

MESSENGER

Niskayuna Reformed Church

May 2021

This month's message is brought to you by the letter "C"

Some of my favorite words start with the letter **C**. Let's **c**onsider **c**ertainty and **c**onsistency to start with. Isn't it just so **c**omforting when you know exactly what is going to happen and why? Even more so when it has **c**onsistently been that way! Ahhhh- the routine is just so.... **c**alming, so **c**onsoling, and so **c**heering!

But reality isn't always so **c**ooperative, is it? Actually it seems as if **u**ncertainty is much more the norm for the human **c**ondition. Too often we find ourselves living lives we didn't necessarily sign up for. Politics can shake what we thought we knew. Hatred and terror arise in even the most benign places and (my absolutely LEAST favorite word) **C**ovid-19 disrupts every aspect of our daily and **c**ommunal lives. These make our times feel dark, **c**onfused and downright overwhelming. **C**onflict arises when uncertainty takes over...some of us may get **c**ranky or even **c**ombative in our attitude to try to **c**ontrol the uncontrollable, and we may find ourselves being **c**ritical of each other and overly sensitive to well meaning actions.

So what **c**an we do? What do we hang onto when we feel we are surrounded by **c**haos? Here is the **c**ritical truth to remember. There is no **u**ncertainty in God. God never **c**hanges "I am the Lord, I do not change" (Malachi 3:6). His love never **c**hanges "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). His holiness never **c**hanges "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8). His word never changes "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever," says the Bible (Isaiah 40:8).

We remember these truths and we pray. When our lives are shaken and disrupted we pray to our God, the **c**reator and sustainer of all things. When we are afraid and confused we pray to the Spirit which gives wisdom and strength,

Christ is our **C**reator, our **C**omforter and our light. Colossians 1:17 says "He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together".

Yes, life is uncertain; your leaders are fallible humans, but in **C**hrist all is **c**ertain. Our God is always with us.

Peace,

Suzi O'Brien

(your very fallible, very human VP of Consistory)

Birthdays

1 Scott Duesterdick
 2 Carol Munro
 2 Diane Pechulis
 7 Trudy Lehner
 7 Zackary Roth
 9 Joseph Pustay
 9 Linda Matt
 10 Ralph Ender
 10 Gladys Dockey
 11 Will Mizenko
 11 Paul Russell
 11 Brian Maclutsky
 12 Cindy Strassenburgh
 14 Joyce Anderson
 16 Elizabeth Penk
 17 Petie Mackintosh

17 Rory Wood
 19 Carolyn Neary
 21 Alexandra Mirel
 22 Deana Perlee
 24 Kathy Drapeau



25 Liam Clemmer
 25 Sue Lichtig
 26 Larry Felpel
 29 Tim Freligh

30 Anne Burger

Anniversaries

Mike & Suzi O'Brien 10
 Drew & Judy Henery 14
 David & Joyce Anderson 14
 Leo & Sue Lichtig 15
 Glenn & Adrean Kreig 25
 John & Karen Moak 26
 Alan & Betty Connelly 26

Women's Fellowship Group (WFG)

The WFG will meet again on **Wednesday, May 12** at 2:00 pm by Zoom. All are welcome! Login details will be sent separately - please let Trudy Lehner know if you'd like to join.

Women's Book Group (WBG)

The WBG will meet again on **Saturday, May 15** at 10:00 am, either via Zoom or at a TBD location if the weather cooperates. All are welcome - please contact Trudy Lehner for further details about location or Zoom login.



Thank you

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your many prayers and other expressions of support for our mom, Marianne Hustedt on her recent and ongoing medical issues. We feel God's love through all of you during this time and are grateful beyond words for your care. Bless you all, Trudy and John Lehner

A Couple Weeks left...

Join Janel Mirel for Walking Wednesdays!
 Let's meet up at Lions Park at 9:30 am, and get some fresh air!
 I will be there rain or shine, masked, and socially-distant.

The LAST session will be Wednesday, May 26th

Mission and Service Committee

May Mission of the Month:

Our Mission of the Month Collection for May will benefit Camp Fowler a Christian Camp and Retreat Center that is a non-profit children's camp grounded in openness, hospitality, and compassionate Christianity. Why spend a week at Camp? Maybe it's to find out that we are all connected and a line in an amazing world of wonders. Possibly it's to discover that there is more to you than you thought and that you can do things you never dreamed. Camp Fowler welcomes all children regardless of race, creed, color or sexual orientation. Your contribution will provide children with a life changing summer experience.

Thank you!

