

# MESSENGER

Niskayuna Reformed Church

May 2024



## **Speaking The Truth in Love:**

*"If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels, but have not love, I am only a re-sounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." – 1 Corinthians 13:1-2*

*"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their de-*

*ceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." - Ephesians 4:1-2,14-15.*

We are so blessed to have so much great music as a part of the Niskayuna Reformed Church. But have you ever wondered why we don't ever have a guest Cymbal player, or a professional Gong Ringer come and play something in worship? Imagine how enjoyable a choir of banging cymbals would be or a group of gongs all going off at the same time. We would probably all leave with a bit of a headache because while they add power and dynamics to a band or orchestra, they are not intended to be solo instruments.

Perhaps that's why Paul sees them as fitting imagery when he talks about speaking with the tongues of men and angels to the Corinthians as well as "speaking the truth" to the Ephesians. The truth of God is very important for us to stand up for and proclaim as God's people in the world. God calls us to share the Good News of God's love and forgiveness, to stand against injustice, to help the poor, to reject evil, to heal the brokenhearted, and so much more. But Paul makes it clear that all of this is to be done with and in love!

It seems to me (Pastor Mike) like more and more of the witness I see coming from us as Christians in the world today particularly in the West is focused more on sharing the "truth" as some form of moral judgement or correction for the one who is "other" to us. While I like to think this is coming from a caring place it looks at times more like the goal is to win a victory over some person or belief and love is getting sacrificed to elevate righteousness in terms of our own "right-ness." It was Mother Teresa who said, "If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

As we continue to live as "Easter People" may we boldly proclaim God's truth and may we continually strive to always do it in and with love. Love for God, love for our neighbor, and love for ourselves that we may continue to grow into the mature body of Christ. Let us remember that love is more than a feeling we might have for another, and it is not dependent on our perceptions of the "lovability" of another. Rather it is a disposition, a chosen way of being we are called to live out in the world as we live into God's love for us and abide in that love. Love is curious and seeks to understand the other. Love is humble enough to know that it may not be right or have all the answers. Love is courageous to say what is so and choose what is good and healthy. Love is compassionate and looks for the divine image in the other. Love abides in God. May we be God's people of Truth AND Love!

Seeking to share the truth in love,

*Pastors Mike & Sherri*

## Birthdays

1	Scott Duesterdick	11	Brian Maclutsky	26	Larry Felpel
2	Carol Munro	11	Anne Putnam	29	Tim Freligh
2	Diane Pechulis	12	Cindy Strassenburgh	30	Anne Burger
7	Colleen Kennedy	14	Camden Rockefeller	<b>Anniversaries</b>	
7	Trudy Lehner	14	Joyce Anderson	Mike & Suzi O'Brien	10
7	Zackary Roth	17	Petie Mackintosh	Drew & Judy Henery	14
9	Joseph Pustay	17	Rory Wood	David & Joyce Anderson	14
9	Linda Matt	21	Alexandra Mirel	Leo & Sue Lichtig	15
10	Ralph Ender	22	Deana Perlee	Kent & Valerie Vander Wal	20
11	Will Mizenko	24	Kathy Drapeau	Glenn & Adrean Kreig	25
11	Paul Russell	25	Sue Lichtig	John & Karen Moak	26

## May Ushers Schedule

5	John & Lynn DelSignore
12	Rick Mizenko & Judy Henery
19	Pat Zink & Linda Gardner
26	Harry & Cindy Kuchera



The **Women's Fellowship Group** will meet on Thursday, May 9 at 10:00 am in the Lounge. The group will work on a project for Father's Day. All are invited to join for a time of fellowship and service. Please contact Trudy Lehner with questions.

The **Women's Book Group** will meet in Saturday, May 11 at 10:00 am at the home of Ann Duncan. Please join us as we share what we've been reading and other general conversation. Please contact Ann Duncan for directions and with questions.



## Bible Study

*"We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know God who is true. And we are in God who is true by being in God's Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." – 1 John 5:20*



You are invited to join us for a special 6-week spring Bible Study on the Epistle of 1 John. Bible study groups meet on Monday Evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom and run through **June 3rd**, and in-person in the lounge on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am and run through **June 5th**. All you need to bring is a favorite Bible if you have one and an open heart to share, listen, and learn from one another and the Holy Spirit! If we do not have your email address and you would like to join the Zoom small group, please be sure to give it to Pastor Mike or Pastor Sherri so we can send you the link.



