



Counting My Blessings

The Parish Visitor

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

Summer, 2022

Dear friends,

Following my early retirement from a demanding job over 11 years ago, I began volunteering a lot!!! It soon became a full time mission. I learned about the job opening at FRC, and knew that this would be a way to continue to serve God and earn a little money. I applied for and was given the job of office administrator. I am sure the list of applicants must have been *Very* short! I had never done secretarial work in my life; I had managed stores and people. But I was familiar with the Reformed Church, having volunteered full time at New Hackensack Reformed, including serving on Consistory for a few years and teaching Sunday school and chairing the education committee.

One thing I must have missed when I applied was that Pastor Gloria would be taking a 3 month sabbatical a couple of weeks after I began work. Needless to say, it was quickly sink or swim for me. So... I made a new friend in Google! I am surprised that you even allowed me to stay! When Pastor Gloria returned, she was very helpful. I had, by that time, however learned a few things, thanks to Google, our wonderful tech guru Gordon Flayter, my other saint Roy Carruthers and the help of the wonderful members of the FRC consistory and congregation. I also reminded myself often of Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. There is great power in prayer!

While working in/with the church is a great way to serve God and others, the personal rewards are the huge: I have worked with two phenomenal pastors, nine fantastic consistories, and you! I have made so many wonderful friends here. The FRC congregation is one big family whose members continually look out for one another. You reach out to the community in so many giving, loving ways. And you have been absolutely wonderful to me. I am truly blessed!

I write this as I begin my last week of working in the office. Sunday, after another perfect Pastor Amy sermon and beautiful choir music, under the leadership of Activities chair Jean Winkler and crew you regaled me with the loveliest retirement cookout under our new blue tents (another Jean Winkler find!). The food was delicious and the company was excellent. I was given many beautiful cards with lovely sentiments and and a huge bouquet of the most gorgeous flowers. Upon opening one of the cards, I found an amazingly generous check from the congregation! Your generosity truly overwhelmed me, and I can't thank you enough. My husband and I continue to learn that moving costs are much greater than when we moved here in 1984, and we will gratefully use your gifts to defray those costs. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all!!!!

My most prized gift, though, is that of your friendship. If I named each of you, it would take up this entire "Parish Visitor." So I will simply say "thank you" for more than nine wonderful years. While I will miss the creaky and (sometimes in late evenings) creepy DuBois House, full of memories and occasional scares, I will miss all of you the most! I have been so richly blessed to have been able to work with you and call you friends, as we all strived together to serve God. Please keep doing what you do so well: blessing others with your kindness.

I thank you again, and I thank God for blessing me with these years at the First Reformed Church of Fishkill.

With abundant gratitude,
Pat Chism



OUR CHURCH IN AUGUST

1	Sou. Dut. Coalition for Homeless 7 pm	11	Sept. "Parish Visitor" articles due*
2	Consistory Reports due Worship and Music 11 am Finance Comm. 4 pm Education Comm. 7 pm	14	Worship 10 am Coffee Hour* 11:15 am
		18	Parish Visitor Articles due
7	Worship 10 am Coffee Hour* 11:15 am	21	Worship 10 am Coffee Hour* 11:15 am
9	Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm	29	Worship 10 am Coffee Hour* 11: 15 am
*Asterisks indicate information within			

***September Parish Visitor articles** are due **August 18th**. Articles received after will go in the September Parish Visitor. 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: office@fishkillreformed.org. Phone: 845 896-9836.

Our Church website includes our newsletters, worship service links, church history, and Facebook page. Go to: www.fishkillreformed.org.

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."

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

Meeting Notes from August 9, 2022

- Jeanne Devine led devotions based on Psalm 38:9-12 and 17-22. In times of global, national, and local turmoil we may feel anguish and loneliness...but God is there, ready and listening, to shoulder our burdens. As we send our lamentations to Him, we are expressing an act of faith, showing that we acknowledge that God can help us. God hears us, handles our questions, anger and doubt. He is always there...we are not alone.
- The Food Pantry provided 8,340 meals in May and 8,475 in June. The many events in which the FP has been involved (Food Drives, the Senior Picnic, the Stormville Flea Market, and partnership with Fishkill Serves) have been very successful in raising both awareness and funding for this wonderful mission! Pastor Amy will be the temporary replacement for Victor Chao as he steps down from the role of FP liaison to Consistory. Thank you for your time and effort, Victor!
- Treasurer's June report: Total YTD revenue: \$119,463.97; Total YTD expenses: \$169,573.45
- Finance Report: Offerings continue to be a concern.
- Following the market, earnings from Investments are showing a significant decline.
- Help with counting Sunday offerings and entering the information on the computer after the service is very much needed. We have a limited number of volunteers who are doing this and they would be more than happy to train a few additional helpers!
- The Everything Sale will be combined with Community Fun Day this year on September 17th for a day of indoor and outdoor fellowship, food, fun and shopping. More details to come!
- Property Committee updates:
 - We are reviewing options from the second contractor who was chosen to install the crash bars on the sanctuary doors and also considering a different landscaper to make improvements on the Memorial Garden.
 - The estimate for staining the shingles on the steeple is substantially higher than expected and is under review.
 - The final cost of repairing the cemetery headstones will not exceed \$3,000. Toni and Claire Houston have been working on identifying and marking the graves of soldiers with flags.
 - The Mini Food Pantry at Trinity Church has been completed. Many thanks to Eagle Scout William Gwinn for choosing this worthwhile project and for the assistance contributed by Ray VanVoorhis that helped make it happen!



