

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

July/August 2022

VOL. 56, NO. 7

Minister's Musings

There are berries down the road. Strawberries that just ended their season, or are coming to a close, and blueberries that are coming around the corner. I know this because Greig Farm puts out a sign on the end of Pitcher Lane to tell the neighborhood, and people driving past what's headed our way.

Everything in the garden has found its roots and are coming up on their own. Radishes have gone from miniscule seeds to bulbs that burst through the ground - poking their little red heads out from the soil as if to say, "We're ripe! We're ready for salad!" What a delight it has been to put teeny, tiny things in the ground and watch them spring up out of the ground and transform in wild, unexpected ways!

There have been a lot of surprises and unexpected things that have come about in the last 8 months. Whether it's the berries that keep changing on the Greig Farm sign, vegetables that are taking shape in surprising ways, or the ever-evolving flower patch that lives in front of the education wing, or the way that God continues to show up and move in our midst.

I have been delighted with the lengthening of days and the warmer weather. The smells that are around us in the area, in peak summer, are delicious. The grass and the wild flowers that grow all around us make the air sweet.

Families and friends have started trickling back into the church building, as windows and doors are flung open.

The notes of summer have infiltrated most aspects of life.

It reminds me, in the heat and openness of these summer days, of the deep midwinter. How vastly different the experience of this moment is. The sun is bright and the grass begs to have toes in it - pools, the same. And faces, of all kinds, flowers and kids, turn their faces up naturally to soak in the warm rays.

It reminds me of how we all grow and move through different stages of our lives with relation to so many things. I recently officiated a funeral and we meditated on the passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 that begins, "There is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." This feels poignantly true in this moment in the heat of summer. There is openness and light and levity. And, we can look back and remember a time in our not so distant past of cold and dark midwinter times. Perhaps there are emotional seasons of life as well that feel similar to summer and winter. Maybe you're a person who feels blinded by summer's light and prefers a winter chill and cozy night in.

Whatever the case may be, remember there is a season for everything. Be gentle with yourself in whatever season you find yourself in.

Pastor Alisha

FATIH AND EDUCATION

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES THROUGH SUMMER

Preaching Elder John Roberts will continue to offer Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 10:15 a.m. throughout the summer. Copies of the Scripture readings for July to December are available in John's mailbox in the education wing. It's also accessible via the internet. There is no need for prior education to participate.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



The Children's Program will continue through the summer, finishing up DWELL's Year 1 Wonder curriculum, designed for Grades 2-3. We have eight summer units from Walk with Me from which we can choose.

We are looking at two new curricula for the 2022-2023 program year.

Eight children participated in the worship service on Sunday, June 12, Children's Day. This included two year old Dorothea Buring who crossed herself when she got splashed with water from the baptismal font, and then tried to cover it back up when Pastor Alisha was trying to assist another child. Bibles were given to third graders and teachers who have helped teach over the last couple years during the pandemic. Special ice cream treats for everyone were served during Coffee Hour.

BOOK CLUB

The selection for July 11 will be Stranger on a Boat by Mitch Albom. 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.

August 15th discussion will be on Beach House by Mary Alice Monroe.

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



CONSISTORY NOTES

June 16, 2022

Pastor Alisha opened the meeting with Psalms focusing on relying on God always during our low and high moments individually and within the church, and then led us in prayer.

Pastoral/Elders report: Pastor Alisha reports that Deborah MacConel would like to join the church. Pastor Alisha has conducted one funeral at Burnett and White Funeral home. She will be working at Camp Fowler from June 26-July 3. Rev. Dr. Robert Gram will be preaching on the 26th, and Elder John Roberts will preach on July 3.

Financial Review including monthly review, balance sheet, and profit and loss vs. actual. Glen reported that envelope offerings are down. Some discussion took place on this as to why. Discussion took place about the

higher cost of parsonage oil. Glen reported that prices have soared. Glen stated that the budget will be worked on in August.

Committee Reports

Faith and Education:

Finance: There was a discussion on pledges and why were finances lower.

Mission & Outreach: Letter pertaining to Gun Violence will be sent out to Consistory for approval to be sent to the Senators.

Property: Parsonage Security will be discussed at the next property meeting with Pastor Alisha attending. He updated the progress of the new stove installation. Several people have donated monies for the purchase of the stove.

Worship: Desiree highlighted a few items, technology continues to be updated for better quality and sound during worship services.

With regret, Gwyon & Daewon Sin on their resignation effective on Sunday, June 26th.

Consistory approved Jane Bier's salary being raised from \$95 to \$125/week to compensate for her additional duties once the music director leaves and to thank her for her hard work.

Consistory will not meet in July or August, the next meeting is September 15th.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristi Colburn,
Clerk of Consistory

SCUDDER CIRCLE NEWS

The Scudder Circle will meet on the church lawn under a tent at noon on Thursday July 7th for a picnic meeting. Please bring a lawn chair if you are able. We will have hotdogs and baked beans and whatever else members choose to bring to share. If you prefer please feel free to bring your own "box lunch" and come to enjoy the fellowship time together. If the weather is inclement we will meet inside the Fellowship Hall.

