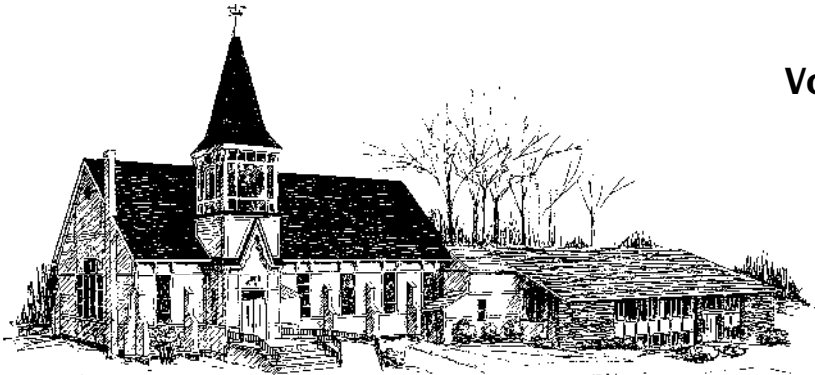


Good News

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

Volume 32 No 03



March 2022

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



An ancient prayer

Lord Jesus, think on me
and purge away my sin.
From earthborn passions set me free
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that when the flood is past,
I may th' eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

—Synesius of Cyrene (4th century)

"Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled." ~Luke 14:23

Friends in Faith,

A truth of our calendar every year is that January seems to crawl at a snail's pace, while February rushes by like a gusting wind. And then all of a sudden, we are in March, disheveled and disoriented, wondering where the first sixth of the year got to!

And in the traditions of the church, March means Lent (sometimes we have already begun this season, while other years, like this year, we are beginning Lent a bit later). And Lent brings with it all sorts of feelings and emotions and preconceptions.

In our tradition, and indeed in Western Christianity for much of its history, Lent is defined by personal discipline, penitence, and reminders of human sin and finitude. We wear ashes on our foreheads, we give up things we like (or love) out of a sense of sacrificial duty, we confess and prepare...

But what if we focused this Lent instead on fullness... and grace... and filling ourselves with the goodness of God... that doesn't sound very Lent-y... but maybe it *is* more of what Lent *should* be.

This Lent we will be focusing in on the theme of *Full to the Brim*. The lectionary scriptures for Year C show us a God who offers us grace - grace that undeserved, unearned, illogical, and boundless. So many of us grew up in a religious tradition that ingrained in us the belief that we are unworthy, deficient, sinful creatures. And Lent usually follows all of this as a time to "prepare" for what is to come.

Here's the thing though: grace is *always a surprise*. We cannot do anything - *nothing* - to prepare for it. Dr. Mark Douglas, professor of Christian Ethics at Columbia Theological Seminary, writes,

“that resurrection is the deepest, most mysterious expression of God’s grace, [and] I simply can’t make theological sense of the claim that any of us can do anything to prepare ourselves for the arrival of such grace on Easter Sunday... Easter is a shock of divine goodness that reveals not the evidence of our worth or the magnitude of our efforts, but God’s astounding power, to which we can but whisper, ‘Thank you,’ not ‘Okay: now I’m ready.’ Whatever work we do at learning to discipline our bodies and our lives, we do in response to God’s grace, not in preparation for it. But there, again is this response - this disciplining - isn’t a seasonal exercise; it’s a lifelong one.”

This Lent, I want to encourage you to look for those things that fill you - that overflow you with goodness and love and all of the things that God desires for us in this life. These past two years have been incredibly depleting for all of us. I think it’s time for us to focus on refilling ourselves with the love of Jesus, that our lives might become rich with blessing.

Grace, peace, and fullness of love,

~Pastor Kyle

Here’s a sneak peek at Pastor Kyle’s sermons for the month of March!



March 6: “Even in the Desert,” on Luke 4:1-13

March 13: “Under God’s Wing,” on Luke 13:31-35

March 20: “You are Worthy,” on Luke 13:1-19

March 27: “Prodigal Grace,” on Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

LITURGISTS

Mar. 6 **Charlotte Hasselbarth**

Mar. 13 **Ann McKinney**

Mar. 20 **Bruce Williamson**

Mar. 27 **Rae Rau**

TECH TEAM

Mar. 2 **Fred Sirois and
George Hannett**

Mar. 6 **Diane Irwin and
Hugh Stevens**

Mar. 13 **Kyle and Audrey Hall**

Mar. 20 **Meredith and Jack
Eberz (Liz and Declan
Egan training)**

Mar. 27 **George Hannett and
Karen Williamson**

COUNTERS

Mar. **Laura Smith**
6 **Carolyn Sarbello**

Mar. **Bill Hasselbarth**
13 **Hannah Hunter-Harris**

Mar. **Margaret Gardam**
20 **Peter McKinney**

Mar. **Karen Unser**
27 **Billy DeBarthe**



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



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women Hudson River
Presbytery

Ash Wednesday Zoom Gathering

March 2, 2022

10:00A.M.-11:30 A.M.

Retreat Leader: Rev. **Debra Bronkema**

"The Power of Stories"



RSVP: Diana Drake Behan to get Zoom link
diana.pwhrp@gmail.com



Happy Birthday to:

Nancy Messersmith (Mar 10)

James Gade Jr. (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)

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



Sunday, March 13

Daylight Saving Time begins.

Don't forget to set
your clocks ahead.

