

THE KERK

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

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Minister's Musings

Ordinary time - the season that we currently find ourselves in - could feel humdrum to some. Even the name of the liturgical season, "Ordinary" rings of something that could feel plain, run of the mill, old. However, ordinary time is anything but. It is in this mundane season where we get to sort of, liturgically, breathe.

Think about it. We ramp up to Advent and then Christmas, stay in Christmastide for several weeks and then quickly shift into the Lenten season. Lent moves us all the way to Easter and then we skip into Eastertide. The Ascension of the Lord - Pentecost and then, sort of out of nowhere, we find ourselves in the cradle of Ordinary.

Ordinary time often meets our pews with fewer folk, as a lot of people are out traveling or enjoying the warmer temperatures - or avoiding the warmer temperature of the sanctuary! In that essence, the sanctuary space feels a bit closer, more intimate, simply in the nature of having fewer bodies present.

There is a different kind of sacredness that fills the space. The sacredness of the present.

Ordinary time gives us a season to take a breath. To just be. We're not celebrating anything major. We're not repenting and thinking deeply about our sins or anticipating something extravagant. We are simply living into what it means to be Followers of the One.

What it looks like to cultivate Ordinary rhythms that eventually turn into a habitual lifestyle that creates a healthier, holier internal life. Ordinary time follows the rhythm of a lot of cycles we see in life. If we look at the planting season - we see a time for planting (Christmas) and a time for reaping (Easter), but the time in between - the slow growth; the experience of a sprout breaking through the soil at infinitesimally slow gravitas; the season of the sprout moving toward the sky and developing burgeoning leaves and buds; the season of tender, new fruit appearing on the vine or plant - all this takes place in the space of Ordinary. The season of cultivation. The season of care.

What does it look like for you, personally, in this season to step into Ordinary time? What does cultivation and care look like for yourself? In what areas of your life are you in need of water, sunlight or pruning? Maybe there's a need for pulling up some soil around your base and shoring up your stalk. Whatever this season looks like for you - or whatever it holds for you, I pray you are able to take a breath. I pray that you are able to rest in the goodness of God in your life. I pray that you are able to be open to the ways God is in the process of making all things new in you.

Rev. Alisha Riepma-Hosier
Minister of Word and Sacrament

Faith & Education



Bible Study continues Wednesday mornings at 10:15 a.m. throughout the summer. Participants appreciate the air-conditioning on the warmest mornings. Thank you to John & Karen Roberts for their dedication to offer this important ministry. Copies of the Revised Common Lectionary are available on the table in the fellowship hall if you would like to join the study, read along or prepare for each week's upcoming sermon and scripture.



Children's Program

Mrs. Wambach has prepared lessons for the summer program for the children. We encourage visiting children to participate as well. Ideally it would be beneficial to have at least two different age groups meet each Sunday morning beginning in the fall. If you would like to assist with a second group, please let Eileen or Desiree Albizu know. In the meantime, the Sunday School directory will be updated.

Thank you to Pastor Alisha, Eileen, Annamarie Woelm, and all the participants in the Youth Sunday worship service on June 9. The sermon message delivered by recent Confirmand Whitt Meek was especially well-received.



Book Club

For numerous reasons and varied schedules, the Book Club has not been able to meet for a couple months. Participants plan to gather and line up future selections in hopes to meet at least once over the summer. Suggestions for new reads are always welcome as are newcomers to the group.



St. John's Monthly Prayer Service meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. The next services are July 2 and August 6. Prayers are offered for St. John's missions, for the local community, for those on the prayer list, for those who are unable to gather with the congregation for worship, for personal prayers, and for anyone in need of God's love. See *James Walrath* for more info.



Blooming in Faith Women's Fellowship meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. The next meetings are July 3 and August 7, at 7 p.m. We gather for fellowship, prayer, and to create art. For more information, please see *Elizabeth Young*.



Scudder Circle met at Savona's on June 6 for a delicious lunch and for delightful fellowship. The ladies of the Scudder Circle agreed to support June's Mission of the Month- South Sudan Refugee Care Project with a \$200 donation. We will not meet in July or August resuming meetings on September 5 at 1 p.m. All women associated with St. John's are invited to the meetings.

Have a wonderful summer!

Mary Bayer



Mission and Outreach

Thank you to everyone who donated to May's Mission of the Month, Shadow of His Wings Orphanage. \$760 was donated, which received with gratitude!

