



I WILL TRUST
IN THE LORD
WITH ALL MY HEART

*and lean not on my own
understanding; in all my ways
I will submit to Him,
and He will make
my paths straight.*

PROVERBS 3:5-6

AUGUST NIEKERK NEWS 2026

Niekerk Contact Information:

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Interim Pastor

John Nyitray

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Trisha Texer

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Administrative Assistant

Julie Mulder

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:00am—2:00pm

Phone: 616-396-4388

Email: secretary@niekerkcrc.org

Worship Coordinator

Carol Hochhalter

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00am—noon

Phone: 616-396-4388

Email: worshipleader@niekerkcrc.org

Prayer Line Maintained by:

Brian Bosch

Newsletter DEADLine

For the
September Niekerk News is:
August 23, 2026

Gifts for Visitors

Just a reminder, there are gift bags and folders that can be handed to our visitors



***Phonebooks can be
found by the
Information Center
magazine rack.***



a letter from the pastor

Patient Waiting

Pastor, Phillips Brooks was known for his calm demeanor, but even he could have his patience tried at times. One day a friend observed him pacing the floor. "What's the trouble, Dr. Brooks?" asked the friend. "The trouble is that I am in a hurry," he replied, "but God is not".

Seems waiting is a part of life. And being patient while waiting is a life-long goal. And yes, we are called to patient waiting.

- Waiting for a pastor to come to Niekerk.
- Waiting for a loved wandering from the faith to return.
- Waiting for a child to begin to show signs of taking responsibility.
- Waiting in traffic.
- Waiting for medical test results and a doctor's diagnosis.
- Waiting for a difficult coworker get their act together.

Someone once defined patience as the calm endurance based on the certain knowledge that God is in control. The picture of patience James uses in his letter is that of a farmer waiting for the spring and fall rains. (James 5:7) The rain is totally outside of the farmer's control. As the farmer waits, he expresses a quiet confidence in and dependence on the Lord of all creation.

Patience is an aspect of the Holy Spirit's fruit (Galatians 5:22). It is a part of a Christian's wardrobe described in Colossians 3:12. Patience is a command repeated in Scripture: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. (*Romans 12:12, Ephesians 4:2 1 Thessalonians 5:14*)

God's people have been gifted with patience, clothed with patience, and commanded to be patient.

One of the key ingredients of being patient is to be aware of what God has promised. Then, what we're going through while we wait is made more bearable because God's good purpose informs the wait. For instance, God is making us one. Until that's fully realized I can be patient with my brother or sister in Christ because I know that God is patiently and purposefully working to complete His good work in both of our lives.

Patience will continue to develop as we exercise faith. Pray. Lift up in prayer all those things that could cause us to run ahead with worry. Remember, patience is a calm endurance based on the certain knowledge that God is in control. Patience with another is the calm endurance based on the certain knowledge that God is at work in his/her life and is being patient with both of us.

We can only have peace (the groundwork for patience) when we are convinced that our heavenly Father holds us in his hands. Amid all that this life can dish out, let's remember and rest in the truth that God is full of compassion and mercy and He is in the process of conforming us into the image of His Son.

So, in this season of waiting, pray. Ask the Lord to help us patiently endure and to give us the peace that comes from knowing that He is in control.

Pastor John

June 30, 2026

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$	329,201.00
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$	279,120.86
Over(Under) Budget	\$	(50,080.14)

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$519,255.41
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$46,242.00
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$37,755.49
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$221,116.96
Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Interest	\$3,169.27
Facilities Rental Income	\$0.00
Total Receipts	\$224,286.23
This Month Disbursements	\$30,000.30
Year to Date Disbursements	\$265,697.25
Fund Balance	\$477,844.39

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$9,880.03
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,875.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$31,017.57
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$31,017.57
YTD Disbursements	\$25,383.07
Allocated Not Paid	\$0.00
Fund Balance	\$15,514.53

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$104,738.98
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$23,817.06
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$23,817.06
YTD Disbursements	\$6,272.50
Fund Balance	\$122,283.54

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	19,873.00
Year To Date Special Fund	69,031.61
This Month Disbursements	19,873.00
Year To Date Disbursements	68,831.61
Fund Balance	200.00

MISCELLANEOUS FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$ 38,768.06
Current Fund Balances:	
Niekerk Tuition Fund	11,178.76
Hockey Rock	6,384.09
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund	16,706.00
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	6,551.53
Community Impact	1,707.81
Health Pantry	35.36
Family Mission Trip Fund	6,965.84
Fund Balance	\$ 49,529.39

