

MESSENGER

Niskayuna Reformed Church

November 2019

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?" Luke 14:25-28

In February of this year I joined a local gym to engage in a healthier lifestyle. One of the benefits of joining this gym was an initial fitness assessment. This was the means by which one of the coaches at the gym would assess where I currently was on the fitness spectrum. It was presented as a way to help me achieve my goals. (Honestly, it was 25% that and 75% a way to sell me on upgrading to personal training, I digress.) If I knew where I currently was, then that would help me to get where I wanted to be. I felt like such a slouch that first time doing pushups, planks, and a wall hold. Yet, my coach was supportive throughout the assessment, helping me to avoid the shame of my physical state.

In order to get to where I wanted to be physically, the initial assessment helped us create a plan for how to get there. How many times did I need to come to the gym? What exercises did I need to do? Where did I need to improve the most? What kind of diet should I follow? All of these were important questions to answer for achieving future goals. I had to estimate what this goal was going to cost me. I had to think about what I needed to cut out of my diet, what I needed to add, and assess many other daily habits.

Whenever we assess our current reality, there is a high chance that we will feel some shame about where we are. We tend to focus on the things we haven't done or dreams we've abandoned. Yet, assessing our current reality is something we all must do. If we want to achieve a dream, a passion, a project, or to live a life that better reflects our faith, then we need to assess how life looks right now. If we don't, we will have no idea how to get where we need to go. Many times, the process of getting to that goal seems overwhelming to us but knowing where we are and where we want to go is the first step in getting there.

Jesus calls each one of us to live as his disciple. Based on what Jesus says throughout the gospel's, that life requires dedication and sacrifice. It is not an easy and comfortable life. What that looks like for each of us will be different. The goal to be a faithful disciple is the same, but the way we get there will look different. Each of us must assess our current reality, comparing that to where we would like to be. We can then think about the obstacles we will face to get where we'd like to be. This will seem overwhelming at times. We may fail. We may lose our way. We might have to step off that trail for a while. And then destination might change in the middle of it all. The point is to keep looking for that nudge of Jesus to where he is leading us.

Where do you sense Jesus is calling you to go? What has been stirred up in you recently that is making you think you need a change? I invite you to spend some time in prayer, meditation, and thought to discern what God might be doing in your life.

Pastor Jason



Birthdays

- 2 Karen Moak
- 3 Lyle Eldred
- 4 Kate Dranichak
- 6 Michelle Dillon
- 7 Kalyn Pezzano
- 7 Mia Theresa Pezzano
- 8 Chad Pezzano
- 10 Linda Burger

- 12 Matthew Faddegon
- 12 Kathy Dzamba
- 12 Marisa Hungershafer
- 14 Thomas Nappi
- 15 Paul Sullivan
- 18 Warren Carr
- 18 Charles Del Signore
- 19 Betty Mount
- 23 John Bennett
- 27 John Moak
- 27 Leslie Perlee
- 28 Maureen Rizzi

Anniversaries

- 2 Tony & Diane Pechulis
- 14 Warren & Carol Carr
- 19 Ryan & Marisa Hungershafer



Office News

The office will be closed on **November 11th**, in observance of the Veteran's Day and **November 27th & 28th** for Thanksgiving. Pastor Jason will be out of the office the week of November 25th-29th. Ellen will be out November 15th.



Pastor Jason and the staff would like to wish you a blessed and

thankful Thanksgiving with your friends and family.

New Members Class

There will be a New Members Class on **Sunday, November 17th** between 11am and Noon in the Pastor's Office. If you are interested in becoming a member or just knowing more about Niskayuna Reformed Church, please consider attending. Please RSVP with Pastor Jason in person or by email, srpastor@niskayunareformed.org

Thank you

To the NRC Family, Thank you all for the prayers, blessings and cards during this knee replacement and surgery. Recovery is going well! Your kindnesses are most appreciated.

