

MESSENGER

Niskayuna Reformed Church

January 2019

Pastor Jason's message

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. – 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

As we embark on a new year, it is only natural to look back at the year that is now gone. The tradition many still follow is to make resolutions for the new year, a promise to change the way one lives. Inspired by a colleague of mine, I want to make absolutions instead of resolutions.

To absolve means to declare free from guilt or shame. Embracing the truth of the message from 2 Corinthians 5, that indeed I am a new creation in Christ, there are things I want to leave behind, or better yet, feelings and attitudes that I wish to free myself from. Looking back at 2018, I absolve myself from:

- ⇒ The belief that my faults, failures, and weaknesses are what define me as a person
- ⇒ The thought that more financial stability will bring me happiness
- ⇒ That I need to do more in order to be successful
- ⇒ That I need to be someone other than God has created me to be

As I look forward to the year ahead, I am filled with hope that God, through the power of the Holy Spirit will enable me to leave those thoughts, feelings, and attitudes behind.

My hope is that God will work in the lives of all of us here at NRC to transform us into new creations!

Blessings in 2019!

Pastor Jason and Jennifer want to thank you for the generous Christmas gift. We are always humbled by your generosity, love, and support!

Birthdays

3 Roy Burger
5 Michele Wyman
5 Arthur Vonk
6 Kim Cerone
7 Adrean Kreig
7 John Burger
8 Bill Dzamba
10 Elizabeth Maclutsky
11 Kim Booth

13 Nick Siver
18 Joanna Burger
19 Mason Roth
22 Anna Pustay
22 Curt Johnson
23 Cynthia Kuchera
25 Marie Male
26 Nancy Guild
26 Judy Valente
26 Shirley Vane
27 Yuliya Peshkova
28 Jane Green
29 Linda Freligh
29 William Booth
30 Jan Clark
31 Andy Burger
31 Pam Kane

Anniversaries

Brian & Jacqueline
Maclutsky 1
Ron & Barb Valenti 22
Harry & Cynthia Kuchera
24
George & Joan Buhrmaster
24
Bruce & Sharon Rice Herbst
26



Church Office News

Pastor Jason and staff wish you a happy, peaceful and joyful New Year! We look forward to serving your needs.

A special thank you to **Joan Peebles, Barb Valenti, Rick Wallace & Pastor Jason** who helped cover the phones and any matters that needed attention, while I was on vacation. I really appreciate your help! I had a great vacation and could relax knowing you were taking care of things.

Women's Fellowship Group Change

The Women's Fellowship Group (WFG) will try a new meeting time for the next couple of months. The group will now meet on the **second Wednesday of the month** from **2 - 4:00 pm** in the Lounge.

▲ The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, January 9 - Valentine's Craft for shut-ins
- Wednesday, February 13 - all occasion card making
- Wednesday, March 13 - craft for Women's Retreat

We welcome new members and hope that you will be able to join us whenever you can. The group is also planning a Women's Retreat on Saturday, **March 23** - more information about this will be coming soon, but please hold the date for now!

Women's Book Group (WBG)

The WBG will meet on The book group meeting for January is Saturday the 12th at Eileen Eldred's home. Questions, please call Eileen at 518-382-1248.

Hospitalized

Please keep Marie Male & Nick Siver (Cindy Strassenburgh's son in law) in your prayers. They were hospitalized last month.

Births

Congratulations to Cindy Strassenburgh on the birth of her **GREAT-GRANDSON**, Beckett Joseph Dier . He is the grandson of Nick and Marcia Siver and the son of Taylor (Nick and Marcia's daughter) and her husband Joseph.

Congregational Care Carol Sing

On December 14th and 15th, the Congregational Care Committee sponsored a Christmas Carol sing. The congregation was invited to visit members of our congregation in area facilities to sing Christmas carols with them and their friends. We visited members at Kingsway Arms, Judson Meadows and Holiday at the Atrium.

During the visit, Christmas cards that had been prepared by the children of the Sunday School, and bags of crafts and goodies that had been created and prepared by the Women's Fellowship Group were delivered to NRC members.

Many thanks to the following "Carol Angels" who helped lead facility residents to a fun time of singing: Lizbeth Amorelli and daughter Molly Rourke, Mel Burger, Kathy and Bill Dzamba, Kathy Drapeau and daughter Caroline, Pastor Jason, Trudy Lehner, Norma Lovell, Karen and John Moak, Jennifer Politano, Sharon Rice-Herbst, Barbara Valenti and Pat Zink.

