



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

# The Fisherman

January 2020

## 2020 CONSISTORY

### Elders

Bill Better  
Cheryl Halleran  
Andrea Mastrianni  
Nate Winch

### Deacons

Wendy Cook  
John Dunham  
Sue Ihlenburg  
Melissa Skoda  
Olivia Jostlin  
Bob Weinman

### Missionaries

RCA- Partners in Mission  
(PIM)  
Rev. Brad and Robin Kautz,  
Missionaries

### Staff

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

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

*God, our God has blessed us. Psalm 67:6b*

In Numbers 6:24-26 God tells Moses to share a beautiful blessing with the Israelites. Moses is to say to them: "The Lord bless you and keep you, make his face to shine upon you, be gracious to you, and give you peace". These are wonderful words of God's blessing to us and to our friends and loved ones. But so often we forget the blessings of our daily life.

The Gospel of Luke also speaks of being blessed by God. Mary felt deep gratitude for her experience at Bethlehem. God blessed and protected the holy family in the birth and survival of their son. Mary treasured the blessings and pondered them in her heart. These blessings would sustain her in the difficult events to come.

As we enter a new year, we too are called to ponder the blessings of the past year and to praise God for the treasures which are ours. These blessings can be our strength in the New Year. Let us take a break from all the things that distract us and spend some time remembering the ways in which God has blessed us and brought us peace.

Wishing you a blessed New Year.  
Pastor Linda Miles

## **KEEP UP TO DATE WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES & HAPPENINGS!!**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that a **Congregational Meeting** on Jan. 5th  
will be the

**Election of Elder and Deacons for 2020.**

**Installation** will take place Sunday, Feb. 2nd.

### **CONSISTORY 2020**

#### **Elder**

Bill Better	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	1 <sup>st</sup> year
Cheryl Halleran	1 <sup>st</sup> term	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
Andrea Mastrianni	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
Nate Winch	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	1 <sup>st</sup> year

#### **Deacons**

John Dunham	1 <sup>st</sup> term	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
Melissa Skoda	1 <sup>st</sup> term	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
Olivia VanAlphen	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
Bob Weinman	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	1 <sup>st</sup> year

### **NEW CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS:**

#### **Elder**

Donna Lynk Campion	1 <sup>st</sup> term	1 <sup>st</sup> year
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#### **Deacon**

Kim Plass.	1 <sup>st</sup> term	1 <sup>st</sup> year
Amy Race	1 <sup>st</sup> term	1 <sup>st</sup> year



The **THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP** resumes.  
The subject is "New Testament Troublesome Bible Passages".  
**Please join us January 2nd at 9:30 a.m. in the CEB Library!**

### ***Sunday School Corner***



The Christmas cards made by the Sunday School children and distributed by Brayden and Lydia Skoda were appreciated by the residents of the nursing homes visited by carolers.

Please save your Christmas cards from this year to be used again by the Sunday School next year to create more cards. It is a double blessing.

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# **THANK YOU**

to all who participated in this year's December 8<sup>th</sup>

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING EVENT**

at Pine Haven and Whittier!

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

#### **ANDREA**

for her thoughtfulness planning, organizing and leading the day's activity,

#### **THE SUNDAY SCHOOL**

for preparing greeting cards and ornaments that delighted the residents,

#### **THE 17 CAROLERS**

who included our SS kids who helped distribute the cards and decorations,  
and

#### **THE HOLZHAUERS**

who welcomed us into their beautifully decorated home  
to enjoy wonderful fellowship and a cozy and delicious potluck dinner.

**Hope those who couldn't be there this year will be able to join the caroling group next year!**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for your generous gift at Christmas. I will use the money for our next travel adventure. Your kindness and generosity to me is overwhelming. Blessings to you in the coming year.

Love, Pastor Linda

To the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack:

Your recent gift of \$248 allows us to continue supporting families in need in our community. Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely, Mellenville Philmont Food Pantry

Thank you for the many expressions of caring and sympathy during this difficult time. Whether through cards, kind words, thoughts and prayers, shared memories, they consoled our hearts. They are so much appreciated.

Thank you so much from  
The Family of Hattie Hotaling.

Dear Reformed Dutch Church friends,

Thank you for your wonderful gift that has made our Christmas brighter and demonstrates your appreciation. Joe and I are always amazed by this group of caring people for whom I have the opportunity to serve.

Julianne Fletcher  
Administrative Assistant

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

Dear Ones,

This comes to let you know that registration for the March 3-6, 2020 "Listening Hearts Retreat" at the Linwood Spiritual Center, Rhinebeck, NY is now open. The registration fee will be \$285.00 (this includes \$50 non-refundable deposit). This covers the usual three-nights single occupancy lodging and meals beginning with Tuesday lunch through Friday lunch. The Linwood Center has changed leadership and staff and is now requesting that retreat registrations be done online. Here's the link you will use to register and pay the \$50 deposit. Checks will no longer be accepted:

<https://www.linwoodspiritual.com/bookings-checkout/listening-hearts>

After completing the registration process, you will receive an email confirmation from Linwood.

The balance of your registration fee is not to be paid until 14 days prior to the retreat. Early in February, I will send you an email reminder and instructions for making this final on-line payment.

Feel free to let me know if you have questions about this registration process. You can also call Heidi at the Linwood Center office: 845-876-4178.

During the retreat, there will be opportunity, as usual, for meeting with a spiritual director to reflect on God's presence and movement in your life. Martha Andrews, Kate Sampson and Linda Miles will be joining me in offering this one-on-one spiritual direction. The joy of our retreats is our shared leadership for our morning and evening worship times. Please let me know if you'd like to volunteer to lead one of those worship times.

