

# Good News

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



Volume 31 No 1

## January 2021

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

### A New Year's Blessing

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.



—Author unknown



*Happy Birthday to ...*

Michael Masley-Hannett (Jan. 1)

Doris Donley (Jan. 2)

Chris Hannett (Jan. 23)

Joy Harding (Jan. 24)

*Happy Anniversary to ...*

Gwyn and Bill Ramage (Jan. 13)

Laura and Steve Smith (Jan. 30)

Dear Church Family –

Our Session wanted you to know that this week Personnel received a letter of resignation from Charlotte Palmeri, effective December 31, 2020. We received her resignation with great thanks for her ministry among us these many years, and prayers for God's blessings on her as she departs. We are indeed grateful for the work Charlotte has done in the church over the years.

We are putting together both a short-term, and longer-term plan for Sunday mornings . . . and we would appreciate any questions you might have, or ideas about the future, to be brought to us. Steve Smith, Bill Hasselbarth and Henry Montgomery are a part of these discussions (as Elders on Personnel and Worship) as is Pastor Janice.

Sharing the Peace of Christ with you –

Pastor Janice  
Session of HUPC

To our HUPC Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful Advent kit! Margot and Chantal love it and it has really made the Advent season special! Thank you to the Christian Ed Committee who took the time and care to put all the amazing crafts together! It means so much to us to stay connected to our HUPC family!

Love,  
Lynn, Vince, Margot and Chantal

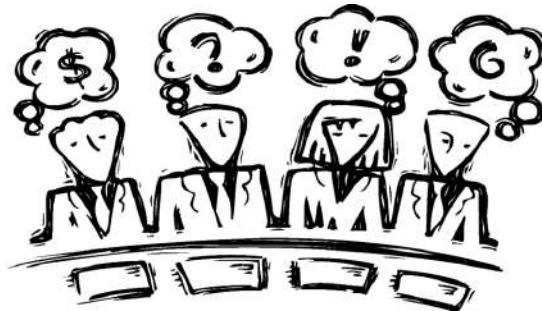


**“For last year's words belong to last year's language  
and next year's words await another voice.”**

—T.S. Eliot

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR DEC. 1, 2020

- Motion by the Personnel Team for the Session to approve the new position description for the Music Director was seconded and passed.
- Motion by the Stewardship, Budget, and Finance Team that the Session approve the 2021 Balanced Budget. Seconded and Passed. The average pledge increased over 3.8% from last year, with 86% of pledges received so far.
- The Dream Lab Technology project has been paid \$7200 to initiate the program, which needs to be installed by the end of this year.
- The plan is to install new officers at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 31, 2020.
- Motion by the Mission and Social Witness team for the Session to approve the addition of \$265 from the non-operating fund to the \$485 raised by the congregation for the Peace and Global Witness Offering, making the total donation \$750.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee reported that they are progressing in their search with diligence and appreciate the prayers of support from the congregation.



**“The best way to find yourself is to  
lose yourself in the service of others.”**

—Mahatma Gandhi

## 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](mailto:chasselbarth@hotmail.com) or 518-356-0637. Until it's safe to gather, we will continue to meet will on Zoom.

Our next Circle meeting is Tues, Jan 26 10:30 am -12:30 pm. We will discuss Lesson 5, *Words of Love: Don't Kill Each Other* from the Bible Study *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandment*. Extra Bible Study books are available.



The **Guilderland Food Pantry** is in need of canned fruit, jelly, shampoo, paper towels, toothpaste, deodorant, 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](mailto:cschult3@nycap.rr.com), cell 518-253-1062.

Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

## December Pastor Nominating Committee Update:

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been quite active over the past month, interviewing candidates, contacting references, watching services and sermons online, and discussing our impressions of several fine candidates. While we are not, as of this writing, prepared to present a candidate to the congregation, we feel we are making good progress in our search and are hopeful that God will reveal His plan for us in His good time.

