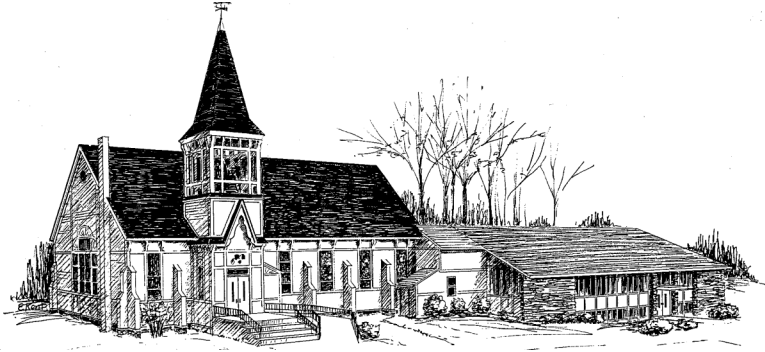


# Good News

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



Volume 33 No 12

## December 2023

Worship Services are held on Sunday at 10:00 am.



A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." ~Isaiah 40:3

To those who wait,

The season of Advent is upon us. It feels like just yesterday we were boxing up the decorations and taking down the tree, yet here we are, anxiously anticipating once again the arrival of the greatest gift we have ever received.

This year, with so much violence and turmoil in our nation and around the world, this anticipation seems to have taken on fresh urgency. In the wake of the destructive forces of war, and the increasingly ugly nature of divisive politics, we cry out to God to save us from our wicked ways.

Enter the season of hope... of peace... of love... of joy. We may not be feeling any of these explicitly, but they are with us in the incarnation. They are tenacious traits of the Holy Spirit, and she is at move in our midst.

I have always been struck by the texts of Advent in their absurdity and their persistence. Streams of water in the desert... uneven ground made level. The prophet paints a picture for us that is preposterous... or is it?

God is at work in our world, but needs our hands and feet to be about the business of kingdom building. In this season of waiting, let us be encouraged to roll up our sleeves and be about the hard work of hope, peace, love, and joy.

Keeping watch with you,

~Pastor Kyle



**December 3-** *Rediscovery*, 2 Kings 22:1-10 [11-20]; 23:1-3

**December 10-** Pastor Kyle Away, Albany Presbytery Leader Rob Trawick, preaching

**December 17-** *Rebuild*, Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

**December 24** — Christmas Eve! 10:00 am service: *The World's Child, Christmas Stories Inspired by the Jewish Midrash Tradition*

**December 31** — *Good News from the Beginning*, Mark 1:1-20



**Longest Night Service:** *December 20th at 7:00pm– Zoom only*

**Contemporary and Casual Christmas Eve Service:** *December 24th at 10:00 am*

**Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service:** *December 24th at 4:00 pm*



**A Service for the Longest Night**  
**Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm**  
**ON ZOOM ONLY**

During the holidays, so many of us can suffer for all kinds of reasons. We wrestle with chronic pain, broken relationships, shattered dreams, fragile faith, and unexpected losses. Our grief and sorrow feel particularly acute when compared to the festivity and joy everyone else seems to be feeling.

This service is designed to hold space for anyone who may need to step away from the glitz of the season and encounter God in the quieter, softer spaces.

We will gather on Zoom at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 20th, to listen to scripture, to light candles, and to remember that God is with us, even when we feel alone.

The Zoom link and meeting info is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86924804013?  
pwd=bXNGMjkwcnRwUXBYVHpwva3N1ZDFPUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86924804013?pwd=bXNGMjkwcnRwUXBYVHpwva3N1ZDFPUT09)

Meeting ID: 869 2480 4013

Passcode: 141275



## LITURGISTS

**Dec. 3                      Debbi Waggener**

**Dec. 10                  Charlotte Hasselbarth**

**Dec. 17                  Michael Hall**

**Dec. 24                  Elena Delhagen**

**Dec. 31                      TBD**

## TECH TEAM

**Dec. 3                      Kyle and Audrey Hall**

**Dec. 10                      Meredith and Jack  
Eberz**

**Dec. 17                      Diane Irwin and  
Hugh Stevens**

**Dec. 24                      Liz and Declan Egan**

**Dec. 31                      George Hannett and  
Fred Sirois**



## GREETERS

**Dec. 3                      Charlotte Hasselbarth**

**Dec. 10                      Cindy Schultz**

**Dec. 17                      Betty Deitz**

**Dec. 24                      Trudy Hutchinson**

**Dec. 31                      Ann McKinney**



# December



## *Happy Birthday to:*

**Melinda Reilly -** *Dec. 8*  
**Elena Delhagen-** *Dec. 10*  
**Margaret Anatriello-** *Dec. 11*  
**Debbi Waggener-** *Dec. 22*  
**Louise Gade-** *Dec. 28*

