

Fall 2024

Volume 15, Issue 5

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

Worship Themes for Fall

September 8 through October 13 – *Repentance*

For six weeks this fall, we studied repentance, guided by a book by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg called “On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World”. We looked at a specific process for repenting, and considered ways in which doing the work of repentance and repair — as individuals, as a community, and as a people — is part of the ongoing work of mending the world and bringing the reign of God close to our world.

October 20 – *What’s Happening in the Borderlands* with Gail Kocourek and David Ruston



Focus text: [Leviticus 19:34–35](#)

Gail Kocourek from the Tucson Samaritans has, for more than 10 years, been a constant presence along the Arizona-Mexico border welcoming travelers from around the world. She and Dave will give us updated information about the ongoing humanitarian crisis along the US southern border, and answer questions about their work with refugees and immigrants. A special offering in support of Salvavision will be taken, and a potluck luncheon will follow.

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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



October 27 – *The Path to Forgiveness: What is Forgiveness and Why Forgive?*

Focus texts: [Proverbs 17:9](#); [Matthew 18:21-22](#)

We all aspire to be forgiving people, and admire stories of people who have shown heroic forgiveness in situations of betrayal, abuse or torment. It is often portrayed as a gift given to a person who has caused harm, or as if withholding forgiveness is an act of harm in itself. But forgiveness is a process, and a part of the ongoing work that Christians are called to, as we strive to mend the world. Forgiveness is not a “one and done” practice, but a way of living and being in relationship, just as repentance is.

November 3 – *The Feast of All Saints: The Bouquet of Remembrance*



Focus text: [Revelation 21:1-4](#)

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 Scott by October 27. Extra flowers will be available if you are unable to bring your own.

November 10 – *The Path to Forgiveness: Telling the Story and Naming the Hurt*

Focus text: [Job 19:23-29](#)

Telling the story is how we begin to understand and make meaning out of our experience when we have been harmed. Harm felt but denied will always find a way to express itself, but when we name the injury, we can begin to heal. Sometimes when we tell the story we can see and name things that we couldn't before we brought the pain into the light, and having our feelings about the harm validated can be an important step on the road to forgiveness.

November 17 – *The Path to Forgiveness: Granting Forgiveness; Renewing or Releasing the Relationship*

Focus text: [Romans 12:2-5, 17-21](#)

Forgiveness is a choice we make, and a way to tell a new story about what we have experienced. It is not a forgetting of the past, but of integrating it in a way that is free from fear, anger, hatred or resentment. It is not a resumption of an old relationship or the acceptance of a harmful pattern for the sake of a relationship. The decision to forgive opens the door to two possibilities: renewing a relationship with the one who has caused harm or releasing the relationship and moving forward without re-engaging in a relationship. In Christian community, the preference is always for reconciliation, but it is not always possible when the harm has been too great or when the perpetrator of harm has not fully repented. The grace of Jesus Christ allows us to move forward in faith whether we are able to be in a renewed relationship, or whether we must release the relationship and trust God's healing to continue the work of mending the world.

November 24 – *The Reign of Christ: A World of Forgiveness*

Focus texts: [Revelation 1:4b-8](#); [John 15:9-17](#)

As we come to the end of the Christian year, we remember both how far we have to go in our work of building community and mending the world, and the love and grace of God that makes this work

possible. We know our limits and our frailties, our hopes and our dreams of a world made new, and we follow a savior who came and lived among us and taught us to love. In the tension between the already and the not-yet in Christian life, we have the assurance that when we live in God's love and offer it to others, we will never be separated from the One we call Lord. We rejoice that through him, new vision and new life are possible, and we look forward to the coming of the new year and the new possibilities that come with Advent.

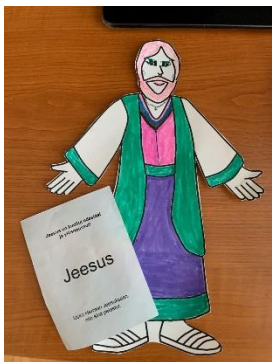
Pastors' Ponderings

Did you travel this summer? Did you take Flat Jesus with you if you did? My flat Jesus was playfully decorated as a pink-haired drag Jesus, since I was planning to be on a trip around Scandinavia that would include many fun and delightful encounters.

Pink-haired Jesus went with us to Finland, on boat tours and to the opera and enjoying picnics in various places. He went with us to the Sibelius museum and enjoyed art exhibits and the beautiful weather in southern Scandinavia. He went with us to visit the Johann Sebastian Bach house, and to Wartburg castle to see where Martin Luther wrote his famous 95 theses.



*Kimberly P Chastain,
Pastor*

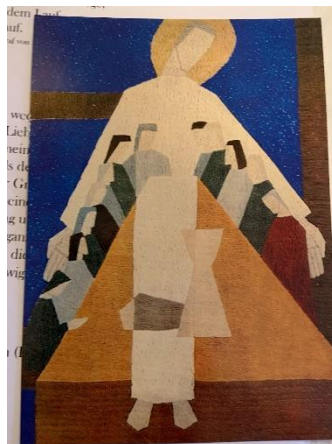


Our trip ended differently than we expected, when Reinhilde's 96-year-old father entered hospice and we returned to Goettingen for his journey home. I did not take Flat Jesus with me to visit, nor did I take him to the upper room when we gathered to share the Lord's Supper with Arndt in his last hours. So imagine my surprise when the pastor who was leading us in the service handed each of us a picture of a flat Jesus at table with the disciples.

In that moment, the silliness and the fun of traveling with flat Jesus came full circle, and gave new meaning to why we had carried the cutout with us. Jesus was with us in our travels; Jesus gathered us in his loving arms as we celebrated communion once more with this beloved elder, and then in kindness and in grace, gathered Arndt Ruprecht to himself and took him home.

Thanks be to God.

