

The Parish Visitor

The First Reformed Church of Fishkill

1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524

April, 2018



Dear Friends,

Easter Season is a time to pull out all the stops, to sing our Alleluias, shout “He is risen!” and not be shy in living and sharing the good news.

Our May mission trip to Grace Covenant Ministries is about living as Easter people as we use “bucks and brawn” to help get facilities ready for the myriad of community activities GCM offers as an expression of God’s love. Our Easter offering will help make this possible.

On May 1, Rev. Josh Bode, will talk about the call to serve in Oman. We have a historic connection to Oman with late pastor Rev. Rod and Janie Koopmans who came from Oman to Fishkill in 1982, bringing with them the flag that flies in our sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday. We will prayerfully consider reconnecting with this mission.

The opportunities our faith gives us are not limited to work crews or “official missionaries.” As we welcome new members on Easter, the congregation will be asked, “Do you promise to love, encourage, and support these brothers and sisters by teaching the gospel of God’s love, by being an example of Christian faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God’s family in fellowship, prayer and service?” Let us shout, “We do”, then let us do it!

This Easter season helps us to reorder our lives around the Good News. Former pastor, Rev. Jack Elliot wrote these words on his Care pages, as he goes through chemotherapy.

“...as I thought about time I suddenly realized that time outside of time has been there for me all along...morning worship and keeping the Sabbath. Forget forty years as a pastor. These ten years of retirement have been very good. Especially once we found a church home, and Sunday worship and keeping the Sabbath centered our lives. Sunday is an hour and a day to stop and reset one’s life; and whatever mountain top or valley or place one is, in the journey...time to reclaim and drink deeply...of the grace and love and goodness that is all around us...that warms and heals...strengthens and calms...fills us again with hope and meaning...words now run out and time pauses for a moment...and the upper room and the cross and the stone rolled away come close and are part of my life.”

Alleluia. Amen.

Pastor Gloria

OUR CHURCH TODAY



APRIL CALENDAR

1	Easter Sunday Worship* 10 am New Members Received* Easter Story Egg Hunt* 11:30 Eggstravaganza Coffee Hour	18	Bible Study 10 am Finance Committee 5 pm
		19	“Parish Visitor” articles due Consistory Reports due Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
2	Church Office Closed		
3	Worship and Music 11 am Sermon Preview 3 pm	22	Worship 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Chime Choir 11:30
4	Bible Study 10 am		
5	Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	24	Sermon Preview 3 pm Consistory Meeting 7:15 pm
8	Worship 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Chime Choir 11:30 am Confirmation Class 11:30 am	25	Bible Study 10 am
		26	Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
11	Bible Study 10 am B.S. Tr. #65 Five Guys Fundraiser* 5pm	27	Pizza and Practice* 5:30 pm
12	Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	29	Worship - Children’s Sunday* 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Chime Choir 11:30
15	Worship 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Chime Choir 11:30 Girl Scout Tr. 10524 5 pm		
<i>* Indicates article within newsletter</i>			

Please submit articles for the May “Parish Visitor” to the Church Office by April 19th, office@fishkillreformed.org. Thank you.

Church Calendar – Before scheduling a meeting or event at First Reformed Church, please contact Pat in the Church Office to check availability on the church calendar.

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 or to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please contact Liz Alexander at mrsvquest@aol.com

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.



Holy Week Events

March 25th – **Palm Sunday Worship** 10:00 am. *Children process with palms and donkey*

March 27th – **Final Lenten Lunch** - 12:00 pm

March 29th – **Holy Thursday Last Supper Worship** – 7 pm

Prayer Vigil – 9 pm – 3 pm, Good Friday

March 30th **Good Friday Worship** – 7 pm

April 1st **Easter Sunday Worship** – 10 am

Easter Story Egg Hunt for children 11 am

Coffee Hour “Eggstravaganza” – 11 am



Coffee Hour

Everyone is invited to join our coffee hour following Sunday worship. This time is made possible by rotating the responsibility throughout the congregation, while each week Dorrie Hansen sets up the coffee pots.

