

Good News

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

Volume 40 No 07

July 2025

Don't forget worship services are held at 9am all
month long!



**All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.”
~Acts 2:44-45**

Beloved,

As we move into the summer, and life takes on a bit of a slower pace (hopefully!), I want to encourage us to take some time to consider our life together. In doing so, the following paragraphs from the beginning of July in *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*, has particular bearing, and I feel drawn to share them with you:

“There is something to be said for a ‘theology of place’ – choosing to orient our lives around community for the sake of the gospel. So much of our culture is built around moving away from people rather than closer to them. In many of the wealthiest countries in the world, we have lost the sense of a village. And we have some of the highest rates of home ownership and some of the highest rates of depression. We are some of the wealthiest and loneliest societies the world has ever seen. We live in a mobile culture in which people are used to moving every few years, and in which many folks will uproot without question to move for a higher-paying job.

Commitment to a people and a place is one of the countercultural values at the heart of the gospel. It means recapturing the notion of the parish, a word which shares a root with parochial, meaning ‘localized and particular.’ Many folks these days are learning from village cultures, where people often have fewer

resources but more life and joy. Even our geography has to be rethought, because our neighborhoods and homes are often built around values different from the gospel and community. What we often lament as a 'breakdown of the family' is really a breakdown of local community, which has stripped away the support structures that help all of us survive. Joachim and Anna, whom tradition names as Jesus' maternal grandparents and who nurtured the mother of the Lord, remind us how important the basic institutions of family and community are" (342).

We often talk about our church being a "family of faith." We have, in our weekly worship, taken to using the phrase, 'Welcome Home' in our greeting. My hope is that we can take this and continue to nurture it beyond the walls of our congregation and out into our larger community. What does it mean to live in community, in common, in *relationship* with one another? It may mean giving up some of the things that isolate us within our individual spheres. But as the Gospel reminds us, there is freedom in surrender. Life in God's kin-dom seeks to bring people together, and that is worthy of our energy and creativity.

Grace & peace,
~Pastor Kyle



A Sneak Peek at Sermons coming in July!

July 6 — Mary & Martha, *Luke 10:38-42* (Pastor Kyle away, Donald Hyman preaching)

