

Messenger

Niskayuna Reformed Church
April 2018

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Easter is the annual celebration of Jesus' resurrection. In the days that followed that resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people. They all became witnesses to the risen Christ. This profoundly impacted their lives in such a way that they would never be the same. The resurrection is one of the catalysts for the earliest followers of Christ to spread the gospel message far and wide. In our day, all who call upon Jesus as Lord are witnesses to the risen Christ.

In our words and deeds, we can all provide a testimony to Jesus' impact on our lives. It doesn't matter how old or how young you are, there is always an opportunity to bear witness to what Christ has done for you. Often, it is in the small things that we do for others in which the love of Christ is shown. Something as simple as a smile can brighten someone else's day. In a world full of darkness, a smile can be a much-needed burst of light. As you think about being a witness to Christ, what are some small things you can do daily to show others the love you have been shown by Christ? What can you do on your trips to the grocery store or to the post office? In what ways can you be a better witness to your family and friends? We never know the impact we can have on others when we live through our faith in Christ.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jason

Holy Week

Mark your Calendars!

Maundy Thursday

Worship/Potluck Dinner, March 29th @ 7pm

Easter Services:

Sunrise Service: 6:30 am

Easter Worship Service: 9:30 am

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Susan Ender	1	Gladys Hawthorne	16	Caroline Drapeau	26
Sharon Jackson	1	Donna Nappi	18	Brenna Autrey	28
Linda Gebhardt	6	Robert Fear	19	Fiona Tully	29
Bob Sacca	7	Lauren Groudine	19		
Ryan Autrey	7	Robert Fear	19		
Richard Munro	10	Cindy Nous	20		
Addison Rizzi	13	Mae Dillon	23		
		Sharon Thompson	25		



Office News

Pastor Jason will be on vacation April 12th, returning to the office on April 26th. Ellen will be out of the office on Monday, April 2nd.

Pastor Jason and staff wish you and your family a blessed and holy Easter! We hope you will join us during Holy Week and Easter Sunday!

NRC 1st Annual Garage Sale

Mark your calendar! NRC is hosting its 1st Annual Garage Sale on Saturday, May 12th from 9 am-4 pm.

Set up will be the day of the sale from 6 am-9 am. Spots are first come first serve and \$20 per 20 x 20 spot. This is an outside event ONLY. Any committee that is interested in manning a bake sale table, please let Ellen know. We hope this is a stress free fundraiser with a limited amount of volunteers needed.



Please note, we now have an easier way to access the bulletins online. Bulletins are posted half way down, on the front of the website. They are posted right under the Messenger and Sermons. We hope this is an easy way for you stay involved and informed.

Spring is in the air!

Spring is coming and more people are coming on Sundays, there are many new faces and some names we have forgotten. Please put on your name tag so our new and old forgetful members know who you are. If you need a name tag please let the office know and we will happily get one to you.

Prayer Requests Please keep Michele Johnson in your prayers, she was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

*Don't forget we have a prayer chain. Contact the church office if you want to be added or be included on those people that pray for our special intentions.



Sacred Sounds concert and reception

Niskayuna Reformed Church (NRC) will again participate in the annual statewide Sacred Sites weekend open house organized by The NY State Landmarks Conservancy. The History & Archives committee (H & A) and Music Ministries have collaborated to present "Sacred Sounds: The Historical Role of Music in Liturgy at NRC".

The concert will feature the senior and youth choirs, with orchestra, under the direction of Andrew Burger, NRC's Director of Music. "This is a very special concert as this is the first time our church has presented a special concert comprised only of the church's own music ministry groups", Mr. Burger explained at a recent church service. The groups will perform selections from across the church's musical history. Christina Pizzino-Catalano, choral teacher at Niskayuna High School has been invited as a guest soloist as well as orchestral musicians from the community.

The concert will also include discussion by Scott Haefner, co-chair of the church's H & A and historian. Rev. Jason Fulkerson, the church's minister, will provide a welcoming introduction and explanation of why music is a vital part of the worship experience, and offered "Music has the ability to stir our souls in unique ways. We invite the community to join us as we celebrate the rich musical history of our church."

