
The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, Interim Pastor

THE MESSENGER

In the Interim

Dear Members and Friends,

The goal line is in sight!

I celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in your midst leading you to the extension of not one, but two pastoral calls: to the Reverends Megan Hodgkin and Jason White! Because you have prepared well for this time, and called upon God's guidance at each turn in the road, your future stretches out before you bright and full of hope and promise. Well done!

As each interim period draws to a close, I find it helpful to reflect with leaders and those active in the community about what worked and what could have gone differently during our work together. I will meet with members of Consistory for an exit interview. I will make time to take each member of the staff to lunch to talk about what is working in their ministry and what the church can do to help it be stronger and more fulfilling. I welcome conversations with any of you as well.

Think back to the spring of 2015. What did you expect would happen during the interim time?

Retrace the steps of the interim journey. What really happened?

Take a close look at the congregation you are today. What remains undone?

Your input along the way has been critical to the interim process. In the fall of 2015, some of you took me up on the invitation to write notes about the church, to share what was precious to you and what your hopes were. In cottage meetings in early 2016, more than one hundred people participated in small groups to talk about what drew you to this church, what you cherished in a minister, what you wished for going forward, and what you hoped the ministry of the whole church might yet become. At coffee hour, in my office, through emails, in small groups, you have continued to share concerns and dreams and faith. Often you have jumped in with both feet to ensure that jobs got done and visions became reality. It's why God needs **you** here. Thank you for your openness, your support and your hard work!

I trust you will offer the same open-armed, open-minded welcome to Rev. Hodgkin as Senior Pastor and Rev. White as Associate Pastor. Listen to them. Trust them. Encourage them. Pray for them. Be patient as they come to know you, and become a team. Work with them to spell out a vision for this church.

Don't always wait for them to make the first move! Be bold to share where you feel the church is called. Be generous in inviting them to sit and talk with you at church, or in your home, over coffee or a meal. Be willing to offer your energy, time and treasure – to support the work of this church. Be prayerful and honest, loving and courageous. Be the church you are – and then be it more!

It has been my pleasure to serve among you, through all the challenges and into all the joys. I'll be keeping up through the Messenger and watching from across the river to see how you share the love of God made known in Christ in great and small ways. May God continue to bless each and all of you!

Peace,

Lynn

Thank You to Interim Musicians:

During the interim time, this congregation took up the work of several planned transitions and some that were not. Among the unplanned, unbidden changes were those caused by the untimely death of Director of Music Rebecca Shepherd in April 2016, and the resignation of Justan Foster in August 2016. Based on the strength and resources of the church's music program, we thought that hiring new music staff would be easy. It was not. The music interim demanded flexibility and creativity and generosity.

We are grateful for the work of the Music Search Committee, who advertised and received resumes, who checked references and held interview and auditions. We have been blessed by the talents and enthusiasm our new Director of Music Barret Germain has brought to his work this year. We are hopeful to be experiencing the accompanist talents of Camellia Dudinak as the new program year unfolds.

On Sunday, June 25, as we enjoyed the choir's music for their last service before summer vacation, we also took time to offer thanks to the many people who have allowed the music program to continue with faith and strength. We gave special recognition to John Hoffman, who has devoted himself since Christmas Eve to providing excellent musical support to our worship. Thanks to the choir and the Worship Council for providing coffee hour refreshments after worship.

I hope you will make a point yourself of thanking all the people listed here for stepping up and filling in as they were asked and were able, for devoting time to plan and practice, and for sharing God's gifts with all of us with generosity and joy.

THANK YOU:

Diana Ackner	Allison Atchley	Joe Bodden
Jess Crisci	Brad Day	John Hoffman
Bobbie Nelson	Ken Nelson	

Bell Choir Transition:

Terry Paulson is stepping down as Director of the Mission Bells. Terry has directed this group of church members and friends in rehearsals, organized concerts at local nursing homes, and on occasion as part of the Christmas Eve Prelude. Please thank Terry for her time, energy, enthusiasm, musicality and love of bells and bell ringers, when you see her next. God has blessed us through her ministry!

