

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 | 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

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MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

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CONTACT THE MESSENGER

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From the Pastor's Desk

Care Groups

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.



Philippians 2:1-5

We belong to one another. As those welcomed into the body of Christ, the church, we have been made family in Jesus Christ. This past month we celebrated the baptism of Olivia Van Patten. Each time we baptize a new member of our congregation, we are invited to recommit to caring for those among us as we make promises to love, encourage, and support our brothers and sisters in Christ. We carry out these promise according to the congregational vows in baptism by teaching the gospel of God's love, by being an example of Christian faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God's family in fellowship, prayer, and service.

The Board of Elders and I are tasked with overseeing the care of the congregation. As we gather together each month, we ask one another if there are any members that are in need of care.

Engaging in this practice together over the last several months, we

Perhaps the World Ends Here

By Joy Harjo, 1951

The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table. So it has been since creation, and it will go on.

We chase chickens or dogs away from it. Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human. We make men at it, we make women.

At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children. They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.

This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.

Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory.

We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.

At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.

have begun to ask if there is a better way that we as elders and minister can work together to care for the congregation. From this conversation, we have decided to develop care groups.

To form these care groups, we have divided our membership list into four groups and assigned an elder to each group. The elder who oversees the care group is responsible for connecting with those in their care group. They might connect through a phone call, a conversation, or a card. They will also take note from week to week if those in their care group are present in worship or if there may be a reason to reach out to someone.

The Board of Elders and I believe that caring for one another in our congregation is a valuable part of our ministry and we are seeking to do better in this work. You can help us in this work by letting us know when you or someone you care about might be in need of prayer or support from their church family. We pray that the love of Christ might be known throughout our congregation through word and through deed.



Thank You

To all my Helderberg Friends: I can't thank you enough for all your prayers while Greg was ill, and the comforting words and hugs of support at the difficult time of his sudden passing. It means so much to me and my daughters to know we have a loving and caring extended family here at Helderberg.

Vala Jackson

Events and Notes

On Saturday, Nov. 3rd we celebrated the spirit of hospitality and service by inviting a couple hundred of our friends over for dinner! The annual Turkey Dinner was a rousing success, a good time shared by all.



Cleaning Team Needed

After over 20 years of dedicated service to our church, Sharon will no longer serve as our Sexton. She has been a blessing to us all and will be missed. Until a permanent solution is in place, volunteers are needed to help with the daily cleaning of the church. Housekeeping duties will include dusting, mopping, vacuuming, sweeping, cleaning and stocking the bathrooms and kitchens and emptying trash.

With enough volunteers, the commitment will be minimal for everyone. We are proposing a team concept with each team taking a week a month. Each team will need a leader to coordinate the work with their team. There will be a suggested schedule but the team leader can adjust as necessary to meet your needs.

Please consider volunteering. Further information and signup lists and will be available in the Fellowship Hall.



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed to complete a variety of fall projects. If you have electrical, plumbing, carpentry, landscaping or a variety of other talents, we need your help. There is a list in the Fellowship Hall of project opportunities that need to be completed. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Property Committee or Ellen in the office for an updated list.

Helderberg Reformed Church 2019 Pledge

I/We make the following pledge of stewardship to the Helderberg Reformed Church for the year 2019:

2019 Pledge \$ _____ per week, month, year. (Circle one)

Envelope # _____. If you do not require envelopes, please check here _____)

Name: _____

Address: _____

To help prepare the 2019 Budget, please return your pledge card ASAP!

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