We thought it would be helpful to outline the coming process, as we see it now, with the caveat that we are, essentially, “breaking new ground.” We are the first congregation, at least in the Albany Presbytery, to be seeking and calling a new pastor in “the age of COVID.” That poses some new challenges and requires considerable flexibility and adaptation of the “rules” laid out for us in the 2015 manual “On Calling A New Pastor” provided to us by the Presbyterian Church USA (PC-USA) Church Leadership Connection (CLC) and Albany Presbytery. Fortunately, Albany Presbytery has so far been very understanding and willing to “flex” with us as we all feel our way forward.

- After diligently reviewing many pastor resumes, Zoom-interviewing, reference-checking, discussing and prayerfully seeking God’s guidance, your PNC will decide which candidate seems best for HUPC at this time.
- Albany Presbytery will coordinate background checks, interview the candidate and (hopefully) concur with our choice.
- The chosen candidate is then contacted by the PNC and invited to be the nominee presented to our congregation.
- Assuming the invitation is accepted, the PNC then negotiates the specific terms of call with the candidate, within the parameters previously provided by the Session.
- The PNC will also meet with the Session to discuss our work, provide information about the nominee we have chosen and why we chose this candidate to serve with us at Hamilton Union.
- Session is then responsible for scheduling and calling a congregational meeting to hear the report of the PNC, hear the pastor nominee preach and lead all or part of the worship service, vote on whether to concur with the report of the PNC to call the pastor and vote on the terms of call.

Traditionally, presentation and approval of a new pastor involves a happy gathering of the congregation and, of course, (as good Presbyterians) a wonderful welcome luncheon, fellowship time and chance for everyone to meet and greet our new Pastor. Sadly, COVID will force significant changes to all of that. We do not have formal plans as yet, but you can expect we will be Zooming, masking and maintaining our social distances.

As we move this process forward, every effort will be made to inform the entire congregation (and community) of our progress and plans using email, the church website and Facebook page, direct mailings and (perhaps) press releases to local media. We encourage all to keep an eye out for future announcements and be sure to participate with us as we embark on the next chapter of our journey of Christian discipleship together at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church.

The Mission Team announces the next volunteer opportunities at the Regional Food Bank, sorting donated food:

**Thursday January 21, 2021 from 5 to 6:30 PM**

We will have up to 9 slots available, first come, first served.

A good opportunity to serve the community this holiday season, and the work is not difficult. If you are interested, please contact Wayne Gannett to sign up at [jgannett@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jgannett@nycap.rr.com) or call 518-878-5536 cell.

We had a full complement of 10 volunteers for the most recent HUPC work crew on November 19: Karen Unser, John Nitsky, Lindsay Hall + Leila + Audrey + Maylin, Betty Deitz, Karen and Bruce Williamson and Wayne Gannett. Thanks to all who sorted a large bin of apples and then moved on to produce.

More news this fall about the Regional Food Bank:

The Food Bank provided 38.4 million pounds of food (32 million meals) through daily distributions to partner agencies to help them serve the growing number of people seeking assistance, a 39% increase over the same time period last year.

The Food Bank also provided 41,123 pounds of food (34,300 meals) for restaurant/hospitality workers who have been especially hard hit by mandated business closings

