

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

Churches and Change

In addition to being your pastor, I also serve as the coordinator for the Albany Synod Fellowship program, which works with ministers who have recently graduated from seminary, and the congregations that they serve. A major focus of the



program is helping these leaders and their congregations navigate change. Since the two year program is halfway through, I recently met with the fellows and their teams for a mid-program review. Much of our conversation was around how the congregations are navigating change. Under normal circumstance, I would expect this conversation to be about the changes happening because of new leadership or changes in membership. However, because we are living in a global pandemic, the conversations focused primarily on changes such as having to quickly move worship online or to the parking lot and shifting expectations around pastoral care and connecting with their church community. Even though these changes have been hard and the learning curve steep, these congregations were in tune with the ways these changes were opening up new ways to connect with their community and beyond.

As I have worked alongside our consistory and the task force that is making plans for the congregation to safely return to the building for worship, we have the same opportunity to embrace the changes that we have had to make to ensure that our community remains safe and healthy. In light of this, I wanted to share with you a few updates on behalf of the consistory and the task force.

The Peace of Wild Things

Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
 and I wake in the night at the least sound
 in fear of what my life and my children's lives
 may be,
 I go and lie down where the wood drake
 rests in his beauty on the water, and the
 great heron feeds
 I come into the peace of wild things
 Who do not tax their lives with forethought
 of grief. I come into the presence of still
 water.
 And I feel above me the day-blind stars
 waiting with their light. For a time
 I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

There was a great response to the survey sent out last month regarding returning to in-person worship. There was a wide variety of responses from those who with the right precautions feel comfortable gathering together for worship to those who if we were to meet face-to-face would continue to stay home. In this, the task force sees a continued need to offer a virtual worship option, and Zoom will continue to be accessible for those who choose to worship from home.

Also from the survey responses, the task force has recommended that the drive-in service continues through at least the beginning of October. This was also supported by the consistory. We feel that at this time, gathering outside in a way that is easy to social distance from one another is best way to care for our community and still gather for worship.

With the recent spikes of virus outbreaks throughout the nation, the need to make a plan to return to online-only worship at some point also seems necessary. The task force also recommended to the consistory that as long as our region remains in phase 3 or higher of the New York Forward re-opening plan, worship will continue in the parking lot, but if there is a return to phase 2 or below, worship will go back to being online only. These changes will be communicated through the prayer chain.

Finally, we don't know what the fall will bring, but the task force and the consistory will continue to reevaluate plans for returning to the building of in-person worship. When we return, those formulating those plans are very aware of the necessary changes that will need to be made. We will likely be unable to gather for fellowship hour or sing or pass the offering plate and share the peace with one another. This may require us to engage in worship in new and creative ways. We will also require masks and ask that those gathering in-person for worship social distance from one another. Worship will not be the same, but this is an opportunity for us to think about and try on new ways of being in community with one another.

As the task force and the consistory continue to make plans for caring for our congregation during this time, please keep them in prayer. And also keep in prayer those who are planning for preschool ministry and our ministry to the children and families of our congregation.

God is faithful, and God's love endures forever.

In Christ,

Pastor Lindsey

Guidelines for Drive-In Service

What do I when I come to drive-in worship?

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.



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
July 21, 2020

A regular meeting of the Consistory of the Helderberg Reformed Church was called to order on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 7:32 p.m. via video conferencing by Pastor Lindsey. Pastor Lindsey began the meeting with a reading from Genesis 37:12-28, followed by a reading from The Simple Faith of Mr. Rogers and a prayer.

A quorum was met with 8 members present.

Pastor Lindsey	Sue Brooks
Pam Colino	Linda Livingston
Daniel Putnam	Kevin Root
Linda Schlutow	Frank Scully
	Nancy Lawton

MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 16, 2020.

AGENDA

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

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Lindsey is provided as needed. She has reached out to Hal Adams and Charlie. A graveside service was held for Eleanor Moore on July 6. A service for Fred MacMartin will be held on September 18 at Saratoga National Cemetery. The Classis will meet on July 28. The task force met and reviewed the survey responses. A motion to continue Drive In Worship through the beginning of October was made, seconded and carried. A motion to continue Drive In services as long as we are in Phase 3 or higher was made, seconded and carried. If we return to Phase 2, or there is a government mandate to close, we will return to services via Zoom. An update regarding coverage during her Maternity Leave was given. Pastor Garret Szantner from Lynnwood will be our Supervisor. Pastor Jonathan Vanderbeck from Trinity Reformed will cover the services the first Sunday of each month. Lucas Grove, an assistant chaplain at Camp Fowler will cover the other Sundays and Christmas Eve. As VP of Consistory, Joan Healey will lead the Consistory meetings as well as the Congregational Meeting. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept these arrangements. Clara Lasselle can fill in if needed.

