

The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, Interim Minister

THE MESSENGER

In the Interim...

Dear Members and Friends,

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 3:12-14

We are getting closer to the primary goal of this interim time! In this issue of the Messenger, the Search Committee has written an update of its progress which I hope you will read: the day announcing the candidates for both the new Senior and Associate Pastor is drawing ever nearer. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the committee and all candidates being considered.

Your Consistory, Councils, staff and I have other goals for this year, too! We are making good progress on many of them as well.

- Consistory has agreed to hire a new organist, Camellia Dudinak, who will be relocating from North Carolina back to this area as soon as she and her husband are able to sell their house. Camellia will begin her work here when that happens, or on September 1, whichever comes first. As we anticipate this transition we are tremendously thankful for the time and energy and music John Hoffman has provided since Christmas, and Bobbie Nelson gave last fall. Thanks are due as well to Brad Day, Allison Atchley, and Joe Bodden.
- The Elders will review our membership list in May, and together with updated information some of you provided to the office, we hope to be able to produce a more current directory of our members for you. A new picture directory is a project you will engage once your new pastors are among you – and as part of the 200th anniversary celebration.
- Our recent clean-up day expanded to a clean-up week! Thank you to members of Building and Grounds, the staff, and several familiar and a few new volunteers for helping to clean and beautify the property before the arrival of pastoral candidates, so that the church shines as a community of good stewards. Tackling bite-sized jobs as individuals or families or small groups, thank you for being active caretakers of your church!
- A tech team is working hard toward a June goal of updating our internet connectivity throughout the building. Stay tuned as well for changes in all email addresses for the staff. While current addresses are good for now, all our Verizon.net addresses will be changed.
- We are grateful to Sarah Hoffman and John Hoffman for giving the Adult “Youth” Group a kickstart, and for others helping members of the congregation have more social opportunities to grow in fellowship and in faith. Be on the lookout elsewhere in the Messenger for the ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY, which is coming on June 4 for people of all ages!

To the many, many of you involved helping get 33 backpacks to hungry children, sorting items in the Green Shed, being liturgists in worship, teaching Sunday School, hosting coffee hour, serving meals at City Mission, collecting for SICM, writing notes of comfort and joy, paying visits, growing through Bible Study, THANK YOU for pressing toward the goal of being the best people of God you can be!

Your new pastors are going to be lucky people to serve in this corner of God’s vineyard! I have been!

Lynn

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 David and Pam Walsh:

Our heartfelt thanks for the flowers that were delivered following the service on March 19. We are so blessed to have such support and care from this congregation. Thank you!

- From the children of Dorothy Stewart (Sky, Cindy and Sally):

To the volunteers at the memorial service: Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity in providing your time and resources for our parents' memorial service. Brink Hall looked perfect and everyone enjoyed the cookies and refreshments. Your thoughtfulness made a difficult time bearable. Blessings to you all.

- From Janet Fitch:

I would like to thank the church for the sanctuary flowers sent home to me by way of my husband while I was recovering from a fractured foot and sprained ankle. I appreciated and enjoyed them very much.

- From Allison Atchley:

Dear Kristen S., Lee and church family: Thank you so much for all of your work and support as we gather to celebrate Dorothy's life. My sincere appreciation.

- From Bob Hummer:

Friends at FRCS: Many thanks to all, for the beautiful lily that Peter Lewis brought to our home.

- From the family of Teresa Griesche:

Thank you so very much for helping our family get through this difficult time.

- From Aileen Reinhart:

Dear Tracy and the Youth Group: Belated many, many thanks for the beautiful luncheon you had for the "Seniors". It was great to have the youth at our table for games and conversation, which was enjoyed by all of us. The soup and cookies were delicious and the youth did a great job serving us.

- From Greg & Louise Gregory:

Thank you for the lovely Easter lily, delivered by Dot Henwood. The dainty white blooms are like gentle trumpets blowing "joy" into the room. It's great fun watching the buds open to add more beauty.

