

Good News

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

Vol 41, No 10

OCTOBER 2026

HAPPY

October

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY THIS
MONTH.

THINKABOUTSUCHTHINGS.COM

Our Real Work**by Wendell Berry**

*It may be that when we no longer know what to do
we have come to our real work,
and that when we no longer know which way to go
we have come to our real journey.
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.
The impeded stream is the one that sings.*

Beloved,

Just a couple of weeks before we began our fall series on creation and creation care, a personal hero of mine, Wendell Berry, died at the age of 92. St. Wendell, as I refer to him, was many things in his life: novelist, poet, essayist, environmental activist, cultural critic... but more than anything, he described himself as a farmer. The families of both of his parents had farmed in Henry County, Kentucky, for generations. It is where he ultimately settled with his family, and farming was his lifelong vocation.

St. Wendell, through his writings, reminded people of our critical connection to the land and to creation as a whole. He called out and challenged industrial farming techniques that stripped the land of nutrients and resources, that treated animals as products and not living things to be honored even as they fed us, and, with a gentle way, guided his readers back to an intimate connection with God's good earth.

I first came to know his writings in college, and he has been deeply impactful in my personal life and my theology. My sister-in-law read his *Manifesto*, at my father's funeral. If you are not familiar with him, I encourage you to pick up something — anything — by him, and fall in love with his prophetic voice.

Because the truth is, we do not have many voices like St. Wendell in our world, and we desperately need them. Voices that remind us of our connection to creation, of the urgent need to tend and steward the land that has been entrusted to us, that challenge us to do better, even if the short-term sacrifice hurts—because the long-term survival of our planet is so much more important.

As we continue to walk together in learning and living about our call to tend to the ecological crisis, I pray that words like those from St. Wendell (and many others that I have drawn into this series) would inspire you to roll up your sleeves to get to work, that we might sing together with the impeded stream.

Grace & peace,
~Pastor Kyle



A Sneak-Peek at Sermons To Come This Fall!

October 4: Genesis 3:1-4:16, *Leaving the Garden*

October 11: Isaiah 2:1-21, *Commerce and Contentment* (Pastor Kyle Away, Elena Preaching)

October 18: Genesis 1:29-30, *The Needs of Animals*

October 25: Exodus 16:13-26, *Food for Life*

November 1: 1 Kings 21:1-24, *Environmental Fairness*

November 8: Genesis 15:13-16, *Our Children's Inheritance*

November 15: Micah 3:9-4:5, *Living Within Our Means*

November 22: Revelation 21:1-5, *A New Heaven and a New Earth*



A Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 18 at 2-3pm

Our pets and furry friends bring so much love and joy into our lives. As people of faith, we declare with the psalmist that "the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." God blesses – and continues to bless – creation.

Having a service where we bless our animal friends invites us to recognize that God is the one who blesses. On October 18, we will bless the animals in our lives.

Our furry friends are invited to join us, though if you have a pet who does not do as well around people (like the Delhagen family's older dog...), or a friend who is too big to transport, feel free to bring in a picture of them that we can celebrate and bless.

Please note that the time for this has changed to 2:00 pm. We will finish by 3pm so people can attend the Community Hymn Sing!

SAVE THE DATE:**Who is Welcome?**

Sunday, November 22, 3:00 pm

This past May, Pastor Kyle graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Counseling.

The title of his thesis was, *Who is Welcome?: Toward a Theology of Trans Inclusivity*. In this, he looked at how the Church has treated transgender individuals (and more broadly, the LGBTQIA+ community as a whole). How we read scripture has played a large role in our mistreatment of this vulnerable group.

On Sunday, November 22, Pastor Kyle will share about his thesis, his research, and how we as a congregation can respond to current threats facing the transgender community.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Kyle. No RSVP needed!

**Men's Prayer Group This Month!**

Please note that the men's prayer group is scheduled for 8:30am on Saturday, October 10th! All men of the congregation are invited on the second Saturday of each month.

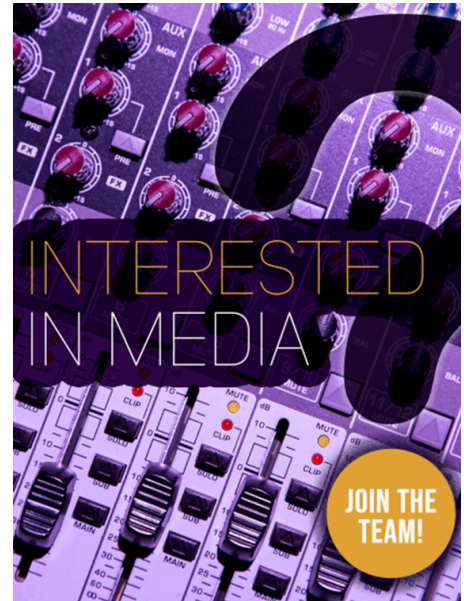
Coffee and Contemplation has also resumed each Monday at 9:30am for anyone who wants to come!