And thank John Lehman who has stepped up as the Mission Bells' new director.

#Show Up - Kids Hope USA News

Kids Hope USA at First Reformed Church of Scotia bids a very fond 'retirement' to Kim Rosenberg and her prayer partner, Pam Walsh. Kim, Pam and Kim's husband Ed were three of the first members of our congregation to step up for a new Kids Hope program almost eight years ago with the conviction to say, "Let's do this!" Kim and Pam mentored and prayed for Jasmyn, Alexandria and Albania. Thank you Kim, and Pam!

August Communion:

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper by intinction at both our 8:00 and 10:00 worship services on Sunday, August 6. A special Communion Thanksgiving Offering will be received that day for Camp Fowler Ministries. Designate your Communion Thanksgiving offering either by using the specially marked envelope in your box of offering envelopes or one of the special envelopes you will find that day in the pews.

Outdoor Worship:

Beginning Sunday, July 2, our 8:00 worship services will be held outside on the plaza beginning – weather permitting, of course. We’ll have a few chairs available, but it’s best if you can bring a blanket or a lawn chair to sit on. If it rains or is too cool, we will move inside. Start your week with God and your congregation in the beauty and warmth of summer! Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors.

Outdoor 8:00 worship will run through Labor Day Sunday, September 3.

Camp Fowler Mail:

We have so many campers attending Camp Fowler this summer, it’s going to be amazing! Consider writing letters to those taking part and the volunteers from our church as well. Check out the Fowler bulletin board for information on who’s attending which weeks and send a quick note saying hello! It’s always fun to get mail...and they get to “Kiss the Moose” if they get 3 letters!!

Send you mail to:

Camp Fowler
 Camper Name (Week #)
 P.O. Box 131
 Speculator, NY 12164



Summer Youth Group:

July 25, Tuesday night we will be joining Bellevue Reformed Church at their place for a game night. Check the bulletin board for more details and to sign up. This should be a lot of fun and a chance to fellowship with one of our close church neighbors.

August event will be serving at the City Mission. The date is yet to be determined so be on the lookout for email and text from Tracy.

Please have a safe and fun summer and don't hesitate to contact me anytime as always, peace be with you. Tracy Swarengen, 944-8794.



VBS 2017:

This summer we’ll be partnering with Trinity Presbyterian Church on Swaggertown road for another great program! We are focusing this summer’s theme on The book of Jonah. Children will participate in art projects, mission work, exploring science experiments, storytelling, songs and more! Come join a fun packed week August 14-17. Pick up a registration form in the church lobby or see Kristin Bodden for more information. Want to help out? Adult helpers and teen assistants are still needed.

Sorting Clothing:

Below are some guidelines to use while sorting through closets and dresser drawers when donating clothing to a charity:

Stained/Torn/Worn - The easiest to sort are all of the stained, torn, absolutely worn out stuff. City Mission will take all of this... they bundle it up and sell it by the pound. This could include sheets, towels, clothing, rags. It's all good stuff to them. *Please bring these items directly to City Mission.* We do not have the storage, or the staff to transport rags. Please help City Mission by bagging and labeling them as rags.

Dutch Fair Worthy Items - We especially need "good" children's clothing and men’s clothing. Name brands are especially appreciated. Women's clothing such as suits, dresses and career wear also do well. Any clothing leftover after Dutch Fair is donated to City Mission and Bethesda House.



Youth Sunday:

We are so pleased with our 2017 Youth Sunday at FRCS! All of our Nursery to Senior High youth had a part in this special service. We have so many talented young people from dancers, to musicians to artists and actors. We hope you enjoyed our interpretation of Fruits of the Spirit, and we look forward to another year of learning to come.

