

Messenger

Niskayuna Reformed Church
January 2018

Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy house of worship, praise him under the open skies; Praise him for his acts of power, praise him for his magnificent greatness; Praise with a blast on the trumpet, praise by strumming soft strings; Praise him with castanets and dance, praise him with banjo and flute; Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum, praise him with fiddles and mandolin. Let every living, breathing creature praise God! Hallelujah! – Psalm 150, The Message

As the choir sang out "Hallelujah" on Christmas Eve morning, I was indeed transported back in time to the night of Jesus' birth. It felt as though I was there with the shepherds when the angels sang about God's magnificent gift to the world. Our church is blessed with a great number of talented musicians. We are also blessed to have special guest musicians come in to assist in our worship endeavors. Many thanks go to the NRC Senior Choir, directed by Andy Burger, and accompanied by Rebecca Benjamin. You continue to bring marvelous offerings of music that enhance our holiday worship services. This was most evident on the morning of Christmas Eve as they brought to life pieces of Handel's Messiah.

That devotion to music as a gift from God continued at the Family Service later that day. There are some talented young musicians within our church, and it is a blessing that they can express those gifts with us all. Thank you to the NRC Cherub Choir, directed by Suzanne Mason, accompanied by Nancy Tellier. Your offerings of music bring so much joy to everyone! Thank you to the NRC Youth Choir, directed by Joyce Anderson, accompanied by Rebecca Benjamin. Your offerings of music always fill me with a sense of hope, and hearing Silent Night in Dutch was a beautiful way to connect us with our past. Thank you to Ellie Van Pelt for sharing her talent on the piano.

Thank you to the Sunday School ministry team, coordinated by Trudy Lehner, with lots of support from teachers and other helpers who put together a joyous telling of Jesus' birth story. You all do a wonderful job of helping the children find their place in God's story. Thank you to our lay readers, ushers, greeters, flower arrangers, staff, and many others who make our Advent and Christmas worship services a blessing to all who come through those red doors.

Looking forward to worshipping with all of you in 2018! Happy New Year!

Pastor Jason

From the deepest part of our hearts we want to thank the congregation for their generosity. The Pastor's purse Christmas gift was a wonderful gift of love. We are blessed to be here with all of you! Thank you for all your care and support! – Pastor Jason & Jennifer

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Roy Burger	3
Arthur Vonk	5
Michelle Wyman	5
Kim Cerone	6
John Burger	7
Adrean Kreig	7
William Felpel	7
Bill Dzamba	8
Elizabeth Maclutsky	10
Kim Booth	11
Jessica Holmes	14
David Ender	17
Mason Roth	19

Anna Pustay	22
Curt Johnson	22
Cynthia Kuchera	23
Marie Male	25
Judy Valente	26
Nancy Guild	26
Shirley Vane	26
Yuliya Peshkova	27



Jane Green	28
Linda Freligh	29
William Booth	29
Jan Clark	30
Andrew Burger	31

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Jackie Maclutsky	1
Ron & Barbara Valenti	22
George & Joan Buhrmaster	24
Harry & Cynthia Kuchera	24
Bruce & Sharon Rice-Herbst	26

OFFICE NEWS

Pastor Jason and staff would like to wish you a Blessed New Year. We look forward to working with you and meeting your needs. **Let the office** know if you or your loved one is going in for surgery, in the hospital or in need of pastoral services. Pastor Jason would love to know and come visit if needed. We also have a group of volunteers from the Congregational Care Committee that are willing to help out with rides to appointments or make meals. Please contact the church office if you are in need of any of these services.

The office will be closed Monday, **January 15th** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



HOSPITALIZATION/SURGERY

Please keep Deb Bennett in your prayers. She was in the hospital in December.

▲ DEATHS

Edith Irwin passed away on December 19th. She was 106 years old! Please keep her family in your prayers.

Do not be afraid about the future - instead, give everything over to God in prayer:-

*Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart **Philippians 4:6, (GNT)***

WEBSITE INFORMATION

Check out our website for events and information on NRC. The weekly bulletin is available under the **EVENTS** tab. Just click the date you are looking for and scroll down the page. It is there in an easy-to-read PDF format.

Weekly E-Newsletter: This is to keep you informed of upcoming events in our church. Sometimes the post will not show all the information. Click the text to see complete details and/or pictures.