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!



Charlotte Palmeri, former organist/choir director and dear friend of HUPC, is planning a community hymn sing! On Sunday, October 18th, at 3pm, people from the community and various churches will gather in the HUPC sanctuary for time of singing and fellowship. **Everyone in HUPC is invited!** If you have

particular hymns that bring joy to your heart, please let Charlotte know at cepalmeri@gmail.com or (518) 355-1307. No sign up is required; simply mark your calendars for this special event and join the joyful noise on October 18th!



Presbyterian Women's (PW) News – All Women are Welcome!

Circle Meeting

Our meetings are from 10:30 am –12:30 pm. We will be continuing our Bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. We will discuss Lesson 2, “Mary, of a Certain Village.”

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 Bible study only. Extra study books are available. There a Zoom option. For questions about Presbyterian Women, contact Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356- 0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com

Mitten Tree Project - Sun, Nov 15 - Sun, Dec 6



Presbyterian Women will once again be collecting new (handmade or purchased) gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats to be donated to local agencies. There will be a Mitten Tree in the Sanctuary and collection boxes in the Christian Education Building and in the deck box outside the Christian Education Building.

HUPC Crafters Welcome You to Our First Month Long Exhibit!

During the month of September, crafts made by the HUPC family will be on display the Guilderland Public Library's lobby and Helderberg Meeting Room.



Note Card Sale – Sunday, October 4

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women

The note cards that several people collaged during coffee hours in August will be on display and sold in the Fellowship Room on 10/4, during coffee hour. The funds raised will go to two local charities: The Guilderland Food Pantry and The Caring Closet. The suggested minimum donation for each card will be \$3.00.



Adventures in Creativity: First Sunday of each month

New Presbyterian Women's Program

Based on the success we had at two August note card making sessions, there will be a lead craft activity in the Fellowship Room during coffee hour. At these gatherings, everyone is invited to make note cards, bring their own craft projects, or just pull up a chair. Feel free to bring coffee-hour snacks to the table. Our goal will be to inspire creativity while strengthening our sense of community. Some of our crafts may go to nursing home and shelter residents, but we're open to more suggestions. The first of these get-togethers will be on Sunday 10/4 and 11/1.



**Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany
Fall Gathering**

Saturday, October 24, 2026 - 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Glens Falls

**8 West Notre Dame St, Glens Falls, NY 12801
518-793-2521**

Program

Amina, a UAlbany student, will share her experiences about her life and family as she grew up in Afghanistan, plus her immigration and asylum path here in the United States. Support for Amina has been a project of the Presbytery of Albany's Immigration Network and Mission Committee.

Details

- Registration fee of \$10.00 will be collected at the door.
- Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverage are provided.
- A freewill offering will be received to support Amina's path to citizenship.
- Make out checks to Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany, with Amina in the memo line.
- For questions and to rsvp by Oct.17 to help the host church plan, contact Rev. Kathi Jones at revkathiljones@yahoo.com or 518-755-2557.

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

Cornerstone Campus Ministry: Food & Faith Dinner**Food & People Needed - Tues. Oct 27, 6-7:30 pm**

Food and Faith is a program of the Cornerstone Campus Ministry on the UAlbany Campus. We will provide a meal, and Rev. Delhagen will provide a worship activity. Donations of main dish, side dish, and dessert are needed, plus people to visit with the students. A sign-up sheet will be in the room between the Sanctuary and the Christian Education by Sun, Oct 11 or contact Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or 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 6 pm.

Cornerstone Campus Ministry Bake Sale – Sunday, November 15

Many of us recall the Campus Ministry Bake Sales. They have been on hold for a few years and are now back. The students will be selling baked goods during our coffee hour on November 15. This is an important fundraiser for the Campus Ministry and a nice opportunity for us to meet some of the students. Please mark your calendars!

Hamilton Union Supports a Cornerstone Campus Ministry Peer Minister

Hamilton Union's Mission and Social Witness Committee has supported the Cornerstone Campus Ministry's Peer Ministry Program for many years. We make an annual donation of \$500 to cover one Peer Minister position. These are part time staff positions that provide specific functions that are part of the Campus Ministry program.