46th Annual Antique Show

The 46th Annual NRC Antique Show is just around the corner. The event is a yearly fundraiser that draws dealers, collectors and shoppers from the capital district and beyond. Mark Lawson Antiques, Inc. will be with us again this year to provide appraisals from 10am – 2pm on Friday. Bring your valuables and have them appraised for a \$10 fee/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 18th -- 10am - 5pm and **SATURDAY, JANUARY 19st ---**
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 16th 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 518-785-8408 / forkatz@hotmail.com.

See Flyer on Next Page

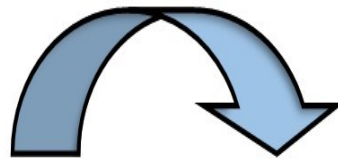
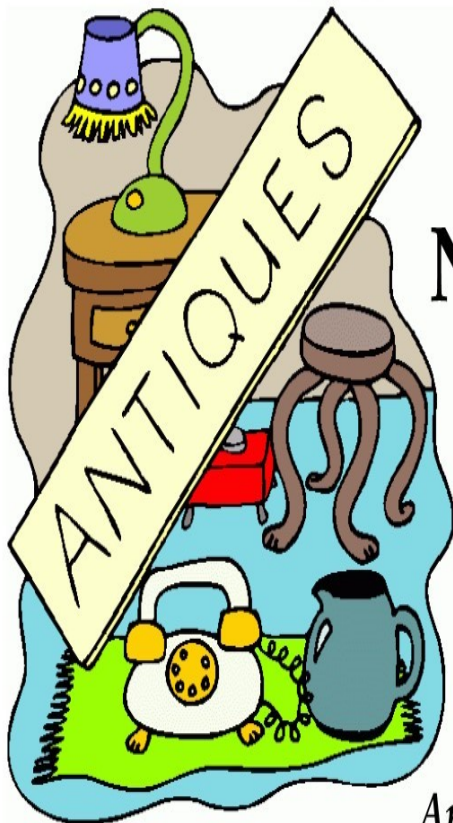
46th ANNUAL

Antiques Show & Sale

Friday, January 18, 2019 ... 10 am - 5 pm

and

Saturday, January 19, 2019 ... 10 am - 4 pm



Niskayuna Reformed Church

3041 Troy Road (Rt. 7), Niskayuna

www.niskayunareformed.org

518-785-5575

Admission: \$3.00

Appraisals available January 18, 10am - 2pm, \$10 per item

10 Spiritual Resolutions for 2019

Here is a list of 10 spiritual resolutions that will change your life:

- 1. Pray every day to hear God's will for my life and be obedient to it.** "What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?" (Deut 4:7)
- 2. Read the Bible every day to understand God's character and his ways.** "For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Heb 4:12).
- 3. Encourage others to start or continue their journey of faith.** "Finally brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you" (2 Cor 13:11).
- 4. Invite at least one person from my family or community to my church each week.** "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'today', so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Heb 3:13).
- 5. Join a local year round Bible study.** "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Ps 119:11).
- 6. Commit to a community outreach for one season.** "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing" (Deut 10:18).
- 7. Volunteer at my church to teach Sunday School or provide nursery care.** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).
- 8. Open my home to times of fellowship and discipleship.** "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it" (Heb 13:2)
- 9. Commit to identifying the needs vs. wants in my budget and increasing my charitable giving.** "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow? They do not labor or spin" (Matt 6:28).
- 10. Keep a journal to daily or weekly document the progress of my resolutions.** "This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the Lord is to be on your lips" (Ex 13:9a).

These spiritual resolutions will only be transforming if you make them a lifetime commitment.

Mission and Service Committee

January 6th Communion Collection:

Our Communion Collection for January will benefit The Salvation Army in Schenectady. They provide breakfast and lunch for up to 300 people a day, run a food pantry three days a week, shelter women and children in crisis through the Evangeline Booth Miracle Home, offer youth and women's programs to those in need in our community. Please support this important ministry. Thank you!

Looking ahead: February 3rd—**Schenectady City Mission**

December Collection

- ◆ Saratoga Therapeutic Equestrian Program (**\$633 collected/\$800 donated**)
- ◆ Concerned for the Hungry **\$500 donated**
- ◆ Special Collection for M & SC: **\$610**

Once again, we appreciate the generosity of our congregation.

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 **January 14th** at the Schenectady City Mission from 4:45-6:15. Please contact Michele Kopp at mishcata@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering. Sign-ups to volunteer must be done on-line at <https://citymissionofscheneactady.volunteerhub.com/lp/allevnts/events/index>

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. Monetary donations are also welcome and can often

purchase more food per dollar than we often realize.

Every donation impacts lives.

Thank you NRC family for again providing much needed support for the Schenectady City Mission. Outerwear, personal care item and a HUGE array of children's toys were delivered to the Mission on December 6th. The staff was so grateful for the generosity of our congregation!

