



Beloved Congregation,

As I write this, we are in the middle of a break from the cold weather. The last month has been cold and snowy. Ice has covered the walkway from my house to my car for weeks at a time. But today and the past few days feel almost spring-like. I needed this little break from the cold, and it reminds me that God knows what we need and provides it. If we pay attention and are oriented toward God, sometimes we recognize God's provision. Of course, I know this break in the weather is not specifically for me; it is for all of us. It reminds us that God provides what we need.

As a Midwesterner, I grew up thinking about and talking about the weather regularly. Whenever I talk to my friends and family in the Midwest, the opening of most conversations goes like this:

Me: Hi! How are you?

Friend: I'm good, how are you? What's the weather like by you? I saw on the news that you were getting some snow.

Or something along those lines. Why do we do that? Because much of our lives are defined by the weather. The weather forecast determines our plans, clothing choices, and whether to carry an umbrella or gloves. No matter where we live, we see God's provision and sovereignty in the weather. It is something over which humans have no control at all. Because of that, we have the opportunity, when we pay attention to the weather, to acknowledge God's sovereignty. Snowstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes all demonstrate our powerlessness and God's control.

The same is true of our salvation. It is God who offers redemption and renewal. We cannot bring it about on our own any more than we can bring about warm weather. We cannot earn or lose it; it is in God's control. We can simply be grateful. We can acknowledge it and do our best to recognize the grace God offers us every day. We can share the abundance we have been given with others.

As we enter into the season of Lent and the part of winter that is still cold and dreary, let's do our best to acknowledge the grace we have been given and the grace that is yet to come. Let's be grateful that we are not in control and allow God's will to determine our own. Let's look forward to spring when we will see God's renewal on full display just as we will see it on the cross and in the empty tomb.

Grace and peace,



OUR CHURCH IN MARCH

1	Worship and Music Comm. 11 am Education Committee 7 pm	15	Consistory 7 pm
		17	Happy St. Patrick's Day  Lenten Study* 7 pm March "Parish Visitor" articles due
2	Ash Wednesday Drive-through* 10 – 11 am; 12 – 1 pm;  5 – 6 pm; 7 – 8 pm		
3	Lenten Study* 7 pm	19	Consistory Retreat 10am – 3pm
6	Worship/Communion 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am No Sunday School Confirmation class* 6:30 pm	20	1st Day of <i>SPRING!</i> Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Sunday School* 11:30 am Girl Scouts* 4 pm Confirmation class* 6:30 pm
7	Sou. Dut. Co. for Homeless 7 pm		
8	Consistory Reports due Finance Committee 4 pm		
10	Lenten Study* 7 pm	24	Lenten Study* 7 pm
13	Daylight Saving Time begins  Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Sunday School* 11:30 am	27	Worship 10 am Annual Meeting* 11 am
		31	Lenten Study* 7 pm
<i>*Asterisks indicate information within</i>			

April "Parish Visitor" articles and information are due Thursday, March 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: in-person *Mon./Wed.*; *remote Tues., Thur., Fri.* Please call before visiting.

Church Calendar – When scheduling a church meeting or event, please contact the **Church Office** to 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 in person begins at 10 am, Sundays. Please arrive and be seated by 9:45 am.

To watch live online service, go to the website, click "Worship with us," then "live stream online service."

Remote broadcasts can also be seen **live** on our Facebook page or website.

Recorded services 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."

Weather-caused Worship cancellations will be communicated via email and 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 – See "Finance 101" for payment and submission options on the next page.



