#### THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[8/17] Coffee hour, 11:15am in the Sanctuary

[8/18] 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

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

reading the Gospel according to Luke, talking about what it meant for early Christians and what it might mean for us today.

[8/19] Community Meal, *Tuesdays*, 5–6pm. Every week we offer a sit-down meal that is free for anybody. 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.

#### [8/20] NO Sewing Group

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 to help or donate: <a href="mailto:meal@upcbgm.org">meal@upcbgm.org</a> or 607-722-4219.

[8/22] **Zoom Happy hour,** *Fridays*, 5–6:3*opm*. 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:

[8/24] Worship, 10am — Acts 10:1—11:18; Pastor Becky preaching Peace Walk at Otsiningo Park, 6:30pm (see back page)

[8/27] 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.

[8/14-9/7] **Pastor Kimberly out of office:** Contact Pastor Becky with any pastoral concerns, **bkindig@upcbgm.org** or **607-759-4481**, or call the office at **607-722-4219**.

**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 200 meals each 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: <a href="mailto:sraboy54@stny.rr.com">sraboy54@stny.rr.com</a>

*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 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 <a href="music@upcbgm.org">music@upcbgm.org</a>, 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 <a href="mailto:bkindig@upcbgm.org">bkindig@upcbgm.org</a>; Card Committee, Margaret Davis <a href="mailto:margaret@gmail.com">mdavis.margaret@gmail.com</a>; Community Outreach, Pastor Kimberly <a href="mailto:pastor@upcbgm.org">pastor@upcbgm.org</a> or Sherry Conklin <a href="mailto:meal@upcbgm.org">meal@upcbgm.org</a>; Finance, Lou McKeage <a href="mailto:lmckeage@stny.rr.com">lmckeage@stny.rr.com</a>; Hospitality, Sally Hunt <a href="mailto:shunt1@stny.rr.com">shunt1@stny.rr.com</a> or Sherry Conklin <a href="mailto:meal@upcbgm.org">meal@upcbgm.org</a>; Personnel, Cindy Burger <a href="mailto:csburger@frontiernet.net">csburger@frontiernet.net</a>; Property, Pastor Becky <a href="mailto:bkindig@upcbgm.org">bkindig@upcbgm.org</a>; Sewing Group, Cindy Burger <a href="mailto:csburger@frontiernet.net">csburger@frontiernet.net</a>; Worship & Music, Margaret Davis <a href="mailto:mdays:margaret@gmail.com">mdavis.margaret@gmail.com</a>.

**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. Upcoming topics include:



Ministry in a House Divided: Finding the Purple Zone — *Tues.*, *August 19*, 2–3*pm*: Red state/blue state politics threaten the foundations of our democracy and tear the fabric of our churches. Congregations and church leaders need new perspectives and insights for navigating this difficult time. Rev. Dr. Leah Schade will offer an overview of "the purple zone" based her 2017–25 longitudinal research of nearly 4,000 clergy and 1,000 laity. She will then introduce strategies and methods for engaging issues of public concern that enable congregations to find the values that bind them together and respond faithfully to God's Word. upcbgm.org/prc081925

Super-Powered Small Churches — *Tuesday*, *August* 26, 2–3pm: In this interactive and conversational webinar we will explore the big differences small churches can make in their communities. We will look at the changes of mindset needed to facilitate better community engagement, how to begin expanding community engagement, and success stories from small churches that have made big impacts. If you think your congregation is too small to make an impact, remember that Jesus said that wherever 2–3 are gathered, so he shall be too! upcbgm.org/prc082625

Blessed Minds: Breaking the Silence About Neurodiversity — Thurs. Sept. 4, 2–3pm: Join us to challenge the stigma surrounding neurodivergent individuals and explore practical steps for creating inclusive and supportive faith communities. Affecting up to 20% of Americans, neurodiversity includes autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and several other conditions. With themes of vulnerability, compassion, and justice, this is a call to recognize the divine nature of all minds and to foster a church environment where every individual is valued and celebrated. upcbgm.org/prc090425

Other resources from PRC include:

Hands to Work, Heart to God online craft group — 3rd Thursday of the month (next meeting August 21), 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.

