



The Parish Visitor

The First Reformed Church of Fishkill

1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524

January, 2018

Dear Friends,

Our Advent and Christmas celebrations were filled with goodness and light. We embraced the truth and joy that comes with the mind boggling reality that God has come to us, Emmanuel. As the New Year begins, we have the impossible task for remembering and celebrating the life of Jesus here on earth in less than 4 months. So goes the church calendar! But before we rush ahead, let's pause to reflect on these words from the Gospel of Matthew, "And having been warned in a dream, not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road."

Blessing of the Magi – by Jan Richardson

There is no reversing this road.

*The path that bore you here goes in one direction only,
every step drawing you down a way by which you will not return.*

*You thought arrival was everything,
that your entire journey ended with kneeling in the place you had spent all to find.*

*When you laid down your gift, release came with such ease,
your treasure tumbling from your hands in awe and benediction.*

*Now the knowledge of your leaving comes like a stone laid over your heart,
the familiar path closed, and not even the solace of a star to guide your way.*

You will set out in fear. You will set out in dream.

But you will set out - by that other road that lies in shadow and in dark.

*We cannot show you what route will take you home;
that way is yours and will be found in the walking.*

*But we tell you, you will wonder at how the light you thought you had left behind,
goes with you, spilling from your empty hands, shimmering beneath your homeward feet,
illuminating the road with every step you take.*

Epiphany blessings of light and peace,

Pastor Joia

OUR CHURCH TODAY



JANUARY CALENDAR

1	 Church Office closed	16	Sermon Preview 3 pm Boy Scout Committee 7:30 pm
2	Finance Meeting 5 pm	18	“Parish Visitor” articles due Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
4	Consistory reports due Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	21	Worship 10 am <i>Ordination/Installation Deacons & Elders</i> Sunday School 10:15 am Chime Choir 11:30 am Girl Scout Troop 10524 Venture Crew 65 7 pm
7	Worship/Communion 10 am Chime Choir 11:30 am Girl Scout Troop 10524 Venture Crew 65 7 pm		
9	Sermon Preview 3 pm Consistory 7:15 pm	23	Sermon Preview 3 pm
		25	Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
11	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	28	Worship Sunday School 10:15 am Chime Choir 11:30 am
14	Worship Sunday School 10:15 am Chime Choir 11:30 am		
15	Martin Luther King Holiday- Church Office closed	30	Sermon Preview 3 pm
		<i>* Indicates article within</i>	

Please submit articles for the February “Parish Visitor” to the Church Office by January, 18th, at 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.

Direct deposit of your church offerings is available. If interested contact church Treasurer Roy Carruthers at frctreasurer@optimum.net or (845) 221-9707.



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 Laura Dachenhausen and Dorrie Hansen set 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

January

- 7 **Saya**, Lake, Resling
- 14 **Doerr**, Gorba, Alexander
- 21 **Wright**, Porter, Schallenberg
- 28 **Baron**, Albra, H. Hansen

February

- 4 **Boy Scout Troop #65**
- 11 **Dorrie Hansen**, McGann, Bobb
- 18 **LeDioyt**, Schwenker, Saya
- 25 **Rissin**, Ouart, Van Nostrand

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

- January 7** Greeters – Karen and John Twohig
Reader – John Twohig
- January 14** Greeters – Jan Lane, Dana Cramer
Reader – Willa Skinner
- January 21** Greeters – John and Pia Price
Reader – Pia Price
- January 28** Greeters – Jean Teske and Marrijane Raptopoulos
Reader – Marrijane Raptopoulos

Counting Our Blessings

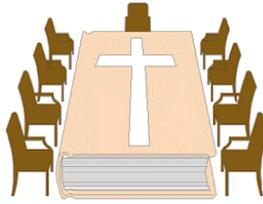
Dear Friends,

As we celebrate God's love poured out in this Christmas season, I also celebrate being a part of a congregation that pours that love onto others. Thank you for your Christmas greetings and gifts of love: The Culinary gift certificate, the beautiful bread tray, olive oil from Palestine and Vermont condiments of honey and syrup. I have never had so many people invite themselves for a meal! And thanks for the Echo Plus, where "Alexa" has promised to play me music, answer my questions, turn off my lights, and keep me on track. It will be fun to learn all the possibilities of this voice controlled assistant.

May the New Year be filled with God's richest blessings for you and your loved ones, *Pastor Gloria*

As we start a new Year, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the Women of the Church in 2017, baking, cooking, helping with our funeral receptions and other mission projects. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to do what we do.

