

Good News

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

Volume 40 No 11

November 2025



“In community practice, every move you make affects others. Just like a domino game. One shift can create a chain reaction.” ~Rick Lowe

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Beloved,

The great preacher and civil rights leader, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”

In other words, none of us is in this alone.

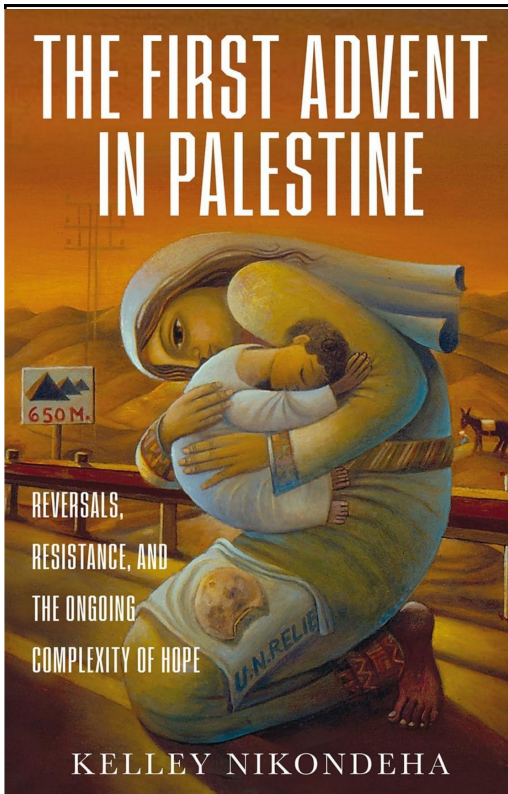
We are so used to seeing ourselves as individuals with personal destinies. Our culture has propped up the myth of the “self-made man,” or the ideal of “rugged individualism,” that we have abandoned principles of community and mutual accountability.

In 2023, then U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek H. Murthy released a report titled, “Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation.” In it, Dr. Murthy outlined how Americans have been increasingly isolated and feeling alone. While this wasn’t a new thing in 2020, the pandemic exacerbated the issue. “Loneliness,” he writes, “is far more than just a bad feeling – it harms both individual and societal health.” It has devastating effects on our individual physical health, as well as eroding our feelings of connection and community.

This is not what God wants for any of us. When God created the world, it was with relationship and connection at the center: with God, with the world, and with one another. In fact, I think one of the largest overarching themes of the entirety of Scripture is about how *we need one another, and how we are to love one another* (*I think Jesus has a few things to say about that!*).

Our community is our strength. As we move into the incredibly busy season of Advent and Christmas, and with the low-light of winter on the horizon, it could be really easy for us to isolate even further. I want to encourage all of us to lean into the hard work of community building and fellowship. In that, the true healing of the world can begin.

Grace & peace,
Pastor Kyle



Advent Book Study

The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope
by Kelly Nikondeha

Sundays 6:30-8pm, in-person and via Zoom

When we picture the first advent, we see Mary and Joseph huddled by a manger. We picture Gabriel, magi, and shepherds tending their flocks. A shining star against a midnight sky. But this harmonized version reveals the advent story's true context — showing us those who experienced the first advent had to travel through great darkness to reach the hope that shining star announced.

This Advent, we will examine the narratives of Luke and Matthew anew, in their original context, and see

them as they truly are: stories of resistance against abusive rulers and systems of oppression, and how God still came to dwell among us on earth.

By centering the stories of modern-day Palestinians, author Kelly Nikondeha modernizes and makes the story of Advent recognizable to us today.

We will meet in person and via Zoom from 6:30 to 8:00 on Sunday evenings 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, and 1/4. Books are \$14/each (there is a Kindle version for those who prefer an E-Book). Please sign up with Pastor Kyle or Elena in the church office by Thursday 11/20.

Men's Group: Coffee and Prayer

Saturdays: November 8 and December 13

8:30 am — 9:30 am in the Lounge

Once a month, men of the congregation are invited to a time of fellowship and prayer (and of course, coffee). This is a time with no agenda, just gathering and sharing about the joys and concerns in our hearts, and praying together in God's presence. Men of all ages are invited as we pray for our world, our community, our church, our families, and ourselves. Second Saturday of the month.





