

# Good News

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

Volume 41 No 03

*March 2026*



“Every good relationship between two or more people, whether it is friendship, marriage, or community, creates space where strangers can enter and become friends. Good relationships are hospitable. When we enter into a home and feel warmly welcomed, we will soon realize that the love among those who live in that home is what makes that welcome possible.” ~Henri Nouwen, from *Bread for the Journey*

Beloved,

There is one thing I hear about our congregation more than anything else, and that is that we are a place that is warm, welcoming, and so very friendly. I wonder if we realize just how wonderful that is?

In a world that often feels harsh, cold, and critical, spaces that provide warmth and real, genuine welcome, are far and few between. In a world that wants people to feel isolated and diminished, a place that offers sanctuary and embrace feels like a radical place indeed.

That doesn't mean we agree on everything. It doesn't mean we are a homogenous group that all believe and act the same in everything we say and do. Far from it.

What it does mean, though, is that we do not let those things impact how we feel about one another; we do not allow our differences to change the fact that we deeply, genuinely, and compassionately care for one another. To borrow from Paul's metaphor of the body of Christ, it is like when we injure an arm, or a foot. We don't cut off the arm or the foot simply because it is broken or sprained! Instead, the rest of the body compensates while the injured member recovers.

This is what we do here at Hamilton Union. It is one of the best things we do, and, honestly, if that were all we did, it would be enough.

As we walk in this Lenten season, I want to encourage each of us to look for opportunities to remember that love we have *for* one another, to find new ways of expressing that love *to* each other, and to, above all,

hold that love God has for *us* as the model to hold all of it together.

Grace & peace,  
~Pastor Kyle



## A Sneak Peek at Sermons coming in March!

March 1 — *A Cleansing*, John 13:1-17, Exodus 2:11-25

March 8 — *Who Are You? Who Am I?*, John 18:12-27, Exodus 3 & 4

March 15 — *Crossing the Threshold*, John 18:28-40, Exodus 14

March 22 — *A Gift from Heaven*, John 19:1-16a, Exodus 16:2-30

March 29 — *Unexpected Sources*, John 19:16b-22, Exodus 17:1-7



### Men's Group: Coffee and Prayer

**Saturday, March 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.



## 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.

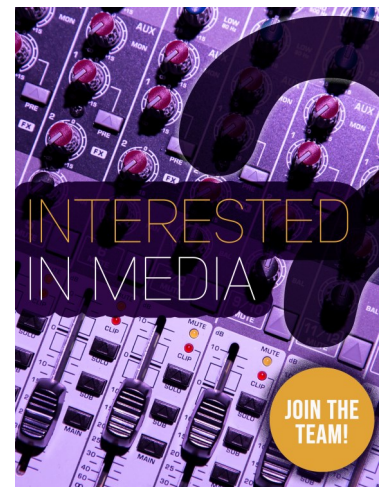
Come as you are, come as you can, come when you can. *No RSVP or signup needed.* Coffee will be on. Come contemplate.

## 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 at 518-669-4450 or kawillia302@gmail.com. Thank you for considering Tech Team! We hope you'll join us!



Sharing  
the love,  
one meal  
at a time.



As you may know, in late January, Al Johnson shared that an aortic heart valve tissue replacement which he received in 2013 was not working properly causing some sudden problems; he had surgery on January 30th. It was a long ordeal with some definite scary moments, but Al has recently been discharged home and is recovering. Let's shower the Johnsons with some love (and food -- we ARE Presbyterian, after all!) to help alleviate some of the burden right now.

The Congregational Care Committee is in touch with Dee about how often they would like meals delivered and, for now, they're going to take it a week at a time. The second week (March 2-8) has been posted, and we will add more dates as the need is communicated to us. Thank you!

Sign up to bring a meal here: <https://mealtrain.com/3rem38>

With thanks,  
The Congregational Care Committee

# MUSIC News



All are welcome to join the choir at any time – we'd love to have you! Practices are held Thursday at 7, and we rehearse Sunday mornings before worship as well. If you're interested, please speak to Carol Scott at any time.

Our bell choir also always has room, and we rehearse most Sundays following worship. Please speak to Rae Rau if you'd like more information.



