

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

P.O. Box 196
Guilderland, NY 12085
hrchurchoffice@gmail.com
Church Office (518) 861-8031
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MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Rev. Lindsey De Kruif

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ellen Root

ORGANIST

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CONTACT THE MESSENGER

HRCMESSENGER@GMAIL.COM

Editor's
From the ~~Pastor's~~ Desk

The Promise of Never Again

Please forgive this intrusion of your regularly scheduled column. Pastor Lindsey has been quite busy, so I offered to step in and write the column. I don't have Lindsey's command of theology, but I'll do my best.



How are you maintaining hope these days? I have seen rainbows used during this pandemic as a symbol for hope. Images of nurses wearing rainbow-colored scrubs fill my social media feed along with homebound covers of Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's charming version of "Somewhere over the Rainbow" and photos of hand-made rainbow flags hanging from balconies in Italy with the words "tutto anda' benne"-- everything will be okay.

And, of course, there's the 518 Rainbow Hunt, an initiative on FaceBook to have people display rainbows on their houses to spread cheer and hope around the 518 area code and beyond. If you've had reason to be out and about, you may have noticed a couple splashes of color on the parsonage these days. I hope that if you have participated in this rainbow craze, you will share images of your rainbows with us all by sending them to hrcmessenger@gmail.com for print in next month's issue!

Now, I don't hold an advanced degree in prismatic theology or meteorological anthropology, but allow me to indulge in some speculation. I believe rainbows have long been associated with the human capacity for hope. It's easy to imagine prehistoric

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A Rainbow of Hope

Raymond A. Foss

An urgent call
 a race down the dark stairs
 a flicker of color as I ran outside
 an arc, His bow, His promise
 shown down on us
 standing in awe and wonder
 the rich color muted in the city
 It curves over the alley
 above the tenements, the wires
 the clutter, the stresses of life
 a timely reminder
 In good times and bad
 of your faithfulness,
 your covenant with your people
 a beautiful arc, a shimmering bow
 a pleasure to behold
 a piece of hope placed
 for a moment, a few seconds
 unnoticed by so many,
 lost in the push and pull
 of daily living
 shared with those lucky few
 who stopped for a moment or two
 and looked up



hunters or ancient farmers, downtrodden and damp, watching as the tracks of their quarry or the seeds they just sowed get washed away in a downpour. With no Weather Channel app on their iPhone, they look up to the sky for signs of sunnier times to come, when hunting and planting can resume and they can get back to the business of living again. And they see a rainbow, with a brightening sky beyond, and their shoulders feel lighter and their breathing gets easier, because they know everything will be okay.

It also occurs to me that these days, a half dozen generations from an era when most people were farmers, it seems to me that our association with rainbows and hope are as likely to come from our shared culture of signs and symbols as from weather patterns. An Albany daycare worker, an Italian graphic designer, a Chicago project manager... these are people largely unconcerned with weather; in rain or sunshine, they go to work, look after their families, enjoy their friends, and life goes on. Yet when a crisis of global proportions hits and grinds all of that to a halt, we turn our eyes not to the skies, but to the old signs and symbols to cheer us and give us hope.

"Never again," said God to Noah in Genesis 9, "will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

Not every person hanging rainbows on their doors or posting to social media is a person of faith who knows the story of Noah and the flood, or its association with rainbows. But I believe on the deep level of cultural transmission they sense the promise of God's rainbow.

We are faithful, and we know. Rainbows are not just weather, not just beautiful art, and they are not merely symbols of hope. Rainbows are a promise God made to all life on earth: even when life is at its bleakest and we are surrounded by tragedy and grief, we have not been abandoned. We are loved by our Almighty Father, whose love endures forever.

- Steve

A Note from Our Vice President of Consistory

I guess being at home has given all of us a lot of time to think. We are all learning new ways to worship and wondering what Holy week and Easter will feel like. The night I got the message that there had been a very bad flood in the church I was immediately drawn back to a night in 1986 when I got a similar call. The many memories about the church burning came to mind. It was the evening of March 26, 1986 which happened to be during Holy Week. We had many consistory meetings that week and there were lots of prayers, tears, hugs and love for each other. We celebrated Easter Sunday in the auditorium of Guilderland High School. Our building was gone but our church family drew together and became stronger than ever. Our worship services eventually moved to Altamont Reformed Church and our church office was moved to the Guilderland Center Nursing Home. We not only survived but we grew.

