

# 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

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#### MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ellen Root

#### ORGANIST

Agnes Armstrong

#### CONTACT THE MESSENGER

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From the Pastor's Desk

### Led by a Wild Goose

Going into a new situation or a new place, I like to have a plan. Yet, I have found more often than not that my plans do not work out, so I need to be flexible.



This is not the Pastor's

Message I planned to write. I had planned ahead and wrote something about the Albany Synod Fellowship program and how as a congregation we might best prepare to be a ministry site if we were chosen. However, I just heard word that the congregations of Knox and Thompson's Lake Reformed Churches no longer had their classis' support for our application. The Helderberg consistory and I were disappointed by this news; it means that we are out of the running to be a ministry site for the program.

As we talked about it in our consistory meeting this week, someone spoke up and suggested that maybe this opportunity was not meant to be right now. Another person said maybe the application process prepared us for some other opportunity. Each of these voices were helpful and reminded me that in the Celtic Christian tradition the image for the Holy Spirit is not a dove but instead a wild goose. According to this tradition, the Holy Spirit is understood to be unpredictable, surprising us and disturbing our plans—like a wild goose.

We had a plan, but perhaps now the Holy Spirit is upsetting those plans to lead us in a different direction. I trust that the

### **The Gift of Life**

Christi Mead Nielsen

Some saved my life today.  
I don't know who they are  
or even know their name.  
I don't know if they are male or female  
or the color of their eyes or skin or hair.  
I don't know how they make their living  
or what they dream of doing when they go  
out to play.  
I don't know if they believe in God  
or just the kindness of strangers.  
I don't know what made them open  
the door  
and leave a part of themselves inside.  
  
I do know their priceless gift was  
the difference between life and death.  
My life. My death.

Without their gift  
my husband would be without his wife,  
my son without his mother.  
People I love would mourn  
a sister, a daughter, a friend.  
Without their gift  
my dreams would have died  
unrealized, unshared, unexplored.

But someone saved my life today  
with a sacrificial gift of blood.  
My family lives together  
whole.  
I live a life of dreams I now make real.

Someone saved my life today.  
I don't know who or where or why.  
Whoever you are  
I would just like to say  
Thank you.

work and the conversations that we had were worth it. I trust they may lead us to other opportunities.

It is timely to remember the work of the Holy Spirit. On June 9, the Church worldwide will celebrate the day of Pentecost. This is the day on which, after Jesus ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit descended upon His disciples. The disciples expected to receive the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit showed up in unexpected ways. There was great confusion and misunderstanding that day. The disciples spoke in a multitude of languages and some people accused them of being drunk. The Spirit led followers of Jesus out from Jerusalem to proclaim the good news to every corner of the earth. I would doubt most of these people ever planned on leaving the city, but the Spirit led them away.

My prayer for us is that we may be open to whatever the Holy Spirit has in store, and that we will work in faith as we continue to witness the presence of Jesus Christ among us.

In Christ,

Pastor Lindsey



# Events and Notes

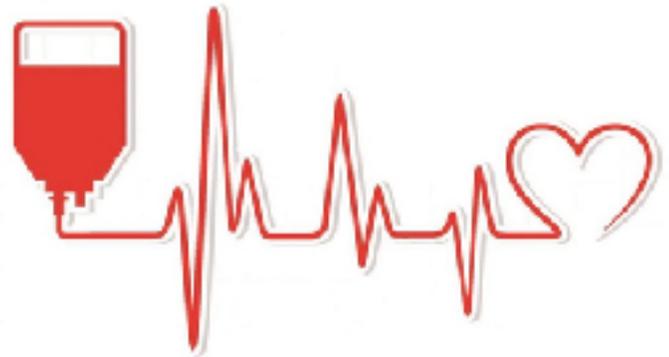
## Blood Drive Helpers Needed

For a number of years Helderberg has held Blood Mobiles in memory of Ken Rivers. Prior to that we hosted the Mobile with Ken and Rocs'anne as the organizers. As Rocs'anne has joined Ken and her Lord, the event on Saturday, May 18, is in memory of the two of them for their work with the Red Cross and their dedicated service to Helderberg.

**We need donors to sign up for time slots starting at 7:30 am through 1 pm.** Those eligible donors (please see the Red Cross website for criteria) who wish to donate blood in their honor may call 518 595-5106, leaving name, phone number, and preferred time. Each will receive a return call giving confirmation and further directions.

**We also need volunteers to help that day--to set up the day before, Friday, May 17 at 11:45 am.**

Call 518 595-5106 to volunteer, or to get information, as soon as possible. We look forward to a successful event--we hope to reach 50 pints to save lives in their honor! Please mark your calendar to help in any way you are able.



## Thank You for the Floor

On behalf of the Property Committee, I want to thank each and every one of the donors and volunteers for the gift of a new floor in the Fellowship Hall. Your gifts of time and money have transformed the Fellowship Hall into a safe environment for the preschool and a more attractive room for events.

Your financial support and commitment helped us to make this project practically self-sufficient. Nearly \$5,000.00 has been raised with one fund raiser at the Recovery Sports Grill Guilderland on June 5th to go.

The volunteers who made up the work force donated 360 hours of labor during the week after Easter when the room was unoccupied. Many more volunteer hours have been added to install the flooring in first hallway and put down the base molding.

Thanks again for everyone's generosity and support.

Bob Marr



**The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.**



# HRC Blood Drive

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

**May 18, 2019**  
**7:30 – 1:00**

Contact information:  
518-595-5106  
Leave name, number &  
preferred appointment time



**We give blood. Will you?**

**redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS**

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