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

We will be discussing Lesson 7 (Economic Climate Justice) 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](mailto:chasselbarth@hotmail.com).*



Christmas has passed, the New Year is in its third month, but the joy you brought to the residents at Mercy Care with cards and greetings lives on. You may still have unused cards you don't want but you hate

throwing them out. That's where the boxes at HUPC 🏡 come in: one box in the front of the sanctuary, one in the back. And it's not just Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. We'll collect birthday cards too!!!

And Valentines!!! 📄 And Easter cards!! And Thinking of You cards! You can clearly see where this is going, right????? Imagine all the delighted smiles when they open a special card, just for them. The program director knows birthdays and special occasions and can select from the cards we give her.

If you have any of these "extras" that have been sent to you in the mail, consider writing a short generalized note in 10 of the cards--you don't have to do them all at once--and signing "A friend up the road at Hamilton

Union Presbyterian Church." (I write something like this: "Hi there! Heard it's your birthday 🎂 !! Hope

you'll be able to celebrate this latest trip-around-the-sun with a friend and a sweet treat. 📄 Mickey, your friend up the road at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church")

There will also be chances at coffee hour to write some cards as well. Kathy Zazarine and Maryanne Masley-Hannett will let you know when those dates will occur. Meanwhile, watch your mail for the extra cards and bring them to the sanctuary, signed already or unsigned, envelopes NOT sealed.

*Thank you from your PW, Presbyterian Women  
Mickey Nieman for PW*

Maryanne Masley-Hannett & Kathy Zazarine will be collecting signed and UNSEALED Easter cards throughout the month of March. Each Sunday in March there will be an opportunity for you to sign cards in Fellowship Hall. There will also be a box in Fellowship Hour on Sundays where you can deposit the signed, unsealed cards!

In February, Maryanne and Kathy delivered 50 Valentine's cards, and they were very appreciative at the Our Lady of Mercy Life Nursing Home.



Dear Friends and Family of HUPC: Presbyterian Women of HUPC will continue our annual Easter Joy Mission this year in a new, simplified format. We will serve Schenectady City Mission children, Albany City Mission's New Faith family children, Living Resources group residence in Schenectady where Brian Nitsky resides, and HUPC staff members. One large basket will be provided per group to share among the participants. Staff gifts will continue to be individual.

We are seeking cash or check donations to support our endeavor from now through Sunday, March 22. Checks should be made payable to "PW at HUPC." Please place donations in our collection plate in our Sanctuary, or in the office mailbox of Darlene Bauer. You can also mail checks to HUPC to the attention of Darlene.

Thank you for your continued support of our PW Easter project!

Blessings,

*Darlene Bauer, PW Project Coordinator*

## Reflections on Cornerstone Campus Ministry by Rev. Katy Kroondyk, wife to the Cornerstone Campus Minister, Rev. Jeffrey Kroondyk



**REV. KATY  
KROONDYK**

Lisha's Kill  
Reformed Church  
Colonie, NY

### CO-LABORERS IN CHRIST

If your congregation follows the church calendar, then most likely you recently heard a sermon on Jesus' baptism. It's a curious thing that Jesus didn't just start his own ministry, but rather, Jesus chose to begin his work by closely identifying himself with his cousin's ministry of repentance. It seems that Jesus isn't all that concerned about being novel or doing it all himself or making a proprietary claim; he willingly works with John.

Theologian Frederick Dale Bruner asserts that there is a lesson here for churches and their relationship with para-church ministries like Cornerstone. John the Baptist did his ministry in the wilderness, outside of the normal synagogue structures; Jesus utilized the synagogues, the Temple, and discipleship structures to preach his Gospel message. In the same way, churches who utilize and support Cornerstone are following Jesus' example in gratefully receiving the gift of this "outsider" group which is doing ministry in the wilderness of university life. By supporting Cornerstone, your church has a college

ministry that it can call its own and which is exercising a prophetic witness and discipling young adults on a large public campus. Cornerstone needs the prayers, financial support, and presence of the local church.

