

# Announcements

February 2, 2025

## **THIS WEEK AT UPC:**

[2/2] **Annual congregational meeting, Part I, 11:15am**

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

[2/3] **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**

[2/5] **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** 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!

[2/7] **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:**

[2/9] **Worship, 10am** – *Souper Bowl of Caring* collection (see back page)

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

**United Ringers rehearsal, 11:15am-12:15pm** 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, please inquire. New members are always welcome – no previous experience needed!

[2/13-17] **Pastor Kimberly on vacation**

[2/16] **Worship, 10am** – Pastor Becky leading worship

[2/17] **Presidents Day** – church & office closed

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bkindig@upcbgm.org); **Card Committee**, Margaret Davis [mdavis.margaret@gmail.com](mailto:mdavis.margaret@gmail.com); **Community Outreach**, Pastor Kimberly [pastor@upcbgm.org](mailto:pastor@upcbgm.org) or Sherry Conklin [meal@upcbgm.org](mailto:meal@upcbgm.org); **Finance**, Andy Chadwick [cchadwick1@stny.rr.com](mailto:cchadwick1@stny.rr.com); **Hospitality**, Sally Hunt [shunt1@stny.rr.com](mailto:shunt1@stny.rr.com) or Sherry Conklin [meal@upcbgm.org](mailto:meal@upcbgm.org); **Personnel**, Cindy Burger [csburger@frontiernet.net](mailto:csburger@frontiernet.net); **Property**, Pastor Becky [bkindig@upcbgm.org](mailto:bkindig@upcbgm.org); **Sewing Group**, Cindy Burger [csburger@frontiernet.net](mailto:csburger@frontiernet.net); **Worship & Music**, Margaret Davis [mdavis.margaret@gmail.com](mailto:mdavis.margaret@gmail.com).

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



This retreat is open for ministers and church members of the PC(USA) in the seven presbyteries of the Upstate NY network: Albany, Cayuga-Syracuse, Genesee Valley, Geneva, Northern New York, Susquehanna Valley, and Utica. We are especially encouraging ministers, commissioned ruling elders, lay preachers, congregational leaders, and presbytery committee members to attend.

Overnight with 3 meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast & lunch), with optional Friday lunch. Objective is to have fun while getting to know each other across the Presbyteries of Upstate New York.

**Cottage-style cabins \$95**

*Hawk Cottage* – sleeps 4 in a studio room with electricity and one bathroom.

*Loon Cottage* – sleeps 4 in one bedroom with adjoining common area. Has electricity and one bathroom.

*Osprey Cottage* – sleeps 6 in three bedrooms with electricity and one bathroom.

*Heron Cottage* – sleeps 6 in three bedrooms with electricity and one bathroom.

*Walnut Cabin* – sleeps 12 in a studio room with electricity. No water, adjacent to Main Lodge for bathroom facilities.

**Rustic cabins \$70:** Cabins (28 available) – Each cabin includes four beds. Some without electricity, none with water. Restroom facilities include well-maintained port-a-potties as well as a shower house with showers, flush toilets, and sinks.

This is a camp so you will need to bring your own bedding, flashlight and a camp chair. Please bring your own snack and beverage [alcohol is permitted] for gathering after vespers.

Registration opens February 1, 2025, and ends April 25, 2025.

Register at [susvalpresby.org/register](https://susvalpresby.org/register)

Check-in begins 12pm Friday, with opening program at 1pm. Other programs will be some team-building, campfire, sing-along, and arts and crafts.

If you have a talent you'd like to share, please let us know! Any group who would like to organize the retreat worship services, let us know!

Event organized by the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley's Commission on Christian Leadership Formation and members of the Presbytery of Geneva's General Council.

More info can be found on the presbytery website at [susvalpresby.org/2025retreat](https://susvalpresby.org/2025retreat) – or, contact Scott Kindig at [cclcfchair@susvalpresby.org](mailto:cclcfchair@susvalpresby.org), or call him at the church office!

## **Leader Formation Webinar for Ruling Elders & Deacons**

***Thursday., March 6, 7-8:30pm from the PC(USA) Mid Council Ministries***

Registration for the next webinar in the Leader Formation series, “Pondering God with Presbyterians: What Do We Believe and Why?” is now open through February 26, 2025.

This webinar will explore some basic theological convictions of our faith, including what we hold in common with other Christians and peculiar treasures of the Reformed tradition. Want to learn more about the mystery of the Trinity, justification by grace through faith, or the puzzle of predestination? Come join the conversation!

This event is led by Martha Moore-Keish, the J.B. Green Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary. Interpretation in Spanish and Korean is available and a recording in English will be available following the event (registration is not required for access).

For more information and registration: [bit.ly/4gnzXx0](https://bit.ly/4gnzXx0)

### **Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Faith Formation Scholarship *supporting church members and sessions in attending spiritual and congregational vitality conferences and workshops***



The Presbytery wants to encourage you to find opportunities to nurture spiritual life and congregational health – such as a church conference, workshop, retreat, or seminar that will strengthen your faith or better equip you to help your congregation. The Faith Formation Scholarship is offered to all congregations in a spirit of generosity, in hopes that you will seek good opportunities.

The Faith Formation Scholarship offers substantial support of the registration fees for church conferences and programs – up to 75% for programs from PC(USA) groups like seminaries, Montreat, or the Stony Point Center; less for programs from ecumenical partner denominations or other Christian programs. We ask that you also request support from your own session, but their support is not a requirement to receive ours.

More information and the online application are at [susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship](https://susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship).

Questions? Contact Elder Scott Kindig, [cclefchair@susvalpresby.org](mailto:cclefchair@susvalpresby.org), or call the Presbytery office, **607-323-4477**.

**Practical Resources for Churches** ([prcli.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://bit.ly/4gXx1YT). For more info, email Karen Smith at [karen@prcli.org](mailto:karen@prcli.org).

Other resources from PRC include:

- **What's Next:** A biweekly sharing of timely resources and upcoming webinars. The most recent (1/28/2025) letter is at [conta.cc/40ryTSA](http://conta.cc/40ryTSA)
- **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](http://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](http://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



## **Souper Bowl of Caring collection – Sunday, February 9**

The United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton is supporting the work of Tackle Hunger with their annual Souper Bowl of Caring event this year. Our youth are going to collect money on Sunday February 9th to donate to our Food Pantry to help Tackle Hunger in our community.

What if everyone watching the Big Game gave just one dollar or one can of food to help feed our neighbors experiencing hunger? You can help by bringing \$1.00 to put in the soup pots the youth will have at the doors after worship.



## **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](http://southerntiersingers.org)

## **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](http://pbygenval.org/congregational-learning-day).