

Good News

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

Volume 41 No 02

February 2026



In a time of hate
Love is an act of resistance
In a time of fear
Faith is an act of resistance
In a time of misinformation
Education is an act of resistance
In a time of poor leadership
Community is an act of resistance

In a time like this
Joy is an act of resistance

Resist. Resist. Resist.

- Loryn Brantz



"In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers... There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun."

~Thomas Merton, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

Beloved,

As we approach the start of another Lent, I find myself feeling very heavy in body, mind, and spirit. I suspect many of you are feeling similar. February is only beginning, and at least nine people have been killed by immigration law enforcement this year already. Two of these murders have been caught on camera, the trauma of this violence spreading outward. The prophet's lament has been in my heart and on my lips: "How long, O Lord?"

I have been spending a lot of time pondering and praying over the state of our nation and world (the heaviness only grows when we look beyond our borders; for example, the deadly protests taking place in Iran). It has proven hard to believe Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s reminder that the "long arc of history bends toward justice." Justice seems so far away, if we can see it all.

All of this probably seems quite contradictory to the Thomas Merton quote I have shared above. After all, the unconscionable policies being carried out against our immigrant neighbors do not reflect a "shining like the sun." But I think therein lies a deeper truth that Merton was getting at.

See, our hearts are so broken because we recognize, like he did at that Louisville intersection in 1958, that *all people reflect the glory of God*. We affirm this when we remember that God put the *Imago Dei*, the image of God, within us from the beginning of creation, and nothing we can do – *no, not one thing we do* – can erase that image from us. It can become tarnished and muddied, yes, but it will always be there, "shining like the sun."

There is evil in our world. And there are some days it feels so overwhelmingly strong.

But this is the journey of Lent that we are about to begin; a journey that reminds us of the one who was most powerful, yet emptied himself of all power, because of how much he loved us. It is a journey that leads to the cross, the ultimate source of power, pain, and suffering that was transformed into a symbol

of hope. It is a story about powerful men who were so obsessed with maintaining their power, that they allowed the evil in the world to affect their actions, leading to the death of one more innocent than any.

But even that was not the end of the story. And that is very, very good news. This is the hope we cling to – throughout Lent, and every single day. Take heart, beloved.

Grace & peace,
~Pastor Kyle



A Sneak Peek at Sermons coming in February!

February 1 – John 3:1-21, *There Once Was a Pharisee* (Rev. Laura Mitchell preaching)

February 8 – *Word of Wellspring*, John 4:1-40

February 15 – *Word of Washing*, John 9:1-41

February 22 – Title TBD, *Exodus 1:8-2:10* (Rev. Laura Mitchell preaching)

