

THIS WEEK AT UPC

Pastor Kimberly is on vacation & study leave through January 13

Sunday, January 6

9:00a Adult Sunday School
10:00a Worship – Communion
11:25a Children’s Sunday School
11:45a United Ringers rehearsal

Monday, January 7

Noon Bible Study

Tuesday, January 8

9:30a Tai Chi
12:30p Spiritual Formation Team meeting
5:00p Community Meal (Team 2)

Wednesday, January 9

9:00a Sewing Group
9:30a-12:30p Care & Share
7:00p UPC Choir rehearsal

Sunday, January 13

9:00a Adult Sunday School
10:00a Worship Service
11:25a Children’s Sunday School
11:45a United Ringers rehearsal

Looking Ahead

Pastor Becky will be on vacation Jan. 14-19

Monday, January 14

Noon Bible Study
6:00p Session meeting

Tuesday, January 15

9:30a Tai Chi
4:30p Worship Team meeting
5:00p Community Meal (Team 3)

Wednesday, January 16

9:00a Sewing Group
7:00p UPC Choir rehearsal

Sunday, January 20

9:00a Adult Sunday School
10:00a Worship Service
11:25a Children’s Sunday School
11:45a United Ringers rehearsal

Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Building Closed until 6pm

6:15p Book Study: *The Church Has Left the Building*

Tuesday, January 22

9:30a Tai Chi
5:00p Community Meal (Team 4)

Wednesday, January 23

9:00a Sewing Group
7:00p UPC Choir rehearsal

Sunday, January 27

9:00a Adult Sunday School
10:00a Worship Service
11:25a Children’s Sunday School
11:45a United Ringers rehearsal
4:30p Learning about Refugees in Greece & Potluck Dinner

Everyone is welcome here



UNITED

**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON**

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Educational Offerings ~ Special

Monday Evening Book Study – January 21 & 28 and February 4

The Church Has Left the Building: Faith, Parish, and Ministry in the Twenty-First Century
edited by Michael Plekon

Read, then join us for this three-week book study. The origin of the phrase “the church has left the building” lies with Elvis Presley. In order to clear halls of his riotous fans after concerts, it was announced that “Elvis has left the building.” Here, the expression highlights intense change within the church. Not only does the church change for its own existence, it also does so for the life of the world. The church cannot avoid the many past and future changes of our constantly transforming society, demographic changes long in process.

In *The Church Has Left the Building*, Michael Plekon compiles moving testimonies about what it means to depart from the structures that have held and sustained us. The voices in this book do not gloss over our situation with magical solutions or blind denial. Instead, they present real reflections of what it means to be church today. Through their honest grief, gratitude and liberation, they call out with a deeply hopeful vision.

Copies of the book are available for purchase from the church office.

Get involved! 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 one of the team leaders: **Deacons**, Allison Nyamuame or Aaron Whitney; **Communications**, Sally Hunt; **Property**, George Cummings; **Worship & Music**, Suzie Raboy; **Spiritual Formation**, Doug Jones.

Prayer of the Week



It's always been about the light with you,
hasn't it, Jesus?

Magi, braving distance and desert to find you,
and bewildered shepherds,
compelled by an angel's invitation,
allowed light to be their guide,

And it is still the light that calls us to you;
the light of beauty that whispers its truth
in surprising ways and places;
the light of compassion that kneels,
and washes road-soiled, life-battered feet;
the light of joy that glows
even in the darkness of grief and suffering;
the light that seeks to shine within us,
and through us into the dark corners of our world.

It's always been about the light with you, Jesus;
and it's always about the light for us.
Please lead us, now and always, out of darkness
and into your marvelous light.

Amen.

—sacredise.com

Notices ~ Service Opportunities

Learning about Refugees in Greece – Sunday, January 27, 4:30pm

There is currently a worldwide refugee crisis. The United Nations estimates that over 65 million people worldwide have been displaced from their homes. 70,000 of them are now in Greece and between 10,000 and 11,000 are on the Greek island of Lesbos. Refugees arrive on this island from all over the world.

Join us on Sunday, January 27, at 4:30pm for a discussion with Susan Thornton about her work with the refugees in Lesbos, Greece. She spent 18 days in the summer of 2017 and 21 days in 2018 as a volunteer on the island of Lesbos. Susan went to Greece as an independent volunteer and worked with The Hope Project, a volunteer group on the island.

In the summer of 2018, Susan volunteered at a warehouse that distributed clothing and other necessities to refugees on the island of Lesbos. In this presentation, she will show pictures and tell stories about her experiences and about the people she met.

Susan is a French instructor in the Union-Endicott School District. She is also a local author and published a memoir called “On Broken Glass: Loving and Losing John Gardner.”

After the presentation, stay for a time of fellowship and food as we share a potluck dinner. We hope you’ll join us!

The Saint John’s Bible: A New Way to Experience the Bible – Tuesday through Thursday, February 12-14

Join us for this opportunity to discover and learn about the St. John’s Bible. Saint John’s Abbey and University worked with Donald Jackson, one of the world’s foremost Western calligraphers, and an international team of artists and scribes to produce a beautiful hand-written, hand-drawn Bible.

Tim Ternes from Saint John’s Abbey will be bringing large-size prints of the art for an exhibit at Binghamton University’s Art Museum, and will be telling the story, teaching about the process, and leading us in *visio divina* (experiencing the word visually).

On Tuesday, 6:30-8pm, Tim Ternes will present a public lecture on the art of Creation, the Psalms, and Ezekiel’s Valley of the Dry Bones.

Wednesday will be our “Day of Immersion” with presentation of the St. John’s Bible, prayer, *visio divina*, and closing vespers worship.

Thursday at 5pm, Tim will present a public lecture at the University Art Museum. It would be good to have you with us for this wonderful experience.

