

Announcements

March 9, 2025

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[3/9] 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. New members always welcome!

[3/10] Bible Study – Mondays, 1-2pm on Zoom.

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. Right now we're reading the Gospel according to Luke, talking 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

Session meeting, 6:30pm

[3/12] Sewing Group – Wednesdays, 10am-1pm in the Upper Lounge.

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!

[3/13] Art for the Heart, 5:30-7:30pm starting with supper in the Upper Lounge.

A Lenten series of creativity & reflection; this week is Watercolor Painting. (see back page)

[3/14] 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.

LOOKING AHEAD:

[3/16] Worship, 10am – Luke 8:1-21, 40-56, "Seeds of Change"

Coffee hour in Fellowship Hall – Birthday Sunday! 11:15am

United Ringers rehearsal, 11:30am-12:30pm in the Sanctuary

[3/18] Worship & Music Team meeting, 9:30am

[3/20] Art for the Heart, 5:30-7:30pm starting with supper in the Upper Lounge.

This week: Drum circle with Dr. Elikem Nyamuame.

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.

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.



- **Has American Christianity Become a Threat to American Democracy? Thursday, March 13, 2-3pm.** Christian nationalism has been a major force in American politics since the country's beginnings, but within the past decade we have seen a marked shift in the tone and tenor of Christian nationalism. Who are the leaders and what is the theology behind this change? What does this shift signal about our changing politics and the balance of church and state? upcbgm.org/prc031325
- **DOING JUSTICE WEBINAR SERIES – Wednesdays, 2-3pm.** What would it look like to work toward deep change in your local community – to get at the root causes of issues like food insecurity, homelessness, and lack of health care? Advocating for just public policies is vital. Learn about four pathways for churches to do justice (Micah 6:8) and get guidance about how to use these in your church and community context.
 - **March 12 – Inspire momentum for change:** Learn how to use community listening, education, and storytelling to raise awareness and challenge assumptions. Help people envision a different future and elevate hope that deep change is possible. upcbgm.org/prc031225
 - **March 26 – Involve More People as Agents of Change:** How churches can engage people in their local community to have an impact on pressing challenges. This can look like equipping people to research “upstream” roots of issues, convening community conversations, providing resources for constructive civic participation, and focusing on inclusion of groups often excluded or ignored. We also share ideas for providing leadership development for youth to be agents of change into the next generation. upcbgm.org/prc032625
 - **April 9 – Influence Decision-Makers:** How to understand the power dynamics in your community and apply this to critical issues. Insights on leveraging personal networks, shaping public opinion, and organizing action. upcbgm.org/prc040925
 - **April 23 – Innovate Solutions Through Partnerships:** How your church can work with others in the community to launch innovative approaches to tough issues. Three vital steps: discovering untapped resources, effective partnerships, and a clear focus for what you want to accomplish. upcbgm.org/prc042325

Other resources from PRC include:

- **What's Next:** A biweekly sharing of timely resources and upcoming webinars. The most recent (2/24/2025) letter is at conta.cc/3D1RVHN
- **Cultivate: Growing in Faith:** Christian ed and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for all ages of adults and children. March's letter: bit.ly/3DzwJZL

Be part of a powerful, nationwide event that brings together thousands of people of faith to explore how we can care for creation and take meaningful climate action. On March 27, the **2025 National Faith + Climate Forum** will be a live-streamed broadcast, accessible online from your home or office, or in person at host locations across the U.S. This hybrid event offers a dynamic day of **interactive sessions, inspiring keynotes, and practical resources** to equip you and your congregation to integrate climate care into your faith practices and communities authentically. Whether you're just starting your journey in creation care or are a seasoned advocate, this event has something for everyone!

Join for FREE in person or online to:

- **Deepen Your Faith:** Learn how to integrate creation care into your sermons, teachings, and outreach efforts in meaningful and accessible ways.
- **Inspire Your Congregation:** Take home practical tools and strategies to engage your faith community in climate action tailored to your unique values and context.
- **Connect with a Vibrant Faith Community:** Engage with passionate faith and climate leaders in dynamic, interactive sessions designed to foster collaboration.
- **Strengthen Congregational Unity:** Attend a host location in your area to build connections and collaborate with nearby congregations, fostering collective action and shared purpose.