**Continuous Collection  
Men's White Athletic Socks and Laundry Detergent**

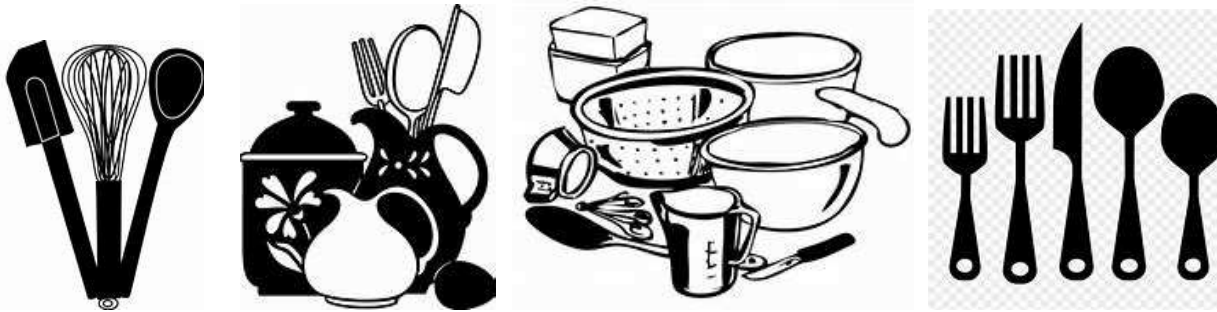
Laundry detergent and men's white athletic socks are needed for the *Capital Area Council of Churches Emergency Overflow Shelter*. There is collection box in the Multi-Purpose Room at the church and donations can also be left in the Food Pantry Box outside the church. If you are donating laundry detergent,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

Thank You in Advance - Presbyterian Women



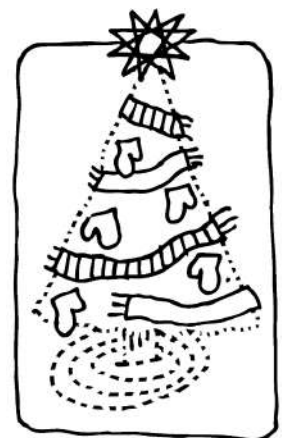
## UNCLUTTER - TO HELP OTHERS

For many years, Presbyterian Women have had a relationship with the New Faith Center in Albany. Their website reads: "Since 2002, many have called the New Faith Program "home", as they find safety and healing from **trauma, abuse, domestic violence and addiction**. In this free, year-long Christian, transitional recovery program, each woman (and their children up to age 12) is provided a private apartment during her stay." The Center will be relocating soon. They are currently gathering items for the women's new apartments. They can especially use cutlery, dishes, drinking glasses, kitchen utensils, pots & pans, strainers, casserole dishes, mixing bowls and small kitchen appliances. If you have any of these items for which you are trying to find a home, please take them to 80 Liberty St. in Albany. If you'd like to call before you go, the number of the New Faith Center is (518) 462-0459.



### **Thank You from Presbyterian Women - Treeless Mitten Tree Items**

A huge amount of mittens, scarves, hats and gloves have been collected for distribution to 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. Many of the donations came from the Twinkling Stars Place Preschool, housed in our church. A detailed tally will be in the February *Good News*.





### ***Message from Stewardship Committee:***

I am writing on behalf of the Stewardship Committee with an appeal to the Church community on a number of fronts.

1) We are still missing a number of pledges for 2021. If you haven't yet pledged of your time, talent, and financial resources, please prayerfully consider doing so. The Church really needs your support! You can send in your pledge to the Church office or email (wchcpa@hotmail.com) or text (518) 256-7104 to Bill Hasselbarth.

2) The Church is running an \$11,000+ deficit in 2020, in large part due to the effect of COVID. A number of people have fallen behind on their pledge commitment for 2020. If everyone were paid up to date on their pledge, much, but not all, of the deficit would disappear. I recently sent pledge statements to everyone who has fallen behind. If you are behind on your pledge commitment for 2020 and are in a position to make payment, we would greatly appreciate your doing so. Certainly, anyone able to do more than their pledge commitment in thanksgiving to God for His many blessings, your extra generosity would be much appreciated.

3) We traditionally provide the Church staff with a cash gift at Christmas time. If you would like to contribute to this purpose, please send your donation to the Church office, or pay online, noting the purpose of your gift.

