

THE KERK

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

Phone: 845-758-1184; Fax: 845-758-3675; email: office@stjohnsreformed.org

June 2022

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Minister's Musings

I'm going to write on a topic I, admittedly, know very little about (currently). However, I have extensive first hand experience from about 20 years ago. I'll give a Jolly Rancher to anyone who can guess what I'm going to write about (in good faith - without skipping ahead).

Did you guess?

Okay. I'll put the answer upside down at the bottom of the page. I know you'll be able to intuit from the rest of this article, but for now, I'll let those who are trying ardently to figure out the puzzle, keep figuring.

June is a month where we honor graduates and celebrate children in Church through youth Sunday's and other summer programs that kick-off.

Congratulations, graduates! What a season you have all been through. As you head into this month and summer, know that you're loved by God and by your church family here at St. John's. You may receive a lot of unsolicited advice - hear what you're able to, take what is helpful and let the rest slip away. Look, even I'm giving you unsolicited advice! It's an exciting time and a scary time. Know that whatever you're feeling is valid.

Also this month is Children and Youth in Ministry Sunday! Something spectacular about the gospel story of Jesus is the welcoming attitude Jesus had toward the young ones. His words, "Let the little ones come to me." - when there were disciples and people getting upset about the children around, he brought them near - as Christ often does with the parts of the church that can sometimes feel like squeaky wheels.

For this month, what are some ways you can engage some of the younger ones in your life? Perhaps you create a scavenger hunt for them with clues and fun activities around your house or neighborhood. Maybe, on a rainy day, bring them in for a time of baking together or creating some sort of art together. In the process of creating, maybe remind them of our creator and ask them what it feels like to join in the creative process. Is it exciting? Scary? Satisfying? How do they think God felt while God was creating e v e r y t h i n g? Wild, right?

Maybe you're a little like me and feel sometimes removed from the world of children and youth. What does it look like for you to let yourself play a bit this month? Maybe do something creative and expressive and feel for yourself what it's like to let your inner-child create. Try to create without the need to have whatever you're creating be or look perfect, but just create for the joy of creating.

(I'll give you a Jolly Rancher to anyone who can guess what I'm going to write about (in good faith - without skipping ahead))

Pastor Alisha

Your New Administrator

Greetings as your church administrator!

I'm happy and thankful that you have hired me to represent you in the office. St. John's has always been a part of my life and especially my spiritual journey. Even though my home church is the Red Hook United Methodist, I have fond memories of times that I spent at St. John's. As a young person, my Girl Scout Troop met here in the Fellowship Hall. My siblings and I attended many youth group events. We participated in the Easter Sunrise service and I led music. During combined services, my Dad and I sang with the choir. I played bells with the bell choir for a short period of time. I even attended Camp Fowler as a young girl and yes, I kissed the moose.

Personally, my family (Dad-Bill, Mom-Joan, Sister-Lori, Brother-Billy) and I have lived in Red Hook since 1975. I graduated from RHCS in 1985. Currently, my husband and I live in Red Hook too. We have been married since 2009. We don't have any pets or children. We love animals, especially cats, and hope someday we will be able to adopt a cat or two. Dave and I love to go camping and fishing especially in the Adirondacks. We enjoy watching and routing for the NY Rangers (NHL team). It can get loud in our house.

I wish to thank everyone for the warm welcome! Shari has been the best mentor ever. Her organization skills are phenomenal and has helped me immensely to learn the aspects of the Administrator Position. I'm excited to be joining St. John's RC's family.

FATH AND EDUCATION

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

BIBLE STUDY

Preaching Elder John Roberts leads a Bible Study open to all on Tuesdays mornings at 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Copies of the reading guide for the Revised Common Lectionary Year C are available in his mailbox in the education wing. You may also find this reading guide on the internet. There is no need for prior education to participate.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Thanks to the help of numerous teachers, we continue to offer a program every Sunday for the younger elementary children using the DWELL curriculum from Faith Alive Christian Resources. This program will continue on throughout the summer. Resources for the older students were recently mailed to their homes. We hope to include as many children as possible in the worship service on RCA Children's Day, June 12. After the service there will be special ice cream treats served during Coffee Hour.