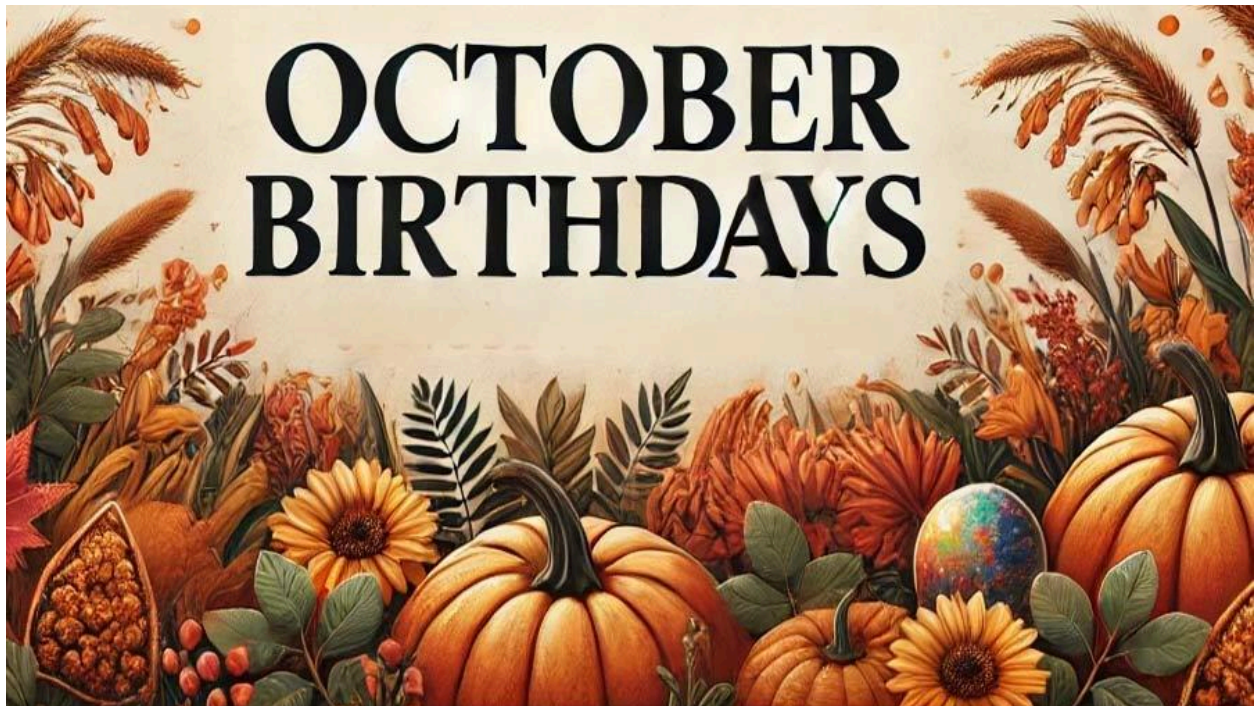
This year our contribution is going toward Syntia Corona's salary. Here is Syntia's bio:

Hello Hamilton Union Presbyterian! My name is Syntia Corona, and I am this year's Food and Faith Coordinator for Cornerstone! A little bit about me: I am a senior majoring in Psychology at the University at Albany as well as minoring in Biology with hopes to obtain my masters in Neuroscience. I come from a small town in Rockland County called Nanuet and while my town is small, I do have big aspirations for myself and for my community here at Cornerstone in the meantime.

I'm a big believer in philanthropy and while I am here, I want to make the biggest impact possible through my position as Food and Faith Coordinator. I remember ever since I was younger, I wanted to help my community in some way, shape or form and I feel like this position stood out to me so I could fulfill that wish. As Food and Faith Coordinator I have the absolute privilege of helping our neighboring churches set up before Tuesday's worship. While doing so I have been able to foster some amazing connections and be that bridge between the Albany community and the University community.

In addition to being Food and Faith Coordinator I also serve as this year's Treasurer and co-Worship Assistant where I get to have a platform to share ideas to help improve the Cornerstone community. In doing so we have already made more community service opportunities, more creative worship activities, and sharing more in the way that college students are able to connect the most – through social media. Being able to do all of this and serve as Food and Faith Coordinator is what I believe to be one of the most worthwhile pursuits I could fulfill during my time here. Whether serving the community in small or big ways. Regardless, I am blessed and will do my best to serve the community in this role.

