



THE KERK

St. John's Reformed Church, 126 Old Post Road North, Upper Red Hook, New York 12571

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September 2022

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Minister's Musings

There's something rich about stories - and there is always something very familiar to them, they all have beginnings and middles and endings. The middle of stories tend to hold the conflict or a climax or something that completely upends the way we were navigating - and, that's usually what makes a story interesting. The great and sometimes ironic thing about stories that happen in our lives is that an ending is always also a beginning.

We also all have stories that we craft for ourselves, our days, our senses of time and space. A little over two years ago, the stories that we were all crafting for ourselves all had to come to a full, complete stop.

This ordinary, comforting space we inhabited was upended.

The Greek word, "Apocalypse" in the original Greek doesn't mean catastrophe, as we sometimes define it, it actually translates into "the uncovering". The crisis we went through definitely uncovered a lot of things. It uncovered immense kindness and generosity - it uncovered new skills - for me, canning and trying my hand at baking sourdough bread. I'll let you know right now, the sourdough experience was not successful for me. Moving is one of the most stressful life experiences - biologically, psychologically, physiologically, and as a community at St. John's and the world, we are all going through a "moving" of sorts from one reality to another that we can't see.

Part of our work and our calling is to stand together respectfully and honor, with kindness and honesty toward ourselves, what we have been through. In the last two years, five years and longer. Along with honoring the incredible transition, we can also be aware and notice where stress shows up for us. All the while, remembering that we're in this together and letting this be a moment of growth. Being united in the Spirit gives us strength and helps us through stressful times.

Are there ways we can actively hold one another together during transition and change?

Some questions you can ask yourself and we can ask together is: how do transitions of any kind become more than just mere stress - what is it teaching me that I want to integrate into the person I am, on the other side of this?

If we could actively accompany each other in holding that question, this may be a good start for seasons of transition and change in our lives.

Pastor Alisha

FATIH AND EDUCATION

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will continue on Tuesday mornings at 10:15 a.m. using Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary. There is no advanced study. People can drop in any Tuesday they are available. Preaching Elder John Roberts leads the study.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



We have been able to offer a Children's Program throughout the summer, but attendance is not as consistent as it usually is during the program year, September to June. We are exploring new resources for the children for the 2022-2023 year as our students age up.

We hope to offer a one-hour session on Children at the Lord's Table for those who are 9 years old or older in September. This will allow those who attend to begin taking communion on World Communion Sunday on October 2. If you are interested in such an introduction for your student, please contact the Church Office at 758-1184. A confirmation class will begin later in the fall or early winter.

If you would like to help by teaching occasionally or leading youth group once a month, please see Desiree Albizu.

Please note Desiree's new email address: desireeralbizu@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB



Book Club will meet Monday, September 12 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall to discuss, *The Beach House*, by Mary Alice Monroe. Anyone who has read the book or listened to it is welcome to join in the discussion.

SCUDDER CIRCLE NEWS

The Scudder Circle picnic that had been scheduled for Thursday July 7th was postponed to Thursday, September 1st at NOON. There were so many delicious foods that members had offered to bring and share we were very sorry that it was necessary to postpone. Looking for the opportunity to meet in September and hoping that the virus outbreaks will lessen by then.

There will be no Scudder Meeting during August. The September 1st meeting will begin at noon. The October and November meetings will begin at 1pm.

Our guest speaker on Thursday, October 5th will be Sarah K Hermans who will discuss her recent book "The 1903 Jackson Corners Quilt". Our guest speaker on November 3rd will be Pastor Bob Gram who will discuss the topics in his upcoming book. Please note that our December meeting day has been changed to Friday, December 9th at NOON for a holiday celebration at Savona's Restaurant in Red Hook.

Eileen Wambach continues to send out cards to people in our congregation who are ill, have lost a loved one or who are in need of cheer. Thank you to Eileen.

Rada Cutlery Fundraiser sales continue via St John's website. You may click on the Rada graphic on the website to access the items available for purchase. Check out the Rada website to see what you may find for your kitchen.

