

The Parish Visitor

First Reformed Church of Fishkill

Reverend Dr. Amy Nyland, Pastor

February, 2022



On this cold winter day, I offer you a poem by Mary Oliver called “The Summer Day,”

*Who made the world?
Who made the swan and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

Our lives are brief and our time, energy, and resources are limited, but God is eternal, and God's work on earth will continue until the end of time. We get to play a role in God's plan for humanity no matter where we are in life. As we know all too well, life takes wild turns to places we never even imagined we would go, and yet, we are always able to serve God in any circumstances if we open our minds and our hearts to Christ. What opportunity is God giving you today? What will YOU do with your one wild and precious life while you still have it?

Pastor Amy



OUR CHURCH TODAY

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

1	Book Study* 11 am Education Committee 7 pm	15	Book Study* 11 am
		17	March “Parish Visitor” articles due
2	Worship and Music Comm. 11 am Consistory Reports due	20	Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Sunday School* 11:30 am
6	Worship/Communion 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am	21	President’s Day – Church Office closed
		22	Book Study* 11 am
8	Book Study* 11 am Finance Committee 4 pm Consistory* 7 pm	27	Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Sunday School* 11:30 am
13	Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Sunday School* 11:30 am	<i>*Asterisks indicate information within</i>	

March “Parish Visitor” articles and information are due **Thursday, February 17th**. Please email your information to the church office: office@fishkillreformed.org. Thank you.

You can reach Pastor Amy via email: nylandal@gmail.com or

Church Office (Pat Chism): office@fishkillreformed.org. Phone: 845 896-9836.

Office Hours are M – F, 9 – 3. Please call before visiting the office, to be sure someone will be in the office.

Church Calendar – When scheduling a church meeting or event, please contact the **Church Office** at 845-896-9836 or office@fishkillreformed.org so that it can be listed on the church calendar.

Prayer Chain – To be added to the church prayer chain contact list or submit prayer requests for yourself or others, please email prayerchain@fishkillreformed.org.

Worship service remote broadcasts can be seen **live** on our Facebook page or our website:

www.fishkillreformed.org. At 10 am, Sundays. The **recorded service** can be seen on Cablevision Channel 21 at 3:00 pm, Sundays (*broadcast of previous week’s service*); on Comcast Channel 5 in Eastern Dutchess Co. and Putnam Co., Wednesday, 7 pm and Sunday, 3 pm; as well as on our website under “Sunday Worship Videos.” **To watch live service**, go to the website, click “Online services,” then “more information,” then “live service.”

Due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, Consistory has placed a pause on current in-person worship.

Weather-caused Worship cancellations will be communicated via email, notifications on the church website, WHUD Radio, and FRC Prayer Chain. Recorded services will be available later in the week on the website.

***Coffee Hour via Zoom Sundays at 11 am.** Enter the link below; enter the meeting ID and password.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88145294330?pwd=T3FqQ2NDbFgzeHkvTUI0L2ZnNDVjZz09>

Meeting ID: 881 4529 4330 Passcode: 960282

Our Church website includes our newsletters, worship service links, church history, and Facebook page.

Go to: www.fishkillreformed.org.

Parish Visitor receipt method can be changed by notifying the church office.

Remote Giving – offerings can be mailed to the church office: 1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524, or dropped through the DuBois House doors’ mail slots. You may also use PayPal. See “Finance 101” to learn how.



Our Consistory at Work

December 14th Meeting Notes

- Pastor Amy led devotions comparing the four Gospels, which narrate the story of the Nativity. Matthew emphasizes that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, who fulfilled the prophecies and whom Wise Men came to worship. Mark only contains one line concerning the birth of Christ. In Luke, the simple birthplace of Jesus and the angel appearing to the lowly shepherds emphasizes the kindness and giving nature of the Messiah, who shares His love with all God's children. John's Gospel emphasizes Jesus as Creator of the Universe who brings His light into the world. All are combined into our telling of the Nativity in order to explain the magnitude of who Jesus is and what He brought to this world on the wonderful day of His birth.
- Food Pantry welcomed Kristen Cullen as the new director on the first of December. The dedicated volunteers provided 9,150 meals in November, including over 200 Thanksgiving dinners!
- Treasurer's November report: Total YTD revenue: \$211,350.65. Total YTD expenses: \$ 289,475. The Operating Fund is very low at this time of year. We hope more pledges arrive in December.
- Deacons have designated the remainder of the 2021 Mission budget. An additional gift of \$3,000 will be sent to Renew San Diego. Deacons' Christmas Offering:\$2250 received went to Gift of Hope.
- Property Committee updates:
 - B&L Property Management will provide snow removal and lawn care for the church property.
 - Goldinson glass will replace/repair ten windows in the Education building.

