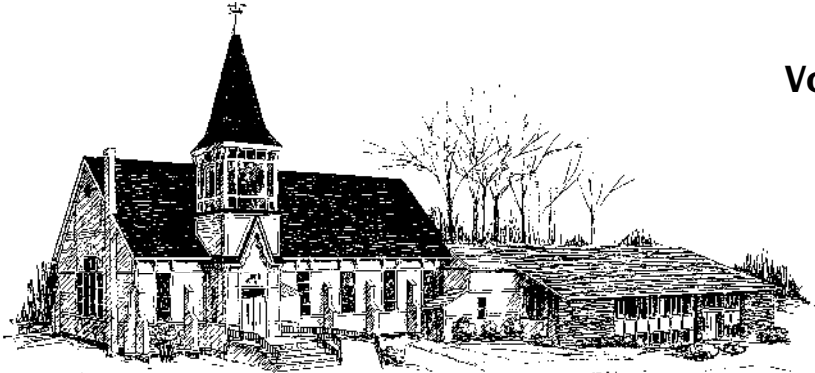


Good News

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

Volume 32 No 02

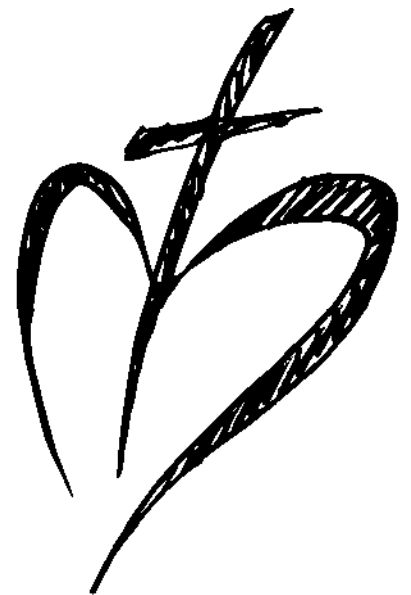


February 2022

Sunday Worship Services are held 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

“I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.”
~Psalm 40:1

Fellow Seekers,

On Sunday, January 16, we dedicated our new hymnals, commissioned our new organist and choir director, Carol Scott, and celebrated the very generous gift of the family of former members, Randall and Mary Hallenbeck. So I've been thinking a lot these past few weeks about singing.

In 1983, the Irish rock band U2 released their third studio album, *War*. It is a record that focuses on both the physical aspects of warfare, and the emotional after-effects of violent conflict, especially in light of the conflict in Northern Ireland throughout the 20th century.

But it is the tenth, and final song on the album that really finds a spiritual power rarely found in pop music. “40” was written in about ten minutes, but has become a regular closing song for the group at their concerts throughout the years. The story goes that the band was going to be kicked out of the recording studio, but they still needed a final song for the unfinished album. Their guitarist, The Edge, brought out a tune he had played with over the years, and Bono, the lead singer, opened up his bible and found himself in Psalm 40.

Of course, I knew none of this when I was first introduced to the song at Camp Fowler over 25 years ago. I just thought it was a great musical version of Psalm 40. It was also, because of its relatively easy chording, one of the first songs I really learned to play on the guitar.



The more I have gotten to know this song, the more I have gotten to know this psalm, the more in love with it I have grown. Just read the first three verses:

“I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”

The poetry of this psalm of David speaks to us in many circumstances throughout our lives. It is a reminder when we have forgotten; an encouragement when we are doubting; a confirmation in our belief. It is a song for when we have no song to sing, or aren't sure what to sing, or maybe just need a new song!

The beauty of scripture is that it continues to speak to us anew throughout our lives, even when we didn't think a text had anything new left to say to us. My prayer for you in this season is that you will continue to find these new songs throughout our scriptural tradition. Just open up your Bible and start singing.

