

Announcements

January 26, 2025

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[1/26] **Coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, 11:15am-12:15pm**

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

[1/27] **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

[1/29] **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, Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm

[1/31] **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:

[2/2] **Worship & communion, 10am**

Annual congregational meeting, Part I, 11:15am. On Sunday, February 2, at 11:15am, there will be a meeting of the Congregation and Corporation to present the budget for the 2025 year and to renew the congregational covenant with the pastors by voting to support their terms of call. This meeting will be hybrid, immediately following the worship service, in the sanctuary and in the Zoom room.

"Terms of call" is the PC(USA) language for what, in the business community, is called a "compensation package". Recognizing that God's call to pastoral ministry is expressed in a three-way covenant between the presbytery, the congregation, and the pastor, each year you are asked to support the work of the pastors by agreeing to support them financially as well as through your prayers and participation. After the congregation votes, the terms are sent to the presbytery for their approval.

Coffee hour & birthday celebration in the Sanctuary, 11:30am-12:30pm

Building Bridges Across Boundaries: Presbyterian Retreat for everybody
Friday May 9 – Saturday May 10 at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake

This invitation is being extended to all seven presbyteries of the Upstate New York network: Albany, Cayuga-Syracuse, Genesee Valley, Geneva, Northern New York, Susquehanna Valley, and Utica.

We're looking forward to this opportunity to get to know our fellow Presbyterians as we enter into a time of greater collaboration across geographic boundaries. We are especially encouraging ministers, commissioned ruling elders, lay preachers, and congregational leaders to attend.

Overnight with 3 meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast & lunch), with optional Friday lunch. Program will include team building, campfire, sing-along, and arts & crafts. Objective is getting to know each other across the Presbyteries of Upstate NY.

Registration will begin February 1. Cost per person to be announced later in January, will be less than \$100 per person.

UPDATE – Connection to Transformation:
Creating a Partnership Culture in Faith Communities
March 14–15 at First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, NY



The Synod is excited to offer a limited number of scholarships to pastors and church leaders interested in attending this event. This conference offers a unique opportunity to build collaboration skills and explore the power of partnership ministry. For generations, churches have served as the heart of community life, acting as catalysts for change and beacons of hope. This conference builds on that legacy, offering faith communities the empowering tools to harness their unique strengths and foster transformative partnerships. Designed to benefit urban, suburban, and rural communities alike, the conference will offer attendees actionable strategies for churches to partner with local organizations, nonprofits, and community leaders to address critical issues and create lasting impact.

- Highlight the role of faith in building partnerships and driving community transformation
- Explore strategies for engaging community organizations, repurposing church spaces, and collaborating with local governments, civic groups, and interfaith partners
- Provide clear guidance on public grant writing and learn about state-funded resources
- Address challenges in mobilizing resources and building sustainable church-community partnerships

Scholarship application: synodofthenortheast.wufoo.com/forms/mzxeorh1mwuk9i

Event registration: synodofthenortheast.wufoo.com/forms/m10ligbj01o92vr

Practical Resources for Churches (prcli.org) offers resources on a wide variety of topics including caring ministries, spiritual practices, small church life, social justice, and environmental stewardship. Check out all they have to offer and take advantage of the abundance of programs and information. Webinars are recorded and can be watched later on PRC's website. Upcoming topic:



- **Funding Fresh Ministry Initiatives – Thurs. Feb. 6, 2–3pm.** God has put a big dream on your heart to reach new people in new ways. Sadly, that fire is quickly doused when you think about paying for it. This workshop will equip you with tools and confidence to pursue your God-given vision without limitations. Learn how to tap into alternate sources of funding and cultivate a culture of generosity. bit.ly/3VPGYPs

NEW FROM PRC in 2025:

- **Tell Me a Story – starts Wed. Feb. 5, 7pm.** A Zoom-based series where we chat with wonderful authors, hear a little bit about their writing inspirations and processes, get previews of their newest releases, and give away a copy of one of their books! First up: GLENYS NELLIST! This is for everybody – adults, kids, families – anyone who loves a good story. bit.ly/3Wmezcx
- **Virtual Book Club – meets every other month.** The book for the March meeting is *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Register at bit.ly/4gXx1YT. For more info, email Karen Smith at karen@prcli.org.

Other resources from PRC include:

- **What's Next:** A biweekly sharing of timely resources and upcoming webinars. The most recent (1/14/2024) letter is at conta.cc/4hvXb8F
- **Cultivate: Growing in Faith:** Christian ed and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for all ages of adults and children. January's letter: bit.ly/4a7c5MG

What's Happening Around the Synod of the Northeast

The Synod's January 2025 newsletter is out and it's full of interesting information. Read it at bit.ly/4gbGESS. Highlights:

- Synod Leader Rev. SanDawna Ashley's message: "Reimagining the Church in the World: Bold in Faith, Transformative in Mission, United in Christ"
- Matthew 25 in Action: Reflections on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Supporting disaster assistance in the wake of the California wildfires
- Synod Mission Day with the Seneca Nation, June 14, 10am–5pm
- Wurffel-Sills interest-free student loan program for undergrads and seminarians
- Resources, grants, job postings, upcoming events, and more



Congregational Learning Day – Saturday, March 1, 8:30am–1pm on Zoom
brought to us by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley & the Upstate NY Presbyteries network

The Congregational Learning Day is an opportunity for new and experienced church leaders and church members. We're invited to join in worshiping and learning together with our Presbyterian neighbors from the Genesee Valley and across upstate New York.

Register now through February 27. Event schedule, list of workshops, and registration: pbygenval.org/congregational-learning-day.

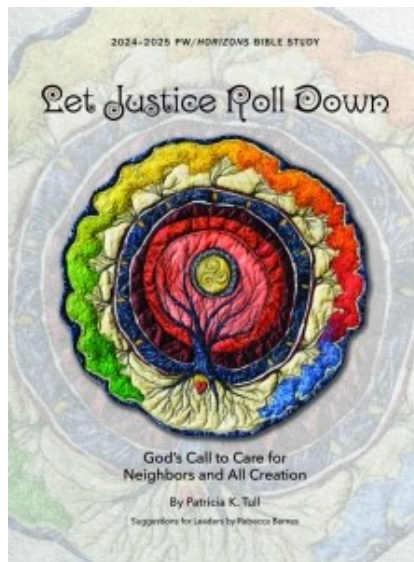
Southern Tier Singers' Collective Concert – Saturday, February 22, 7:30pm
at St. Patrick's Church, 9 Leroy St.

The Southern Tier Singers' Collective will present a concert on February 22, 2025 entitled *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. Written in 1584, *Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Orlando Lassus contain many themes that still resonate in our modern world. Come experience this stunning Renaissance polyphony in an exciting and contemplative performance in the cathedral-like setting of Saint Patrick's Church. Free and open to the public; donations gratefully accepted. southerntiersingers.org

**Online Book Study on “Let Justice Roll Down:
God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation”**
by Patricia K. Tull – Sunday, January 26, 7:00–8:15pm

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. The study group meets the fourth Sunday of each month through May 2025.

Visit presbyearthcare.org/bible-study-pw-2024-2025 for more details. We hope to see you there!



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