**First Reformed Church
of Fishkill**

FINANCE \$101

John Houston
Finance Chairman

In God, we trust

It's back!

In case you have not noticed, we have returned to collecting offerings during our service. We welcome everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to make your tithes, gifts, and offerings. By all means, If you have adapted to using one of the other formats, you are welcome to continue using those.

John Houston

From the Investment Committee: Tithing / gifting from your IRA

If you have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you must make annual withdrawals once you reach age 70 1/2 (or 72 if born after June 1949). These withdrawals are called Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) since the IRS requires them and they must be at least the amount determined by an IRS table, given your age and size of your IRA. Not withdrawing at least the required amount each year results in a heavy penalty. IRA withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, may push you into a higher tax bracket, and may affect the taxes you pay on Social Security or Medicare. **Some tax can be avoided by taking advantage of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).** A QCD is an IRA withdrawal payable directly to an organization that accepts tax deductible contributions. It can be any amount; it can be more or less than your Required Minimum Distribution. For example, if you direct \$1000 from your IRA to be payable to the Church as your gift, it counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution but does not count as income, and you won't pay tax on it. The bank or broker that holds your IRA can help with their process for a Qualified Charitable Distribution. The key is that the IRA check must be made out to the Church – not to you – to avoid taxes. Please consult your financial or tax advisor. *Please be sure to let depositing treasurer John Houston know that your payment will be forthcoming. For safety's sake, donor names are not always listed on IRA checks.*

Support from Elders and Deacons

If you need pastoral care please contact an elder:

Heather Hansen, Fishkill; Celeste Rudberg, Wapp.;
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, Wappingers; Victor Chao, Hopewell;
Brenda Smith-Cliffe, Wapp.; Jeanne Devine, Fishkill;
Greg Totino, Fishkill

Did you know:

For older adults wishing to stay in their homes safely and independently, Dutchess County offers a wide array of free information and assistance (for adults age 60+). Contact the Office for the Aging at 845-486-2555 or email them at ofa@dutchessny.gov/aging. For questions of a more specific nature, you may reach out to Director Todd Tancredi at 845-486-2555, ttancredi@dutchessny.gov or Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones at 845-486-2544 bjones@dutchessny.gov.

Counting Our Blessings



Thanks so much to all who helped make the cookout for my retirement a wonderful, successful gathering: Pastor Amy, Dot Keller, Paul Smith, Ginnie Styles, John & Brenda Cliffe, Jean & Ed Winkler, Dorrie Hansen, Marge Merritt, and Patrick Lewis. And thank you to all who attended this delightful farewell celebration. *Pat Chism*

Thank you to all the garden committee volunteers who planted, water, and groom our lovely beds, planters and borders. Our property looks beautiful! The Memorial Garden is also now in full bloom!



The host assignment method has worked well in the past and ensures that everyone has an opportunity to share in receiving and providing fellowship, refreshments, and clean-up. Dorrie Hansen sets up the coffee. Hosts provide the goodies and clean-up. Please check each newsletter to see if you are scheduled

Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses

July 24th: Baron, Smith/Cliffe
31st: Lanni, Flayter

Aug. 7th: Lane, Garcia	Sept. 4th: Spencer, Paul Smith
14th: H&J Hansen, Skorewicz	11th: Utter, Price,
21st: Twohig, Chao	18th: VanVoorhis, Totino
28th: Keller, Buscemi/Sansone	25th: Houston, Covell

Greeters

8/7- Dana Cramer	8/14 Lola and Stan Saya
8/21- Kathleen Spencer	8/28- Rich and BJ Lanni



August

3 – Margaret Quart 12 – Stan Saya 15 – Jim Covell, Sally LeDioyt 20 – Jeanne Devine
22 – Connie Lacey 25 – Harry Guzi 28 – Jean Teske 30 – Lexxy Doerr



Save the Dates:

The Everything Sale & Community Fun Day – September 17th



The **Everything Sale** is back, and will be held in the Education Building on Saturday, September 17th. We will need all hands on deck. Please contact Jean Winkler or Brenda Smith-Cliffe to help.

