

Board Walk +

~ is that a name for our new newsletter? ~

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the second issue of our Hornell UPC newsletter. What began as a conversation about improving communication during a joint Session and Deacons meeting has resulted in this publication as well as the formation of a "Communications Committee." We want everyone to know about the goings-on in our church, and how best to find information you may be seeking.

The committee is currently comprised of Pastor Ted, Jen Kellogg, Lee Richeson and me. If you are interested in joining us, or any of the other committees or boards of our church, there are certainly many ways you can serve. The nominating committee will be seeking volunteers to serve as Elders, Deacons and Trustees for next year, and our committees can always use more hands and voices to accomplish all of the good work we continue to do.

With that said, please enjoy this newsletter, and let me know what you would like to see in future issues. Your comments, contributions, questions, and suggestions are helpful, along with suggestions for a name.

Faithfully yours,

Cindy Fitzwater

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Upcoming Events:

- 11/9: *Wreaths Across America* presentation
- 11/9: Retrieve Christmas décor from attic
- 11/16: Pie baking contest
- 11/23: Congregational Meeting
- 11/26: Advent Book Study begins
- 11/29: Creche set-up
- 11/30: Hanging of the Greens during worship
- 11/30: Creche Lighting 6:00 PM
- 12/7: Christmas Cantata 7:00 PM

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The Pastor's Pathway

This autumn seems to be a season of changes in our church. What a journey we have already shared together. On October 11th, through the combined efforts of my studies and the Presbyterian Ordination process, and the work of the United Presbyterian Church, and especially that of the Pastor Nominating Committee, we reached a celebration together at my service of Ordination and Installation. Gene Baker decided to call this event my "Pastorization." I like that term.

What am I up to? Our *Community Prayer Services* have been going on for more than a month. We will not hold these services on the evenings of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years (all Thursdays this year). They may not be for "everyone" but many have found them meaningful. I am beginning a grief support group open to the community.

One of the great privileges I have at this time of transitions in our church was assisting with the final crèche lighting for our retired figures. I also get to assist with the lighting of the new figures. I had a chance to bond with the retired figures. It turns out, we are about the same age, maybe a year apart. They began their work when they were born so they get to retire by now. Hopefully, I have quite a long time before I need to join them in retirement. I miss them a little, but am honored to have known them. Here are some pictures of me with some of the retired figures:



Onward down the pathway!!

Pastor Ted



Children's Messages

Have you been sitting in church on a Sunday morning listening to our "Time with Children" and thinking "Hey, I've got a great idea for a message to share with our youth!" Well, here is your opportunity. The Music & Worship committee is looking for volunteers to provide Children's Messages. Please see or email Cindy Fitzwater (cindy.fitzwater@gmail.com) for more information and to select a date! Thank you!

Board Walk ~ October 2025

Session Boardwalk

These are highlights from the Session's October stated meeting and other recent work. Session has called a Special Congregation Meeting for Sunday, 23 November, immediately after worship for the purposes of (1) approving Rev. Warner's Terms of Call for 2026 and (2) electing the Church Nominating Committee for 2026. Session agreed with the need to open another upstairs room for Sunday School, owing to the increased number of children. The corner room will be used, and Cindy Banker is identifying what can be thrown out. Work on this will begin after the Bazaar.

The Personnel Committee reported that it had met with our paid staff. Session approved PC's recommendations, including adding five hours to our administrative assistant's time per week, except for the summer. Session approved buying new desktop computers for Jen and Ted following the recommendations of our technical advisor and asking the Trustees to see how to finance this ASAP. Session noted that both new Church signs have been installed.

Session asked Music and Worship Committee to bring a recommended policy for weddings and funerals, including fees, for Session to consider. Session took a close look at the request to have a wedding in our sanctuary officiated by Pazel Goyuk, pastor of the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Church (in Alfred) in January. Session approved this, if the way be clear; i.e., provided that Rev. Warner talks with the couple and the pastor and perhaps is invited to participate in the wedding.

Pastor Ted, Cindy Fitzwater, Jen Kellogg, and Lee Richeson are serving on the revived Communications Committee. The Committee has met once so far.

We will have an in-person tutorial on how to use our Web site in the near future (the date is TBA). Jen Kellogg, Lisa Sanford, and Jim Varner will attend, but others are welcome to attend.

