

# The Fisherman

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

**June 2020**

## 2020 CONSISTORY

### **Elders**

Bill Better  
Donna Lynk Campion  
Cheryl Halleran  
Andrea Mastrianni  
Nate Winch

### **Deacons**

John Dunham  
Kim Plass  
Amy Race  
Melissa Skoda  
Olivia VanAlphen  
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

### **“LAMENT 2020”**

The storm surges around us, but what is the storm?  
*Almighty God, have mercy.*

We fear the unknown; we allow paranoia to steal our peace.  
*Almighty God, have mercy.*

We disagree, squabble; ears attuned to what we wish to  
criticize, hearing what we want. *Have mercy.*

We disagree, squabble; our mouths spout “better ways” and  
our language reeks of critique. Frustration, fear, anger, and  
anxiety shove our friends’ “reason and trust” out the door. *Have  
mercy.*

Lord God Almighty, we are a stubborn, hard-headed, and  
fearful people. *Have mercy on us and do not abandon us to our  
foolishness.*

We hurt, we cry, we wonder, and lament. Some family and  
friends are gone. No talking, no laughing, no reaching out, no  
hugging, no mourning with others. . . only grieving. . . alone.

We hurt, we cry, we wonder, and lament. Some have lost  
resources, finances, jobs, housing, stability, and futures. Some  
have lost hope. We grieve, but with whom do we grieve? Fear  
pushes against our walls of trust - the walls start to weaken.  
Worry becomes our friend - reason becomes unfamiliar.

Yet. . . we lift our eyes to the mountains, from whom comes  
our help?

Our help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth.  
*We need your help.*

We want everything to be over.  
*We await you.*

*We need wisdom.* True wisdom comes only from the Creator  
and Sustainer of the universe.

We feel anxious and sometimes angry. *Our help comes from  
the One who is compassionate and slow to anger.*

We grieve alone. We are Your image bearers, bearing Your  
character. *You grieve with us.*

*(continued)*

Yet. . . we feel abandoned; where are You, God of the universe?

Oh, there You are, speaking to us through the flowers' differences and colored clothing must reflect Your glory and creativity. *To God be the glory.*

Oh, there You are, speaking to us through the springtime birth of bird nests who cry out for food. They patiently await provision. *To God be the glory.*

Oh, there You are, speaking to us through the singing and joyful sound of assorted birds who rest in the rhythm of one day at a time. *To God be the glory.*

Oh, there You are, speaking to us through the little plant that thrives after breaking through the concrete surrounding it. *To God be the glory.*

Oh, there You are speaking to us through the birth of newborns who have come into this world knowing nothing of this disjointed atmosphere. They are human reflections and images of your beauty, glory, and compassion. *To God be the glory.*

*To God be the glory forever and ever, amen.*

“Because of Your great love, Lord God, we are not consumed, for Your compassions never fail.” -*Lamentations 3:22*

by Amy White, Administrative Assistant to the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency of the Reformed Church in America

Blessings,  
Pastor Linda Miles  
845-430-3348

## ***Spiritual Life of Our Congregation***

### **Worship Schedule**

**W**hile our **worship services** remain suspended (still!), there are many opportunities for worship, meditation, and reflection:

✦ 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. If public worship resumes, the at-home bulletin will continue.

✦ 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 at 11:00 a.m. where folks can join in from home, with their cup of coffee, and enjoy each other's company 'virtually'!



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](mailto: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.

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## **June 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.

### **June 7 (First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday):**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

**Sermon text:** (Psalm 8) "Our Wonderful God" (**Communion Sunday**)

### **June 14 (Second Sunday after Pentecost):**

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Exodus 19:2-8a;

Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

**Sermon text:** (Matthew 9:35-10:8) "The Commissioning of the Disciples"

### **June 21 (Third Sunday after Pentecost):**

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Jeremiah 20:7-13;

Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

**Sermon text:** (pulpit supply, Preaching Elder Martha Andrews)

### **June 28 (Fourth Sunday after Pentecost):**

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;

Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

**Sermon text:** (Matthew 10:40-42) "The Rewards of Discipleship"

## *Virtual Communion – Sunday, June 7*

**Preparation:** *Sunday, June 7*, as the first Sunday of the month, we will again celebrate the Sacrament of Communion in our homes as part of the Sunday service. If you wish to participate via Zoom, please prepare your bread and juice ahead of time.