Dutch Fair 2016:

As you enjoy this summer, please keep Saturday, September 16 in the back of your mind! This year's 70th annual Dutch Fair promises to be a fun event for all ages. While you might notice some changes, much of it will be the same. There may even be some favorites from the past! The chair people are: Laura Bull (518) 369-4180 and Paul Rooney (518) 256-9332. Call them about questions, or to let them know how you can help out. This year, local missions will be supported with funds raised from the event, and we look forward to letting you know more about them!



As the summer progresses, be on the lookout for announcements in church, the bulletin, and via email for more ways you can help us prepare for September's big event!! Meanwhile, here are some ways you can help us prepare for this year's Dutch Fair:

- Book Nook:** Would love donations of books, music CD's, videos, books on tape/CD's. Please do not donate magazines, Readers Digest condensed books, audio tapes, encyclopedias, or homemade videos. Books may now be dropped off in the coat room, inside the church near the office entrance.
- Next To New: (Clothing)** Welcomes donations of good, used clothing. Please make sure the items are clean, not torn or stained. No undergarments, socks or bathing suits please!
- White Elephant:** Welcomes donations of many kinds! Most of our items are in the \$3 and under range. But don't forget higher-ticket items! Small to medium-sized furniture that can be moved by one person (chairs, end tables, children's furnishing) are great donations. Vintage collectibles are hot, hot, hot! These items are a big hit and generate a lot of excitement.
- Toys:** Are always big sellers. Clean them up and bring them in!

Here's the last word on donating: if it's chipped, broken, un-cleanable, or missing a cord or pieces, please save us the dumpster room, and dispose of it at home. *-Thank you!*



Health & Wellness Note:

Diabetes and Heat: With 422 million people suffering from diabetes in the United States, chances are you or someone you love is affected by this disease. These are some tips to help manage your blood sugar during the hot summer weather:

- If you take insulin, test your blood sugar more often in the heat because heat affects the absorption rate of your insulin.
- Avoid sweet tea and sweetened sodas.
- Staying well hydrated is important. Water is the best beverage.
- Protect your meds from high heat. If traveling, keep insulin cool but do not place insulin directly on gel packs or bags of ice.
- Do not leave your meter and test strips in a hot car. Protect them from the heat.
- Use air-conditioned buildings for exercise.

Healthy Steps: Did you make a New Year's Resolution to exercise more this year? Well now is the time to renew that resolution with a summer walk around Collins Lake. It's a gentle 45-minute walk that can motivate you to put your best step forward. **We'll meet rain or shine in the church parking lot on Monday, July 17, at 7:00 in the evening.** If it's raining, we'll take our steps inside to take advantage of walking our long hallway. Sign up on the bulletin board so we know about how many to expect.

Sunday School:

Thanks to all leaders and helpers this year as another successful program filled with learning, faith and fun comes to an end. A big thanks to all the dedicated teachers, helpers and families who make each year successful.

Diana Ackner leads the youngest learners, *Little Lambs*, in the nursery and cares for the babies and toddlers.

Joanna DeSilva leads the pre-schoolers and kindergartners in the peaceful *Children and Worship* program.

The school age guides of *Doves and Eagles*: Claudia Garrison, Becky Jarczinski-Okpoti, Patty Marré, Margo Snyder, John Hoffman, Laurie Cooper, Tracy Swearingen, David Schalecamp, Bill and Kristen Shave, Linda Willoughby and Kristin Bodden.

The dedicated *Middle School and High School* leaders, Sunny and Bob Baldwin, have grown and enhanced the program with mission and hands on learning.

The churches *Safe Sanctuary Policy* requires two adults in each classroom to keep the children safe and well cared for. Each parent is asked to choose at least one Sunday to help out. A big thanks to the regular helpers: Sue Pitts, Linda Willoughby, Lynn and Keith Makrin, Heather Kramer, Nancy Passer, Sue and Mike Torelli, Karen Trbovich, Amanda Faulkner, Jess and Rich Crisci, Susan Hoefer, Mike DeMasi, Laura Bull and Sarah Hoffman.

