

The Parish Visitor

First Reformed Church of Fishkill

May, 2022



Jesus Christ

What did he do?

He died; murdered, tortured,

Scorned, scourged by men,

What did he do?

Waiting

For the nails, the pain

To be driven into his body

For

Crucifixion...the ridicule of death,

What did he do?

His cheeks, black and blue with turning

A refusal to stop loving, giving...

Screwed to the woodwork

Son of a carpenter, becoming an object

Of his professions tools,

Hanging like a picture

The frame crudely made

But sufficient in its debasement

Of mankind.

Of you and me

Jesus Christ...what did he do?

I wrote that nearly 55 years ago; an angry, arrogant young man. I demanded to know what Jesus had done to deserve this fate, thinking that the mistreatment and death sentence had to be logically accompanied by crimes and guilt. I angrily asked, "what did he do?" within that context. How arrogant of me to think that Jesus needed a defense lawyer; that He needed me to defend him.

I was new to this social justice thing, and here I was, so self-centered, so self-assured, demanding justice for Jesus, ready to come to his defense.

I had read the Gospels, heard the Passion story, but still did not understand the "Good News." I asked "what did he do?" in the wrong context, and for years received no satisfactory answer. But the question was not the problem.


Now when I ask the question in the context of why, of Jesus' purpose, of His life and most especially his death, I receive a different answer. What did he do? He gave himself up, willingly, to pay for our sins, that we would be saved and receive eternal life.

Jesus wasn't a victim, he was the sacrifice. He didn't need a lawyer, he wanted a follower, a believer. It had to be this way, for without Jesus' death, there is no Easter. His death had to be this way, and neither I nor anyone else can alter this.

John Twohig



OUR CHURCH IN MAY

1	Worship/Communion 10 am Coffee Hour* 11:15 am	17	Consistory Meeting 7 pm
3	Finance Committee 4 pm Education Committee 7 pm	18	“Parish Visitor” articles due
4	Worship and Music Comm. 11 am	22	Worship 10 am Sunday School* Coffee Hour CCS Circus set-up
6	CCS Mothers’ Tea 10 am		
7	Memorial Service/reception for Elmer Schallenberg 12 pm		
8	<i>Happy Mother’s Day!</i> Worship 10 am Sunday School* 10:15 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am	25	CCS Circus* <i>reserved for families only</i>
		29	Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:15 am
10	Consistory reports due	30	 Memorial Day Church Office closed
15	Worship 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Juanita McCoy Memorial time 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 am Girl Scouts 4 pm		
*Asterisks indicate information within			

June Parish Visitor articles are due **May 18th**. *Articles received after June 18th 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 services in the sanctuary begin 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.”

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.



Your Consistory at Work

Consistory Notes from April 2022

- The Food Pantry provided 8,775 meals in March. We are fortunate to have 6 Spanish-speaking volunteers available to meet our clients' needs. New volunteers are being recruited to expand the FP hours on Wednesday from 2:30 to 7:00.
- Treasurer's and Financial Committee's March report: Total YTD revenue: \$54,443.05. Total YTD expenses: \$80,329.54. Congregational giving for March was only 66% of the pledged total. We are still seeking volunteers with computer skills who can assist in counting Sunday offerings.
- Earnings from Investments are showing an expected decline due to conflicts in eastern Europe and inflation rising out of skyrocketing energy costs. Our transferable cash reserves ensure against market setbacks in this time of volatility.
- The special offerings at Eastertime for the people of Ukraine will be matched 3 to 1 from Missions from Bequests.
- Kate Valdivia has resigned her position as Choir Director to explore other employment options that fit her family's needs. We are so very grateful for the time and effort that Kate has given us and for the beautiful music and song with which she has filled the sanctuary and our spirits!
- In-person Sunday School has resumed and will continue until May 22nd. A student has been awarded a scholarship to attend Camp Warwick for one week this summer. Please contact Karen MacLeod if your child might be interested in this opportunity for spiritual growth and summer fun!
- Property Committee updates: Taggart Lake has contacted us offering to repair cemetery stones on the church property. The Memorial Garden (and the Twohigs who take care of it) will receive help in keeping the weeds at bay with edging installed by a landscaper and paid for by The Memorial Garden Fund.

According to the recommended ten-year schedule, Roy Carruthers has been in touch with Robert Morgan, who previously worked on the steeple, to stain its shingles.

Other pending projects: repairing the sanctuary's leaking Yankee Gutters (awaiting a quote); replacing the Education Building stove; repairing/replacing the back porch, ramp, and front steps of DuBois house; fixing the carriage mounting block; taking care of some maintenance work at the parsonage; painting the graveyard wrought iron fences.