Below is the list of monthly coffee hour hosts. The first name on the list is responsible for calling the others and coordinating what each brings, including milk and juice. The hosts divide up the tasks, which include set up, refills and cleanup of kitchen, tables, serving dishes, and coffee pots. All tables and countertops need to be wiped down with the water/bleach solution, and used dishtowels taken home, washed and returned the following week. As we all have different abilities and limitations, let's not hesitate to offer a helping hand by busing our own tables, even when it's not "our turn". This helps keep things running smoothly.

Karen Twohig schedules coffee hour, so contact her regarding having your name added or any concerns you may have about your ability to serve at Coffee Hour due to health or other large issues.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please find a replacement, then let the lead host and church office know the name of your replacement. The **lead host** is the first name (in bold letters) listed below.

Anyone planning to bring food to coffee hour for a special occasion should notify the host of that date.

Thank you!

Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses

April

- 1 **Easter-** Kayson, Rodriguez, Winkler, Price
- 8 **Lane,** Porter, Totino
- 15 **Smith-Cliffe,** Gorba, Chao
- 22 **Lake,** Schallenberg, Carruthers
- 29 **Wright,** Alexander, Raptopoulos

May

- 6 **Lanni,** Hughes, Covell
- 13 **Twohig,** Falcone, Butcher
- 20 **Albra,** H. Hansen, McGann
- 27 **Baron,** Gillert, LeDioyt

From the Worship Committee: Readers & Greeters for April, 2018

- April 1** Greeters – Chloe, Zoe and Jeanne Rissin
Readers – Chloe and Zoe Rissin
- April 8** Greeters – BJ and Rich Lanni
Reader – Rich Lanni
- April 15** Greeters – Sally Ledioyt and Faith Schwenker
Reader – Sally Ledioyt
- April 22** Greeters – Julie Sanders and Jean Teske
Reader – Jean Teske
- April 29** Greeters – Stephen and Ava Falcone
Reader – Stephen Falcone

Counting Our Blessings



A special "Thank You" goes to those who recently enriched our Sunday Worship.

Our Girl Scouts, who joined us on March 18th, served as greeters, readers, and Coffee Hour helpers. The participation and help that day – and throughout the year – of Girl Scouts Lexxy Doerr, Joanna Houston, Zoe and Chloe Rissin are very much appreciated. Thank you!!!

Consistory Information



Consistory Notes – from March, 2018

- Consistory met at the Reformed Church in Poughkeepsie, following their retreat. The meeting was opened with the sharing of joys and concerns. Pastor Gloria read a poem based on John 9 about the man born blind, which was the text for the retreat worship, and led in prayer.
- Deacon John Houston offered to serve as clerk, in the absence of the clerk of consistory, Liz Alexander.
- Elders reported that Warren David Brand, son of Julia Mitchell, would be baptized on June 10th.
- Deacons have directed the Easter Offering to support the mission trip and ministry with Grace Covenant Ministries.
- The Monmouth College Concert was cancelled due to a number of students who were not able to participate.
- Property is finalizing their project list for the coming year, including the classroom off Fellowship Hall.
- Chair or co-chairs for the Everything Sale are needed.
- Next consistory meeting is April 24th, 7:15pm.

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

John Cliffe, Wappingers Falls

John Houston, Hopewell Jct.

Marrijane Raptopoulos, Fishkill

Stan Saya, Wappingers Falls

Jim Butcher, Kingston

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

MaryAnn Fellin, Fishkill

Rich Lanni, Wappingers Falls

Jay Wright, Fishkill

Ruth Porter, Fishkill

Celeste Rudberg, Wappingers Falls



MAY 2018 MISSION TRIP **Grace Covenant Ministries, Annville, Kentucky**

As a financial and prayer supporter of this mission for over ten years, we now have the opportunity to offer our labor. Grace Covenant Ministries provides safe space for this rural, poverty stricken community to gather, emphasizing programs for children and teens, who make up 1/3 of the population. Current projects include renovating the gym and large gathering hall.

