

MESSENGER

Niskayuna Reformed Church

October 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you to all who participated in the attendance survey. We had 99 total respondents. Here is an overview of many of the questions. A detailed and graphic response can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-796FYFX9/> (you will need to copy and paste this link in order to view it!!)

While there are clearly other mitigating factors for people not returning to church, the majority of respondents (58%) wish to stay away from indoor gatherings while Covid-19 transmission rates are high. 56% of those not attending live services are concerned about their health and safety, while only 14% are not attending while we have masking requirements in force. We continue to pray for all of our safety and decreasing impact on our Church family resulting from the pandemic.

We were concerned that people were not attending because we don't have an installed pastor, but that is not a concern for 78% of the respondents.

We have included a table on the next page detailing reasons other than COVID that respondents gave for not attending in person. You may note that there are some respondents who have moved or are attending other places of worship. Our love and care remain for those brothers and sisters wherever they may be.

We do ask that if you have moved on, you please contact the church office to let us know the current status of your membership (eg, inactive or removed) and let us know if you wish to remain on our mailing list.

We pray that our in person and online presence will bless you and keep us all connected in faith

Grace and Peace to you,

Your Consistory

I attend periodically mainly because I am out of town. I also feel having a full time minister would help bring more people back in. I know it is not an easy task to find a minister let alone a good fit
moved
Moved; use YouTube
Being overprotective to be able to attend a wedding
Recovering from surgery
Just lazy, I guess.
Attending another church
Health problems
Since Reverend Scott DeBlock, his family, other friends and families have left the Church We do not feel welcomed
Distance
Waiting for new Pastor and new Head of Music.
No
It's been summertime and I don't usually go regularly.
No other reason. Have been able to use youtube.
I was about to start coming in person when the Delta variant uptick took hold. If a conflict keeps me from watching Sunday morning I may watch it another time. I think you've done a great job having the service available for viewing. I take as few chances as I can with Covid exposure.
Sometimes I prefer to engage in the spiritual mindset of the Bible and sermon and avoid the social aspects of church life. I feel that if I attend in person, I will feel compelled to do coffee hour and be asked why I am not volunteering at events. Maybe this has changed but that is why I stopped attending in person before COVID. Now I can still worship online when I choose to.
Moved and Sunday school not during the summer.
Work for my brother from mid-July to end of October.
Moved. Would like to continue receiving e-mail but should be listed as inactive.
To protect others, not just me.
Thinking about resuming - honestly fell a little out of the habit during Covid, which was the original reason I stopped.
my daughter is 10 and can't get the vaccine so we are trying to limit exposure
We live 3hours away from the church

Birthdays



- 2 Robert Stewart
- 3 Sarah Nagy
- 3 Jean Bursor
- 4 Anthony Levitto
- 4 Jerry Beck
- 4 Edward Van Buren
- 5 Lester Denison
- 6 Mia Bianchi
- 6 Gregory Drapeau
- 7 Donnie Brownsey
- 11 Sharon Aupperle
- 11 Ashley Pechulis
- 12 Nancy Cook
- 15 Aidan Rizzi
- 15 Betty Engler
- 17 Harry Kuchera
- 17 Roy Pederson

- 19 Carol Holmes
- 19 Dorilee Male
- 20 Leo Lichtig
- 23 Karen Goddard
- 24 George Nagy
- 26 Sandy Rivenburg
- 26 Eileen Eldred
- 29 Kathleen Stein
- 31 Suzi O'Brien

Anniversaries



- Tim & Linda Freligh 3
- Rory & Bonnie Wood 4
- Nick & Marcia Siver 5
- Tom & Melissa Henery 8

- John & Jill Ennis 10
- Adam & Sarah Henery 11
- Jim & JoeAnne Tully 12
- Tom & Maureen Rizzi 13
- Larry & Sue Felpel 18
- Michael & Kim Cerone 21

CORRECTION:

Please note Marcia Siver's (Cindy Strassenburgh's daughter) birthday was last month and I accidentally forgot to include. If you want to send her a belated birthday wish, it was September 18th!! I apologize for the oversight!