January 18, 2022, Meeting Notes

- Pia Price led devotions based on Matthew 13 (parable of the sower). Sunday School teacher, "Miss Pia" now sees this in a new light: the seed is the Word of God and Pia is the sower, slipping seed in whenever she can, trusting God to make it grow. God is the wonderful giver of gifts. We are receivers of those endless gifts and wisdom.
- Welcome new members: Elders Heather Hansen & John Twohig; Deacons Jeanne Devine & Greg Totino.
- The Food Pantry provided 8,055 meals and 90+ Shoprite gift cards in December.
- Treasurer's and Financial Committee's December report: Total YTD revenue: \$228,222.85. Total YTD expenses: \$328,939.74. Congregational giving in December was down considerably, and the usual significant end-of-year contributions did not appear. Boiler repair, snow removal, and special events added to 2021 usual expenses.

Pledges for 2022 down \$20,000 from 2021. The 2022 budget is based on pledges received through the pledge drive. Our ability to carry out the mission and ministries of our church depend upon the congregation's and community's financial support and the hard work and dedication of our members. Despite the pandemic bringing with it a good deal of uncertainty and challenges, we know that we will continue to meet our financial challenges and do God's work together with your support.
- Annual Congregational Meeting is being planned for March, pending any new Covid issues. The Annual Meeting will provide the opportunity to have the congregation ask questions and let their feelings and opinions be heard regarding dual affiliation with the United Church of Christ.
- Youth Group and Confirmation plans were suspended during January and will remain so through February, but will resume when in-person church services resume, hopefully in March.

Property Committee updates:

We are awaiting scheduling for the repair and installation of 10 windows in the Education building and the installation of crash bars on the doors in the Sanctuary.

Requirements for a new stove in the Ed building are being discussed with the Activities Committee. The Village and EZ Flow will assist with the repair of the Horse Stage Stop in front of the Sanctuary early this year. We are awaiting a proposal from EPDM to repair the leaking Sanctuary Yankee Gutters. R&G Wrought Iron Railing is being contacted to paint and repair the graveyard wrought iron fence. Some maintenance is needed for the Parsonage's deck, gutters, and bathroom.

- We are working on improving communications via our website and social media to notify the Congregation when Sunday services are canceled due to weather conditions. A new plan will be implemented in the next few days, and the congregation and staff will be notified.



First Reformed Church of
Fishkill

FINANCE \$101

In God we trust

John Houston
Finance Chairman

A reminder of where the church spends money is critical at this time. Running a church like ours is no simple task. Over 60% of our expenses are to pay the people we employ (pastor, organist, secretary, and choir director). Although the Food Pantry Director works for the church and her salary is included in our budget, the Food Pantry reimburses the church for all costs related to that position so it does not come out of the General Fund. Property maintenance, which includes the

cleaning service, accounts for 20% of the budget. Support for our Classis, Synod, and missions account for another 9% of the budget. This leaves about 10% of the budget for us to maneuver when it comes to keeping things in order.

Special one-time costs such as those we encountered related to Covid (sanitizer stations, automatic paper towel and soap dispensers, air purifiers, extra cleaning, and equipment to enable us to stream our services) are quite reasonably addressed from our investments. These are emergency needs, and that is why we have this money. We are dependent on our congregation to cover most of these costs. Your pledges are important! Your meeting your pledges is critical!

Processing your offering online with PayPal: Go to the church website, click on "Online Services," and scroll down to/ click on the "Donate Now" button to select an option.

Support from Elders and Deacons

If you need pastoral care, please contact an elder:

Heather Hanson, Fishkill Celeste Rudberg, Wapp. Falls
Pia Price, Poughkeepsie Larry Sansone, Beacon
John Twohig, Beacon

If you need a meal, medication delivered, or a phone call, please get in touch with a deacon:

Linda Baron, Wapp. Falls Victor Chao, Hopewell
Brenda Smith-Cliffe, Wapp. Falls Jeanne Devine, Fishkill
Greg Totino, Fishkill



February

4 – Bill Resling 13 – Dave Alexander 17 – Evelyn Bobb 18 – Catherine Buscemi 28 – Claire Houston



Counting Our Blessings

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who came out in the cold to help put our Christmas decorations away. It was wonderful to see fellowship being shared again. We also completed our task in record time. I hope to see you all when we do this again next year. *Bonnie Chao, Worship, and Music Chairperson*

"Thank you all for the baked goodies for our "At Home Members" and all the wrapped candy goodies. Our friends at home were very grateful. *Jean Winkler, Activities Chairperson*

The Bulletin Board

February Book Study

Pastor Amy will hold a study of the book *Hinds' Feet on High Places* by Hannah Hurnard. It is a lovely allegory telling the story of our faith journey as Christians. The group will meet on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM on Zoom beginning February 1. Please contact Pat in the office to register. The book can be purchased on Amazon for \$8.