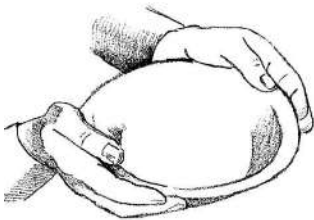
4) I remind you of changes in the tax law that advantage making donations to the Church directly from your retirement/IRA account. If you are at least age 70 1/2, you may qualify for this tax-free distribution. If you have any questions, contact Bill Hasselbarth or talk to your tax/financial advisor.

Thank you, and Merry & Blessed Christmas to all!  
Bill Hasselbarth  
Stewardship Committee



## 2021 Mission Project: Hunger

The Mission & Social Witness Committee has developed a year-long program to focus on one significant issue affecting people in our community and around the world: hunger. Our goal is for the congregation to dedicate time, energy and resources to address this problem. We have organized a series of related topics to be discussed each month. Many of the topics will be programs or resources with which you are familiar, such as 2 Cents a Meal or the Guilderland Food Pantry. Other topics may include information that is new to some or all members and can be explored together as a congregation. As a committee, we will be presenting information each month in the newsletter and each week during the Mission for Minute segment of Sunday Worship. Our hope is that through education and collaboration we can identify opportunities to offer support and make a difference here in the Capital District and beyond.



Anyone interested in participating in some way (big or small) with the M&SW Committee on this project can contact Lindsay Hall via email for more information at [lindsayphall@gmail.com](mailto:lindsayphall@gmail.com)

## Personal Care Items Needed by UAlbany's Purple Pantry

### February Collection

The Purple Pantry is the food pantry on the UAlbany Campus. Personal care items are seldom donated and or available from the Food Bank. Presbyterian Women will be collecting such items through out the month of February. Needed items are feminine care products, toothpaste, facial tissues, and deodorant, shampoo, soap, contact solution, tissues, cotton swabs, and razors.



## Hamilton Union Supports a Second Campus Ministry Peer Minister

The positions in the UAlbany Protestant Campus Ministry *Peer Minister Program* are similar to a college work- study job. They assist the chaplain, Rev. Sandy Damhof with specific aspects of the Campus Ministry Program. For many years, through the Mission and Social Witness Committee, Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church has supported one of these positions. Since the Campus Ministry Service trip for this January was cancelled, the Mission and Social Witness Committee decided donate the \$500 is had budgeted for the trip to the Campus Ministry. Rev. Sandy Damhof applied it the Peer Ministry Program. Along with sponsoring Chidiago Igboekwe's position as an Administration Assistant to Rev. Damhof, we are also sponsoring Jessica Culp's Java and Justice Coordinator Position.




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### A Note From Jessica Culp

Hi I'm Jessica Culp, the current Public Relations EBoard member and Java & Justice Coordinator at UAlbany's Cornerstone Campus Ministry. I have been going to Cornerstone for around three years now. For two of those years, I have held the Java & Justice Coordinator (J&J) position. J&J is a social justice program that has been around for five years, originally starting in a small coffee shop. The goal of the program is to advocate and discuss social justice topics and inequalities in the world. We change the topics monthly, and chose them based on the current social issues. In the past we have had guest speakers with interactive programs talking about domestic violence, sex trafficking, the immigration crisis, and *Black Lives Matter* protests.

I am currently a senior at UAlbany, earning my BA in History with a minor in Medieval Renaissance studies. I am not sure what I really plan on doing with that. I just felt I had to study something I'm passionate about. I live in Newburgh, New York, a town in the Hudson Valley, which has amazing scenic views, some overlooking NYC! The Hudson Valley is also home to a lot of historical site, gorgeous estates and even a castle. Now that I'm thinking about it, this is probably where my love of history comes from!

## Online Zoom Worship Guidelines

Online worship on Zoom is not that different from worshipping face-to-face in many respects. The basic social graces and rules of decorum still apply. However, there are some notable differences.

**Camera angle.** Set your camera to eye level. A laptop on a table or a cellphone in one's hand gives an unnatural, distorted, and unflattering view of one's face that tends to accentuate one's nostrils. If necessary prop up your device on a box or a stack of books so its camera sits at or slightly above eye level.

