

Good News

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

Volume 31 No 6



June 2021

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

Purple Pantry Collection Continues Through the Summer.

Personal items for the *The Purple Pantry*, the food pantry on the UAlbany Campus is a continuous collection. *The Purple Pantry* is open year around. Many UAlbany employees and students are on campus in the summer. Needed items are feminine care products, toothpaste, facial tissues, deodorant, shampoo, soap, contact solution, 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.



Thank You in Advance - Presbyterian Women

LAY READERS

- June 6 **Cindy Schultz**
- June 13 **Nancy Messersmith**
- June 20 **Peter McKinney**
- June 27 **Fred Sirois**



Thank you for your
donation to the Christ
Child Society.

We truly appreciate
books donated for our
literacy program.

The book drive was a
huge success and great
help to the Society. Many
thanks for all of your work.

Sincerely,
Jean Bursi, Corresponding Secretary

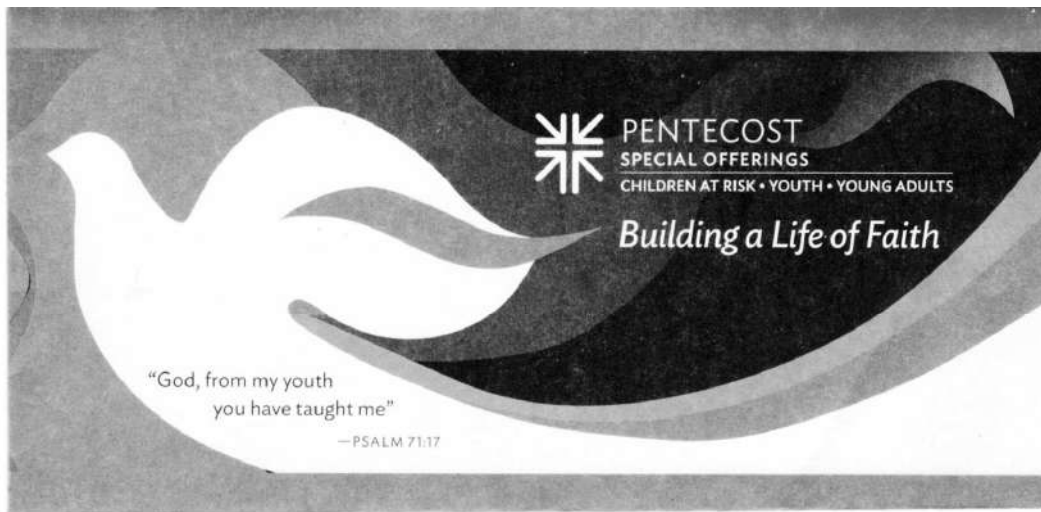


A note from Vi McKaig -

Congratulations to Shelby Deere who graduated from SUNY Albany on May 25 with a BA degree. She is currently living and working in Utica.

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 or at office hours.





Langley Hoyt spent a year in Washington, DC as a Young Adult Volunteer; an experience that reinforced the importance of her faith as she continues to discern how she wants “to live and be in the world,” particularly in the light of the PC(USA)’s Matthew 25 invitation’s to “build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism and eradicate systemic poverty.”

Langley is a teacher.



When the Revs. Myung Sung “Martin” Han and Jieun Kim Han, accepted the call to serve the church from Seoul, Korea, their 15-year old daughter Sami left many things behind — but not her deeply felt connectedness to her church. Sami believes that youth can generate ideas for more effective worship services that speak to younger generations, and looks forward to being involved in hands-on mission projects and church youth activities in South Korea.

Sami is a teacher.

With a foundation in faith built in the early years, our youth can teach us something about leading movements for change in their own communities and in the world. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.



40%

stays with this congregation

to develop and support programs for young people in our own church and community.



25%

supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV),

serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.



25%

supports Ministries with Youth

including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.



10%

is devoted to children at-risk

to improve education and provide safe havens.

The gifts we share will help young people learn important lessons about life and faith. And children, youth, and young adults can teach us new things and help us shape our faith, too.

