

Good News

The Monthly Newsletter of the People of
HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GUILDERLAND, NEW YORK

Volume 21 No. 4



April 2011

Sunday Morning Worship Services are regularly held at 8:30 and 10:00



Family Oriented Easter Service for 2011!

Due to the success of Early Worship, Hamilton Union will be offering an alternative to the traditional Easter Sunday service on April 24. It will begin at 8:30 am and will combine elements of the traditional service with the less formal style of Early Worship.

The traditional Easter service will take place at 11am and will feature musical offerings by the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir under the direction of Charlotte Palmeri.

An Easter Brunch will be provided by the Worship Committee between the two services and Debbie Waggener will host the annual Easter Egg hunt at 10 am.

Please join us for the celebration!

EASTER

A Word From The Pastor...

The Good News is Good—But Is It News?

The first Great End of the Church is the Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind. Preparing to lead a class on this subject led me to this thought: we Presbyterians of the “post-mainline” and indeed, “post-Christian” era are caught in a bind. Never before has the need to proclaim the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ been more urgent. Yet when we seek to articulate what this Good News is we often feel defeated. We can sing the hymns, recite the Apostles’ Creed and are familiar with the story and many of the teachings of Jesus.

It is good. It is very good. But, we ask, why doesn’t this message touch our lives on a more deeply personal level. Is it because we are dull? Certainly not! Are we not “spiritual enough”? No. Do we not have enough faith? Cut me a break!

Nevertheless I have this thought: Is the excitement and power of spiritual experience limited by the very fact the Gospel message is so familiar? It is good! It is very good! But is it *news*? Is the story of Jesus so familiar that it has lost its ability to touch our hearts and redirect our lives? Would we be better off if we had never heard the story and the Gospel proclamation and could hear the Good News for the first time?

For myself the answer is all too often, “Yes!” Yet having said this, let me suggest four ways to refresh our hearing of the Gospel and so make it *newsworthy*:

First: Get involved in hands-on mission somewhere with fellow Christians outside of your familiar surroundings. Serve a meal at City Mission of Schenectady; participate in the second annual Church Has Left the Building weekend on April 30 and May 1; help bring residents of Mercy Care to worship and hear the Gospel with *their* ears; deliver Meals on Wheels; consider joining the Malawi 2012 Exploratory Ministry Team. Participating in Christian mission and hearing the Gospel in a new setting is an excellent way for the Gospel to become *news*!

Second: Engage your mind and heart in reading and reflecting. Revitalize — to borrow from Hercule Poirot — those “little grey cells.” Find someone who has finished reading [A Generous Orthodoxy](#) and ask to borrow it; then join the discussion when it happens, probably sometime in May. Listen for conversation about a dinner group that might meet to talk about issues of faith, ask to be included.

Third: Listen to yourself. Where are the dead zones? Where are the dimensions of your life that have not had the Gospel of Salvation proclaimed and wait to hear Good News that is truly news. Where do you yearn for God to do for you what you feel powerless to do for yourself? Where do you need to admit your need for God’s grace?

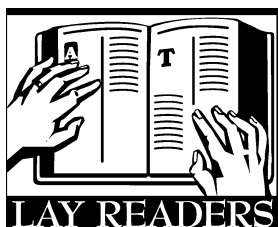
Finally, pray to God. Ask God to open your mind and heart and to prepare your soul to receive Good News and for the grace to respond. Do this daily.

If you do these things you may not experience instant results; however I promise you that if you persevere, *you will receive news...and it will be good!*

Stewart

The Lay Readers

- April 3 - Mark Hutchinson
- April 10 - Mickey Nieman
- April 17 - MJ Pattison
- April 24 - MJ Pattison



Elders and Deacons to Serve Communion

- April 3 - Nelda Polansky*
- Sue O'Rourke
- Keni Banda
- Lynn Hasselbarth
- Fred Sirois

* Denotes team leader. The team leader should call the other servers in advance to make sure they plan to attend church on the designated day. If not, the server should find a substitute and let the team leader know.



