



# *The Parish Visitor*

*First Reformed Church of Fishkill*

*1153 Main Street, Fishkill, NY 12524*

*December, 2021*



*Dear friends and family of First Reformed Church in Fishkill,  
Grace to you, and peace!*

*During this Advent Season, it is my prayer that each of you would find opportunities to reflect on your faith and your relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. Whatever it is that our hearts and souls desire, we know that our desire is only fulfilled in Christ Jesus. For this reason, we are filled with joy at Christmas to know that all that we hoped for has been fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child.*

*Advent is also a time to reflect on our relationships with our families, both in and out of the church. May we each find opportunities to bring light into dark places, to be peacemakers where there is conflict, and to uplift and encourage one another. As bearers of the Christ-light, we are called to love one another and to support one another; to bring the love of God to every encounter.*

*In the midst of all our current challenges and concerns, the love of God is made manifest to us in the magnificent gift of His Son, Jesus. With the angels in Bethlehem, our faith moves us to sing, "Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth!" We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our recognition and praise of God in every area of our lives.*

*Christmas is a wonderful time to put aside past differences and old habits and begin a new, prayerful relationship with the God and the church community. I extend to all of you, beloved of God, my wish for a joy-filled Christmas season. Together, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate together God's presence in our lives and God's dominion over all things of this world. How blessed we are to know and serve God!*

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, born on Christmas Day, bless you, your families and loved ones at this time of miraculous hope and grace. May God watch over you and our beloved church now and forever. Amen.*




*Pastor Dy*



# OUR CHURCH TODAY



## DECEMBER CALENDAR

1	Advent Bible Study* 7 pm	13	January "Parish Visitor" articles due
5	Advent II Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15*	14	Consistory Meeting
		15	Advent Bible Study* 7 pm
7	Consistory Reports due Finance Comm. 4 pm Christian Ed. Comm. 7 pm	18	Ugly Christmas Sweater raindate 5 pm
		19	Advent IV Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am
8	Advent Bible Study* 7 pm	21	First Day of Winter
9	CCS Pajamas due*	22	Advent Bible Study* 7 pm
11	 Ugly Christmas Sweater Potluck* 5 pm	24	Christmas Eve Services 2 pm & 7 pm 
12	Advent III Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Girl Scouts 4 – pm Youth Group – 6 pm	25	<i>Merry Christmas</i> 
		26	Worship – Lessons and Carols 10 am
		27 - 31	Church Office closed
<i>*Asterisks indicate information within</i>			

January "Parish Visitor" articles and information are due **Monday, December 13th**. Please email your information to the church office: [office@fishkillreformed.org](mailto:office@fishkillreformed.org). Thank you.

You can reach Pastor Amy via email: [nylandal@gmail.com](mailto:nylandal@gmail.com) or

Office Manager Pat Chism: [office@fishkillreformed.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:prayerchain@fishkillreformed.org).

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

[www.fishkillreformed.org](http://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](http://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 November 9, 2021

