

# Good News

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

Volume 31 No. 02



## February 2020

**Sunday Worship Services are held at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.**

### Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;  
    Forgive them anyway.  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives;  
    Be kind anyway.  
If you are honest, people may cheat you;  
    Be honest anyway.  
If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous of you;  
    Be happy anyway.  
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;  
    Do good anyway.  
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
    Give the world the best you've got anyway.  
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;  
    It was never between you and them anyway.



—“The Paradoxical Commandments,” Kent M. Keith

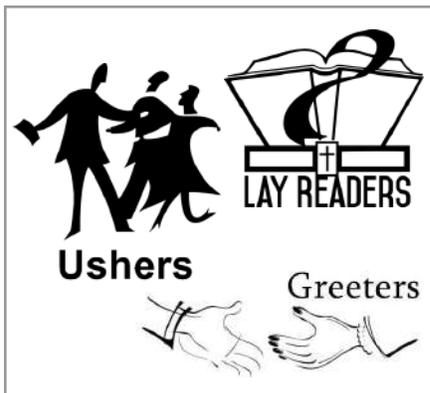
# Lay Readers, Greeters, Ushers and Counters

## February 2

**Lay Reader** Henry Montgomery  
**Greeter** Laura Smith  
**Ushers** Steve Smith  
 Carolyn Sarbello  
**Communion Servers** George Hannett \*  
 Wayne Gannett  
 Fred Sirois  
 Debbi Waggener  
**Counters** Laura Smith  
 Carolyn Sarbello

## February 9

**Lay Reader** Bill Hasselbarth  
**Greeters** Hiram Eberlein  
**Ushers** Mickey Nieman  
 Terry Nieman  
**Counters** Bill Hasselbarth  
 Hannah Hunter-Harris

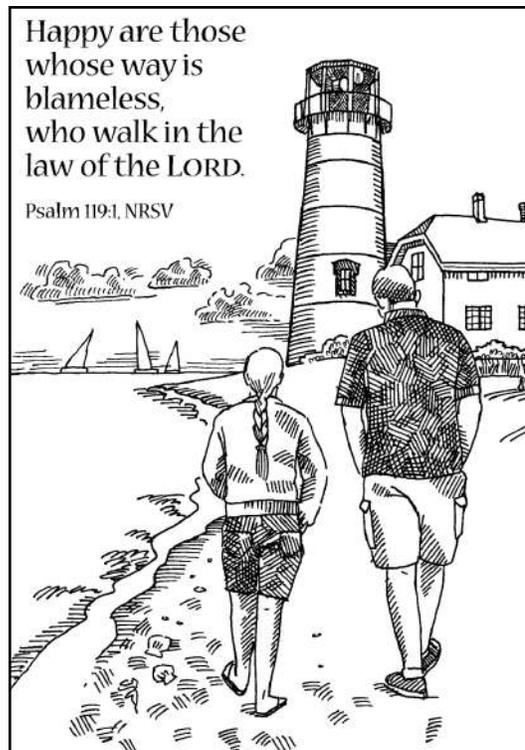


## February 16

**Lay Reader** George Hannett  
**Greeters** Katy Waggener  
**Ushers** Debbi Waggener  
 Melinda Rielly  
**Counters** Peter McKinney  
 Billy DeBarthe

## February 23

**Lay Reader** Peter McKinney  
**Greeter** Ann McKinney  
**Ushers** Charlotte Hasselbarth  
 Ruth Ryf  
**Counters** Margaret Gardam  
 Ruth Ryf



# Lay Readers, Greeters, Ushers and Counters

## March 1

**Lay Reader** Karen Unser  
**Greeter** Liz Egan & Family  
**Ushers** Laura Smith  
 Steve Smith  
**Communion Servers** Betty Deitz \*  
 Nelda Polansky  
 Ron Messersmith  
 Nancy Messersmith  
**Counters** Laura Smith  
 Carolyn Sarbello

## March 8

**Lay Reader** Charlotte Hasselbarth  
**Greeter** Jim Gade  
**Ushers** Nelda Polansky  
 Hiram Eberlein  
**Counters** Bill Hasselbarth  
 Hannah Hunter-Harris

## March 15

**Lay Reader** Ann McKinney  
**Greeters** Kyle & Lindsay Hall Family  
**Ushers** Joseph Peck  
 Margaret Peck  
**Counters** Peter McKinney  
 Billy DeBarthe

## March 22

**Lay Reader** Bruce Williamson  
**Greeter** Kevin & Meredith Eberz  
 Family  
**Ushers** Wayne Gannett  
 Bill Hasselbarth  
**Counters** Margaret Gardam  
 Ruth Ryf

## March 29

**Lay Reader** Rae Rau  
**Greeter** John Nitsky  
**Ushers** Margaret Gardam  
 Debbi Waggener  
**Counters** Margaret Gardam  
 Hannah Hunter-Harris

***WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!***

If you are unable to serve on your  
scheduled date, please

**FIND A SUBSTITUTE**

and

**NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

Friends,

Please do be careful and observant this winter with the forecast winter weather. Your health and well-being our highest concern, so if you do not feel safe getting out of your home, or driveway, or into the church due to winter weather, please stay home and worship there.