Submitted by Jim Varner, Clerk of Session

Deacons Boardwalk

Deacons are dedicated to the ministries of feeding, visitation, prayer and hospitality within our church and

surrounding community. As we are guided with that mission there are several examples we would like to share:

- ♥ The deacon's received an anonymous donation of \$1000 to be used toward our mission of compassion and caring of those in need. We have used a small portion to help a fellow church member in a difficult time.
- ♥ We have begun planning the Angel Tree event for this Christmas Season. This year we will be doing something different than in years past. At the Deacons meeting we had mentioned that there are many organizations and schools that help with filling the hearts of children in need with gifts. We also recognize that the holidays can be very difficult and sad for many seniors struggling or alone. But how can we reach at least a few of those who most needs us?
- ♥ One day recently, a woman walked into our church office. She just wanted to introduce herself and see the inside of the church. Her name is Bethany. She had relatives that were members of the Elmira Presbyterian Church. She was a proud indigenous woman, and our conversation was filled with incredibly interesting stories as we shared back and forth. She mentioned that she worked for CareFirst (hospice) and was a spiritual support for patients and their families. Our visit ended with a promise to reach out to each other and to invite her to be a guest speaker in the future.
- ♥ Several days later "the lightbulb went on" or more appropriately the Spirit was heard. Bethany was contacted and our Angel Tree event was explained, as was our hope to extend a little joy to seniors in need. She is thrilled with the idea and will be the liaison between our church and several recipients. She will help us bring a little joy to someone who may be feeling alone, struggling to make ends meet, or living through loss. More information to follow as details are finalized.
- ♥ The recent dime-a day collection raised \$250.73 for the Southern Tier Food Bank and Salvation Army. As always, complete copies of the meeting minutes are available to every member. If you would like a copy, please contact Lee Richeson, chair.

Submitted by Diane Griffin, Deacon

Trustees Message

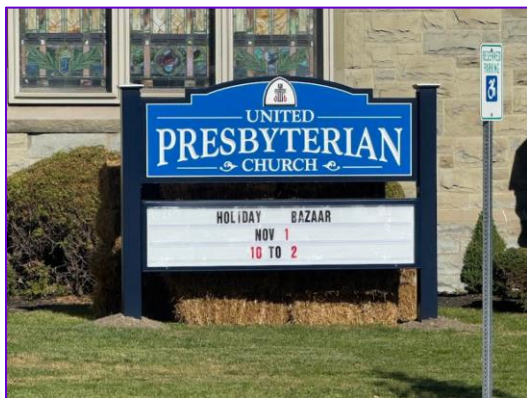
The church made the decision in 2024 that our old signs were in very bad shape and needed to be replaced. The Bazaar Committee had decided to donate \$2,000 towards the project. A group of church members pulled together an ad hoc Sign Committee, and they worked diligently, finding a company that could do the work to replace the signs. After finding out the cost, the committee determined to only replace the Main Street Entrance sign with the sign company called Sign Language in Perry, New York.

The committee then worked together to replace the sign at the Church Street entrance with the help of other church members and the use of the local company, Logo Print.

With the donations from the Bazaar Committee, a Memorial Fund donation and many UPC member donations - both signs were able to be replaced without affecting the church budget for this year. We want to thank the Sign Committee members for their hard work, thank you to the Bazaar Committee and the Memorial Committee and a big thank you to all church members who helped or donated to make this project come to a beautiful completion.

-Jeremy Holbrook, Trustee Chair

New sign in front of our church



Lunch with Friends Resumes: The weekly meal known as “Lunch with Friends” began again on Wednesday October 29th. This gathering was moved to noon on Wednesdays to coincide with Pastor Ted’s book study group. Everyone is welcome!

New Members Join UPC



L to R: Jan & Larry Casey, Jennifer & Samantha Warner, Pastor Ted, Jim Varner

On Sunday September 7th, the Hornell United Presbyterian Church welcomed four new members to our congregation: Larry & Jan Casey and Jennifer Warner, who joined by transfer of membership, and Samantha Warner by profession of faith. Thank you for choosing UPC as your new church home. We are glad you’re here!

Committee Comments

UPW: Another successful rummage sale was held the first week in October. The Great Room was overflowing with donations from our church members and friends. Thank you to all who helped in any capacity, and especially to the Saturday morning crew who sold the last \$2.00 bags of goodies, and then transported the “leftovers” to the Goodwill in Geneseo. Another “village” endeavor!

Bazaar Committee: The 2025 UPC Holiday Bazaar was held on Saturday, November 1st. While the final tally isn’t in yet, it appears to have been our most successful bazaar ever! **Thank you** to everyone who organized, crafted, baked, cooked, served, set up, decorated, cashiered, shopped, donated baskets, or had any part in making our annual event one that our community always supports and enjoys.



Christian Education Committee: Sunday School classes have grown in size so this committee has asked the Session to approve use of another room for Sunday School, which they did. The room is the former pastor's office upstairs which will be cleaned out for their use after the bazaar. It is exciting to see so many young people attending our worship and Sunday School program!

Crèche 2025 – A “practice” set up session was held on Saturday October 25th behind the church, which was a great success. Everyone present agreed that these new figures are beautiful, easy to move and place, and will be enjoyed for many years to come. The creche will be set up in front of the church on Saturday November 29th. As we know, many hands make light work so anyone who would like to help is welcome to do so. The creche lighting ceremony will take place at 6:00 PM on Sunday November 30th.

Music & Worship Committee – This committee has been busy discussing the upcoming Advent Season. Pastor Ted has chosen “Kindness” as the theme for this year's celebration. We are working with the Session and other committees to make sure our church is ready for this most wonderful time of the year, including setting up and lighting the creche, decorating the sanctuary and Hanging the Greens, and a Christmas Pageant with our Sunday School youth.