The Ushers and Greeters

- April 3 - Joe Peck
Margaret Peck
Doug Gray
JoAnne Wagner *
- April 10 - Ann McKinney
Peter McKinney
Cindy Schultz *
Dianna Newman
- April 17 - Melinda Reilly
June Edick *
Don Montgomery
Henry Montgomery
- April 24 - Bill Sarbello
Carolyn Sarbello
Terry Nieman
Mickey Nieman *

* Denotes Greeter



Ushers and Greeters

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

Note: If you are unable to serve on a scheduled date, PLEASE secure a substitute and notify the church secretary.

Dear Hamilton Union family,

A quick note of appreciation for the cards and phone calls, and the associated concerns and best wishes, I received after my recent surgery. As I hope you know, all went well and my major effort now is to regain my strength and energy. Fortunately, we had a few days of nice weather last week and hopefully we will have more in the hear future; that always helps the healing process.

Hope to see you soon.

Fondest wishes to all

Hiram Eberlein

To our extended HUPC family --

Many thanks for your phone calls, emails and expressions of concern over our family's recent string of unfortunate events. When bad things happen (especially several in a short period of time), it really helps to know that others care and are with you.

Thank you!

Bruce, Karen, Matt and Katie Williamson

To the HUPC Family,

All of the Oakley family thank you for your care and concern during Jack's illness. We enjoyed some good meals, good fellowship during visits, and lots of cards and offers of help.

We send special thanks to Stewart, the deacons who brought communion to Jack, and to Katy Waggoner and Peter and Ann McKinney who stayed with him when I had to be away.

Gerry Oakley and Family

To my HUPC family,

Thank you for the cards and flowers received after my surgery in November. Many thanks for the caring and thoughtfulness shown at the time of my mother, Doris Abbott, passing in December. There were cards received and kindness shown by the deacons helping with a lunch, and flowers that were delivered to our home. My sisters husband passed in February. It was a great comfort to feel the love and caring extended to our family during such sad times this winter.

Late but most sincerely,

Jean and Michael Zelezniak

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

—Marcel Proust

**The Deacon on Call for
April is
Bev Montgomery
355-4494**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the support and encouragement following my recent hip surgery.

Many thanks to MJ and Stewart for the delightful visit (on such a snowy morning!) I appreciate the lovely flower arrangement delivered by Bev Montgomery.

Last, but not least, thank you for the many get well cards as well as the thoughtful messages.

Your many kindnesses helped in my recovery.

Sincerely,

Shirley Irwin

“The joyful news that [Christ] is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline and make the sacrifice.”

—Henry Knox Sherrill

Spring cleaning



Sweep over me, Lord
And brush out my sin!
Replace it with faith,
And live here within.
Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, from *Prayers and Poems*

The Worship Committee is sponsoring the traditional plants for Easter. Easter lilies will be available for \$9.50, and daffodils and tulips will be available for \$8.00. As usual, plants will be available for pick up after the second Easter service. The worship bulletin will have an order form placed in it later this month for those who wish to order flowers.



Easter Flowers



It's that time again. Circle May 21st on your calendars!

The Grand Garage Sale is a time to meet new people and to get to know our neighbors in the community.

Volunteers are needed to help make the Grand Garage Sale a success. If you would like to help, please contact Terry Nieman or a member of the Outreach Ministry Team.

Save the date, and save your stuff.

The Spring Forum of Church Women United will be held Friday, April 1 at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, on Quail Street, between Western and Washington Avenues. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a bag lunch. There will be a bake sale for your dessert. Beverages will be provided. The speaker at the meeting will be the Reverend Dr. Roxanne Jones-Booth, speaking on her experiences in Africa.

On Saturday, April 16, beginning at 10:00 a.m., the 2011 Spring Gathering of PW in the Albany Presbytery will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Hudson Falls. Speaker will be Joann Burrell, Synod of the Northeast's representative to the 2009 USA Mission Experience trip to South Dakota. Carpooling will be available.

April Circle meetings will be on April 26, the morning group beginning at 10:30 a.m. and the evening group beginning at 7:30 p.m. Lesson 7 of the Joshua Bible study will be discussed.

You will be welcomed at any of these meetings.



