



Dear Ones,

The Lord is risen! Now what?

Our Easter celebration this year was a glorious event- with Dr. Jonathan Biggers at the organ, brass quintet and timpani, beautiful flowers and a wonderful gathering of people to celebrate with! If you are on Facebook, be sure to watch and listen to Shawn Landon's recording of our singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.

And now it's the Wednesday after Easter week, and it's all too easy to slip back into business as usual- as if the resurrection was a one-day event, and nothing about our lives is any different. A few nice pictures, some delicious leftovers, and on with our lives as though nothing has changed.

But the Lord speaks to us from this side of resurrection, and commands us to go into a frightened and hurting world, and proclaim that something new is possible. To speak about love and hope and reconciliation in a time that seems fueled by hate. To talk about the glimpses of the Risen Lord that we have seen and invite others to look around and nourish the Reign that we sang about on Sunday.

New Testament scholar N.T. Wright says that, "Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven." And we do that by living as though we knew the victory is won, and that even though we encounter fear and resistance around us, we do not have to live that way. As resurrection people, we are not exempt from the pain of human life, but assured that we are included in the grace of the God whose love never fails, and who never leaves us alone.

In the weeks ahead, our worship will be centered around this meeting of heaven and earth. We will be asking the question each week about where and how the Spirit is leading us, as individuals and as a congregation, to bear witness to God's reign. You will be invited to share your thoughts about where we as a congregation are called to speak out for justice and for healing, about what you as an individual feel called to do, and about what you'd like to learn more about (and hear me preach about). We will be thinking about the ways in which we can build bridges between God's reign and the world we live in, and on Pentecost we will celebrate that the gap is closed forever because the Spirit has come to dwell with us, leading us out into the world that Jesus loved, so that we might share that love with everyone.

The newsletter this month has many opportunities for you to ponder: VINES will be expanding our garden this year, so we are looking for church members to help with watering and weeding. Three of our members will be going on a mission trip to Guatemala, and you are invited to be part of a fundraising dinner to offset expenses in May. There are musical opportunities and sewing opportunities and cooking and cleaning and learning and sharing and eating- and if your "work in the world" isn't represented yet, come and talk to us- we'd love to hear what you would like to be a part of!

And may we follow faithfully where the Spirit leads.

Amen! May it be so.

Blessings

Pastor Kimberly





Easter Greetings!

I first want to thank you all for your prayers and well wishes while I was out with surgery. I am finally free from the pain that had plagued me for so long and I am healing well from the surgery itself. The cards and messages were wonderful to receive as I was recovering. Thank you all so much!

What a wonderful Easter celebration we had. Jesus is risen indeed, Hallelujah! I hope that if you were away that you also had a wonderful Easter where you were. Here are some of the highlights from Easter Sunday from worship and the Easter Egg Hunt.



Flower Cross



Pastor Kimberly



Singing Handel's Hallelujah!



"Hidden" Eggs



Sophia, Ethan, Gracie, and Aeden's Baskets



Shawn helping the group find the eggs



Morgan helping Gracie



Pastor Becky with hunters and helpers.

Love, joy, and peace, ~Pastor Becky

Palm to Passion Sunday, March 20

The Sunday before Easter we celebrated Palm Sunday with a palm parade around the sanctuary led by Nate Raboy on trombone and the children. We waved palms, played kazoos and other noise makers, and celebrated Jesus entering Jerusalem.

We then moved to reflecting on the Passion of Christ with a drama focused on Peter's denying Jesus after his arrest and that took us through those confusing days until His resurrection. Many thanks to the drama team, Becky Mebert, Aaron Whitney, Sally Hunt, Marilyn Myers, Pastor Kimberly, and special guest, Richard Parkinson who played Peter.

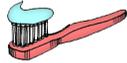


Mission & Outreach Opportunities

Care & Share Project - Help needed

Wed., April 13- 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In March we served 116 households. Thank you Ann Garcia, Barb Bartholomew, Lana Ogden, Maida Thomas, Marilyn Guinane and other volunteers for working so diligently to serve our community.



Please help by purchasing products, or donating funds to support the project. **Help by purchasing:** bars of soap, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, laundry detergent, and sanitary napkins/tampons. These items can be dropped off at the office.

Arrive at 10 a.m. to help pack bags.

Kitchen Clean-Up Days

We will be cleaning the kitchen in three shifts on April 6, 7 & 8. Each shift will start at 9 a.m. and end at 12 noon.

All hands are needed and welcome.

From the Sewing Group

HELP!!! The Wednesday Sewing Group is looking for "HAND SEWERS" to hem the quilts that we make for our Mission Giving at Christmas. We will provide the matching thread that you will need. You can sew at your leisure at home or join us at 10 AM in the Upper Lounge on Wednesday mornings (second week on Thurs.) Bring a sandwich for lunch at 12. If interested, please call Jean Hill @ 648-2128 or Ann Cobb at 723-1142.

