

MESSENGER

Niskayuna Reformed Church

February 2019

Pastor Jason's message

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." 52 Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way. – Mark 10:46-52

Two books that I read recently draw upon this story from Mark's gospel. It struck me as significant that two different books, with two different themes, used the same text and I just happened to read them at the same time. That just might be sign that something is important. The question that stands out to me, as well as these two authors comes from Jesus. He says to Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you"?

Up until this point in the story, Bartimaeus is a blind beggar asking for change on the side of the road. So, he could've asked for spare change, just as he asked so many others as they passed him on the road. But Bartimaeus asks Jesus for what he really wants, "My teacher, let me see again". Bartimaeus asks for his sight back, the one thing that will truly transform his life. A little bit more spare change will not help, seeing again will alter Bartimaeus' future in significant ways.

Speaking about this text, author Matthew Croasmun says that we often ask Jesus for pocket change instead of restored sight. We do not ask for the things that will ultimately transform us or the things that will bring fulfillment. I've noticed in my own life that I keep asking for the spare change from Jesus instead of asking for restored sight. Instead of asking for a renewed understanding of what will fulfill me, I seek out what will distract me. Instead of asking for a renewed understanding of trust, I settle for a false sense of security. Instead of being honest with Jesus about what I want, I hide behind false expressions of piety.

Bartimaeus is bold as well as vulnerable in asking for what he truly wants. What if Jesus does not give him sight? I've held on to deep longings and desires because I feared how Jesus would respond. Naively thinking that Jesus doesn't already know. Surely, Jesus may not do what I want, but if I'm not honest with him, what does that say about my relationship with him? And if I never open up then I may never experience the real transformation that I actually need.

"What do you want me to do for you"? I will continue to sit with this question, and I hope you will too.

Birthdays

2 Michael Cerone	12 Glenn Kreig	26 Leroy Wyman
3 Pat Rockwood	13 Joseph Cook	28 Hannah Kreig
3 Lauren Van Buren	14 Barbara Kam	28 Keith Munro
5 Joanne Goodwin	15 Joan Unright	28 Jack Faddegon
7 Mel Burger	20 Benjamin Groudine	<u>Anniversaries</u>
8 Mary Counsell	21 Deborah Bennett	Ralph & Lori Lembo 11th
8 Shane Gernand	22 Jill Ennis	Tom & Donna Nappi 19th
10 Charles Goddard	22 George Buhrmaster	
12 Alan Connelly	22 Donna Stewart	
	23 Nina Doss	

Church Office News

The office will be closed on **Monday, February 18th** in remembrance of President's Day.

Thanks

Thank you for your prayers, cards, culinary delights and words of encouragement during the last few months. They are greatly appreciated and have brightened my days.
~Sally Perlee

Prayer Chain

NRC has a prayer chain that goes out when someone needs prayers. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain so you are notified when someone needs prayers, please let the office know. If you are in need of prayers, please email Ellen at office@niskayunareformed.org and she will distribute your prayer request to NRC's "Prayers" List. If you wish to remain anonymous, please indicate that too.

Women's Fellowship Group

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, 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.

Women's Book Group (WBG)

The WBG will be meeting on **February 16th** at 10 am at Trudy Lehner's home. Please contact Trudy with questions or if you need directions. All are welcome!

2019 Women's Luncheon Retreat to Feature Author, Judith Hugg

Have you ever wondered about the real meaning of God's Grace? How deep is it? How can I recognize it?



The Congregational Care Committee of the Niskayuna Reformed Church, together with the Women's Fellowship Group is planning a day-long Women's Retreat titled "Got Grace?" for **Saturday, March 23, 2019** beginning at 9:00 am until about 2:30 pm.

The retreat will be led by Judith Hugg, author of two books on Grace, "*To See the Sky: Vignettes of Grace*," and "*Let it Be a River: Grace Overflowing*." Judith will explore with us where God shows up in

each of our lives and how we can open our eyes to see the gifts that God can impart, even in the darkest of times.

The day will include a variety of fun and interactive activities, a couple of short breaks plus a time of luncheon fellowship. We will conclude with a time of worship and communion.

Advance registration is requested and can be handled by contacting Sharon Jackson (sej832@aol.com) or Sue Felpel (lsfelpel@yahoo.com) or the church office. There is a minimal fee of \$8.00 to cover the cost of materials and lunch. We would ask that registrations be made as soon as possible, but not later than Monday, March 18.

It is not necessary to read the Judith's books before the retreat, but for those who wish to do so, you can check with Sue Lichtig, who has a few available. They will also be available for purchase (\$10.00 per book) at the retreat.



