

Announcements

March 1, 2026

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[3/1] Coffee hour, 11:15am in the Sanctuary

United Ringers handbell choir, 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 handbells, please inquire. No previous experience needed. If you can count to 4, you can learn to play!

[3/2] 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 Acts of the Apostles, 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

Book Study, Mondays, 2/23–3/30, 6pm in the Pastor's Office or on Zoom. Pastor Kimberly is preaching through Lent on the themes from MaryAnn McKibben Dana's *Hope: A User's Manual*. Join us to discuss this book each week. (Note, no meeting on 3/9.)

[3/3] Community Meal, Tuesdays, 5–6pm.

Every week we offer a sit-down meal that is free for anybody. Volunteers are needed; if you'd like to help with this mission, contact Community Kitchen Coordinator Sherry Conklin: meal@upcbgm.org or 607-722-4219.

[3/4] 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 invited; bring a lunch and enjoy the company.

Community Food & Hygiene Pantry, Wednesdays, 12–5pm. Volunteers help staff the pantry on Wednesdays, and help is also needed when we get deliveries on Thursday & Friday mornings. Contact Sherry to help: meal@upcbgm.org or 607-722-4219.

UPC Choir rehearsal, 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. It would be good to have you with us!

[3/5] Art for the Heart, Thursdays, 5:30–7:30pm. (see back page)

[3/6] Zoom Happy hour, Fridays, 5–6:30pm.

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:

[3/8] Worship, 10am: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS, remember to spring forward!

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 on Wednesdays, and help is also needed when we get deliveries on Thursday & Friday mornings. Donations of nonperishable 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 contribute their ideas and support 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 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**, Lou McKeage lmckeage@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.

Christian Action Addressing the Climate Crisis — Book Group, March 2–April 27
Mondays, 1–2pm or 7–8pm on Zoom — from the Presbyteries' Joint Justice Team

This new book discussion, co-convened by John Paarlberg, Kent Busman and Daniel Carlson, is for anyone who recognizes the church's urgent need to reconsider and renew its witness to the gospel amidst the existential threat of catastrophic climate change.

- Eight Sessions via Zoom
- March 2nd – April 27th
- Mondays 1–2pm or 7–8pm

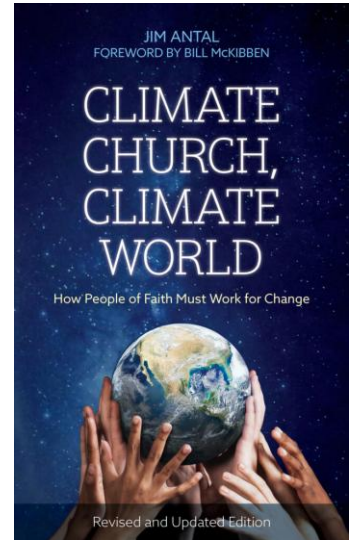
In *Climate Church, Climate World*, the Rev. Jim Antal calls on the church to meet humanity's most formidable moral challenge by embracing a new vocation so that future generations might live in harmony with God's creation.

Both accessible and practical, via stories and examples, the author shows how Christians can embrace new approaches to worship, preaching, witnessing, and other spiritual practices that honor creation and cultivate hope. Read the intro and first chapter on Amazon at <https://bit.ly/4rJG5pO>.

The revised and updated edition is available — for a 20% discount — through Bloomsbury <https://bit.ly/4aJ3Yb2> — use code: GLR BD8 (make sure to add a space between R and B).

Double Bonus: Jim Antal will join us for an April session focused on Preaching and Worship. In addition, Debra Rienstra, author of *Refugia Faith* and host of the *Refugia Podcast*, will also participate that day. To get a sense of Jim's ministry, with a focus on the book, listen to this *Refugia* episode <https://bit.ly/4aZgCS6> in which Jim talks with Debra.

To sign up, get schedule, Zoom link, email pastordanielcarlson@gmail.com.