Single Mother Support Group

Join our open single mothers group every Friday for 5 weeks to chat with a diverse group of local single mothers. We learn from each other and offer emotional and friendship support.

When: Fridays, April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Time: 12 - 1 p.m.

Where: United Presbyterian Church
42 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY

Location: Office

Free childcare is available during the meeting to moms with children ages 18 months to 10 years of age. Arrive at 11:45 a.m. to sign your child(ren) into the nursery with our professional fully-background-checked staff.

Light refreshments provided. Contact Jenn Efthymious for more information and to sign-up, 722-4219 or office@upcbgm.org.

Fundraiser to Support Mission trip to: Miguel Angel Asturias Academy

Help Us Take Action

Changing lives of low-income Guatemalan kids thanks to the dedication of and the support of the international community.

Here at UPC

First Friday Event, May 6th @ 5:30 - 7 p.m.

42 Chenango Street

Binghamton, NY 13901, Fellowship Hall

Please bring donation of school supplies: pencils, notebooks, rulers, erasers, sharpeners, construction paper, and crayons are helpful. Spaghetti Dinner ** Live Music ** Raffle Prizes
\$8.00 Adults / \$5.00 Child (10 and under)

Support is needed, please sign-up in the Library Lounge to help.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Morning Prayer Continues - Feel free to join the group any Thursday morning @ 8 a.m.

Welcome to April and to a month of praying with Teresa of Avila. Teresa lived in Spain in the 16th century and is the sixth medieval mystic on our journey. Many of us have to wade through distractions, excuses and clutter to find some time to pray -- know that you are not alone if this is your experience! Instead of feeling guilty or frustrated, allow these situations to be the focus for your prayer. Pray with what gets in the way, turning to God in honest humility and need. May you take to heart Teresa of Avila's beautiful words to let nothing trouble you. *Nothing*. No, not even that. No, not *even* that. And may you allow God alone to be enough for you.



Camperships

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley is offering camperships again this year to any youth or adults with special needs who are members of a church in our Presbytery. These are not need based, they are to encourage trying a Christian camping experience. Up to ¾ of the amount of one week of camp up to \$400 can be awarded depending on the camp chosen. An online application and more information can be found on the Presbytery website at susvalpresby.org/mission/Christian-nurture or talk with Pastor Becky.

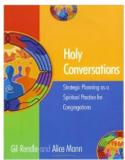
Madrigal Choir Concert - Tanzen und Singen: Music in Motion

Saturday, April 9, 2016, 3:00 pm, Endicott Performing Arts Center, 102 Washington Avenue, Endicott
Special Guest Artists: Dance Stories (EPAC Resident Dance Company).

Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations

by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann, Mondays, May 2, 16, 23

This handbook brings together a wealth of practical tools and resources for every aspect of congregational planning. But even more important, it is a book that will lead you beyond strategic planning to a 'holy conversation' that has the potential to lead to lasting change. Rather than a one-size-fits-all planning program, you will find an approach that honors the rich and unique dynamics of your congregation. Gil and Alice write with deep wisdom about real life in real congregations, and with respect and empathy for their leaders. Today, many congregations are searching for help in understanding how to move into the future. This book will be a trusted resource for that journey. To help pastors plan please contact the office to confirm your attendance. 722-4219.



Bridge Run- Sunday, May 1

Worship will be held on Saturday, April 30 at 4:00 pm, followed by a potluck dinner

Last year, we had a minor Sunday morning disaster on Bridge Run Sunday, because there was no way to get to the church with all the roads closed off. Session discussed the problem, and concluded that the best way to respond was to reschedule our worship, and then encourage the congregation to join in a service project at the Bridge Run. Mark your calendars!

We will gather for worship on Saturday at 4:00pm (April 30), and continue with a potluck dinner at 5:00 pm. In the next couple of weeks, information will be provided about what kinds of service opportunities are available at the Run, and you will be invited to sign up. We hope to have "critical mass" in a couple of locations so people know we are a church, and we encourage everyone to wear their UP Swag.

Pentecost Music, May 15

This year, Pentecost is May 15, and we would like to have a "Pentecost of Music" celebration. If you like to sing, play, dance, drum—or have friends who do, we'd like to hear from you! We are in the very earliest stages of planning, but hope to represent a broad range of musical styles and involve as many people as we can. Talk to Pastor Kimberly or to Christina Santa Maria about your ideas—we'd be glad to hear from you!

Vines Fundraiser with Canadian Folk Singer Dana LaCroix

We had a wonderful night of music and raised \$2000 for the youth and children's education program at the VINES fundraiser that was put on by Dana LaCroix and Jacob Rostboll, with special guests David Restivo, Phil Westcott, Elikem Nyamuame, David Berti, and the UP Choir. Congratulations to our stars and all the people who worked hard to make it a success!



