

Good News

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



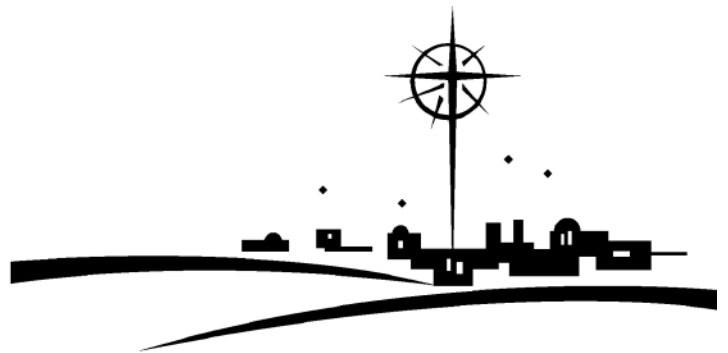
Volume 30 No. 12

December 2020

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

Christmas to-do list

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 to find the lost,
 to heal the broken,
 to feed the hungry,
 to release the prisoner,
 to rebuild the nations,
 to bring peace among brothers,
 to make music in the heart.



—Howard Thurman

LAY READERS

Dec. 6	Debbi Waggener
Dec. 13	Charlotte Hasselbarth
Dec. 20	Karen Unser
Dec. 27	George Hannett



DECEMBER Birthdays

Happy Birthday to ...

Melinda Rielly (Dec. 8)
 Margaret Anatriello (Dec. 11)
 Debbi Waggener (Dec. 22)
 Louise Gade (Dec. 28)
 Joan Ruf (Dec. 28)

DECEMBER Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to ...

Marlene and Hiram Eberlein
 (Dec. 11)
 Trudy and Mark Hutchinson
 (Dec. 19)
 Linda and Michael Hall
 (Dec. 29)



Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Worship Opportunities

The Holy Church Season of Advent begins this year on November 29. For four Sundays we will explore the General Theme of **THOSE WHO DREAM . . .** then focusing on *keeping awake, preparing the way, sowing joy and not being alone.*

Each Sunday morning we will worship at 10:00 am on Zoom . . . but we encourage you to arrive early . . . by at least ten to the hour, to enjoy some carol singing each week. Aptly led by Elizabeth O'Neill and Charlotte Palmeri, each week we will sing some beloved Christmas Carols as worship begins.

The Advent Wreath in the Sanctuary will be lit each week, and you are encouraged to light your own wreath in your home worship space as we gather together.

Each Sunday evening we will gather at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary for **Advent Vespers**. There will be special instrumental music each evening, and we will engage in a spiritual practice called *Lectio Divina* (Divine Reading). This simple, quiet service will be open to all, but we can only seat 25. All Covid-19 Safety protections, including personal distancing, masks and will be met by all present.

This Advent Season is different from all the rest. . .and because of that we will be holding a **Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service** on Monday, December 21 at 7:00 pm. *"There's an Advent tradition within Western Christianity of inviting people to come together for the Longest Night, a night around the time of the winter solstice, when there are more hours of darkness than light. It's a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our own lives, as well as for our country and our world. Known also as "Blue Christmas," a Longest Night Gathering is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth."* This will be a Zoom service.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87433282051?pwd=V1luWEoxSUVieGVmUk9jZkIPZ1Z2QT09>

Meeting ID: 874 3328 2051
Passcode: 262553

Our **Christmas Eve** plans are still evolving. . .we will let you know the details as we get closer. There will be a Zoom Worship service. There may be other worship gatherings, as well. . .stay tuned.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER 10

- Motion was approved for the Session send \$25 toward the gift for Jennifer Schoenfisch, outgoing Office Administrator at Presbytery.
- Motion was approved for the Session to approve \$136 for the Mission and Social Witness team to purchase a deck box for Food Pantry donations outside of church.
- Christian Education team is planning to distribute “Advent in a Box”, including a variety of Advent activities, to church children to be delivered after Thanksgiving.
- Session determined that requests from outside groups to use our building for meetings would be deferred until the COVIOD situation improves.
- The Stewardship campaign, with pledge dedication on November 22, has to date resulted in the return of 33 of 49 pledges usually received, contributing to the current budget deficit of \$25000. This gap can be closed if pledges are received from members who pledged last year. The application for forgiveness of the PPP loan, obtained earlier this year, is pending.
- Survey results regarding in-person worship indicated that a large majority were not comfortable with it in its present format. Presbytery is scheduled to review our Technology grant application later this month.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee has continued its work with vigor.