BOOK CLUB

The selection for June's 6th Book Club discussion will be Passing by Nella Larsen. Book club will meet at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Anyone who has read the book or listened to it is welcome to join in the discussion. July 11th's discussion will be on A Room Called Earth by Madeleine Ryan.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

We will recognize and celebrate with the following high school seniors on June 19 during worship: Lynsey Dorval, Ben Finch, Scott Stoddard, Jason Swart, Ben Van Kleeck and Mason Wright. Congratulations and best wishes as these young people head out into the world.

CONSISTORY NOTES

May 19, 2022

Pastor Alisha opened the meeting, read Psalm 67, and led us in prayer.

Pastoral Report:

Pastor Alisha will be the Camp Minister at Fowler Camp and Conference Center, June 26 to July 2. She will find someone for pulpit supply on June 26. Preaching Elder John Roberts will be preach on July 3.

Other general announcements - Children's Day, June 12; Recognition of high school graduates on June 19; and General Synod in Pella, IA June 9-14. Commissioned Pastor James Walrath will be one of the Elder Delegates to represent the Classis of Mid-Hudson.

Financial review including monthly review, balance sheet and profit and loss vs. actual.

Giving is almost \$4000 less than last year at this point. Pledges paid for the full year and donations for the organ and such may have given people the false impression that we are better off financially than we truly are.

Committee reports

Faith and Education: The Children's program is running each Sunday, there is a children's message in the morning service. The Children's Program will continue through the summer making use of the curriculum resources that we already own. There is no repetition of lessons as the students are aging up to new levels of instruction. We are fortunate to have a number of women in the congregation who are willing to lead this program.

Mission and Outreach: A reminder to keep local missions in mind as we proceed throughout this calendar year. There was discussion about the purpose of our food pantry as it is currently run. This prayer meeting will be continuing on the first Tuesday of the month and will focus on each Mission of the Month. June 7th will be the next prayer meeting.

Personnel: A new Administrator, Kristi Colburn, was hired and began working on May 4th.

Property: There was a very good response for Clean-Up Day in April and much got accomplished. The new stove hood has been installed. The fire-suppression system will be updated.

Worship: it was noted that the offering plates will stay in the back of the sanctuary instead of being passed during the service and that a new wireless microphone is in the works. Coffee hour has started back and it's going well. A statement recognizing the high level of COVID in our community had been emailed out to the congregation. Pastor Alisha will also speak to this issue during announcements on Sunday from the pulpit. The Re-Opening Committee will continue to monitor the local situation as they try to keep everyone healthy and make people feel safe. Tech consultants Carol & Tom are continuing to work on a solution for our sound system. We also discussed fellowship and where to hold it, inside or outside, with the rise in COVID levels. At the current time, we will continue to hold it indoors.

All committee reports accepted.

Working recommendations: none

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Desiree Albizu

SCUDDER CIRCLE NEWS

The Scudder Circle will meet at Savona's on June 2 at 12 noon. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall, or you may contact President Mary Bayer to let her know that you would like to attend. This luncheon is open to any woman who would like to join in the fun.

In July Scudder Circle will picnic at the church on July 7 at 12 noon. Anyone attending is welcome to bring a dish to share. If you prefer not to share due to any reason, please feel free to bring a "box lunch" and join in the fun. Hotdogs will be provided.

Plans for the fall meetings, October through December are being firmed up. **Please note that the December Luncheon has been moved to Friday, December 9th** as there was a conflict with the retired teacher's luncheon on our regular first Thursday date. Mark your calendars now, so you don't miss it.

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

The members decided at the May meeting to send \$100 to the May-June Mission of the Month, Shadow of His Wings.

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. Offering 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 the women associated with St. John's Reformed Church.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Mission and Outreach is continuing to help Afghan refugees settling in our state.

Please help if you can. We would like to **collect items to be delivered to the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Albany** to help Afghan families settling in the region.

Attached is a list if items needed.

We will have a box placed in the fellowship hall for collection during the month of June.

Donated Items

Imagine coming to a new country with your entire family and only a few suitcases. You would need some help to get started in your new home!

Below is a list of items most needed to set up a household for a refugee family. While there are many other things that may be useful, there is limited storage space and priority is given to these essential items. New and gently used items are accepted, but cannot make repairs or launder items.