From the Activities Committee As we like to show our love for our friends at home on special holidays, we ask for donations of Valentine's "goodies," which we will place in individual gift bags. Please drop off at the DuBois House on Mondays or Wednesdays between 9:30 am and 3 pm, or call Jean Winkler to make other arrangements.

From the Education Committee

Sunday School volunteers and teachers are needed for grades 4 through high school. We meet on Zoom from 11:30-12:15 each week except the first Sunday of the month. The classes are small (2-6 students), and the lessons can be accessed online. Contact Karen MacLeod if you are interested in getting involved in the Sunday School ministry.

Youth Group: Pia Price leads the monthly meetings. In December the group enjoyed a white elephant gift exchange and made gingerbread houses. Vaccinated students grade 6 and above along with a friend are welcome. Stay tuned for upcoming events and dates as we work around pandemic restraints.



Memorial Flowers are placed at our altar on the second Sunday of each month. You can sign up to remember loved ones or to celebrate milestones happening each month. The memorials will be listed in the Sunday bulletin when the fresh seasonal flowers are displayed in our worship service. These flowers will then be distributed at the elders' discretion to those in need or home-bound members. The cost per memorial is \$20.00. Sign up using the Flower form below. Please mail your donation to the church office.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS DONATION FORM

I, _____ wish to donate flowers in the month of _____.
I have enclosed my check for \$20, with "Flower Donation in the Memo" and would like the following to appear in the bulletin _____.

Mail to:

First Reformed Church of Fishkill
ATTN: Flower Committee
1153 Main Street
Fishkill, NY 12524

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH'S MISSIONS



Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless

Thank you to everyone who contributed money, socks, hats, gloves, blankets, or food during the past couple of months.

We are considering the purchase of a shower/washer van that can be moved about to areas where our friends without domiciles hang out. To bring this to fruition, we need three or four more people willing to work as a committee. Paul Smith has volunteered. This need will also be sent to the list of those who participate in SDCH. If you can help out, please send an email to Phyllis Lake (pnlake@gmail.com) or to Paul Smith (Paul.326Smith@gmail.com).

This van would allow us to take services to the people in need who are most often reluctant to go into buildings. It would also be funded in part by Hudson River Housing. We must have this group in place before we can proceed.



Fishkill Food Pantry

1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524

Phone 845 896-4546

Hours: 9 – 12 - M, T and Th, F; Wednesdays 3-5pm



Girl Scout Project Benefits Children of Food Pantry Clients

Our own Chloe Rissin of Girl Scout Troop 10398 has created a book for children of all ages for her Girl Scout Silver Award Project. Silver is the second-highest award a Girl Scout can receive. The book, Arensthan Chronicles, is “a world of fantasy and adventure for anyone who is looking to escape reality for a while.” Chloe presented our pantry with 25 copies to be given out during the holidays. Excellent work, Chloe.



Girl Scout Troop 10398

Girl Scout Troop 10398 got into the holiday spirit by helping out at the Village Tree Lighting and even got their own picture taken with the merry old elf. We have some plans to get outside and get together over Winter Break from school. Our December service project was to collect individual ready-to-eat foods and snacks for the Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless as we had heard their backpack program was in need of some replenishment. The girls were unable to meet in person in January due to the rise in covid numbers, but will be helping out with the Souper Bowl Sunday canned soup drive at St. Mary's Church Feb. 5th and 12th. They will spend meetings working on a set of badges all about social justice and improving the lives of women and girls in our society and the wider world.



IT'S GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME!!! Everyone's favorite time of year will begin February 11th. Send an email to jeanneadevine@gmail.com, and Jeanne will send you a link to pre-order and pre-pay for your favorites that will be delivered in the spring. The girls will use this year's cookie sale profits to attend CampFest at Rock Hill Girl Scout Camp this May and possibly plan a summer campout near the beach.



Children's Community Services



The second half of the school year has flown by! During the entire month of December, the building was filled with excitement. Before and After school was busy making chocolate-covered pretzels to give to the policeman who crosses the students at the intersection every day and for their parents. The DeKinder kids made handprint Christmas trees and wreaths for their parents.



Our collection of PJ's for the Grace Smith House was a success! Thank you to all who donated. The children had a great time wearing their pj's to school, counting and sorting the donated pj's, having waffles and hot cocoa for snack AND watching The Polar Express!



In mid January we will start taking applications for the 2022-2023 school year! If you or anyone you know is interested please call 845.896-9876 for more information.

Happy New Year!

Barbara VanVoorhis,
CCS Director



Our Church Sponsored RCA Missionaries

Josh Bode, Pastor of the Protestant Church in Oman (PCO), founded by the RCA and 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.