John Houston
Finance Chairman

**First Reformed Church of
Fishkill**

FINANCE \$101

In God, we trust

A reminder of where the church spends money is critical at this time. Running a church like ours is no simple task. Over 60% of our expenses are to pay the people we employ (pastor, organist, secretary, and choir director). This year our budget has also added a paid position for Food Pantry Director. Although she legally works for the church and is included in our budget, the Food Pantry reimburses the church for all costs related to that position. Property maintenance, which includes the cleaning service, accounts for another 20% of the budget. Support for our Classis, Synod, and missions account for another 9% of the budget. This leaves about 10% of the budget for us to maneuver when keeping things in order. What can we do without?

Telephone? Copier? Christian Education? Music?

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

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

As of April 28th, we have received \$10,335.00 for Ukraine relief, including \$7985 from the original Ukraine offering collection plus \$2370 from the Easter offering collection. This will be matched three to one from Missions from Bequests for a total of \$41,420. This amount may go up further. We will give 50% each to the Presbyterian Church's Disaster Assistance's Ukraine Emergency Appeal and United Church of Christ's Ukraine Emergency Appeal.



May

1 – Faith Schwenker 2 – Lola Saya 4 – Jenny Sansone 14 – BJ Lanni 17 – Rich Lanni &
Thea Schallenberg
25 – Dorrie Hansen 26 – Susan Lake &
Sergio Rodriguez, Jr. 27 – Emily Richmond 28 – Marge Merritt



After a lovely Easter Celebration Coffee Hour, we decided that we could resume regular Coffee Hour. How nice it is to have this fellowship again!

This means that we will again need to assign people to assist. Please check next month's "Parish Visitor" newsletter to see when you might be assigned. The assignment method has worked well in the past. It ensures that everyone has an opportunity to share in both receiving and providing fellowship, refreshments, and clean-up. This will be a "work in progress," and we hope all will be understanding. We will assign only people we have seen attending, as some have not yet returned in person.

Dorrie Hansen has most graciously agreed to set up the coffee. And there is a new cabinet in the library with needed supplies.

If you see only two names, it means that someone unable to manage the set-up work will still be able to contribute. And, as before, if you cannot do the assigned Sunday, please try to switch with someone. If that fails, call Karen Twohig.

Thank you in advance for taking your turn.

May 8th - Twohig, Sanders, Schmidt
15th - Lanni, Spencer
22nd - Cliffe, Garcia
29th - Hansen, H&J, Flayter

June 5th - Baron, Buscemi/Sansone
12th - LeDioyt, Covell

Counting Our Blessings



Thanks to many of you who most generously contributed to our Ukraine relief aid offerings. See more under "The Deacons Offering." *We are truly blessed to be able to bless those who have lost so much!*

Thanks to the Activities Committee for delivering lovely Easter baskets. I am enjoying mine! *Jean Teske*

Thank you to Connie Kayson for making the lovely Palm Sunday individual and large palm crosses once again.

A huge thank you goes to Ed Winkler for giving the DuBois House restroom a much-needed facelift. He spent a week scraping, sanding, and painting a fresh coat of paint onto the former dark walls.

Thank you to Karen Twohig for again taking on the task of coordinating Coffee Hour helpers. This takes a lot of time and many phone calls. We can't thank you enough!



Thank you to all who helped during our Church Clean-up Day on April 23rd. The beds were cleaned out and are just waiting for May planting. Thanks to all your efforts, our properties have been given new life!

Speaking of new life, a Mallard duck was spotted sitting on her eggs in one of our flower beds. Do you think she saw the (Easter) egg hunt notice and got confused? While her street side location makes us wonder about her I.Q. Level, she did bring smiles to the faces of the Work Day crew! Arrangements are being made to relocate her to a safe spot.



The Bulletin Board

Save the Dates:

Community Fun Day is in the planning stages for July 16th, with a backup date of July 23rd.

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

From the Property Committee

- The garden committee has been working on planting beds and will continue once the planting season is safely here.
- Volunteers have painted the Dubois bathroom and installed new ceiling lights in Amy's office.
- Great turn out for Saturday's clean-up! Among other items: we picked up all sticks and trash throughout the properties, placed irrigation tubing back in place at fencing areas, continued cleaning planting beds, etc.
- We met with a landscaper to get price options to rejuvenate the Memorial garden beds.
- We met with Taggart Lake (Phyllis' son) to start discussions on gravestone repair. He will get us a preliminary estimate on the first phase.

Under the leadership of Don Porter, the Garden Committee will begin the planting and beautification of our church grounds in May. If you would like to help the committee with the planting and plant care during the next few months, please speak with Don.



Education

Sunday School: We started back in person on Palm Sunday. The youngest students enjoyed the Easter Alleluia hunt. They followed up the next week, reviewing the events of the resurrection – wrapping Jesus' body in linen, placing him in the tomb with the stone and the guards, and then discovering His body was no longer there but had risen; and then He spoke to Mary. The older students have begun a 4-week study of stories from Acts and the life of Paul. What a joy to welcome our children and students back in person! The final day of Sunday School for the year is May 22nd.

Youth Group is open to students in grade 6 and above. They meet monthly. Contact Pia Price for more information.