Looking ahead:

June-Northeast Regional Food Bank

Communion Collections

March: Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Expenses; collected \$250

A thank you note was received from Wildwood Programs.

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.

Did you know that you can make Mission of the Month Collections through the Church's Web Site? There is now a dedicated Mission donation selection for the Pay Pal contributions.

SICM Emergency Food Pantry

We are still collecting disposable adult and child sized face masks. For the month of May, the theme will be "Let's Do

Lunch" and we will be collecting things like —peanut butter, jelly, tuna, soups, single serve macaroni and cheese, SpaghettiOs. There are collection boxes in the Education building for donations.

The SiCM Souper Bowl event raised \$10,615 in total and 200+ pounds of food was donated from many organizations who participated—thank you again to those from NRC who donated to this cause.

The Food Pantry is now accepting volunteers - call the pantry at 518-346-4445 for more information.

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.

2020 Volunteer Opportunities

Schenectady City Mission-

Currently the volunteer opportunities for serving dinner are on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions. But there are still ways you can get involved. Please see the following to learn more

<https://citymission.com/get-involved/>

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen-

May 19th will be the next date. It will again be a prepackaged bagged lunch. Please reach out to Barb Valenti or Sue Lichtig if you would like to volunteer.

UPCOMING M & SC Events

Brooks BBQ-**August 18th**

Next Meeting:

May 10, 2021 @ 6pm (location: TBD)

All are welcome

Please remember the needy, the hungry and the poor.

Brook's BBQ

On behalf of the Mission and Service Committee, I would like to thank all the volunteers that extended their helping hands for the Brook's BBQ on April 21st. We had 20 people inside and out, and everything ran smoothly. We could not have had the success we did without you. I would also like to thank the congregation for their support the day of the BBQ. Through yours and the community's generosity we were able to sell 105 halves and 695 dinners. We made a profit of \$3373.25. We know that we could have sold more, but because of the inclement weather we decided to just sell the original 800 we had committed to.

I will be looking for volunteers for our next "Brooks" BBQ **August 18, 2021**, and hope that you will join in the fun.

Stay safe and healthy...

Kim Cerone, BBQ Chairperson

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

Because of COVID-19, the Salvation Army dining hall has not been open for eat-in lunches. On April 14th, NRC volunteers prepared bag lunches for those in need of food. We delivered 60 take-out bag lunches to the Salvation Army facility for distribution on April 15th. With many people taking advantage of the regional food banks for their food supplies, the amount of lunches provided is about half of the 150 we would normally prepare. However, the cost is about the same because we need items such as paper bags, plastic utensils, plastic baggies, and individualized condiments and drinks.

NRC volunteers gathered in our Education Building to prepare the bag lunches which consisted of a turkey and cheese sandwich, veggies/dip, chips, fruit, pudding and apple juice. Thanks to Lynn Del Signore, Sue Felpel, Linda Gardner, Sue Lichtig, and Barbara Valenti who prepared the lunches.

We will continue following the same procedure with bag lunches until the dining room re-opens and the schedule going forward is made available. The next date we will be providing a bag lunch is **May 19th**. Please contact Sue Lichtig (518-785-4574) or Barbara Valenti (518-280-4578) if you would like to volunteer to help pack bags. Please watch the Messenger for information on future dates.

Niskayuna Senior Center

Exercise Update:

11a Mon CDPHP Zoom Zumba & In House May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th*

11a Wed SilverSneakers ZOOM Zumba May 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

11a Fri CDPHP Zoom Chair Pilates May 7th, 14th, 21st

Monthly Activities:

- Thursday, May 6th @ 12:30 Talk about Mother's Day
- Thursday, May 6th @ 1:00pm Crafts w/Edie
- Thursday, May 13th @ 12:30 Florence Nightingale discussin and trivia
- Thursday, May 13th @ 1:00pm Art w/Edie
- Thursday May 20th @ 12:30 Ameila Earhart's Solo Fight Discussion and Trivia
- Saturday, May 22nd Defensive Driving 9-3

Save the Date

11TH ANNUAL

Camp Fowler Golf Tournament

MONDAY, JULY 5TH 2021

THE EDISON CLUB
REXFORD, NY

Additional Information to Follow

Contact Josey with Questions:
sjbeird@gmail.com





[Directions to access the Members' Directory on the NRC Website](#)

Step 1 – www.niskayunareformed.org

Step 2 – Once in the website, scroll all the way to the bottom. In the gray area, look at *Quick Links* (second column). The last thing on the bottom of the list is **Members area**. Click on that.