Accepted donations:

Gift cards to stores where household essentials, groceries and clothing maybe purchased.

Kitchen: dishes, glasses, silverware, pots, pans, woks, rice cookers, cooking utensils, mixing bowls, can openers

Bathroom: bath towels, bath mats, shower curtain and rings, toilet paper, facial tissue

Household: paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, school supplies, scissors, light bulbs, lamps, flashlights

Bedroom: sheet sets (twin/double/queen), comforters, blankets pillow (**NEW**), pillowcases, alarm clocks, plastic clothing hangers, window curtains/rods

Personal hygiene: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, sanitary napkins, diapers, other baby items

Cleaning supplies: mops, buckets, brooms, dustpans, toilet brush and holder, wastebaskets, trash bags, paper towels, dish soap, sponges, kitchen cleaner, all purpose cleaner, laundry detergent.

Winter wear: coats, boots, gloves, mittens, hats, scarves

Prayer Meeting on June 7th at 7pm in the Sanctuary

**“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit the orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”
(James 1:27)**

We will pray for all the children and staff at Shadow Of His Wings Children’s Homes: For vacancies to be filled, for work to progress on two new homes, and for Casa Maria House as it welcomes pregnant teenagers.

**“ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing”
(Deuteronomy 10:18)**

We will pray for the children on our southern border:for those being held in temporary detention, shelters, group homes and foster homes, for those children who were separated from their parents,

We pray that agencies will always consider the best interests of the child in every situation.

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.” (Mark 9:37)

We will pray for the children in Ukraine, that they may they be delivered from danger and find safe shelter, food and rest.

We will pray for all humanitarian organizations helping in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

“Defend the weak and the fatherless:uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy: deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (Ps. 82: 3-4)

We will pray for an end to violence against children, and for the protection of all children.
We pray that we will not forget your command to support children and families in need.

This is an open prayer meeting. The schedule is flexible...people can bring other concerns that are on their hearts. People are welcome to come and pray in whatever way is comfortable for them, in silence or out loud.

Congratulations!

To our high school graduates **Lynsey Dorval, Benjamin Finch, Scott Stoddard, Jason Swart, Benjamin VanKleeck, Mason Wright**

to our Reverend Roger and Bernice Leonard Scholarship winners, **Benjamin Finch, and Jason Swart.**



who turned out for **Spring Clean Up Day: Pete Lawson, Denny Doyle, Wayne Swart, Laurie DeCiutiis, Cathy and Hop Michael, Glenn Countryman, Pete Fenaroli, Roland Page, Mary Bayer, Al Trezza and his tractor, Dave and Chris Grover!** A lot of things got accomplished; and thanks to Desiree Albizu for the homemade banana bread for snack!

to **Glenn Countryman** for fixing the education door.

to **Hop, Glenn, and Ed** for helping to bring the donated food to the food pantry.



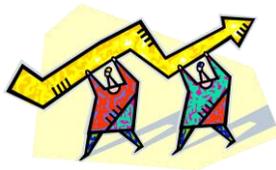
Deadline for the **July/August Kerk** is **June 10.**

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.

St. John's Reformed Church



FINANCIAL REPORT
April 2022

Income	\$19,549.78
Expenses	<u>\$18,238.01</u>
	+ \$ 1,311.77

Year To Date
January - December 2021

Income	\$74,112.22
Expenses	<u>\$72,798.66</u>
	+ \$ 1,313.56

Thank you to everyone who donated to the **April Mission of the Month: Ukraine, a check for \$1980.63 was sent to Church World Service**

Update on Organ donations:

Balance 03/13/22	\$3075
donatons in April	- <u>3075</u>
balance	<u>0</u>

The organ has been completely paid for. Thank you to all who donated!

Did you know..

The Financial Report that you see above is simply a snapshot of our finances at the end of last month. There are other factors that need to be considered to better understand the financial situation.

1. The Year-to-Date Income includes a few pledges that are paid in full. This is a wonderful and efficient way to receive church pledges but the entire amount immediately becomes part of that month's income, giving a distorted income value for that month.
2. Here is the good news: The new organ has been entirely paid for through donations!!! Almost \$3,600 was received for the organ in April. Gifts directed to capital projects like this are a welcome way to satisfy the expenses of a project. The month the gifts are received will have an increased income, although that money is not helping to pay current expenses.
3. The timing of the payments of large annual commitments such as Denominational Assessment or annual insurance premiums can distort the expenses of a given month.. Half of the Denominational Assessment has been paid, with the help of member donations of \$3,346. The next two quarterly payments (\$1,1995 each) will have to come from our checking account.

