

Good News

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

Volume 31 No 5



May 2021

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

A Hymn for Pentecost

Eighteenth-century brothers John and Charles Wesley, co-founders of the Methodist Church, were prolific hymn writers. At one point, they made a concerted effort to increase the number of Pentecost-related hymns available to worshipers.

Use Charles Wesley's hymn "O Thou Who Camest From Above" as a prayer that the Holy Spirit will burn brightly in your heart and life today:

O Thou who camest from above,
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
upon the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for Thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me.



LAY READERS

May 2	Sue Ferris
May 9	Bruce Williamson
May 16	Karen Unser
May 23	Trudy Hutchinson
May 30	George Hannett



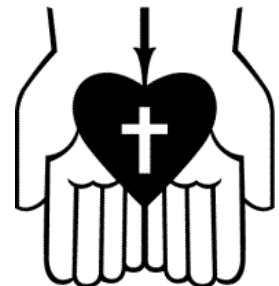
SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 10am

All are welcome to the Spring Mission Minded Bruch, sponsored by the HUPC Presbyterian Women. Again this year we will be meeting on the lawn and/or parking lot of the church. Bring you own chair, a salad or sandwich and something to drink. **VERY IMPORTANT**--bring a financial donation and personal care items* for the Purple Pantry of UAlbany. Sally D'Alessandro Assistant Dean of Students for Student Care Services, will be sharing information about this program. *items needed are: toothpaste, facial tissues, feminine care products, deodorant, shampoo, soap, contact solution, cotton swabs, and razors. Thank you. Any questions, email Betty Deitz at bettydeitz@me.com, or call her at 518 456-4193.

In 2020, the **Mission & Social Witness Committee** requested and received additional funds in our budget to help support people and programs in our community and beyond. Our goal is to keep the congregation informed about how this money is being used. Several times a year, we will be listing our expenditures in the newsletter and discussing them during our Minute for Mission. We have made the following donations/contributions so far this year:

- Addition to the Congregation's Christmas Joy Offering: \$250
- Albany Med's Pastoral Care Program - Tea for the Soul to Go: \$150
- Capital Area Council of Churches - MLK Scholarship: \$100
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Winter Storm Fund: \$150
- Fire victims on Dunnsville Road: \$150
- Fire victims on Vosburgh Road: \$50

Please contact Lindsay Hall (lindsayphall@gmail.com) with any questions or potential opportunities for the M&SW Committee to offer support.



**PENTECOST****SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

THE PENTECOST OFFERING HELPS OUR YOUTH BEGIN LIFE WITH A STRONG START—A SOLID FOUNDATION OF FAITH FORMED IN THE FIRST THIRD OF LIFE, FROM CHILDHOOD THROUGH YOUNG ADULthood.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with *the church of the past*, continuing to inspire *the church of today*, and pointing us to *the church of the future*. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, your congregation participates in helping our children, youth, and young adults grow up to proclaim with the Psalmist, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."

QUICK FACTS

- ✧ Congregations keep 40% of raised funds to initiate or support programs for young people in their communities. *
- ✧ The first Presbyterian Youth Triennium was held in 1980.
- ✧ The Day of Pentecost is referred to as the birthday of the Church.
- ✧ Pentecost is usually represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit.

* In 2020 our 40% (\$194) was gifted to the Wizard's Wardrobe in Albany.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$15 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. We believe we are called to do even more — to support and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith.

GOOD NEWS!

On May 2, 2021, Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church will welcome Reverend Kyle Delhagen, our new pastor, to our (virtual) pulpit to lead our congregation in worship. As previously announced by the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), Reverend Delhagen comes to us from Western Presbyterian Church in Palmyra, New York, where he has been Pastor for the past four and a half years. He brings a friendly, easy-going nature matched with a sound theological background, strong preaching style and a passion for social justice. The PNC especially appreciates his commitment to mission ("anything that takes us outside the doors of the church"), his energy and enthusiasm, his thoughtful and relevant sermons and his creative approach to using technology to enhance the worship experience. Reverend Delhagen equally is excited to be coming to Hamilton Union and is eager to get to know us and join in our journey of faith, mission and stewardship.

