

Announcements

February 9, 2025

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[2/9] Coffee hour in the Sanctuary, 11:15am

United Ringers rehearsal, 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, please inquire. New members are always welcome – no previous experience needed!

[2/10] 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.

[2/12] 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!

[2/13-17] Pastor Kimberly on vacation

[2/14] 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.

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



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 putting your donation in the soup pots the youth will have at the doors after worship.

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

**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/person:

Hawk and Loon Cottages – each sleeps 4, with electricity and one bathroom.

Osprey and Heron Cottages – each sleeps 6 (three BR), 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/person: 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.

Commuter option \$40/person: includes 3 meals. Make your own arrangements to stay overnight off-site. A block rate is being set up at the Days Inn Geneva (25 minutes away), or check other lodging options in and around Penn Yan, Watkins Glen, and Geneva.

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.

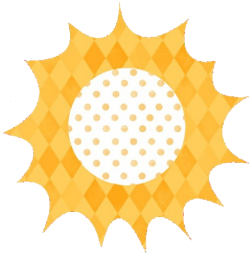
Registration opens February 1 and ends April 25. Register at susvalpresby.org/register

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 – or, contact Scott Kindig at cclcfchair@susvalpresby.org, or call him at the church office!



Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Camperships *supporting and enhancing kids' Christian faith journeys*

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley's campership program is open for applications beginning February 1. Campership funds are offered to all school-age students (Kindergarten through 12th grade) and also to adults with developmental disabilities.

Camperships are provided to ALL families (regardless of family income) involved in churches in the presbytery, to promote Christian faith formation experiences for K-12 students. They are an incentive, not a "financial aid" program.

Camperships are available for Christian summer camp programs of any length up to one week long. This can be an overnight program, a day program, or a virtual program. The presbytery will pay up to 75% of the cost of a one-week program at a PC(USA) camp, to a maximum of \$575 per camper. Lesser awards are offered for non-PC(USA) camps. For information and applications, visit susvalpresby.org/Camperships.

Questions? Talk to (or email) Pastor Becky or Scott in the church office — they are both on the presbytery team that is responsible for the Campership program.

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.

Questions? Contact Elder Scott Kindig, cclefchair@susvalpresby.org, or call the Presbytery office, **607-323-4477**.

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.



NEW FROM PRC in 2025:

- **Tell Me a Story – Wed. March 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! This month's guest author is Laura Alary. This is for everybody – adults, kids, families – anyone who loves a good story. bit.ly/4htgikj
- **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 (1/28/2025) letter is at conta.cc/40ryTSA
- **Cultivate: Growing in Faith:** Christian ed and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for all ages of adults and children. February's letter: bit.ly/4aQAdmS

PC(USA)'s Stated Clerk and Executive Director wants Presbyterians to know about recent efforts to make civil society less disruptive

In a news release this week, the Rev. Jihyun Oh wrote to us as siblings in the PC(USA):

“In recent days, we have seen the disruption of so many norms in our life together as a civil society within the U.S. Among those disruptions are the negation of those places we have thought of as protected spaces, those “sensitive locations,” where children can learn and play and people have their needs met, including needs for food and shelter, and where all can worship God and practice their faith and find community. Many of you have been wondering whether the denomination is doing anything.”

Her letter details actions being taken by the Office of Public Witness, the Office of Immigration Issues, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Read it at: bit.ly/4hn3OXA

She closes by saying: “For all those whose ministries, including worship and communal life, are being impacted by these policies and procedures that no longer recognize sensitive and sacred locations, I pray that you will know God's deep and abiding presence with you and the presence of your denomination, your faith community with you. May God bless you and keep you.”



Open Music Class
Feb 16 (Sun) 3PM
 315 Clinton St, Binghamton NY 13750

**Perfect opportunity
 to try before
 registering for the
 Youth Choir**
 or the **Creative Stüdio**

Join us and
 see a professional musician
 making high, low, long, short, loud, soft,
fast, and slow
 notes while standing still,
 lying down, or running around
 make some noise
 with your voice or an
instrument
 play some acting games
HAVE SOME FUN
 w/Ü Lee and Elizabeth Duhr-Ramirez

Questions about this event,
 or any of our Educational programs?
Please contact Ü Lee @
ecp@tricitieopera.org
 or call (607) 729-3444



Calling all
 music loving children
Free to attend



tricitieopera.com/educationprogram



**Council on
 the Arts**



“A CASE FOR LOVE” film screening – Saturday, February 15, 1pm
at First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego

“A CASE FOR LOVE” is an inspiring film that will be shown in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Union Church (North Avenue & Temple Street) in Owego. The public is invited to this free 2-hour program.

“A CASE FOR LOVE” was shown in movie theaters last month. It is evident that people across the country are eager to engage in meaningful conversations about how we can live together in a more loving and united way.

The film is being jointly sponsored by the First Presbyterian Union Church, Owego United Methodist Church, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, and others.

Presbyterians from throughout our Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley are encouraged to attend this movie showing in Owego for their own personal benefit as well as to preview it with the idea of showing it at their church for the benefit of their church and community.

Free Popcorn and Brownies Provided

“A CASE FOR LOVE is not just a movie you watch. It is a movie you feel. I felt myself tearing up as I heard ordinary people telling their stories of both hurt and generosity. I was moved and challenged by the realization of how much my actions can cause pain and create distance and feelings of exclusion, even when I believe I am well-intended. Although those were big feelings, my heart was truly shaken by the stories that hit close to home. Suddenly, I wasn’t just feeling for someone else, I was feeling with them. Their story told part of my story and a connection I was not expecting sprung across the divide and the stranger on the screen became someone I knew.”

—Debbie Webb Blackburn, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Elder,
Lead of Mission Team, New Hanover Presbyterian Church

“The dominant tone of social relations among us is one of fear. Now in this wondrous film, A CASE FOR LOVE, we have a compelling exhibit of a social practice that boldly contradicts the conventional practice of fear, scarcity, parsimony, and violence. A CASE FOR LOVE is a poignant documentation of the ways in which neighbors connect in generous ways with other neighbors across all the lines that divide us. This film is a welcome wake-up call among those who have too readily settled for an economy of fear. The makers of this film daringly bear witness to ‘a more excellent way’ in the world.”

—Walter Brueggemann, a gifted Bible teacher

A CASE FOR LOVE is available for home viewing for rental on Amazon and YouTube. A free church guide by Luther Seminary to it is available: bit.ly/4hFhQDW

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.

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

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.

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