

Good News

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



Volume 33 No 07

July 2023

Worship Services are held on Sunday at 9:00 am.



The Gladdest Thing of All

Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all.

Amen, and come Lord Jesus.

— Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*

“My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” ~Isaiah 32:18

Friends in faith,

It is summer time, and for many of us, that means travel! In my family growing up, summer meant two to four weeks on a camping trip. For some it means traveling to the beach to put your toes in the sand. For others, water parks and roller coasters.

This summer will be a bit different for us as we cart kids here and there for summer jobs and swim lessons. We hope to get a couple of short trips up to the cabin, but for the most part, we will be sticking close to home. And there is something of a relief in that.

As much as I love to travel and see new places and explore new things, I also really, really love to be at home. And I started thinking about how our lives, especially our lives of faith, are all about heading home.

Henri Nouwen writes about this:

“Going home is a lifelong journey. There are always parts of ourselves that wander off in dissipation or get stuck in resentment. Before we know it, we are lost in lustful fantasies or angry ruminations. Our night dreams and daydreams often remind us of our lost news... As we walk home, we often realize how long the way is. But let us not be discouraged. Jesus walks with us and speaks to us on the road. When we listen carefully, we discover that we are already home while on the way.”

This is an important reminder for us. Even when we feel like we are so far off from where we are going, Jesus is always with us. Jesus, who himself was homeless; who was a wanderer; who taught and healed and lifted up while on the way.

So as we enjoy this summer, traveling or staying home, my prayer for you is that you will find some remembrances of home, even when you are far off from it; that you will remember, wherever you are, Jesus walks with you, Jesus speaks to you, and that we all walk together.

Grace & peace, ~Pastor Kyle



Announcing Operation Restoration

Vacation Bible School!

Monday, July 24 - Thursday, July 27, 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Together with New Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Altamont and Helderberg Reformed Churches, we will be hosting a Vacation Bible School called Operation Restoration: Mending God’s World. We will gather each evening here at Hamilton Union for dinner, games, singing, and lots of fun!

During this exciting program, kids learn to be menders of the universe as they explore themes of feeding, healing, forgiving, praying, and resting. This VBS is open to all kids who have just finished Kindergarten through 5th grade. Students from 6th through 12th grades are encouraged to join us as student volunteers! You can sign up using our online registration link or see someone in the office. <https://forms.gle/GaH6MZAfhVQ52vePA>

We are also in need of plenty of adult volunteers to help this program run well. If you have any questions, or to register a child (or as a volunteer!), please reach out to Kim in the church office, or Pastor Kyle.



Sneak Peek at Sermons Coming in July

July 2 - Genesis 22:1-14, This is a Test

July 9 - Genesis 24, Love at first sight

July 16 - Genesis 25:19-34, Sibling Rivalry

July 23 - Genesis 28:10-19a, Pillars of Stone

July 30 - Genesis 29:15-28, A Marriage Story





JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

Carolyn Sarbello - July 2

Karen Williamson - July 7

Shelby Deere - July 7

Bruce Williamson - July 9

Thomas "Tom" Gade - July 14

Katie Williamson Davis - July 15

Mark Hutchinson - July 20

Atticus Delhagen - July 27

Happy Anniversary to:

Dan and Hope Messersmith -

July 11

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*

LITURGISTS

July 2 **Trudy Hutchinson**

July 9 **Sue Ferris**

July 16 **Diane Irwin**

July 23 **Peter McKinney**

July 30 **Mark Hutchinson**

TECH TEAM

July 2 **Mark Hutchinson and
Fred Sirois**

July 9 **Karen Williamson and
Mark Hutchinson**

July 16 **Kyle and Audrey Hall**

July 23 **Liz and Declan Egan**

July 30 **Diane Irwin and Hugh
Stevens**

COUNTERS

July 2 **Peggy Gardam and
Michael Hall**

July 9 **Bill Hasselbarth and
Hannah Hunter Harris**

July 16 **Laura Smith and
Peter McKinney**

July 23 **Liz Egan and
Billy DeBarthe**

July 30 **Laura Smith and
Hannah Hunter- Harris**

GREETERS

July 2 **Betty Deitz**

July 9 **Joanne Wagner**

July 16 **Ann McKinney**

July 23 **Trudy Hutchinson**

July 30 **Cindy Schultz**

Finding freedom



What does freedom look like to you? In *GraceLaced*, Ruth Chou Simons lists examples such as running unhindered, viewing a mountaintop overlook and enjoying iced tea with lemon. Because our good, creative God made us each different, our descriptions of freedom vary too. I think of deep breaths, an unhurried pace, genuine smiles, lack of regrets and deep belly laughs.

