

THIS WEEK AT UPC

Sunday, May 12

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

Monday, May 13

Noon Bible study
5:20p City Planning Commission Hearing
6:00p Session meeting

Tuesday, May 14

9:30a Tai Chi
5:00p Community Meal

Wednesday, May 15

9:00a Sewing Group
1:30p Spiritual Formation Team meeting
7:00p UPC Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 19

9:00a Adult Sunday School
10:00a Worship service
11:25a Children's Sunday School
11:45a United Ringers rehearsal
12-3p PAST Sacred Sites tours

Looking Ahead

Monday, May 20

Noon Bible study

Tuesday, May 21

9:30a Tai Chi
5:00p Community Meal

Wednesday, May 22

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

Sunday, May 26

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

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day – Building Closed

Tuesday, May 28

9:30a Tai Chi
1:30p Property Team meeting
5:00p Community Meal

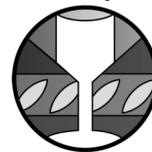
Monday, May 13, 5:20pm – City Planning Commission Public Hearing at City Hall

The owner of 70 Henry Street (the building between Verizon and the former Goodyear) has applied for a special use permit for conversion of the building from commercial to mixed-use in order to create 8 apartments with a total of 28 bedrooms.

As we all know, there is a shortage of both parking and affordable housing in downtown Binghamton. It seems likely that the building owner intends to create more expensive student housing, which will not help the affordable housing situation and will make the parking even worse than it is.

All parties of interest are allowed to come to the hearing and speak out with concerns. We hope to see you there!

Everyone is welcome here



UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

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Educational Offerings ~ Special

Sacred Sites Open House – Sunday, May 19, 12–3pm

We are delighted to be participating again in the Sacred Sites Open House tour, arranged by the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier and the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

Help us make a good impression on visitors! We need volunteers to greet visitors and guides to show the building and tell about its treasures.

If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the church bulletin board outside the Library Lounge, or contact the office.

Handbell Concert: Bronzissimo Rocks! Saturday, May 18, 7pm at Valley Christian Reformed Church, 1452 River Road, Binghamton

Join the Bronzissimo! Community Handbell Choir and sing along for a fun evening of old-time rock and roll favorites, from the Beatles to Over the Rainbow.

Bronzissimo! is a community handbell choir composed of experienced ringers from across the Southern Tier.

The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected.

Calling all gardeners! Have you noticed UPC's community garden out front? You're invited to dig in and join the fun.

Anyone interested in having a space in the garden should contact Sally Hunt, Marilyn Myers, or Kathy Preston to reserve your plot.

Do you have the missing cake pan?

Ramona Auchinachie is looking for her 9×13 cake pan with “Auch” written on the side. Did anyone happen to take it home?

Community Meal: Help Needed!

Our Community Meal is served every Tuesday, 5:00–5:45pm. We're looking for volunteers to help with food prep, plating, and serving dinners. Particularly, we need help on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays. Meal preparation begins around noon; those who do plating and serving are needed at 4:30pm.

We invite you to donate your time, energy, and experience. Our volunteers say they feel rewarded many times over for the help they provide in making a difference in the lives of others.

If you'd like to be a part of this vital and much-needed ministry, whether just for one week or on an ongoing basis, please contact Community Meal Coordinator Katie Kukul Wright at **607-722-4219** or meal@upcbgm.org. Thanks!

This Week in Faith

May 14 – St. Matthias: Not one of the original 12 apostles, Matthias was chosen by the other disciples after Jesus had ascended into heaven. Matthias replaced Judas Iscariot who had betrayed Jesus and later killed himself. Acts 1:15–16 records how the disciples chose Matthias by casting lots.

Notices ~ Service Opportunities

School supplies for Ghana: Elikem Nyamuame is heading back to Ghana and has heard from the school that the students are in need of #2 pencils, blue ball point pens, erasers, and hand pencil sharpeners. He says the kids love receiving American things, so if anyone would like to donate any of these items, we will collect them for Elikem to bring over.