- From Cheryl and Randy MacNeil and family:

Dear Members of FRCS and Caring Ministers: A huge thank you to everyone who sent a card, expressed concern personally and gave us a lily to remember my dad. You are all blessings in my life and our life. The compassion and care given by Rev. Lynn and Rev. Bill and each of you will never be forgotten.

- From the family of Opal Oaks:

Thank you so much for your support, visits, prayers, and cards throughout Mom's final illness and after her passing. Thank you also to all those who helped "behind the scenes" to make her memorial service so lovely. We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful church community.

Attention All Graduates:

In next month's June issue of *The Messenger* we want to publish the names of everyone in our church who graduates this spring from high school, college, or graduate school. Please help us make sure we don't miss anyone. Call the church office, 370-4751, or e-mail frcsoffice@verizon.net and tell us the name of your graduate, the school issuing the diploma or certificate, and what the graduate's future plans are. Thanks for your help!



Search Committee Update:

We are excited to report the Pastoral Search Committee has made a recommendation to Consistory for an associate pastor. At this time, the candidate's name remains strictly confidential as Consistory considers the recommendation. We understand you will be curious, but ask you to respect the process and avoid the temptation of asking questions about the candidate. We anticipate being able to share more information soon.

The committee will also soon be hearing two senior pastor candidates preach at a neutral pulpit and interviewing them in person. These times of worship are meant only for the committee to witness as we discern if either candidate should be recommended to Consistory.

While we have excellent candidates for both positions, we remain open to considering new applications. The process doesn't end until Consistory extends a call to a senior and associate pastor; the advice of the congregation is sought; and the calls are accepted by the candidate. Please continue to pray for us during this transformative time in the life of our church. Thank you!

Prayer Chain:

Did you know that First Reformed Church of Scotia has a Prayer Chain?

Do you know what a Prayer Chain is???

Our Congregation's Covenant asserts that we sustain our fellowship through prayer. Our Prayer Chain helps us do that. Members of our Prayer Chain commit themselves to a ministry of intercessory prayer on behalf of others in our fellowship and on behalf of others connected to them. Members of our Prayer Chain offer prayers for those dealing with serious illness or injury; surgery; emotional, psychological or spiritual crises, and following times of death. When needs for prayer are made known to the pastor or prayers are requested through the church office, members of the prayer chain are contacted and praying begins! Members of the prayer chain keep the content of their prayers confidential – just between them and God.

Several times each year we open our Prayer Chain to people who feel newly called to commit themselves to providing this kind of care. Would you like to be a part of our Prayer Chain? Please contact Lynn Carman Bodden (370-4751 or frcsLCBodden@verizon.net), Sunny Baldwin [374-9276](tel:374-9276) or csunnyb@nycap.rr.com) or Laurie Cooper (428-6094 or icoopette@icloud.com) by Sunday, May 14. We'll be happy to add your name to the list and show you how our Prayer Chain works.

CROP Walk – Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty:

'Walk with Us, Walk with the World' in the 37th Annual Crop Hunger Walk on Sunday, May 7, 2017! 25% of all funds raised by the Capital Region CROP Hunger Walks goes to local food pantries and soup kitchens. More than 40,000 people in our region use local free meal programs to provide adequate food for their families. Our participation provides an effective link to make a real difference on critical concerns: refugees, famine, local poverty, and more. JOIN US! To register as a team and participate with other area churches, please see Tee Munson, or email frcstmunson@verizon.net or call (518) 370-4751. Look and listen for more information in the coming weeks. Let's come together for the need to feed the hungry!



Heating Schedule:

As we get into May, and the days are getting longer and warmer, we are also nearing the time that we turn off the heat for the season. Evenings may still get chilly, so please remember to bring a sweater to church with you if the temperatures are questionable.

