

The Fisherman

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

March 2025

Incoming 2025 Consistory

Elders

Snookie Patterson
Melissa Skoda
Carolyn Wilbur
Glenn Holzhauser

Deacons

Louise Bailey
Jan Dunham
Shirley Sullivan
Jan Lynch

Missionaries

Rev. and Mrs. Brad Kautz,
Jicarilla Apache Nation
RCA—Partner in Mission (PIM)

Staff

Derek DeJager
Supervising Pastor

Andrea Mastrianni
Director of Music

Kara Sullivan
Office Manager

Lynn Oliveri
Custodian

Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack

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Welcome to March & Mud Season

It is only fitting that this month is known for getting a little messy because March is also Lent, where we remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

In Lent, we embrace our humanity in remembrance that we are not God. So, we spend forty days, outside of celebration Sundays, contemplating confession. Confession is not meant to shame us, but to move us toward God and one another. Admitting we can do better is a blessing in acknowledgement that God is the creator and sustainer of the nightcrawler worms, the black-and-white warbler, the white-tailed deer, and each of us. In remembrance of this providence and in the ever-present hope of resurrection, we step into Lent together this March.



★ **Worship Schedule** ★

9:30 a.m. Sunday worship service
followed by coffee hour
immediately following the service.

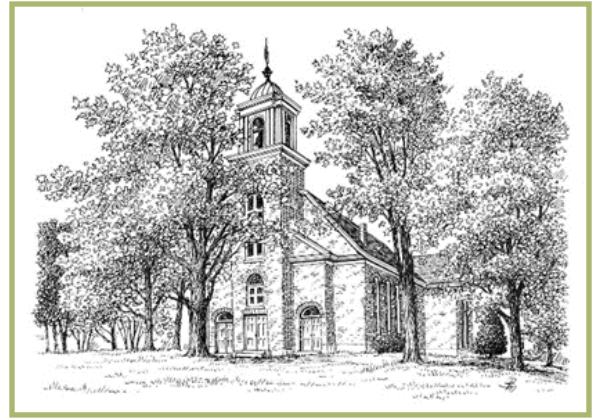
March 2 **First Sunday of the month**
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Rev. Vanessa Funk

March 9 Rev. Vanessa Funk

March 16 Rev. Vanessa Funk

March 23 Rev. Ken Coddington

March 30 Rev. Vanessa Funk



March Lectionary Readings

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32





FOR THE WINTER IS PASSED.
THE RAIN IS OVER AND GONE.
THE FLOWERS ARE SPRINGING UP.
AND THE TIME OF THE SINGING OF THE BIRDS HAS COME.

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12



2025 Lent & Easter Dates

Our 46 days to Easter Sunday starts on Wednesday, March 5th:

Ash Wednesday - March 5 @ 6:00p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

We start our Lenten journey with a potluck dinner starting at 6 p.m., followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. Join us for either or both dinner and service.

Palm Sunday - April 13 @ 9:30 a.m.

A Sunday of Hosannas and the passing out of palms.

Maundy Thursday - April 17 @ 7:00 p.m.

Our Tenebrae service (service of darkness) includes communion and the extinguishing of candles.

Easter Sunday - April 20 @ 9:30 a.m.

Our annual Easter celebration -- He is risen indeed!

Have you ever questioned how to reconcile with someone in your life that you've never had a right relationship with? Have you ever felt like the way you try to communicate your frustrations only makes the other person more frustrated? In a time of division and crossed conversations, a training on how to talk about conflict using non-violent communication tactics is absolutely necessary.

The Regional Synod of Albany invites you to this free Restorative Circles training March 20 and 21. Reverend Vanessa will be going and would love for any church members excited by this opportunity to go with her.

Sign up soon because spots are limited.

[Click Here to Register](#)



The Albany Synod Mediation Team



invites church leaders, members,
pastors and staff to attend
a timely and helpful training

Restorative Circles

Learning to Transform Conflict

MARCH 20-21, 2025

- *Help create stronger communities, families, work environments, teams and congregations*
- *Learn communication and collaboration strategies for times of disagreement*
- *Develop skills you can put into practice immediately*
- *Learn how to facilitate a formal restorative circle*

Session 1: Overview
Thursday Mar 20, 6 to 8:30 PM
Open to all

Session 2: Practice
Friday Mar 21, 9 AM to 4 PM
Open to those who attended Session 1

*Location: Niskayuna Reformed Church
3041 Troy-Schenectady Rd, Niskayuna 12309
Meals provided; donations appreciated*



Trainer: Jill Russell,
Holland Restorative Circles

**NO CHARGE
FOR THIS EVENT**
*sponsored by the
Albany Synod
Ministries Board*

**Space is limited! Register at this link
or find more info at albanysynod.org**

Announcements

• Reverend Vanessa's Installation

Sunday, March 9th, @ 4:30pm, Reverend Vanessa Funk will be installed by the Classis to be our new minister. Reception to follow.

• The Cemetery is closed until April 6, 2025.

• Soup, CD & DVD sale!!!

Thank you for all the support for the soup sale last Sunday.

The soups were delicious and most sold out early. We raised over \$500!!

The final Soup & DVD/CD sale will be on March 16th 10:30 - 2!