Grace & peace (and singing),

~Pastor Kyle



A Sneak Peek at what Pastor Kyle will be preaching on in February:

February 6 - Luke 5:1-11, the call of the disciples

February 13 - Luke 6:17-26, Jesus teaches and heals

February 20 - Luke 6:27-38, the command to love one's enemies

February 27 - Luke 9:28-36, the Transfiguration

LITURGISTS

- Feb. 6 **Bill Hasselbarth**
- Feb. 13 **George Hannett**
- Feb. 20 **Peter McKinney**
- Feb. 27 **Karen Unser**

TECH TEAM

- Feb. 6 **Mark Hutchinson and
Fred Sirois
(Karen Williamson
training on Vmix)**
- Feb. 13 **Kyle and Audrey Hall**
- Feb. 20 **Meredith and Jack Eberz
(Liz and Declan Egan
training)**
- Feb. 27 **Diane Irwin and
Hugh Stevens**

COUNTERS

- Feb. 6 **Laura Smith
Carolyn Sarbello**
- Feb. 13 **Bill Hasselbarth
Hannah Hunter-Harris**
- Feb. 20 **Margaret Gardam
Peter McKinney**
- Feb. 27 **Karen Unser
Billy DeBarthe**



Bible Study

Interrupting Silence: God's Command to Speak Out, by Walter Brueggemann
 Thursday evenings, 7 pm, March 3rd through April 28th (8 sessions)
Hybrid: in person and via Zoom

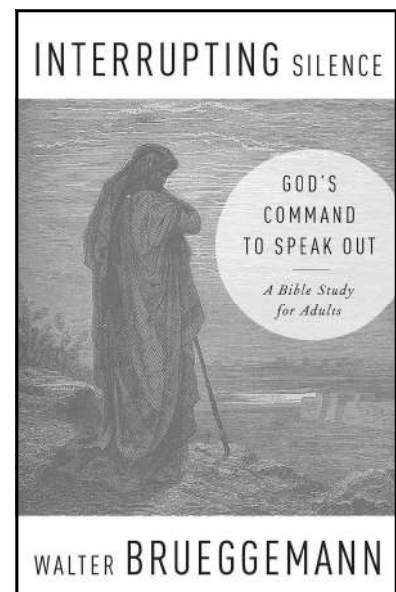
*PLEASE NOTE: we will *not* meet on Thursday, April 14th,
 as it is Maundy Thursday

Silence is a complex matter. It can refer to awe before unutterable holiness, but it can also refer to the coercion where some voices are silenced in the interest of control by the dominant voices. It is the latter silence that Walter Brueggemann explores, urging us to speak up in situations of injustice.

Interrupting Silence illustrates that the Bible is filled with stories where marginalized people break repressive silence and speak against it. Examining how maintaining silence allows the powerful to keep control, Brueggemann motivates readers to consider situations in their lives where they need to either interrupt silence or be part of the problem, convincing us that God is active and wanting us to act for justice.

Join us Tuesday evenings throughout Lent and into Easter as we consider the silences we are faced with in our lives and in our world. As a Matthew 25 congregation, this is a wonderful starting point as we think about where we are called to use our voice for the marginalized and oppressed.

The cost of a book is \$10, though if cost is prohibitive, please speak to Pastor Kyle.



Please sign up by calling the church office, or contacting Pastor Kyle directly.

Our Lenten Series: *Full to the Brim*

The scriptures for this Lenten season (in the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C) are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise - these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. *Full to the Brim* is an invitation - into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

It also recognizes that traditional iterations of Lent often emphasize restraint, confession, and piety. The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, *Full to the Brim* trusts the promise of our baptisms - God has already claimed us as God's own and nothing we can do will *ever* change or erase that.

Full to the Brim doesn't ignore or deny sin and suffering. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully - as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust - fully - that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God



Mission & Social Witness

2022 Mission Project: Poverty

The Mission & Social Witness Committee has developed another year-long program for 2022, and after a short break during the month of January we're ready to get back to work! Our focus will be on poverty. Our goal is for the congregation to learn about the many different areas of life affected by poverty and to dedicate time, energy and resources to address this problem. We have organized a series of related topics to be discussed each month. Many of the topics will involve information, programs or resources with which you are familiar, such as Habitat for Humanity, Wizard's Wardrobe and the Regional Food Bank. Other topics may include information that is new to some or all members and can be explored together as a congregation as we settle into our designation as a Matthew 25 church.

As a committee, we will be presenting information each month in the newsletter and during the Mission for Minute segment of Sunday Worship. Our hope is that through education and collaboration we can identify opportunities to offer support and make a difference here in the Capital District and beyond.