WFG Hosts 4th Annual MoonCatcher Sewing Bee!



The MoonCatcher Project
Removing barriers for girls

The fourth annual **MoonCatcher Sewing Bee** at NRC will be held in Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, February 12 from 6:30 - about 8:30 pm.**

The **MoonCatcher Project**, a Schenectady-based organization founded in 2011, provides free reusable, washable menstrual pads for girls in the poorest communities worldwide. These pads provide a way for girls to stay in school while menstruating, giving them a greater chance of completing their education. For more information, visit the MoonCatcher Project website at: www.mooncatcher.org

Even if you can't sew, you can participate in and enjoy a MoonBee. There are useful jobs for everyone, skilled or unskilled. All materials and equipment are provided. However, if you have a sewing machine that you would like to bring, more are always helpful. Good scissors come in handy and cotton fabrics are always welcome as well.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this fun way to help these young women.

Membership Committee

Eat, Drink and Share ... It's a Potluck!

We are having a potluck brunch and hope you'll come and bring a friend or family member. We'll provide coffee and juice.

If your last name begins A-L:

bring hot or cold brunch item

If your last name begins M-Z:

bring snacks, treats.

Hosted by: Membership Committee

Date: **February 10th**

Time: 10:45am-11:45am



FINANCE
COMMITTEE

Gain/Loss vs. Budget as of DEC 31, 2018

	<u>YTD Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Pledged Offerings	96,892	109,845	-12,953
Non-Pledged Offerings	87,862	99,431	-11,569
Loose Offering	6,630	6,000	630
Assessment Offerings	10,212	10,000	212
Paypal Receipts	19,818	13,000	6,818
Use of Facilities	54,699	52,500	2,199
Fundraising	13,618	13,250	368
Nursery School tuition	31,439	21,930	9,509
Interest - Dividends	2	0	2
Rentals	18,600	18,600	0
Children's Offering	133	0	133
Owed From Cemetery		0	0
Miscellaneous	5,034	0	5,034
From Operations	344,938	344,556	382

Finance Committee Report

FINANCIAL REPORT PAGE #2

	<u>YTD Expense</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Payroll	200,564	202232.7658	1,669
Professional	1,088	1000	-88
Office	6,627	6500	-127
Discipleship	1,077	1000	-77
Music	3,649	3600	-49
Worship	988	2000	1,012
Parish Life	1,404	1600	196
Congregational Care	0	100	100
Membership	36	900	864
Property	92,068	92000	-68
Nursery School	1,355	1200	-155
Denominational Assessment	20,289	20288	-1
Paypal	581	385	-196
History-Archives	250	250	0
Stewardship	559	1500	941
Interest Expense	13,206	13,200	-6
Principle Payment	32,742	32,800	58
Cemetery	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
	376,481	380,556	4,075

Actual	\$	(31,543)
Budget	\$	(36,000)
Ahead/Behind	\$	4,457

Mission and Service Committee

February 3rd Communion Collection:

Our Communion Collection for February will benefit The Schenectady City Mission. The City Mission exists to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our community. The Mission's goal is to provide "not only HELP for today, but HOPE for tomorrow" It reaches out to the needy by providing meals and shelter, offers an annual "Back to School Boost Program", provides a free, weekly medical clinic, provides clothing free of charge for people in need, and so much more! Members of NRC give of their time to serve dinner, donate school supplies and volunteer at the Christmas Toy Store. Let's give them our financial support as well. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead: March 3rd—Synod Ministries Board

January Collection

◆ Salvation Army - \$462 collected

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 **March 4th** 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://citymissionofscheneectady.volunteerhub.com/lp/all-events/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

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 coordination 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:

February 11, 2019 @ 7pm All are welcome

Please remember the needy, the hungry and the poor.

M & SC Annual Report

The M & SC would like to share with you how we supported numerous non-profit organizations and NRC with our Communion Collections, Special Collections and Fund Raisers during 2018. It is with **YOUR continued support** that we are able to reach out to others. We thank you for your generosity.

2018 Donations	Collected	Donated
Communion Donations	\$6,494	\$6,361.92 *
SICM "Soup-er Bowl"	\$603.35	\$603.35
SICM's Jubilee		\$200
Concerned for the Hungry	\$50	\$500
SICM Food Pantry	\$55	\$55
NRC	\$2803.30	\$2800
Hurricane Relief	\$825	\$850
Schenectady City Mission	Backpacks & school supplies	
Lions Club	Eyeglasses and hearing aids	
Salvation Army Soup Kitchen	\$713	\$1716.73
Colonie-Guilderland Rotary Club		\$100
Samaritan Counseling Center		\$250
TOTAL	\$11,543.55	\$13,434.90
Fundraising/Donations	Activity	Amount
March	Anonymous Donation	\$40
April	Garage Sale	\$587.50
April	Brooks BBQ	\$2,521.95
July	Donation to P. Kane	\$200
August	Brooks BBQ	\$2,803.30
TOTAL		\$6,152.75

*Some donations were received after the checks were issues.