Please give generously...for if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Spring Mission Minded Brunch — Saturday, JUNE 5, 10am

All are welcome to the Spring Mission Minded Brunch, sponsored by the HUPC Presbyterian Women. Again this year we will be meeting on the lawn and/or parking lot of the church. Bring your 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.



HUPC Brooks Chicken and Rib BBQ

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm or sold out

Drive Thru Only No Pre-orders

Proceeds will support Mission projects such as the Guilderland Food Pantry and the church.



- Chicken Dinner: \$13.00
- Chicken Only: \$8.00
- Rib Dinner: \$15.00
- Ribs Only: \$10.00

Please volunteer for a two-hour block of time, 2:30p – 4:30p or 4:30p – 6:30p.

Contact Ron Messersmith at rmessersster@gmail.com

Tech Team News — Karen Williamson

If you've been worshipping with us regularly the last few weeks, you know our Tech Team has been dealing with some issues using the new technology in the Sanctuary. To us, sometimes it seems like a game of "whack-a-mole:" just when we figure out an answer to one issue, another crops up. Or just when we think an issue is solved, it recurs, like the continuing "echo" issue on Zoom.

We are working hard to share what we learn each week amongst ourselves, and we are closely working with the vendor, Dream Lab Productions, especially on sound issues. They have been very responsive, and will be back in the Sanctuary during worship for training on May 16 and June 6. We hear and appreciate the feedback we receive from the congregation, especially because so far we cannot hear what you hear on Zoom due to the echo (feedback) problem. And we especially appreciate your patience and support.

You may wonder why this seems to be taking so long to iron out the kinks. Here's why. The software we are using is called vMix. It's cutting edge, professional-level software that pros use at concerts, for example, to control cameras, live and pre-recorded music, live speakers, and visuals. Basically, Tech Team is running a live "show" each Sunday! Vmix is extremely versatile, but it takes time to learn and must be tailored to the unique circumstances and set-up of each church. That means there's a break-in period, where often we don't know what we don't know yet. I asked our trainer from Dream Lab if other churches were experiencing these types of problems. The answer was "oh yes!" So we are not alone.

We have a fantastic group on Tech Team. We are now up to 9 people who are either fully-trained or in training on the Vmix system. Tech Team members are:

- Meredith and Jack Eberz
- Kyle and Audrey Hall
- Mark Hutchinson
- Diane Irwin and Hugh Stevens
- Fred Sirois, and
- Karen Williamson.



There's always room for more — training provided! We need two people each Sunday: one to operate vMix and one to be the Zoom host. Young people are also welcome, and we already have two, with more considering. This is a great way to serve your church family and get service hours for school at the same time! If you are interested in joining Tech Team, contact Karen Williamson at communications@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org .

Thank you for your patience, and we hope you'll consider joining us.

Hamilton Union Reopening for In-Person/Hybrid Worship on Sunday, May 23

By unanimous vote at its May 11 meeting, Session voted to reopen the Sanctuary for in-person worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Zoom worship will continue, and all Covid health protocols will be followed. For now, there will be one worship service at 10 am.

This action was taken recognizing that many members are now vaccinated. Also infection rates in Albany County have been and are continuing to decline.

Here's what you need to know:

- If you don't feel well or have any flu or COVID symptoms, please do not attend worship in person. Use Zoom instead.
- We ask that you RSVP by the Thursday preceding the Sunday service you wish to attend in person. Reservations are not needed if you plan to attend via Zoom. For example, if you wish to attend in person for May 23, you should RSVP by Thursday, May 20. Please tell us your name and the number of people in your party. The easiest way to RSVP is via email to rsvpworship@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org. You can also call the Church Office at 518-456-5410 and leave a message.
- Masks that cover your mouth and nose must be worn (even if you are vaccinated), and we must maintain 6 feet of distance between individuals or family groups. Ushers will be available to assist with seating.
- Please sign in at the door with your name and phone number. This indicates that you know yourself and those in your party to be healthy, to have not come in contact with someone who is Covid-19 positive, and that you do not have any symptoms. Please record your name and phone number for contact tracing purposes.
- We will continue with recorded music, since singing in enclosed spaces — the choir — is not yet permitted.
- Printed bulletins will be available in the Sanctuary, or print yours out at home and bring it along. We ask that you DO NOT plan to follow the bulletin on your phone, iPad, or other electronic device. Although that certainly does save paper, unless the volume of EVERY electronic device in the Sanctuary is turned off (except Tech Team), a feedback loop — which causes the Zoom “echo” — is created.
- Wipes will be available should you wish to wipe down the area you are seated in. Hand sanitizer will also be provided.
- Please send Joys and Concerns in advance of the service to joysandconcerns@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org. Passing the mike for these is not yet possible.
- Windows will be open for ventilation, so please dress appropriately.

