

Announcements

December 8, 2024

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[12/8] **Coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, 11:15am-12:15pm** — Today we will have a craft activity, creating banners with the quilt square patterns from our Advent curriculum “Words for the Beginning” to decorate the sanctuary.

United Ringers rehearsal, 11:35am-12:35pm

[12/9] **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**

**To dial as a phone call:
(+1) 646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 865 274 8433**

[12/11] **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

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

[12/15] **Worship, 10am** “Words for the Beginning: Hope Is Worth the Risk”

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

United Ringers rehearsal, 11:35am-12:35pm

[12/16] **Bible Study, 1-2pm**

[12/18] **Sewing Group, 10am-1pm**

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

[12/20] **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.

[12/22] **Worship, 10am** Come-As-You-Are Christmas Pageant

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

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

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

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

Music at UPC: Music is an important part of our coming together. We are excited to make music with every resource that we have, and to use a variety of styles, not all at once but intermingled. What emerges is a vibrant worship service with music that includes everyone who wishes to participate.

We also invite instrumentalists and vocalists who’d like to share their gifts to talk with any of our music leaders about providing special music for worship – you can call the church office, email music@upcbgm.org, or speak with them in person after worship.



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

Volunteering: The Balance Between Doing and Being – Sunday, December 15, 12–1pm
at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, 183 Riverside Dr.



Join Dr. Francis Battisti as he takes you on a journey of exploring the concept of volunteering, embodying the balance between being and doing. As we seek to balance our life, we may want to explore the connection between the actions we take to have impact and our inner world of connection and compassion.

“It is not enough to be compassionate. You must act! ~*the Dalai Lama*
Free and open to the public. uubinghamton.org

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 world-wide, 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 or **607-692-3442**.





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

** Everyone is welcome! **

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

* office@upcbgm.org *

Find the holidays difficult? “Coping with Christmas”: Reflective Writing and Discussion Zoom Sessions – *Mon. Dec. 16, 10am–12pm, or Thu. Dec. 19, 6–8pm*

Our neighbors in the Presbytery of Geneva invite us to join in a time of expressive writing. 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

Monday 12/16, 10am: Meeting ID 897 8088 0609, Passcode 410057

Thursday 12/19, 6pm: Meeting ID 829 4662 3774, Passcode 143894

“Have you heard our cries?”: Korea Peace Journey – October 14–23, 2025
from the PC(USA) Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea

On this journey, people of faith will get to “hear the cries” of the Korean people, who have been divided and at war for over 70 years. Participants will learn about the barriers to peace that the United States and others have erected and maintained, and the efforts of peacemakers across the Pacific to overcome them.

Led by PC(USA) mission co-workers Kurt Esslinger and Unzu Lee, the journey will visit Seoul, the Demilitarized Zone, Jeju Island, and PyeongTaek. It will build connections between Christians in Korea who are working for peace and peace-loving Presbyterians and others in the U.S., enhancing the capability of all of us to promote peace on the Korean peninsula.



Registration will begin March 1 and is limited to 25 people. Total cost: \$2,500 + airfare.

For more info, contact peacenetorkorea@gmail.com or call **562-447-3575**.

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.

Congregation directory – 2025 update: We're starting the process of updating our congregation's "Family & Friends Directory". Everyone is encouraged to provide a new photo of you (or your family), and to give us 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 ask Scott to take a photo of you at church.

We also like to celebrate your birthdays! We publish the month & day in the directory and the newsletter, and our Card Committee sends out birthday cards as well. We don't need to know your year of birth if you don't want to share it – though it is helpful info 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. Please turn in your updates by **Tuesday, January 7, 2025**.

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