Again this year we are participating in the Easter basket project for New Faith Family Center at the Capital City Rescue Mission and the New Life Family program at the Schenectady City Mission by collecting items to fill baskets for the children of the residents. Items may be placed in a box at the rear of the sanctuary from March 13th through April 17th. The baskets will be assembled on Monday, April 18th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship room. We welcome anyone who would like to come and help. This year the ages of the children range from infants to teenagers. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Suggested items:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Chocolate rabbits, eggs | Jellybeans |
| Coloring books | Marshmallow chicks |
| Sidewalk chalk | Easter <i>M & Ms</i> |
| Jump ropes | Hershey Kisses |
| Bubbles | Peanut butter eggs |
| Small Books, toys | Sticker books |
| Foil-covered chocolate eggs | Crayons/markers |
| Cash to equalize baskets and purchase cellophane bags | |



Pictorial Directories to Arrive

The new pictorial directories will be available in early April. Each family group or individual **photographed** is entitled to a copy. The new directories will be in the back of the sanctuary, labeled with the family or individual name.

Church Photo Directory



Trusting the unseen

A gardener planted two peony bulbs side by side. In a few weeks, as expected, the first one poked a single stem through the ground. The other would soon follow, the gardener thought. But it didn't. Many more weeks went by with no sign of life.

Then one day, to his surprise, not one but five leaf points poked through the soil at once. When the peony bloomed, its flowers were more beautiful and numerous than those of the first bulb.

John Piper said, "In every situation God is doing a thousand things that we cannot see and do not know." When God seems to have forgotten you and hope fails, don't despair. God is at work, and someday you will see.

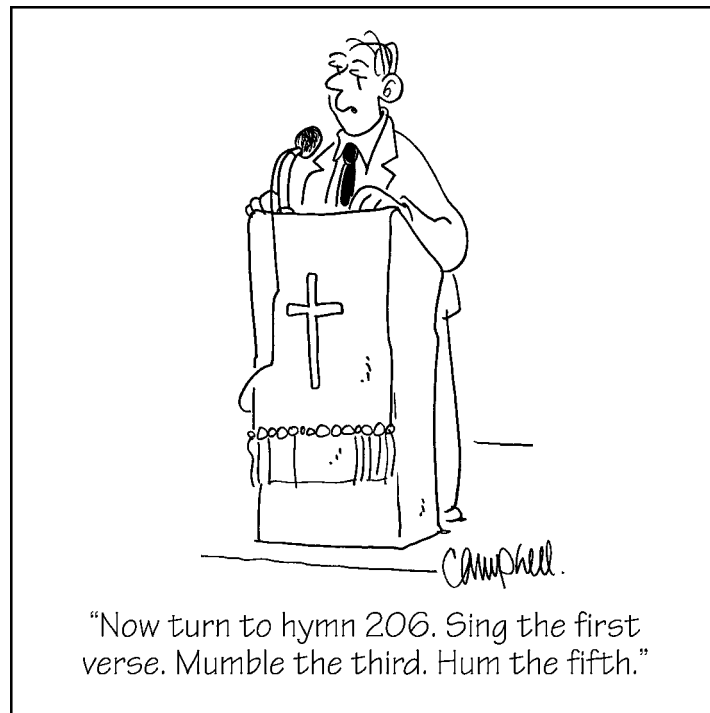
Could you use a helping hand? Call **Community Caregivers** at 456-2898 to see if we can be the "help" you need. On the other hand, if you're willing and able to be a "helper," **Community Caregivers** may be the organization for you, too. Call to find out about the next Volunteer Orientation. Or go to our website, www.communitycaregivers.org, to see what we do!

Serving the community since 1996.

What is the news?

"What's new?" That is a common question we are likely to ask of a friend or acquaintance. It was the question asked by Alfred Lord Tennyson, the English poet, of a woman he went to visit. The lady answered, "There is only one piece of news I know: Christ died for all"

Tennyson quickly answered, "Well, that is old news, and good news, and new news."