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



Event Planning Form

The Communications Ministry Team has created an "Event Planning Form" to be used by those planning any church events or meetings. The purpose of the Event Planning Form was to schedule rooms, organize information and publicize events. A more thorough explanation can be found in January's newsletter. For recurring meetings, only one form needs to be completed. Hard copies of the form can be found in the back of the church or in the church office under the bulletin board. You may also fill out the electronic version found here:

<https://forms.gle/hv8W7sSDYsy3hFXk7>

Please place all forms in Kim's mailbox. Questions? Email or call Kim in the church office.

When Inclement Weather Strikes: Cancelling In-Person Sunday Worship

Sunday, January 9 was the first time this winter we needed to cancel in-person worship and switch to Zoom-only worship due to unsafe weather conditions. Overall, the last-minute switch went well, but there are a few things to clarify.

The Pastor, in consultation with the Clerk of Session and the Organist, makes the call about whether in-person worship must be cancelled. The main consideration is safety: is driving hazardous? will the sidewalks and parking lot be safe to walk on for everyone? Pastor Kyle will be monitoring weather reports on Saturday in hopes of being able to make a decision Saturday evening, but sometimes this isn't possible. In that case, a decision will be made by 7:30 am Sunday morning.

Once a decision is made, notice will go out via our Facebook page and church-wide email. The email will include the Zoom link. The Deacon on Call for that month will arrange to call those who don't use email. We are also looking into possibly placing notices on local television stations, putting a message on the Church Office phone, and perhaps a text message group for those interested.

The most important message here is if you don't feel safe coming to church for any reason, please join us via Zoom. And if the weather is questionable, please make sure you check your email first thing Sunday morning.



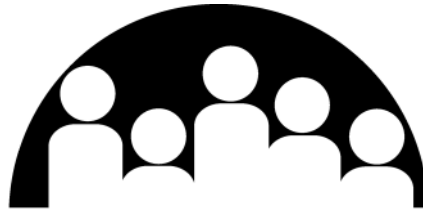
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The M&SW ministry team is reaching out to the congregation for someone(s) to promote the 4 denominational offerings in 2022: One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) in March, Pentecost in May, Peace and Global Witness in September and the Christmas Joy Gift in December. A box of materials is sent to the church from the National office for each offering. Training/guidance will be available for anyone interested in helping with this responsibility. There is no fixed formula for the way this information is presented to the congregation, and any new ideas would be welcomed. Please contact Lindsay Hall by email if you are interested in this opportunity and/or have questions.

January 2022 Session Update

At the January 4 Session meeting, the following action was taken:

- Approval of the 2022 budget (which will be presented on 1/30 at the Annual Congregational/Corporation meeting).
- Received an update from the Nominating Committee (elections, ordination and/or installation on 1/30/22)
- New Ministry Team configurations approved: Finance/Budget/Stewardship; Communication & Outreach; Worship & Congregational Life. Remaining ministry teams unchanged.



Thank You From Presbyterian Women

We appreciate the HUPC congregation, the "Twinkling Stars Place Preschool" and "Cece's Wool" for the overwhelmingly generous response to our Mitten Tree Project". We collected 268 mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and even socks for children and adults. 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*, *The Guilderland Food Pantry* and *Brian Nitsky's Living Resources Group Home*.

Seek first

Seek first the kingdom of wealth, and you'll worry over every dollar. Seek first the kingdom of health, and you'll sweat every blemish and bump. Seek first the kingdom of popularity, and you'll relive every conflict. Seek first the kingdom of safety, and you'll jump at every crack of the twig. But seek first [God's] kingdom, and you will find it. On that, we can depend and never worry.

—Max Lucado, *Fearless*

Volunteer Opportunity

The Mission Team announces the next volunteer opportunities at the Regional Food Bank to sort donated food:

Thu January 27, 2022	5 to 6:30 PM
Thu February 24, 2022	5 to 6:30 PM
Thu March 24, 2022	5 to 6:30 PM



**Regional
Food Bank**
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

We will have up to 9 slots available, first come, first served. NO sandals or open toe shoes! We are working in a warehouse.

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.

Food News:

A January 2 piece in Bloomberg pointed out that the food insecurity issue has not gone away with the arrival of the new year. In 2020 the number of people needing food assistance soared to 60 million, up 50% from the previous year. But recently Second Harvest Heartland in Minnesota noted that food pantry visits are still 30% over pre-pandemic numbers, in line with what other U.S. food banks are reporting. And who has been affected by food insecurity with the pandemic? The already vulnerable demographics found themselves in particular need. So too did the newly unemployed, those whose hours were cut substantially, and parents suddenly forced to stay home due to closed schools and daycare centers.

