



The title of our current “Words of Hope” devotional book is “God the Gardener.” One of the daily devotions lists the various steps and the patient waiting involved in making compost, not unlike the making of the garden itself. The Master’s Gardeners, our dedicated landscape team begins working in May, cleaning out the beds, planting tiny plants, watering, fertilizing and re-mulching. By June, the plants have grown and produced lovely large flowers that last into November. How delightful it is to drive up in March, and see the bulbs (planted the previous October) sprouting from the thawing ground! Soon, the blooming begins. At least eight months of the year, we have colorful flowers blooming here at First Reformed Church. What a wonderful reflection this is on our church, thanks to these gardeners. Not only do grounds look beautiful, but the time and work put into caring for God’s creation send a loud message to all who pass by: “We are a loving, nurturing church!”

We are called to care for God’s creation, which includes our planet and our families and neighbors around the world, at home and within own church community. Rev. Miles recently gave a sermon about obeying God’s command by helping others. When you serve your church, you are doing just that.

Not everyone wishes to help in flower or vegetable gardens, but there are many ways to serve God in other types of gardens. When Summer winds down and we get back to business, there will be new opportunities for service to God and our church. Our Activities committee will continue to provide us with fun events. Our Property committee keeps everything in top shape and good repair. Our *Choir* brings beautiful music to our Sunday Worship (the more voices, the more beautiful the music). We will soon need a couple of people to speak during our Stewardship Sundays in October. Seats will soon be available on our 2020 Consistory, and many people will be needed to make our 15th Annual Golf Outing (Sept. 9th) a success. The Communications, Education, Finance, Investments, Worship and Music and Flower committees, Children’s Community Services and Fishkill Food Pantry are always in need of volunteers. Each could use more sets of hands.

While our wonderful Pastor Search Committee is nearing the end of their mission, they have served God and church so well by performing their many tasks admirably, while forging new and strengthening old friendships. In the process, they have grown in their faith journeys.

So, please consider becoming one of God’s gardeners. Many of our faithful members have been volunteering for years and would love to see fresh faces share in the bounty of church service. Should you feel your qualifications are inadequate, please know that the only thing needed is a willing heart. You will be taught. Even the gardeners had to be learn! Remember, ***God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called!*** Serving your church is a lot like gardening: you sow, you weed, you nurture; then you reap the blessings of what you have created!

*To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow..... Audrey Hepburn* 

*What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made in the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we have led. Nelson Mandela*

# *Counting Our Blessings*

*Special Thanks go to **The Master’s Gardeners**, our dedicated team of angels who plant, water, weed and nurture our beautiful church landscape: Head gardener Don Porter with assistants Ruth Porter and Harry Guzi, Al and Linda Gillert, Pat Gullick, Jan Lane, David Ouart, Lola Saya, Pete Skorewicz and family, and Ginny Styles. It speaks volumes when our summer visitors comment on not only the beauty of our sanctuary, but also our beautifully planted grounds!*



The Activities Committees thanks to all the wonderful people who have attended, helped with and supported the Berry, Berry Festival and the Church Barbecue, a time of great fun!

We thank the indefatigable Jean Winkler and her Activities committee members Antonia Bagala, Brenda Smith-Cliffe, Laura Dachenhausen, Dorrie Hansen, Marge Faulkner, Connie Kayson, Marge Merritt, Karon Perry, Pia Price, Karen Twohig, Manny Valdivia, and Ed Winkler for organizing and orchestrating all these fun events. The church that prays and plays together, stays together!

*From Pat Chism:* thank you to Heather, Al and Linda Gillert whose help folding bulletins and “Parish Visitors” is such a blessing to me in the church office.

## AUGUST CALENDAR

<b>1</b>	Food Pantry Board Meeting 2 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>Worship 10 am</b> Summertime Stories* 10:15 am
<b>4</b>	<b>Worship/Communion</b> 10 am		
<b>7</b>	Finance Meeting 5 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>“Parish Visitor” articles due</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Consistory Reports due</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Worship 10 am</b> Summertime Stories* 10:15 am
<b>11</b>	<b>Worship 10 am</b> Summertime Stories* 10:15 am	<b>30</b>	Shelter Meal drop-off by 12pm
<b>13</b>	Consistory 7:15 pm		<i>*Asterisk indicates article within</i>

**Please submit articles for the September “Parish Visitor” to the Church Office by August 22nd:**  
[office@fishkillreformed.org](mailto:office@fishkillreformed.org). Thank you.