**“YOUR CHURCH HAS A COLLEGE MINISTRY THAT IT CAN CALL ITS OWN... DISCIPLING YOUNG ADULTS ON A LARGE PUBLIC CAMPUS.”**

Of course, Cornerstone also has a responsibility to the Church. Cornerstone bolsters the work of the Church by encouraging young people to connect with their home congregations and by discipling them in what it looks like to participate in the Church. Cornerstone students are mentored in how to lead worship, plan service projects, share their faith, lead Bible studies, and how to be there for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Some of these students will go on to be elders or deacons, choir members, children’s ministry teachers, etc in their churches. Cornerstone is never in competition with the Church; rather, Cornerstone is a collaborator with the Church.

Bruner says, “Jesus needs John the Baptist. But John the Baptist needs Jesus too.” As one deacon from my church said to me after a recent visit to Food and Faith: “That’s a great group! I’m excited for the future of the Church!” What a gift that we get to be co-laborers in Christ!

**“CORNERSTONE BOLSTERS THE WORK OF THE CHURCH BY ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONNECT WITH THEIR HOME CONGREGATIONS “**



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

Food and Faith is a program of the Cornerstone Campus Ministry on the UAlbany Campus. Local churches provide a meal and worship activity every week. Donations of main dish, side dish, and dessert are needed, plus people to visit with the students. A sign-up sheet is in the room between the Sanctuary and the Christian Education or contact Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or [chasselbarth@hotmail.com](mailto:chasselbarth@hotmail.com).

Food needs to be brought to the kitchenette in the Christian Education Building, in a disposable container, labeled "Campus Ministry" by 5 pm that night. If you would like to eat and visit with the students, a carpool will leave the church at 5:15 pm or come right to the Interfaith Center at 6pm.

**Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church Receives  
"The Cornerstone Church Partner Award"**

The Board for Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry has selected our church to receive this award at this year's annual Spring Fundraising Dinner on April 21. **"The Cornerstone Church Partner Award"** is presented to a congregation whose ongoing partnership with Cornerstone, especially through Food and Faith, has helped cultivate a spirit of welcome, nourishment, and Christ-centered community for students.

Information on the dinner will come out shortly. Hopefully, many of you will be able to attend share the experience of this recognition.

The Mission Team has the next volunteer opportunity at the Regional Food Bank, sorting donated food on **Thurs., March 19, 2026 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). Please see *Wayne Gannett with questions or to sign up*.

Please enjoy these photos from the February trip -- and many thanks to our HUPC volunteers!



## **The Chickens Are Coming!**

This year, HUPC will be holding TWO Brooks BBQ Chicken Fundraisers, one on **Wednesday June 3** and the second on **Wednesday July 29**. Please mark the dates on your calendar now to volunteer at these very important fundraisers. Thank you!

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**

- 3/1 David Scott & George Hannett
- 3/8 Meredith & Jackson Eberz
- 3/15 Diane Irwin & Hugh Stevens
- 3/22 Liz & Declan Egan
- 3/29 Mark Hutchinson & George Hannett

**LITURGISTS**

- 3/1 Cindy Schultz
- 3/8 Elena Delhagen
- 3/15 Chandra Reis
- 3/22 Diane Irwin
- 3/29 Trudy Hutchinson

**GREETERS**

- 3/1 Ginny Jones
- 3/8 TBD
- 3/15 Trudy Hutchinson
- 3/22 TBD
- 3/29 Betty Deitz





March 10 – Nancy Messersmith

March 28 – Sue Ferris

March 12 – Jim Gade, Jr.

March 31 – Charlotte Hasselbarth

March 13 – Cindy Schultz

March 15 – Fred Sirois

March 19 – George Hannett

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!



