

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
Merry Christmas!	p. 4

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
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

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor's Report

From Pastor Lindsey's Report to the Congregation at the 2019 Congregational Meeting on December 1:

Looking back over the past year, there are a number of things that I celebrate in the ministry of Helderberg Reformed Church.



I celebrate the smooth transition to a consistory of eight. Among this consistory there have been a number of member who have not served before, yet they have willingly stepped up to serve the church well and to the best of their ability. We will miss the leadership of Bob Marr, Trina Shanz, Carol Tashijan, and Bev Harrington, but we look forward to welcoming those who have been elected for the coming year. Dan Putnam and Pam Colino are taking on 3-year terms as elders, and Frank Scully and Linda Livingston are taking on 3-year terms as deacons. I am grateful for their leadership.

I celebrate the generosity and hard work of many in the congregation in helping to pay for and to replace the flooring in the hallway and the fellowship hall. The new flooring is beautiful and makes for a safer and more welcoming place for all who come through our doors including our preschoolers.

I celebrate the children of church. I appreciate the many ways they serve us and engage with us in the life of the church from lighting the candles for worship and helping cleaning up after

Christmas Mail

Ted Kooser

Cards in each mailbox,
 angel, manger, star and lamb,
 as the rural carrier,
 driving the snowy roads,
 hears from her bundles
 the plaintive bleating of sheep,
 the shuffle of sandals,
 the clopping of camels.
 At stop after stop,
 she opens the little tin door
 And places deep in the shadows
 the shepherds and wise men,
 the donkeys lank and weary,
 the cow who chews and muses.
 And from her Styrofoam cup,
 white as a star and perched
 on the dashboard, leading her
 ever into the distance,
 there is a hint of hazelnut,
 and then a touch of myrrh.

Consistory Highlights

- From the November Meeting
- 2020 Budget approved to be presented at congregational meeting
- Property committee is working on making repairs at the parsonage. The garage roof has been completed.
- The Worship Committee will be taking orders for Christmas Poinsettias through December 15.
- Clara Lasalle will provide pulpit supply on December 29 while Pastor Lindsey is on vacation.
-
-

communion to leading us in worship for Christmas and just being themselves during the Word with the Children. I am also grateful for those in our congregation who encourage them and make them feel welcome here.

Amidst the things we have to celebrate, we also grieve the changes and losses of our congregation. During the past year, we have grieved the loss of Rocs'anna Rivers, Charlotte Lawton, Leslye Stone, and Ken French.

As our congregation and the community around it changes, constantly on the mind of those in leadership are the funds available to continue to fully support the ministry here at Helderberg Reformed Church. Though we received a bequest that doubled the amount in our trust fund a couple of years ago, at the request of the deceased that money is not to be touched until 10 years after it was released to the church. The rest of the money that we have held in trust has been used regularly to support the ongoing expenses of the church, and those funds are quickly decreasing.

The consistory and I have been mindful of this in many of our decisions. And so when the Classis of Schenectady decided to increase my salary as classis clerk for 2020 and I was given the opportunity to work with the Regional Synod's Fellowship program beginning this winter, the consistory and I decided that my salary here at Helderberg would be cut to seventy-five percent of the classis minimum.

Practically this will look like me giving 30 hours of my time each week to Helderberg. However, this will not change my availability to you. If there is emergency that comes up where a pastoral

Continued next page...

Events and Notes

Pastor's Report, cont'd

presence is needed, the other work that I am doing is flexible enough that I can put it aside to make the members of this congregation my priority. I am responsible for managing my time, not you, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you need pastoral care. And in the event that I am out of town for Regional Synod work, I will make arrangements for the elders to assist with pastoral care and for there to be other ministers on call for back up.

Working 30 hours per week also means that I will continue to receive full benefits as the consistory committed to when they called me to serve as your minister. This is reflected in the 2020 budget.

The consistory and I hope that the ministry of this congregation can continue to be sustained into the future, and continue to look for creative ways to do that as both the community and the congregation change.

I am grateful for your continued support and pray that as we work together we can continue to grow the impact of our ministry within our community.

In Christ,
Pastor Lindsey

Update from the congregational meeting: The TSL After-school program has decided not to work with us. Our building and its space do not fit the needs of their program.

Christmas Services

The children's service will be on Sunday, December 22nd during our normal 9:30 am service.

The Christmas Eve service will be 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24th.



Consistory Elections

At the Congregational Meeting on December 1st, Dan Putnam and Pam Colino were elected to the office of elder for a 3-year term and Frank Scully and Linda Livingston were elected to the office of deacon for a 3-year term. Installation of office will occur on January 12, 2020 during worship.

Prayer Chain

Beginning in January, the prayer chain will be facilitated by Ellen and Pastor Lindsey in the church office. If you have prayer concern to share with our church family, you can contact the office and we will send out an email. There will be a new email address that is used specifically for the prayer chain. If you do not have email access and would like to be included on the prayer chain, please let us know and we will on finding a point person for a phone chain as well.

Guilderland Food Pantry

GFP is looking for a new Executive Director

JOB OPENING: Executive Director of the Guilderland Food Pantry

Part time position. Responsibilities include overseeing the operations of the pantry, training all staff, fund raising and communications. If you are interested email: guildfoodpantry79@gmail.com



The Helderberg Messenger
Helderberg Reformed Church
P.O. Box 196
Guilderland Center, NY 12085
hurch.org