**Church Calendar** – Before scheduling a meeting or event at church, please *contact Pat in the Church Office* (ph. 845 896-9836) to check availability on church calendar and to reserve your meeting space.

**Sunday Bulletin Announcements** – Please submit your information to the church office no later than the preceding Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the following Sunday bulletin.

**Prayer Chain** – To be added to the church prayer chain contact list or to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please contact Toni Houston at [prayerchain@fishkillreformed.org](mailto:prayerchain@fishkillreformed.org).

**Worship service broadcasts** – 7:00 pm, Sunday evenings on Cablevision Channel 21.

**Church website** includes the Church newsletters, worship service links, church history and Facebook:  
[www.fishkillreformed.org](http://www.fishkillreformed.org).



# OUR CHURCH TODAY

## Consistory Notes from the July 9th meeting

Rich Lanni led devotions based on 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. As we celebrated our freedom on the Fourth of July, so should we celebrate the freedoms we have been given by Christ. We who know Jesus are free from the bondage of sin and death. His death and resurrection freed us and guaranteed our future in Heaven. We are thankful for our country, for the freedoms we have here, and for those who sacrificed themselves for us as Christ himself did.

- Treasurer's June report: Total YTD revenue - \$107,246.28 Total YTD expenses - \$86,080.28
- Food Pantry provided 8,100 meals during the month of June. The charter is being revised and will be submitted to Consistory after Board approval. Consistory approved a motion to transfer all Food Pantry clerical/administrative functions now handled by church office manager to Food Pantry by August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Deacons will be working on writing a protocol for helping the homeless who come to our church seeking help. Existing guidelines need to be clarified and expounded.
- Pastoral Search committee reports that one applicant has been interviewed and a second applicant will meet with them in the near future.
- Summer camp will not be held this year due to insufficient enrollment.
- Lori Garcia, current assistant scoutmaster, has agreed to be Scoutmaster for Troop 65. Frank Giusto will become chair of the Scout Committee. We are grateful for their dedication. The Scrap Metal Drive successfully raised funds to help pay for summer camp and other Scout activities.
- Summertime Stories was well-attended, well-staffed and off to a good start, thanks to Pia and helpers.
- Property Committee is looking into replacing brick paths with stamped concrete and possibly paving the sidewalk along Church Street, as well as fixing area behind the exterior kitchen door.

## *Support from Elders and Deacons*

**If you need temporary transportation, a meal delivered, a visit or a phone call, please contact a deacon:**

Kim Albra, Beacon, 831-2126	Victor Chao, Hopewell Junction, 221-9015
John Cliffe, Wappingers Falls, 297-5374	Sally LeDioyt, Fishkill, 838-2455
Manny Valdivia, Wappingers Falls, 235-3191	

**If you would like to receive home communion or a pastoral care visit, please contact an elder:**

Phyllis Lake, Beacon, 765-0914	Rich Lanni, Wappingers Falls, 896-6889
Ruth Porter, Fishkill, 896-2617	Bill Resling, Fishkill, 897-5680
Celeste Rudberg, Wappingers Falls, 221-9330	



## **From the Deacons:**

### **First Reformed Church August Food Drive for the Food Pantry**

As the rest of us scramble to take end of summer vacations, monetary and food donations slow down at the Pantry. This makes for the typically understocked shelves each August. When school is out, the children of many families who can barely make ends meet, no longer receive subsidized school lunches. To make matters worse, these families often have the added financial burden of childcare costs during the summer months. In order to help the Pantry help our hungry neighbors, ***we will hold an August food drive.*** Please pick up your list of needed items from the tables in the narthex and Fellowship Hall. Bags are also available in which you may return your groceries Sundays in August. Look for collection areas in the narthex and Fellowship Hall entry.

*Lists containing current needs are available on the Sanctuary table and Fellowship Hall bulletin boards.*



# Coffee Hour

Sunday Coffee hour is made possible by rotating the responsibility throughout the congregation, while each week Dorrie Hansen assists by setting up the coffee pots. Below is the list of monthly coffee hour hosts.

First name on the list, the lead host, is responsible for calling the others and coordinating what each brings, including milk and juice. The hosts divide up the tasks; set up, refills, cleanup of kitchen and coffee pots, wiping down of all tables and countertops with the water/bleach solution. Please take home and wash the dirty dishtowels and potholders, and return them the following week.

With our different abilities and limitations, let's *all help* by busing our own tables, and helping out where we can.

