

# Good News

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



Volume 34 No 01

## January 2024

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

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



*May all kings  
fall down  
before him,  
all nations  
serve him!*

PSALM 72:11, ESV

“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed  
with joy.” ~Matthew 2:10

People of Epiphany,

The word “epiphany” (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means “appearance” or “manifestation” of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. Even though we are now fully ensconced in winter, the days are actually getting longer – each morning the sun rises slightly earlier than the day before, and sets a little later.

This is such an important reminder, especially recognizing the incredible amount of suffering and terror in our world that threatens to overshadow us. Seemingly intractable wars rage in many corners of our fragile planet; climate change continues to threaten all forms of life; oppressed and vulnerable groups are scapegoated and susceptible to violence.

Yet, for we who claim the name Christian, Christmas marks the coming of God to us, and Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel (God *with us*) declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany, we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of the Light... and we are called to show Christ in our daily living, to be witnesses to God’s true light.

We are indeed called to “Go, Tell it on the Mountain!” To show and tell of Christ as God’s gift of grace and salvation for all people. This is the work we are called to; this is the charge that comes to us in the gift of Christmas. We must *be* the light of Christ by *doing* the *work* of Christ.

As a new year begins, let us take seriously this Epiphany work, that the light will continue to gain ground, and God’s love, peace, and justice will reign.

In this work with you,

~Pastor Kyle



**January 7-** *New Wine*- Mark 2: 1-22

**January 14-** *He Told Stories*- Mark 4: 1-34

**January 21-** *What's in a Name?*- Mark 5: 1-20

**January 28-** *Songs of Quiet Trust*- Psalm 131



Dear friends of HUPC,

I want to thank you so very much for your generosity in the gift to my family and I for Christmas. We are so grateful to each of you, not just today, but every day in this work of ministry. It is a joy to be partnered with you as we share the good news of Jesus with our community and our world.

2024 has some exciting things in store for our congregation, of that I am sure!

Christmas blessings, and Happy New Year!

~Pastor Kyle, Elena, Jumah and Atticus Delhagen

To Everyone at Hamilton Union,

It is with sincere appreciation that I thank you for the generous Christmas present gifted to me by all of you. It is a pleasure to work with and for all of you and this special church. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and enjoy a happy, healthy and memorable new year!

Thank you again,

Kim

## A Year of the Bible

On Wednesday, Dec. 13th, the *Bible 101* study wrapped up our comprehensive look at the construction of our holy texts. The past few weeks have been helpful in our understanding of how these books were constructed, their overall themes, and many other historical facts.

When I was ordained, a friend encouraged me to, every day, read scripture – to ingest it, to chew on it, to make it the very core of who I am. There are some days that are more challenging than others, but when I engage with the Bible, I find myself grounded and sustained.

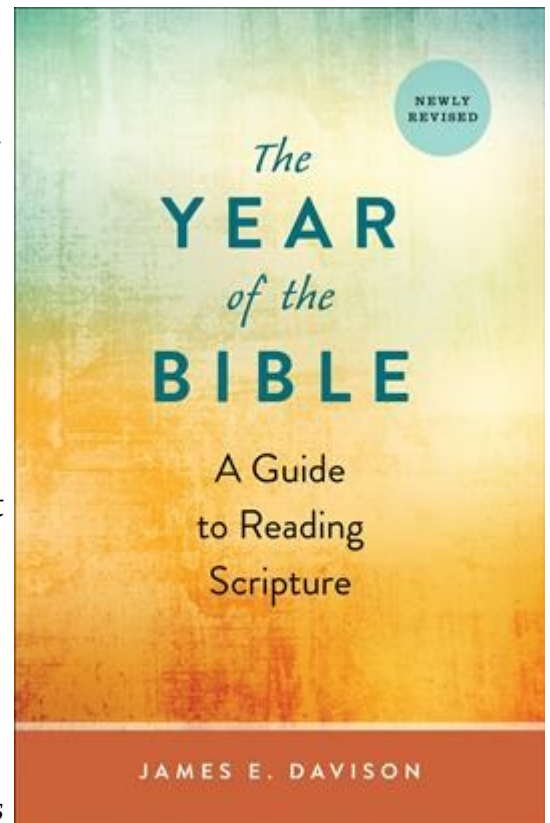
So our next step in our journey with the Bible is to read through the entire text in *one year*, using the popular book, *The Year of the Bible*, by James E. Davison. This comprehensive Bible-reading program for individuals and group study offers a sweeping introduction to biblical themes and concepts, complete with a detailed reading schedule for every day of one year. Through this daily practice, we will come to a better understanding of Scripture and a greater sense of community within the church. Newcomers to Scripture and longtime Bible readers alike will find their faith enhanced and feel a sense of accomplishment from reading the Bible in its entirety.

