

Lent 2026

Volume 17, Issue 1

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [upcbgm.org/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpCBGM)

Holy Week: March 29 – April 5

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29 – worship at 10am

This year, we will once again begin our worship with a Palm Sunday parade as we sing, “We Are Marching in the Light of God”. We will gather at the Lord’s Table and share in the feast, and tell the story of his Passion.

Fish Boxes: Our One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Boxes were given out on the first Sunday in Lent. Everyone is invited to fill them with spare change during this season and bring them back on Sunday, March 29, to put in a basket during our Palm Sunday parade. If you didn’t get one, fish boxes are in the sanctuary by any of the doors. It’s a tangible way for all of us to see that when we all give a little, it adds up to a lot!



Easter Egg Decorating: After worship on Palm Sunday, everyone is invited to help decorate Easter Eggs downstairs in Fellowship Hall, starting at around 11:15. Approximately 150 decorated eggs will be given to our pantry clients and our guests at the community meal during the week, as a special reminder that resurrection is a promise for all people. Eggs and decorating supplies will be provided. We just need your creativity! Make sure to wear (or bring) something that can get a little messy.



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We are a place where everyone is welcome as we support one another to act justly, practice kindness, and walk humbly with God.



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON



Maundy Thursday, April 2 — 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!

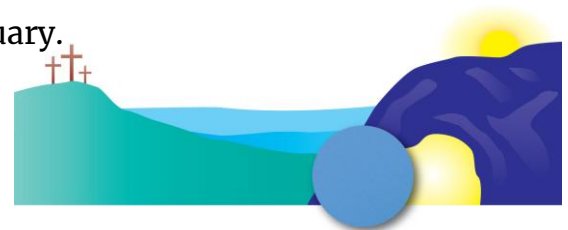
Starting at 6:30 after the meal, we will share in the Lord's Supper and remember Jesus's passion and death. The worship service will also be streamed on YouTube and Zoom.

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



Easter Sunday, April 5 — 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.



Pastor's Ponderings



Hello Friends!

On March 13, I went to an award ceremony hosted by Senator Lea Webb, and was presented with a Senate Commendation Award, one of the highest awards offered by the New York State Senate. Here's what I said in the press release:

Kimberly P Chastain, Pastor

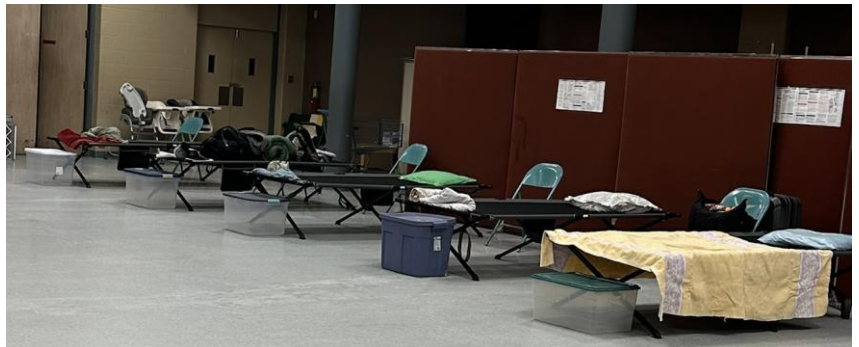
I am deeply honored to receive this award from Senator Webb, and grateful for the opportunity to lift up the work of United Presbyterian Church and its community as a center for mutual aid, learning, and action. UPC is a progressive PC(USA) congregation where everyone is welcome as we support one another in acting justly, practicing kindness, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Our life together includes hosting a tri-county GED program, a kitchen for community meals, a food pantry with an on-site case worker, a warming center for the unhoused, and dozens of events yearly — ranging from a LUMA fest exhibit to a recent vigil for those who have died at the hands of ICE. We share space with some of the area's most dedicated advocacy organizations, and offer financial support to the area's first peer-led jail reentry program. I am proud of what we've built together and my role within it.



I also said,

I feel very grateful that I was called to serve in a congregation that understands that living as a Christian is engaging with human suffering and working to overcome it. Binghamton United is a “cottage congregation in a cathedral building,” and we work hard to welcome everyone into our life together.

The occasion for the award was the “pop-up shelter” we ran for three weekends in January, when the cold outside was literally deadly. It was staffed entirely by volunteers, and although ACBC loaned us the cots, all of the bedding and meals were donated by concerned citizens. We learned quickly that there were things we could do in emergency conditions, and things that were not sustainable over the long haul. But we saw clearly how many different gifts were necessary to pull it all together, and what a blessing it is to have so many people willing to serve, within the congregation and beyond.



Activist Rebecca Solnit has said that “the next savior will be the Sangha”. A Sangha in Buddhist terminology is the community of practitioners, working together. It’s nice that she found that concept in Buddhism, but it is worth remembering that the idea of the Body of Christ as the gathered community working together has existed in Christianity for 2,000 years — and in Judaism for just as long. I resisted the idea of the award because it has never been about me — it is always about what we do together, keeping our focus on seeing Jesus in the poor, the lost, and those who have no hope.

As I am writing this, Palm Sunday is approaching, and we will be remembering and retelling the story of death and resurrection. It seems like a good time to recall that one of the

foundational statements of the Christian faith is that the Risen Christ is among us when we gather in his name, and that when we act together, we become his Body in the world.

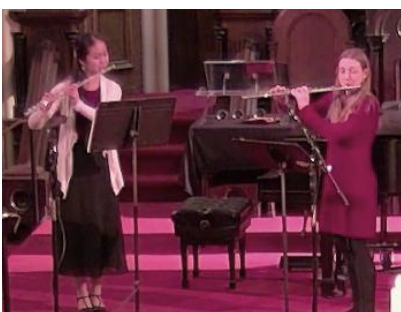
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again!
Happy Easter!
Pastor Kimberly

Musician Musings

Music at UPC has felt different these past few months, since Becky and Ken Mebert made their move to Colorado. We miss them, and are still looking for a permanent accompanist to come and join our music ministry! Both Andy Chadwick and Nancy McNamara have made outstanding contributions on the organ and piano as substitute players, and we're grateful that they can share their talents as they are able. As we continue our search, if you know a capable keyboard player looking for a meaningful and engaging position, please let us know!

Advent and the Christmas season were such a joy this year with a variety of contemplative and exciting music to celebrate the season. Because the curriculum for Advent explored the Luke Christmas story in depth, choir had the opportunity to sing more Christmas music than usual this season. We showcased music spanning centuries, including songs in Church Slavonic (*Bogorodytse Djevo*); a 14th-century Latin carol (*Angelus ad Virginem*); a Catalan carol (*Over All the Land*); a portion of Bach's Christmas Oratorio (*Beside Thy Cradle*); and international carols from Ireland (*The Wexford Carol*), Ukraine (*Carol of the Bells*), and Spain (*Riu, Riu, Chiu: El Lobo Rabioso*). The entire choir made outstanding contributions to the joyful sounds of the season!

