

# Good News

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

Volume 40 No 12

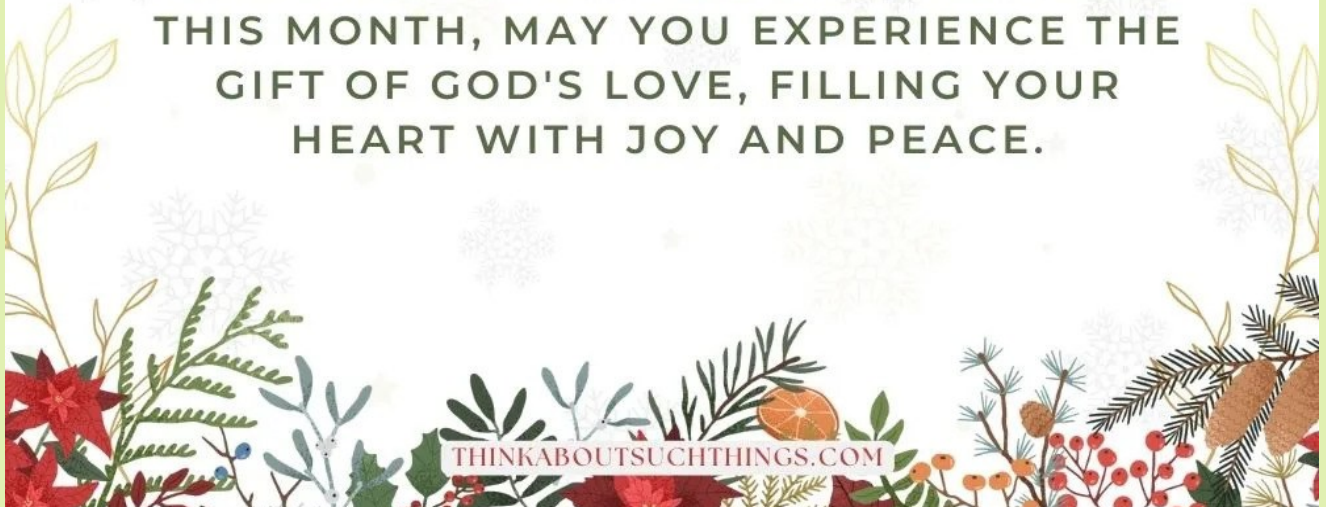
## *December 2025*



*Happy*

**DECEMBER**

AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS  
THIS MONTH, MAY YOU EXPERIENCE THE  
GIFT OF GOD'S LOVE, FILLING YOUR  
HEART WITH JOY AND PEACE.



[THINKABOUTSUCHTHINGS.COM](http://THINKABOUTSUCHTHINGS.COM)

“Love is patient, love is kind, it isn’t jealous, it doesn’t brag, it isn’t arrogant, it isn’t rude, it doesn’t seek its own advantage, it isn’t irritable, it doesn’t keep a record of complaints, it isn’t happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth.”  
~1 Corinthians 13:4-6 (Common English Bible)

Beloved,

The other day I was interviewing someone for my Doctoral project, and they reminded me of something I confess I find it easy to forget: “Love is not a feeling,” they said. “Love is a verb. Love is an action.”

I think we oftentimes, particularly in our relationships (*all* relationships, but particularly romantic ones), we mistake love for something we need to *feel*. And it isn’t to say that love doesn’t have aspects of it that involve the emotions – the flutter in the stomach at a first love; the warmth we feel when we embrace our loved ones. All of these *are* feelings.

But love is also work. This same person has been in a committed relationship for over seventeen years, and they freely admitted that it hasn’t all been easy. They and their partner have gone through tough times, engaged in couples counseling, walked through dark valleys. But love means **we show up; we do the work**.

As we turn the page into a new church calendar year, as Advent is just around the corner (by the time you read this, it has likely already begun!) I am thinking a lot about the themes of Advent that are as familiar as the decorations we will hang and the songs we will sing: hope, peace, love, and joy. We often think of these as feelings, right? We *feel* hope... we *feel* peace...

What if, this Advent, we adjust our thinking just a bit? What if, rather than *feeling*, we lean into the *doing*? Lean into the action of creating hope, peace, love, and joy?

This fall, we have been urged to “Go...” And we have explored many aspects of this going – to create, sacrifice, bless, and speak; to share, to hear, to look; to be whole and holy; to reclaim, to seek, to walk, and to settle. Scripture is constantly urging us to “go.” But what do we do when we get there?

I think, this Advent, we have an opportunity to put our faith into action, by being people *of* hope who *do* hope... being people who create peace and are thus find a peace that surpasses all understanding... to be people who love fiercely and

unconditionally...to create joy wherever we go in spite of a world that wants us to feel despair.

This Advent, let us continue walking together, learning together, and creating together, a community that has the power to change the world.