## *Happy Anniversary to:*

**Marlene & Hiram Eberlein-**  
*Dec. 11*  
**Trudy & Mark Hutchinson-**  
*Dec. 19*  
**Linda & Michael Hall-**  
*Dec. 29*

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](mailto:ANNANDPETERMCKINNEY@GMAIL.COM)

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



**LAST CALL for poinsettias!**

If you forgot to order your poinsettias, but would still like a plant, please call Kim in the office by December 8th!



Dear HUPC friends,

We are going to attempt the Cookie Walk fundraiser again this year! All proceeds go to the general fund for HUPC.

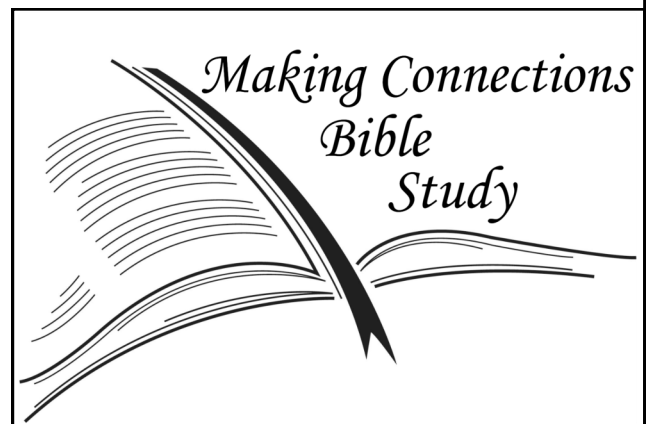
WE NEED BAKERS! If you are able, please fill out this form: <https://bit.ly/3QLhxyz>

Or email/call Elena Delhagen: [elenatjg@gmail.com](mailto:elenatjg@gmail.com) 484.794.0933

Thank you!

### **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=U1hudkdXTGFRVm9QRHRQZ1JleUZaQT09>) for 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.)







## From the Deacons

### *Need a Hand?*

Even the most self-sufficient person, may, at times, find themselves in need of a helping hand. When this happens to you, please keep in mind that members of our Board of Deacons are available to help out.

Typically, the Deacons (or other church family volunteers) may be available to:

**Lend a friendly ear.**

**Provide transportation (to church activities, medical appointments, etc.)**

**Run errands (grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, etc.)**

**Bring communion to those unable to receive it at church**

**Currently serving Deacons include Elena Delhagen, Bettye Goodnow, Hannah Hunter-Harris, Cindy Schultz and Ann McKinney.**

The best way to let the Deacons know of a need is to contact the “Deacon on Call” for that particular month. You may find the names and phone #s of the current Deacon on Call (and the Backup Deacon on Call) in the Weekly Announcements, which are included when the worship bulletins are sent out by email. You can also find the Deacon on Call in each Monday’s HUPC Digest, or you can call Kim Matthews (Administrative Assistant) at 518-456-5410. The Deacon on Call will then locate a Deacon (or other congregant) who can respond to the need. You can always call Pastor Kyle at 518-456-5410.

Should you feel called to help in meeting the needs of our church family, please contact Ann McKinney, Moderator of the Deacons (518-488-7195) to offer your help OR *consider a call to serve as a Deacon.*



Every year, our congregation engages with the PC(USA) quarterly Special Offerings in meaningful ways. After our Potluck for Peace last year, the denomination reached out and asked if they could share our congregation's story about how we observed this offering in the 2024 Presbyterian Giving Catalog. The Presbyterian Mission Agency will be releasing the catalog soon, but we here at HUPC get a sneak peek of our feature! Thank you to all who are engaging in the work of peace-making and living out our Matthew 25 calling!



## BUILDING GOD'S HOUSEHOLD WITH PEACEMAKERS AROUND THE WORLD

### SEASON OF PEACE

September 1–October 6, 2024

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers, and provides education and interaction with those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict while nurturing reconciliation, and standing in support of our siblings around the world. The peace of Christ belongs to all of God's people.

By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work to share Christ's peace with one another, connecting us beyond our doors, beyond our community, and across borders and boundaries.