Our donations will be given to the Whuti-Srogboe Evangelical Presbyterian School, an elementary school in the Volta region of Ghana. Donations are needed by **Sunday, May 19**. We will have a basket in the Library Lounge and the church office. Monetary donations are also being accepted if you'd prefer; just write Ghana on the envelope or check memo line (payable to United Presbyterian Church).

Church "Yard Work" Day – Saturday, June 1, 9am–1pm:

Join the Property Team to spruce up the church grounds. There will be weeding, pruning, mulch-spreading, and more. We will provide lunch. We have some gardening tools, but feel free to bring anything you think will be helpful – just make sure your name is on them please. No experience is required! We will be happy to teach you.

Save the Date for our Church

Retreat! This year's all-church retreat at the Stony Point Conference Center is scheduled for Friday, October 25, through Sunday, October 27, 2019. The Stony Point Center in the Hudson River Valley has access to beautiful walking trails, an abundant garden, an art studio, and places to gather for worship and prayer. We hope that you all will join us!

Taking a stand on climate change

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) General Assembly, recently spoke on the Weather Channel podcast *Warming Signs* about the role of the church in addressing climate change. He says the PC(USA) defines climate change as a justice issue because of the impact on Earth's resources.

Warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets – The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 1.62°F (0.9°C) since the late 19th century. The oceans have absorbed much of this increased heat, with the top 700 meters (about 2,300 feet) of ocean showing warming of more than 0.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1969. The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets have decreased in mass. Data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment show Greenland lost an average of 286 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2016, while Antarctica lost about 127 billion tons of ice per year during the same time period. The rate of Antarctica ice mass loss has tripled in the last decade. Ocean waters melting the undersides of Antarctic ice shelves are responsible for most of the continent's ice shelf mass loss. Both the extent and thickness of Arctic sea ice has declined rapidly over the last several decades.

Stay tuned over the coming weeks for more climate change facts. (Source: climate.nasa.gov/evidence)

To [read more](#) about Rev. Nelson's interview or to [hear the podcast](#), Google "stated clerk climate change".



Homebound/Managed Care:

Ben, Betty, Char, Fred, Gail, Helen, Jack,
Kristie, Muriel, Richard, Sandy

Ongoing: Audrey, Pastor Becky, Brian, Dianne,
Gary, Grace, Harley, Jeffrey, Jim, Larry, Penny

Other Concerns:

National & local outbreaks of gun violence
Sherry's son & his father, travel mercies

Preparing for Marriage:

Harley & Jack; Emily & Arron;
Phil & Eleanor; Jazmine & Mell

Expecting a Baby: Emily & Jed

Gratitude: Aeden, received First
Communion with classmates in
Roman Catholic church; for nurses

Grieving: all affected by deaths
of Rev. Rachel Held Evans
and Rev. Ilene Dunn

Healing: friend who had a stroke,
is the father of 5-year-old child;
Gene , newly diagnosed with
diabetes; Kimberly's dog Luke,
slipped disc

Living with Cancer: Arthur, Barb,
Beverly, Bill, BJ, Brian, Alice,
Bruce, Dean, Diane, Dorothy,
Esteny, Ezra, Frank, Jeanie, Jen,
Jenni, Jim, John, Josh, Karen,
Larry, Laurie's mom, Linda F.,
Mac, Margaret, Marty, Pam, Tom,
Shelly, Sue, Walter, Zoé

Palliative Care: Edna, Marjorie

Prayer of the Week



What matters (and what doesn't)

*Since you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above, where Christ is,
seated at the right hand of God.
Set your minds at a higher level, on essential things,
not on meaningless details.*

—Colossians 3:1–2

God, help me discern what matters and what
does not.
What helps me trust you and serve the world,
what helps me honor who you create me to be—
and what does not?
Help me let go of fears and desires and
meaningless opinion,
judgments of the way things ought to be,
other people's ideas about me.
They don't matter. Let them go.
Set my mind on what is actually true and life-giving.
Help me be mindful of your grace at work always,
your constant presence, even in the awful times,
and the gift of being with you, even in the
horrible times.
Fix my mind on your grace,
and give me faith to let go of everything else.
Nothing else will fit in this little lifeboat
but me and you, and your infinite grace.

—Steve Garnaas-Holmes