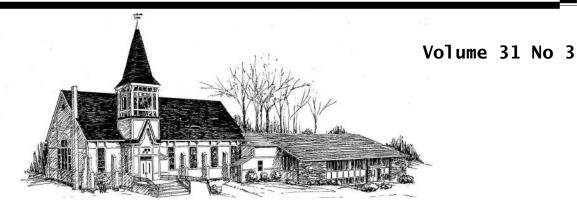
Good News

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



March 2021

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

Christ be with me, Christ within me.
Christ behind me, Christ before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me.
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that love me.
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

—Hymn attributed to St. Patrick

LAY READERS

Mar. 7 Charlotte Hasselbarth

Mar. 14 Ann McKinney

Mar. 21 Bruce Williamson

Mar. 28 Rae Rau





ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS.

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD.



February 2021

Flowers for Church

Well, it's a new year and we definitely have serious changes to our procedures. I have been asked to handle the flower donations for the Sunday services and this year will be a challenge!

Anyhow, back to our current situation. In years past arranging flower donations was fairly simple; put an empty calendar in the back of the church and another one in the multi-purpose room. Perhaps make phone calls or otherwise solicit to fill in the Sundays that had no volunteers and then publish the calendar in the Newsletter and the bulletins. Obviously, everything has changed.

Since we are no longer meeting as a group, it doesn't make sense to post a fill-in calendar nor will there be random access to the building for flower delivery. Also, because we are only having one service on Sunday, we only need one bouquet. Many of us (maybe most) contribute flowers as public recognition of special dates such as wedding anniversaries, deaths, birthdays, etc. This rationale can/should continue but the process will have to be changed.

Going forward, it will be helpful if you would call me or e-mail me as soon as possible with the date for which you want to contribute flowers. I can then place your name on the list so that it will appear on the Sunday bulletin. Yes, I know that it is possible to post a calendar on-line but that piece of technology is beyond my current skill-set. If anyone reading this has that skill and would be willing to help us to create an on-line sign-up schedule, that would be most appreciated (I will work with you, not just pass the responsibility along).

Church members will still be responsible for arranging, and paying for, the bouquet purchase and delivery but, since the church office will probably be un-manned, the florist providing the bouquet will need to arrange with me the date and time of delivery. I will then either be at the church to receive the flowers or I will arrange for somebody else to do that. If the members want to deliver the flowers themselves, please remember to bring a key for the education building door as there may not be anyone in the building. As in other years, we have several artificial bouquets that we can use, if necessary. There is also a flower fund in the church budget but that should be reserved for exceptional situations.

As I have been putting this together, we had another Sunday Zoom service wherein we had some of the artificial flowers on the altar. These were barely visible over Rev. West's right shoulder and it struck me that, under those conditions, does it even make sense to display fresh flowers on the altar? Perhaps fresh flowers could still be obtained but delivered directly to one of our shut-ins and an artificial one left on the altar from week to week. Please understand that this is just an observation from me and not a decisive plan of action.

Hiram Eberlein

Pastor Nominating Committee Update:

Sunday, Feb. 28, immediately following morning worship on Zoom:

The Session of Hamilton-Union Presbyterian Church calls for a meeting of the Congregation to hear and act on the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Janice C. West, Moderator Ron Messersmith, Clerk

Note: the PNC will be introducing the candidate to the congregation through a mailing/ emailing as we draw closer to the date. There are also 3 "meet and greet" opportunities with our candidate available on Saturday, February 27. By now, you should have already received information about 2 Zoom calls scheduled for Saturday morning, 11:00-11:45, and late afternoon, 5:00-5:45. Participation is limited to 10 people per call and requires pre-registration. We will also have a "drive-in" outdoor meeting opportunity Saturday afternoon from 2:00-3:30, under a tent in the church parking lot (weather pe mitting.). Coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and a warming fire will be available.

