



The Parish Visitor

First Reformed Church of Fishkill

November, 2021

Elder Larry Sansone opened the October consistory meeting with this powerful devotional message:

Since we have been talking so much in recent days about the upcoming decisions that we need to make for our church, my mind has recently been given to wondering about the concept of change: what change truly means, and why the concept of it seems to trouble people so greatly and so often. Why does the mere mention of the word invoke fear in so many? Why is the immediate reaction, so frequently, to look backwards and begin anchoring to the past when the need for change arises?



Why do people resist change? This is not a simple question, and one that can be answered differently by every individual who is asked it. However, I think there may be a common thread, albeit one that is intertwined in a complex patchwork quilt of intellect and emotion, passion and preference. Perhaps, that common thread, in its most simple form, is that people resist change because it scares them. It reminds them of their own mortality; that their own lifetime, as precious and meaningful as it is, is fleeting. We may hope that by maintaining the status quo and resisting progress we can stall or slow the upheaval that threatens the comfort we find in our personal history. We may wish for things to stay the same because it is all we know, all we are – but, all we know, and all we are will not remain. The arrow of time guarantees this fact. Tomorrow will always force us forward. We cannot stop it. Nor can we control it. For all prediction, there is no true prescience in life. For all our forward vision, tomorrow is always unseen, and while our memories of yesterday belong to us, the future will ultimately be given over to those who outlive us. We simply won't be there to see it. This concept can be terrifying and is best not dwelt on for too long. However, the point is that we are, at the most creative and industrious heights of our powers, simply stewards of the current time in which we live. We are not meant to live our lives on this earth in order to preserve the structure of the past for future days, but to ensure that a true sense of humanity exists in the present. It is in this way that we can best serve a world that comes after us. This is a world in which we have no true jurisdiction or enforcement. We don't really make a mark on the future, but we can show *those who receive* the future that we lived our past lives, today, with acceptance, kindness, charity, grace, and love. Because these things transcend time. The true goodness we show towards one another slips all temporal bonds, existing in the past, present and future, informing and guiding, leading and teaching, comforting, and healing.

When we approach change in this way, we may come to find that all progress we perceive as disturbing to so-called norms does not actually alter the landscape of our history at all. It simply enhances our ability to observe and react to the current day more clearly, allowing us to be more 'present' in the present. Injustice has always been there. Suffering and sadness have always been there. The forgotten, neglected, and oppressed people have always been there – hidden, but living among us in our shared history all along. Their suffering is not a new development. Nothing has changed there. What changes is our ability to see. What changes is our willingness to react to this need by living our lives today in a way that shows the world of tomorrow what Christ is asking of all of us for all time: that we treat each other with compassion and love.

In this light, we can see that we are never really faced with change, but choice. We can choose to act with indifference. We can choose to respond with anger or fear.We can choose to live with love. We can make choices which respond to the past, react to the present, and demonstrate to the future that, love is the constant by which we live. That regardless of context or conflict, regardless of challenge or loss, regardless of time itself – this one thing, love, does not change.



OUR CHURCH IN NOVEMBER

1	SDCH 7 pm <i>via Zoom</i>	14	Worship* 10 am Sunday School* 11:15 am – 12:30 pm Girl Scout Tr. 10398 4 pm
3	Consistory Reports due Finance Comm. 4 p Education Comm. 7 pm	15	“Parish Visitor” articles due
6	 Set clocks back 1 hour	21	Worship* 10 am Sunday School* 11:15 am – 12:30 pm
7	Worship*/Communion 10 am <i>No Sunday school</i>	25	<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> 
9	Consistory 7 pm <i>via Zoom</i>	26	<i>Church Office Close and</i>
11	Veterans Day – <i>Church office closed</i>	28	Worship* 10 am Sunday School* 11:15 am 12:30pm
<i>*Asterisks indicate information within</i>			

December “Parish Visitor” articles and information are due **Monday, November 15.**

Please email your information to the church office: office@fishkillreformed.org. Thank you.

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

Office Manager Pat: office@fishkillreformed.org.

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 to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please contact Toni Houston at prayerchain@fishkillreformed.org.

Worship service remote broadcasts can be seen **live** on our Facebook page or on 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, 7pm and Sunday, 3 pm; as well as on our website under “Sunday Worship Videos.”
To watch live service, go to website, click “*Online services*,” then “*more information*,” then “*live service*.”

