

The Fisherman

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

September 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

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A word to share...



This past Sunday, Andrea chose “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand” (or “God of Our Fathers”) as the opening hymn for the worship service. As I was putting together the bulletin, I began thinking about this Christian/national hymn. Certainly, the grand scale of the tune (with its great introductory trumpet fanfare), and the strong, powerful wording of the hymn, immediately came into my thoughts.

So, what about it? It is a hymn that crosses many denominational lines and is included in many, many Christian hymnals. The hymn is typically placed in the ‘National’, ‘Attributes of God’, or ‘Patriotic’ section of hymnals. The more I thought about it, the more I wanted to know about its origins...and what has made it so popular...in our churches as well as at national events.

This hymn confirmed, yet again, that good hymn writing and composition, regardless of how it came into being, transcends the ages, and reaches beyond our denominational walls.

A brief history: Daniel Crane Roberts, an Episcopal priest living in Brandon, VT, wrote the words to commemorate the small town’s celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. A few years later, he entered the hymn into the general Episcopal convention as they were seeking new hymns for their new hymnal project. He was very unsure of the hymn’s quality and entered the competition anonymously. To his surprise, the hymn was chosen to be added to the new hymnal.

While the hymnal was still in progress, George William Warren (a hymnal committee member and church organist in NYC), was on the planning committee for the centennial celebration of the U.S. Constitution. He recalled this hymn, suggested it to the committee, and it became one of our great National, and Christian, hymns.

Okay, so what? The hymn is grand, its big, its about the greatness of Our God, but the hymn encompasses so much more. Let’s look at just a few phrases that describe God’s other attributes...

-- ‘Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay’, (3rd verse): We’re asking God to be our spiritual ruler, but also our guardian (like our father and mother), guide (our mentor), our stay (someone who supports, sustains and props up).

-- The hymn turns from grand to prayerful in the 4th verse:
‘Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way’ (...God is our Living Bread in

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our difficult lives)

'Lead us from night to never ending day;' (...this is our hope of eternal life)

'Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,' (...we ask God to give us another aspect of His personality, and we're asking God for His riches... Jesus Christ, His son)

and then...

'And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.' (...because God gives us all things, we will always glorify Him)



Wow! In these days of uncertainty (every day seems so much worse than even two years ago) in so many aspects of our lives...COVID, security, jobs, terminal or chronic illness, pastoral transition, the world order, the list goes on and on... We can take heart that our God is SO great, SO mighty, yet SO gracious and loving to us, His people. All we need to do is call on Him.

We can and must rest in Him (our lives depend on it), we can have comfort in our hearts that He sent His son, Jesus, to help us...to be our friend, the caregiver of our lives, present and eternal. Our faith, our hope is in God and our Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ.

Rest in Him...

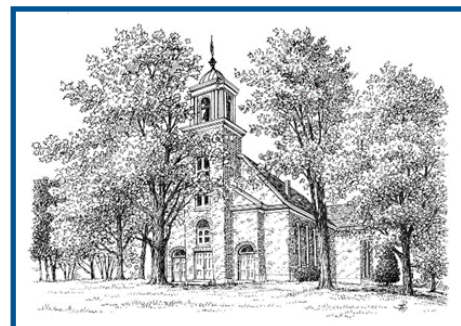
Helen

Spiritual Life of Our Congregation

Worship Schedule



Our **worship services** are Sundays at 9:30 a.m., and we continue to follow the guidelines issued by the CDC for the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.



We enjoy a **coffee hour** every week following the worship service...warm days of the year brings out the cool lemonade! Would you like to host a Sunday? Contact Jane Case.



The **Christian Education Building** is open for meetings and events.

Scheduled Worship Leaders for September:

- September 5 — Pastor Derek DeJager
- September 12 — Bill Better
- September 19 — Pastor Sara Appleyard-Pekich
- September 26 — Pastor Abby Norton-Levering

Thursday morning Bible Study will begin meeting again end of September. They are purchasing books for studies of Ephesians and Galatians. If you'd like to join this Bible study, please contact Jan Dunham for more details.

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

September 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.

September 5 (Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost):

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 12 (Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost):

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 19 (Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost):

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 26 (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost):

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Communion Service

Sunday, September 5, we will celebrate

Holy Communion during the worship service.

Pastor DeJager will be the Celebrant.



