

# **Announcements**

November 24, 2024

## **THIS WEEK AT UPC:**

**[11/24] Coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, 11:15am–12:15pm**

**United Ringers rehearsal, 11:30am–12:30pm**

**[11/25] 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.

**To join UPC's "Zoom Room" online:** [upcbgm.org/zoom](https://upcbgm.org/zoom)

**To dial as a phone call:**

**(+1) 646-558-8656**

**Meeting ID: 865 274 8433**

**[11/27] NO Sewing Group; NO UPC Choir rehearsal**

**[11/28–30] Thanksgiving holiday, building closed**

**[11/29] Zoom Happy hour, 5–6:30pm.** 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.

## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**[12/1] Worship & Communion, 10am** *"Words for the Beginning: You Are a Blessing"*

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

**United Ringers rehearsal, 11:30am–12:30pm**

**[12/2] Bible Study**

**[12/4] 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.

**Card Committee meeting, 1:30pm**

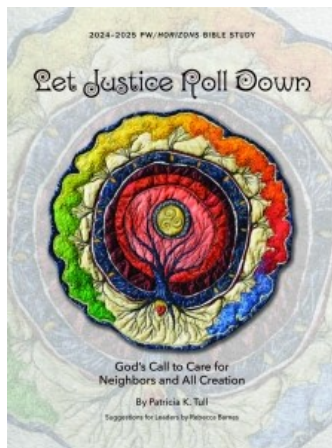
**UPC Choir rehearsal, 6:30–7:30pm**

**[12/6] Zoom Happy hour**

**[12/8] Silver Bells gifts due back to church**

**[12/13] Community Christmas Carol sing-along** (*see flyer*)

**[12/24] Christmas Eve worship – communion & candlelight, 4pm**



## Online Book Study on “Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation” by Patricia K. Tull – *Sunday, November 24, 7:00–8:15pm*

### Lesson 3: Food Justice

Join Presbyterians for Earth Care for this unique monthly opportunity for community and meaningful study. **Each lesson is stand-alone – join us online for any or all of our study sessions!** Reading the chapter in advance is helpful, but not required.

Visit [presbyearthcare.org/bible-study-pw-2024-2025](https://presbyearthcare.org/bible-study-pw-2024-2025) for more details. We hope to see you there!

## Sustainable Holidays: Presbyterian Giving Opportunities & Participant Idea Exchange *Monday, November 25, 7:30pm – a Presbyterians for Earth Care webinar*

The Presbyterian Giving Catalog ([presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org](https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org)) celebrates its 10th Anniversary with the 2024–25 issue. No wrapping is needed for the 40+ gifts available through the catalog, not to mention no waste! Generous gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted, and sharing our faith with young and old. The catalog includes gifts that represent causes close to anyone’s heart, such as hygiene kits, cookstoves, teacher training, and beekeeping supplies.

Sy Hughes, a Ministry Engagement Advisor for the PC(USA), will share ways we can use this program to give sustainably in honor or memory of family and friends during the holidays. The webinar will include time for participants to share their own ideas for giving gifts and celebrating the upcoming Christmas holiday season in ways that do not negatively impact the earth.



Register for the webinar at [presbyearthcare.org/sustainable-gift-ideas-for-holidays](https://presbyearthcare.org/sustainable-gift-ideas-for-holidays)

## Presbyterians for Earth Care’s 2024 Advent Daily Devotional

New daily Advent devotions based on the lectionary texts, viewed from Creation Care perspectives. PEC hopes this devotional will provide you with new insights on these beloved texts during this special season, and will inspire more people to help care for God’s creation in these challenging times. Available to view online or download in both English and Spanish: [presbyearthcare.org/devotional-and-worship-aids](https://presbyearthcare.org/devotional-and-worship-aids)



**Connecting the Dots between the Waste Crisis and the Climate Crisis – Saturday, January 11, 11am**  
*a Presbyterians for Earth Care webinar*

Our own Elder Chris Burger will lead this program exploring how addressing the waste crisis helps in addressing the climate crisis. The program will also present implications for individuals and families.

