

The Fisherman

The Newsletter of the
Reformed Dutch Church Of Claverack
A Reformed Church in America Congregation
January 2021

2021 Consistory

Elders

Bill Better
Donna Lynk Campion
Jane Case
Jim Mackerer
Nate Winch

Deacons

John Dunham
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**

Freshness a poem by Joyce Rupp, adapted for our reflection.

A new year is moving in just as winter walks alone and snowflakes
and I sit here wondering in the breath of God's bless and the glance of
God's grace

I think about the year now gone and how I've walked across it (it
grieves me some and joys me some)

And as the new year stretches I wonder how I'll meet it and if I will let
God's grace find me, and let God lead me and take God's love to heart and fix
my gaze on God.

Oh how I wonder with this heart of mine, so often gone astray, so often in the
desert, so often hid in the hills of wind and wild.

I wonder how I'll meet this year and if I'll give myself the chance to catch the
breath of blessing and see the glance of God's dear grace to rise and walk from
sinfulness, to come and return and find God waiting to reach and know that
God can heal to turn around ...

May I treasure God as God treasures me

A new year is moving in just as surely as the winter walks along in snowflakes
My God is moving in again and just like winter snow breathes freshness into
my life.

*Gerald Manley Hopkins said, "There lies the dearest freshness of deep down
things."*

*Looking at the pure snow outside we are reminded that it is a new year. It is
time to let go of the past and plan for a future of faithfulness. God is holding out
a freshness of life to us. God is offering us a new beginning with this year.*

*Often, though, we tend to focus on the areas of our lives where we feel we have
failed or not given our best.*

*Why would we still make resolutions? We look to the past and may feel guilty
or discouraged when we remember our failures or weaknesses that still pursue
us deep inside.*

*But it is not beneficial to dwell in the past but rather we must move on. Janu-
ary is such a good time to deliberately set our steps forward, to begin again, to
give ourselves over to the promises of the future. January is when we look, really
look at our life's journey and rejoice over another year given to us. We walk with
hope and confidence because we know that we are constantly being offered new
beginnings with God.*

*Let us pray for the gift of a fresh start, opening the gift of new life in God.
May the freshness of God's lasting love for you give you a brand new start this
year.*

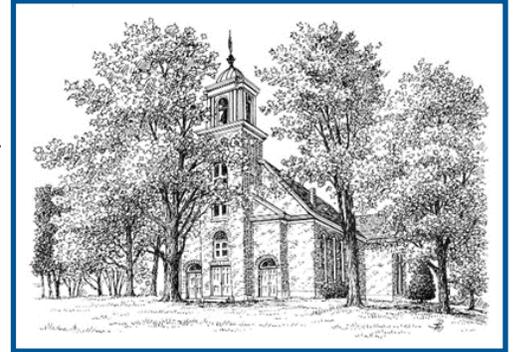
New Year blessings,

Pastor Linda

Spiritual Life of Our Congregation



Worship Schedule



Our **worship services** are **9:30 a.m.** Sundays. Due to increased COVID-19 cases, we have cancelled in-person worship for January 3 and 10, and the remainder of January. These services will be presented via Zoom. Zoom instructions are sent by email. When we resume in-person worship, an email will be sent.



Bulletins are sent electronically via email (a few are printed and mailed). This will continue indefinitely. 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 continue via Zoom (from your home). Zoom directions are sent via email each week.



The **Christian Education Building**. The building remains closed until further notice due to sanitation cleaning requirements. **A REMINDER:** If you enter the building for ANY reason, you must sign in for contact tracing purposes.

Thursday morning **Bible study** with Pastor Linda has resumed via Zoom. You can join the Bible study any time...let us know and we'll send you the link. (We hope to resume safe-distance in-person study when cases of COVID-19 decline.) The group is finishing up a study on Troublesome Bible Passages, and then will go on to Volume 2 of the same title.

January, 2021 Lectionary Readings

The Lectionary is a list of scripture readings traditionally used for each Sunday of the church year. The readings are created in a three-year cycle to cover many important Bible passages.

