The Parish Visitor

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

October 2022



#### From Pastor Amy:

I know many of us sometimes have trouble praying. Often, we don't know what words to say, or we feel awkward and uncomfortable, or we just don't take the time.

Prayer doesn't have to be complicated or elaborate. A simple "thank you" to God or a time of silent listening is enough.

I'd like to share this poem by Mary Oliver with you. It speaks to the simplicity and depth of prayer.

"Praying"

It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.

I hope you will make time and space in your life for prayer.



### **OUR CHURCH IN OCTOBER**

| <u>1st</u>  |   | <u>16th</u> | Worship & Coffee hour                           |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| 2nd         | Worship & Coffee hour  Happy Schmidt's Birthday  Private Prayer offered | <u>17th</u> |   |
| 3rd         |   | <u>18th</u> | Parish Visitor articles due                     |
| 4th         | Yom Kippur  | <u>19th</u> |   |
| <u>5th</u>  |   | <u>20th</u> | Don Porter's Birthday                           |
| 6th         | Jan Utter & Helene Wright Birthdays                                     | <u>21st</u> |   |
| <u>7th</u>  |   | <u>22nd</u> |   |
| 8th         | Pia B-Day party (reserved Education Building)                           | <u>23rd</u> | Worship & Coffee hour                           |
| <u>9th</u>  | Worship & Coffee Hour   | <u>24th</u> |   |
| <u>10th</u> | <u>Columbus Day</u>   | <u>25th</u> |   |
| <u>11th</u> | Consistory meeting  | <u>26th</u> |   |
| <u>12th</u> |   | <u>27th</u> | Cristian Rodriguez & Heather Hansen's Birthdays |
| <u>13th</u> |   | <u>28th</u> |   |
| <u>14th</u> |   | <u>29th</u> | Ed Winkler's Birthday                           |
| <u>15th</u> | Jean Winkler - Pot Luck Dinner 5-8 pm<br>Gina Serra's Birthday          | <u>30th</u> | Worship & Coffee hour                           |
|             |   | <u>31th</u> | <u>Halloween</u>                                |



#### Sept. 18th - Oct. 30th is Stewardship month. Here are the activities we have planned:

**On Oct.2,** We will steward the abundance of food we have been given and begin a canned soup drive for the food pantry that will run through the month of October

**On Oct. 9,** we will steward the land we are given and collect vegetable seeds so we can begin our garden in the Spring. Food from the garden will be given to the food pantry so recipients will have fresh vegetables we have grown for them and to church members who may want them. Volunteers will be able to sign up on this day to help with the garden next spring.

**October 16** is Consecration Sunday. On this day, we will hear the stories of some folks who have multiplied their \$40 for the church and how God used what they were given to make even more for the kingdom. This will be the day to make your pledges for the coming year.

October 23, we will hear more stories about the multiplication of resources.

**October 30** will be the final day for canned soup collection, shoe collection, and seed collection as we wrap up Stewardship Month. Thank you in advance to all who participate!

<u>Parish Visitor articles for November are due by the 21<sup>st</sup> of October (NO EXEMPTIONS).</u> Articles received after will go in the Decembers 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 (Carolyn Cordoni): office@fishkillreformed.org. Phone: 845 896-9836.

Office Hours are Monday thru Friday. 9 am – 3 pm: in-person. Please call before visiting.

<u>Church Calendar</u> – When scheduling a church meeting or event, please contact the *Church Office* so

That it can be listed on the church calendar.

<u>Prayer Chain</u> – To be added to the church prayer chain contact list or to submit prayer requests for yourself or others, please email <u>prayerchain@fishkillreformed.org</u>.

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." ://us02web.zoom.us/j/85301499038?pwd=QzRXL3Z1QmpUNkFnMUxUeTNrMXQwZz09

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: at 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.

Private Prayer Will be offered on the first Sundays of each month with an Elder after service.