We also enjoyed special performances by Phil Westcott (*Only at Christmastime* by Sufjan Stevens); Ethan Nyamuame, Austin Shaduck, and Phil Westcott (saxophone trio: *Veni, Veni Emmanuel/We Three Kings*); Ariana Windsong and Aimée Backus (flutes: *Away in a Manger, O Holy Night, and O Little Town of Bethlehem*);



Aoife Backus (piano: *The First Noel*); and the United Ringers handbell choir (*White Christmas* and *Christmas Joy*). And it was heartwarming to have the children's handchimes accompany the congregation as we sang *He Is Born* on Christmas Eve.

On January 11, Andrea Gilebarto, our soprano section leader from the past two years, sang her last service with us UPC. She has now moved to Kansas City to begin an Artist's Diploma in voice, and we will miss her very much. She promises to come back and visit us on semester breaks!

If you wish to join the music ministry at UPC, we are always welcoming new members. Vocal choir meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 in the choir room, and bells meet after worship on Sundays from 11:30 to 12:30. No prior experience is necessary!



Presbyterian Association of Musicians 2026 Worship & Music Conference

June 21–26 or June 28–July 3 at Montreat Conference Center



“Who’ll be a witness for my Lord?” So begins the African American spiritual that has inspired the theme for the 2026 Worship & Music Conference. This 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. This year’s

theme will invite us to consider our collective call to be faithful witnesses to the crucified and risen Lord, no matter the circumstances that shape our common life together.

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!

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. Learn more about this scholarship at 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 for children and youth ages Kindergarten through 12th grade. susvalpresby.org/Camperships

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

Register by April 30 to avoid late fees. With PSV funding, your registration cost would be \$142.50 for adults or \$87.50 for children & youth. (Housing & meals are not included.)

Learn more and register at presbysmusic.org/conference.

Our Church Family

In Memoriam

Linda Rosendale Griffin passed away peacefully with family by her side, on January 5, 2026, at the age of 83. Born on December 14, 1942, Linda was a resident of Mill Creek, Washington.

She is predeceased by her parents, Mel and Ida Rosendale, and her nephew, Rob.

She is survived by her daughter, Heather Biro (Gary) and their children, Ava and Jack; her sister, Kris; her niece Sara (John) and their children; her nephew, Ryan (Lisa) and their children. She is also survived by Kimberly (Rob) and their children.

Linda retired at the age of 57 after over 30 years of being a beloved special education teacher. Her commitment for education touched the lives of many.

Pastor Kimberly shared this remembrance: Linda was a vivid and joyous presence in our congregation until she moved to Seattle to live close to her daughter in 2019, and stayed in regular touch with us in the years since her move. Linda was a special education teacher for over thirty years, and worked within the congregation to bring creative and meaningful activities to our worship and our life together. We will miss her bright smile and generous notes, and remember her every time we bring the giant stuffed sheep she gave us into the worship service.

In lieu of flowers, please plant a tree in her honor, donate to an animal charity of your choice, or pass on a smile to someone you care about.

Join Us for Worship — in person, online, or over the phone

We worship together on Sundays at 10:00am, both in person in the sanctuary and online. The service is livestreamed on our public YouTube Channel [upcbgm.org/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpCbGm), our Zoom room [upcbgm.org/zoom](https://www.upcbgm.org/zoom), and our website [upcbgm.org](https://www.upcbgm.org), and is also accessible on YouTube any time. Those who can't access the worship videos online can call in on the phone to listen live on Sunday mornings, using the Zoom information listed below. So if you are not ready or able to come "in person", you are welcome to participate as you are able.

Everyone is invited to join us as we pray, hear God's word read and proclaimed, share our joys and concerns, and experience worshipful music.

If you're joining us in person, here's what you need to know:

- Printed worship guides are placed by each door for you to pick up on the way in, and the hymns are printed in the worship guide.



Children in Worship “Let the little children come to me...” —Matthew 19:14

We are glad to have children and families in the congregation, and we welcome and encourage them to be in worship with us. We truly believe that a community of faith is made up of people of ALL ages. There is a PrayGround space with coloring sheets and quiet toys in the front of the sanctuary, which can be used there or taken to another pew if that is more suitable to the family’s needs. Sunday school materials are mailed to our families once a month to do together at home.



There is a nursery for infants through age four staffed with two nursery attendants, if that is a better choice for your family. The nursery is at the end of the hall past the bathrooms. Nursery staff are on duty from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Parents are welcome to stay in the room and listen to the service over the speaker, or to return to the sanctuary to worship. Please let us know if you have questions.

- Offering plates are placed by the doors of the sanctuary, but we do not pass them during the offertory. You are invited and welcome to use our online giving portal upcbgm.org/give or to mail a check to the church.
- Air filtration units are deployed throughout the sanctuary to enhance your safety. If you have any symptoms of a potentially contagious illness, we ask that you put on a mask to protect those in our congregation who have compromised immune systems.

If you’re worshipping with us online, all of the hymn music and prayer words are shown on the screen, and live captioning is used for other parts of the service such as the sermon and the Prayers of the People. If you watch on a small screen and need the printed version of the worship guide, it is available for download from our website upcbgm.org each week, or it can be mailed to you upon request if downloading & printing is not an option.

To join the Zoom room online, go to upcbgm.org/zoom

To call in: Dial 1-646-558-8656, then enter Meeting ID: 865 274 8433 #

It would be good to have you with us.

Music at UPC

Music is an important part of our coming together at United Presbyterian Church. 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.

The UPC Choir rehearses in the Music Room on Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30pm. 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!



The United Ringers rehearse in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays, 11:30am–12:30pm. Our handbell choir plays 2–4 octaves of Malmark handbells and handchimes, providing music for worship once or twice 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!

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.

Worship in the Lenten Season

Transfiguration Sunday through Easter

Our worship during the Lenten season was a conversation about Hope, guided by MaryAnn McKibben Dana's book called *Hope: A User's Manual*. Pastor Kimberly also led a companion book study that met on Monday nights.

February 15 — Transfiguration of the Lord, “What Hope Is Not”, *Mark 9:2–53*

Every year before Lent begins, we tell the story of the Transfiguration. Jesus, with several of his closest friends, went up a mountain. There the disciples were given a vision in which they saw Jesus, transformed, talking with Moses the Lawgiver and Elijah the prophet. At first it seems that all of their hopes for the redemption of Israel and a new kingdom had been fulfilled. The Spirit speaks to them from a cloud, and they go back down the mountain, wondering what this experience can teach them about hope, faith and following Jesus. This story turns out to be an ideal introduction to the Lenten series and study we are undertaking together, by giving us a frame for understanding what hope is not and a glimpse of what true hope can be.