For children during worship: Books, coloring sheets, crayons, and other quiet activities are available in a wicker basket at the entrance to the sanctuary. Ask a greeter. Please return items to the basket after worship.

Honoring Graduates

Please submit the names of your family graduates, the school they are graduating from, and the school they will attend (or future plans). The information will be published in the June "Parish Visitor."

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.

We do not have requests for flowers for 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

Here Came the Bride

While the lovely couple hailed from New York City and chose our church for its historical beauty, we were thrilled to have them pronounce their love in our House of God! Following many counseling sessions, Pastor Amy performed the ceremony on Saturday, April 9th. First Reformed – bedecked with greenery– was host to the wedding party and their lucky guests. The rain let up for the wedding party to enter and exit the sanctuary umbrella-free. Pastor Amy was pleased to welcome some of the guests again to worship the next day.



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 most profound poverty in the U.S.



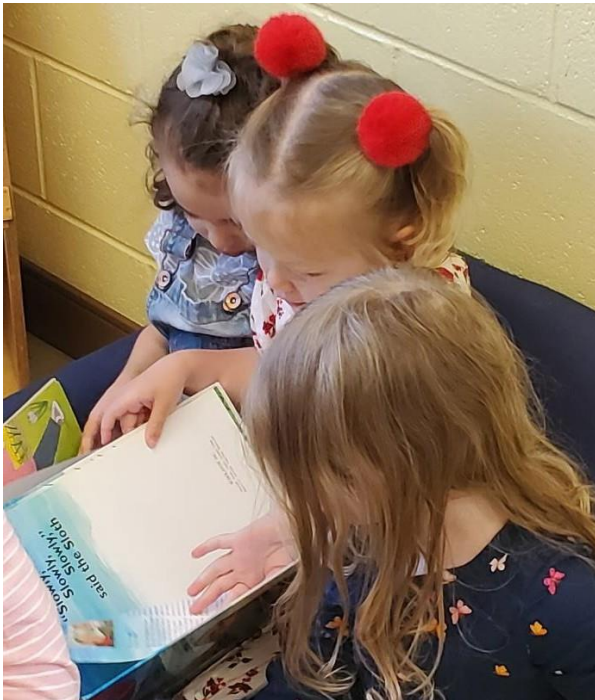
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH'S MISSIONS

Girl Scout Troop 10398 would like to thank everyone who supported our troop through cookie sales and donations. The girls are looking forward to nicer weather and some outdoor events in May like laser tag and archery, a campout, and our annual participation in the Memorial Day Parade through the village of Fishkill. We hope to see some of you there cheering us on as we show some civic pride with the Greater Fishkill Girl Scouts.



Children's Community Services

We hope everyone had a great Easter! May is a VERY busy month for DeKinder's Four-Year-Old class. They are practicing for "The Greatest Little Circus of Fishkill," which will be held on May 25th for their parents. The 3's are busy making a special present for their Mom's. Before/After School is, doing a lot of small groups science activities, learn good sportsmanship and some basic life skills.



Registration for the 2022/23 school year for all programs is ongoing, so please let me know if anyone is interested or knows of someone needing us.

I hope all are well!
Barbara VanVoorhis, Director

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| May 6 | Mothers' Day Tea in Fellowship Hall |
| 25 | Circus in Fellowship Hall (open to staff and four family members per child; masks required) |
| June 8 | Last day of DeKinder School |
| 9 | Picnic in the playground (by Fellowship Hall) |
| 13-14 | Moving up ceremonies, four guests per family |

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



Fishkill Food Pantry

Hours: 9 – 12 – Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri.; Wed 3-5 pm; 1st & 3rd Sat. 9 am – 12 pm

Phone: 845-896-4546 Email: fshfoodpantry@optimum.net

CHANGE IS GOOD

Change is a normal and natural part of growth and evolution. Seasons change, and the weather is finally (although reluctantly) changing. Many folks are resistant to change even though it is inevitable; we at the Fishkill Food Pantry continue to make changes to serve our clients better. The number of people and households served at the Pantry has increased significantly in March, including 25+ deliveries to those in need. Generous donations were received from Dutchess County Realtors' Golf Charity and Shoprite Partners in Caring programs. Hours of operation have expanded to 2 Saturdays per month, with the plan to further offer evening assistance once per week (as soon as a volunteer "team" is formed). Our Facebook page is updated with helpful information and photos regularly. Please "like" and "share" us with friends, family, and neighbors!

Save Sunday, June 12th, for Fishkill Serves Day at the Renegades game at Dutchess Stadium. We will collect donations and let folks learn more about what we're about.

Good things will continue to come our way as long as we embrace CHANGE! Kristen Cullen,
Director

P.S. For those who shop at the Acme Supermarket in Hopewell Junction: \$1 from each \$3 "Give Back Where It Counts" reusable shopping bag purchased in May will be donated to the Fishkill Food Pantry.