

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

In This Issue

From the Pastor's Desk	p. 1
A Poem	p. 2
Events and Notes	p. 3
Turkey Dinner Flyer	p. 4

Our Church

Sunday Worship

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

Autumn Blessings

*"And when I give thanks
 for the seemingly
 microscopic,
 I make a place for God to
 grow within me."*

-Ann Voskamp,
 One Thousand Gifts



The psalmist declares,

"The earth is the Lord's
 and all that is in it, the

world, and those who live in it." (Psalm 24:1) The season of autumn with its abundant ingathering of harvest is often a time celebrated with thanksgiving. I already have a full fall planned with cooking batches of roasted tomato soup to freeze and enjoy throughout the coming cold months as well as going apple picking, and making apple sauce to fill my freezer. I am incredibly grateful for the goodness produced by God's good earth.

The fruits of harvest are certainly a reason to give thanks, but there are many other reasons that we might name to be thankful for this world and all who live in it during this season. Soon the school buses will line up on Route 146 in front of the church en route to drop students off at the local high school. We give thanks for teachers, administrators, and the support staff of our schools. Everyday our pets get up to silly antics or seem just to know when we need to be comforted. We give thanks for dogs, cat, gerbils, fish, and many other creatures on this good earth that bring us joy. And as we gather for worship each week, we are surrounded with friends and loved ones who have walked with us through the

Accidental Pastoral

Maggie Smith

I must have just missed a parade—
horse droppings and hard candy
in the road, miniature American
flags staked into the grass, plastic
chairs lining the curb down this

two-lane highway, 36 in the open
country, briefly Main Street in town.
When I was small, I sat on a curb
only a dozen miles from here, my feet
in the ashtray-dirty gutter, and watched

stars-and-stripes girls wheeling
their batons, slicing the sun-dumb
air into streamers. I can still hear
the click of cellophaned candies
on pavement. I didn't want to

leave town, not then, and I never left.
I am not a parade, my one car passing
through Centerburg, Ohio, too late.
The chairs are empty. The children
are unwrapping golden butterscotches

in the cool, shuttered houses.
But look up—the clouds are stories
tall, painted above Webb's Marathon,
and flat-bottomed as if resting on
something
they push against though it holds them.



many joys and struggles of life. So we give thanks for friends
and family, and the community of support, which surrounds us
with love.

This fall you will have the opportunity to gather with the church
to give thanks for each of these small blessings in our lives. On
Sunday, September 8 during worship, students of all ages,
teachers, and all others who work in education are invited to
bring their backpacks or work bags for a Blessing of the
Backpacks to give thanks for the new school year and be
surrounded with prayer as the year begins. On the evening of
Sunday, September 22, the Guilderland Interfaith Council has
invited members of the community to join together in a time of
prayer for the Guilderland Community at Tawasentha Park.
And finally on Sunday, October 6, there will be a Blessing of
the Pets service on the church lawn here at Helderberg. I hope
you can join us for these events this fall as we offer gratitude for
God's good gifts. See more details in this edition of the
Messenger for each of these services.



Events and Notes

Community Prayer Service at Tawasentha Park

Join the Guilderland Interfaith Council on Sunday, September 22 at 6:30 PM for a time of fellowship and prayer for the community of Guilderland. Community leaders and local ministers will lead those gathered in prayer. The service will be held at Tawasentha Park in Guilderland. When you arrive let the attendant at the booth know you are with the Interfaith Council and drive around the loop to the Chalet Pavilion located on the southwest corner of the park.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us Sunday, September 8 during worship for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Students of all ages, teachers, and all others who work in education are invited to bring their backpacks or work bags to receive a blessing and give thanks for the new school year, and to be supported by the HRC community as school begins.

Take a Look Around!

Take a look around at all of the work that has been accomplished at the church over the summer. Thanks to all of the people who made it happen.

Mowing - Tim Horan

Landscaping - Bryan Empie

Main Hallway - Allen Campbell and his band of minions

Fellowship Hall Painting - John Tashjian

Playground Repairs - Bill Schlutow

- Property Committee

Blessing of the Pets

Join us for Blessing of the Pets Service on October 6, 2019 at 2:00 PM on the lawn of Helderberg Reformed Church. The ministers of Helderberg Reformed, Altamont Reformed, and St. John's Lutheran will lead a short service of blessing for the furry friends in our lives. Animals of all sorts are welcome from horses to lizards, and dogs and cats of all varieties. If your pet prefers the comfort of their own home or is not friendly around other people or animals, you are invited to bring a picture of your pet to be blessed.

July Food Drive Report

The Deacons sponsored a food drive for the Guilderland Food Pantry on July 18th. We had an exceptionally good drive raising 636 lbs of food and raised: \$2035.00. A thanks to everyone who donated and helped out.

Turkey Time is Coming!

Where does the year go? It's already time to start getting ready for Guilderland's biggest annual event: the HRC Turkey Dinner! See the back pack of this issue for the flyer.

Pie Day

Lynnwood Reformed Church's Aug 17 potluck picnic brought together Lynnwood, Helderberg and Altamont Churches for one big meal. One highlight was the pie baking contest where our own Emma Kay Van Alstyne took 1st place in the category of "fruit pies" for her strawberry rhubarb. An honorable mention goes to Bill Root for a stunning domed apple pie. Your faithful editor was happy to have participated in the judging.

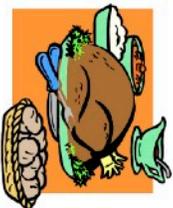
ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

**Saturday – November 2nd
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

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