

The Fisherman

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

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

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Lloyd Lawrence
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October 2020

“Practicing the Presence of God”

Do you struggle with prayer? Brother Lawrence was a monk who was born in the 17th century. He never received any formal education and yet he left behind one of the classic memoirs of the devotional life, *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

In 1666 he became a lay brother in Paris. He worked in the kitchen calling himself the ‘servant of servants.’ He was at first confused about prayer because of the ‘many different ways of going to God.’

And so, in his own life, he determined to attempt to create a habit of living every moment in ‘the presence of God’. He labored to control the wandering of his mind as he blended work with prayers. He continued this life until he died at the age of 80. His writing expresses the joy of living daily in the presence of God.

He said, “Sometimes I imagine myself as a stone before a sculptor from which he will carve into a beautiful statue. Presenting myself before God, I ask him to form his perfect image in my soul and make me entirely like himself. The soul which enjoys God in this manner desires nothing except God . . . Let him do what he pleases with me; I desire only him and to be wholly devoted to him.”

Brother Lawrence speaks of his confusion over the ‘many different ways of going to God’ that he read about in books, until finally he resolved to relate to God in a way that fit his needs.

What personal approach to living with God have you found most helpful?

What struggles have you had with a mind wandering during prayer?

Can you open yourself to the presence of God in the midst of your daily tasks?

In this time of seasonal and global change, let us turn to prayer to be connected to the God who loves us so much.

Pastor Linda Miles
845-430-3348

Pastor's
Corner



Spiritual Life of Our Congregation



Worship Schedule



Our **worship services** are **9:30 a.m.** Sundays, and we continue to follow the guidelines that have been enacted to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. This will continue for the foreseeable future until we receive further guidance. The worship service is streamed live on the church's Facebook page. As this is a public page, you do not need a Facebook account. Go to: **The-Reformed-Dutch-Church-of-Claverack**. While this service is streamed live, it remains a saved file so you can watch the service as your schedule allows.



Bulletins are sent electronically via email (a few are printed and mailed). This will continue indefinitely. We encourage in-person worshippers to print their own bulletins for safety reasons, however, there are printed copies available. If you are not receiving an emailed bulletin please contact the church office at office@claverackreformedchurch.org, or call us at 518-851-3811.



Virtual **Coffee Hour** will be announced via the bulletin or email.



The **Christian Education Building** will be open for restroom use **only** during our worship services. The remaining building remains closed with the exception of resuming Bible study.

BIBLE Study: The Bible Study, which was suspended in March, will begin meeting again this week, beginning Thursday, October 1, at 9:30 a.m. It is planned that the study will meet both in person in the fellowship hall (social distancing!) as well as via Zoom. The focus of the study continues to be about troublesome Bible passages, and while the topic has been going on for a while, each day has its own focus, and interested folks are very welcome to join us. If you will be joining us via Zoom, you must let Pastor Linda know so she can send you the link!



ALL
SAINTS'
SUNDAY

All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1: We remember those who have died this past year who are special to us. Please email or call the office if you'd like someone mentioned during our prayer time.

October Lectionary Readings

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.

October 4 (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost):

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 11 (Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost):

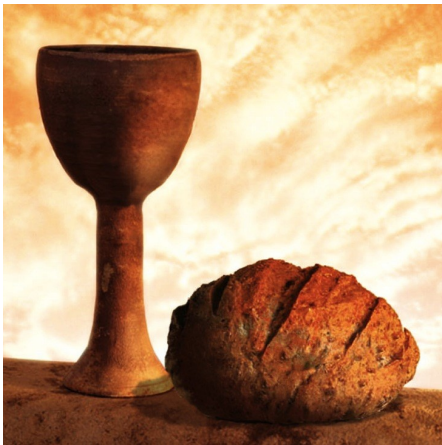
Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

October 18 (Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost):

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 25 (Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost):

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46



Communion Service

We will celebrate **Holy Communion** October 4th!

* If you are worshipping with us in person, please bring your own bread and juice;

* If you are worshipping with us with Facebook live stream, please prepare your own bread and juice.

Did you know? October 4th is **World Communion Sunday**, and had its beginning in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church. It was later adopted by the Federal Council of Churches (predecessor of the National Council of Churches) in 1940. Since then, the celebration has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity.

The key word for World Communion Sunday is **communion**, or unity. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another and remembering both the night of Jesus' betrayal—when Jesus instituted what we now call the Lord's Supper as a lasting remembrance—and of Jesus' sacrifice. So accounts of the last supper feature prominently, by virtue of World Communion Sunday being a celebration of the Eucharist. World Communion Sunday is a time for remembering that around the globe—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord's Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom. At its best, therefore, World Communion Sunday serves two purposes: it is both a joyous and meaningful partaking in Jesus' sacred meal with his friends and a mind-opening exposure to different Christian traditions from around the world.

