



The Parish Visitor

First Reformed Church of Fishkill



1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524

July, 2018



Dear Friends,

In light of my retirement in August, I knew I needed to go through the bookshelves and cabinets in my study, deciding what to keep, what to give away and what to throw in the trash.

It seemed like a simple task. Classics I can borrow from the library. Many of the novels I won't read again. A few books I never cracked the cover on need to find a home, and some are just bad books – either style, content or theology; and I'd rather no one else read them.

A colleague is doing a study of the Ancient Christian Fathers, so he's been gifted with a delightful set of commentaries. Other colleagues I regularly invite to peruse the books in the trunk of my car. A few I've gifted with a specific book along with a preaching stole.

But some books are hard to part with: N.T. Wright's Commentaries for Everyone, Interpretation Commentaries, Mary Oliver's poetry books, books by and about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Cry the Beloved Country, To Kill a Mockingbird, and more than a few others like the Exhaustive Concordance – a humungous volume listing all the words in the NRSV Bible and where to find them. Holding that book, seeing the words before and after the one I am searching, is always amazing. I need to keep that book for a while longer, even though I know all that information is available through simple online searches.

Searches – yes, this congregation will search for their next pastor. And a lot of that work will happen online – saving both time and paper. But ungirding the work and prayer is a Reformed Theology of Call. We trust God is working within the hearts and minds of all the people, and decisions are not dictated, but rather confirmed when pastor, congregation and classis all agree that indeed God is calling a certain person to serve within a specific setting.

On my desk is a document dated March 13th, 2005. It begins with, “the First Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Fishkill Town hereby solemnly and in fear of the Lord, do call you, the said Reverend Gloria J. McCanna to be our Pastor and Teacher.” It ends with, “May the Lord incline your heart to a cheerful acceptance of this call and send you to us in fullness of the blessing of the gospel of peace.” Embossed with the church seal and signed by the consistory and supervisor, the Mid-Hudson Classis approved that call on March 15, 2005.

Searches take time, not everything that pops up, even Wikipedia, is what you're looking for, and sometimes other things distract, taking our focus off the task at hand. And so, solemnly and in fear of the Lord, trust in God, whose love and desire for this congregation is greater than even your strongest desires. For it is the Lord who inclines the heart to give a cheerful acceptance, and the One who sends with the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of peace.

Blessed with cheer and peace,

Pastor Gloria

OUR CHURCH TODAY

JULY CALENDAR



1	Worship 10 am	17	Pastor Search Committee* 6:30 pm
2	Limited Church Office hours this week	18	Finance Committee 5 pm
4	Independence Day Steeple Bell ringing* 10:30 am & Declaration of Independence 11 am	19	“Parish Visitor” articles due
		22	Worship 10 am Summertime Stories* 10:15 am
8	Worship 10 am Summertime Stories* 10:15 am	28	Retirement Party 5 pm
10	Consistory Meeting 7:15 pm	29	Worship 10 am Summertime Stories* 10:15 am
15	Worship 10 am Summertime Stories* 10:15 am	<i>* Indicates article within newsletter</i>	

Please submit articles for the August “Parish Visitor” to the Church Office by July 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 contact list or to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please contact Toni Houston at tonihoustrn@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.

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.

Counting Our Blessings

Thank you to recently retired organist, music director and friend Connie Lacey, for 23 faithful years of service. While we will miss your beautiful music, we wish you the very best in your well-deserved retirement. Congratulations! From your First Reformed Church friends

Dear Pastor Gloria and members of First Reformed, Thank you so much for the beautiful memorial service for my mother, Maisie Minot. Thank you also for cards and condolences that you have sent. We felt surrounded by your love. Sincerely, Jayne Hoffman and family



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.

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

July

- 1 **Doerr**, Gorba, McCoy
- 8 **Houston**, Skorewicz, Utter
- 15 **VanVoorhis**, Kayson, Rodriguez
- 22 **Chao**, Van Nostrand, Sansone
- 29 **Landanno**, Price

August

- 5 **Winkler**, Lane, Dorrie Hansen, Susan Lake
- 12 Ice Cream Social--**H. Hansen**, Raptopoulos, Albra
- 19 **Smith-Cliffe**, Alexander, Wright
- 26 **Covell**, Lanni, Hughes

Readers & Greeters for July, 2018

- July 1** Greeters – Jean Teske and Heather Hansen
Reader – Heather Hansen
- July 8** Greeters – John and Toni Houston
Reader – Toni Houston
- July 15** Greeters – Ruth and Don Porter
Reader – Don Porter
- July 22** Greeters – Julie Sanders and Willa Skinner
Reader – Willa Skinner
- June 29** Greeters – Dana Cramer and Marrijane Raptopoulos
Reader – Marrijane Raptopoulos



