

Announcements

June 8, 2025

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[6/8] Coffee hour, 11:15am in the Sanctuary

United Ringers rehearsal, 11:30am–12:30pm

[6/9] 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

[6/10] Community Meal, Tuesdays, 5–6pm. Every week we offer a sit-down meal that is free for anybody. This week we served **over 200 meals!** Volunteers are needed on Mondays and Tuesdays during the day for food preparation, and on Tuesday evenings for meal service and cleanup afterwards. If you'd like to help with this mission, contact Community Kitchen Coordinator Sherry Conklin: meal@upcbgm.org or **607-722-4219**.

[6/11] 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 invited to "Zoom in" for their lunchtime social hour. All are welcome; bring a lunch and enjoy the company.

Community Food Pantry, Wednesdays, 12–5pm. Our free food pantry 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 Sherry Conklin to help or donate: meal@upcbgm.org or **607-722-4219**.

UPC Choir rehearsal, Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30pm

[6/13] Zoom Happy hour, Fridays, 5–6:30pm. Our "socially distanced" social gathering is still going strong after more than 5 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.

[6/14] Presbytery assembly meeting & worship, 8am–12:30pm (see back page)

LOOKING AHEAD:

[6/15] Worship, 10am — Isaiah 58:6–10, Updates on the Walk With Me mission

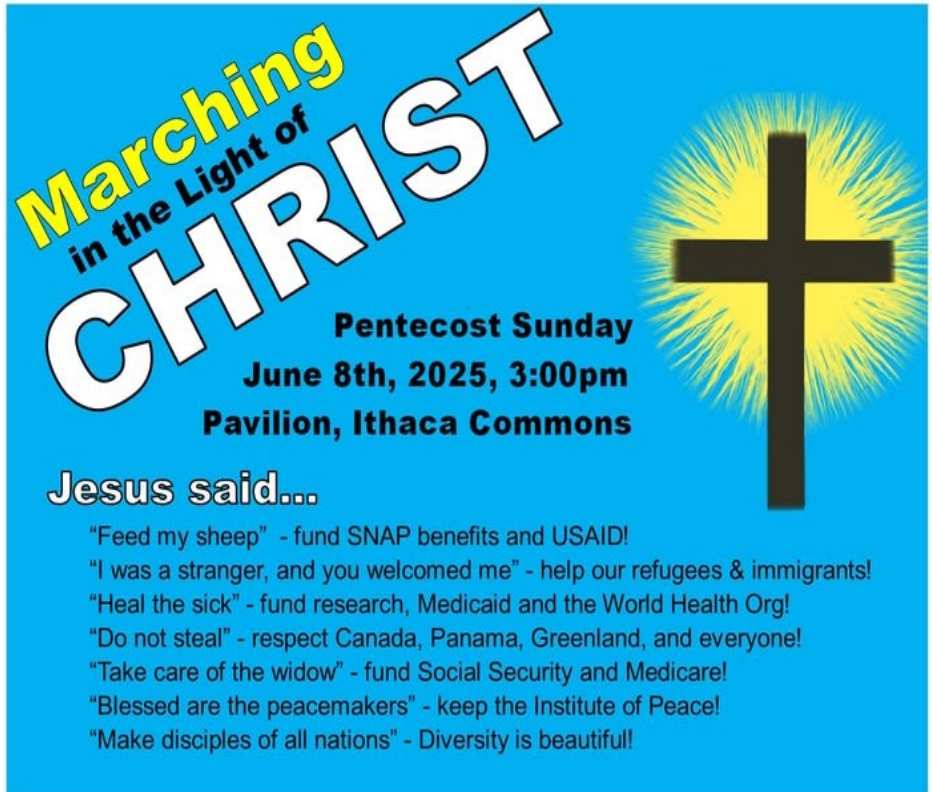
[6/17] Worship & Music Team meeting, 9:30am

[6/19] Juneteenth — Offices closed

[6/29] Annual congregational meeting "Part 2", after worship

**Marching in the
Light of Christ
Sun., June 8, 3pm
Ithaca Commons**

Join your fellow Presbyterians from First PC of Ithaca, First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego, and the Joint Justice in Ministry and Mission Teams of the Presbyteries of Susquehanna Valley and Cayuga-Syracuse.



**Marching
in the Light of
CHRIST**

**Pentecost Sunday
June 8th, 2025, 3:00pm
Pavilion, Ithaca Commons**

Jesus said...

- "Feed my sheep" - fund SNAP benefits and USAID!
- "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me" - help our refugees & immigrants!
- "Heal the sick" - fund research, Medicaid and the World Health Org!
- "Do not steal" - respect Canada, Panama, Greenland, and everyone!
- "Take care of the widow" - fund Social Security and Medicare!
- "Blessed are the peacemakers" - keep the Institute of Peace!
- "Make disciples of all nations" - Diversity is beautiful!