Our Consistory at Work

February 8, 2022, Consistory Meeting Notes

- Linda Baron led devotions considering how we perceive and pray to the Holy Spirit and its role in our lives. It is harder to relate to the Spirit than to the Father and the Son, but New Testament tells of his presence, of the countless times he fills both Jesus and disciples with power, wisdom, courage, and joy. Jesus told disciples at Last Supper that when He is no longer with them, his Father will send the Holy Spirit, the next Advocate, who will stay with them forever...teaching, guiding, strengthening them, and interceding to God on their behalf. The Spirit is both God's gift and the Giver of spiritual gifts and God's presence in each one of us.
- Sanctuary will be open for Sunday worship beginning February 20th. No sign-up is needed. Masks, full vaccination, and social distancing are still required. Arrive no later than 9:50; service begins promptly at 10:00.
- Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in Sanctuary on March 27th after the worship service. Attendance is encouraged as the main focus of the meeting is the restructuring of the RCA and our reaction to current national and state RCA leadership actions. Local pastors and church members experiencing the changes within our denomination will join us for discussion. The meeting will provide opportunities for the congregation to listen, question, and let their feelings and opinions be heard.
- Fishkill Food Pantry provided 7,545 meals in January.
- Treasurer's and Financial Committee's January report: Total YTD revenue: \$25,369.96. Total YTD expenses: \$27,998.47. January giving was higher because of Annual Gifts received, but Operating Fund shows a negative balance of \$21,000. Money is being transferred from Investments to cover last year's deficit. We are exploring the use of social media (Twitter and Instagram), and Amazon Smile to both make our church's presence more widely known and open other avenues to increase giving. We are hopeful that we will see a balanced budget once we can return to normal activities and attendance.
- Investments are currently down following stock market fluctuations.
- Christian Education News: We currently have five youth interested in being confirmed! Each will have a mentor to walk with them on their faith journey as they meet in pairs and small groups for eight sessions, using the "I Believe" curriculum. Pastor Amy will facilitate some of the meetings, and some church members will share stories of the Holy Habits, which keep them growing in faith.
- Sunday School teacher needed for grades 5-10. The role provides a learning experience for both children and adults.
- Property Committee updates: Repair/installation of 10 windows in the Education building has begun, providing greater safety for the children and adults who utilize this building.



John Houston
Finance Chairman

*First Reformed Church of
Fishkill*

FINANCE \$101

In God we trust

This month I want to focus on how you can give money to the church. There are several:

1. Cash or checks made out to the church. These may be dropped in the plate on Sunday, dropped through the mail slots in either door of DuBois House, or checks can be mailed to the church. Pledges may be paid weekly, monthly, or annually, whichever is more convenient for you.

2. Direct deposit – Contact Roy Carruthers, our Treasurer, who can set you up to have the pledge taken directly from your bank account monthly

3. PayPal – You can make payments directly online via PayPal. Click on the Donate Now button located under "Church Services." It is important to know that you do not have to have a PayPal account to make donations this way.

4. Gifts of stock directly to the church. By donating stock worth significantly more than what you paid for it, the church gets the benefit of the donation, but you do not have to pay capital gains taxes. Please contact Roy Carruthers, Gordon Flayter, or me for details on how to do this to take advantage of these benefits.

5. Gifts from your retirement funds. Again, there are tax advantages to doing this. Please contact Investment Committee Chairperson Gordon Flayter for details.

John Houston, Chair of Finance Committee

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



The Deacon's Christmas Offering collected during the month of December amounted to \$2520, thanks to your generosity. We received a thank you card from our selected recipient, RCA's Gift of Hope. We earmarked \$1000 for Brazil medical doctor support, \$750 for Philippines' mission, \$450 for Audio Bibles, and \$320 for Jamaican CCCD scholarships. CCCD, "Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf", is a ministry that shares the gospel of Jesus Christ to the deaf of Jamaica."



March

3 – Barbara VanVoorhis
11 – Pat Chism
23 – Karen Simmons
28 – Antje Landanno

6 – Rebecca Chao
18 – Dana Cramer
26 – Bud Corwin, Owen Skorewicz, Nick Miles
30 – Pastor Amy

10 – Karon Perry
20 – Juanita Nolting
31 – Rich Faulkner



Counting Our Blessings

Congratulations to Holly Rodriguez, who won 1st place for her reel and hop jig at her February 4th Irish Step competition on Long Island on February 4th. It was an exciting time.

