

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

Far to Travel

*If you could see
the journey whole
you might never
undertake it;
might never dare
the first step
that propels you
from the place
you have known
toward the place
you know not.*



From "For Those Who Have Far to Travel"

by Jan Richardson

Happy New Year! We have made it through another decade and we now welcome in the year 2020 by the grace of God. The beginning of a new year, a new decade, a new era brings about a sense of wonder. There is much that lies ahead in the new year and the new decade to come. We each come from a place that we have known to now encounter new places and people and experiences that unfamiliar to us and may leave us with a feeling of uncertainty.

In our life together as a congregation, 2020 finds us navigating a new way of being with each other as I will now officially serve the congregation as minister at 3/4 time. In the previous newsletter, I have shared what this will mean, and encourage you to seek me out when you are in need of pastoral care and support. The care of this congregation is my priority.

**Gratitude:
Extended to the Congregation and Friends**

Bev Harrington

When I count my blessings at this time of year,
I'm always filled with happiness, joy and cheer.
For in a difficult year this wonderful crew
rose to the occasion; *you **always** comes through.*

The call was put out to fill a Food Pantry need
and 19 gifts were requested—a monumental deed
to be performed by our small community
but I had little doubt of what would be.....

Except that we took on a School family, too,
And I wondered if it was too much for you to do.
I needn't have worried or stressed out at all,
For once again you provided for them all.

Each morsel of food was covered by you
and all gifts were wrapped by our generous crew
Nineteen gifts/cards at suggested \$20 price
were delivered on Wednesday—now isn't that nice?

And today (22nd) the Angel gifts wend their way
to the School family—YOU'VE MADE THEIR (and my) DAY!
All gifts were brightly wrapped and the food is all there!
Your kindness and sharing are beyond compare.

God's grace and bounty have been wonderfully shared.
Once again it's shown that Helderberg cared
Giving out of love, and sometimes their own need,
to provide for another whose need is great indeed

May God's face shine upon you and grant you rest
as we honor Him who sent us His very best
in the Christ Child swaddled in the manger bed
who is our Saviour, who rose from the dead!



Merry Christmas!

And a blessed New Year!

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This will be a new journey for Helderberg and there are many unknowns along the way, but I trust as we give this to God's care, we will be able to take steps towards the future that will be filled with grace and trust. I pray as we step into the unknown, God will give us courage to make our way into this new chapter faithfully.

I am reminded of the story of the Holy Family at Epiphany in the Gospel of Matthew. After the Wise Men came to give homage to the newborn king, an angel warned Mary and Joseph of King Herod's intentions to harm their child, Jesus. And so, they set out to flee to Egypt; into the unknown, and had to trust themselves and their child into God's care. Their faithful response to the angel's warning led them on a new journey and their courage to go to unknown place worked for the good of God's hope for the world.

In this season of hope and uncertainty, may we be faithful to God's leading among us and may the hope we find in Christ propels us on a new journey.

In Christ,

Pastor Lindsey

If you would like to read the rest of Jan Richardson's poem, you can find it here:
<http://paintedprayerbook.com/2011/12/31/epiphany-blessing-for-those-who-have-far-to-travel/>.

- Bev

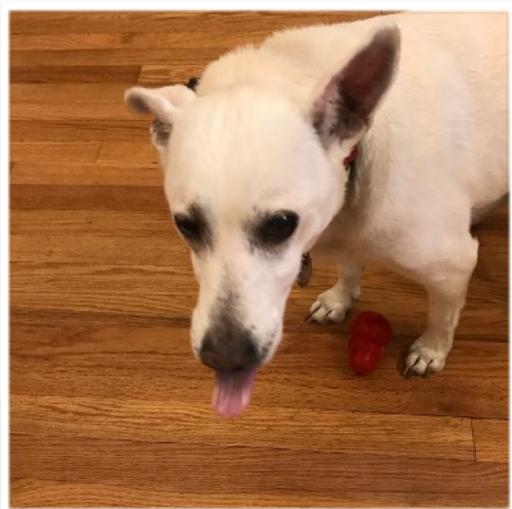
Events and Notes

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.

Thanks from the Parsonage

Pastor Lindsey and Steve are deeply grateful for the congregation's generosity this Christmas. Tracker is as well – he received a gift card to PetsMart. He is enjoying his new toys, which include a Kong for his favorite treat: peanut butter!



Tracker the parsonage dog enjoys peanut butter out of his new Kong, purchased with a gift card from the congregation. Photos: Steve Dukenski

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain will now 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.

The new email for the prayer chain is:

hchurchprayer@gmail.com

If you do not have email access and would like to be included on the prayer chain, please let the office know and they will find 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

Have pictures, news or poems to submit to The Messenger?

Send them to:

hrcmessenger@gmail.com

Submissions to The Messenger should be sent by the last Sunday of the month to appear the first Sunday of the next month. Please include photo credits. Photos need not include dogs. -Ed.



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