



The Fisherman

*The Newsletter of the Reformed Dutch Church
of Claverack
A Reformed Church in America Congregation*

April 2020

2020 CONSISTORY

Elders

Bill Better
Donna Lynk Campion
Cheryl Halleran
Andrea Mastrianni
Nate Winch

Deacons

John Dunham
Olivia vanAlphen
Kim Plass
Amy Race
Melissa Skoda
Bob Weinman

Missionaries

Rev. and Mrs. Brad Kautz,
Jicarilla Apache Nation
RCA – Partner in Mission(PIM)

Staff

Rev. Linda Miles
Pastor
Andrea Mastrianni
Director of Music
Lloyd Lawrence
Director of Bell Choir
Helen Hamel
Office Manager
Alyssa Ellithorpe
Custodian

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of Claverack
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Dear Ones,

In this very extraordinary time of the Covid-19 pandemic, we may be finding ourselves a bit lost and confused. We may be experiencing some very challenging circumstances. It is a good time to pray and stay connected with God, our family, our friends and our church. To that purpose, I share with you this prayer by Cameron Bellm.

Pastor Linda Miles
845-430-3348

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced . . .
remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors . . .
remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home . . .
remember those who must choose between preserving
their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when
schools close . . .
remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips . . .
remember those who have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the
economic market . . .
remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home . . .
remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country, let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms
around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

Keep Up to Date with Our Church Family!!!

First Sunday of Each Month Collection for Local Food Pantries: Suspended until our worship services resume.

Meetings (Bible studies), etc. for April

ALL meetings / Bible studies / events are suspended for the month of April, and God willing, will resume in May. The Christian Education Building also remains closed.

Tentative Schedule

While our worship services are suspended, there are other opportunities for worship and meditation. Pastor Linda is sending out a **week-day scripture**. She is also sending out an **'at-home' Sunday worship bulletin**. These are sent electronically via email. If you are not receiving these, please advise the church office.

Palm Sunday **Home Worship** bulletin sent electronically to members or mailed.
Maundy Thursday Worship bulletin will be sent electronically or mailed.
Easter Sunday Worship bulletin will be sent electronically or mailed.



Every year all RCA churches are assessed a set amount for each active member. The funds are used for ministry and to care for the pastors who serve the churches.

Our assessment for 2020 is \$101.17 per active church member. Last year assessment payments totaled \$2,822.00 against a total assessment of \$10,355.00 which meant that our church paid the difference of \$7,533.00 from the general fund.

In order to avoid this additional expense to our general fund, all members are encouraged to pay their 2020 assessment.

Please contact any Consistory member if you need additional information.



Make a note: Updated **church office hours:**

Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Office is closed Mondays

Our Lenten Mission 2020: Mercy Ships

We continue our Lenten missions appeal to support the **Mercy Ships** ministry. We distributed offering boxes for people to take home and make contributions during Lent. This appeal is being extended, and collection of boxes will take place when our worship services resume.

This is our eighth year supporting **Mercy Ships**, a medical ministry whose hospital ships provide free lifesaving surgeries for people where access to medical care is nearly non-existent, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. You can also find this statement of faith on the **Mercy Ships** website's home page — "We follow the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus to provide hope and healing to the forgotten poor." More than 100,000 surgeries have been performed on board **Mercy Ships** since 1978, and thousands of lives have been transformed.

Please consider supporting this year's appeal with a gift for **Mercy Ships**.

Lloyd Lawrence
Missions Committee

Dear Church Members and Friends of the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack,

During these challenging times the church still needs to pay its bills. If you would like to continue to support the church during the time we are not together for worship, you can mail your offering to the church:

P.O. Box K, Claverack, NY 12513

Thanks much!
Pastor Linda Miles
845-430-3348



April Lectionary Readings

The Lectionary is a list of scripture readings that are traditionally used for each Sunday of the church year. Many preachers choose from these readings for their sermon texts. They are created in a three-year cycle to cover many important Bible passages.

Sixth Sunday of Lent: Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Easter: Resurrection of the Lord, Sunday, April 12

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Second Sunday of Easter: Sunday, April 19

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter: Sunday, April 26

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Coffee Hour

We will be meeting again!!! ... once our worship services resume. Our coffee hour is in the Christian Education Building following worship each Sunday. It is a great way to share in fellowship and bond with your church family. If you haven't signed up to host a coffee hour, please consider. There is a sign-up sheet in the CEB entry on an easel. Thank you.



April Birthdays

Kay Cook	4/4
Andrew Mackerer	4/4
Holly Barton	4/6
Lori Lennon	4/8
Arlene Snyder	4/8
Jan Dunham	4/10
Sarah Veronezi	4/10
Vinessa Bowman	4/13
Ann Stone	4/19
Florentina Champion	4/19
Lydia Skoda	4/19
Amy Race	4/25
Jim O'Neill	4/26
William Krein	4/30
Jennifer Stupplebeen	4/30



April Anniversaries

Lynda and Mike Nielsen	4/3
Shanda and Gary Steenburn	4/20

Sunday School Corner



Sunday School will resume as soon as feasible.

Office Things

The church office has sent out a few general emails from the address of rdcc88@yahoo.com. If you haven't received anything in a while, perhaps we have an incorrect email address, or perhaps you'd like to be added to our email distribution list. This is for pertinent items pertaining to our congregation. Send Helen an email at the above address and she'll make sure your address is correct! Thank YOU!

If you aren't on the world wide web (internet), Facebook, and not able to view our website, Linda Theiss is putting together a **'who to call' list** in case a worship service is cancelled. If you'd like to be on that list, please give her a call at 518-851-9442. You can certainly call the church office as well. We'll make sure you're notified.

A NOTE OF



... from Julianne . . .

Dear Consistory and Claverack Reformed Dutch Church,

Thank you so very much for your generous send-off gift. I am so blessed to have been able to work with you. I miss my place in the office. It was a difficult decision. I hope to be able to help in any way for the transition. Sincerely, Julianne

Thank you, John Dunham!

Thanks to John for remodeling the mini kitchen in the Christian Education Building. He was able to purchase nice the Restore in Hudson and retrofit them to our needs. We are talented woodworker as our Building Superintendent. And, **Mastrianni** for organizing the contents of the kitchen. It is used weekly by AA, the bridge group, and many other groups that meet in our CEB. Check it out when you have the opportunity. Thanks much to all involved!

Pastor Linda



downstairs of the cabinets and sink from grateful to have such a thank YOU to **Andrea**

Welcome Helen Hamel! We welcome Helen Hamel, our new Office Manager to the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack. Helen lives locally and also serves as the Music Director of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Delmar, NY.



It is understandably a difficult time to begin a new job, and we are grateful for Helen's willingness and flexibility in her work. If you should need to contact the church office, messages can be left with the church office at 518-851-3811. When we are all back in the building, we hope you will stop by and meet her.

Welcome Helen and may your time with us be blessed.

Pastor Linda

Love to Sing !!!

Once the 'all clear' is sounded for people to gather again, choir will resume its Thursday evening rehearsals at 7:30 pm at the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack, in the sanctuary.

Contact Andrea: andreamastrianni@gmail.com or (518) 265-3661.

