

Good News

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

Volume 31 No 2



February 2021

Sunday Worship Services are currently held online at 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

- Feb. 7 Bill Hasselbarth
- Feb. 14 George Hannett
- Feb. 21 Peter McKinney
- Feb. 28 Karen Unser



Sincere Thanks,

I wish to extend heartfelt appreciation for the many expressions of condolence offered following the recent death of my husband. I felt much comfort in reading and rereading all the cards and messages but the only thing I didn't feel was a genuine warm hug. My life has been turned upside down but, with the support from family, friends and my God, I hope to get past this very difficult time. My sincere thanks to the church family for all the kindness shown.

Much love and many blessings
Joanne Wagner

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

*Please accept His donation
in memory of:
Douglas + Pattie Gray.
Thank you. Best wishes for
the New Year.
- Roger + Monica Gray*

The Church received a \$1,000 donation from Roger and Monica Gray in memory of Doug and Pattie Gray.

December 2020

To the HUFC congregation,
If we'd been able to meet in person
this past Christmas, it would've been
my 15th consecutive year with you!
What a blessing it was to have been
a part of the church family for so
many years and I want to thank
you for the check I received from
you for Christmas.

Though I'll no longer be your
music director, I will be praying
for you. I'm confident that the
many challenges presented will be
an opportunity for all to grow in a
deeper relationship with our Lord.
Many blessings!

In Him - *Paulotte*

To my Hamilton Union Pres.
Church Family,

This Christmas,
that's what you're wished...
more blessings than you can count,
more joy than you can imagine,
and a new year that feels
more hopeful than ever.

Thank you for all the Christmas
wishes I received from
all my friends at Hamilton
Union. I am so looking
forward to visiting
with you again soon.

Love,
Nancy Gerstenberg



THANK YOU

THE FAMILY OF
Roger Grier

would like to thank you for your
kind expression of sympathy.
Your support is much appreciated by his family.



Happy Birthday to ...

Fern Weber (Feb 1)
 Gwyn Ramage (Feb 22)
 Katy Waggener (Feb 23)
 Steve Smith (Feb 23)
 Dorothy Favitta (Feb 28)



Happy Anniversary to ...

Fern and John Weber

Church Receives Gift

We were informed by Peter and Sandy Schuster, son-in-law and daughter of Randall and Mary Hallenbeck, former members of Hamilton Union, of their intention to gift \$150,000 to Hamilton Union from the Hallenbeck estate. They asked that the gift be used for projects of the Music Ministry and/or the Property Ministry, both of which were important to the Hallenbeck's. The cash gift will be given to the Church in two installments, \$60,000, which was recently received in the mail, and another \$90,000 to be received in 2021. We acknowledged the gift in writing to the family with thanksgiving. Peter and Sandy asked that we provide a list of projects that we might use the funds for. The Worship and Property Committees will be working on this list in coordination with the Session so that we can honor the request of the family and be good stewards of this gift. We will keep the Congregation updated on the progress. If individual congregants have thoughts regarding the use of this gift, please speak to a member of the respective Committee or any member of the Session or the Pastor. We will have a celebration of this important gift at a time to be scheduled in 2021.

Bill Hasselbarth
 Elder, and Chair of Finance and Stewardship Committee

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE on ZOOM - Feb 17, 2021: 7 PM**PRECEDED by SOUP and SANDWICH on ZOOM- 6 PM**

We cannot meet in person for Ash Wednesday services this year, but we CAN do our best to replicate HUPC's family gathering for soups (and sandwiches) prior to our service. Let's face it, we LOVED the variety of soups we could sample and the chance to chit chat over our bowls. Now YOU--and anyone else in your household--can have a bowl of soup (or possibly a few small bowls of different varieties?), crackers, sandwiches, a drink and maybe a cookie or two ready to eat in front of your computer--or iPad--or iPhone--or whatever device it is you will use to tune in on Wednesday, February 17, at 6 PM. We can chat together for an hour and then center ourselves for the service at 7 PM. See you then, with or without food!!



