

# The Messenger

## Newsletter of Helderberg Reformed Church

Worshipping God since 1767! Come join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

435 State Route 146 Guilderland Center, NY 12085 | [hrchurch.org](http://hrchurch.org) | Find us on Facebook @HelderbergReformedChurch

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### Our Church

#### Sunday Worship

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

#### Make Contact

P.O. Box 196  
Guilderland, NY 12085  
[hrchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hrchurchoffice@gmail.com)  
Church Office (518) 861-8031  
Parsonage (518) 861-5489

#### MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Rev. Lindsey De Kruif

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ellen Root

#### ORGANIST

Agnes Armstrong

#### CONTACT THE MESSENGER

[HRCMESSENGER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HRCMESSENGER@GMAIL.COM)

From the Pastor's Desk

### Sharing the Light

Recently, I read a book by Diana Butler Bass entitled, *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*. In her book, Butler Bass highlights churches from historic mainline



denominations (i.e. Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist), and how they have transformed in their understanding of what it means to live out their faith in the changing culture of the United States. In the conclusion of the book, Butler Bass notes, "Many of the old neighborhood churches are trying to be communities of faithful practice in this new neighborhood—embodying God's transforming power." Throughout the book, Butler Bass again and again highlights churches that have found themselves in a similar situation to ours, where their neighborhood has significantly changed around them. Yet, these churches have been able to embrace that change by embracing faithful practice. Doing so has been transformative in many of these communities, and they have developed thriving ministries within their neighborhoods.

This transformation hasn't been unlocked by some secret formula or by following the latest fads or trends in Christianity. Instead, the church communities that Butler Bass researched have simply embraced traditional Christian practices, such as hospitality, justice, contemplation, healing, and discernment. They have come to take Christianity seriously, and it has transformed who they are as a Christian community. Reading of the accounts of these congregations

## Autumnal Day

By Ranier Maria Rilke

Trans. Jessie Lemont

Lord! It is time. So great  
was Summer's glow:

Thy shadows lay upon the  
dials' faces

And o'er wide spaces let  
thy tempests blow.

Command to ripen the last  
fruits of thine,

Give to them two more  
burning days and press

The last sweetness into the  
heavy wine.

He who has now no house  
will ne'er build one,

Who is alone will now  
remain alone;

He will awake, will read, will  
letters write

Through the long day and  
in the lonely night;

And restless, solitary, he will  
rove

Where the leaves rustle,  
wind-blown, in the grove.

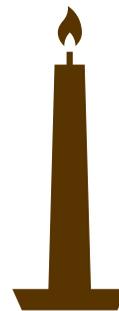
gave me hope. It gave me hope that the future of this congregation is in God's hands, and that we are called forward into faithful living.

One of the churches highlighted embraced the practice of sharing their faith through a ministry that they called *Sharing the Light*. I was struck by the name of this ministry and it made me wonder if we might think about sharing our faith as a light in the world. Jesus names his disciples as the light of the world; I wonder what living into being the light of the world might look like? We may find talking about our faith with our friends and neighbors to be uncomfortable, but I wonder how we might instead be intentional about living in a such a way that our lives shine the light of our faith. How might we share our light, and be the very presence of Christ in our community? What might we do that goes beyond just an invitation to church to share our faith?

As we begin a new season and we see many of you return from summer vacations, I hope that we can ask this question together and discern how God is calling us to be light in Guilderland Center together. I think that we might find God is up to something among us as we seek this way of life in our community.

Blessings,

Pastor Lindsey



# Upcoming Events

## A Balanced Life: Women's Retreat at HRC

Prayerfully consider attending a Women's Retreat at Helderberg Reformed Church! All women are invited to attend regardless of age, location, or religious affiliation.

This half-day retreat will be led by Pastor Paula Gravelle Turner who will talk on what it means to live a balanced life - and is that even possible for women in 2018?

This retreat will explore what scripture has to say, as well as look at psychological, meditative, and spiritual disciplines which can guide us as we seek to live "in balance."

