

# The Fisherman

*The Newsletter of the Reformed Dutch Church  
Of Claverack*

*A Reformed Church in America Congregation*

July 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

## **Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack**

Drawer K  
Claverack, NY 12513  
518-851-3811

[office@claverackreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@claverackreformedchurch.org)  
[claverackreformedchurch.org](http://claverackreformedchurch.org)

Pastor's

Corner

Dear Friends,

We are certainly living in a unique time with much news to process. It is an important time to take care of ourselves and be very mindful of other's needs and rights. It is an important time to see what we can do to be better neighbors to all those in our world. It is time to recognize racism and work to end it and it is time to be very careful not to spread the Covid-19 virus. We at the church are working hard to make our community a place of hospitality and safety. My prayer is that you will take care of yourselves and help make the world a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

Blessings,

*Pastor Linda*

**Jesus** said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.' And a second is like it; "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." - *Matthew 22:37-40*

The **Apostle Paul** wrote to the Galatians: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." - *Galatians 3:28*

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"Community cannot for long feed on itself; it can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers (and sisters)." **Howard Thurman**

## *Spiritual Life of Our Congregation*

... **Please read an important letter from Pastor Linda Miles and Donna Lynk-Campion . . .**  
(you will also receive this letter via email and a physical copy will be mailed.)

### Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack

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Claverack, NY 12513  
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office@claverackreformedchurch.com  
www.claverackreformedchurch.org



June 25, 2020

Dear Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack Parishioners,

For the past three months the Church has complied with state mandates and recommendations, cancelled services and gatherings to keep our parishioners safe. Now that the COVID 19 infection rate is stabilizing in our region, we are looking to the future to create a plan to begin serving our parishioners once again on Sunday, July 19, 2020.

Generally, it is clear that we're going to have to make some big changes in order to do in-person worship again, at least in the short term. A few of these changes are: All those present should wear masks, handshaking should be prohibited, no passing of collection plates or communion trays. There will be no choir or congregational singing. Everyone will sit at least six feet apart. As recommended, anyone immunocompromised or having other underlying health issues should stay home.

How this will look in our church is as follows, and all procedures are based on recommendations by the NYS Department of Health guide for religious services, New Brunswick Theological Seminary and the RCA's Faithward articles.

- Upon entering the church through the right doorway, all will be required to wear a face covering. Face coverings are required at all times except while seated provided all individuals are six feet apart, except for immediate household members.
- All entering will be asked questions regarding health and contact. If, within the past 14 days, anyone has experienced symptoms of COVID 19, has tested positive for COVID 19 or has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID 19 or had symptoms of COVID 19, will not be permitted to enter.

- Pews will be closed off to ensure that six feet is maintained among all individuals at all times. Members of the same household can sit together.
- Attendees will be given a sign with their name to place in an open pew and that pew will be used only by that person/persons for the foreseeable future. This will eliminate the need to clean and disinfect the pew and hymnbooks between services.
- Bulletins will be emailed to all prior to the service for those who would like a written copy for the service.
- Collection plates will be placed at the rear of the Church on both sides.
- Communion will be with elements brought from home.
- Singing will be limited unless 12 feet of separation can be provided between individuals.
- Bi-directional foot traffic will be avoided by signs and arrows and upon exiting all must maintain space of six feet in the aisle.
- Cleaning and disinfecting the high touch areas in the Church will be ongoing and will occur after each service.
- CDC approved hand sanitizer will be placed at the entrance and exit to the Church as well as extra masks should a person come without one.

Church gatherings and programs will resume as soon as possible. Sunday school will not be meeting until the local schools reopen, in compliance with recommendations from NYS and denominational guidance.

The COVID 19 Committee will continue to closely monitor state and local health recommendations.

Thank you for your patience as we begin to reopen our Church. Your questions or concerns are welcome at any time during this process.

Stay well and safe,

Reverend Linda Miles, Pastor  
Donna Lynk-Campion, Consistory Vice President

***Also pertaining to our worship services beginning July 19***, please read your Director of Music's note on music in the worship service, found on the next page.

# Music and our worship services ...

As music is a very important part of the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack's worship service, we have endeavored to provide the congregation with a close facsimile of the kind of music we have produced in the sanctuary prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Members of the choir—and some guest singers—have created videos to share during our virtual services. I have also recorded the music for the hymns chosen each week so the congregation can hear their beloved organ.

As we plan to return to the sanctuary on July 19th, the Worship Committee has been discussing how to incorporate music back into the live service. As research has shown that singing within twelve feet of someone can spread the virus, we have planned a few ideas to stop the spread while singing.

The choir will not meet as a group, but individuals are welcome to work with me at an appropriate distance away—over twelve feet. I plan to select familiar choral anthems and to continue creating videos with the Acappella App we have been using thus far. Nate Winch has kindly encouraged and arranged for Community Bank to donate a big-screen TV to the church which can be moved to the front of the sanctuary. I have learned how to use the TV to show the video to the congregation with my Chromebook and an HDMI cable. The sound quality is decent and the picture will be viewable to nearly the entire congregation.