July 13 — Nevertheless, She Persisted, *Mark 7:24-30*

July 20 — Neither Do I Condemn You, *John 8:1-11*

July 27 — Do You See? *Luke 7:36-50*

Women of the New Testament

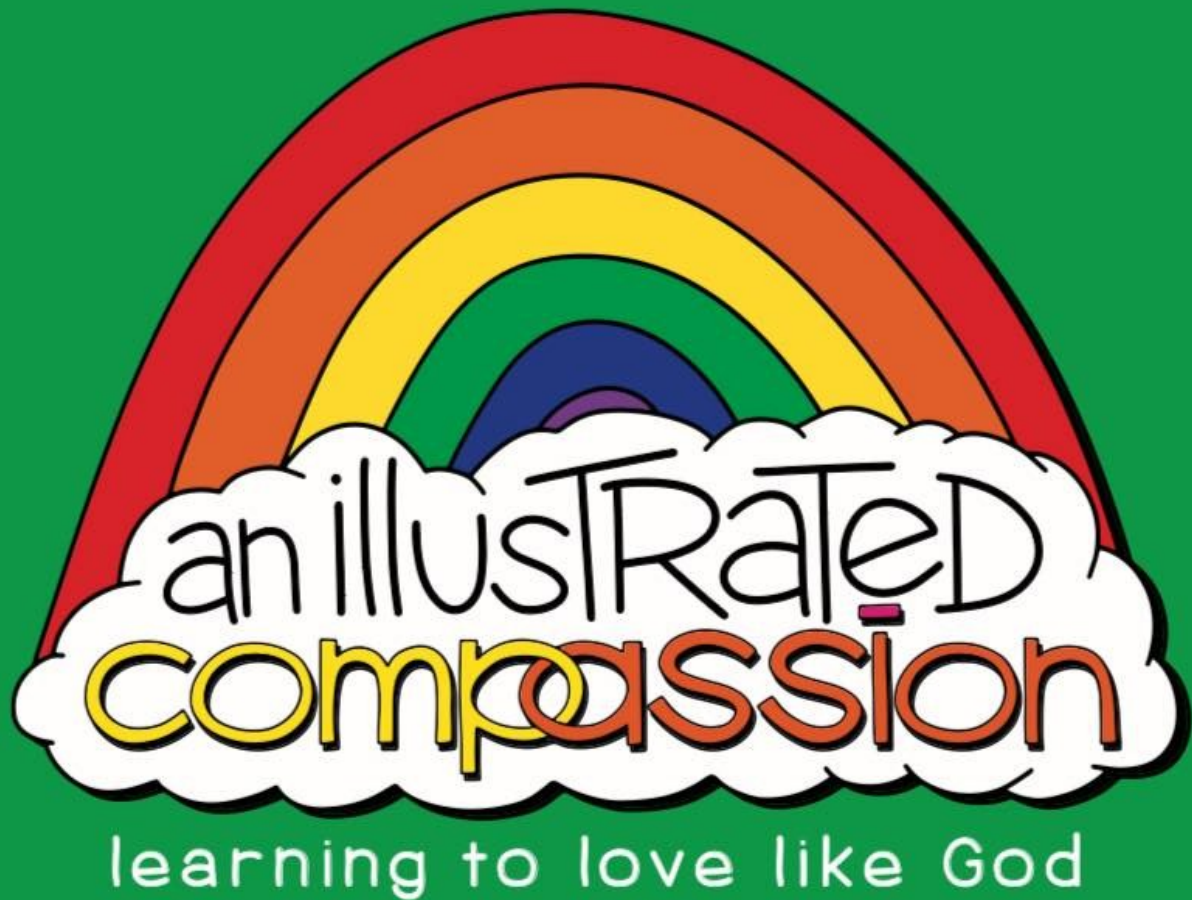
Last summer, we engaged in a sermon series that focused on women of the Old Testament. These stories helped introduce us to some women we may not have heard of before, or to re-learn the stories of women we thought we had known. We tackled stories of courage and love, betrayal and faithfulness. Some of these were profoundly violent, some incredibly hopeful.

This summer, we will be shifting our focus to women of the *New Testament*!

We have often been taught to look at the Bible as a rule book, or as a collection of stories with morals that tell us how to live. Sometimes that is true, but the Bible is more than an instruction book for life, not least because it is often so difficult to live as the Bible teaches. The Bible may be two thousand years old (or older!), but it continues to help us to make sense of our lives. It is a mirror in which we see first-century people struggling with some of the same issues that we experience today: the power of human sin to hurt others and ourselves, the power of shame and guilt, and the power of grace and love to heal and to make new.

This summer, we will be encountering women who raised Jesus, who were healed *by Jesus, who were changed by encounters with him and who challenged him. We will meet women disciples of the early Church who had profound impacts on how the new faith was articulated and practiced.*

My hope is that these stories will encourage us to think more critically about how we encounter figures in scripture, but also how their stories continue to speak into our world and our lives today.



This summer, the young ones in our community are invited to a special time during worship (starting right at 9:00 am) where they will be “learning to love like God.”

We are currently in need of volunteer leaders for this on four Sundays: **June 29 (THIS SUNDAY!), July 6, August 10, and August 17.** Lessons are pre-planned, and you will have all the supplies that you need.

If you are interested and available (or have questions), please reach out to Pastor Kyle directly!



Help Wanted!

Our Tech Team, which brings you Sunday worship and special events via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube, could use some new members. Computer literacy is helpful, but training is provided. Usually, your commitment would be for roughly one Sunday per month, although this varies. We'll work with you!

Please consider joining us. If you are interested, please call or email the church office or call or email Karen Williamson at

518-669-4450 or kawillia302@gmail.com.

Cornerstone FOUNDATIONS

CORNERSTONE PROTESTANT CAMPUS MINISTRY IS SEEKING TO BE A SUSTAINABLE CHRISTIAN PRESENCE AT UALBANY, SO WE ARE LAUNCHING "CORNERSTONE FOUNDATIONS" FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU, GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN GIVE REGULAR AND ONGOING SUPPORT. BECOME A FOUNDING MEMBER TODAY!

