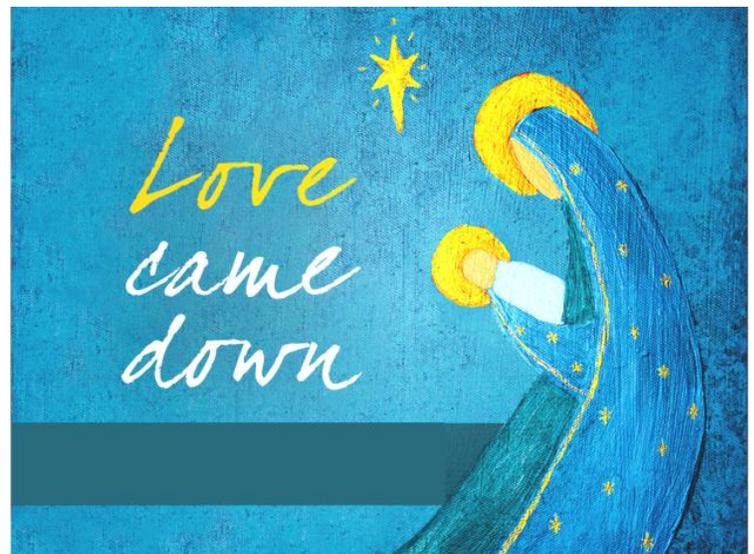


# Anniversary Issue

Volume 8, Issue 5

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## Experience the Wonder

Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year. We hope you spend it with us during our beautiful Sunday morning services throughout Advent (December 3, 10, and 17, at 10am) and our family-friendly service of carols and candlelight on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, at 4pm.

During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. As Advent leads us to Christmas, we invite you to join in the opportunities offered at UPC. The church is decorated in the holiday spirit and we are filled with cheer as we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ into the world.

*Our mission is to follow Jesus Christ by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.*



CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF PRESBYTERIANS IN BINGHAMTON

### Our Story

#### Our History

On November 20, 1817, twenty people met on the steps of Binghamton's Court House to assent to the Articles of Faith and Covenant prepared for a new church – First Presbyterian Church of Binghamton. The first members were enrolled by Rev. Ebenezer Kingsbury and Rev. Joseph Wood, who were representatives of the Presbytery of Susquehanna.

Over the course of the next 150 years, as the Binghamton area grew and flourished, First Presbyterian Church provided the seeds for ten more churches: the Presbyterian Church of Castle Creek (1833–1861), First Congregational Church of Binghamton (est. 1836), North Presbyterian (1870–1980), West Presbyterian (1871–2012), Ross Memorial Presbyterian (est. 1879), Immanuel Presbyterian (est. 1887), First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City (est. 1892), Broad Avenue Presbyterian (1894–1980), Jon Hus Presbyterian (est. 1937), and South Hills Presbyterian (1962–2006). In 1980, Broad Avenue–North Presbyterian Church was formed by merger; in 2007, they merged with First Presbyterian Church of Conklin to become Conklin Presbyterian Church and the Broad Avenue–North Presbyterian Chapel.

In the last 30 years, as our local economy began to struggle and demographics changed, mainstream church attendance declined. After several years of study, prayer, and collaboration, in 2010 the First and West Presbyterian Church congregations voted to merge into a single new congregation, and in 2012 they became the United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton. This merged congregation is now the steward of the 200 years of history embodied in this church.



This year we celebrate five years as a new congregation, and the 200th anniversary of the founding of a Presbyterian church here in Binghamton.

Our new historic area tells the story of the United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton, starting from our nineteenth-century roots in the First and West Presbyterian congregations. You can find it downstairs in the hallway off the lobby stairs.

We thank Jean Hill, Nancy Walter, Maida Thomas, Ann Cobb, and Bobbie Hickling for all the work they've done sorting through everything and creating a wonderful display. Great job!

#### Partners Together

Over these past five years, we've grown into a progressive congregation doing our best to live up to our mission: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). We are a community of people questioning, learning, celebrating, connecting, risk-taking, creating, and making music and art. We participate in vibrant worship and work together to make our neighborhood, our city, and our world a better place. We strive to be a place of welcome for everyone, from long-time members to first-time guests.

Because of where we are located, we get to see people in all walks of life as they struggle, but also as they make choices and achieve goals and turn their lives around – and what we see and experience during the week affects the choices that we make about mission and ministry.