Thank you all, *Dorrie Hansen*



Consistory Information

Consistory Notes – January, 2018

- Vice President Ray VanVoorhis led devotions with a focus of gratitude. Though Paul has often struggled in his relationship with the Corinthian church, he opens his second letter with blessing and thanksgiving. In this season we are called to be thankful and to count our blessings, as we are blessed with the birth of Jesus Christ. God gave his all, and asks us to give our all for Christ. Ray closed with prayer.
- The initial 2018 budget was reviewed and revised. Final budget to be approved in January.
- January 21 is set for the ordination and installation of the elected 2018 elders and deacons: Rich Lanni, Celeste Rudberg, John Cliffe & Marrijane Raptopoulos.
- Confirmation retreat at Camp Warwick is Feb 2 & 3.
- A Lenten Lunch program is being planned for 2018.
- In November, the Food Pantry served 240 households, equal to 12,000 meals.
- Next consistory meeting, for current and new members is January 9, 2018, 7:15pm.



From Christian Education

New **Wednesday Bible Study** begins January 17th. We will use Max Lucado's Life Lessons Series Corinthians II book. Please sign up in the Education Building or speak with MaryAnn Fellin (845 554-9942).

From Worship and Music



We will be taking down all of the Christmas decorations on January 9th at 10AM. As always coffee and snacks will be served. Thank you in advance for your continued help.



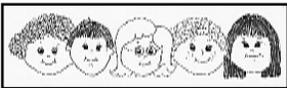
Sanctuary Flowers - to place flowers in the sanctuary, please sign up on the flower chart on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board or call the church office. The cost is \$40 a Sunday, payable to "Women of the Reformed Church," at the time they are placed. Thank you for enhancing our worship with your gift.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH IN MISSION

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. See entire letter with pictures on Missions bulletin board. See their December letter below.

Grace Covenant Ministries, formerly known as Jackson County 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 their November newsletter on the Missions bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or visit: <http://www.annvilleinstitute.com>, or Facebook: [Jackson County Ministries](#)

Be sure to check out 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.



Children's Community Services

What a wonderfully busy, creative, exciting and sparkly time it is here at CCS. There is so much activity at all hours of the program, from Parent and Tots, DeKinder School and the Before/After School Program!

Our littlest friends in Parent and Tots are very excited and amazed at all the wonderful sights and smells that happen each week. Glitter is soooo amazing!

DeKinder friends are busy being their own "Elves on Shelves", baking delicious treats (gingerbread men, gingerbread houses, cookies and other yummy treats). Decorations abound and there are many "surprises" being created for gift-giving. We have also learned about Hanukkah and had latkes.

Before and After School kids are also creative, making their own gingerbread houses and latkes, decorating and - of course- enjoying the amazing color/pattern-changing Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. Pia Landanno and AnnMarie Harris are keeping the music and "ho, ho's" ever flowing.

We here at CCS send our best wishes to all for a very Happy New 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

The Fishkill Food Pantry has ended the year with a flurry of activity, as we have had 23 food drives between October and mid-December. The response from the community has been overwhelming, and every food drive and donation - large or small - is greatly appreciated. Our volunteers have been working tirelessly, receiving, checking dates, counting, then distributing the food to our clients.



Liana with her gift for volunteers

People show their appreciation in many ways. However this year was special, because we had a Girl Scout stop in with a box of healthy snacks for our volunteers, because she knows "they work so hard."

One of our own volunteers made slippers and scarves for the other volunteers. This is above and beyond the fact that she frequently makes cookies for us!



Each new year comes with new beginnings. Some are resolutions, hopes, dreams, promises, and some are just bittersweet. Murray Suggitt and his wife Sheila have moved to NJ after living here for more than 50+yrs



When Murray retired as director of the Food Pantry, we all wondered if he could actually do it and step away from something he had been so involved with for 21 years. He not only did it gracefully, but continued to be a mentor to us until we were able to totally function on our own. There were questions- many questions- which he answered patiently, kindly and knowledgeably. There are few people in our lives who make us feel like we are stronger, wiser and better just from meeting and knowing them. Murray is one of those people .He has made a difference in so many lives. We will miss you, Murray, and you will always have a special place in our hearts.

Follow us on Facebook at

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



BSA Troop 65 & Venture Crew 65



VENTURING-BSA

January, 2018

Troop 65 would like to extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to all the Parish members who so generously supported our popcorn sales event during Fellowship hour on December 3rd. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet and greet the members of the Parish. Your support of our troop never ceases to inspire our efforts for the scouting program. Thank you so very much. The troop's busy schedule has settled down a little bit as we came into the Holiday season! The boys recently camped out at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Westchester County, where they worked on some outdoor cooking skills and other scout requirements. At the end of November, the Troop treated the scouts to a Movie Night, with twenty two scouts and several leaders and parents seeing the newly released "Justice League" at the Fishkill Regal Cinemas. Movie Night has become an annual event that is very popular with the boys.

Troop 65 has a number of scouts working on the final requirements to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Two scouts have already completed this accomplishment this fall and four more scouts are getting close. A photo of Robert Beresh's Eagle Project is at left. Robert installed a statue of St. Francis on the grounds of St. Mary's Church in Fishkill.