If we need to cancel, we'll notify on radio, TV, email, and Facebook. However, since our members come from a wide range of physical locations, please use your best judgment about the roads, sidewalks, and pathways that you take to get to church, and if you do not feel safe, please do not risk it. Please do contact one another and check on those around you, and be in prayer for one another.

Be smart out there this winter. . .and be safe. . .and help keep others safe, too!

**A Note From Charlotte Palmeri**

How I wish that my very sincere thank you to HUPC, Presbyterian Women and the choir were able to have been expressed earlier! You all have given generously to me at Christmas and I very much appreciate your thoughtfulness. God bless you all - Charlotte

(I'm grateful that I had a couple of weeks off following Christmas. Funny how what was to have been vacation time coincided with a very nasty respiratory illness!)

To fall in love with God  
 is the greatest of romances,  
 to seek him  
 the greatest adventure,  
 to find him  
 the greatest human achievement.

—St. Augustine

## Installation Service for Rev. Lynn Horan

**Sunday, February 23, 3pm – 4pm**

Rev. Lynn Horan will be Installed as Pastor of St. Peter's Presbyterian Church in a special Service of Worship, by the Presbytery of Albany. Lynn has been the Interim Pastor there since July 2017.

Lynn grew up in Hamilton Union and was Ordained here in 2014.

An offering will be taken to assist candidates for ordination with the costs of their education.



There will be a reception following the service.

The address of the church is 5219 County Route 7, Chatham, New York 12037.

### Reflections on Cornerstone Campus Ministry's Winter Break Service Trip to Panama City, Florida

*(Lauren is a Care Giver in our Children's Room during the 10 am Worship Service and Hamilton Union supports her Peer Ministry position in the Cornerstone Campus Ministry).*

My name is Lauren Ferguson I'm a junior at the University at Albany and my major is Actuary and Mathematical Science with an Economics minor. I am also the treasurer for Cornerstone Campus Ministry. This is my second mission trip. This year we went to Panama City, Florida to help those who were affected by Hurricane Michael.

Today is Friday and it is our last day volunteering for The Fuller Center for Housing Disaster Rebuilders. In the beginning of the week I was working with Brianna to take down the cabinets and drawers in the kitchen. We repainted and finished reinstalling them. 8 of us went to help repair a house for a family with 8 children. We were all taught different skills such as using a nail gun, how to grout and using different power tools.

Later on in the day we will go to eat at a restaurant called Sharky's and then go to the pier to look around and buy souvenirs. As I reflect on how this week went I am happy that I had an opportunity to help ot this family. I do wish we could've met the home owner to hear her story and meet her kids. Overall, this was such a humbling experience and I am thankful to have been able to go on this trip.

## Capital Area Council of Churches Presentation

**Sunday, February 2 after the 10 am Worship Service**

Bruce France, Interim Executive Director of the Capital Area Council of Churches will provide us with a presentation on the organization.



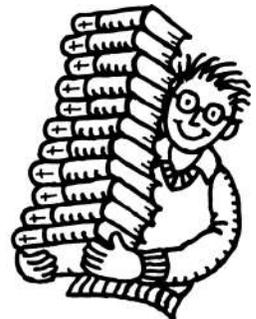
The Capital Area Council of Churches was founded in 1941 to foster ecumenism and faithful witness through service, advocacy and celebration. Over the years, membership has grown to about 90 faith communities in the Capital Region.

The program will be from about 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Lounge

## Eau de hymnal

Jonathan Acuff, author of *Stuff Christians Like*, reminisces about what church smells like to him: “that odd bouquet of faded red or blue hymnals, old yellowed paper and slight undertones of hand sweat.” He laments that worship music “splashed on video screens” lacks a scent.

Acuff dreams of creating a cologne and perfume that smell like old hymnals. “In the meantime,” he writes, “I think I’m going to find a small church and roll around in a bunch of hymnals when no one is looking, like Scrooge McDuck in his money vault.”



## Presbyterian Women News – All Women are Welcome

All women are invited to participate in any *Presbyterian Women's* activity at any time. There is no need to make a commitment to join the organization. For questions about *Presbyterian Women*, contact Katy Waggener at [katyatmags@aol.com](mailto:katyatmags@aol.com) or 518-456-6422.