We come together to worship and to share the sacraments as the core of our life together:

- thoughtful, challenging preaching, and liturgy planned by a team of congregants
- a multi-dimensional music program, including choral and instrumental leadership for the congregation’s life of prayer and song
- a vibrant prayer life for individual needs and for the needs of the world
- a “PrayGround” where our youngest members can participate in worship as they are able



We continue to provide an exciting and engaging spiritual formation program for Christians at every level, from nursery to retiree:

- Sunday School for all ages, September-June
- book studies
- film series
- Bible study on Mondays at noon
- morning prayer on Tuesday mornings
- all-church retreats at Stony Point Center to recharge and to build our community life



We keep our building busy and full, with people who are committed to helping the community:

- upstairs – Binghamton City School District’s Adult Education program (GED)
- downstairs – the Urban League school-age childcare program
- lobby hospitality – we have a regular and steady stream of people who come in for warmth, coffee, and human companionship every day
- Fresh Start – we are often the first call for help when people are released from jail or prison, or when their lives fall apart
- emergency loan fund
- re-entry employment and training for those who have been incarcerated
- Community Meal and Mobile Food Pantry – we feed 100–200 people every Tuesday, and for the last several years we’ve partnered with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to periodically offer “second harvest” groceries in our parking lot.





- Care and Share – provides hygiene and personal care items to people in need, on the second Wednesday of every month
- UPC sewing group – makes blankets for infants and older people in care centers, plus hats, mittens, and scarves for people in need

We offer space to other agencies and organizations who are working on projects we believe in:

- VINES (Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments)
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Madrigal Choir of Binghamton
- Workers' Center of the Southern Tier
- Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier
- Broome County Re-Entry Task Force
- Binghamton Children's Choir
- Susquehanna Valley Presbytery



We partner with others to extend the reach of our ministry and mission to the community and to the world:

- Whuti-Sgroboe Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana
- Carolyn Cummings at African Inland Mission in Kenya and Tanzania.
- CARES (Community Advocates Restoring Educational Standards) in the underserved neighborhoods and public schools in Binghamton
- Mom's House, bringing Christmas gifts to children in need
- Children of Abraham, fostering interfaith learning and cooperation
- Broome County Council of Churches, especially CHOW, Faith in Action Volunteers, and the Jail Ministry program
- YWCA of Binghamton



"Build Our Community" is a team of church members that reaches out to other organizations to share ideas and talk about how we can work together to more effectively build up our neighborhood and community in Binghamton. Everyone is invited to join the conversation!

## Celebrate with Us!

### Sunday, November 12 – Worship at 10:00am

Join us as we revisit our recent past and joyfully recognize the 5th anniversary of the foundation of The United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton.

During worship, the UPC Choir is delighted to bring you a reprise presentation of “In dulci jubilo” by Dr. José “Peppie” Calvar, Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of Choral Activities at Syracuse University’s Setnor School of Music. This new arrangement is inspired by Bach’s Organ Prelude on the same tune (BMV 729). We presented this contemporary arrangement in its Binghamton-area premiere on April 2, 2017. Some context on the music, from Dr. Calvar:

“Bach’s interludes are lengthier and more virtuosic than other examples of the time, showing his penchant for pushing the boundaries of what was accepted even in his very first professional position. This kind of accompanying practice on Bach’s part may have been what the Arnstadt consistory was referring to when they reprimanded him in 1706 for ‘making many curious variations on the hymns.’

“In the case of this arrangement, I kept running into dead ends when attempting to set the original melody. After many drafts, I found that the best way forward was to conceive of a new melody, but maintain the piece’s original melody in the background. You will hear the remnants of the original melody throughout the arrangement. The new text is intended to be reflective of our common values as citizens of a constantly shrinking world, and to remind us that we have the power and freedom to change our circumstances together in unity.”

It would be good to have you with us!

### Sunday, November 19 – Worship at 10:00am, with special events following worship

This week we’ll be celebrating, reminiscing, and looking to the future as we commemorate 200 years of Presbyterians in Binghamton.

During worship, as part of “Harvest Sunday” we’ll be collecting food donations for CHOW and dedicating the quilts made by our Sewing Group over the last 12 months.

After the service, the time capsules from First Presbyterian and West Presbyterian will be opened. Then we’ll enjoy a time of fellowship together with a potluck luncheon. All are welcome! We encourage you to bring your own favorite traditional dish, whatever makes you think “It’s not a potluck if we don’t have...”