### Our Consistory at Work

#### Meeting Notes from September 13<sup>th,</sup> 2022

Heather Hansen led devotions based on Psalm 23 and Philippians 4:7. Life gives us so many opportunities to reflect on the message of God's peace that Psalm 23 offers us and to take comfort in its words. There is no force in the universe as powerful as God's love, and the knowledge of God's love and presence is sufficient to carry us through each day!

Our thanks to the many committed volunteers and our Director at the Food Pantry who continue to meet the growing need for assistance in our area. Their daily presence and the extra effort at fundraisers such as the Beacon Farm Market, Shoprite collection, and the Stormville Flea Market make a big difference in many lives!

As part of the Stewardship activities planned for September, envelopes containing money and ideas to be used towards raising funds for our church's needs have been distributed to church members. We hope your creativity and energy will be fruitful!

Pastor Amy will begin a (Zoom) Bible Study of the Acts of the Apostles on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm beginning October 5<sup>th</sup> MS.

The Outpour Center in Jackson, MS has expressed its gratitude for our donation of \$1,000 (plus incoming donations from our congregation) towards the collection and distribution of bottled water for their residents affected by the recent devastating floods.

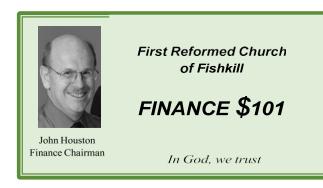
A letter is being sent to the Mid-Hudson Classis requesting approval to have extra assessment waived to allow us to pursue dual affiliation with the UCC without members of our congregation incurring the financial burden. New Paltz and other churches have already received this exemption, so we believe there is a fair precedent for this request.

Consistory approved the appointment of Janie Koopmans as our new Choir Director, effective as of Oct. 1st. We welcome Janie back with gratitude and anticipation of many more beautiful choruses filling our sanctuary!

The Christian Education Committee will be meeting to discuss what type of Sunday School program will best meet the needs of our families. We hope to see this as an opportunity for change, with new ideas that will be suited to our current numbers of children as well as any new students who may arrive. The Sunday School program will begin in October...more information will follow!

Treasurer's August report: Total YTD revenue: \$150,019.69; Total YTD expenses: \$219,045.51.

Property Committee updates: Painting of the fence surrounding the Ed building has been completed; problems with door mechanisms on the Ed building and shed door are being corrected; a crash bar will be added to the kitchen door; Doyle Security will add a fire alarm and smoke detector systems to the sanctuary; B&L Property Mgt will provide service for snow removal and lawn cutting on the church grounds and will power wash and clean the gutters at the parsonage. Our plan of action to remove and replace the mounting block outside the sanctuary is awaiting information about Zoning regulations. Numerous offers for help in removing and replacing the block have been made, and Toni Houston is researching what type of structure will be historically correct and appropriate.



Church Finance Article for October 2022

As the pace of life picks up, sometimes the little things are missed. Many people write checks to the church, and recently we've received several checks made out incorrectly. This delays or prevents the money from being used as intended. When you write a check, please be sure of the following.

- 1. Make the check payable to First Reformed Church, Fishkill Reformed, or similar. We cannot deposit checks made out to Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless, our missionaries, Church World Service, etc. Please make the checks out to our church and use the Memo line to tell us if it is for a special purpose. We will get the money to the correct place
- 2. Make sure you write the correct date on the check.
- 3. Make sure the same amount is written in both locations on the check.
- Make sure you have signed your check.

  Thank you!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Dutchess County Crop Walk

The 46th annual Dutchess County CROP WALK is coming Sunday, October 30th. Last year's walk ranked 13th in the nation, and they have set a goal this year at \$60000. Our food pantry has been the recipient of CROP grants, and last year was over \$1600. Please speak with John Twohig to be a walker or to make a pledge. Thank You.