Monthly Messenger Newsletter—the monthly Messenger is now online for you to review. It is on the first page of the website under: www.niskayunareformed.org and scroll down about half way and look for it on your right.

Sermons— the weekly sermons are also online. They are right near the Monthly Messenger Newsletter on the website. If you are not able to make church or would like to review the service, this is a great way to stay connected. We hope this is another convenient way for you to access information about NRC.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Marion (Fowke) Sankar for her generous donation which was used to purchase the portable microphone in Fellowship Hall. This is extremely helpful when we have various meetings and want to walk around and set up in various locations in the room. This gives the facilitators more flexibility while also making sure everyone can be heard and seen. Thank you to **Marion** for thinking of our church! It is much appreciated!

ANTIQUUE SHOW

The 45th Annual NRC Antiques Show and Sale is just around the corner. The event is a yearly fundraiser that draws dealers, collectors and shoppers from the capital district and beyond. New this year, Mark Lawson Antiques, Inc. will be with us to provide appraisals from 10am – 2pm on Friday, January 19th **ONLY**. Bring your valuables and have them appraised for \$5 per item. There are many ways you can get involved on either day (or on both days) such as bake a pie, make soup, chowder or chili, set/clean up, volunteer as a cashier or help in the kitchen. The event will be held ...

[FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th -- 10am - 5pm](#)

[SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th --- 10am - 4pm](#)

Friday shifts: 9am – Noon | Noon – 2pm | 2pm – 5pm

Saturday shifts: 9am – Noon | Noon – 2pm | 2pm – 4pm

Set-up will take place on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30pm

If you are able to help in any way, please add your name to a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or the church narthex. Or, call/e-mail Donna Gaunay at 518-785-4808 / forkatz@hotmail.com.

NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE/FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT

Interested in our Preschool Program? Then please join us at our Annual Open House on Thursday, **February 1st** from 5-7 pm. You can meet the teachers, learn more about our programs and have any of your questions answered. Spread the word! Thank you!

COFFEE HOUR

The Parish Life Committee is in **need** of volunteers to host coffee hours following Sunday morning church services. The cost of hosting a coffee hour can be quite expensive. If you are hesitant to host a coffee hour because of the expense, please submit your receipts and the church can reimburse you. Many donations have been collected in the Coffee Hour Donation Box for parishioners to use. Please contact Linda Gardner or Donna Gaunay to set up your date!

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The NRC Women's Book Group will meet at 10:00 am on **Saturday, January 27th**, at the home of Ann Duncan. All are welcome. Please call 518-370-0776 for directions.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP



At the December 5th the Women's Fellowship Group meeting, the ladies filled 15 Christmas bags to deliver to shut-ins. Some items included in the bags were: Christmas cards that were made by the Church youth for the recipients; chocolates, hand cream, tissue packs, shampoo, puzzle books, postage stamps, small note pads, and pens; and items made by the Women's Fellowship Group: puzzle-piece Christmas wreaths, sets of Christmas cards, sets of Christmas tags, decorative boxes to hold the chocolates, and cross bookmarks.



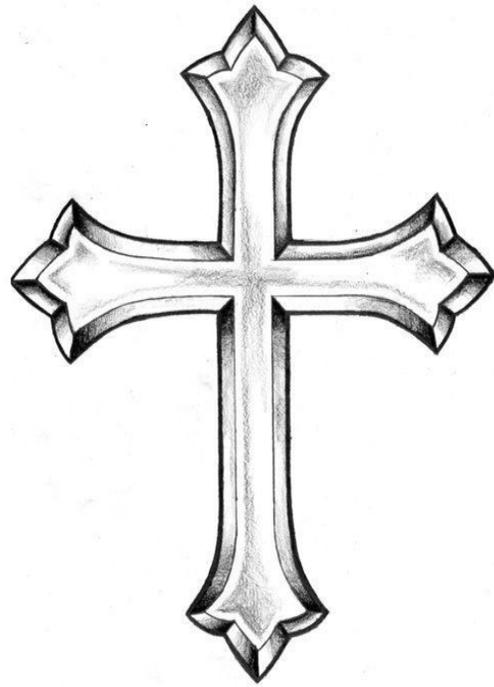
PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know we have a prayer chain? This is a group of people that receive a prayer request at the request of an individual, friend or family member of an individual. Prayer requests can be sent out in any manner you feel comfortable and with as much or little information you want included. Nothing is sent out without consent. This is a wonderful way to help someone in need and stay connected as a church and community. If you would like a prayer request to be sent out or if you would like to be added to the prayer chain list, please contact the church office at 518-785-5575 or email Ellen at office@niskayunareformed.org.



