

# MESSENGER

***Niskayuna Reformed Church***

***June 2021***

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*Looking Forward....Together*

The weather is warming, the May flowers have bloomed and we have finally been able to get outside and breathe the spring air.

There have been a few other things happening during May which made us rejoice. We have had TWO baptisms, Camden Rockefeller and Benjamin Butler. In addition, their awesome parents Melyssa and Jeffrey, and Lindsay and Timothy, respectively, have joined our church family. We were also able to hold some small group sessions with facilitators from Samaritan Counseling Center, during which the grace and strength of our church family were apparent.

In OTHER news, COVID-19 numbers are the lowest in a year and vaccinations are moving right along. Because of this, some of the state restrictions have loosened and (under safe conditions) many can begin to go mask-less. What a joy it has been to see some more smiling faces on Sunday!

That being said, as we tip-toe towards a “new normal”, there are still many steps to take and logistics for us all to consider. For instance, Children’s Day on June 13<sup>th</sup> will look quite a bit different; no cherubic voices lifting up song, and we will leave the ushering to the “grown-ups” We will, however, still offer ice cream after church to celebrate the children of all ages. We also want to take advantage of the summer weather to plan some *modified, outdoor* coffee fellowship time. We may not have the “full spread” of goodies, but it will be an opportunity for us to visit and enjoy each other’s company. Indoor coffee hours are a bit more problematic at this point, but we are hopeful we can find a way forward.

Christian Ed is also looking at ways to safely hold more classes in September, realizing that much of what we can do will likely be based on what the school systems are doing. Also, the Consistory is looking at the feasibility of holding a Flea Market in September. Both of these items (Sunday School and a major fund-raising event) will require flexibility, planning and many, MANY volunteers, but I am confident that we can work together to make them a reality.

It’s been a tough year but this NRC family of God is STRONG in the Lord. Paul encourages our tenacity in Philippians 3:12-14 (*The Message* translation) *“I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back”*. He also reminds us to *“..not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.”* (Gal 6:9-10).


With Grace and Gratitude for you all,

Suzi O’Brien

## Birthdays

2 Scott DeBlock  
2 JoeAnne Tully  
5 Tristan Gartner  
5 Emma Neary  
6 Rock Rockwood  
8 Andrew Groudine  
10 Jim Friderici  
12 Marjorie Hageman  
13 Peter Brownsey  
16 Barbara Sim  
17 Ann Duncan  
17 Mike Mason  
17 June Peterson  
20 Sally Perlee

20  
20  
21  
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24  
  
25  
25  
30  
30  
30

Hope Waxman  
Hailey Waxman  
Jeff Rivenburg  
Maya Lembo  
Christina Pustay  
  
Elizabeth Mazza  
Ned Spain  
Ava Nagy  
Les Perlee  
Caroline Pustay

## Anniversaries

Bob & Tracy Sacca 1  
Scotty & Jan Clark 14  
  
Robert & Donna Stewart 20  
John & Deborah Bennett 21  
Peter & Donnie Brownsey 26  
Jon & Kim Waxman 26  
Charles & Karen Goddard 29

happy  
ANNIVERSARY

**Women's Fellowship Group (WFG)**— The WFG will meet again on **Wednesday, June 9th** at 2:00 pm and location is TBD. All are welcome!

**Women's Book Group (WBG)**— The WBG will meet again on **Saturday, June 19** 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.

IN LOVING  
♥  
*memory*

We are pleased to announce that a plaque in memory of Bob Gardner has been installed on the door to the video and sound equipment in the narthex. We are not only extremely grateful for Linda's generous gift to commemorate her husband, we are grateful for the man who inspired it. Bob will always be remembered as a devoted and committed member of the NRC Church family.

## Office News

Ellen will be on vacation **July 3rd-July 18th**. There will be someone in the office on July 8th & July 15th to answer the phones. If you have an emergency, please contact Suzi O'Brien at 518-370-5801 or [suzinuke@gmail.com](mailto:suzinuke@gmail.com). If you have a non-emergency need, please contact Rick Wallace at 518-951-4596.

All items for the July Messenger and July 4th, July 11th & July 18th bulletins, need to be submitted to Ellen by **June 21st**. Thank your attention to this matter!!!

## Mission and Service Committee

### June Mission of the Month:

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit the **NE Regional Food Bank**. The Food Bank has been helping to feed the poor and hungry in our communities since 1982. It is the only organization of its kind in northeastern New York. The Food Bank collects large donations of food from the food industry and distributes it to charitable agencies serving hungry and disadvantaged people in 23 counties. From Plattsburgh to Newburgh, in urban, rural, and suburban communities, the Food Bank provides over 55 million pounds of food a year to 1,000 agencies. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**Looking ahead:** July — RCA affiliated

### Communion Collections

April: Safe Inc of Schenectady - collected \$125 donated \$TBD

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 June, 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 Food Pantry is now accepting volunteers - call the pantry at 518-346-4445 for more information or email volunteer@sicm.us 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/>

#### SiCM Summer Lunch Program

Summer will soon be upon us and SiCM's summer lunch program is gearing up for a busy season, providing lunches for our youth in Schenectady county. Additional communities have been added including Niskayuna and Scotia, making their numbers even higher than in previous years. Their biggest need for volunteers this summer is in the packing of lunches for the vans to deliver.