#### BUILDING PEACE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**25%**

Participating congregations retain this portion of the Offering to support peacemaking and reconciliation in their own community.



#### CONNECTING MID COUNCILS FOR PEACEMAKING

**25%**

Linking congregations in ministries through presbyteries and synods in their region.



#### ADVOCATING FOR CHRIST'S PEACE & JUSTICE

**50%**

Calling for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative initiatives of education and Christian witness.

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GUILDERLAND NY

PHOTOS: CARL HORTON, VILMARIE CINTRON OLIVERI, CARL HORTON





HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GUILDERLAND NY

The congregation of Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church in Gunderland, New York, engaged with the Peace & Global Witness Offering in two special and meaningful ways. During the Minute for Mission presentation, a basket was passed around with slips of paper that shared how to say “peace” in various languages. As worshipers took one, they were encouraged to pray for our brothers and sisters of faith in those countries.

In addition, the church held a Community Potluck for Peace. The tables each had different Peace Cards for conversation starters, and the Rev. Kyle Delhagen introduced a new study on race and reconciliation to all those — neighbors and members — who came together in the spirit of peace

To learn more,  
go to  
[pcusa.org/peace-global](https://pcusa.org/peace-global)



## Important Dates and Resources

(Please note: Offerings are not restricted to these time frames and may be received at any time of the year.)

### MAY:

Watch for your Peace & Global Witness Offering standing order confirmation. Make updates if necessary, or order materials to begin promoting this Offering in your church. Plan with your session or mission committee to determine how you will use your congregation’s share (25%).

### JULY:

Peace & Global Witness Offering resources arrive. If necessary, order supplementary resources by calling the PC(USA) Store at 800-533-4371. Sign up for *A Season of Peace* reflections at [pcusa.org/subscribeSOP](https://pcusa.org/subscribeSOP).

### AUGUST:

Share with your congregation how its 25% will be used. Encourage your members to sign up for daily reflections during *A Season of Peace* at [pcusa.org/subscribeSOP](https://pcusa.org/subscribeSOP).

### SEPTEMBER:

Promote the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Send a letter with a brochure/ mailer or bulletin insert to each household in your congregation. Share *A Season of Peace* ([pcusa.org/seasonofpeace](https://pcusa.org/seasonofpeace)) resources with your congregation.

### OCTOBER:

Receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday (the first Sunday in October). Thank your congregation and remind them how your 25% of the Offering will be used. Remit your congregation’s gifts through your normal receiving agency (usually the presbytery). Your mid council office should retain 25% of your gifts.

## Cornerstone Campus Ministry - Food and Faith Program

### Food & People Needed

**Tuesday, November 28, 6 pm - 7:30 pm**

Food and Faith is a program of the Cornerstone Campus Ministry at the Interfaith Center on the UAlbany Campus. Hamilton Union will be providing a meal on Tues, Nov. 28. Donations of main dish, side dish, beverage, and dessert for 15 are needed, plus people to visit with the students. If you would like to help, there will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary by Nov 12 or contact Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com. Food needs to be brought to the kitchenette in the Christian Education Building, in a disposable container, labeled "Campus Ministry" by 5 pm that night. If you would like to eat and visit with the students, a carpool will leave the church at 5:15 pm or come right to the Interfaith Center at 6 pm. After the dinner, Rev. Kyle Delhagen will lead a casual worship program.

### ANNUAL MITTEN TREE - Sunday, November 19 to Sunday, December 10

From Sun, Nov 19 - Sun, Dec 10, we will be collecting new (handmade or purchased) gloves, mittens, scarves and hats for the Allies for Justice, an immigrant support group, 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, where there are 5 adult men. Donations can be placed on the "Mitten Tree" in the back of the Sanctuary, in the collection box outside of the Christian Education Building, in the box at the top of the stairs in the Christian Education Building and at CeCe's Wool in Hamilton Square. Items for men are especially needed.



Trudy Hutchinson has donated yarn to Presbyterian Women, just in time for making items for our Mitten Tree. There is a box of yarn the Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself.

-Thank You in advance from Presbyterian Women



**Save the Date - All Women Invited**

**Presbyterian Women's (PW) Christmas Potluck Luncheon Program -**

**Making Christmons**

**Tues, Dec 12 - 10:30-am - 1:30 pm**

Please consider coming to our Christmas Potluck Luncheon, even if you have never been to a PW activity before. We would love to have you join us. We will be making Christmons to decorate the Mitten Tree after the winter accessories are given away, plus signing Christmas cards for people who need to be remembered and young adults in our church family. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall or contact Betty Deitz at or 518-456-4193 or [bettydeitz2@icloud.com](mailto:bettydeitz2@icloud.com), if you plan to join us.

