# Good News

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



# August 2020

Sunday Worship Services are currently held online at 10:00 a.m.



My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does, in fact, please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

—Thomas Merton

### **LAY READERS**

August 2 Debbi Waggener

August 9 Diane Irwin

August 16 Rae Rau

August 23 Darlene Bauer

August 30 Charlotte Hasselbarth



Have experience doing yard work, babysitting, dog walking.

Open to any tasks you may need help with. I have my own transportation.

Feel free to call 518-227-8379.

Thank you!

Camille Lajoie

Virtual "2-Cents" A Meal Sunday is August 30, 2020. While we cannot collect as we have prior to COVID-19, the need to help our neighbors who are food insecure locally and within the Presbyterian family nation- and worldwide continues. So please send your checks to the

Church with "2-Cents A Meal" in the memo line or complete your donation online. Thank you.



### A Message from the Session Regarding the Mission Study

The Session met on July 7 and prioritized the goals of the Church's Mission Study. As you recall the Mission Study was the topic of discussion at the annual meeting of the congregation in January. We will be scheduling follow up virtual (Zoom) meetings to continue the discussion begun at the annual meeting and seek the ideas and input of the congregation on the next steps regarding these goals. Keep posted for information on the timing and instructions for these Zoom meetings. We want to hear from you!

The priority goals from the Mission Study are as follows:

- Membership
- Mission and Community
- Leadership
- Stewardship
- Fundraisers



The goal of Communication was also identified, but a lot of work has already been accomplished and is ongoing regarding communication, including a new website and host, Facebook, e-mail, Zoom account, appointment of Session liaison for communication, etc.

Christian Education is also following up on the goals identified in the congregational survey on Christian Education that was done last year.

Any additional thoughts you have are welcome.

The Session of HUPC

"If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."

—Frank A. Clark

### Volunteer Work at the Regional Food Bank

Six volunteers from HUPC worked at the Regional Food Bank from 5 to 6:30 PM on June 18: Karen Unser, Betty Deitz, Charlotte Hasselbarth, Bill Hasselbarth, Pastor Janice West and Wayne Gannett. We sorted items donated from the refrigerator cases of local grocery stores - deli meals, beverages, diary products, breads, snacks, etc. We checked for expiration dates and sorted like items into boxes. All the sorted items (several pallets worth) were to be picked up by food pantries the very next day.

From the Food Bank's web site, some of what they have been doing since March 16, 2020:

- Shipped 2,654,913 pounds of food (2,212,400 meals) for special distributions in Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Essex, Fulton, Montgomery, Orange, Otsego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, and Washington Counties, and other hard hit communities to meet the needs of thousands of people, many of whom are quarantined or unemployed and in need of food assistance for the first time.
- Provided 17.84 million pounds of food (14.9 million meals) through daily distributions to partner agencies to help them serve the growing number of people seeking assistance, a 55% increase over the same time period last year
- Provided 41,123 pounds of food (34,300 meals) for restaurant/hospitality workers who have been especially hard hit by mandated business closings





### COVID-19 Taskforce is Meeting

On June 28, 2020, George Hannett, Maryann Masley-Hannett, Steve Smith, Sue Smith, Rev. Janice West, and Trudy Hutchinson held our 1<sup>st</sup> "virtual" meeting to discuss how to develop a plan for resuming face-to-face worship services in the fall. Each member of this task force brings unique knowledge and skill sets to the discussion table. Blessings abound.

We are all concerned for the health and well-being of our church family and know that being absent from the sanctuary has been stressful for many. As we have demonstrated, the church body that is Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church is still very alive and active and has adapted to meeting every Sunday on Zoom to worship as the work of the church still continues on. That said, we also know that many of you have expressed your heartfelt desire to be back in the sanctuary once again.

Being back in our sanctuary requires us to be diligent, intelligent, resourceful, and compassionate in our deliberations. We are formulating a plan that follows the guidelines put forth from the CDC, the NYS Department of Health, Gov. Cuomo, Albany Presbytery, and our national headquarters in Louisville. One meeting we held in the sanctuary (socially distanced) to look at it with different eyes. Questions such as: What does our space look like? How many people can we safely have attend "in-person" worship on Sunday morning? What sanitation precautions (beside what we are already encouraged to do as citizens) are we taking? How many of our members will want to come into the sanctuary at this "pre-vaccine" time? are some of what we are dealing with.