Synod-Wide Ruling Elder Training Is Open For Registration
Exploratory conversations at 7pm on Tues. March 3 & 24 on Zoom
Old Testament course begins May 18



SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Synod is pleased to invite you to an exploratory conversation about a new Synod-wide Commissioned Pastor (CRE) Training Program designed to cultivate strong, accessible, and unified preparation for commissioned pastoral leaders across our region.

This initiative seeks to develop a cohesive Synod-wide model that:

- Expands equity and access to theological and pastoral education
- Strengthens leadership pipelines for small, rural, immigrant, and under-resourced congregations
- Supports ruling elders discerning a call to commissioned pastoral service
- Provides mid councils with consistent, high-quality preparation for CREs and the congregations they serve

Accessible & flexible learning:
The program will incorporate hybrid instruction, including:

- In-person intensives
- Online learning modules
- Peer learning cohorts

Join us as we shape a unified, accessible, and faithful model of preparation for those called to serve in this moment.

Learn more about this opportunity at
upcbgm.org/SNEblog260225.



UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PREPARING FAITHFUL LEADERS

CRE Old Testament begins May 18

This Christian Leadership cohort will nurture the gifts of Christian leaders to build up the ministry of congregations in the Synod of the Northeast. Elders, deacons, Sunday school teachers — any disciple seeking to grow in faith and service will discover rich opportunities and fellowship in this offering. Participants may join the cohort for any or all of eight offerings in the months ahead.

Old Testament with Dr. Matthew Schlimm, with a co-teacher from the Synod of the Northeast:

- Tuition: \$430 per course, subject to annual increases. Books in addition to tuition.
- Generous need-based scholarships are available.
- Participants will learn basic online navigation and “netiquette” in the Canvas learning platform.

Requirements: The time required for the course is roughly equivalent to a one-credit college course.

- Semi-synchronous
- 300 pages of reading total
- About a half day per week, 8 weeks
- Prerequisite: High school degree or GED.
- Completion of the introductory online learning course will prepare the group to learn together



**Ethiopian Mission Network Lenten Bible Study:
Gospel of Matthew, “From Temptation to Resurrection: Following Jesus’s Way”
Saturdays, February 21 – March 28, 11:30am on Zoom**

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley's Ethiopian Mission Partnership Team and the PC(USA) Ethiopian Mission Network invite us to join them in a six-week Lenten Bible Study. This will be with our friends and colleagues in Ethiopia and across the US. Pastor Gilo and Rev. Hyiwot Teshome will be leading the study along with Kes Teferi, and others in Ethiopia will be assisting.

The study will meet on Saturdays at 11:30 each week from February 21 through March 28 and focuses on sections of the Gospel of Matthew.

- Session 1, Feb. 21: Temptation & the Beginning of Ministry, Matthew 4:1–25
- Session 2, Feb. 28: The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5–7
- Session 3, March 7: Parables of the Kingdom, Matthew 13
- Session 4, March 14: Who do You Say That I Am? Matthew 16:13–28; 17:1–9
- Session 5, March 21: The Last Supper, Trial, and Crucifixion, Matthew 26–27
- Session 6, March 28: Resurrection & the Great Commission, Matthew 28

More details about this study can be found at <https://bit.ly/4ZjBCon>.

While the story of the Gospel is continuous, we will focus on only a topic or two in each session. Please come prepared for each session, without necessarily focusing on future sessions and scripture readings. Thank you.

Zoom meeting link: <https://bit.ly/4OnFYE8>

Meeting ID: 817 0953 5094

Passcode: 965325

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:



- **Fields of Green: Unlocking Ministry Potential through Asset Stewardship** — *Thursday, March 5, 2–3pm*: Mark's account of feeding the 5,000 offers a lesson in perspective: while the disciples saw scarcity in a deserted place, Jesus saw abundance on green grass. This webinar invites congregations to rethink their buildings and campuses as assets for ministry, not liabilities. Sharing stories of various congregations, this workshop will offer practical strategies for churches on how they can use their space to serve the wider community, generate revenue, and expand mission impact. upcbgm.org/prc030526