Many congregation members took advantage of the opportunity to meet Reverend Delhagen and his wife, Elena, back in February when we hosted him and his family for a candidating weekend, featuring an outdoor "meet and greet" under a tent in our parking lot. We plan to have additional (socially-distanced) opportunities for people to meet and get to know Reverend Delhagen, and him them, over the coming months. He plans to relocate to the area, with his family, at the end of the current school year (to allow his 15-year old daughter to finish out the year at her current school). In the interim, Reverend Delhagen will be assuming all pastoral duties and responsibilities and will lead weekly worship services, still via Zoom for now. The Session is continuing to discuss plans to reopen the sanctuary for Sunday worship. They will be working on that with Reverend Delhagen, following all current CDC and State protocols and requirements. We all hope to be able to gather together for worship in person soon, with Zoom with Zoom continuing as a worship option moving forward.

The Pastor Transition Team (formerly, the Pastor Nominating Committee)



The Delhagen Family

Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things;
after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things.

—A.J. Gordon

Dear HUPC Family and friends:

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity with donations to the annual Easter Basket Project. You are generous of spirit and heart and cash!!

You have put many smiles on many faces.

In Christ,
HUPC Presbyterian
Women



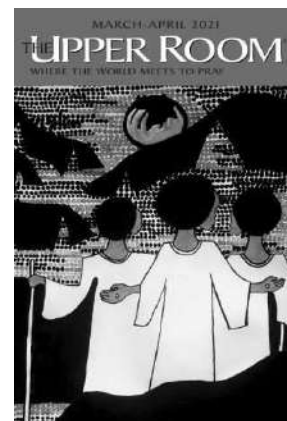
Happy Birthday to ...*Lori Lochner (May 2)**Maryanne Masley-Hannett (May 4)**Joan Hawk (May 10)**Rev. Stuart Pattison (May 12)**Terry Nieman (May 25)**Brian Nitsky (May 28)****Happy Anniversary to ...****Ron and Lori Lochner*

Please send private prayer requests to the Deacon on call and let them know that it is a personal matter. You should express if you would like the Minister to be involved. As always public prayer requests can be requested during Joys and Concerns, during Wednesday evening prayer meetings or at Thursday office hours.

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."





Let's "Blanket the World with Love" again!!



Hi, friends!! Mickey here! Last year (which may seem like at least a decade ago), 2020, Presbyterian Women (PW) again offered the opportunity for you to order lightweight (@\$10) or heavyweight (@\$15) blankets through Church World Service (CWS) in honor of your mothers and in memory of my brother Chris. Thirty-six blankets were donated in his name with a total of 102 blankets donated altogether!!!! You are a marvelous and generous congregation and I truly thank you from the bottom of my heart.

This year, PW is going to offer the blankets from April 25 to June 27 to encompass Mother's Day and Father's Day, and to give you the chance to give in honor or memory of anyone. For anyone new to this program, you do not buy literal blankets, but give the money to CWS through PW; blankets are sent to places and people in this country and around the world that are experiencing disasters and difficult times. In return, **you can get cards to send, or you can send your own cards or make cards using the picture below.**



I will collect the money/checks—either you can mail them to me or drop them off on our porch; let me know if you want cards and I'll have them ready for you:

518-356-1691

Jean Michelle Nieman
896 Pine Hill Dr
Schenectady, NY 12303

Checks should be made out to PW of HUPC. Please write in the memo line the type and number of your choice(s): for example, "1 hvywht" (\$15); "2 lgtwht" (\$20); "1 lgtwht, 3 hvywht" (\$55); "5 hvywht," (\$75) etc.