- On Tues, Feb 25, our Circle will meet from with 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Lesson 5, *God With Us When We Are Powerless* & Lesson 6, *God With Through Our Trials* from the Bible Study *God's Promise, I am With You* will be discussed. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided. Extra study books are available.
- On Wed, Feb 26 from 6 -7 pm we will sponsor our Annual Soup and Sandwich Supper
- On Sun, Mar 1 we will begin our Easter Basket collection
- more information is elsewhere in this newsletter

## Mission and Social Witness Committee Needs your Ideas to Support Fair Trade

For many years Hamilton Union has supported *Mayan Hands* as our effort to be part of the Fair Trade movement.

Fair Trade means that the items sold are obtained by companies that meet rigorous social, environmental, and economic standards that insure that the people making the goods work in safe conditions, protect the environment, build sustainable livelihoods, and earn additional money to empower and uplift their communities.



While we may choose to continue to sell goods from *Mayan Hands*, we would like to consider other Fair Trade groups. If you have a suggestion, please contact Lindsay Hall at [lindsayphall@gmail.com](mailto:lindsayphall@gmail.com) or 518-250-4993.

By the time you are reading this, I will be at the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) Annual Event. This year we will be in Little Rock, Arkansas, and we will gather for worship, plenary, workshops, local tours (I am going to the Heifer International Ranch), and plenty of time to peruse the Marketplace, catch up with old friends and make some new ones. There is a Spirituality center created for the event, and the "stage decor" fits with the theme. The Folks from A Sanctified Art LLC offer this reflection for us all.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:1). Jesus commissions seventy followers with these words, inviting them to be peace-bearers in new lands. Perhaps we might utter a common refrain today: "God's grace is abundant, yet our churches are few." What does discipleship look like when we fear there aren't enough hands to carry out the work?

In Luke 10:1–11, our focal scripture for the 2020 APCE Annual Event, we see a stripped-down, bare bones approach to discipleship. Jesus sends his followers out in pairs to enter new towns and visit as humble guests, receiving the hospitality of those who will take them in, and staying long enough to foster deep relationships and rest in God's peace. The work is not easy—"See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves" (Luke 10:3). And yet, little infrastructure is required. No bags, purses, or sandals are needed. No capital campaigns, coffee house sanctuaries, or strategic visions exist in this approach. The mission is simple: be a gracious guest, foster relationship, heal the sick, proclaim the nearness of God.

In light of this passage, "Getting Outside the Box" appears less like a pursuit for novelty and more like a command to get back to the basics. Before trying to escape our boxes, we need to identify the boxes we have created and what keeps us trapped inside them. Is it our fear of failure? Our resistance to risk-taking? Our discomfort with uncertainty, chaos, or experimentation? Our drive to self-preserve instead of pursue the prospering of others? Is it our worry that too few laborers will cause the harvest to dry up and spoil?

In order to get outside the box in ministry, perhaps we need to dismantle the boxes that trap us and others, to strip away what is rotting or unnecessary, and to rebuild the box so it can truly be a home for all. Not all boxes should be left behind—many of them offer a foundation or structure to hold us safe. But stepping out of them helps us gain perspective so that we can return to them and reconfigure them faithfully.

With these themes in mind, we, A Sanctified Art, are thrilled to be shaping worship and art elements for the 2020 APCE Annual Event. We are a team of four creatives in ministry. Together, we collaborate to create art and multimedia resources for worshipping communities. We bring scripture and liturgical seasons to life through visuals, poetry, curriculum, meditation films, devotionals, sanctuary art, and more. We formed out of a shared calling to offer the church practical ways to integrate visual art and creative spiritual practices into their worship and community life.

For many, the ministry of A Sanctified Art might appear “outside the box.” We surely break beyond traditional definitions of ministry—and, with much gratitude, two of us are ordained as validated ministers to do this work. We invite congregations to try something new, or to see scripture rendered in different ways. We believe that beauty and creativity can become a balm to stifled imagination and weary hope. We need the prophetic, connective power of art in our churches.

However, for us, art is about getting back to the basics of faith. It’s about reconnecting to God through all of our senses—to see, feel, and breathe in God’s grace. Art helps us remember that before scripture was written as words on a page, it was spoken, dreamed, imagined, and visualized. It helps us engage God’s living word.

Art is not meant to be a gimmick or a trendy trick to increase your worship attendance. It’s a tool to awaken us to the sacred that surrounds us. Historically, visual art connects us to our past. Early Christians filled catacombs with images of faith, honoring those who had passed on by marking their graves with reminders of God’s greater story. Theologically, creativity returns us to our roots—as children created in the image of a divine artist who calls us to be co-creators of justice, beauty, and abundance. The *imago dei* is our first calling.

At the APCE 2020 Annual Event, we will explore our theme and focal scriptures through familiar worship rituals and also creative expressions that may be new to you, such as live painting, worship art installations, *visio divina*, and kinesthetic prayer. We hope you will come open to the ways the Spirit might be stirring through color, poetry, movement, and music.