Other resources from PRC include:

- **Hands to Work, Hearts to God Craft Group** — *3rd Thurs. monthly, 7–8pm (next meeting March 19)*: Bring together your love of crafting and your desire to connect with God in community. Join us on Zoom with whatever “lap work” you enjoy — knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or any portable craft. As our hands stay busy, our hearts will be nourished by listening to and reflecting on readings from Joyce Rupp's inspiring book, *Constant Hope*. Whether you're an experienced crafter or simply seeking fellowship and spiritual encouragement, you are warmly invited to join us. upcbgm.org/prc031926
- **What's Next**: Timely resources and upcoming webinars. conta.cc/4s2is1S (2/24/26)
- **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/4am0bx9



World Day of Prayer 2026
Friday, March 6, 10am
at Conklin Presbyterian Church

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year's service was written by the WDP Committee of Nigeria.

For more info, contact Karen Holman, 607-648-4711.

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together for an annual observance of a common day of prayer and action on the first Friday in March. Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the WDP worship service, interpreting the Bible in their own context, and lifting up in prayer the challenges and issues experienced by women and children across the globe. The WDP's motto is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." WDP promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service, and celebration.

The country of focus for WDP 2026 is Nigeria, and the theme "I Will Give You Rest: Come" is drawn from Matthew 11:28–30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God. Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens — shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair — the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest.

The Nigerian WDP Committee has woven together their cultural wisdom with the universal need for rest. Through symbols like the calabash bowl, which represents both daily sustenance and divine provision, they remind us how God meets us in our weariness. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

This year's worship service features a playlet about a young girl named Chioma and stories of three Nigerian women: Beatrice, Jato, and Blessing. Their experiences reveal how God provides rest through community support, faith, and hope. The Bible Study explores divine rest from creation to Jesus' time, examining wisdom traditions and Jesus' transformation of rest from rigid rules to liberating mercy. Original music composed for the service includes a moving theme song by Chisom R. Chukwumerije. The song invites those who are weary and oppressed to find comfort and rest in God.

As we prepare for WDP 2026, may we learn to embody Jesus' invitation: "Come to me, all you who are weary." Together, let us become channels of God's rest in our troubled world.



*Title: Rest for the Weary
Artist: Gift Amarachi Ottah*

Save the Date for Union Presbyterian Church's
One Great Hour of Sharing Trivia Night Fundraiser — Saturday, March 21, 4–7pm

Union Presbyterian Church is once again holding a Trivia Night fundraiser for One Great Hour of Sharing.

The cost is \$10 per person, with all proceeds benefiting the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering.

Join UPC's team, or bring your friends and form a team of your own. We had a blast at last year's trivia night!

If you plan to join us for this fun event, you can sign up to be part of our team:

<https://upcbgm.org/trivia260321>

Pizza, drinks, and other snacks will be available.



Rev. Dr. Paul Huh, Pastor of Walton United PC, shares his recent concert at Walton Theatre, "Ten Hymn Settings for Cello and Piano" by Kurt Kaiser

This YouTube playlist has 10 hymn arrangements for your Lent meditation: <https://bit.ly/4aRHS4U>



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Emotional and Spiritual Care Academy *Tuesdays, March 24 – April 26, 11am–12:30pm*

Six weeks of live, free online programs will offer pragmatic and informative sessions to help faith and community leaders address needs emerging from disasters and other crises.

These interactive programs are on Tuesdays, March 24 through April 28, 11am–12:30pm and are appropriate for all levels of experience and expertise.

REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/47jnWqv>

Schedule at a glance, 11am–12:30pm Eastern Time:

- March 24, 2026 — “Calm in Crisis”, Lutheran Disaster Response
- March 31, 2026 — “Talk Saves Lives” (suicide prevention), Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Prevention Division
- April 7, 2026 — “Responding with Care: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Disaster Response for Diverse Communities”, Lutheran Disaster Response
- April 14, 2026 — “Risk and Protective Factors”, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Prevention Division
- April 21, 2026 — “Tools for Building Resilience”, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- April 28, 2026 — “Emotional and Spiritual Care in Human-Caused Disasters”, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

For more information contact Kathy Riley, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Associate for Emotional and Spiritual Care: Kathryn.riley@pcusa.org.