Having worked in both the energy field as well as the field of recycling and zero waste, Chris is well positioned to talk about the interconnections between the two. He established a Community Recycling Center in 1973. In 1977, he developed the first Weatherization program in the United States. In 1985, he developed our County-wide recycling program. He has co-founded and/or led a number of organizations focused on sustainability, including a Cornell University think-tank on sustainability (Eco-Justice Project) and the New York Sustainable Business Council. He is a member of Rotary International's Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG). He also walks the talk: he and his family have lived as a zero-waste household since 1992, and he designed and built a home that has been fossil-fuel-free since 1998. Known worldwide, he gives talks and workshops on both zero waste and how to wean ourselves off fossil fuels. Chris currently serves as Co-Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley.

The Zoom meeting link is not yet available. To receive a notification when it becomes available, contact Chris at [cwburger@frontiernet.net](mailto:cwburger@frontiernet.net) or **607-692-3442**.

**Congregation directory – 2025 update:** We're starting the process of updating our congregation's "Family & Friends Directory". Everybody is encouraged to provide us with a new photo of you (or your family), and to provide us with any updates to your addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. The photo does not need to be a "formal" portrait. It can be a candid photo or even a selfie. You can email the photo to the church office or text it to **607-218-4636**. Or if you'd like, Scott can take a photo of you at church on one of the next few Sundays.

We'd also like to be able to celebrate your birthdays! We publish the month & day in the directory and the newsletter, and our Card Committee sends out birthday greeting cards as well. We don't need to know your year of birth if you don't want to share that – though it is helpful information for the Clerk of Session to have for our annual statistical reports to the PC(USA).

New information for the directory can be provided to the church office in writing or via email, or submitted via our website at [upcbgm.org/directory](http://upcbgm.org/directory). Please turn in your updates by **Tuesday, January 7, 2025**.

**Post-Election Immigration Concerns and Sanctuary Congregations**  
***Tuesday, December 3, 10:30am–12pm, and Tuesday, January 7, 11am–12:30pm***  
*webinars from the Synod of the Northeast*

From Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley, Transitional Leader, Synod of the Northeast:  
As immigration enforcement concerns remain a pressing reality, it is vital that we come together to support vulnerable individuals, families, and communities. We invite you to join Amanda Craft, Manager of Immigration Advocacy for the PC(USA), for two essential gatherings addressing post-election immigration concerns and sanctuary congregations. This will be a compassionate space for expressing concerns, sharing experiences, and building resilience.

Amanda trains leaders in immigration-advocacy policy efforts tailored to their unique contexts. Her work is guided by immigrant-led organizations and interfaith coalitions, ensuring that advocacy remains rooted in lived experiences. Amanda's dedication to this mission is informed by her time living and serving in Central America and along the U.S.–Mexico border. Currently based in Kentucky with her husband and two sons, Amanda is also pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

*December 3 Webinar Highlights*

- The impact of immigration enforcement on individuals and families.
- Creating family care plans and rapid response strategies.
- Understanding how the Office of Immigration Issues can provide ongoing support.

*January 7 Webinar Highlights*

- Identifying and addressing the unique needs of your community.
- Advocacy actions and organizing for care and support.
- Developing actionable rapid response and care plans.
- Exploring ways the General Assembly-level Office of Immigration Issues can assist.

*Who should attend?*

- Individuals directly affected by immigration enforcement and their families.
- Pastors and leaders with members who may be impacted.
- All who are ready to stand in solidarity with immigrants in your congregations, mid councils, or communities

These conversations are pivotal to organizing, advocating, and providing care for those most at risk. Together, we can take actionable steps to ensure our congregations and communities are sanctuaries of support and hope. We look forward to standing in solidarity with you as we care for the most vulnerable among us.

For more information, please contact SanDawna [sandawna.ashley@synodne.org](mailto:sandawna.ashley@synodne.org) or Rev. Nancy Talbot, Synod Stated Clerk [nancy.talbot@synodne.org](mailto:nancy.talbot@synodne.org).