What's Next: A sharing of timely resources and upcoming webinars. The most recent (7/21/2025) letter is at conta.cc/46mE770

*Cultivate: Growing in Faith:* Christian ed and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for all ages of adults and children. August's letter: <a href="https://doi.org/bit.ly/45plQ6F">bit.ly/45plQ6F</a>

#### What's Happening Around the Synod of the Northeast

The Synod's July 2025 newsletter is full of compelling information. Read it at <a href="mailto:upcbgm.org/SNEwh2507">upcbgm.org/SNEwh2507</a>. Highlights:

- Summer Reflections: More Than Just a Vacation by Rev. SanDawna Ashley
- Matthew 25 in Action: "Community Love Day" at New Mercy Church Brings Grace to the Streets of Hackensack
- SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Christian Nationalism and the Threat to Faithful Christianity Thursday, August 28, 10:30am: Amanda Tyler, executive director of BJC (Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty) and lead organizer of Christians Against Christian Nationalism, will discuss how Christian nationalism, a political ideology merging American and Christian identities, is a threat to and a distortion of Christian faith and witness. Register today at <a href="mailto:upcbgm.org/SNExn250828">upcbgm.org/SNExn250828</a>
- New York State Advocacy Day (*Fri. Oct.* 24) and Connection to Transformation: Building a Partnership Culture in Faith Communities (*Sat. Oct.* 25) Conference at Ithaca FPC, in collaboration with NYS Council of Churches: This gathering will bring together ecumenical and interfaith pastors, lay leaders, organizers, and community advocates from across the Central and Western New York region to explore how transformational partnerships can emerge when faith communities center connection, collaboration, and mutuality. Through worship, storytelling, interactive workshops, and keynote conversations, participants will reflect on how churches can move beyond transactional relationships toward deeper engagement that reflects the love and justice of Christ.

Conference themes and goals: showcase how faith-based and interfaith partner-ships can drive meaningful community transformation; explore strategies for engaging community organizations and creatively repurposing shared spaces; provide practical guidance on securing public grant funding to sustain collaborative efforts; share approaches for building partnerships with local government, civic groups, and interfaith networks; equip leaders to access state-funded resources and navigate relevant public policies; highlight advocacy for rural and migrant ministries; offer actionable strategies for delivering community-centered services that promote justice and equity.

Registration fee of \$55 includes all conference materials and lunch. Register now at <a href="https://upcbgm.org/SNEctt2510">https://upcbgm.org/SNEctt2510</a>.

**Scholarships are available** from the Presbytery for members of congregations who want to attend this conference: we will reimburse 75% of your registration fee. Apply at <a href="mailto:susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship">susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship</a>. Scholarship questions to Elder Scott Kindig, <a href="mailto:cclefchair@susvalpresby.org">cclefchair@susvalpresby.org</a>, or call the Presbytery office, **607-323-4477**.

#### Daily Devotionals during A Season of Peace

On September 7, A Season of Peace begins! It is the preparation season for the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

You could receive a daily reflection during A Season of Peace focused on Presbyterians who have contributed to civic well-being and embody the spirit to pursue what makes for peace. The reflections begin on September 7 and culminate on World Communion Sunday, October 5, when the Peace & Global Witness Offering is traditionally received.

To sign up, make sure you check the box labeled A Season of Peace. Visit the signup form at upcbgm.org/pcusaASOP25.

We hope these reflections remind you of what can be done and has been done for all of God's Creation and that if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

#### Italian Dinner Fundraiser for Camp Whitman Saturday, September 13, 5–8pm

at North Presbyterian Church, 921 College Ave., Elmira, NY 14901

Camp Whitman is now our closest Presbyterian camp, located on the western shore of Seneca Lake, near Penn Yan,



NY. It has wonderful hospitality, setting, and programs for adults and youth. Several of us got to experience Camp Whitman this spring and some of our Presbytery's youth have gone to summer camp there. Here is an invitation from the Presbytery of Geneva for a chance to support this amazing place where people can experience God in creation and in each other.

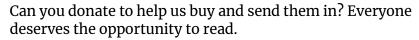
The event is designed to be a welcoming gathering for people who believe in Camp Whitman and the good it has done in the community for more than 70 years. Dinner guests will have an opportunity to hear from camp executive director, Bryan Muecke. He will talk about the current season, new camp activities, and give us a glimpse of where the camp is headed in the coming years.