We continue to meet weekly in July & August and our plan is becoming clear. At the last Session meeting, a report of issues, concerns, progress, and plans was given. A meaningful discussion of their thoughts added to the depth of our plan. One thing is abundantly clear – the Zoom worship services will continue as they currently are with Pastor Janice in the sanctuary. The committee is asking our Elders to participate in a pilot study of face-to-face worship in the sanctuary on August 16 and 23, 2020 to evaluate our plan and all its component parts of arrival, mask usage, signage, sign-in, wellness check, social distancing, having the bulletin projected onto the wall of the chancel, how to exit the building, and cleaning after worship. After the conclusion of the pilot program, the committee will evaluate our findings and we will develop a teaching strategy to educate all of our members on what to expect. It is so important that we all learn how to navigate our so familiar space in this oh so "unfamiliar" time of cautiously opening back up.

As was shared with the session, at this point in time, our target goals include continuing Zoom meeting upon reopening, attendance would range from a maximum of 19 - 23, beginning the second weekend in September (one service).

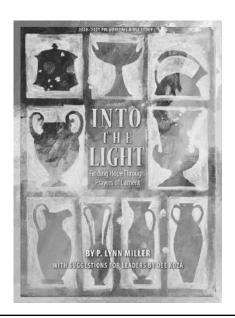
Thank you for those who have been praying for us as we meet. We are trying to discern God's guidance to show His love and compassion for all our HUPC family while being mindful of the secular guidelines we need to follow. Please continue to hold us in your thoughts and prayers and we navigate this challenging path for you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the members of the taskforce.

### Horizons Bible Study webinars, Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament

Wed., June 24, 10 am - noon Tues., June 30, 6 - 8 pm

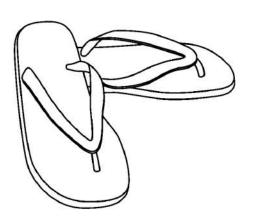
A webinar on a Bible Study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* published by Churchwide Presbyterian Women, will be held on Wed., June 24 and Tues., June 30. Author Lynn Miller will host these 2 hours long webinars.

Registration is needed. Register on-line at <a href="http://www.presbyterianwomen.org">http://www.presbyterianwomen.org</a>. There is no cost.



### **Men's Flip-Flop Collection**

Men's flip-flops are needed for the *Capital Area Council of Churches Emergency Overflow Shelter*. They can generally only be purchased in the summer. Although, our church building isn't open, yet, now is the time to buy them. There is collection box is in the Multi-Purpose Room at the church. If you do come into the church building, there is a box of gloves on the stairs. This is one of our continuous collec-



tions. The flip-flops will be delivered to the shelter in late October

Thank You in Advance - Presbyterian Women

### Presbyterian Women News - All Women are Welcome

### 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 Charlotte Hasselbarth at chasselbarth@hotmail.com or 518-356-0637.

Despite our inability to meet in person, we have several ongoing projects and will begin a new Bible study.



- Tea for the Soul to Go Project
- Church World Service Blanket Project
- Men's flip flop Collection
- A new Bible study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* will begin in the evening of Tues. Sept 22.
- More information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Volunteer Opportunity at the Regional Food Bank

The Mission Team announces the next volunteer opportunity at the Regional Food Bank. Currently the Food Bank offers the volunteer opportunities at the Latham warehouse, all of which involve sorting and packing food and other donated items for distribution in the community:

The next scheduled volunteer opportunity is Thursday, July 23 from 5 to 6:30 PM. Volunteers can be age 6-69. We will have up to 10 slots available, first come, first served.

This is a good opportunity to do something worthwhile with family involvement. If you are interested, please contact Wayne Gannett to sign up at jgannett@nycap.rr.com or call 518-878-5536 cell.

## With Help From Our Church Family, Gade Farm Donated \$1,639.87 to Presbyterian Women.

On two weekends in May, Presbyterian Women (PW) sponsored a fundraising event with the help of Gade Farm. The Gades gave PW \$1,639.87, which was 50% of the amount of purchases made by our church family on those weekends. We wish to thank the congregation and Gade Farm for is such extreme generosity. Most of Presbyterian Women's entire budget goes to support mission projects.

In deep appreciation, Presbyterian Women

### **♥♥BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE ♥♥**

Help mend some broken lives and hearts through Church World Service's Blanket Program!

Presbyterian Women at HUPC has taken on the CWS Blanket Project again this year and will **continue to collect monies through August 30**. Last year we "purchased" 65 blankets; this year so far we have "purchased" 94, 30 of those in memory of Mickey Nieman's brother Christopher Noble. You ladies and gents are the BEST!!!!