**Children's Day!**  
**Sunday School Celebration & Recognition of Our Graduates!**

We will be celebrating the youth of our church (including our graduates!), our dedicated teachers, and our fantastic Sunday School Program on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> during the 9:30am service. You are then invited to stay for a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to pass or something to share if you are able. There will

be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex



**Celebrating Kathy Mausert!**

Kathy Mausert is retiring at the end of this school year after 19 years as a teacher for the Niskayuna Reformed Church Nursery School program. On Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> during the morning worship service at 9:30am and following at the coffee hour we will give thanks to God and celebrate her many years of dedication and service to the children in our Nursery School Program, as well as offer her a blessing as she begins her retirement! Come join the celebration!

# MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE

## Mission of the Month:

Our Mission of the Month Collection will benefit **Camp Fowler** a Christian Camp and Retreat Center that is a non-profit children's camp grounded in openness, hospitality and compassionate Christianity. Camp Fowler's function first and foremost is as a summer camp, aiming to provide space for children to be themselves, learn from those who are different from them, and intimately experience wonder and love. In the off-season, they offer retreats that revolve around themes of stewardship, relationships, youth ministry and spirituality—most of which are open to the public. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**Looking ahead:** June — Home of Joy

## Communion Collections

Safe, Inc. - collected \$585, donated TBD

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 together the list for the second half of 2024. Please email Lizbeth Amorelli at htebzil@gmail.com with suggestions.

**Special Note:** Our Mission of the Month Collections run for the entire month. If you are unable to attend church on Sundays, 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. OR you can make your donation through the Church's Web Site? There is now a dedicated Mission donation selection for the Pay Pal contributions.

## SICM Emergency Food Pantry

For the month of MAY in honor of Mother's Day we will be collecting Women's Personal Care Products—hair care items, body wash, deodorant, lotion, perfume, nail polish, lipstick, make-up, etc.

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.**

## Ongoing Collection Campaigns

The following items will always be accepted by the Mission and Service Committee:

- **Eyeglasses** and **hearing aids** for the **Lions Club International** (40 pairs of glasses donated)
- **Empty pill bottles** (labels removed, please) for the **Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash, OH**
- **Small white bottles** with caps such as those used for Boost or baby formula for the **SICM Food Pantry**

You will find collection boxes on the first floor of the Education Building.

## 2024 Volunteer Opportunities

### Salvation Army Soup Kitchen -

May 14 & June 11

## UPCOMING M & SC Events

**Coffee Hour** - TBD

**Brooks BBQ** — August 14th

**Next Meeting:** May 13th @ 6pm

***Please remember the needy, the hungry and the poor.***



## March Financial Summary

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offerings	\$ 57,169	\$ 55,779	\$ 1,391
Use of Facilities	\$ 14,135	\$ 14,350	\$ (215)
Nursery School	\$ 11,061	\$ 12,600	\$ (1,539)
Rental Income	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,250	\$ -
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 23	\$ -	\$ 23
<b>Operational Income</b>	<b>\$ 87,638</b>	<b>\$ 87,979</b>	<b>\$ (340)</b>
		<b>Expenses</b>	
Payroll	\$ 74,527	\$ 75,754	\$ 1,227
Property	\$ 29,980	\$ 26,500	\$ (3,480)
Mortgage (Principal & Interest)	\$ 4,407	\$ 4,356	\$ (51)
Denominational Assessment	\$ 1,957	\$ 2,732	\$ 775
Office	\$ 4,257	\$ 3,300	\$ (957)
Other	\$ 2,501	\$ 1,990	\$ (511)
<b>Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 117,629</b>	<b>\$ 114,631</b>	<b>\$ (2,997)</b>
Loss from Operations	\$ (29,990)		
Budgeted Loss	\$ (26,653)		
Performance Vs Budget 3/31/2024	\$ (3,337)		



## Mission and Service Committee Brook's Chicken BBQ 4/17/2024

Once again, the volunteers that helped with the Brooks BBQ on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> did an outstanding job! On behalf of the Mission and Service Committee, I would like to thank all of you. A special thank you goes out to Rick Wallace for going beyond and above with helping to set up outside. The traffic pattern was fantastic! Everything ran smoothly, and we were able to make a nice profit. I would also like to thank the congregation for their support the day of the BBQ. Through yours and the community's generosity we were able to sell 100 halves and 700 dinners. We sold out by 5:05. After expenses our final profit was \$4,762.69. A special thank you goes out to the Colonie Town Library for the free copying of the thank you notes.

The August's BBQ will be here before we know it. I will be looking for volunteers for the Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:15 until we sell out, and hope that you will join in the fun.

Stay safe and healthy...