February 19 — Ash Wednesday, *worship services at 12:30pm and 5:30pm*

We gathered in the sanctuary for a meditative service, where each person was invited to travel among five stations to reflect on the meaning of ashes: loss, grief, anger, weakness, repentance, and clarity. As we closed our time together, worshipers received the sign of ashes on their hand or forehead.

February 22 — “What Hope Is”, *James 1:22–25*

In the first week of the series, we worked through a list of things that hope is not: it is not optimism or toxic positivity; it isn't a prediction of things to come. This week, as we start to consider what hope is, we hear the letter of James reminding people to begin with small actions, acting in ways that are concrete and specific, not getting sidetracked by small defeats or struggles. Hope is found in seeing things as they are, and refusing to fall into paralysis or discouragement. MaryAnn McKibben Dana gives us a set of things to hold in tension: to accept

and refuse to accept, to look at the present but envision the future, to accept limitations but always to ask, “What is another way to look at this?”

March 1 — “Hope Lives in the Body”, *Hebrews 12:12–15*

Most of us think of hope as something we do with our intellect, as something apart from our bodies. But hope is also a deeply embodied experience, and paying attention to what we feel in our bodies is an important part of the practice of hope. Dr. Samuel Elikem Nyamuame shared with us an Ewe practice of symbols that nurture hope and are literally imprinted in clothing, on surfaces, and in the hearts and minds of Ewe Christians. The most important feeling for connecting to hope is joy.

March 8 — “Hope Travels in a Story”, *Deuteronomy 6:20–25*

Hope, first and foremost, is a story we live in, a story we cultivate and perpetuate. It’s a story with characters: helpers, villains, tricksters, challenges and triumphs. The foundational story of God’s people is today’s reading from Deuteronomy; Christians tell this story as a part of the greater narrative of God’s saving activity in the world. This week we thought about stories we tell ourselves and how they shape our relationship to the world, and how we can change the shape of the stories to show and tell more hope.

March 15 — “The Practice of Hope”, *Romans 12:10–21*

Barbara Kingsolver has written that the least you can do with your life is to figure out what you hope for, and the most you can do is to live inside that hope. For Christians, the hope is to act with justice, treat everyone with kindness, and be humble about our work in the world. In Paul’s letter to the Romans he outlines a set of practices that will build a community that supports the hope that we call the reign of God, loving each other and telling each other the stories that will nurture and nourish us as people called to hope.

March 22 — “Hope Beyond Hope”, *Jeremiah 29:1–7, 10–14*

The story of hope for God’s people was a story of One who redeems the captive and brings God’s people to freedom. Living in covenant with God meant flourishing in the land and showing God’s justice and peace to everyone. This was shattered when the community was conquered and its leadership carried into exile. Jeremiah tells the people not to abandon hope, but to build new resources and seek the good where they are, so that they will be ready when God brings about a new world with new hopes and challenges.

March 29 — Palm/Passion Sunday, “When Hope Almost Died”, *Matthew 21:1–17*

Last week we heard from Jeremiah about how to plant and build toward hope when calamity comes. This week we tell again the story of the crisis for the followers of Jesus when he was arrested, tried and crucified. We will begin with a parade and re-tell the story, celebrate the Lord’s Supper, and then move to a time of quiet reflection on the Passion. At the close of the service, the Christ candle will be carried out, to return on Easter Sunday when we proclaim the resurrection.

April 2 — Maundy Thursday, 6pm dinner, 6:30pm worship service

We will gather around the tables in the Upper Lounge to tell again the story of the night when Jesus was given up to death, sharing a simple meal and remembering the fear, the suffering,

and the despair of the disciples. We will depart from the service in silence, to ponder the love that never let us go and to await the promise of new life in the Resurrection.

April 9 — Resurrection Sunday! *Luke 24:1-12*

In a world where grief and loss seem to rule the day, hope beckons when we gather together to hear and understand the promise that believers have told since that first Easter day: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again.

News from Session

As many of you know, the warming center is in flux. There are a lot of moving parts and any updates we include here may be obsolete by the time we go to press with this newsletter. Nevertheless, we want to give you a snapshot of what is and has been happening:

For three weekends during the coldest part of the winter, we partnered with others in the community to open up a weekend pop-up Code Blue shelter from Friday night through Sunday morning, when no other overnight shelter was available in the city of Binghamton because the other emergency shelters were already at capacity and the Department of Social Services had no more resources available to provide hotel rooms to those in need. We are grateful for the outpouring of support that we received from the community, and for the efforts of the volunteers who staffed the shelter during those deadly cold nights. (Below are photos of just some of the donations we received when the news broke that we would be offering this shelter.)





In the coming months, The Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC) will be terminating their lease of our space here at United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton. We are deeply grateful for all ACBC has done to serve the unhoused community of Binghamton. While there have been challenges, we truly appreciate the dedication of their staff and leadership.

Looking ahead, our pastors and session are actively discerning how we might continue caring for our unhoused neighbors, perhaps even expanding to seven nights a week during cold weather. Although ACBC's funding changes have led them to end the lease, we look forward to collaborating with other community partners to sustain and strengthen this vital work.

The session is working hard on a funding and management plan to continue this important work. We hope to share more updates soon.

News from the Kitchen

by Sherry Conklin, Community Kitchen Coordinator

My Star Word this year is "JUSTICE". That seems appropriate since feeding hungry people is the correct thing to do. I am wondering though, what more will be expected of me through the year with this simple word? The Holy Spirit continues to work in this building through the people to help spread our mission of service and acceptance to all in need.

I attend meetings at the Food Bank of the Southern Tier monthly as well as monthly meetings with "Families with Young Children". These meetings research and promote ways to feed people, especially young children. Our pantry gets a weekly delivery of food from CHOW and CHOW BOUNTY. The meal and pantry get other supplies at least twice a month from the Foodbank of the Southern Tier.

I wrote those two paragraphs in January after picking up my Star Word. Rereading them now in mid-March, I'm convinced that one example of Justice was the three weekends that we had an

emergency warming shelter in the building. Allowing people to stay in the building for the entire weekend seemed to be a blessing to the unhoused. They got to rest for the entire 40 hours from Friday night until Sunday morning, without having to move anywhere and carry their belongings. Everyone was fed supper, breakfast, lunch, supper, and breakfast, as well as hot soups and snacks. So, so many donations arrived during the three weekends from the community. This is proof that a warming shelter is needed every weekend, and people are working on making this possible.

I want to update everyone on some changes that are happening in the world of food availability.