Blessings,
Pastor Kimberly

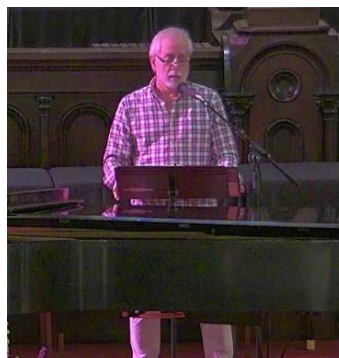


Music Notes

by Aimée Backus, Music Coordinator

This summer, the UPC music team enjoyed many creative performances, which included four services that were accompanied entirely on guitar. Our own Phil Westcott played for three of these services in a folk style, while Nate Knipscher, a community member and graduate student at Binghamton University, lent a more classical style to his accompaniments.

Section leaders Robbie Manners, Victoria Barics, Riya Bolander, Andrea Gilebart, and Starletta Noll-Long all sang solos throughout the summer, and we were also treated to David Berti's lovely tenor. Becky Mebert, Austin Shadduck, and Aimée Backus all provided instrumental additions.



When Rev. Dr. Rose Niles visited in August, the UPC choir joined together to sing and make joyful noises to complement her sermon about Joseph and his dreams. We are lucky to have such a wide variety

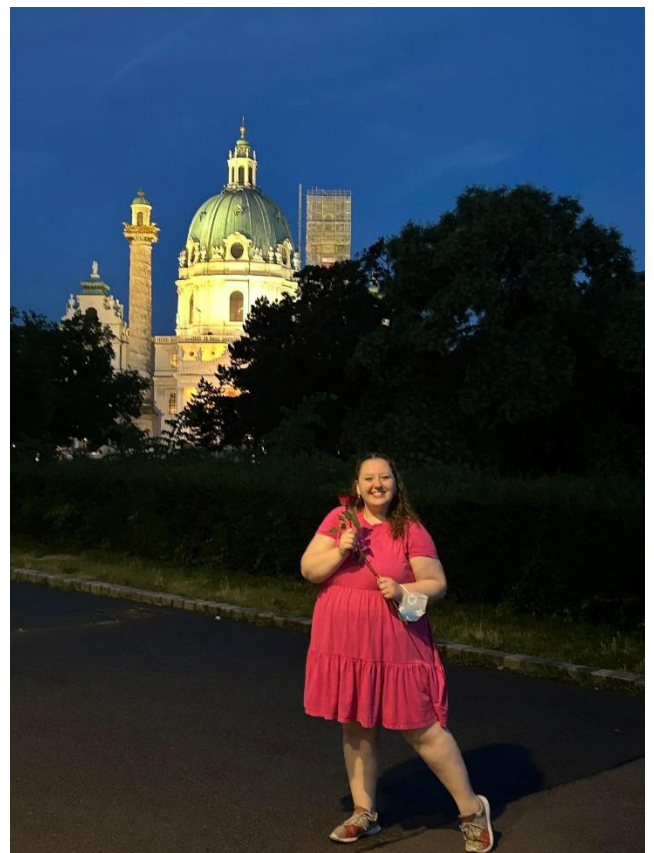


of musical styles and interests in our congregation, and we are excited to keep making music together this fall! Both the vocal choir and bell choir are always accepting new members, so please consider joining us. We would love to make music with you!

We're delighted to welcome a new voice to our music team! Andrea Gilebarto joins our ranks in the role of soprano section leader, as Victoria Barics and Riya Bolander both graduated in May. Andrea says:

"Hello! I'm excited to be here at UPC and have been enjoying my time so far. I'm in my second year of grad school at Binghamton University and will graduate in 2025 with a Masters in opera. I grew up in First Presbyterian Church in Batavia, New York. I sang in the youth choir and I remember when I was younger going to church to specifically sing some of my favorite hymns."

Please extend a warm welcome to Andrea when you see her at church on Sundays!



Upcoming Community Performances

Tri-Cities Opera 75th Anniversary Birthday Bash
Saturday, October 19, 7pm
at the Tri-Cities Opera Center, 315 Clinton St., Binghamton

Set your victory rolls & dress in your best 1940s fashions — or come as you feel best — for an evening of celebrating like it's 1949!

Jive all night to Hit N Run Mobile DJ!

Swing dance lesson courtesy of the Southern Tier Swing Dance Society with Instructors Rebecca Kahn and Glenn Lawrence!

A champagne toast to 75 years of music, magic, and memories!

Concessions available throughout the evening!

Facility tours of our 100,000 sq. ft. of production and performance space!

Tickets are on sale now. Get them before they're gone!

\$10 admission in advance | \$15 at the door | \$5 for students with ID

tricitiesopera.com



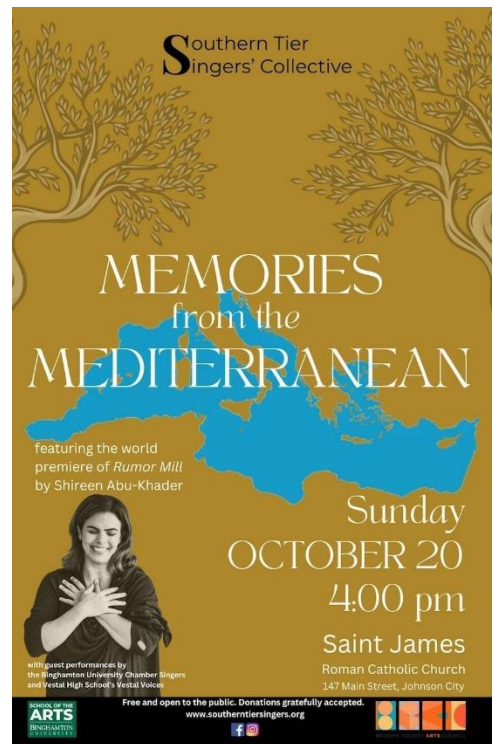
Southern Tier Singers' Collective presents "Memories from the Mediterranean"

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



Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra presents

"Dancing Queen: The Music of ABBA"

Saturday, October 26, 7:30pm

at the Broome County Forum Theatre, 236 Washington St., Binghamton



Featuring Jeans 'n' Classics with Guest Conductor Jeff Christmas

For half a century, one of pop music's favorite quartets has made people dance, jive, and have the time of their lives! Featuring the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra and fronted by four amazing Jeans 'n' Classics vocalists with rock band, we bring you the iconic songs of ABBA in all their pop, rock, dance, and evocative ballad glory. *Mamma Mia!*

Tickets range in price from \$28 to \$69 (depending on seat). Kids 17 and under get in for free, courtesy of Visions Federal Credit Union, our Pops Series Sponsor! Call the box office for free kids' tickets: 607-723-3931. binghamtonphilharmonic.org

2024 Young Artists Recital featuring Anne Spink

Saturday, November 2, 2pm

at Binghamton United Presbyterian Church, 42 Chenango St., Binghamton



Anne Spink

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.

