

THE KERK

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

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The Pastor's Notebook

Trust is lived, not learned -- Words to live by into each day of your future!

There is an old joke about a man who fell off a mountain side, but fortunately grabbed hold onto a plant growing out of the mountain. Hanging desperately, he shouted a prayer: ***"God please help me"*** only to be shocked to hear a voice say, ***"Let go, my son and trust me, and I will catch you!"*** His response was to yell even louder: ***"Is anyone else up there?"*** We all know how hard it is to trust in difficult situations!

Trusting is essential for growth and healing. Some medical researchers question whether it is medicines which cure us or the trust we put in them which marshals our immune system to heal us. It is probably both. But trust is essential for growth or healing of any kind. Trust is, however, a quality which cannot be taught or demanded of anyone. It is a choice and commitment which a person makes that is very personal and yet, communal. It is personal because it happens deep within our spirit in relationship to God. It is easy to "talk trust" with God-talk, but that doesn't mean a person really does trust God within. But trust is also communal because though we cannot teach another to trust, we can, at times, "infect" another with trust by being trusting ourselves.

The best possible thing a Christian can do in their life is to practice trusting God by asking for God's help in our relationships and needs, and then taking the risk of believing God will supply our needs and pushing forward with our decisions and actions. It is just as the Proverb writer of 3:5,6 wrote:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths!"

As all of you at St. John's Reformed Church begin a new pastoral relationship and future for your church, I encourage you to keep that verse in your minds and hearts and watch what the Lord can do with your Church as you let God direct your paths!

May the Lord bless and keep St. John's Reformed Church, Pastor Alisha and all you in God's love as you explore your exciting future together!

Pastor Don

CALL TO A NEW MINISTER

On Sunday, September 5, 2021 candidate The Rev. Alisha Riepma led worship at St. John's at the invitation of the Consistory. During the Special Congregational Meeting after the service, the congregation cast a very positive vote of confidence for the candidate.

The Consistory held a special meeting that evening via Zoom. They voted to affirm the will of the congregation to extend a call to The Rev. Alisha Riepma.

Details of her call, a formal, legal document, are being worked out between the candidate, the Finance Committee and the Consistory. When all parties agree to the call's terms, the Consistory will vote to affirm and accept this call document.

The call will then go to the Human Support Committee of the Classis of Mid-Hudson, on to the Executive Committee, and finally to the floor of Classis at its October 26, 2021 meeting for the final vote.

After the Executive Committee has given its approval of the terms of the call, we can move forward. Pastor Alisha can move into the parsonage and we can set a date for her to begin work as our Minister of Word and Sacrament. We need not wait until after the October 26 Classis meeting to begin our working relationship.

We are not sure when all this will take place, but we will keep you informed as to when all this will happen. We will also celebrate The Rev. Dr. Donald Heringa's last Sunday and let you know when that will be. The transition will likely take place in October.

Thank you to the Consistory, the Search Committee, and a special thank you to the Chair, Glenn Countryman who put in countless hours over the past year seeking God's will for all of us.

Praise to God for providing us such a wonderful candidate and for the excitement of a new beginning in our near future. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." May it be so, Lord Jesus!
Desiree Albizu, VP of Consistory

FATIH AND EDUCATION

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday morning Bible Study continues following year D. It encompasses the lesser known scripture passages and has been a challenge for those who faithfully attend to read and understand them. Copies are available in Elder Desiree Albizu's mailbox if you would like to join in these readings. You need not attend to read along.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Mrs. Wambach is willing to teach the younger class and complete her worship service at home, but we hope to get other teachers involved to give them all a chance to teach and a chance to worship.

Children at the Lord's Table and Communicants Class will be on the agenda with Pastor Alisha this fall. Normally the former is instruction we offer prior to the first Sunday in October, World Communion Sunday.

Lifeway Women Online offered five prayers for parents which were shared with our Sunday School parents and guardians.



BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet Monday, October 18 at 10 a.m. to discuss Nomadland by Jessica Bruder. Anyone who has read the book or listened to it is welcome to join in the discussion.



THE SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING & SERVING

The School for Christian Living & Serving is offering two courses this fall. One course is "Sacraments", running October 5, 12 and 19 from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom. The instructor is the Rev. Jay Vogelaar. Tuition is \$40.

The second course "Contextualizing Worship Music: The How, What and Why Behind Corporate Worship Music" will be held on Saturday, September 25 from 9:30 to 1 p.m. via Zoom. Choir Director Kate Valdiva from Fishkill Reformed is the instructor. Tuition is \$25.

Scholarships are available. Contact Desiree Albizu if you are interested.

RE-OPENING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Some of the outside groups that have used St. John's space in the past have patiently waited until they were given permission to return to our building.