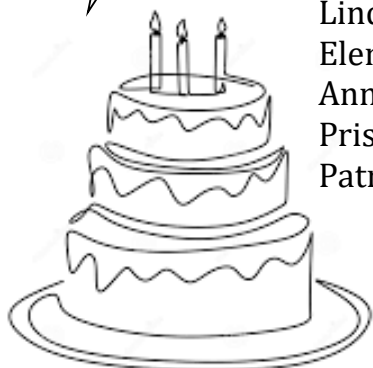
If you're interested in making soup please contact Shirley Sullivan

- (518) - 821 - 5032 -

March Birthdays

- Birthdays -

Kimberly Kline	3/2	Kameron Case	3/15
Norma Barnard	3/2	Megan Schoep	3/16
Linda Theiss	3/2	Shanda Steenburn	3/18
Elena Campion	3/2	Nathan Winch	3/20
Anne Terwilliger	3/7	Gabriel Case	3/22
Priscilla Fosby	3/8	Christopher Post	3/22
Patricia Hickey	3/8	Louise Bliss	3/24
		Joshua Campion	3/30



2025 CLASSIS ASSESSMENTS

Each year the Classis of Columbia Greene prepares the assessments each church is required to pay to The RCA General Synod, The Regional Synod of Albany and the Classis of Columbia Greene. These assessments are based upon Covenant Shares and Active membership of the Church recorded at the end of 2023. Our church reported 62 Active Members.

The breakdown of the annual assessments are as follows:

RCA Assessment	\$65.35 per member	\$4,051.78
Albany Synod Assessment	\$49.05	\$3,041.00
Classis Assessment	\$17.86	\$1,107.32
Total	\$132.26 per member	\$8,200.10

These assessments are paid on a quarterly basis. While this year the assessments have been waived, we are still challenged to use this money towards outreach or other ministries. Your contributions this year will be used for several things. Some suggestions that came in are local food pantries, which we did in 2023 when Classis waived assessments for that year, a new sound system & new equipment for on-line worship.

We encourage each active member to pay their assessment as this helps reduce our budget expenses. It can be done quarterly with the envelope provided in your offering box.

Historically about one third of our members pay their assessments; and we are trying to increase that number and prayerfully ask for your help.

2024 INCOME & EXPENSES

INCOME:

Congregational Giving	\$113,900
Fund Raisers	\$ 3,364
Building Use	\$ 2,200
Parsonage Rent	\$ 12,500
Assessments	\$ 3,827
Other Income	\$ 9,100
TOTAL	\$ 144,891

EXPENSES:

Benevolences	\$ 12,430
Assessments	\$ 8,514
Payroll/Pulpit Supply	\$ 47,805
Insurance	\$ 15,000
Utilities, Office & Other	\$ 70,906
TOTAL	\$ 154,655
Shortfall	(\$ 9,764)

We have had many donations for pastoral support as well as several donations to fix the parsonage for our new Pastor Rev. Vanessa Funk which is not included in the regular income & expenses.

Approved Minutes of the Consistory Meeting January 14, 2025

Present: Lloyd Lawrence, Melissa Skoda, Louise Bailey, Carolyn Wilbur, Snookie Patterson, Jim Mackerer, Jan Dunham, Shirley Sullivan, Derek DeJager (Supervising Pastor), guests Glenn Holzhauser and Jan Lynch

Opening prayer and scripture reading (John 20: 19-23, 30-31)
by Reverend DeJager @ 7:05 p.m.

A motion to grant the two guests privilege of the floor was made by Lloyd L, second by Snookie P, passed by consent.

Approval of the Previous Meeting's Minutes With a correction, the minutes were approved by motion of Melissa S, second by Louise B, passed by consent. The minutes of the 12/15 congregational meeting were also reviewed and approved by motion of Mellisa S, second by Snookie P, passed by consent.

Pastoral Search Process The Funks and their belongings will be arriving the week of January 13th. A move-in day will be held on Saturday, January 18 @ 9 a.m. Work on the parsonage's bathrooms will be completed mid-month. Rev. Vanessa's start date will be the week of February 3rd.

Standing Committees

Worship:

Services are covered through the end of February. Installation of new consistory members will be on Sunday, January 19th.

Stewardship:

The final financials for both December 2024 and Fiscal 2024 were presented. Noted for fiscal 2024 – some large gifts received for the New Pastor Fund and the parsonage renovations inflated the year's total income reported; taking them out results in a deficit. The report was accepted by motion of Jim M, second by Snookie P, passed by consent.

The budget for 2025 was presented. Noted was a sizable increase in Regular Giving and an overall deficit of over \$13,000 to be financed by gift funds. The budget was approved by motion of Lloyd L, second by Snookie P, passed by consent.

Christian Growth and Ed:

Sunday School activities for January: looking at Micah 6:8 and making fortune cookies (with bible verse as fortune).

Nurture:

No cards/calls needed for December. It was decided to send flowers to Patty Varga as a thank you for her service to us over the past few years.

*see next page

Missions:

Fourth quarter food pantry contributions were mailed out. A meeting to look at appeals for 2025 is being planned.

Property:

- Contractor Jack Moon has repaired the parsonage's roof trim/siding and is now installing gutters on front of C.E. Building to help with drainage.
- The parsonage's alarm system was reprogrammed and its batteries replaced.
- Mulhern Gas will be in to repair one of the two C.E.B.'s boilers.
- Parsonage work done includes painting, kitchen counters and sink. Mid-Hudson Internet set up done. Bathroom work to be finished mid-month.

A proposal to fund Jack Moon's work plus tree work by New Leaf with \$7,000 from the Building & Endowment Fund's interest was approved by motion of Lloyd L, second by Snookie P, passed by consent.

Classis Update

Rev. DeJager reported on the proposed restructuring of the RCA at a recent conference in Utica. Regional Synods and Classis would be consolidated into two Middle Assemblies (East & West). The next CG Classis meeting will be on March 20th.

New Business

Our Facebook page has stopped posting live and recorded video of services, due to third-party demands for rights payments of music performances. (The demands are groundless, but poorly policed by Facebook.)

Executive Session

The session was called by motion of Melissa S, second by Carolyn W, passed by consent. It was ended by motion of Rev. DeJager, second by Jim M, passed by consent.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Carolyn W @ 9 p.m.