Our candidate will be leading worship, via Zoom, on Sunday morning. The Congregational Meeting will be a continuation of the Worship Zoom. Those who do not have Internet access are invited to join the Zoom meeting and vote by using the phone number provided by Zoom (long distance charges may apply): 1-929-205-6099. Alternatively, you can call someone in the congregation who does Zoom, and ask them to put their phone near the computer so that you can hear. If you have questions about how best to connect with the meeting, please call, text or email Pastor Janice so we can assist you in getting connected.

Information on how to vote will be provided in the coming weeks.

Your PNC



The person who says

IT CANNOT BE DONE

SHOULD NOT INTERRUPT

THE PERSON DOING IT.

I HAVE DECIDED TO STICK WITH LOVE. HATE IS TOO GREAT A BURDEN TO BEAR.

Martin Luther King Jr.



Happy Birthday to ...

Nancy Messersmith (Mar. 10)
James Gade (Mar. 12)
Jackie House (Mar. 12)
Cindy Schultz (Mar. 13)
Fred Sirois (Mar. 15)
George Hannett (Mar. 19)
Laura Smith (Mar. 27)
Charlotte Hasselbarth (Mar. 31)

Do you want to fast this Lent? In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.

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

Thu Feb 25, 2021 from 5 to 6:30 PM Thu March 18, 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, and the work is not difficult. If you are interested, please contact Wayne Gannett to sign up at 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 January 21, 2021: John Nitsky, Betty Deitz, Meredith, Kevin, Addison, Emily and Jackson Eberz, Chandra and Megan Reis and Wayne Gannett.

Thanks to all who sorted all the deli surplus from local supermarkets, on its way to food pantries throughout Eastern NY. The attached photo shows our HUPC crew digging through boxes of frozen pizzas and other deli goods.

Each year, the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York distributes 39,968,412 meals for people in 23 counties.

Christian Camp Scholarships From the Albany Presbytery

The Albany Presbytery Mission Committee is offering SUMMER CAMPERSHIPS for Christian Camps to young people connected with the churches in our Presbytery. The applications are on the Presbytery Web site www.albanypresbytery.org. The camperships are \$100 or \$250 based on need. Applications are due Mar.1

For details see https://albanypresbytery.org/application-for-campership/.



THANK YOU



THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORS WARM & SAFE THIS WINTER!

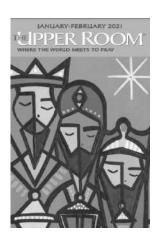
During such a difficult year, you are making an even bigger impact by helping to provide these crucial supplies for individuals and families. When someone has a warm winter coat, they can safely travel to work, school and appointments. So far, you have helped nearly 800 people receive winter coats!

Thank you for making a difference and helping so many men, women and children this winter!

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."



"The sun setting
is no less beautiful
than the sun rising."

-Japanese Proverb

Choose Joy!

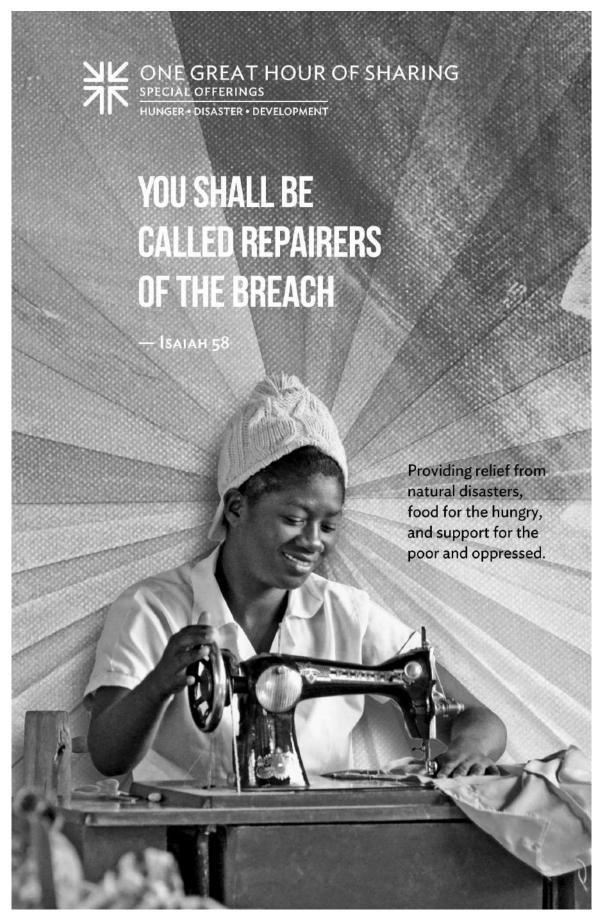
Don't wait for things to get easier, simpler, better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now. Otherwise, you'll run out of time.

