



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

The Fisherman

February 2019
PASTOR'S CORNER

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

2019 CONSISTORY

Elders

Bill Better
Cheryl Halleran
Andrea Mastrianni
Nate Winch

Deacons

Wendy Cook
John Dunham
Susan Ihlenburg
Melissa Skoda
Olivia VanAlphen
Bob Weinman

Missionaries

RCA - Partners in Mission (PIM)

Staff

Andrea Mastrianni
Director of Music
Lloyd Lawrence
Director of Bell Choir
Julianne Fletcher
Administrative Assistant
Alyssa Ellithorpe
Custodian

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Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary Emeritus of the Reformed Church in America, has written a thoughtful book called *Future Faith*. In it, he explores ten ways our United States congregations are challenged to change at this watershed moment in Christian history. These challenges are invitations to look at American churches and to be inspired with hope and insight as to what we can do to serve God in the present reality.

Granberg-Michaelson describes the challenges in ten chapters: 1) Revitalizing Withering Congregations, 2) Embracing the Color of the Future, 3) Seeing Through Non-Western Eyes, 4) Perceiving the World as Sacred, 5) Affirming Spirit-Filled Communities, 6) Rejecting the Heresy of Individualism, 7) De-Americanizing the Gospel, 8) Defeating Divisive Culture Wars, 9) Belonging Before Believing, and 10) Saving *This* World. He writes with insight and hope for the future of the church, both locally and globally.

This year we'll be particularly exploring some of these themes in our worship, our missional activities, and our Christian education classes. What is the future for our church and other churches in our area, our country, our world? How can we be faithful to God's work of renewal? How can we work together to follow Christ in our communities of faith today? It is a time to be aware of the responsibility and the promise of our future with God. Join the journey to the church's future as we learn and serve God together.

Blessings,
Pastor Linda Miles



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES & HAPPENINGS!!

**Installations for new Consistory members takes place on January 27th.
Welcome to the dedicated people who serve our church family.**

Newly elected:

Elder
Cheryl Halleran

Deacons
John Dunham
Melissa Skoda

Serving the first year of their second term are:

Elder
Andrea Mastrianni

Deacon
Olivia VanAlphen

Other Consistory members are:

Bill Better, elder
Wendy Cook, deacon
Sue Ihlenburg, deacon
Bob Weinman, deacon
Nate Winch, elder

A Directed Retreat: “Encouraging the Nature of a Listening Heart”

Linwood Spiritual Center, Rhinebeck, NY; March 12-15, 2019.
Cost: \$150 per person (includes a \$50 non-refundable deposit)

This is a restful and renewing retreat sponsored by the Reformed Church in America for both women and men. It is held at the beautiful Linwood Spiritual Center on the Hudson in Rhinebeck. Some of the time is shared, some of the time is in silence, and there is the opportunity to talk to a spiritual director about the voice of God in your life. The meals are delicious, and you have a private room. Pastor Linda has attended this retreat and plans to be at this one.

Arrive at Linwood Spiritual Center on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 by 11:00 am. The retreat begins at 11:30 with welcome and introductions before lunch. The retreat ends after lunch on Friday, March 15, 2019.

To register, obtain a form from Pastor Linda and mail to Linwood Spiritual Center, 50 Linwood Road, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 along with \$50 deposit. For more information, please talk to Pastor Linda or contact Ellen Ratmeyer, ellenratmeyer@gmail.com, 518-767-2686 or cell: 973-951-8176

DATELINE TO REGISTER IS FEBRUARY 10, 2019



ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Committee reports due in the office by February 10th



The **THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP** is meeting again. Please join us February 7th at 9:30 a.m. in the CEB Library to finish the study of world religions. We will begin the study of Future Faith the second week of February.

Missions 2018 Wrap Up

Here are some final reports from the end of 2018:

Operation Christmas Child

Between the congregational appeal and the Sunday School's help, we delivered 29 boxes for Operation Christmas Child - plus a donation of \$443 (\$261 for handling fees and \$182 for general need). It was one of our bigger totals in recent years.

THANK YOU.

Wee Ones

During Advent and through the Christmas season, our small giving tree in the back of the sanctuary was covered with sleepers and onesies for newborns of local mothers in need. Overall, 25 sleepers, a large selection of onesies, flannel for blankets, and a hand-knit baby sweater were collected for this ministry headed by Kinderhook Reformed

THANK YOU.