Lunches will be packed at SiCM's food pantry site on Albany Street in Schenectady, Monday-Friday from 8-11AM. We have been given the week of **July 26-30** to help out. It was suggested we aim for minimum of 5 volunteers each day from our church.

Please consider joining us in this much needed endeavor. Please email Michele Kopp at [mishcata@gmail.com](mailto:mishcata@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Currently we need one helper on Monday the 26th, two on Tuesday the 27th, one on Wednesday the 28th, two on Thursday the 29th and three on Friday the 30th.

#### Salvation Army Soup Kitchen-

**June 24th** is our 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 on June 23rd to help pack the lunches.

### UPCOMING M & SC Events

**Brooks BBQ 2021— August 18th**

**We will be looking for volunteers very soon!**

**Next Meeting: June 7, 2021 @ 6pm**

**All are welcome**

Tidbits from the NRC Archives  
**Words Matter**

[The following excerpt are from the NRC Consistory minutes in our archives. Note that the names have been replaced with Mr. A and Mr. B.]

**1818. Sept. 26th. The consistory having heard with regret, by publick Report that Mesrs. A and B, members in full communion of this Church. have been guilty of unbecoming and unchristian walk and conversation by appearing at a place of sinfull and wicked resort. They Resolved to institute an inquiry and deal with them as the case may demand**

No additional details of the “publick Report” were provided. Use your imagination. Two months later, on November 19, 1818:

**Mr. A appeared before the Consistory, and being Dissatisfied with the Consistory for making minutes of the proceedings had in his case on the 26th of September 1818, profered a request to the Consistory, for them either to distroy the aforesaid minutes or to dismiss him from the communion and jurisdiction of the Church;**

After consideration, the consistory did neither. The controversy continued for another five months. The consistory was prohibited from destroying official minutes of meetings, so in order to accommodate Mr. A’s concerns, they agreed to expand the details of the incident in the April 10, 1819 minutes:

**Mr. A was charged by publick report of appearing ... at the Tavern of Mr. B at a time when there was exhibited, feits of legerdemain\* and at the same time a Frolick, or to use a more fashionable expression a Ball, by a mixed multitude; and furthermore that Mr. A had been active in the exercises of the night, not only in witnessing the feits of the juggler, but also appeared on the dancing floor and mixed with the multitude ... This was the charge, as it came to the ears of Consistory by publick report**

In other words, he watched a juggler and danced in mixed company. The enhanced minutes of April 10 produce a very different image of Mr. A’s activities than the September 26 minutes.

**Words matter.** Proverbs 22:21 teaches “to be honest and to speak the truth, so that you bring back truthful reports to those you serve.”

Finally, the Consistory determined that no disciplinary action was needed and Mr. A was apparently satisfied with the above solution.

Just so you don’t get the impression that this view of public dancing was just an issue at NRC, about 100 years later the April 17, 1921 Times Union reported that the Albany police chief “directed his department to keep a careful watch over dance halls and to curb any form of ‘alleged dancing which may border on immorality.’”

\* Sleight of hand



## Salvation Army Soup Kitchen — May 19th

Many thanks to Sue Lichtig who shopped for food, and to her grandson Elijah McCarty who sorted and wrapped plastic utensils. Volunteers gathered the day before the event to make turkey and cheese sandwiches, and bag both condiments and veggies. Those items along with chips, fruit, pudding and apple juice were then put in paper bags by Lynn DelSignore, John DelSignore, Sue Felpel, Joan Peebles and Barbara Valenti.

The 60 bags of food were delivered to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen for distribution the morning of May 19<sup>th</sup>. We were welcomed at the Salvation Army Headquarters with open arms, big smiles and many thanks.

As always, this mission and others supported by the Mission & Service Committee could not be successful without the wonderful support of the congregation at our barbeque fund raisers and the monthly collection donations.

The next soup kitchen date will be June 24th. Food will continue to be in the form of bagged lunches. We will be looking for volunteers to help prepare the food on **June 23rd**. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sue Lichtig at [susanlichtig@gmail.com](mailto:susanlichtig@gmail.com) or Barbara Valenti at [barbvalenti@nycap.rr.com](mailto:barbvalenti@nycap.rr.com).