#### **October Continuing Our Shoe Drive**

We need your shoes! As part of our church's focus on Stewardship, we are planning a Shoe Collection in the next few months. GENTLY USED or new shoes, we are accepting adult and children's sizes of all types of shoes: sneakers, sandals, flip flops, dress shoes, slippers, crocs, and boots (including golf shoes, but excluding ski boots and skates!) We'll be setting up collection boxes. For an organization: Called Funds2Orgs. For more information on this please contact Linda Baron. If anyone knows any groups or an organization interested in helping. Please let her know. (a box is on the back porch of DuBois House)

#### October 15th Pot Luck Dinner

Saturday, Oct.15<sup>th</sup> we will be having a potluck dinner in the Education Building. For more information on this please contact Jean Winkler.

#### Support from Elders and Deacons

If you need pastoral care please contact an elder:

Heather Hansen, Fishkill Celeste Rudberg, Wappingers
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, Wappingers Jeanne Devine, Fishkill
Greg Totino, Fishkill



2 – Happy Schmidt 6 – Jan Utter & Helene Wright 15 – Gina Serra 20 – Don Porter 27 – Cristian Rodriguez & Heather Hansen 29 – Ed Winkler



How nice it is to have this fellowship again! The names of those assigned will be listed in each month's "Parish Visitor" newsletter. We will assign only people we have seen attending, as some have not yet returned in person. This 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 has most graciously agreed to set up the coffee. And there is a new cabinet in the library with needed supplies.

Thank you for taking your turn. Please check the newsletter to see if you are scheduled. If you see only two names, it means that someone unable to manage the set-up work will still be able to contribute goodies. If you are not available on the assigned Sunday, please try to switch with someone. If that fails, please call Karen Twohig.

# OCTOBER 2022



# Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses



Jeanne Devine & The Flayters Oct. 2 n d

9th Oct. The Lannis & Roy Carruthers

Julie Sanders & Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> Cantela-Garcia

**23**<sup>rd</sup> The Twohigs & **Dorrie Hansen** Oct.

30<sup>th</sup> Smith-Cliffes & Linda Baron Oct.

# Worship Greeters / Collector



2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. **Evelyn Bobb** 

9<sup>th</sup> Paul & Rose Smith Oct.

Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> **Dana Cramer** 

Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> **Barbara Harty** 

Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> **Heather Hansen (John will be the offering collector)** 

# Liturgist



Jan Lane Oct. 2th

9<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Celeste Rudberg** 

Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> **Paul Smith** 

**John Twohig** 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct.

30<sup>th</sup> **Pia Price** Oct.



## Flowers donated this month by



Oct.9th No More for the Road Group & Kathleen Spencer in memory of: **Patty Behrendt-Olivieri** 

# **NOVEMBER 2022**

## Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses



Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Jan Lane & Buscemi/Sansone

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Heather & John Hansen & Kathleen Spencer

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> Dot Keller & Pia Price & Greg Totino

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> Falcones & Jan Utter

# Welcome

# **Worship Greeters / Collectors**

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Diane & Gordon Flayter

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Alice Binder

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> Steve & Ava Falcone

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> Dana Cramer

# Liturgist



Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Bill Resling

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Jan Lane

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Chao

Nov. 27th

### Flowers Donated this month by:



Nov.13<sup>th</sup> Paul Smith in memory of Terri Smit

Jean Teske in memory of Emil W. Teske (Elder & Sunday school teacher). June Crawford in loving memory of Harold Crawford &

in loving memory of my parents Leon & Ina Maciorowski.

John & Brenda Cliffe in memory of their parents, James & Mary Cliffe and George & Mary Harris.







The Consistory has removed the mandate to wear masks in the sanctuary began on the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>. We still STRONGLY recommend mask-wearing since wearing a mask is not for your protection but to protect those around you. So that those who wish to remain masked and around other masked people, we will designate different areas of the sanctuary to honor both decisions. Those who wish to wear a mask and want to be seated near others with masks, please sit on the right side of the sanctuary. Those who do not want to wear a mask, please sit on the left side of the sanctuary. We have many vulnerable members and want to protect them the best we can. Thank you for your cooperation.



**The Activities Committee** would like to thank **EVERYONE** who assisted with the Everything Sale on Sept 17th. We had lots of donations and, thank goodness, lots of helpers. So, Thank You ALL. Jean Winkler

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a Pot Luck Supper at 5 p.m. in the Ed. Building. Followed by a Name That Tune and Guess Who This Is. Lots of fun and friends. Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board in the Ed Bldg. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please call Jean.



