

# MESSENGER

**Niskayuna Reformed Church**

**April 2019**

## Pastor Jason's message

One recent Sunday morning, as everyone was exiting from Sunday service, one member mentioned that the tulips were starting to come up, or at least trying to. As I glanced over, I saw the first signs of Spring life rising from the ground. Nature provides us images concerning death and life. The leaves fall from the trees in October, creating a barren landscape for us to view throughout the winter months. The hope we carry is that come Springtime, the leaves will once again return to those same trees. During the season of Lent we begin on Ash Wednesday, emphasizing our mortality, from dust we came to dust we shall return. This Lenten journey brings us all the way to the cross, an ancient symbol of cruelty, suffering, and death. That same cross is transformed into a symbol of new life because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. New life comes from death.

It is no accident that Easter happens during the Spring, even though many of us have experienced snowy Easter mornings. Spring is the time when new life rises from the ground, and from what was once barren. Easter reminds us that because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we also can be resurrected to new life. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Roman church, "...just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his." (Romans 6:4-5) Easter calls us to celebrate resurrection and then to go and practice resurrection life.

The truth about resurrection is that the old self is gone, and a new self has been born. Our lives should be indicative of that truth. I do not say this to induce shame on myself or anyone else, I say this to inspire all of us to live a resurrected life. Live a life that is reflective of the love, mercy, and grace that God has given to you. Live a life that demonstrates to the world love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. In doing that I believe we will continue to see new life rise from the dead.



## Birthdays

|    |                  |    |                 |    |                  |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Sharon Jackson   |    |                 | 23 | Mae Dillon       |
| 1  | Susan Ender      |    |                 | 25 | Sharon Thompson  |
| 7  | Ryan Autrey      |    |                 | 26 | Caroline Drapeau |
| 7  | Bob Sacca        |    |                 | 28 | Brenna Autrey    |
| 10 | Richard Munro    | 18 | Donna Nappi     | 29 | Sophia Mazza     |
| 13 | Addison Rizzi    | 19 | Robert Fear     | 29 | Samuel Mazza     |
| 16 | Gladys Hawthorne | 19 | Lauren Groudine | 29 | Fiona Tully      |
|    |                  | 20 | Cindy Nous      | 30 | Tony Pechulis    |



## Lenten Bible Study

A Lenten Bible Study is being offered. Each week there will be two offerings for the bible study: Monday @ 7pm and Thursday @ 1pm. The theme of the study will be Questions from Jesus. I will be using Matthew Croasnum's book, *Let Me Ask You a Question: Conversations with Jesus*, as a guide. There will be no need to buy the book. The last day of bible study is April 18. Please join us if you can.

## Easter Memorial Flowers

You may place orders for memorial Easter plants by contacting Sue Felpel at 518-372-0936 or [LSFelpel@yahoo.com](mailto:LSFelpel@yahoo.com), or in person at Church/coffee hours. Lilies/\$8 & azaleas/\$16. Make your check payable

to: **NRC**. The last day to order: **April 1st**. Plants may be claimed by donors anytime following the Easter Sunday service.



## Lenten Worship Schedule

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b><u>Palm Sunday</u></b>     | <b>April 14th @ 9:30 am</b>  |
| <b><u>Maundy Thursday</u></b> | <b>April 18th @ 6:30 pm</b>  |
|                               | Potluck in Fellowship Hall   |
| <b><u>Easter Sunday</u></b>   | <b>April 21st</b>  |
| Sunrise Service               | <b>6:00 am</b>   |
|                               | <i>Sunrise Service will take place at Lion's Park, along the bike path. A light breakfast to follow in Fellowship Hall</i> |
| Easter Service                | <b>9:30 am</b>   |
|                               | Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall   |

## Office News

Pastor Jason and staff wish you a blessed and holy Lenten season and Easter. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe.

Pastor Jason will be out of the office **April 29th- May 1st** for a training in Chicago. Contact the office if have any issues that require the need of a pastor while Jason is gone and Ellen can assist you.