To have your name added to the rotation, or to address any concerns about serving please contact the scheduler, Karen Twohig at 845 765-2326.

***Not able to serve on your scheduled date? Please find a replacement, and inform the lead host and Church Office of the name of the replacement.***

*If you plan to bring food to Coffee Hour for a special occasion please notify the lead host.*

Thanks to all for helping to provide a wonderful time and place for fun, food and fellowship!

## Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses

### August

**4 – Covell**, Wright, Lake  
**11 – Ice Cream Social – Doerr**, Baron, Bobb  
**18 – Faulkner**, Falcone, McCoy  
**25 – Smith/Cliffe**, Carruthers, Chao

### September

**1 – Twohig**, D. Hansen, Van Voorhis  
**8 – Van Nostrand**, Gillert, McGann  
**15 – LeDioyt**, Ouart, Resling  
**22 – Price**, Saya, Utter  
**29 – Sanders**, Garcia, Albra

## Readers & Greeters for August, 2019

August 4 Greeters – Gordon and Diane Flayter

Reader – Diane Flayter

August 11 Greeters – Brenda Smith-Cliffe and John Cliffe

Reader – John Cliffe

August 18 Greeters – Joyce and Jim Covell

Reader – Jim Covell

August 25 Greeters – Karen and John Twohig

Reader – John Twohig



## The Bulletin Board



### **Fishkill Reformed Church's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**

Monday, September 9th, McCann Memorial Golf Course, 155 Wilbur Blvd. in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Registration begins at 9:00 am.

A donation of \$125 includes golf, a cart, goody bag gifts, breakfast, lunch and dinner (at Christo's), prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place team finish, longest drive and closest to pin contests, a hole-in-one prize; plus a raffle during dinner with great prizes. Funds raised are used towards the cost of capital improvements needed to maintain our church's special historic site. Entry brochures are available in the DuBois House and the Education building entrance. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Call Ray VanVoorhis at 845 452-2268 or email him at [rvanvoorhis@lmvarchitects.com](mailto:rvanvoorhis@lmvarchitects.com), with questions or to donate signs, prizes or contributions.

**Shelter Meal** – **August 30th** Watch for more details in our weekly bulletins as we get closer to the date. Again, we thank you for your ongoing support of this mission – Lola Saya and BJ Lanni

**2019 – 2020 Choir** Current and interested choir members with willing, joyful hearts are invited for practice and fellowship on Thursday, September 5th, at 7 pm. We will help lead the church in worship on Sept 8th. Please see or contact Choir Director Kate Valdivia with questions at [oboemacleod@gmail.com](mailto:oboemacleod@gmail.com)

**2019 CROP Walk** is scheduled for Sunday Oct. 20. We are celebrating 50 years of CROP Walks in the USA, and our area is 13th in the nation in terms of fundraising for CROP. Our own Fishkill food Pantry has been a yearly recipient of a CROP walk grant the last few years. Information and sign-up sheets for those wishing to walk or those wishing to sponsor a walker will be available in early September. Please see John Twohig for information.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes** We will again collect shoeboxes filled with items for children around the world in November. Now is a great time to buy school supplies to go in the boxes, as the back-to-school sales are wonderful! Items on the "Shoebox" list include: pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring and picture books, and solar calculators..

### **From the Activities Committee**

*Save The Date:* October 19th, Pot Luck Supper with music from the 50's, 60's, & 70's in the Ed. Bldg. 5-8pm . We'll have dancing, games and lots of fun.

**From the Education Committee**– Our *Summertime Stories* program runs through August for children 3 – 10 years of age.

*Sunday School 2019-2020* begins September 8th. *Please mark your calendars.*

### **From Worship and Music**

#### ***Summer Flowers***

The Worship and Music Committee wants to thank all of you for your generous donation of Sunday Flowers. Please remember that checks for the summer can go in Bonnie's mailbox in the DuBois House so we can record them. Blessings to all.

***Summer Music*** – Vocalists and instrumentalists are needed Sunday mornings June 16th through August 25th. Since the choir gets to rest during the summer, we are looking for musicians to share their talents on Sunday mornings. Our church family is extremely talented and all are welcome. Please sign up in the Educ. Bldg.

# OUR CHURCH IN MISSION



## Fishkill Food Pantry

1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524 Phone 845 896-4546 Hours: M – F, 9 – 12



One of the nicest things to see at the FFP, beyond the basic mission of helping people in need, is the camaraderie that develops between volunteers. Many of our volunteers have been at the FFP for over 10 years, and the spirit of helping others translates to helping and supporting fellow volunteers.