Here are the new guidelines for outside groups and much of this is pertinent for Church groups as well.

Everyone must sign in or be accounted for on the contact tracing sheet provided by the Church Office. The contact person is responsible for returning this sheet to the Church Office.

Everyone needs to make use of the hand sanitizer upon entering the building and as needed.

Everyone must wear masks indoors, covering mouth and nose.

Social distancing of 3-6 feet is encouraged, especially when people are seated and possibly eating. Extra tables and chairs are available to help maintain distance. **There is still a limit on the number of people we can reasonably accommodate.**

Tables and chairs need to be wiped down after use. Please use the cleaning supplies provided.

Windows need to be opened as wide as weather permits and closed at the end of a meeting. Dress appropriately as the temperatures decrease. (This is especially true for worship. Bring or wear sweaters and jackets.)

Bringing in food is permitted. Avoid sharing serving utensils to minimize contact. Please wash any dishes or utensils used.

Please dispose of all food/garbage (bring it in-carry it out) in the dumpster at the north end of St. John's parking lot after your meeting or event. As we are soon to have a new sexton, this will not be true for St. John's groups and committees. Use caution handling other people's garbage.

The Church kitchen stove and ovens are still not available for use due to Dutchess County Health Dept. regulations. The Property Committee will get to this as time and funds allow.

The coffee maker needs to be cleaned as it has been sitting for 18 months unused. It is hoped that it can be cleaned before October.

Pete Fenaroli is the Chair of this Committee. You may direct questions to him.

All meeting must be scheduled through Shari in the office.

CONSISTORY NOTES

Draft Consistory Minutes
09-16-2021
Zoom meeting

Pastor Don opened the meeting with prayer.

Financial review: monthly review, balance sheet and profit and loss for August were all received without question.

Committee Reports:

Faith and Education

Finance

Mission and Outreach: Kate Peterson spoke about CultureConnect, the October MOM.

A motion from Finance recommending that personnel speak with Michele about increasing her rate was approved.

A motion from Finance recommending that a housing allowance of \$3,000 be given to Pastor Alisha in lieu of housing equity for 2021 to assist her with moving into the parsonage was approved.

The Call to Rev. Alisha Riepma was approved.

The process: the Call is to be signed by all Consistory members and then will go to Pastor Kendra on Monday the 20th. The call will go to Human Support and then the Executive Committee of Classis. After Classis approves the call, it will go to Pastor Alisha.

Budget Review:

No changes were made.

Nominations Committee: Clerk, VP, outgoing Elder and outgoing Deacon.

Serena and Eileen have agreed to serve.

Outgoing: Jim Bard-Elder of Property, Serena Winchell-Elder of Mission and Outreach, Eileen Wambach, Deacon of Education(filling Linda Search's term)

The ballots will go in the bulletin for 3 weeks. Sept. 26, Oct. 5, Oct. 12.

The next regular meeting of Consistory is October 21, 2021. It is the intention to meet in person but this will be changed if necessary.

Pastor Don closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Kilgour Juranic,
Clerk of Consistory

SCUDDER CIRCLE NEWS
Thurs. Oct. 7, 1 p.m.

The Scudder Circle will meet Thursday October 7 at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Scudder Circle continues to support work for missions via members' dues and donations.

The group supports each Mission of the Month and our Church missionaries at Christmastime. Donations may be dropped off or mailed to 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
October
CultureConnect

CultureConnect helps empower the youth and families of our communities to create a future of social justice, global engagement, and cultural competence.

They are a community based, volunteer-led, not-for-profit organization based in the Mid-Hudson Valley of New York. We offer programs for students in grades K-12.

For more information go to their website:
www.cultureconnectrbk.org.

New Sounds within the Sanctuary

Whether you have been coming in person to church or listening in on zoom, you may have noticed a new sound. That's right, our "new" Allen organ.

Jane is just ecstatic to have not one, not two, but three keyboards and loads of instruments to choose from. We got this gently used organ at quite the bargain price of \$15,000 (installation & delivery included). Word of mouth travels fast within our church family so we have already **received \$4,220 in unsolicited donations**. However, if you would like to help cover this unexpected cost, please notate ORGAN on the memo of your check, money envelope or in the message section of your Givelify app. Thank you and be sure to *tune* in every Sunday.



Kerry and Roger Staples welcome their daughter **Elowen Jeanne Staples** on September 8. Elowen is the granddaughter of Paul and Kate Peterson.

Samantha and Bob Welch welcomed their son **Leeland Ihlwa Welch** on August 25. Leeland is the grandson of Denise Gilhooly



to all those who put in time getting the parsonage cleaned out, cleaned and ready for Pastor Alisha; Pastor Kendra VanHouten for all her work with the Search team and the Consistory as Supervisor; your help was appreciated.