JJ TenClay (Missionary & Refugee Ministries Coordinator RCA Global Mission) visited our church on June 2. This was a wonderful and inspiring experience. Her sermon was entitled "Don't Give Up". She has not been deflected from her goal of helping the people in South Sudan, despite the challenges. It is a privilege for our church to partner with her in this crucial work.

During July, will be collecting school supplies for food pantry families. In August, the items will be distributed. Please place the items in the box in the fellowship hall. Monetary donations also are accepted (we have shoppers!).

School Supplies: Crayola twistable crayons, 24 count Crayola crayons, #2 pencils, plastic/soft pencil boxes, colored pencils, markers, dry erase markers, erasable pens: black and blue, highlighters, glue sticks, glue, scotch tape, scissors, pencil sharpener, 12" ruler, post it notes, index cards, erasers, loose leaf paper, wide rule composition book, spiral notebook 1" and 2" binders, notebook dividers, 2 pocket folders, tissues, disinfectant wipes, antibacterial hand sanitizer, art smocks (adult T shirt), and backpacks. Thank you for supporting this very local annual mission.
The Mission and Outreach Team



Food Pantry Needs Your Support!

The food pantry ministry could use extra help going forward. We are sustained by the generosity of the congregation in donating non-perishable food items and money for Hannaford gift cards. However, it is not widely known that we have an anonymous "angel donor" who shops each week from our list and provides most of what stocks our shelves on a regular basis. This person is now confronted with some personal issues that must be attended to which will limit shopping capabilities, so we are appealing to the congregation to continue to support this important ministry. Even if you don't have the list with you while you are out, cooking oil, sugar and laundry detergent are always needed. The Deacons will be assessing the overall operation of the pantry during the summer and will keep the congregation informed. Thank you!



Property Committee

If anyone would like to help with any of the summer chores, there are many projects needing attention too. For example, painting outside, mowing, weed whacking, gutter repair, etc. All volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. The Sunrise Movement high school volunteers have started planting vegetables. Thank you to Amie and Kevin Parker for weeding and taking care of the gardens. Many thanks to all the volunteers that take care of the church's buildings and grounds.

Glenn Countryman, Property Committee Chairperson



The Technology Team continues to fine tune the video and picture settings for worship services. Zoom viewers please note that the music is being buffered by Zoom and sounding distorted. Unfortunately, Doug and Wayne do not have a solution currently. They ask for your continued patience. The tech team is looking for individuals to help "run" Zoom and/or the soundboard. If interested, please reach out to Doug and Wayne. A training session is upcoming.

There are new speakers and a TV in the fellowship hall. These will be used for meetings and services with overflow crowds. Announcements and committee events can be posted too. Send your committee photos to the office email.

Do you have experience in website design or interested in joining a committee to update the website? If you are interested, contact *Doug, or Pete*.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As many of you know as we get older there are times in our lives that we need to ask others for help getting a ride to doctor's appointments mainly. Many people may have no family in area or any one person they can ask close by.

I would ask that you think and pray about this and let me know if a church member needs a ride on a particular day to a particular doctor if you would be willing to volunteer to drive this person to their appt. I would like to have a list of people who I could call on if I heard of someone in need of a ride to an appt. I would be preparing a list and coordinating the rides for people. I would like to know also the distance you would travel and the days you would be available. I can be reached at 518-537-4093, emailed eileen1974z@yahoo.com, or see me in church on a Sunday.

I have also been doing some research on who to call in Dutchess County for a ride. If in Dutchess County, you can call Dutchess County Office for the Aging-Phone 845-486-2555 and they will direct you to proper party. If in Columbia County, you can call Healthcare Consortium who works along with Columbia County Office for the Aging-Phone 518-822-8020, and they will reserve a ride. The issue with these places is that you must let them know several weeks in advance of your appointment. I know there is a need out there, so I am just trying to get some help for us seniors. Let me know if you have any thoughts about this note.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

God Bless *Eileen Zeliph*- Shepherd Coordinator of St. Johns Shepherd Ministry



Fresh Flowers in the Church Sanctuary

If anyone would like to place fresh flowers in church there are a few easy ways to do it!

1. Purchase flowers, or
2. Cut flowers from your garden, or
3. Send the church office a donation (or put it in the offering plate) and they will be purchased for you.

