



The Parish Visitor

*First Reformed Church of Fishkill
1153 Main Street, Fishkill, NY 12524*

April, 2022



Happy Spring!

For this month's issue, I'd like to share a devotion adapted from one that Deacon Greg Totino used in our most recent Consistory meeting. I hope you find it as meaningful as we did!

(Based on Luke 9:23-27)

In a world of uncertainty, it's natural to look for something solid and stable, something that will help us regain our footing when everything else seems upside down. When Jesus tells Simon, "You are Peter, and on this rock, I shall build my church," his meaning seems clear, the church is built upon the constant, unwavering love of Christ.

In the space of just a few verses, however, we are reminded of the uncertainty of our world. Christ's human journey was ended by human hands as the elders, and chief priests saw to his suffering and death. How shocking it feels to be promised, in one moment, the eternal promise of a church against which no evil can stand and in the next that the Son of Man will be killed by other men. Like Peter, we rebuke the harsh reality of death and say, "No, Lord, this must not happen!" And Jesus reminds us of our humanity. We do not have in mind the things of God but the things of humanity.

There is very little in our news or media that isn't a concern of humanity. When the world is uncertain, we look for something solid and stable while also looking to better ourselves. It is our nature to do this, but our betterment comes at a cost to our planet, fellow human beings, and souls. The bible says, "But what shall it profit a person if they gain the entire world and forfeit their soul?"

In a country that has built itself on competition and a race to accumulate wealth, where we seek every avenue to success, this message hits us in the gut. We are eager to buy the latest luxury car even if it pumps toxic fumes into the air. We are eager to acquire the latest electronic device even if the factory where it is made relies on child labor or operates in a country where there is no understanding of "human rights." We seek our security and superiority even if it means building sociological or physical walls between ourselves and those we are told to be better than.




Today's news is filled with the horrible conflict in Ukraine, and the tragedy humanity can inflict upon itself in the pursuit of superiority. But what shall it profit them? What about our friends and neighbors whose only response is to complain about the price of gas? Those who would equate material loss with the destruction of countless lives? What can a person give in exchange for their soul?

What of the innocent civilians whose lives have been lost? The millions who have been forced to flee the country? They could use a rock to stand on. Today, let's pray for them.

Pastor Dy



OUR CHURCH IN APRIL

3	Worship/Communion 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am Girl Scouts* 4 pm Confirmation class 6:30 pm	14	Maundy Thursday* service 7 pm
		15	Investments Committee 11 am Prayer Stations* 1-4 pm
4	SD Coalition for Homeless 7 pm	17	Easter Sunday* Worship 10 am Celebration 11 am 
5	Worship and Music Comm. 11 am Finance Committee* 4 pm Education Comm.* 7 pm		
7	Lenten Study 7 pm	19	Consistory 7 pm
8	Private Wedding Rehearsal 3 pm	21	Parish Visitor articles due
9	Private Wedding 2 pm		
10	Palm Sunday*  Worship 10 am Sunday School <i>in-person</i> 10:15 am	22	 Earth Day 2022* “Invest In Our Planet”
12	Consistory Reports Due	29	Shelter Meal*
<i>*Asterisks indicate information within</i>			

May Parish Visitor articles are due April 21st. *Articles not received by the 21st will not be included.*

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* 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 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 the 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.

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. Go to the church website, click on “Online Services,” and scroll down to/ click on the “Donate Now” button to select an option.