This recital is free and open to the public with donations gratefully accepted. Co-sponsored by the American Guild of Organists Binghamton Chapter (binghamtonago.org) and United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton.

The Dolphins String Quartet

Sunday, November 3, 3pm

at the Phelps Mansion Museum, 191 Court Street Street, Binghamton



The Dolphins String Quartet

Luke Henderson, violin

Isaac Park, violin

James Preucil, viola

Ian Maloney, cello

Erwin Schulhoff: Five Pieces for String Quartet

Joseph Haydn: String Quartet in G Major, Op. 77 No. 1

Elise Winkler: Silhouette

The Dolphins: Angel Fire Quartet

\$28 General Admission binghamtonphilharmonic.org

Tri-Cities Opera presents "All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914"

November 15 & 16 @ 7:30pm, November 17 @ 3pm

at the Tri-Cities Opera Center, 315 Clinton St., Binghamton

The Western Front: Christmas 1914. Out of the violence of World War I, a silence, then a song. A German soldier steps into No Man's Land singing "Stille Nacht."

Thus begins an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music, and peace. *All Is Calm* is a remarkable true story in the words and songs of the men who lived it. With stunning a cappella arrangements of carols and folk songs from France, Germany, and England, the opera will be performed primarily in English with English supertitles.

Join us as we present this beautiful, holiday story with a performance on November 15th and 16th, and matinee performance on November 17th at the Tri-Cities Opera Center.

Free tickets are available for active service members and veterans for any performance. Call the Box Office to book your complimentary tickets: (607) 772-0400. tricitiesopera.com



Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra presents "Thresholds"

Saturday, November 16, 7:30pm at the Broome County Forum Theatre, 236 Washington St., Binghamton



Hilary Purrington

Conductor: Daniel Hege

Hilary Purrington: Threshold

Felix Mendelssohn: The Hebrides

Anton Bruckner: Symphony No. 6

Tickets range in price from \$28 to \$69 (depending on seat). Kids 17 and under get in for free, courtesy of M&T Bank, our Symphonic Series Sponsor! Call the Box Office to request free kids' tickets: 607-723-3931.

Pre-Concert Chat, 6:30pm, Recital Hall: Dr. Julia Grella O'Connell, Director of Education and Community Engagement

binghamtonphilharmonic.org

Our Church Family

In Memoriam

Maida (Russell) Thomas, age 90, of Good Shepherd Village, Endwell, NY, formerly of Port Dickinson, died on July 26, 2024. She is survived by her stepdaughters Suzanne Thomas-Sacco and Cathy Thomas; her granddaughter Marian Sacco; her nephew Bill (Susan) Thomas, and nieces Caroline (Jeff Jacobs) Thomas, and Jennie Thomas; her grand-niece Elizabeth Jacobs and her grand-nephews Henry Thomas and Evan Jacobs; her goddaughter Mindy McElroy; and her many friends. She was predeceased by her parents, Eileen and H. "Russ" Russell; her husband of 27 years, Frank E. Thomas, Jr.; and by her brother, Steve Russell.



Maida graduated from Union Endicott High School and Elmira College. She worked for several years in social services before becoming an elementary school teacher. She enjoyed a long career at Chenango Valley Port Dickinson Elementary School as a second-grade teacher. Maida was an active member of First Presbyterian Church, later the United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton. Maida and Frank enjoyed fishing, traveling, and spending time together at their cottage on Laurel Lake in Pennsylvania. Maida loved music and played the bass when she was young. Maida was always working on a knitting project and loved to make socks, sweaters, and gloves. She enjoyed sharing meals and playing cards with friends at Good Shepherd Village. She adored her sweet and loving dogs, Molly and Tory, who were faithful companions.

The family wants to thank the staff of Good Shepherd Village for the care and comfort they provided in her final days, as well as Ellen Decatur, who supported her as a dear friend and helper during the past year. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to WSKG or the United Way of Broome County.



Barbara June Abt Hickling died September 9, 2024, at Wilson Memorial Hospital.

Barbara was born July 28, 1928, in New York City. She is predeceased by her parents Dorothy Brown and Henry E. Abt, her birth mother Dorothy Van Antwerp Walters, her brother William Van Antwerp Abt, her husband of 70 years W. Frederick Hickling, and an infant granddaughter, Allison.

She is survived by her children: Dr. William (Mary), Jeffrey (Kathleen), and Nancy H. Winstead (John); eight grandchildren: Robert (Korey), Christopher (Alice), Matthew (Kelly), and Scott Hickling (Kaitlyn Clark), Nancy H. Sulovski (Jake), Erick Winstead (Kelly), Jack Winstead (Dr. Madison Li), and Maggie Winstead (Courtney Millett); eleven great-grandchildren: Jack, Abby, Caroline, Zachary, Charlie, Brooklyn, and Makena Hickling; Barrett, Luke, and Michael Sulovski; and Theo Li-Winstead. Also two sisters-in-law, Shirley Ann Southmayd and Marjorie Robertiello, plus several nieces and nephews.

Bobbie grew up in Westchester County, graduated from White Plains High School and from Wells College in 1949. She married her college sweetheart a month later.

