

The Fisherman

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

June-July 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

Pastor

Andrea Mastrianni
Director of Music

Lloyd Lawrence
Director of Bell Choir

Helen Hamel
Office Manager

Alyssa Ellithorpe
Custodian

Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack

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News from the Classis of Columbia Greene

(submitted by Rev. Derek DeJager)

The Reverend Classis of Columbia-Greene met in regular session on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Athens Reformed Church.

The meeting began with a special service to formally commission Peggy Phillips to serve as a preaching elder at the Athens Reformed Church. Delayed for over a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the service was well attended by several of the congregation's members, and conveyed a strong sense of joy and gratitude that helped to shape and guide the rest of the meeting.

Following the commissioning service, delegates to classis turned their attention toward several items currently facing the classis' member churches.

Amy Katt, elder, Kiskatom Reformed Church, delivered a report from the Commission on Overtures and Judicial Business that included recommendations for voting on proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Reformed Church in America (RCA). Of particular importance was the commission's recommendation for a "no" vote from the classis on an amendment that would change the RCA General Synod's requirement for a two-thirds majority to a simple majority when voting to approve any amendments needed to implement General Synod's response to the Vision 2020 Team's final report to General Synod.

Reverend Warren Seibert, Pastor, West Copake Reformed Church, encouraged delegates to engage in thoughtful discussion ahead of taking a vote. Delegates voted against the passage of the amendment.

Nancy Rasweiler, elder, Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack, delivered a report from the Commission on Ministers and Preaching Elders that included a recommendation to accept the formal dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Reverend Linda Miles and the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack. Delegates voted to approve the dissolution. Also included in Nancy's report was a recommendation to approve a request from Andrew LaTeer that he be demitted from the Office of Minister of Word and Sacrament. Delegates voted in favor of approving this request. Additionally, Nancy shared with the classis



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that the commission will now be chaired by Snookie Patterson, elder, the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack.

Another item brought before the classis was a request by the Gallatin Reformed Church to be superseded by the classis. This request follows months of discussion between members of the Gallatin Reformed Church and the classis' executive committee regarding Gallatin's expressed wish to leave the RCA and become an independent church. Following a period of discussion, delegates voted in favor of approving Gallatin's request for supersession. Work will now begin on forming a committee of management to assume the responsibilities formerly held by the consistory of Gallatin Reformed Church.

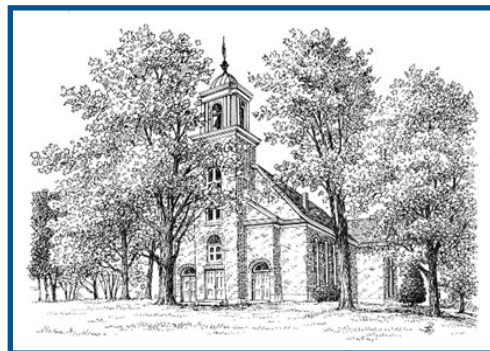
Spiritual Life of Our Congregation



Worship Schedule



Our **worship services** are Sundays at 9:30 a.m., and we continue to follow guidelines issued by the CDC for the COVID-19 pandemic. Most guidelines have been relaxed. We do encourage you, however, to wear a mask should you not feel comfortable. The worship service is also streamed live on the church's Facebook page. As this is a public page, a Facebook account is not required. Go to: [The-Reformed-Dutch-Church-of-Claverack](https://www.facebook.com/The-Reformed-Dutch-Church-of-Claverack). While this service is live, it remains a saved file so you can watch it as your schedule allows.



Bulletins are sent electronically via email for those worshipping online. They are also printed for those worshipping in person. If you are not receiving an emailed bulletin, please contact the church office at office@claverackreformedchurch.org, or call us at 518-851-3811.



Coffee hour has resumed, with coffee or perhaps iced tea or lemonade (during these warm summer months). We encourage folks to sign up to host coffee hour, with great emphasis on 'simple' snacks!

Worship Leaders for June and July:

June 20 — Reverend James Alley

June 27 — Reverend James Alley

July 4 (Communion Sunday) — Hymn Sing

July 11 — Reverend Derek DeJager

July 18 — Louise Bliss

July 25 — Reverend Derek DeJager

August 1 (Communion Sunday) — Reverend Sarah Appleyard-Pekich

Thursday morning Bible Study: Please note they will not meet June 24, but will finish up the season on Thursday, July 1. When the participants begin meeting again in the fall, they will begin a new topic, and this will be announced.

June and July Lectionary Readings

The Lectionary is a list of scripture readings that are traditionally used for each Sunday of the church year. Many ministers and lay ministers choose from these readings for their sermon texts. They are created in a three-year cycle (we are currently in Year B) to cover many important Bible passages.

