

Announcements

April 19, 2026

THIS WEEK AT UPC:

[4/19] Coffee hour & Birthday Sunday, 11:15am in 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!

[4/20–22] Pastor Becky out for Synod Leaders gathering.

[4/20] 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 studying the 1st letter of Peter, 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

Session meeting, 6:30pm

[4/21] 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.

[4/22] 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!

[4/24] 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:

[4/26] Worship, 10am —Exodus worship series, week 2/7.

Exodus 2:23–3:22: The Name of God and the Calling of Moses



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Emotional and Spiritual Care Academy

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Tuesdays, March 24–April 28, 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.

- April 21 — Tools for Building Resilience
- April 28 — Emotional and Spiritual Care in Human-Caused Disasters

For further details, go to <https://crisiscareministries.net/ccmwebinarhub>.

For more information, contact Kathy Riley (Kathryn.Riley@pcusa.org), PDA Associate for Emotional and Spiritual Care.

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:



- **When Bylaws Become Barriers** — *Thu. Apr. 23, 2–3pm*: Bylaws are meant to support healthy governance — but over time they can unintentionally hinder flexibility and mission. This webinar examines common ways bylaws create gridlock, confusion, or unnecessary conflict. Participants will learn how to evaluate their governing documents with clarity and make thoughtful adjustments that strengthen, rather than weaken, accountability and effectiveness. upcbgm.org/prc042326

Other resources from PRC include:

- **Hands to Work, Hearts to God Craft Group** — *3rd Thurs. monthly, 7–8pm (next meeting May 21)*: 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/prc052126
- **What’s Next**: Timely resources and upcoming webinars. conta.cc/4sBoSza (4/14/26)
- **Cultivate: Growing in Faith**: Christian ed and faith formation resources, ideas, and anecdotes for all ages of adults and children. April’s letter: bit.ly/3NZK1nK



REEL Justice Film Festival



**Retreat-based Organizing
& Outreach Training School at**



Friday May 8 – Saturday May 9 at Stony Point Center

Some stories demand to be seen.

Some truths refuse to be ignored.

And some conversations can no longer wait.

This film festival is an immersive overnight retreat that brings together powerful documentary films and honest, courageous dialogue around the most pressing issues of our time. This is not passive viewing, it's an invitation to be disturbed, moved, and ultimately galvanized.

Over the course of this retreat, we'll screen a curated selection of films confronting the realities that too many Americans live every day and that too many others look away from.

Learn more and register at stonypointcenter.org/programs.

And while you're there, check out two upcoming online workshop series:

From Concern to Contribution: Establishing your role in social change
Wednesdays, May 20, May 27, and June 3, at 6pm

Interrupting Everyday Bias: Building the skills to speak up when it matters
Wednesdays, October 14, 21, and 28, at 6pm



COME AND JOIN US

Joint Gathering of our
PRESBYTERIES

COME ONE, COME ALL – ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF PRESBYTERIES OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE AND SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND TO FORGE NEW FRIENDSHIPS AND TO LEARN FROM AND ABOUT EACH OTHER!

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026
11 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CAZENOVIA



**Lunch
provided**

*\$5 donation appreciated
to offset cost of lunch*

RSVP to ljcooney1@gmail.com
including name and church affiliation

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! We can’t wait to see what stories you share!



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.

Synod of the Northeast 2025 Annual Report

Reimagining the Church in the World: Bold in Faith, Transformative in Mission, and United in Christ

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ,

We are pleased to present the Synod of the Northeast’s 2025 Annual Report, which highlights how we fulfilled our mission, ministry, and stewardship over the past year.

Inspired by the vision, “Reimagining the Church in the World: Bold in Faith, Transformative in Mission, and United in Christ,” we have listened for God’s direction, guided by Isaiah 30:21: “This is the way; walk in it.” This report shares that journey.

We organize this report around four key expressions — The Church Within, The Church Beyond, The Church Alongside, and The Church Belonging — and share stories of transformation unfolding across our Synod. Our staff, presbyteries, and congregations nurture vitality, build meaningful partnerships, and embody Christ’s call in their communities.

We invite you to read, reflect, and join us as we continue to walk faithfully into God’s future together.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley

Explore the 2025 Annual Report: <https://upcbgm.org/SNErpt25flip>

Prefer a PDF? Download here: <https://upcbgm.org/SNErpt25pdf>



Have you been wondering if there's a meaningful way you might be able to support fellow Presbyterian congregations and ministers here in Upstate New York — something manageable within a busy schedule?



Here's your nudge to consider one of several openings in the Presbytery, where your gifts and experience could make a real difference in supporting fellow Presbyterians. Yes, here are some ways to answer the call to "love your neighbor"!

These first opportunities are for Ruling Elders — whether currently or previously on session, your ordination never ends. These are terms which began in January that still need to be filled. If you are interested in any of these positions, contact the Co-Stated Clerks (Pastor Becky and Chris Burger) or Rev. Rachel Helgeson (rachelgeson@gmail.com), and let's chat. If you know someone who would be great at this position, let the Nominating Committee know, and we will follow up with them to chat.

Ruling Elder 1-Year Term Position (*term ending December 31, 2026*):

- **Commission on Ministry:** Meet once a month via Zoom (1st Tuesdays, 5–7:30pm) to care for congregations, minister members / prospective members of presbytery, and the presbytery as needed. Each COM member serves on a subcommittee that meets as needed and helps discern what is needed for the churches, members, prospective members of presbytery, and the presbytery as assigned.

Ruling Elder Long-Term Position: *Note that the term length may be shortened when the Presbytery restructures and joins the Presbytery of Cayuga–Syracuse in the near future.*

- **Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) (6-year term ending December 31, 2031):** Meet only as needed if a church discipline case arises and discern possible disciplinary actions in the presbytery.

There are also several presbytery mission and ministry Teams, whose members are not elected and so do not need to be ordained Ruling Elders or Ministers.

- Justice in Mission and Ministry Team
- Ethiopian Mission Partnership Team
- Antiracism Policy & Training Team
- Christian Nurture Team (youth & young adult ministry)
- Workshops & Events Team (Christian leadership formation)

And the Cabinet's three Subcommittees (Worship, Finance, and Personnel) can also accept members of any ordination status.

If you want to learn more about the presbytery and how it works to support our congregations and ministers, talk with Pastor Becky, Chris or Cindy Burger, or Scott Kindig.

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; **Special Offerings**, Judy Girdwood Westcott girdwoodwestcott@hotmail.com.

Service of Ordination and Installation for Deborah Jinhwa Lee

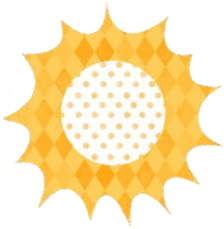
April 26, 3pm at Bovina United Presbyterian Church

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley invites us to join in celebrating and welcoming Deborah Jinhwa Lee with a service of worship. Deborah will be ordained to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament and installed as the new pastor of Bovina United Presbyterian Church.

The worship service will be held at Bovina United PC on April 26, at 3:00pm. We are warmly invited to share in this joyful occasion. A reception will follow.

Address: Bovina United Presbyterian Church, 2128 County Hwy 6, Bovina Center, NY, 13740 (about 78 miles from here, 90 minutes driving time).

If you are interested in attending and carpooling, you are encouraged to contact the (UPC Binghamton) church office to coordinate ride-sharing.



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.