What Is Jesus to You?

To the artist He is the One Altogether Lovely.
To the architect He is the chief cornerstone,
To the baker He is the Living Bread.
To the banker He is the Hidden Treasure.
To the biologist He is the Life.
To the builder He is the Sure Foundation,
To the doctor He is the Great Physician.
To the educator He is the Great Teacher .
To the farmer He is the Lord of the Harvest.
To the florist He is the Rose of Sharon, the
Lily of the Valley.
To the geologist He is the Rock of Ages.
To the jurist He is the Righteous Judge, the
Judge of all men.
To the jeweler He is the Pearl of Great Price.
To the lawyer He is the Counselor, the Lawgiver, the Advocate.
To the horticulturist He is the True Vine.
To the newspaper man He is the Good Tidings of Great Joy.
To the oculist He is the Light of the World.
To the philanthropist He is the unspeakable Gift.
To the philosopher He is the Wisdom of God.
To the preacher He is the Word of God.
To the sculptor He is the Living Stone,
To the servant He is the Good Master.
To the statesman He is the Desire of All Nations.
To the student He is the Incarnate Truth.
To the theologian He is the Author and Finisher of Our Faith.
To the traveler He is the New and Living Way.
To the toiler He is the Giver of Rest.
To the sinner He is the Lamb of God that takes sin away.
To the Christian He is the Son of the Living God, Savior, and Redeemer.



FINANCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

We were able to improve upon the anticipated 2017 deficit (examined and reported in our December congregational meeting) by over \$7,000. Some of this was achieved by early 2018 pledge payment connected to changes in the federal tax law. Our enthusiasm, strong programs, diligent "church mice", and encouragement of new membership will be important "themes" as we move through 2018.

As of December 31, 2017

	Income		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offerings	\$ 250,573	\$ 237,083	\$ (13,490)
Use of Facilities	\$ 52,325	\$ 57,420	\$ 5,095
Nursery School	\$ 21,535	\$ 27,150	\$ 5,615
Rental Income	\$ 14,725	\$ 15,950	\$ 1,225
Fundraising	\$ 12,160	\$ 14,500	\$ 2,340
Other	\$ 1,432	\$ -	\$ (1,432)
Operational Income	\$ 352,750	\$ 352,103	\$ (647)
		Expenses	
Payroll	\$ 196,844	\$ 196,396	\$ (448)
Property	\$ 85,159	\$ 75,000	\$ (10,159)
Mortgage (Principal & Interest)	\$ 47,352	\$ 47,928	\$ 576
Denominational Assessment	\$ 25,943	\$ 26,034	\$ 91
Office	\$ 6,496	\$ 6,450	\$
Other	\$ 12,540	\$ 16,133	\$ 3,593
Operational Expenses	\$ 374,333	\$ 367,941	\$ (6,392)
Loss from Operations	\$ (21,583)		
Budgeted Loss	\$ (15,838)		
Performance Vs Budget 12/31/2017	\$ (5,745)		

MISSION SERVICE COMMITTEE

January 7th Communion Collection: The Salvation Army in Schenectady is a Christian organization that is dedicated to serving the needy without discrimination. Their goal is to meet the physical, material, spiritual and social needs of both youth and adults in the local community. The Salvation Army's Youth Programs offer character building and recreation opportunities for young people. They also have a Food Pantry to meet the needs, to heal the hurts, and to change the lives of their clients, by making sure that no one goes hungry. The Salvation Army strives to support those looking for help to maintain a basic quality of life, for themselves, and their families. Please support our local Salvation Army as they reach out to the hungry, the needy, and the poor in our community. As the Christmas Bell Ringers say, "Thank you and God Bless you."