4. Comparison of regular envelope offering from the previous year shows a downward trend.

2022 Jan.-April \$56,674

2021 Jan.-April \$60,256

-\$3,582

Regular envelope offerings are not keeping up with St. John's regular expenses.

Thank you for supporting this congregation. It is good to have a positive balance at this point in time. However, there is still concern about our expenses and obligations for the rest of 2022.

The 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 Luncheon at Savona's

Thurs. June 2, 12 p.m.

Mission & Outreach Meeting

Sunday, June 5, 11:30 a.m.

Book Lover's Club

Monday, June 6, at 10 a.m.

The Passing by Nella Larson

Finance Committee meeting

Monday, June 6, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Prayer and Meditation Service

June 7, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

Old Dutch Village Garden Club

Thurs. June 9, 12:30 p.m.

Property meeting

Tues. June 14, 7 p.m.

Elders meeting

Thurs. June 16, 7 p.m.

Consistory meeting

Thurs. June 16, 7:30 p.m.

Boy Scout Leaders meeting

Thurs. June 30, 7 p.m.



Shepherds Page

June 2022

Are You Doubting God's Goodness

This is a question asked by both believers and non-believers in Christ. "If God is good, why does He allow bad things to happen?" There are great minds that have sought the answer to this question. You don't have to be good in order to deserve or earn God's goodness. No matter what, God loves us. His goodness is a gift He freely dispenses based on His abounding love for us. He is good and He does good.

Here are some strategies to focus on when you are doubting God's Goodness:

Focus on truth-We need to meditate on the truth of who He is and what His word says. God is good and we are encouraged to taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8). Praise be to God for a taste of the Lord's goodness. Know that right now God's goodness is here, nipping at our heels, following us.

Shift your perspective-from disappointment and hurt. We have to train our eyes to see from an eternal perspective, from a perspective of a wise God, and from a perspective that acknowledges God's love for us. When we do all of this, we will see goodness right in front of our eyes. Let's look at all the times He's been faithful healing us, delivering us, protecting us, and providing for us.

Praise-When we offer up our praise, we take our eyes off our situation and place them on God. No matter where we go, or how gloomy it gets, our souls can boast in the Lord, boldly proclaiming His goodness.

Prayer-It is through prayer that we bring our will into alignment with God. It is through prayer that we can cry out with our questions, doubts, fears, and struggles. Prayers turn our hearts towards God. It is also in the place of prayer that we receive assurance, peace, and answers. God is good no matter what the diagnosis, the prognosis, or the fearlessness of the uncertainty of having neither. Remember this about our God: He holds us in his loving arms, He doesn't leave our side, He doesn't change, He doesn't falter, and He doesn't quit. No matter what, He never lets go. I know first hand that God truly does work all things together for good. I have to be honest and say I have asked God many times why myself. Take this time now to look over the footprints of your life. May you have eyes to see His goodness at every step of your journey. He will lead us on whatever journey he chooses and never leave us for a moment on the journey.

I would also like at this time to thank all of those who have prayed, called, and sent cards with well wishes to me since last year after my unfortunate car accidents. It certainly has been a stressful ordeal but I have to say that knowing how many people care and having God on my side certainly helps you get through the worst. Many of you know I am dealing with brain aneurysms on both the left and right sides. On April 22, I had brain surgery on my right side to place two coils to prevent it from rupturing. I was in the intensive care overnight and sent home the next day. Praise God. I will probably be asking for prayers in the future when I have the left side done as this is more delicate since there is still an aneurysm there since not fully clipped originally from 2004.

With God All Things Are Possible
Yours in Christ- Stay safe and well
Eileen Zeliph

Shepherd's Ministry serving St. Johns Reformed Church

Desiree Albizu	Stan Tremper	
Kayla Bell	Linda Neilson	
JoAnn Fisher	Denise Gilhooly	Marie Votava
Terry Laibach	Judy Rockefeller	Eileen Zeliph