Our Consistory at Work

Consistory Meeting Notes from March 15, 2022

- Greg Totino led devotions based on Matthew 16 and beautifully shared them with you on the cover of this PV.
- The drive-through distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday blessed over 200 people! The opportunity to share this special day with so many thankful strangers and friends was a wonderful experience that will definitely be repeated next year! The Stations of the Cross study with Pastor Amy on Zoom has also made this Lenten season more meaningful to those who are participating in its unique approach to examining the road to the cross.
- The Food Pantry provided 7,110 meals in February. Welcome to the 11 new volunteers making additional openings on alternate Saturdays possible. Thanks to Paula for managing the Facebook page and developing new FP brochures. Thanks to Town Supervisor Ozzie Albra and Councilman John Forman for their support and to Town Councilman Brian Wrye for spearheading the development of the new community service initiative, "Fishkill Serves," joining the Town of Fishkill, Hudson Valley Renegades, and the Fishkill Little League to benefit our Food Pantry.
- Treasurer's and Financial Committee's February report: Total YTD revenue: \$36,141.98. Total YTD expenses: \$51,671.99. February giving was significantly low; Operating Fund shows a negative balance of \$15,530. Earnings from Investments are showing an expected decline.
- Christian Education news: In-person Sunday School begins April 10th, with no Zoom classes for the remainder of the school year. Welcome, Lisa Skorewicz and Michael Melichar, to our teaching staff! Sunday School will not be held on April 3, 17 (Easter), and May 1. It will end on May 22. Children will participate in the Palm Sunday service again, waving palms! Plans are in the works for outdoor Easter events with children.
- Property Committee updates Repair/ installation of the Educ. Bldg. windows complete. We're waiting for a date for installing the crash bars on sanctuary doors. Replacement of stove in DuBois house being looked into. A contractor will give us a quote to repair the sanctuary's leaking gutters. Steeple shingles due to be re-stained to prolong longevity. Scout William will begin his Eagle Scout project of building a mini food pantry at Trinity Church!
- Food bags, personal care items, warm coats, and clothing have been distributed to those in need by SDCH. The plan to supply a shower van for the homeless is taking shape; volunteers are stepping up, and Hudson River Housing is interested in sharing the cost and use of the van.
- The Easter Offering will go to Ukraine relief efforts. (see "Deacon's Easter Offering").



John Houston
Finance Chairman

*First Reformed Church of
Fishkill*

FINANCE \$101

In God we trust

It is very common for people to miss attending church for a week or more. They then want to catch up on their giving. This ***does NOT*** mean you need to write multiple checks or even submit multiple envelopes. In fact, that creates extra work for you and the people who record and count the offering each Sunday. Please consider submitting one envelope with a single check or your cash donation. You will not only make it easier for yourself, but also the volunteers who process your offering.

Thank you,

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 Easter Offering

The continuing humanitarian crisis due to the war in Ukraine calls for a continuing response. The Deacons have decided to accept a special offering for Ukrainian relief, at least through Easter. This will include the Easter Offering. The offering collected will be matched from the Missions from Bequests fund and split between the Presbyterian Church Disaster Assistance's Ukraine Emergency Appeal and the UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal. The links to these two appeals are:

<https://pres-outlook.org/2022/03/presbyterian-disaster-assistance-ukraine-emergency-appeal/> and <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-issues-appeal-for-ukraine-calls-on-u-s-to-provide-humanitarian-aid/>

Please place your contribution in the Sunday offering plate or mail or drop off checks through the DuBois House mail slots. Please make your check out to First Reformed Church of Fishkill, with "Ukraine Emergency" written on the Memo line. During this season of Lent, as we pray, reflect, and sacrifice in preparation for the great celebration of our Lord's resurrection, please also pray for a resolution to the Ukraine situation.



April

1 – Ruthann Valdivia
17 – Eric Titus

6 – Brenda Smith-Cliffe
21 – Jane Jones

8 – Daniel Rodriguez
22 – Heather Gillert

14 – Tammy Rodriguez
28 – Laura Dachenhausen

Counting Our Blessings



Recently I was gifted with two prayer shawls. I was so surprised but a grateful recipient. I was and still am recovering from a broken rib. My thanks go to the artist who used her talent in such a kind way. I understand that prayers and blessings are in every stitch. Thank you for using your talent, which our good Lord has blessed you with. Gratefully, Antje Landanno



THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD TREE

The Dogwood tree is a beautiful little tree with graceful white blossoms in the spring. The legend tells us that the tree was once very large, like a big oak tree. Its wood was strong and sturdy and was used as a building material for many different things. According to legend, it was the dogwood tree that provided the wood used to build the cross on which Jesus was crucified. Because of that, God both cursed and blessed the tree. It was cursed to be forever small, so its wood could never again be large enough to be used as a cross for a crucifixion. Its branches would be narrow and crooked so that it would not work for building at all.

The tree was also blessed so that it would produce beautiful flowers each spring in time for Easter.

To remember God's promise to the tree, it is said he gave it a few traits so that whoever looks upon it will never forget:

- the petals of the dogwood actually form the shape of a cross; the blooms of the tree always have four petals.
- the middle of the Dogwood flower has a tight grouping of stamens resembling a "crown of thorns."
- the tips of the petals are indented as if they bear a nail dent.
- reddish colors in the petals resemble drops of blood that spilled during the crucifixion.