Health & Wellness:

Health & Wellness Moment: May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. The *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans* recommends 30 minutes of physical activity a day for adults, 60 minutes for children, at least five days a week. It's much easier than you think, regardless of your current activity level. Being active doesn't require joining a gym. Just look for ways to increase your heart rate during your daily routine. Here are some ways to get started:

- Choose to climb the stairs over the escalator or elevator.
- Walk the dog with the whole family.
- Instead of calling friends, take a walk together to catch up.
- Park your car as far away as possible so you have to walk a longer distance from your destination. Even better, walk or cycle to run errands in your community.
- Walk up and down the field while watching your child(ren) play sports.
- Replace a coffee break with an outdoor walk—or take the coffee with you on your walk.
- Walk the golf course instead of using a cart.
- Keep a list of quick activities, like squats or stretches, near the remote so that you can be active during commercial breaks.
- Wash the car.
- Plant and care for a vegetable garden (then cook the vegetables for healthy meals).
- There are many health benefits to being active for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, but as always **you should consult your physician before starting a new activity program.**
- If you haven't been active in a while, start slowly and build up. Do what you can; some physical activity is better than none.

Mission of the Month:

May's Mission of the Month is the weekend backpack program which is currently providing 33 backpacks every Friday to hungry students in the Scotia-Glenville School District. We serve Sacandaga, Glen Worden, and Glendaal Elementary Schools, as well as 14 students at the Middle School. We had originally said we would provide 30 backpacks per week but, because the congregation has been so generous, we have not had to say "No" when we get an email from a social worker or principal. Our church has committed to this program for at least three years, and needs to start fundraising for next year. It costs \$183 for a year for each backpack, amounting to \$5,490. We anticipate more students at the Middle School next year as 5th graders currently receiving backpacks move up. Trinity Presbyterian also provides 30 backpacks to two elementary schools. We continue to partner with local businesses that collect extra food as well. Here are some facts about the program that were included in the latest issue of the newsletter of the Regional Food Bank which coordinates the program:

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Food Bank's BackPack Program. From one rural school serving 30 kids to 195 schools across 20 counties with 5200 students served each Friday, the program continues to reach needy children to help them grow and thrive throughout the school year. Teachers regularly report that students show improved energy levels on Monday mornings, are less anxious about food throughout the week, and are excited to see the food they receive each Friday. Kids who participate in the BackPack Program show improved academic performance and attendance and decreased disciplinary actions.

As always, thank you for your generous support of this important program for our community.

Our upcoming Missions of the Month are:

- June: Schenectady Classis Student Care Fund
- July: Habitat for Humanity

Our upcoming Communion Offerings are:

- May communion: Summer Lunch Program
- August communion: Fowler Ministries

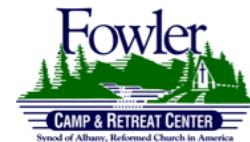


Youth Sunday:

This program year our youth are very excited to lead our very own worship service! Save the date for June 11 for a service you won't want to miss. Our Sunday School students will be participating in all aspects of worship and showing you what they have been learning through scripture, art, storytelling and more. Our theme this year is *Fruit of the Spirit*. Parents, look for flyers coming home for more information on service details, music, rehearsal date and more.

Fowler Scholarships:

This year we are pleased to award significant scholarships to Fowler campers from our church community. We thank all of you who contributed to this amazing effort! Fowler's theme this summer is Love Your Neighbor and we are looking forward to a summer filled with new friends and new adventures. As summer is nearly upon us, we need to know who is registered so we can process scholarships. Please see Kristin Bodden or sign the board in the Education Hallway for your week of camp. For more information or to register for camp, visit, www.campfowler.org! The mountains are calling!



Vacation Bible School:

Vacation Bible School is planned for August 14 through 17 at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Swaggertown Road in Glenville. We will again partner with our neighbors and we'll focus on The Book of Jonah. Our sessions will include prayer, games, art projects, music, storytelling and more! See Kristin Bodden for more information. Registration will be available at the end of May and as always, volunteer opportunities are available.