Coffee & Contemplation

Mondays at 9:30

Whenever I attend something like worship or a lecture or workshop, I tend to find myself walking away, chewing over what I heard and thinking about it for a while after (*that is always my hope for you when I preach!*). I also find that sometimes I think of questions or ideas long after I've gotten home, but by then it's too late!

Starting this September, we will have an opportunity on Monday mornings to gather in the lounge and do what mornings are for: coffee and contemplation. We will get together and spend an hour discussing the sermon from the previous morning, and any questions that may have arisen; any ideas that may have occurred; any thoughts that deserve more thinking.

Come as you are, come as you can, come when you can. *No RSVP or signup.* Coffee will be on. Come contemplate.



A Sneak Peek at Sermons coming in November!

November 2 — *Go Reclaim, 1 Kings 19:1-18*

November 9 — *Go Seek, Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24*

November 16 — *Go Walk, Isaiah 9:1-7*

November 23 — *Go Settle, Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14*

November 30 — *Word of Warning, Daniel 3:1-30*

MUSIC News

If you've been on the fence about joining the choir or handbell choir, now is a great time to join! We are planning out our music for the Christmas season, including the Advent service in December. Music reading is not required for either group; we'll teach what you need to know! Choir practices Thursday evenings at 7:00, and handbells practice after church most Sundays. See Rae Rau or Carol Scott for more information!



All Women Invited - Save the Date
Presbyterian Women's Christmas Potluck Luncheon
Tues, Dec 9 - 10:30-am -1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Please consider coming to our Christmas Potluck Luncheon, even if you have never been to a Presbyterian Women's activity before. We would love to have you join us! Details will be in the December Good News. We will be making pipe cleaner decorations to insert into Christmas cards that we will be sending to people in our congregations who need to be remembered during the Christmas season.

Presbyterian Women's (PW) News – All Women are Welcome November Circle Meeting - Tues, Nov 18 - 10:30 am to 12.30 pm in the Lounge

We will be discussing Lesson 4, Water Justice from the Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Bring a bag lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. The Bible Study is discussed during the first hour of our meeting, should you be interested in the Bible Study only. We offer a Zoom option. Extra Study books are available.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83779752859?pwd=dnp2V2tWSjdJWVZQNWNMVTY5QSt1UT09>

Meeting ID: 837 7975 2859 - Passcode: 724235

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



Save the Date

Sign Christmas cards for residents at Our Lady of Mercy Life Center
During Coffee Hour – Sundays, November 2 and 9

Presbyterian Women is hosting a Christmas Card signing opportunity. The Activities Dept. at Our Lady of Mercy Life Center sees to it that each resident gets a Christmas card. This is an enormous task. Helping with this project has become a local mission project of Presbyterian Women.

If you have old Christmas cards at home you can sign them at home with your first name or "Your neighbors at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church" and bring them to church on the two weekends. There will be a Christmas card collection box in the fellowship room (the room with the kitchen.) Please DO NOT SEAL the envelopes. Thank you!



Tech Team Needs YOU!

Our Tech Team, which brings you Sunday worship and special events via Zoom, Facebook, and Youtube, needs YOU! Typically, the commitment is one Sunday a month, and you will be working with another person. We schedule for three-month intervals and have flexible scheduling! Want to work with your child or significant other? We can accommodate you (and sign for volunteer hours!)

Computer literacy is helpful, but we can train. Also, our “Tech Guru” has put together a step-by-step, illustrated, detailed operational manual to answer those inevitable questions that arise during operation.

Please consider joining us. Our “Zoom Ministry” is proving vital to several members of our congregation. On any given Sunday, from two to upwards of 10 or more people join us on Zoom and Facebook for worship. Some have specifically told us how grateful they are to have this online option for wor-

ship, since it would be difficult for them to be physically present in church.

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. Thank you for considering Tech Team! We hope you’ll join us!



Mitten Tree Project: In the Sanctuary from November 16 - December 7

We will be collecting new (handmade or purchased) gloves, mittens, scarves and hats for the New Faith Program for Women at the Capital City Rescue Mission, the Family Life Center plus the Men’s 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. Thank you in advance from Presbyterian Women!