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 or are 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.





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ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



In every time and season the Church finds itself and its Savior through relationships with those in need. It is through relationships with those whom we see experiencing hunger, oppression, thirst, imprisonment, or illness, that we become the Church, together. The Church belongs—we belong—with those struggling for justice, righteousness, and peace.

Received during the season of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs —

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Restorers of Streets to Live In

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

Share your Bread with the Hungry

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

Loose the Bonds of Injustice

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







LET US BE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER. THE REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH. THE RESTORERS OF STREETS TO LIVE IN.

Matthew 25 teaches us that, in every time and season the Church finds itself and its Savior through relationships with those in need. One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

"Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,

the restorer of streets to live in."

—Isaiah 58

One Great Hour of Sharing

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS From February 2, 2021

- The Session welcomed new elders Sue Ferris, George Hannett, and Diane Irwin.
- Motion: That the Session call a congregational meeting for February 28 to hear and act on the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee following the Sunday service.
- The motion that the Session approve moving \$2000 from non-operating funds to the Mission and Social Witness line to use without further need to seek Session approval was PASSED.
- The motion that the Session approve the revised Personnel Policy relating to time off and parental leave for full and part-time staff and employees was PASSED.
- The motion the Session approve the purchase of two lamps for the pulpit and lectern at cost of up to \$425 from Memorial Funds was PASSED.
- The Session approved the motion to use \$40000 from the Hallenbeck gift for a cubicle supporting the Technology Project in the sanctuary(\$9150), storm windows in the sanctuary (8000), and Shades (Hunter-Douglas) for windows in the Patty and Doug Gray Education Building. Also approved was \$650 for Glory to God Hymnal use (Projection edition, words plus word and music; also accompaniment edition (2 loose leaf format).
- Pastor Janice attended Zoom Midwinter lectures at Austin Seminary January 25-27. At Session she presented for discussion material related to Membership/Evangelism, as gathered from the Congregational Mission Study, Fall, 2020.



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.

- * we have a new continuous collection of personal care item for *The Purple Pantry*.
- * our Easter Basket Project will continue until Mar 20
- our next Circle Meeting is Tues, Mar 23 from 10: 30 am 12: 30 pm. We will discuss Lesson 7, 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, dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, jarred pasta sauce (pasta not needed at present) and shampoo. In addition to these ongoing needs, the following items are needed for the Easter meals, which are delivered during the week before Easter: *Boxed scalloped potatoes, *Canned fruit cocktail, *Snack type crackers (Wheat Thins, Sociables, etc.)

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.

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!



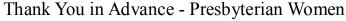
Donations of cash/checks are welcome and appreciated. Betty Deitz will collect cash/checks (made out to HUPC Presbyterian Women) Baskets will be prepared and delivered by Darlene Bauer by March 24.

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

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

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.







Making Connections Adult Bible Study Monday 3:00 - 4:30pm

Come Join the Discussion

		First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Feb. 15	First Sunday in Lent February 21, 2021	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:19-22	Mark 1:9-15
Feb. 22	Second Sunday in Lent February 28, 2021	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9
Mar. 1	Third Sunday in Lent March 7, 2021	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Mar. 8	Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14, 2021	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Mar. 15	Fifth Sunday in Lent March 21, 2021	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16	Hebrew 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Mar. 22	Liturgy of the Palms March 28, 2021 Sixth Sunday in Lent		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
	Liturgy of the Passion March 28, 2021 Sixth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15,47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

Please save your soda can pull tabs. You can leave them in the treasurer's mail box or contact Margaret Gardam by phone or email. She will see that they eventually get to the Ronald McDonald house in Albany. Please feel free to contact her if you have any questions.



