

# Announcements

April 13, 2025

## THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[4/13] **Coffee hour & Easter Egg Decorating, 11:15am in Fellowship Hall**

**United Ringers rehearsal, 12-12:45pm 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!

**Jazz Vespers, 5pm at First Congregational Church:** “The Eric Peters Trio”

[4/14] **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](https://upcbgm.org/zoom)

**To dial as a phone call:**

**(+1) 646-558-8656**

**Meeting ID: 865 274 8433**

[4/16] **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!

[4/17] **Holy Thursday supper & worship, 6-7:30pm in the Upper Lounge (see back)**

[4/18] **Building closed for “spring cleaning”**

**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.

**Good Friday worship, 7pm at Salvation Temple, 80 Main St. “7 Last Words” (see inside)**

## LOOKING AHEAD:

[4/20] **Resurrection Sunday Worship & Communion, 10am**

**Easter Egg hunt, 11:15am on the front lawn (see back)**

**Coffee hour, 11:15am in the Sanctuary**

[4/21-23] **Pastor Kimberly, Pastor Becky, and Scott out of office**

[4/25] **In-person Happy hour, 5-6:30pm in the Upper Lounge**

**Book tour stop, “You Only Get What You’re Organized to Take”, 6pm (see inside)**

**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).



*Pastors*  
**Coalition  
of Binghamton**

# 7 LAST WORDS

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

APRIL 18, 7PM

80 MAIN ST., BINGHAMTON, NY 13905

## COLLABORATING MINISTRIES

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

NEW FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

TRINITY A.M.E. ZION

GREATER FAITH & DELIVERANCE

NEW HEIGHTS MINISTRIES

RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES

HOUSE OF WORSHIP

MOUNT SINAI C.O.G.I.C.

SALVATION TEMPLE

**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.



- **Legal and Tax Considerations for Space Sharing Agreements – Tuesday, April 22, 2–3pm.** This webinar will explore important legal provisions to consider when negotiating Lease Agreements and Use & Occupancy Agreements. Special attention will be given to understanding potential tax consequences when churches share their space with third parties. [upcbgm.org/prc042225](http://upcbgm.org/prc042225)
- **DOING JUSTICE WEBINAR SERIES: Innovate Solutions Through Partnerships – Wednesday, April 23, 2–3pm:** How your church can work with others in the community to launch innovative approaches to tough issues. Three vital steps: discovering untapped resources, developing effective partnerships, and setting a clear focus for what you want to accomplish. [upcbgm.org/prc042325](http://upcbgm.org/prc042325)  
*This is the last in a series looking at four steps to take when working to bring justice to the local community. The other three webinar recordings are available for viewing.*  
**Inspire Momentum for Change:** [upcbgm.org/prc031225](http://upcbgm.org/prc031225)  
**Involve More People as Agents of Change:** [upcbgm.org/prc032625](http://upcbgm.org/prc032625)  
**Influence Decision-Makers:** [upcbgm.org/prc040925](http://upcbgm.org/prc040925)
- **Legacy Giving 101 – Thursday, May 8, 2–3pm.** Legacy giving is often called “low-hanging fruit.” People usually want to leave a gift to an organization they love – once they have gone to their great reward – but they don’t know how. Or worse, they aren’t asked. Universities, hospitals, and animal shelters do a great job of reminding and asking people to leave a gift in a will. But what about the church? In this one-hour webinar, you’ll learn how to start a basic legacy program for your congregation. It’s easier than you think. [upcbgm.org/prc050825](http://upcbgm.org/prc050825)
- **The Singular THEY – Tuesday, May 20, 2–3pm.** Designed to help adults better understand the rapidly evolving spectrum of GENDER, this workshop uses the UCC-commissioned *Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education Curriculum for Adults*, as well as interviews with members of the Trans community, to explore biological sex, orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pronouns. The program explains terms such as cis / trans / non-binary; and introduces participants to the history of the fluidity of sexuality. [upcbgm.org/prc052025](http://upcbgm.org/prc052025)

Other resources from PRC include:

- **What’s Next:** A biweekly sharing of timely resources and upcoming webinars. The most recent (4/11/2025) letter is at [conta.cc/4j3U31c](http://conta.cc/4j3U31c)
- **Cultivate: Growing in Faith:** Christian ed and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for all ages of adults and children. April’s letter: [bit.ly/4LmyScw](http://bit.ly/4LmyScw)



SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST

# TOWNHALL ZOOM MEETING

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22nd**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



## **The Phase III Report: Reimagining the Church in the World — Bold in Faith, Transformative in Mission, United in Christ (Isaiah 30:21)**

*As the church navigates an era of profound transformation, the Synod of the Northeast continues to ask: What is the purpose of the Synod? How are we called, as a corporate body, to respond to the changing needs of the church and society? These questions are at the heart of the **Phase III Report: Reimagining the Church in the World**, an ongoing process of discernment that seeks to clarify our shared mission and vision for the future.*

**To engage the wider Synod community in this work, we are hosting a Townhall Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, April 22 at 11:00am and 7:00pm.**

**This gathering will provide an opportunity to:**

- Preview the Seven Pillars of the emerging vision
- Discuss how newly approved grants are shaping ministry and mission
- Explore upcoming regional learning initiatives designed to equip and connect leaders

**Read the Visioning Process Update at [upcbgm.org/SNEvpu2503](https://upcbgm.org/SNEvpu2503)**

*This conversation is an essential step in shaping the future together. We invite you to join us, listen, reflect, and contribute your voice to this important work.*

**FREE & OPEN TO THE SYNOD**

Register for 11am:

[upcbgm.org/SNEthm250411](https://upcbgm.org/SNEthm250411)

Register for 7pm:

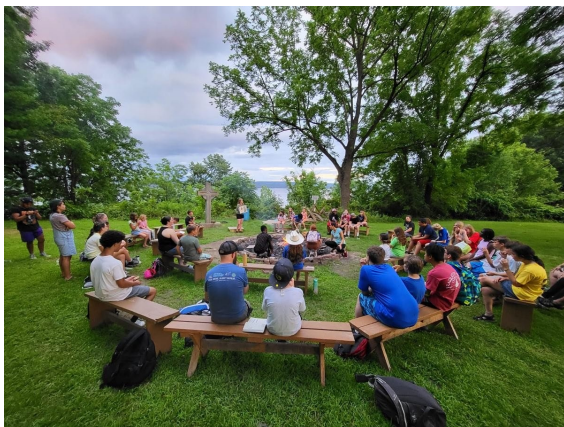
[upcbgm.org/SNEthm250407](https://upcbgm.org/SNEthm250407)

**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 per person**  
**Rustic cabins \$70 per person**  
**Commuter \$40 per person (includes meals)**

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

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

Register now through April 25 at [susvalpresby.org/register](https://susvalpresby.org/register)

More information can be found on the presbytery website at [susvalpresby.org/2025retreat](https://susvalpresby.org/2025retreat) — or, contact Scott Kindig at [cclefchair@susvalpresby.org](mailto:cclefchair@susvalpresby.org), or call him at the UPC church office (607-722-4219).



# “Have You Heard Our Cries?”

## Korea Peace Journey — October 21–30, 2025

*from the PC(USA) Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea*



A small group of American Presbyterians will be traveling to Korea this October to connect with people in the Presbyterian churches there who are working for peace. You can be part of that group.

The Korean peninsula is one of the top tinderboxes where a small misstep could easily draw U.S. forces there into a nuclear world war. That's why it's so important for followers of the Prince of Peace to work together to resist the forces of war in that critical, heavily militarized place.

Registration for the Journey runs through April 30. The cost for in-Korea expenses is \$2,300; limited scholarship help is available for persons under 30 years of age. Information is available at [PPNK.net](http://PPNK.net), and you can register online there. Further details can be found at [susvalpresby.org/korea25info](http://susvalpresby.org/korea25info). Questions and inquiries can be directed to the Rev. Earl Arnold at [EarlBArnold@gmail.com](mailto:EarlBArnold@gmail.com).