More and more I realize that enormous grace of our shared silence. Not only do we listen deeper and deeper for God, but we also listen with and to one another, even in the silence. We humbly acknowledge both the similarities and differences in the details of our lives, and the ways we pray through all the wonders and messiness of our fierce realities. Our practices of prayer, reflection, and contemplation call us not to stand in isolation from the world but rather live in profound relationship with it, and to acknowledge how God is calling us to carry the Light of Christ wherever we go.

*“And don’t we all, with fierce hunger,  
crave a space of deep listening—full of quiet darkness and stars,  
until finally we hear a syllable of God echoing in the cave of our hearts.”*

*– Macrina Wiederkehr*

*Grace and peace, Ellen (Ellen Ratmeyer)*

Beverwyck

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*"Find the thing that stirs your heart and make room for it"--Joan Chittister*



### January Birthdays

Brian Brown	1/2	Jeff Stone	1/14
William Van Deusen	1/2	Bruce Kline, Sr	1/22
Alfred Scot	1/3	Richard Clapp	1/22
Laurel Clapp	1/3	Rebecca Schroepel	1/24
Alyssa Rasweiler	1/5	Robert Weinman	1/31
Michael Bowman	1/7		
Carol Doerfer O'Neill	1/7		
Sharon Kavanaugh	1/7		
Alexia Fuller	1/10		
Edward Stone	1/14		

### January Anniversaries

Roger & Jane Case	1/4
John & Jan Dunham	1/22
Marylou & Michael Knull	1/25
Wendy & Kay Cook	1/25

## LECTIONARY READINGS

Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1(1-9). 10-18

Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> First Sunday after Epiphany: Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23



## THANKS SO MUCH

*Special thanks to the following members of our congregation  
for the poinsettias.*

*The sanctuary was beautiful on Christmas Eve!*

### DONATED BY

Louise Bailey

In Loving Memory of  
**Jon & Marjorie Miller**  
**Gerald & Louise Bailey**

Norma Barnard and Family

In Loving Memory of  
**Abram M. Barnard Jr.**

The Ham Daughters

In Loving Memory of  
**Merlin and Irene Ham**

Roger and Jane Case

In Loving Memory of  
**Ray & Ruth Case**  
**Lloyd & Margaret Slater MacIntyre**

Wendy and Kay Cook

In Loving Memory of  
**Leon & Eleanor Cook**  
**Mary Reardon**

Linda Daly

In Loving Memory of  
**Michael Daly** and  
**Geraldine Bielefeldt**

Barbara DeLamater

In loving memory of  
**John H. DeLamater, husband & father**

John & Jan Dunham

In Honor of our Children  
**Ethan Paul Dunham**  
**Amy Elizabeth Dunham**

Bruce & Pam Kline

In Loving Memory of  
**Ray Moore, Jr. Pam's brother**  
**Parents: Ray and Kay Moore,**  
**Floyd & Edith Kline**

The Mayo Family

In Loving Memory of  
**Win & Hattie Hotaling**  
**Ken & Alice Mayo**  
**The Glory of Christmas**

Rev. Nick & Pastor Linda Miles

In Loving Memory of  
**Loved Ones**

Carol, Jim & Conor O'Neill

In Loving Memory of  
**Frederick, Veronica & Fred Doerfer  
Noyes & Roberta O'Neill  
Adeline Boroski, Blanche Krupowicz  
Ginger Castle**

Kitty Osterhoudt

In Loving Memory of  
**My parents and Kevin**

The Race Family

In Loving Memory of  
**Marjorie & Jerome Anthony  
David Anthony**

The Rasweiler Family

In Loving Memory of  
**Hilda & Calvin Rasweiler  
Rev. Robert M. Hoag  
Robert L. Cuerbo**

Rick & P-L Schroepel

In Loving Memory of  
**Our Parents and Friends**

Stephen & Shirley Shumsky

In Loving Memory of  
**Tremaine & Helen Dallas  
Frank & Mary Shumsky**

Gary & Shanda Steenburn

In Loving Memory of  
**Stanford & Edna Card**

Shirley Sullivan

In Loving Memory of  
**Emily & Kara Sullivan's Great-Grandparents**

Anne Terwilliger

In Loving Memory of  
**Loved Ones of the Terwilliger & Case Families**

Cindy VanAlphen

In Loving Memory of  
**Loved Ones**

Arnold Van Deusen

In Honor of  
**My wife, Ann Van Deusen & family**

Julie Veronezi

In Loving Memory of  
**Philip & Harriet Egan,  
Frank Veronezi**

Q. M Worsfold

In Honor of  
**Robert M. Worsfold**

Nicon W. Zasorin

**The Glory of Christmas**

A great big  
THANK YOU...

to all those  
ADVENT and CHRISTMAS  
time-of-the-year  
BEHIND-THE-SCENES PEOPLE  
who have provided their church family with  
WONDERFUL PROGRAMS and BEAUTIFUL MUSIC  
LOVELY DECORATIONS  
TASTE-Y TREATS  
CARING WAYS TO REMEMBER and HELP OTHERS  
A CLEAR PARKING LOT and SAFE WALKWAYS  
  
YOU and your THOUGHTFUL DEEDS are  
ALL appreciated so VERY much!

**Coffee Hour, Scripture Readers' and Greeters' Sign-up Sheets**  
are located on the bulletin board in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

May the New Year be filled with lots of  
Happiness and Good Health for you and your loved ones!

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](mailto:lindajosiemiles@gmail.com)  
Office hours are 9 am – 2 pm Tuesday and Thursday.