Register for the webinar at [bit.ly/3V28FV5](https://bit.ly/3V28FV5).

## **Singing in Times of Crisis: Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette on the topic of immigration**

Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, pastor of the First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego, was interviewed recently for the PC(USA)'s *Call to Worship* journal about her prolific writing of hymns that offer new lyrics to familiar tunes. An excerpt:

“An ongoing crisis that touches our whole world is the situation that many immigrants and refugees find themselves in. It is caused by a combination of things — climate change, violence and war, economic injustice, political unrest, violence against women, prejudice, and our own lack of creativity and welcome. Immigrants and refugees are fleeing for their lives and trying to find a place they can survive and thrive. Some countries are struggling to find the resources to help; others are making some efforts but failing to respond adequately.

“I wrote ‘Abraham Journeyed to a New Country’ as a prayer for these new neighbors and for churches that are seeking to respond with welcome and love. As is the case with many of my hymns, I began with the Bible. I lifted up biblical stories of people who were on the move... I also lifted up the reasons that immigrants seek new countries today. One time, a few years after I wrote the hymn, I was at a conference and a woman came up to me and said, ‘Last summer I was at a worship service where we sang your song on immigration [“Abraham Journeyed...”], and it changed my mind about immigration!’ She said she started to see immigrants not as a problem, but as people in need of welcome and love. That is the power of music. Hymns are prayers, and through God’s Holy Spirit, they have the power to change us.”

### **Abraham Journeyed to a New Country** (sung to the tune “Morning Has Broken”)

Abraham journeyed to a new country; Sarah went with him, journeying too.  
Slaves down in Egypt fled Pharaoh’s army; Ruth left the home and people she knew.

Mary and Joseph feared Herod’s order; soldiers were coming! They had to flee.  
Taking young Jesus, they crossed the border; so was our Lord a young refugee.

Some heard the promise— God’s hand would bless them! Some fled from hunger, famine  
and pain.

Some left a place where others oppressed them; all trusted God and started again.

Did they know hardship? Did they know danger? Who shared a home or gave them some  
bread?

Who reached a hand to welcome the stranger? Who saw their fear and gave hope instead?

God, our own families came here from far lands; we have been strangers, “aliens” too.  
May we reach out and offer a welcome as we have all been welcomed by you.

Biblical References: Genesis 12; Ruth 1; Matthew 2:13–16, 10:40, 25:31–46; Hebrews 11, 13:2; Leviticus 19:18, 33–34. Text: Copyright © 2010 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

You can find the full interview at [calltoworshipjournal.org/singing-in-times-of-crisis](http://calltoworshipjournal.org/singing-in-times-of-crisis)

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

***Mondays, December 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.

“Generations” is a groundbreaking, revelatory portrait of the six generations that currently live in the United States and how they connect, conflict, and compete with one another. With her clear-eyed and insightful voice, Twenge explores what the Silents and Boomers want out of the rest of their lives; how Gen X-ers are facing middle age; the ideals of Millennials as parents and in the workplace; and how Gen Z has been changed by COVID-19, among other fascinating topics. Surprising, engaging, and informative, “Generations” will forever change the way you view your parents, peers, coworkers, and children, no matter what your generation.

Zoom meeting info: Meeting ID: 890 2390 0994; Passcode: 765492

## **Supporting Older Adults in the “Third Thirty” – Tuesday, December 3, 2pm** *a webinar from the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN)*

Learn about the challenges of aging, how older adults can best navigate them, and how the church can provide support. Chris Pomfret, a 10-year member of POAMN and its current treasurer, will lead the webinar.

Chris observed how his parents and many others were unprepared for events that come their way in their later lives. These include decisions about where to live as they age, the importance of downsizing, and having conversations with children or loved ones about our end-of-life wishes. He wanted to help people in this “Third Thirty” period age smartly, wisely, gracefully, sensibly, and spiritually.