**PEOPLE OF
BLESSING
SERVICE**

LOVE IS LOVE

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH 7:00PM
ALL ARE WELCOME**

LOVE IS LOVE

**People of Blessing Service —
Thursday, June 12, 7pm**

at Christ Episcopal Church, 10 Henry St.

ALL are invited to this year's Interfaith People of Blessing Service to bless, celebrate, and affirm the LGBTQIA+ community in our area as part of Pride month.

The Service affirms diversity in community, lifting up the common thread amongst us and affirming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The service will include music, readings, speakers, and a shared blessing by community clergy.

All are welcome. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Let's talk
about

EDUCATION & CHILD CARE

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
IN BINGHAMTON

Help us shape more
equitable, inclusive policies
that reflect the **real needs**
of students and families
across New York State.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

KAYLA MUMTAZ
KAYLA@AQENY.ORG

REGISTER AT:

[BIT.LY/NEWYORKSPEAKS](https://bit.ly/newyorkspeaks)

FRIDAY
JUNE 13

3PM-5PM

BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC
LIBRARY
185 COURT ST, BINGHAMTON,
NY 13901

**PUBLIC POLICY AND
EDUCATION FUND OF NEW YORK**



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 [AQE_NY](https://www.instagram.com/AQE_NY)

 [/AQENY](https://www.facebook.com/AQENY)

Southern Tier
Singers' Collective

CONSTELLATION

In a world of noise, *Constellation* offers a space for wonder and stillness. This a cappella concert blends sacred and secular works inspired by the stars, the night, and the eternal. Join us for a meditative and transcendent evening of choral beauty.

SATURDAY

JUNE 14

7:30 pm

St. Patrick's Church

9 Leroy St., Binghamton

featuring works by

Burleigh, Dawson, Garrett, Mvula,

Ticheli, Trumbore, Whitacre, and more!

Directed by William Culverhouse

Free and open to the public.
Donations gratefully accepted.

southerntiersingers.org



This project is funded by the Earlville Opera House's Arts in the Community Grants Program, made possible by the NYS Senate with support of the Office of the Governor, and administered by the New York State Council on the Arts. Additional support for the Broome ACG Program graciously provided by the Stewart W. and Wilma C Hoyt Foundation, Inc.



Practical Resources for Churches (prcli.org) offers resources on a 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.



- **Know Your Rights: Welcoming the Refugee and Keeping Church Safe – Tuesday, June 24, 2-3pm.** Churches seeking to carry out a mission of welcome and creature care for refugees and other new migrants are faced with frightening challenges in this new era. Knowing your rights and how to implement them is a first step to preserving the basic elements of our religious freedoms in the US. In her webinar presentation, Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark Clemot provides insights to protect church staff and the sanctity of church property in face of new legal challenges, as well as practical tips on how to help the refugee feel more secure in seeking assistance and engaging in community life. upcbgm.org/prc062425

Other resources from PRC include:

- **Hands to Work, Heart to God online craft group – 3rd Thursday of the month (next meeting June 19), 7-8pm:** Join us each month on Zoom as we share our love of crafting and desire to connect with God online. Bring any “lap work” you may have. While we craft, we will listen to and discuss readings from Joyce Rupp’s book, *Constant Hope*. If interested, contact Karen Smith, karen@prcli.org, 631-821-2255.
- **Online book club: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhorn – Sat., July 12, 11am-12pm.** Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town’s most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own. *The Frozen River* is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day. upcbgm.org/prc071225 Questions, email karen@prcli.org
- **What’s Next:** A biweekly sharing of timely resources and upcoming webinars. The most recent (5/28/2025) letter is at conta.cc/3ZxwyGc
- **Cultivate: Growing in Faith:** Christian ed and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for all ages of adults and children. June’s letter: bit.ly/3FKbtla

What's Happening Around the Synod of the Northeast

The Synod's May 2025 newsletter is out and it's full of compelling information. Read it at upcbgm.org/SNEwh2505. Highlights:

- Matthew 25 in Action: Celebrating Love and Inclusion at the First Annual Presbytery-Wide Pride Service
- ***Urgent Action Alert:*** Oppose House Reconciliation Budget Proposal
- Emerging Gospel Community grants
- Synod Indigenous Mission Day: Saturday, June 14 in western NY
- Celebrating the Success of Early Ministry Institute 2025: Engaging Conflict
- Gov. Hochul apologizes to Seneca Nation for "atrocities" at state boarding school
- Updates from the April meeting of the Synod Mission & Ministries Commission
- Resources, job postings, upcoming events, and more



The Presbyterian Foundation is bringing back our popular Day of Learning program to offer support for churches, ministries, and mid councils on financial sustainability. Join us on **Thursday, June 26**, for a series of workshops on Storytelling, Stewardship, and Generosity, all online, and offered free of charge.

