

THE HELDERBERG MESSENGER

October 2017

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Helderberg Reformed Church
435 State Route 146
Guilderland Center, NY 12085

hrchurch.org

 @HelderbergReformedChurch

*Worshipping God since 1767 — Come join us!
We gather on Sundays at 9:30 am.*

From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Lindsey De Kruif

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 am. Lord's Supper on the
1st Sunday of the month.

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Two thousand seventeen has marked for the Helderberg Reformed Church 250 years of ministry in Guilderland Center, and it also marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. On October 31, 1517, a monk named Martin Luther posted 95 theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, calling out abusive practices of the Catholic church. These theses had a deep impact on the church at the time. As they were published and spread throughout Europe, they set in motion a division in the church. Protestants, those who protested against some of the teachings of the Catholic Church,



broke away from the Catholic Church's longstanding presence in Europe.

Throughout Europe, this led to the formation of a number of Protestant denominations: Lutherans, which were influenced by the teachings of Martin Luther; Reformed and Presbyterian, which were influenced by the teachings of John Calvin; Anglicans who tried to find a "middle way" between

SEPTEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Plans for the 250th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration were discussed.
- The Nominating Committee has been called together to nominate elders and deacons for 2018. They will meet in October.
- The Property and Finance Committee has been hard at work keeping up our building and grounds. The rear walkway was replaced and the playground was cleaned up and got new sand for the school year along with other usual upkeep.
- Consistory approved use of Memorial funds to pay for the initial cost of the 250th Anniversary Tree of Life.
- Preschool has begun with an Open House held on September 13.
- Appreciation was expressed to Bob Marr and Allen Campbell's work on the garden and sidewalks, to Barb and Tim Horan, Joan and Jim Healey, and Bill Root for power washing the playground equipment and toys.

Complete minutes for the September Consistory Meeting can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Reformers and Catholics; Anabaptists and other minority Christian groups who found more freedom during this divisive time to practice their faith in a way that set them apart from the Catholic Church. The Protestant Reformation has left a legacy of renewal and of religious diversity.

The Protestant Reformation also left a legacy of division and violence. The unity of the church universal was further broken, and feuds at times between Catholics and Protestants have been carried out with violence. Though there is much to celebrate for the ways the Protestant Reformation had a positive impact on the Christian faith, it is also a time to lament, for God has called us to unity in Jesus Christ and five hundred years after Luther's 95 theses his church remains divided.

Yet, we are called to renewal, and people throughout the church recognize this call and are seeking to restore unity in the church. In our Reformed tradition, Catholic and Reformed dialogues have been carried out to find common ground in theology and practice.

Those who have gathered for these dialogues have come to a common understanding of the nature and work of the church, and these dialogues have led to an agreement recognizing the baptism of each tradition as valid. This work is a step in the direction of healing the divide between us, and is a deep witness to the reconciliation made known in Jesus Christ. As the church continues to meet new challenges in our changing world, my prayer is that our witness to God's love will continue to grow as work towards these efforts of unity with our sisters and brothers in Christ across the world.



The door of the Wittenberg castle church is now engraved with Luther's 95 theses.



RCW News

Linda Manss & Emma Kay

It's almost time for the Turkey Supper and Bazaar on Saturday, November 4th. Please note we are only doing the bazaar on Saturday this year.

Please help us by making baked goods for the bake sale. Best sellers are pies, cookies and breads - but anything that speaks to your creativity is greatly appreciated! Items can be dropped off Friday morning or Saturday.

We are also looking for jewelry donations - but NO boxes. They can be placed in the bag on the table in the narthex.

Please come and shop! There are lots of wonderful gifts to fill your Christmas shopping list. Thank you!

Usher/Greeter List Updates

Help Us Prepare for Worship in 2018

If you would like your name added or deleted to the usher/greeter list for 2018, please notify either:

Jackie Marr at 356-0062;
4478jackiemarr@gmail.com

Carol Relyea at 861-5369;
careless@aol.com.

Also, don't forget to update your phone number if there has been a change.

Thank You Note from the RCA

Thank you for responding to those who have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. Your gift has helped provide some of the immediate supplies that those who lost everything needed. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ.

Blessings,

Amanda Bruehl
Regional Coordinator of
Development
Reformed Church in America



Blessing of the Backpacks. On Sunday, Sept. 10th, students and teachers of the Helderberg Reformed Church community gathered for a special Blessing of the Backpacks. Everyone received a button with the important message: "You are loved!" We look forward to a 2nd Annual BotB next year!

Thank You for Prayers

Dear Pastor Lindsey and Friends of Helderberg,

My heartfelt thanks for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, and phone calls during my recent knee replacement surgery and recovery.