## Niskayuna Senior Center

### Tuesdays:

9am-12 pm Tom's Computer Class  
(1st & 3rd Tues of each mo.)  
10a Tai Chi  
10a - 2p Open for Indoor/Outdoor Socialization  
Coffee service\*  
10:00 am– Cards, Bridge  
12:00pm– Gershon's, BYOL and coffee service  
1p MVP Zoom Chair Moves 10 In House or Zoom  
\*NO Tues 6/29\*

### Thursdays:

10a Tai Chi  
10a - 2p Open for Indoor/Outdoor Socialization/  
Coffee service\*  
10:00 am– Cards, Bridge, Bocci avail  
12:00pm– Gershon's, BYOL and coffee service  
1:00pm-The Eddy Health Alert Zoom Chair Yoga &  
In House June 10, 17 & 24\*

### Exercise Update:

11a Mon CDPHP Zoom Zumba & In House June 7,  
14, 21 & 28\*  
11a Wed SilverSneakers ZOOM Zumba June 2, 16,  
23 & 30 \*NO Wed 6/9

11a Fri CDPHP Zoom Chair Pilates June 4, 11, 18  
\*NO Fri 6/25

Classes such as chair pilates, chair yoga, etc remain available on ZOOM. You can email Edie for registration, dates and times @ [ecanni-zo@niskayuna.org](mailto:ecanni-zo@niskayuna.org). Pilates, yoga, walks & art are available on YouTube at 'Niskayuna Seniors'

### Monthly Activities:

The first Thursday of the month at 11am, starting June 3<sup>rd</sup> Book group starting June- "This Tender Land" by William Kent Kruger  
Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 12:30 Birthday Celebration  
Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 1p Art & Crafts w/Edie  
Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> @ 11a The Eddy Senior Care PACE - blood pressure  
Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 Radio Sports Day Trivia

*Contact tracing, temperatures, name and phone numbers as well as masks and "social distancing protocols" will be required.*

*Dates for Exercise Classes scheduled inside are tentative, and subject to change. These classes may continue on Zoom, based on recommendation from NYS, Schenectady County and The Town of Niskayuna.*

**Niskayuna Senior Center**  
2682 Aqueduct Rd, Niskayuna, NY 12309  
518 372-4969

## BOOK CLUB FORMING

The first Thursday of the month at 11am, starting June 3rd.

June- "This Tender Land" by William Kent Kruger

July- "Cutting the Stone" by Abraham Verghese

August- "The Winds" by Kristen Hannah

You can get a copy of these books at your local library.

Also available online through **APPS**

**Libby**-for ebooks

**Hoopla** by Schenectady County Public Library

For more information you can call Pam Madej at 518-424-4123

Or call the NSC at 518 372-4969

All Covid-19 Protocols Followed, Masks required at all times.

# THE NEED IS CONSTANT



# THE SUPPLY IS NOT

*Niskayuna Reformed Church is hosting a Blood Drive on Saturday, June 5th at 8am.*

*The need for blood products doesn't stop for holidays or take a summer break. The Red Cross is thanking all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma 5/28-6/13 with a limited-edition T-shirt (ltd qty). Make it a summer full of life: Give blood.*

*To schedule an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to sign up to give blood!*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

# June 2021

## **Tuesday, June 1**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## **Wednesday, June 2**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-Mid-week Coffee Hour  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

## **Thursday, June 3**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Violin (102)

## **Friday, June 4**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
7 pm-AA

## **Saturday, June 5**

8 am-Red Cross Blood Drive (FH)

## **Sunday, June 6**

### **Communion**

### **Mission– NE Regional Food Bank**

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)  
10:45 am-Coffee Hour  
9:45 am-Sunday School (PO)  
11 am-Sunday School (Zoom)

## **Monday, June 7**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Violin (102)  
7 pm-M & SC (L)

## **Tuesday, June 8**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## **Wednesday, June 9**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-Mid-week Coffee Hour  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

2pm-WFG

7pm-Consistory (L)

## **Thursday, June 10**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

## **Friday, June 11**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
7 pm-AA

## **Saturday, June 12**

No events

## **Sunday, June 13**

### **Children's Day**

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)  
10:45 am-Coffee Hour  
9:45 am-Sunday School (PO)  
11 am-Sunday School (Zoom)

## **Monday, June 14**

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Violin (102)

## **Tuesday, June 15**

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

## **Wednesday, June 16**

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
10 am-Mid-week Coffee Hour

## **Thursday, June 17**

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Violin (102)

## **Friday, June 18**

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

## **Saturday, June 19**

8 am-Blood Drive (FH)  
10 am-WBG

## **Sunday, June 20**

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)  
10:45 am-Coffee Hour

## **Monday, June 21**

1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Violin (102)

## **Tuesday, June 22**

11-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

## **Wednesday, June 23**

10 am-Mid-week Coffee Hour  
11-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

## **Thursday, June 24**

10-Soup Kitchen  
11-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

4 pm-Violin (102)

## **Friday, June 25**

7 pm-AA

## **Saturday, June 26**

No events

## **Sunday, June 27**

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)  
10:45 am-Coffee Hour

## **Monday, June 28**

7:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Violin (102)

## **Tuesday, June 29**

7:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

## **Wednesday, June 30**

7:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
10 am-Mid-week Coffee Hour

### **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*