To attend in-person Sunday 10 am service, please contact the church office to sign up. See “*Consistory*” page under “*In-person Worship*.”

***Coffee Hour via Zoom, Sundays at 11 am.** Enter link below; enter 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

Consistory Notes from October 12, 2021 for November PV

- Larry Sansone led devotions based on the concept of change, printed in its entirety on page 1 of the Parish Visitor. Considering the many upcoming decisions and changes facing our church we are reminded that love is the one thing that does not change!
- The Food Pantry provided 8,355 meals during the month of September, a new high! The need was there, and we met it. Preparations for Thanksgiving have begun.
- Repairs have been completed for a leak to the boiler in our heating system and the system is fully operational.
- Treasurer's September report: Total YTD revenue: \$174,477.86 Total YTD expenses: \$232,006.53. The Federal Recovery Act funds have helped us remain ahead of budget but Congregational giving was much lower in September, causing great concern, and the budget deficit is growing. Investments also saw a downward trend in the last few weeks of September. The Finance Committee welcomes any new members who might be interested in joining.
- We thank Evelyn Bobb for her service as she steps down from her position as Elder and welcome Celeste Rudberg, who has been appointed to complete Evelyn's term on Consistory.
- We were so very happy to welcome back the youngest members of our church family as Sunday School classes resumed on Zoom! Volunteers interested in joining as co-teachers one Sunday per month (and getting to know some truly wonderful youngsters!) are encouraged to contact Karen MacLeod.
- Consistory voted to allow Pastor Amy to carry over three weeks of unused vacation time from 2020 to be used by the end of the year 2021. She will be taking some much-deserved time off the week before and after Thanksgiving. Consistory VP Bill Resling will be taking on pastoral duties during her absence.

In-Person Worship

Your consistory discussed Covid restrictions with regard to worship services and has decided to increase the maximum number of worshippers in our sanctuary. They will continue to regularly reevaluate the circumstances and information available to make decisions for the following month.

The current plan is:

- Maximum of 50 people in worship at one time
- Participants must wear a mask covering their mouth and nose throughout the service
- Participants must contact the office to sign up to attend the service (**by 12 noon, Friday**) so we will know how many and who will attend (for scheduling and contact tracing purposes)
- Participants must be fully vaccinated, showing proof at first visit

*First Reformed Church of
Fishkill*

FINANCE \$101

In God we trust

John Houston
Finance Chairman

Budget Time! We have now hopefully received most of the pledges for 2022. It is now time for the Finance Committee to begin the process of constructing the budget for the next year, based on your pledged giving amounts. As was mentioned in earlier articles, personnel costs account for most of our expenses. Put yourself in the position of these employees. Each of them has bills to pay and we greatly appreciate all they do for us. Let's return what is God's to God. Please send your pledge, if you have not already done so. Thank you.

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

Support from Elders and Deacons

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact an elder:

Celeste Rudberg, Wapp. Falls 845 221-9330 Phyllis Lake, Beacon 845 765-0126

Pia Price, Poughkeepsie 845 224-7615 Bill Resling, Fishkill 845 897-5680

Larry Sansone, Beacon 718 309-9583

If you need a meal, medication delivered, or a phone call, please contact a deacon:

Kim Albra, Beacon 845 831-2126

Linda Baron, Wapp. Falls 845 297-0321

Victor Chao, Hopewell 845 221-9015 Brenda Smith-Cliffe, Wapp. Falls 845 474-8685

Manny Valdivia, Wapp. Falls 845 235-3191

Welcome New Consistory Members

The following members were elected at our October 17th annual meeting. Their terms begin in January.



Deacon Jeanne Devine graduated from Carmel High School, Cornell University and Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. She lives in the Village with her husband and 2 daughters Zoe and Chloe Rissin. She has directed our children's choir, helped with Sunday School, and co-chaired the Pastor Search committee. She is also the leader of Girl Scout Troop 10398 and helps out on the Village of Fishkill Activities Comm., as well as at her daughters' school. Jeanne works as a genetic counselor. She is looking forward to serving the congregation as a deacon.