We cannot pass the collection plate or hold Fellowship Time indoors yet. We are working on how we will do these.

We are aware that the CDC changed its guidance on wearing masks May 13, but New York State has not yet provided guidance on how — or if — this will impact State rules governing houses of worship. So, we are obligated to follow the rules currently in place as of this writing.

Although we are looking forward to returning to in-person worship, we recognize that many people may wish to continue worshipping with us via Zoom. That is perfectly fine! We are planning to continue Zoom worship.

We look forward to gathering once again in person as God's family for worship!

Happy Birthday to ...

Caroline Gade (June 2)
 Margaret Gardam (June 4)
 Jack Haefeli (June 7)
 Megan Reis (June 8)
 Bill Hasselbarth (June 11)
 Camille Lajoie (June 15)
 MJ Pattison (June 27)

***Happy Anniversary to ...***

Melinda and Chuck Rielly (June 20)
 Mickey and Terry Nieman (June 24)
 Nancy and Ron Messersmith (June 28)

If you would like to have a birthday, an anniversary, or another important event in you and your family's lives published in the HUPC "Good News" newsletter, please call or text Ann McKinney at (518) 488-7195 or email her at ANNANDPETERMCKINNEY@GMAIL.COM with this information. If you use our OLD House Phone (518) 326-0895, you cannot leave a message.

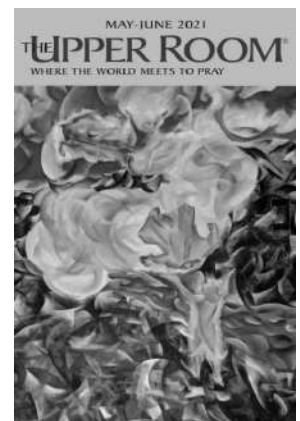
Thanks for keeping the dates of these special occasions up-to-date.

Ann McKinney

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."



PW says: We ARE blanketing the world with LOVE!!

Exciting news, friends!! Mickey here! Last year we sent a check to Church World Service (CWS) for \$1350. in blankets in honor of your mothers and in memory of my brother Chris. This year we ALREADY have \$1360 in blankets (52 lightweight and 56 heavyweight—15 blankets were given in honor of Janice).

PW is offering the blankets through 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:

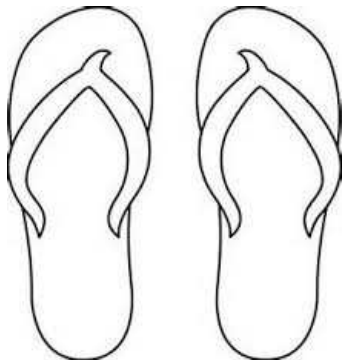
518-356-1691
 Jean Michelle Nieman
 896 Pine Hill Dr
 Schenectady, NY 12303



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 June! (I STILL love exclamation points!) Love, Mickey

Men’s Flip-Flop Collection



Men’s flip-flops are needed for the *Capital Area Council of Churches Emergency Overflow Shelter*. They can generally only be purchased in the summer. Donations can be left in the collection box at the top of the stairs in the Christian Education Building or in the deck box outside the Christian Education Building. This is one of our continuous collections. Men’s white athletic socks and laundry detergent are also needed. The donations will be regularly delivered to the shelter starting in late October.

Thank You in Advance - Presbyterian Women

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: June 4, 5 and 6



Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____



In recent newsletters we have including some basic information about Presbyterian Women. Every January our Coordinating Team meets to review the previous year’s activities and plan for the coming year. One of the things we do is to update our goals.