Advent blessings,  
~Pastor Kyle



## A Sneak Peek at Sermons coming in December!

December 7- *Word of Life, Ezekiel 37:1-14*

December 14- *Word of Welcome, Isaiah 55:1-13*

December 21- *Word of Flesh, John 1:1-18*

December 24, Christmas Eve – *Word of Wonder, Luke 2*

December 28- *Pastor Kyle Away, Christmas Carol Sing!*



## 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.



*I can do all things through*  
**PRAYER  
& COFFEE**®

### Men's Group: Coffee and Prayer

**Saturday, 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.

# DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 Peanut Butter	1 Box of Cereal	2 Canned Green Beans	3 Boxed Potatoes	4 Canned Carrots	5 Macaroni & Cheese	6 Canned Fruit Cocktail
14 Canned Chicken	8 Canned Tomatoes	9 Canned Tuna	10 Canned Vegetable Soup	11 Jar of Applesauce	12 Canned Sweet Potatoes	13 Jelly or Jam
21 Canned Corn	15 Box of Crackers	16 Package of Rice	17 Box of Oatmeal	18 Package of Pasta	19 Spaghetti Sauce	20 Chicken Noodle Soup
	22 Canned Pineapple	23 Tomato Soup	24 Stuffing Mix	25 Merry Christmas!		

**This Advent, to support the Guilderland Food Pantry, we will be collecting items of high need.**

**Bring these items to the church before our Christmas Eve service,**

**when we will be dedicating them to the important work of the pantry.**

**All items will be delivered during the week after Christmas!**

Hamilton Union Presbyterian  
Church's Annual

# Christmas Cookie Walk!



December 13, 11am-2pm



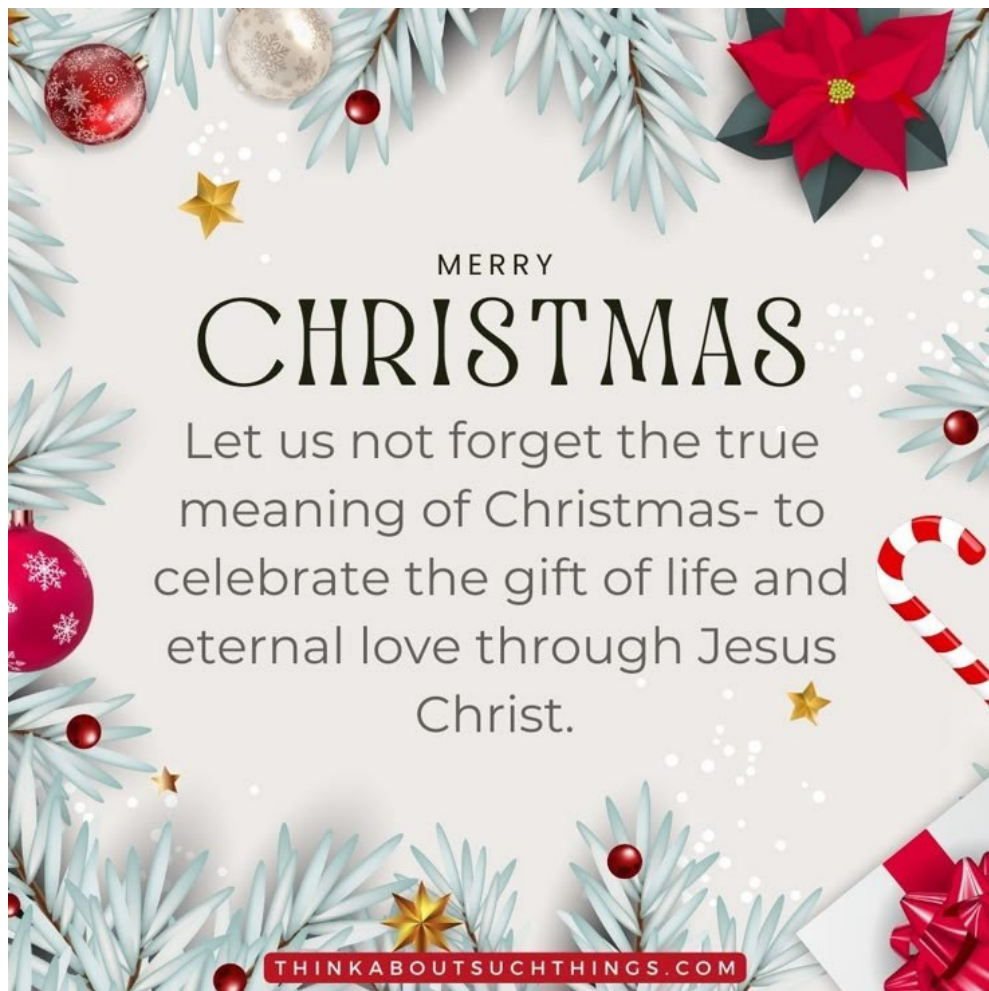
2291 Western Ave, Guilderland



Choose your own Christmas cookies (\$12 per pound)



Cash, check or card



# 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: 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. Bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to Mickey Nieman at 518-356-1691 or [mickeynieman@gmail.com](mailto:mickeynieman@gmail.com) by Sun, Dec 7. Email the recipe for what you bring to Laura Smith at [lgs327@hotmail.com](mailto:lgs327@hotmail.com). She will be putting together a cookbook of your dishes.