Cash Balances	
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2026	\$ 672,522.48
Ending Balance as of 06/30/26	\$ 665,371.85

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	279,120.86	329,201.00	(50,080.14)
Disbursements	297,352.82	329,201.00	31,848.18
Allocated Not Paid	0.00		
Spendable Income	(18,231.96)		(18,231.96)

August Thank You Notes

Once again, a huge thank you to my Niekerk family in helping to observe my 94th birthday. So many verbal expressions, the many cards, and goodies too that I received and enjoyed. I so much appreciate older and younger people taking time to converse with me!

Many, many thanks!
Stan Brandsen

I would like to thank the congregation for the calls, cards and birthday wishes I received. Above all I thank God for blessing me with 87 years.

Ron Kapenga

Thank you for the many cards, texts, prayers and support after the passing of Lori's mom. Niekerk is a special place and we are blessed.

Jon, Lori and Reagan Boeve

I would like to thank my church family for your prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls after my knee surgery. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated!

Dale Walters

"THANK YOU" - two small words which come from a full and overflowing heart.

First, thanks to Pastor John for the many visits during the 14+ months since Jerry's stroke, which left him paralyzed and confused. He saw Jerry during his good days and his not-so-good days. Thank you for the wonderful service at the farewell that told of his life and all his thoughts as to his future Heavenly home.

Thank you to the entire congregation for all your prayers and concerns. The last time he made it to church for communion, he said to me, "I think everyone came to me and said it was good to see me and were praying for me."

Special thanks to Jim and Nancy Roelofs for their faithful weekly visits and to Kris for the many encouraging messages of prayer. Thanks to Nancy Bosch for the many phone calls of prayer for us.

Thanks to Scott, Gary, and Ric, our Elders, for their visits also.

Most of all, thank you to our Heavenly Father for walking this path with us and the comfort he provides.

The last words Jerry spoke to me the day before he passed away were, "What happened?" I told him he had a stroke and Jesus was coming to take him home. He said, "How long? And I replied, "Soon". He then said, "Wonderful! My Lord is wonderful".

And to that we can all say "AMEN!"

Elaine Brower and family

Niekerk CRC,

Thank you for the update! We have received \$8,608 from Niekerk CRC so far, and I am deeply grateful for the generosity of your congregation in making this project possible.

I recently returned from Tanzania and had the privilege of visiting Kasisi Primary School in person. During our visit, Freddy Urembo, World Renew Tanzania's Country Director, was able to share the exciting news with the headmistress, teachers, and community leaders that new desks would be provided for the school. Their reaction was unforgettable. They were overjoyed, deeply grateful, and visibly moved by the news.

Even though the classrooms had recently been rehabilitated, many students were still sitting on the floor while learning. Knowing that this need will soon be addressed through the generosity of Niekerk CRC brought tremendous encouragement to everyone involved.

Thank you as well for continuing to raise funds for this project. It is wonderful to hear how enthusiastically your congregation has responded. We look forward to hearing the final total once all the contributions have been received.

I recorded a brief thank you video featuring Freddy the World Renew Country Director, the Kasisi school headmistress, and several students, which I am pleased to share with you. I have attached the video to this email as well as provided a link to the video. <https://www.canva.com/design/DAHNhOZAolY/x1hMS7YLTpQvTFT8DTkc3g/edit>



Please extend our sincere thanks to the deacons and the entire congregation for their faithful support and partnership in this important work.

Blessings,

Kacey Spencer

Donor Engagement Program Manager

Phone: +1 (616)-315-2392

email: kspencer@worldrenew.net

World Renew is certified to the [Core Humanitarian Standard](#) (CHS) for quality and accountability.



Thank you Niekerk!