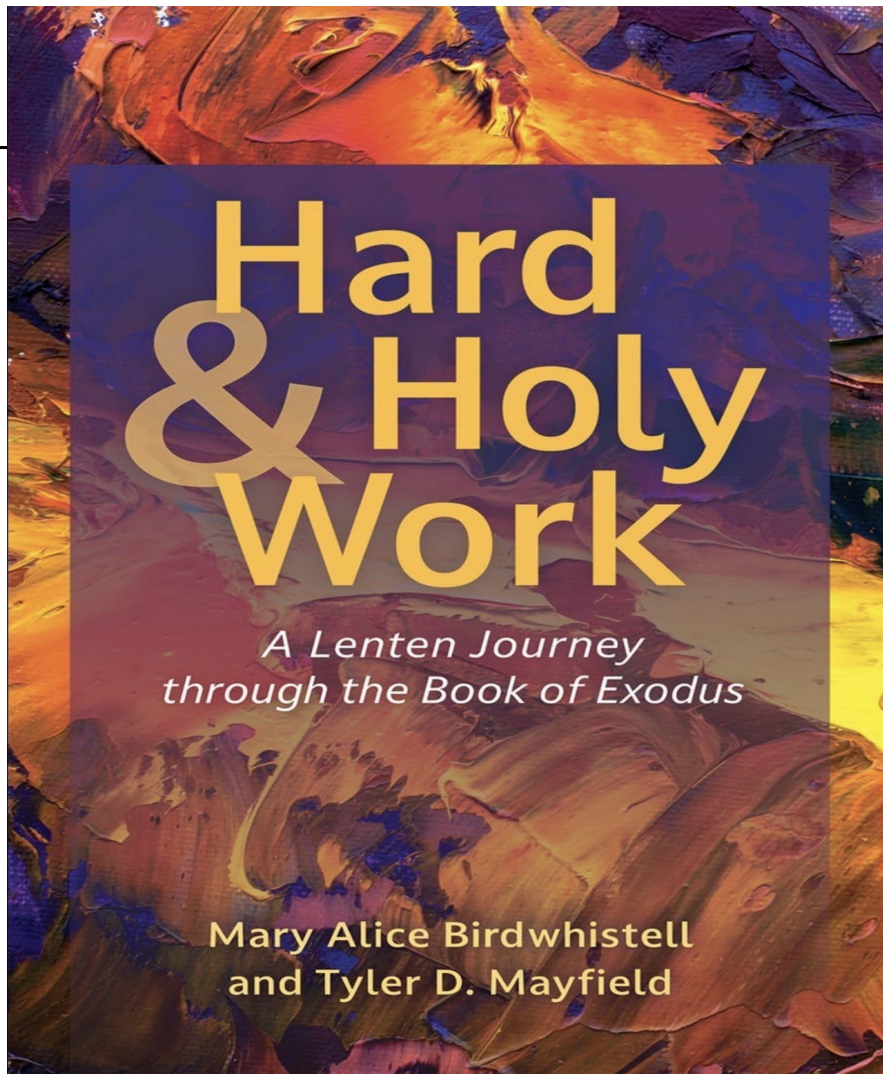


Men's Group: Coffee and Prayer

Saturday, February 14

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.



Lenten Book Study

Hard & Holy Work: A Lenten Journey through the Book of Exodus

by Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler D. Mayfield

Wednesday evenings in Lent

Many of us want to know how to integrate our spiritual lives more actively with our work for justice. *Hard & Holy Work* explores stories from the book of Exodus that have inspired the work of liberation for centuries. This Lenten study helps readers participate in Lent by becoming attuned to God's boundless presence in our world and take action for God's justice.

Together, we will engage with the book and with one another in the ways we are called to be active in our world for God's justice and love.

We will meet Wednesday evenings in Lent. On Ash Wednesday (February 18), we will meet at 6:00 pm in the lounge prior to the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. The remaining Wednesdays in Lent (February 25 through April 1), we will meet via Zoom ONLY from 6:30-8:00 pm.



Coffee & Contemplation

Mondays at 9:30

PLEASE NOTE COFFEE & CONTEMPLATION WILL NOT BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 2ND OR FEBRUARY 16TH!

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.



Twinkling Stars Pet Food & Supplies Drive

February 2nd—February 25th

**Drop off moist or dry food, treats,
new toys, and new blankets right
here at HUPC/Twinkling Stars to be
donated to furry friends!**

MUSIC News



Have you ever thought about singing in the choir? Here's your chance to come try it out! On Sundays February 8th and 15th, choir will hold an extended rehearsal/warmup beginning at 9:15am. All are welcome to join us, learn the day's anthem, and sing with us! Recordings are available to help you get comfortable with the music in advance. Talk to Carol for more information – and don't forget bell choir rehearses most Sundays after worship, too!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's (PW) News – All Women are Welcome!
Circle Meeting Tues, Feb 24 - 10:30 am to 12.30 pm in the Lounge

We will be discussing Lesson 6 (Climate Change) from the Bible study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Bring a bagged 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. Extra study books are available. We also offer a Zoom option:

<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.



**Cornerstone Campus Ministry —Food & Faith Dinner
Food & People Needed: Tuesday, March 10th from
6pm—7:30pm**

Food & Faith is a ministry of the Cornerstone Campus Ministry on the UAlbany Campus. Various churches provide a meal and worship activity. Donations of main dish, side dish, and dessert are needed, plus people to visit with the students. More details to come in the March newsletter.