We will be making pipe cleaner decorations to insert into Christmas cards that we will be sending to people in our congregation who need to be remembered during this Christmas season. We will also decorate the tree that had been our Mitten Tree with the Chrismons that we have made over the years.

We will be receiving a freewill offering to be given in memory of Stanley Ralph, the husband of Andrea Ralph, the Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany. Our donation will go to the agency of Andrea's choice. Stanley died suddenly in Mid-November. Make out checks to *Presbyterian Women in Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church* and put **Stanley Ralph** in the memo line.



## 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: Until Sunday, 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 deck 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 GCS D 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](mailto:TheCaringClosetGuilderland@gmail.com)

**TECH TEAM**

12/7 Diane Irwin & Hugh Stevens

12/14 Meredith & Jackson Eberz

12/21 David Scott & George Hannett

12/24 Liz & Declan Egan

12/28 Mark Hutchinson & Fred Sirois

**LITURGISTS**

12/7 Trudy Hutchinson

12/14 Mark Hutchinson

12/21 Darlene Bauer

12/24 Pastor Kyle

12/28 Bill Hasselbarth

**GREETERS**

12/7 Mark Hutchinson

12/14 Cindy Schultz

12/21 Trudy Hutchinson

12/24 TBD

12/28 TBD





# DECEMBER birthdays

December 6: Erin Estevez

December 21: Joan Ganance

December 8: Melinda Rielly

December 22: Debbi Waggener

December 10: Elena Delhagen

December 28: Louise Gade  
Margaret Peck

December 11: Margaret Anatriello

December 31: Daniel Messersmith

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](mailto:hupc@hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org).

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



# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Session Meeting— 7:30 PM (Z)	3	4 Choir Practice—7:00 PM (S)	5 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–11:45am	6 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–9:30am
7 Choir Warmup—9:30 AM <b>Sunday</b> <b>Worship— 10 AM</b> Community Advent Service — 4:00 PM Advent Book Study — 6:30 PM	8 Coffee & Contemplation—9:30 (L) Making Connections Bible Study—1PM (Z) Communications Meeting — 7:00 (Z)	9 PW Christmas Potluck Luncheon 10:30AM (L) Worship Meeting — 7:30 (Z)	10	11 Choir Practice—7:00 PM (S)	12 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–11:45am	13 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–9:30am Men’s Prayer Group 8am (L) Cookie Walk—11-2 (FH)
14 Choir Warmup—9:30 AM <b>Sunday</b> <b>Worship— 10 AM</b> Bells —11:30 AM Advent Book Study—6:30 PM	15 Coffee & Contemplation—9:30 (L) Making Connections Bible Study—1PM (Z) RISSE Presentation (Albany Presbytery) -	16	17	18 Choir Practice—7:00 PM (S) Mission Team Opportunity at Regional Food Bank 5–6:30 PM	19 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–11:45am	20 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–9:30am
21 Choir Warmup—9:30 AM <b>Sunday</b> <b>Worship— 10 AM</b> Bells —11:30 AM Advent Book Study—6:30 PM	22 Coffee & Contemplation —9:30 (L) Making Connections Bible Study—	23	24 Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 PM	25 Merry Christmas! (Office closed)	26 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–11:45am	27 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–9:30am
28 <b>Sunday Worship — 10 AM</b> (Christmas Carol Sing!)	29 Making Connections Bible Study—1PM (Z)	30	31 Happy New Year’s Eve! (Office Closed)	1 Happy New Year! (Office closed)		



# CHRISTMAS STORY SNACK MIX

FUN WAY TO TELL THE CHRISTMAS STORY!




## CHRISTMAS STORY SNACK MIX


### CHRISTMAS STORY SNACK MIX

 **POPCORN TO REMIND US MARY'S PREGNANT BELLY AS SHE TRAVELED TO BETHLEHEM.**


 **CANDY CANE FOR THE SHEPHERDS WHO HEARD ABOUT THE BIRTH FIRST.**

 **M&M'S TO REMIND US OF THE MANGER WHERE JESUS WAS PLACED.**

 **ANIMAL CRACKERS FOR THE ANIMALS WHO SHARED THE STABLE.**

 **PRETZELS TO REMIND US HOW JESUS WAS WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES.**

 **LIFESAVER CANDY TO REMIND US THAT JESUS CAME AS A BABY TO SAVE US.**

 **HERSHEY KISSES TO REMIND US THAT JESUS CAME BECAUSE HE LOVES US.**

# **HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Change Service Requested

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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

Elena Delhagen, Office Administrator

Carol Scott, Organist & Choir Director

Rae Rau, Director of Handbell Choir

Newsletter deadline for the  
*January* issue is  
*December 22nd*

## **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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