Maryanne Masley-Hannett will lead the program on making Christmons. They are gold and white Christmas decorations in the shape of Christian symbols.

A freewill offering will be received. The recipient of the offering will be the Columbia County Sanctuary Movement for Asylum Seeker Support. This is the same organization that we collected clothing for this past summer. Financial donations provide for Christmas gifts for families with children under 18, reimbursement for travel expenses for staff and volunteers to take clients to ICE check-ins, US Citizenship and Immigration Services, to get children enrolled in school (trips to the school and doctor's offices for their vaccinations) emergency hotel expenses for victims of domestic violence as there are no shelters in Columbia County, purchasing food from the Food Bank plus provide transportation there, and to help transition from volunteer to paid staff.

Make out checks to Presbyterian Women in Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, with "Sanctuary Movement" in the memo line. If you're not coming to the luncheon and would like to contribute, donations can be given to Betty Deitz or put in the Presbyterian Women's mailbox in the church office.

If you decide to come at the last minute, please do.



## Volunteer Opportunities

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

**Thurs., Dec. 21  
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](mailto: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.

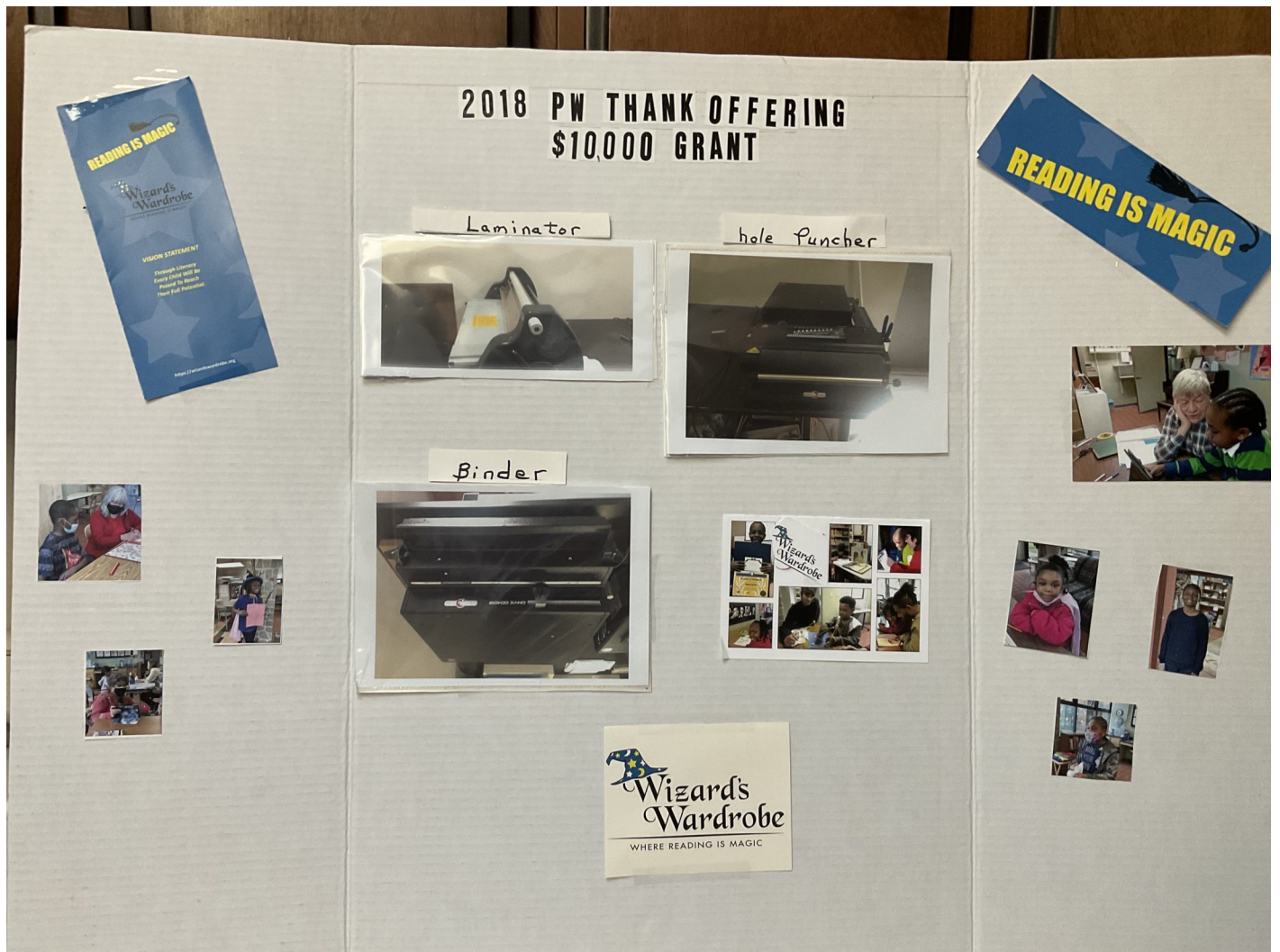
Food insecurity indicates that someone isn't able to secure enough food for a nutritious diet, which can lead to skipping meals or cutting back on food. Those strategies, though, can have implications for a person's health and well-being, experts say.