You may "purchase" lightweight blankets for \$10 apiece and heavyweight blankets for \$15 apiece. **Checks should be made out to PW at HUPC** with *CWS lgtwt (number); hvywt (number)* in the memo line. If you want to contribute in Christopher's memory, squeeze in *Christopher Noble* above or below the CWS notation. Please mail these to Mickey Nieman (896 Pine Hill Dr, Schenectady, NY 12303), who keeps track of the number and kind.

These blankets go to "[f]amilies who have lost their homes to tornadoes, floods, earthquakes and other disasters." They go to those "struggling against crushing poverty" and to "vulnerable children." Let us help where we can to lighten the load for others.

## YOUTH AND ADULTS FOR THIS SUMMER? ♥iiii >>

Presbyterian Women at HUPC will continue through the summer to support the Pastoral Care Department at Albany Medical Center with their program *Tea for the Soul to Go*: healthcare professionals receive decorated lunchbags with snacks and notes of encouragement inside. Use stickers, crayons, markers, etc! Use formal thank you notes or make up your own! Imagine the smiles of the recipients!!!

So far, we have sent 13 bags and notes and \$275 in cash and checks. A second box is being readied and will be mailed by July 22. Our congregation at HUPC is always so creative and generous, and we thank you in advance.

\* If you want to decorate bags and include notes and/or send a financial contribution to help defray the cost of the snacks directly to the hospital, make the checks payable to AMC Pastoral Care Dept, put *Tea for the Soul to Go* in the memo line and mail them to

AMC, Pastoral Care Dept Mail Code 19 43 New Scotland Ave Albany, NY 12208

- \* If you'd like to have someone else mail your decorated bags with your encouraging notes inside and/or your financial contributions, drop them off at Mickey Nieman's porch (896 Pine Hill Dr, Schenectady 12303 [really Guilderland]) and she will mail them. She will also convert cash donations into a check. Questions: 518-356-1691
- \* Please do not take them to the hospital yourself. The Pastoral Care Department is anticipating using these well into the future so you may want to make this an ongoing project for you and/or your family and friends.



**Birthdays** 

Ruth Ryf (August 9)
Hannah Hunter-Harris (August 10)
Matt Williamson (August 29)
Ron Messersmith (August 30)
Carl Hasselbarth (August 31)
Charlotte Palmeri (August 31)

Anniversaries

George Hannett & Maryanne Masley-Hannett (August 7)

### **Connecting With Our Young Adults Away From Home**

College - Military - Career

We want to maintain a connection between our Hamilton Union faith community and our young people who are in college (locally or away), in the military or away from home for a job. We want to remembered them with cards and notes, plus send them our newsletter, the *Good News*. Please give your son or daughter's postal and email addresses to Charlotte Hasselbarth at chasselbarth@hotmail.com or 518-356-0637.

Thank you.

Presbyterian Women, the Deacons and the Communications Team

#### Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments,

### **Bible Study Books to be Ordered**

### Appropriate for Both Men and Women Plus Good for Personal or Group Study

Presbyterian Women will be starting a new Bible study, this September, Love *Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*. The author is Rev. Eugenia Gamble. This study helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world. It asks us to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a "love letter" from a loving God. The author shows that the Ten Commandments contribute to the restoration of our communities and how we can personally live out the gospel in the world. Rev. Gamble states "Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community. She wants us to see the commandments in fresh ways. Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the Ten Commandments in its Biblical context. We're asked to consider a moment from Jesus' life that shows us how he lived out a specific commandment and then to consider how that commandment can be lived for our own lives.

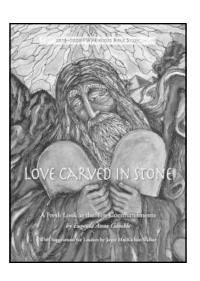
If you would like to purchase this study for you own private use or use in another group, contact Joanne Wagner at 355-1408 or <a href="mailto:jnnwgnr@yahoo.com">jnnwgnr@yahoo.com</a>. The study books are \$10 and \$15 for large print. Payment is due when they arrive, which will be in mid Sept.

### Presbyterian Women Begin a New Bible Study

All Women are Invited

Special Evening Meeting – Tues., Sept. 22

Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments



Presbyterian Women will meet to begin this Bible study on Tues. Sept 22 from 7 pm - 8:30 pm. Rev. Janice West will provide an introduction to *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* & lead a discussion on Lesson 1, *Words of Love: I Am Your God: You Shall Have No Others.* Future lessons will be covered at our usual time of 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, generally on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.