As we prepare for our time together in Little Rock, may we live our lives believing that the plentiful harvest is truly enough. It’s not up to us to ensure that everything in the harvest grows—instead, we are called to tend, prune, and share the abundance that comes forth. The harvest is plentiful. May our lives and our labors reflect this endless promise.

A lot to think about, and a lot to consider. . .see you soon!

*Pastor Janice*

“Love is the strongest force the world possesses,  
and yet it is the humblest imaginable.”

—Mahatma Gandhi

## **Update on Interim Process**

As part of the Interim Process, the Session has been working on a Mission Study document, which is a description of our Church and our vision for the future, done in preparation for launching the Pastor Nominating Committee. We intend to share this document and have discussion at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020.

A summary of that Mission Study document is as follows:

### **Who are we?**

We are a Christian Church, NE member of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). We strive to be disciples of Jesus, following the Great Ends of the Church: Proclamation of the Gospel, Providing for the Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual Fellowship of God's people, Maintenance of Divine Worship, Preservation of the Truth, Promotion of Social Righteousness, and the Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World.

We are a caring and compassionate congregation, committed to Christian Fellowship, Worship, the Preaching and Studying of God's Word, and Mission.

### **What do we currently do?**

We have an active Deacon's Ministry, although we struggle to fully staff this important ministry as the congregation has aged and become smaller. We have a rich Music program led by a capable, professional musician. We provide two spiritually enriched Worship services each week. We have a very active Mission program, which we support with hands-on ministry and financial resources. We have an active Presbyterian Women group and we are active in the local Presbytery, Synod, and PCUSA. Our Congregational Life Committee provides many Christian Fellowship opportunities throughout the year. We have an Adult lay led Bible Study, which meets weekly to study the lectionary readings. And we have a Peer Support Group for single folks who have lost a spouse, significant other, or experienced some other significant loss in their life

### **What do we see as priorities in the future?**

We are seeking God's guidance in finding our way into the future given the changes that the Christian Church has experienced in modern time, particularly in the United States.

We continue to see local and world Mission as an important ministry for our Church. We hope in the future to focus on more direct Community involvement and outreach by the Church, having had recent discussions on "who is our neighbor?", and what is our responsibility as Church to our neighbor?. We need to address the issue of the aging of our congregation and the smaller number of congregants. In this regard, we need to evaluate and discern the work requirements of the Church. We want to recommit to

multi-generational Christian Education, and have recently surveyed the congregation. We are considering a number of initiatives in support of spiritual renewal in the Church. And finally, we need to evaluate the demographics we are reaching in our current ministry and evaluate where changes are needed, if any.

### **Specific areas of concern requiring our work and attention**

We need to evaluate the efficacy of continuing the two Worship services each week. We need to address Communication in the Church with work to do to establish an effective and reliable communication process. We have identified Community Outreach and focus on Neighbor as a priority for the Church. Our fund-raising program needs an evaluation and new life for the future. We need to re-set our Stewardship priorities, given the current demographics in the Church. And finally we need an ongoing emphasis and encouragement of Leadership in the Church.

### **What are we looking for in Pastor**

First and foremost, we want a caring, passionate, and energetic leader as Pastor. We also need someone with administrative, leadership, visionary, collaborative, and good communication skills to lead and inspire us. We want someone who can encourage shared ministry with the congregation and ordained leaders. Finally we want someone who sees the importance of worship, preaching and studying God's word, and pastoral care.

Prepared by Bill Hasselbarth with input Freon Session

Sources: Interim Mission Information Form, and Congregational Gatherings on Neighbor.

## **Ash Wednesday, Wed, Feb 26, Reminders**

Remember to come for delicious soups--bring your own sandwich if you'd like--on Wed, Feb 26 at 6 PM. Please sign up on the sheet in the multi-purpose room so we have a rough idea of how many to expect. There's still time to volunteer to make a soup!!

The soup/sandwich supper will be followed by the Ash Wednesday Service at 7 PM.

EVERYONE is welcome to either or both of the events!!!!



***Message from the Stewardship and Finance Committees:***

Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to the Session's year end appeal for additional donations to mitigate the Church's operating deficit. The Session received the year end 2019 financial report last night which showed a reduced deficit of (\$2,300), consistent with the approved budget for the year. This was only possible because of your generous response. Thank you!

The Stewardship & Finance Committees  
Bill Hasselbarth, Chair

**Awaiting the call**

The question we must ask our heart is, "Am I comfortable under the eye of God? Or is God getting too close?" We are strange and lovely creatures. We can ache for God tremendously yet find ourselves getting nervous if God gets too close. After all, the closer God gets, the more we hear the call to be divinized. It is both exciting and frightening to hear that call.

—MacRina Wiederkehr

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

Making Connections adult Bible study group meets Monday afternoons from 2-3:30. The scriptures for this month are as follows:

February 3 - Matthew 5:13-20,

February 10 - Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and

February 17 - Matthew 17:1-9.