June 6 (Second Sunday after Pentecost):

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15); Psalm 138; Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130;
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 13 (Third Sunday after Pentecost):

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

June 20 (Fourth Sunday after Pentecost):

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20 or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16;
Psalm 133; Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

June 27 (Fifth Sunday after Pentecost):

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15;
Mark 5:21-43

July 4 (Sixth Sunday after Pentecost):

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 11 (Seventh Sunday after Pentecost):

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14;
Mark 6:14-29

July 18 (Eighth Sunday after Pentecost):

2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22;
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25 (Ninth Sunday after Pentecost):

2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

August 1 (Tenth Sunday after Pentecost):

2 Samuel 11:26-12; 3a; Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16;
John 6:24-35

Sunday, July 4th — our worship service will include a hymn sing. This will be a great opportunity to choose and sing some of your favorite patriotic and other hymns from the hymnals! (We will sing as part of the service, “America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America.”) Get thinking what your favorites might be!



Communion Services

July 4th and **August 1st** we will celebrate

Holy Communion.



Church Missions

Missions 2021 End-Of-Spring Update

Mercy Ships 2021 Wrap-Up

Thank you for your very generous response to this year's Lenten missions appeal for Mercy Ships. The final total collected was \$1,051 — a big increase over 2020! What a gift to be able to send to such a worthy medical ministry — THANK YOU!

Food Pantries Giving

Regular giving to our local food pantries in 2021 has been generous as well, with \$1,230 collected through April — plus the additional donated bags of groceries. These donations help continue our ongoing support for the Philmont/Mellenville Food Pantry, the Ghent Food Pantry, and the Hudson Salvation Army's food program. Thank you for your continued support for our local neighbors in need.

Church Family

Reformed Church Women: The church's women's group met on June 6 to discuss the annual bazaar. They decided that the 60th annual bazaar is a "go" for 2021 and will be divided into two dates:

Saturday, September 18: Trifles and Treasures

Saturday, November 20: Bazaar

More information will be forthcoming, but this is what's happening so far:

Yule Booth group: (contact is Dianne Slusar)

Meeting June 23: 9:30 am — 11:30 am in the cemetery room

7:00 pm—9:00 pm in the cemetery room



Church Lock/Mail Box: Recently the Consistory added a locked mail box (black) to the outside wall of the Christian Education Building (to the left of the entrance doors). We've made it easier for folks to drop off their giving envelopes, and other items intended for the office or Consistory, etc., when the building is not open.

Recently the RCA (Reformed Church in America) advised that the **RCA Today** magazine was ending publication with the final issue of Spring, 2021. Going forward, **RCA Today** will be folded into the website www.Faithward.org. The focus is to pursue a wider reach to introduce people to Christ and equip people for expanding the kingdom of God.

Our church receives multiple copies of the magazine, and many of the stories and current events will be found on Faithward.org. We encourage you to visit the website!

Dear Friends and Members,

I have been asked to serve as the coordinator of the **Nurture Committee**, which I am referring to informally as the **CARE AND ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**. The reason for this unofficial name is that I have a hard time asking for help, but I don't mind asking for some assistance. It is just semantics. We have, in the past, all cared for and assisted anyone who needed care or assistance, and that will continue. Every member of church is a member of this committee! If you need to contact me, below are several ways to do that.

- Please put a note in my mailbox upstairs in the CE Building. You can also refer someone besides yourself.
- Include your contact information, the nature of the request, and if it is confidential, include that information too.
- You can call me, Louise Bliss @ **518-828-7884**, or email me at lbliss1938@gmail.com.
- If you see me at church, speak to me in person.

There will be follow up in an appropriate way. If you have been at home during the pandemic and choose not to return to church yet, or you simply cannot get to church, and would like to receive communion, please call me, or email me with that request too. Maybe we can assist so that you can get to church. That would be nice, because we would love to welcome everyone back to church, or to church for the first time. Everyone is welcome. It is God's place. We just borrow it on Sunday mornings.

Thank you. **Louise Bliss, Care and Assistance Coordinator**

Building and Grounds

Bell Tower Project: The time has come to repair the sanctuary bell tower. Egan Restoration will be starting the project in July. As you can imagine, this is a major undertaking, and a fund-raising effort has begun. In the next few weeks, a letter will be sent to church members and friends seeking contributions. We hope you will prayerfully consider this endeavor and give generously.



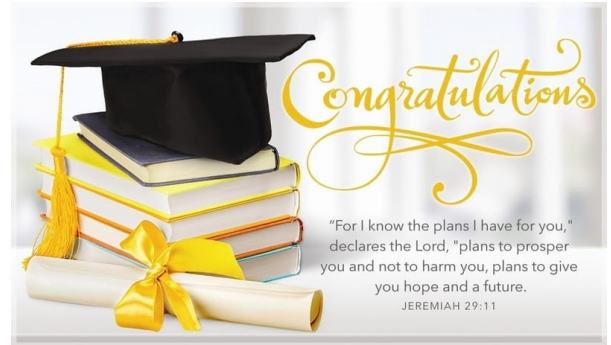
Cemetery

Walking Tour! Recently some of our local historians gathered information together on several important individuals buried in our church cemetery, and have created a walking tour. You can pick up a pamphlet which includes a cemetery map, walk along and learn about those buried here and the important contributions they made to local and national history. Pamphlet copies can be found in a white mail box mounted to the wall by the CEB doors, or online at the church's website under Cemetery.