Vases are available in the kitchen cabinets to the left of the refrigerator. Flowers can be arranged in a single vase; however, double vases are best for communion Sundays. Flowers need to be in place by 9:45 a.m. If you want a dedication to someone near and dear to you, we will make sure it gets in that Sunday's bulletin. For questions, please contact the church office at 845-758-1184 or see *Terry Laibach*.



***Congratulations are extended to
Emma Leifer & Grayling Bauer
Justin Riepma & Sammy Eich-Tewalt
on their May weddings.***

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things."



With prayers & condolences for the family and friends of
Alice Mae Rockefeller
who passed away on Thursday, May 27, 2024.
Please comfort all those that are mourning.



A special thank you to each and everyone of you for all that you do for St. John's Reformed Church's family and for the upkeep of our church buildings and grounds. Each prayer, each act of kindness, each "job", each opportunity to show hospitality, each gift to missions, are so very much appreciated!

1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." This verse reminds us that our good deeds should flow from the unique gifts and abilities that God has blessed us with.

A Prayer for Reconciliation

*Where there is separation, there is pain.
And where there is pain, there is story.
And where there is story, there is understanding,
and misunderstanding, listening and not listening.
May we-separated peoples, estranged strangers,
unfriended families, divided communities-turn toward each other,
and turn toward our stories, with understanding
and listening, with argument and acceptance,
with challenge, change and consolation.
Because if God is to be found,
God will be found in the space between Amen.
By **Pádraig Ó Tuama***



The next Kerk edition will be created and distributed in September. There is not a separate August edition. Please send your articles, pictures, committee reports, etc. by email, snail mail, or place them in the Administrator's mailbox at the church.

The deadline for the September Kerk is August 16.

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.

Consistory Minutes June 20, 2024, Meeting

Present: President- Rev. Alisha Riepma-Hosier,
Elders- Glenn Countryman, Terry Laibach, Elizabeth Young,
Deacons- Eileen Wambach, Clifford King, and Mary Hennessy,
Absent: Elder Wendy Walrath, Deacon Laurie DeCiutiis, Vice-President Desiree Albizu

Pastor Alisha opened the meeting, at 7:35 p.m., with a devotion, followed by prayer.

The minutes and agenda were approved, M/S/C (motion, seconded, and carried) with no corrections.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Alisha led worship for 3 Sunday Services, including Youth Sunday which was a joy. She officiated two weddings, performed one funeral and a graveside service. She participated in the BeckHook Pride Parade with members and friends of the church family. She had meetings/lunches with two Classis colleagues to prepare for the June 25, Mid-Hudson Classis Meeting at Hopewell Junction Reformed Church. She will be away July 21 and July 28. Preaching Elder John Roberts and James Walrath, MTS will be leading the service.

To approve Pastor Alisha's report as presented, M/S/C.

Financial Review: The Monthly Review, Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss reports were presented by Glenn noting that expenses are higher than income and envelope offering is down. Different report formats are being explored to better understand of our income and expenses.

To approve the Financial Reports as presented, M/S/C.

Committee Reports:

Faith and Education: Eileen reported that the Children's Program has been going well and continues through the summer. In September, they are hoping to divide the classes into two different age groups. They need teachers and assistants. The youth appeared to enjoy participating in the service on Youth Sunday. Bible Study is well attended and very meaningful. It continues to meet in the summer. Book Club meetings have been postponed due to schedule conflicts. Participants are planning on meeting in the summer.

Fellowship: There had been a strong attendance at our weekly fellowship hour. Elizabeth and Mary are appreciative of everyone that has volunteered to host. The committee is developing a mission statement and list of responsibilities.

Finance Committee: An auditor has been contacted but we haven't received a response yet. Doug introduced a template of a streamline report which consolidates the many reports using Quicken. This report is in the developing stages and will be discussed with Michele, our Financial Consultant, and the Finance Committee. Hop, Michele, and Kristi are planning a meeting in July. It was brought to the attention of the finance committee that any committee with over \$10,000 in their accounts need to report this to Consistory. For example, Cemetery accounts have not been reported. A policy will be implemented at a future date. At the Consistory meeting, questions were asked about using Cemetery funds for church expenses. It was stated by Kristi and Glenn that Cemetery funds are restricted and can only be used for cemetery expenses. Glenn stated that budget planning begins in August.