Come join the group in a usually lively and informative discussion.

## Christian Education News

### The Pageant

The Christian Education Team was encouraged by the Christmas Pageant's turnout, including some welcome visitors and even masked marvels. Perhaps the Pageant's simplified format is something that may be played out in future years if time, energy, and helping hands are scarce resources. A permanent Pageant file has been created and will be in the Church Office for easy future reference.

A sincere "Thank You!" to Fred Sirois for his expert interpretation and reading of the Pageant's script. We appreciated being able to take a fresh journey through that long-ago special night, courtesy of Fred – and all the willing participants, both on stage and in the audience. Also, a special shout out to Maryanne Masley-Hannett and Karen Williamson for capturing the event on camera and to Andrea Gardam for supplying the beautiful necklaces for would-be Mary(s). Through this collaborative and instructive presentation, HUPC once again celebrated the important birth of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

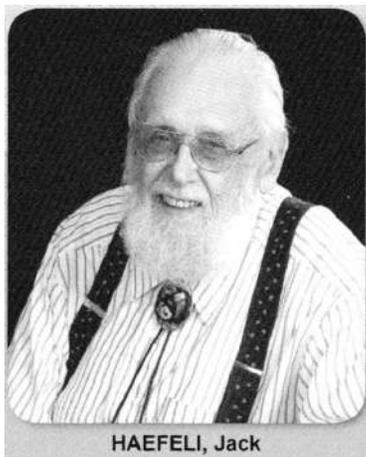
### Classroom Visits

Anyone wishing to acquaint themselves with the current Children's Sunday School program is encouraged to schedule a visit to the Children's Room in February by contacting Nelda Polansky (tel. 518-456-6833). Since we don't want to overwhelm the children, only one adult will be scheduled per Sunday as explained previously. Should the scheduling extend beyond February, new contact information will be provided.

### Adult Christian Ed.

Don't forget to check out the Adult Christian Education lectionary-based Bible Study now offered on Monday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:30 instead of in the evenings. If there are any questions, please contact Nancy Messersmith (tel. 518-356-2394).

Because it's the February issue of the *Good News*, the Deacons would like to give you a little background on some of the SWEETHEARTS we visit and continue to tell you, over the coming months, about all the wonderful folks we visit and/or take communion and/or flowers to or share laughs with. We love them, and you may already know and love them too.



HAEFELI, Jack

Many of you may remember **JACK HAEFELI** from his starring roles as lay leader or his work with the Mission and Social Witness committee, but there are some other aspects of Jack's life you may not be familiar with.

Jack was born June 7, 1928, in Richmond Hill, Queens; his family moved to Baldwin, Long Island, where he graduated from Baldwin HS before going on to RPI to study civil engineering. While there, he and a friend made pin money by being dart sharps! They practiced at a bar in Troy, where the bartender, Irene, got to know them well. One day, she asked Jack to take a woman who had no car to Vermont to see her brother. The woman, Ratie, got to know Jack and ended up inviting him to have dinners with her and her family. Eventually, Irene, trying her hand at matchmaking, told Jack, "Bev (one of the family's daughters) wants to go out with you"; Irene told Bev, "Jack wants to go out with you": *neither* of those things was true, and Jack says the first date was AWFUL!! Gradually, however, as Bev's family continued to feed the RPI student, Bev and Jack got to know each other better and better and figured "polar opposites attract!" They were married in 1952. They had three children, who have eight grandchildren, who have six—so far!—great grands!!

Jack graduated from RPI in 1950; fifteen days after his graduation, North Korea declared war on South Korea; he was drafted for two years and worked for the US Army in the office of the Chief of Engineers in DC. Because there was an assumption that Russia was behind the Korean conflict and might be moving into Europe, troops were sent to both Korea and Europe and there was a rush to build airfields (Jack did the designs for ones in Turkey and Greenland) and radar stations across Canada (he designed their foundations, etc). Jack was a Master Sergeant but was paid at a Corporal's rate. Along with his secretary in the DC office, who saw herself as his "mom away from home," Jack ran a home improvement business, doing home inspections and advising people about various home issues. He realized he could make money that way! On his 30-day leaves, he worked with an RPI buddy at the buddy's business in Glens Falls, designing and handling sales. After discharge, he and Bev moved to Albany, where he continued to work for himself in the home improvement field; he manufactured pre-fab buildings, such as garages and camps, and segued into retail sales for those. He often worked for attorneys as an "expert witness" concerning construction issues.

