

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
Parsonage (518) 861-5489

MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Rev. Lindsey De Kruijff

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ellen Root

ORGANIST

Agnes Armstrong

CONTACT THE MESSENGER

HRCMESSENGER@GMAIL.COM

From the Pastor's Desk

Uncomfortable Spaces

Rev. Dr. Jackie Smallbones writes in her blog series on Psalms of Lament, "Unprecedented Prayers":

*COVID-19 has put all of us into an uncomfortable space, to put it gently. Perhaps this is the greatest good that has come from this pandemic and its fallout. It has rearranged our lives and woken us up. Nobody likes it when the norm is messed with, yet uncomfortable spaces are good for us and therefore necessary. They force us to pause, give us space for reflection to name harmful habits and discern new ways of being. We've been given a gift from God and can choose it to seek creative living in the Spirit and reject 'the same old same old.'*¹



It is hard these days to imagine good coming out of a pandemic as we see numbers of positive cases rise across the nation. Yet, as the task force the consistory appointed to make plans for returning to in-person worship met this past week, we used Rev. Dr. Smallbones' words to guide our work and in our conversation I found hope. We engaged in a conversation about what we want to hold up as values as we make plans to return to worship, and in this conversation it was clear about how much our community values being together, but also wants to maintain a safe and secure environment for all members of our community. To keep our commitment to these values, we will find ourselves in uncomfortable spaces, but these places will also give us space to be creative and form new habits to live into our values of togetherness and trust.

As the task force continues to meet together, we ask for your prayers and your patience. The members of the task force are Bev Harrington, Joan Healey, John Brooks, Kevin Root, Barb Horan, and Vala Jackson. This is not an easy task and we are just as eager as you to return to worshipping in a shared space

Continued next page

Untitled

James Baldwin
(1924 - 1987)

Lord,

when you send the rain,
think about it, please,
a little?

Do

not get carried away
by the sound of falling water,
the marvelous light
on the falling water.

I

am beneath that water.
It falls with great force
and the light

Blinds

me to the light.

"A major voice in the civil rights movement, Baldwin was best known for his prose written during the 1950s and 1960s [...] Baldwin was also a dedicated poet, and he published one full-length poetry collection, *Jimmy's Blues* (St. Martin's Press, 1985), during his lifetime."

-poetryfoundation.org

as community. We want this to be a place where members of our community feel safe and can trust that their risk for becoming sick is minimal. This will take time and intention. As plans come together, we will make communication a priority, so that all in our community know what our plan for reopening the church building is.

In the meantime, you may receive a call from a consistory member asking you to participate in survey to provide the task force about reopening. You can also participate in this survey online. A link can be found in this newsletter.

We will also begin a drive-in service on July 12. At this time, we plan to continue meeting at 9:30 AM and will also continue to provide the option of joining the drive-in service simultaneously via Zoom. Continue to watch your email about information regarding the plans for the drive-in service and continued connection through Zoom. Also in this newsletter is a Q&A about what you can expect when you show up for the drive-in service, including plans for inclement weather.

When we suspended in-person worship in March no one expected that we would still be meeting virtually into the summer. I thank you so much for your patience, for continued support to the ministry of Helderberg Reformed Church, and your prayers for me and one another during this difficult time.

Peace to you, Pastor Lindsey

¹From a reflection entitled "In God Alone", www.storymakerlife.com, posted May 2020.

Guidelines for Drive-In Service

What do I do on July 12th?

Please drive into the church parking lot Between 9:15 am and 9:30 am, and park in rows, leaving space for social distancing (every other parking spot). This distance is precautionary, but important.

How do I listen to the service?

Tune your car radio to 88.5 FM to listen to the service.

How will I follow worship?

The bulletin will be emailed through the prayer chain ahead of worship. You can use a smartphone or iPad to view the bulletin or you can print it out at home and bring it with. Some bulletins will be available for those who need it to be picked up on the way into worship.

What if I cannot come or do not feel comfortable?

We are able to continue offering the service on Zoom at this time. So tune in as you regularly would for the service. Please note, changes may need to happen to accommodate for both the drive-in service and Zoom.

What if I need to use the bathroom?

We know that there are emergencies. You are welcome to come in and use the bathrooms, but you must wear a mask!!! And please use the restrooms only one at time unless you are with a member of the same household. (This will be contingent on construction being completed and the accessibility of the bathrooms.)

I am feeling a little sick, can I still come?

No. If you feel sick or are exhibiting any signs of illness please stay home; it is for your safety and the safety of others.

How will weather affect this?

We will make a decision and email the congregation by 7pm Saturday night as to whether we will move forward with drive-in worship. If rain and thunderstorms decide to come to worship then we will hold worship online.

How will I provide my offering?

We encourage you to continue sending your offerings through the mail to Helderberg Reformed Church, PO Box 196, Guilderland Center, NY 12085 or to give online at www.hrchurch.org. A collection plate will be set out by the front door as you leave. If you wish to drop your offering off as you leave, you are welcome to do so.

What if things go wrong?