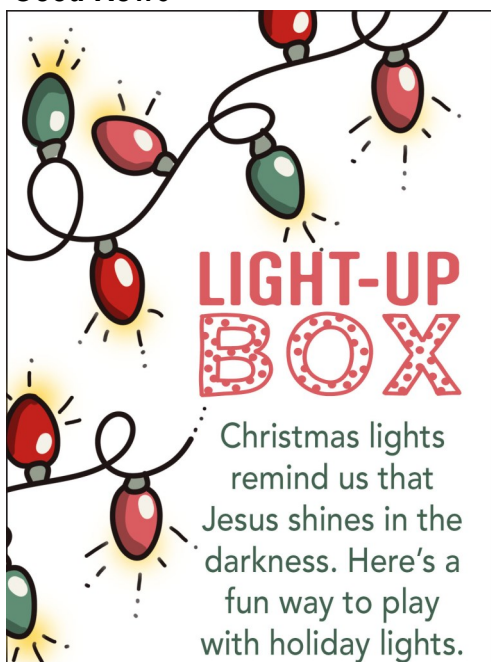
The rise in food insecurity comes as more households are struggling to pay their typical bills amid grocery costs that have surged 20% in two years and rents that have increased 13%. Inflation surged last year to a four-decade high just as several pandemic-related benefits came to an end, heightening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

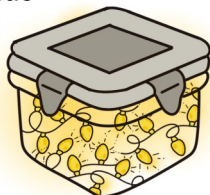
She added, "It's a household economic condition where folks don't have enough resources to have enough food for their family for an active or healthy life."

Presbyterian Women of the Albany Presbytery's October Fall Gathering had a program about the many reasons behind the challenges of children's literacy skills. Individual church PW groups collected books and money over the last 6 months for the after school program of Wizard's Wardrobe. 217 books and \$255 were collected. I thank the members of HUPC for their generous contributions. ~Betty Deitz

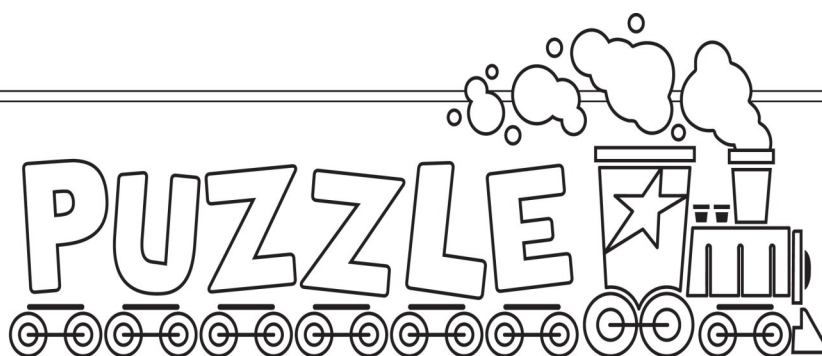


**What you need:**

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads

**What you do:**

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
  2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
  3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
    - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
    - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
    - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!