According to Jack, “Life really started for me when I was about 55: I had enough money to retire; Bev was working as a nurse at Albany Med; our kids were older . . . .” He had first read the Bible cover-to-cover during basic training and ended up running a Bible study at a Catholic church in DC. He’d been visiting vets for many years, and the chaplain at the VA convinced him to take courses and become a certified chaplain. With that, Jack worked with inmates at various area hospitals; worked with the Samaritans, answering phones on a suicide hotline; and for thirty years was a counselor at Cocksackie, “doing what I loved!” For about twenty years, Jack and Bev spent half the year in Canada where Jack counseled teenagers in dysfunctional families and led a large Bible study.

When Jack met Bev, she was a member of Fifth Ave Presbyterian Church in Troy. The elders of the church told Jack joining the church “would be a great business move” so he joined! After Bev and Jack moved to Albany, they joined Madison Ave Presbyterian Church. Jack was “ordained an elder in 1958 and served ever since.” When Madison Ave and United-Fourth Presbyterian merged into New Covenant Presbyterian, Bev was NOT happy with the way the merger had taken place and decided never to go to a Presbyterian church again. They joined Bethany Reformed in Delmar. At all the churches they were in, Jack served on Session and on many committees. Meanwhile, Jack and Bev had downsized from their house on South Manning to Serafini Apartments on Western Ave. Bev died in October of 2014 and Jack was left alone. Should he go to the Presbyterian church down the road? In a dream, Bev told him, “All right! You can go!” Jack joined Hamilton Union in 2016. He believes “everyone can be a member of the church—all of us are sinners, but Jesus includes us all.”

Driving at night and in the rain became problematic for him; because of those and a few other health issues, his kids convinced him to move into assisted living. He gave up his car and moved into Atria Crossgates in June of 2019 and has become “kind of a chaplain” there. He leads a discussion group about current issues and participates in a Bible study. He’s “as good as he can be” healthwise and loves to get cards and have visitors. Consider calling him (518.482.1594) to make a date for a visit!!!! He’s at 140 Washington Ave Ext, Apt B25, Albany, NY 12203-5380.

“A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside.”

—Denis Waitley

## DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE SIX YEARS OLD?



Merlin & Joanne Wagner

**JOANNE WAGNER DOES!** **80** years ago, when she was six years old, Joanne started attending Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, with her neighbors. She went with them to Sunday school and church! At age 14, she joined the church. The Reverend Edgar DeGraff was the pastor. There was a very active Youth Group and it included Joanne; Jack and Vera Ward; Randall Hallenbeck; Tom Constable; Joan, Maybelle and Bertha Beaton; Ed Vedder and others. It was a

fairly large group. Each Christmas Eve, they caroled “by foot” Their route included walking Willow and Hamilton Streets, Foundry Rd, and Rt. 20 to the area that is now 20 Mall. They returned to the church for snacks and hot chocolate and then on to the late service.

Joanne Mesick (Wagner) was born on Oct 15, 1933. On that day, her father drove her mother, who had lived in Fonda, from Guilderland to St. Mary’s Hospital in Amsterdam, where her doctor delivered Joanne. Her family lived at two separate locations on Willow Street. First they lived next door to the two-room school house (currently the New York State Police Headquarters). When Joanne was eight years old, her sister, Anna Lee, was born. Then they moved to 41 Willow. While there, she walked to school with the Beaton girls who lived a few doors down the street. In eighth grade they were bussed to Altamont High, where she graduated. During Joanne’s senior year, her folks built their Schoolcraft Street house where Joanne resided until she was married in 1956. Also, during her senior year, Joanne and Moe (Merlin) Wagner (better known as Moe) began dating and the rest is history.

Joanne says, “The Reverend Albert Docktor was the pastor who married us 63 years ago at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church. He said, “It was one of the most beautiful ceremonies he had ever performed.” When we were first married we lived in a small mobile home on the land where our house stands today (on Dunnsville Road). We started building in the summer of 1958 and moved in during January of 1959. At that time there was a Men’s Club and Women’s Circles (not Presbyterian Women) at the church.”

Merlin and Joanne's two precious children and their three precious grandchildren are their greatest joys! As the children grew more independent, Joanne became the Financial Secretary for HUPC. She followed Jeff Webb and held that position during the Reverend Thomas Duncan's pastorate. Joanne has been on the Outreach Committee for many years. She worked efficiently on that committee with Al Deitz, Joan Hoose Howe, Joy Harding, Ron Messersmith, Ruth Runyan and many others. She has also been a hardworking and faithful active Deacon. In addition, the Worship Committee has been blessed with having Joanne on its committee. For many years, Joanne has coordinated the "Flower Chart". She has kept a meticulous record of the dates when church families have donated flowers to be used in worship and, if desired, given to those with special Joys or Concerns, after the service. She also greets, ushers, and prepares and serves communion. In addition, she has been active in Presbyterian Women. She has served on the Coordinating Team and has done a fantastic job as Treasurer for many years. Furthermore, she has been actively involved in the Lord's Acre Auction, Grand Garage Sales and Brooks' BBQ fund raisers. Joanne is a practical person with sensible ideas and she is also a very willing worker as well as a fascinating and fun-loving person with a lot of faith.