One registration for all sessions: When you submit this registration, you are registering to receive links and reminder emails for all programs in this series. Attend as many as you can. For details and more information about the specific programs, go to the Webinar Hub at <https://crisiscareministries.net/cmwebinarhub>.



SUMMER CAMP PRESENTATION

Saturday, March 21, 1:00–3:00pm at UPC

Come and hear about beautiful Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake and the summer camp options for youth, adults, and adults with special needs.

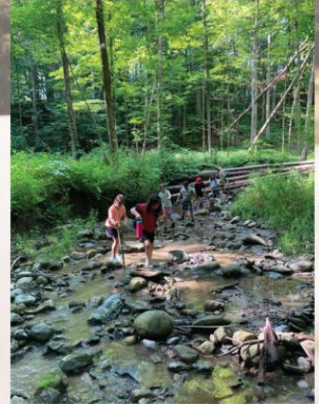
Camp Director Bryan Muecke will give a presentation, then any youth who are there can go do some camp activities, games, or crafts with some camp staff while adults can stay for a discussion and ask questions. Snacks will be provided. It should be a lot of fun!

Please register to help us plan for seating & snacks:
<https://susvalpresby.org/register>

Camp Whitman is the only PC(USA) summer camp in upstate New York. And they have a week of **adult summer camp** this year, as well as weeks of youth summer camp and summer camp for adults with special needs. They also do small group programs perfect for church retreats. So everyone can have an opportunity for camp fun and spending time in creation.

For more information, contact Pastor Becky at bkindig@upcbgm.org

or visit campwhitman.org to learn more.



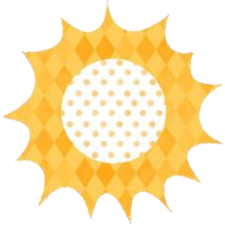
Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake

Since 1954, Camp Whitman has been operating on the beautiful shores of Seneca Lake. The outdoor ministry serves youth, adults, special needs adults, families, and church groups, and is an affiliate ministry of the presbyteries of upstate New York and the PC(USA) Synod of the Northeast.



The Vision of the camp is to be a Christ-centered, year-round camp and retreat center, offering excellent hospitality and inspirational programming to enrich the body, mind, and spirit of all people. The Mission of the camp is to live for those who are longing for belonging, seeking connection with community and creation, respite from chaos and competition, and an opportunity to encounter both the Holy and themselves.

Camp Whitman strives to include people with diverse interests, backgrounds, and abilities in all of our programs. Acceptance and participation in the program are the same for everyone. Individuals of all faiths, races, sexual orientations, creeds, gender expressions or gender identities are welcome and encouraged to attend.



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 January 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 info 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.

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

Thursdays, 5:30–7:30pm, February 26 – March 26

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 start the evening activity at 6:00, 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.



MARCH 5: HANDBUILDING POTTERY

(Postponed from 2/26)

Suzie Northrop Raboy will lead us in a class on Handbuilding Pottery. There are so many creative things you can make out of clay and just playing with it can be relaxing. Clay and tools will be provided.

MARCH 12: Decoupage

Sara Lieberman will lead us in exploring the art of decoupage — making collages on 3D objects. Bring an object to decorate (or use one that we supply), along with magazines & colorful paper napkins to beautify your object.

MARCH 19: 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 26: GLAZING POTTERY

Suzie Raboy will lead us in how to glaze fired pottery. You can glaze the piece you made on March 5, or she will have a few pieces to glaze if you were not there that day.

FEBRUARY 26: PRAYER BEADS

Pastors Becky and Kimberly taught us a little about the practice of praying with beads, and everyone had a chance to make their own bead bracelet or keychain.

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