They will! We expect challenges and problems to happen. We ask that you please be patient as we work to fix things.

Events and Notes

Property Help Needed

Due to COVID-19, we did not have the annual Spring yard clean-up at the church. If anyone is able to help, look around the church grounds, playground toy area or building to see if there is anything you can do. Any help with whatever needs to be done would be greatly appreciated!

Some of the many opportunities available to serve the church:

- Pick up sticks throughout yard.
- Rake and weed playgrounds.
- Clean around playground toys
- Weed gardens
- Trim

Thank you,

The Property Committee



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.

Take Our Survey!

Below is a link for a survey about returning to in-person worship. It's important that we know your thoughts as we make plans for moving forward.

Survey: forms.gle/ca1BQNCucQqa8Usj6

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 hchurchprayer@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 hchurch.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
Video Meeting of the Consistory
June 16, 2020

A regular meeting of the Consistory of the Helderberg Reformed Church was called to order on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:32 p.m. via video conferencing by Pastor Lindsey followed by a reading from Psalm 143, a reflection and a prayer. A quorum was met with 8 members present.

Pastor Lindsey Sue Brooks
Joan Healey Kevin Root
Daniel Putnam Frank Scully
Linda Schlutow Nancy Lawton

Pam Colino

MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 19, 2020.

AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda was made, seconded and carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Lindsey is doing what she can for pastoral care with phone calls. The June Classis meeting has been postponed until July. Pastor Lindsey and Joan attended a brief Classis meeting on June 15. Classis suggests that churches wait to reopen until Phase 4. A task force will be formed to make plans for the reopening to provide for the health and safety of all of our members. Joan Healey and Kevin Root volunteered to be on the Task Force. Other nominees will be contacted. Pastor Lindsey will take a week of vacation in October. She requested that her additional 3 weeks be added to her maternity leave for a total of 11 weeks. Worship services will continue online via Zoom until further notice, or with a call in option with a meeting code for the service available for those who do not have internet services.

ELDERS' REPORT

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Lindsey. The minutes from the April 21, 2020 and the May 19, 2020 meeting were accepted, with one date correction in the May minutes. There was one death, Fred MacMartin on May 27, 2020. There were 20 devices connected via Zoom for communion on June 7 2020. There were no, births, baptisms, marriages or funerals. The Constitutional question was asked and answered. Preparation for Maternity leave for Pastor Lindsey was discussed. The meeting will close in prayer with Consistory.

DEACONS' REPORT

The meeting was opened in prayer by Kevin Root. A thank you note was received from Bob and Jackie Marr for their gift card. Six perks were sent in May. No perks were identified for June. Sue will monitor the prayer chain requests regarding any perks to be sent. The May treasurer's report will be shared at the July meeting. The Deacon's Fund will be used for local needs. The meeting will close in prayer with Consistory.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

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

Checkbook

Church 5/31/2020 \$23711.51

Pre School 5/31/2020 \$ 1749.04

Schedule of Bills Summary

Bills already paid	\$23294.12
Bills to be paid	0.00
Total Bills for Approval	\$23294.12

Regular Consistory Meeting via Zoom
June 16, 2020

- 2) Two contracts were received from Brrr Heating; one contract for the oil for \$1561 (10 monthly payments of \$156) and one for the service contract for the Parsonage for \$269. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept both contracts.
- 3) Donations to the restoration fund have been received.
- 4) Offering donations have been down.

PROPERTY

The Property Committee report, prepared by Bob Marr was reviewed.

- 1) Paul Davis has begun the restoration work. Drywall has been completed upstairs and in the basement.
- 2) The final decision on the Helderberg room library is to use corner cabinets. This allows us to upgrade other areas.
- 3) A cabinet located somewhere else needs to be bought for the metal cabinets that were previously located within the library.
- 4) Carpeting has been chosen by Pastor Lindsey and Ellen Root.
- 5) The 4 lights in the sanctuary have been changed.
- 6) The National Grid gas main project has been postponed from the spring of 2021 to a time yet to be determined. Once the project is rescheduled, National Grid will advise the dates.

WORSHIP

- 1) The Worship Committee met on June 8 to discuss the Drive In worship.
- 2) Pastor Lindsey will meet with Corey from Hippo's to discuss the electronic needs. A tentative date of July 12 to begin the drive in service was discussed.
- 3) An offering drop box would be available at the drive in services.
- 4) A Consistory member will sign up to help each week with the service.
- 5) Aggie has been recording the piano music each week for the hymn.

PRE SCHOOL

- 1) Michelle Van Patten has volunteered to join the Pre School Committee.
- 2) There are openings in both classes for the Fall.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) The deadline for the July issue of The Helderberg Messenger is June 28, 2020.
- 3) The next Consistory meeting is July 21, 2020.

ROUND TABLE OF THANKS

Thanks yours were extended to: Bob Marr for all his work regarding the restoration process at HRC, Joan Healey for her assistance with the restoration contract, Nancy Lawton for her work with the finances, and to Tim Horan for mowing the church lawn.

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

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Root, Recording Secretary of Consistory.



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