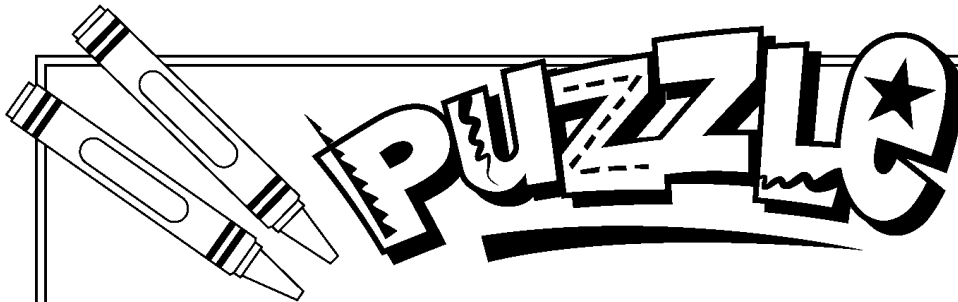
Mirth upon the earth

On April 1, you may well have a joke or two played on you. If so, enjoy the moment. Laugh, even if the joke is on you.

Christians have great cause for laughter on a daily basis. We can laugh because we know that no matter how much tragedy we see or may suffer personally, we have the assurance that God can turn it all around and bring great good out of evil.

The proof of that, for Christians, is Jesus' resurrection.


—Charles Ferrell




FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.


Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.


























1. Jesus	5. cross
2. weary	6. endured
3. endured	7. scorning
4. opposition	8. shame



1. Jesus	5. perfecter
2. lose	6. him
3. pioneer	7. faith
4. sinners	8. hand



1. eyes	5. right
2. us	6. grow
3. joy	7. God
4. heart	8. throne

“... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and
 5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6
he  3 the  5,  7 its  8, and
sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7.
Consider  6 who  6 such  4
from  4, so that you will not  6  2
and  2  4.” HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: “...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

HOT CROSS BUNS

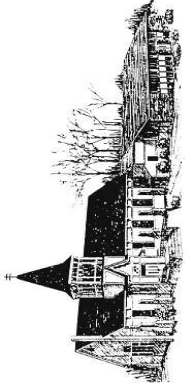
Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!



Hamilton Union Happenings

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S) 11:30am Lenten Study (L)	4 7pm Session Meeting (L)	5 3:30pm Brownie Troop 1779 (W) 7pm SCA Chorus (W)	6 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Webelos Scouts (D) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (W) 7pm Chess Club (L) 7pm Lenten Study (S)	7 6:20pm Bell Choir Practice (S) 7:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (C)	8	9
10 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S) 11:30am Lenten Study (L)	11 7pm Deacons Meeting (L)	12 3:30pm Brownie Troop 1495 (W)	13 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Webelos Scouts (D) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (W) 7pm Chess Club (L) 7pm Lenten Study (S)	14 6:20pm Bell Choir Practice (S) 7:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (C)	15	16
17 Palm Sunday 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S) 11:30am Lenten Study (L)	18 9:30am Easter Baskets (W)	19 3:30pm Brownie Troop 1779 (W) 7pm SCA Chorus (W)	20 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Webelos Scouts (D) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (W) 7pm Chess Club (L) 7pm Lenten Study (S)	21 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service (S)	22 Good Friday 7:30pm Tenebrae Service (S)	23
24 Easter 8:30am Early Easter Service (S) 11am Traditional Easter Service (S)	25	26 3:30pm Brownie Troop 1495 (W) 10:30am Presbyterian Women (L) 7:30pm Presbyterian Women (L)	27 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Webelos Scouts (D) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (W) 7pm Chess Club (L)	28 6:20pm Bell Choir Practice (S) 7:30pm Chancel Choir Practice (C)	29	30

D = Downstairs L = Lounge S = Sanctuary W = Welcome Room C = Choir Corner

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2291 Western Avenue

Guilderland, New York 12084-9747

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Church: (518) 456-5410

FAX: (518) 456-0002

Rev. Pattison (H) 456-1373

E-mail: hupc@nycap.rr.com

Website: HamiltonUnionPresbyterianChurch.org

Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

Our Staff:

Rev. Stewart Pattison, Pastor

Rev. Douglas Gray, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Mary Jo Pattison, Parish Associate

Charlotte Palmeri, Director of Music

Darlene DiTonno, Christian Education Director

Cheryl Cootware, Church Secretary

THE GOOD NEWS

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Mark Hutchinson, Editor

Email Address: goodnewshupc@gmail.com



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