Deacon Greg Totino has attended FRC since age 6. Baptized and confirmed here, he also was a Boy Scout in our church troop. Greg graduated from John Jay High School, attended the College of the Holy Cross for Political Science, and SUNY New Paltz for Journalism and Digital Media. He has been active in church worship since the age of 10, playing trumpet and piano, singing with the choir and helping lead the Children's Choir. He works as Secretary to the Town Supervisor. He looks forward to heeding his calling to serve others in our community by sharing Christ's love.



Elder Heather Hansen moved to Fishkill and began attending First Reformed Church in 1976, after noticing all the activity on our church grounds. John and Heather wanted their four children to be involved and raised in a busy church. She quickly became a Sunday school teacher, and supervised Youth Group trips. In 1981 she joined the staff of DeKinder School (CCS' pre-school program). Last year, Heather retired from her multi-decade position as CCS Director. She has served as both Deacon and Elder in the past and feels blessed to be able to serve once again.

Elder John Twohig has been a member of First Reformed of Fishkill for over 35 years. John and Karen came to First Reformed Church of Fishkill through their son's attendance in CCS's De Kinder School. He has served as both Deacon and Elder and was a member on the last 2 pastoral search committees. A retired social worker, John last worked in a nursing home. Previously he worked in children's services, a hospital setting and services for the visually impaired. John also coordinates our CROP Walk each year.



Elder Celeste Rudberg has been appointed to fill the remaining term of Elder Evelyn Bobb. Baptized Presbyterian, Celeste has been a member of a Reformed Church of America since 1972, joining FRC in 2005. She has served on Consistory in Fishkill as Deacon and Elder and on the Finance and Investment Committees, chaired Elders and Stewardship, and served as a substitute Sunday School teacher. Currently a member of the Worship and Music Committee, she has two sons and a daughter, two grandsons, a granddaughter, and was blessed with a great-grandson in June.



Church Family Members Unable to Join Us

At Assisted Living and Care Facilities

Helen Deneu, Wingate at Dutchess, 3 Summit Ct., Fishkill, NY 12524

Jim and Barbara Moseman, 125 Harry Howard Ave., Hudson, NY 12534

Murray Suggitt, 2500 Ridgewood Road, Apt. 223, Wall Township, NJ 07719, rmsuggitt@aol.com

At Home

George Corwin, 306 Woodmont Rd., Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Dana Cramer, 66 Washington Street 10 C, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Al, Linda & Heather Gillert, 902F The Commons Way, Fishkill, NY 12524

Connie Lacey, 2428 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton corners, NY 12514

Karen Simmons, 17 Taylor Lane, Apt D, Fishkill, NY 12524

Willa Skinner, 30 Charlotte Road, Fishkill, NY 12524

Jean Teske, 21 Patricia Ave., Fishkill, NY 12524

Ruth Wisst, 23 Sidney Lane, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Barbara VanVoorhis, 1344 Route 52, Fishkill, NY 12524

Out of the Area

Dave and Liz Alexander 100 Woodland Pond Circle #427, New Paltz, NY 12561

Dan and Louise Byers, 1 Lyman St. Apt #422, Westborough, MA 01581

Gina Serra, 132 Hasbrouck A Rd., Hurleyville, NY 12747

Sheila Suggitt, 700 Ocean Ave, Unit 501, Spring Lake, NJ 07762, sheilagsuggitt@aol.com

A card, cheerful note or a phone call can provide a ray of sunshine to a church family friend! If you need a call, or know of someone else who does, please contact an elder or the church office.



November

3 – MaryAnn Fellin

8 – Ron Jones*

17 – Richard Bobb

24 – Rick Roberts



Counting Our Blessings

We give thanks for:

BJ Lanni and Lola Saya and their wonderful group of chefs who (in months with 5 Fridays) prepare meals for the Gail Webster House homeless shelter.

Manny Valdivia who has worked hard to update our website.

More Community Fun Day helpers: Joni and Michael Ryan, Emily Richmond, Wendy Doerr, Dorrie Hansen Toni Houston, our Prayer Chain coordinator

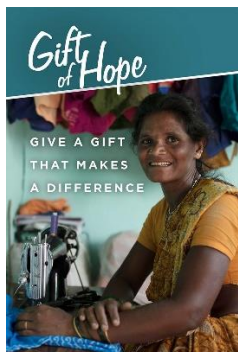
Those who helped to make our Outdoor Sunday Service, Annual Meeting, and Bar B-Q such a success. It was truly a lovely time to worship, catch up with friends and plan for future activities at FRC!