Keeping Hamilton Union's Inside Environment Neat

Help Yourself Table and Labeling Items Left for Others

In an effort to de-clutter the church, several unneeded items have been placed on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself.

Also, if you leave something at the church for a member of our church family or a Ministry Team, please label it and let the appropriate person that it is there for them





Happy Birthday to:

Fern Weber (Feb 1)

Katy Waggener (Feb 23)

Steve Smith (Feb 25)

Dorothy Favitta (Feb 27)

If you would like your birthday, anniversary, or some other special occasion printed in the "Good News", please notify Ann McKinney at (518) 488-7195 or email me at: ANNANDPETERMCKINNEY@GMAIL.COM

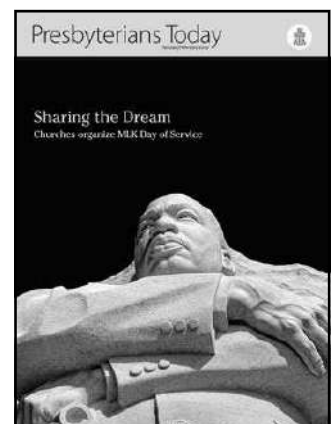
If you see that an incorrect date is in the "Good News", please let me know. Thanks!
Ann McKinney

Presbyterians Today

Do you not know? Have you not heard? *Presbyterians Today* is our denominational magazine! Published six times a year, it explores practical issues of faith and tells stories of Presbyterians who are living their faith and covers a wide range of church news and activities. It features easy-to-understand articles about what Presbyterians believe, Bible study and devotional helps, and provocative commentary on the church's role in society.

Oh yeah, and it's *free*! If you are interested in subscribing to this invaluable resource, go to this link:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/>



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 518-356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com. We meet in the lounge and will plan a hybrid option, if needed. Bring bag lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. The Bible Study we're working on is *Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Lament*. Extra study books are available.

- Our next Circle Meeting is Tues, Feb 22 from 10:30 am –12:30 pm. We will discuss Lesson 6, *Lament Over the City*.
- On Wed, Mar 2, at 6 PM we're hosting a *Virtual Ash Wednesday Soup and Sandwich. Supper*. More information is elsewhere in this newsletter.



Recognition of Presbyterian Women's Involvement at Christmas in Brian Nitsky's Living Resources Group Home

For over fifteen years a special mission project our Presbyterian Women group has been to purchase Christmas Gifts, provide winter accessories and Easter baskets for Brian Nitsky and four other men at his *Living Resources Inc.* Group Home.

The article below highlights our mission at Christmas time and is from *the Living Resources Inc. Albany, New York* website.

The wonderful folks of Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church (HUPC) have been sponsoring our residences for Christmas gifts for many years. They have a special bond with the residents of this house because one of our individuals, Brian, and his family are beloved members of their congregation. Brian grew up in the church and was part of the church's "Special Friends" class from a young age.

Carmen, the medical assistant at the house, gets ideas for gifts from her individuals, who typically request things like pajamas and socks. Carmen gives the information to Brian's father who relays the suggestions to Cindy Schultz, from HUPC. Then, the Hamilton Union Church "Presbyterian Women" (aka PW) jump into action purchasing and wrapping gifts. They also provide warm hats and gloves from their Mitten Tree and plastic "candy canes" filled with chocolates. In addition, this year, all the individuals received a greeting card with a dollar bill in it. On Christmas morning, our individuals opened their surprises with delight and joy.

Cindy said that HUPC is a "very giving congregation" that truly enjoys providing for our residents in this way. "Those in the house love receiving the gifts and it enriches our lives too. It's very much a win-win situation."

We are grateful for this beautiful partnership between the Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church and *Living Resources* and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022, 6 PM—YOUR HOME!

VIRTUAL ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP AND SANDWICH

In the past, as you may know, we gathered in HUPC’s Fellowship Hall and had several different (and ALWAYS delicious!!) soups to choose among. Some people brought sandwiches for themselves as well. We hope next year will see us doing that again, but for 2022, just as in 2021, we’re going to have our Ash Wednesday Service together over Zoom. Have your bowl of soup (and a sandwich if you wish!) handy as we gather for fellowship, complete with smiles and laughter.