<u>TECH TEAM</u> Oct 4: Liz & Declan Egan Oct 11: Meredith Eberz & Family Oct 18: Diane Irwin & Hugh Stevens Oct 25: Mark Hutchinson & David Scott	<u>LITURGISTS</u> Oct 4: Fred Sirois Oct 11: Bill Hasselbarth Oct 18: Cindy Schultz Oct 25: Atticus Delhagen
<u>GREETERS</u> Oct 4: Elena Delhagen Oct 11: Charlotte Hasselbarth Oct 18: Mark Hutchinson Oct 25: Trudy Hutchinson	



October 1st - Nancy Gerstenberger

October 15th - Joanne Wagner

October 24th - Keni Banda

Happy anniversary to Kyle & Elena Delhagen on October 17th!

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!

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am- 11:45am	3 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am- 9:30am
4 Choir Warmup - 9:30am Sunday Worship - 10am Bells Practice - 11:30am PW Notecard Sale -11:30 (FH)	5 C &C - 9:30am (L) Making Connections Bible Study - 1pm (Z)	6 Session Meeting - 7:30pm (Z)	7 Room Rental (FH) 6:30-8:30pm	8 Choir Rehearsal - 7pm (S)	9 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am- 11:45am	10 Men's Prayer Group - 8:30am (L) Room Rental (FH) 7:15am- 9:30am Carolyn S Memorial - 1pm (S)
11 Choir Warmup - 9:30am Sunday Worship - 10am Bells Practice - 11:30am	12 OFFICE CLOSED: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY Making Connections Bible Study - 1pm (Z)	13	14 Room Rental (FH) 6:30-8:30pm	15 Choir Rehearsal - 7pm (S)	16 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am- 11:45am	17 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am- 9:30am
18 Choir Warmup - 9:30am Sunday Worship - 10am Bells Practice - 11:30am Blessing of the Animals - 2pm Community Hymn Sing - 3pm (S)	19 C &C - 9:30am (L) Making Connections Bible Study - 1pm (Z) Property Meeting - 7:30pm (Z)	20	21 Room Rental (FH) 6:30-8:30pm Communications Team Meeting - 7:15pm (Z)	22 Choir Rehearsal - 7pm (S)	23 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am- 11:45am	24 Room Rental (FH) 7:15am- 9:30am PW in the Presbytery of Albany Fall Gathering (FPC Glens Falls) 11:30am
25 Choir Warmup - 9:30am Sunday Worship - 10am Bells Practice - 11:30am	26 C &C - 9:30am (L) Making Connections Bible Study - 1pm (Z)	27 PW Circle Meeting - 10:30am (L)	28 Room Rental (FH) 6:30-8:30pm	29	30	31

KIDS CORNER - PUMPKIN MAD LIBS!

THE GREAT PUMPKIN PATCH ADVENTURE

Once upon a time in a far-off land, there was a magical pumpkin patch. Every year, on the night of Halloween, something extraordinary happened at this pumpkin patch. Kids from all around the neighborhood would come to visit the patch in their _____ (adjective) costumes.

One Halloween, a group of friends decided to go on a _____ (adjective) adventure to the pumpkin patch. They were excited and couldn't wait to see what surprises awaited them. They wore their most _____ (adjective) costumes and carried their trusty _____ (noun) to light their way.

As they entered the pumpkin patch, they noticed that the pumpkins were all different shapes and sizes. Some were as big as _____ (noun), while others were as small as _____ (noun). The colors of the pumpkins ranged from bright _____ (color) to deep _____ (color).

Suddenly, they heard a _____ (adjective) noise coming from one of the pumpkins. They cautiously approached the noise and discovered a friendly pumpkin named _____ (name). This pumpkin had a big, _____ (adjective) smile and told them that it was the guardian of the pumpkin patch.

The pumpkin told the kids that they could have one pumpkin each to take home with them. They were thrilled and began searching for the perfect pumpkin. After some time, they each found a pumpkin that they thought was the _____ (adjective) pumpkin in the whole patch.

With their pumpkins in tow, they said goodbye to their new pumpkin friend and headed home. As they carved their pumpkins into spooky faces, they couldn't help but feel grateful for the _____ (adjective) adventure they had experienced that Halloween night.

And so, every year on Halloween, they returned to the magical pumpkin patch for more _____ (adjective) adventures and to visit their friend, the guardian pumpkin. It was a Halloween tradition they would cherish forever.



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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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