

THE MESSENGER

A Pastor's Ponderings

Last year, following much prayer, discussion and discernment, it was decided that we would no longer be holding a Thanksgiving Eve Service. It was felt that this service was no longer meeting a need of the congregation as attendance not including the choir was averaging about 10 people. We know that this is a significant change and we understand that some folks might disagree with this decision. If you would like the service brought back in the future please let myself or a member of the Consistory know.

The plan is to replace this service with an annual All Saints' Day service on the evening of November 1st. While traditionally in this congregation, the reading of names of those passed had been done on the Sunday nearest to the 1st, it was felt that a separate, solemn and contemplative service better acknowledged the ongoing grief and pain we experience when loved ones pass on.

This change also allows us to green our sanctuary a week earlier so that the sanctuary will be decorated for all four Sundays of Advent. So mark your calendars that the Hanging of the Greens will occur on November 22nd following 10am service.

On a different note, October marks Pastor's Appreciation Month. Not only that, but October 1st marks my 10 year anniversary of ordained ministry.

In recognition, I have a hopefully simple

request. I ask that you show your support and appreciation of me by attending worship on October 3rd. Truly your presence is the best (and only) present that I want. If you feel inclined I always love receiving cards, especially hand made ones, but please no gifts.

**Your
presence
is the best
present.**

October 3rd is also World Communion Sunday and I can't think of a better way to celebrate my ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament as almost exactly 10 years previously (October 1st, 2016) I presided over the table for the very first time.

I completely understand if life keeps you from being able to be in worship on the 3rd, my ask is simply that you do your best. Frankly, that is all I ever expect of this community.

People often ask how they can support me, and the answer no matter the time of year will be the same, just come to church. Seeing you is truly the best gift that I can receive!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Christopher J. McCloskey

World Communion Sunday

The congregation will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 4th. This celebration which began in 1933 serves to promote Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. All are welcome!



Family Fun Day at Mabee Farm

Sunday October 25th from 3:00pm -6pm

All are invited to our annual Family Fun Day.

We'll have lots of fun playing games, walking the nature trail, playing with animals, eating smores, fall crafts and much more. FUN for EVERYONE!

Faith Formation News

Our theme for the year is DISCIPLESHIP.

Oct. 4: *Communion* No Class

Oct. 11: Kindness

Oct. 18: Humility

Oct. 25: Gentleness

Adult Education Series

Rev. McCloskey will be offering an adult education series this fall entitled "Neither Holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire: the Holy Roman Empire and the Protestant Reformation." The class will gather on Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm starting on October 6th.



Renew Bible Study

The Renew Bible Study, a small group study, has resumed on Tuesdays at noon via Zoom. This fall we're reading the book *Why Science and Faith Need Each Other* by sociologist Elaine Howard Ecklund, which will explore how science can deepen our faith. We've only finished two chapters and new members are invited to attend.

Contact Sunny Baldwin, csunnyb53@gmail.com, 518-320-4562, for the Zoom link. Obtain a book from Diana Ackner, Director of Christian Education, or Sunny Baldwin. leader. Cost is \$11.



CHOIR - Make a Joyful Noise!

We need singers! If you enjoy singing you are most welcome to come join the choir. No experience is necessary, just a love for singing. The choir rehearses Thursdays at 7:00pm.

Want to join in the fun? Contact Miss Diana.

New Members Classes

In 2025 this congregation welcomed a total of 7 new members! And we hope to see similar numbers this year. To become a member individuals need to complete a brief course of study (two 2-hour classes) led by Pastor

Christopher. There are a number of people who have expressed interest in joining the church, so this is your opportunity. Rev. McCloskey plans to offer another series of classes (two 2 hour classes) this Fall if there is interest. If you are interested in being a part of a Fall cohort, or have any questions, please reach out to him.



KIDS HOPE USA

Thank you to Judi's Sew n Sew for the beautiful quilt! And thanks to everyone who bought a ticket for the quilt raffle. We raised \$891 and Sue Pitts won the quilt. Our Kids Hope students will benefit from your generosity! Please pray for our mentors as they start mentoring their students the week of October 5th.

Want to become a mentor? Contact Miss Diana education@firstreformedscotia.org

77th Annual Dutch Fair - Retrospective

Many thanks to all those who helped with this year's Dutch Fair! From planning, to setting up; from cleaning up, to working the day of; from donating baking goods, to praying for us from home...each and every contribution is appreciated more than you can ever know! While it was a crazy week with all the preparations, it was wonderful to see so many working toward a common cause. This Fair was a great success because of everyone who helped! This year's fair brought in over \$11,000 which will be used to support the many ministries of our Mission Council. May God continue to bless this church!