- Brenda Smith-Cliffe led devotions based on Ecclesiastes 3... “For everything there is a season”. The season we live in seems to be filled with anger. We must slow down, remember our plans are not God’s plans, and ask Him to watch over us, guide us, forgive us and help us to walk in His light in these troubled times.
- As of Nov. 21st, there will be no limit on how many people can attend worship.
- The Food Pantry provided 7,635 meals during the month of October. Wednesday hours are 2:30-5:00 pm.
- Treasurer’s October report: Total YTD revenue: \$191,554.03. Total YTD expenses: \$264,863.93. There is concern about diminished congregational giving. Total income has been propped up by the government PPP loan this year. Significant property repairs/issues raised total YTD expenses. Finance Committee is creating the 2022 budget based on the pledges that have been received. Investments continue to do well.
- Deacons’ Thanksgiving offering to benefit Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless.
- Consistory approved offering position of Food Pantry Director to Kristin Cullen, a volunteer whose work with the FP plus experience as nutritionist and dietician are excellent qualifications for position. We are very grateful to Rich Lanni for his hard work and dedication as interim director over the last few months.
- Pastor Amy will lead online Advent Bible study Wednesdays in December. It will focus on Nativity story as told in the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.
- Confirmation classes are being planned for January or February, possibly at Warwick. Five youth have expressed interest in attending.
- Youth Group under the leadership of Pia Price will hold first meeting Nov. 14. They will make “Advent to Go” boxes for the youngest Sunday School children!
- SDCH continues to distribute food bags through the library. Please contact Phyllis Lake if you know someone who needs one.
- Property Committee updates:
  - New snow removal contractor(s) being sought to remove snow on sidewalks, parking lots and driveways.
  - The Education building boiler work has been completed; the fire alarm system repaired; new generator installed in Food Pantry; automatic sterilizers, soap and paper towel dispensers installed in church buildings; and three portable filtration systems installed in sanctuary (to help lower the risk of aerosol spread).
  - Contractors have been contacted to make repairs to DuBois porch steps and ramp, sanctuary gutters, wrought iron fences in cemetery; and parsonage.
  - Safety cones will be put on horse stage stop until repairs can be made in Spring.
  - Ten windows in the Education Building need to be replaced in order to meet safety code requirements.
  - Due to safety concerns with lighting commercial ovens in kitchen, we hope to replace them with one or two large, user-friendly ovens to meet our needs more safely. Sale of existing ovens is possible.
  - Addition of crash bars on sanctuary doors to ensure the safety of congregation is being explored. A company which did previous work for us has been contacted, to ensure historical feel and beauty of sanctuary is not compromised, while still providing security for those who gather. The need for additional safety is a sad and unfortunate aspect of our current times, but one that we can’t ignore.

### In-Person Worship

As of Nov. 21st, there will be no limit on how many people can attend worship. Masks and distancing are still required. Vaccinated children may attend. Children too young for vaccination (under age 5) may also attend. Masks will be required for children over 2. An Elder will be at the door to check vaccine cards and medical exemptions for first time attendees. We hope to be able to resume Coffee Hour soon as well!

The current plan is:

- Participants must wear mask covering both 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 potential contact tracing purposes)
- Participants must be fully vaccinated, showing proof at first visit unless they can show doctor’s note stating medical exemption.



*First Reformed Church of  
Fishkill*

**FINANCE \$101**

*In God we trust*

John Houston  
Finance Chairman

December is a month when a lot of us try to wrap up another year in good fashion. What have we not yet done? Is there something we are a very grateful for from this past year? This is the time to ensure we have met our pledge for the year, or perhaps consider a special thank you in the form of a donation to the Thanksgiving or Christmas Offerings, which are typically designated to help persons or an organization in great need. You can make a difference!

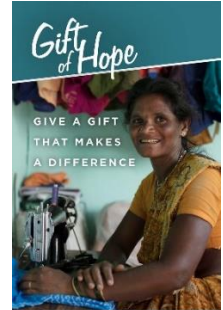
John Houston, Chair of Finance Committee

**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.

### *Deacons' Christmas Offering*

**The Christmas Deacon's Offering will go to the RCA's Gift of Hope.** This gift will allow us to support whole families or a community by choosing from gifts of livestock, education aid, clean water, refugee aid, and many, many other options. Enter <https://giftofhope.rca.org/gifts/> in your browser to learn more.

If you donate, please send your check (made out to "First Reformed Church" with "Gift of Hope" in the Memo line) to church or drop through the DuBois door mail slots.



### *Support from Elders and Deacons*

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

Celeste Rudberg, Wapp. Falls                      Phyllis Lake, Beacon

Pia Price, Poughkeepsie                              Bill Resling, Fishkill

Larry Sansone, Beacon

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

Kim Albra, Beacon                                      Linda Baron, Wapp. Falls

Victor Chao, Hopewell                              Brenda Smith-Cliffe, Wapp. Falls

Manny Valdivia, Wapp. Falls

### *Church Family Friends Unable To Join Us*

#### ***In Assisted Living and Care Facilities***

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

Connie Lacey, c/o The Pines, 100 Franklin St., Rm. 313, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Murray Suggitt, 2500 Ridgewood Road, Apt. 223, Wall Township, NJ 07719, [rmsuggitt@aol.com](mailto: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

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

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

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

Sheila Suggitt, 700 Ocean Ave, Unit 501, Spring Lake, NJ 07762, [sheilagsuggitt@aol.com](mailto: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.*

# The Bulletin Board



Ugly Christmas Sweater Potluck Dinner – Saturday, Dec. 11th, 5 – 8pm (snow date, 12/18) in the Fellowship Hall. Full vaccination is required to attend. Come dressed in your ugliest, prize-winning Christmas sweaters. We will enjoy music, games, great food and those festive seasonal fashions!