Eyewear/Hearing Aid Collection

There is a collection box in the Education Building for your used eyeglasses and hearing aids to benefit the Lions Club International which will be distributed to those in need. Please check your homes for glasses or hearing aids that are no longer needed and bless someone else with the gift of sight or hearing. One full box has already been donated—Thank You!

2019 Volunteer Opportunities

Schenectady City Mission

January 14th, March 4th, May 6th, July 8th & Sept. 9th

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen-

2019 Dates:

April 30th, May 24th & June 26th
Time: 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Are you looking for a fun and fulfilling way to give back to the community? If you said, YES, then you may want to consider being the coordinator for the Soup Kitchen Lunch Program. The coordinator(s) will plan the menus, shop for the food, prepare the meals alongside other volunteers. Please contact Barb Valenti for more information.

Brooks BBQ for 2019

The dates have been set—April 16th & August 21st Mark your calendars now! We would love to see some new faces joining the fun!

Next Meeting:

January 14, 2019 @ 7pm All are welcome

Niskayuna Senior Center

**Denotes Registration & Possible Additional Fee; *All Meals and All Activities are subject to change; *All afternoon programs are on the lower level unless otherwise stated. If you do not want to participate in a program and prefer to play cards/games, arrangements can be made with staff. LL-Lower Level, UL-Upper Level, TH—Town Hall*

ONGOING ACTIVITIES :

Mondays

10-10:45 Zumba Gold (NO Class on Jan. 21)

11-12 Motion & Fitness—
Starts January 29

Tuesdays

9:15am – 9:45am
Tai Chi

9-12n Tom's computer class 1st & 3rd
Tues each month

10:00am– Cards, Bridge, Mahjong,
and Wii Bowling

10:30 am Line Dancing

12:00pm Lunch

12:45pm—2pm
Afternoon Prog; Lectures, Trivia,
Games, or Bingo

1:00

Chair Moves with Mary (**Not Jan. 22**)

Thursdays

9:15am -9:45am—Tai Chi

10:00am– Cards, Bridge, Mahjong,
and Wii Bowling

10:30am – Bocce and Pickle Ball

12:00— Lunch

12:45pm—2pm Afternoon Prog;
Lectures; Trivia, Games, or Bingo

7:00 pm- Gentle Yoga with Susan at
Town Hall January 10,17,24,31

Fridays

10am-12pm Beginner Mahjong

10am-12n Open Art Studio

11am-12pm-CDPHP Chair Pilates
January 11,18,25

10:30 Alz Support Group First Friday of
the month

Upcoming Events:

January 8th

Painting with Karen Woodin @ 10-2pm
@ Center

January 9th

Aquarium/Shopping at Rotterdam
Square Mall - Leave from TH.
(Snow date Jan.16)

January 10th

iPad Intro. class with Lisa from 11-12
Wake up to Good Health Lecture by
Blue Shield @ Center @ 1pm

January 22nd

Umbrella Corporation Lecture @ 1:00
pm @ Center

January 29th

iPad drawing with Lisa @ Center

Each month we celebrate
Birthdays and Special Days
with cake, trivia, special
treats and surprises!!

Synod Event:

On January 16th, 2019, the Albany Synod Executive Committee is sponsoring an event at Wolf Hollow Brewing in West Glensville. This event is open to all.

From 4:30-6 PM, Al Janssen and Matthew Van Maastricht will lead a discussion about how we can draw from the Reformed creeds and confessions as we seek unity.

There will be dinner from 6-7 PM Dinner prepared by Buzzard's Bay BBQ at a cost of \$15 per person.

From 7-8 PM a Beer & Hymns session will be led by Jordan White

Please come for one or all the sessions. Beer will be available for purchase throughout the evening. Non-alcoholic beverages are also available.

Community Event:

The Colonie-Guilderland Rotary Club is looking for your help in fighting the current addiction and opioid crisis in the Capital District. We are planning a fund-raising event, to promote awareness of the issue and to raise funds to support Second Chance Opportunities, Inc. that is planning to open a community recovery center in Albany. The event will be modeled after the popular CBS show The Amazing Race, with detours, roadblocks, pit stops, etc. Your team will earn points for completing tasks throughout the mall and some tasks may be judged on time. But this is not a foot race and no running in the mall is allowed. Please visit <https://www.amazingracetorecovery.org/> for more information.

Some ways individuals/businesses/groups can help:

- Register a team to participate in the event and pre-event fund raising
- Be a sponsor or help us obtain sponsors

Raise funds using the events [Firstgiving site](#)

- Prize donations
- Volunteers to help the day of the event
- Forward this information to anyone you think might be interested

Share our [Facebook Event](#) page with your Facebook Friends

Help us to promote this event

Attention
All!