I love to laugh. Recently, during a demanding season of family celebrations, hardships and surprises, I realized I was laughing less. I felt bound to the next task on my long to-do list, but even good efficiency can shackle our spirits.

A good laugh — beyond a quick chuckle — offers many physical and emotional benefits. According to the Mayo Clinic, laughter relieves stress and pain, boosts the immune system and stimulates organs and endorphins. So today I'm determined to laugh loudly and joyfully while remembering my freedom in Christ.

—Janna Firestone

Making Connections Bible Study Invites You

Our Bible Study welcomes everyone! We meet on Mondays at 1pm via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952276592?pwd=U1hudkdXTGFRVm9QRHRQZ1JJeUZaQT09>)


For a lively discussion (guided by a volunteer participant) surrounding, but not limited to, the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday. If you have any questions, please call Steve Smith (518-462-9837) or feel free to just log on and we will see you Monday afternoon! Hope we see you!



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you, friends and family of HUPC, for once again rising to an occasion: in this case, the need for blankets at disasters here in the States and around the world. We raised \$2225 this year! You're awesome! CWS (Church World Service) thanks you too!!

Don't rest on your laurels, though: that's a bit short of last year's \$2365, but I know you'll be setting aside \$10 several times a year – maybe once a month??!! – in gratitude for your many blessings. Then that money can go to next year's blanket

drive.  And I'll lead that drive too, God willing! It will probably be the four weeks from April 21 to May 12 so tuck that info away along with your ten-dollar bills!!!

And remember, we all want that “wonderful love of [our] blessed redeemer down deep in the depths of of [our] heart[s]”!!!

Peace, Mickey Nieman



Book Collection for Wizard's Wardrobe

We will be collecting new and gently used books for Wizard's Wardrobe, an after-school tutoring program in Albany. Monetary donations to purchase books are also accepted. Books for grade levels 1-3 are needed.

Specific suggestions are below:

Books Series:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| "Dragon's Love Taco's" | "Dogman" |
| "Big Nate" | "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" |
| "Amelia Bedelia" | "Mo Willems Pigeon" series |
| "Mo Willems Elephant and Piggie" series | "Pete the Cat" |
| "Frog and Toad" | "I Survived" |
| "Babysitter's Club" | "Amulet" |

Make out checks to Presbyterian Women in Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, with "book collection" in the memo line. Monetary donations can be given to Betty Deitz or put in the Presbyterian Women's mailbox in the church office.

Books can be left in the collection box at the top of the stairs in the Christian Education Building.

Thank you in advance from Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's (PW) News – All Women are Welcome

Circle Meetings to Resume on Tues, Sept 26 - New Bible Study

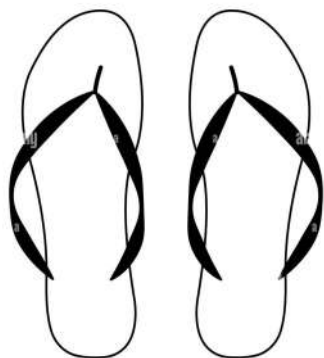
Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight

We don't have any planned events for the summer. We will begin our new Bible study at our next Circle Meeting on Tues, Sept 26. We will meet from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Rev. Kyle Delhagan will introduce the new study, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight* & lead a discussion on Lesson 1, *Sabbath and Celebration*. Bring a bag lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided.

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 zoom option.

Men's Flip Flops, Socks and Laundry Detergent Needed

Continuous 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. Men's white athletic socks and laundry detergent are also needed.

Personal Care Items Needed by UAlbany's *Purple Pantry* Continuous Collection

We're collecting personal care items for both men and women for *The Purple Pantry*, the food pantry on the UAlbany Campus. Personal care items are seldom donated and/or are available from the *Food Bank*. Items needed are toothpaste, facial tissues, deodorant, shampoo, soap, contact solution, cotton swabs, & razors. Feminine care products are also needed.



Please place your donations in the basket at the top of the stairs in the Christian Education Building or in the collection box in front of the Christian Education Building, with a note saying they are for *The Purple Pantry*.

Thank You from Presbyterian Women

Bible Study Books to be Ordered***Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*****Appropriate for Both Men and Women, Plus Good for Personal or Group Study**

Presbyterian Women will be starting a new Bible study, this September, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. This study will consider Sabbath using passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts.

Some points made in the study are:

- as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality
- as God's intent for all of creation that includes busy women too
- as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday
- as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust that God will provide
- as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives
- as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care

Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.