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

11/2	David Scott & Karen Williamson
11/9	Diane Irwin & Hugh Stevens
11/16	Meredith & Jackson Eberz
11/23	David Scott & Karen Williamson
11/30	Liz & Declan Egan

LITURGISTS

11/2	Trudy Hutchinson
11/9	Diane Irwin
11/16	Betty Deitz
11/23	Elena Delhagen
11/30	Debbi Waggener

GREETERS

11/2	Rae Rau
11/9	Trudy Hutchinson
11/16	David Scott
11/23	Ginny Jones
11/30	Shannon Mulstay





November 4: Mickey Nieman

November 16: Mary Jane Fryer

November 6: John Gade

November 24: Michael Hall

November 13: David Scott

November 27: Betty Deitz

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. Thank you!

November 2025– Hamilton Union Happenings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KEY:						1
(Z)- Zoom (FH)- Fellowship Hall (L)- Lounge (S)- Sanctuary						Room Rental (FH) 7:15am– 9:30am
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Choir Warmup – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service – 10 AM Bells Rehearsal – 11:30 AM After worship is PW Christmas Card project!	Coffee & Contemplation – 9:30 (L) Making Connections Bible Study – 1PM (Z)	Worship & Congregational Life Meeting – 7:00 (Z)		Choir Practice – 7:00 PM	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am– 11:45am	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am– 9:30am Men of HUPC Group – 8:30AM (L)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Choir Warmup – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service – 10 AM Bells Rehearsal – 11:30 AM After worship is PW Christmas Card project!	Coffee & Contemplation – 9:30 (L) Making Connections Bible Study – 1PM (Z) Communications Meeting – 7PMZ)	Happy Veteran’s Day (Church office is closed)		Choir Practice – 7:00 PM Mission Team Regional Food Bank 5-6:30	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am– 9:00am	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am– 9:30am
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Choir Warmup – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service – 10 AM Book Study – 6:30 PM (L & Z)	Coffee & Contemplation – 9:30 (L) Making Connections Bible Study – 1PM (Z) Property Meeting – 7PM	PW Coordinating Team Meeting – 9AM & Circle Meeting – 10:30AM (L)	Congregational Care Meeting – 2:45 (Z)	Choir Practice – 7:00 PM	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am– 11:45am	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am– 9:30am
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29
Choir Warmup – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service – 10 AM Bells Rehearsal – 11:30 AM 23 & 30 – Book Study – 6:30 PM	Coffee & Contemplation – 9:30 (L) Making Connections Bible Study – 1PM (Z) Good News Deadline			HAPPY THANKSGIVING! (Church office is closed)	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am– 11:45am	Room Rental (FH) 7:15am– 9:30am



Printable Kids Activity!

I am thankful
for ...



Christmas Poinsettias

I/We wish to donate \$ _____ to a flower fund for Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve services on December 24th.

Payment of \$12.00 for each plant must accompany your order. Please fill out this form and return to the Church Office as soon as possible. **Your order must be received by MONDAY DECEMBER 1, 2025.**

No. of Poinsettias _____ = Total \$ _____.

AND / OR

_____ I/We wish to make a donation for flowers to be purchased as needed throughout the year.

Donation \$ _____.

Name of Donor(s): _____ Envelope # _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of

Checks should be made payable to:
Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church
2291 Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY 12084

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**Please specify below** whether you would like to retain your plant(s) after the Christmas Eve service or have them distributed to an appropriate person:

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will take my plant(s) after the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

AND/OR

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We wish to have the Deacons share of my plant(s) with an appropriate person.

Orders can also be placed online at <https://forms.gle/TQnBgYmRFbhYmqxa7>

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

Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

Church: **518-456-5410**

E-mail

Office:

**hupc@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org**

Pastor:

**revkyle@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org**

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

Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

**Our Staff:**

Rev. Kyle Delhagen, Pastor

Elena Delhagen, Office Administrator

Carol Scott, Organist & Choir Director

Rae Rau, Director of Handbell Choir

Newsletter deadline for the  
***December*** issue is  
***November 24th***

**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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