CHOW is seeing a drastic increase in supplying food. They started 50 years ago with 8 agencies and are now serving 126 agencies weekly. Broome County has won the distinction of being the second poorest county in New York. Bronx County is the poorest. Our meal and pantry receive about 500–900 pounds of food each week for free from CHOW. You can see that serving 126 agencies per week adds up to a lot of pounds of recovered food.

Right now, the federal government has cut back drastically on supplying free commodities to food banks and pantries. The commodities that used to be donated are rice, dry beans, cereal, flour, and non-meat proteins. This is causing the food banks and pantries to spend more money obtaining nutritious food to give out.

Another very sad activity that our federal government is doing is the changes to SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, what used to be called food stamps). As of March 1, new requirements have been instituted. First, the government is cutting back on the budget and requiring the state government to pick up a lot of the cost of SNAP. Secondly, the ABAWD (abled-bodied adult without dependents) requirement has been reinstated. This means ABAWDs are required to work about 20 hours a week to keep SNAP benefits. Volunteer hours may be allowed in lieu of a job. Clients can determine how many hours they need to work or volunteer by dividing their weekly benefits by \$15.00 (the minimum wage of upstate NY). Any person that does not comply for 3 months, starting in March, will lose their ability to receive SNAP benefits for three years. A lot of exemptions from previous years have been eliminated. Being homeless is no longer an exemption. Some homeless people will be required to get a job. Anyone that applies for a job must list their permanent address, not a P.O. Box. Any dependent at age 14 is considered an adult and can stay at home alone while their parents work. People over 64 and anyone that is collecting disability are still exempt. Those with mental illnesses must be diagnosed and treated to be exempt.

I expect to see an increase in families needing help at a pantry. Right now, we are serving an average of 60 families per week.

We have given out numerous rolling suitcases, sleeping bags, and blankets, as well as knit hats, scarves, gloves, and warm socks. The First Ward knitting ladies supply the hats, gloves, and scarves. And our clothing bank is growing and has been well-received.

Supporting Our Mission and Ministry

Online Giving: We are able to receive tax-deductible contributions online through our website (upcbgm.org/give). Contributions can be made by E-check or credit card, and can also be set up as a recurring gift.

We encourage you to lift up in prayer how God will use you to bless UPC in fulfilling our mission to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Planned Giving: Making a planned gift is not just for those who have wealth or special financial expertise but for anyone with a generous spirit who wants to designate their gifts while they are living. Whether it is a bequest through your will, naming the church as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, a life income gift through a trust, or a designation of a portion of your retirement savings assets, your legacy gift can help ensure the continued vitality of UPC from one generation to the next. While a planned gift brings a sense of fulfillment to our own lives, it may also provide financial benefits to the donor, including tax savings, reduced capital gains and estate taxes, and release from financial management.

More information about planned giving, including sample bequest language for a will, can be found on our website at upcbgm.org/giving.



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 18 – April 5), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for for justice, resilience, and sustainability.**

DISASTER RECOVERY

The PC(USA) works with mid councils and churches to provide immediate support after natural and human-caused disasters. It also assists with long-term recovery efforts, connecting mid councils and churches with resources to help them rebound and thrive.

This emergency ministry enables our congregations and mission partners to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

National: Southern California faced multiple fires, exacerbated by strong winds and dry conditions. More than 35,000 acres burned and destroyed more than 16,000 structures. An

initial grant from the PC(USA) provided immediate support for urgent needs. National Response Team members were deployed to provide a ministry of presence, assist with ongoing assessments and help match identified needs with appropriate resources to expedite recovery resources.

International: Widespread flooding along the downstream banks of the lower Volta River affected more than 26,000 individuals who lost homes, possessions and livelihoods. The PC(USA) partnered with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana to provide relief items such as cereals and grains, water, clothing, tinned fish, milo, cooking oil, mattresses, tomato paste, menstrual products, mosquito coils, hygiene items and other toiletries.

HUNGER RELIEF

The PC(USA) works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes, working through relationships and partnerships in the United States and around the world. As recognized by



PC(USA) policies, hunger is an extremely complex phenomenon with economic, political, environmental and social causes. The PC(USA) seeks to find out why people are hungry and to encourage action that will help address the underlying causes.

National: Ekvv-Yefolec (an Indigenous community in Alabama) is now home to the only fluent-speaking Maskoke children on the planet, thanks to their language immersion schooling program. Additionally, they have successfully rematriated 5,584 acres of traditional Maskoke homelands, bringing their total stewarded land base to 6,824 acres, and have made significant progress in ecological restoration and regenerative agriculture, including silvopasture, tree-planting and restoring southeastern grasslands.

International: In Haiti, Mouvement Paysan de Papaye empowered 125 farming families by providing legal, agricultural, and community-building support to combat land encroachment. In South Sudan, OGHs supported over 20,000 women and girls by raising awareness about gender-based violence, providing vocational training in tailoring and bead-making, and improving economic self-sufficiency to reduce dependency and vulnerability.

POVERTY

The PC(USA) is committed to eradicating systemic poverty and evaluating the forces that push people into poverty and keep them there. This is done by entering into partnership with groups of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people; interacting with presbyteries; helping to facilitate their work; and encouraging a deeper understanding and involvement of the Church in the process of self-development.

National: The Lakota LockUp Project (Rapid City, SD) is committed to uplifting and revitalizing Indigenous people impacted by racialized mass incarceration, inequality, and addiction by applying culture, education, ancestral teaching, and innovative approaches to seek justice and healing. “Talking Circles” are a traditional Native approach to healing and wellness that is also an ancient tool for bringing a degree of healing to the mind and spirit. They are safe spaces for community conversation for those affected by the criminal justice system to assuage their trauma.