When Joanne is not volunteering with the church, you can find her happily digging in the dirt, planting and transplanting. In the winter, she reads a lot in addition to cooking. I am now quoting Joanne, "I've always enjoyed cleaning my home and at 86 years I still scrub my floors on my hands and knees. Creating soups is the only thing I like about winter. Moe will eat anything I put on the table. He has never complained about a meal, (*Perhaps because Joanne is a marvelous cook*) but he especially enjoys anything Italian." This is only one of the many reasons why Joanne and Merlin have shared their lives together in a love-bound, meaningful, beautiful, and lasting relationship. They are both dearly loved by their family (including their church family) and friends. Joanne and Merlin will celebrate their **64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 26, 2020!**

*(Interviewed by Ann McKinney, January, 2020)*

P.S. If you don't know Joanne, please take time to meet her. You'll be glad you did! Just look in the back row, of the sanctuary, for a lovely and very modest lady!!



**FEBRUARY**  
Birthdays & Anniversaries

*Happy Birthday to...*

Fern Weber (February 1)  
Katy Waggener (February 23)  
Steve Smith (February 25)

*Happy Anniversary to...*

John & Fern Weber (February 1)

“There is only one happiness in this life:  
to love and be loved.”

—George Sand



Our annual 2020 Easter Basket Project will be underway in March. We will take all donations from March 1 through March 29. We assemble and donate Easter baskets to the New Faith Program for Women at the Capital Area Rescue Mission in Albany, The Family Life Center at Schenectady City Mission, and the Living Resources, Inc. Group Home where Brian Nitsky resides. We also make baskets for the Church Staff as a way of saying thank you!

There will be collection baskets in the back of the Sanctuary and in the Multi-Purpose Room. Donations of cash/checks, supplies, and basket items are welcome. Betty Deitz will collect cash/checks (made out to HUPC Presbyterian Women) Baskets will be assembled by volunteers sometime April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 3<sup>rd</sup> then delivered shortly thereafter.

THANK YOU for your continued support of our endeavor to spread Easter JOY!

Darlene Bauer  
Project coordinator  
(518) 456-6420  
deebauer@verizon.net

## December 3<sup>rd</sup> Session Meeting Summary

Bill Hasselbarth drafted a Mission Study for HUPC with the help of Nina Zanetti and Nelda Polansky. This was reviewed by all Session Members and with much discussion and input the draft will be rewritten for the next meeting. The Mission Study needs to be done and sent to COMAC before the PNC (Pastoral Nominating Committee) can start.

- Motion to approve the 2020 budget was passed.
- Motion to approve a 1 year contract extension for Rev. Janice C. West was passed.
- Motion to approve 2020 Communion dates was passed.
- Motion to approve \$300.00 from Mission and Social Witness Fund for Campus Ministry's 2020 Mission trip to Panama City, Florida was passed.

Respectfully submitted by  
James Gade  
Clerk of Session

### In other words

We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message* Bible reveal to you?



“Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

**Hamilton Union Supports Three Students  
on the Campus Ministry Mission Trip**



One of the important missions of Hamilton Union is our support of the Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry on the UAlbany campus. Its annual mission/service trip is a special part of the program. This year we were able to provide financial support for three students. Presbyterian Women sponsored one student. Though a line item in our budget and a \$300 grant from the Mission Trip Non-Operating Fund, we were able to sponsor two other students. We appreciate being able to offer so much financial support and become part of the Campus Ministry's mission/ service trip to Panama City, Florida

Thank you from the Mission and Social Witness Committee

**Bake Sale - Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry Sunday, March 1**

Students from the Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry at UAlbany will be hosting its semi-annual bake sale in the Multi-Purpose Room during Coffee Hour. The baked goods will be available for a donation. The money raised supports their work on campus including worship, dinner programs, Bible studies, service projects and social events.

Several students will participate in our 10 am Worship Service. They will provide the Liturgist role in the service and give a report on their service/ mission trip to Panama City, Florida.



**Save the Date**

**Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry - Food and Faith Program**

**Food & People Needed**

**Tuesday, March 10, 6 pm - 7:30 pm**

*Food and Faith* is a program of the Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry at the Interfaith Center on the UAlbany Campus. Hamilton Union will be providing a meal on Tues, Mar.10. Donations of main dish, side dish and dessert for twelve are needed, plus people to visit with the students. There will be sign up sheets in the back of the Sanctuary and in the Multi-Purpose Room. Food needs to be brought to the kitchenette in the Christian Education Building, in a disposable container, labeled "Campus Ministry", by 5 pm that night. If you would like to eat and visit with the students, a carpool will leave the church at 5:15 pm or come rights to the Interfaith Center at 6 pm.