Kim Cerone  
BBQ Chairperson



**TEAMWORK!!**

## Spring Clean Up Day

A BIG thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for our spring clean up. We had members from the Boy Scout & Cub Scouts Troop 3034 that use our space every week. We had 12 Cub Scouts and 15 Boy Scouts and 16 adults total!!



We also had help from church members- John & Lynn DeSignore, Carol Munro, Tony Pechulis and Sherri & Sophia Meyer-Veen



None of it would have happened without the leadership of Scott Haefner and Jack Faddegon who helped supervise and organize the event.

Thank you everyone who attended for helping to make our church campus look beautiful!!





## SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars!! Our Annual Flea Market is scheduled for **Saturday, September 21st**. We need LOTS of volunteers to make this event successful. Volunteer requests will go out in late August but if you know you can help on either Thursday (September 19th) or Friday (September 20th) evening to help with prep work or you would like to be a kitchen volunteer, parking attendant or runner you can email Ellen at [office@niskayunareformed.org](mailto:office@niskayunareformed.org). This is a great team building event and a great way to meet other church members, especially if you are new to NRC. We hope to make this the MOST successful Flea Market ever!! Join in the fun!

## Thank you Niskayuna Reformed Church members!

Your contributions to the Regional Food Bank were well received and greatly appreciated! Continued blessings to all!

From our Regional Food Bank drive: Between our two locations in Latham and Cornwall-on-Hudson, we have collected 42,228 pounds of food and grocery items and raised \$10,159, including the \$5,000 match from Renewal by Andersen. Together, these donations will provide more than 75,800 meals for our neighbors in need!



# Camp Fowler's 70th Church Picnic

**Come enjoy a day at your camp!**

- 10am Tours and Boats
- Noon Lunch\*
- 1pm Sing-a-long and Dedication
- 2pm Enjoy the grounds
- 4pm Depart

Saturday, May 25th • 10am - 4pm

152 PELCHER ROAD, LAKE PLEASANT, NY 12108

\*Fowler will provide a picnic lunch

**If you are able, please bring pie to share.**







**DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.**

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

3041 Troy Schenectady Rd., Niskayuna, NY 12309  
Fellowship Hall  
Co-sponsored by: Niskayuna Knights of Columbus

**Saturday, June 15, 2024**  
**8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

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

All presenting blood donors this June will receive a voucher redeemable for one prepackaged pint of Stewart's ice cream or gelato at any Stewart's shops!

**Do Good Things! Come to give blood June 10 through 30  
for a \$15 e-gift card! See [rcblood.org/DoGood](http://rcblood.org/DoGood)**

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

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## Niskayuna Senior Center MAY 2024

**\*Denotes registration or poss. fee. Pre-order Gershon's lunch or bring your own. Coffee service available.**

### **Tuesdays:**

- 9a - 12 pm Tom's Computer Class &/or Ancestry help (5/ 7, 21); Unite US Resource Program w Dottie (5/ 7, 21)
- 10a Tai Chi - UL
- 10a - 2p Open for Indoor/Outdoor Socialization/Coffee service
- 10a – Cards, Mahjong, Bridge
- 11a CDPHP Total Body Combo FREE - UL (5/7, 14, 21, 28)
- 12p – Gershon's, BYOL and coffee service
- 1p MVP Chair Moves - UL (5/7, 14, 21, 28)

### **Thursdays:**

- 10a Tai Chi - UL
- 9a - 3p Open for Indoor/Outdoor Socialization/Coffee service
- 10a – Cards, Mahjong, Bridge; 10:30a Sewing Club; 11am Bocci & Pickleball
- 12p – Gershon's, BYOL and coffee service
- 1p Trinity Health Chair Yoga (5/9, 23)
- 12:15pm English Country Dancing (5/2, 30)

### **Update:**

- 10a **Monday** Qi Gong - (5/6, 13, 20); Sewing Club - (5/6, 13, 20) Come learn or make!
- 11a **Mon.** Pickleball - Open to All (5/6, 13, 20)
- 12:30p **Mon.** CDPHP Chair Pilates In-House (5/6, 13)
- 4:30-6p **Mon.** Open Art - Bring projects...finish old ones or start new ones. Space avail. to start a new group. Quiet, creative time and space is here! (5/6, 13, 20)
- 5:30pm American Mohjonn **Mon.** (5/6, 13, 20)
- 6:30p **Wednesday** CDPHP Gentle Flow Yoga with Susan UL (5/1, 8, 15, 22)

You can email Edie for registration, dates and times @ [ecannizzo@niskayuna.org](mailto:ecannizzo@niskayuna.org).