The event will start with hors d'oeuvres at 5:00pm, followed by a sit-down dinner at 5:30pm. Seating is limited to 72 people to ensure excellent service. The cost is \$20 per person, but additional donations will be welcome and encouraged. All profits from the dinner, as well as additional financial donations and pledges, will be matched — dollar for dollar — by two anonymous donors, up to \$15,000!

Reservations and advance payment are required by September 8 and can be made at: surveymonkey.com/r/HNPBVPC.

## Books Over Walls — *Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier* The women want books!

Can you help us get the women trapped in the Broome County Jail the books they want? This month alone Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier (JUST) has 38 different requests for specific books from women caged in the jail. In one month.





We are grateful for any donations no matter how big or small. Our inside partners make every effort to share books with each other, so one book goes a long way!

Please donate via our Gofundme for Books:

gofundme.com/f/atnxdj-book-drive-for-the-broome-county-jail

#### More to know:

Incarcerated individuals in the Broome County Jail are trapped in the jail without a clear understanding of when they will be released or transferred, often lingering in a frightening limbo for over a year. Anyone inside can order from JUST one book of their choice every month at or under \$15. In the past year alone we sent in over 1,000 books, giving people a rare source of entertainment, a sense of normalcy, and shared companionship. Costs are covered by donations from the public, including generous university members, religious organizations, and members of the community. All donations go towards purchasing books, this is a program staffed by volunteers. There are no administrative costs, no overhead.

#### And listen here to how much a book of choice is appreciated!

"Thanks again, and we really do appreciate what y'all do. I know it sounds so simple, getting a book, but waking up with a new book slid under your door, is truly like Christmas morning in this environment of grey walls and constant routine."

"Having crossword books is wonderful... I get to actually engage my brain and think! It is a mindless sad existence here... thank you again"

"I greatly appreciate you taking the time to bring me a little light in this hard time of my life... I can't wait to see which book you send."

"Thank you very much, this news is the highlight of my day."

"Thank you so much for your time and consideration. You are appreciated so much by me and the others that I pass the book along to after my reading it."

**Practical Resources for Churches** (prcli.org) isn't just a webinar maker! If you're looking for some stimulating summer reading, check out their book reviews of both children's and adult books, spanning a fascinating variety of topics: prcli.org/book-reviews. Some recent titles they've reviewed:



Thanks for the Memories: Launching into Alzheimer's World by Brian & Jean Ward The Bible Says So: What We Get Right (and Wrong) About Scripture's Most Controversial Issues by Dan McClellan

A Journey Called Hope: Today's Immigrant Stories & the American Dream by Rick Rouse God, Gospel, and Gender: A Queer Bible Study for Teens (and Adults) by Margie Baker

And for those who enjoy the chance for deeper conversations around the books you read, check out PRC's online book club, which meets every other month on the second Saturday at 11am. The next two books they'll be discussing:

- The End of the Ocean by Maja Lunde Saturday, September 13, 11am-12pm: In 2019, seventy-year-old Signe sets sail alone on a hazardous voyage across the ocean in a sailboat, haunted by memories of the love of her life, whom she'll meet again soon. On board, a cargo that can change lives. In 2041, a man and his young daughter flee from a drought-stricken Southern Europe that has been ravaged by thirst and war. Separated from the rest of their family and desperate to find them, they discover an ancient sailboat in a dried-out garden, miles away from the nearest shore: Signe's sailboat. As they discover Signe's personal effects, her long-ago journey becomes inexorably linked to their own. An evocative tale of the search for love and connection, The End of the Ocean is a profoundly moving father—daughter story of survival and a clarion call for climate action. Register at upcbgm.org/prc091325
- The Fifth Mountain by Paulo Coelho Saturday, November 8, 11am-12pm: In the ninth century BC, the Phoenician princess Jezebel orders the execution of all the prophets who refuse to worship the pagan god Baal. Commanded by an angel of God to flee Israel, Elijah seeks safety in the land of Zarephath, where he unexpectedly finds true love with a young widow. But this newfound rapture is to be cut short, and Elijah sees all of his hopes and dreams irrevocably erased as he is swept into a whirlwind of events that threatens his very existence.