How a Soccer Coach Transformed a Village

Martha Elliott talks with Coach Kalekeni Banda, a native of Malawi, Africa and a nationally recognized women’s and men’s soccer coach. He shares with us how a desire to bring sports equipment to his native village in Malawi, Africa developed into a non-profit organization that continues to transform the lives of children.

<http://boomersthenextchapter.com/2020/10/ep2-how-a-soccer-coach-transformed-a-village/>

Boomers the next chapter



www.bandabolasportsfoundation.org

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 activities. We will begin meeting in person as soon as it is safe.

- * Sat, Nov 21 - Sun, Dec 13 is our Mitten Tree Collection
- Tues, Dec 15 from 10:30 am -12:30 pm is our Presbyterian Women's Circle Meeting. Rev. Janice West will lead a discussion on Lesson 3, *Words of Love: Remember the Sabbath* from the Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandment*. Extra Bible Study books are available. We will meet on Zoom.
- * We have a continuous collection for laundry detergent and men's white athletic socks
- * More information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



The **Guilderland Food Pantry** is in need of canned fruit, personal care products, cleaning supplies, and paper products. Examples are shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, paper towels, bath tissue, and laundry and dish detergent.

Cash donations can be sent to the Guilderland Food Pantry, 4 Charles Park, Guilderland, NY 12084. Donations of goods can be brought to the Pantry at the Charles Park location Monday through Saturday, 9:30 to 11:00 AM. Non-



perishable items can be placed in the bin next to the entrance when the Pantry is closed. For more information, contact Cindy Schultz, HUPC liaison to the Guilderland Food Pantry, at cschult3@nycap.rr.com, cell 518-253-1062.

Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

PNC Update:

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been quite busy over the past month. We have continued to read and discuss Pastor Information Forms forwarded to us and have held several initial Zoom interviews with potential candidates. We are planning follow-up interviews shortly and are encouraged by the candidates we are interviewing and their interest in meeting and potentially serving with us.

While we do not yet have a timetable for completing our work, and having a candidate to present to the congregation, we are prayerfully hopeful that God will lead us to the person He has chosen for us.

The COVID situation we are all facing is creating some new challenges to the process of presenting a pastor candidate to the congregation and managing a congregational vote on that candidate. We are working closely with the Presbytery's Committee on Missions and Congregations to determine how we can safely, responsibly, effectively and "legally" manage those important and necessary requirements.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee:

Nancy Messersmith, Chair
Charlotte Hasselbarth
Mickey Nieman
Lindsay Hall
Mark Hutchinson
Bruce Williamson



Making Connections Bible Study

Mondays at 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Advent Year B	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126 or <i>Luke 1:46b-55</i>	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:46b-55 or <i>Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26</i>	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38

Continuous Collection Men's White Athletic Socks and Laundry Detergent

Laundry detergent and men's white athletic socks are needed for the *Capital Area Council of Churches Emergency Overflow Shelter*. There is collection box in the Multi-Purpose Room at the church and donations can also be left in the Food Pantry Box outside the church. If you are donating laundry detergent, please attach a label saying it is for the shelter.

Thank You in Advance - Presbyterian Women



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.



WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate

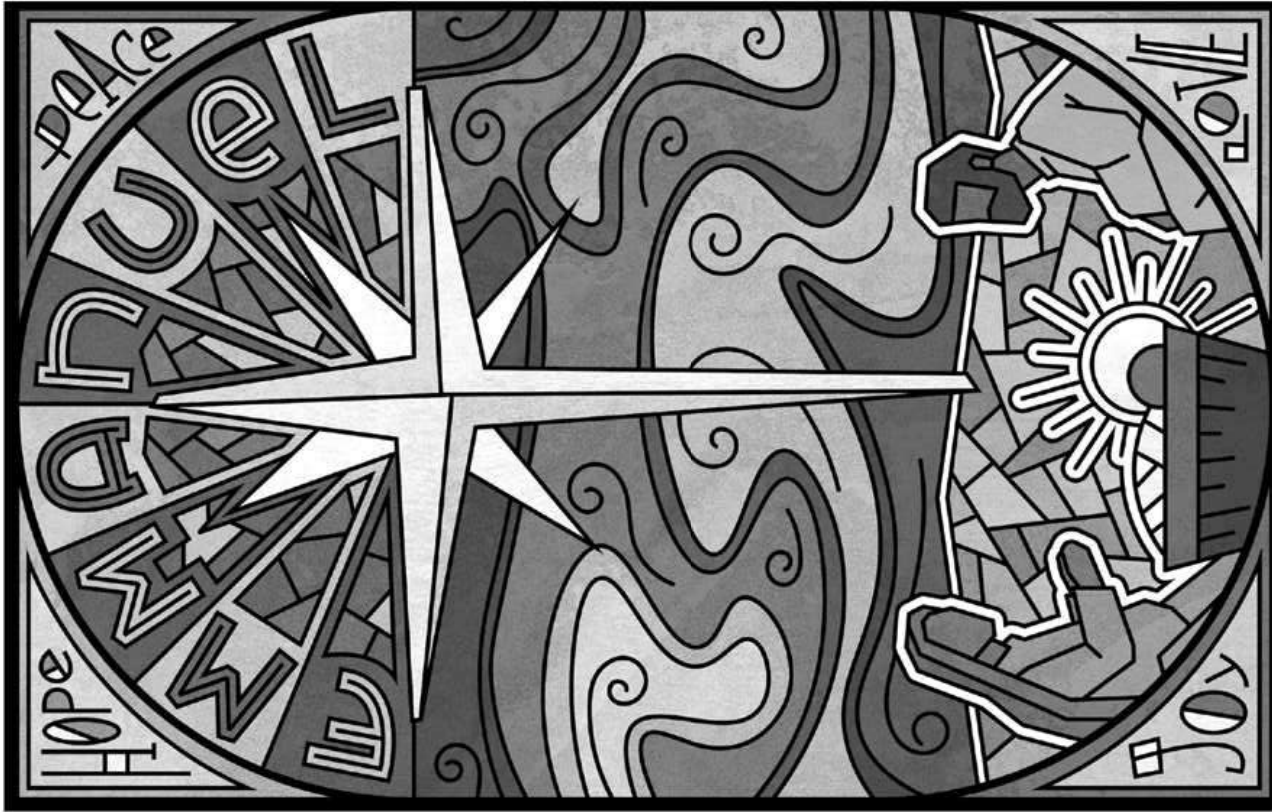


Online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

THE PERFECT GIFT

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need—the gift of being together when we are near, and being together when we are apart.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

50%

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50%

50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Please give generously.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.



“What the Board of Pensions does is really important to me and others like me, so that we can carry on with life even with our disabilities.”



Rev. Dr. Stewart M. Pattison is living with multiple sclerosis—as he has for years. Support from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions made it possible for him to purchase a motorized scooter so he can have better mobility, a better quality of life — and enables him to continue to serve the church he loves. He is grateful for the help he has received thanks to gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, and wants people to know that these gifts have “helped in ways that have opened up my life.”



Mission and Social Witness Committee Budget Requests for '21

It may seem a little odd in a year when church finances are tight that the Mission and Social Witness Committee has requested an increase in our funding beyond that budgeted for '20. Our proposed '21 budget an increase over last years. The '20 budget was \$1925 and we have requested \$ 2,500 for '21. This is an increase of \$ 575 or 30 %.

The mission study that had been done earlier this year showed that our congregation wanted to engage more in mission work and support. The Mission Study that the Session conducted drove much of what the Pastor Nominating Committee included in the *Ministry Information Form*, which is in part a description of Hamilton Union's aspirations for our future. This form goes out to pastors looking for positions. It's also on our web site.

We want to sustain all the mission expenditures from last year and make some increases:

- we want to increase our undesignated Mission line item, which allows us to respond do an immediate need without going to Session to request funds from the Social Witness Non Operating Fund
- we want to increase our donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Agency



We have added 2 line items

- funds for materials for our '21 theme of hunger
- money to enhance our congregation's individual contributions to the Denominational Offerings

We appreciate your prayerful consideration when you make our your pledge cards.

Albany Presbytery Establishes an Anti-Racism Task Force

The Albany Presbytery's Coordination Committee invites members of our Presbytery and its congregations to volunteer for service on an Anti-Racism Task Force. The charge to that Task Force is to lead Albany Presbytery in the work of dismantling structural racism.