October Mission of the Month - The Deacons' Fund

Our November Mission of the Month is our Deacons' Fund. The Deacons' Fund enables us to respond to local emergency needs as they arise. The Deacons' Fund enables our pastor and Board of Deacons to respond to the emergency needs of people connected to our congregation.



The Backpack Program: A Team Effort for Our Community

The season kicks off October 8th!

Every successful football team knows that it takes more than one player to get the job done. It takes a strong game plan, dedicated teammates, and a community working together toward the same goal. That's exactly what the Backpack Program brings to the Scotia-Glenville community.



Serving students in all three Scotia-Glenville elementary schools, as well as the middle and high schools, the Backpack Program helps provide food to students and families throughout the school year and summer.

Leading this important team are June Coryer and Alison Atchley, along with a remarkable group of volunteers who give their time week after week.



The Weekly Game Plan

Every Wednesday, beginning at 9:00 a.m., volunteers take the field—packing bags of food and getting them ready for distribution. Bags are then delivered to schools and, when needed, directly to individual homes.

But the team's efforts don't stop there.

Throughout the school year and summer, the Backpack Program organizes eight larger food distributions for Backpack families. These distributions include both perishable and non-perishable foods, helping families stay supplied during school vacations and the summer break.



It Takes the Whole Team

Just like football, this program depends on teamwork. Volunteers, donors, schools, families, and community members all have an important role to play.

For \$300, you can sponsor the cost of providing Backpack support to one student for an entire year.

And if you're ready to get in the game, volunteers are always welcome! Whether you're packing bags, delivering food, or helping in other ways, your contribution can make a difference.

Want to join the team? Contact June Coryer at junecoryer@gmail.com to learn how you can get involved.

Community Cupboard Update

All are welcome. Take what you need, leave what you can.

The Community Cupboard is available 24/7 for our guests – neighbors and friends – who are experiencing food insecurity. Recognizing that food insecurity rarely exists in isolation, FRCS has developed and is distributing a brochure with information to connect individuals and families with other resources that may address the circumstances contributing to food insecurity. These include information about food, housing, utility expenses, healthcare, veterans concerns, legal needs, and financial assistance.



Thanks to all who regularly contribute to the cupboard through food and monetary donations! As we are now enjoying the change of season, let's think of Hearty Autumn Comfort Foods!

As you grocery shop, please consider picking up any of your favorites including but not limited to: chili, beef stew and hearty soups, boxed rice and potatoes, boxed and canned pastas.

Over the Bridge Update

As the weather is getting colder, the individuals we serve through Over the Bridge, need warmer clothing. The Daily Gazette newspaper has recently reported on the increase in the number of homeless people in Schenectady and the challenges this presents. Many homeless have been sleeping outside of the library, but this leaves them exposed and vulnerable to harassment and even attacks. Please consider donating the following items:

sleeping bags, blankets, warm socks, hoodies (large or bigger), sweat pants, coats (both men's and women's). We don't know their stories, but we know that they are very grateful for anything we can do for them.

Community Meal Update by Mark Holley

We had a great summer at the community meal. The guests enjoyed the summer food and crafts and we all had fun.

Now is the time we start to think of Thanksgiving and the needs of our guests. We are having the Chicken and Biscuit dinner Friday the 23rd of October. The donations from the dinner will help buy the food for the Thanksgiving meal. It will run from 4-6:30 on that day and it is an at will donation for the dinner.

The Thanksgiving meal will be in honor of Cindy Tygert from now on. She loved this meal and helped prepare and serve this meal. We miss her greatly and she left her mark on our hearts.

Health and Wellness Note

October is Dyslexia Awareness month, a time to educate the public, dispel myths, and advocate for individuals with dyslexia. Just like a month of witches and goblins, dyslexia can be scary for those that have dyslexia. They live with the disorder daily, not just one month a year.

Five Facts about Dyslexia

- **FACT #1-** Dyslexia affects 15-20% of the population.
- **FACT #2-** The signs of dyslexia vary depending on a person's age. Common symptoms include reading, spelling, mispronunciation and poor time management.
- **FACT #3-** Dyslexia does **not** mean low intelligence.
- **FACT #4-** Dyslexia is often hereditary.
- **FACT #5-** Dyslexia does **not** define a child's future. With early intervention and the right support, children with dyslexia can thrive.