Thank you in advance! We'll remind you for May and June! (I love exclamation points!) Love, Mickey

GADE FARM DAYS

Many thanks to the Gade family for sponsoring GADE FARM DAYS to support the mission projects of Presbyterian Women. This year the dates are MAY 21-23 and JUNE 4-6. Please bring a copy of the coupon below when you come to shop. Contact Nancy Messersmith if you have any questions. Thanks so much for your support.

GADE FARM DAYS 2021

Friday, Saturday and Sunday: May 21, 22, and 23

Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____



Presbyterian Women's Vision

Presbyterian Women (PW) is a denomination-wide organization, open to all women. Presbyterian Women members are those who choose to be supportive of Presbyterian Women in any way. Presbyterian Women seeks the membership of women from all racial/ethnic groups so that the organization may reflect a vision of the whole church as a community of mutual interdependence in which diversity contributes to wholeness. We give strong support to the mission of the Presbyterian Church USA and determine our own leadership, program and budget.



A Message from the Session, to the Congregation about Reopening

Your Session is very aware that many of us are now vaccinated against Covid and activities and venues are gradually reopening. Many of you are eager to return to in-person worship, and many of us are also. It is time to discuss and plan for reopening, and we began that process at our monthly meeting earlier this week.

Here are some key takeaways from that discussion:

Covid cases in Albany County are still high; higher than they were when we briefly reopened in the fall. Although many people have been vaccinated, most are still waiting for their turn. Our main concern, as it has been since the start of the pandemic, is to keep everyone safe. That means we will follow best practices and protocols, as set out by state requirements for reopening. These can be found online at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/ReligiousandFuneralServicesSummaryGuidance.pdf> . We will also follow the reopening plan developed by our own Covid Task Force, headed by Elder Trudy Hutchinson, a Doctor of Nursing, and which also included several members with experience in and knowledge of public health.

When we briefly reopened last fall, some people were not prepared for the way worship must be conducted in these “Covid Times.” **It is very important to understand that when we reopen, in-person worship will look very different than the in-person worship we cherish and remember.** For example:

- Everyone **must** wear a mask (except the Pastor while she/he is conducting the service, for audio clarity) **at all times**.
- In-person singing will not be possible.
- Capacity will be limited, and social-distancing will be required, with 6 feet between family groups and individuals not from the same household.
- Embracing or shaking hands with those outside your household is prohibited.
- Hymnals cannot be used, and collection plates cannot be passed.

Fellowship Time may be possible, outside and in revised form, but we are still discussing how to safely do that.

Reservations will be needed to attend worship, and we must screen folks (symptom check) before they enter the church. Ushers will need to show people to their pew. After the service, pews and shared objects must be cleaned/disinfected according to CDC and NYS Department of Health guidelines.

A Message ... about Reopening

It is important to note that even if you are fully-vaccinated, you must adhere to the requirements above in order to protect everyone.

All of this means we will need more volunteers to hold each service: one greeter/screener, two ushers, and cleaners after the service. And just as we need to know in advance who is our lay reader for a given service, we need to know **in advance** that volunteers for these new tasks are in place in order for reopening to work.

In the coming weeks, Session will be continuing this discussion and planning for reopening. We will be circulating a sign-up sheet for tasks needed to hold Worship, and if you are comfortable returning to in-person worship, we urge you to consider how you can help and sign up.

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 on Zoom.

- - our next Circle Meeting is Tues, May 25 from 10:30 am – noon. We will discuss Lesson 9, *Words of Love: Don't Fixate on What You Don't Have* from the Bible Study. *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*. Extra Bible Study materials are available.
- *- Until Sun, June 27 we will be “selling” blankets for *Church World Service Blanket Sale*
- *- Fri, May 21 – Sun, May 23 - Gade Farm Days Fundraiser
- *- Sat, June 5 –10:00 am - Mission-Minded Brunch

* More information is else where in the newsletter.

Over the next few months we will be including some basic information about Presbyterian Women.



“Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.” —Marion C. Garretty

“If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way mom told you to in the beginning.” —Unknown

We have TWO--count 'em: 2!--ways to contribute to the CROP Walk for 2021. It's still virtual--no walk from First Lutheran--but we have a team webpage for online donations and the possibility of writing checks made out to **CWS-CROP** and giving them to Betty Deitz *AND* walking with Betty at Tawasentha Park on May 2 at 1:30 PM.

If you want to make an online donation, do the following:

- 1) type in "Albany Crop Walk 2021" in your search bar
- 2) in their search bar, type in "Hamilton" and click on our church name
- 3) click on "Donate Now" and make a donation to our Hamilton Union team--nothing's too small or too big!!!

If you want to write a check, make it out to "**CWS-CROP**," write "Hamilton Union" in the memo line, and get it to Betty Deitz, either before or on the day of the walk. You can let me know how much the check is for, if you want, and I'll add that in the total for our team. If you don't want your name attached, just let me know; I'll just post the amount under "anonymous."

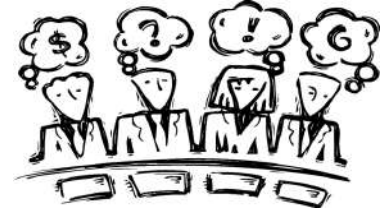
Let's do our best to make the 25% that comes back to the area an even larger amount than last year!!!

Love, Mickey Nieman and Betty Deitz



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS From March 2, March 10, 2021

- The motion that the Session approve the sum of \$2,027.90 from the Norma Hardenburgh bequest for the purchase and installation from Tech Valley Office Interiors of three bookcases for the Pastor's office was Passed.
- The motion that the Session approve up to \$500 for Dreamlab Productions for training of the five additional people on the Tech Team for worship was Passed.
- The Motion that the Session approve up to \$200 for a new adjustable desk chair for the Tech Team station in the sanctuary was Passed.
- We discussed the issues involved in re-opening in response to congregational interest in returning to in-person worship.
- Pastor Janice discussed her final report to the Session addressing her time as interim pastor, beginning with the questions for HUPC: Who are we?, What are we here for?, and Who is our neighbor? The church has increased skills in the areas of communication and mission, as we focus on the issues surrounding Food Insecurity in our neighborhood and beyond. As we have worked to become ready for a vital partnership with a new pastoral leader, we have become more resilient and receptive to change and technological demands. Session members expressed deep appreciation for Pastor Janice's ability to guide and challenge us as we prepare to start the next chapter in HUPC ministry.
- On Pastor Janice's last Sunday, April 25, there will be a covenant of closure involving COMAC at the Zoom 10:00am service.



The **Guilderland Food Pantry** is currently in need of juice, laundry and dish detergent, stew, and hearty soups (Chunky, Progresso, etc.) Cash donations can be sent to the Guilderland Food Pantry, 4 Charles Park, Guilderland, NY 12084. Donations of food, household, and personal care products can be brought to the Pantry at Charles Park Monday through Saturday, 9:30 to 11:00 AM. Non-perishable items can be placed in the bin in front of the HUPC Education Building, and the bin next to the Food Pantry entrance. For more information, contact Cindy Schultz, HUPC liaison to the Food Pantry, at cschult3@nycap.rr.com, cell 518-253-1062.



Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our "circles."

What you need:

- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house, my city, my state, my country, the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.



A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

"But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answer: power

HAMILTON UNION HAPPENINGS



May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 9:30am Tech Team Training (S)
<i>2</i> COMMUNION 10am Worship Service (Z)	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 7pm Session Meeting (Z)	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i> 10am Worship Service (Z)	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i> 10am Worship Service (Z)	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> PENTECOST 10am Worship Service (Z)	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 10:30am PW Circle Meeting (Z)	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> 10am Worship Service (Z)	<i>31</i>					

Z = Zoom

F=Facebook

S=Sanctuary

PL=Parking Lot

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

Newsletter deadline for the
June issue is
Thursday, May 13

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**