If you would like to purchase the new study book for the Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings, your own private use or use in another group, contact Joanne Wagner at 355-1408 or jnnwgnr@yahoo.com by Fri, Sept. 1. The study books are \$10 and \$15 for large print. Payment is due when they arrive, which will be in mid Sept. There will be an option to get a used book at no charge. The first 3 people to order a new regular print one will get a book at a reduced cost of \$7.50, as they had been ordered in advance during a special sale.



Prayer for July 4th

The following lines are from a long prayer, "That America Fulfil the Promise of Its Founding," by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Though written in 1945, it rings true yet today. (Full text at <https://tinyurl.com/nhc8747x>.)

O God, who is Liberator and Redeemer, Lawgiver and Judge, ...

May America remain loyal
to the principles of the Declaration of Independence,
and extend their application
to ever-widening areas of life.

Keep out of our life all manner of oppression,
persecution,
and unjust discrimination;
save us from religious,
racial and class conflicts;
may our country be a haven of refuge
to the victims of injustice and misrule.

Instruct us in the art of living together,
of reconciling differences of opinion
and averting clashes of interest,
of helping one another
to achieve a harmonious and abundant life ...

That the Star-Spangled Banner,
the symbol of our American democracy,
may ever wave o'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave. Amen.



Last month in pictures-



HUPC's Donation to the Food Bank!



June 7th Brooks BBQ



Installation of our Newest Members- Welcome Cindy, Carol, Laura and David!



Volunteer Opportunities

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

**Thurs., July 20th
From 5:00-6:30pm**



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.

News on hunger, from CBS News March 21, 2023:

Almost 25% of American adults are food insecure, a jump of about five percentage points from a year earlier as the double whammy of high inflation and the end of pandemic benefits squeezes more household budgets, according to a new study by the Urban Institute.

Food insecurity indicates that someone isn't able to secure enough food for a nutritious diet, which can lead to skipping meals or cutting back on food. Those strategies, though, can have implications for a person's health and well-being, experts say.

The rise in food insecurity comes as more households are struggling to pay their typical bills amid grocery costs that have surged 20% in two years and rents that have increased 13%. Inflation surged last year to a four-decade high just as several pandemic-related benefits came to an end, heightening the financial stress for many, according to the new report from the Urban Institute.

"Food insecurity can be a canary in the coal mine for people who are experiencing high levels of hardship and aren't able to meet their household needs," Kassandra Martinchek, a research associate in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute, told CBS MoneyWatch.

She added, "It's a household economic condition where folks don't have enough resources to have enough food for their family for an active or healthy life."

Ever Outward! A Reminder from the Communications Ministry Team

As you plan events, the Communications Ministry Team would like to remind everyone to consider our greater community, the one outside our church parking lot. Is the event you are planning something people outside of our immediate church community might be interested in?

This is a slightly different mindset than we have had in the past, where we tended to focus on our immediate church family for communications about events. For example, traditionally, we might list an event in the Bulletin, the Monday Digest, and the Calendar and write an article about it for the Good News. However, these are all internal communications outlets – they often don't extend into our greater community.

Reaching our greater community is different now than in years past, when one could put up some flyers around town, send out a news release to the local newspapers, put up a sign on the church lawn and call it good. Signs and flyers still work, but instead of one news release we have a plethora of online community bulletin boards, as well as social media. Each one has a different format and deadline.

Reaching out to our greater community is a major reason we are asking folks to please use the events planning form (paper copy in this newsletter) or include all the information it covers in an email to Kim. Kim will then take your information and put it on bulletin boards, social media, etc. Of particular note on the form is where you would like your event publicized – this is where you can tell Kim it's for the community. **Important: Kim needs your form or information at least three weeks before your event in order to meet publication deadlines for local newspapers and give social media time to do its thing.** Also, it's important to let people – those in our church community and those in the community – know about an event in enough time for them to make plans to attend.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation!

(Please find our Event Planning Form on the next two pages.)