Consistory Information

Consistory Notes –June 2018

- Elder Celeste Rudberg led devotions based on John 1. Jesus was born of God, and as believers, we become children of God. Therefore God is our Father.
Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #26 explains the Apostles' Creed statement, "I believe in God the Father Almighty..." God is our Father and we can trust him completely for God is faithful. Celeste closed with prayer
- Liz Alexander has stepped down after more than 2 decades as the clerk of consistory. Linda Baron served as clerk at the June meeting.
- Deacons have approved a ½ share support for RCA Missionaries to the Protestant Church in Oman, Rev. Josh and Erica Bode.
- Fishkill Food Pantry books were reviewed and all records found to be within good audit standards.
- Parsonage sustained some damages from the May storm and insurance claims are being filed.
- Next consistory meeting is July 10th, 7:15pm.
-

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

John Houston, Hopewell Jct.

Stan Saya, Wappingers Falls

John Cliffe, Wappingers Falls

Jim Butcher, Kingston

Marrijane Raptopoulos

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

Search for new Church Organist The search Committee has posted the job description on our First Reformed website (under "Posts"), as well as other websites including the American Guild of Organists. Word-of-mouth advertising is an important part of this search, and we our hope that, in addition to keeping us in your prayers, you will pass on any possible leads to the committee members Kate Valdivia, Roy Carruthers, Don Porter, Ruth Porter, and Rich Lanni. Meanwhile, we will be working in earnest to find the best organist available.

Pastoral Search Committee began meeting under the supervision of classis supervisor, Rev. Mark Mast. Thanks to all who offered to serve on this committee. Members are: Pia Price, Larry Sansone, Jeanne Devine, Barbara Harty, Joanna Houston, Gerry Hughes, Jean Teske, Greg Totino, John Twohig, and Jan Utter.



With Thanks for Our Freedom

We remember in prayer those who have served and those currently serving in the military, and their families.

Those currently serving:

*First Sargent Patrick White US Army
CPL James Boyington U.S. Army
Dr. Jean DiNapoli - U.S. Army Reserves
1LT Eugene Grundy - U.S. Army
Major. Louis Nolting - U.S. Air Force
Jamie Scott - U.S. Coast Guard
PFC Katelyn Singer - U.S. Army Reserves*

*Brenda Smith-Cliffe's son
Connie Lacey's nephew
John Houston's cousin
Kim Grundy's son
Juanita Nolting's grandson
John Houston's cousin
Julie Sanders' niece*

Veterans in our Congregation:

*Roy Carruthers – U.S. Army, 1968—1971
Jim Covell - USAF, 1957—1958
Bud Corwin - U.S. Navy, 1944—1945
Gordon Flayter - U.S. Navy 1968—1972
Alfred Gillert - U.S. Air Force, 1951—1990
John Hansen - U.S. Army, 1965—1967
Chuck Heady - USMC 1960—1963
Lucile Jones - Cadet Nurse Corp.- 1941—1945
Ron Jones - U.S. Army, 1950—1953
Gregory McGann - U.S. Navy, 1965—1969
Gary Serra - USMC, 1984—1997
Don VanNostrand - U.S. Air Force, 1960—1964*

Let us also remember the veterans who have served our country and have eternal rest in our Memorial Garden and Cemetery.

God, our stronghold and defense, we commend to you today those whose task it is to defend us in times of danger. Inspire them in war to serve our country well. In peace, hold them ready and alert. Bless them as they protect and preserve the innocent. In their lives may they bring honor to our country's name. Amen.

Simple Blessings for Sacred Moments by Isabel Anders



Christian Education

Summertime Stories continues Sundays through August, with the exception of Communion Sundays (1st Sunday of the month). **Adult leaders** and adult or youth assistants are **needed** for the following: **July 15th** - assistant; **July 29th** and **Aug. 12th** – leader and assistant; **Aug. 19th** – assistant; **Aug. 26th** – leader and assistant. It's an easy program to lead, featuring a video followed by given questions and answers. Complete (brief) instructions will be given to leaders the previous Sunday." We are only able to have the program when there are volunteers. Please consider serving your church and our children by signing up in Fellowship Hall.



4th of July Church Bell Ringing - John Houston will guide those interested in ringing the steeple bell (242 times for 242 years of independence). Gather in the church, Wednesday, July 4th, at 10:30 am, to participate.

Declaration of Independence Reading - Blodgett's Local History Librarian and FRC Historian Toni Houston will read the Declaration of Independence at Village Hall in Fishkill at 11 am.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH IN MISSION



Children's Community Services

As this is being written, we just finished the school year. Preschool finished with two "End of the Year" celebrations and a picnic at Bowdoin Park. The Before and After School is finished with three half days: pizza party provided by a parent, trip to Wendy's and "Field Day" at Fishkill Elementary School.

