

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 Table Poem	p. 2
Events and Notes	p. 3-4
Consistory Notes	p. 5-7

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 (507) 227-6942

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

Reflections on Baptism

Steve and I will bring our daughter, Avalon, before the congregation to be baptized on Sunday, August 8. Preparing for this baptism has led me to think a lot about what it means to be family. Occasions like baptisms are often times when families gather and celebrate with one another. However, because we are still in a pandemic and because of distance, our families will not be with us in person to celebrate this occasion (though if you are on Zoom, you might see some of their faces pop up there).

I am a bit disappointed about these circumstances, but it has required me to go back to the truth that we proclaim in baptism, that the church is a family. And in baptism, we, the church, promise to be family to the one baptized, calling them sister, brother, a sibling in Jesus Christ. You are family to Avalon, you are family to each other.

In the Reformed tradition, the practice of naming godparents and having them participate in the baptism is not typical. This is because we understand the whole congregation to be godparents to the child or person coming to be baptized. Not godparents in the sense that if the parents were to die, they would have guardianship of the child, but in the sense that the members of the congregation are the ones who promise to teach the one baptized about God and the ways of God.

In the liturgy for baptism, the congregation is asked:

Do you promise to love, encourage, and support

these brothers and sisters

by teaching the gospel of God's love,

Perhaps the World Ends Here

Joy Harjo

The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table. So it has been since creation, and it will go on.

We chase chickens or dogs away from it. Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human. We make men at it, we make women.

At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children. They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.

This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.

Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory.

We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.

At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.

by being an example of Christian faith and character,

and by giving the strong support of God's family

in fellowship, prayer, and service?

These are the promises the congregation makes to a child baptized into Christ. They promise to be family to the child, taking them in as one of their own. The community commits to teaching and supporting the child, to caring for them in such a way that they know they have a place to belong. As Avalon grows, the people of the church will come alongside her, care for her and teach her the way of Jesus. I hope that Avalon will see these promises manifested in the church as she grows and will know that she has a place to belong and that she is loved.

I hope you can join us on Sunday when we celebrate Avalon's baptism.

In Christ,

Pastor Lindsey

Events and Notes

Brooks is Back!

Come and pick up a Brooks BBQ dinner on Thursday, August 12th from 3:00 pm until SOLD OUT!

\$13 gets you a half chicken dinner with sides and a sweet treat!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Our Sunday service at 9:30 am on August September 12th will feature our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. School children, teachers, and students of any age are invited to bring in their backpacks, book bags, totes, etc... to be blessed for the coming school year.



Property Help Requested

The property committee is looking for help on the following projects:

- Repairing the toilet for the preschool
- Updating the church sign
- Work on the landscaping in front of church
- Various repair projects inside the church

Contact Bob Marr if you can help! Thank you!



Events and Notes

New Editor Needed!

Dear HRC,

It's been a pleasure to be your Editor for the last three or so years. I had hoped to remain at the Editor's Desk for years to come, however, I need to reckon with the present situation.

I have just become a father, and my new career in mental health counseling will be time and energy intensive. In the spirit of doing well by my own mental health, I need to think realistically about what my future holds.

My plan is to step down from my duties at the Messenger at the end of the Summer or beginning of Fall, just as I finish my internship and begin a new job.

If you're looking for a way to contribute to the congregation in a fun and meaningful way, maybe The Messenger is right for you! Do it how you want and make it your own!

I'll work with whoever comes next to ensure that they have all the know-how necessary to get their first ish together. ("Ish" is editor speak for "issue." See? You're already learning how to do this!)

If you're interested, contact me at hrcmessenger@gmail.com. Thanks! -ed. (Steve)



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.

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

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.

Consistory Notes

March Consistory Notes

CONSISTORY NOTES

May 18, 2021

7:22 p.m.

SCRIPTURE READING

Opening Prayer and Scripture Reading

IN ATTENDANCE

Pastor Lindsey	
Pamela Colino	Sue Brooks (arrived 7:32)
Joan Healey (absent)	Linda Livingston
Daniel Putnam	Jamie Ellwood
Jackie Tice	Frank Scully
Nancy Lawton (arrived 7:24 pm)	

MINUTES

A motion was made by Pam Colino, seconded by Frank Scully to approve the minutes of April 20, 2021 with a correction to the date of the communion should be April 1.

With nine voting yes, zero noes, the motion passed 6-0.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Lindsey said the team for the churches learning change "Disrupting Survival Mode" is Pam Colino, Bev Harrington, Joan Healey and Jackie Tice. They had their first meeting and discussed spiritual practices. Nancy Ryan from Fort Plain ministry has been assigned as their coach.

Pastor Lindsey read a letter from The Classis of Schenectady regarding their opinion on the CDC guidelines.

