

# MESSENGER

***Niskayuna Reformed Church***

***March 2022***

## ***"Two People Walked Into a Church"***

Conversations about God's Leading for NRC.

It isn't just Covid! After life during the past two years, we are all feeling just a little bit strange. The stresses of lockdowns in school and businesses, other economics, family differences, and worries about disease, - along with the long time span of now 24 months - mean that none of us have a handle on what "normal" actually is for the moment. Nor will we ever be living what was "normal" in 2019 again, simply because we all grow and change as life happens.

For NRC, the disappearance of "normal" is exacerbated by the sadness surrounding the departure of the minister in 2021. That sadness has created a degree of uncertainty about our parish life - both what it is and what God may be calling us to.

While the past 24 months have been upsetting in a high degree, they have not been unique. Since we fell down in Eden so long ago, change has been inevitable, with growing up as an option but not a guarantee. In particular, the past 60 years has seen tremendous change in how and whether Christianity is practiced in the West. While the Church thrives in the Southern hemisphere, participation in the Northern has been shrinking. What is God doing???

For three Sundays in Lent we are going to begin an extended conversation between me and you on the topic of the future of the Christian Church in general and NRC in particular. These sessions will start as "Coffee Hour Conversations", in the hope that all manner and sorts of people can participate - including families and kids. For these three sessions, Coffee Hour will begin as usual - however after 15 minutes of the normal chat at tables, I am going to ask that we have a group conversation. The format will be that I present some hopefully interesting material that encourages curiosity and then we will talk together about it.

These sessions are not a "program", teaching how to get a desired result. No one knows, really, what God is doing with us just now. Our Call is to be faithful in listening and then to respond to what we hear God saying. During this interim ministry time, we will be wondering together, in several ways, about what our Christian reality actually is just now and what God might have in mind for the next little while. When the new minister arrives, the conversation will continue, as God's "new normal" becomes a bit more clear.

To begin, our sessions will be:

**March 6, 2022**

**Session I "I just feel at home here" Gathering Language for Talking About a Congregation**

**March 20, 2022**

**Session II "Back to the Family Farm"**

**April 3, 2022**

**Session III "Whad'Ya Know?"**

I hope you can come.  
Rett Zabriskie



### Birthdays

1	Gabrielle Maclutsky	16	Michele Kopp
10	Tiffanie Wood	17	Scotty Clark
11	Betty Connelly	19	David Anderson
12	Joan Peebles	19	David Perlee
13	Ron Valenti	19	Addison Kreig
13	Dolores Hutchins	20	Benjamin Wood
15	Jaclyn Clemmer	22	Abby Doss
15	Camryn Munro	25	Josie Mirel
15	Owen Wood	25	Evan Groudine
		26	Doris Alois
		29	Tracey Duesterdick
		29	Joe Tuttle
		29	Sue Felpel
		31	Emily Roth
		31	Marie Miller

### Anniversaries

Lyle & Eileen Eldred	11th
Richard & Aimee Munro	20th



### Women's Fellowship Group (WFG)

The WFG will meet in the Lounge at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. The group will work on an Easter activity.

### NRC Women's Book Group (WBG)

The WBG will meet at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 12, 2022. Location is still TBD and will be shared once confirmed.

### March Ushers Schedule

March 6	Richard Mizenko & Judy Henery
March 13	Pat Zink & Linda Gardner
March 20	Donna Nappi & Barbara Sim
March 27	Jack Faddegon & Linda Matt



### Office News

Our new interim minister is Reverend Rett Zabriskie. Rev. Zabriskie will be in the pastor's office Thursday mornings from 9-10:30. Otherwise, any time the American flag is flying outside the parsonage, you are welcome to stop over and come right in! **You can reach him by calling his cell at**



**201.819.7629.** He makes his own schedule. To help Rev. Zabriskie learn our names, we ask that you wear your name tags on Sundays. If you need a name tag, please contact Ellen.

## Easter Flowers

Due to COVID 19, we will not be ordering memorial azaleas and lilies for Easter this year. We will **still** be doing an Easter Memorial bulletin. We will be working off last year's bulletin. If you have **NO** changes to your memorial from last year and you want it to remain the same, there is no need to contact the office. If there are any changes or you would like to add a memorial, please contact Ellen at office@niskayunareformed.org or 518-785-5575 by April 1st.

## Zoom Coffee Hours

Just a reminder, we still have **TWO** coffee hour ZOOMS every week.