Local Food Pantries Giving

Over the last three months of 2018, the congregation donated over \$650 for our local food pantries, plus additional groceries collected on communion Sundays. For all of 2018, our church family gave over \$3,600 in cash support for the food pantries of Philmont/Mellenville, Ghent, and the Hudson Salvation Army. THANK YOU for such a generous response to helping our neighbors in need. And a special thanks to Roger Case and the Dunhams, who deliver the gifts of groceries to the food pantries we support.

Special Needs — Supporting Local Programs

In addition, the church made \$300-\$500 year-end donations to the following local organizations: Habitat for Humanity, Community Hospice, Greene County Community Action (Domestic Abuse Program), Alliance for Positive Health (AIDs Council), Twin County Recovery Services, and Camp Fowler. The funds were from our Special Needs program, which is supported by the church's regular income. We are truly blessed to be

able to support all these worthy ministries and spread Christ's love both locally and globally.

Lloyd Lawrence, Missions Committee Chair

Sunday School Corner



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILD CARE IN THE NURSERY DURING CHURCH SERVICE.

We are seeking adult or teen volunteers who have had a babysitting course, or other child care training, to care for babies and toddlers during the 9:30 am service. Please sign up at the church office or the Sunday School room.

CORRESPONDENCE



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your very generous Christmas gift. Nick and I will enjoy using it to travel to some warm place. Blessing to you and yours in the coming year.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Linda and Nick

Dear Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack,

We have received notice from the Regional Food Bank of your donation of \$220. We are grateful for your continuing support.

Sincerely,
Mellenville Philmont Food Pantry.

Dear Community Partner,

On behalf of Community Action of Greene County, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of \$300.00 towards our Domestic Violence Program.

It is because of individuals and organizations such as yours that our agency is able to provide the programs and services that we do, to those in need.

Once again, thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Florence Ohle, Executive Director

To the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack

Your current gift of \$300.00, humbles me. And for this I say, "Thank You" on behalf of all those who spend time in the sacred space. Thanks for helping to reach the next generation of campers.

Walk in balance,

Kent Busman, Executive Director
Fowler Camp & Retreat Center

Coffee Hour signup sheet is located on the bulletin board to the left of the kitchen door in the Fellowship Hall. Signups are available all year.

Pastor Linda Miles is available by appointment. The best way to reach her is by cell phone 845-430-3348 or e-mail. Her address is lindajosiemiles@gmail.com



PLEASE NOTE: Church office hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 am to 2 pm

QUESTION: Someone is asking for a reprint of the picture of Jesus at the top of the stairs to the right in the CEB. Does anyone know where we might find one? Please call the office at 518-851-3811 if you have an answer. Thank you.

Lectionary Readings

Epiphany, commonly known as Three Kings' Day in the **United States**, is on January 6. It celebrates the three wise men's visit to baby Jesus and also remembers His baptism, according to the Christian Bible's events.

Feb. 3, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13;
Luke 4: 21-20

Feb. 10, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 6: 1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11;
Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 17, Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; I Corinthians 15:12-20;
Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 24, Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

Valentine's Day, February 14

The origins of **Valentine's Day** are murky. We do know that the ancient Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia, a spring festival, on the 15th of February. With the introduction of Christianity, the holiday moved to the 14th of February--the saint day that celebrated several early Christian martyrs named Valentine.



February Birthdays

Darcy Colwell 2/1

Laurel Clapp 2/3

Nancy Rasweiler 2/3

Michael Lennon 2/6

Samantha Steenburn 2/6

Jim Mackerer 2/7

Edward Stone 2/14

Hattie Hotaling 2/15

Mildred Spoor 2/17

Steve Race 2/20

Henry John Theiss 2/21

Bruce Kline 2/22

Karen Case 2/23

Jeremy Hotalen 2/23

Pam Kline 2/25

Russ Holze 2/25

Shirley Shumsky 2/29



February Anniversaries

Richard & Melissa Skoda 2/3

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

“SUNDAY SCHOOL SUB SALE”

Order by January 27, 2019

Our Sunday School is having a Sub Sale on
Sunday, February 3rd.

Vegetarian Subs \$8.00; Turkey Subs \$9.00; Mixed Meat Subs \$8.00
(all on 10 inch rolls)

To order, please fill in this form below and place in either a box located in the Sanctuary or in the CE Building **by January 27**. Additional order forms are available at the CEB.

Note: Subs can be picked up after the coffee hour in the church kitchen on February 3rd.

Name _____

Tel No. _____

Number Ordered (please specify below):

_____ Mixed Meat _____ Turkey _____ Vegetarian