Sunday School:

We are so thankful and blessed to have such talented and dedicated volunteers to lead our youth through Sunday School. This year we've learned a great deal about the Bible, the people, our faith and ourselves as Christians. From the toddlers just beginning their journey to our adults continuing their path, we've been able to seek God's presence in our lives. As our program year concludes we would like to share our experience with you. We need continued participation and always welcome new perspectives and gifts to continue to grow our program in creativity and spirit. See Kristin Bodden if you'd like to lend a hand for summer programming or for next year.

We will continue to meet for Sunday School through June 18. We will offer program options during summer.

Sunday July 16: *Seeds of Faith*

Sunday August 13: *Helping Hands*

These sessions will be during regular Sunday school time, 10:30, following the Children's Sermon and are for students Kindergarten through HS. See Kristin Bodden for more information.



Mother's Day Hats:

Ladies, pull out those spring hats and show them off for Mother's Day, May 14. For several years we have looked so lovely with our hats on – a fashion statement we don't see much any more. So get your hat and wear it proudly!

Pentecost Planning:

Are you able to read a language other than English? Will you be in worship on June 4? If so, please speak with Lynn about an idea she has for worship on Pentecost. Thanks!



Gardening Help Needed:

It is time to begin working on our church's gardens. We hope to recruit enough people so that each of our church's several garden beds will have a specific person or several people caring for them, keeping them weed free. This is a terrific way for you to help us make a positive impression on the many people who walk through our church campus or who drive past on Route 50. Call the church office at 370-4751 to let us know that you'll stop by from time to time to weed.

Milestones:

Here are some milestones in the lives of people in our congregation since the last issue of *The Messenger*.

Congratulations:

- Kate and Eric Dulmes on the arrival of their son, Caleb Jayber Dulmes on April 18 at 11:30 in the evening.

In our thoughts and prayers:

- Steve Balser received a stem cell transplant in Boston on April 18. Please keep Steve and Kathie in your prayers.

We express our sympathy to:

- Allison Atchley, London Shepherd and the rest of Dorothy Kinch's family, after her death on April 15.
- Kevin Oaks, Nancy Pfuntner and the rest of Opal Oaks' family, after her death on April 2.
- Richard and Paul Griesche and the rest of Theresa Griesche's family, after her death on March 30.

Shout Outs:

So many people do so much for our congregation, and we thank them all for it. This month we especially give a shout out to:

- Norma Hamm for taking the food donations to the Scotia Food Pantry for the month of April.
- All of the wonderful folks who came to the Spring Clean-Up Day, as well as those who took jobs to do on other days, you have made quick work of all the tasks we have to tackle. Your help is most appreciated!

Labyrinth Link:

Saturday, May 6, 2017 is World Labyrinth Day. That day at 1:00 in the afternoon we are all encouraged to walk a labyrinth, meditate, pray, or use finger labyrinths, drawings, tabletop labyrinths or your imagination. It's a way to come together to promote the healing power of the labyrinth and take steps together in peace. As a world community, we can reach spiritual joy and peace together. If you would like printed finger labyrinths or information about where to walk in our area, see Kristin Bodden or check out <https://labyrinthsociety.org>.



Men's Chorus for Mothers' Day:

Again this year, we plan to have a Men's Chorus sing the anthem for Mothers' Day. We invite any men of high school age or older to join us. The anthem is easy, and will be rehearsed that morning at 9:15 in the Choir Room. Contact Barret Germain with any questions.

#Show Up - Kids Hope USA News:

Research has shown that what you believe by the age of 13 years old is typically what you believe for the rest of your life. By age 13 a student has aged-out of our Kid Hope USA program. First Reformed Church of Scotia's program at Sacandaga Elementary School places some mentors with children as young as 5 and 6 years old. These well-trained mentors and well-matched partnerships with Sacandaga students yield some exceptional and powerful results! For a different perspective on why Kids Hope USA and the mentoring model can matter so much, here are some statistics on the typical American 13 year old today:

29% live in a home without a father.