Our partner churches in Korea have been living under the threat of renewed war for over 70 years. “Have you Heard our Cries?” Key components of the Journey will include listening, dialogue, reflection, networking, and strategizing with peacemakers in those Presbyterian churches and other groups. Participants will learn about the origins of the conflict, its effects on life in Korea and the diaspora, and ongoing peacebuilding efforts.

Led by PC(USA) mission co-workers Kurt Esslinger and Unzu Lee, the journey will visit Seoul, the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Jeju Island, and the neighborhood around the Pyeongtaek military base, the largest American base outside the U.S.

This trip will build connections between Christians in Korea who are working for peace and peace-loving Presbyterians and others in the U.S. Your participation in this Korea Peace Journey will give you a fuller appreciation of the dangers of war in the Korea peninsula and will contribute to the global efforts to build a world of peace.

Participants and their counterparts in Korea will worship together, visit critical locations, meet with persons impacted by past and continuing violence, and engage in discussion about how Christ might be drawing them and their faith communities together in action for peace.

For more info, contact [peacenetnetworkforkorea@gmail.com](mailto:peacenetnetworkforkorea@gmail.com) / (562) 447-3575



meet,  
& greet  
& eat

You are invited to join us  
for a time of conversation  
and community-building.

**Sunday, May 4, 3-4:30PM**



Temple Concord  
9 Riverside Drive  
Binghamton, NY 13905


*Building mutual trust and respect in Broome County across  
religious traditions through interfaith conversation and education.*



# ai-powered ministry?

how might a deeper understanding of the generative ai (and its ethical implications) be an aid in ministry?



 Office of Christian Formation

REV. DR. ANDY MORGAN

**Wednesday, May 14**  
**2-3:30pm**

**How might a deeper understanding of generative AI (and its ethical implications) be an aid in ministry?**  
*a webinar from the PC(USA)  
Office of Christian Formation*

Artificial Intelligence is all around us – and it’s shaping every part of our lives, including ministry. But what does that really mean? This webinar will offer a clear introduction to AI (with a focus on tools like ChatGPT), how it works, and the ethical considerations people of faith should keep in mind. We’ll also explore how AI can support creative, faithful engagement in many ministry applications.

While using AI isn’t for everyone, understanding its potential and pitfalls is essential.

Register at [cfportal.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2850212](https://cfportal.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2850212).

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

## Broad Avenue North Presbyterian Chapel

The Presbytery of  
Susquehanna Valley

*is cordially invited to the  
Closing Service  
of the*

Broad Avenue North Chapel  
38 Broad Avenue  
Binghamton NY 13904

May 18, 2025  
at 3:00PM

Reception to follow

*Broad Avenue North merged in  
2007 with Conklin Presbyterian  
Church and the congregations will  
continue their ministry together in  
Conklin. The building has been in  
service of God to the community of  
Binghamton since 1894.*

*Please come and show your support  
as they take this step together.*

# YOU ONLY GET WHAT YOU'RE ORGANIZED TO TAKE!

## LESSONS FROM THE MOVEMENT TO END POVERTY

IN THIS NEW BOOK, ONE OF THE NATION'S LEADING ANTI-POVERTY ORGANIZERS AND MORAL VOICES SHARES THE LARGELY UNTOLD STORY OF THE MOVEMENT TO END POVERTY.

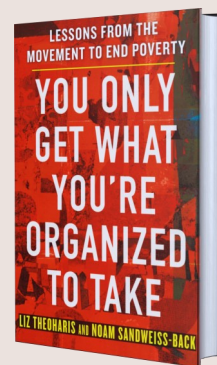
We are living in a gilded age of poverty amid plenty. In one of the wealthiest countries in the world, 40 million people live below the official poverty line and another 100 million people are one emergency away from economic ruin. But it doesn't have to be this way.

In *You Only Get What You're Organized to Take*, Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and her co-author, Noam Sandweiss-Back, argue it is possible to abolish poverty. But this won't happen through the goodwill of the powerful or the charitable actions of well-meaning people alone. It will happen through a mass movement, open to all, and led by the poor themselves.