After the dinner, Rev. Janice West will lead a casual, faith-oriented discussion.

For questions, contact Charlotte Hasselbarth at [chasselbarth@hotmail.com](mailto:chasselbarth@hotmail.com) or 518-356-0637.

**COMMUNION SERVERS 2020 - 2021**

Jan. 5	Margaret Gardam * Mickey Nieman Betty Deitz Joanne Wagner	Jul. 5	Melinda Rielly * Billy Hasselbarth Charlotte Hasselbarth George Hannett
Feb. 2	George Hannett * Wayne Gannett Fred Sirois Debbi Waggener	Aug. 2	Steve Smith * Betty Deitz Ron Messersmith Trudy Hutchinson
Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday	Sep. 13	Nelda Polansky * Nancy Snyder Fred Sirois Shirley Irwin
Mar. 1	Betty Deitz * Nelda Polansky Ron Messersmith Nancy Messersmith	Oct. 4	Hannah Hunter-Harris * Bettye Goodnow Wayne Goodnow Jim Gade
Apr. 5	Margaret Peck * Joe Peck Laurie Poelma Mike Poelma	Nov. 1	Bev Montgomery * Don Montgomery Margaret Peck Joe Peck
Apr. 9	Maundy Thursday		
May 3	Karen Williamson * Nina Zanetti Henry Montgomery Ron Messersmith	Dec. 6	Nancy Messersmith * Ron Messersmith Charlotte Hasselbarth Bill Hasselbarth
Jun. 7	Margaret Gardam * Ann McKinney Peter McKinney Trudy Hutchinson	Jan. 3	Margaret Gardam * Ann McKinney Peter McKinney Joanne Wagner

\* 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.

# Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



**What you need:**

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

**What you do:**

1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!

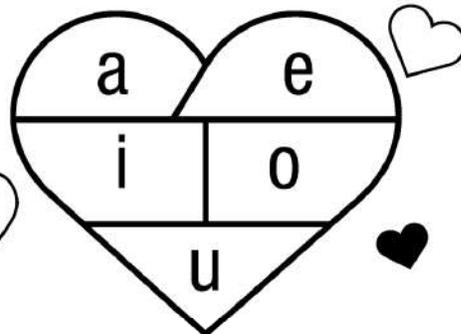


# A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



*Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.*



“Y \_ \_ r \_ my fr \_ \_ nds \_ f

y \_ \_ d \_ wh \_ t \_ c \_ mm \_ nd. ...

Th \_ s \_ s my c \_ mm \_ nd:

L \_ v \_ \_ ch \_ th \_ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV

# HAMILTON UNION HAPPENINGS



# FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Communion</b> 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S)	<b>3</b> 2pm Bible Study (L)	<b>4</b> 7pm Session Meeting (L) 7pm SCA Chorus (M)	<b>5</b> 7pm Boy Scout Troop (B) 7pm Webelos (B) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (M)	<b>6</b> 6pm Yoga Group (M) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (C)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S)	<b>10</b> 2pm Bible Study (L)	<b>11</b> 6pm Girl Scout Troop 1551 (M)	<b>12</b> 7pm Boy Scout Troop (B) 7pm Webelos (B) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (M)	<b>13 Newsletter Deadline</b> 6pm Yoga Group (M) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (C)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S)	<b>17</b> 2pm Bible Study (L)	<b>18</b> 7pm Soc. for Creative Anachronism (M)	<b>19</b> 3:30pm Girl Scout Troop 1246 (M) 7pm Boy Scout Troop (B) 7pm Webelos (B) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (M)	<b>20</b> 6pm Yoga Group (M) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (C)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30am Early Worship Service (S) 10am Worship Service (S)	<b>24</b> 2pm Bible Study (L)	<b>25</b> 10:30am PW Circle Meeting (L) 6pm Girl Scout Troop 1551 (M)	<b>26</b> 6pm Soup and Sandwich Supper (M) 7pm Ash Wednesday Service (S) 7pm Boy Scout Troop (B) 7pm Webelos (B) 7pm Poking Brook Dancers (M)	<b>27</b> 6pm Yoga Group (M) 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (C)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

D = Downstairs

L = Lounge

S = Sanctuary

M = Multipurpose Room

C = Choir Corner

Q = Quiet Room

# HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

## Our Staff:

Rev. Janice West, Interim Pastor

Ann Duncan, Administrative Assistant

Charlotte Palmeri, Director of Music

Rae Rau, Director of Handbell Choir

## GOOD NEWS



Published monthly by the Session, and is available electronically on our website. Copies are also mailed to select church family households, students away from home, and others.

Mark Hutchinson, Editor

Email Address: [goodnewshupc@gmail.com](mailto:goodnewshupc@gmail.com)

Newsletter deadline for the  
*March* issue is  
*Thursday, February 13*

