

Good News

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

Vol 41, No 8

AUGUST 2026



“The grip the *present* has on me. That is the one thing that has grown most noticeably in the spiritual life—nothing much else has.”

~ Thomas Merton, from *A Year with Thomas Merton: Daily Meditations from His Journals*

Beloved,

Thomas Merton, widely regarded as one of the most influential spiritual writers of modern times, was a Trappist monk, writer, and peace and civil rights activist. The above quote begins a short passage from his journal in August of 1958, where he goes on to reflect on the increasing importance of the present moment as he grew older. He continues:

“I am getting older. The reality of *now*—the unreality of all the rest...The pigs shriek. Butterflies dance together against the blue sky at the end of the woodshed. The buzz saw stands outside there, half covered with dirty and tattered canvas. The trees are fresh and green in the sun (more rain yesterday). Small clouds, inexpressibly beautiful and silent and eloquent, over the silent woodlands. What a celebration of light, quietness, and glory! This is my feast, sitting here in the straw!”

It strikes me that much of our modern lives is spent either in the future, thinking and planning for what comes next, or in the past, thinking fondly of “the good old days” or ruminating on things we wish we had done differently. We do this so much and so often that we frequently miss what is taking place in the *present*.

As we enter the month of August, which simultaneously has time for relaxing *and* preparation for the fall, I want to encourage you to find time (and *take* time) to simply *be in* and *enjoy* the present moment. Notice the small things, sit still, and allow that to be your feast.

And with this, a bit of a homework assignment: I would love to hear how you are taking time to do this. What did you notice? Was it hard? Feel free to pop in to the office

some day to share, or send me an email letting me know how you feasted. I look forward to hearing your experiences!

Grace & peace,

~Pastor Kyle



A Sneak-Peek at Sermons in August!

August 2: 2 Timothy 2:8-15, *Remember Jesus Christ, Raised from the Dead*

August 9: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:8, 16-18, *The Lord Stood by Me*

August 16: Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2, *Nineteen Comes Before Twenty*

August 23: Exodus 20: 3-11, *Tuned into God*

August 30: Exodus 20:12-16, *Tuned into Neighbor*

A Note about Backpack to School

Friends, over the past few years, we have, by this point in the summer, been diligently preparing for our Backpack to School event that has taken place at the end of August.

Last year, we saw a large drop-off in both volunteers and attendees. Part of this is due to the fact that other organizations are holding similar events and supply giveaways.

This year we are taking a step back to evaluate the best ways we can serve our neighbors, particularly families of school-age children. We hope that this year of discernment will offer us creative ideas and opportunities to serve our community well next year and in the years to come.

A Walk In the Woods Returns!



We have resumed our monthly Walk in the Woods at the Albany Pine Bush! Meet us at 9am in the parking lot on the fourth Saturday of the month (**this month it's August 22nd**), to enjoy a light hike, fellowship, and God's beautiful creation. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Kyle.



Men's Prayer Group: On Pause for the Summer!

Please note that the men's prayer group is cancelled for the summer, but will resume on the second Saturday of September.

Coffee and Contemplation will resume the first Monday in August (the 3rd) at 9:30am!

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!



Thank You...

Dear Hamilton Union Church Family,

Words cannot express the appreciation we feel for all of the love and support that you have provided over the last few months.

We are so grateful for everyone’s efforts to pull together a beautiful celebration of Peter’s life. Pastor Kyle, thank you for taking on such a task at a time when you were preparing for your trip.

We have been so touched by all of your cards, phone calls, emails, visits, transportation, and other expressions of compassion. We are also so appreciative of the beautiful reception after the service.

