

Good News

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

Volume 21 No. 11



DECEMBER 2011

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



Service of Light December 14 at 7pm

Our annual Service of Light will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, December 14 in the church sanctuary.

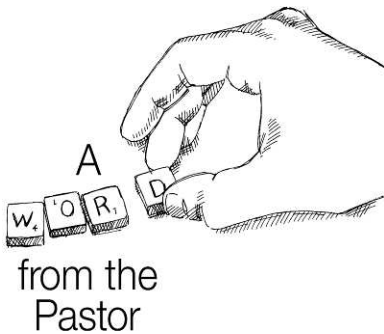
The Service of Light is offered as a sign of God's care for those of us who feel sad during this holy season and cannot enter fully into the joy of the season. The Service of Light reminds us that the light of the star of Bethlehem illuminated a stall for domestic animals where the Messiah was born, "because there was no room in the inn." All who seek the holy child must leave the comfort of the inn. We must seek him among those for whom there is no room in the comfortable places. We must seek him within our own selves—for there is in us one who feels that we do not belong and who is *home-less*.

The Good News of the birth of Jesus is that he is to be found *precisely* in the empty and lonely place. It is there that the true comfort and joy is to be found. It is in our sorrow, loneliness and lost-ness that Christ seeks to be born. Indeed we come to realize that in the stall, God in Jesus is *seeking us* to bring hope and peace.

The service is simple and will last about one half an hour. Refreshments supplied by the deacons will follow.

Please come. Please bring a friend.





When someone dies it is the most natural thing in the world to ask, “What can I do?” We do this because we genuinely want to be helpful; and we want to help because we also hurt and want to channel that sadness in and through service. These are both God-given responses which are precious. Upon hearing the news of my mother’s death many of you, and many others have asked just this question, “What can I do?” or “How can I help?”

During the past two weeks I have had the profound honor to witness the help of this congregation support me, MJ and the rest of my family. You may ask, “How did we do this?” Let me count the ways:

- When the news came out we requested that you give us the space to grieve as a family. You did that. Your sensitivity allowed me to grieve as a son. This in turn allowed me to be a grieving husband with an also grieving wife. I was allowed to be a grieving father and to give comfort *to* and receive comfort *from* my children; as well as share my anguish with my sister. In short you allowed me to be a human being free to go through my own journey of shock, confusion, terrible sadness and loss intermingled with moments of comfort an increasing gratitude.
- You greeted me at Shirley Friebel’s memorial simply and tenderly which allowed me to keep my focus of Shirley and her family and not become unhinged by my own grief.
- You organized, led and attended three inspiring services without me. Not only that but you told me what a good job everyone did and how meaningful the services were.
- You organized and led a class on Alzheimer’s Disease, two gatherings about our possible trip to Malawi and an Inquirer’s class, rehearsed the bell choir and chancel choir and carried on all of the other ministries of the church.
- You organized a wonderful memorial service for my mom with a bountiful reception thereafter.
- You have allowed me time and space to do the difficult work of breaking up my mom’s apartment and begin the process of settling her estate.

In short, *you have been the church! You have carried on the ministry of Jesus Christ!* As I write these words I realize that I have experienced personally the joyful gratitude of Jesus in Matthew 25: 37-41:

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

I can think of no greater way a church can support a grieving pastor than this. Thank you!

Stewart

The Lay Readers

- December 4 - Bill Hasselbarth
- December 11 - Peter McKinney
- December 18 - Trudy Hutchinson
- December 25 - Diane Irwin



The Elders and Deacons to Serve Communion

- December 4 - Nancy Messersmith*
Ron Messersmith
Debbie Waggener
June Edick
Hiram Eberlein

* 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

- December 4 - Charlotte Hasselbarth *
Hank Williams
Joy Harding
Nancy Snyder
- December 11 - Henry Montgomery *
Don Montgomery
Dorothy Rice
Sue Ferris
- December 18 - Gail Ostrander *
Jerry Ostrander
Laura Smith
Steve Smith
- December 25 - Al Deitz
Mickey Nieman
Terry Nieman

* Denotes Greeter



Ushers and Greeters

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

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

Oct 16.

Dear Hamilton Union Church Community,
 Thank you for your prayers, concerns, flowers, cards, and calls on the occasion of my recent health episode. Fortunately the symptoms I experienced were worse than the actual condition and I'm now back to normal. It was comforting and reassuring to experience the love and concern and prayers of the church community. I felt truly blessed. Sincerely, Bill

The family of Eleanor Schardt would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, and visits.

A special thanks to Stewart for all the love and caring visits he made to our Mom.