From Karen Simmons: Thank you for the lovely Valentines' goody bag. It is so nice to be thought of in such a sweet way!



The Bulletin Board

Volunteers needed for March 2nd Ash Wednesday drive-through. Due to the success of last year's drive-through, we will do it again this year. Needed: volunteers to make large signs, hold signs, and direct cars into our lot. To volunteer outside for a one-hour shift (10-11 am, 12-1 pm, 5-6 pm, or 7-8 pm), please contact Pastor Amy. Could you help us serve our community during Lent?

Lenten Study: The Stations of the Cross - Thursdays, 7:00 pm, March 3 – April 17. During this study, we will walk through the Stations of the Cross with scripture and discuss Jesus' journey and example along the way. The study is based on biblical study and will require both a book and a bible. The book is available on Amazon (*see link below*) for \$3.99, Kindle for 2.99, or the Amazon app for free. If you cannot purchase the book yourself, please let Pastor Amy know, and she will get one for you. Contact Pat in the church office to sign up.

https://www.amazon.com/Stations-Cross-Pope-John-Paul/dp/0892436794/ref=sr_1_5?crd=3HK9MDJ4E7S2J&keywords=stations+of+the+cross&qid=1643722210&prefix=stations+of+the+cross%2Caps%2C66&sr=8-5#customerReviews



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the sanctuary after the service, Mar. 27th. Attendance is encouraged, as the discussion will focus on the restructuring of the RCA and what our reaction will be. Local pastors and church members will join us for discussion. The meeting will provide opportunities for the congregation to listen, question, and let their feelings and opinions be heard.

From the Education Committee

Confirmation Class has begun. The class is using the book "I Believe" by Jessie Schut. Mentors and students will meet for eight sessions, including several with Pastor Amy. Students who decide to profess their faith and be confirmed will meet with consistory at the completion in June. Confirmation Sunday will be June 19.

Sunday School We are grateful to the faithful teachers and families who make time in God's Word a priority. The oldest students completed six sessions exploring Biblical covenants and are now studying the character and attributes of God. You might enjoy viewing this video on covenants they watched:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/covenants/> NOTE: There will be NO Sunday School on March 6 or 27.

Youth Group took a winter stroll through the village of Fishkill, ending with hot cocoa and cookies. Plans for their monthly meetings continue. Contact Pia Price or Karen MacLeod for more information.

You are invited: The Rodriguez family will be parading away for the St. Patrick's Day month of March, with our first time bagpiping for the Wappingers Falls parade on March 5th and Beacon on March 12th. *They would love to see our church family there!*



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 to those in need or home-bound members at the elders' discretion. The cost per memorial is \$20.00. Sign up using the Flower form below. Please mail your donation to the church office.

Presently, we do not have requests for flowers for May, June, July, August, October, and November. We need at least three or more requests per month. ***Please consider signing up for flowers.***

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



The Little Free Library at the front left corner of the playground by the Education Building is a place where children can take or leave a book. 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. To donate books (*Pre-K – 6th-grade reading levels only, please*), deposit them directly into the library. There is also a large green-labeled bin on wheels in the Christian Education office for people to leave books in if there's no room in the little library.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH'S MISSIONS



Girl Scout Troop 10398



The scouts have been busy this past month helping out with the food drive, working on our journey award, AND SELLING COOKIES!!! In addition to being addictively delicious, GS Cookies are how troops raise money for the girls to participate in scouting events and fund community service projects.

In the planning for this year is a Camporee at Rock Hill GS camp, where our girls lead younger troops as they earn their World Thinking Day badges and also finalize our badge work to get started on Gold Award planning. But we need funds to do all those great things and more. You can support your local troop by ordering from either Chloe (<https://bit.ly/CJRcookie>) or Zoe (<https://bit.ly/ZMRcookie>) and if you select "Girl Delivery," we will arrange to do a drive-thru cookie delivery at church in April, just like last year. If you'd like to order cookies and have them shipped directly, you can order from the troop cookie booth (<https://bit.ly/10398cookie>). The girls will get credit for the sale no matter which links you choose. You can even go online and have cookies donated directly to our troops serving overseas.