When her last child entered the Chenango Bridge Schools she heard about and won a Ford Foundation Scholarship for a Masters in Teaching to Cornell. She taught history and sociology at Binghamton's then North High School and when it was closed finished her 20 years of teaching at Binghamton High.

Friends persuaded her to join the then Monday Afternoon Club/Phelps Mansion Foundation and that became her focus for the next 30 years. She served every position on the Board except Secretary. Her most

rewarding function was as the Liaison Officer between the Board and the architects to restore the building. The Mansard roof was replaced, the rear addition was put on to accommodate needed social space, and an elevator was added. In her last active years she served with a committee of Past Presidents to steer the Phelps to acceptance as a permanent museum in the State of New York.

After retirement she and Fred traveled extensively throughout most of the U.S. and much of Europe. She served a term as President of The Friends of the Broome County Library. She loved sewing, was a voracious reader, and was Alumnae Secretary and Reunion Chair for her Wells Class until her death. She enjoyed football games on fall weekends at Cornell. She served as both deacon and elder for First Presbyterian, now United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton. She sang in its choir for 55 years and she loved to play bridge.

Her last nearly 15 years were spent at Good Shepherd Village where she found many new friends, sang in the Village Voices, chaired and served on numerous committees, and participated in many of its activities.

The family would like to thank Good Shepherd Village for providing such a wonderful home for Bobbie and Fred. We would like to thank Natalie Fox, Britnee Burnside, and Kathy Aycock for their devoted care before and during her recent hospitalization. We would also like to thank the nurses, aides, therapists and physicians at UHS Wilson Memorial Hospital who treated her with compassion and great skill while she was in their care.

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.upcbgm.org/youtube), our Zoom room [upcbgm.org/zoom](https://www.upcbgm.org/zoom), and our website [upcbgm.org](https://www.upcbgm.org), 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.

Everyone is invited to join us as we pray, hear God's word read and proclaimed, share our joys and concerns, and experience worshipful music.

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

- Air filtration units are deployed throughout the sanctuary to enhance your safety. If you have any symptoms of a potentially contagious illness, we ask that you put on a mask to protect those in our congregation who have compromised immune systems.
- Printed worship guides are placed by each door for you to pick up on the way in, and the hymns are printed in the worship guide.



Children in Worship “Let the little children come to me...” — Matthew 19:14

We are glad to have children and families in the congregation, and we welcome and encourage them to be in worship with us. We truly believe that a community of faith is made up of people of ALL ages. There is a PrayGround space with coloring sheets and quiet toys in the front of the sanctuary, which can be used there or taken to another pew if that is more suitable to the family's needs. Sunday school materials are mailed to our families once a month to do together at home.



There is also a nursery space at the end of the hall at the front of the sanctuary that is open for use with a parent or guardian. It has a changing table, a rocking chair, and some toys appropriate for children ages two and under. There is a speaker in the room so you can listen to the service. Please let us know if you have questions.

- Offering plates are placed by the doors of the sanctuary, but we do not pass them during the offertory. You are invited and welcome to use our online giving portal upcbgm.org/give or to mail a check to the church.

If you're worshipping with us online, all of the hymn music and prayer words are shown on the screen, and live captioning is used for other parts of the service such as the sermon and the Prayers of the People. If you watch on a small screen and need the printed version of the worship guide, it is available for download from our website upcbgm.org each week, or it can be mailed to you upon request if downloading & printing is not an option.

To join the Zoom room online, go to upcbgm.org/zoom

To call in: Dial 1-646-558-8656, then enter Meeting ID: 865 274 8433 #

It would be good to have you with us.

Music at UPC

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.

UPC Choir: Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30pm in the Music Room. The vocal choir provides music for worship most every Sunday. We welcome new members at any time, and we



would love to have your participation. It would be good to have you with us!

United Ringers handbell choir: Sundays, 11:30am–12:30pm in the Sanctuary. Our handbell choir plays 2–4 octaves of Malmark handbells and handchimes, providing music for worship about once a month. If you're interested in learning how to play handbells, 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!

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.

Sunday Morning Refreshments and Fellowship

Starting Sunday October 20, we are transitioning our coffee hour after worship to the Fellowship Hall downstairs. This will give us all a place to sit at tables and visit, while giving the younger ones a place to relax and play. Games and activities will be provided, and if anybody wants to bring in games they are welcome also.

Questions? Contact Hospitality Team co-chair Sherry Conklin at meal@upcbgm.org, or call the church office.

Thank you gift from VINES

Now that VINES has moved out and has a fabulous new building to help their outreach even more, they wanted to give us a thank you for all the years that we supported them here at UPC. Amelia came to us and asked if they could fix up the garden in the parking lot that has gotten very overgrown, and the Session agreed. So on Saturday October 5, there was a crew from VINES who dug up the weeds, added new soil, re-arranged some of what we had in there that was good, and added many new perennial plants that will fill in the area, be low maintenance, and be good for the local environment. If you have not yet gotten to see it, take a moment to go down the ramp to the parking lot and admire it. We can't wait to see it grow over the years and remind us of all the good times we shared with VINES in our building. We wish them well and look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.



Session Highlights

by Andy Chadwick, Clerk of Session

The business of governing UPC continues. In addition to our routine business, here are some highlights of other activities:

The UP Center operated by the Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC) is applying for grants to be open seven nights per week. They have also applied to be considered a "Code Blue" facility, allowing them to expand capacity when the weather is below freezing.