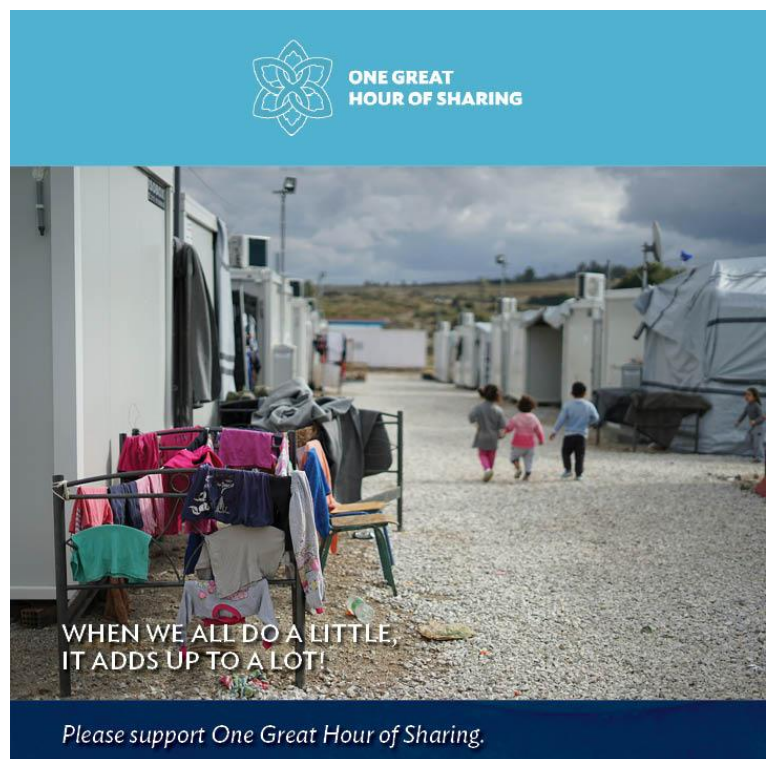
International: In Panama, the women of La Victoria formed a group that worked to fulfill their dream of clean and reliable water for 45 families from two Indigenous communities, the Guna Yala and the Emberá. A 25,000-liter tank was built by skilled Panamanian workers, transported by skilled Panamanian drivers, and installed by skilled Panamanian engineers. Meanwhile, the Azuero Craft Women Group in Herrera Province provides women with a way to make a living by teaching them how to make handmade crafts. In addition to providing the women with a way to make money, the program helps participants’ mental well-being by giving them a way to disconnect from their problems while working with their hands.

IMMIGRATION/MIGRATION/REFUGEES

The work and ministry of PC(USA) offices, advocates, and partners enable the church to provide direct support to those navigating the complexities of the immigration system, advocate for compassionate and just immigration laws and policies, and collaborate with partners who directly respond to these critical and complex issues in a range of communities and settings. Through these ongoing efforts, the PC(USA) seeks to embody Christ’s call to justice, compassion, and welcome for all who journey in search of safety and hope.

National: Taste of Peace “New Neighbors” (Ohio) helps refugee women market their sweet and savory treats to farmers market patrons and other customers in the Columbus area. The mission is to work with, assist, and provide equitable opportunities and enfranchisement to the local refugee population within the Greater Columbus area by providing the tools, resources, and opportunities to create economic stability and support for refugee women to be culinary entrepreneurs.

International: YMCA Moldova is one of several partners working to respond to needs caused by the Russia/Ukraine war. Projects include services for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, such as mental health, employment service, and legal support for more than 9,000 beneficiaries, and establishing a safe and inclusive space for youth and refugees with a hub for personal development and a wide range of free services to support education, digital skills, mental health and employability.



CLIMATE CHANGE

The program of Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns accompanies all who wish to reflect on, live out, and act on economic and environmental decisions as part of their faith and values. The PC(USA) has created resources and presentations created for reflection on economic and environmental justice issues, including environmental racism.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/hungerprogram#featured-resources>

In Puerto Rico, OGHs funding supported the purchase and installation of solar panels and energy storage batteries in a Resilience Hub, where the community can charge electronic devices and medical equipment and/or refrigerate medications during emergencies.

You can contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering by doing any of the following:

- use a Special Offering envelope to donate in one of the offering plates in the sanctuary
- write a check to **United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton** with “special offering” in the memo line
- give online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- text **OGHS** to **91999**

Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering that responds directly to the call to act justly in Micah 6:8. **If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!**

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 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 for more info: 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 or the church office: office@upcbgm.org

Other ministry teams: Our church teams are always welcoming new team members. If you’d like to help with or learn more 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

[@upcbgm.org](mailto:meal@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; Special Offerings, Judy Girdwood Westcott girdwoodwestcott@hotmail.com.

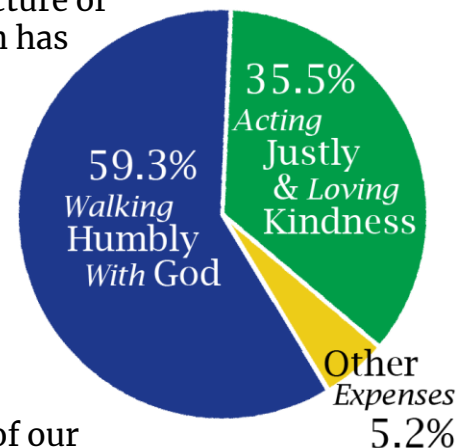
2026 Narrative Budget

Editor's Note: At our congregational meeting in February, the Session presented our 2026 budget and the pastors' proposed Terms of Call (compensation packages), which are a covenant between the pastor, the congregation, and the presbytery that must be renewed each year. The Terms of Call were unanimously approved by the congregation.

The information presented in this newsletter is the "Narrative Budget", the story of how our ministry and mission impacted the community in 2025 and our aspirations for 2026. Further details on our budget and the pastors' Terms of Call are available from the office upon request.

Ministry & Mission Budget Allocation

Every year, the session tries to give the gathered community a picture of the work of Binghamton United Presbyterian Church. The Session has chosen the charts and brief descriptions to reflect the priorities that guide our decisions about finances, the building, the staff, and the community. Reflecting our mission statement, we have divided the expenses into "Walking Humbly With God", representing our worship and congregational life, and "Acting Justly and Loving Kindness", representing our mission and hospitality programs.



It has been suggested by some that providing breakouts of the specific administrative categories under which bills are paid, like "property" and "personnel," would help to understand the cost of our ministry. If you would like to see those breakouts, they can be found in the detailed budget report, available upon request.

The budget and mission priorities are established by the Session and presented to the congregation each year on the day that you all vote to reaffirm your relationship with the pastors by approving their Terms of Call. We always ask if there are any questions about the presentation or the priorities.

This year we have another question, one we're calling "The Big Ask": Do you believe that God is calling us into the future? What do you think that future will look like?

Our nation and our world have been rocked by changes this year, and some of them are pointing the way to a future that seems stark and frightening. We have always understood our work to be lighting a way for dark times, offering resources and hope to people who are in need of hope. The leadership of our congregation believes that this work we do is important, and never more so than in a world where fear seems to be overcoming sense.

This year, as we are crafting a response to the changes we see all around us, we are asking for a concrete sign that you believe in the future. We need to know that you believe in the work and the mission enough to offer regular support — we need for you to pledge to the future. Not

because our financial situation is desperate, but because we need to know that there is congregational buy-in — literally — for the work that is ours to do.

As we have been seeking creative ways to fund the work, developing partnerships and applying for grants, we have learned that a first question is “how many people support your work?” Not, “how much money does each one give?” but “how many believe enough to give something?” Even a small commitment on your part — a dollar each week or five dollars per month — would give us the signal that you want to see our work continue.