Capital Area Council of Churches 646 State St. Albany, NY 12203 (518) 462-5450 capareacc@gmail.com www.capareacc.org

Last week, you received a statement from the Capital Area Council of Churches about the death of George Floyd. Hopefully, many of you read the statement and asked what's next?

For seventy-nine years, CACC has helped churches "do together what we cannot do alone". That vision gave rise to the Crop Walk, Interfaith Shelter for the Homeless, area food pantries and more. Ending systemic racism is an issue begging churches to pool their collective knowledge, skills, congregations and other resources to confront this problem.

CACC is looking for clergy and laity interested in addressing racism. We would like to convene a discussion group to explore the possibilities for partnering and action. Contact me know at edcapareacc@gmail.com if you are interested in participating or if there is someone from your church who may be interested in participating.

Thank you for your service and witness to Christ and your commitment to "doing together what we cannot do alone" and loving your neighbor as commanded by the Gospel.

Bruce France Executive Director

Capital Area Council of Churches edcapareacc@gmail.com 646 State Street
Albany NY 12203
518-462-5450 – office
518-441-9584 - cell

"A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be."

-Douglas Pagels



### You are cordially invited to our 9th Annual

## Online Fall Fundraiser "Be The Change"

Featuring Kareema Pinckney Partin Cornerstone Alumna Class of 2009

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom and Facebook Live Stream

...celebrating our history and building support for the future...

### About Our Special Guest...

Kareema Pinckney Partin is a Cornerstone Alumna (Class of 2009). She and her husband, Dom, live in New York City along with their newborn daughter. After graduating from the University at Albany, Kareema went on to study Television, Radio and Film at Syracuse University. She has been engaged in film and media projects in New York and California. Her most recent project including serving as the Associate Director of the inaugural Cinematters: NY Social Justice Film Festival – a weekend dedicated to films and programs in the spirit of Dr. King's legacy to inspire action and activate social change.

Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry seeks to bring Christians together at the University at Albany so they can make a difference in the world.



## Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church

# BROOKS CHICKEN and RIB BARBECUE



WEDNESDAY, September 30, 2020

3:30 PM thru 6:30 PM (or when sold out)

### TAKE OUT ONLY

Chicken Dinner: \$12.00

(Dinner includes half chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll, dessert.)

**Rib Dinner: \$14.00** 

Please put the date on your calendar!

### FORBEARANCE ~ a Theological Ethic for a Disagreeable Church

James Calvin Davis, author

### A BOOK and a KOINONIA TEAM workshop!

\*\*\*Saturday, October 3, 2020 10:00 am to 2:30 pm\*\*\*
First Presbyterian Church, 22 West High Street, Ballston Spa, New York
Or by Zoom

In this book **James Calvin Davis** reclaims the biblical concept of forbearance to develop a theological ethic for faithful disagreement. Pointing to Ephesians and Colossians, in which Paul challenged his readers to "bear with each other" in spite of differences, Davis draws out a theologically grounded practice in which Christians work hard to maintain unity while still taking seriously matters on which they disagree.

The practice of forbearance, Davis argues, offers Christians a dignified, graceful, and constructive way to deal with conflict. Forbearance can also strengthen the church's public witness, offering an antidote to the pervasive divisiveness present in contemporary culture.

**James Calvin Davis** is professor of religion at Middlebury College and ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He is a member of Albany Presbytery and familiar to many Presbytery members.

### JOIN US! LEARN FROM Rev. Dr. James Calvin Davis!

Why be patient? How to listen. Value of humility. Trust = Faith. What is wisdom?

GROW. EXPLORE. SHARE. PROCESS. THINK. ASK.

### Now your part. Please READ the fine print!

Each church in Presbytery will receive one copy of <u>FORBEARANCE</u> as a gift from the Koinonia Team with the expectation that most churches will be moved to form a book study group. We anticipate you will want to purchase additional copies available at **half price** \$12.50. Individual church members may wish to purchase their own copyagain at **half price** \$12.50. That is all possible - while supplies last!

Books will be delivered to your church. Order today. Don't hesitate. Do it now!

ORDER BOOKS: CALL, EMAIL OR TEXT JUDY HARTLEY
6 Winners Circle #211, Albany, NY 12205
217-840-3316 ~ <u>BREENDRIVE@YAHOO.COM</u>
Please make payment by check to Albany Presbytery.