Choir Rehearsals

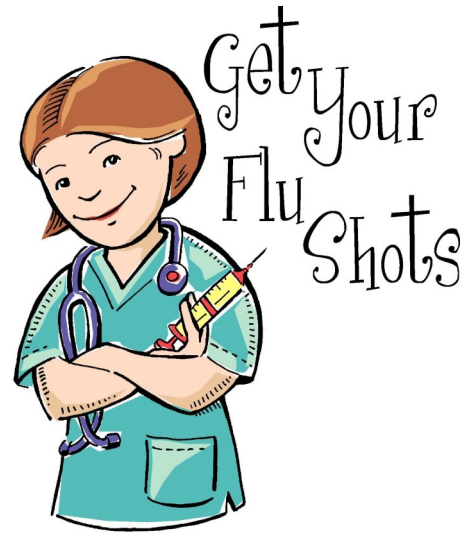
Church Choir will begin regular rehearsals on Thursday evening, September 9, beginning at 7:30 p.m. What an exciting time to gather together again.

Church Family

Save the date . . . OCTOBER 10TH . . . FLU SHOT CLINIC . . . (immediately following the worship service)

We are again administering flu shots this season. A good rule of thumb is to space vaccines one month apart. With this in mind, we will give both regular and high dose (age 65+) shots on Sunday, October 10, following the worship service. This allows spacing before many are eligible for the COVID-19 booster shot.

- Wear a short-sleeve shirt;
- If you have not had a flu shot in previous years, please bring your insurance card, or if your insurance information has changed.
- Ages 5 and over are eligible for the shot.



September 18th—Fundraising Event

As this is our first attempt at having an indoor and outdoor event, I will apologize ahead of time for everything I forget or get wrong!!!

Table set up in CE building: We plan on starting to set up trifle and treasure tables a week or two early. This way, small and more delicate items can be spread out and marked ahead of time. Tables for bake sale items will be arranged after church, September 12.

Parking: 'Car Parkers' are needed to park worker cars and direct customer parking in the side lot of the CE building and grassy areas.

Outside set up (weather dependent)...will be set up a few days before the sale.

Quilt hanging: We'll begin hanging quilts the week of September 12. Church members can stop in to take pictures and post on social media.

As always, all help is appreciated the day of the event and we will find a 'niche' for everyone!

Thanks, *Kim*

Frazz Jef Mallet



compliments of Jane Case...



Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack
88 Rt. 9H
Claverack, NY

Sanctuary Bell Tower and Dome Restoration

Fundraising Event

**Saturday, September 18
10 a.m.—2 p.m.**

Trifles and Treasures

- ◊ Household Goods
- ◊ Small Appliances
- ◊ Holiday Decorations
- ◊ Pictures
- ◊ Toys/Games
- ◊ Handbags/Jewelry
- ... something for everyone!

Quilt Sale

- ◊ 35+ Handcrafted Quilts
- ◊ Sizes: Baby through Queen

“What’s Really Good? BBQ” Food Truck

Bake Sale

- ◊ Homemade Desserts

*...proceeds for our historic bell tower and
dome restoration ...*

September Birthdays/Anniversaries

September Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Linda Mackerer | 9/2 | | |
| Jean Starkes | 9/3 | Shannon Schroepel | 9/20 |
| Barbara Robinson | 9/3 | Melissa Skoda | 9/21 |
| Thea Schoep | 9/5 | Snookie Patterson | 9/22 |
| Trisha Post | 9/6 | Jennifer Post | 9/24 |
| Renee Stone | 9/10 | Jayden Denny | 9/27 |
| Frank Starkes | 9/13 | Phyllis Mayo | 9/28 |
| Tiffani Krein | 9/14 | Ryan Nielsen | 9/29 |
| Ryan Skoda | 9/16 | | |
| Rachel Nielsen | 9/16 | | |
| Mike Nielsen | 9/17 | | |
| Bruce Kline, Jr. | 9/19 | | |

September Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| P-L and Rick Schroepel | 9/3 |
| Shirley and Mike Sullivan | 9/7 |
| Tricia and Patrick Mayo | 9/10 |
| Crystil-Lee and Ryan Skoda | 9/22 |
| Carol and Jim O'Neill | 9/26 |



Church Bazaar

**...and don't forget the church
bazaar ...**

Saturday

November 20th

10 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

(details to follow!)