We are thinking about the future, and we hope that you are thinking with us. We believe that God has called us into this time and this place together, and we are seeking God’s guidance about how we will respond to that call. It is a Presbyterian belief that God’s call comes to both individuals and to communities of faith, and each year we ask the congregation to affirm God’s call to the pastors. This year, we would like to ask individuals to affirm God’s call to our church. As the session and the leadership of the church are crafting a new vision for what lies ahead, are you willing to say “yes” to God’s calling?

Are you willing to step out in faith and support our journey to the future?

Walking Humbly With God

The vital center of our life as a congregation is the Sunday morning worship service, where our work begins and is nurtured in the love and worship of God. We witness to Christ’s enduring love for everyone by:

- Welcoming people of all ages and cultures, celebrating and affirming LGBTQIA+ families and neurodivergent individuals.
- Sharing the Word in a range of styles and experiences, accommodating special needs.
- Praying for each other in good times and hard times, growing together in faith.
- Encouraging children to participate in the conduct and leadership of worship.
- Maintaining a presence and witness at Binghamton University through the Interfaith Council.
- Offering monthly service projects and craft activities accessible to all ages and abilities.
- Practical preaching focused on understanding and living the gospel.
- Featuring varied and inclusive music, with instruments from organ and piano to shakuhachi and drums.
- Providing a “Pray Ground” for children which offers age-appropriate activities within the worshipping community.



- Offering a no-rehearsal Christmas pageant and hymn sing on the fourth Sunday of Advent.
- Expanding the ministry of presence to ensure no one is left behind.
- Supporting those in struggle and difficulty with our prayer ministry and card ministry.
- Gathering as a family of faith, building a community to glorify God.
- Welcoming new people and saying goodbye to old friends.



Acting Justly and Loving Kindness

Anyone and everyone are welcome here. Every day we learn more about how to be God’s people, to provide a safe place for people to gather, to grow together, and to build each other up. We work together to participate in missions that strive to transform our communities through alliances and outreach to people at risk in our society. We support PC(USA) mission programs and offerings. In 2026 we will support and expand the following programs and ideas:

- We partner with the Binghamton City School District to offer a chance to start again for adults who did not finish high school at the usual time and the alternative high school for students that need a different learning environment.
- We support a case manager in the “Walk with Me” program in partnership with Family Enrichment Network, helping people returning from incarceration.
- We provide a venue for training programs for community activists in the housing crisis and the work of anti-racism in Broome County.
- We support community cultural programs such as Tri-Cities Opera, LUMA, Porchfest, the Downtown Singers, and the NAACP MLK Day and Juneteenth celebrations.
- We participate with VINES urban farming, CHOW, and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to ensure everyone has access to nourishment.
- Our Community Pantry provides a “client choice” shopping experience every Wednesday, serving an average of 50 families each week. In addition to food items, our pantry offers hygiene



products, linens and blankets, towels, small appliances, and kitchen utensils such as dishes, pots and pans, and flatware to anyone in need.

- We foster a community coming from all walks of life, to serve and share a meal around tables every Tuesday evening.



- We belong to “Healthy Choice” and “Healthy Hunger Prevention” programs from the New York State Health Department and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.
- We offer “emergency” food bags with nonperishable protein snacks for the food-insecure.
- We partner with Good Neighbors Community Food Connection to provide and stock an outside pantry for the local community.
- The Wednesday Sewing Group offers time for fellowship while creating quilts, hats, scarves, mittens, etc. to give away.
- We maintain a small clothing closet, offering adult and baby diapers, socks, underwear, outerwear, knit hats, mittens, and scarves.
- We partner with Addiction Center of Broome County to host a 42-bed emergency overnight shelter, provide a sharps box for safe disposal of needles, and maintain a Narcan supply for treating overdoses.
- We allow shelter clients and other housing-insecure people to use the church mailing address to establish stability as they seek housing, employment, access to medical care, and face other challenges.
- We are working with other congregations, the city, and the county to expand the network of support for unhoused people to assure the stability of the assistance available.
- Once a week we have a case manager available to coordinate outside assistance services and counseling.
- We support the Whuti-Srogboe congregation in Ghana, sending gifts each year and listening to the stories of their school and congregation.
- We support Transnational Friends (Tri-Cities NY and Nairobi) in funding menstrual hygiene products for schoolgirls in low-income communities in Nairobi.
- We support the work of Salvavision and the Tucson Samaritans with immigrants at the Mexican border, and have a “Corner of Hope” in the sanctuary to educate and inform community members.



Programs & Events

UPC's "Zoom room"

Modern technology is marvelous! Thanks to the Zoom meetings system, we can gather virtually even though we can't be together in person. We've used our "Zoom room" for worship but also for prayer groups, book studies, hymn sings, and social times.

You can join our meetings and worship services online via your computer, tablet, or mobile device by going to upcbgm.org/zoom. If you've never used Zoom before, you'll be prompted to download the Zoom meetings app, which will ask for permission to use your microphone and your camera. We use our "Personal Meeting ID" for worship and most of our programs, so they're always in the same familiar place.

You can also call in over the phone, if you don't have a microphone on your device or you can't join online. To join as a phone call, dial **1-646-558-8656**, then enter our Meeting ID: **865 274 8433 #**

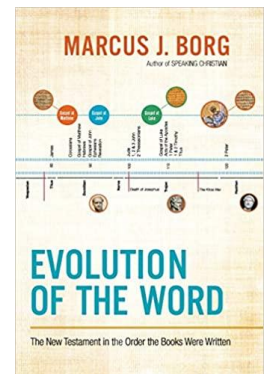
If you have questions or need help using Zoom, feel free to call the church office for assistance.

Bible Study

Mondays, 1–2pm, in the Zoom room

We've been reading from Marcus Borg's *Evolution of the Word: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were Written*. Everyone is welcome to join us on Zoom.

The general format is to read the introductory material for each section, then to read through the Biblical texts and talk about what it meant for early Christians and what it might mean for us today. We try to discipline ourselves to keeping the conversation to an hour every week.



UPC Sewing Group

Wednesdays, 10am–1pm in the Upper Lounge, with Zoom lunch hour at 12pm

"Blanketing the Town": In addition to a fair amount of snow that blanketed the area in the last few months, the Sewing Group blanketed the community with warmth. Following the blessing of quilts and other hand-crafted items in November, the Sewing Group continued its tradition of distributing the fruits of their labor to community groups and organizations.

An array of quilts, carry bags for walkers, hats, mittens, blankets, and scarves were packaged and prepped with festive ribbons and notes of good wishes for Christmas. For the 2025 holiday season, the following received donations:

- Susquehanna Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- Willow Point Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
- Bridgewater Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing
- Faith in Action Volunteers for the Silver Bells Program
- YWCA
- Camp Sunshine
- Home Instead



New for 2025, each quilt carried a special note from the church.



Marilynn Guinane (left) and Linda Fiaschi (right) work on a quilt and prepare holiday notes.