The **Community Day** will be held outside, and lots of help is needed with the fun activities planned. It is an outreach to the community and an opportunity for us to join together for an outdoor afternoon of good company, good food, and fun! Please call Pia Price to help.



Fishkill Reformed Church's 16TH Annual Golf Tournament – Monday, September 19th

McCann Memorial Golf Course. 155 Wilbur Blvd. in Poughkeepsie, (845)471-3917
Registration - 9:00 am/Shotgun Start - 10 am: Buffet Dinner and Awards - 3 pm

A donation of \$175 includes golf, a cart, goody bag gifts, breakfast, lunch and dinner (at Christo's), prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place team finish, longest drive and closest to pin contests, a hole-in-one prize; plus a raffle during dinner with great prizes. Funds raised are used towards the cost of capital improvements needed to maintain our church's special historic site. Entry brochures are available in the DuBois House and the Educ. building entrance. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Call Ray VanVoorhis at 845 452-2268 or email rvanvoorhis@lmvarchitects.com, with questions or to donate signs, prizes or contributions. Contact the church office for a registration form.

Education

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.



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH'S MISSIONS



Children's Community Services

The children and parents had a great time at our school picnic and the moving up/graduating ceremonies! Our classes are filling up fast for the next school year, but there is always room for one more. If you know anyone looking for a pre-school or need before or after school care for their elementary child Please let me know.

Have a great August,
Barbara VanVoorhis



CCS Back to School Wish List

Elmer's Glue (preferably *not* School glue)
Elmer's Glue Sticks
Tacky Glue
Tissues
White paper plates, thin
Gallon size Ziploc baggies
Corn starch
Apple juice

Dry erase markers
Crayola magic markers - thin and thick
Crayola crayons
Copy machine paper
Small paper cups (*not* bathroom size)
Spray bottles
bleach
Playdough makings: flour, salt, cream of tartar, & food coloring

Registration for the 2022/2023 school year for all programs is ongoing. Please contact me if you know of those interested in enrolling their children.

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



Fishkill Food Pantry

1153 Main Street, Fishkill, New York 12524 Phone: 845-896-4546 Email: fishfoodpantry@optimum.net

Hours: 9 – 12 – Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri.; Wed 2:30-7 pm; 1st & 3rd Sat. 9 am – 12 pm

As Summer progresses, we feel the heat rise and the warmth of generosity in the air. At the Food Pantry, the total number of individuals assisted in June has increased. Several new families are seeking our help each WEEK!

Thankfully, we have the support of the community to help us during these difficult times. Town Councilman Brian Wrye arranged for a food drive at the Town Hall this past Saturday as part of the Fishkill Serves initiative, and it was a success! We raised \$312.00 and many, many bags of non-perishable foods and needed toiletries for our clients.

The senior picnic on July 6th raised \$340, including a donation from Sue Serino.

The Stormville Flea Market Saturday, July 9th raised \$1,220.09 in cash for our folks in need.

More fund-raising events to look forward to are the Hudson Valley Renegades “Fishkill Serves” Game on Sunday, July 17th, St. Mary’s Church in Fishkill food drive in August, and a Walk-Run event for the Fishkill Food Pantry in October.

So, along with the warmer weather comes such generous community members who warm MY heart.

Kristen Cullen,
Fishkill Food Pantry Director



Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless

BSA Eagle Scout Mini Food Pantry Project

Ray VanVoorhis and Eagle Scout candidate William Gwinn poured footings Saturday, May 14th and built the pantry unit the following weekend. Through our Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless collaboration with Trinity Episcopal Church (across Rt. 9) the mini pantry was located there, as there was not a conducive space on our property. Ray was FRC’s representative/mentor, and guided William through planning, design and construction of the mini food pantry. The team worked on this for 3 plus days in the field, with temperatures in the upper 90’s. First day was the foundation, next day the main framing, then painting and finally a wood shake roof, Plexiglas doors and signage. William is one of the scouts from our former church-sponsored troop. Congratulations to all on a job well done! Congratulations to William on earning the coveted Eagle Scout rank.



Suggestions for **food donations** to the mini food pantry are:

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| peanut butter | Parmalat milk | breakfast cereal | ramen noodles |
| crackers | pasta | rice | cereal |
| rice | nuts | rice cakes | tea/coffee |
| paper goods | personal care items | | pull top anything |

We are looking for small containers for up to 4 people. Items may be put directly into the mini-pantry or left in a box on the DuBois House back porch. This new mission supplements help people get from our Food Pantry (by appointment).

Thank you,

Phyllis Lake, Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless.



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.