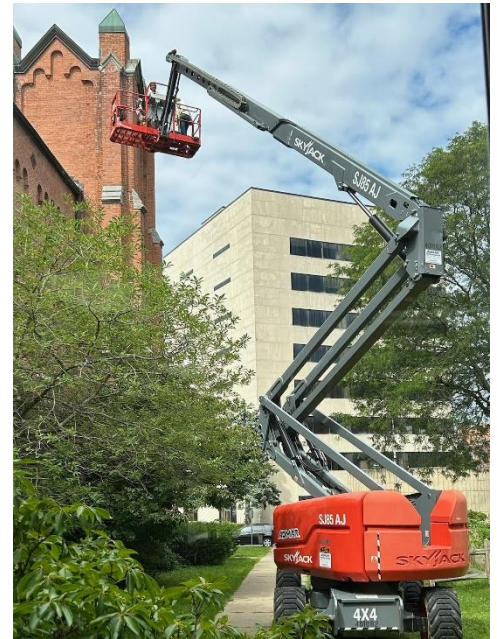
You may have noticed an orange and blue box on the front lawn of the church as you enter the driveway. This is a Blessing Box, installed by Good Neighbors (a 501(c) organization) but owned by ACBC. Good Neighbors has been donating large amounts of food to the shelter, which shares it with us. Food is put out on Wednesdays for pantry guests; what was left over used to be sent to a farm for feed. Now, this extra perfectly good food is available for hungry people downtown. Food that is obtained from



CHOW or the Food Bank is not allowed to be placed in the Blessing Box, so having it owned by ACBC assures that supplies are properly provided by the Good Neighbors organization.

Recent issues with our building could ultimately lead to some major expenses! Probably the largest potential expenditure involves the sanctuary roof, which is 25 years old.

We had noticed some water damage along the top of the sanctuary south wall this year, so over the summer we had one of our contractors come to clean out the drain lines from the sanctuary roof gutters.



In the process, they discovered that the stained glass window covers were leaking, so we had all of those re-caulked. They brought in a big crane to do that work!

The crane offered an excellent vantage point to assess the condition of the sanctuary roof — and we learned that there are many missing/broken shingles on the south roof. It has been recommended that it be replaced. This brings up previous discussions about installing solar panels or solar shingles.

There will be much more discussion before a final decision is reached, but it is clear that roof work is necessary.

Project Regeneration Update

On Saturday August 10th, Rev. Dr. Rose Niles from the Presbyterian Foundation joined us again to lead us in our latest session of Project Regeneration. She walked us through what our next steps would be to begin thinking about what we want our next 5 years to look like.

We had table discussions about what makes up our DNA as a congregation — what are the things that matter most to us? She also had us evaluate the congregation's readiness for pre-development of a "next chapter" with these three categories: Energy with Joy, Our Runway, and Our People. Once we take stock of where we are in these three categories, we can better judge what size project we are ready to take on next.

Rose then had us think about our dreams for the congregation and to see if there was a big enough dream to activate our energy to see us into this next phase. Something new is happening in the world, so how can we equip ourselves to get out the message of Jesus Christ and care for



others? How can we be ready for where God wants us to go? We had some great conversations about these potentials.

Some of the ideas that came out of the gathering were:

- Allison Nyamuame has begun a conversation with congregation and community members about our vision and mission, with a goal of making it “granular” and easy to communicate to the community.
- There was another discussion about creating a community advisory group to help us sharpen our vision and broaden it to include other partners.
- Sara Lieberman is pulling together a social media team with the goal of posting something onto social media each day. She has thoughts about daily themes and how content might be generated. We are eager to hear your ideas. Please see Sara if you would like to be part of the team.
- Families with young children have suggested that we move coffee hour to the Fellowship Hall and have dedicated activities for the children at the far end of the hall. This way, they can play together and enjoy activities while parents have a chance for fellowship.
- The idea of a church family retreat was mentioned again, possibly at Sky Lake or another retreat center closer to Binghamton.
- A critical issue is making sure that we aren’t so overloaded with maintenance tasks and day-to-day church management that we can’t do the work of dreaming, communicating and engaging. What are the parts of our ministry and mission that we feel define us, that we can’t do without? What are the things that we might want or need to let go of in order to free up energy for taking on the tasks of restructuring for the future?

Our homework before our next session with Rose is to look at our Mission Statement and see if it communicates to people outside the church what we think it does. Does it need to be changed, explained, or tweaked at all? A small group of people from the meeting volunteered to get together and look at that. We are looking forward to dreaming and evaluating as we work through Project Regeneration at UPC!

View from the Kitchen

by Sherry Conklin, Community Kitchen Coordinator

Everything in the food mission is great. Guest numbers are leveling out even though we still see many new home-insecure people in our pantry and meal.

The Ready To Eat emergency food boxes were given out to 36 hungry people during the month of September. These boxes are reserved for anyone that shows up hungry and for anyone in the hotels. These boxes contain protein foods that do not require cooking, such as protein bars, nuts, peanut butter, tuna fish, and snacks.

We continue to have a diaper program for children and adults.

The clothing bank is doing quite well. This program has been blessed with many donations, which blesses many people. So many donations came in during September that I had to put out an S.O.S.! Cindy, Suzie, Alex, and Joan came in on a Friday and worked for 3 hours getting things organized. We have things for people who’ve found a place to live and need to get set up. There are linens, blankets, towels, dishes and utensils, pots and pans, and small appliances. We have dishes available for those living in the motel rooms also.

Good Neighbors installed a “free pantry” box out in the front yard. Any extra food donations, especially bread, are placed out there. The box is emptied quite quickly and often.

The meal program averages 60 to 100 guests per night and the pantry serves about 60 families per week.

I would love to have a volunteer help me in the pantry on Wednesdays from 3 to 5. Anyone interested can call the church office (607-722-4219) or email meal@upcbgm.org.

Also if anyone is cleaning out their closet, we could use some men's clothing donations, please.

New Outdoor Banners

It's been several years since we began replacing our sign out on Chenango Street. The dream was to install an electronic signboard, and we removed the old letterboard and built a lovely sign frame with brick pillars and our church name. Then the sign company went bankrupt, and then there was a pandemic and the whole project got sidelined. So for the last 5 years, we've had a gaping hole in the middle of our sign frame. The gap in the sign frame led some members of the community to wonder if we were still open as a church.