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATIONS MEMBER BENEFITS

COMMIT TO AT LEAST:

- \$25/MONTH
- \$40/MONTH
- \$60/MONTH

AND RECEIVE:

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INCLUDING A STUDENT TESTIMONY ABOVE AND AN ANNUAL CORNERSTONE BRANDED GIFT ABOVE PLUS ANOTHER GIFT AND A MEAL WITH PASTOR JEFF

NOT READY TO JOIN TODAY? NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER JOINING WHEN OUR FISCAL YEAR BEGINS ON JULY 1, 2025

CORNERSTONE
CAMPUS MINISTRY

"BRINGING STUDENTS TOGETHER AT UALBANY
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD."

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COCK-A-DOODLE DOO! WE NEED YOU (AGAIN)!

Our second Brooks Chicken BBQ of 2025 is coming up on

Wednesday, July 30! We need about 20 folks, minimum, to make this important fundraiser go, plus a crew of 4-6 to help set up the tents, tables and traffic lane flagging that morning. We have a job for everyone! It's important for volunteers to sign up early to make sure we have enough help to successfully run this event. If you can help, please let Bruce Williamson or Pastor Kyle know as soon as possible. If you have a job preference, let us know that too. First come, first served!



Thank you all!!

PS: Our final Brooks BBQ of the season will be on Wednesday, September 24th – mark your calendars!

Mission Opportunity at Regional Food Bank

As a reminder, the Mission Team has the next volunteer opportunity at the Regional Food Bank, sorting donated food, scheduled for **Thursday, July 17 from 5 to 6:30 PM.**

We will have up to 5 slots available, first come, first served. Wear good, solid shoes (no sandals or open-toed shoes). If you have questions, please contact Wayne Gannett.



It's almost time for our 4th Annual Backpack Event!



As part of our mission as a Matthew 25 Church, we will once again be hosting our yearly Backpack to School event for families in need in our community. More ways to be involved, including volunteering on the day of the event, are to come. In the meantime, we are beginning to gather donations. Our greatest needs are:

- Backpacks (character backpacks for elementary grades go particularly quickly!)
- Ticonderoga no. 2 pencils
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Crayola crayons, markers, and colored pencils

Please see Pastor Kyle or Elena with any questions.

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



Circle Meetings Will Resume on Tuesday, September 23 – Beginning New Bible Study!

We don't have Circle meetings in the summer. **We will begin our new Bible study at our next Circle Meeting on Tues, Sept 23.** Our meetings are from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Rev. Elena Delhagen will introduce the new study *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* and will cover Lesson 1, Environmental Justice & Lesson 2, Land Justice. In this study, Biblical Scholar, Patricia Tull, discusses the ways people of faith can learn and talk about how people of faith could address current ecology issues. This video will provide some additional information on the study:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qieBTa9hzEw>

If you would like to purchase the new study book, contact Joanne Wagner at 518-355-1408 or jnnwgnr@yahoo.com by Mon, Sept.1. The study books are \$10 and \$15 for large print. Payment is due when they arrive, in mid Sept. There will be an option to get a used book at no charge.

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. The Bible Study is discussed during the first hour of our meeting, should you be interested in the study only. There a Zoom option.

For questions about Presbyterian Women, contact Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com.

A Walk in the Woods Albany Pine Bush Preserve July 19th at 9:00 am

John Calvin (yes, that John Calvin), liked to use the metaphor of the world as the “theater of God’s glory.” He used this as a way of talking about the wonder, awe, and astonishment that creation evokes.

Unfortunately, life in the modern world keeps us from fully enjoying God’s amazing creation as often as we should. Let’s change that, shall we?

On Saturday, July 19th, anyone who is interested is invited to join us in a hike around the Albany Pine Bush. We will meet at the Discovery Center (195 New Karner Road) at 9:00 am. We will aim to walk the Blue trail portion of the Karner Barrens trail (.9 miles). This is an easier, moderate walk, and gives us access to a beautiful overlook! All abilities and ages are welcome!

Bring a water bottle and sunscreen and an appreciation for God’s creation!



**Here are a few shots of our June walk.
We had so much fun together!**



Hamilton Union supports *The Caring Closet* through a financial donation from our Mission and Social Witness budget.

Donation items will further our commitment to the *Caring Closet*. There are collection boxes at Gade Farm and The Guilderland Public Library.