During the webinar, Chris will introduce an ecumenical curriculum for church organizations and/or older adult leaders to use or adapt with their congregations.

The webinar is free; registration is required. [poamn.org/third-thirty-webinar-2024](https://poamn.org/third-thirty-webinar-2024)

## **What’s Happening Around the Synod of the Northeast**

The Synod’s November 2024 newsletter is out and it’s full of interesting information. Read it at [conta.cc/492N5Fw](https://conta.cc/492N5Fw). Highlights:

- Synod Leader Rev. SanDawna Ashley’s message: “Walking the Path of Justice: Reflections on Courage, Compassion, and the Church’s Call”
- Guidance on living out Matthew 25 on Giving Tuesday
- Summary of the 2024 Synod Assembly
- Resources, upcoming events, and more






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

**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

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. For more info about this approach to writing, see: [amherstwriters.org/what-to-expect](https://amherstwriters.org/what-to-expect)

**Practical Resources for Churches** ([prcli.org](https://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.



Other resources from PRC include:

- **What’s Next:** A biweekly sharing of timely resources and upcoming webinars. The most recent (11/5/2024) letter is at [conta.cc/3UEgKz1](https://conta.cc/3UEgKz1)
- **Just One More Page:** A monthly book review blog. [prcli.org/prc-book-review-blog](https://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. November’s letter: [bit.ly/4fhYxPZ](https://bit.ly/4fhYxPZ)

**Advent/Christmas Jazz Vespers – Sunday, December 15, 4pm**  
at Union Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Endicott

We are invited to join our friends at Union Pres for Christmas Jazz Vespers with the Presbybop Quintet as they bring syncopated dreams for peace and joy. Experience the sounds of the season with a spiritual swing, led by Presbyterian pastor and jazz pianist Bill Carter. Advent and Christmas seasonal favorites and some of Bill Carter's original arrangements will bring smiles and tapping feet.



An Owego native, Bill Carter serves as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. His Presbybop Jazz bands have recorded several albums including “Fragile Incarnation” and “Jazz Noel.” His most recent recording “The Dancing Calvinist” includes the profoundly moving jazz requiem “Lux Aeterna.” He is also the author of *Thriving on a Riff: Jazz and the Spiritual Life*, an inspiring and informative book which has received wide acclaim.

Playing with pianist Carter are Mike Carbone, sax, Jeff Stockham, trumpet, Tony Marino, bass, and Tom Killian on drums. Always a popular worship experience at UPC, this is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend (or several!) to join you for Jazz Vespers.

**Silver Bells gift tags**

The little tree at the front of the sanctuary is decorated with “Silver Bells” for the Broome County Council of Churches’ Faith in Action Volunteers (FIAV). Bells at Christmas are a symbol of celebration and joy. Our participation in the Silver Bells program will bring joy to the older adults in our community during the holiday season. Many of the seniors served by FIAV are homebound with little or no family in the area. Just a simple gift and the idea that someone is thinking of them can mean so much.

The silver bell tags list the first name, age, and gift wish of an older adult served by FIAV. If you take a tag, please write your name and contact info on the sign up sheet beneath the tree. Each gift should be unwrapped with its tag in a gift bag. Return gifts to the church by **Sunday, Dec. 8**, or at the church office no later than **Tuesday, Dec. 10**.

*More news from around the presbytery and across the denomination  
can be found at [susvalpresby.org/thursday-thoughts](http://susvalpresby.org/thursday-thoughts)*





# UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON



presents

## Community Christmas Carol Sing

Friday, December 13, 2024 at 5:30 PM



\* Location: UPC's Sanctuary

\* Bring a snack or non-alcoholic beverage to share!

\* Instrumentalists are invited to bring their instruments -  
songs are written in "C"

\* Send song requests to [office@upcbgm.org](mailto:office@upcbgm.org)

\*\* Everyone is welcome! \*\*

\* 42 Chenango St. Binghamton, NY 13903 \* 607-722-4219

\* [office@upcbgm.org](mailto:office@upcbgm.org) \*