



The Fisherman

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

May 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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Pastor's Corner

“The New Normal”

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is much talk of a “new normal” for virtually everyone in our world. Labeling it so is one way we name it so that we can cope with all the change it has created in our lives.

Initially, there was not much that seemed normal, but as the days go by, it seems like there are some good things amidst the daily tragedies of lost opportunities, suffering and grief. I am amazed by the heroic response of our emergency and health care workers, educators, parents, and innumerable people who have selflessly given of themselves. I am humbled to see the families who are spending so much time together out of their normal routines and families apart who are struggling and missing important family times. Many friends and neighbors are strengthening their connections. Help comes from unexpected places.

As much as we love our buildings, we are finding that we still are a church when we are not regularly in our building. An old Avery and Marsh tune goes, *“The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people. I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together. All of God’s people, all around the world, yes, we’re the church together.”*

And so, in this not-normal-at-all time, God has called us to be the church, to be God’s people in this world, in this not-normal reality. Let us pray that we can love God and love our neighbor as we walk through this time together.

Blessings,
Pastor Linda Miles
845-430-3348

Spiritual Life of Our Congregation

Worship Schedule

While our **worship services** remain suspended, there are many opportunities for worship, meditation, and reflection:



Pastor Linda sends out a **weekday scripture reading, including a reflection**, through the Easter season.



Pastor Linda sends out an '**at-home' Sunday worship bulletin** (emailed and in print format). This serves as a guide for an at-home weekly worship service. Members can join the "Zoom" meeting worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning (instructions sent separately via email), or you can use the bulletin during your own worship time.



Occasionally our members add a photo, music selection, or reflection to the church **Facebook** page. We encourage you to visit this page frequently at "The Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack". Remember to 'like us'!



Andrea sends, via email, a **weekly music** file containing hymns for the worship service as well as occasional instrumental or choral offerings.



Virtual Coffee Hour: After the Zoom worship service, we enjoy a Zoom Coffee Hour where folks can join in from home, with their cup of coffee, and enjoy each other's company 'virtually'! Time is 11:00 a.m., and, again, Zoom instructions are sent separately via email.



The bulletins are sent electronically via email (a few are printed and mailed). If you are not receiving these, please advise the church office at rdcc88@yahoo.com. Also, if you would like to receive a hard copy of the weekly bulletin, please let us know at the above email or call us at 518-851-3811.

May Lectionary Readings and Sermons

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.

May 3 (Fourth Sunday of Easter):

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Sermon text: John 10:1-10: "The Shepherd and the Gate"

May 10 (Fifth Sunday of Easter):

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:20-21; John 14:1-14

Sermon text: John 14:1-14: "Let not your Hears be Troubled"

(continued)

May 17 (Sixth Sunday of Easter):

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Sermon text: John 14:15-21: "For the Love of God"

May 24 (Seventh Sunday of Easter):

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Sermon text: John 17:1-11: "Glory to God"

May 31 (Day of Pentecost):

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or
Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Sermon text: John 7:37-39: "The Living Water"



Thank you to those who donated lilies for our Easter worship service. The lilies remain in our sanctuary, and are still blooming.

Norma Barnard, in memory of husband Abram

Donna and Jim Campion . . . He is Risen indeed!

DeLamater Family, in memory of John H. DeLamater

Pastors Linda and Nickolas Miles, in memory of loved ones

Better and Peter Ostrander, in memory of loved ones

Betsy and Al Scott in celebration of Easter

Meetings (Bible studies), etc. for May

ALL meetings / Bible studies / events continue to be suspended for the month of May, and God willing, will resume when Governor Andrew Cuomo gives the 'all clear' to meet again. The Christian Education Building also remains closed.

Sunday School Corner

Sunday School will resume as soon as feasible.

Raise us up, Lord
when we are weary,
encourage us
when we are low;
speak to our hearts
by your sweet Spirit,
and lead us, Lord
where we should go.

The Regional Synod of Albany has shared revised Beatitudes with us . . .

CORONAVIRUS BEATITUDES by Jason White,
Pastor of First Reformed Church of Scotia

Blessed are the healthcare workers,
who offer hope with selfless actions in the thick of it all.

Blessed are the grocery employees,
who show up, say hello, give a smile, and say, “have a nice day, be safe.”

Blessed are the pharmacy employees,
who keep us healthy in the midst of great distress.

Blessed are the teachers,
who swiftly change their plans to keep students engaged and connected.

Blessed are the parents,
who quickly get creative and realize new skills and gifts.

Blessed are the food distributors,
who provide free food for children and families in need.

Blessed are the trash and recycling collectors,
who remind us that some parts of normal life continue.

Blessed are the older adults,
who share their wisdom and offer the rest of us their courage.

... and a member of our congregation would like to add:

Blessed are the Policemen and Firemen

Blessed are the Truck Drivers

BLESSED ARE ALL THE “ESSENTIALS”!

Church Family Giving



Food Pantries Offerings

Thank you for your continued support of our food pantries, especially for the Easter appeal. Your giving, in spite of our COVID-19 hiatus, has been generous and a blessing in these times. Again, thank you so much...



Mercy Ships Update

Our Lenten missions appeal to support Mercy Ships will continue once we resume regular worship services. At that time, we will collect the offering boxes designated for our Lenten/Mercy Ships appeal. *(continued)*

Church Family

Coffee Hour

We will be meeting again!!! ... once our worship services resume. At this time, we are gathering virtually via Zoom (an online meeting app) after our worship services on Sundays. Normally our coffee hour is in the Christian Education Building following worship. It is a great way to share in fellowship and bond with our church family. Normally we have a sign-up sheet to host a coffee hour . . . something to think about in the future!



May Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Crystil-Lee Skoda | 5/1 |
| Dustin VanAlphen | 5/2 |
| Stephen Shumsky | 5/5 |
| Joshua Moon | 5/5 |
| Ryan Niver | 5/6 |
| Tricia Mayo | 5/9 |
| Travis Plass | 5/10 |
| Wendy Cook | 5/11 |
| Shirley Sullivan | 5/14 |
| Erick Ihlenburg | 5/15 |
| Jeff Plass | 5/16 |
| Joseph Veronezi | 5/17 |



| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Rachel Plass | 5/18 |
| Bill Better | 5/18 |
| Virginia Ambrose | 5/19 |
| Jackson Moon | 5/21 |
| Mercedes Alvarez | 5/21 |
| Tom Hotalen | 5/22 |
| Patrick Mayo | 5/27 |
| Kitty Osterhoudt | 5/28 |
| George Barton | 5/29 |
| Conor O'Neill | 5/29 |
| Jadya Elizabeth Case | 5/29 |



| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Shirley and Steven Shumsky | 5/5 |
| Kathy and James McNamee | 5/29 |

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Holly and Gig Barton | 5/10 |
| Betty and Peter Ostrander | 5/24 |

Church Office Hub

The church office has been sending out emails from the address of rdcc88@yahoo.com. These are emails that contain the Sunday worship bulletins, music files for worship, daily scripture readings from Pastor Linda, and the like. If you have not received this information, perhaps we have an incorrect email address on file; perhaps it's going to your spam file. If you'd like to be added to our email distribution list, 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 for any reason, or call Pastor Linda at 845-430-3348.

✓ **Reminder:** Office hours: Tuesday-Friday; 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.; phone 518-851-3811