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Linda Timmer
2 Jim Hondred Kim Walters Amy Staal Ron Timmer Scott Edewaard	3	4	5 Jacob Staal	6	7 Willemijn deBlois	8 Nancy Windemuller Ethan Schierbeek
9 Ida Janssen Lin Plaggemars	10 Steve Riemersma	11	12 Carl Helder Carolyn Jacobsen	13 Virginia Alofs Ruby Hondred	14	15 Magda Kos Declan Russcher
16 Jim Lampen	17	18	19 Ed Helder	20 Jessica Schutter	21	22
23 Jerene Janssen	24	25	26 Dean Koopman	27 Emma Texer Jack Kryger	28 Gay Tucker	29
30	31	Happy Birthday				

August & September DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

August 3	Council Meeting
August 9	Outdoor Service
August 28	Monthly Prayer Gathering
September 9	Red Cross Blood Drive
September 16	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
September 25	Monthly Prayer Gathering



Church Members in Care Facilities

Royal Park Place

Judy Bosch
Nonie Rietman

Quincy Place Senior Living

Jim & Lorraine Snay
Duane & Guy Tucker

Royal Park Atrium

Marge Boeve
Nick Ellerbroek

Heritage Nursing & Rehabilitation

Jerry Brower



Heights of Hope partners with Circles, USA & Good Samaritan Ministries to offer Circles, an 18 - month national program designed to empower and equip families to move out of poverty and thrive. The method is intentionally, relational, and community-driven. It brings together people from all walks of life to support our Circle leaders and create change in our community.

Every Tuesday night **Circles** meets at our church. We support them with the use of the building. The program also provides the participants with a meal. If you are willing and able, consider providing a meal for



these dedicated leaders and their support team. Scan the QR code to see what dates are available.

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250th BIRTHDAY



Two Hundred and fifty years is a long history. Or, rather, it certainly seems like a long history to our mostly single- and double-digit memories. There are many ups and downs in these 250 years—wars, economic highpoints and depressions.

Jump to 1925—only one of us remembers that year. The country was then only a mere 150 or so years old. WWI was over, and the world had survived the Great War and that very title seems a bit ironic, since it really was not great for anyone involved, but that was supposed to be the war to end all wars. Again, this was quite a misstatement.

Soon, too soon, in 1933, Adolf Hitler would rise to power, and the Nazi killing machine was conceived. When the US entered the war, everything changed.

Men and women were drafted and trained to fight and support the war effort. Rationing was instituted from grocery items to gasoline to tires on cars and even cars. Everyone was affected one way or another by the war we called World War II. Factories, even automobile plants, were turned into industries supporting the war effort.

A local factory, Hart and Cooley, used part of its building to begin manufacturing ball bearings, which were used on airplanes in combat. In the front part of the Hart and Cooley building a company called Fafnir made the ball bearings, and in the back part of the building Hart and Cooley made registers. In August of 1943, an 18-year-old girl, Ida (Zeerip) Janssen, was looking for employment, and Fafnir was looking for hands that could assemble the small, medium, and large metal ball bearings (see picture of the three ball bearing casings; Ida worked on the medium-sized one). Along with Ida were other Holland area women, including two other ladies from Niekerk, Mrs. Roon (Rita Helder's grandmother and Trisha Texer's great-grandmother) and Marian Hoeksema (Vern Hoeksema's and Sherrie Janssen's aunt). There were three different work shifts—from 8am-4pm, from 4pm-12 midnight, and from 12 midnight to 8am. Each group worked a shift for four weeks, then moved to the next shift for four weeks, and so on. Ida worked at Fafnir until her marriage in December of 1944.



Recently Ida was issued a Rosie the Riveter plaque for her war effort at Fafner (see picture).

If you get a chance to visit her, she would gladly show you the award and tell you some war effort work stories.





August

8-2 AM	Trisha Texer Jessica Schutter
PM	Dana Hondred Kris Roelofs
8-9 AM	Pat Texer Margaret Timmer
PM	Lindsey Haan Dawn Folkert
8-16 AM	Emma Texer Melinda Kryger
PM	Char Janssen Kathi Helder
8-23 AM	Carol Venema Deb Slenk
PM	Kim Walters Linda Timmer
8-30 AM	Laura Vander Zwaag Deb Haan
PM	Sara Heeres Jenn Schierbeek

September

9-6 AM	Kathi Petroelje Sandy Van Dyke
PM	Kaylin Van Dyke Trisha Texer
9-13 AM	Lisa Kragt Renee & Kayla Texer
PM	Jenn Schierbeek Jessica Schutter
9-20 AM	Abby Helder Dana Hondred
PM	Kris Roelofs Pat Texer
9-27 AM	Margaret Timmer Lindsey Haan
PM	Dawn Folkert Melinda Kryger

Nursery Volunteers: Remember to find your own replacement if you are unable to volunteer. Contact Kaylin Van Dyke with any concerns.



Dear Niekerk family,

It was lovely to see and catch up with many of you last month, but just in case we missed each other, I wanted to write an update as well!