MISSION DETAILS:

We will leave Sunday, May 6, after worship and return Saturday, May 12, 2018, allowing 2 days travel both ways and 3 full working days. While we will stop at hotels in route, we will stay in the on-site guest house for 9 people, which has a full kitchen.

Meals are family style, but any special dietary needs are the responsibility of the individual.

Work projects include: painting, sheet rocking, plumbing, electrical, installing new flooring, and property clean-up. Small hand and power tools, and gardening tools needed.

Costs - The Board of Deacons mission funds will support a large part of the mission costs, but out of pocket costs may also be required. Scholarships are available.

Interested? Please speak to Marrijane Raptopoulos. Pastor Gloria will decide final list of participants, based on mission needs and individual skills.

EASTER OFFERING

Our Easter offering is dedicated to this mission trip and the people at Grace Covenant Ministries. This will help ensure that our volunteers are not a burden to the people hosting us, while also providing resources for the work we will be performing. Let's make this the first of many mission trips we engage in!



Welcome Friends!

We will receive new members on Easter Sunday.

Shunta Garcia was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, and grew up in Peekskill, before moving to Wappingers Falls as an adult. She is the mother of 2 sons and 2 daughters, and the grandmother of 2. She works at Castle Point VA Hospital and Dutchess ARC. She volunteers with her local union and likes to write and cook. She is very close to her family, and spends most of her extra time with children and mom Brenda Smith-Cliffe.

Karen MacLeod grew up Methodist in NJ, and moved to Wappingers Falls in 1978. She graduated from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. She is a recently retired music teacher and choir director, which explains where her daughter Kate Valdivia got her talent. When not working at her husband's law firm, Karen enjoys cooking healthy foods, engaging in various outdoor exercise and playing with grandson Mance.

Kate Valdivia, a lifelong resident of Wappingers Falls, left the area to attend college at Fredonia and Grand Rapids (Calvin). She has served in music ministry at several churches in Michigan and New York. In 2014 she married Manny, whom she's known since junior high. She serves as our choir director and accompanies school groups on piano, teaches oboe lessons, and is a member of the Woodwind Quintet and Vassar Wind Ensemble. In her "spare" time, she is part time legal secretary to her father, and mother to 2 year old Mance. Baby #2 is due in June.

Manny Valdivia grew up in Wappingers Falls. He attended Savannah College of Art and Design, then lived in Brooklyn, where he was a member of Trinity Reformed Church. He now commutes from Wappingers Falls to CBS in New York, where he works for the show "Inside Edition." A co-owner of Black Mountain Media, a production company, Manny comes to us from Hopewell Reformed Church with son Mance and wife Kate.


Rochelle Valdivia grew up in Manhattan and has lived in California, Queens and Yonkers. She has been in Wappingers Falls for over 30 years. She comes to our church from Hopewell Reformed Church. After a career in the art field, she currently works at Kohl's. In her spare time, she is Nana to Mance and enjoys babysitting for son Manny and Kate. She has been married to her wonderful husband (also Manny for 38 years.

The Bulletin Board

From the Deacons

Mission to Oman Presentation will be held in Fellowship Hall, May 1st at 7 pm. Rev. Josh Bode, minister at Woodstock Reformed Church, has been called to serve as Lead Pastor of the Protestant Church in Oman. Area RCA churches are invited to join us for this enlightening presentation.

From the Women of the Church

 **Sanctuary Flowers** - to place flowers in the sanctuary, please sign up on the flower chart on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board or call the church office. The cost is \$40 a Sunday, payable to "Women of the Reformed Church," at the time they are placed. Thank you for enhancing our worship with your gift.

Needed: Liz Alexander needs left-over, unused wallpaper for crafting take-home arrangement flower tins..

We collect **Box Tops and Labels for Education** as well as **Pepperidge Farms proofs of purchase** for the Menaul School, an independent secondary school in New Mexico, dedicated to providing a holistic education to children from all over the world. Place labels/ box tops in the plastic bag on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board or in the jar under the DuBois House mailboxes.