Pastor Don for your calm, steady, upbeat attitude as you occupied the pulpit during these difficult times.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

our newest member, **Jane Bier!**

Even though you see Jane every Sunday, she became an official member during the service on September 19th.



to the family and friends of **Peter Van Kleeck** who died September 3.



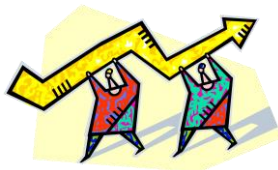
Deadline for the **November** Kerk is **October 10.**

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

August 2021

Income	\$ 16,368.47
Expenses	<u>\$ 22,008.98</u>
	\$ -5,640.51

Year To Date

January - August 2021

Income	\$ 134,669.65
Expenses	<u>\$ 103,852.76</u>
	\$ 30,816.89

Thank you to everyone who donated to the August Mission of the Month: school supplies. **A \$119 was spent on school supplies for the Food Pantry clients.**

Did you know..

Budget preparation began when the various departments and committees within our church provided the Finance Committee with their best estimate of the expenses that will be needed during the Budget year 2022. In October, Consistory and Finance will come to an agreement about the Expense side of the budget.

Obviously, there is another side of the budget - the Income side. We are asking everyone in the congregation to start thinking about the income side, and especially pledging. While we can never accurately predict the income, pledging is the best tool we have to help estimate our income.

Here are some things for you to consider when you think about making your own pledge to St. Johns:

1. Your pledges will be made anonymously.
2. Giving should come joyfully out of gratitude for the blessings we

have received from God. Even in this challenging year, the gifts

are many.

3. The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) represents the rate of

inflation, and is used to adjust Social Security benefits in order to counter inflation. That percentage rate is usually announced in October. It is expected to be unusually high this year, likely more than 5%. If you are able to increase your pledge by the COLA percentage, you will maintain the purchasing power of your pledge.

4. In 2022, we will have an installed minister, which will result in higher monthly expenses than we have had in 2021. Most of us indicated in the survey that we want and need a full-time Pastor. Now is the time to support that decision.

Here again are the important dates for your participation in the budget process:

November 1

Proposed budget, a letter, and a Pledge Card will be mailed or emailed to members. (Call Shari if you prefer to have a hard copy mailed.)

November 14

Budget Question and Answer meeting, immediately following the worship service. This is the time to ask your questions about the proposed budget and the pledging process.

November 21

Congregational Meeting, following the worship service. At this time, we will:

- Vote on the 2022 budget
- Hold Consistory Elections
- Present our Pledge Cards

If you cannot attend the meeting, you may call the church office to register your vote over the phone. You may mail in your Pledge Cards at any time.

Thank you for your consistent support and commitment in a year filled with uncertainty and change. Every gift is gratefully received.

The Finance Committee



Shepherds Page

October 2021

GOD IS AT WORK ALWAYS

History has shown more people are more open to religion during time of crisis and instability. We are confused and some are lost looking for answers. We can't control what happens to us and around us. We are looking for hope in the midst of chaos. We are all on common ground and experiencing this pandemic. God is on the move and we can be a part of his work. We as Christians need to share the gospel with others more than ever since we have the opportunity to minister and share the truth of Jesus.

God is also working by drawing people together during crisis. Thanks to technology we have been able to stay connected through this pandemic by phone calls, Zoom, and FaceTime just to name a few. In this time of social distancing we are being reminded that we were never meant to live in isolation. God said "Man was not meant to be alone as part of being created in the image of God."

The world has slowed down in a way we've never seen before. It has caused us to pause and rest. It's not a pace we are used to and not easy. God has shown us the call to rest is really a call to trust God. We feel like we have lost control. So in order to step into this rest, we need to let go of the control and put it into God's hands. Creating space in your life for rest is the way God restores us and gives us strength to get through our lives during these times.

No matter who you are, we are all being affected by Covid-19 one way or another. Our faith is more likely to grow. When your efforts fail and you have done all that you can, remember this, God hasn't stopped working during the pandemic. He is not silent but on the move. He is working in the hearts and faith of his people for the good of those who love him.

After you read this article, if there is anyone you may know who is alone or feeling isolated especially through this pandemic try to reach out to them and let them know that they are not alone and that you are praying for them. If you would like the shepherds to pray for them too, please let me know as these communications are kept confidential between us.

Praying for safety, strength, hope, love, and peace to all.
Yours in Christ, Eileen Zeliph

St. John's Shepherd Ministry serving St. Johns Reformed Church

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

Church 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: 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 Program- Sundays, 10 a.m. in the assembly hall.

Shari Juranic, 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

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

Scudder Circle meeting

Thurs. Oct. 7, 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall

Finance Committee meeting

Mon. Oct. 11, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Property Committee meeting

Tues. Oct. 12, 7 p.m.