Mission and Outreach: No representation from this committee. Pastor Alisha asked Consistory members to read the report and address questions to Wendy Walrath or Laurie DeCiutiis.

Property Committee: There are several projects that need to be completed. For example, painting outside, mowing, weed whacking, gutter repair, etc. Glenn stated that volunteers are always welcome and appreciated. See report for more details.

Technology: Pete stated that Doug continues to fine tune our sanctuary and Zoom sound. The TV that was installed in the fellowship hall was used during JJ TenClay's visit which was beneficial. The Tech committee continues to discuss revamping the church's website.

Worship: Pete stated that the Worship Committee met last week. A few changes to the worship service were recommended. It was suggested to edit the communion insert to better reflect the communion liturgy. The praise song was well received on June 2nd. The committee would like to have choir anthems each week, especially with the assistance of Joseph Breslau. There's a recommendation to extend Joey Breslau's hiring to Labor Day. The procedure for placing fresh flowers in church for Sunday services has been developed. Attendance for worship services has been declining, which is typical for this season.

To approve the Committee Reports as presented, M/S/C.

Working recommendations and special reports:

WCR#1: Continue employment of Joseph Breslau through Labor Day at \$125/service. After discussion, a motion to accept WCR#1, was seconded, and passed.

Safety Seminar Discussion

In May, Elizabeth and Glenn attended a seminar hosted by DC Sherriff's Department, "Protecting the House of Worship", given by law enforcement personnel. The seminar focused on providing information and resources for churches in the areas of: Behavioral Threats, Medical Emergencies, and Security Assessments. Elizabeth and Glenn provided materials explaining the different types of emergencies/threats that churches may experience.

For behavior threats, Amery Bernhardt, a former law enforcement personnel recommends churches develop a behavioral threat committee comprising of former law enforcement, people with experience in crisis intervention, counselors, etc. to develop procedures if someone displayed behavior threat behaviors.

For medical emergencies, it was recommended that a "medical committee" be established to develop and/or review medical procedures. For example, people trained in using the AED, first aid certified individuals, CPR trained, etc. It was suggested that a representative from the church reach out to our local fire departments for training opportunities. Bob Haan has been maintaining the AED machine and was instrumental in obtaining a trainer in the past.

For Security Assessments, it was recommended that a representative from SJRC contact James Marcello, personnel from the Department of Homeland Security to ask for a security assessment. A walkthrough of the church buildings will be conducted. They will provide input and recommendations. After the assessment is completed, and recommendations are made, there may be grant opportunities for their recommended changes, if any are needed.

Glenn handed out an informational brochure developed from the FBI called, "See What Tell Who?" It states, "How to spot signs of targeted violence in your friends, family, and loved ones- and get them help". Examples of the brochure will be available in the church office.

After Elizabeth's and Glenn's presentation, discussion took place. Consistory members agreed that this information was important, and we should move forward.

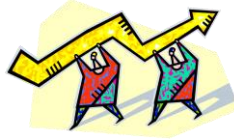
A motion to initiate the process of the assessment by James Marcello, Department of Homeland Security, and then form a safety team to receive, accept, and apply his recommendations to our church was made, seconded and carried.

To approve to adjourn the meeting after prayer, at 9:15 p.m., M/S/C.

Consistory will not meet in July or August unless it is necessary.

The next regular meeting is September 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristi Colburn,
Clerk of Consistory



FINANCIAL REPORT
Monthly Review- May, 2024

Income vs. Expenses Current Month

May Income	\$14,365.74
May Expenses	<u>-16,044.19</u>
	\$-1,678.45

Income vs. Expenses Year to Date (YTD)

YTD Income	\$96,707.98
YTD Expenses	<u>-112,861.62</u>
	\$16,153.64

2024 Budget: \$240,000

Average Per Month: \$20,025

Did You Know: the 2025 budget preparations begin in August?

It seems the summer has just started but here we are, talking about the 2025 Budget! The process begins in mid-August with the distribution of a “2025 Budget Worksheet” to each committee chairperson and staff member whose operation is dependent on budget funding. During their August meetings, Property, Fellowship, Mission & Outreach and Worship Committees will review their operation and anticipate their expenses for the next year. The Personnel Committee is responsible for staff salary recommendations. They evaluate the required hours for the position, cost of living adjustments and other payroll-related liabilities. Mid-Hudson Classis also offers some guidance for Pastor Alisha’s portion of the budget.