\*\*\*None of us have a crystal ball. We are not able to confirm the type of presentation - in person or virtual. We can promise **you and your church will** benefit from Rev. Dr. Davis's workshop and that **we WILL** keep you informed as plans unfold.\*\*\*

## Save the Date An alternate date and/or format may be scheduled.



### Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany Fall Gathering

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 – 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

### Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church Guilderland, NY

### Standing on the Gifts of Empowered Historic Women

Lisa Gray, current Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast and participant in the 2019 USA Mission Experience trip to the Finger Lakes Region will share her experiences and what she learned about the origins of women's empowerment in that region of New York.

### General Information:

- Bring a bag lunch. Beverage and dessert provided.
- Registration fee of \$10.00 will be collected at the door.
- A freewill offering will be received.

For further information contact:

Rosalie Hemingway at 518-758-7886 or silver3213@gmail.com Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com

### THIS IS FOR YOU.

First of all, I wear a mask in public, NOT
 FOR ME, but for YOU.

I want you to know that I am

- educated enough to know I could be asymptomatic and still give you the virus.
- NO, I don't "live in fear of the virus": I just want to be part of the solution, NOT THE PROBLEM.
- I don't feel like the "government is controlling me"; I feel like I am being a contributing adult to society.
- The world doesn't revolve around me. It's not all about me and my comfort.
- If we all could live with other people's consideration in mind, this whole world would be a much better place.
- Wearing a mask doesn't make me weak,
   scared, stupid, or even "controlled." It makes me CONSIDERATE.

## GREAT SUMMER GAMES

Though this year's Summer Olympics were postponed, you can host friendly neighborhood competitions.

### What you need:

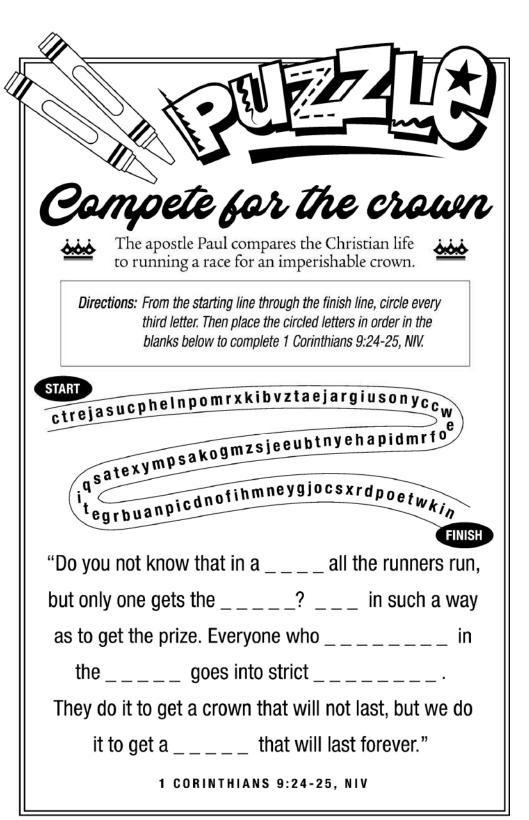
- Masking tape
- Large craft sticks
- Paper plates
- Balloons
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Craft glue

### What you do:

Balloon Badminton: Make rackets by taping a stick "handle" to each plate. Blow up and tie a balloon. Use the rackets to pass the balloon back and forth, without letting it touch the floor.

Rhythmic Routines: Using tape, firmly attach one end of a 4-foot ribbon to a craft stick. Display style and skill by waving it around. Try choreographing a routine to a praise song.

Champion Crown: Cut a large hole out of the center of a paper plate. Cut 2-inch ovals from green paper. Glue those "leaves" to the ring as garland. Crown a winner of each game!



Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown

# Hamilton Union Happenings



## AUGUST 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion 10am Worship Service (Z)	3	4 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	5 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	6 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7:30pn In His Presence (Z)	7	8
9 10am Worship Service (Z)	10	11 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	12 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	13 Newsletter Deadline 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7:30pn In His Presence (Z)	14	15
16 10am Worship Service (Z)	17	18 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	19 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	20 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7:30pn In His Presence (Z)	21	22
23 10am Worship Service (Z)	24	25 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	26 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	27 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7:30pn In His Presence (Z)	28	29
30 10am Worship Service (Z)	31					

### **HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2291 Western Avenue Guilderland, New York 12084-9747

Change Service Requested

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly.

Church: **518-456-5410** Fax: **518-456-0002** 

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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

Newsletter deadline for the **September** issue is **Thursday, August 13** 