The hour-long concert will take place on **Sunday, May 6 at 5 pm** inside the sanctuary. Although this event is free, tickets will be available to pick up at coffee hours on Sundays after worship services on April 22nd & 29th and May 5th & 6th, as well as at the NRC office during office hours. Please invite your friends and family. A reception will immediately follow in Fellowship Hall. Coffee and tea will be served. Please bring cookies to share. Cookies may be dropped off the morning of May 6. Monetary donations to the H & A are also appreciated as they will be used to preserve historical church records in fragile condition. Some significant documents will be on display at the reception.

NRC is recognized by the State and National Register of Historic Places. Since 1986 The New York Landmarks Conservancy's Sacred Sites program has supported more than 700 religious institutions

throughout the state which have received over \$8.7 million in matching grants. Sacred Sites is the country's oldest and largest statewide grant program to help landmark religious properties. For additional information on the Sacred Sites Open House Weekend, contact The NY Landmarks Conservancy at 212-995-5260 or visit http://www.nylandmarks.org/events/sacred_sites_open_house/.

Sunday School News

The Spring session of Sunday School is well underway. Each class completed a project for the Easter Baskets/Cards that were delivered to our Seniors & Shut-ins during Holy Week. The children want these folks to know that even though they may not be able to make it to church services any longer, we're still thinking of them.

A **Communion Workshop** for children in Grade 2 and above is ready to be scheduled. If your child would like to participate in this event that will get them ready to be fed at the Lord's table, please call the church office to sign them up. After completing the training, the children will receive their first communion during a Sunday worship service.

Sunday School classes will not meet on **April 1 & April 8**, but will resume on April 15.

After a trial **Summer Sunday School** session last year, the Christian Ed (CE) committee has agreed to offer another 5-week session this year. Classes will meet on July 15, 22, 29 and August 5 and 12. The lessons will come from the Walk With Me summer curriculum titled, "Sharable Parables." Children from Kindergarten- Grade 5 are welcome to participate.

Please note that we are looking for two adults to teach on each of these Sundays. Please contact Trudy Lehner if you're able to help.

We're already thinking ahead about plans for the 2018-19 Sunday School year. As enrollment in the lower classes has grown, we're excited to be adding a new class for pre-schoolers (ages 3 and 4) who are now included in either the nursery or K/1 groups. We are including a **sign-up sheet** for teachers, substitutes and superintendents (see next page). Without the dedication of our amazing volunteers, we could not provide such an excellent CE program for our children. Please sign up early to get your preferred spot. Our Child Protection Policy requires that we have two adults for each class.



NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH

2018-2019 Schedule for

Sunday School Teachers, Assistants, Substitutes and Superintendents

Easy to follow lessons from the "Walk with Me" (Grades Pre-School – Middle School) and "Wired Word" (High School) curriculum are provided for each grade level.

Please sign up (name and best phone #) for 1, 2, or 3 semesters.

Fall

9/9-11/25/2018

9 classes

Winter

12/2/2018-2/24/2019

7 classes

1 Activity, 1 Rehearsal

Spring

3/3-6/9/2019

10 classes

2 rehearsals

Nursery (0-2 yrs.)

Leslie Perlee

Nursery (0-2 yrs.)

Leslie Perlee

Nursery (0-2 yrs.)