One of our most heartwarming efforts has just been completed, the memorial bench for Irene Zito in front of the FFP building. After Irene died suddenly and unexpectedly in 2017, we wanted to do something, but struggled with what would be appropriate. She was such a positive force in the pantry. We felt her loss profoundly. After much discussion and many ideas, we decided on a bench to be placed in front of the pantry. This was a total volunteer project. Our volunteers donated funds, and when we were short of the goal, one of our volunteers stepped up and donated the difference. The bench is now in place with lovely flowers in planters on each side. The plaque will be installed when received. It's a place of calm between two busy roads where our clients can wait for their food, or our volunteers can take a break. Please come by to see it, sit for a moment and see what a group that cares about each other can accomplish.

For the past five years we have been developing our summer intern program, in which high school students volunteer in the pantry during their summer vacation. We look forward to this every year because of their enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Having these young people helping brings a positive energy, which is greatly appreciated, to the pantry. This year we have David, who will be a senior at John Jay in the fall and Brian, who just graduated from RCK. It should be mentioned that Brian volunteered last summer and requested to return again this year. Both young men are extremely helpful, pitch right in, and we're sure they'll be successful in whichever direction they choose to pursue.

<https://www.facebook.com/FishkillFoodPantry>



## **BSA Troop 65 & Venture Crew 65**



The Boy Scout Troop has wrapped up yet another year with several activities. Our final Court of Honor was held on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Two scouts were presented with rank advancements, and three merit badges were awarded. Also the World Conservation award was presented. This last Court of Honor capped off a year where every scout in the troop advanced at least one rank.

The Troop's End of Year trip took the troop to the Lake George area for a three day weekend. The boys spent the weekend camping on Lake Sacandaga. Some of the activities included white water rafting, Tubby Tubes Downhill tubing, Mini Golf and of course, s'mores around the campfire. The afternoon thunderstorms even held off and everyone had a great time.

Finally, the troop attended summer camp on Long Island at Baiting Hollow Scout Camp from July 14<sup>th</sup> to July 20<sup>th</sup>. Seven boys and two adults spent the week at camp working on merit badges and completing rank requirements. There was also enough time for some fun and games as well. The camp wide games included a scavenger hunt, water sports, swimming, ropes courses and camp fire songs. The troop has been to several other scout camps, but is always eager to return to Baiting Hollow. The program and facilities are second to none. Even one of our own scouts decided to join the staff as a camp counselor this summer.

In August the troop adult and scout leaders will be meeting to plan next year's events and start getting things on the calendar. There will also be a couple of changes in the troop's adult leadership. Frank Giusto will be taking on the role of Committee Chairman and Lori Garcia will be taking on the role of Scoutmaster. Finally, two scouts in the troop will be attending National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) at Camp Nootemeing. This training will help these scouts learn and practice the leadership skills they will need to lead the troop next year.

The Boy Scout Troop would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer. Thank you for all your support throughout the year.

*If you would like more information regarding scouting opportunities, activities, or service projects, please refer to our website at <http://tmweb.troopmaster.com/Website/Home> (select New York State, Unit 65 & Fishkill) or by contacting Lori Garcia, Scoutmaster [gatohs@yahoo.com](mailto:gatohs@yahoo.com)*

**Chartered Organization:**  
First Reformed Church

**Meetings:**  
Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 PM during the school year, in Fellowship Hall



### **Children's Community Services**

Well, the dog days are upon us! It's really hard to think that the summer is already half over and before long the Education Building will be buzzing with little people once again!

Enrollment is ongoing but spaces are becoming limited. If there is anyone you know who might be looking for our services, please have them contact us quickly.

Until next time, enjoy every day and make some memories to treasure.

Heather Hansen, Director of CCS

Learn more on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/childrenscommunityservices.org/index>



## **Our Church Sponsored RCA Missionaries**

**Jeremy and Susan Beebout** - Jeremy is an agronomist working with agricultural development efforts and Susan is a doctor developing the church's health ministries in Niger, Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world. July update letter can be seen below.

**Josh Bode, Pastor of the Protestant Church in Oman (PCO)**, which was founded by the RCA and has been charged with the stewardship of all Protestant Christianity in the country, comprising more than 50 Protestant congregations. Josh has been called to be the RCA shepherd to this diverse and international body of believers in Muscat, Oman, as they seek to build bridges and love their Muslim neighbors.