## Women's Fellowship Group (WFG)

WFG meets on **Wednesday, April 10th** from 2-4 pm. They will be making something for the Easter baskets that will be delivered to our shut-ins. 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 **April 13th** at 10 am at Doris Alois' home. Please contact Doris with questions or if you need directions. *All are welcome!*

## News from the DeBlock's

Scott and I have thought about moving to a place where we love, is beautiful, where I can ski and Scott can golf and is near an international hub for us to fly to see the girls in Europe. Where is that idyllic place? The coast of Maine.

I'll be working at the Maine Medical Center and Scott is interviewing at a few Congregational churches in the area.

### New contact information

4 Fawn Run, Scarborough, ME, 04074

Heidi 518-368-7664/Scott 518-423-7901

Please keep in touch and come visit! We are 10 minutes from the beach and have plenty of room.  
Love, Heidi & Scott



### Thank you

Dear Reverend Fulkerson and NRC Church members,

On behalf of our mom, Dorothy Wallace, we want to thank you for your thoughtful contribution to Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Our mom supported all of us with love and thoughtfulness throughout her life and this organization surrounded her with love and kindness for three years.

We so appreciate your kindness in helping us continue to support their caring mission.

With grateful heart~

The Family of Dorothy Wallace  
Rick, Mary, Jim, Bill, Karen, Jeanne, Bill,  
Megan, Alison and Adrean and families

## Spring Clean Up



## Spring Clean Up

The Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for **Satur-**

**day, May 4th** at 9 am. Bring a rake and work gloves! Donuts & t-shirt for all participants. Questions, contact Ron Ricard at 518-488-1681.

## The Home Furnishings Program

### NEEDS OF THE MONTH

#### **Furniture:**

*Small flat desks*  
*Futons*  
*Recliners*  
*End tables*

#### **Furnishings:**

*Shower curtains, liners & hooks*  
*Hand towels & wash cloths*  
*Cooking pots/sauce pans:*  
*medium to large*  
*Toasters*  
*Metal baking pans*  
*Dish drainers*

**To donate, call Jamie Doriguzzi, Program Director, at 518-346-2444**

or email us at [homefurninc@aol.com](mailto:homefurninc@aol.com) to arrange for pick-up or warehouse drop-off of useful items.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

As of FEB 28, 2019

|                                    |           | <u>Actual</u> | <b>Income</b><br><u>Budget</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Offerings                          | \$        | 41,552        | \$ 32,419                      | \$ 9,133          |
| Use of Facilities                  | \$        | 8,270         | \$ 8,750                       | \$ (480)          |
| Nursery School                     | \$        | 7,106         | \$ 6,000                       | \$ 1,106          |
| Rental Income                      | \$        | 3,100         | \$ 3,100                       | \$ -              |
| Fundraising                        | \$        | (473)         | \$ 4,600                       | \$ (5,073)        |
| Other                              | \$        | 72            | \$ -                           | \$ 72             |
| <b>Operational Income</b>          | <b>\$</b> | <b>59,627</b> | <b>\$ 54,869</b>               | <b>\$ 4,758</b>   |
|                                    |           |               | <b>Expenses</b>                |                   |
| Payroll                            | \$        | 32,528        | \$ 31,702                      | \$ (827)          |
| Property                           | \$        | 21,450        | \$ 19,350                      | \$ (2,100)        |
| Mortgage (Principal & Interest)    | \$        | 7,504         | \$ 7,460                       | \$ (44)           |
| Denominational Assessment          | \$        | -             | \$ -                           | \$ -              |
| Office                             | \$        | 1,841         | \$ 1,540                       | \$ (301)          |
| Other                              | \$        | 1,536         | \$ 2,350                       | \$ 814            |
| <b>Operational Expenses</b>        | <b>\$</b> | <b>64,860</b> | <b>\$ 62,402</b>               | <b>\$ (2,458)</b> |
| Gain from Operations               | \$        | (5,233)       |                                |                   |
| Budgeted Loss                      | \$        | (7,533)       |                                |                   |
| Performance Vs Budget<br>2/28/2019 | \$        | 2,300         |                                |                   |

\*While the present operation deficit is less than budgeted, the amount of the deficit is primarily comprised of the income we had hoped to realize at the January Antique Show. Ideas for an alternative event or fund-raiser may be shared with members of Consistory for consideration."