Leslie Perlee

Pre-School (3/4 yr. olds)

Pre-School (3/4 yr. olds)

Pre-School (3/4 yr. olds)

Kdg-1st Grade

Kdg-1st Grade

Kdg-1st Grade

2nd-3rd Grades

2nd-3rd Grades

2nd-3rd Grades

4th-5th Grades

4th-5th Grades

4th-5th Grades

Middle School

Middle School

Middle School

High School

High School

High School

Substitutes: _____

Superintendent(s): _____

Christian Education Co-Chairs: Trudy Lehner @ 518-346-8952 (tflehner@aol.com)
and Tony Pechulis @ 518-374-4206 (anthonypechulis@gmail.com)

Financial Report

Financials through February 28, 2018					
	Income				
	Actual	Budget			
Offerings	\$45,628	\$33,434			
Use of Facilities	\$8,719	\$7,630			
Nursery School	\$4,277	\$4,386			
Rental Income	\$3,100	\$3,100			
Fundraising	\$4,644	\$4,600			
Other	\$449				
Operational Income	\$66,818	\$53,150			
	Expenses				
Payroll	\$31,925	\$30,643			
Property	\$24,791	\$19,200			
Mortgage (Principal & Interest)	\$7,658	\$7,666			
Denominational Assessment	\$-	\$-			
Office	\$1,602	\$940			
Other	\$1,499	\$1,670			
Operational Expenses	\$67,475	\$60,119			
Gain from Operations	(\$657)		Amount actual expenses exceeded income		
Budgeted Loss	(\$6,969)		Amount budgeted as expected expenses greater than income		
Performance Vs Budget 2/28/2018	\$6,311		Amount of budgeted loss expected vs. actual performance against budget		
We continue to show a positive direction due to the prepayment of 2018 pledges in 2017 tax year					

Painting Update

In May of 2017, we embarked on a small fundraising campaign to paint the exterior of our Education Building. Sparked by an initial matching donation of \$5,000 from the family of Charles and Jean Morse, Consistory began the fundraising effort. By the time the initial phase of the campaign concluded we received more than enough to cover the cost of painting the exterior. With excess funds and more coming in, a

discussion ensued about painting the interior of the building. With the funds that remained, we were able to paint around three-quarters of the interior. Overall, we raised **\$25,810**.

Many thanks to everyone for your generous donations, to Complete Painting for the work on the exterior, DiScipio Painting for the work on the interior, the family of Charles and Jean Morse, the Painting Fund Committee, the Property Committee, Ellen and

Rick for their coordination efforts. Also, thank you again to **Colorize** in Clifton Park. Colorize donated 5 gallons of paint for the interior of the building. This is on top of the paint that was donated for half of the outside painting of the Education Building. It is wonderful to see such community minded businesses. We did this together, and the building looks wonderful.

**NRC BOTTLE DRIVE TO
SUPPORT OUR
PRESCHOOL PROGRAM BY
DONATING YOUR
REFUNDABLE BOTTLES AND CANS**



Where: Niskayuna Reformed Church

Drop off dates:

April 26th & April 27th from 4-7 pm

April 28th & April 29th from 11-2 pm.

Women's Retreat Enjoyed by All

Twenty-five women gathered in Fellowship Hall on March 17th for a mini-retreat focusing on the three essential elements of prayer, "Help, Thanks, and Wow," as presented in Anne Lamott's book of the same name.

The retreat included time for sharing thoughts during facilitated discussions led by Trudy Lehner (*Help*), Suzi O'Brien (*Thanks*) and Jennifer Fulkerson (*Wow*). Accompanied on piano by Ellie van Pelt, the group sang some favorite hymns about prayer. Two skits on prayer were acted out by a number of our very talented participants, and the women took home a craft that pulled together the various threads of the day's conversations.

Best of all, the women had a chance to develop some deeper connections with one another. Chef Paul Szakats prepared a delicious luncheon of creamy carrot soup, potato and cheese casserole, green salad and chocolate bread pudding that was very professionally served by Pastor Jason, Dug Jackson, John Lehner and Mike O'Brien. It goes without saying that the women thoroughly enjoyed this very special treatment! Take a look at the photo gallery on the NRC Website.

Many thanks to the Retreat Planning Committee for putting this event together: Ann Duncan, Sue Felpel, Jennifer Fulkerson, Sharon Jackson, Trudy Lehner, Suzi O'Brien and Sharon Rice-Herbst. Thanks also to the staff, Ellen Gauna and Rick Wallace, for their help to prepare for the event.