# March 2026

| Sun                                                                                                               | Mon                                                                                                                                                                        | Tue                                                                                                                                  | Wed                                                                                                                 | Thu                                                                                                                                     | Fri                                                              | Sat                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Choir Warmup—<br/>9:30 AM<br/><b>Sunday Worship</b><br/>— <b>10 AM</b><br/>Bells —11:30 AM</p> | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Coffee &amp;<br/>Contempla-<br/>tion—9:30 (L)<br/>Making Con-<br/>nections Bible<br/>Study—1PM (Z)</p>                                                  | <p><b>3</b></p>                                                                                                                      | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Lenten Book<br/>Study—6:30<br/>PM (Z)</p>                                                        | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Choir<br/>Practice—7:00<br/>PM (S)</p>                                                                               | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Room Rental<br/>(FH) 7:15am—<br/>11:45am</p>  | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>Room Rental<br/>(FH) 7:15am—<br/>9:30am</p>                                          |
| <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Choir Warmup—<br/>9:30 AM<br/><b>Sunday Worship</b><br/>— <b>10 AM</b><br/>Bells —11:30 AM</p> | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>Coffee &amp;<br/>Contempla-<br/>tion—9:30 (L)<br/>Making Con-<br/>nections Bible<br/>Study—1PM (Z)<br/>Communica-<br/>tions Meeting—<br/>7:00PM (Z)</p> | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Food &amp; Faith<br/>Dinner—<br/>6PM—7:30<br/>PM (U<br/>Albany)<br/><br/>Worship<br/>Meeting—<br/>7:30PM (Z)</p> | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>Lenten Book<br/>Study—6:30<br/>PM (Z)</p>                                                       | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>Choir<br/>Practice—7:00<br/>PM (S)</p>                                                                              | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>Room Rental<br/>(FH) 7:15am—<br/>11:45am</p> | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>Room Rental<br/>(FH) 7:15am—<br/>9:30am<br/><br/>Men’s Prayer<br/>Group 8am (L)</p> |
| <p><b>15</b></p> <p>Choir Warmup—<br/>9:30 AM<br/><b>Sunday</b><br/><b>Worship— 10 AM</b><br/>Bells —11:30 AM</p> | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>Coffee &amp;<br/>Contemplation<br/>—9:30 (L)<br/>Making Con-<br/>nections Bible<br/>Study—1PM (Z)<br/>Property Meet-<br/>ing—7:30PM<br/>(Z)</p>        |                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>Congregational<br/>Care Meeting—<br/>10:00 AM (L)<br/>Lenten Book<br/>Study—6:30<br/>PM (Z)</p> | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>Choir<br/>Practice—7:00<br/>PM (S)<br/>Mission Team<br/>Opportunity at<br/>Regional Food<br/>Bank 5—6:30<br/>PM</p> | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>Room Rental<br/>(FH) 7:15am—<br/>11:45am</p> | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Room Rental<br/>(FH) 7:15am—<br/>9:30am</p>                                         |
| <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Choir Warmup—<br/>9:30 AM<br/><b>Sunday</b><br/><b>Worship— 10 AM</b><br/>Bells —11:30 AM</p> | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Coffee &amp;<br/>Contemplation<br/>—9:30 (L)<br/>Making<br/>Connections<br/>Bible Study—<br/>1PM (Z)</p>                                               | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>PW Circle<br/>Meeting—<br/>10:30AM—<br/>12:30 PM (L)</p>                                                         | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>Lenten Book<br/>Study—6:30<br/>PM (Z)</p>                                                       | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>Choir<br/>Practice—7:00<br/>PM (S)</p>                                                                              | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>Room Rental<br/>(FH) 7:15am—<br/>11:45am</p> | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Room Rental<br/>(FH) 7:15am—<br/>9:30am</p>                                         |
|                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                  |                                                                                                         |

## Banana Bread



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Mix sugar and butter.</p>  1¼ cup sugar<br> ½ cup butter                                                                                                                         | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Add eggs and milk.</p>  2 eggs<br> ½ cup buttermilk<br> | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>Mash 3 ripe bananas. Add to the bowl.</p> <br> Add 1 teaspoon vanilla. |
| <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Mix in dry ingredients.</p>  2½ cups flour<br> 1 teaspoon baking soda<br> 1 teaspoon salt | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Mix well.</p> <br><p>Pour batter into a greased loaf pan or muffin pan</p>                                                            | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes.</p>                                                                                                                     |

Graphics from Charlotte's Clip, Krista Wallden and Teaching in the Tonnage

**Play to Learn Preschool**

**For a fun & seasonal twist, add a few drops of green food coloring to your batter!**

**HAMILTON UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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Change Service Requested

Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly.

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Rae Rau, Director of Handbell Choir

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**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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