Old Dutch Village Garden Club

Thurs. Oct. 14, 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall

Book Lover’s Club

Thurs. Oct. 18, 10 a.m. fellowship hall

Nomadland by Jessica Bruder will be discussed

Elders meeting

Thurs. Oct. 21, 7 p.m.

Consistory meeting

Thurs. Oct.21, 7:30 p.m.



What's Happening Here?

We had an excellent week of Kreative Kamp. The theme was "fearfully and wonderfully made". Aaron did music workshops with boom whackers, we played theatre games, decorated cupcakes, memorised Bible verses, painted hedgehogs and sun catchers and magnetic tiles, created modern art, planted beans, tie-dyed, exploded bottles as volcanos, played with water, handed out Bibles, and learned about how much God loves us!

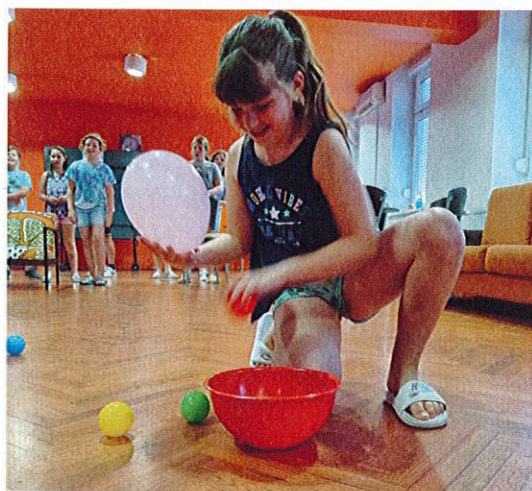
Top Photo:

One of the boys' teams spelling out a word with their bodies during Kreative Kamp. A fun icebreaker to get all the kids involved and moving.

Bottom Left: A relay race to get some energy out of all the kids before snack time.

Bottom Middle: Tower of Babel about to come tumbling down!

Bottom Right: You can see how competitive some of the boys got during a crazed marble racing game!

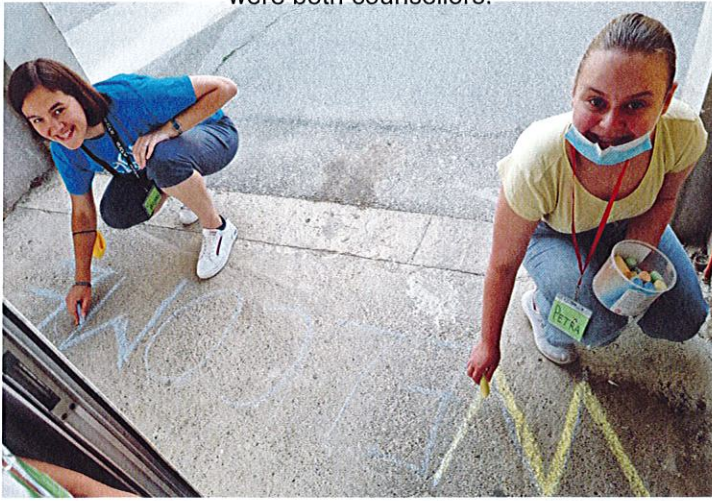


Almost Back to Normal

We were almost back to pre-covid days for our Kreative Kamp. We were still restricted in the number of people allowed in the ministry centre but we were still able to have 25 people total. More than half the kids were new so we were a bit nervous passing out Bibles on the last day. BUT no parents complained instead we got lovely emails thanking us!

Facebook: Horvat Fam | Email: Aaron.horvat@agmd.org

Marjiana & Petra make the welcome sign for camp. They were both counsellors.



One of the girls' groups eating popsicles on a 100 degree day.



A group building a machine out of their bodies! We are fearfully and wonderfully made!



Prayer Requests:

- 1) Una Club Camp for the Roma children happening in August
- 2) Church revitalisation project in Beli Manistir, Aaron is assisting local pastor
- 3) We have a new short term missionary family coming soon to work with us for 1-2 years- for their transition moving here
- 4) Wisdom and discernment where to give the most of our efforts
- 5) That Croatian teens and children come to know Christ

Aaron helps two new boys play one of the theatre games, expressing joy!



Making new friends and showing off their new tie-dye!



When it gets too hot, it's time to celebrate God's creation of WATER!



Other Concerns:

We had so many children that were too young to attend Kreative Kamp, but desperately wanted to come that we have decided to hold a "MINI-Camp" for 5-6 year olds this August. Because this is brand new, we have no funds for it. If you or your church would like to give to this exciting new opportunity to witness to little children, you can donate at agmd.org- just type Horvat in the search box or email us for directions how to snail mail support at

Aaron.horvat@agmd.org In Christ, Aaron, Winnie, Cameron