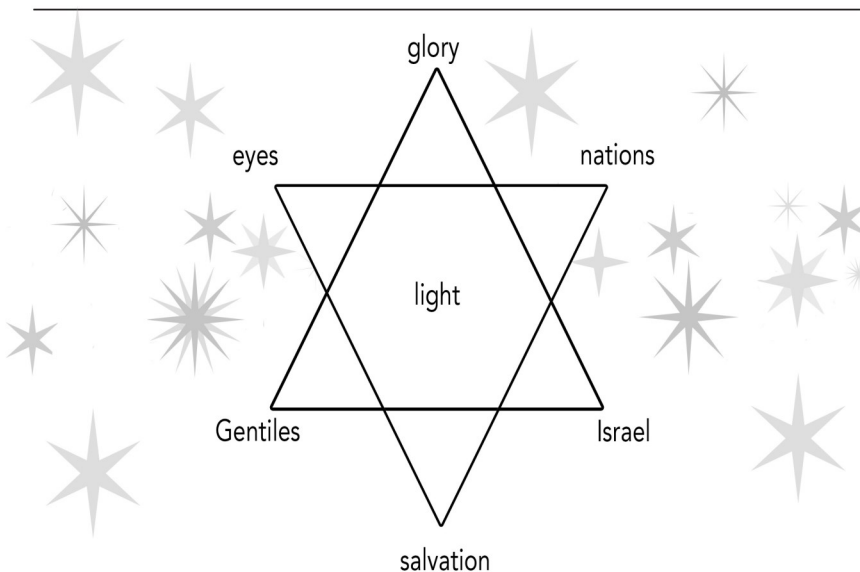


# PUZZLE

## SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

*Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.*



"For my \_\_\_\_\_ have seen your \_\_\_\_\_, which you have prepared  
in the sight of all \_\_\_\_\_: a \_\_\_\_\_ for revelation to the  
\_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of your people \_\_\_\_\_."

*Luke 2:30-32, NIV*

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, glory, Israel

# DECEMBER-Hamilton Union Happenings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31					1 Office Closed	2
3 Choir Rehearsal-9:30AM Sunday Worship Service-10:00AM * Decorate* Ecumen. Advent Serice	4 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	5	6 Room Use (FH)- 7:00PM Bible 101 Study (L)- 7:00PM	7 Good News Deadline Choir Practice- 7:00PM	8 Office Closed	9
10 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sunday Worship Service-10:00AM	11 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM Communications Meeting (Z) 7:00PM	12 PW Christmas Luncheon (FH & L)-10:30AM	13 Room Use (FH)- 7:00PM	14 Deacons Meeting (Z) -3:00PM Choir Practice-7:00PM Good News Deadline	15 Office Closed	16 Christmas Cookie Walk 11:00AM-2:00PM
17 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sunday Worship Service-10:00AM	18 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	19	20 Longest Night Service- 7:00PM- Zoom only	21 200th Ann. Meeting (Z) 10:00AM Miss. Team Food Bank- 5:00p Choir Practice- 7:00PM	22 Office Closed	23
24 Contemporary & Casual Service-10:00AM Candlelight Service- 4:00PM	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!! (Office Closed)	26	27	28	29	30
KEY-	(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellowship Hall (CTK)- Christ the King Church	(L)- Lounge (C)- Conference Room (S)- Sanctuary	(QR)- Quiet Room (PL)- Parking Lot	(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellowship Hall	(UA) University of Albany Interfaith Center	



# JANUARY-Draft-Hamilton Union Happenings



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	2	3 Room Use (FH) -7:00PM	4 Choir Rehearsal – 7:00PM	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sunday Worship Service- 10:00AM	8 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM Communications Meeting (Z) 7:00PM	9	10 Room Use (FH) -7:00PM	11 Choir Rehearsal – 7:00PM	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13
14 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sunday Worship Service-10:00AM	15 OFFICE CLOSED- MLK JR. DAY Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM Property Team Meeting (Z)-7:00PM	16	17 Room Use (FH) -7:00PM	18 200th Anniv. Meeting (Z & O) 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal – 7:00PM	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sunday Worship Service- 10:00AM	22 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	23	24 Room Use (FH) -7:00PM Worship & Cong. Life Meeting (Z)- 7:15PM	25 Choir Rehearsal – 7:00PM	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sunday Worship Service- 10:00AM	29 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	30	31 Room Use (FH) -7:00PM			

KEY-	(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellowship Hall (CM)- Campus Ministry	(L)- Lounge (C)- Conference Room (S)- Sanctuary	(QR)- Quiet Room (PL)- Parking Lot	(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellowship Hall	
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**HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**2291 Western Avenue**  
**Guilderland, New York 12084-9747**

Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

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Pastor:

**revkyle@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org**

Website: **HamiltonUnionPresbyterianChurch.org**

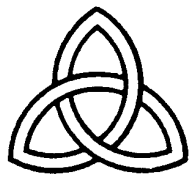
Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

**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  
*January* issue is  
*Thursday, December 14*

**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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