**Grace Covenant Ministries** is committed to holistic community development and healing in the Kentucky Appalachians, an area suffering some of the deepest poverty in the U.S.

*See Missions bulletin board in Fellowship Hall  
for latest updates and newsletters from our other mission recipients.*

### **From Jeremy and Susan Beebout in Niger July 2019**

Dear Friends,

I would like to start by sharing a few updates of individuals whom you've 'met' in previous letters so you can pray for them. The first is Omar Mochi, who has been a faithful assistant at CADR since he started with us as a student 10 years ago. He is still working for CADR, but for the past few years has been located at the new clinic construction site in Dogon Doutchi. His primary roles are purchasing and managing construction materials and communicating with us regarding the construction. Omar got married last August and he and his wife were expecting their first baby this past May. Unfortunately, the delivery did not go well, and even though his wife was at the regional hospital in Dogon Doutchi, the baby did not make it. Had she been in Niamey, it probably would have been a different story and PERHAPS, if the new clinic had been finished and opened, it could have been a different outcome as well. This serves as another somber reminder to us of the status of health care in the area and the urgency of finishing the new clinic.

The second update is on Pastor Yagi who has been the EERN pastor in Dogon Doutchi for over 20 years. Many of you remember the story we shared in letter and in person in your churches while on home assignment, of his family coming to Clinic Olivia when his daughter became very sick almost to the point of death. We all praised the Lord when she was healed, and the family returned home. Since then Pastor Yagi has been an advocate for the clinic. He makes regular site visits to pray for and encourage the workers. He is also spreading the word about the coming clinic in the community and the region. He even helps care for young trees planted at the site. Through this example, we shared how God is faithful to prepare the way for us even as we, his children, are called to prepare a way for His son, Jesus Christ. Because of new appointments of leadership within the EERN, Pastor Yagi will relocate to a different town a few hours away. It is sure, however, that his commitment to the clinic will remain and what God did in and through him and his family to help "prepare the way" for a Christian clinic in this community will not be forgotten.

Finally, a brief update on the clinic construction itself. The new clinic has received its official name: Dutsin Ceto meaning “Rock of Salvation” in Hausa. Dogon Douchi itself means tall rock and refers to the presence of several very tall rocks within the city. I recently learned that historically the pagans in this area regularly used large rocks during their idol worship ceremonies and for many in the area, rocks retain this symbolism yet today. It is of no small significance that the clinic will bear the name Dutsin Ceto as a sort of redemptive bridge to Jesus Christ who is the Rock of salvation. Please continue to pray with us that the clinic will be a witness of salvation for those who receive healing within.

The ceiling for the ground floor was supposed to be poured shortly after you received our last letter. Unfortunately, and yet not of great surprise, the pouring of the ceiling is on “African time,” meaning it has once again been delayed. We had arranged for not one but two cement mixers to be brought from Niamey, which required two dump trucks as they are too large to fit in one truck. These mixers are equipped with pumps that transport the mixed concrete to the roof. We used a similar machine during the construction of the nursing school at CADR and it was quite successful. We were counting heavily on the machines to succeed also for this large project. However, after several hours of operating with many breakdowns and few results, we realized that continuing was futile. The rock or gravel available in the region is not the smooth river rock that works well in the machines (we learned later) and the machines had never been operated in this region previously. We finally decided the concrete would have to be mixed by hand and all of the rock would require more screening. This is where the project is at present. We are planning to return this week to finish the ceiling. This phase has been no small test of perseverance, but by God’s grace, it will finish soon!

A few final notes: we were blessed to be part of the first CADR spiritual retreat (the retreat group is shown in the picture). The theme was, “Serving at the Feet of the Master.” Several of the presenters talked about our individual calling to pursue our work as a ministry to the LORD whatever our vocation may be. We pray each of you would also be blessed as you serve the Lord faithfully where you are planted. We are now looking forward to another gathering, the RCA Africa Missionary Retreat in mid-July in Kenya. This is the first gathering of all the RCA Africa missionaries since 2008. We are certainly looking forward to this as a family and will be taking some additional vacation time to take advantage of being in a different country and climate. Susan asks that you continue to pray for El Haaji, the patient she wrote about in the last letter. Further testing revealed an esophageal mass that could be cancer. Please pray for his physical and spiritual healing. Thank you for your prayers and your financial support for this ministry. I conclude with this verse.

*“For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the ROCK except our God?” (2 Samuel 22:32)*

In Him,  
Jeremy for the Beebouts