We will be using the same Communion liturgy we use in church.

If you are not participating online, please feel free to celebrate the Sacrament in your home using the Worship at Home bulletin which will include the Communion liturgy.

We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. I pray that you find the Sacrament meaningful in this new way, until we meet in church again.

*Pastor Linda*

## **Meetings, etc. for June**

**Most** of our meetings / events remain suspended for the month of June, and God willing, will resume when it is safe. At this time, the Christian Education Building also remains closed until further notice.

However, **Consistory** continues to meet on a monthly basis, working in sub committees and small groups regarding the business of the church . . . spiritually, it's physical structures and finances, and ever-changing issues of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **Worship Committee** has been meeting and discussing the preparation of our church re-opening. "How to's", "what if's", "how to proceed and when" are all being discussed.

## **Church Family Giving**



## **Mission Update - Late Spring 2020**

### **Food Pantries Support**

**Thank you all** for your continued support of our local food pantries through your 2020 donations (especially the Easter appeal). Despite our COVID-19 hiatus, our church family has not only kept up with food pantry contributions, but the support has been generous as well. Through April 30th, \$2,300 has been collected for the three food pantries we regularly support (**Philmont-Mellenville, Ghent**, and the **Hudson Salvation Army**).



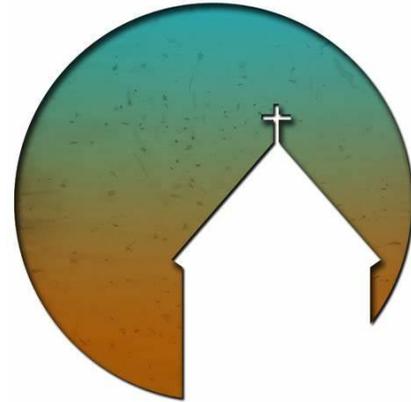
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**Every year**, all RCA churches are assessed a set amount for each active member. The funds are used for ministry and to care for the pastors who serve the churches.

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.



## Church Family

### Coffee Hour

**We are gathering** . . . virtually via Zoom (an online meeting app) after our worship services on Sundays. But until we are given the 'all clear' to meet again, our face-to-face coffee hour remains suspended. Normally we meet 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!



## Bazaar News!

I am, hopefully, planning our 60<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Bazaar on **November 21<sup>st</sup>**!

I have been crafting and sewing in my 'basement' and can't wait to see my fellow yule-booth crafters when we are allowed to meet on Wednesdays. As we are getting a late start, when we get the green light, please consider joining us. All skill levels are welcome.

If you have been cleaning out closets, cupboards and garages for Trifles & Treasures, thank YOU! Please remember: NO clothes, bedding, books, DVD's, videos, gym equipment . . . and if you're not sure, just ask. Please donate these items where they will be helpful.

Also, please take this time to make sure donations are clean and functional. This will save us set-up time (we may have a large amount).

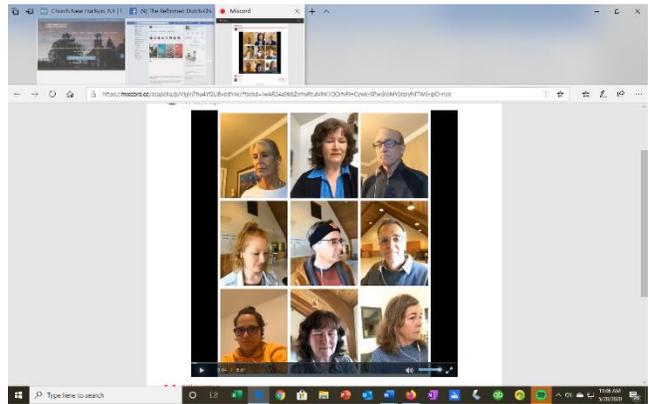
Hope to be sharing service and coffee hours with everyone soon . . .

Thank you,  
Kim Plass, Bazaar Chairperson

**How does Andrea and the choir create these wonderful anthems?** Helen, your office

manager, asked Andrea Mastrianni to put an article together about this, and this is what she wrote:

“The RDCC choir has been busy creating choral anthems for each Sunday Zoom service! This all started with a conversation with our new church office manager, Helen Hamel. She told me about the streaming of her church’s service and how she played the organ for the service. She said it was well received, so that got me thinking about how I could provide music for the congregation. At the same time, a young actress/singer, Megan Morse, posted on Facebook a very professional video of her singing to a guitarist, and her harmonizing with herself in separate boxes. I was so impressed that I asked her how she created the video. She told me it was an App for iPhone called “**Acapella**”. There is a free version with limited capabilities . . . mostly the length allowed per video, so I tried it out and became intrigued. I purchased the App and have been teaching myself and various choir members how to create our very own videos!