We would also like to thank the Deacons for the wonderful food that was brought to the house on Sunday evening.

Eleanor's Daughters,
 Donna + Cindy

Dear Friends at Hamilton Union, ^{November 2, 2011}

I just received the wonderful care package of goodies that you sent! Thank you so much! We are in the thick of the semester, having just finished a week of mid-term papers and exams. With a new list of readings, the candy will definitely keep me energized! I'm already starting to look at classes for next semester. And I've applied for my clinical pastoral education experience

which I can hopefully complete back home at Albany Medical Center. ^{this summer} I'm looking forward to seeing you all during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays!

Thank you again for thinking of me!

Love, Lynn



Happy belated anniversary to Eugene and Kathleen Martin (November 22)

Happy Anniversary to Trudy and Mark Hutchinson (December 19)

A very Happy Birthday to Jesus Christ (December 25)

**The Deacon on call for
 December is
 Renee Kimmerer
 456-0759**

Many, many thanks for the kind words and cards...and the cake - it was beautiful. I think Trudy picked that out. And a thank you goes to Joanne Wagner for baking the bread that was part of the presentation on Oct. 9.

And another thank you to Marian Nitsky for the beautiful travelling stone, and Laura, Mickey and Gwyn for getting involved with pictures. Thanks to Renee for her Red Hat contribution and for helping Stewart with the invitations. Thank you also to Vi McKaig for making punch. And last, but certainly not least, I have to thank Stewart. He organized the Open House at Regency, not only organized it, but was the welcoming host and the traffic director.

In addition, Stewart did what he could to keep me reasonably steady during the whole moving process. At one point, I told Stewart it looked like quite a few people couldn't come to the Open House. He said "Good!" As it was, there were about 80 people attending. It was a wonderful sendoff.

I am truly grateful to everyone at HUPC for your compassion. People are still sending cards and notes. The latest from Hiram & Marlene, Jean, and Wayne. (The first person to supply last names for these people gets a prize). The prize is the satisfaction of knowing your fellow HUPC members!!!

I am still getting organized here and getting to know the area. One of the main highways is "Jolleyville" Ha, Ha. Some of the main highways have 2 names. Boo, Hoo. Haven't decided on a church yet, but am getting closer to making that decision.

Happy December! My thoughts and prayers are with all of you!

Jane Springer

 To our Friends at HUPC.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during this very difficult time. We appreciate everything you did for Mom over the years. We would also like to thank you for the wonderful luncheon at the church. It was nice to be able to sit and visit with our friends + family.

In this love,
 Mark Darcy, Todd Frieckel
 & the kids

During a time
 like this
 we realize how much
 our friends and relatives
 really mean
 to us....
 Your expression
 of sympathy will always
 be remembered



Schoharie United Presbyterian Church

Rev. Bebb Stone

314 Main Street, PO Box 340

Schoharie, New York 12157

(518)295-8931

November 11, 2011

The Rev. Stewart Pattison
Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church
2291 Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY 12084

Dear Rev. Pattison,

On behalf of the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church Session and our entire church family, we would like to extend to you and your congregation our gracious gratitude and a big thank you for your church's commitment of time and hard work. Everyone's contribution played a major role in helping us move forward as we continue to recover from damages caused by the flood that occurred on August, 28, 2011. Please extend our sincere appreciation to your congregation.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to serve as a volunteer. Much of the progress we have made is due to the work completed by dedicated volunteers like your congregation, and we are very grateful.

Peace and blessings from the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Mencucci". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Linda Mencucci
Clerk Pro Tem

In December circles will meet jointly on Tuesday, December 13, at 10:30 a.m. for a potluck lunch and Bible study from the Book of Revelation, Lesson 3. The members will pack cookies for shut-ins and staff.

Just a reminder, items for the Mitten Tree will be collected until December 11. These will be distributed to various organizations including the New Faith Family Center of the Albany City Mission and the Family Center of the Schenectady City Mission, Guilderland Interfaith Food Pantry (Angel gifts) and the Living Resources group residence on Lone Pine Road in Guilderland.

For the future, the 2012 Planning Day will be held Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Fran Kamp, 222 Heritage Road, Apt. 207, Guilderland. Bring a bag lunch and some fruit for our fruit compote dessert. Contact Fran Kamp at 456-2052 with any questions.

You will be welcomed at any of these meetings.



Good News of **Great Joy**

The Christmas Joy Offering is split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and scholarship funds for Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Help us support these faithful servants and students in their hour of great need and hour of great promise. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope, and then please give generously. **Thank You!**

JUST A NOTE

from Charlotte Palmeri

Having just celebrated five years of service with the congregation of Hamilton Union, I wish to express how grateful I am that the Lord called me to you. I consider my position to be a privilege and I thank all of you for your continued support.