Session Highlights

At their meeting on March 7, 2016, the Session:

- Voted to participate in the Pride and Joy conference on March 19 with an information table;
- Voted to allow the Family and Children's Society Vocation Incentive Program to use a room for their training events and workshops for one hour per week;
- Agreed to a request from the Mission Team to hold a spaghetti dinner on Friday May 6 at UPC to raise funds and school supplies for the mission trip to Guatemala
- Agreed to study a resource, "Not Your Parents' Offering Plate" by J. Clif Christopher;
- Approved spending up to \$4,000 to repair the brass fittings on the organ in the chapel.

Cynthia Burger, Clerk

Session Members/ministry leaders: Cindy Burger, Andy Chadwick, George Cummings, William Donohue, Ann Garca, Linda Griffin, Lou McKeage, Suzie Northrop Raboy, and Patty Wilson.

Ongoing

Baby Graham,
Penny, Brian,
Lorraine Mehal,
Ted Donovan,
Duane Swenson,
Dianne Henry,
Angeline, Denise,
Audrey Micha,
Jim Spencer,
Nikolas Arden
Suzie's Mom and
Jane Williams.



NEVER STOP PRAYING.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Living with Cancer

Alice Brooks, Reinhilde R., Joyce LaRose, Sean Donohue, Jenni, Dave Hickey, Fred Hickling, Muriel Williams, John-dialysis, Karen, Barbara Staudt, Esteny, Mary, Mac McCall, Zoé, Margaret Johnson, Jessica's Dad, Patty, George, Paula, Arthur, Maryse, Eugene's Mom, Carol, Jen Edwards, John Cairns, Rob and Uncle Mike.

Homebound/Managed Care

Jeane Diesenberg, Helen Flack, Susan Mitchell, Doris Folejewski, Barbara Hutter, Kristie Palmer, Shirley Roos, Ben Swan, Richard Ward, and Jack & Martha Budd.

Hospice: Elizabeth

Grieving - the family and friends of:

Steve Kraly, Jeff Kraham
Barbara, Ann Garcia's beloved neighbor
Swift/Levy family-death of granddaughter
Kurt L, Cappy, Larry Denniston, David Warren
Don Burrows and friends- death of partner Santos Nunez

Gratitude

Meaghan Heath- engaged!
birth of Brooke Charlotte, to Linda Schede Trahan and Brian Trahan
visit of Betty Wambui's Mama Stella, niece Ann and Mama Julie
Beautiful Music

Preparing for Marriage:

Megan & Cory; Autumn & Amanda, Juanita & Dwayne, Harley & Jack, Peter & Jackie

Other Concerns

John & Betsy Cairns- John has lung cancer
Joan Rocke- surgery postponed
Oppie Ludwig - in hospital
Kimberly Adams- broken arm, surgery
Jacob- broken femur (Aaron, caring for him)
Aaron, Greg, Dave as they prepare for Guatemala
Turkey, Syria, refugees, political system
end to violence, healing of our nation
People of Belgium, Refusing to let hate win
Baghdad, Lahore, Nigeria, and the Ivory Coast
Mosier Family—daughter battling addiction

Healing

Becky Kindig, Ted Donohue, Bill Donohue
Tweety Vail, Jim Martin, and Ben Swan

Happy Birthday!

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|------|------------------------|------|-----------------|
| 4/1 | Grace Zbrzezny | 4/22 | Maria Kutz |
| 4/2 | Matthew Livingston | 4/23 | Richard Aswad |
| 4/6 | Karin Hoover | 4/24 | Pastor Becky |
| 4/7 | Chloe Brauer | 4/26 | Gregory Patinka |
| | Meghan Menges | | Maureen Njoki |
| 4/8 | Kathy Kopp | | Nancy Shumeyko |
| 4/14 | Janet Hoover | 4/28 | James Menges |
| | Amy Mahardy | | |
| 4/20 | Angela Garcia-Meade | | |
| 4/21 | Suzanne Ogden | | |
| | Dominic Patinka-Ruston | | |
| | James Stehli | | |



Yoga for A Cause, Wed., April 20

VINES Binghamton Farm Share is hosting a Pay-What-You-Can Yoga class at 5:30 p.m. in the Library Lounge

Last Chance!

A beginner/intermediate level class with some mats available if you don't have your own. The class is being instructed by Tina Fetten of Binghamton Zen Den who is graciously donating her time.

Proceeds from the class will benefit Farm Share Programming.



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

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UP-Beat Editors
Jenniffer Efthymious, Marie Hepworth, Jean Hill, Rev. Becky Kindig,
Marilyn Myers, and Nancy Walter.

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

April Lectionary Readings, Year C

Sun, April 3: Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

Sun, April 10: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20), Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

Sun, April 17: Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

Sun, April 24: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35



42 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901, www.unitedpresbyterian.org, FB: UPCBinghamton