From the Communications Team:

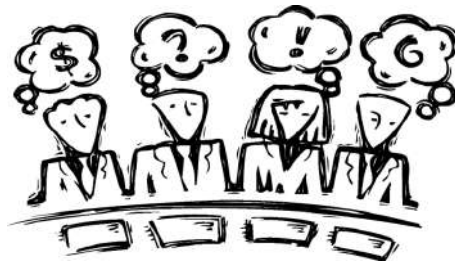
A new audiovisual system was installed in the Sanctuary last week by Dream Lab Productions of Troy which will rectify technical issues we experienced with hybrid (concurrent Zoom and in-person worship) worship. See Hamilton Union's Facebook page — <https://www.facebook.com/Hamilton-Union-Presbyterian-Church-HUPC-104008644295946> — for photos of the installation. Going forward, this system will also allow shut-ins and those out of the area to attend worship remotely, and will also allow clearer imaging of videos and "slides" during worship.



Now that we have the hardware and software, we need people to help operate it during worship. Currently, we have two people to do this, one of whom is in the choir and one of whom is unavailable half the year. We are aiming for 6 people at a minimum to provide a good rotation that doesn't burden a few people. High School and older Middle School Students -- this is a great way to use your tech skills to help out your church family. And for those who don't think you can do it -- you can. We "got" Zoom, right? Training will be provided. Please contact Bill Hasselbarth (email wchcpa@hotmail.com or phone 518-356-0637), Karen Williamson (phone 518-669-4450, email kawillia302@gmail.com) or Steve Smith (phone 518-462-9837) if you can help out. Thank you!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY 5, 2021

- We received notes of thanks from HUPC staff for Christmas cards and gifts from the congregation.
- Favorable comments were heard regarding the Advent, Vesper, and Christmas Eve services and activities.
- Elder Trudy Hutchinson has been assisting with the music on Sunday services as we search for an accompanist/ organist.
- Elder Hasselbarth discussed the Hallenbeck gift, to be received in installments of \$60,000 and \$90,000 to be used for Property and Music needs of the church. Elder Henry Montgomery discussed an ambitious potential schedule of property improvements with estimates forthcoming.
- The Motion that the Session approve transferring \$6000 from the Memorial Fund as 10% of the \$60000 Hallenbeck gift to the Mission/Social Witness Fund as dictated by our policy for gifts was Passed
- Motion that the Session approve \$670.25 from the SW/M non-operating fund for Cornerstone Campus Ministry, Wizard's Wardrobe, Christmas Joy Offering and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund was Passed.
- The PNC has reported good progress as our pastoral search proceeds.
- The Nominating Committee reports positive results in receiving responses to the call for Elders and Deacons in Ministry at HUPC.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 31, 2021 after the Sunday service, when we will hold election of officers for 2021, also review the budget and Annual Report.



Tech Help Still Needed

We now have nine volunteers to operate the new audiovisual system for the church during worship, but we could use a couple more. This is a great opportunity for older middle school students or high school students to accrue service hours. If you can help, please contact Karen Williamson at 518-669-4450 or email kawillia302@gmail.com. Training will be provided. Thank you to those who have already volunteered, as well as those still considering!

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. Until it's safe to gather, we will continue to meet will on Zoom.

- * On Feb 1 we will begin a new continuous collection of personal care item for *The Purple Pantry*.
- * On Feb 15 our Easter Basket Project will begin.
- * We will host a virtual Soup and Sandwich Supper on Zoom on Ash Wednesday, Feb 17.
- Our next Circle Meeting is Tues, Feb 23 from 10:30 am -12:30 pm. We will discuss Lesson 6. *Words of Love: Hold Your Marriage Sacred*, from the Bible Study *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*. Extra Bible Study books are available.



* More information is else where in the newsletter.

The **Guilderland Food Pantry** is in need of canned fruit, jelly, jarred pasta sauce, cleaning supplies, paper products, and personal care items such as shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant.

Non-perishable items may be placed in the outside bin near the HUPC Education Building entrance, or in the bin next to the Food Pantry entrance at the below address. The Pantry is open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 to 11:00 AM to receive donations of any type.



Cash donations can be sent to the Guilderland Food Pantry, 4 Charles Park, Guilderland, NY 12084.

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.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update, January 2021

Yes, this sounds like a broken record! However, I can assure everyone that your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is continuing to work diligently on our task, meeting weekly, communicating openly and seeking God’s guidance and will. We believe we are making significant progress. While we don’t have the “good news” everyone is waiting for to report yet, we are encouraged that God is leading us to a very good future for our congregation and church. As we have said, the pastor search is a structured process with numerous prescribed (and some unexpected) steps to go through, and, of course, COVID just further complicates the task. Nevertheless, we persist. Hopefully, we will have that “good news” to share soon.