Envelopes News

Attention: The Denominational Assessment amount is **incorrect** on the envelopes. The updated amount was not included with the 2019 envelopes. The correct amount is **\$101.74 per person/\$25.50 quarterly** for 2019. Please note that on your envelopes. We apologize for the error. Thank you for your understanding.

JANUARY

January 6 Epiphany of the Lord

Ushers- Leo & Sue Lichtig
John & Lynn DelSignore
Counters- Les Perlee
Glenn Kreig
Diane Pechulis
Greeters- Dale & Nancy Ellen
Swann

January 13 Baptism of the Lord

Ushers- Donna Gaunay
Paul Alois
Pat Zink
Norma Lovell
Counters- Paul Sullivan
Judy Henery
Greeters- Barb Sim

January 20th 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers- John & Trudy Lehner
Lizbeth Amorelli
Jennifer Fulkerson
Counters- Lyle Eldred
Kim Cerone
Greeters- John & Trudy Lehner

January 27th 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Ushers- Glenn Kreig
Jon Waxman
Barbara Sim
Counters- Sharon Rice-Herbst
Dominic Andriano
Greeters- Bob & Linda Gardner



The Niskayuna Reformed Church
3041 TROY-SCHENECTADY ROAD
NISKAYUNA, NEW YORK 12309
Founded in 1750

Sunday Service of Worship 9:30 am

Contact Information

Office: 518-785-5575

Emails:

office@niskayunareformed.org (Ellen-admin)

srpastor@niskayunareformed.org (Pastor Jason)

Website: www.niskayunareformed.org

Office Hours

Monday– Friday 8 am-4 pm

Staff

The Rev. Jason Fulkerson	Pastor
Paul Alois	Treasurer
Joyce Anderson	Director of Youth Choir
Rebecca Benjamin	Organist
Andrew Burger	Director of Music
James Friderici	Director of Bell Choir
Ellen Gauna	Church Administrator
Sabrina Squires	Director of Christian Education
Suzanne Mason	Director of Cherubs Choir
Kathy Mausert	Director of Nursery School
Lester Perlee	Cemetery Superintendent
Rick Wallace	Church Sexton

2019 CONSISTORY

Elders

Chad Pezzano, VP
Joyce Anderson
John Bennett
Dug Jackson
Trudy Lehner
Suzi O'Brien

Deacons

Lizbeth Amorelli
Scott Haefner
Alan Holmes
Richard Mizenko
Ron Ricard
Maureen Rizzi

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 1

Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

Thursday, January 3

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

Friday, January 4

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

2:30 pm-Archives (L)

6-9:30 pm-KCPC (S)

7 pm-AA (104)

Saturday, January 5

No events

Sunday, January 6

Communion

Mission-Salvation Army

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)

10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)

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

Monday, January 7

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

9:30 am-Wildwood (K)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

6 pm-WA (104)

7 pm-SA (EO)

Tuesday, January 8

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Flute (101)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, January 9

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2 pm-WFG (L)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-Consistory (L)

Thursday, January 10

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-BS Leaders Mtg (104)

7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

Friday, January 11

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

6-9:30 pm-KCPC (S)

7 pm-AA (104)

Saturday, January 12

10 am-WBG (Eileen Eldred's home)

Sunday, January 13

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)

10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)

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

Monday, January 14

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

9:30 am-Wildwood (104)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4:45 pm-CM (CM)

6 pm-WA (104)

7 pm-SA (EO)

Tuesday, January 15

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Flute (101)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, January 16

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

Thursday, January 17

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

Friday, January 18

10 am-5 pm-Antique Show

6-9:30 pm-KCPC (S)

7 pm-AA (L)

Saturday, January 19

10 am- 4pm-Antique Show

Sunday, January 20

8:45 am-Sr. Choir (S)

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)

10:30 am-Youth Choir (M)

10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)

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

Monday, January 21

Office Closed

7:30-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

9:30 am-Wildwood (K)

6 pm-WA (104)

7 pm-SA (EO)

Tuesday, January 22

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

11 am-Wildwood (K)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Flute (101)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, January 23

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

Thursday, January 24

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

Friday, January 25

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

6-9:30 pm-KCPC (S)

7 pm-AA (104)

Saturday, January 26

No events

Sunday, January 27

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)

10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)

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

Monday, January 28

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

9:30 am-Wildwood (104)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

6 pm-WA (104)

7 pm-SA (EO)

Tuesday, January 29

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Flute (101)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, January 30

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

Thursday, January 31

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

CCC Congregational Care
Committee

CM City Mission

H & A History & Archives

M & SC Mission & Service Committee

SA Salvation Army

WFG Women's Fellowship Group

WBG Women's Book Group