Then we’ll move to the worship service, led by The Reverend Kyle. We look forward to seeing many of your smiling faces online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86422701298?pwd=TDF2SGowMzIrVEpZTVpRWWR2M0JNQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 2270 1298 Passcode: 707830

Please have some juice/wine/beverage and a pinch of bread/cracker ready for communion.

And here’s something to make you smile: when the PW Coordinating Team met Jan 11 for planning, several people were eager to sign up for set-up and clean-up for this virtual service!!!



Continuous Collection – Men’s Flip Fops, Socks and Laundry Detergent

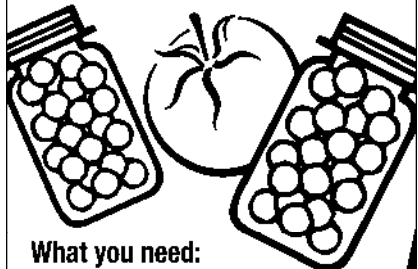
Men’s flip-flops (medium – extra large), laundry detergent and white athletic socks (medium – extra large) are being collected for *The Capital Area Council of Churches Emergency Overflow Shelter*. There is a collection box at the top of the stairs in the Christian Education Building. Donations can also be left in the deck box in front of the Christian Education Building. If you put detergent in the deck box, please label it “for the shelter”



Thank You From Presbyterian Women

Friendship SOUP

Make jars of Italian barley soup to share love and warmth with friends.



What you need:

- 1 cup pearly barley
- 1/2 cup sundried tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp dry minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp dry minced onion
- 1 veggie bouillon cube
- Glass pint jars with lids
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Pen

What you do:

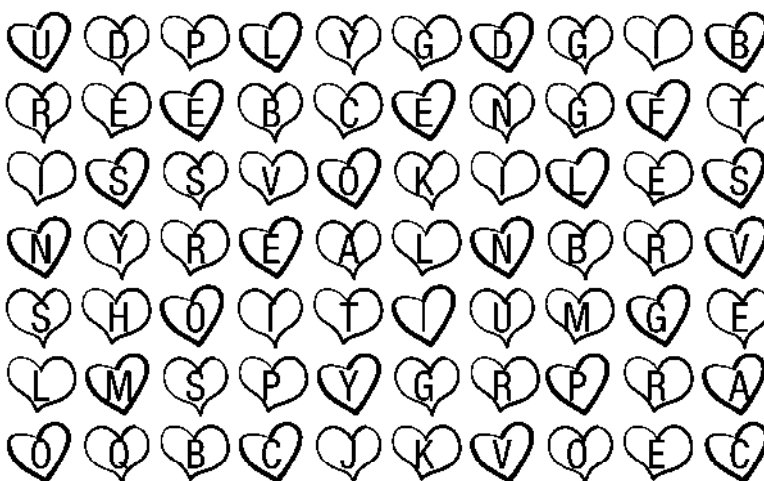
1. In order, layer the first five ingredients into the jar.
2. Trace the outline of the lid onto cardstock. Cut out.
3. On the card, write these directions: Remove wrapper from bouillon cube. Add contents of jar to saucepan. Add 4 cups water and a can of diced tomatoes. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce to low. Simmer about 20 minutes, until barley is tender. Serve with parmesan cheese.
4. Place the card atop the lid. Screw on the canning ring to keep it in place.



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other , because love
 over a multitude of . Offer
 to one another without
 . Each of you should use whatever
 you have received to others, as faithful
 stewards of God's in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace

Hamilton Union Happenings



February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Session Meeting 7:00PM				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday Service 10:00AM	Making Connections Bible Study 3:00-4:30PM		Finance Meeting 7:00PM			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday Service 10:00AM	Making Connections Bible Study 3:00-4:30PM Communications Meeting- 7:00PM			Mission Team Meeting 7:15-8:15PM		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday Service 10:00AM	Making Connections Bible Study 3:00-4:30PM CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY	Presbyterian Women-Circle Meeting 10:30-12:30PM		Mission Team Food Bank 5-6:30PM		
27	28					
Sunday Service 10:00AM	Making Connections Bible Study 3:00-4:30PM					

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

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Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

Our Staff:

Rev. Kyle Delhagen, Pastor

Kim Matthews, Administrative Assistant

Carol Scott, Organist & Choir Director

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

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