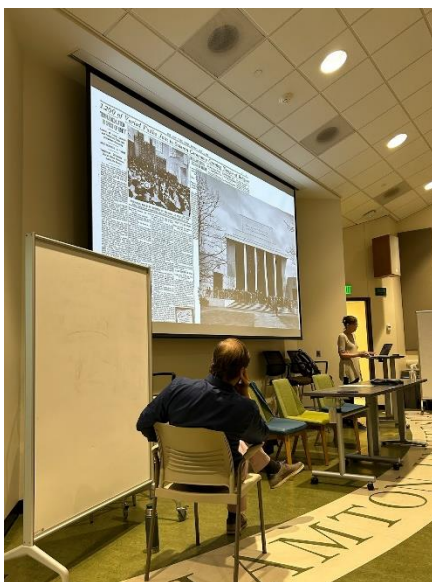
This summer we found an effective and inexpensive way to fill that gap. We designed a sign that has our slogan, our Sunday worship time, the More Light Presbyterians logo, and our website and YouTube channel on it. Space was left at the bottom of the design for some additional text, which we can change out depending on what's relevant that time of year.

In August we put up the "Welcome back students!" version of the sign. When we get closer to Christmas, we'll put a sign up that tells the time of our Christmas Eve worship service. And in the meantime, we're displaying a version that advertises our Community Meal and Food Pantry hours.



Christian Nationalism Discussion at Binghamton University

In September, Doug Jones, Matt Johnson, and Pastors Kimberly and Becky helped to create an event on



campus to learn more about Christian Nationalism. Doug and Matt recruited professor David Cingrinelli from the Political Science Department and Professor Wendy Wall from the History Department to help form a panel discussion with Pastor Kimberly as well called "Christian Nationalism: Scholarly Perspectives on its History and Contemporary Influence in the United States". It was a great evening with a full classroom of students, professors, and community members coming and learning about this important topic.

Special Day Coming Your Way?

Members and friends of our congregation are encouraged to provide the church office with birth dates (if not already on file) so that we can be sure folks receive celebration greetings from our church family. No need to provide us with the year if you'd rather keep that to yourself!

Please let us know of any other special occasions, and also about difficult times and prayer needs where a card or supportive message may be appreciated.

You may contact the church office or a member of the Card Committee (Margaret Davis, Suzie Northrop Raboy, Jenni McKeage, Lana Ogden, Margaret Sands, and Cindy Chadwick).

Supporting Our Mission and Ministry

Online Giving: We are able to receive tax-deductible contributions online through our website (upcbgm.org/give). 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! 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 120 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 for more info: 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 contribute their ideas and support behind the scenes. If you'd like to take part, contact Worship Team chair Suzie Raboy or the church office: office@upcbgm.org

Other ministry teams: 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**, Margaret Davis; **Finance**, Andy Chadwick; **Hospitality**, Sally Hunt or Sherry Conklin; **Mission**, Pastor Kimberly or Sherry Conklin; **Personnel**, Cindy Burger; **Property**, Pastor Becky; **Sewing Group**, Cindy Burger.

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.

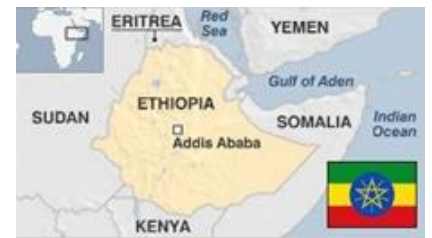
For a limited time, Tioga Downs will match every dollar donated to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. Every \$10 donated becomes \$20, helping provide enough food for 60 meals.

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.

News from the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley

The Ethiopian Mission Partnership Team

Our Presbytery has been actively involved in a partnership mission in Ethiopia for over 25 years. This partnership with Western Wollega Bethel Synod (WWBS), headquartered in Dembi Dolo, was established in 1996. The goals are to pray for each other, learn about each other's culture, and to send visitors to represent their half of the partnership and to strengthen the bonds of the partnership. Over the years we have developed a friendship like no other. We know each other by our first names. We share our needs and pray for each other. We also help financially to support the work of the synod.



This year, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) Bethel Synod is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Bethel Mekane Yesus School, and the 50-year Jubilee of the merger of Mekane Yesus Church with the Bethel Evangelical Church which resulted in the EECMY. The celebration will also recognize 105 years of Presbyterian ministry in Ethiopia.

The last time we sent any visitors to Ethiopia was in 2014, so we are very excited that three people from the presbytery will travel to Ethiopia this November and join in the celebration. Cheryll Berg from Owego, Junieta Brooks from Northminster, and Rev. Paul Huh from Walton will be representing our presbytery at the celebration in Addis Ababa. Cheryll and Junieta will also visit WWBS for a few days during the trip. While there they will meet and talk with the new president of the synod. They will also be able to visit with friends and acquaintances who have been involved with the partnership for many years.

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 Junieta Brooks junieta68@gmail.com, Cheryll Berg thunderbirdatlatl@gmail.com, or Paul Huh pastorpaul@waltonup.org.

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

The Jeremiah Pottery program

"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand." (Jeremiah 18:6)



Jeremiah Pottery is a formational experience in which you can build your faith while working with clay.

Ministers, elders, commissioned pastors, lay preachers, and presbytery committee members are invited, along with their families — fun for all ages, young and old.

The rich imagery of God as the potter in the Bible tells us we are the clay. The goal is to draw theological imagery of ceramic art into a process of spiritual renewal. The ceramic art-making process would help shape the formation of practicing our faith in difficult times with resilience and trust in God, whose hands continue to mold and reform us.

After pioneering this program in the Walton community, Rev. Paul Huh has begun taking the show on the road and bringing this experience to various locations around the presbytery, starting here at UPC, where he co-taught the group along with Suzie Northrop Raboy in August. It was offered after the presbytery assembly meeting in September at Bovina United Presbyterian Church, and will be offered again at Cortland United Presbyterian Church following November's assembly meeting.



Programs & Events

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.