Niskayuna Senior Center (NSC)

April 2018

- **Tuesday, April 3rd**

Tom's Walk In Computer Clinic
9 am-12pm

- **Tuesday, April 3**

Dance Fire Performance 1:45 pm at Center

- **Friday, April 6th**

Lunch Club- New City Squire 11:30
(From Town Hall)

- **Thursday, April 12**

Art Therapy 101 @ 7pm at Center

- **Thursday, April 12, 19 and 26**

Gentle Yoga 7pm at Town Hall

- **Friday April 13**

Speaker: Norman Rockwell Museum
& Lunch @ Red Lion Inn at 10:30am

- **Monday April 16**

Saratoga Casino & Garden Buffet @
10:30am

- **Tuesday April 17**

Tom's Computer Clinic 9am-12pm

- **Tuesday April 17**

Crafts with Edie from 10 am -12 pm

- **Friday April 20**

Lake George Shopping Trip & Lunch at
Log Jam leaving from Town Hall
at 10am

- **Tuesday, April 24**

Art with Edie from 10am-12pm at
Center

NSC is located at 2682 Aqueduct Road,
Niskayuna. Contact the Center @ **372-4969**
for any questions or to sign up for a trip.
Also, the information is on the Town Web-
site and the Senior Center Facebook page.
Website: [https://www.niskayuna.org/
senior-center](https://www.niskayuna.org/senior-center)

MISSION SERVICE COMMITTEE

April 8th Communion Collection:

Our Communion Collection will benefit our own mission group. The M & SC will use the donations for our "Soup Kitchen" expenses. Our church members volunteer at the Salvation Army soup kitchen several times a year. These dedicated volunteers shop, prepare and serve a nutritious meal to the hungry. The next date for the Soup Kitchen is April 25th.

Looking ahead: May 6th: Camp Fowler

March Communion Collections

Synod Ministries Board: \$623 (collected)
The Synod Ministries Board (SMB) is a group of faithful, talented, and passionate people that meet several times a year to discuss and plan events for the benefit of the churches within the bounds of the synod. The overall goal of the SMB is to empower classes and congregations to live out faithful and fruitful mission in God's world. Thank you for your support of this important ministry

SICM Spring Bag Project—Update

SICM is NOT doing the Spring Bag Project this year. We want to say thank you to all who have made donations and will hold on to them for a future project/donation.

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 The next opportunity to serve is scheduled on Monday April 23rd 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.

2018 Volunteer Opportunities

Schenectady City Mission-

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

Please mark your calendars for April 17th, between 3-6pm for our first Brooks BBQ. As usual, we are seeking volunteers. We also need dozens of Brownies! Brownies should be plain chocolate (NO NUTS PLEASE), cut into 3" x 3" squares and individually wrapped. There will be sign-up sheets coming during coffee hour.

Prices will be \$12 (chicken dinner)/\$8 (1/2 chicken)

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

Next Meeting: April 9th @ 7pm

*Please remember the
needy, the hungry and
the poor.*



BROOKS B-B-Q



Tuesday, April 17, 2018

3:00 - 6:00 PM (or sold out)

———— TAKE OUT ONLY ————

Niskayuna Reformed Church

3041 Troy Road, Niskayuna

www.niskayunareformed.org

april

April 1st

Easter Sunday

- Ushers-** Donna Gaunay
Paul Alois
Pat Zink
Norma Lovell
- Counters-** Alan Holmes
Sharon Rice-Herbst
Suzi O'Brien
- Greeters-** Dug & Sharon Jackson

April 8th

2nd Sunday of Easter

- Ushers-** John & Trudy Lehner
Lizbeth Amorelli
Jennifer Fulkerson
- Counters-** Paul Sullivan
Gary Male
- Greeters-** Jean Bursor

April 15th

3rd Sunday of Easter

- Ushers-** Glenn Kreig
Jon Waxman
Barbara Sim
Betty Engler
- Counters-** David Perlee
Glenn Kreig
- Greeters-** Ron Ricard