The Bulletin Board



Holy Week Events

April 10, **Palm Sunday**

April 14, **Maundy Thursday Service**, 7:00 PM;

April 15, **Good Friday Prayer Stations**: 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM *In the Sanctuary*

April 17, **Easter Sunday Worship**

Easter Sunday Celebration *Following Worship*



Easter Lilies: 12 plants will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you would like to take one home on Easter, we ask for \$10 to be sent or brought to the office before Easter. (Please indicate lily on the check).

Pastor Amy will be on vacation from April 18-24. Contact Elders Larry Sansone or Pia Price for pastoral concerns.

The Activities Committee will deliver Easter Baskets to our Home-bound friends. We appreciate donations of goodies for the baskets. Items can be brought to the Dubois House or to church any Sunday before Easter.

April Shelter Meal – Our church is responsible for the Webster House shelter dinner on April 29th. Please contact BJ (896-6889) or Lola (297-0308) if you can make a casserole. Tins and recipes will be delivered to you! As always, many thanks!

From the Education Committee

Confirmation Class has explored what the Bible and the church believe about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Each mentor and student is developing their statement of faith throughout the class. Please pray for the students and mentors as they meet in April to explore what new life in Christ means and how it is reflected in our decisions, choices, and actions.

Sunday School: We took a break from Zoom in March, anticipating returning to in-person Sunday School in April. Please pray that God will direct us as we make this transition. We joyfully anticipate the in-person return of children and students to our midst beginning April 10th!

Youth Group is open to students in grades six and above. They meet monthly. Contact Pia Price or Karen MacLeod for more information.

Easter Sunday Family Activity: We plan an activity after Easter Sunday worship for families and children. Watch the bulletin and Today's News for updates and details.



Save the Date: Annual Golf Outing – September 19th, 2022! Stay tuned for more information in Summer.

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



Earth Day 2022 “Invest in Our Planet”

The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness; the world and those who dwell therein. Psalm 24:1.

When we look around us and watch the news, we see evidence of human-caused damage to our area and our world. While some issues are due to overpopulation, both need-based and greed-based consumption by humans contributes significantly to the destruction of our beautiful planet. The 2022 Earth Day theme is based on an initiative for people from all cross-sections of life to join forces – working together to reverse the damage caused by the way we have been living. It challenges businesses, governments, and individuals to combine forces and support each other in earth-saving efforts.

There are things big and small that we as individuals can do to help reverse current destructive planet-altering trends. The collective efforts of individuals (like you and me) and organizations can make a huge difference in our beautiful world. We should already realize the causes (deforestation, carbon emissions, unprecedented meat consumption, chemical, and medical wastes, etc.) and effects (global warming, ocean pollution, coral reef destruction, famine, extinction of animal species, catastrophic wildfires, and weather events, melting glaciers causing rising sea levels threatening coastal communities and nations).

Though the problems seem insurmountable, they are not irreversible. We are told that there is still time to save our precious planet – our gift from God – if we take action now. We still have an opportunity to preserve the future of our earth for our children and grandchildren.

To help you get started, printed below is a checklist of things you can begin to do:

1. Limit the use of single-use plastic
2. Purchase more seasonal produce
3. Purchase more locally produced goods
4. Reduce your air travel
5. Reduce the number of new products and goods you buy
6. Choose brands that have environmentally sustainable practices/values.
7. Choose brands that have ethical practices/values.
8. Reduce consumption of meat/animal products.
9. Stop purchasing certain brands of products due to your ethical or sustainability-related concerns about them.
10. Opt for low carbon emission and/or shared modes of transport.
11. Switch to renewable energy sources/products.
12. Change some or all personal financial investments for more ethical or sustainability-related investments options.
13. Contact a brand to raise an issue on their sustainability or ethical practices/values.

If each of us adopts at least one or two of the sustainable practices above, we can make a significant and immediate difference. This list and other interesting information can be found on the Earth Day 2022 website:

<https://www.earthday.org > earth-day-2022>



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 is 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 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.

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 deepest poverty in the U.S. *See the newsletter on the following page.*

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH'S MISSIONS



Girl Scout Troop 10398 participated in worship on Girl Scout Sunday (March 6) and took quite a few orders for cookies. The girls will come back to deliver cookies on a Sunday after worship service in April (date TBD once we know when cookies are arriving).



We have many fun events planned as the weather warms up, including an all-day outdoor badge jamboree, an Earth Day cleanup at Sarah Taylor Park, and taking action steps to address some inequalities in the school dress code we've discussed during our meetings. Thank you again for inviting us to participate in worship and talk about what Girl Scouting means to each of us. We appreciate your support in our cookie sales, and remember, we are here if there are community service projects we can help with.