Fall Registration:

Look for registration information in August as records are updated and your children are welcomed for another great year filled with fun projects, faithful learning and new experiences for all. **Parents, grandparents and members, helping in the classroom is a great (and fun) way to give back to the church.** Please consider signing up for at least one Sunday to be a second set of hands in the room. See Kristin Bodden for more information. A sign-up sheet will be on the rolling bulletin board during the month of August.



Mission of the Month:

Our July Mission of the Month offering will be given to Schenectady Habitat for Humanity.

For over twenty years, HFH has renovated existing housing or built new simple housing for people who would otherwise be frozen out of the housing market – a good and noble work. For more information, see <http://www.schenectadyhabitat.org>.

The Mission of the Month for August will be used for Camp Fowler Ministries. Camp Fowler is located on 245 acres off Route 8 outside of Speculator in the Adirondacks. This summer Camp Fowler is offering a Christian camping experience to 850 campers and 150 adult volunteers. Campers have finished third grade and attend through high school. In addition to that, Camp Fowler has staffed week-long Day Camps for about 300 more youth at 6 Albany Synod churches. But Camp Fowler isn't just about summer camp. There are retreats held all year long in several facilities. We regularly use Fowler for an annual Epiphany women's retreat and an annual men's retreat. Fowler is a year-round ministry to many groups and individuals. See more information at: www.campfowler.org/retreats.

Camp Fowler does not receive direct financial support from Albany Synod. Instead, Fowler needs to raise at least \$150,000 annually from churches, organizations and individuals who share its vision for ministry. Our offerings help provide that support – support all the more necessary because Fowler has tried to keep its user and camper fees as flat as possible.

June Flower Thanks:

We would like to thank those who contributed to the flower fund in June, to vest the sanctuary in flowers for Sunday worship:

Lee Poremba, Carole Tygert, V. Rae Forster

If you would like to sponsor chancel flowers, call the office to arrange a date. The normal cost of the two arrangements is \$50, but negotiations are possible. Larger arrangements are also possible through the florist.

July/August Ushers:

- July 2:** Nancy Passer, Jack Arnold, Brad Coryer, London Shepherd
- July 9:** Martha Eberle, Bill Eberle, Russ Garrison, Bill Shave
- July 16:** Mike Trbovich, Mike Torelli, Russ Garrison, Ed Rosenberg
- July 23:** Judd Hoffman, Ken Swain, London Shepherd, Ed Naumowicz
- July 30:** Ed Rosenberg, Mike Torelli, Bill Shave, Sue Alibozek
- Aug 6:** London Shepherd, Ken Swain, Ed Rosenberg, Bill Eberle
- Aug 13:** Ed Naumowicz, Ken Swain, Brad Coryer, Matt Parker
- Aug 20:** London Shepherd, Ken Swain, Ed Rosenberg, Bill Eberle
- Aug 27:** Nancy Passer, Sue Alibozek, Ed Rosenberg, Bill Eberle

July/August Greeters:

- | | |
|---|---|
| July 2: Nancy Passer and Linda Lewis | Aug 6: Don Bowers |
| July 9: Kristen and Bill Shave | Aug 13: The Bodden family |
| July 16: Ann Armstrong | Aug 20: Terry Paulson and Paul Dimon |
| July 23: Linda Willoughby and family | Aug 27: Pam and David Walsh |
| July 30: Aileen Reinhart and Jen Trembly | |

Giving:

Each month we report our giving.
Here is how we gave so far this year:

(as of June 26, 2017)			
	Budget	Income	Difference
Congregational Giving	\$348,700	\$162,469	-\$186,231
Other Giving	\$127,400	\$43,019	-\$84,381
Total Income	\$476,100	\$205,488	-\$270,612
Total Expense	\$476,100	\$203,387	-\$272,713

June Attendance

(as of June 26, 2017)			
	2017	2016	Difference
MONTHLY AVERAGE	216	190	26
YTD AVERAGE	197	212	-15

July and August Food Pantry Needs:

Every week our bulletin lists the food most needed for the Scotia Food Pantry. Below are the items for July and August.