From the Albany Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force

Living on the Hinge of History - The Moral Claim of the Climate Crisis- The Rev. Jim Antal,

An Albany Presbytery Wide Zoom Workshop March 24th 7pm-8pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86544507767>

God has granted each of us the opportunity to address the greatest moral crisis humanity has ever faced. All of Albany Presbytery is invited to a workshop presented by the Rev. Jim Antal on **March 24th at 7pm** on Zoom to explore how we can dive more deeply in responding to this call. We will examine not only the most recent science, but also our grief over the loss of our home. We will ponder how a few generations of humans have reaped immeasurable profits by devastating God’s great gift of creation as they built the modern world. We will see how we are living amidst a theological emergency in which the preservation of God’s creation has been reduced to an ideological debate. And we will identify the actions churches are taking as they seek to be faithful amidst the long emergency.



Jim Antal serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Antal’s 2018 book, **CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD**, is being read by hundreds of churches. From 2006-2018, Antal led the 350 UCC churches in Massachusetts as their Conference Minister and President. He has preached on climate change since 1988 in over 300 settings and has engaged in non-violent civil disobedience on numerous occasions.



Mitten Tree Project 2022

Presbyterian Women will once again be sponsoring our *Mitten Tree Project* from Nov 20 - Dec 11, this year. We collect mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for local agencies. Such items go on sale in late winter and early spring. It’s good time to buy ahead.

Volunteer Opportunity

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

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.

Setting captives free

Though St. Patrick's Day has become a secular "holiday," March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn't very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. "The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes" in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

In *Confessio 61*, St. Patrick writes, "I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God's promises."

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, with a hybrid option. 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.

- * On Wed, Mar 2 from 10 – 11:30 am some of us will attend the Ash Wednesday Zoom Retreat, sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Hudson River.
- * Our Easter Basket Collection begins Sun, Mar 6.
- Our March Circle Meeting is Tues, Mar 22 from 10:30 am –12:30 pm. We will discuss Lesson 7, *Creation Laments*.

* More information is elsewhere in this newsletter.



Easter Basket Project 2022

sponsored by HUPC Presbyterian Women

Our annual 2022 Easter Basket Project will be underway soon. We will take donations from March 6 thru April 3. 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 April 8th.

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

Darlene Bauer
Project coordinator



Save the Date



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany Zoom Spring Gathering

Wednesday, April 27 – 9:45 am to noon

***Presentations by Presbyterian Women Groups
in the Albany Presbytery***


***Installation of Coordinating Team Members by
Rev. Kathy Reeves, Presbyterian Women's
Churchwide Moderator***

For further information contact:


Rosalie Hemingway at 518-758-7886 or silver3213@gmail.com

Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com

Washed clean



Make customized jelly soaps to banish dirt and grime.




What you need:

- 1 package unflavored gelatin
- ¾ cup very warm water
- 1 tsp salt
- ¾ cup gel body wash
- Food coloring
- Rubbing alcohol in spray bottle
- Silicone baking molds

What you do:

1. In a bowl, stir gelatin and warm water until dissolved.
2. Add salt, body wash and a few drops of food coloring. Stir.
3. Spray molds with rubbing alcohol (to prevent bubbles). Place molds on a tray.
4. Pour mixture into the molds. Refrigerate until set, about two hours.
5. Pop soap out of molds and store in an airtight container.



PUZZLE

A wondrous washing

David's prayer of repentance reveals a desire to be cleansed of his sin.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the left. Then match them with the correct phrases from Psalm 51 (NIV) on the right.

ETRCAE _ _ _ _ _	_____	out my transgressions (v. 1)
HSAW _ _ _ _ _	_____	away all my iniquity (v. 2)
RSEEROT _ _ _ _ _	_____	me with hyssop, and I will be clean (v. 7)
WNERE _ _ _ _ _	_____	me, and I will be whiter than snow (v. 7)
TLBO _ _ _ _ _	_____	your face from my sins (v. 9)
DIHE _ _ _ _ _	_____	out all my iniquity (v. 9)
NATRG _ _ _ _ _	_____	in me a pure heart (v. 10)
LNSECAE _ _ _ _ _	_____	a steadfast spirit within me (v. 10)
LBTO _ _ _ _ _	_____	to me the joy of your salvation (v. 12)
WHSA _ _ _ _ _	_____	me a willing spirit, to sustain me (v. 12)

Answer: blot, wash, cleanse, wash, hide, blot, create, renew, restore, grant

Hamilton Union Happenings



March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	ASH WED. 2	3	4	5
Book Bible Study-7:00PM		Presbyterian Women- Coordinating Team Meeting- 10:00AM Session Meeting- 7:00PM	Virtual Ash Wednesday Fellow- ship & Service- 6:00PM	Book Bible Study- 7:00PM		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday Service 10:00AM (Easter Basket Col- lection Begins)	Making Connec- tions Bible Study- 1:00PM			Book Bible Study- 7:00PM		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday Service 10:00AM	Making Connec- tions Bible Study- 1:00PM Communications Meeting- 7:00PM			Mission Team Meeting- 7:15PM Deacons Meeting- 3:00PM Book Bible Study-7:00PM		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday Service 10:00AM	Making Connec- tions Bible Study- 1:00PM	Presbyterian Women Circle Meeting- 10:30am		Mission Team Food Bank- 5:00 Book Bible Study- 7:00PM		
27	28	29	30	31		
Sunday Service 10:00AM	Making Connec- tions Bible Study- 1:00PM			Book Bible Study- 7:00PM		
Making Connec- tions Bible Study- ZOOM	Communications Meeting- ZOOM	Presbyterian Women-HYBRID	Mission Team Food Bank- Regional Food Bank	Mission Team Meeting- ZOOM	Session Meeting- ZOOM	Deacons Meeting- HYBRID

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

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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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Newsletter deadline for the
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Thursday, March 10

