

# The Fisherman

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

**May 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**

*Open*

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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Happy Birthday to the Christian Church! (May 23, 2021)

*"When the day of Pentecost had come, they (the Apostles) were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 2:1-4)*

The word Pentecost comes from the Greek word "pentecoste" (the 50<sup>th</sup> day). Pentecost (also called Whitsunday or White Sunday) derives from a Jewish festival called *Shavuot*. Primarily, Shavuot was a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest. Later, the Jewish people associated Shavuot with the remembrance of the Law given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

The Apostles had gathered to observe this Jewish festival in a room ten days after Jesus' ascension into heaven – when suddenly a mighty wind (the Advocate) filled the room. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles found themselves speaking in foreign languages.

To the early Christians until today, the observance of Pentecost was foretold in the Old Testament book of Joel (ch. 2:28-32) who prophesized, "and it shall be the last days that I shall pour out my Spirit on all folks."

Pentecost is an important part of our Christian calendar as it represents the beginning of the worldwide Christian church. The day of Pentecost fulfills Jesus' promise that the believing community will be guided and protected until His second coming – the Holy Spirit leading the Apostles, and us, through the trials and decisions that are daily presented when following and spreading the GOOD NEWS.

This year Pentecost will be observed Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally, many baptisms are administered and red is the color of the liturgical clothes and suggested to wear. (The color red, according to one tradition, represents the blood that Jesus shed for us and the blood that we and the church should be prepared to shed for Him.)

Every day in a year is marked by a celebration of Christ's life. Our observance of PENTECOST MARKS THE BEGINNING OF OUR CHRISTIAN CALENDAR. PENTECOST IS NOT THE DAY THAT MAKES THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT THE BEGINNING OF THE FULL MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH, "our church".



(written by Glenn Holzhauser)

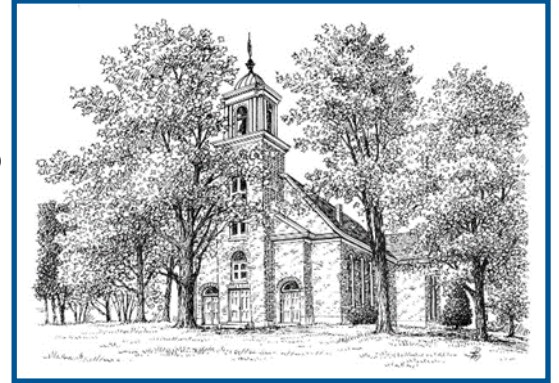
## *Spiritual Life of Our Congregation*



### **Worship Schedule**



Our **worship services** are Sundays at 9:30 a.m. We continue to follow guidelines issued by the CDC for the COVID-19 pandemic. Some guidelines have been relaxed. To this end, we are now singing with hymnals and responses are read aloud even though masks must still be worn. 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 live, it remains a saved file so you can watch the service as your schedule allows.



**Bulletins** are sent electronically via email for those worshipping online. Printed bulletins are again available. If you are not receiving an emailed bulletin, please contact the church office at [office@claverackreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@claverackreformedchurch.org), or call us at 518-851-3811.



Coffee Hour has resumed...(we're looking for volunteers to host) immediately following the worship service in the C.E. building. There is also the Zoom opportunity of meeting: open gathering, see separate email.



The **Christian Education Building** is open again! We are hosting church coffee hours, Bible studies, meetings; space is being rented.

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### **Worship Leaders for May**

The following ministers/lay leadership have agreed to lead the congregation in worship:

May 2 — Rev. Derek DeJager (with Communion)

May 9 — Julia Veronezi

May 16 — Rev. James Alley

May 23 — Rev. Derek DeJager

May 30 — Rev. James Alley

**Worship readers needed:** We have a draft list compiled of those who have read our scripture readings in the past...perhaps you'd like to be added to our readers' list! Contact the church office and Helen will add you to the roster!

**Facebook: The-Reformed-Dutch-Church-of-Claverack**

## 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 and meant as a teaching opportunity. Our church typically takes the readings from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible.

### **May 2 (Fifth Sunday of Easter) (white)**

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

### **May 9 (Sixth Sunday of Easter) (white)**

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

### **May 13 (Ascension of the Lord) (white)**

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24: 44-53

### **May 16 Seventh Sunday of Easter (white)**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

### **May 23 (Day of Pentecost) (red)**

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21;  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### **May 30 (Trinity Sunday) (white)**

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17



## **Communion Service**

**Sunday, May 2**, we will celebrate **Holy Communion**, with Pastor DeJager presiding.

\* Our usual practice of Communion distribution has resumed;

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

### **Important celebration days for the church in May -**

Ascension of the Lord (Thursday, May 13) (no service)

Day of Pentecost (Sunday, May 23)

Trinity Sunday (Sunday, May 30)

## Church Family

### Seeking God's plan for our future:

While the search process for a new pastor is in its initial stages, the Consistory is very dedicated and focused, and moving forward in this process. As details begin to emerge, we will keep the congregation informed.