18% are victims of reported abuse.

17% live in poverty with this figure rising.

52% admit to not attending any church.

Just imagine how the statistics above have influenced the lives and perspectives of these 13 year olds.

Students at age 8, 9 and 10 spend 7-8 hours a day engaged in some form of media (TV, video games, computers, texting, etc.) What does this mean for today's kids? It means they are experiencing a loss of human relationship development needs. It means they are missing out on time and interaction with role models.



Dr. Roger Sellon of Kids Hope USA National in Zeeland, Michigan states, "Kids today are exciting, hopeful, energetic, scared and wonder sometimes who really cares?"

Kids Hope USA can provide something novel to these children—something new and different from their everyday lives. The role modeling effect of the Kids Hope USA relationship is a revelation to many of these students. The mentor is able to model new ways to relate and handle life situations in a different manner from T.V., Smartphones and video games.

Every time a mentor or prayer partner does something on a Sacandaga child's behalf, First Reformed Church of Scotia is helping to shape what a child believes. A child can learn to believe in him or herself and that he or she is important because of a sustained mentoring relationship. A child can learn to believe in adults who make a commitment to that child and stick to it, sometimes for multiple school years. A child can learn to believe in healthy love and validation.

Mentors and Prayer Partners will come together on Sunday, May 21 for the final in-service of the 2016 – 2017 school year. The Rev. Dr. Bill Faulkner will lead a lively, thoughtful discussion on "What it Means to be in a Prayerful Relationship". We are grateful for Rev. Faulkner's background as a Pastor, Adjunct Professor, Licensed Therapist, Camp Director and as a mentor himself to a seminary student!

An Ice Cream Social will be held at Sacandaga Elementary School for the Kids Hope students, mentors, faculty and parents/guardians on Wednesday, May 31. It will be the final Kids Hope USA event for the 2016 - 2017 school year.



BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR EVERYONE!!!

Pentecost, celebrated as the birthday of the Church: that time when the Holy Spirit came upon a great gathering of believers and seekers in Jerusalem, falls this year on June 4. We thought we'd celebrate not only the birthday of the church, but EVERYONE's birthday on that day! So come to the party! The church will supply drinks and hotdogs. We need twelve people to bake birthday cakes: one for each month of the year. The rest of you are invited to bring chips and salads and other side dishes. Come and find out who else shares your birthday month. Expand your sense of church "family" around your month's table. Take time to check out the cakes for the other months. Come to have fun!

There are two sign-up sheets for this event posted outside the pastor's office: one for cake bakers/providers and one so we have enough food for everyone who wants to party!

JUNE 4 – ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY
BE THERE!

Giving:

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

(as of April 24, 2017)			
	Budget	Income	Difference
Congregational Giving	\$348,700	\$105,826	-\$242,874
Other Giving	\$127,400	\$37,321	-\$90,079
Total Income	\$476,100	\$143,147	-\$332,953
Total Expense	\$476,100	\$133,721	-\$342,379

April Attendance

* Easter was in March of 2016

(as of April 24, 2017)			
	2017	2016	Difference
MONTHLY AVERAGE	249	198*	51*
YTD AVERAGE	195	222	-27

Food Pantry Needs:

Every month our bulletin lists the items needed for the Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry. Please place your donations in the container in the narthex or in the one outside Brink Hall. What a great offering we would give if **everyone** brought an item every week!

There is **always** a need for bags and for monetary donations. Donations are used to purchase milk certificates and other items available at the Regional Food Bank for just 16 cents a pound. Make out your check to the First Reformed Church of Scotia and put "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Here is this month's food theme:

"For the Bath"

Shampoo & Conditioner

Bar Soap & Shower Gel

Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Feminine Hygiene Products

Lip Balm & Body Lotion

Deodorant & Baby Wipes

Disposable Razor & Shaving Cream

What else can you think of?