Guatemala

I spent March–June living in Panajachel, Guatemala. During my time there, I had the opportunity to study the language and culture at a school called Jabel Tinamit. I took one-on-one classes throughout my entire time there. I learned a LOT, but still have a long way to go! My time outside of studying was spent doing ministry in Sololá, Guatemala at Eagle's Nest Children's Home. It was such an honor and privilege to do ministry alongside the missionaries and workers there. It was a special time of mutual blessing. As a volunteer, I did a variety of things—organizing, cleaning, providing childcare, helping kids with homework, being a point person for and working alongside mission teams, etc. It was a joyful challenge as I began to learn a new language, culture, forming new relationships, learn the ins and outs of ministry at Eagle's Nest, and practice new ways and rhythms of life. In this time, I learned more about the power of consistency and nurturing love and the redemptive and healing power of God.

Peru

Being able to go back to Iquitos, Peru with Carol was such a blessing. It was a very fast paced and emotional couple of weeks. For Carol, it was an especially emotional time as she prepares to think about a season where she will no longer be able to travel to Iquitos and saying goodbye to loved ones she's known for 30+ years. For me, it was powerful as I got to witness these interactions and the impact of relational ministry. The intensity at which many of these individuals experience spiritual warfare is heartbreaking. Yet, God continues to pursue and write beautiful redemptive stories. I had the privilege of meeting a lovely gentleman named Armando — a man who used to be known as one of the most dangerous guys on the streets who everyone ran and hid from. He is now living in Lima, working full-time, and raising his beautiful daughter. His joy, passion, and heart for people to know and serve the Lord radiate from him. We serve such a faithful, loving, gracious God, but Satan does not let up. These experiences have taught me a whole new level of loving others, surrender, and intercession and that sometimes the most powerful prayers are tears.

Now & Next

I arrived back in Michigan mid-June and will be here until mid-August! I have been so blessed in this time to connect with family and friends. It has also been a great time to reflect and process with others as I continue to discern next steps. Currently, I am planning to return to Guatemala mid-August for another 3-4 months. I will again be studying Spanish and volunteering at Eagle's Nest. If Carol returns to Peru, I will hopefully join her again as well. My heart is so content and full with where I am at and am excited at the thought of nearing a more full-time commitment decision as the Lord leads.

Thank you for all the ways you continue to love, encourage, and support me!

With love,
Laura Helder
lshelder8@gmail.com



August

August 2 Ric Lucas

August 9 John Timmer

August 16 Mark & Jan Hop

August 23 Steve Kragt

August 30 Mike Schutter

**Remember to find your own replacement if you are unable to volunteer. Contact Jon Boeve with any concerns.

INDOOR WALKING!

Mondays and Thursdays

9:00am to 11:30am

The church will be open for those who need to get out, get moving, and stretch their legs. Whether you're an Olympic speed walker or a casual slow walker, all are welcome to come out, bring their kids, invite a friend, and start walking laps here at Niekerk.



Remember to schedule your meetings, community group events, and any other activities with the church office.

Shared Meals



The freezer has Chicken Alfredo Casserole, Meatloaf & Cheesy hashbrowns, Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole, Chicken Pot Pie, Tater Tot Casserole, Ham & Potato Casserole, Ham & Broccoli Breakfast Casserole, Cream Turkey, and Pizza Casserole. These meals are for members of our church with needs and for those outside our church that could use a helping hand.



**BRING
YOUR
CRAFTS**

Ladies Quilting & Craft Day

Ladies take your sewing, knitting, scrapbooking, stamping or any other activity and join other women for a craft day starting at 9 AM until 4 PM in En Gedi. No need to sign up; come when you can, and leave when you must.

Wednesday Nights at Niekerk

Fall Dates 2026

Mark your calendars now the dates for WNN's:

September 16

*a tasty meal followed by outdoor activities
for children plus a bonfire for everyone*

October 7 and 28

November 4 and
November 18 *Turkey Dinner*

December 2



To the cookie bakers!
Thank you for your endless supply of
cookies that you generously provide
and your willingness to sign up!



**American
Red Cross**

2026

Blood Drive Dates

Wednesday, September 9
Wednesday, November 11

One blood donation may help save three lives.

*The American Red Cross commented that Holland is in
the top ten of the Michigan cities for blood donations!
The average donation is 1.12 with Holland at 3.4
donations.*



Here is the QR code for Niekerk!