*Wednesday morning at 10am*

*Sunday morning at 10:45am.*



**Use Same link for both:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670146771?pwd=cENjQ2d1QldFdFQ0RHdFem82NCtqQT09>

If you use the link above, you shouldn't need a passcode, but if you get asked, the passcode is 413853

## COVID Update

Consistent with the NYS decision to lift the mask mandate for businesses effective 2/10/22 and schools on 3/2/22, NRC will no longer require masking during church services and fellowship opportunities. While wearing a mask is voluntary for all who are fully vaccinated, it is recommended that you continue masking if you are not fully vaccinated. We will continue to monitor NYS data and recommendations made by the CDC and NYS DOH to prevent further COVID outbreaks. We encourage congregants to manage their health responsibly and to consider the health of their fellow members and community by using your best judgment to stay home if you are feeling ill. We thank you for your patience and continuing care for each other.

## Denominational Assessment

Since many of you use PayPal and don't have any envelopes, the denominational assessment fee for 2022 is **\$110 per member.**

## Mission & Service Committee

### **March Mission of the Month:**

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit the works of the NRC's History & Archives Committee. The Mission of the committee is to promote awareness of the rich history of Niskayuna Reformed Church as a place of worship and fellowship and preserve historical records and artifacts for the congregation, community and future generations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**Looking ahead:** April - NRC Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Expenses

### **Communion Collections**

Joan Nicole Prince House collected \$320, donated \$500

SiCM Souper Bowl collected \$380

Once again, we appreciate the generosity of our congregation.

If you have an organization that's near and dear to your heart and could benefit from a Mission of the Month Collection, please let us know as we are putting the list together for 2022. Please email Lizbeth Amorelli at htebzil@gmail.com with suggestions.

**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**

With Spring around the corner (hopefully), SiCM's collection for March will be dedicated to "Spring Cleaning" All cleaning

supplies welcome, from sponges and dish detergent to mops and dryer sheets... Supplemental food cards do not cover these items, making it difficult for families already struggling. Thank you for continuing kindness and generosity to our Schenectady neighbors.

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.***

### **2022 SouperBowl**

Thank you, thank you NRC for your VERY generous donation to SiCM's 2022 SouperBowl fundraiser. We contributed \$380 this year-a record for us. Consider scheduling a visit or volunteering to see your money at work, providing a community resource to those in need.

### **2022 Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Schenectady City Mission-**

Volunteer opportunities are beginning to resume pursuant to Covid-19 safety guidelines. Please see the following to learn more

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

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

**2022** dates are pending and will be published as soon as possible.

### **UPCOMING M & SC Events**

**Brooks BBQ 2022—4/20/22 & 8/17/22—be on the lookout for volunteer and brownie sign ups**

**Next Meeting: March 14th at 7pm in the Lounge**

**All are welcome**

## Christian Education

The NRC Sunday School has continued to meet for the last several months, in spite of the challenges that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic presents. In an effort to meet everyone's needs and preferences, sessions have been either in-person, on Zoom after Worship, or a combination of the two. Here's what we've been up to in the last few months:

We enjoyed a Valentine card making day in early February. One of our favorite projects as a group is making cards for our shut-in and elderly members. We really enjoy doing our small part to brighten the days of these special people. February is a short month for the NRC Sunday School, as we follow the BOCES calendar for breaks. This means that we had two weekends off in February – around the President's Day school break.

We do, however, have several special events coming up in March!

Following Ash Wednesday, we'll work on a special Lenten project – collecting pocket change for UNICEF. Please feel free to reach out to Sabrina or find any of our Sunday School kids at coffee hour if you'd like to donate. We'll also be working on taking a few minutes each day to be quiet and reflect with God during the season of Lent.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am, some of the children in grades 2 and above will participate in our Communion Workshop. This activity is very special, as it introduces our kids to the importance of the Sacrament of Communion. The kids will learn about the symbolism of Communion, how and why we practice the way that we do, and the special history of the act. They'll be taken into the sanctuary and shown the special tools and locations of various related items, and will conclude the event by making their very own stole to wear that represents all that they've learned, along with their own personality.

Those of you who may be interested in signing your child up for this event can feel free to contact Sabrina at [christianed@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:christianed@niskayunareformed.org), or during coffee hour on Sunday mornings. We'd love to have you join us! Parents are welcome to stay and observe or drop off their children for the event.

Sunday School sessions will also include a special focus on Holy Week this year, with age-appropriate lessons about each day of the week, and encouraging the children to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. We will also make Easter cards for our shut-in and elderly members during this time.

We are still looking for teachers, assistants, and superintendents for our spring session. If you have any interest in putting your gifts to good use and joining the Sunday School team, please reach out to Sabrina at [christianed@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:christianed@niskayunareformed.org). There are many ways to help!