There will be no Scudder Meetings during August or September. We will resume our meetings at 1:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month beginning on October 6th. Our guest speaker in October 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.

The members chose to donate our June Offering of \$255 to the Church World Service in support of programs addressing the severe famine in Africa. 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 women associated with St John's Reformed Church.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Mission of the Month for July:

We will be supporting:
The Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund and The Uvalde Strong Fund.

These community organizations are providing aid to survivors of the deceased and those directly affected by the mass shootings in Buffalo NY and Uvalde Texas.

After such terrible tragedies, we can feel deep despair, grieving in our hearts that so many families' lives have been irreparably changed forever. We can find it challenging to assimilate what is an ocean of pain and heartache.

We need courage to speak out about the sanctity of every human life; we need to learn, by listening in humility to the stories of people whose lives have been impacted by such violence.
We need to love.....as Christians we are called to enter into our neighbors pain.

Both these communities are suffering terribly. The children in Uvalde are traumatized and terribly frightened about returning to school. Their parents are not knowing how to protect and heal their little ones. Those who have lost a child are going through the worst experience a parent can endure. How does a parent digest the finality of never seeing their child again and the loss of future hopes and plans?

And our hearts go out to the victims and their families in Buffalo. One was a grandmother to 6 and a loving, caring person; another was only 32yrs: dedicating her time to helping her brother with leukemia treatment; and one man was there picking up a cake for his son who had just turned 3.

So many lives shattered.

They need to know that Christians everywhere acknowledge their pain and in this we are simply reaching out.

Our Motto in Mission and Outreach is Pray, Give, Advocate.

May we embrace these three goals as we aim to be Christ's hands and feet to a suffering world.

Wendy Walrath (Elder for Mission and Outreach

MISSION & OUTREACH COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES THIS SUMMER

During the month of August, St. John's will be giving out school supplies for our food pantry clients. Below you will find a list of items that we plan to collect in July for school children. We will also accept monetary donations. Please put the school supplies in the box located in the fellowship hall.

School Supply List:

Crayola Twistable crayons

Tissues

Glue Sticks

Glue

Scissors

Unscented Baby Wipes

#2 Pencils

Two pocket folders (pocket only)

Markers
Wide Rule Marble Composition Book
24 Count Crayons
Plastic and soft pencil boxes
Backpacks
Art smock (an adult T-shirt)
Erasers
Colored Pencils
Post it notes
Dry Erase markers
12 inch ruler
Pencil sharpener
Antibacterial liquid hand soap
Scotch tape
Erasable pens: black and blue
Loose leaf paper
Highlighters
Disinfectant wipes
Composition note books
Spiral notebook
Index cards
1 and 2 inch Binders
Notebook dividers



The Music Ministry has always been an important and spiritually uplifting part of our worship services at St. John's. During the past year, as we have been coming out of Covid, our Music Ministry has been led by Gwyyon and Daewon. It has been a difficult time as Covid greatly reduced our choir membership. Their patience has been greatly appreciated as they guided the very small choir through Sunday hymns. Additionally, we have enjoyed duets Gwyyon performed with Jane on organ and with Daewon on oboe.

They will be leaving us at the end of June to further pursue their music careers. Daewon will be headed to Houston to continue his education and Gwyyon will be going to Wisconsin to further her career. This will be hard on them as they will be apart but they are both very dedicated and will make it work.

We at St. John's appreciate all they have done and pray for them both to have the best in their careers and lives.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE AND KITCHEN STOVE PROJECT

The Property Committee has been hard at work, especially now that the grass is growing, growing, growing. Committee members and other volunteers have done a lot of mowing, weed whacking, brush clearing, tree pruning, garden plot building, landscaping, planting, and painting around the church, the parsonage and in the cemetery. There is also a sub-committee working on repairing broken/damaged monuments.

The kitchen stove project is moving along, albeit somewhat slowly. The new hood has been installed and the electric wiring will be reconnected before the final ductwork can be completed. The next step will be for the new required fire suppression system to be installed after which a new stove will be purchased and installed. As always, the Property Committee is looking for new members to help with all forms of church building and property maintenance. No special skills are required.....just a desire to help where it's needed.

Thank you!



Hop Michael, Glenn Countryman, Jim Bard, and Dave Grover for moving the stove so the electrician can hook up the range hood.

Terry Laibach for helping re-stock the Food Pantry shelves after a large delivery.

Beverly Kipp for baking bread for communion.

Glenn Countryman for overseeing and organizing all the work for the buying and installation of the new stove.

COFFEE HOUR RETURNS!

As of the beginning of May, Coffee Hour has returned. Deacon of Fellowship Gian Stagnaro has been coordinating the purchase and display of food platters. He has many helpers in the kitchen this spring -Mary Hennessy, Laurie DeCuitiis, Deb Maconel, 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.



Congratulations and best wishes to Justin & Tanya Grover upon their marriage June 10. Justin is the son of David & Colleen Grover.