ELDERS' REPORT

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Lindsey. The minutes from the June 16, 2020 were accepted. There was two deaths, Eleanor Moore on July 1, 2020 and non-member Barbara Newell on July 20, 2020. There were 24 devices connected via Zoom for communion on July 5, 2020. There were no, births, baptisms or marriages. A request to transfer Samantha Schlutow from Pine Grove Methodist to Helderberg was approved. The baptism of Axel Schlutow was approved, possibly in August. The Constitutional question was asked and answered. The meeting will close in prayer with Consistory.

DEACONS' REPORT

The meeting was opened with prayer by Kevin Root. The May and June treasurer's reports were given. Beginning balance on May 1 was \$2362.36, with receipts of \$100.03 and disbursements of \$550 leaving a June 30, 2020 ending balance of \$1912.39. Two perks will be sent this month. Kevin asked for ideas to help engage the kids in church but still maintain social distance. The meeting will close in prayer with Consistory.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**FINANCE**

1) The reports for June and the 2nd Quarter report were presented. A motion to accept both reports was made,
seconded and carried.

Regular Consistory Meeting via Zoom
July 21, 2020

	Checkbook
Church 6/30/2020	\$19545.32
Pre School 6/30/2020	\$ 292.16

Schedule of Bills Summary	
Bills already paid	\$13059.21
Bills to be paid	0.00
Total Bills for Approval	\$13059.21

PROPERTY

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

1) Paul Davis has completed most of the restoration work. The cabinets and book cases are in the process of

being built and the trim is being stained for use in the Pastor's study and the library. Paul Davis will move

the desks back into the offices and remove all of the old light fixtures which is much appreciated. The office lights were a free upgrade, since the old ones were supposed to be installed but the electricians installed new nicer lights.

2) New doorstops are needed for the Sanctuary doors.

3) Rooms are being set up one at a time.

a) The Helderberg Room and the Narthex are pretty much completed. Everything needs to be vacuumed and dusted before it is moved.

b) Paul Davis washed the basement floor in the storage area so items can now be moved.

- 4) The cleaning process has begun in the Sanctuary. Due to 4 months of not being used and the construction,
it was very dirty.
- 5) The Property Committee suggested we buy a new mat for the front entrance and a new recycle bin for the
kitchen. A motion was made, seconded and carried to purchase these items.
- 6) Allen Campbell will repair the potato sink and replace the countertop.
- 7) A motion was made, carried and accepted to contact The Clean Sweep Store to discuss our cleaning
needs. A motion was also made, seconded and carried to contact County Waste.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Bev Harrington joined the Zoom meeting at 8:00p.m. What can be done to involve our younger members? If you have any suggestions, please contact, Bev, Sharon, Kristen or Kevin.

WORSHIP

- 1) The Drive In worship services are going well.
- 2) Pastor Lindsey reviewed the dates regarding a Consistory member helping with the Drive In service and
being the Zoom host.
- 3) An offering drop box is available near the book and puzzle table for the drive in services.

PRE SCHOOL

- 1) The Pre School Committee met with the teachers via Zoom to discuss their concerns. Nancy Caruso,
Stacey Snyder and Ellen Root contacted the parents to discuss the children returning, wearing masks
and
any other concerns they have. The Pre School will follow whatever Guilderland CSD does. Class size is
limited to 15 students. Right now there are 7 three year olds and 13 four year olds.
- 2) If we do open, the playground will need to be replaced. There is money in the Youth Fund to purchase a
playground and have it set up.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) The deadline for the August issue of The Helderberg Messenger is July 26, 2020.
- 2) The next Consistory meeting is August 18, 2020.

ROUND TABLE OF THANKS

Thanks yous were extended to: Bob Marr for all his work regarding the restoration process at HRC, all those who have helped with the restoration and the cleaning of the church, Joan Healey for her assistance at the drive in services, and Ellen and Bill Root for setting up the pop up gazebo,

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and carried. The meeting closed at 8:52 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer, led by Pastor Lindsey.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Root, Recording Secretary of Consistory.



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