Church Family

Recent Graduates — We congratulate graduates from our extended family as they have persevered in higher learning. Below is a list of those who wish to share their family member's achievement:

- **Ben Lawrence**, grandson of Una Lawrence and nephew of Lloyd Lawrence, graduated from Cornell University on May 30th. His major course of study was chemistry with a minor in math.
- **Alexis Connor Shumsky**, granddaughter of Shirley and the late 'Shump' Shumsky, and daughter of Jennifer and Timothy Shumsky from Gt. Barrington, MA, graduated this spring with a bachelor of arts degree from Siena College. She will pursue her MBA at Siena in the fall.
- **Conor O'Neill**, son of Carol and Jim O'Neill, graduated August, 2020 from SUNY Cobleskill, earning both a degree and certificate in the Paramedic program. In addition, he received an academic achievement award for the highest GPA in the degree program.
- **Maggie Sullivan**, granddaughter of Jane and Roger Case, graduated from Greenbrier High School, Evans Georgia, on May 22nd.



June/July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy belated birthday to:

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 Jostlin	6/4	Nicholas Krizar	6/22
Mick Gregory	6/4		
Julianne Fletcher	6/5		
Michael Sullivan	6/6		

Happy birthday to:

Curtis Manning	6/24	Jay Case	7/8
Joseph Kenneally	6/29	Candace Alvarez	7/9
Jan Lynch	6/29	Preston Welch	7/11
Erik Denny	6/30	Jim Campion	7/13
Rob Schroepfel	7/1	Donna Lynk Campion	7/14
John Wilber	7/1	Kaitlyn Rose Krein	7/14
Jill Theiss Dean	7/3	Rachel Van Schaik	7/15
James McNamee, Jr.	7/3	Kyle Brousseau	7/16
Jordan Moon	7/3	Ryan Brousseau	7/16
Craig Moon	7/4	Wendy Warfield	7/18
Peggy Moon	7/4	Amara Steenburn	7/18



(Birthdays/Anniversaries continued)...

...**Happy birthdays** continued...

Charles Post	7/21
Barbara DeLamater	7/21
Mary Lou Knull	7/22
Una Lawrence	7/23
Sara Elizabeth Miller	7/23
Julie Veronezi	7/24
Gary Steenburn	7/24
Severin Bowman	7/24

Keith Niver	7/25
Rick Schroepfel	7/27
Lois Niver	7/27
Corvus Niver-Moore	7/27
Jim McNamee, Sr.	7/28
Sara Ann Gregory	7/29



Happy anniversary to:

Lynne & Erik Denny	6/3
Judy & Bob Weinman	6/7
Rachel & Carl Van Schaik	6/7
Barbara & Jeff Robinson	6/9
Linda & Hank Theiss	6/11
Heather & Ryan Niver	6/11
Phyllis & Bob Mayo	6/14
Lois & Keith Niver	6/16
Laurel & Richard Clapp	6/18
Jennifer & Cory Stupplebeen	6/21

Pam & Bruce Kline	6/25
Mary Ann & Arland Gregory	6/28
Jen & Christopher Post	6/29
Vinessa & Mike Bowman	7/1
Dianne & Paul Slusar	7/9
Darcy & Douglas Colwell	7/17
Carolyn & John Wilber	7/24
Linda & Jim Mackerer	7/29

Church Sunday School

Recently the Thursday morning Bible Study group shared childhood prayers with each other...and they'd like to share them with parents and young children of our congregation...or our adult children!!!

from Irene,

CHILD's PRAYER

Jesus, tender shepherd hear me.
Watch your little lamb tonight.
Through the darkness be thou near me.
Keep me safe till morning light.

...from Cherie,

Father Mother God,
Lovingly thee I seek
Patient, meek in the way thou hast
Be it slow or fast
Up to thee.

I am the spot that God shines through
He and I are one not two
He sees me here and as I am
I will not fret nor will I plan
And if I be relaxed and free
He will carry out His plan through me.

Father Mother God
Loving me ...

Guard me while I sleep
Guide my little feet up to Thee.

...from Joan,

Now I lay me down to sleep
I know that God His child will keep

I know that God, my life is nigh
I live in Him I cannot die

God is my health, I can't be sick
God is my strength, unfailing, quick

God is All, I know no fear
Since Life, and Truth and Love are here