For all the mentioned committees, the August meeting is **the** time to plan projects and ministries for next year. The budget worksheet should be completed and returned to the office by the last week of August. After collation, the tentative budget will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and then by Consistory during their September meetings. The October meetings offers a second look before the draft budget is mailed/emailed to the congregation during the first week of November. A Question & Answer Congregational Meeting will be held after the November 10th worship service with an affirmation vote the following Sunday.

The ultimate goal is to achieve the greatest good for our collective St. John’s Congregation resources. Your interest and participation in the process is encouraged and welcomed. There are plenty of opportunities to be involved. By serving on or simply attending one or more of the committee meetings, you are actively part of the procedure. You can voice your thoughts and concerns at any time along the way, as budget changes can be made at any point before the final affirmation vote on November 17th. Please contact the Finance Committee Chairperson, Hop, with any questions.

Finance Committee

Calendar

Worship Service

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: 816 2419 1012

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-Hosier Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. (off site), Fri.-Sabbath Day

Kristi Colburn, Administrator Mon., Wed, Fri., 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,

Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Michele Zagorski, Financial Consultant working remotely

Food Pantry Distribution Mon. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wed. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Bible Study Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall

JULY EVENTS/MEETINGS:

Prayer Service Tuesday, July 2, 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Blooming in Faith - Women’s Group Wednesday, July 3, 7 p.m., in the fellowship hall

July 4, Independence Day- Church Office is Closed

Men’s Breakfast Saturday, July 6, 8 a.m. at the Elizaville Diner

Boy Scout Leader’s Meeting Friday, July 12, at 7 p.m., room 4

Not meeting in July:

Scudder Circle

Finance Committee

Property Committee

Old Dutch Village Garden Club

Book Club TBA

Elders

Consistory

AUGUST EVENTS/MEETINGS:

Men’s Breakfast Saturday, August 3, 8 a.m. at the Elizaville Diner

Prayer Service Tuesday, August 6, 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Blooming in Faith-Women’s Group Wednesday, August 7, 7 p.m., in the FH

Finance Committee Meeting Monday, August 12, 7 p.m., in the fellowship hall

Property Meeting Tuesday, August 13, 7 p.m., in the fellowship hall

Not meeting in August

Scudder Circle

Old Dutch Village Garden Club

Book Club TBA

Elders

Consistory



Shepherds Page

July/August 2024

Why Me, Why Now, and What If?

I'm sure in everyone's world, they have said or thought at least once one of these phrases, why me, why now, and what if. I can remember numerous times; I have said all three in one sentence. For example, I called a friend to check up on her and I needed to get right over to her house. My car battery was dead, my first thought was why me and why now when I needed to get somewhere fast. I told myself what if I had rechecked the cars lights that maybe it had drawn down the battery. Thankfully, I had a halo bolt which I would recommend everyone should have. Within minutes, I was able to get the car started and go help my friend.

Recently a person from another office location posted a blog and it really hit me about these three phrases. She wrote "A few months ago I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Breast Cancer. The most common response I get when I tell people is "OMG why you?" My response "WHY NOT ME" if God is out here wanting to perform miracles, then why not me! She then added, "So let me encourage you really quick, God gives us promises but a lot of times there is a process to that promise. The struggles most of us have is enduring the process especially when it doesn't look anything like the promise" by Shelena. So, perhaps the next time you feel like why me, why now, and/or what if; think about Shelena's concept "WHY NOT ME" and turn the negative into a positive. Work and pray with God, perhaps then it will be like the "footprints in the sand" that the hard times is when God has carried you and have seen you through your storms.

Although I have never met Shelena, her story I feel is very powerful. I have added her to my prayers as well as all of you also. If you feel that you need extra prayers and help, reach out to God, and/or Pastor Alisha, the lay pastors, or the Shepherds. Tell yourself "WHY NOT ME!"

God Bless each and everyone.

Respectfully,

Joann Fisher-Shepherd

We are here to talk, listen, or help if you need.

Hoping each of you has a wonderful and safe summer.

Eileen Zeliph-Shepherd Coordinator

Shepherds Ministry Serving St. John's Reformed Church

Desiree Albizu

Kayla Bell

JoAnn Fisher

Terry Laibach

Amie Parker

Linda Neilson

Denise Gilhooly

Eileen Zeliph

Wendy Walrath

Mary Hennessy

Marie Votava

Stan Tremper