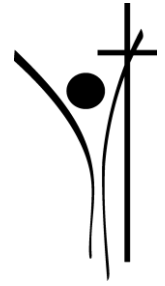


NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

Niskayuna, New York 12309-1696

The Reverend Jason Fulkerson, Pastor



Beloved members and friends of Niskayuna Reformed Church,

We once again enter a season of Stewardship emphasis. It is during this time of year that we ask all of our members and adherents to consider how they give of their time, talents, and money to the church. Stewardship is an important part of how we live and serve together. The motive and desire of the Stewardship Committee is to find a balance between these three elements of stewardship. To be honest, the church needs money to fulfill its mission and vision within the community. Yet, fulfilling that mission and vision also requires the time and talents of every single person who is part of our church family. Our goal in this letter is to paint a real portrait of our financial situation, and then asking you to invest in the vision of what could be at Niskayuna Reformed Church.

It is no secret that we share the struggle of so many other churches. That struggle is the continued decline in membership. I would need more than a single page letter to tackle that issue, but the reasons do not change the reality. There are simply less and less people involved with church. Over the past several years we have seen a steady decline in the number of those giving to the church on regular basis. This has created a situation where we are running at a deficit every year. This prompts us to ask those who are giving to give even more, and we realize we can only ask for so much. We are aware of the financial struggles that many deal with on a regular basis. Therefore, we hold two realities in tension: We do not want to cut programs or staff because that would negatively impact our overall ministry, yet we cannot run at a deficit for years on end.

So, why should I give? We ask this question a lot due to the sheer number of donation requests that come our way from other organizations. The answer to that question has two equally important facets. The first is that giving is a spiritual issue, and has more of an impact on us than we might think. If pursued in a sincere spirit of generosity, giving can have many positive effects on our mental and spiritual health. Second, it is a demonstration of faith and trust in God. It is a way that we can participate in the mission of the church to spread the Gospel, help those in need, love the unloved, extend mercy, and pursue justice.

As stated before, money is not the only way that you can engage in Stewardship. Each of us can give of time and talents to engage in ministry. There are various committees and events in which we can all participate. Have a knack for technology? We have a place for you! Have a desire to support our wonderful staff? We have a place for you! Have an interest in stewardship? We definitely have a place for you! There are so many other places where you can invest in the present and future ministry of our church.

Finally, another way to help is by inviting friends and family to Sunday services, Sunday School, and special events. If you come to these events yourself, there must be a reason why you think they are important. We are blessed with a caring and compassionate congregation, a spirited music ministry filled with talented and dedicated members, a growing Sunday School, and many more exciting opportunities to grow and serve. In order to continue these ministries, we need to spread the word about our church. As the saying goes, many hands make light work.

Included with this letter is a pledge card. We are asking that after prayerful consideration, you and your family fill out this pledge card to indicate your commitment to giving in 2018.

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