**Girl Scout Troop 10398** is starting back up with our twice-a-month meetings. This fall the girls will be working on their Democracy badge and planning some fun activities like axe throwing and laser tag. Please contact Jeanne Devine if you need any Girl Power community service projects and we'll do our best to make the world a better place.



**Our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing** was a huge success on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>. This is a major fundraiser to help offset the maintenance needed for our 5 buildings and grounds. The weather held off until 100 golfers finished playing!

I would like to thank all our volunteers that helped the day of this fun event, those who cooked our delicious breakfast treats, the local merchants who donated to our raffle, our sponsors, our committee, and all our golfers. All in all, we profited approximately \$9,100!!!

Thank you again

Ray VanVoorhis

#### The Southern Dutchess Coalition for the Homeless.

We want to have a shower/washer trailer that can be used in our part of the county so that our homeless friends can have use of it. The Hudson River Housing will partner with us for cost and staff. It is our responsibility to form a committee that will be responsible to move the trailer, take care of making sure the gray water is properly disposed of, and to clean it. We know that there is one person in Beacon who is willing to work on it. We need someone who will take charge of the work and make sure it is done. If you are willing to take on this responsibility, please speak with Pastor Amy. I think I can find two or three people from other churches to help. Our church needs to commit to the leadership for this project









#### Join the Choir

Practice begins at 2 pm. Every Thursday, we meet in the sanctuary.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!! **↓** 

#### Or do you play an instrument?

Guitar? Drums? Chimes? Flute? Cello? penny whistle? maracas? ........ Join us for choir practice!!

Then, join us for Worship on Sundays at 10:00 am. Is your Voice failing you?

Play an Instruments!

It is amazing what talents God has given us!! Say Yes!

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
Come before him with songs." (Psalm 100:1-2)

Janie is interested in you let her know!!!

(Some instruments are available in the choir office)





# TRIBUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS Thank You!

For all those who helped and donated their time and efforts for our events!!!!!!



<u>For children during worship:</u> 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.

<u>Lost and Found</u> Are you missing a pair of grey garden gloves or grey winter gloves? Both pairs are by the DuBois House mailboxes.

Are you missing a hearing aid? It was found after service a little over a month ago. If you believe it is yours' please stop by the main office.

<u>Memorial Flowers</u> 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 July, August, October, and November. We need at least three or more requests per month. *Please consider signing up for flowers.* 

#### FLOWER DONATION FORM

| l              |  | wish to                                   | donate flowers  | in the month           |
|----------------|--|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| of             | I have                                     |   |                 |                        |
| •              | heck for \$20 with "For appear in the bull |   | ation in the Me | mo" and would like     |
| Mail to: First |  | f Fishkill, 1 <sup>-</sup><br>ttn: Flower |                 | t, Fishkill, NY 12524, |
| مہ             | 1  | ٦,  | 9               | <i>~</i> ٢             |

Miles of Hope Community Walk, Run, Bike for Breast Cancer 2022 will mark the 19th year of the Miles of Hope Community Walk for Breast Cancer. There is nothing like being together, honoring our friends, our family, and all those who have been affected by breast cancer, they will host their Community Walk on October 2, at James Baird State Park, rain or shine. Opening ceremonies will begin at 9:30 am, Walk to begin at 10:00 am. Their virtual event will be online for the entire month of October, breast cancer awareness month.

Together, we all make a difference. info@milesofhope.org 845-264-2005

### **Children's Community Services**



We are off to a great school year! It's so nice to hear happy voices in the hallway again! Our number of children in the 4-year-old program is not as large as we'd like due to the free pre-school program that Wappingers Central School District has begun this year, BUT the 3's and Parent & Tots are booming!

October will be filled with discovering the new fall season, including a trip for DeKinder to Meadowbrook Farm!