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 worship, 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.

STAFF THANK YOU!

I am touched by and grateful for the gifts I received during the Christmas season, especially from the choir, Presbyterian Woman and the church at large. I feel very lucky to be serving where I am valued and loved. Blessings! - Carol

Dear congregation of HUPC, we are deeply grateful for the love & generosity you showed us during this past holiday season. Thank you for your kindness! Love the Delhagens

THE 4TH ANNUAL
"Shower Them with Love"
HYGIENE DONATION DRIVE THRU EVENT
Feb 8th 2026
10-12pm
**GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY-
MAIN PARKING LOT
2228 WESTERN AVENUE, GUILDERLAND**
**COME SPREAD SOME LOVE FOR GCSD
STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES BY
DROPPING OFF HYGIENE ITEMS FROM
THE COMFORT OF YOUR VEHICLE!**

Please note there is always a donation box in the library lobby and also at Gade Farm. Thank you!
~ Presbyterian Women of HUPC



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
cash donate



Please note there is always a donation box in the library lobby and also at Gade Farm. Thank you!
~ Presbyterian Women of HUPC

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.



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- 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

- 2/1 **Mark Hutchinson & Fred Sirois**
- 2/8 **Liz & Declan Egan**
- 2/15 **Diane Irwin & Hugh Stevens**
- 2/18 **Ash Wednesday – TBD**
- 2/22 **David Scott & George Hannett**

LITURGISTS

- 2/1 **Darlene Bauer**
- 2/8 **Debbi Waggener**
- 2/15 **Chandra Reis**
- 2/18 **Ash Wednesday – TBD**
- 2/22 **Bill Hasselbarth**

GREETERS

- 2/1 **TBD**
- 2/8 **Betty Deitz**
- 2/15 **Trudy Hutchinson**
- 2/18 **Ash Wednesday – TBD**
- 2/22 **Charlotte Hasselbarth**





February 3: Liz O'Neill

February 18: Kathryn Diana Victor

February 6: Elizabeth Pattison

February 28: Dorthy "Dot" Favitta

February 12: Wayne Gannett

February 28: Christopher Allen

February 14: Mary Louise Gade

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!



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 COFFEE & CONTEMPLATION CANCELLED TODAY Making Connections Bible Study—1PM (Z)	3	4	5 NO CHOIR PRACTICE TONIGHT	6 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–11:45am	7 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–9:30am
8 Choir Warmup—9:15 AM Sunday Worship—10 AM ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP	9 Coffee & Contemplation—9:30 (L) Making Connections Bible Study—1PM (Z)	10	11	12 NO CHOIR PRACTICE TONIGHT	13 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–11:45am	14 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–9:30am Men's Prayer Group 8am (L)
15 Choir Warmup—9:15 AM Sunday Worship—10 AM Bells —11:30 AM	16 President's Day—Church Office is Closed COFFEE & CONTEMPLATION CANCELLED TODAY Making Connections Bible	17 Worship Meeting —7:30 (Z)	18 Mission Meeting —7:00 (Z)	19 Choir Practice—7:00 PM (S) Mission Team Opportunity at Regional Food Bank 5–6:30 PM	20 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–11:45am	21 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–9:30am
22 Choir Warmup—9:30 AM Sunday Worship—10 AM Bells —11:30 AM	23 Coffee & Contemplation —9:30 (L) Making Connections Bible Study—1PM (Z)	24 PW Circle Meeting—10:30 (L)	25	26 Choir Practice—7:00 PM (S)	27 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–11:45am	28 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am–9:30am

Bee Mine VALENTINE

heart craft for kids



Materials Needed:

- Yellow, black & pink paper
- Black & red markers
- Glue
- Googly eyes
- Black pipe cleaners

fromabcstoacts.com

HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

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Our Staff:

Rev. Kyle Delhagen, Pastor

Elena Delhagen, Office Administrator

Carol Scott, Organist & Choir Director

Rae Rau, Director of Handbell Choir



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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