Questions? Contact Karen Smith, karen@prcli.org, 631-821-2255.

#### Faithful and Flexible: Empowering Church Leaders for Emerging Possibilities

Henderson Leadership Conference with the Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger September 19–20 online or in person at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Join us for a free public lecture and two-day conference designed to equip church leaders for faithful and adaptive leadership in today's rapidly changing ministry contexts. Bring a team of leaders — lay and clergy, paid and volunteer — to gain tools and insights to navigate disruption, build resilient teams, and lead transformative change in your congregation with both conviction and creativity.



FREE Public lecture: The Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger will deliver this year's Henderson Lecture, "The (Unexpected) and Most Important Aspect of Leadership" on Friday, Sept. 19. Saturday's workshops will explore relational,

of Leadership" on Friday, Sept. 19. Saturday's workshops will explore relational, technical, and spiritual adaptations necessary for today's church.

Attend online for \$50, or in person for \$100 plus lodging. Learn more and register at <a href="https://pubm.edu/henderson-2025">pts.edu/henderson-2025</a>

**Scholarships are available** from the Presbytery for members of congregations who want to attend this conference: we will reimburse 75% of your registration fee. Apply at <a href="mailto:susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship">susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship</a>. Scholarship questions to Elder Scott Kindig, <a href="mailto:cclefchair@susvalpresby.org">cclefchair@susvalpresby.org</a>, or call the Presbytery office, **607-323-4477**.

James Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage — September 24–27 at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA

The Atwood Institute is a game-changing, ecumenical project of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship to equip and encourage clergy and lay leaders for gun violence prevention ministry with congregations.



Inspired by the late James Atwood, a Presbyterian pastor, avid hunter, and lifelong advocate for reasonable gun regulation, the Institute brings together faith-based activists and regional & national experts to provide hands-on training, skills, and game-changing strategies. Each year the Atwood Institute counters an epidemic of gun violence and suffering by nurturing the Christ-centered courage and action of congregations committed to saving lives.

The full cost of the conference including lodging is \$475. Register and learn more at <a href="mailto:presbypeacefellowship.org/james-atwood-institute">presbypeacefellowship.org/james-atwood-institute</a>

Scholarships are available from the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (apply by August 22) and also from the Presbytery (apply at <a href="mailto:susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship">susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship</a>).

### 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea — Public Lecture & Dinner September 27 starting at 4pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 10 Henry Street, Binghamton

Join Christ Church as we commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. Bishop William Franklin, PhD, will deliver a public lecture on Saturday, September 27 at 4:00pm in historic Christ Episcopal Church exploring the unity of Nicaea and its significance in our world today.

Following the lecture, you are invited to register for a Turkish dinner and panel discussion with Bishop Franklin, local Presbyterian minister Rev. Dr. Gary Neal Hansen, and local Orthodox pastor Father James Dutko. Menu includes lamb adana with rice, grilled vegetables, hummus and tzatziki, and baclava. Cost for dinner is \$50 and tickets are limited.

Register at christchurchbinghamton.org/nicaea.

#### **Presbyterians for Earth Care Conference**

"Sacred Creation: Justice Flows Down Like Water" — October 8–11 online or in person at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas

Grounded in our faith and the biblical vision of justice flowing like a mighty stream, this conference invites us to explore the sacredness of water — as a gift from God, a source of life, and a call to justice. Through worship, workshops, and community connection, we'll engage the urgent need to protect water, advocate for equitable access, and renew our commitment to caring for all creation.

#### Featuring:

- Rev. Andrew Black Earth Keepers 360 (Keynote)
- Worship led by Rev. Rebecca Barnes & Rev. Jocelyn Wildwright
- Sessions on water justice, environmental health, disasters & creation care, regenerative agriculture, spiritual practices, and more!
- International Panel with voices from across the globe
- EARLY BIRD PRICING THROUGH 8/31: Only \$100 (excluding meals & lodging)

Learn more and register at presbyearthcare.org/2025-earth-care-conference

Scholarships are available from Presbyterians for Earth Care (click the registration link on the above page), and also from the Presbytery for members of congregations who want to attend this conference: we will reimburse 75% of your registration fee. Apply at <a href="mailto:susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship">susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship</a>. Scholarship questions to Elder Scott Kindig, <a href="mailto:cclefchair@susvalpresby.org">cclefchair@susvalpresby.org</a>, or call the Presbytery office, <a href="mailto:607-323-4477">607-323-4477</a>.