Scudder Circle supports missions via members' offering and donations. The group supports each Mission of the Month and our Church missionaries at Christmastime as well as other missions throughout the year. Offerings or donations can be dropped off or mailed into the Church Office or made via Givelify online at any time. Please label them for Scudder Circle. Scudder Circle is open to all women associated with St. John's Reformed Church.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER**

Capital City Rescue Mission is our Mission Of the Month for September.

This faith based mission has been in operation for over 70 years in Albany, NY. The mission provides shelter, food, health care, clothing, a Chapel and a learning center for those in need.

The Mission serves more than 750 meals each day to the poor and needy residents of the community. Each night they provide shelter for 250+ men, women and children. Daily chapel services are open to anyone seeking guidance, comfort and growth in relationship with God. More than 200 local churches volunteer to provide music, prayer, and an encouraging message from the Bible. They have a free medical clinic that provides essential primary care for people who are struggling with poverty or homelessness and have no insurance. Clean usable clothing supplied by generous donors is given away free of charge. Educational resources are available to help men and women move forward in life.

The Mission also has Recovery Programs. New Faith for Women provides safety, support and Christian addiction recovery. New Life for Men offers stability, support and Christian addiction recovery. The Transitional Living Program provides a safe, supportive environment to help people move forward in a healthy lifestyle. Celebrate Recovery – A Christ-Centered Recovery Program- provides a safe, non-judgmental environment where individuals' confidentiality is kept and they are free to explore healing through a growing relationship with God and others who share common experiences.

Capital City Rescue Mission has many beautiful stories of hope and lives transformed. Feel free to check out some of their bulletins on our Mission and Outreach Board in the Fellowship Hall. And please pray about supporting this excellent Christian Mission.

This is a faith based organization that is a non-profit funded by private donations and does not accept any city, state or federal funds.

Thank you to all who donated to the July Mission of the Month (Uvalde, Texas and Buffalo Fund). \$420 were received with much thanks and appreciation.

Thank you to all who donated school supplies during August for the food pantry families. Throughout September, the collection of school supplies continues. Donations are welcome and appreciated. Please indicate on your check or offering envelope that your donation is for MOM-August School Supplies.



One of the most joyful ways we can worship Jesus is singing hymns of praise to him. Every Sunday we sing hymns to lift our spirit to the Lord. During the course of the year the leaders of our music ministry get approached regarding the hymns we sing and why those hymns are chosen by the music director along with the pastor.

Many of us remember hymns from our youth that we sang that brought us great joy. You may notice that we no longer sing some or some of the words have changed. You may also wonder why we purchased the red hymnals a number of years ago and retired our familiar green hymnals.

About 10 years ago, the RCA (Reformed Church of America), in partnership with the CRC (Christian Reformed Church), took a look at the various hymnals its congregations were using. Two denominations joined together to produce a volume of songs endorsed theologically by both - a hymnal to use within and beyond the two thousand worshiping communities that make up these two denominations. These hymns were curated from across the denominations by a thirteen-person editorial team along with an eighty-member advisory committee and other experts. The resulting red Hymnal, *Lift Up Your Hearts*, is the core collection that is biblical, Reformed, balanced and accessible.

The Reformed Church in America, together with the Christian Reformed Church, decided to create a hymnal that all RCA churches could use. Themes that were important to the RCA were that hymns must worship the Lord, they should reflect Biblical readings of the service, and the lyrics must reflect the inclusive beliefs of the 21st century RCA. From the editorial team, "We see great wisdom and depth of texts that have stood the test of time and the desire to hold onto the gifts of previous generations while wanting to give voice to our prayers, praises, and laments particular to this generation. In *Lift Up Your Hearts*, you'll find not only treasured hymns but also new hymns, contemporary songs, and songs from the global church." You'll find a broadstroke narrative of the Christian faith from Creation and Old Testament Witness through our Hope for Things to Come. The red hymnal helps us shape our worshiping lives together all the way from gathering in worship on a Sunday morning together to helping us in our places where we live, work and play.

Many of us love singing some patriotic hymns that represent our pride for our country. Patriotism has its place in our national celebrations such as the Fourth of July. However, the Reformed Church doesn't consider it part of the liturgy or worship of our Lord. Our worship is oriented around God and God's work in the whole world - not just the United States. We pray and join the voices of Christians across all time and space. This is why you may find a patriotic song played prior to or after a worship service.