Looking ahead: February 4th:

Schenectady City Mission

December Communion Collections

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Expenses.:

\$394 (collected)

Special Collection for M & SC:

\$592 (collected)

Patty's Place: Your overwhelming support of at risk women was heart-warming! A variety of 300+ personal care items were delivered to 1st Reformed Church of Schenectady. Thank you for letting these women know that they are valued.

2018 Communion Collections: The M & SC is pleased to share with you the names of the five non-profit organizations that NRC will support this year. The four local organizations are: Synod Ministries Board, Jack's Place, The Schenectady Foundation and Saratoga Therapeutic Equestrian Program; and our international organization will be World Vision. Background information about these organizations will be provided in upcoming editions of the Messenger.

Special Note: Our Communion Collections run for the entire month. If you are unable to attend church on the 1st Sunday of the month, you may mail your donation to the church. All checks should be made payable to NRC and specify on the memo line the name of the organization that you wish to support.

City Mission: Our church is scheduled to serve dinner on Monday **February 19th** at the Schenectady City Mission from 4:45-6:15. Please contact Michele Kopp at mishcata@gmail.com, if you are interested in volunteering.

SICM Emergency Food Pantry: The food pantry is always in need of hygiene products, baby diapers, cash/check, canned goods, and oatmeal & raisins. Please consider making a donation to help combat food insecurity in our community. *Every donation impacts lives.*

Kitten Angels: On behalf of Kitten Angels and myself we would like to thank everyone who donated shoes to help Third World Countries and Kitten Angels. We collected 135 pair of shoes.

Thanks again, Judy Valente and Kitten Angels

SICM Jubilee: Save the date. An evening and program to be held on **March 20, 2018**, at the Glen Sanders Mansion. Please join members of the M & SC to help celebrate SICM's 50th Anniversary. More information to follow.

2018 Volunteer Opportunities

Schenectady City Mission-

February 19th, April 23rd, July 30th & September 10th

Time: 5 -7 pm

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen-April 25th & June 21st (additional dates will be posted)

Time: 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Brooks BBQ- April 17th & August 22nd

Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital:

Volunteers are urgently needed to work in the Gift Shop and the Carmen Road Physical Therapy Office. If interested, please contact Joan Laviolette, Director of Volunteer Services @ 518-386-3631.

UPCOMING M & SC Events

Communion Collection for Salvation Army.
January 7th

SICM 50th Anniversary Celebration: **March 20th**

Next Meeting: **February 12th @ 7pm**

Please remember the needy, the hungry and the poor.

Wishing everyone a Healthy & Happy New Year

January

The Niskayuna Reformed Church
 3041 TROY-SCHENECTADY ROAD
 NISKAYUNA, NEW YORK 12309
 Founded in 1750
 Sunday Service of Worship 9:30 am

Office: 785-5575 Fax: 785-3671
 Emails: office@niskayunareformed.org
 Minister: spastor@niskayunareformed.org
 Website: niskayunareformed.org

Church Office Hours
 Monday- Friday
 9 AM- 4 PM
 Staff

The Rev. Jason Fulkerson	Pastor
Paul Alois	Treasurer
Rebecca Benjamin	Organist
Andrew Burger	Director of Music
James Friderici	Director of Bell Choir
Ellen Gauna	Church Administrator
Kathy Mausert	Director of Nursery School
Lester Perlee	Cemetery Superintendent
Wendy Sims	Teacher, Nursery School

January 7th

1st Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers- Bob & Tracy Sacca
 John & Deb Bennett
 Counters- Les Perlee
 Glenn Kreig
 Tony Pechulis
 Greeters- Pezzano Family

January 14th

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers- Jeff Rivenburg
 Dug Jackson
 Brian Maclutsky
 Lauren Groudine
 Counters- Paul Sullivan
 Judy Henery
 Greeters- Barb Sim

January 21st

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers- Richard Mizenko
 Peter & Thelma Ford
 Sue Felpel
 Counters- Lyle Eldred
 Kim Cerone
 Greeters- John & Trudy Lehner

January 28th

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers- Erik & Linda Gebhardt
 Counters- Sharon Rice-Herbst
 Dominic Andriano
 Greeters- Bob & Linda Gardner



2017 CONSISTORY

Elders	Deacons
Trudy Lehner, VP	Lizbeth Amorelli
Joyce Anderson	Scott Haefner
John Bennett	Alan Holmes
Linda Gardner	Richard Mizenko
Dug Jackson	Ron Ricard
Chad Pezzano	James Tully