I don't always make New Year's resolutions, but this is one I am ready to do! If you would like to join me in this journey, you can purchase the book at [pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com) (search for the book title). If you would like to do the reading and skip the book, see me, and I can print you out the reading schedule.

Then, approximately once a month, I will offer a gathering space over coffee for conversation and contemplation about the readings we have done individually, to hold one another accountable, and to share the richness that we are discovering.

I look forward to this journey! Let me know if you want to join me!

~Pastor Kyle



### LITURGISTS

Jan. 7            George Hannett

Jan. 14          Cindy Schultz

Jan. 21          Debbi Waggener

Jan. 28          Bill Hasselbarth

### TECH TEAM

Jan. 7            Kyle and Audrey Hall

Jan. 14          Meredith and Jack Eberz

Jan. 21          Liz and Declan Egan

Jan. 28          George Hannett and Karen Williamson

### GREETERS

Jan. 7            Joanne Wagner

Jan. 14          Charlotte Hasselbarth

Jan. 21          Cindy Schultz

Jan. 28          Betty Deitz





***Happy Birthday to:***

**Myra Masley-Hannett - Jan. 1**

**Doris Donley- Jan. 2**

**Mylo Davis- Jan. 11**

**Chris Masley-Hannett- Jan. 23**

**Jumah Delhagen- Jan. 31**

***Happy Anniversary to:***

**Laura & Steve Smith-**

*Jan. 30*

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*

## Making the Most of Ordinary Time

In liturgical churches, more than half of the church-year calendar is labeled as Ordinary Time. Although that merely means the weeks are designated by ordinal numbers (*First Sunday after the Epiphany*, etc.), people may assume that “ordinary” means not special, or not a church holiday.

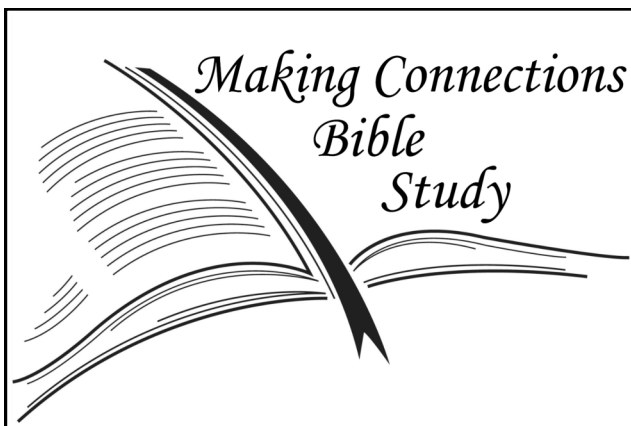
Ordinary gets a bad rap, but it represents the bulk of daily life. Not all days contain mountaintop experiences that warrant Facebook posts. Yet “simple, consistent, sometimes boring faithfulness” can lead to out-of-the-ordinary results, according to blogger Karl Vaters. “When you’re following God’s will for your life and you string a bunch of ordinary but necessary actions together, extraordinary things can happen,” he writes at ChristianityToday.com.

Likewise, although Christians may strive to be radical, out-of-the-ordinary followers of Jesus, everyday discipleship leaves a powerful legacy. In *The Ordinary Christian Life*, pastor Michael Horton extols the value of “the regular preaching of Christ from all of the Scriptures, baptism, the Supper, the prayers of confession and praise, and all of the other aspects of ordinary Christian fellowship.” He says the result of participating in “the ordinary life of the covenant community” is quite extraordinary: “steady maturation in Christ.”

— adapted from *The Wired Word*

## 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.*





# Wizard's Wardrobe

WHERE READING IS MAGIC

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Thank you, thank you for being an engaged member of the Wizard's Wardrobe family.

Your support goes beyond the monetary value of your generous gifts. It signifies a shared commitment to the children in our program. Thanks to supporters like you, we have a cozy, whimsical space where children improve their literacy skills with a caring tutor cheering them on in a place that does not feel like school.

The best part of my job is watching as the children transform from hating books and reading to beaming with joy when they make their way through a book all on their own.

A first grader who started the program last fall, described himself as a "bad reader." By the end of the school year, he proudly stated that he could "read anything." He wrote a poem for our anthology that ended with the line, "I'm proud of me." His poem was selected to be published in *Skribblers Magazine* and he was invited to read it at the NYS Writers Institute | 6th Annual Albany Book Festival at SUNY Albany.