As to hymn and choral responses, I plan on having one choir member per week sing in the choir loft using a microphone behind a screen as I play the music on the organ or keyboard. Congregants are asked NOT to sing out loud. Humming is permissible.

Andrea Mastrianni



## Worship Schedule



Our **worship services** will continue at **9:30 a.m. via Zoom for July 5 and July 12**, then our in-person worship service will resume on **July 19, beginning 9:30 a.m.** This will continue for the foreseeable future until we receive further guidelines on handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Virtual **Coffee Hour** will continue via Zoom through July 12. We will then revisit resuming coffee hour in the fall with hope that social-distancing requirements will be less stringent.



The **Christian Education Building** will be open for restroom use **only** during our worship services. The remaining building remains closed until further notice due to sanitation cleaning requirements.



The bulletins are sent electronically via email (a few are printed and mailed). This will continue once in-person worship resumes so that those who would like a printed bulletin, can print their own. If you are not receiving an emailed bulletin please contact the church office at [office@claverackreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@claverackreformedchurch.org) (new office email address), or call us at 518-851-3811.

## July 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.

### **July 5 (Fifth Sunday after Pentecost):**

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### **July 12 (Sixth Sunday after Pentecost):**

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13;

Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### **July 19 (Seventh Sunday after Pentecost):**

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17;

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### **July 26 (Eighth Sunday after Pentecost):**

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128; 1 Kings 3:5-12;

Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

# July 4th

**2 Chronicles 7:14 says . . . :** If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.



*“Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”*

# Church Family Giving

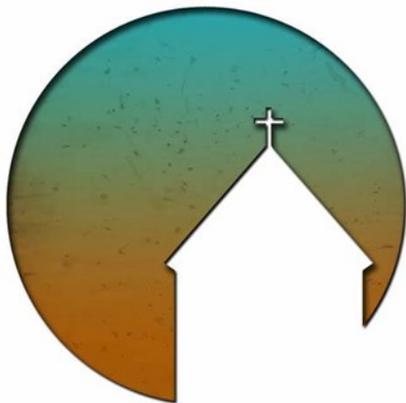
**Dear Church Members and Friends of the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack,**

**Thank you for continuing your commitment to the Church. . .**

Many thanks to all who have continued to assist the church financially during these days of financial uncertainty. The church continues to need funds to pay our employees, support our denomination, and maintain the property. We also want to continue to support our pledge to local and global missions. (They need us more than ever during this challenging time.)

If you or someone you know is in great need, please contact me, Lloyd Lawrence, or the women's group, to see if there is a way we can be of help.

Thanks much!  
Pastor Linda Miles  
845-430-3348



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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*

### July Birthdays

Rob Schroepfel	7/1	Wendy Warfield	7/18
John Wilber	7/1	Amara Steenburn	7/18
Jill Theiss Dean	7/3	Charles Post	7/21
James McNamee, Jr.	7/3	Barbara DeLamater	7/21
Jordan Moon	7/3	Mary Lou Knull	7/22
Craig Moon	7/4	Una Lawrence	7/23
Peggy Moon	7/4	Sara Elizabeth Miller	7/23
Jay Case	7/8	Julie Veronezi	7/24
Candace Alvarez	7/9	Gary Steenburn	7/24
Preston Welch	7/11	Severin Bowman	7/24
Jim Campion	7/13	Keith Niver	7/25
Donna Lynk Campion	7/14	Rick Schroepfel	7/27
Kaitlyn Rose Krein	7/14	Corvus Niver-Moore	7/27
Rachel Van Schaik	7/15	Lois Niver	7/27
Kyle Brousseau	7/16	Jim McNamee, Sr.	7/28
Ryan Brousseau	7/16	Sara Ann Gregory	7/29

Vinessa and Mike Bowman	7/1
Dianne and Paul Slusar	7/9
Snookie and Tom Patterson	7/10
Darcy and Douglas Colwell	7/17
Carolyn and John Wilber	7/24
Linda and Jim Mackerer	7/29



## *Church Office Hub*

### **Office News**

The church has a new email address. **IMPORTANT:** Please take note:

**[office@claverackreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@claverackreformedchurch.org)**

Our office hours remain: Tuesday-Friday; 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Phone: 518-851-3811

### **Cemetery Superintendent Position Opening**

The Cemetery Association is looking for a new superintendent. If you have interest in this position, or questions, please contact Jim O'Neill directly at 518-828-3723 for more details.

#### **General responsibilities:**

- Monitor the Cemetery's Condition.
- Complete and file correspondence in a timely fashion.
- Respond to genealogy inquires in a timely fashion.
- Communicate any needs, issues, problems with the Board Chairperson.
- Coordinate interments with funeral homes and families.
- Record interments.

Salary plus remuneration for certain services.