JULY

Canned Veggies:

Corn, Beans, Carrots, Beets, Peas, Baked Beans, Potatoes

AUGUST

Back to School Supplies:

Paper, Pens, Pencils, Notebooks, Markers, Cereal and Breakfast Bars, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Tuna & Mayo

What else can YOU think of?



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Don Bekkering	1
Julie DeBrita	1
Annie Gibson	1
James Hoffmann	1
Dave Schaefer	2
Paul Munson IV	3
Marcia Davis	4
Leisl Falcon	6
Bill Monaghan	7
Carolyn Norris	7
Doug Bartling	8
Tom Falcon	8
Marty Gilgore	8
Jack Arnold	10
Mary Jane Crowley	10
Barbara King	11
Peter Lewis	11
Jennifer Getter	12
Lou Crisci	13
Marjorie Almy	14
Kathy Lehman	14
Savannah Willoughby	14
Wendy Carpenter	15
Tony Crisci	15
Charlie Conover	16
Sheryl Pelkey	17
Belle Warfield	17
Lonnie Hojnacki	18
Edward Rosenberg II	18
Bill Faulkner	21
Jessica Bodden	22
Keith Makrin	22
Jerry Haldeman	23
Brian Westervelt	25
Jennifer Forth	26
Laurel-Le Lipski	26
Benjamin Graber	27
Aileen Reinhart	29
Daniel Hoffmann	30

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Janet Bekkering	3
Courtney Lee	5
Kate Oaks	5
Harrison Bicknell IV	7
Joyce Murray	7
David Libby	8
Barbara Graber	9
Fern Lee	10
Craig Hoffman	12
Victoria Dykstra	14
Barbara Robinson	14
Amanda Shults	14
Karen Squires	15
Jennifer Westervelt	15
Bill Shave, Jr.	16
Lauren Sill	16
Nancy Landry	17
Jack Pierce	17
Miles Torelli	17
Russ Garrison	19
Linea Kilgallen	20
Sophia Pierce	20
Olivia Munson	21
Alex Atchley	22
Abbey Naumowicz	23
Rebecca Jarczyński-Okpoti	24
Michael Marré	26
Tee Munson	27
Helen Nelson	29
Emily Kohout	29
Lillian Rooney	29
James Rooney	30
Patrick Beauchemin	30
Rylan Beauchemin	30



*Please note: We list the birthdays and anniversaries of our church's local active members and friends.
If we missed yours, please call the church office at 370-4751. Thank you.*

Thank You's:

Since we published the last issue of *The Messenger* we received the following thank-you notes and letters. They are posted on the tack strip outside of the Pastor's office. Read and enjoy them there for yourselves.