April 22nd

4th Sunday of Easter

- Ushers-** Jack Faddegon
Elaine O'Connell
Paul Szakats
Linda Matt
- Counters-** Sharon Rice-Herbst
Tony Pechulis
- Greeters-** Janel Mirel

April 29th

5th Sunday of Easter

- Ushers-** Bob & Tracy Sacca
John & Deborah Bennett
- Counters-** Jeff Rivenburg
Peter Nickel
- Greeters-** Harry & Cindy Kuchera

*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



2018 CONSISTORY

Elders

Chad Pezzano, VP
Joyce Anderson
John Bennett
Linda Gardner
Dug Jackson
Trudy Lehner

Deacons

Lizbeth Amorelli
Scott Haefner
Alan Holmes
Richard Mizenko
Ron Ricard
James Tully

april

Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunday

6:30 am-Sunrise Service
7 am-Light Breakfast (FH)
8:45 am-Sr. Choir (S)
9:30 am-Easter Sunday Worship Service (S)

10:30-Coffee Hour

11:15-3:15 pm-KCPC (S/FH)

Monday, April 2

7:30-6 pm-TSL (104)
9:45 am-Wildwood (K)
6 pm-WA (104)
7 pm-SA (EO)
7 pm-Bible Study (L)

Tuesday, April 3

7:30-6 pm-TSL (104)
4 pm-Flute (102)
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)
7 pm-Property (L)

Wednesday, April 4

7:30-6 pm-TSL (104)
7 pm-Bells (M)

Thursday, April 5

7:30-6 pm-TSL (104)
9:45 am-Wildwood (K)
1 pm-Bible Study (L)
7 pm-Reflective Harmony (L)
7:30-Sr. Choir (S)

Friday, April 6

7:30-6 pm-TSL (104)
6-9:30 pm-KCPC (S/FH)
7 pm-AA (104)

Saturday, April 7

5:45 am-KCPC (S)
3-9 pm-CDDC (FH)

Sunday, April 8

Communion

Mission-Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Expenses

8:45 am-Sr. Choir (S)
9:30 am-Worship Service (S)
11:15-3:15 pm-KCPC (S/FH)

Monday, April 9

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-M & SC (L)

Tuesday, April 10

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)
7 pm-WFG (L)

Wednesday, April 11

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

Thursday, April 12

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

7:30-Sr. Choir (S)

Friday, April 13

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

Saturday, April 14

5:45 am-KCPC (S)

Sunday, April 15

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

Monday, April 16

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (104)
6 pm-WA (104)
7 pm-SA (EO)

Tuesday, April 17

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

3-6 pm-Brooks BBQ

4 pm-Flute (102)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, April 18

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (104)
7 pm-Bells (M)
Thursday, April 19
9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (104)
7 pm-Reflective Harmony (L)
7:30-Sr. Choir (S)

Friday, April 20

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

Saturday, April 21

5:45 am-KCPC (S)

Sunday, April 22

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, April 23

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
9:45 am-Wildwood (K)
2-6 pm-TSL (104)
4:45 pm-City Mission (CM)
6 pm-WA (104)
7 pm-SA (EO)

Tuesday, April 24

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)
7 pm-H & A (L)

Wednesday, April 25

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
10 am-Soup Kitchen (SA)

2-6 pm-TSL (104)

7 pm-Bells (L)

Thursday, April 26

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (104)
4 -7 pm-NS Bottle Drive (Church parking lot)
7 pm-Reflective Harmony (L)
7:30-Sr. Choir (S)

Friday, April 27

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (104)
4 -7 pm-NS Bottle Drive (Church parking lot)
6-9:30 pm-KCPC (S/FH)
7 pm-AA (104)

Saturday, April 28

10 am-Book Group (Betty Engler)
11 am-2 pm-NS Bottle Drive (Church parking lot)

Sunday, April 29

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 am-2 pm-NS Bottle Drive (Church parking lot)
11:15-3:15 pm-KCPC (S/FH)

Monday, April 30

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)

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*



HAPPY EASTER!