The Worship Committee will discuss and give their opinion on returning to offering small cups of juice and gluten free wafers at communion. The elders will distribute the elements in the service by handing them (with gloves on) to those in the congregation. The plates for communion will not be passed.

Pastor Lindsey will be on vacation June 7-13. Kitt Jackson will hold the services.

The June Consistory meeting has been canceled. The next meeting will be July 20 at 7:30 pm

ELDERS' REPORT:

- Dan Putnam reported there were 22 people in person and 12 people attending via zoom at the May 2 communion service.
- No deaths, marriages, or births

DEACONS' REPORT:

- Linda Livingston gave a report on the Deacon's fund balance; the ending balance as of April 30, 2021 is \$3,338.58.

- One perk was given
- It was agreed not to have any scheduled summer meeting. If something needs to be addressed we will schedule a meeting.

COMMITTEES:

1. PROPERTY & FINANCE

Monthly Report

- Nancy Lawton reported on the account balances and gave the schedule of bills. A motion was made by Sue Brooks, seconded by Frank Scully, to approve the Schedule of Bills totaling \$26810.84.

Privilege

- No Report

Trust Fund

- No Report

Memorial Fund

- No Report

Property Committee

- Dan Putnam reported the installation of the Carillon is complete. We now need to get rid of the old one.
- Spring clean up scheduled for April 24 was a success. Eleven volunteers came and all the work was completed.

Fundraising

- June 15 is the next Brooks BBQ. Kevin Root is chairing.

2. PERSONNEL

- Pastor Lindsey updated consistory on the May 10 Executive Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for May 26 at 6:30 p.m.

3. CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE

- The Committee has not met.
- A request for a scholarship from the Youth Fund was made. The request will be granted.

4. WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- Both in-person and online worship continues to work well. We will continue doing both throughout the summer. A discussion ensued regarding having drive-up worship over the summer.
- Hoping to have in-person singing by the end of summer.
- After a discussion, the Consistory decided that at this time it is in the best interest of everyone that we continue to require masks in our building. We will also continue to ask people to register for the purpose of contact tracing.

5. PRESCHOOL

- Jamie Ellwood reported there are enough kids registered to be able to continue PreSchool in

the fall; 13 three year olds and 11 four year olds. Consistory voted in favor of continuing PreSchool in September.

- Consistory voted in favor of giving Pre-School teachers a pay increase effective September 2021.
- PreSchool graduation will be held in the sanctuary on June 9 for the four year old class and June 10 for the three year old class.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Steve is stepping down as editor of The Messenger by the end of the summer. If anyone is interested or knows someone who would be interested please contact Pastor Lindsey.

NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

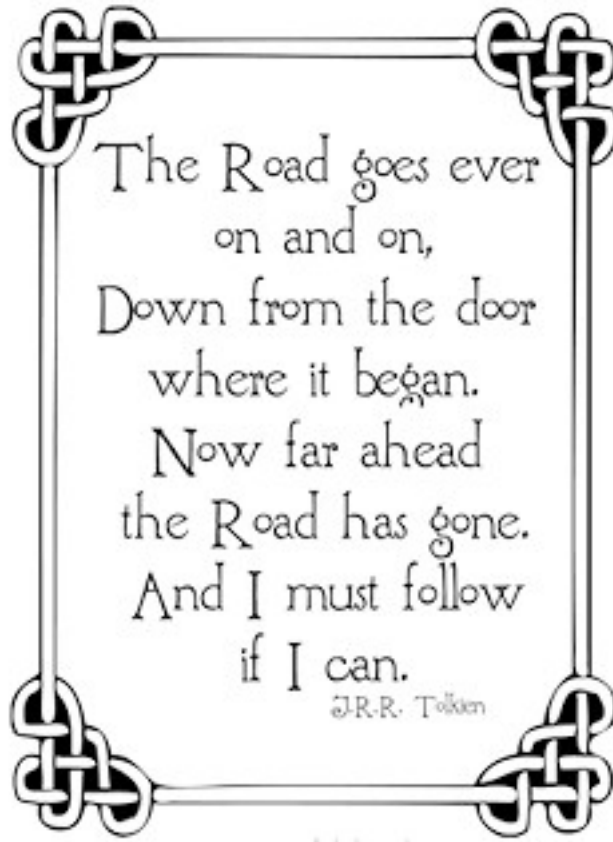
ROUND TABLE OF THANKS

Thanks was given to:

- The Property Committee and all the volunteers who assisted in the clean up,
- Sue Brooks, Trina Schanz, Kevin and Kristen Root for assisting with online worshipping, and
- Kevin Root for volunteering to chair the Brooks BBQ fundraisers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



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