Your PNC



From the Session:

Got fundraising ideas?

Our 2021 church budget includes substantial income — \$10,000 to be exact — from fundraisers. We would like to put together a group of members and friends to receive and generate fundraising ideas and hold and manage fundraisers. We already have two people interested, but we need more. Session will be discussing fundraising at its next meeting February 2. If you have fundraising ideas, expertise, or are willing to help, please contact any member of Session, preferably by February 2. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS 2021

It is never too early to think about Christmas!! The Congregational Ministry Team and Presbyterian Women are collecting Nativities to decorate the church—the sanctuary and the educational building during Advent. When you put your decorations away if you have one you no longer need please consider donating it. If you would like to loan it to us for the Season put your name on it. Bring it to church anytime and put it in the box in the Fellowship Room.



We are also going to be making Chrismons to decorate the Christmas tree. Work on this will be going on all year. More information will be coming. Chrismons are symbols of Christ that are gold and white

Thank you for your help in these projects. Contact Nancy Messersmith if you have any questions.

Thank You From Presbyterian Women

We appreciate the HUPC congregation and the "Twinkling Stars Place Preschool" for the overwhelmingly generous response to our "Treeless Mitten Tree Project". We collected: 50 children's hats, 57 children's mittens and gloves, 21 women's hats, 21 women's gloves and mittens, 20 women's scarves, 13 women's and children's hat and scarf sets, 3 women's ear warmers, 1 shawl, 20 men's hats, 23 men's gloves and mittens, 7 men's scarves and 3 pair of men's socks!

We have never kept track of the numbers, but it looked like three times more items than in the past.

The donations were delivered 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*.

We will be collecting purchased and hand made winter accessories during this coming Advent Season.

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 is at the top of the stairs at the church and donations can also be left in the collection box outside the Christian Education Building. If you are putting laundry detergent in the box out side the church, please attach a label saying it is for the shelter.

Thank You in Advance - Presbyterian Women



Easter Basket Project 2021 sponsored by HUPC Presbyterian Women

Our annual 2021 Easter Basket Project will be underway soon. We will take donations from February 15 thru March 20. Easter baskets are donated 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!



Donations of cash/checks are welcome and appreciated. Betty Deitz will collect cash/checks (made out to HUPC Presbyterian Women) Baskets will be prepared and delivered by Darlene Bauer by March 24.

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

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

Valentine's humor

Go ahead and chuckle at these Christian pick-up lines — just don't expect them to be very effective!

- Now I know why Solomon had 700 wives ... because he never met you.
- For you, I would slay two Goliaths.
- The Word says, "Give drink to the thirsty, and feed the hungry"; how about dinner?
- Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Gilead.
- I believe one of my ribs belongs to you.
- How many times do I have to walk around you to make you fall for me?
- You really float my ark.
- Me. You. Song of Songs: The Remix.
- How would you like to join my purpose-driven life?

Each year Presbyterian churches are assessed an apportionment to support the Presbytery of Albany, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA. For 2021, Hamilton Union's assessment is \$4,508. The assessment is based on the church's membership of 98 at a per capita apportionment rate of \$46. Churches are also asked to voluntarily pledge an additional amount, as they are able, to support the ministry of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Because of budgetary constraints, Hamilton Union has not been able to pledge any additional amount for the past few years over and above the per capita apportionment.

The per capita apportionment is important to the Presbyterian Church organization, governance, and polity. You might ask what this money is used for. It is a primary revenue source for these governance organizations of the Presbyterian Church. These organizations oversee and provide structure to the life of the Church. Their ministry includes committees overseeing pastors and congregations, preparation for ordination to ministry, church development, mission and social justice. They oversee and assist churches with special needs and assist with the closure of churches as needed. They provide grants and loans to churches for capital and special programs. They provide a chaplaincy program for churches and ministers. And they provide guidance and expertise on matters of church polity. They provide regular opportunities for pastors and church elders to gather together to worship, fellowship, and perform the administrative work of the church. And they advocate for national and worldwide mission and social justice. The General Assembly administers four (4) church wide offerings in support of mission social justice and other programs of Christian discipleship. The General Assembly also supports biannual church-wide assemblies to do the important work of church governance in a representative and inclusive manner consistent with our Christian and church governance values.