It was comforting to know prayers were being offered for me during the time it took to regain strength and mobility.

With love,

Patricia Geritz



Upcoming Events

Historical Cemetary Tour

Niskayuna Reformed Church
Sat. Oct. 21st

The Niskayuna Reformed Church History and Archives Committee is offering a day of historical cemetary tours, rain or shine, Sat. Oct. 21st at the church cemetary, 3041 Troy-Schenectady Road, Niskayuna.

The theme for the tours is "Continuity of Faith: Early Families of Niskayuna" and the schedule includes a visit from Historical Society members teaching how to conduct geneological research.

The schedule for the day is:

Four guided tours depart at 10:00, 10:15, 11:00 and 11:15.

Indoor Video Presentation and Speakers at 12:30.

Schenectady County Historical Society on the topic of "How to Conduct Geneological Research" from 11:00 through 12:30

Reservations are recommended, call 518 785 5575 or email receptionist@niskayunareformed.org

Suggested individual donation is \$5.00. Boxed lunches will be available for \$8.00 with pre-orders encouraged.

Annual Turkey Dinner!

Helderberg Reformed Church
Saturday, November 4th

Reservation Only! - Seating is Limited!

Seating times: 3:30, 5:00, 6:30
Eight per table, served family style.
(Take-out dinners are also available!)

For reservations please call:
518 698 9911

Adults: \$12.00

Children 5-10: \$6.00

Children Under 5: Free!

"Hurry and get your reservation while you still can!"

MENU FOR THE DINNER ALL HOMEMADE!

ROAST TURKEY

REAL MASHED POTATOES

BUTTERNUT SQUASH

STUFFING

GRAVY

GREEN BEANS

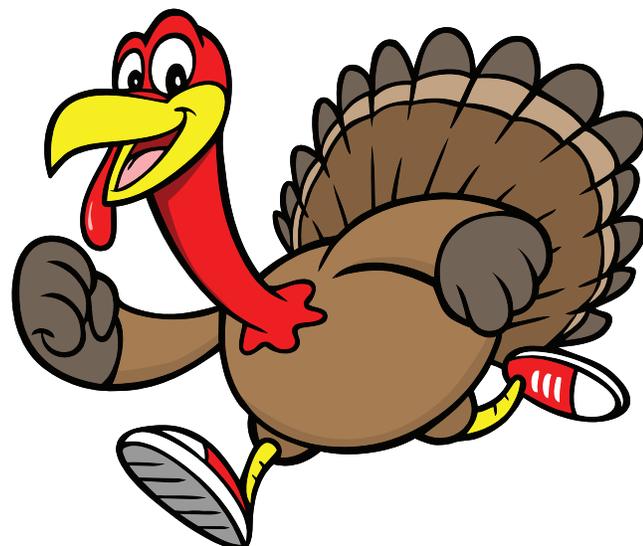
FRESH DUTCH SLAW

PICKLED BEETS

CRANBERRY SAUCE

ROLLS & BEVERAGES

ASSORTED BAKED PIES



Tree of Life

The Tree of Life is a work of art for the past and future of Helderberg Reformed Church

In honor of Helderberg Reformed Church's 250th anniversary, artists in the community and the congregation are creating a work of art that will last for generations to come.

The HRC "Tree of Life" is a project that will use the history of HRC in a unique and beautiful way. Each leaf on the tree will be crafted from stained glass recovered from the 1986 fire. The complete work will be hung in the narthex by the sanctuary entrance.

Contributing to the creation of the 250th Anniversary Tree of Life will ensure the vitality of the church by helping cover the cost of capital improvements.

A brass plaque will be created along with the Tree listing remembrances and honors. This plaque will accompany the Tree and together they will serve as a piece of church history for another 250 years and beyond!

Look for more information about the tree in your Sunday bulletins and online at hrchurch.org.



Changes to The Messenger

Let Us Know What You Think!

The Helderberg Messenger is now offered as an email in addition to print. We encourage you to please sign up for the email version of the *Messenger* by emailing Steve at **hrcmessenger@gmail.com**. Sending the *Messenger* by email helps us reduce our operating costs.

The print version of the *Messenger* has gotten a refreshed design and will be mailed to those who can't receive email. It will also be available in the church narthex.

All submissions to the *Messenger* can be emailed to Steve at **hrcmessenger@gmail.com**. You can also drop them off at the church office.

In the future, we plan to make signing up for the *Messenger* available through our website **hrchurch.org**. We will continue posting printable .pdf versions to the website and may make the email version available there as well.

Feedback on these changes is welcome! Let us know how we're doing!



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