Children's Community Services

March has come and gone so quickly with lots of excitement. The Open House was a HUGE success! The children were excited to bring Mom and Dad in to see all of their hard work. If anyone would like to come and see what we've been doing, just give us a call and we'll set up a time.



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

Barbara VanVoorhis, Director

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



Fishkill Food Pantry

Hours: 9 – 12 – Monday., Tuesday., Thursday., Friday;
Wednesday 3-5 pm; 1st & 3rd Saturday 9 am – 12 pm

Eleven new volunteers have started at the pantry over the past month! This allows us to open our doors every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month to further assist those in need.

Our Facebook page is now being managed by a new volunteer, graphic artist, and designer who is enthusiastic and driven to keep this site fresh and relevant (“Like” and “Share” us!). Paula also developed our updated, colorful brochure, which is hot off the press!

Fishkill Town Supervisor Ozzie Albra and Town Councilman John Forman recently visited the Fishkill Food Pantry and seemed to be impressed with our site and operation. Since their visit, they have included information about us in their town email and on their website.

Last, but certainly not least, is our new partnership with The Hudson Valley Renegades and the Fishkill Little League program. Town Councilman Brian Wrye visited us with a donation at the 25th SoupRBowl Food Drive at St. Mary’s Church in Fishkill. Since then, he has coordinated a meeting which developed into an ongoing community effort, “**Fishkill Serves.**” Join us for Fishkill Little League’s Opening Day ceremony this year on **Saturday, April 23rd**, by marching in, or observing the parade! Peter Lyons, Director of Fishkill Little



League, will be sponsoring the Fishkill Food Pantry this year, proudly showing our logo on all team uniforms and hosting food drives and other community-related activities to support Fishkill Food Pantry.

Thanks to President and General Manager of the Renegades, Steve Gliner, for supporting and hosting the Fishkill Food Pantry! Join us **Sunday, June 12th**, at Dutchess Stadium for Fishkill Serves Game Day, where The Fishkill Food Pantry and Fishkill Little League are honored. None of this can happen without Marcella Costello, Manager of Community Partnerships and Guest Services for HV Renegades, and Will Young, Director of Ticketing, Youth Baseball/Softball for HV Renegades. **Stay tuned for more exciting information and details to come!**

With gratitude,

Kristen Cullen

Fishkill Food Pantry Director



Getting to Know our Communications “Angels”



Gordon Flayter was baptized at Claverack Reformed Church, later attending Sunday school at the First Reformed Church in Albany. He joined Fishkill Reformed Church in 1987 and has served as a deacon and choir member.

After serving in the Navy as a nuclear weapons handler on submarines, he attended Hudson Valley Community College and Fairleigh Dickenson University. He worked at IBM East Fishkill for 14 years before becoming a banking systems programmer and IT manager at a worldwide telecom firm headquartered in Manhattan. He retired in 2013.

He and Diane were married at Fishkill Reformed Church in 1991. His sons, Paul and John, live in Albany with their families, daughter Joyce in Savannah, and daughter Ginny in Fishkill with their families. He became a great-grandfather in 2020.

In addition to chairing our Investments committee and scheduling regular meetings with our financial advisor, Gordon is called upon frequently to deal with our various IT issues – small and large – in the church offices, Food Pantry and Education Building. We all consider him a true angel!!! He is regularly drops what he is doing to volunteer his time to ensure the smooth operations of the church’s communications systems.

Jan Lane worked for 14 years as an editor in New York City before moving to Fishkill with her husband Philip and their newborn daughter Kristi. Second daughter Kimmy was born a couple of years later. Jan began attending FRC in 1992. For 18 years, she worked as a substitute teaching assistant in the Wappingers Central School District. She *thinks* about returning once Covid simmers down.

Jan has served as Chairperson of the Communications Committee for eight years. While she credits many talented and tech-savvy people for making her job easy, we know that she regularly devotes many hours to getting information about our church events and happenings published in local newspapers and announced on area radio stations. She also is responsible for keeping our sign at the corner of Main and Church Streets up to date.



For the last year, Jan has served as CCS liaison to consistory (she is the perfect person to serve as she has been on the CCS board since her 2nd daughter was in Parents & Tots 26 years ago!) The school was greatly affected by the Covid shutdowns, contact tracing issues, grant applications, etc., and Jan has communicated their issues and needs to our consistory. With her help, we kept CCS going until restrictions eased.

We thank Gordon and Jan for their dedication and many contributions!