Also Matt Seman is hoping to complete work on his project at Kennedy Catholic High School, where he will be refurbishing some outdoor benches on the school grounds.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature forced us to cancel our service project at The Landing Senior's Residence in Poughkeepsie last month. The troop had planned to host a Carnival night for the seniors. This event was a huge success last year and we hope to reschedule it for another time.

On December 13th the troop will be held a community night fund raiser at Five Guys in Fishkill. The Troop has decided to donate all the proceeds from the December 13th Five Guys fundraiser to Boy Scout Troops in the south impacted by the 2017 hurricanes. Many of these troops and scouts lost everything in the devastation and we wanted to help them rebuild their scouting programs.

Finally, the last Troop meeting of the year on December 18th, was a Court of Honor, where Merit Badges and Rank advancements were presented to the boys. They also enjoyed a Secret Santa gift exchange.

Best wishes in the New Year and thank you for your continued support.

To learn about scouting opportunities, visit: www.troop65fishkill.scoutlander.com, or www.crew65fishkill.scoutlander.com or by contact 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 Elementary School - 16 Wedgewood Road Fishkill, New York 12524

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas from a cooler (and dustier!) Niger, where the Christmas bazaar offers camel rides instead of sleigh rides! As we are heading to the US in a few short weeks, we are looking forward to the possibility of a whiter Christmas, just like the ones we used to know. It's funny to think that the ones our children know are mainly brown! In fact, they often sing their own version of the Christmas classic:

*I'm dreaming of a brown Christmas, just like the ones I've always known,
where the orange sand glistens, and children listen to hear camels on the go.
I'm dreaming of a brown Christmas, with every sandy dune in sight.
May your days be sunny and bright, and just hope your head does not ignite!*

Ironically, at our local church, the Christmas tree stays up all year round (see photo below!) As a side note, this photo is from the goodbye ceremony for our colleagues Tom and Aichatou Johnson. They received warm thanks and recognition from the EERN for 15 years of faithful service. We miss them already, particularly as our kids are close friends with theirs. We look forward to being reunited in Iowa.



As our time here is running down, we are trying to tie up many loose ends. At the same time, several projects are still going full speed ahead! At the Dogon Douchi clinic construction site, the subcontractor is finishing the excavation for the footings and will soon begin the foundation itself. The hope is to have this phase completed before our departure. At the same time, our coordinator, Dr. Chako received some additional funds for the nursing school and so Jeremy is working with the construction team to finish as much of the third floor as possible before leaving. This floor contains a classroom, the library and the laboratory where practical nursing skills can be taught. What remains to be finished? Windows, paint, ceramic tile, electrical and plumbing. The outside finish work is also in progress which is a combination of stucco and the front facade being painted. The opening date of the nursing school is still to be determined.

I've finished teaching my two classes for the first year students, genetics and medical English. On the last day of class each of the students wanted a selfie with me (see photo below)! That takes a while when it's a class of 500. They really do appreciate your contribution to their education through the convention between the EERN and the university. My second year class is set to start next week. The new PCUSA missionary Jodi McGill will accompany me for the first few classes and then continue on from there. I'm certainly thankful not to have to teach all of my hours right before we leave.



At Clinic Olivia we are finalizing contracts and procedures for personnel that have remained at the level of verbal agreements for years. It is satisfying to be able to conclude this process before our departure.

In the midst of all of this activity, we have found ourselves strangely in the middle of a maze not being sure which direction to turn. Last month during the biannual General Assembly of the EERN, a decision was approved for the restructuring of the CADR, the development arm of the EERN that we've been working under for the past 10 years. As of yet, it is unclear how and when this restructuring will take place and what changes it will have on the current activities and plans for the future. The proposition would divide the CADR, in particular the clinic, the nursing school, and the guesthouse, into separate sections with separate supervision. This will certainly have consequences for both of us and, of course, for Dr. Chako. As these ministries are currently quite interconnected this will not be a small task nor one without significant impact and consequences. Please pray for transparency, open hearts on all sides, and a desire above all to see the Kingdom advance.

We leave Niger December 18 and plan to return in late July. After a couple of weeks of vacation with our families we will begin our travels with a trip to RCA headquarters in Grand Rapids, speaking at several churches in Michigan at the same time. We then plan to go east to visit a few supporting churches in New York and New Jersey before returning back to home base in Iowa. While we are technically home schooling our kids, it will once again turn into a mobile school with our minivan being the classroom. We look forward to studying US history with all three of the girls and seeing some historical sites in the midst of other travels. We are excited about being able to give many of you updates in person and to say thank you for all that you do to make our service here possible!

We wish all of you joyful celebrations of Christ the Savior's birth,

Susan (for all of the Beebout's)

*Wishing you a 2018 filled with peace on earth
and good will towards all.*