Worship Committee

Attention all members of the greater consistory! The worship committee is looking for servers for communion on April 7th, May 5th and June 2nd. We also need a back up for Lynn DeSignore who faithfully prepares our communion each month. If you would like to help, please contact Suzi O'Brien at suzinuke@gmail.com or call her at 518-370-5801

Niskayuna Senior Center

Mondays

10-10:45 Zumba Gold
(NO Class on February 18)
11-12 Motion & Fitness—
(NO Class on February 18)

Tuesdays

- 9-12n Tom's computer class (1st & 3rd Tues each month)
- 9:15 - 9:45 am Tai Chi
- 10:00am- Cards, Bridge, Mahjong, and Wii Bowling
- 10:30 am Line Dancing
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 12:45 pm-2pm Afternoon Prog; Lectures, Trivia, Games, or Bingo

Thursdays

- 9:15 - 9:45am—Tai Chi
- 10:00 am- 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 @ TH

Fridays

- 10 am-12 pm- Beginner Mahjong
- 10 am-12 n- Open Art Studio

- 11am-12 pm-CDPHP Chair Pilates
- 10:30 am -Alz Support Group 1st Friday of the month

Upcoming Events

Tues, February 5

iPad Basics Class, 1pm, LL AND
Thursday, February 21st iPad Basics
Class, 10a, LL

Thursday February 14

Valentine's Day Meal and
Entertainment—Harp duo @11:30-
12:30

Thursday February 21

Art workshop-Kathy Kompas 7pm @
TH

Tuesday February 26

Speaker—Members Financial Services
Don Dorr @ 12:30 at Center

Wednesday February 27

Pottery Party at Arts Center of the
Capital Region in Troy

Thursday February 28

Eye Glass Check up by Walmart @
10:30 at 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

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

February

February 3rd 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Ushers- Jack Faddegon
Elaine O'Connell
Paul Szakats
Linda Matt
Counters- Alan Holmes
David Perlee
Paul Alois
Greeters- David & Joyce Anderson

February 10th 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Ushers- Bob & Tracy Sacca
John & Deborah Bennett
Counters- Norm Tellier
Steve Avveduti
Greeters- Keith & Carol Munro

February 17th 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Ushers- Jeff Rivenburg
Dug Jackson
Brian Maclutsky
Scott Haefner
Counters- Les Perlee
Suzi O'Brien
Greeters- Pat Zink

February 24th 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Ushers- Richard Mizenko
Bill McCann
Karen Moak
Jenny Politano
Counters- Paul Sullivan
Glenn Kreig
Greeters- Bob & Tracy Sacca



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 8:30 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
John Bennett
Linda Gardner
Dug Jackson
Trudy Lehner
Suzi O'Brien

Deacons

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

February

Friday, February 1

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, February 2

No events

Sunday, February 3

Communion

Mission-City Mission

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, February 4

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)
7 pm-CCC (L)

Tuesday, February 5

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

Wednesday, February 6

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Flute (101)
7 pm-Bells (M)

Thursday, February 7

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

Friday, February 8

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

Saturday, February 9

No events

Sunday, February 10

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

Monday, February 11

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
9:30 am-Wildwood (104)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
2:30 pm-Archives (L)
7 pm-M & SC (L)

Tuesday, February 12

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Flute (101)
6:30 pm-MoonCatcher
Sewing Bee (FH)

Wednesday, February 13

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

Thursday, February 14

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
9:30 am-Wildwood (104)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
7 pm-BS Leaders Mtg (104)
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

Friday, February 15

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

Saturday, February 16

10 am-WBG (Trudy Lehner's home)

Sunday, February 17

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, February 18

Office Closed
Winter Recess
7:30-6-TSL (FH/104)
6 pm-WA (104)
7 pm-SA (EO)

Tuesday, February 19

Winter Recess
7:30-6-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Flute (101)
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, February 20

Winter Recess
7:30-6-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Flute (101)
7 pm-Bells (M)

Thursday, February 21

Winter Recess
7:30-6-TSL (FH/104)
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

Friday, February 22

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

Saturday, February 23

No events

Sunday, February 24

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, February 25

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, February 26

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Flute (101)
6:30 pm-H & A (L)
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, February 27

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Flute (101)
7 pm-Bells (M)

Thursday, February 28

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