~Maureen Rizzi

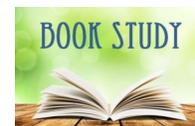


Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive on **November 8th** from 1-7 pm at the Niskayuna Fire Company. Walk-ins are welcome, or call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Book Study

Pastor Jason is having a book study that ends **Monday, November 18th** at 7pm. The study will be going through *The Bible Tells Me So* by Peter Enns. *The Bible Tells Me So* chronicles Enns's spiritual odyssey, how he came to see beyond restrictive doctrine and learned to embrace God's Word as it is actually written. You are welcome to join anytime. Please contact Pastor Jason with any questions.



Mission and Service Committee

Our Communion Collection for November is for The McKenna Courtesy Room at the Albany Airport. This organization was formed in 2010 and the mission of the non-partisan organization is to provide media entertainment, snacks and support in a comfortable, friendly environment to every member of our military who travel through Albany International Airport. Over 50,000 Service Members have benefitted from the hospitality of the Capt. John J. McKenna IV Military Courtesy Room since its opening on March 8, 2010! For more information please visit www.jmckennamilitarycourtesyroom.org Thank you!

Looking ahead: December 1st:
Operation At Ease

Communion Collections

September: Shelter Box
\$822 collected

October: Things Of My Very Own
\$580 collected

Once again, we appreciate the generosity of our congregation. If you have an organization near and dear to your heart that could benefit from one of the monthly communion collections, please let us know.

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.

SICM Emergency Food Pantry

For the month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving meals (*plastic containers*) as

well as 2020 calendars. Please consider making a donation to help combat food insecurity in our community. We will be collecting a different item each month.

Monetary donations are also welcome and can often purchase more food per dollar than we often realize. There is a green collection box in the narthex.

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!

2019 Volunteer Opportunities

Schenectady City Mission-

2020 dates: 1/7, 3/17, 5/11, 7/13, 9/14
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/allevnts/events/index>

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen-

November 19th

Time: 10:30 am-1:30 pm

2020 Dates: 4/21, 5/19, 6/6

UPCOMING M & SC Events

Next Meeting:

November 5th, 2019 @ 7pm

All are welcome

Please remember the needy, the hungry and the poor.

Women's Fellowship Group (WFG)

The WFG met and made the fleece blanket and pillow sets for the service members to use at the Military Courtesy Room at our Albany Intl. Airport. The blankets were presented to Captain McKenna during his visit to NRC. The Military Courtesy Room is our designated Mission offering for November.

Thank you also to Eileen Eldred for delivering the 18 flannel pillowcases to the Schenectady YWCA Women's Shelter. They were very grateful.

For the **November 13th** meeting, the WFG will be making Angel and German Bell (origami) ornaments. The WFG meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 2- 4 pm. All are welcome!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Schenectady Clergy Against Hate invites you to the third annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 24th! Worship will begin at 6:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady (1221 Wendell Ave, Schenectady). The service will feature prayers, music and small group conversation amongst folks of all faith traditions that call Schenectady home. The service will also feature an interfaith choir this year (please message us if you're interested in singing). And without a doubt, a DELICIOUS dinner will follow! Everything should be over by 8:00pm in order to make the event more family friendly! Please join us!

Finance Committee

After adjustments, (starting the 4th quarter of the year) we find ourselves with about a 17% greater deficit than what we had budgeted for 2019. This means that we have to dip further into our investment accounts in order to pay operational expenses. This is a trend we certainly

would like to change for the long-term health of our finances. Careful fiscal responsibility on the expense side of the balance sheet, along with the outstanding volunteer services of our members; help to control costs while still maintaining important church programs. Our income is in need of a significant boost, and how can we as members improve this picture?

The church is an important part of our spiritual life. As contributors, is it possible for each of us to consider an increase in weekly giving that will not unnecessarily overburden our personal finances?

The church is charged a Denominational Assessment which is a yearly fee for each of our members (green envelope in our envelope boxes \$101.74/per member for the year). When this is not paid by our members, the amount must be paid out of other church income. Please be certain that your fee is paid prior to the end of the year.

We have had an opportunity at the end of November of each year, to apply additional lump sum amounts (your "building fund" envelopes) to pay down our mortgage faster. If we were personally able to contribute money to this account over the next few weeks, it could have a significant effect upon lowering our mortgage expense for 2020.

