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

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





**CONFRONTING
WHITE CHRISTIAN
NATIONALISM
in the Southern Tier**

***Sunday
November 3
4-6pm at UPC***

Join us as we reflect on the scourge of religious nationalism in our politics. In this election season, we are witnessing expressions of White Christian Nationalism at a fever pitch. How is White Christian Nationalism and religious nationalism in general manifesting itself in your family, our community, and the nation as whole? How is religion used to welcome immigrants or demonize them? What is the relationship of White Christian Nationalism to democracy?

Panel of speakers to include:

Prof. David Cingranelli, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Political Science

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

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

Rev. Damond Wilson, pastor at the Trinity A M E Zion 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

presented by



**The Religious
Nationalisms Project**

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