Thank you for supporting your local Girl Scouts through cookie sales and their use of Fellowship Hall as they continue their quest to 'Make the world a better place.

Juliette Gordon Low (1860–1927), also affectionately known by her nickname “Daisy,” founded Girl Scouts of the USA in 1912. She imagined a movement where all girls could come together and embrace their unique strengths and passions—and as Girl Scouts has done since, she made that dream a reality.



Fishkill Food Pantry

1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524; Phone 845 896-4546

Hours: 9 – 12 – Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri.; Wednesdays 3-5 pm



Some of the volunteers at the Fishkill Food Pantry (with director Kristen in front)

The 25th annual SoupRBowl at St. Mary's Church in Fishkill was held this past weekend. I am incredibly grateful and touched by the generosity of our community, along with the commitment and dedication of our 50+ volunteers. We raised over \$2,800.00 in monetary donations and Shoprite gift cards and collected 520+ bags for the pantry. I'd say that's quite successful, especially considering the "dusting" (or 3+ inches) of snow we got Sunday morning! Many thanks for the donations of canned goods that continue to come in from Fishkill Reformed Church.

Deliveries continue to those in need who cannot access the pantry; there were 25 deliveries in January alone, totaling 101 since May. Thanks to these volunteers who spend their time (and gas money!) while serving their neighbors in need.

New and potential volunteers continue to call weekly. We have two newer folks on Thursdays who seem to be working out very well; 2 more people began training this past Tuesday, and I'm in contact with three more people looking to volunteer! It is truly remarkable that so many people want to make a difference in others' lives.

Spread the word! Go on Facebook and like/share our mission with others. This updated site looks fabulous, thanks to one of our newest volunteers, Paula Finnerty, and will continue to reach many in the community who need our help.

With gratitude,

Kristen Cullen



Children's Community Services

This has been an exciting beginning to the year! Before and After School have been happy to have a few snow days. DeKinder Kids are happy to be at school. (It's been known for them to be very upset to miss a day!)



We are also very excited to be having Open House this year! It may be a little different because of Covid 19, BUT... it will still be amazing. Parent & Tot's theme is jungle animals. The Three's are all about the Pete the Cat series by Eric Litwin, and the Four's will be discovering the wonderful world of Dr. Seuss!

We are accepting applications for the 2022-23 school year. If you know of anyone who might be interested please let me know.

Barbara VanVoorhis, CCS Director

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



Our Church Sponsored RCA Missionaries

Josh Bode, Pastor of the Protestant Church in Oman (PCO), was 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 (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. 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 most profound poverty in the U.S. *See the latest newsletter on the next page.*

Prayer Warrior

February 2022

**Anville Institute/
Grace Covenant Ministries**

PO Box 340

Annville, KY 40402

606-364-5151

www.gcmannvilleinstitute.com

"Impacting a broken and hurting world with the love of CHRIST."

Thank you for helping us make a difference one opportunity at a time by sharing the love of God to those we have been called to serve in Appalachia.

Seasons Change, People Change, Jesus remains the Same!

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Heb. 13:8 NIV)

1



We are often asked "Does it snow in Kentucky? Picture #1 was taken in January. Thankfully the snow was gone within a week.

4



The fact that Spring is getting closer is evident with the sighting of robins (#2). The arrival of work groups is another sign of spring; (#3) shows a group from last year. We have been blessed to receive some building supplies that will reduce the costs of several projects.

5



Hacker Gym has seen several improvement projects over the last 10 years. Pictures 4-6 shows the community fitness center being used. To the many contributors and volunteer workers, we thank you for your partnership in these projects. Thank you for your prayers and help in making all of our efforts possible. To God be the glory! He indeed is Faithful!

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