In addition, we are still seeking people to purchase a name plate for our new hymnals – for \$25 you can have a hymnal dedicated in honor or in memory of someone special to you. Forms are available at the office.

Stewardship Committee - On Sunday, October 26, 2025, the Stewardship Committee dedicated all of the pledges received to date from our congregation. Those who are still interesting in pledging may do so – forms available at church.

A New Season of Giving: The Evolution of Our Church Angel Tree

Each Christmas season, our congregation at United Presbyterian Church has embraced the joy of giving through our Angel Tree Mission. What began as a way to brighten Christmas morning for local children has grown

and evolved into something even more meaningful—reflecting both the needs of our community and the compassion within our church family.

For many years, our Angel Tree focused on providing gifts for children through the local school system. It was a wonderful ministry that brought smiles and excitement to countless young faces. However, as time went on, we began to recognize the incredible work already being done by other organizations in our area—many of which provide abundant resources for children and families during the holidays.

After prayer and discussion, our Deacons committee felt called to direct our giving toward a group that often goes unnoticed at Christmastime: senior citizens. Last year, our Angel Tree was filled with tags representing local seniors, many of whom live alone or have limited family support. The response was overwhelming—our congregation poured love into each gift, reminding these cherished members of our community that they are seen, valued, and loved.

This year, our Angel Tree will take on a new and deeply heartfelt mission. We will be partnering with CareFirst, a hospice organization that provides compassionate care for individuals and families during some of life's most difficult moments. Through this partnership, our church family will be providing gifts of comfort and need to those who are struggling while their loved ones receive hospice care.

Our hope is that these gifts—whether warm blankets, cozy clothing, or simple household essentials—will offer a touch of peace and love to families walking through a tender season of life. This is our way of sharing Christ's light where it is needed most.

The heart of our Angel Tree has always been about connection, compassion, and care. As our mission continues to grow, one thing remains constant: our desire to serve others in the true spirit of Christmas. The Angel Tree will be in the Church Street lobby as of November 16th. More details for gift suggestions and recipients will be printed in the Sunday bulletin on that day.
- Submitted by Diane Griffin

Pastor Ted's Ordination and Installation

Saturday October 11, 2025



From the opening trumpet and organ music to the closing hymn and benediction - this was such a special Saturday in October, one we will long remember. Every aspect of that day – the service, the luncheon that followed, and even leftovers after Sunday worship the next day – made this an extraordinary and inspiring weekend. So many congregants, friends and relatives gathered to celebrate our Pastor Ted becoming Reverend Ted. We are blessed to have you. Congratulations to our fulltime pastor, Ted Warner!



Pumpkin Sunday:

On Sunday October 19th we celebrated the pumpkins grown this summer from the seeds distributed last spring. Jeremy Holbrook (in his bright orange shirt) provided a great lesson during the Children's Message that was enjoyed by everyone.



TRUNK OR TREAT 2025

For the first time, our church participated in the HPG even held on the Broadway Mall. Special thanks to everyone who donated candy and to the Richeson's and friends who distributed the goodies from their decorated vehicle.



Congratulations to the following people who are celebrating this month:

Birthdays:

4 – Bill Mombert
12 – Jen Kellogg
15 – Mike Knopf
16 – Carol Hover
17 – Deanna Cook
22 – Howie Nisbet

Anniversaries:

28 - Lisa & Terry Sanford
28 - Mike & Kathy Knopf

[Please let Cindy F know of any additions or corrections. Thank you!]



Sanctuary in need
of Greens!

As you know, decorating our sanctuary for the Christmas season and undecorating) are huge tasks which require a lot of time and attention to detail. Sunday November 9th, we would like to recruit some able-bodied folks to help bring down the décor from the attic to the Great Room. (After worship and the Wreaths Across America presentation.) Due to the condition of the stairs leading to the attic, we do not recommend children or older adults assist with this task. There is however, much more that will need to be done to ready the garlands, swags, pew boughs, etc. for hanging.

The Music & Worship Committee is hoping to have a series of sessions during which people will come and devote some time – perhaps in two-hour increments – during the afternoon or evenings - to learn how to complete this entire process from beginning to end. The team who have done this for the past several years are looking to step back and pass the torch to the next generation. If a core group of 4-5 people will commit to taking this on, we can continue to have a remarkable holiday season every year. The process includes lighting, arrangements, storage, and cleanup. We will begin with fluffing garland, gluing decorations, attaching bows, etc. from November 9th to the 22nd. We will begin hanging décor in the Sanctuary on Sunday 11/23 immediately after church. With lots of preparation and all hands on deck, we hope to have everything completed prior to Thursday 11/27 - Thanksgiving Day. We will celebrate "Hanging of the Greens" on Sunday 11/30 during worship. To volunteer or if you have questions, please see Cindy Fitzwater, Diane Griffin or Bev Packard. Thank you for your help!