THE EVERYTHING SALE

Saturday, May 5th, 9 am - 3pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served, and a baked goods table provides snacks & dessert for supper! New or gently used donations (no shoes, stuffed animal or outdated TV's) will be accepted **Thursday 5/3 from 6-9 pm, and Friday 5/4 from 10-5pm.** Please label all your plant donations with the name and care instructions so that we can once again sell every plant!

Help is needed to:

- Pick up donated items (nothing too heavy) and set up on Thursday between 6-9 pm
- Set up and price on Friday 10 - 5
- Pack up and remove left over items after 3 pm, Saturday following the event.

This years' event will be chaired by Dorrie Hansen. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Education building entrance. Contact Dorrie at (845) 896-8307 with questions.

From the Church Office

Please submit names of **2018 graduates**, your relation to them, school graduating from, and future school or job. Lists will go into an upcoming bulletin and newsletter. Also needed: name, rank and service branch of immediate **family members currently serving in the military**, as well as current congregation **Veterans** (service dates, as well). Please send information to office@fishkillreformed.com or drop it off in the church office.

From Worship and Music

The Monmouth County Choir had to cancel their previously scheduled April 21st concert at our church.



The annual "**Easter Story Egg Hunt**" led by Wendy Doerr, during Coffee Hour, is a fun way for the children to learn about the real reason we celebrate Easter.

Annual Eggstravaganza Coffee Hour follows Easter Worship. Please join us in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Connie Kayson at 845-831-2315, if you can contribute deviled eggs.

From Christian Education

The Children and Youth will lead worship on April 29th, with theme "Heroes of the Bible." Pizza and Practice will be held Friday, April 27th, beginning at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Sermon Text Preview meets most Tuesdays, 3 pm in DuBois House Parlor. The informal gathering looks at next week's scripture text and requires no preparation. Just come. Speak with Pastor Gloria with questions.
(Double-check "Parish Visitor" or bulletin announcements calendar for meeting dates.)

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH IN MISSION



Fishkill Food Pantry

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



April is National Volunteer Month & we have much to be thankful for.

We have a team of over 40 volunteers, who perform various jobs, none of which are paid positions. We have 5 teams of volunteers who interact directly with the public and supply our clients with a five-day, three meal per-day supply of food, monthly. Our supply team accepts donations, checks expiration dates and keeps our shelves filled for our front line volunteers. The supply team also orders and picks up weekly from The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley in Cornwall, leaving Fishkill at 7:30 am, loading up to 1,200 pounds of food and returning by 9:30 am. When the van returns, we have another team waiting at the pantry, because the food has to be unloaded, checked and put away.

We have volunteers who pick up food from ShopRite, Panera Bread, Adams Fairacre Farms and Paesano's Bakery. Then they (regularly) deliver the produce, bakery items and meats to us. These are the volunteers you never see, yet they are the unsung heroes who quietly and dependably do their work behind the scenes every week. These functions, although rarely acknowledged, keep the Food Pantry running smoothly; and if something happens in this chain of supply, it's directly felt by the people on the front lines. Thankfully, if we do have a problem with our supply, which happens rarely, someone usually steps in to help.

Many of our volunteers wear more than one hat and do much more than is expected. We also need volunteers to work at food drives and outside functions, and they're there, ready to help. When we have a crisis or illness, someone always steps in to help, and that is heartwarming to see.

Our volunteers have created such a positive environment that we always have a waiting list of people who want to work at the pantry. The volunteers come from many different walks of life, and many volunteer in other organizations such as schools, Meals on Wheels, and libraries. They work with therapy dogs, provide transportation for seniors, and volunteer in many other areas, as well.

We are so thankful and grateful that they chose to be volunteers in The Fishkill Food Pantry.

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. "

Leo Buscaglia

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FishkillFoodPantry>



Boy Scout Troop and Venture Crew 65



February and March have been busy months for Troop 65. The Electronics Weekend campout late in February was a great success. All the scouts enjoyed making hiking sticks, watching movies and also reorganizing the troop trailer. The troop hosted a Thanksgiving style dinner for all the scouts and adult leaders.