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Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 4/23/26

<u>Council Committee</u>	<u>Chair/Contact Person</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
Community Impact Team	Cheryl Bosch, Dave Walters Carl Helder Sara Heeres MJ Staal Kim Walters Dale Walters	Scott Edewaard* , Deb Slenk, Ryan Texer, Margaret Timmer, Marv Venema, Sara Walters Trisha Texer Sara Heeres, Phil Helder, Steve Kragt, Jen Leenstra, Margaret Timmer
Congregational Life Team	Ken Schierbeek* Jan Hop & Jane Steenwyk	Curt & Marcy Brower, Abby Helder, Sue Hoekstra, Mark Hop, Bob Steenwyk
Fellowship Team	Ken Schierbeek MJ Staal/Jamie Hop Linda Nyhof Carl Helder Julie Mulder	Carol Keen, Bev Leegwater, Ken & Joyce Schierbeek, Bryan & Kaylin Van Dyke Jim Hondred, Vern Hoeksema, Greg Leenstra
Wednesday Night at Niekerk		
Community Groups		
Greeters/Welcome Assistant		
Pine Rest Counseling		
Newsletter Editor		
Discipleship Team	Trisha Texer Gary Meiste* Kaylin Van Dyke	Brian Bosch, Stephanie Edewaard, Kurt Rigterink, Linda Timmer, Kaylin Van Dyke Scott Helder (4 th -5 th), Char Janssen (6 th -7 th) Carl Helder (8 th) Lindsey Haan, Renee Texer
Catechism Teachers		
Childcare/Nursery		
Education Team		
Library	Marilyn Russcher	Rita Helder, Jane Steenwyk, Linda Timmer, Sandy Van Dyke
Little Lambs	Kim Walters	
Sunday Night Bible Study		Elmer & Leona Nyhof, Gary & Marilyn Russcher
Sunday School Superintendent	Kaylin Van Dyke	Abby Helder & Trisha Texer
Cadets	Jim Means	Henry Bosch, Terry Bosch, Mike Roelofs, Wayne Tjarks
GEMS	Nancy Means	Carol Hochhalter, Char Janssen, Stephanie Edewaards, Kristi Driscoll, Nancy Means, & Kaylin Van Dyke
Youth Director	Trisha Texer	
Middle School Youth Group	Trisha Texer	Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer
Youth Group	Trisha Texer	Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer
Young Adults		

Finance Team Financial/Member Secretary <i>General Fund Treasurer</i>	Joe Texer* Kathi Petroelje Mike Dozeman	Mike Dozeman, Ivan Janssen, Brent Kapenga, Larry Van Dyke
Missions Team Missionary Financial Support Growing Hope Globally	Scott Edewaard* Carl Helder	Dave Helder, Bev Leep, Joe Texer, Wayne Tjarks
Prayer Team Oversee Prayer Activities Worship Coordinator	Dave Helder Carol Hochhalter	Delia Gale, Doug Gritter, Carl Helder, Pastor John Nyitray, Gary Morren
Support Team Administrative Assistant Building Supervisors Custodian Donations Emergency Response Historian Kitchen Media Team Safe Church Abuse Prevention Physical Safety (Security)	Tom Staal* Julie Mulder Ric & Karen Lucas Karen Koopman Cheryl Bosch Judy Stoel Jane Steenwyk/ Jan Hop Joe Texer Jamie Hop Jon Boeve	Ric Lucas, Jane Steenwyk, Mike Venema Jack Koeman, Bev Leegwater, & Karen Lucas Jon Boeve, Jessica Bosch & Jamie Hop Joyce Dalman, Elaine Helder, Verna Jansen, Char Janssen, Karen Lucas, & Linda Timmer Julie Mulder Jim Means, Ric Lucas
Worship Team Banner Changes Flower/Decorations Greeter Coordinator Nursery Visual Arts Power Point Sound Booth	Carol Hochhalter* Donna Lampen Linda Nyhof Kaylin Van Dyke Jamie Hop Jamie Hop	Jamie Hop, Jen Leep, Dan Petroelje, MJ Staal Bonnie Nagelkirk, Jane Steenwyk Melanie Russcher, Renee Texer, Lindsey Haan Melissa Dozeman, Jan Hop, Tim Leep, Bryan Van Dyke Zeb Driscoll, Jamie Hop, Jacob Staal, Mary Jo Staal, Joe Texer

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