Ellen Berti rolls and wraps quilts for distribution.



Pastor Kimberly, Pastor Becky, and Cindy Chadwick packaging quilts.



Piles of warmth ready for distribution.

The donations were accepted with much appreciation.

The Sewing Group has already begun making quilts for the 2026 holiday season, meeting every Wednesday from 10 am to 1 pm in the Upper Lounge at UPC. The group enjoys lunch together at noon, Zooming with those who are unable to be with us in person. Please consider joining us; no experience necessary. If Wednesdays don't fit your schedule, there are always quilts that can be worked on at home.

For more information, contact the church office or one of the members of the group: Ellen Berti, Cindy Burger, Cindy Chadwick, Linda Fiaschi, Marilynn Guinane, Jean Hill, Sally Hunt, Sharon Landon, Betsy Perry, Nancy Walter, Alan, Anntanette, Pastor Becky, and Pastor Kimberly.

Zoom Happy hour

Friday evenings, 5–6pm

After nearly six years of “Zooming” together, our weekly social-distance gathering is still going strong. Bring your own beverage, “Zoom in”, and join the fun as we catch up on the events of the week and share how we're doing. It's a great way to keep in touch with friends near and far.

PC(USA) News

News from the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley

Our presbytery's newsletter, "Thursday Thoughts" (susvalpresby.org/thursday-thoughts), is published every week and includes announcements from our partner congregations in the region, news from the PC(USA) denomination, and links to webinars & resources available to us through the presbytery. Thursday Thoughts often announces classes and retreats offered by churches, seminaries, and other agencies, some in person and others online.



We are all invited to expand our understanding of the church and its mission through a broad variety of topics. Check it out, you might find something that sparks your interest.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE Emotional and Spiritual Care Academy

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Tuesdays, March 24–April 26, 11am–12:30pm

Six weeks of live, free online programs will offer pragmatic and informative sessions to help faith & 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 at bit.ly/47jnWqv.

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

For details about specific programs, go to the Crisis Care Ministries Webinar Hub at <https://crisiscareministries.net/ccmwebinarhub>. For more information, contact Kathy Riley (Kathryn.Riley@pcusa.org), PDA Associate for Emotional and Spiritual Care.

You're Invited to Join Us May 16 for a Joint Gathering of Our Presbyteries

Members and friends of the Presbyteries of Cayuga-Syracuse and Susquehanna Valley are warmly invited to a joint gathering on Saturday, May 16, at First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia. This special event is designed as a time of fellowship, conversation, and learning as we come together across our presbyteries.

The gathering will run from 11:00am to 2:30pm, with doors opening at 10:30am for registration and informal conversation. All members of both presbyteries are encouraged to attend — come one, come all!

The day will offer opportunities to build new friendships, learn more about one another's ministries and share ideas and questions about the life of our presbyteries. Participants will

also hear about the recent merger between the Lehigh and Lackawanna Presbyteries, offering insight and perspective that may help inform conversations within our own region.

This gathering is sponsored by the Focus & Coordination Team, and lunch will be provided. A \$5 donation per person is welcomed to help offset the cost of the meal.

To help us plan for lunch, please RSVP by emailing Lorrie Cooney at ljcooney1@gmail.com and include your name and the church you are affiliated with.

Your presence and voice are important. We hope you will join us for this meaningful time of connection and shared conversation.

Got Church Trivia? We Want It!

Help Make Our “Get to Know Our Presbyteries” Trivia Game a Success

At our May 16 Presbytery Gathering, we’re setting aside time for connection and relationship-building with a fun “Get to Know Our Presbyteries” Trivia Game and we need your help to make it great!

We’re looking for fun, unique, and little-known facts about your church or presbytery. These could be interesting historical details from your archives, memorable stories, amusing anecdotes, or present-day trivia that others might not know.

We’ve already gathered a few great stories and are excited to share them, but we need more trivia to make the game a success!

Take a few minutes to gather your church’s hidden gems and surprising facts and send them in. Submit your trivia to Lorrie Cooney at ljcooney1@gmail.com.

If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out. We can’t wait to see what stories you share!

Focus & Coordination Team March 2026 Update

Your Focus & Coordination Team has been meeting every 2 weeks for the past month or so, and this has proven beneficial. Additionally, our Assistant to the Lead Presbyter, Rev. Mary Anderson, has joined us for the last several meetings and this is a welcome addition.

Here are some highlights of what we are doing and anticipating over the next few months:

- There will be a Joint Gathering of the two presbyteries on May 16 at the First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia. The meeting will feature Rev. Bill Carter to speak on the recent merger which resulted in Mountain Laurel Presbytery, with time allocated for questions. We are hopeful there will be good attendance.
- The Team will be submitting a grant application by April 1 to the Synod requesting funds to support the hiring of a Merger Coordinator to assist the committee with its work.
- Our Lead Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Greg Garis, presented us with a first draft of a “Future Vision for a Merged Presbytery”. We have begun talking in depth about this and will keep you abreast of developments.



- We have also begun talking about what a “new structure” for a merged presbytery might look like — how best to serve and support churches and the overall mission of the “new presbytery.”
- We continue to see greater collaboration between many committees and commissions. This is exciting and we are grateful for this as we believe this will make an eventual merger easier if conversations and sharing of ideas and resources is well underway.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we move forward.

Lenten Blessings,
Focus & Coordination Team

Save the Date: September 25–26 — Upstate NY Presbyteries learning event in Geneva

Waiting, Witness, and the Way of Christ: Reimagining the Church’s Calling

You won’t want to miss what’s coming to the Presbyterian Church in Geneva, NY. Six Presbyteries. Learning, Fellowship, Music, and More!

Keynote speaker Andrew Root, Luther Seminary professor and author of numerous books on ministry in a secular age, will bring insights on new approaches to being church in today’s tumultuous world.



A Church of Consolation: Proclaiming Good News in an Age of Despair — In an age of rising violence and overall divisiveness, how should we think about proclaiming Good News? *Should* we even think about Good News? Can we even use the words “good news” or “evangelism”, or do the practice at all in our times? In our times, people inherit a very disconnected and sad cultural milieu. One of the reasons so many individuals and institutions are so sad is because of how important happiness has become to us. We’ve asked happiness to be the measure of living a fulfilling life. But outside our own time, happiness has never carried this weight. Therefore, ironically, wanting to be so happy may be making us miserable and outraged. We’ll explore this phenomenon and respond by examining sharing good news as a theology of consolation. When happiness is our highest goal, we lose communities who grieve with us, walking the path of sorrow. Throughout the Christian tradition, in walking with others in sorrow the church has claimed to be taking both the form and action of Jesus Christ in the world. How can our ministries take this shape and do evangelism in this cadence?