### **Monthly Activities:**

May 2 - 11a Book Club - The Paper Bracelet - Rachel English; B'Day celebration; 12:30p ECB-Art-Class-Paper Jewelry

May 3 - 11a Alzheimer's Assoc. Caregiver Support Group - Feel free to call and sched. @ 518-867-4999 x.9877; walk-ins always welcome!

May 4 (Sat) - 9a-4p (LL) - AAA Defensive Driving course, call 518-761-6058 to reserve

May 7 & 14 - 10:30a - Art w Laurel-le - Sketchbook class

May 9 - 11:30p Joe Severino entertainment!; Mother's Day celebration

May 11 (Sat) - 10:30a-2:30p - SAS Workshop - Gelli Plates \*Fee required

May 14 - 11a St. Peter's Health Partners Blood Pressure Clinic

May 16 - 12:30p Movie Club w Jim

May 21 - Coffee with a Cop

May 28 - 9a-2p Hearing Checks w Toni



*Come on by!  
Bring friends,  
activities, interests or  
just pop over for  
coffee and  
conversation. We'll  
provide the space and  
hospitality.*



# May 2024

## **Wednesday, May 1**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-Bible Study (L)  
10 am-Coffee Hour  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
6:30-Cub Scouts (FH)

## **Thursday, May 2**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
5 pm-CATW (S)  
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## **Friday, May 3**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
12-AK (FH)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7 pm-AA (FH)

## **Saturday, May 4**

3 pm-CDDC (FH)

## **Sunday, May 5**

Mission-Camp Fowler  
9:30 am-Worship Service (S)  
9:45 am-SS (EB)  
10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)  
10:30 am-CC (103)  
10:45 am-Coffee Hour

## **Monday, May 6**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7 pm-Bible Study (Zoom)

## **Tuesday, May 7**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
4 pm-Flute (102)  
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## **Wednesday, May 8**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-Bible Study (L)  
10 am-Coffee Hour  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)

## **Thursday, May 9**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-WFG (L)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## **Friday, May 10**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
12-AK (FH)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7 pm-AA (FH)

## **Saturday, May 11**

10 am-WBG (Ann Duncan)

## **Sunday, May 12**

**Bells Sunday**

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)

9:45 am-SS (EB)  
10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)  
10:30 am-CC (103)  
10:45 am-Coffee Hour

## **Monday, May 13**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-Jap. Flower (FH/1)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
6 pm-M & SC (L)  
7 pm-Bible Study (Zoom)

## **Tuesday, May 14**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-SA  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
4 pm-Flute (102)

7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## **Wednesday, May 15**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-Bible Study (L)  
10 am-Coffee Hour  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
6:30-Cub Scouts (FH)

## **Thursday, May 16**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## **Friday, May 17**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
12-AK (FH)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7 pm-AA (FH)

## **Saturday, May 18**

No events

## **Sunday, May 19**

### **Kathy Mausert's Recognition and Retirement Coffee Hour**

9:30 am-Worship Service (S)  
9:45 am-SS (EB)  
10:30 am-Coffee Hour (FH)  
10:30 am-CC (103)  
10:45 am-Coffee Hour

## **Monday, May 20**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7 pm-Bible Study (Zoom)

## **Tuesday, May 21**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
4 pm-Flute (102)  
6 pm-H & A (L)  
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## **Wednesday, May 22**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-Bible Study (L)  
10 am-Coffee Hour  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
6:30-Cub Scouts (FH)

## **Thursday, May 23**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## **Friday, May 24**

1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7 pm-AA (FH)

## **Saturday, May 25**

No events

## **Sunday, May 26**

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

## **Monday, May 27**

Closed-Memorial Day

## **Tuesday, May 28**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
4 pm-Flute (102)  
7 pm-Boy Scouts (FH)

## **Wednesday, May 29**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
10 am-Bible Study (L)  
10 am-Coffee Hour  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
6:30-Cub Scouts (FH)

## **Thursday, May 30**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7:30 pm-Senior Choir (S)

## **Friday, May 31**

9:15-12:00 pm-NS (101)  
1:30 pm-5:30 pm-TSL (FH)  
7 pm-AA (FH)

*AK: Amazing Kids*

*CATW: Children at the Well*

*CCC- Congregational Care*

*CC: Children's Choir*

*H & A- History & Archives*

*M & SC- Mission & Service*

*SA- Salvation Army*

*SS- Sunday School*

*WFG- Women's Fellowship Group*

*WBG- Women's Book Group*