Your church contribution is a very personal decision based upon your financial position. The information/suggestions presented above are meant only to inform you of the facts of our deficit position in the quest for a longer term healthy fiscal future for our church.

(see report on the following page)

Finance Committee Report

As of Sep 30, 2019

| | Income | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
| Offerings | \$ 160,002 | \$ 166,280 | \$ (6,278) |
| Use of Facilities | \$ 37,095 | \$ 42,000 | \$ (4,905) |
| Nursery School | \$ 26,350 | \$ 21,000 | \$ 5,350 |
| Rental Income | \$ 13,950 | \$ 13,950 | \$ - |
| Fundraising | \$ 4,842 | \$ 12,500 | \$ (7,658) |
| Other | \$ 508 | \$ - | \$ 508 |
| Operational Income | \$ 242,747 | \$ 255,730 | \$ (12,983) |

| | Expenses | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Payroll | \$ 153,721 | \$ 152,969 | \$ (752) |
| Property | \$ 66,512 | \$ 69,200 | \$ 2,688 |
| Mortgage (Principal & Interest) | \$ 33,768 | \$ 33,570 | \$ (198) |
| Denominational Assessment | \$ 17,425 | \$ 17,474 | \$ 48 |
| Office | \$ 7,483 | \$ 7,180 | \$ (303) |
| Other | \$ 7,884 | \$ 10,136 | \$ 2,252 |
| Operational Expenses | \$ 286,794 | \$ 290,529 | \$ 3,735 |

Gain from Operations \$ (44,047)

Budgeted Loss \$ (34,799)

Performance Vs Budget 9/30/2019 \$ (9,248)

**CHRISTMAS IS RIGHT AROUND THE
CORNER**
MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Memorial
Poinsettias**

You may place your order for memorial poinsettias by contacting

Sue Felpel at: 518-372-0936 or LSFelpel@yahoo.com or in person at church or at coffee hours. The cost is \$7 and the last day to order is **December 1**. Please make your check payable to **NRC** and send to the office.

Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on **Sunday, December 8th**, immediately following the service of worship. The 2020 Budget will be presented. Please plan on attending.

Christmas Concert

Our Annual Christmas Concert will take place on **Sunday, December 8th** at 3 pm. More information to follow!

**Christmas
Services**

December 22nd

@ 9:30 am—

Special Music
Sunday

December 24th

5 pm- Family Service featuring our Sunday School Children

11 pm- Candlelight Service featuring our Senior Choir



Christmas Caroling

You are welcome to join the Congregational Care Committee on any, or all of the following dates or times, to help spread some holiday cheer to some of our members and their friends. Please meet us in the lobby of the following facilities. We will begin singing at the times listed below:

Saturday, December 14th

1:30 pm Brookdale Niskayuna
(George Rice)
1786 Union Street
Schenectady, NY

2:30 pm Helen Friderici
2760 Troy Road
Schenectady, NY

3:15 pm Dick Waterfield
1025 WTRY Road
Niskayuna, NY

Friday, December 20th

6:45 pm Kingsway Manor
(Patricia & Rocky
Rockwood)
357 Kings Road
Schenectady, NY 12304

Kingsway Rehab
(Jane Green)

**For more information, contact
Barbara Valenti at 518-280-4578.**

Niskayuna Senior Center

Mondays

10am *SS Zumba Gold
(NO Class November 11 For Veteran's Day)

Tuesdays

- 9 am-12 pm Tom's Computer Class (1st & 3rd Tuesday each month)
- 9:15 am- 9:45 am Tai Chi
- 10 am- Cards, Bridge, Wii Bowling and Mahjong @1 pm
- 10:30 am Line Dancing
- 12:00 pm -Lunch: 12:30 pm-2 pm Afternoon Prog: Lectures, Trivia or Games
- 1pm MVP Chair Moves (No Class on November 26)

Thursdays

- 9:15 am -9:45am-Tai Chi
- 10 am- Cards, Bridge, and Wii Bowling
- 10:30 am- Bocce, Pickle Ball
- 12:00 pm-Lunch ; 12:30 pm-2 pm Afternoon prog, lectures, trivia or games
- 7:00 pm Balletone @ TH-November 14 & 21