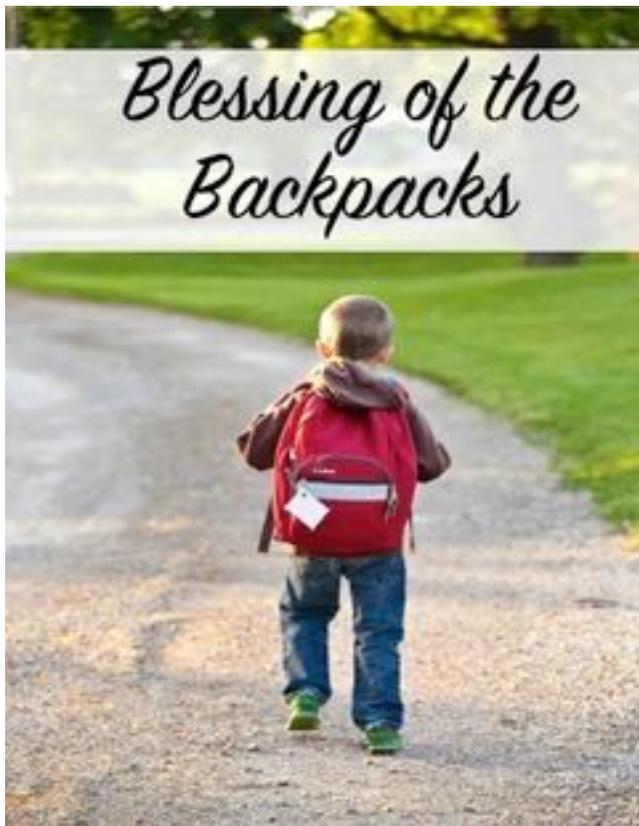
This will be held at Helderberg Reformed Church on the morning of September 29th from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Breakfast will be served.

There is no cost but you should call the church office at (518) 861-8031 to save your spot.



## The Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us on Sunday, September 9 as we get ready for back to school. Bring your backpack or work bag, and we will bless them during our 9:30 AM worship service as you begin a new school year.



## Tree of Life Dedication

The Tree of Life art installation, celebrating our 250th Anniversary is completed. Please join us for worship on September 30 as we dedicate the Tree, and celebrate the gifts given to the Anniversary Capital Campaign Fund. A potluck lunch will follow, please see the weekly bulletin for more information on the potluck.

## Around the Synod of Albany

### Worship Symposium: "Why Worship?"

A Day of learning surrounding the Why, What, How and Who of Christian Reformed Worship. All those who are involved in leading/ planning /overseeing worship in their communities are invited to join us at First Reformed Church of Schenectady on October 20, 2018 from 9AM-4PM

Plan to join us for this day of engaging around worship. \$25/person or \$100/church gets you lunch, great worship and creative workshops like "Worship as Dialogue" "Green Worship" and "Role of Elders". We will also be introducing the New Reformed Hymnal "Lift up your Hearts" and give you a chance to experience it.

Registration will be open from September 4- October 12

# Mulch Ado about Nothing!

On Saturday, August 25, members of Helderberg Reformed Church gathered to do some clean up around the place, which included weeding and mulching the playground.

Thanks for everyone's help!



# **ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER**

**Saturday – November 3th**

**by Reservation Only!!**

**Limited Seating Available!**

**Seating Times: 3:30, 5:00 & 6:30**

**(8 per table/served family style)**

**Reservations: Please call 518-698-9911**

***Take out dinners are also available!***



## **Menu – “All Homemade”**

*Roasted Turkey, “Real” Mashed Potatoes,  
Butternut Squash, Stuffing, Gravy,  
Green Beans, Fresh Dutch Slaw,  
Pickled Beets, Cranberry Sauce,  
Rolls, Beverages, Assorted Baked Pies*

**Adults: \$12.00 – Children 5-10: \$ 6.00 – Under 5: Free**

Helderberg Reformed Church  
435 Main Street  
Guilderland Center, NY 12085



## AmazonSmile — A Simple Way to Help HRC



*Did you know Helderberg Reformed Church is available as an AmazonSmile charity?*

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Helderberg Reformed Church every time you shop on Amazon.com, at no cost to you.

To get started supporting HRC with AmazonSmile, instead of shopping at “www.amazon.com” instead type in “smile.amazon.com.” There you can search for “Helderberg Reformed Church” and select it as your personal AmazonSmile charity.

Once HRC is your AmazonSmile charity, instead of going to “www.amazon.com” or “amazon.com” to purchase items, instead put on a smile and type in “smile.amazon.com.” That ensures that each time you make a purchase at Amazon, HRC will receive 0.5% of the purchase price, at no cost to you!

If you already have an AmazonSmile charity and would like to make HRC your charity instead, simply log onto smile.amazon.com and click on “Supporting: [some charity]” and then click the word “change” next to your current AmazonSmile charity. Then search for Helderberg Reformed Church using the search bar at the bottom of the Change Your Charity page.

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