We are currently enjoying a one week summer program for the preschoolers, June 25-29, with the theme of "Enchanted Summer Vacation".

We wish everyone a wonderful summer.

See you next school year!

Heather Hansen, Director

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



Fishkill Food Pantry

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

While many are looking forward to their upcoming vacations, we at the Fishkill Food Pantry are not looking forward to seeing the food on our shelves dwindle over the summer months. Summer brings an abundance of produce and, at the same time, an increase in need. The subsidized school breakfast and lunch programs are suspended during the summer and replacement programs are few and far between.

Fortunately, people have stepped up:

We were invited to the Office of the Aging's Annual Senior Picnic, June 6th, where we were the recipient of the 50/50 drawing.



Don, Betsy & Bill, Fishkill Senior Picnic



Hopewell Ref'd Sunday School Food Drive

Hopewell Reformed Church (a longtime supporter of the pantry) Sunday school classes had a food drive for us and collected 46 bags of food, decorated with sunshine and rainbows!

Catholic Charities generously included us in their annual "Stuff the Bus" event, held at area Stop & Shops, which yielded a large amount of food.

Although it's not on our minds as much as it was a few weeks ago, we'd like to thank everyone who responded during the recent Storm, especially Central Hudson and the 1600 people who responded to our Facebook page with ideas and help. We were

able to save eight freezers packed full of food that otherwise would have gone to waste. Again, we're reminded of how fortunate we all are to be part of this joint effort. We were able to save eight freezers packed full of food that otherwise would have gone to waste. Again, we're reminded of how fortunate we all are to be part of this joint effort, responsibility and community resource.

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



Boy Scout Troop and Venture Crew



June was certainly a busy month for Troop 65. Our annual Scrap Metal Drive was held on the first weekend in June and was another huge success. The troop made over forty pick-ups throughout the Fishkill, Hopewell Junction, Poughkeepsie area, collecting everything from old lawn tractors to metal fencing. The boys worked in the Hudson Valley Towne parking lot Saturday and Sunday, separating donated items, recovering any valuable copper, aluminum and brass. The collection of aluminum this surpassed all prior years', totaling over 1200 lbs. The drive collected/ recycled over 58,000 lbs. See photo from the event at left.



In other exciting news, Troop 65 has another new Eagle Scout, our 18th. James Kasper completed his Eagle Board of Review on June 7th. He completed his Eagle Project last fall, designing and building a message board for Geering Park in Fishkill. Please join me in congratulating James on his achievement.

There are still a few events and activities for the Troop in June before the end of the school year. Four scouts will be holding their Eagle Court of Honor celebrations in June and July. It's rather incredible that Troop 65 has had five scouts achieve the rank of Eagle in just this past school year. The Troop held its own Court of Honor on June 18th at Brinkerhoff Elementary School. This was a celebration of those scouts who have completed rank advancements and merit badges on their journey to reach Eagle Scout.

Finally, in June the troop went on its End of Year trip. The scouts had looked forward to the three day weekend camping event to Salem, Massachusetts, all year. We visited the New England Aquarium, Quincy Market and USS Constitution.

The troop's final event of the year will be a week of summer camp at Baiting Hollow BSA Scout Camp on Long Island. The troop has attended summer camp at Baiting Hollow in past years and always had a great week. The boys will be working on merit badges and advancement requirements.

Troop 65 wishes you a wonderful summer. 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:

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

Meetings: Mondays 7:00-8:30 PM during the school year:

Brinkerhoff Elementary School, 16 Wedgewood Road Fishkill, New York 12524

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..

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.

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 north windows of Fellowship Hall.

RCA Urges Support of Immigrant Families

June 22, 2018 letter to all RCA churches

In April 2018, the Trump Administration rolled out a zero-tolerance policy of arresting and criminally prosecuting all adults apprehended by border control for illegal entry. Under this policy, when adults are arrested, they get separated from their children. Even those who are seeking asylum—a legally protected right—get prosecuted and separated from their children.

President Trump signed an executive order to end the policy on Wednesday afternoon, June 20. Although this is encouraging news, many challenges and questions still remain. The administration says it will continue its zero-tolerance policy of prosecuting all adults stopped by border patrol, and many questions still remain about how families will be able to stay together and in what conditions.

Given the seriousness of this issue and the questions that remain, we in the Reformed Church in America believe our Christian witness still compels an informed and biblical response to the situation. So it is in this hour that we make a bold, biblical, conscientious statement that affirms our hopes for this country and for those that are seeking the privileges and freedoms the U.S. has to offer.

We recognize the intent of immigration policies that seek to protect U.S. borders and U.S. citizens. However, we condemn the policy of forced family separation and urge the Trump Administration to find more ethical, humane approaches that preserve the family unit as people seek asylum or citizenship status.