We’re looking forward to seeing everyone at worship and gatherings both of these weekends!

## Our Church Family

### In Memoriam

**Duane Nelson Smith**, aka Buck, 93, of Binghamton, completed his climb to glory on Thursday evening, September 28, 2017, with his family by his side. He was born September 17, 1924, and grew up on Smith Hill Road in Nimmonsburg. He graduated from Binghamton North High School and attended New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences at Binghamton, now known as SUNY Broome, and Rochester Institute of Technology, where he received an Associate's Degree in Electrical Engineering. He was a World War II veteran, proudly serving in the 10th Mountain Division Ski Troops as a Private First Class with HQ 3rd Battalion 85th Regiment as a Communication Wire Stringer. While serving in the Po Valley in Italy, he received the Bronze Star for valor. His love of skiing led him to open and run Smith Hill Ski Area in the 1960s with his partners Chuck Kellam and John Cotter, where many local kids learned to ski. He was a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church, now known as the United Presbyterian Church, where he served faithfully as Deacon, Trustee, and Elder. After a long career with New York State Electric and Gas, he retired to enjoy years of travel, collecting, and great adventures with his wife and best friend, Charlotte. Throughout his life, he made good friends and good memories. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Charlotte Mattison Smith; his daughter Amy Smith of Binghamton; daughter and son-in-law, Jenny and Joe Fanelli of Syracuse, New York; grandson, David Fanelli, his wife Grace Hammond and their daughters Rosemary Ann and Mae Jeannette Fanelli of Columbus, Ohio; grandson Peter Fanelli and Danielle Myers of Somerville, Massachusetts; grandson Joe Fanelli and Heather Rinder of Somerville, Massachusetts; daughter-in-law Patricia Smith of St. Mary's, Pennsylvania; granddaughter Margaret Watson and her husband John of Kempner, Texas; grandson James "Mac" Smith and his wife Ann of St. Marys; sister-in-law Alice Mattison; nephew Carl Mattison, and niece and nephews Beth, Matthew, and Mark Greenley. He was predeceased by his son, Daniel Smith, and his grandson, Andrew Smith.

**Carolyn Jean Cummings**, 94, of Binghamton passed away Sunday October 8, 2017. She was born March 22, 1923, in Rochester, New York, daughter of Victor and Carrie Alice (nee Haidt) Hendrickson, and moved to Binghamton in 1939, where she attended Binghamton Central High School. She joined West Presbyterian Church in 1940. Jean graduated from Cornell University in 1945. In January 1945, she married John B. Cummings. Jean became a member of the Junior League of Binghamton in 1952 and was honored in 1963 with the Watrous Bowl for outstanding achievement. Jean also served 6 years each on the Boards of the Girls Club and YWCA and was active with the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery, serving as Moderator in 1989. She is survived by two daughters, Judith LaMaitis of Boulder, Colorado, and Carolyn J. Cummings of Nairobi, Kenya; one son, George B. (Vicki Holecek) Cummings of Binghamton; daughter in-law Sherry Cummings of Dunedin, Florida; sister Barbara Goetze; grandchildren Ernest LaMaitis, Sarah (Kurt) Riek, Rachel (Jeff) Thompson, and David (Lauren) Cummings; and great-grandchildren Sadie and Seamus Thompson, Amelia and Joseph Riek. She was predeceased by her husband John B. Cummings, her son John B. Cummings, Jr., and brother Rob Hendrickson.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00pm Wednesday, November 15 at the United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton. The family will greet friends from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm at the church. The burial will be private in Vestal Hills Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial gift to the Binghamton YWCA 125th Anniversary Campaign, 80 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901.

Please sign her guestbook at [www.HEFUNERALHOME.com](http://www.HEFUNERALHOME.com). Services provided by the Hopler & Eschbach Funeral Home, 483 Chenango Street, Binghamton.