As we move forward with the clean up and many repairs and new purchases that will have to be made we once again need to pull together (while keeping socially distant) and rebuild our church home. Although we have insurance there will be many surprise expenses and some that will not be covered. I would like to encourage you to consider a donation to the "restoration fund" to help defray additional costs that we encounter. We have had many financial challenges over the past few years and have managed to make it through some very tough times with your help. Thank you for anything that you can give.

Blessings to all,

Joan

You can donate to our flood restoration effort by sending a check donation with "Restoration Fund" to:

*Helderberg Reformed Church
P.O. Box 196
Guilderland Center, NY 12085*

Or, donate electronically by visiting our website hrchurch.org and clicking on the blue & white Online Church Giving Link and donating to the General Fund.



Events and Notes

Easter Sunday on Zoom

Join us Easter Sunday for our Zoom worship service. Pastor Lindsey will send out information on connecting to this service through the prayer chain.

Calendar Notes

The stations of the cross event at St. John's Lutheran in Altamont has been cancelled.

RCW Garage Sale on May 2 has been cancelled. The Altamont garage sale day is also cancelled.

The Blood Drive for May 16 has been cancelled. However, blood donors are urgently needed at this time, so please visit redcross.org to find out how you can donate.

Holy Week Devotionals

Pastor Lindsey has been sharing daily devotionals for you to participate in with your family at home (or over the Internet!) throughout Holy Week. Subscribe to the prayer chain email list to receive these devotionals by letting us know you'd like them hrchurchprayer@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.

-Ed.

Stay Informed with HRC!

Pastor Lindsey has been using the HRC email prayer chain to send daily dispatches and updates. If you are not subscribed to the HRC prayer chain, there's never been a better time. Just email hrchurchprayer@gmail.com and let us know you want to receive emails.

Sunday Worship on Zoom

In compliance with state law and out of love and concern for our worship community, neighbors, and those working on the front lines of this crisis, Sunday worship at church has been suspended until further notice. But HRC is still gathering for live streamed Sunday worship services using Zoom!

Subscribed to the HRC prayer chain email list to and you'll be notified how to join our Zoom services using your desktop, laptop, mobile device, or even call in using your telephone.

To subscribe to the prayer chain, email hrchurchprayer@gmail.com and let us know you want to receive emails.

How to Give to HRC

During this crisis, it's important to remember to continue contributing your offering to HRC. Now there are two ways you can send your offering:

1. One way is to visit our website hrchurch.org and follow the big blue and white link that says "Helderberg Reformed Church - Online Church Giving Link". This will take you to a service we've set up called Tithely. Simply enter your amount, payment info, and (if you so choose) check the Cover Fees checkbox to help us cover the fee for this amazing service.
2. You may also send a check to:
Helderberg Reformed Church
P.O. Box 196
Guilderland Center, NY 12085

Helderberg Reformed Church
 Regular Consistory Meeting
 March 17, 2020

A regular meeting of the Consistory of the Helderberg Reformed Church was called to order on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 7:35 p.m. via video conferencing by Pastor Lindsey followed by a reading from Psalm 46, and a prayer. A quorum was met with 8 members present.

Pastor Lindsey
 Joan Healey
 Daniel Putnam
 Linda Schlutow
 Pam Colino

Sue Brooks
 Linda Livingston
 Kevin Root
 Frank Scully
 Nancy Lawton

Worship services will be online via Zoom until further notice. There is also a call in option with a code for the service available for those who do not have internet services.

Holy week and Easter Sunday services were also discussed.

It is preferred to have offerings mailed in to the church at PO Box 196, Guilderland Center 12085.

Information for online offerings is on the church website, though there is a fee for it, depending on whether it is with a credit card or with a bank account.

The possibility of ordering flowers was discussed, either by calling the office or by mailing in the order form from The Messenger.

Each Elder and Deacon was provided a list of members to check in on regularly. Pastor Lindsey is keeping a list of volunteers to run errands for members who need help.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

1) The February monthly report was presented. Motion made to accept, seconded, and carried.

	Checkbook
Church 02/29/20	\$ 7401.53
Pre-School 02/29/20	\$ 9731.52
Schedule of Bills Summary	
Bills already paid	\$13357.56
Bills to be paid	<u>0.00</u>
Total Bills for Approval	\$ 13357.56

2) The RCW has money available if needed, to help cover expenses.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The next Consistory meeting is April 21.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. was made, seconded and carried. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer, led by Pastor Lindsey.

Respectfully submitted: Ellen Root, Recording Secretary of Consistory



Elizabeth Steele Halstead

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