The Church in a Secular Age: Why Things Feel So Hard and Our Best Intentions May Hurt More Than Help — There is an oxymoron at the heart of our secular age. It appears that the more secular we become, the more spiritualities we get. We live in a world where religion is questioned, but everyone wants to be spiritual. Why? And what shape do these many, many spiritualities come in? We’ll explore these questions, using memoirs, mapping the many pathways of spirituality in our time. Are these pathways equal? We’ll explore the theological and practical implications to each of these spiritual pathways. In the end this presentation will help pastors, ministers, and other leaders navigate these many spiritualities, and discern the most nourishing spiritual options for those in their churches and communities.

The Waiting Church — It feels like the church is in an unquestioned crisis. But what is the shape of this crisis? And have we misunderstood it? In this presentation we’ll explore an understanding of the church that avoids the temptation to busy ourselves with pursuits of relevance. Instead, we’ll think again about what kind of action can really address the crisis in

which the church finds itself. The crisis may not be the loss of relevance and resources, but the very crisis of how to discern and following the living God. Inside this kind of crisis church must learn to wait. We'll explore how waiting is faithful action.

Practical Resources for Churches

Practical Resources for Churches (prcli.org) is a resource that the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley's Commission on Christian Leadership Formation subscribes to so all congregations in our presbytery can access their programs. You're encouraged to check out all they have to offer and take advantage of the abundance of programs and information. Many of their programs and webinars are available at no charge to you through our paid subscription, and most of their webinars are recorded and available for later viewing if you missed attending it live.



They also have links to resources on a wide variety of topics including caring ministries, spiritual practices, small church life, social justice, and environmental stewardship. Other resources include:

- **Hands to Work, Hearts to God Craft Group** — *3rd Thurs. monthly, 7–8pm (next meeting April 16)*: 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/prc041626
- **What's Next** — A biweekly sharing of timely resources and upcoming webinars. The current (3/10/2026) letter is at conta.cc/46YGNHe
- **Just One More Page** — A monthly book review blog. prcli.org/book-reviews
- **Cultivate: growing in faith** — Christian Education and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for adults, children, youth, families, and multigenerational ministry. The March 2026 letter is at <https://bit.ly/4soFWic>

Joys and Concerns

Newlywed: Emma & Jessica Kennis

Expecting a Baby: Tom & Brittney Hunt (& sister Violet), baby due in July; CJ & Katie Hunt, baby due in September

Welcome to the World: Nora Grace Lieberman, born 1/6/26 to Jason and Danielle

New Beginnings: Andrea G, moving to Kansas City; new HCA facility opening on Clinton Street; Amethyst, new job; Emma Kennis, "white coat" ceremony March 13 (marking end of classroom studies and start of clinical experiences for her DVM); Morgan Chadwick, starting pediatric residency at Penn State Medical Center in Hershey

Recovering from Surgery: Cindy B, Barbara R, Joe G, Amanda L, Sharon L, Peg G, Shannan K



For Healing: Cheryl, Mary Rose, Vicki, Marianne, Cheryl, Ann, Ethel, Art, Margaret, Robin, Marilynn, Becky, Kathy P, Hajrah A, Peg C, Star, Lois C, Jerry M, Jessica & both kids, Rozann, Jerry S, Jackie W, Robin W, Randy, Lou, Alan, Linda M's sister, Jeff, Jerry S, Jackie W, Sherry

Grieving: Friends & Family of: Rev. Al Sunderwirth, Linda Griffin, Callie Demtrak, John Perkins, Rev. Dr. Dan Migliore, Rev. Dr. Scott Hendrix, Eslam Hegazy, Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and detainees who have died while in ICE custody; Landons, death of beloved dog Kallie; Transue family, death of beloved dog Dharma; Diane, death of husband Gary; Eli's family in Ghana, death of his aunt; James & Dixie, death of her father; Alan, death of beloved cat; Livingstons, death of beloved cat; Judy P, husband died of cancer

Living with Cancer: Martha, Molly, Leah, Suzy, Zeke, Pam, Joann, Danny, Charlie, Dave, Maureen, Dean, David, Ellen, Rico, Blanche, Al Benjamin, Blanche, Shannan, Thalia, Tiffany, Gabrielle, Jackie, Michael L

Ongoing: Bill, Darlene, Adam, Felix, Bob & Esther, George, Kate, Dick, Ann, Alice, Jessica, Dean, Nate M, Derek, Charlotte, Jean

Other Concerns: We pray for

- Fr. Doug Jones, Jesuit priest in Beirut, who has disappeared in bombings
- People of color living in fear of ICE
- Homelessness in Binghamton
- Zambian healthcare system
- Transgender community in Kansas
- people with severe mental illness
- people struggling with addictions
- Jewish communities worldwide facing attacks on synagogues
- Muslims facing bigotry and hate in New York and around the world
- Ukraine & Russia
- Iran & the Middle East
- South Sudan

Recent & Upcoming Birthdays

March

- 4 Ellen Hancock-Berti
- 5 Dick Bartholomew
- 7 Suzie Northrop Raboy
- 8 Becky Mebert
Bill Sands
- 12 Chelsie Hill Bennett
- 13 Scott Kindig
- 15 Barbara Rocke
- 17 Marne Ward
- 22 Khiro Brunson
- 24 Imogen Backus

April

- 1 Aeden Hickey
- 2 Matt Livingston
- 8 Kathy Kopp
- 9 Laurie White
Amanda Licht Jones
- 12 Tyson Brunson
- 14 Janet Hoover
- 20 Angela Garcia-Meade
- 21 Suzy Ogden
Dominic Ruston-Patinka
Jim Stehli
- 22 Maria Kutz
Charlotte Livingston
- 23 Dick Aswad
- 24 Pastor Becky
- 25 Zander Rwabukwisi
- 26 Greg Patinka
- 28 Jim Menges

May

- 7 Norma Stehli
- 13 Ellis Nyamuame
- 15 Eugene Favor
- 16 Matt Johnson
- 17 Shawn Landon
Betty Wambui
- 19 Nate Raboy
- 23 Barbara Geiser
- 27 Felix Rwabukwisi





Everyone is welcome here

**UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON**



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Address Service Requested

Join Us for an In-person Lunchtime Happy Hour!

Tuesday, April 14, 12:30pm at the Lost Dog Café

As many of you know, the tradition of a Zoom Happy Hour on Friday nights has continued since its inception during the COVID pandemic. To enjoy each other's company without a computer screen, an in-person lunch will be held on Tuesday, April 14, at 12:30pm at the Lost Dog Café in Binghamton. To ensure that we have adequate seating, please RSVP to Cindy Chadwick or contact the church office by the end of the day on Tuesday, April 7. We'll order off the menu and each take care of our own meal expense. We hope you can join us for a fun after-Easter gathering!