The Task Force itself may determine methods and priorities, but its objectives shall include:

- reaching out to congregations, fellowships and new worshipping communities so as to ensure full participation by racial/ethnic minorities in guiding the Presbytery's anti-racist work
- raising awareness in congregations about structural racism, and sharing best practices for addressing racist injustice in church and community
- promoting leadership among clergy and ruling elders in the work of opposing racism
- encouraging public statements, whether through word or deed, to address racist issues
- cultivating partnerships with organizations engaged in anti-racist work in our communities and on local college campuses
- examining the language, policies and practices of the Albany Presbytery to identify and correct instances of racial bias, whether explicit or implicit

The Task Force shall report on its work to Presbytery at least once a year. The Task Force may submit requests for funding through the Mission Committee.

If you have any questions about the Anti-Racism Task Force itself, contact Rev. Ted Wright, Chair of the Albany Presbytery Mission Committee at wrightsafrica@gmail.com. If you are interested in working on the Anti-Racism Task Force, contact Judy Hartley, Moderator of the Albany Presbytery at breendrive@yahoo.com.



Presbyterian Women Food Drive

You may have already read this news on one of our other fabulous information sites, but that just means we're very excited about our recent food drive and what that means for the Guilderland Food Pantry. ♥

The totals of our PW-sponsored food drives in September and October are outstanding, and we can't thank you enough for your generosity!!! We collected 346 lbs of food and \$1991 for Guilderland Food Pantry on our two drive dates: Sept 24 and Oct 24.

Thank you! ☺ Thank you! ☺ Thank you! ☺

Remember there are people in our community who are food-insecure due to many reasons, especially this pandemic ☹. Please let them know they can contact the pantry or our liaison, Cindy Schultz (518-356-5390), for information and assistance. And continue to keep the pantry in mind (canned fruit! toiletries! paper goods!) through this holiday season and beyond: Matthew 25:35-40.



A time to give

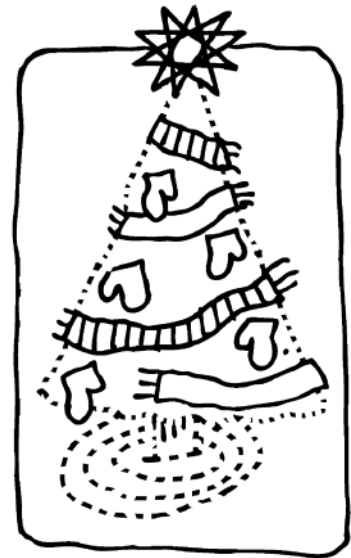
A miser must have a wretched time at Christmas, for Christmas is preeminently a time of generosity. God set the example when he gave his own Son; the wise men followed it when they gave their gold to the Christ child; and in proportion to our share of the Christmas spirit, we are walking in their footsteps.

—John T. Faris

TREELESS “MITTEN TREE” COLLECTION

Sat., Nov. 21 to Sun., Dec. 13.

Presbyterian Women will be collecting new (handmade or purchased) gloves, mittens, scarves and hats for the New Faith Program for Women at the Capital City Rescue Mission, The Family Life Center at the Schenectady City Mission and Brian Nitsky's Living Resources Group Home, where there are 5 adult men. Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry Collection box that will be outside of the church or brought to the Mission and Social Witness Coat Drive on Sat. Nov. 21 between 1:30 and 3 pm.



Guilderland Farmers Market

Winter Market

New hours for the winter market at Western Turnpike Golf Course is 11am until 3pm.



Located in the brown 3-sided barn/pavilion with fireplace and heaters.

30-plus rotating vendors spaced out and guidelines are strictly followed which are set by the Health Department, MASKS ARE REQUIRED

Saturdays 11am to 3pm



WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace



"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
 _____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter



What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

HAMILTON UNION HAPPENINGS



DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 3pm Making Connections (Z)	<i>2</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	<i>3</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6 Communion</i> 10am Worship Service (Z) 7pm Advent Vespers (S)	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 3pm Making Connections (Z)	<i>9</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	<i>10</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 10am Worship Service (Z) 7pm Advent Vespers (S)	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 10:30am PW Circle (Z) 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 3pm Making Connections (Z)	<i>16</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	<i>17</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> 10am Worship Service (Z) 7pm Advent Vespers (S)	<i>21</i> 7pm Longest Night (Z)	<i>22</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 3pm Making Connections (Z)	<i>23</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	<i>24</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 10am Worship Service (Z)	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 3pm Making Connections (Z)	<i>30</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	<i>31</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)		

Z = Zoom F=Facebook

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**

E-mail:

Office:

hupc@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org

Pastor:

pastorhu@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org

revjcw@gmail.com

Website: **HamiltonUnionPresbyterianChurch.org**
hu-pc.org

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
January 2021 issue is
Thursday, December 10