If you would like to make a donation toward the continuation of this ministry, please go to presbyteryofgeneva.org to make a contribution to the general fund. Thank you for your generosity.

#### Wee Kirk Conferences: Small churches can make a big difference! October 13–15 at Laurelville Retreat Center in Mt. Laurel, PA October 20–25 at Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, NC

We know that leaders serving in small-membership churches encounter many unique challenges as they seek to educate, inspire, and lead their congregations. However, we also know that serving a smaller congregation can be super rewarding when you have the right support.

That's where the Wee Kirk comes in! These conferences bring together leaders from small-membership churches so that they can find inspiration, encouragement, and community among those serving the church in similar capacities.

Wee Kirk Northeast has seven different workshops to choose from — you select three to attend when you register. Pastor Doug Hatch of Marathon First PC has attended this conference many times; feel free to contact him if you want to learn more about it. See the brochure (bit.ly/4wKne25) for topics and the full schedule.

For churches with less than 100 members, the cost of this conference is \$350 per person. Learn more and register at wee-kirk-ne.org.

Wee Kirk Montreat offers five different tracks so you can select your focus area for the duration of the conference. These tracks are based on specific scenarios that leaders of small churches frequently encounter. Learn about the tracks: <a href="mailto:contacc/4mGvhFR">contacc/4mGvhFR</a>.

This year's conference theme is "Emmanuel Living": Imagine your heart, your home, your church, and your community being "God's Neighborhood" in which everyone...

- hears the call from God in the words of Mr. Rogers, "Won't you be my neighbor?"
- is welcomed with open arms, open hearts, and open tables.
- is greeted with the love of Christ and a "Howdy, Neighbor!"

Imagine the dawning, healing, and peace in your own heart, your own home, your own church, and your own neighborhood as EMMANUEL — God with us — truly comes and makes a home right where you are.

The cost of this conference is \$380 per person, or \$405 per couple. Some tracks have additional costs. Learn more and register at <a href="montreat.org/events/wee-kirk-25">montreat.org/events/wee-kirk-25</a>.

**Scholarships are available** from the Presbytery for members of congregations who want to attend this conference: we will reimburse 75% of your registration fee. Apply at <a href="mailto:susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship">susvalpresby.org/cclef-scholarship</a>. Scholarship questions to Elder Scott Kindig, <a href="mailto:cclefchair@susvalpresby.org">cclefchair@susvalpresby.org</a>, or call the Presbytery office, **607-323-4477**.

# Peace Walk



## Sunday, August 24 at 6:30pm

## OTSININGO PARK 1 Otsiningo Park Rd, Binghamton



We will gather at the South Pavilion for prayers of peace from several faith traditions and walk in small groups around the park for a time of prayer and reflection on the need for peace within us, around us, and in parts of our world facing suffering, loss, and conflict — a prayer for peace for our shared human family. It would be good to have you with us.

Third Annual Community Health Fair — Saturday, August 30th from 10am to 3pm at the Bainbridge Village Green (corner of NY Route 206 and NY Route 7)

Bainbridge First PC and East Guilford United PC are holding this health fair in conjunction with Bainbridge Days. We will be joined by health care providers, support agencies, and the ecumenical community in the tri-counties area. Interspersed among local vendors' tables, there will be information sharing, basic testing, and free giveaways. A mobile mammography van from Guthrie-Lourdes will attend as will Lion's Club Vision screenings. Beginning at 10 AM, there will be a presentation and Q&A on "End of Life" issues such as hospice care, legal matters, funerary information, cemetery arrangements, and spiritual care. Head Start is planning activities for children too.

If other congregations would like to observe how we do it and explore doing their own health ministry, please feel free to speak with one of our committee members who will be wearing green shirts.