Register for this free webinar at nationalfaithandclimateforum.org

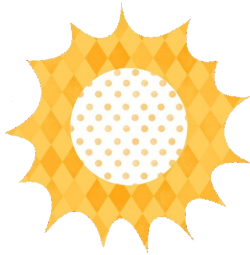


**Presbyterian Association of Musicians
2025 Worship & Music Conference**

June 15–20 or June 22–27 at Montreat Conference Center

Make a Joyful Noise: The Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship & Music Conference, hosted in partnership with Montreat Conference Center, invites musicians of all ages to engage in a supportive community built on a shared love of the arts. Over the course of a week-long conference, you will be given the opportunity to grow your skills, network with other musicians, make new friends, and find time to simply relax. Whether you are a church professional, a choir member, or just a music lover, there are a myriad of ways that you can engage with this conference!





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.



This is a great opportunity for any church musicians of many ages to go and learn with others. Whether you're a director or a choir or bell choir member, this has always been a highly regarded event. And the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley's Faith Formation Scholarship can help adult musicians attend. susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship

This conference is also open to youth musicians (accompanied by an adult), and is eligible for the Presbytery's Campership program. susvalpresby.org/Camperships

Additional scholarship opportunities are also available from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. The conference also has kid's club activities and child care available.

Register by April 30 to avoid late fees. With PSV funding, your registration cost would be **\$97.50** for adults or **\$87.50** for children & youth. (Housing & meals not included.)

Learn more and register at presbymusic.org/conference.

2025 One Great Hour of Sharing TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Hosted by Ryan DeLap and **Engaged
Entertainment**

Saturday, April 5, 5-7pm at Union Presbyterian Church, Endicott

Sign up and create a name for your team:
Contact the church office at 607-748-9651 during the week
or sign up at the door on event night.

Teams of any size welcome.

\$10 per person.

There will be prizes!

There will be pizza, drinks and other snacks available.

There will be a silent auction, so plan to bid high and bid often.

Invite your friends — All are welcome!

We are raising funds for a wonderful cause.



Union Presbyterian Church
200 East Main Street, Endicott

**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: FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

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. There are many hotels and B&Bs in and around Penn Yan, Watkins Glen, and Geneva, all within half an hour of Camp Whitman.

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!

Art for the Heart: A Lenten Series of Creativity and Reflection

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30pm, March 6 - April 10



Join us on Thursday evenings through the season of Lent to explore ways to nourish faith through the creative arts. We'll gather in the Upper Lounge at 5:30 for a simple supper, then move to the art studio at 6:00 for the evening activity, exploring ways that we can connect to God's love and purpose through creativity and reflection.

Help us plan for numbers or offer to bring soup to a gathering by calling the office, 607-722-4219, or sending an email to office@upcbgm.org.

There will also be daytime studio hours for those who wish to spend more time or who cannot come to the Thursday gathering – watch for more details!

MARCH 6: IN THE POTTER'S STUDIO

We reflected on the potter and the clay in Jer. 18. We have clay, pottery wheels, and tools here; if you want to try it, check with the office about open studio hours when Suzie Raboy can help you.

MARCH 13: WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Jessica Lane will demonstrate some basics and tell us a bit about her journey with watercolors. Ponder God's creative activity as we create beauty together.

MARCH 20: DRUM CIRCLE

Dr. Elikem Nyamuame will lead a drum circle, and we will explore the rhythm of life and creation as we feel the power of making music with our hands and hearts.

MARCH 27: FIBER ARTS

Cindy Burger will demonstrate knitting and crocheting, and we'll have some examples of the quilting that our Sewing Group does.

APRIL 3: LITHUANIAN EASTER EGGS

Rev. Becky Kindig will teach us about Lithuanian Egg decoration, its technique and symbols. Eggs are a traditional symbol of spring and resurrection.

APRIL 10: FINISHING TOUCHES

We will have open studio time for putting glazes on pottery projects, finishing painting or yarn projects, and putting together a display for the sanctuary of our work together.

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