We each uploaded the App (the choir members could use the free version), and we have each been taking turns singing and recording by touching a gray box within the App. We find it works best with headphones and we have all learned a lot about how to be as accurate as possible. When we sing with an accompaniment, we have to work on singing with correct pitches, rhythms and words (that part always trips me up) in order to create a quality project. I am able to edit the music by tweaking the volume balance, and adding some reverberation. When creating an a cappella piece, we are able to listen to a metronome in our ears which does not appear in the video. It takes about a week to complete each song we create, as we pass the recording back and forth to each participant. We can use a maximum of nine squares, so we are sharing the projects and taking turns. I think we have all found it an interesting and enjoyable experience, and we are learning something new about it with each and every project we take on. I want to thank the participants for all of their dedication in learning this new piece of technology!

**June Birthdays**

Susan Ihlenburg	6/1	Sarah Winch	6/9
Parker Welch	6/2	Charles Orlich	6/10
Jon Blank	6/3	Brady Holzhauer	6/16
Toni Sue Holze	6/4	Hank Theiss	6/19
Betty Ostrander	6/4	Lisa Anne Orlich	6/19
Olivia VanAlphen	6/4	Nicholas Krizar	6/22
Mick Gregory	6/4	Curtis Manning	6/24
Julianne Fletcher	6/5	Joseph Kenneally	6/29
Michael Sullivan	6/6	Jan Lynch	6/29
		Erik Denny	6/30



Lynne and Erik Denny	6/3	Heather and Ryan Niver	6/11
Judy and Robert Weinman	6/7	Phyllis and Robert Mayo	6/14
Rachel and Carl VanSchaik	6/7	Lois and Keith Niver	6/16
Barbara and Jeff Robinson	6/9	Laurel and Richard Clapp	6/18
Linda and Hank Theiss	6/11	Jennifer and Cory Stuppelbeen	6/21
		Revs. Linda and Nick Miles	6/22

# Graduates

. . . our church family is so proud to share with you those who are graduating in our families . . .



**Zachary Moore**, nephew of Pam Kline, graduates from Germantown Central School and will be attending CGCC this fall.



**Jayden Jackson**, nephew of Pam Kline, graduates from Catskill High School.



**Morgan Carolin Dean**, granddaughter of Linda and Hank Theiss, from Ball State University.



**Hadley Alexander Vadyak**, grandnephew of Linda and Hank Theiss, from the U.S. Naval Academy.



**Cameron Holzhauer**, grandson to Irene and Glenn Holzhauer, from Ichabod Crane High School. He will attend HVCC and study physical education this fall.



**Jadya Case**, granddaughter of Anne Terwilliger and daughter of Karen and Jay Case, from CGCC with an A.S. of Science degree.



**Emily Sullivan**, daughter of Shirley and Michael Sullivan, graduates from Hudson High School. She will attend Russell Sage in the fall.



**Kaitlyn R. Krein**, daughter of Teresa and William Krein, graduating from UAlbany with an Advanced Masters in school psychology.

May our Lord God protect and guide them as they walk into new endeavors, and may they know that God is with them always.

## Notes from members . . .

. . . **Judi Hawes** writes . . . Dear Church Friends – I’m looking forward to the time when we can all worship together. In the meantime, wash your hands and stay safe! Warmest wishes, Judi

. . . from **Marilyn MacKay** . . . Dear Church Family: I miss you all so much. I want you all to know how grateful I am for still being a member of **my** church. If only I could be there with you, I would be so happy, but I guess I can’t so that’s it. All my love to you all and to **my** choir . . . God Bless, Marilyn MacKay

. . . and from a **church member**: Sending out a great big **THANK YOU** to all our “**Church Essentials!**” You are keeping us connected so lovingly, through worship and fellowship opportunities, despite this time of pandemic restrictions and social distancing. All the services, daily scripture lessons, zoom sessions, email exchanges, phone call visits, and written letters and cards are uplifting and so very much appreciated. “**Church Essentials**”, we just can’t thank you enough for all these precious blessings!

**Church Office Hub**



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