## From the Education Committee

**Sunday School** for ages 3 through high school meets weekly on Zoom except the first Sunday of the month. The youngest students will see Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the wise men in their December lessons. The middles are learning about God’s steadfast love and great mercy. Our oldest class will use Revelations in its Christmas lesson. Contact Karen MacLeod if you are interested in getting involved in the Sunday School ministry as a teacher or class volunteer.

**Youth Group:** Pia Price led our first meeting on Sunday, Nov 14. Six youth attended and enjoyed pizza and games. Next meeting: Dec. 12 at 6 PM. Vaccinated students grade 6 and up along with a friend are welcome. Please contact Pia Price if your student plans to attend.



**Bible Study led by Pastor Amy** meets Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 7 pm.

The study focuses on the nativity story in the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). We will compare the stories and look at how they differ, and the theological implications of those differences. The class will discuss how the telling of the nativity story impacts our understanding of the incarnation. Contact the church office to sign up.

**Webster House Shelter Meal:** We have the dinner meal at Webster House on NEW YEAR’S EVE!! The good news is that we don’t have it again until April 29th! We have cooked a turkey and will deliver to you a pan, recipe, insulated bag, spaghetti and TURKEY! We just need you to put it together with a few other ingredients and cook it! There will be more to follow. Lola and I are very thankful for all of you! BJ

**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



## December

1 – Linda Rush	14 – Helen Deneu	19 – Ruth Wisst
19 – Jordyn Cerrone	27 – Linda Gillert	31 – Ava Falcone



## Counting Our Blessings

Special “Thanks” to the *unsung* heroes who make FRC look cheerful and bright!

Due to physical limitations this year, I have been unable to do my regular work in the flower gardens. I am so grateful for the team who pitched in and went beyond expectations to maintain the gardens to their usual beauty. Special thanks to my faithful sidekick, Harry Guzi, who has worked on the church grounds virtually everyday, including cleaning up walnuts and fallen leaves! Ginnie Styles, Dot Keller and Dave Quart have spent hours weeding and pruning. Without their faithful work, the gardens would not have happened.

*Don Porter* (Thank you to Don for coordinating all this work!)

Thank you to Ed Winkler for the many hours you spent cleaning, painting and hanging new signs on the interior DuBois House doors.

Thank you to Bonnie and Victor Chao for decorating our church properties for the Christmas/Advent season.

## FIRST REFORMED CHURCH’S MISSIONS



### Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless

Formed by our church, SDCH consists of representatives from area churches and provides emergency food and personal item bags for our homeless neighbors. The Thanksgiving offering was a much-needed and appreciated gift, as it will help SDCH to continue to provide food/personal items and laundry services to these folks during the cold winter months ahead. Items donated during our November drive (knit hats, socks, gloves and thermal blankets) will help keep our homeless neighbors warm. Thank you for all your contributions.

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



### Fishkill Food Pantry

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

### *Meet our new Fishkill Food Pantry Director:*



Kristen Cullen is a mother, wife, friend, volunteer, and leader. She has been volunteering at the Fishkill Food Pantry for almost 2 years as a way to give back to the community. By trade, Kristen is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator for 30+ years. She plans on using this knowledge to help educate others at the Pantry and have a positive influence on clients’ health.

Kristen has been married to her best friend Brian for 30 years. She has two young adult sons (Brendan, 21, Patrick, 19) Labradoodle (Duchess) with whom she enjoys spending a lot of time.

Kristen is a long-distance runner for over 40 years and has completed 10 full marathons.

She also regularly practices yoga, lifts weights, hikes, and loves kickboxing.