Many of the children in our program not only struggle with reading. They live with chaos – a family member in prison, foster care, homelessness, domestic violence.

Your contribution will directly impact the lives of elementary school children in the South End. Ninety-six percent of our students improve their reading skills. All of them become more confident learners.

P.O. Box 61, 20 Rensselaer St.

Albany, NY 12201

518-414-4978  
info@wizardwardrobe.org

## 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 many mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves. 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* plus its outreach program to newly immigrated people, *The Guilderland Food Pantry* and *Brian Nitsky’s Living Resources Group Home*.



### **Presbyterian Women’s (PW) 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](mailto:chasselbarth@hotmail.com). We meet in the lounge, with a zoom option.

At our next Circle Meeting on Tues, Jan 23 from 10:30 am -12:30 pm. We will be discussing Lessons 4 & 5, *Sabbath and Surrender* and *Sabbath and Servitude* from the Bible Study *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God’s Gift of Rest and Delight*. Bring a bag lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Extra study books are available. The Bible Study is discussed during the first hour of our meeting, should you be interested in the Bible Study only. For questions, contact Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or [chasselbarth@hotmail.com](mailto:chasselbarth@hotmail.com)



# KIDS CORNER

## Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



### What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

### What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12. How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.



## HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

*Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.*

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			

- The second Monday \_\_\_\_\_
- The last Monday \_\_
- The 16th \_\_\_\_\_
- One day before the 20th \_\_
- The day before the first Friday \_\_
- The last weekday of the second week \_\_\_\_\_
- The day after the 20th \_\_
- The day after 18th \_\_
- The first day of the second weekend \_
- The last Sunday \_\_\_
- The last day of the month \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

# JANUARY-Hamilton Union Happenings



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	2 Session Meeting (Z)- 7:00PM	3 Room Use (FH) -7:00PM	4 Choir Rehearsal – 7:00PM	5 Room Use (FH) -7:15AM-11:45AM	6 Room Use (FH) -7:15AM-11:45AM
7 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sunday Worship Service- 10:00AM	8 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	9 PW Planning Day (L)- 10:00am	10 Room Use (FH) -7:00PM	11 Choir Rehearsal – 7:00PM	12 Room Use (FH) -7:15AM-11:45AM	13 Room Use (FH) -7:15AM-11:45AM
14 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sunday Worship Service-10:00AM	15 OFFICE CLOSED- MLK JR. DAY Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	16	17 Room Use (FH) -7:00PM	18 00th Anniv. Meeting (Z & O) 10:00AM Deacons Meeting (Z)- 3:00pm Choir Rehearsal- 7:00PM	19 Room Use (FH) -7:15AM-11:45AM	20 Room Use (FH) -7:15AM-11:45AM
21 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sunday Worship Service- 10:00AM	22 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	23 PW Circle Meeting (L)- 10:30am	24 Room Use (FH) -7:00PM	25 Choir Rehearsal – 7:00PM	26 Room Use (FH) -7:15AM-11:45AM	27 Room Use (FH) -7:15AM-11:45AM
28 Choir Rehearsal- 9:30AM Sun Worship 10:00AM Annual Meeting (S) 11:00A	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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# FEBRUARY – DRAFT-Hamilton Union Happenings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Office Closed	3
4 Choir Rehearsal-9:30AM Sunday Worship Service-10:00AM	5 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	6	7 Room Use (FH)- 7:00PM	8 Good News Deadline Choir Practice-7:00PM	9 Office Closed	10
11 Choir Rehearsal-9:30AM Sunday Worship Service-10:00AM	12 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM Communications Meeting (Z) 7:00PM	13	14 Ash Wednes. Room Use (FH)- 7:00PM	15 Choir Practice-7:00PM Good News Deadline	16 Office Closed	17
18 Choir Rehearsal-9:30AM Sunday Worship Service-10:00AM	19 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	20	21	22 200th Ann. Meeting (Z) 10:00AM Miss.Team Food Bank- 5:00p Choir Practice-7:00PM	23 Office Closed	24
25 Choir Rehearsal-9:30AM Sunday Worship Service-10:00AM	26 Making Connections Bible Study (Z) 1:00PM	27	28	29		
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	

**HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**2291 Western Avenue**  
**Guiderland, New York 12084-9747**

Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

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**hupc@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org**

Pastor:

**revkyle@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org**

Website: **HamiltonUnionPresbyterianChurch.org**

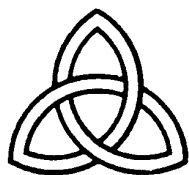
Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

**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  
*February* issue is  
*Thursday, January 11*

**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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