- *From Carl Fitch: A very special thanks to Rev. Faulkner and Rev. Bodden for the support I have received from my church regarding my shoulder injury. Surgery is scheduled to restructure my shoulder. I will be very relieved to get back the use of my arm and not have the pain.*
- *From Ken Talbot and family: A sincere thank you to the church people who made my dad's (William Talbot) memorial service so nice. Everything ran so smoothly and we are thankful for your kindness and compassion with being there for our every need, not to mention all the clean-up involved. The baked goods were delicious and appreciated as well.*
- *From Blanche Gray: Dear Church Family, Thank you for the beautiful flowers that Sunny Baldwin brought to Adrian. I also want to thank you for rides, cookies and snacks. We enjoy the visits from the Rev. Bill Faulkner and the beautiful poems from the Sharing & Caring group. Many thanks to all for your care.*
- *From Mark Holley: Dear Pastor Lynn and fellow members, I can't thank you enough for helping me through this period in my life. Finding my faith again, and sharing in the love of this church has changed me. Lynn, you have been a guiding light through your sermons and kindness. You will be missed. I have found your leadership and knowledge a catalyst for change. You helped me back home to the love of God and the wonderful works that he performs. Rev. Bill Faulkner and Karen have been wonderful too. The bible study has given me much to learn and made me hungry to learn more. The group of wonderful people, and share such deep thoughts and beliefs. I want to thank all who have helped make me feel welcomed and a part of this wonderful family. Kristen S. and Kristin B. are very kind and helpful. From the daily devotionals and independent bible study, to the friendship they have shown. Thank you all for everything!*
- *From Janet Fitch: Carl and I would like to thank the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful shawls we received after our recent health problems. We enjoy them very much.*

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Mike and Allison Atchley	2	Richard and Terri Doyle	20
Randy and Cheryl MacNeil	8	David and Lorraine Gonyea	20
Bob and Sunny Baldwin	10	Chris and Abbey North	22
Lou and Stephanie Crisci	11	Josh and Jess Kohout	25
Bill and Martha Eberle	11	David and Karen Wentworth	25
Donald and Sue Steciak	16	Dave and Joyce Murray	28
James and Sarah Hoffmann	17	Rick and Jessica Crisci	30

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Melanie and James Geiger	6	Michael and Lynda Benedict	15
Dave and Pam Walsh	6	Ken and Michele Swain	18
Steve and Amiee Warfield	7	Ron and June Shaw	22
Karl and Debra Griffith	8	Keith and Lynn Makrin	26
Peter and Glenda Lewis	9	Patrick and Allison Beauchemin	28
Bruce and Barbara Wurz	11	Alex and Rebecca Ayers	29

SICM Summer Lunch Program at Collins Park:

The SICM Food Truck will be delivering summer meals to Collins Park Summer Recreation Program Building each summer weekday, now through August 25. Scotia area churches have agreed to send 3-4 volunteers each day to serve for the 9 weeks of the program. Lunches will be served to anyone under the age of 18 from 11:15-12:30.

FRCS will be serving next from August 21-25. Call Martha Eberle at 701-0946 to volunteer.

Plant An Extra Row To Show You Care:

Bring in your surplus garden veggies and flowers for the “Farmers Market,” where church members and the community can purchase for monetary donations that go to the Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry.

Contact Kristen Shave for more details: 370-4751, frcsoffice@verizon.net

July Calendar:

TU	July 4:	Independence Day - Office Closed
MO	July 10:	7:15 Admin Council
MO	July 11:	7:00 200th Planning Committee
TH	July 13:	5:30 Worship Council
MO	July 17:	7:00 Healthy Steps
		7:15 Consistory
W	July 19:	1:30 Sharing & Caring
MO	July 24:	7:15 Congregational Care
TU	July 25:	7:15 Buildings & Grounds

August Calendar:

SU	Aug 6:	Communion
MO	Aug 14:	11:30 Caregivers
		7:15 Admin Council
W	Aug 16:	1:30 Sharing & Caring
MO	Aug 21:	7:15 Consistory
W	July 19:	1:30 Sharing & Caring
MO	July 24:	7:15 Congregational Care
TU	July 25:	7:15 Buildings & Grounds

EVERY WEDNESDAY:
8:30 Time of Prayer

EVERY SUNDAY:
8:00 Worship
Outside on the Plaza
July 2 - September 3

10:00 Worship - inside
(unless otherwise listed)



Contact our staff by e-mail at:

Interim Pastor: Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden
Administrative Assistant: Kristen Shave
Coordinator of Christian Living: Kristin Bodden
Kid's Hope USA Director: Tee Munson
Director of Music: Barret Germain
Youth Leader: Tracy Swearingen

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