Presbyterian Women’s Goals for 2021

- to listen to God and to others for guidance and vision
- to continue to develop our spirituality both individually and as a group
- to encourage our church family to support our mission opportunities
- to serve people who may have immediate needs throughout the year
- to educate ourselves about Presbyterian Women’s mission and ongoing giving
- to create flexible opportunities for women in our congregation to participate in Presbyterian Women
- to improve our ability to communicate on social media

Writing for Facebook

Karen Williamson, Facebook Coordinator

I get lots of questions about how to write for Hamilton Union's Facebook page, so I decided a quick "how-to" column was in order.

First, Facebook is a very conversational medium. Write as if you were talking to someone; it's definitely not the style you were probably taught in English class. Your key idea or message should be right up front, and your tone should be friendly and clear-spoken.

Second, write as if your reader knows nothing about our church. Please spell out acronyms — including HUPC — and don't assume that everyone knows who to call or knows how we do things. A good way to cover your bases is to make sure you answer the basic journalistic questions of "who, what, where, when, why and how." I have heard it said that Facebook is the new "digital front door" of a church for the greater community. Our Facebook audience does include our members, but it also includes our greater community.

Third, Facebook is immediate. If we want to thank the community for supporting our latest Brooks BBQ, for example, we need to post about it ASAP after the BBQ — like a day or two after. This includes photos — see below.

Fourth, photos or visuals will really boost how much your post gets seen. When I check the metrics of Hamilton Union's posts, the ones that include photos invariably get the highest number of engagements, shares and views.

Finally, keep your post short, concise and to the point. One to three paragraphs is good; the shorter the better. Focus on one idea. If it seems too long, can you include a link to a pertinent web page, or maybe do another post(s) on an idea or ideas included?

Most important, DO think about using Facebook to publicize your event or what your Ministry Team is doing. I aim for 5 - 7 posts per week, so I'm very open to new content. Whatever you send does not need to be perfect; I will edit and format for Facebook if needed. And I love getting photos. These also do not need to be perfect; I can crop and correct exposure in my photo-editing program. If you don't have photos, that's ok: I maintain a folder of "stock" photos that I can use with posts. One note on photos: please do not send photos showing identifiable children and young people, unless their parents have said it's ok. And include a church contact email if possible; I don't publish individual phone numbers, emails or other personally-identifiable information on our Facebook page.

Questions? Contact me at communications@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org .
I hope you'll give Facebook a try!



Virtual Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering.

Thursday, August 5 - time TBA

The in-person Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering has been cancelled, this year. In its place, a two hour event is planned that will include a worship service and presentation by Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC (USA).

The theme is *Rejoice in Hope*, based on the scripture passage, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers" (Rom. 12:12-13).

See www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering for evolving details.

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, June 4 – Sun, June 6: Gade Farm Days Fundraiser

*- Sat, June 5 – 10:00 am: Mission-Minded Brunch

*- Thurs., Aug 5: Virtual Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering

* More information is else where in the newsletter.



Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

CROP Walk Results 2021

Hamilton Union raised \$2,073 this year. 25% of that comes back to our area to local food banks and soup kitchens!!!! Nine people walked at Tawasentha Park on May 2. Thank you to all who supported us, whether financially or in prayer.

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME




SESSION HIGHLIGHTS From May 11, 2021

- **The Session welcomed Pastor Kyle Delhagen to his first HUPC meeting as moderator!** The meeting began with prayer and devotions from the Book of Common Worship by Pastor Kyle.
- The Session unanimously approved the motion to resume in-person with Zoom worship on Pentecost, May 23, with appropriate COVID protocols in place.
- The Session approved the motion from the Property team to hire an engineer to advise/guide our congregation on work projects in the church, who is knowledgeable of codes/requirements for construction projects, at a cost up \$10,000 to come from the Hallenbeck Gift.
- The Finance team reported the first quarter budget was at a break-even point for the year. The SBA loan of \$18,000 has been forgiven.
- A summary of Session approved capital projects funded by the Hallenbeck Gift: Tech equipment \$7,000, Tech booth \$9,000, Sanctuary windows \$8,000, Education Building Shades \$23,000, Bell tower repairs \$7,500, Hymnals \$3,500, Music Ministry \$5,000.