We congratulate Kristen and look forward to working with and supporting her in her new role as Director!



## Girl Scout Troop 10398

Girl Scout Troop 10398 is beginning to plan for winter service opportunities as well as some fun events to strengthen our sisterhood. The girls gave out cookies on Veterans Day and helped with Fall cleanup day at church. They are beginning to collect needed items for the Food Pantry and would be happy to help the SDHC with donations/drives for where they see a need as we enter a colder harsher season. For fun, the girls are planning a trip to the 'escape room' and maybe a spin around the Go-Kart track at the mall while we wait for the snow and ice to set in so we can plan some winter outdoor fun. The girls are also interested in some of the life-skills badges, and we'd love to have some local 'experts' work with us on things like finances and auto-repair. Please contact Jeanne Devine if you have any 'life skills' you'd like to share with a small group of high school Girl Scouts.



## Children's Community Services



The DeKinder children had a great time celebrating Halloween. The 3's had a scavenger hunt for Halloween treats and the 4's went "Trunk or Treating" by the stone wall of the parking lot!



November brought us some mild weather and we were able to explore outside all that Autumn brings. Leaves and acorns were collected to examine and to create some crafts. The 3's even made their own playdough to shape into squirrels to hold an acorn!



Starting in December we will be collecting pajamas for women and children (sizes newborn and up, for girls and boys) to give to the Grace Smith House in Poughkeepsie. The DeKinder children will have a PJ party on Dec. 9th where we will count how many PJ's we receive and box them up for delivery. If you would like to participate please drop items off no later than Dec. 10th.

The CCS staff and I greatly appreciate all support we have received this year and wish everyone a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas!

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.

**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 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](http://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.

**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](http://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. *Their current newsletter follows:*

Hi friends,

Covid is catalyzing us to rethink the way we reach, serve and invite our friends into the life of the community. One unforeseen benefit of connecting online along with children's ministry videos from my wife Florence is that now our skeptical, "spiritual but not religious" friends can access the life of the community and hear the gospel from anywhere, at any time. And they are!

For example: at a concert in a main plaza in downtown San Diego, I was amazed by the headlining musician named Blaise, who captivated the crowd at this outdoor concert. A mutual friend introduced me to Blaise between sets. He smiled and exclaimed, "I already know who you are. You're Pastor Matt! I've been a part of Renew Church online for several months and it has reconnected me to Christ. This has been so good for me that I'm sharing it with my mom!" This began a pastoral relationship with Blaise as he is reuniting with God, reconnecting with community and finding deeper meaning in his music as he shares God's creativity and beauty with the world. This story signifies a larger theme: God is at work in ways we see and thousands of ways we don't.



During the peak of Covid when we were only able to meet online, a single mother with chronic health needs joined the Renew Community. She became connected to the church through online worship services, Zoom community groups, and pastoral phone calls. Though we hadn't yet met in person, the church was able to financially and emotionally support this amazing woman when she lost her housing and faced homelessness. Now, she is in safe housing with a community of people surrounding her as she addresses challenges with hope.

We recently hired a phenomenal woman named Jordan Mageo, who is the first full-time hire on Renew's ministry team besides myself! Jordan is strengthening our capacity to reach out to our neighbors through her online/social media background and is enriching the worship experience Sundays through her musical talent. This "hire for growth" is an act of faith which is possible largely because of your financial support of Renew Church. I hope you feel joy and a sense of partnership as you hear about the increased ways Renew is serving as an outpost of resurrection light and life! Jordan's husband, Brian is joining our ministry team in a part-time role to develop a youth group for the growing number of older children in the community. He's also a brilliant musician and a deep theological thinker working on dual Master's degrees in Theology and Divinity. Brian adds to the depth of our ministry, and I'm honored to help shape and develop him in these early stages of his ministry calling!

Peace to you!

Matt





*Wishing You  
a  
Christmas Season  
Filled with  
Peace and Joy*

*Pastor Amy Nyland,  
Christine Johannsen, Kate Valdivia, Pat Chism,  
Barbara VanVoorhis and Kristen Cullen  
Staff of First Reformed Church of Fishkill*