Fridays

- 10 am-12 pm Beginner Mahjong
- 10 am Men's Grp (Nov. 1, Nov. 15)
- 10:30-11:30 am Alz Support Group (1st Fri of each month)
- 11 am-12 CDPHP Chair Pilates

The Niskayuna Senior Center will close for inclement weather when the **Niskayuna School District** is closed.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, November 5

10:00 am

Blood Pressure Screening - Baptist Health

11:00 am

Cornell Coop Extension Lecture

Thursday, November 7 12:15

CDTA STAR Bus presentation

12:30 Birthday Celebration

Wednesday, November 13

Trip to Palatine House Museum and shopping/lunch Grapevine Farms

Wednesday, November 13 7pm

" Ask the Experts" Panel @TH

Thursday, November 14 12:45

Dentistry Presentation

Thursday, November 19 12 noon

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Thursday, November 21 6:30 pm

Collage Workshop

****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

iPad Classes:

10 am Thurs. 11/7 NSC-LL

10 am Tues. 11/12NSC - LL

10am Fri. 11/15 NSC-LL

(NSC—Niskayuna Senior Center, LL—Lower level)

November

November 3rd 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Ushers- John & Trudy Lehner
Lizbeth Amorelli
Jennifer Fulkerson

Counters- Paul Alois
Kim Cerone
Glenn Kreig

Greeters- Rory & Bonnie Wood

November 10th 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Ushers- Glenn Kreig
Jon Waxman
Barbara Sim
Leo Lichtig

Counters- Alan Holmes
Suzi O'Brien

Greeters- Steve &
Lynne Barnard- Avveduti

November 17th 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Ushers- Jack Faddegon
Carol Carr
Linda Gardner
Linda Matt

Counters- Jeff Rivenburg
Norm Tellier

Greeters- Paul & Doris Alois

November 24th Christ the King Sunday

Ushers- Bob & Tracy Sacca
John & Deborah Bennett

Counters- Les Perlee
Leo Lichtig

Greeters- John & Deborah Bennett



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- Thursday 8 am - 3:30 pm

Friday 8 am - 1 pm

Staff

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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

November

Friday, November 1

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

Saturday, November 2

3 pm-CDDC (FH)

Sunday, November 3

Mission-McKenna Courtesy Room

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

Monday, November 4

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
9:30 am-Wildwood (K)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Violin (101)
6 pm-WA (104)
7 pm-SA (EO)
7 pm-Book Study (L)

Tuesday, November 5

5:15 am-General Election (FH/1)
7:30-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
4 pm-Flute (101)
7 pm-Boy Scouts (104)
7 pm-Property (EO)
7 pm-M & SC (L)

Wednesday, November 6

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

Thursday, November 7

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Violin (101)

Friday, November 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, November 9

Private event

Sunday, November 10

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

Monday, November 11

Office Closed
7:30-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
9:30 am-Wildwood (K)
4 pm-Violin (101)

6 pm-WA (104)

7 pm-SA (EO)

7 pm-Book Study (PO)

Tuesday, November 12

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Flute (101)
6:45 pm-SICM (FH)
7 pm-Boy Scouts (104)

Wednesday, November 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)
7:30-Senior Choir (S)

Thursday, November 14

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

Friday, November 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, November 16

12- Private event

Sunday, November 17

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

Monday, November 18

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
9:30 am-Wildwood (104)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Violin (101)
6 pm-WA (104)
7 pm-SA (EO)

7 pm-Book Study (L)

Tuesday, November 19

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

Wednesday, November 20

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

2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Flute (101)

7 pm-Bells (M)

7:30-Senior Choir (S)

Thursday, November 21

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

Friday, November 22

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

Saturday, November 23

No events

Sunday, November 24

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

Monday, November 25

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)
9:30 am-Wildwood (K)
2-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Violin (101)
6 pm-WA (104)
7 pm-SA (EO)

Tuesday, November 26

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

Wednesday, November 27

7:30-6 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Flute (101)
7:30-Senior Choir (S)

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving/Office Closed

Friday, November 29

Office Closed
6-9:30 pm-KCPC (S)
7 pm-AA (104)

Saturday, November 30

No events

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