Weaving together threads of history, theology, political analysis, and more, Theoharis traces her own journey through some of the most significant anti-poverty struggles of the past 30 years. Along the way, she and Sandweiss-Back introduce readers to the unsung heroes leading the movement to end poverty:

- Unhoused people seizing empty homes;
- Mothers on welfare going toe-to-toe with cutthroat politicians;
- Farmworkers taking down slavery rings;
- Backcountry clergy beating back the flames of Christian nationalism;
- Water protectors resisting the poisoning of their communities;
- and other modern-day prophets forging unlikely alliances to pray, sing, and organize their way toward freedom.

As the forces of extremism clamor with increasing fury, this book is an urgent reminder that poor people are not condemned to be subjects of history. Indeed, to reorient our society around the needs of all and reinvigorate the promise of democracy, the poor can and must become the architects of a new America.



SCAN TO  
ORDER AND  
LEARN MORE



# UPSTATE NEW YORK BOOK TOUR

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 — UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

42 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901

Doors at 6pm / Talk at 6:30pm

Join us for a powerful evening of storytelling, song, and spirit-filled organizing as we celebrate the release of this groundbreaking new book which offers not only a powerful examination of the past, but a roadmap for how we ignite a new era of movement-building and democratic awakening.

These are not normal times and this is not a conventional book tour. Rather, this is an organizing tour, in which Rev. Liz Theoharis, Noam Sandweiss-Back, and other grassroots organizers, faith leaders, and special guests will engage audiences in discussion about what it will take to build the movement to end poverty.

On April 25, United Presbyterian Church is delighted to host this book talk. There will be an opportunity to hear directly from the authors, ask questions, and engage in collective dialogue about grassroots organizing in Binghamton and other communities across the country. The authors are especially interested in connecting with local organizers and community leaders, students, people of faith, and other people of conscience who are hungry for a deep and lasting change within their communities.

We will also hear plans for the **Survival Revival Organizing Tour** — a bold new organizing drive among the poor. Over the coming year(s), grassroots leaders will criss-cross the country, connecting with and linking up community-level struggles for housing, food, wages, water, land, immigrant rights, bodily autonomy, peace, belonging, and more.

**“An ode to the often-dismissed power of poor and working-class people.”**

—Maurice Mitchell,  
National Director,  
Working Families Party

RSVP for this event at  
[eventbrite.com/  
e/1302293979349](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1302293979349)



## Holy Thursday, April 17 – *dinner at 6pm, worship at 6:30pm*

Everyone is invited to join us in the Upper Lounge for soup and bread and a time of fellowship. Soup and bread will be provided – bring your appetite and an open heart!

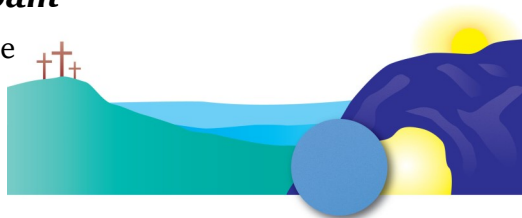


Starting at 6:30 after the meal, we will share in the Lord's Supper and remember Jesus's passion and death. The worship service will also be streamed on YouTube and Zoom.

After worship, we will depart in silence, returning to the sanctuary on Easter morning.

## Easter Sunday, April 20 – *worship at 10am*

The bell rings. The Christ Candle is brought into the sanctuary. We gather again at the Lord's Table, where the Last Supper is transformed into the Feast of Victory and we tell the good news once more: Christ is Risen! Risen indeed!



**Flowers for Easter!** Do you have early flowers blooming in your garden? We would love to have you bring a bouquet on Easter to help decorate the sanctuary, and then take them back home after worship to brighten your Easter table. There will be a few from the church garden, but we love the idea of a shared flower display to celebrate the season, but no one has to find homes for afterward. Bring whatever you are able, and we will find a place for it! We have several folks who are allergic to lilies, so if you want to share lilies, please remove the stamens before you bring them.

**Easter Egg Hunt!** After worship, children and youth are invited to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn. Young children are asked to please bring a parent or guardian to help supervise.



More news from around the presbytery and across the denomination can be found at [susvalpresby.org/thursday-thoughts](https://susvalpresby.org/thursday-thoughts)