“Shura” film screening & discussion of Southern border crisis

Thursday, October 17, 6:30–8:30pm at UPC

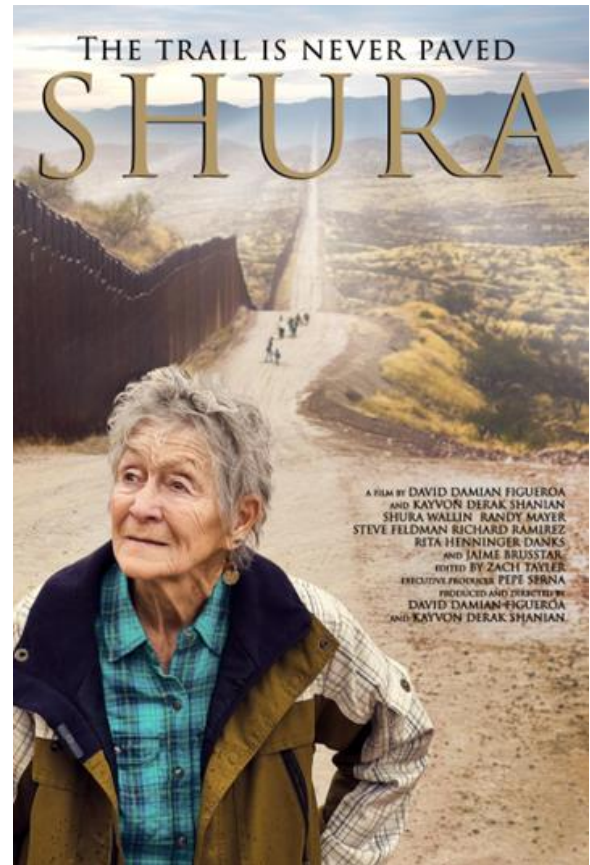
Join Gail Kocourek from the Tucson Samaritans, who for more than 10 years has been a constant presence along the Arizona–Mexico border welcoming travelers from around the world. We will preview the short film documentary “Shura” (27 minutes), then have a discussion about the ongoing humanitarian crisis 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*



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



Photo illustration by FreeSVG (CC-BY-SA 1.0)

- **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 New York State Council of Churches (nyscoc.org) and The Religious Nationalisms Project

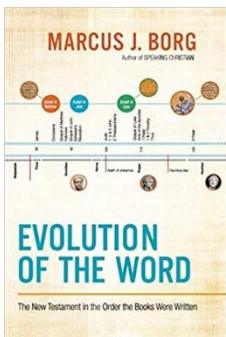
UPC's "Zoom room"

Modern technology is marvelous! Thanks to the Zoom meetings system, we can gather virtually even when it's difficult to 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 <https://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, 1-2pm, in the Upper Lounge or the Zoom room

We're reading from Marcus Borg's *Evolution of the Word: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were Written*. Everyone is welcome to join us in person or on Zoom.

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.

UPC Sewing Group

Wednesdays, 10am-1pm in the Upper Lounge, with Zoom lunch hour at 12pm

Itchin' to be Stitchin'? Every Wednesday from 10am to 1pm, the UPC Sewing Group meets in the Upper Lounge to scratch the quilting itch that members have had for more than a half-century. Over the years, hundreds of quilts have been provided to those in need in the community and beyond, to new babies in our church family, and to those needing a little extra comfort. In addition, members knit and crochet mittens, hats, and scarves, and sew bags for use on walkers.

"Sew" what, you say? This group brings much to the mission of UPC: it provides an opportunity to enhance our internal and external friendships and church spirit in addition to providing functional gifts which support the church's mission of helping others and spreading kindness.

Recently the Sewing Group was joined by Betsy Perry, who attends church in Endwell, and became interested in our group when she heard more about it from group member Cindy Burger. Betsy has shared her quilting talents as a member of other quilting groups in the Binghamton area over the years, and has done the same in Florida. We're very fortunate to have her with us!

And now for the sad news. The Sewing Group will sorely miss long-time member Nancy Walter as she begins a new adventure in California. We're extremely excited for her, as a new house and living near her daughter, son-in-law, and adorable granddaughter will surely bring much joy. We are indebted to Nancy

for her years of dedication to the group, and her countless hours of designing (and naming!) colorful, creative, and classy quilts. Thank you, Nancy, and all best wishes on your new journey! We hope to see you on Wednesdays for our Zoom lunches.

Now more than ever, we need YOU to help continue the tradition of this fun and fabulous group (author's license taken on that description, but it's accurate). If you can sew, crochet, or knit, great! If you can't, no problem! There are many essential tasks for non-sewers and non-knitters including tying quilts; laying out rows of squares; cutting squares; organizing supply closets; distributing quilts, walker bags, hats, and mittens in the community; and sorting donations received from "textile collection curators" (we like to be called that instead of "fabric hoarders," a very common trait among those who love sewing).

Join us! We hope to see you on Wednesdays, 10am to 1pm in the Upper Lounge. Our stitching stops at noon so we can enjoy lunch together (chips, tea, and cookies are provided). If you can't join us in person on Wednesdays, projects can also be worked on at home. For more information, please contact the church office or a member of the group (Cindy Burger, Cindy Chadwick, Ann Cobb, Ellen Hancock-Berti, Jean Hill, Janet and Len Hoover, Pastor Kimberly, Pastor Becky, Nancy Walter).

Zoom Happy hour

Friday evenings, 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.

News from the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley

Our presbytery's newsletter, "Thursday Thoughts" (susvalpresby.org/thursday-thoughts), is published every week and includes announcements from our partner congregations in the region, news from the PC(USA) denomination, and links to webinars & resources available to us through the presbytery.

Thursday Thoughts often announces classes and retreats offered by churches, seminaries, and other agencies, some in person and others online.

We are all invited to expand our understanding of the church and its mission through a broad variety of topics. Check it out, you might find something that sparks your interest.

Hurricane Relief Efforts

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, 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.