With our love,
The Family of Peter McKinney



Presbyterian Women's (PW) News – All Women are Welcome!
Circle Meetings Will Resume on Tues, Sept 22 With A New Bible Study
Order Information for the New Bible Study Book

We don't have Circle meetings in the summer. We will begin our new Bible study at our next Circle Meeting on Tues, Sept 22. Our meetings are from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Rev. Elena Delhagen will introduce the new Bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* and lead a discussion on Lesson 1 ("Mary Magdalene, the Tower.") This Bible study will explore resilience as experienced by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, and Jesus. See the author speak about the study here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRp_c3zDQNC

If you would like to order a study book, contact Joanne Wagner at 518-355-1408 or jnnwgnr@yahoo.com by Tues, Sept.1. The study books are \$14 and \$20 for large print. Payment is due when they arrive, in mid Sept. There is an option to get a used book at no charge. We have 4 used books available from another PW group on a first come first serve basis.

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

Note Card Making - Everyone is Invited
Sun, Aug 16 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Lounge

After coffee hour **on August 16**, gather with us for a colorful card-making activity to raise funds for the many missions supported by our Presbyterian Women's group. No art experience is necessary. Easy instructions and all materials, including photos like the one here, will be provided by Kathy Zazarine and Maryanne Masley Hannett. Let's get creative for a good cause! Please join us!

– Presbyterian Women



Mitten Tree Project - Late Fall 2026

Presbyterian Women will once again be collecting new (handmade or purchased) gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats to be donated to local agencies. We want to make the HUPC congregation aware of our plans to give people the opportunity to take advantage of winter clothing sales and time to start homemade items.



As a reminder the Mission Team has the next scheduled volunteer opportunity at the Regional Food Bank, sorting donated food on: **Thursday, August 20 from 5 to 6:30 PM.** To sign up, or if you have questions, please contact Wayne Gannett.

The **Guilderland Food Pantry** has updated their list of most needed items. In August, they will be collecting back-to-school food needs like microwave mac & cheese, microwave ravioli, single serving size boxes of cereal, and regular-sized cans of stew. Thank you!



Summer Music Opportunities!

Do you or a family member play an instrument? Summer is a great time to share musical gifts in Sunday worship. Children are welcome -- if they can play a simple tune, Carol will help them sound great and get performance experience! Please contact Carol to get involved.

TECH TEAM

August 2: David Scott & Mark Hutchinson

August 9: Diane Irwin & Hugh Stevens

August 16: Liz & Declan Egan

August 23: Diane Irwin & Hugh Stevens

August 30: Mark Hutchinson & Fred Sirois

LITURGISTS

August 2: Trudy Hutchinson

August 9: Mark Hutchinson

August 16: Rae Rau

August 23: Shannon Mulstay

August 30: Ginny Jones

GREETERS

August 2: Shannon Mulstay

August 9: Trudy Hutchinson

August 16: David Scott

August 23: Charlotte Hasselbarth

August 30: Cindy Schultz





August 7 - Liz Egan

August 29 - Matt Williamson

August 9 - Harold Armstrong, Jr.

August 31 - Carl Hasselbarth

August 10 - Kyle Delhagen

August 27 - Bettye Goodnow

Happy anniversary to:

George Hannett & Maryanne Masley-Hannett (August 7)!

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!

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-9:30am
2 Sunday Worship - 10am	3 C &C - 9:30am (L) Communications Meeting - 7:00 PM (Z)	4	5	6	7 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am	8 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-9:30am
9 Sunday Worship - 10am	10 C &C - 9:30am (L)	11 Worship Meeting - 7:30 PM (Z)	12	13 Mission Opportunity at Regional Food Bank – 5-6:30	14 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am	15 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-9:30am
16 Sunday Worship - 10am PW Notecard Making - 11am (L)	17 C &C - 9:30am (L) Room Rental (L) 6:30-8:30pm Property Meeting - 7:30 PM (Z)	18	19	20	21 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-11:45am	22 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am-9:30am Walk in the Woods (APB) - 9am
23 Sunday Worship - 10am	24 C &C - 9:30am (L)	25	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday Worship - 10am	31 C &C - 9:30am (L)					



Supplies Needed:

- Construction or printer paper - white, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink
- Tape or glue
- Black and red markers

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Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly.

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Newsletter deadline for the
September issue is
August 26th

Ministers: The People of Hamilton Union

Our Staff:

Rev. Dr. 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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