The trauma that is inflicted on children when families are forcibly separated has devastating immediate and long-term consequences. Studies show that children who are separated from their parents are more likely to exhibit delinquent behavior, an inability to empathize with others, long-term psychological conditions such as PTSD, and difficulties with memory and impulse control.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we're compelled to practice a gospel that is "pure and undefiled"—to "care for orphans and widows in their distress" (James 1:27). Caring for the most vulnerable is not optional; it is a calling from Christ. As part of this calling, when defenseless children are torn from their parents, we believe we have a responsibility to respond.

So we pray. We pray for the reunification of families. We pray for the healing of children who have been traumatized and for them to have strength and comfort while they are away from their parents. We pray for people to find homes free from conflict, extreme poverty, and war.

We speak up. We call for more humane, biblical approaches to enforcing U.S. laws at the border and for the reunification of families that have been separated.

We take action. We seek to participate in meaningful work that minimizes and helps heal the traumatic impact on children and families who are separated. And we urge all RCA congregations to join us in these efforts.

Although the challenges are great, we have hope that God will lead us toward a more biblical, humane, and loving way of treating the strangers in our midst.

In Christ,

Eddy Alemán

General secretary, Reformed Church of America

Statement from the Classis of Mid-Hudson

The U.S. Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, the Department of Homeland Security, along with administration officials at the White House, have recently acknowledged the implementation of a new "zero tolerance" policy for families arriving at the U.S./Mexico border. This policy is being used by the current administration to separate families.

We declare that this policy separating children from their mothers and fathers, and its enforcement, is an unjust policy and a moral evil. The psalmist writes, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward" (Psalm 127:3, ESV). Children are not instruments to be used for political purposes and ends. As with each human life, children are gifts and blessings from God. The familial bonds of parent and child are

holy bonds, given by God, and no government shall work to destroy or disrupt the bonds of the family. Further, any state-sanctioned policy or law that results in the dehumanization of any human being, citizen or non-citizen, violates the very basic human dignity that is granted each human being on account of God relating to them as their creator.

As those who share in the common confession of faith that Christ is Lord, we acknowledge that “Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death” (The Theological Declaration of Barmen). It is Christ alone who is enthroned in heaven, to whom every knee shall bow and tongue confess (Philippians 2:9-11). It is Christ alone who stands as Lord and judge over all the kings and princes of the earth (cf. Psalm 2; Revelation 6:12 ff.)

The witness of Holy Scripture is clear as to the mandate God’s people have to love, welcome, and serve the foreigner and resident alien in our midst. Leviticus 19:33-34 (CEB) states, “When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God” (cf. Deuteronomy 10:18-19). The double-love command given by Christ in the gospels, to love God and to love neighbor, upon which “all the law and the prophets hang”, is grounded within Israel’s story and its life with God as given witness in the Old Testament (cf. Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:27).

Further, our very Lord, Jesus Christ, was himself an immigrant and refugee, taken by his parents into a foreign land, fleeing the threat of violence and evil (Matthew 2:13-23).

Holy Scripture calls us, in imitation of God, to show compassion and seek justice for the most vulnerable among us as if we are doing it for Jesus himself (Matthew 25:40).

Romans 13 does not sanction the observance of laws that contradict the justice of God but instead declares that there is “no authority except from God” and that governing authorities are “not a terror to good conduct but to bad.” It calls on God’s people to “do what is good” and to “[o]we no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:8-10, NRSV).

We commit ourselves and our churches, as the body of Christ, to love, welcome, and to seek justice for, all persons, regardless of country of origin or immigration status. As Holy Scripture teaches us: “[O]ur citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Our citizenship belongs to the Kingdom of God, “a great multitude...from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues” (Revelation 7:9, NRSV). It is our Christian duty and obligation to fulfill God’s law: “We must obey God rather than any human authority” (Acts 5:29, NRSV).

We call upon our elected officials and representative government to reverse this inhumane and unjust policy immediately. While we acknowledge the right of nation-states to maintain borders to protect the security of its citizens, we call on our government to act with mercy and justice toward those fleeing persecution and violence in their home countries, risking their lives to seek asylum in the United States for the chance to create a better life for themselves and their children. To maintain the border does not justify the evil and unjust treatment of men, women, and children forced to leave their homeland due to community or state-sanctioned violence, the threat of gang recruitment and related violence, and/or poverty and unstable economic conditions often caused by the economic policies and actions of the U.S. itself.

Finally, we pray with the psalmist that you, O Lord, would: “Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer... [for the] Lord is king forever and ever; the nations shall perish from his land. O Lord, you hear the desire of the meek, you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more” (Psalm 10:15-18, NRSV).

Mid Hudson Classis
The Reformed Church in America
19 June 2018