October Ushers Schedule

- 10/3- Glenn Kreig & Barbara Sim**
- 10/10-Jack Faddego & Linda Matt**
- 10/17-Bob & Tracy Sacca**
- 10/24-Brian Maclutsky & Scott Haefner**
- 10/31-Lizbeth Amorelli & Joan Peebles**



Covid Update

The level of community transmission remains high in most of New York State; specifically in Schenectady, Albany and Saratoga counties where our congregants live. Because of this, the CDC recommends indoor masking for all- even those who are vaccinated. We ask for your continued care for each other by masking during church services and

when not eating at Coffee Fellowship Hours. We pray that with Boosters becoming available, and vaccinations for children coming soon that the transmission numbers will begin to decrease.

Hidden in Plain Sight - the NRC Library

Have you ever noticed the row of shelving along the wall of the main hall on the lower level of the NRC Education Building? Long a dream for NRC, space was included for a Church Library in the plans for the new Education Building that was completed in 2005!

Over the past 16 years, many members and families have enjoyed browsing the shelves to find books of interest to them. On the shelves you will find books of entertaining fiction and non-fiction, inspiration, humor and poetry...even a few DVDs and music CDs. Noted authors have written about our human problems and concerns and may help during difficult times. There are stories for children, as well as bible stories to reinforce those Sunday School messages.

You may have read earlier this summer that members of the NRC Women's Fellowship Group spent time with Karen Goddard, librarian, to sort the books and media and freshen up the shelving units. Contents have been rearranged and new labeling has been added to the shelves since then.

We have also updated the list of library holdings and are now glad to share this file with you! You may request an electronic copy of the list from the Church Office (office@niskayunareformed.org or 518-785-5575). We will also be posting the list on the website and a hard copy near the library in the near future. More details to follow!

We're very grateful to the many people who have been kind enough to donate books of interest over the years. We welcome you to consider the library whenever you might have excess reading material or media that would be a good match for our audience, or if you have a suggestion for a title that would make a good addition to our collection. We also welcome you to consider making a monetary contribution to the church's Library Fund that will allow for the purchase of new materials to enhance the collection. Please contact the church office for more details about that.

Watch for more information about activities related to our Library in the coming months, but on your next visit to the Education Building, please be sure to stop at the Library and browse the shelves for something that interests you! Also watch for an information table at the Library on occasion during the after-worship Coffee Hours. We'd be happy to help you find something of interest, accept your donations, or answer any questions you might have.

Mission and Service Committee

October Mission of the Month:

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit World Central Kitchen. World Central Kitchen is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization devoted to providing meals in the wake of natural disasters. Founded in 2010 by celebrity chef José Andrés, the organization prepared food in Haiti following its devastating earthquake. Recently, WCK has been on the ground in places such as Del Rio, TX, Louisiana, and Haiti. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Looking ahead:

November—Saratoga War Horse

Communion Collections

Northeast Regional Food Bank—donated \$300

Capital Roots—donated \$300

Heifer Int'l/World Vision—donated \$500

RCA—collected \$180

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

For the month of October we will be collecting women's and general hygiene products

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.

2021 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-

October 21st 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 to help pack the lunches (October 20th).

Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital

Did you know that Sunnyview has both an adult & junior volunteer program that offers many exciting and rewarding volunteer opportunities—delivering mail/flowers, working in the gift shop, assisting with writing letters, transportation and even office work. Please contact Joan Laviolette at 518-386-3631 for more information.

UPCOMING M & SC Events

Look for us at a coffee hour in the fall on October 24th.

Next Meeting:

October 12th @ 6:00 pm in Room 104

All are welcome

Please remember the needy, the hungry and the poor.

Women's Fellowship Group (WFG)

The WFG will meet on **Wednesday, October 13** at 2:00 pm in the Lounge. Activity is TBD. All are welcome. Please call the church office for further information.

Women's Book Group (WBG)

The WBG will meet at the home of Trudy Lehner on **Saturday, October 23** at 10:00 am. All are welcome to join in. Please call the church office for further information.

Niskayuna Senior Center

*Denotes registration or possible additional fee. Pre-order Gershon's lunch or bring your own. Coffee service available.