To update everyone as to my latest endeavors, following God's direction, I enrolled as a student at Schenectady County Community College in the fall, continuing music studies that I'd put on hold twenty two years ago when I was expecting my third of four children. To say it's difficult is an understatement. I continue to wonder what God's plans are and welcome your prayers as I follow His leading.

The SCCC chorus will be singing on Monday night, December 5th, in the auditorium of the school. If you'd like to come, I'll sing my best and try to look as if I know what I'm doing. (Singing in languages from around the globe is a distinct challenge.) The price is right (FREE!) and I guarantee you will find it entertaining!



Plan to attend the Advent service being held at Christ the King Church in Guilderland on Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 in the afternoon. Our choir will be singing along with many others from the Guilderland area and the offering taken will benefit the food pantry.

Welcome New Members!



A very special welcome to the newest members of the HUPC family:

Lindsay Hall, Kyle Hall, Danielle Lajoie, Betty Koban, Charles Koban, Margaret Gardam



Church Ladies With Typewriters . . .

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry Mission Trip

You Can Help Make a Difference! On January 8, 2012, approximately 20 UAlbany Cornerstone students will be traveling to Birmingham, Alabama to take part in the on-going relief efforts in the wake of tornadoes that hit the area in April. In the past, students have made similar trips to New Orleans and the trips prove to be life-changing experiences for them as they work in the midst of the disaster response. The students will be working with Lutheran Ministries of Alabama to rebuild homes in the area. They anticipate doing construction work such as framing, sheet-rocking, shingling, etc. The cost per student is approximately \$500 which includes round trip air-fare, ground transportation, meals and supplies. Each student is asked to contribute \$200 toward the cost and the balance is covered by fund-raisers and donations from congregations and individual members. Upon return, the students will be scheduling presentations in local churches to share their stories! If you would like to “adopt a student” for the trip, please make your check payable to “Protestant Campus Ministry” and mail to:



Rev. Sandy Damhof, Chapel House-UAlbany, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222.

Suggested “adoption fee” is \$200, but any amount is welcome!

Adopt a Student for Birmingham Disaster Response Mission Trip

Yes I/We would like to adopt a student for the January Mission Trip sponsored by Cornerstone Campus Ministry.

My/Our check for \$200 is enclosed!

I/We will send our check later!

Name of Church or Individual _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Reminder – PW Mitten Tree

The PW mitten tree project will continue through December 11th.

Infants, children's and adult sizes are needed. We will be dividing the items between the Guilderland Food Pantry (angel gifts), the Capital City Rescue Mission in Albany, the Schenectady City Mission and the Living Resources group residence on Lone Pine Road in Guilderland.

Handmade or purchased mittens, hats, gloves and scarves may be placed on the special tree at the rear of sanctuary. There will be an overflow box on the floor.

The needs are great and as always, we appreciate your generous support.



Guatemalan Crafts

December 4th During Fellowship Hour

Shop with a Mission:

Mayan Hands will return to Hamilton Union for an Alternative Christmas Sale. Your purchases will allow the producers of beautiful Mayan crafts to feed their families, send their children to school and harbor hope for a better future. 15% of the proceeds will go to mission projects at Hamilton Union and the remainder of the proceeds would go directly to the Mayan crafters in Guatemala.

Learn about Fair Trade:

Fair trade, or alternative trade, refers to the direct exchange of goods based on principals of economic and social justice including:

- Opportunities for economically disadvantaged producers
- Gender Equity
- Transparency and accountability
- Payment of Fair Price
- Healthy working conditions
- Environmental sustainability



Advent Calendars are the Theme of the 4:30 Christmas Eve Service

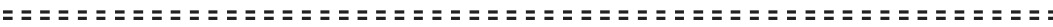
This year we are planning to build the Family Christmas Eve Service around and Advent Calendar Theme.



Preparation for this service began on the first Sunday of Advent when we gave children in church their own advent calendar and opened the first window together.

We we have sent Advent calendars to all of our church families with children and would also like to send them to grandchildren who may be in from out of town. If you are planning to bring children to the 4:30 service please let us know so we can send them an advent calendar to bring.

On Christmas Eve, please bring your advent calendars with you and we will open the last window together!



What to Give?

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all men, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.

— Oren Arnold

Let it Shine

Whatever else be lost among the years,
 Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing.
 Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,
 Let us hold close one day, remembering
 Its poignant meaning for the hearts of men.
 Let us get back our childlike faith again.