January 3 (Second Sunday after Christmas Day):

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

January 10 (First Sunday after Epiphany: Baptism of the Lord):

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 17 (Second Sunday after Epiphany):

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 24 (Third Sunday after Epiphany):

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 31 (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany):

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Church Family Missions

Missions 2020 Wrap-up

Year End Food Pantries Weigh-In Challenge

Thanks to all for your generous response to our last Food Pantries appeal for 2020. The Weigh-In Challenge helped boost December's giving for our local pantries to \$1,200. With an additional \$300 from undesignated Missions donations over the last few months, a total of \$1,500 was distributed to the Ghent Food Pantry, the Mellenville-Philmont food pantry, and the Hudson Salvation Army's food programs. In addition, you also responded to the Challenge by donating over 300 pounds of groceries, which was also distributed to welcoming pantry workers, helping to meet their holiday needs. We ask God's blessing on all who are helped by these donations, especially in this challenging year.



Year End Special Needs Donations

In addition to the various Mission appeals throughout the year, the church also contributes to local organizations through the Special Needs fund (part of the overall budget for Benevolences). Financed by the church's general income, the Special Needs fund supports local charities and non-profits. Most of it is distributed at year end, usually in November and December. This last month, the following donations were made:

- ♥ Columbia County Habitat for Humanity \$500
- ♥ Community Hospice \$500
- ♥ Community Action – Domestic Abuse Program \$300
- ♥ Alliance for Positive Health (People With AIDS) \$300
- ♥ Twin County Recovery Services \$300
- ♥ Camp Fowler \$300

Here's to a Happy 2021 — Lloyd Lawrence, Missions Committee

Church Family Giving

We Are the Church!

As explained in the December issue of *The Fisherman*, our church is a member of the Reformed Church of America and we are given an annual assessment to support it. **For the year 2021**, the individual amount for each member is **\$100.41**. We are asking you, as a member of the congregation, to fulfill this assessment as you are able, and to kindly consider paying this as soon as possible so monies will be available for the church to pay the entire amount.

The **2021 giving envelopes** are available for pick up. They are located in the CEB. The envelope numbers have been reset, so most everyone has been assigned a new number. You can pick them up during office hours. If you are unable to pick yours up, members of the Consistory can deliver them to you. Just let the office know.

Church Family

January Birthdays/Anniversaries

January Birthdays

Alfred Scott	1/3	Edward Stone	1/14
Laurel Clapp	1/3	Jeff Stone	1/14
Alyssa Rasweiler	1/5	Bruce Kline Sr.	1/22
Mike Bowman	1/7	Dick Clapp	1/22
Carol Doerfer-O'Neill	1/7	Karen Case	1/23
Sharon Kavanaugh	1/7	Rebecca Schroepel	1/24
Alexia Fuller	1/10	Tanya Hotalen	1/31
		Bob Weinman	1/31



January Anniversaries

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



Thank You!

Dear beloved church family, Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. It was sweet of you to be so generous. Nick and I will use it for our travels in 2021.
 Love and prayers,
Pastor Linda

THANK YOU ALL! THANK YOU ALL! THANK YOU ALL!

It is impossible to be able to pack enough thanks into this message for everything that so many of our church family did to bring us a most special and meaningful Christmas Season to celebrate our Lord and Savior's birth from the Advent Meditations, the Reindeer Cookie Run, the Advent Sanctuary Video to the beautiful Christmas Eve Service!

What a blessing to have been able to worship "with" our church family and friends in so many wonderful and safe ways this year during the pandemic.

It is with deepest gratitude and appreciation for your loving, thoughtful, safe efforts, and precious time that we THANK YOU ALL: Choir Members! Soloists! Bell Ringers! Instrumentalists! Scripture Readers! Advent Wreath Presenters! Photographers! Recorders! Sanctuary Decorators! Cookie Bakers! Greeting Card Makers! Drivers! Office/Church Staff! Consistory Members! PASTOR LINDA! ANDREA! DONNA!