“I would like to thank all of the golf committee and volunteers,, the breakfast cooks, donors and local vendor contributors who made our 16th Annual Golf Outing on September 20th a great success. We had 104 golfers play that day and we made a profit of \$10,300, which will help maintain our 5 buildings!” *Ray Van Voorhis*

The Bulletin Board

Daylight Savings Time Ends – fall back

Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour when you go to bed Saturday, November 6th. Daylight Savings time ends at 2:00 am, Sunday, November 7th. (We “spring forward” again on March 13, 2022)



Gift of Hope As a congregation we supported Samaritan’s Purse for over 23 years, sending over 1327 shoeboxes.

After consultation with Pastor Amy, we decided to try something different. This year, we will support the RCA’s Gift of Hope. This will allow us to support whole families or a community by providing something like a cow, a year of education for a child, or water rollers to provide fresh water. For \$2,012 we could provide one of everything in the catalogue: <https://giftofhope.rca.org/gifts/> If you are interested in helping, you may send your check (made out to "First Reformed Church" with “Gift of Hope” in the Memo line) to the church by December 3rd.

If Samaritan’s Purse shoeboxes remain dear to your heart, or you have already purchased items for your boxes, Toni Houston will collect them through November 7th. Call the church office for a brochure and drop-off times.

From the Education Committee

Sunday School for ages 3 through high school meets weekly on Zoom except the first Sunday of the month when we celebrate Communion. Contact Karen MacLeod if you are interested in getting involved in the Sunday School ministry as a teacher or class volunteer. Pia Price is leading a monthly youth group for fully vaccinated students grade 7 and up. First meeting is Sunday, Nov 14, 6-7:30 PM, including supper. Please contact Pia to attend and complete this form if you have not previously completed it for Sunday School.

<https://forms.gle/6ULUTCX4BcTVjvyg9>

Plans for a confirmation class are in progress with the hope of beginning after the new year.



Looking Ahead Stay tuned as dates for these events are announced:

- Christmas basket assembling (to be filled with goodies to include homemade treats)
- Ugly Christmas Sweater gathering

Memorial Flowers – We look forward to restarting our memorial flower ministry as part of our regular worship service. A big thank you to Bonnie Chao for arranging the beautiful seasonal artificial flowers. Starting in January 2022, the Flower Committee will be doing monthly fresh memorial flowers. People can sign up to remember loved ones or celebrate milestones happening each month. The memorials will be listed in the bulletin on the second Sunday of the month starting in January, when the fresh seasonal flowers will be displayed in our worship service. These flowers will then be distributed at the discretion of the elders as they visit those in need or home bound members.

The cost per memorial will be \$20.00. You can sign up by using the Flower Donation Form below and mailing your donation to the church office, or by using our church website.



FLOWER 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



Fishkill Food Pantry



1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524 Phone 845 896-4546
Hours: 9 – 12 - M, T and Th, F; Wednesdays 3-5pm

It's November again, the time when we officially celebrate Thanksgiving. Having served as Interim Director of our food pantry for over a year now, I feel it's a good time for me to tell you all what I have to be thankful for.

Let me begin by thanking the amazing, dedicated staff of volunteers I've been working with. Unless you've spent time in the pantry you would have no idea how much effort these people put into a volunteer job. Each day they work hard to get food into the hands of those we serve. Without them, I would have been lost and we might not have a pantry.

I would also like to thank all the volunteer helpers who bring the food to us. They bring us products from Cornwall, Bimbo Bakeries in Newburgh, ShopRite in Fishkill, and Adam's in Fishkill. They are dedicated, hard-working individuals without whom we would be in big trouble. And all that food needs to be checked for outdates, sorted and placed on shelves, taking many hands to accomplish that task. Thanks to you who help us do that.