## News from Session

by Cynthia Burger, Clerk of Session

The members of Session have taken the following actions in recent months:

- Reviewed policies and procedures regarding the security system, and approved the purchase and installation of two additional security cameras to deter thievery.
- Voted to add the position of afternoon receptionist to the staff.
- Approved the cost of a shuttle bus from the NYSEG stadium parking lot to UPC for the Poor People's Campaign October 17 evening event, and agreed to house overnight on October 17 the Ithaca College students who attended the Poor People's Campaign events on October 17 and 18.
- Voted to underwrite the all-church retreat at Stony Point from the Don and Betty Law Fund.
- Learned that the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley is planning a pilgrimage to Taize, France, for young adults ages 18–29. Session approved covering 1/3 of the expense for anyone from UPC who wishes to attend.
- Reviewed policies and procedures regarding the Fresh Start program and the Mission Loan program.
- Received updates on the Binghamton Children's Choir project and the Congregational Care Team.
- Decided to celebrate communion on November 12 instead of November 5, and approved holding one worship service on Sunday Christmas Eve at 4:00pm.
- Reviewed the plans for November 12 and 19 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Presbyterianism in Binghamton.

## Joys and Concerns

**Preparing for Marriage:** CJ & Katie; Harley & Jack; Jeffrey & Christy

**Newlywed:** Ashley & Lauren

**Expecting a Baby:** Harley & Jack; Lauren & Ed

**Welcome to the World:** Clyde Fitzhenry Jones (b. 9/6/17); Harrison Oliver Watson Berti (David's grandson)

**Grieving—Friends and Family of:** Robert Campbell; Jean Cummings; Hazel Frasca; Harold Manker; Duane Smith; Harrison Vincent, Jr.

**Living with Cancer:** Arthur, Bill, Beverly, BJ, Brian, Alice Brooks, Bruce, John Cairns, Suzanne Clark, Diane, Sean Donohue, Dorothy, Jen Edwards, Laurie's mom, Esteny, Ezra, Eugene Favor's mom Carol, Linda F., Frank, Jim Galuhn, Rev. John Goodell, Dave Hickey, Janet, Jeanie, Jenni, Jim, John, Margaret Johnson, Josh, Karen, Joyce LaRose, Larry, Sandy Lewellyn, Maryse, Mac McCall, Pam, Tom Rossi, Walter, Muriel Williams, Zoé

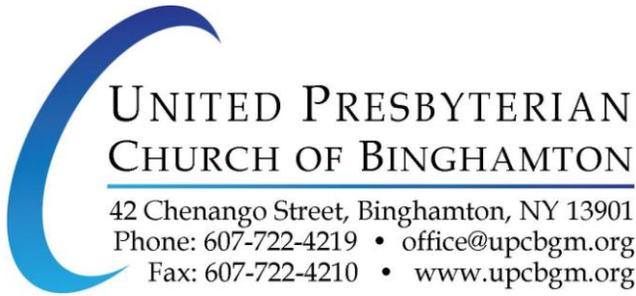
**Homebound/Managed Care:** Bob Auchinachie, Joan Bomboy, Jack Budd, Gail Covert, Jeane Diesenberg, Helen Flack, Fred Hickling, Susan Mitchell, Kristie Palmer, Char Smith, Ben Swan, Richard Ward, Sandy Warner, Jane Williams



**Ongoing:** Abel (& mom, Jen), Gary Ayres, Brian, Grace Davidson, Denise, Dianne Henry, Jeffrey, Pastor Becky, Larry, Lorraine Mehal, Audrey Micha, Penny, Jim Spencer

### Other Concerns

Prayers for peace and an end to violence  
 Prayers for relief from natural calamities  
 Prayers for first responders, hospital workers, and others involved in recovery and rebuilding in the wake of disasters  
 Prayers for students and educators  
 Prayers for those affected by racism, bigotry, and fear of other ethnicities and cultures  
 Prayers for our politicians and the nation: hearing God's voice and discerning God's call



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## Lectionary Readings

### November 12, 2017

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
**Matthew 25:1-13**

### November 19, 2017

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
**Matthew 25:14-30**

### November 26, 2017

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
**Matthew 25:31-46**

### December 3, 2017

**Isaiah 64:1-9**  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

### December 10, 2017

**Isaiah 40:1-11**  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

### December 17, 2017

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
**Psalm 126** or Luke 1:46b-55  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 24, 2017

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16:25-27  
**Luke 1:26-38**

### December 31, 2017

Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
**Luke 2:22-40**



## Seasons <sup>OF</sup> THE Spirit™

### January 7, 2018

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
**Mark 1:4-11**

### January 14, 2018

**1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)**  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

### January 21, 2018

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
**Mark 1:14-20**

### January 28, 2018

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
**Mark 1:21-28**