

THE MESSENGER

A Pastor's Ponderings

Earlier in May, the Board of the Glenville Cooperative Nursery School informed the Consistory that after 59 years that they would be closing. They will complete the current school year and offer their usual summer program, but come September they will be gone. The decision they made was not taken lightly, but reflects the ever changing landscape of early childhood education. Not only are more and more school districts offering free all day preschool for three and four year olds, but also fewer and fewer children are being born every year.

Many are absolutely heartbroken, myself included. Not only will I miss the joyful noise of children in the building throughout the week, but I am also mourning the fact that if I am ever blessed with children that they will never experience the truly world class program that Miss Stephanie has offered.

The Nursery School closure is just one of the many changes happening not only in our community, but also in our nation and our world. It just feels like so many things are in a time of transition. I think Covid only heralded the very beginning of this change and we are now in the very thick of it. Sadly, in order for new things to rise old things, even beloved old things, have to come to an end. Much like a phoenix the world of tomorrow will be born out of the ashes of the world of today.

The butterfly has long been a symbol of the Resurrection. The vibrancy of butterfly wings reflecting the glory of Easter. Yet even as we celebrate the Resurrected Christ, we cannot forget that in order for him to be brought back to life, death necessity preceded it. Thus the chrysalis of the butterfly represents the tomb.

In her novel *Regeneration*, Pat Baker writes of a doctor who “knew only too well how often the early stages of change or cure may mimic deterioration. Cut a chrysalis open, and you will find a rotting caterpillar. What you will never find is that mythical creature, half caterpillar, half butterfly... No, the process of transformation consists almost entirely of decay.”

As Christians we are called to not be afraid of death, for God reassures us that God will bring life out of it. The Christian Story is a constant reminder with God death is never the end, but only the start of something new.

Admittedly, I have no idea what is next. I cannot conceive of the new thing that God is doing. But God has a plan even when we stand in the midst of change that seems only like death and decay. Christian faith promises me and all who believe that a butterfly will come.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Christopher J. McCloskey



Our New Digital Sign Has Arrived!

We are excited to introduce our brand-new digital sign that will help keep everyone informed about upcoming events and activities, such as our June Garage Sale, the American Red Cross Blood Drive on June 24th, Community Meal dates, fundraisers, concerts, and many other special events throughout the year.

We hope this new addition will strengthen communication within our community and encourage even greater participation in the events that bring us together. Be sure to watch the sign regularly for the latest news and announcements!

Genealogy Group

The genealogy group will be meeting again on June 3rd at 7-9pm in Brink Hall. The May meeting was a bust, and the first time that I have ever forgotten a meeting that had I organized and facilitated. For this I apologize emphatically!!!! The topics will be “Tools of the Trade” and “16th to 19th Century Occupation Titles”. If you have not previously attended, no worries...you are always welcome at any time. Remember to bring your thumb drive to download documents shared during the evening as well as other sessions that you have missed.

If you have questions, please contact me, Bob Baldwin via email

Robert.baldwin.acctrng@gmail.com or text 518-320-4561. The more, the merrier!

June Garage Sale!

This year’s sale will be held on Friday June 5th 9am-1pm and June 6th 9am-12pm. Items for sale will include clothing, linens, toys, jewelry, books, homegoods, as well as an antique boutique and bake sale. Guidelines for donations can be found on our website

firstreformedscotia.org/events/garagesale/.

We will start accepting donations for the sale on May 31st.

Men’s Group Update

NEXT MEETING JUNE 8th BURGERS AND DOGS!

The next meeting will be June 8th (Monday) at 5:30pm in Brink Hall. ALL men are encouraged and welcomed at any of our “get-togethers”!!! Joe Bennett will be flipping burgers and rolling dogs at the cook-out. Please contact Joe Bennett at your earliest convenience should you wish to be added to the dinner count; and, if you are willing to help him cook. Joe Bennett may be contacted at: jlbenett43@gmail.com or 518-469-4788.

June Mission of the Month - Summer Lunch Program

As the summer months begin, many families plan for fun activities, trips, and the lazy days often paired with vacations. But for so many in the community, summer is just another season in which food sourcing continues to be inconsistent. With the additional stress of no longer having access to free breakfast and lunches served in the schools, families with children begin to plan where they can find support for meals instead of planning packing for a beach day. At FRCS, we are able to help support the community with our Summer Lunch program. Beginning in summer of 2024, we have served lunches every Tuesday and Thursday in July and August. From sandwiches to pasta salad, we provide nutritious meals to ANYONE who would like a meal: children, families, seniors, neighbors, and even construction workers who forgot their lunch that day.

Summer Lunch provides both food and community. This helps to supplement free meal programs available in the Scotia area throughout the summer. Last summer we were able to serve almost 300 people. As we enter our 3rd year of this program, we anticipate having more guests this summer as financial strains and food access is more prevalent in our community. Please consider giving to Mission of the Month of Summer Lunch Program, and volunteering one of the days we serve. Lunch is served Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-1pm, in July and August. For more information, please contact Laura Taft Bull.