Please call 845-896-9876 if you or anyone you know is interested in any of our programs. Barbara V

<u>Upcoming Events:</u> October 5<sup>th</sup> Yom Kippur - closed

October 10<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day – closed

October 26<sup>th</sup> P & T Halloween Party

October 27<sup>th</sup> 3's Halloween Party

October 31st 4's Halloween Party

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

#### **CCS Wish List**

Elmer's Glue (preferably *not* school glue) Dry erase markers

Elmer's Glue Sticks Crayola magic markers - thin and thick

Tacky Glue Crayola crayons
Tissues Copy machine paper

White paper plates, thin Small paper cups (*not* bathroom size)

Gallon size Ziploc baggies Spray bottles

Corn starch bleach

Apple juice Playdough makings: flour, salt, cream of tartar, & food coloring









# Fishkill Food Pantry

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

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

Kristen Cullen, Pantry Director

Here at the Fishkill Food Pantry, we strive to serve those in need, including our neighbors, friends, and community members. As the number of recipients has increased, we are both saddened by this knowledge yet blessed that we can do it. To continue receiving donations, we must educate the public on who we are and what we do by getting the word out as much as possible







# Halfway there!

\$89 ( as of 9-21) raised so far!

You're about halfway through your benefitting month when Fishkill Food Pantry will receive \$1 from every \$2.50 Fight Hunger Bag sold at:







A walk/run to benefit the Fishkill Food Pantry

Join us for our first annual 5k walk/run to benefit the Fishkill Food Pantry on OCTOBER 30, 2022.

The fun starts at 8am in East Fishkill on the Dutchess County Rail Trail — parking on Van Wyck Lane. **Come in costume!** 

**REGISTER HERE:** runsignup.com/Race/NY/HopewellJunction/TheGreatGiveback5K

Get involved! Contact us to discuss volunteer and sponsorship opportunities! (845) 896-4546

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates facebook.com/FishkillFoodPantry @fishkillfoodpantry







The Fishkill Food Pantry is the largest food pantry in Dutchess County, serving families in: Beacon, Beekman, Chelsea, Cold Spring, Fishkill, Glenham, Hopewell Junction, Hughsonville, Poughquag, Stormville, and Wappingers Falls.

The consistory asks us to be in prayer and conversation as to how God would have each of us honor our covenant with this congregation, and make a monetary pledge for the coming year. We are committed to making our budget based on what is pledged by the congregation and have been blessed by the faithfulness and generosity of this congregation.

#### To God be the Glory!

| WEEKLY GIVING GUIDE |                   |                  |       |        |        |        |        |        |  |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| Annual Income       | Monthly<br>Income | Weekly<br>Income | 2%    | 4%     | 6%     | 8%     | 10%    | 15%    |  |
| 12,000              | 1,000             | 231              | 5.00  | 9.00   | 14.00  | 18.00  | 23.00  | 35.00  |  |
| 16,000              | 1,333             | 308              | 6.00  | 12.00  | 18.00  | 25.00  | 31.00  | 46.00  |  |
| 20,000              | 1,667             | 385              | 8.00  | 15.00  | 23.00  | 31.00  | 39.00  | 58.00  |  |
| 25,000              | 2,083             | 481              | 10.00 | 19.00  | 29.00  | 38.00  | 48.00  | 72.00  |  |
| 30,000              | 2,500             | 577              | 12.00 | 23.00  | 35.00  | 46.00  | 58.00  | 87.00  |  |
| 35,000              | 2,917             | 673              | 13.00 | 27.00  | 40.00  | 54.00  | 67.00  | 101.00 |  |
| 40,000              | 3,333             | 769              | 15.00 | 31.00  | 46.00  | 62.00  | 77.00  | 115.00 |  |
| 45,000              | 3,750             | 865              | 17.00 | 35.00  | 52.00  | 69.00  | 87.00  | 130.00 |  |
| 50,000              | 4,167             | 962              | 19.00 | 38.00  | 58.00  | 77.00  | 96.00  | 144.00 |  |
| 60,000              | 5,000             | 1,154            | 23.00 | 46.00  | 69.00  | 92.00  | 115.00 | 173.00 |  |
| 75,000              | 6,250             | 1,442            | 29.00 | 58.00  | 78.00  | 115.00 | 144.00 | 216.00 |  |
| 100,000             | 8,333             | 1,923            | 38.00 | 77. 00 | 115.00 | 154.00 | 192.00 | 288.00 |  |
| 125,000             | 10,417            | 2,404            | 48.00 | 96.00  | 144.00 | 192.00 | 240.00 | 361.00 |  |
| 150,000             | 12,500            | 2,885            | 58.00 | 115.00 | 173.00 | 231.00 | 289.00 | 433.00 |  |
| 200,000             | 16,667            | 3,846            | 77.00 | 154.00 | 231.00 | 308.00 | 385.00 | 577.00 |  |