You'll hear from experts on our staff who will share knowledge and tactics with you. You'll walk away with actionable steps you can implement in your congregation, grounded in theology. Our focus is on you: helping you build generosity in your congregations to stabilize and grow your ministry.

- **11:30am–12:00pm Keynote: *Storytelling***, presented by Robyn Davis Sekula, Vice President of Communications and Marketing
- **12–12:45pm Workshop: *Stewardship***, presented by Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley, Ministry Relations Officer; followed by a time of Questions & Answers
- **2–3pm Workshop: *Planned Giving***, presented by Rev. Sandra Moon, Ministry Relations Officer and Karl Mattison, VP of Planned Giving Resources; followed by Q&A

Register at:

presbyterianfoundation.org/day-of-learning-storytelling-stewardship-and-generosity

Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, June 29, after worship

Our annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting (Part 2) will be on Sunday, June 29, immediately following the worship service. We will gather on this Sunday to conduct the ongoing business of the church for this year, knowing that the Lord of love and light goes with us every step of the way! We will elect the Session class of 2027 and the Nominating Committee for 2025–2026, and receive the team and project reports for the program year.

This meeting will be hybrid, immediately following the worship service, in the sanctuary and in the Zoom room. It would be good to have you with us, either in person or online.

Being Transgender: Medical History, Church, Society, and Families

Monday, June 30, 6:30pm — *an educational webinar from the Joint Justice in Ministry and Mission Team of the Presbyteries of Susquehanna Valley and Cayuga-Syracuse*

Presenters:

- *Dr. Carolyn Wolf-Gould* is the founder of Bassett's Gender Wellness Center, a rural-based interdisciplinary center for transgender healthcare, clinical training, advocacy, and research in upstate New York. She is co-editor of *A History of Transgender Medicine in the United States: From Margins to Mainstream*. Sweeping in scope and deeply personal in nature, this groundbreaking volume traces the development of transgender medicine across three centuries, centering the voices of transgender individuals, debunking myths about gender-affirming care, and empowering readers to grasp the complexities of this evolving field.
- *Stephanie Nawyn* is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University (MSU). Her research and teaching expertise are in migration, gender, and refugees. She is the former director of MSU's Center for Gender in Global Context, where she oversaw the Women's and Gender Studies program and supported research and activities related to sex, gender, sexuality, and feminist studies. She is also the mother of two wonderful young men, Henry (age 20) and Zach (age 16).
- *Zach Nawyn-Hellinga* is a high school junior who aspires to study engineering in college. He enjoys robotics and building electronic devices, biking, and theatre. He has participated in a community children's theatre program since he was very young, performing on stage and working on the crew (especially building sets).

Stephanie and Zach are members of the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, Michigan, where Zach's baptism was reaffirmed with his true name in January of this year.

Please register at: upcbgm.org/jimm250630reg

Join the Zoom meeting on June 30, 6:30pm: upcbgm.org/jimm250630

Meeting ID 872 1730 2511 | Passcode 691603

Hosting Presbytery Assembly, Saturday, June 14 – volunteers needed

The next meeting of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley assembly will be here at UPC, and we need helpers of all sorts to make it happen.

The morning begins with registration and morning refreshments starting at 8am, and during that first part of the day we need **at least 14 people** – including registration & lunch ticket sales, greeters at the entrances, parking lot attendants, fellowship hosts, offering collection ushers, and a technical assistant to work with the presbytery's technician.

There is are sign-up sheets on the easel near the front of the sanctuary. If you have questions, ask Pastor Becky, Scott Kindig, or Chris or Cindy Burger for more information. (Scott, Becky, and Chris will be here that morning but cannot sign up for any of the volunteer jobs since they will be already busy with presbytery work.)

Thanks!

If you can't be here on June 14, here's one way you can help ahead of time:

Our historical display area could use a little TLC. There are photos and labels that have fallen down, and the space could use some general tidying. It would be nice if some of the items could be spread out onto a display table for people at the Presbytery Assembly to be able to see; this could be set up and staged a few days before the meeting. Sign up in the sanctuary, or contact Scott: media@upcbgm.org.

Jeremiah Pottery – Saturday, June 14, 1-3pm after the Presbytery meeting, at UPC Binghamton

"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand." (Jeremiah 18:6)

Jeremiah Pottery is a formational experience in which you can build your faith while working with clay. This fun opportunity is open to learners of all ages, young and old.

The rich imagery of God as the potter in the Bible tells us we are the clay. The ceramic art-making process helps shape the formation of practicing our faith in difficult times with resilience and trust in God, whose hands continue to mold and reform us. The goal is to draw into a process of spiritual renewal through the theological imagery of ceramic art.

Please register for this FREE event at susvalpresby.org/register, or contact Rev. Paul Huh (pastorpaul@waltonup.org, 607-865-4390) for more information.



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