## What's New in the NRC Library?

Thanks to some recent donations, the Library has a number of new additions for your enjoyment! Feel free to stop by anytime the Education Building is open (weekday afternoons from 2:30 – 5:30 pm or Sunday mornings) to browse the shelves, or take a look at the list of holdings by author that is posted at the beginning of the wall of shelves.

Here are some ideas (books donated in 2022):

- Nevada Barr, "Seeking Enlightenment – Hat by Hat – A Skeptic's Path to Religion"
- Beverly Berg, MFT, Ph.D., "Loving Someone in Recovery: The Answers You Need When your Partner is Recovering from Addiction."
- Jean Blackmer and Laura Greiner, "Where Women Walked"
- Richard Carlson, "Stuff – Simple Ways to Keep the Little Things from Taking Over Your Life"
- **Bishop Michael Curry, "Love is the Way – Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times"**
- Judith Duerk, "Circle of Stones – Woman's Journey to Herself"
- Gladys Hunt, "Women of the Old Testament – 12 Studies for Individuals or Groups"
- C.S. Lewis, "The Devil and C.S. Lewis – A Contemporary Review of C.S. Lewis' Timeless Classic, *The Screwtape Letters*"
- C.S. Lewis, "C.S. Lewis Through the Shadowlands – A Man and a Woman, Their Love and Pain, Life and Death, Faith and Despair" (Book and DVD versions)
- Charles Martin, "The Mountain Between Us"
- Rod McKuen, "Fields of Wonder"
- Emily Menendez-Aponte, "When Mom and Dad Divorce"
- Carolyn Nystrom, "What Happens When We Die?"
- Margriet Ruurs, "Stepping Stones – A Refugee Family's Journey" (Arabic and English)
- Jim Wallis, "The Great Awakening – Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America"
- Grandeur Westberg, "Good Grief – A Companion for Every Loss"

Just to whet your appetite, here is a summary (from Amazon Books) of Bishop Michael Curry's book listed above, "**Love is the Way – Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times.**"

*As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, Love Is the Way shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further.*

*The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity.*

The title alone sounds like something we might all be thinking about. Bishop Curry is presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The book is written with Sara Grace, a New York-based author.

All blood types needed.



American  
Red Cross



## **Blood Drive** **Niskayuna Reformed Church**

3041 Troy Schenectady Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309  
Fellowship Hall

Co-sponsored by: Niskayuna Knights of Columbus

**Saturday, April 16, 2022**  
**8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment call  
1-800-RED CROSS or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
and enter sponsor code: NiskayunaReformedChurch



**Come to give April 1-18 and get a Red Cross T-shirt,  
while supplies last! It's our thanks for being part of our  
lifesaving team. Your donation can help patients get  
back in the game this spring!**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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**Wednesday, April 20, 2022**

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

————— *Cash or Check* —————

**Niskayuna Reformed Church**

**3041 Troy Road, Niskayuna**

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

————— **TAKE OUT ONLY** —————



# MARCH 2022

Niskayuna Senior Center  
 2682 Aqueduct Rd., Niskayuna, New York 12309  
 518-372-4969

Transportation is available  
 for Niskayuna Seniors age 60+.  
 Please call 495-6202  
 by noon the day before (\$5 perday).