Event Planning Form-Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church

SCHEDULING:

Name of Event: _____

Name of Contact: _____

Email & Phone # of Contact: _____

Date(s) of Event: _____

Time of Event: _____

Deadline to Sign-Up (if applicable): _____

Purpose of Event (speaker/meal/collection, etc.): _____

LOCATION OF EVENT:

- Lounge
- Sanctuary
- Fellowship Hall
- Quiet Room
- Other _____
- Church Parking Lot

WHO IS INVITED:

- All Church Members
- Session
- _____ Ministry Team
- Bible Study Group
- Open to the Community
- All Women
- Deacons
- Rev. Kyle

DETAILS:

Do you need a zoom meeting set up? _____

(Do you need a sign-up sheet?/ what needs to be brought?/ freewill offering?/ childcare available?/ carpool info?/ etc.):

Event Planning Form-Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church– page 2

INFORMATION SHARING:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers/Online Bulletin Boards | <input type="checkbox"/> Good News Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church- Wide email | <input type="checkbox"/> Monday HUPC Digest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Bulletin Announcements | |

Date(s) for Communication Outlets:_____

Any Other Pertinent Information:

Backpack to School Event Saturday, August 26, 11 am - 2 pm

Every August, families receive letters from school. These letters are exciting! Who will the new teacher be? When is the first day? What will I need?

For some, these letters bring smiles and anticipation (if not a little sadness that summer will be coming to an end). For many, however, these letters bring a twinge of anxiety, particularly around the “school supply” lists. Backpacks, notebooks, pencils, erasers... parents start doing the math, adding up how much all of this will cost.

In the last year, with rising inflation and consumer costs, these anxieties are only growing more severe. One parent shared with me that, between their three school-aged children, last year they spent over two hundred dollars on school supplies alone - not to mention back-to-school clothes, shoes, and haircuts!

Like last year, our congregation will be stepping up to meet the needs presented by these challenges, to give some help and ease the burden on families in our school district.

We still have quite a bit of supplies to donate that were left over from last year. **However, our greatest need right now is backpacks!** At this time, we **do not need** no. 2 pencils, rulers, composition notebooks, 2 pocket folders, child-safe scissors, or erasers.

On Saturday, August 26, we will have a “Backpack to School” event, where families in our community will be invited to come and get a backpack stuffed with school supplies for the coming academic year.

Additionally, we will have a cookout to celebrate with these families and our community, activities for all ages, and some time for fellowship with our neighbors in Guilderland and beyond.

All donations for this endeavor are welcome now through August 24th. Please bring backpacks to Kim in the office.

If you are interested in helping out with the event on August 26th, please see Pastor Kyle!

Any and all help is welcome!



JULY- Hamilton Union Happenings



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Sunday Worship Service- 9:00AM	31		Book Collection for Wizard's Wardrobe ongoing all month long!			1
2 Sunday Worship Service- 9:00AM	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 OFFICE CLOSED- JULY 4TH	5 OFFICE CLOSED Book Study (L)-7:00PM-8:00PM	6 Good News Deadline	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 Sunday Worship Service- 9:00AM	10	11	12 Book Study (L)-7:00PM-8:00PM	13	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 Sunday Worship Service- 9:00AM	17	18	19 Book Study (L)-7:00PM-8:00PM	20	21 OFFICE CLOSED Room Use (FH & L)	22 Room Use (S, L, & FH) 9:30am-3:00p
23 Sunday Worship Service- 9:00AM	24 VBS- HUPC 5:30PM-8:00PM	25 VBS- HUPC 5:30PM-8:00PM	26 VBS- HUPC 5:30PM-8:00PM	27 VBS- HUPC 5:30PM-8:00PM	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29

KEY-	(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellowship Hall	(L)- Lounge (C)- Conference Room (S)- Sanctuary	(QR)- Quiet Room (PL)- Parking Lot	(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellowship Hall	
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AUGUST- Draft- Hamilton Union Happenings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Session Meeting- 7:00PM	2 Brooks BBQ (PL) 3:00- 6:00pm	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 Sunday Wor- ship Service- 9:00AM	7	8	9	10 Good News Deadline	11 Office Closed	12
13 Sunday Wor- ship Service- 9:00AM	14	15	16	17 Deacons Meeting (Z)- 3:00pm	18 Office Closed	19
20 Sunday Wor- ship Service- 9:00AM	21 Property Team Meet- ing (Z) (7:00PM)	22	23	24 Worship & Congrega- tional Life Meeting (Z)- 7:00pm	25 Office Closed	26 Backpack to School Event (PL)- 11:00AM- 2:00PM
27 Sunday Wor- ship Service- 9:00AM	28	29	30	31		
KEY-	(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellow- ship Hall	(L)- Lounge (C)- Confer- ence Room (S)- Sanctuary	(QR)- Quiet Room (PL)- Parking Lot	(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellow- ship Hall	(UA) Uni- versity of Albany In- terfaith Center	

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

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Pastor:

revkyle@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org

Website: **HamiltonUnionPresbyterianChurch.org**
hu-pc.org

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

Newsletter deadline for the
August issue is
Thursday, July 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.

Kim Matthews, Editor

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