RENEW San Diego (the church plant we sponsor) is an inner city church that ministers to the community, including those living on the streets. To learn more, visit their website www.renewsandiego.org. Sunday services with Rev. Matt Nault can be seen/heard by scrolling down to "Sunday Church Gatherings." Select service to watch live. Podcasts are also available.

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.



The focus of the CADR in 2021 was opening Polyclinique Dutsin Ceto. From the time that Clinique Olivia opened in 2012, CADR anticipated opening other clinics in rural areas. Construction on the second clinic began in 2017 and culminated with the successful inauguration and opening of the clinic in March of 2021. Jeremy was instrumental in the construction and human resource aspects. Susan helped with training health care professionals for the clinic and in ordering equipment, medication, and consumables. The majority of the rest of the year was spent preparing the ministries for our absence due to our planned home assignment. The inauguration of Clinic Dutsin Ceto was a very exciting moment for us and CADR. This was not only because it marked the transition between the construction phase and the beginning of operations,

but also because of the excitement and support of the community, which was evident in testimonies during the inauguration ceremony. There were many officials from the local, regional, and national government as well as the Christian community present to show their support for the opening of this clinic.

A second event that took place shortly before our departure for home assignment was a vision-sharing meeting with leaders of the EERN. This was a key meeting for several reasons. Meetings between the EERN leaders and CADR have been infrequent and this provided a moment to come together and share. Secondly, there was a very positive atmosphere that dominated these meetings and one of the primary themes was how to better address sharing the love of Christ with our patients in our clinics.

In addition to the logistical problems we faced in opening the new clinic, home assignment presented its challenges. Our oldest daughter, Lydia, graduated from Sahel Academy here in Niger and began university this fall in the U.S. at the University of Northern Iowa. This has been a time of many transitions for Lydia.

opportunity to build new relationships in an unfamiliar culture to her and her first time feeling the freedom and weight of independence to name a few!

Another challenge we faced, which was not unfamiliar but is unique each time, was the transition for us from ministry in Niger to home assignment in the U.S. This transition brings very different routines, roles, and responsibilities. On home assignment, we are presenters, home school teachers, travelers, ambassadors, advocates, etc. Our children go from school in the classroom to home school. For Eliza, a junior, online classes presented an extra challenge as she traveled with us many miles but often lacked internet during travel. We entered into home assignment not sure what COVID would permit us to do regarding visits to supporters, but we thank God that it affected our overall schedule quite minimally.



Hopes for 2022

- We look forward to seeing how the CADR and the EERN can better partner to reach Muslims with the good news of the gospel through the clinics and nursing school.
- We hope to work closely with CADR leadership to improve sustainability, particularly in the areas of finance and human resources.
- We eagerly anticipate the first graduates from the EERN University, HESPerance. The nurses will be in high demand both at our clinics and elsewhere. •
- We need short- and long-term volunteers in the areas of nursing education, English as a second language, physical therapy, small construction and maintenance, and teachers at Sahel Academy.
- Construction at Polyclinique Dutsinceto will advance as finances permit with an emphasis initially on an imaging block and then, in the long term, a maternity block.

With gratitude,
The Beebouts



Page from the Past



*Anthony Musso, local historian and author, wrote an article for the January 5th "Poughkeepsie Journal" entitled "**Fishkill food pantry was a boarding school 200 years ago.**" He received much of his information from our Historian Toni Houston and Historian Emeritus Willa Skinner.*

The boarding school was established in 1805 by First Reformed Church of Fishkill's Pastor, Dr. Cornelius Westbrook, who served as the school's principal. You can see his picture hanging in the DuBois House parlor. The land was "glebe" property, land available to the pastor to reside on and farm to supplement his income. It had in the past been leased to Thomas Lawrence, who built a house on the corner of Main and Church, where our Education building now stands. When the church bought its lease back from Lawrence, the house became the parsonage for Rev. Westbrook. North of the parsonage was a small building used for the girls' cramped quarters dormitory. The furnishings were sparse and dessert was never on the minimal menu. The 15 girls shared a single bowl and pitcher to wash. The boys' dorm was built north of the girls' and was a 2 story building. The students excelled and many went on to Rutgers, Princeton, Union and Yale colleges. The school here operated until 1853, At which time it was relocated to New Jersey.

After Dr. Westbrook left the school, his school property lease was sold to his nephew and church member William Rapalje. Following William's death, his brother Richard acquired the lease and relocated the girls' dorm house to the northwest corner of Rt. 52 and Rapalje Rd. The charming little house with white fence still stands at that location. Subsequently, our church built in its place the chapel which was eventually replaced by our current Education building.



A larger academy building had been erected north of the former boy's dorm on the portion of the property (now housing our Fishkill Food Pantry). The academy building was converted into an apartment building, which was eventually demolished in 1967. The current building was built as an ice cream shop, later housed a restaurant, and now houses the Fishkill Food Pantry.