— Grace Noll Crowell

Words Count

The six most important words in the English language are: “I admit I made a mistake.”

The five most important words in the English language are: “You did a good job.”

The four most important words in the English language are: “What is your opinion?”

The three most important words in the English language are: “If you please.”

The two most important words in the English language are: “Thank you.”

The one most important word in the English language is: “We.”

The least important word in the English language is: “I.”

The two least important words in the English language are: “I can’t!”

The three least important words in the English language are: “You messed up!”



A Cat's View of Creation

On the first day of creation, God created the cat.

On the second day, God created man to serve the cat.

On the third, God created all the animals of the earth to serve as potential food for the cat.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labor for the good of the cat.

On the fifth day, God created the sparkle ball so that the cat might or might not play with it.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the cat healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but he had to scoop the litterbox.



SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

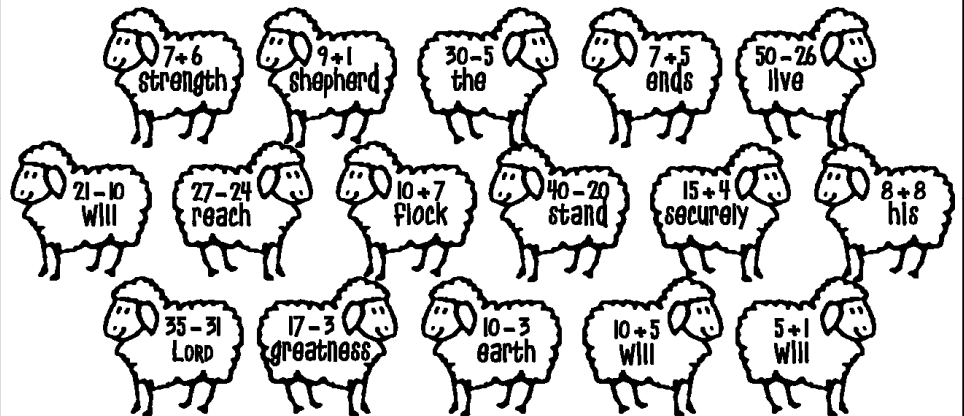


A PROMISED RULER



Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He 15 _____ and 20 _____ his 10 _____ 17 _____

in the 13 _____ of the 4 _____. And they 11 _____ 24 _____

_____, for then 19 _____ 16 _____ 14 _____ 6 _____

_____ to the _____ of _____."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD ... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV



DECEMBER 2011

Hamilton Union Happenings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 Communion 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S) 12noon Handbell Choir Practice (S)</p>	<p>5 3:30pm Brownie Troop 1779 (M) 7pm SCA Chorus (M) 7pm Session Meeting (L)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Webelos Scouts (D) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (M) 7pm Chess Club (L)</p>	<p>1 7:20pm Chancel Choir Practice (C)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S) 12noon Handbell Choir Practice (S)</p>	<p>12 3:30pm Brownie Troop 1495 (M)</p>	<p>13 10:30am PW Circle Meeting (L)</p>	<p>14 7pm Service of Light (S) 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Webelos Scouts (D) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (M) 7pm Chess Club (L)</p>	<p>15 7:20pm Chancel Choir Practice (C)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S) 12noon Handbell Choir Practice (S)</p>	<p>19 3:30pm Brownie Troop 1779 (M) 7pm SCA Chorus (M)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Webelos Scouts (D) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (M) 7pm Chess Club (L)</p>	<p>22 7:20pm Chancel Choir Practice (C)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 4:30pm Family Service (S) 10pm Candlelight Service (S)</p>
<p>25 Christmas Day 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>26 3:30pm Brownie Troop 1495 (M)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7pm Boy Scouts (D) 7pm Webelos Scouts (D) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (M) 7pm Chess Club (L)</p>	<p>29 7:20pm Chancel Choir Practice (C)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>

D = Downstairs L = Lounge S = Sanctuary M = Multipurpose Room C = Choir Corner

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2291 Western Avenue

Guilderland, New York 12084-9747

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Website: HamiltonUnionPresbyterianChurch.org

Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

Our Staff:

Rev. Stewart Pattison, Pastor

Rev. Douglas Gray, Pastor Emeritus

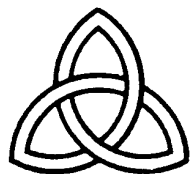
Rev. Mary Jo Pattison, Parish Associate

Charlotte Palmeri, Director of Music

Darlene DiTonno, Christian Education Director

Cheryl Cootware, Church Secretary

THE GOOD NEWS



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Mark Hutchinson, Editor

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