January

Monday, January 1

Office Closed–New Year’s Day
6 pm–WA (104)
7 pm–SA (EO)

Tuesday, January 2

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
4 pm–Flute (102)
7 pm–Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, January 3

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)

Thursday, January 4

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
9:45 am–Wildwood (K)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
7 pm–Reflective Harmony (L)
7:30–Sr. Choir (S)

Friday, January 5

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
2 pm–Archives (L)
6–9:30 pm–KCPC (S/FH)
7 pm–AA (104)

Saturday, January 6

5:45 am–KCPC (S)

Sunday, January 7

Communion

Mission-Salvation Army Consistory Installation

8:45 am–Sr. Choir (S)
9:30 am–Worship Service (S)
9:45 am–Sunday School (EB)
10:30 am–Youth Choir (M)
11:15–3:15 pm–KCPC (S/FH)

Monday, January 8

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
9:45 am–Wildwood (104)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
6 pm–WA (104)
7 pm–SA (EO)
7 pm–CCC (104)
7 pm–M & SC (L)

Tuesday, January 9

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
4 pm–Flute (102)
6:15 pm–Girl Scouts (104)
7 pm–WFG (L)
7 pm–Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, January 10

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
7 pm–Consistory (L)

Thursday, January 11

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
7 pm–Reflective Harmony (L)
7 pm–BS Leaders Mtg. (104)

7:30–Sr. Choir (S)

Friday, January 12

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
6–9:30 pm–KCPC (S/FH)
7 pm–AA (104)

Saturday, January 13

5:45 am–KCPC (S)

Sunday, January 14

8:45 am–Sr. Choir (S)
9:30 am–Worship Service (S)
10:30 am–Cherubs (103)
10:30 am–Youth Choir (M)
11:15–3:15 pm–KCPC (S/FH)

Monday, January 15

Office Closed
7:30–6 pm–TSL (104)
9:45 am–Wildwood (K)
6 pm–WA (104)
7 pm–SA (EO)

Tuesday, January 16

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
4 pm–Flute (102)
6:15 pm–Girl Scouts (104)
7 pm–Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, January 17

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)

Thursday, January 18

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
9:45 am–Wildwood (K)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
7 pm–Reflective Harmony (L)
7:30–Sr. Choir (S)

Friday, January 19

10 am–5 pm–ANTIQUÉ SHOW
9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2 pm–Archives (L)

Saturday, January 20

5:45 am–KCPC (S)
10 am–4 pm–ANTIQUÉ SHOW

Sunday, January 21

8:45 am–Sr. Choir (S)
9:30 am–Worship Service (S)
9:45 am–Sunday School (EB)
10:30 am–Cherubs (103)
10:30 am–Youth Choir (M)
11:15–3:15 pm–KCPC (S/FH)

Monday, January 22

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
9:45 am–Wildwood (104)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
6 pm–WA (104)
7 pm–SA (EO)

Tuesday, January 23

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)

4 pm–Flute (102)
7 pm–Boy Scouts (FH)
7 pm–H & A (L)

Wednesday, January 24

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)

Thursday, January 25

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
12–IEEE (FH)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
6 pm–WA (104)
7 pm–SA (EO)
7 pm–Reflective Harmony (L)
7:30–Sr. Choir (S)

Friday, January 26

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)

Saturday, January 27

5:45 am–KCPC (S)

Sunday, January 28

8:45 am–Sr. Choir (S)
9:30 am–Worship Service (S)
9:45 am–Sunday School (EB)
10:30 am–Cherubs (103)
10:30 am–Youth Choir (M)
11:15–3:15 pm–KCPC (S/FH)

Monday, January 29

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
9:45 am–Wildwood (K)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
6 pm–WA (104)
7 pm–SA (EO)

Tuesday, January 30

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)
4 pm–Flute (102)
6:15 pm–Girl Scouts (104)
7 pm–Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, January 31

9:15–12:00 pm–NS (101)
2–6 pm–TSL (104)

CCC– Congregational Care Committee

WFG– Women’s Fellowship Group

H & A– History & Archives

M & SC– Mission & Service Committee

SA– Salvation Army

CM– Schenectady City Mission

**Reflective Harmony– outside prayer group*