What Steps to Take for a Child

- **Address the problem early.** If you suspect that your child has dyslexia, talk to your child's health care provider. Early intervention can improve success.
- **Read aloud with your child.** It's best if you start when your child is young, but it's never too late to start. Introducing books as a toy to babies encourages fun, learning and social interaction with caregivers. Also, try listening to recorded books with your child. Read together when the child is old enough.
- **Work with your child's school.** You are your child's best advocate.
- **Encourage reading time.** Set aside time each day to read with your child.
- **Set an example for reading.** Designate a time each day to read something of your own while your child reads — this sets an example and supports your child.

What Adults with Dyslexia Can Do Successful employment can be difficult to obtain for adults who have dyslexia. To help achieve your goals:

- Seek evaluation and instructional help with reading and writing, regardless of your age
- Ask about additional training and reasonable accommodations from your employer or academic institution under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Remember, dyslexia is a neurological learning disorder. Contact your health care provider at the first onset of symptoms so early interventions can be started.

Men's Fellowship

ALL men are encouraged and welcomed at any of our gatherings and events!

If you would like to receive notifications about the Men's Fellowship, please contact Bob Baldwin at frcsmen@gmail.com.

If you have any questions feel free to contact any of the leaders below:

Joe Bennett jlbenett43@gmail.com or 518-469-4788

Bill Shave wshavejr@gmail.com or 518-573-1098

Bob Baldwin frcsmen@gmail.com or 518-320-4561

Genealogy Group

The genealogy group will be meeting again on October 7th at 7-9pm in Brink Hall. The topics will be "Tools of the Trade" and "16th to 19th Century Occupation Titles". There will be plenty of time for questions, answers and discussions after reviewing the topics. If you have not previously attended, no worries...you are always welcome at any time. Remember to bring a 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 at robert.baldwin.acctrng@gmail.com or text 518-320-4561. The more, the merrier!

All Saints Day

For the first time in many years, this congregation celebrated All Saints Day in 2025 with a stand alone evening service to commemorate loved ones who have been called home to God. The service was very well received and appreciated. This service will be offered again this year and we plan to make this an annual celebration. We will gather on Sunday, November 1st at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. The service will include reading of the names of those who have gone on to heavenly glory. Often the names are only for those that passed in the previous year, but at this service you can submit the names of loved ones to be read no matter when they passed on. Keep an eye out for your opportunity to submit names in the near future.



Stewardship News

Our Annual Stewardship Campaign will begin in October. Kathe Sheehan has graciously agreed to chair the campaign this year. Expect a letter from Pastor Christopher, which will include thoughts on Stewardship from members of the Consistory and Admin Council as well as inserts in the Sunday bulletins. We will celebrate Consecration Sunday on November 8th.

Time Change!

Don't forget to fall back an hour on Sunday November 1st as DST comes to an end.



Beyond the Baking

A poem by Joseph A. Carosella

Simple thumbprint, drop and cookie cutter,
Bar or dough rolled out and sliced.
And oats and raisins, craisins, nuts and chocolate chips.
Sprinkles, icing, shredded coconut.
Eager muffins leaning out beyond their foil cups.
The shiny sweetbreads, sleek-bananna, pumpkin or zucchini
carrot cake with cream cheese shawls.
All kinds of shortbread.
Scones that call for butter, jam, and cream
And tarts of fruit and crusty edge.
Meringues and lacies. maybe baklava, or pie, or brittle...
Please stop by, support the church's goal-
A worthy cause that you can get behind.
And take home some
of what good-hearted and well-practiced bakers have created.
And as you sample, savor, taste
each baked good in its turn,
Give thanks to all of them,
send prayers to help the cause,
and know that bake sales are among customs
that unite us, make us glad and knit communities together.

October Anniversaries

Tee and Paul Munson	8	Kristen and Bill Shave	10
Jane and Tom Lansing	9	June and Brad Coryer	14
Meredith and Phil Reece	10	Debbie and Mark Rahn	17

October Birthdays

Betsey Homer	2	Lorraine Gonyea	10	Bruce Wurz	24
Jackson Bodden	5	Katherine Penn	15	Diane Faubion	26
Linda Falcon	5	Sue Alibozek	17	Mary Grumbling	26
Michael Naumowicz	5	Kent Busman	19	Dustin Madison	28
Lee Poremba	5	Cheryl Cook	19	Mike DeMasi	29
Ken Willcox IV	5	Mike Trbovich	21	Michele Swain	31
Tracie Knutti	8	Patty Marré	22		

Address Service Requested

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