Church Family Missions

The Missions Committee would like to share with you that our Mission project for the Month of October is once again **Operation Christmas Child**. We will be packing shoe boxes to be sent to children



in underserved countries. For some of these children it is the only present they have ever received. If you are interested in participating, we could use some of each of the following: jump ropes, yo-yos, solar calculators, small flashlights, packaged toothbrushes for children and some adult sizes, too (NO toothpaste please); hair brushes and sturdy combs, wash cloths, individually packaged bars of soap, match-box cars, hair accessories for girls, inexpensive watches for 12-14 year old's, CRAYOLA markers, small - medium boxes of crayons, small new stuffed animals that

would fit in a shoe box, (like "Beanie Baby " size, for boys and girls) small balls (no footballs please, just round balls for soccer) flip flops , girls or boys socks, small drawing pads that would fit in a shoe box, pens and pencils, and pencil sharpeners. We could also use a few girl's dresses, size 2-4, 6-8, and 10-12 (you might be able to still find some on summer clearance) .

There will be baskets in the back of the church for Sunday morning drop off and the church office is open from 9:00 am -1:00 pm, Tuesday-Friday, for drop off during the week. **Collection is from October 4-29th**. Thank you for your help in filling this wonderful mission for children around the world who might not otherwise receive any gifts in their entire lives. Samaritan's Purse also puts the story of Jesus in each shoe box before it is delivered.

If you interested in helping pack the shoe boxes, please contact Lloyd Lawrence via the church office, or at 518-851-9077.



Food Pantry donations continue . . . Money donations (checks or cash) are very welcome. Food items can be placed in the back of the sanctuary. . . Non-perishable items only, please!

A **thank you** note from the Mellenville Philmont Food Pantry . . .

"The Regional foodbank has notified us of your donation of \$766. These are monies that will enable us to continue our mission of providing food for people in our community.

We are extremely grateful that you continue to keep us in mind."

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.)



WE GIVE *because*
GOD GAVE FIRST

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

Church Family

Our Church Bazaar . . .

Sadly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the women of the church voted to cancel our yearly event. However, a lot of good ideas have come forward and we will be reviewing them for the future.

Bazaar

Reminder of the OCTOBER 4TH . . . FLU SHOT CLINIC . . . (immediately following the Communion service . . .)

Please note:



* **Wear** short sleeves if possible.

* If you have **new insurance** for this year, please bring your insurance card.

* **Social distancing/wearing of mask guidelines** will be in place.

* **Children** 5 and over can also receive a shot.

* Call the church office to sign up. You will need to state your age (under/over 65, or child over 5) so enough vaccine is brought to the clinic, and proper dosages.

* Any other information will be published in the bulletin.

Last date to sign up is THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1!

Sunday School

A note from Snookie and the Sunday School team!

Hope this finds you and your families well . . .



It's been a weird spring and summer to say the least. We are going to have Sunday School activities but we'll do them like the Claverack library is doing: There will be **packets left in a bin on the porch of the CEB**. The lesson and materials will be in the packets. We will send out an email when a packet is ready to go. If your family is not a part of the Sunday School, and you'd like them to be, just call or email the office!

The first packet is ready. It is a welcome-back gift bag much like we would have given the kids at the church picnic each fall. Included will be a s' mores kit that can be done in the microwave or camp fire. We hope the kids enjoy it.

Also in the bin will be Bibles from our classroom. Please feel free to take one home for the kids to use with the lessons we will be putting out. We will use that Bible for the passages we give you, but any Bible will be fine.

Please send ideas, comments, and yes, my favorite, snotty remarks back to us. Saying that we are all in this together may sound redundant, but I believe we need to be in order to get through this time.

A note from **John Dunham, Building Committee Chairperson!**

A parishioner heard snippets of some of the church/CEB/parsonage upkeep going on . . . and thought we should let everyone know what's happening . . . Here's John's response! "Well, let's see: The parsonage and garage have new roofs; the three dead spruce trees and the big branch overhanging the parsonage were all removed, the lights in the parking lot have been reprogramed, the slate roofs on the church building and the CE Building have been inspected. Both kitchens have been updated to comply with codes, and a new sign has been made but is yet to be installed. That will have to be done soon. Oh, one light in the entry way of the CE building has been updated. A new handicapped toilet was installed in the downstairs women's bathroom, but I believe that was before the summer began."



Thanks, John, for the update. It's important to mention here that these items were necessary per insurance requirements, new code requirements, or need of repair.

October Birthdays/Anniversaries

October Birthdays

Carolyn Wilber	10/2	Emil Krizar	10/18
Lloyd Lawrence	10/8	Bob Mayo	10/25
Ruth Manning	10/15	Bella Van Schaik	10/30
Kim Plass	10/16	Karen Winch	10/31
William Rasweiler	10/16		

October Anniversaries

Denise and Scott Holzhauer	10/4
Shannon and Rob Schroepel	10/19
Cynthia and Lenny VanAlphen	10/20



Office Hub

Volunteer needed: The church is looking for someone to recycle our paper/boxes, etc., as our previous volunteer could no longer help us. Could that be you? Please call or email the office! Thank YOU!