2021 CHRISTMAS PROJECT

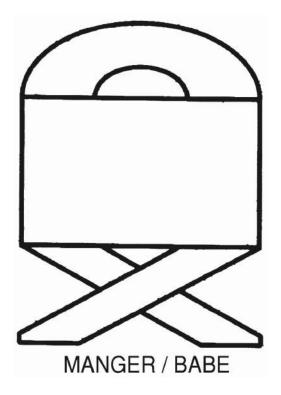
The Congregational Life team is sponsoring this activity. Each month there will be two patterns available to create Chrismons to decorate our Christmas tree for the sanctuary. Call Nancy Messersmith at 518-356-2394 if you have questions.

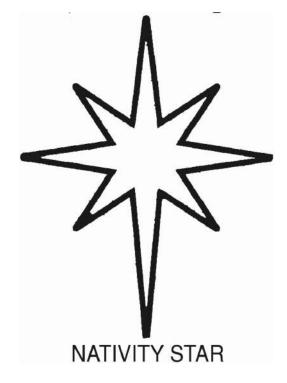
CHRISMONS AND CHRISMON PATTERNS

Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christmas symbols on them. They help Christian to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They are often used on Christmas trees in churches and Christian homes.

Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold. White is the liturgical (or church) color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was made pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory. Chrismons can be mad from nearly anything, but paper and embroidered ones are the most widely used. One can also use poster board, felt, and wood blanks. Usually circles are used for the background.

Below are some symbols that are common Chrismons and what they represent to Christians.





Before you speak...

THINK

Is it True?

Is it Helpful?

Is it Inspiring?

Is it Necessary?

Is it Kind?

An Irish Blessing

May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you.
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you —
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they should not interfere with God's divine will.



At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later, the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

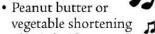
The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a more creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.



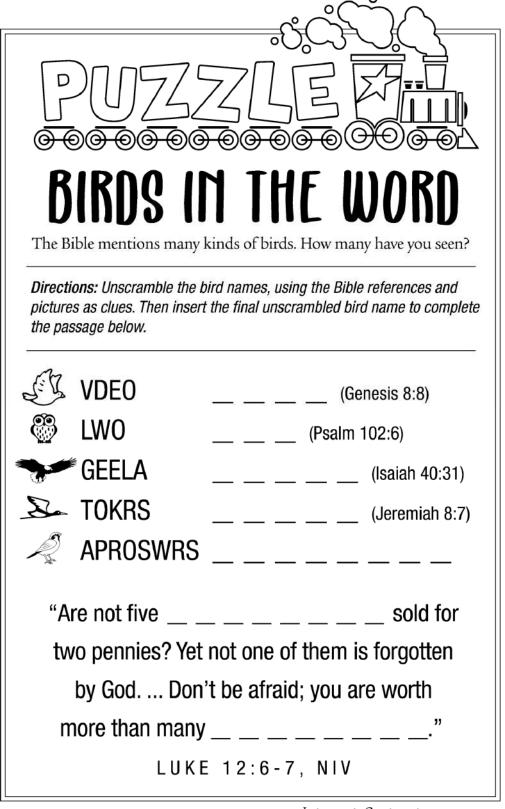
What you need:



- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

- Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
- Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
- 3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
- 4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.



Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows

Hamilton Union Happenings



March 2021

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

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2291 Western Avenue Guilderland, New York 12084-9747

Change Service Requested

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly.

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Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

Our Staff:

Rev. Janice West, Interim Pastor Ann Duncan, Administrative Assistant Rae Rau, Director of Handbell Choir Newsletter deadline for the *April* issue is *Thursday, March 11*



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