## Mission and Service Committee

### **April 7th Communion Collection:**

Our Communion Collection for the month of April 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 30th.

**Looking ahead:** May 5th—**Camp Fowler**

### **March Collection**

- ◆ Synod Ministries Board - \$402 collected/\$400 donated

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** A big thank you goes out to the following NRC helpers for serving 170 dinners at the City Mission on Monday **March 4th**. Kim Cerone, Suzi O'Brien, Maureen Rizzi and Lizbeth Amorelli donated their time, energy and love to make a difference in their community, following in the way of Christ. NRC is blessed.

The next opportunity to serve is scheduled on Monday **May 6th** from 4:45-6:15. Please contact Michele Kopp at [mishcata@gmail.com](mailto:mishcata@gmail.com), if you are interested in volunteering. Sign-ups to volunteer must be done on-line at <https://citymissionofscheneectady.volunteerhub.com/lp/allevnts/events/index>

**SICM Emergency Food Pantry** The food pantry is in need of : travel size deodorant, toothpaste/brushes, shampoos, toilet paper, canned spaghetti sauce, canned tuna, boxed mac & cheese etc. 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 realize.

***Every donation impacts lives.***

### **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. Several full boxes have already been donated—Thank You!

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Schenectady City Mission**

May 6th, July 8th & September 9th

#### **Salvation Army Soup Kitchen-**

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 - April 16th (see attached flyer).**

**Mark your calendar for our other 2019 date: August 21st**

The April 16th BBQ will be between 3-6pm. 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. We would love to see some new faces!

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

### **Next Meeting:**

**April 8, 2019 @ 7pm All are welcome!**

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

# BROOKS B-B-Q



**Tuesday, April 16, 2019**

**3:00 - 6:00 pm (or sold out)**

———— TAKE OUT ONLY ————

**Niskayuna Reformed Church**

**3041 Troy Road, Niskayuna**

*[www.niskayunareformed.org](http://www.niskayunareformed.org)*





Christian  
Education

**CROP Walk  
2019**

The Christian Ed Committee at NRC invites families to participate in this year's CROP Walk, which will take place on Sunday, **May 5<sup>th</sup>**. The goal of the CROP Walk is to raise awareness of hunger issues here at home and around the world, as well as to raise money for hunger prevention. This year, the Schenectady area CROP Walk hopes to raise \$40,000 through 350 walkers.

The walk itself provides two optional routes – a 3 mile walk or a 1 mile walk. Refreshments are provided at the end of the walk, and every participant will receive a CROP Walk t-shirt. Those who raise over \$100 dollars will receive an additional prize. Come out and help us fight hunger!

For more information, or if you'd like to begin collecting, contact Laurie Bacheldor at (518)374-2683 ext. 103 or Sabrina at [christianed@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:christianed@niskayunareformed.org).

### **Camp Day**

Camp Fowler Staff will hold a Camp Day on **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, and the NRC Youth Group would love to have you join us! The event will take place at Lynnwood Reformed Church from 2pm-5pm. Activities will be indoors and outdoors (weather permitting). The event is geared toward 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Adults are welcome to come experience the fun and learn more about Camp Fowler!

If you're able to drive some of our kids, please contact Sabrina at [christianed@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:christianed@niskayunareformed.org).