Next Session Meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2021



A Reminder with Summer Approaching
Tea for the Soul to Go at Albany Medical Center
A Project for Big People and Little People—and those in-between!!!

I just received more beautifully decorated bags today—Marlene and Hiram drove out to deliver them—their daughter Kathleen helped too. It reminded me to send a note to our newsletter because this might be a family project for the summer!!!!!!

Do you like snacks? The medical personnel and staff at Albany Med do too! Sometimes it's their only pick-me-up during a long day of service. Several of you have **decorated** many paper bags to hold those snacks and **included a personal thank-you note inside** thanking an individual **OR** you **contributed money** toward the purchase of those snacks. Presbyterian Women here at Hamilton Union is still supporting this project. AMC's Pastoral Care Dept collects decorated brown or white lunch bags and puts snacks in them for their and our hard-working friends at AMC.

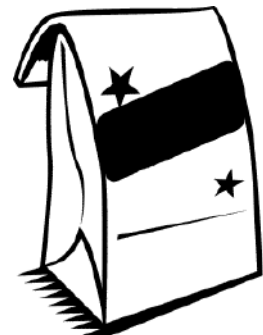
You can pick some bags up at Mickey's house or order them yourself online. Families with kids: maybe you'd like to go in together on the bags—they can be ordered through Amazon.

Once you have the bags, **decorate** them: cut up old cards, use stickers, put curly ribbons on the handle, draw with crayons or pencils or colored felt-tip pens You decide!! Then **write a personal thank-you note** and sign it "from a friend at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church." Make the note generic because we don't know the sex or religion of our friends there. Financial donations are appreciated to cover the costs for the snacks. **Make out checks** to Albany Medical Center Pastoral Care Department, with *Tea for The Soul to Go* in the memo line.

Deliver decorated bags and/or checks to Mickey Nieman (518-356-1691) or mail them directly:

Albany Medical Center, Pastoral Care Department
 Mail Code 19
 43 New Scotland Ave
 Albany, NY 12208

If you want to give cash, Mickey will write a check to cover your amount and include it in a mailing.





Make a sunflower, which turns its head to follow the sun.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Yellow marker
- Scissors
- Yarn (black and brown)



What you do:

1. Color the entire plate yellow.
2. Around the edge, cut out an odd number of triangles. Evenly space the cuts to form flower petals.
3. Poke a hole in the plate's center. String black yarn through the hole and over one triangle cut. Tie a knot at the back of the plate.
4. Continue looping yarn through the hole and over the remaining cuts. Secure the end. The flower should look like a wagon wheel with black spokes.
5. Tie the brown yarn to a black "spoke." Weave the brown yarn over and under the spokes in a circle. Continue until the sunflower has a large center. Then tie the end.
6. Display your craft as a reminder to follow the Son, Jesus!



Conundrums of creation

God's creation is filled with amazing and sometimes puzzling works.

Directions: Use the bank of picture clues to answer the riddles.



- You can hold but not touch this. _____
- Before using this, you must break it. _____
- This falls without getting hurt. _____
- This gets bigger the more you take away. _____
- This has an eye but cannot see. _____

"In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the ____.
 It is like ... a champion rejoicing to run his course.
 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit
 to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth."

PSALM 19:4-6, NIV

Answer: breath, egg, rain, hole, hurricane, sun

HAMILTON UNION HAPPENINGS



June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 10a Mission-Minded Brunch (P)
6 <i>COMMUNION</i> 10am Worship Service (S & Z)	7	8 7pm Session Meeting (Z)	9	10	11	12
13 10am Worship Service (S & Z)	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10am Worship Service (S & Z)	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10am Worship Service (S & Z)	28	29	30			

Z = Zoom F=Facebook S=Sanctuary P=Parking Lot

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2291 Western Avenue

Guiderland, New York 12084-9747

Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

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Pastor:

revkyle@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org

Website: HamiltonUnionPresbyterianChurch.org
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Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

Our Staff:

Rev. Kyle Delhagen, 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

Newsletter deadline for the
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Thursday, June 10