No cash, no checks, no problem! There are multiple options for paying your pledge or making another donation.

Consider signing up for automatic withdrawal. Once per month, our treasurer initiates a transaction that collects funds directly from individual accounts. The person giving in this manner just has to make sure there is cash available in the account



### FIRST REFORMED CHURCH'S MISSIONS



### Our Church Sponsored RCA Missionaries

Once every five years, all the racial/ethnic councils plan their gatherings at the same place so they can have an overlapping joint session, all together. That happened two weeks ago in Chicago, and I got to be there. It was the first time the Council for Native American Indigenous Ministries met since being reconstituted at General Synod in June. (Absolute favorite moment of the joint session: hearing this group sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" in Apache, and all the rest of us join in on the fourth verse.) The African American Black Council was there, too, as the Hispanic Council, and the Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries. It was a beautifully diverse group. Leaders from the councils shared powerful stories and testimonies of God at work in their lives and their churches. Driving home, I was buoyed up by the stories I'd heard and the conversations I'd had. In the last few years, we've heard a lot about the RCA's multicultural, multiracial future freed from racism. At this gathering, it was clear that Revelation 7:9, with all tribes and tongues and peoples and nations, gathered around the throne of God, is not just the future—it's the present. We've been longing for this in the RCA for some time now. Since General Synod 2008 added a multiracial future component to Our Call, the big 10-year goal at the time. Since the Decade Freed from Racism initiative was adopted in 1998. Since the formation of the first racial/ethnic council in 1969. Perhaps much earlier than that, even. And look at what God has done and is doing! That's worth a pause today to celebrate and give thanks.

Christina Tazelaar
Chief communications officer
Reformed Church in America

Links to check out:

https://go.rca.org/e/824133/d-finds-hope-at-first-meeting-/2rfhmm/413652165?h=bCSRFw11OitpuekjqWCLepHFUJ8TIEtI2qvcYKihzAQ

https://go.rca.org/e/824133/write-about-reformed-theology-/2rfhmq/413652165?h=bCSRFw11OitpuekjqWCLepHFUJ8TIEtI2qvcYKihzAQ

https://go.rca.org/e/824133/tions-the-renovations-project-/2rfhmt/413652165?h=bCSRFw11OitpuekjqWCLepHFUJ8TIEtI2qvcYKihzAQ

https://go.rca.org/e/824133/ion-spark-christian-mentoring-/2rfhmx/413652165?h=bCSRFw11OitpuekigWCLepHFUJ8TIEtI2qvcYKihzAQ

https://go.rca.org/e/824133/xtQQGZZMUXeH3O99NJJ-uTB1oV4Nt0/2rfhn1/413652165?h=bCSRFw11OitpuekjqWCLepHFUJ8TIEtl2qvcYKihzAQ





# **First Reformed Church**

1153 Main Street, Fishkill, New York 12524

www.fishkillreformed.org office@fishkillreformed.org

845-896-9836

Rev. Dr. Amy Nyland, Pastor

Christine Johannsen, Organist Janie Koopmans, Choir Director Carolyn Cordoni, Administrative Assistant Barbara VanVoorhis, Children's Community Services Director Kristen Cullen, Fishkill Food Pantry Director