### **Niskayuna Senior Center**

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday, April 9 @ 12:30** Pink Day wear pink/trivia

**Wednesday, April 10 @ 6:30** om Corks and Forks—painting and mac and cheese

**Thursday, April 11 @ 1 pm** Lecture by Blue Shield

**Tuesday, April, 16 @ 10 am** Crafts with Edie—decorating eggs, 1:00pm Abe Lincoln Trivia

**Thursday, April 18 @ 7pm** Open Art Studio @Center

**Tuesday, April 23 @ 12:30** Easter Traditions /History

**Thursday, April 25@ 10 am** Pet Therapy Dog—Sophie

**Thursday, April 25 @ 7pm** Zumba Basics Sponsored by the Glen Eddy

**Saturday, April 27 @12 pm** Collar City Craft Festival

**Tuesday, April 30 @ 10-12** Paint Along with Peggy



**Come join us**

# April

## April 7th 5th Sunday of Lent

**Ushers-** Bob & Tracy Sacca  
John & Deborah Bennett  
**Counters-** Paul Sullivan  
Gary Male  
Glenn Kreig  
**Greeters-** The Tully Family

## April 14th Palm Sunday

**Ushers-** Jeff Rivenburg  
Dug Jackson  
Brian Maclutsky  
Scott Haefner  
**Counters-** Norm Tellier  
Alan Holmes  
Steve Avveduti  
**Greeters-** Sue Felpel

## April 21st Easter

**Ushers-** Richard Mizenko  
Bill McCann  
Karen Moak  
Jenny Politano  
**Counters-** Alan Holmes  
Sharon Rice-Herbst  
Suzi O'Brien  
**Greeters-** Dug & Sharon Jackson

## April 28th 2nd Sunday of Easter

**Ushers-** John & Lynn DelSignore  
Harry & Cindy Kuchera  
**Counters-** Jeff Rivenburg  
Sue Felpel  
**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

## Contact Information

**Office:** 518-785-5575

### **Emails:**

office@niskayunareformed.org (Ellen-admin)

srpastor@niskayunareformed.org (Pastor Jason)

**Website:** [www.niskayunareformed.org](http://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



# April

## Monday, April 1

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-Bible Study (L)

## Tuesday, April 2

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

## Wednesday, April 3

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

## Thursday, April 4

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
9:30 am-Wildwood (K)  
1 pm-Bible Study (L)  
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## Friday, April 5

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

## Saturday, April 6

11 am-Consistory Retreat  
3 pm-CDDC (FH)

## Sunday, April 7

### Communion

### Mission-SA Soup Kitchen Expenses

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

## Monday, April 8

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

## Tuesday, April 9

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

## Wednesday, April 10

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

2 pm-WFG (L)  
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
7-Bells (M)

## Thursday, April 11

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

## Friday, April 12

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

## Saturday, April 13

10 am-WBG (Doris Alois' home)

## Sunday, April 14

### Palm Sunday

8:45 am-Sr. Choir (S)  
9:30 am-Worship Service (S)



9:45 am-Sunday School (EB)  
10:30 am-Youth Choir (M)  
10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)  
10:45 am-Cherubs (103)  
11 am-Confirmation Class (PO)  
11:15-3:15 pm-KCPC (S/FH)

## Monday, April 15

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)  
7 pm-Bible Study (PO)

## Tuesday, April 16

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

## Wednesday, April 17

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

## Thursday, April 18

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
9:30 am-Wildwood (K)  
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

6:30 pm-Maundy Thursday

**Potluck** (FH)  
7 pm-Bible Study

## Friday, April 19

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

## Saturday, April 20

No events

## Sunday, April 21

### Easter Sunday

6 am-Sunrise Service (Lion's Park)  
8:45 am-Sr. Choir (S)  
9:30 am-Easter Sunday Service (S)  
10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)  
11:15-3:15 pm-KCPC (S/FH)

## Monday, April 22

7:30-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
9:30 am-Wildwood (K)  
6 pm-WA (104)  
7 pm-SA (EO)

## Tuesday, April 23

7:30-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Flute (101)  
6:30 pm- H & A (L)  
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## Wednesday, April 24

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

## Thursday, April 25

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

## Friday, April 26

7:30-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
2:30 pm-Archives (L)  
6-9:30 pm-KCPC (S)  
7 pm-AA (104)

## Saturday, April 27

No events

## Sunday, April 28

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, April 29

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, April 30

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