Backpack Update by Linda Lewis

We are finishing up our 10th year of participating in the weekend BackPack Program! We started in the fall of 2016 providing 30 bags of food to Glen-Worden and Glendaal Elementary Schools. With a grant from the Schenectady Foundation, we expanded the following year to 60 bags. Last year we averaged 75 students at a cost of \$34,947.63. This amount included not only donations from our congregation but generous contributions from community organizations such as the Glenville Rotary, the First National Bank of Scotia, Thomas Corners Fire Station, and the Schenectady Foundation. Also, for the past two years, we have received \$4,000 each year for our participation in the fund raising campaign of the regional food bank over local channel 6. Over the years, the program has been expanded to include the Middle School and a food pantry at the High School. This year, we have averaged 55 to 58 bags per week, but have expanded our distribution of extra food from four vacation periods to eight, including four summer distributions, which are greatly appreciated because the students no longer receive free breakfasts and lunches when school is not in session.

This greatly needed and appreciated program would not be possible without the support of this congregation and the many volunteers that make it happen. Thank you!

Community Meal Update by Mark Holley

Camp Care/Community Meal is open for the summer. If you would like to create something crafty or just sit and enjoy a hamburger or hot dog while listening to some folk music, please come and join in.

This is the beginning of the 8th year of the meal. We have served 8,610 meals so far. Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped make this meal a success.

The Grab and Go Lunch is June 10th and the Community Meal is June 27th. We open at 11 am and close at 12:30 pm. Thank you!

Community Cupboard Update

Summer Food Drive: *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation.* We need your support! Help pack a child's lunch with food to fill their lunchboxes! Create a grab & go with your favorite lunch ideas such as: fruit cups, peanut butter, jelly (no glass jars), chips, shelf-stable milk, snacks, juice boxes, etc. Collection bins are located in the church narthex and under the table in the main lobby.



THANK YOU Kids Hope USA

On June 3rd our 12 mentors along with their 12 prayer partners will celebrate a wonderful year with their 12 Kids Hope students with an Ice Cream Sundae social. THANK YOU to all our mentors, prayer partners and Sacandaga staff for sharing your love and care with all these students. You all have made a powerful positive impact in these kids' lives! What a gift you have given a child! I am looking forward to fall and would love to have more mentors for the many students that are on our waiting list. **Please consider becoming a mentor.** Training is provided. No special skills are required, just a willingness to share God's love.

Congratulations Graduates!

- ★ **Belle Warfield** graduated from Alfred State College Summa Cum Laude on May 9th with a Bachelor's of Architecture.
- ★ **Ashley Peretta** graduated from SUNY Cortland on May 15th with a Master's of Science in Recreation.
- ★ **Rheana Gravell** graduated on May 16th from SUNY Delhi with an Associate's Degree.
- ★ **Shannon Warfield** will graduate June 1st from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a Bachelor's of Arts in Forensic Psychology.
- ★ **Jessica Boddin** will graduate from Scotia-Glenville High School on June 27th.
- ★ **Skye Faulkner** will graduate from Scotia-Glenville High School on June 27th.

June Faith Formation

Our last Faith Formation class before we break for summer will be June 7th. **BUT** be on the lookout for *summer take out church*. ENJOY your summer!



Youth Sunday: June 7th, 2026 10am

Our God is an AWESOME God!

Come join us for a pancake breakfast, served 9am-10pm and 11am- 12pm, and a very special 10am service led by all our youth.

Confirmation 2026

On Sunday, May 17th the congregation welcomed 3 young adults into membership. If you missed worship that day here is an introduction to these 3 wonderful young adults written by their mentors.



Rylan Beauchemin is a quiet, confident and thoughtful young man. When you talk to Rylan you will find an engaging and bright teenager who is mature, responsible and maintains a strong moral compass. He gives all his energy to things he is passionate about. This energy allows him to excel at everything he sets his mind to, especially academics and athletics. Rylan plays baseball, basketball, and soccer. He enjoys school with math and science being his favorite subjects. Oh, he is also in the choir, maybe a future choir member here!

Rylan has taken his confirmation journey seriously, understanding that he is building a stronger foundation for his faith to grow. The theologian Karl Barth said, “In Christian faith we are all amateurs. None of us become so adept at living the Christian life, or so wise in Scripture or the way of Christ, that we don’t need to keep learning and keep growing.” I believe that Rylan fully acknowledges that baptism was step one that his parents gave him, now with Confirmation and moving forward he will take an active role in establishing his faith. He understands that Confirmation is not the end of his faith journey but a door into the future, a time to gain the equipment and skills needed to continue with confidence his journey of discipleship.



Ryan Makrin If you don't already know him, I think you will find Ryan a very inquisitive and engaged young adult. Ask him questions and you will receive thought filled responses. I encourage everyone to take a little time, to get to know a little more, the young people of our congregation. You will be impressed! Some great conversations will be had! And, a reminder of hope in and for the future may be restored.