Gwyon and Daewon will be starting their Doctorate Studies this coming Fall in Wisconsin and Houston. Sadly their last service was on June 26th.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

We recognized and celebrated 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.

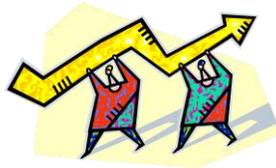
Benjamin Finch will be attending the University at Buffalo for mechanical engineering.

Jason Swart will be attending SUNY Binghamton and will study microbiology and related sciences.

Scott Stoddard will be attending Montana Technical Institute to study and learn to be a lineman. He's following in his father's footsteps.

Mason Wright will be attending SUNY Binghamton to study biology.

St. John's Reformed Church



FINANCIAL REPORT

May 2022

Income	\$13,072.56
Expenses	<u>\$15,790.54</u>
	-\$2,717.98

Year To Date

January - December 2021

Income	\$87,184.78
Expenses	<u>\$88,486.20</u>
	-\$1,301.42

Thank you to everyone who donated to the **June Mission of the Month**:

Did You Know,

Our summertime church attendance often falls off as people take vacations and have family gatherings, and our summertime church income tends to lag, as well. Just as your own home expenses don't stop when you are on vacation, St. John's expenses continue throughout the summer.

If you will be away, or missing services this summer, you can mail your offering to the church, or drop it off at the church office before you go. Or maybe this is a good time for you to consider the Givelify app, if you aren't already using it. When you set up your plan with Givelify, your tithes and/or offerings will be sent to the church automatically. You can find a link to Givelify on the home page of St. John's website. Givelify is a free app, but does take a small percentage of each transaction as a fee. For this, you get peace of mind, knowing that you will continue to support your church.

The Finance Committee wishes everyone a happy, healthy summer.

Deadline for the **September Kerk** is **August 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.



Wanted: Used Washing Machine

If you are upgrading your washing machine and need a home for your older model that still works, please contact Desiree Albizu at 518-965-7538 via text or at desireeralbizu@gmail.com. She is willing to pay for it and pick it up for one of her daughters who is renting.



Shepherds Page

July/Aug 2022

Our Shepherds Ministry

As many of you know, I recently spoke in church about this ministry. As we know, Covid has been changing our lives in many ways through the pandemic. The shepherds continued to send cards, pray for their flocks, and make calls. Visiting homes, hospitals, and nursing homes was limited.

I would like to discuss again what this ministry is all about:

A shepherd is one person caring for another by giving one's self in Christian love to a relationship in times of strength and weakness. We work to motivate, encourage, and inspire all to be "Jesus with skin on it" in church and around the community. We are here to assist the minister not to replace her. If something is discussed that needs to be addressed, we will refer to Pastor Alisha. We keep our discussions confidential and ask permission of people to be put on the prayer chain or prayer list. We are not problem solvers, just good listeners.

We are trying to meet once a month as we are discussing how we can help our congregation further. Some of you need our help so please reach out. Those in the congregation willing to help our ministry, please reach out to me with any questions you may have. This doesn't take a lot of time so please pray about this as many of you are already caring for others in your lives. Please consider ministering God's love and care for our church family fulfilling the Lord's command to "love each other as I have loved you" John 15:12 "Feed my sheep" John 21, 15-17.

The commitment to this ministry is as follows:

- P- Pray for the people regularly
- A. Available with your ears, hands, and heart
- C- Contact best way possible
- E- Example commitment to Jesus Christ and his church

I have been a shepherd for almost twenty years. I want to share that this ministry has many rewarding experiences too. Many relationships turn into lasting friendships.

Have a great summer and Stay safe.

Eileen Zeliph- Shepherd Coordinator
Shepherds Ministry serving St. Johns Reformed Church

Desiree Albizu

Kayla Bell

Linda Neilson

Marie Votava

Stan Tremper

JoAnn Fisher

Denise Gilhooly

Terry Laibach

Judy Rockefeller Eileen Zeliph

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

Scudder Circle Picnic

Thurs. July 7, 12 p.m.

Old Dutch Village Garden Club

Thurs. July 14, 12:30 p.m.

August:

Prayer and Meditation Service

Tues., August 2, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Scudder Circle:

Thurs., August 4, No Scudder Meeting

Finance Committee meeting

Monday, August 8, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Property Meeting

Tues., August 9, 7 pm

Defensive Driving

Sat., August 13th, 8:30-3:00, w/ Bob Owens

Book Lover’s Club

Mon., August 15, 10 a.m.
Beach House, by Mary Alice Monroe

Elders meeting

CANCELLED for July & August
Next meeting, Thurs. September 15, 7 p.m.

Consistory meeting

CANCELLED for July & August
Next meeting, Thurs. September 15, 7:30 pm

EVENTS

Prayer and Meditation Service

Tues. July 5, 7 p.m.

Finance Committee meeting

Monday, July 11, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Book Lover’s Club

Monday, July 11, 10 a.m.
Stranger on a Boat, by Mitch Albom