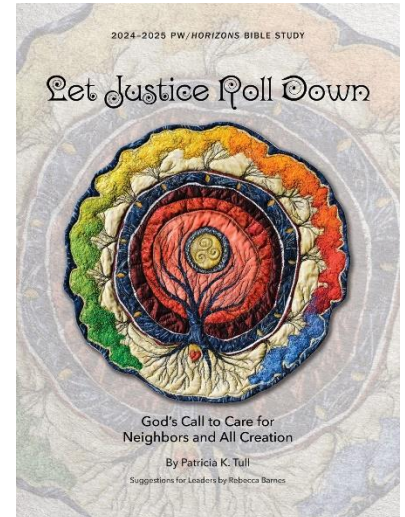
Please keep in your prayers all affected by this disaster and all those working to assist with rescue, recovery, and cleanup.

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

Frontier Fellowship

As part of God’s mission to the world, Frontier Fellowship invites believing communities to engage people groups where the Good News of Jesus and his Kingdom is not yet known.

Read their fall newsletter: issuu.com/frontierfellowship/docs/fall_2024_frontier_journal



Starting as a mission of the United Presbyterian Church of Portland, Oregon, for more than 40 years Frontier Fellowship has been following a call to engage the Church — inviting, educating, inspiring, gathering, and equipping followers of Jesus to embrace their God-given roles in making his name known among every nation, tribe, people, and language. Unreached people groups are ethno-linguistic communities with little or no access to the Gospel. Researchers estimate there are over two billion people from more than 6,500 unique groups in the world today who’ve never heard about Jesus. Learn more about Frontier Fellowship at frontierfellowship.com.

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.)

Practical Resources for Churches

Practical Resources for Churches (prcli.org) is a resource that the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley’s Commission on Ministry subscribes to so all congregations in our presbytery can access their programs. You’re encouraged to check out all they have to offer and take advantage of the abundance of programs and information. Many of their programs and webinars are available at no charge to you through our paid subscription, and most of their webinars are recorded and available for later viewing if you missed attending it live.

Here are three webinars from PRC that are coming up soon:

- **Truly Welcoming Environments for Today’s Unchurched – Thursday, October 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/3NnibKI
- **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

These webinars are free to you, funded through the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley’s subscription to PRC.

The “Pew to Pulpit” series is for church folks who find themselves leading worship – whether stepping in for a pastor on leave, helping during a transition, or moving to stronger congregational leadership. The series is part practical support, part art, and part encouragement. Recordings of workshops in the series are available on PRC’s website.

They also have links to resources on a wide variety of topics including caring ministries, spiritual practices, small church life, social justice, and environmental stewardship. Other resources 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 Education and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for adults, children, youth, families, and multigenerational ministry. The October 2024 letter is at bit.ly/3TY9jSV

Joys and Concerns

Preparing to Wed: Andrew & Margaret; Emma & Jessica

Newlywed: Keith & Allison

Expecting a Baby: Tom & Brittney

Welcome to the World: Violet Elizabeth Hunt, 9/15/24

Traveling Mercies: Meberts, Chadwicks, Sara, Nancy

Recovering from Surgery: Dave R, Kathy K

For Healing: Kathy, Eugene, Sharon, Jenni, Nate

Grieving: Friends & Family of: Brenda Peak, Jeff Hooper, Bobbie Hickling, Michael Guinane, Arndt Ruprecht, Maida Thomas, Fr. Jerry Ozlanski, Bishop Carl Lewis, Bruce Borton, Barbara Garges, Zack Glover, Travis Yerdan, Viola Scott, Terrill Braxton, Chrissy Lovelace

Living with Cancer: Mary Ann, Molly, Leah, Suzy, Zeke, Pam, Joann, Danny, Charlie



Ongoing: Evelyn, Felix, MacMyne family, Jean, Jimmy, Kristie, Scott N., Rachmani family, Jen, Carlos, Rupee J., Angela & Jazmine & family, Bob & Esther, Bernie

Other Concerns: We pray for

- The upcoming US elections
- people with severe mental illness
- people who are housing-insecure
- people struggling with addictions
- those affected by cartel violence in and around Sasabe, Mexico
- Turkey & Syria
- Ukraine & Russia
- Israel/Palestine

Recent & Upcoming Birthdays

October

- 2 James McKeage
Patrick McKeage
- 3 Christina Bauman
- 4 Lauren Hickey
Sam Richardson
- 5 Oliver Richardson
- 7 Kathy Preston
- 11 Philip Hazen Westcott
- 15 David Ruston
- 16 Dean Ogden
- 25 Marcy DiRosa
- 27 Shelby Livingston
- 29 Ken Mebert
- 30 Kristine Valashinas

November

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

December

- 2 Aoife Backus
- 3 Anne Boyer Cotten
- 9 Douglas Hill
- 10 Declan Jones
- 14 Linda Griffin
- 15 Chris Burger
- 17 Jessica Lane-Rwabukwisi
- 19 Lee Day
Andrea Livingston
- 20 Isla Jones
- 25 Grace Hickey
- 27 Jon Morse
- 30 Nancy Walter
- 31 Peter Griffiths





Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON



42 Chenango Street • Binghamton, NY 13901 • www.upcbgm.org

☎ 607-722-4219 • ✉ office@upcbgm.org • 📘 UPCBinghamton

Address Service Requested

Harvest Happy Hour

Friday, October 18, 5pm at the Chadwicks' house

It's that time of year for pumpkins, mums, leaf piles and all things pumpkin-spice. Let's add an in-person UPC Happy Hour to the harvest festivities!

As you may know, UPC enjoys Happy Hour on Friday evenings via Zoom, initiated during the COVID pandemic. It's still going strong, and over the last year we've expanded our gatherings to include in-person events.

Our next in-person happy hour will be Friday, October 18, beginning at 5pm at Cindy and Andy Chadwick's house in Apalachin. If you can't be there right at 5pm, please come whenever you can as UPC Happy Hour is usually Happy *Hours*. 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). 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. Hope to see you there!