Because of its importance, we provide a per capita apportionment envelope (blue) in your box of offering envelopes. Won't you contribute this \$46 per member to this important cause to help cover this cost.

Thank you,

Stewardship Committee

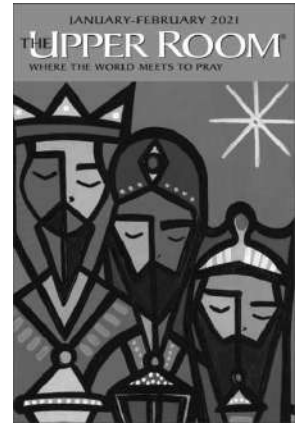
A daily prayer

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.

Upper Room

If you would like easy access to the "Upper Room" devotional guide? There are 3 ways for this to happen:

1. You may take a hard copy of the "Upper Room" from the church office.
2. You may use the following link to receive the "Upper Room" online:
UpperRoom.org/standingorderchurches
3. You may call 1-615-212-2013 to hear the daily Bible reading, the message (written by people around the world), the Daily Prayer, and the Thought for the Day at no charge from "Upper Room."



“Is prayer your steering wheel
or your spare tire?”

—Corrie ten Boom

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

—Mahatma Gandhi

Personal Care Items Needed by UAlbany’s Purple Pantry

New Continuous Collection

Presbyterian Women has taken on a new continuous collection for *The Purple Pantry*, the food pantry on the UAlbany Campus. Personal care items are seldom donated and/or available from the *Food Bank*. Needed items are feminine care products, toothpaste, facial tissues, and deodorant, shampoo, soap, contact solution, tissues, cotton swabs, and razors. Please place your donations in the collection box in front of the Christian Education Building, with a note saying they are for *The Purple Pantry* or in the basket at the top of the stairs in the Christian Education Building.



February 2021

News From the Haiti Mission School



Providing Food During Holidays

Hunger as a result of poverty is a world-wide problem. We have seen the pictures on our TV of the long lines of our own citizens at food distribution sites in the U.S. As one of the poorest nations in our hemisphere, food shortages are also a huge problem in Haiti. The families of the students at Labastille are among the poorest in Haiti. For these reasons, several years ago we began a hot meals program at the Haiti Mission School. Each school day, the students receive a hot meal. However, during the holidays, hunger doesn't go away.

This year, as in the past couple of years, we decided to provide food for the families of our students. In a take-off from the backpack programs here at home, each family gets a bag of rice, a bag of beans and a jug of oil. While this may not seem like much to us, it is a major part of the diet of most Haitians, and it carries the students over until they return to school. *It is due to your support that we are able to continue to help out. We join the Haitians in thanking you.*



In one of the pictures, you can see the smaller bags of beans, the larger ones of rice and the containers of oil prepared for distribution. The other picture shows the families gathered to pick up their food.

COVID virus in Haiti continues to claim few

Like the rest of the world, Haiti experienced a spike in cases following the holiday. Still, their numbers still seem relatively low. As of January 21, in a nation of over 11 million residents, the World Health Organization reports a total of only 240 confirmed deaths. We suspect these numbers are low. Still, there have been no reports of massive problems or deaths due to the virus in Haiti. With the terrible health-care system in Haiti, we are amazed at the numbers. Scientists are seeking to find the answers.

Haiti Mission School
 P.O.Box 445
 Lake Luzerne, NY 12846
 Email: haitimissionschool@gmail.com

Please continue to keep
 Sabrina and all Haitian
 restavec children in your
 prayers.



HAMILTON UNION
HAPPENINGS



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Session Meeting (Z)	<i>3</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	<i>4</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7 Communion</i> 10am Worship Service (Z)	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>10</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	<i>11</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 10am Worship Service (Z)	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>17</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 6pm Soup and Sandwich (Z) 7pm Ash Wednesday Service (Z)	<i>18</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 10am Worship Service (Z)	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 10:30am PW Circle Meeting (Z) 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>24</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F) 7pm Evening Prayers (Z)	<i>25</i> 12noon Midday Prayers (F)	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10am Worship Service (Z)						

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

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