Step 3 – It will ask you to login. You should use your username or email and Password. If you don't have your password, hit "lost password" and it will instruct you to get a new one.

Step 4 – Now that you are signed in, it will say *Members*. In red, you will find *Members directory*; click on that.

Step 4A. If nothing opens, right click on the Member Area icon and choose the first option – Open Link in a New Tab

Step 5 – Either a box will come up that says *password*, OR you might get a PDF icon that shows up at the bottom left of the screen which is labeled *73946564 church...pdf*. Click on that, then it will ask for the password
Enter *Password* – **DO NOT USE YOUR PERSONAL PASSWORD** – Everyone needs to type the following in either the box or the pdf: **password**

Once you type the word **password**, hit Submit and the directory will come up.

The directory is for members only which is why it is secured.

If any member has address, phone number or email changes to update the directory please contact the Church Office to make those changes.

If you have any questions, please call the Church Office and someone will get back to you.

Finance Committee

We are pleased to report that we have completed the first quarter of 2021 significantly ahead of an expected budget loss. Contributing factors include: early receipt of some yearly pledged contributions, property expenses below projected budget, and decrease in payroll costs.

We are truly blessed with folks who are able to unselfishly continue to give of their time, talents, and financial contributions toward the critical spiritual life of the church in these difficult times. Thank you to all!

As of March 31, 2021

	Income			
	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offerings	\$ 60,917	\$	52,620	\$ 8,297
Use of Facilities	\$ 11,278	\$	12,000	\$ (722)
Nursery School	\$ 7,059	\$	6,600	\$ 459
Rental Income	\$ 4,950	\$	4,950	-
Fundraising	\$ -	\$	-	-
Other	\$ 0	\$	-	0
Operational Income	\$ 84,205	\$	76,170	\$ 8,035
	Expenses			
Payroll	\$ 42,988	\$	48,835	\$ 5,847
Property	\$ 16,708	\$	26,000	\$ 9,292
Mortgage (Principal & Interest)	\$ 9,165	\$	9,330	\$ 165
Denominational Assessment	\$ 3,509	\$	3,500	\$ (9)
Office	\$ 2,152	\$	2,800	\$ 648
Other	\$ 2,345	\$	2,550	\$ 205
Operational Expenses	\$ 76,867	\$	93,015	\$ 16,148
Gain from Operations	\$ 7,338			
Budgeted Loss	\$ (16,845)			
Performance Vs Budget 3/31/2021	\$ 24,183			

May 2021

Saturday, May 1

No events

Sunday, May 2

Communion

Mission– Camp Fowler

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)

10:45 am-Coffee Hour

9:45 am-Sunday School (PO)

11 am-Sunday School (Zoom)

Monday, May 3

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

Tuesday, May 4

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, May 5

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

10 am-Mid-week Coffee Hour

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-Bells (S)

Thursday, May 6

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

Friday, May 7

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-AA

Saturday, May 8

No events

Sunday, May 9

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)

10:45 am-Coffee Hour

9:45 am-Sunday School (PO)

11 am-Sunday School (Zoom)

Monday, May 10

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

Tuesday, May 11

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, May 12

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

10 am-Mid-week Coffee Hour

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

2 pm-WFG

7 pm-Consistory

7 pm-Bells (S)

Thursday, May 13

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

Friday, May 14

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-AA

Saturday, May 15

10 am-WBG

Sunday, May 16

Bells Sunday

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)

10:45 am-Coffee Hour

9:45 am-Sunday School (PO)

11 am-Sunday School (Zoom)

Monday, May 17

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

Tuesday, May 18

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, May 19

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

10 am-Mid-week Coffee Hour

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

Thursday, May 20

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

Friday, May 21

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-AA

Saturday, May 22

No events

Sunday, May 23

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)

10:45 am-Coffee Hour

9:45 am-Sunday School (PO)

11 am-Sunday School (Zoom)

Monday, May 24

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

Tuesday, May 25

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

6:30 pm-H & A (L)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, May 26

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

10 am-Mid-week Coffee Hour

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

Thursday, May 27

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

Friday, May 28

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

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

7 pm-AA

Saturday, May 29

No events

Sunday, May 30

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)

10:45 am-Coffee Hour

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day

Please Note:

When no room is included after an event, it will take place on Zoom Sunday Service is available online too. Contact the church office if you have not been receiving the online information and wish to join us remotely.

CCC- Congregational Care

CM- City Mission

H & A- History & Archives

M & SC-Mission & Service

SA-Salvation Army

WFG-Women's Fellowship Group

WBG-Women's Book Group