Introduce yourselves, ask away and learn more about Ryan and his peers. If you need some conversation starters ask about: Honey bees; choir; bowling; adventures on the waters on Galway lake and other aquatic places. Maybe dare to ask questions of hopes and fears for the future and other such very human ponderances. We are blessed to be a community and to have the opportunity to get to know one another more.



Annabella Brunette - This impressive young woman is a Sophomore at Schalmont High School. Besides her academics, she has been involved in drama club and music. She has performed in many productions in drama club including “Almost Maine”, “9-5”, and “Macbeth”. She loves to sing and has an angelic voice. She was selected to sing in Melodies of Christmas this past December and committed many hours preparing for this annual holiday tradition! She has also participated in many NYSSMA events. Bella also plays the bass clarinet in the Schalmont marching band and the wind ensemble.

Annabella is an equestrian! She rides both English and Western, and has competed for over five years in these events. Recently she started riding Western and got her first pair of cowgirl boots. Perhaps barrel racing is in her future!

On most Sundays, Bella volunteers with Ms. Diana in the Faith Formation class. She enjoys helping with the lessons, and she feels that the time with the children and Ms. Diana has nurtured her own faith. She also plans to participate in the youth mission trip this summer.

Bella lives in Rotterdam with her Mom and two puppies.

Renew Bible Study

Renew Bible Study finished May 26th for the summer. We plan to return in September. See you then!

PLEASE HELP SPONSOR our Mission Trip to Highland Park, NJ

June 28th-July 2nd, 2026

First Reformed Scotia is joining several churches in the area to go and support the many missions that Highland Park church has for homeless, immigrants, people going through life transitions and more. We could use your support! Here's how:

1. **Make a donation.** Every little bit helps! Make checks out to FRCS and put mission trip on the memo line
2. **Donate a twin or full sized air mattress.** We will first use these on the trip to sleep on then leave them there as a donation. They get used in their many housing missions.
3. **Please pray** for us and our trip as well as the many people we are trying to help.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Miss Diana education@firstreformedscotia.org

Health and Wellness Note

June 1-7 is CPR and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) Awareness Week. This week is to highlight how lives can be saved if more Americans know CPR and how to use an AED. More than 70 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in homes. Therefore, if you are called on to give CPR in an emergency, it is most likely you will be trying to save the life of someone you love. Be the difference for your parent, spouse, or child and take CPR training. The American Heart Association has provided this CPR fact sheet:

https://cpr.heart.org/en/-/media/Files/Nation-of-Lifesavers/WF-901404-NOL-HPM-date-CPR-Fact-Sheet-02kk-AC.pdf?sc_lang=en.

Our church has two AEDs, one located on the back wall as you turn to go to Brink Hall and in the other in Brink Hall on the right wall just past the doors into the hall. You may have recently noticed bright yellow equipment hanging up next to them. These are our new LifeVacs, which are non-invasive airway clearance devices designed to remove foreign objects from a choking victim's throat **AFTER** 911 is called and standard choking issues are tried.

The American Heart Association and the Red Cross still recommend the following protocol:

1. CALL 911. (No Lifevac yet.)
2. PERFORM abdominal thrusts (Heimlich maneuver) and back blows, which are the primary, evidence-based treatment for choking. (No LifeVac yet unless unsuccessful.)
3. USE Lifevac if # 1 and #2 are done. Directions are on the wall to the right of the Lifevac.
4. People should have training prior to using.
5. Notify the office when the LifeVac is used. The mask is single use only and must be replaced each time it is used.

Training is planned for September and if you are curious before then, a training video is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70u0Z4FWf10>.

You can call Sunny Baldwin at 518-320-4562 for non-emergency questions.

June Anniversaries

Bill and Karen Faulkner	1	Judson and Beth Hoffman	18
Bob and Barbara King	3	Al and Margo Snyder	21
Kent and Jill Busman	4	Robert and Mary Grumbling	28
Jeff and Cindy Taft	5	David and Jae Schalekamp	28
Russ and Claudia Garrison	10	George and Karen Squires	28
John and Diana Ackner	18		

June Birthdays

Cheryl MacNeil	1	Aleksey Falcon	11	Phil Davis	20
Sierra May	2	Joe Deamer	12	Al Carter	21
Ayanna Willoughby	4	Juliet Torelli	12	Grace Ackner	23
Leo Crisci	5	Laura Bull	14	Darcy Pratt	25
Pam Walsh	6	Linda Ciabotte	14	Linda Naumowicz	26
Randy MacNeil	7	Miranda Gilgore	14	Barbara Wurz	26
Jim Penn	7	Collin Penn	15	Laurie Cooper	28
Bub Bekkering	8	Cassandra Stryjek	17	Terri Doyle	28
Jacklyn Zenner	8	Diana Ackner	19	Ron Locke	30
Michaela Kilgallen	10	Thomas Hoffman	19	Demetri Zappone	30

Address Service Requested

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