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Stop by and socialize! Bring friends, activities, interests or just pop over for coffee and conversation.</i></p>	<p><b>1 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>9:00-12 Tom's Computer Clinic            10a Tai Chi-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, etc.            11:00 CDPHP Zumba Gold UL-Zoom  <b>1:00 MVP Chair Moves-UL</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm * Gentle Flow Yoga w/ Susan UL</p>	<p><b>3 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>10:00 Tai Chi-UL; Pickleball, Bocci-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, etc.  <b>11:00 Book Group</b>  <b>March Birthday Celebration</b>  <b>1:00 The Eddy Chair Yoga-UL &amp; Zoom available</b></p> 	<p>4</p> <p>9:00a  <b>Art-In</b>            11a  <b>Alz. Assoc. Sup-port</b></p>	<p>5</p>
<p>7</p> <p>11:15am            Chair Pilates UL &amp; Zoom</p>	<p><b>8 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>10a Tai Chi-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, etc.            11:00 CDPHP Zumba Gold UL-Zoom  <b>11:00 Blood Pressure Clinic by St. Peter's Health Partners</b>  <b>1:00 MVP Chair Moves-UL</b></p>	<p>9</p> <p>11am SS            Zumba Gold-ZOOM only</p> <p>6:30pm * Gentle Flow Yoga w/ Susan UL</p>	<p><b>10 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>10a Tai Chi-UL; Pickleball, Bocci-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, cards, etc.  <b>Johnny Appleseed Day Trivia</b>  <b>1:00 BINGO</b></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>14</p> <p>11:15am            Chair Pilates UL &amp; Zoom</p>	<p><b>15 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>9:00-12 Tom's Computer Clinic            10a Tai Chi-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, etc.            11:00 CDPHP Zumba Gold UL-Zoom  <b>1:00 MVP Chair Moves-UL</b></p>	<p>16</p> <p>11am SS            Zumba Gold-ZOOM only</p> <p>6:30pm * Gentle Flow Yoga w/ Susan UL</p>	<p><b>17 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>10a Tai Chi-UL; Pickleball, Bocci-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, etc.  <b>St. Patrick's Day trivia/ treat</b>  <b>1:00 The Eddy Chair Yoga-UL &amp; Zoom available</b></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30a  <b>SAS Workshop</b></p>
<p>21</p> <p>11:15am            Chair Pilates UL &amp; Zoom</p>	<p><b>22 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>10a Tai Chi-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, etc.            11:00 CDPHP Zumba Gold UL-Zoom  <b>Tuskegee Airmen -Trivia</b>  <b>1:00 Chair Aerobics</b></p>	<p>23</p> <p>11am SS            Zumba Gold-ZOOM only</p> <p>6:30pm * Gentle Flow Yoga w/ Susan UL</p>	<p><b>24 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>10a Tai Chi-UL; Pickleball, Bocci-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, etc.  <b>1:00 Arts&amp;Crafts w/ Edie</b></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>28</p> <p>11:15am            Chair Pilates UL &amp; Zoom</p>	<p><b>29 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>10a Tai Chi-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, etc.            11:00 CDPHP Zumba Gold UL-Zoom  <b>1:00 Chair Aerobics</b></p>	<p>30</p> <p>11am SS            Zumba Gold-ZOOM only</p> <p>6:30pm * Gentle Flow Yoga w/ Susan UL</p>	<p><b>31 LUNCH: Gershon's, BYOL, coffee svc</b></p> <p>10a Tai Chi-UL; Pickleball, Bocci-UL; Mahjong, Bridge, cards, etc.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>The Niskayuna Senior Center will close for inclement weather when the Niskayuna School District is closed.</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><b>*Denotes Fee may be required. All Meals and Programs subject to change.</b></p> </div>	

# March 2022

## Tuesday, March 1

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)  
11:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Flute (102)  
6:30-H & A (L)  
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## Wednesday, March 2

### **Ash Wednesday**

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

## Thursday, March 3

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Violin (102)  
6 pm-Search Committee (L)  
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## Friday, March 4

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

## Saturday, March 5

No events

## Sunday, March 6

### **Communion**

Mission-H & A  
9:30 am-Worship Service (S)  
9:45 am-Sunday School (PO)

### **10:30 am-Coffee Hour**

### **Conversations (FH)**

10:45 am-Coffee Hour

## Monday, March 7

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)  
11:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Violin (102)

## Tuesday, March 8

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Flute (102)  
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## Wednesday, March 9

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
2 pm-WFG (L)  
6:30 pm-Cub Scouts (FH)  
7 pm-Consistory (L)  
7 pm-Bells (S)

## Thursday, March 10

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

6 pm-Search Committee (L)  
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## Friday, March 11

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

## Saturday, March 12

9 am-Carpet Cleaning  
10 am-WBG (TBD)

## Sunday, March 13

### **Daylight Saving Time begins**

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

## Monday, March 14

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

## Tuesday, March 15

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Flute (102)  
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## Wednesday, March 16

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

## Thursday, March 17

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)  
1:30-5:30 pm-TSL (FH/104)  
4 pm-Violin (102)  
6 pm-Search Committee (L)  
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## Friday, March 18

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

## Saturday, March 19

Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby

## Sunday, March 20

### **Bells Sunday**

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

### **Conversations**

10:45 am-Coffee Hour

## Monday, March 21

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

## Tuesday, March 22

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

4 pm-Flute (102)

6:30-H & A (L)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## Wednesday, March 23

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

## Thursday, March 24

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

4 pm-Violin (102)

6 pm-Search Committee (L)

7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## Friday, March 25

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

7 pm-AA

## Saturday, March 26

No events

## Sunday, March 27

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)

10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)

10:45 am-Coffee Hour

## Monday, March 28

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)

10-Japanese Flower arr (FH)

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

4 pm-Violin (102)

## Tuesday, March 29

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)

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

4 pm-Flute (102)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## Wednesday, March 30

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)

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

7 pm-Bells (S)

## Thursday, March 31

9:15-12 pm-NS (101)

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

4 pm-Violin (102)

7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

### **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