The Caring Closet Guilderland is a 501(c)(3) with a mission to provide personal hygiene items at no cost to GCSD students and their families in need. Through your donations, we will ensure access to basic hygiene items for those in our Guilderland community.

Acceptable items:

- body wash/bar soap
- shampoo/conditioner
- tooth paste/tooth brush
- dental floss
- deodorant
- feminine hygiene pads
- tampons
- body splashes/sprays
- facial wash
- lotions

**Scan to
donate**



For more information on
how you can get involved, contact

Amanda Beedle



@The Caring Closet - Guilderland



TheCaringClosetGuilderland@gmail.com

TECH TEAM

<i>July 6th</i>	David Scott & Mark Hutchinson
<i>July 13th</i>	Diane Irwin & Hugh Stevens
<i>July 20th</i>	Fred Sirois & George Hannett
<i>July 27th</i>	Liz & Declan Egan

LITURGISTS

<i>July 6th</i>	Trudy Hutchinson
<i>July 13th</i>	Mark Hutchinson
<i>July 20th</i>	Diane Irwin
<i>July 27th</i>	Betty Deitz

GREETERS

<i>July 6th</i>	Fred Sirois
<i>July 13th</i>	Elena Delhagen
<i>July 20th</i>	Chandra Reis
<i>July 27th</i>	Bill Hasselbarth





July 2: Leland Armstrong

July 15: Katherine Davis

July 2: Carolyn Sarbello

July 20: Mark Hutchinson

July 7: Molly Gade

July 27: Atticus Delhagen

July 7: Karen Williamson

July 31: William Fichtner

July 9: Bruce Williamson

July 14: Thomas Gade

July 15: Susan Smith

If you would like your birthday, anniversary, or some other special occasion printed in the "Good News", please notify the office at hupc@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org.

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday Worship Service - 9 AM		Worship Meeting — 7:30 (Z)			Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday Worship Service — 9 AM	Communications Meeting — 7:00 (Z)			Good News Deadline Mission Team Regional Food Bank 5-6:30	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-9:00am	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am Walk In the Woods 9:00am (APB)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday Worship Service - 9 AM	Property Meeting — 7:30 (Z)		Congregational Care Meeting — 4:00 (Z)		Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am
27	28	29	30	31		
Sunday Worship Service - 9 AM			BROOKS BBQ 3—6 (PL)			
KEY-	(L)- Lounge (C)- Conference Room (S)- Sanctuary	(O)- Office (PL)- Parking Lot	(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellowship Hall	(UA) University of Albany Interfaith Center	(APB) - Albany Pine Bush	



PATRIOTIC OREO POPS

INGREDIENTS:

- Wilton Candy Melts in Red, White and Royal Blue
- Oreo Cookies
- 4" Lollipop Sticks
- Assorted Sprinkles (I used small stars, large stars and patriotic nonpareils)
- 3 Microwave-Safe Cups
- Snack Size Ziploc Bags (optional – for drizzle decorations)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Twist & separate the Oreos into two halves. In a microwave-safe cup, melt a small amount of white candy melts in 20-second increments, stirring well after each. Dip the end of a lollipop stick into the melted candy, and sandwich it between both halves of the Oreo.
- Allow the candy to cool and firm completely before moving on to the next step.
- Fill a microwave-safe cup about 2/3 full of red candy melts, and melt them in the microwave (again using 20-second increments and stirring afterward). Dip the Oreo pop into the red candy, allowing the candy to completely cover the cookie, and then lay the cookie pop on a sheet of parchment paper to cool and firm up. Add sprinkles while the candy is still wet (if desired). Repeat the process for each additional color of candy melts.
- To add a drizzle of color, melt 6-8 candy melts in a snack size Ziploc bag. The candy will melt *much* faster in the bags than it did in the cup, so melt it in 10 second increments, kneading the bag between increments. Snip a TINY bit off of the corner of the bag, and drizzle the melted candy over the Oreo pops.

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Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

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Elena Delhagen, Office Administrator

Carol Scott, Organist & Choir Director

Rae Rau, Director of Handbell Choir



Newsletter deadline for the
August issue is
July 17th

GOOD NEWS

Published monthly is available electronically on our website. Copies are also mailed to select church family households, students away from home, and others.

Elena Delhagen, Editor

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