**Lighting.** If you want to be seen lighting is important. For the most natural image, you should sit in a well-lit room with a light in front of you. The worst is sitting in a dark room in front of a well-lit window. All anybody will see is your silhouette. Unless you are in witness protection this is probably not the look you are going for.

**Connection.** Best is a direct wired high-speed internet connection. If you must use WiFi sitting close to your wireless router can help give you the best signal. If your router is in your living room and you are out on the back deck you might not get the best signal.

**Punctuality.** Be on time, or better yet a bit early. It is fun to meet and greet each other before the service starts. There are often some lively discussions. However, also be aware of the time. When it is time to start the service please stop the discussion and ...

**Mute yourself.** Online meetings easily turn into complete cacophony if more than one person tries to talk at a time. Unless you are an active participant in the service (e.g. you are the layreader) your microphone should be on mute. You will have plenty of time for online fellowship after the service.

**Image.** Turn your video on, or at least upload a picture of yourself. It can be awkward looking at a blank box. But even if you don't want to share your picture please share your name. By default Zoom uses your device's name. You probably don't want to be addressed as "Dad's iPad" or "qwerty1234". Unless that is your actual name, of course.

**Dress.** Wear what you would for an in-person church service. You probably would not wear that ratty old Metallica T-shirt to church. Probably.





A church puts out a wanted ad for somebody to ring their bell each day. A man with no arms replies to the want ad. The priest asks him “How can you ring a bell with no arms?”

The man gets a good running start and runs into the bell face first. The bell rings loud and beautifully. The priest gives him the job. One day he misses the bell though and falls out of the belfry. The priest and several other people come to the man’s side and one of them says “Who is he?”

The priest replies “I don’t know. But his face sure rings a bell.”



# A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



**What you need:**

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

**What you do:**

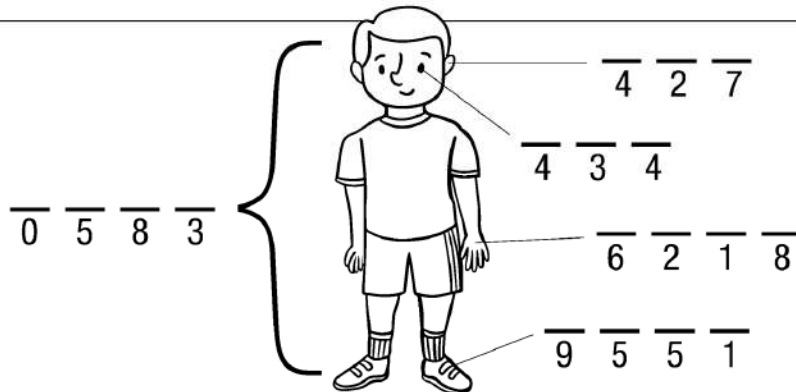
1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.



# WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God’s purposes.

*Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.*



Now if the  $\frac{\quad}{20}$  should say, "Because I am not a  $\frac{\quad}{17}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ ," ... And if the  $\frac{\quad}{13}$  should say, "Because I am not an  $\frac{\quad}{11}$ , I do not belong to the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ ," it would not for that reason stop being part of the  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ . If the whole  $\frac{\quad}{16}$  were an  $\frac{\quad}{11}$ , where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole  $\frac{\quad}{16}$  were an  $\frac{\quad}{13}$ , where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one  $\frac{\quad}{16}$ .

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 16, ear = 11, hand = 13, foot = 17, head = 20

HAMILTON UNION  
HAPPENINGS



# January 2021

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

Z = Zoom    F=Facebook

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Ann Duncan, Administrative Assistant

Charlotte Palmeri, Director of Music

Rae Rau, Director of Handbell Choir

## GOOD NEWS



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Mark Hutchinson, Editor

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