We know this can be a confusing time within our church and if, for any reason, you'd like to speak to someone about our pastoral search or for any other personal reason, please contact Donna Lynk-Campion, Vice President of the Consistory. She can lead you to the correct person to speak with.



### Coffee Hour -

Since coffee hour after the worship service has resumed, we are looking for volunteers to set up and serve. Our intention is to keep this very simple...perhaps serving coffee only, or including cookies or other light snack. There will be a sign up sheet in the CEB lobby area, or you can reach out to the church office.

### Altar Flowers -

As the spring and summer months arrive, so, too, do lovely flowers from gardens! Perhaps you'd like to volunteer floral arrangements for a given Sunday in the months ahead. If so, please contact Andrea Mastrianni. She has agreed to take on this coordination assignment—to make sure we don't end up with too many flowers in one week!



### A thank you ...

(dated April 16, 2021)

*Beloved Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack,*

*Thank you for your kindness and your gifts on the day of my farewell. You will have a special place in my heart forever. Nick and I will enjoy the gift card from Adams so much. We will enjoy choosing plants for our garden/yard. It was so thoughtful of you.*

*Thank you also for the pink hydrangea plant. It is beautiful.*

*May God bless and keep you today and always.*

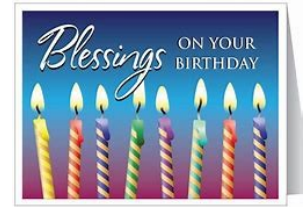
*Love and prayers,  
Pastor Linda Miles*



# May Birthdays/Anniversaries

## May Birthdays

Crystil-Lee Skoda	5/1	Bill Better	5/18
Dustin VanAlphen	5/2	Virginia Ambrose	5/19
Joshua Moon	5/5	Jackson Moon	5/21
Ryan Niver	5/6	Mercedes Alvarez	5/21
Tricia Mayo	5/9	Tom Hotalen	5/22
Travis Plass	5/10	Patrick May	5/23
Wendy Cook	5/11	Jason DeLamater	5/25
Shirley Sullivan	5/14	James Mayo	5/27
Erick Ihlenburg	5/15	Kitty Osterhoudt	5/28
Jeff Plass	5/16	George Barton	5/29
Joseph Veronezi	5/17	Conor O'Neill	5/29
Rachel Plass	5/18	Jadya Elizabeth Case	5/29



## May Anniversaries

Holly/Gig Barton	5/10
Betty/Peter Ostrander	5/24
Kathy/James McNamee	5/29



## News on the Cemetery—

As many of you may already know, Sal Cozzolino was able to obtain a headstone for General Robert Van Rensselaer through the Veteran's Administration. The General was interred in the Cemetery but had no grave marking and his exact grave site was unknown. Based on historical records, the headstone was installed next to the west wall of the church.

Elliott Bristol is in the process of getting and installing a Revolutionary War veteran's flag holder. The Cemetery Board of Trustees is planning a small dedication ceremony (within pandemic guidelines) on the Thursday before Memorial Day (5/27/21) at 11AM, weather dependent. I will be in contact with Jeane LaPorta, Hendrick Hudson Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, to coordinate the event. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank Sal and Elliott for making this happen.

– James O'Neill, Chairman, Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack Cemetery Board of Trustees



This news and accomplishment goes very nicely with our country's special holiday...Memorial Day.

**Memorial Day** (May 31)—a day on which those who died in active military service are remembered. There are parades to commemorate this day, with special dedication services held in memory of those who died in service to our country.

We remember and honor those who have died serving this great nation—The United States of America.

# Sunday, May 9, 2021

## *A Mothers' Day Prayer*

*I thank you, Creator of us all, for my mother.*

*I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me  
all those years. She gave me my faith, helping me  
to know you and to know Jesus and his ways.  
She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for  
others. She taught me that it was okay to cry and  
that I should always tell the truth.*

*Bless her with the graces she needs and which you  
want to give her today. Help her to feel precious  
in your eyes today and to know that I love her.  
Give her strength and courage, compassion and  
peace. Bless her this day with your love.*



## *Happy Mother's Day*