April Flower Thanks:

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

Carl Fitch, Sanctuary Choir, and London Shepherd

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.



May Anniversaries:

Bob and Laurie Cooper	11
Craig and Jan Hoffman	12
Steve and Fran Mathes	15
Jim and Mary Lynne Davidson	16
David and Laure Bicknell	17
Bill and Diane Faubion	19
Erv and Joan Grant	23
Fran and Nancy Landry	23
John and Kathy Lehman	23
Dave and Linda Schaefer	25
Ken and Elaine Willcox	26
Lonnie Hojnacki & Martha Gilgore	30



May Birthdays:

2	Louise Gregory	17	Dorothy Carpenter, Ron Shaw
3	Teresa Lopez	18	Ann Armstrong, Stacie Marré
4	Nelson Austin	19	David Miller, Ken Swain
5	Megan Gilgore, Katelynn Squires	20	Kelsey Francois, Melanie Geiger, Dennis Pelkey
6	Steve Mathes, Shannon Sill	21	Bill Faulkner Sr.
7	Martha Eberle, Myron Hermance, Elaine Willcox	22	Alex Gilgore, Jill King
8	Avery Francois, Kelly Sill	23	Tyler Clark
9	Chris Almy, Laure Bicknell, Benjamin Doyle, Kirk Willoughby	24	Phyllis Beck, Dave Bicknell
10	Ed LeGere, Bobbie Nelson,	26	Edward Gruber, Mark Gruber
14	Madalena Crisci	28	Drew Walsh
15	Emilee Rosenberg, Linda Shaw	29	Alicia Hermance, Steve Warfield

Communion Schedule for 2017:

NEXT SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

May 28 – Ascension Sunday: We will pass the bread and cup.

August 6 – Summer communion: We will receive communion by intinction.

October 1 – World Communion Sunday: We will pass the bread and cup.

November 5 – All Saints Sunday: We will receive communion by intinction.

December 3 – Advent 1: We will pass the bread and cup.

January 7 – First Sunday of the year: We will receive communion by intinction.

May Ushers:

May 7: Barb King, Bob King, Ken Swain, London Shepherd

May 14: Russ Garrison, Ed Naumowicz, Pete Lewis, Mike Torelli

May 21: Bill Eberle, Martha Eberle, Carl Fitch, Pete Lewis

May 28: Ken Swain, Sue Alibozek, Paul Munson, Todd Vaccaro

May Greeters:

May 7: Aileen Reinhart, Jennifer Trembley & Betty Lauer

May 14:

May 21: Schalekamp Family

May 28:

May Calendar:

SA	May 6:	8:00	Men's Group Breakfast
SU	May 7:	12:00	CROP Walk
M	May 8:	11:30	Caregivers
		7:15	Admin Council
TU	May 9:	7:15	Caring Ministers
TH	May 11:	7:00	4-H
SU	May 14:		Mother's Day
M	May 15:	7:15	Consistory
W	May 17:	1:30	Sharing & Caring
SA	May 20:	7:00	Mohawk Valley Chorus
SU	May 21:	11:15	Kid's Hope In-Service
MO	May 22:	7:15	Care Team
TU	May 23:	7:15	Buildings & Grounds

TH	May 25:	7:00	4-H
SU	May 28:		Communion
MO	May 29:		Memorial Day - Office Closed

EVERY TUESDAY:

7:00 **Adult Bible Study**

EVERY WEDNESDAY:

8:30 **Time of Prayer**

EVERY THURSDAY:

9:00 **Mission Bells**

7:15 **Choir Rehearsal**

EVERY SUNDAY:

8:00 & 10:00 **Worship**

6:30 **Youth Group (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

Visit us online at: <http://firstreformedscotia.org>

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