Many of us may miss some of our favorite hymns, but there is no perfect selection of hymns that will satisfy everyone. Our hymns must invite us into worshiping the triune God using words and themes, based on the lectionary scriptures, that make all people feel included in the joyous celebration of our faith.

Ft.1: Preface: *Lift Up Your Hearts*, vii



Congratulations to new parents Jessica Albizu & Dave Burton on the birth of their twin sons, Gregory & James on July 27. Ben and Desiree Albizu are the proud & grateful grandparents.



Thank you to all who prayed for us and with us and who sent cards and good wishes for our new grandsons, Gregory and James Burton, and their parents, Jessica Albizu and David Burton.
Desiree & Ben Albizu

Hi Everyone,
Thanks for all your Birthday cards, your phone calls and prayers. All are greatly appreciated!
JoAnn Fisher
845-758-5014



Deborah (Debbie) MacConel for joining St. John's as a Confessing Member during July. May God bless you!
Please extend a warm welcome to her!



to **Robert (Bob) Haan** for posting the hymn numbers in the sanctuary. Much is appreciated!
to **Hop Michael** for fixing all the items and answering all the Administrator's questions.
to **Glenn Countryman** for all your hard work on the Stove Project. It has been a PROJECT.
for the silent volunteers that do God's work for St. John's RC.

COFFEE HOUR RETURNS!

Deacon of Fellowship Gian Stagnaro has been coordinating the purchase and display of food platters. He has many helpers in the kitchen-Mary Hennessy, Laurie DeCuitiis, Deb MacConel, and Kayla Bell. Others are welcome to join in the fun as time allows.

It is wonderful to see people getting to know the newest attendees and to see the smiles as friendship grows.

Thank you to all who are making this possible.



Deadline for the **October Kerk** is **September 10**.

Personal ads of no more than 3 lines will be accepted for \$1 per issue. Business ads in the form of a business card to be photocopied will cost \$5 per issue.

If you would like to receive the Kerk by e-mail (a little more reliably on time than the paper version being mailed to your home) e-mail the church and let us know;
office@stjohnsreformed.org.



Please keep Irene, Charlie and the Harrison family in prayers upon the passing of her son **David Hedin**.

Please keep Dan and Laurie DeCuitiis in your prayers on the passing of Dan's brother, **Mike**.

Please keep Linda Frankle and her family in your prayers on the passing of her sister-in-law, **Maureen**.

Please keep Beverly Kipp and family in your prayers upon the passing of **Aunt Nancy A. Phillips Romanchuk**.

Lord, please comfort all those who mourn.

St. John's Reformed Church



FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2022

Income	\$10,206.26
Expenses	<u>-\$11,499.42</u>
	-\$1,293.16

Year To Date

January-December 2022

Income	\$116,150.21
Expenses	<u>\$120,960.37</u>
	-\$4,810.16

Did You Know, the 2023 budget preparation begins in August?

As we attended summer Sunday services in the air-conditioned fellowship hall, thoughts of next year's budget were probably not foremost in our minds. However, in late August the process begins, as each committee and staff member completes a budget worksheet indicating the anticipated expenses for next year. Property, Fellowship, Mission & Outreach and Worship Committees will review their respective expense lines from the previous year and submit projections for the next. The Personnel Committee makes staff salary recommendations based on required hours, cost of living adjustments and payroll related liabilities. Mid-Hudson Classis will offer guidance for Pastor Alisha's portion of the budget.

There are plenty of opportunities for everyone to participate. By serving on or simply attending one or more of the committee meetings, you can be part of the process. After collation in September, the tentative budget is reviewed by the Finance Committee and then by Consistory. Any interested person may attend those meetings.

A draft budget congregational mailing/emailing will arrive the first week of November. The following Sunday, after worship service, a budget Q&A meeting will be held. One week later a congregational affirmation vote completes the process. The exact dates of these meeting will be printed in future articles and in our Sunday bulletins.

Budget preparation will be challenging this year because of increased energy costs and inflation. Your interest and participation in the process is encouraged and welcomed.