And, special thanks go to the following people and institutions:

St. Mary's Fishkill: continuing, ongoing support

Pat C.: handles our large printing orders

Christa: at Animal Farm Foundation

Nazarene Church: regular support and Backpack program

Katie: Common Grounds

Martha: Second Chance

Andy: Second Chance

Angie: Bimbo Bakeries

Adam's Fairacre Farms: regular weekly donations

Pia: the "Thank You" lady

Sue G.: who, along with BJ, keeps dairy products coming in

Dell and Steve: farm-fresh egg suppliers

ShopRite: our long-time partner in fighting hunger

Harry: caretaker of our property

Diane and Gordon: Facebook coordinators

Bill and Sachi: friends who stock the shelves

Finally, a word of thanks is owed to the many patrons of the food pantry who literally shower us with their very generous donations of food, cash and checks. These people and businesses make it so much easier for us to go about the task of feeding those needing food assistance.

Thanks to all! And, Happy Thanksgiving

Rich Lanni

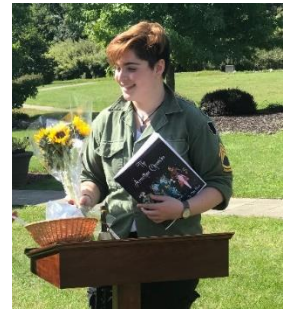
Girl Scout Troop 10398

Girl Scout Troop 10398 – which meets at our church – was busy over quarantine. Even though they could not meet in person for most of 2020 or 2021, two of the members managed to achieve their Silver Award, which is the second highest award in Girl Scouting.



Zoe Rissin is the architect and builder behind the brand new Little Free Library on the playground in front of the Education Building. Zoe wanted to share her love of reading with the children of Fishkill and decided to pick up some power tools and learn how to draw up and follow her own building plans to construct a sturdy library box as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award. The library has been registered on the National Little Free Library website so that people all around the world can find our little village and stop by to take a book or leave one. We ask only that you limit book donations to children's books in the preschool to 6th grade reading levels. If you are lucky you may even find a copy of her sister's new book, *The Årensthan Chronicles*, waiting to be shared.

Chloe Rissin wrote and illustrated an adventure story and coloring book for children as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award project. She will be donating 25 copies of the book along with packs of colored pencils to the Food Pantry for distribution to children in need at Christmas time. The book is called the *Årensthan Chronicles* and is an adventure story about a missing princess, a cash reward, and a dragon who may be responsible.... or is he? Chloe has been writing and drawing since she could hold a pencil or even a crayon and was very happy to share her talents with the community. Digital copies of the book will be available as soon as they finish setting up their website, www.tidepoolcomics.com



Children's Community Services

Time sure flies when you're having fun! The Before and After School kids are happy to have new friends to play with. DeKinder is settling into our routine of play, story time and craft. Parent & Tots children are very busy just being with others their size!



October is all about discovering everything Autumn! We've gone apple picking at Meadowbrook Farms, painted some leaves and will having some fun making ghosts, bats and pumpkins for Halloween.



Picking apples



A taste of heaven!



Friends together

In November we'll learn about being thankful for our family, be it the one at home or school, and how to show people you care.

Stay safe, healthy and happy!
Barbara VanVoorhis, CCS Director



Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless



SDCH November Drive

We continue to fill food bags which the library and police distribute. We filled enough in early October, thanks to your generosity, that we are shifting our focus to the upcoming winter needs of those without shelter in our area. Our area homeless population has grown greatly during the pandemic, and the winter months are particularly difficult for those without adequate shelter. During the month of November, we will collect **white socks, knit hats and emergency blankets**. A collection box will be on the DuBois House back porch. As always, we thank you for your help. If you would like to help with or participate in SDCH, please contact Bill Resling or Phyllis Lake

Christmas gift shopping idea. Last Christmas, I purchased for my son and daughter-in law (who feel they have been blessed with more than they need) a pretty blanket from www.sackclothandashes.com. For every blanket you purchase, they donate a fleece blanket to your local homeless shelter. As we had previously decided not to exchange gifts and old habits are hard to break, I went this route. I received more thanks from them (for this gift that also helped someone in need) than I received from any child or other adult who received gifts that amounted to excess. I was sold after reading about “Sackcloth” first in a magazine and then on their website. There are plenty of gifts available out there from other companies who also “give back.”



I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.” Matt. 25: 40



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.

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.

RENEW San Diego (our sponsored church plant) 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.

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.

Did you know? You can access plenty of information about the Reformed Church of America on their website. Enter www.rca.org into your browser. You can find interesting letters from our sponsored missionaries and information about almost anything having to do with the Reformed Church of America.