On Monday, after the Electronics Weekend, the troop experienced scuba diving with Marsh Scuba at the Marist College pool. The scouts really enjoyed strapping on all the scuba gear and spending some time on the bottom of the pool. See photo at left.

The troop held its annual Court of Honor in March, in Fellowship Hall. Two scouts received rank advancements and ten merit badges were presented. The troop also celebrated the achievement of the Troop's sixteenth Eagle Scout, Robert Berish. Congratulations Robert! Three more scouts in the

troop are actively working on completing the final steps on their road to Eagle.

While a March snow storm tried to dampen our spirits for the campout at Nooteming, the scouts still enjoyed the weekend. They worked on completing cooking requirements and practiced their fire building skills. On March 17th the troop spent the day collecting food at the Fishkill ShopRite for the Fishkill Food Pantry. This event was part of the nationwide Scouting for Food initiative that is held annually in March. The troop collected over 1500 items for the Food Pantry and made a cash donation of about \$50.

April will also be a busy month for the troop. We will be holding another Five Guys Fundraiser on April 11th at the Fishkill Five Guys. All the money raised will be donated to a Boy Scout Troop in the south impacted by the hurricanes last fall. Be sure to stop by for a burger and/or a shake and support this worthy cause. For our April campout we will be traveling to Sullivan County in the Catskill Mountains for a shooting sports weekend. The scouts will be able to try their skills at a variety of shooting sports including archery, BB gun, rifle and shot gun. It should be a great few days.

Thank you for all your support.

If you would like more information regarding scouting opportunities, activities, or service projects, please refer to our websites at www.troop65fishkill.scoutlander.com or www.crew65fishkill.scoutlander.com or by contacting Frank Giusto, Scoutmaster & Venture Crew Adviser, at (845) 453-5706.

Chartered Organization of First Reformed Church - 1153 Main Street Fishkill, New York 12524

Meetings: Mondays 7:00-8:30 PM during the school year at: Brinckerhoff Elem. School, Fishkill, New York 12524



Children's Community Services

What a busy month it has been!! Despite many delayed school openings and cancellations due to snow, we have managed to fill each day with lots of exciting things to do.

Our Open House was held on Tuesday, March 6th and judging by attendance it was a BIG success. Almost all of the children enrolled attended and brought with them much extended family! Our displays featured "Going on a Bear Hunt!"

There was papier-mâché, paint in many forms, texture paint and, of course, glitter! The children painted to music, painted with their feet, made their hands dance in the paint and created the most wonderful backgrounds for all of our animals. When you're three and four, your imaginations are limitless!

Before/After School enjoyed creating the dancing bear and pictures of what they might see on a bear hunt. We hope you have enjoyed seeing their work.

One of the other fun things the children noticed was the green snow left by the leprechaun! The Parent and Tots recreated rhymes: "Five Green and Speckled Frogs" and "Baa Baa Black Sheep."

A great big THANK YOU to Jan Lane and Simone Bolger for volunteering their time to help at Open House. You helped make everything run so smoothly!

We are looking forward to this spring season and all the changes we will see. Who knows, maybe we will be seeing some bunny tracks soon!! Coming up are the Mothers' Tea and Heroes' Brunch.

Happy Spring!

Heather Hansen, Director of CCS

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

Continuing Needs List: cheap paper plates all sizes, wax paper, foil, copy paper, duct tape, masking & scotch tape.

Our Church-Sponsored RCA Missionaries

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

See Mission Trip information on 4th page of this newsletter.

Visit: <http://www.annvilleinstitute.com>, or Facebook: [Jackson County Ministries](#)

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. See entire letter with pictures on Missions bulletin board.

Be sure to check the latest complete newsletters from our regular church-sponsored missionaries, as well as updates from other groups we support with seasonal offerings. You will find these posted on the Missions Bulletin Board, located on the side wall near the rear windows of Fellowship Hall.