Finance Committee

Church Calendar

Sundays **10 a.m. in person** and you can also join live on Zoom.

You can continue to visit “**St. John’s in Red Hook**” on YouTube for the Sunday service also!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88588306134?pwd=eW92WFgzUXdjSElwOG5KcFVBZGV6dz09>

Meeting ID: 885 8830 6134

Passcode: 126126

To phone in: Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

The bulletin for each service can be found on the website: www.stjohnsreformed.org. Click on the dropdown box for worship.

Children’s Ministry Program

Sundays at 10 a.m.

Rev. Alisha Riepma

Tues., Wed., Fri. 845-758-1184

pastoralisha@stjohnsreformed.org

Kristi Colburn, Administrator

Mon, Wed, Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thurs. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Michele Zagorski, Financial Consultant

Thurs. 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Every other Thursday

Food Pantry Distribution

Mon. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Wed. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Bible Study

Tuesdays 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall

EVENTS

Scudder Circle Picnic

Thurs. Sept. 1, 12 p.m.

Mission & Outreach Comm. Meeting

Thurs. Sept 1, 7 pm, on Zoom

Labor Day- Sept. 5

Office & Deacon’s Food Pantry-closed

Prayer and Meditation Service

Tues. Sept. 6, 7 p.m.

Old Dutch Village Garden Club

Thurs. Sept. 8, 12:30 p.m.

Finance Committee meeting

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Book Lover’s Club

Monday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.

The Personal Librarian, by Marie Benedict

Property Meeting

Tues., Sept. 13, 7 pm

Elders meeting

Thurs., September 15, 7 p.m.

Consistory meeting

Thurs., September 15, 7:30 pm



Shepherds Page

September 2022

Encouraging Words

As we continue to deal with COVID, rising prices, violence, and health issues just to name a few, remember this - the Lord our God is by our sides always. He is the one in control and has a plan for all of our lives.

We are all feeling many emotions and anxieties during these days. When you sit down with your Bible in a quiet place, here is a list of Bible references to help you. These were taken from a card my friend found just after she had been advised that she would need surgery. She felt that this was a sign from God saying that everything was going to be alright as long as she trusted in him. So trust in him and give your prayers up to him. He is here to help and guide you in making the right decisions. I have only listed a few of the verses that I thought would pertain to our everyday lives:

WHEN: You Worry – Read Matthew 6: 19-34
You are Lonely or Fearful – Read Psalm 23
You are in Sorrow – Read John 14: 1-6
You are Grateful – Read Psalm 103
You need Courage – Read Joshua 1
You are Discouraged – Read Isaiah 40
You want to Praise God – Read Psalm 100
Responsibility Overwhelms – Read Matthew 11: 28-30

We all need someone in our lives to listen and be a source of hope besides our Lord. We need each other to build each other up and to help strengthen each other. Praying for each other is helpful, too. It makes seeing each other more rewarding and to look forward to as well.

This reminds me what the shepherd ministry is all about - helping those who need encouragement by listening to them and praying for them for strength, hope, and peace. I have to say speaking from my own personal experience, I have also developed many new friendships which have been rewarding to me.

I would like to close with this passage from Isaiah 41:10: When God says, “Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God; I will help and strengthen you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

I would like to thank my St. Johns family again for all your prayers and support during my difficult times these last couple of years. I am so grateful and blessed to have such support. I also would like to share that my daughter Michelle, will be defending her thesis on August 29th to finally complete her PhD in microbiology. She has been going to college since she graduated in 2009. She spent four years at RPI in Troy, NY, finishing with her bachelor’s and master’s degrees. After that she decided she wanted to continue on so she started at Rutgers University in New Jersey where she has been for over seven years. We are so proud of her and are here to support her every step of the way. Praise God!!!! Thank you for keeping her in your prayers also.

Yours in Christ,
Eileen Zeliph- Shepherd Coordinator
Shepherds Ministry serving St. John’s Reformed Church

Desiree Albizu

Kayla Bell

Stan Tremper

Terry Laibach

Linda Neilson

JoAnn Fisher

Judy Rockefeller

Marie Votava

Denise Gilhooly

Eileen Zeliph