Tuesdays:

9am-12 pm Tom's Computer Class (1st & 3rd Tues of ea. mo.) *Pls call to confirm the 19th specifically.

10a Tai Chi

10a - 2p Open for Indoor/Outdoor Socialization/Coffee service

10:00 am- Cards, Mahjong, Bridge, Bocci avail

12:00pm- Gershon's, BYOL and coffee service

1p MVP Zoom Chair Moves In House & ZOOM

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 Chair Yoga In House & ZOOM (Oct 7, 14) *

Friday:

11a Alzheimer's Assoc. Caregiver's Group (1st Friday of each month)

11a CDPHP Chair Pilates ZOOM only

Exercise Update:

11a Mon CDPHP Zumba Gold ZOOM & In House In House & Zoom

11a Wed SilverSneakers Zumba Gold ZOOM only

Classes remain avail. on ZOOM with a couple in-house. You can email Edie for registration, dates and times @ ecannizzo@niskayuna.org . Pilates, yoga, walks & art are avail. on You Tube at 'Niskayuna Seniors.'

Monthly Activities:

Thurs, Oct 7 - 11a Book Club! (The Book Thief); Birthday Cupcakes!

Tues, Oct 12 - 11:45 Mick Mahoney - Entertainment

Thurs, Oct 21 - 12:30 Positive Thinking Day; 1p Arts & Crafts w Edie

Tues, Oct 26 - 12:30p Pumpkin Day Trivia/treat

Thurs, Oct 28 - Halloween Bingo

Stop by and socialize! Bring friends, activities, interests or just pop over for coffee and conversation. We'll provide the space and hospitality.

Revolutionary War Soldiers



PRESENTED BY

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH'S HISTORY & ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

* * *

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021

10:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

- Two 45-minute outdoor guided gravesite tours. Each tour departs promptly at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- No advance reservations — walk-ins only.
- \$5 donation collected at the door to support archive preservation projects.
- Indoor presentation will be available in case of inclement weather.
- Complimentary refreshments.



**OPEN TO
PUBLIC!**

**RAIN
OR
SHINE!**

**FREE CIDER
AND DONUTS!**

3041 Troy-Schenectady Road, Niskayuna
(518) 785-5575 / www.niskayunareformed.org

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



BLOOD DRIVE **Niskayuna Reformed Church**

3041 Troy Schenectady Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 9, 2021
8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment call
1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org
and enter sponsor code: NiskayunaReformedChurch



Download the Blood Donor App today. Get your digital donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow your donation on its way to a hospital.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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October 2021

Friday, October 1

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

Saturday, October 2

10 am & 11 am- Cemetery
Tour

Sunday, October 3

Communion

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

Monday, October 4

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)
10 am-H & A Sorting (L)
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Violin (102)

Tuesday, October 5

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

Wednesday, October 6

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

Thursday, October 7

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

Friday, October 8

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

Saturday, October 9

8 am- Blood Drive (FH)

Sunday, October 10

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

Monday, October 11

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

Tuesday, October 12

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)
6 pm-M & SC (104)
6:30 pm-H & A (L)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

Wednesday, October 13

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

Thursday, October 14

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)
10 am-H & A Sorting (L)
4 pm-Violin (102)
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)

Friday, October 15

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

Saturday, October 16

No events

Sunday, October 17

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

Monday, October 18

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)
10 am-Jap Flower Arr (FH-1st)
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Violin (102)

Tuesday, October 19

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

Wednesday, October 20

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

Thursday, October 21

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)
10 am-Soup Kitchen
1 pm-H & A Sorting (L)
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)
4 pm-Violin (102)

Friday, October 22

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

Saturday, October 23

10 am-WBG (Trudy Lehner)

Sunday, October 24

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

10:45 am-Coffee Hour

Monday, October 25

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

Tuesday, October 26

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

Wednesday, October 27

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

Thursday, October 28

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

Friday, October 29

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

Saturday, October 30

No events

Sunday, October 31

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

Please Note:

*When no room is included after an event, it will take place on Zoom
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