

MARCH 2026

# The Fisherman

The newsletter of the Reformed Dutch Church Of Claverack



## Consistory 2026

### Elders

Glenn Holzhauer  
Snookie Patterson  
Melissa Skoda  
Julie Veronezi

### Deacons

Louise Bailey  
Lloyd Lawrence  
Cindy Loucks  
Jan Lynch

## Staff

Rev. Vanessa Funk  
*Minister*

Andrea Mastrianni  
*Director of Music*

Lynn Oliveri  
*Custodian*

## Missionaries

Rev. and Mrs. Brad Kautz  
*Jicarilla Apache Nation*  
RCA—Partner in Mission

## Remembering the Last Supper

by Grace Ruiters

[www.faithward.org/reflections-on-the-last-supper](http://www.faithward.org/reflections-on-the-last-supper)

When Jesus was breaking the bread and pouring out the wine for the first Eucharist, I wonder what was going through the disciples' minds. Were they distracted by thoughts of tomorrow's dinner or sounds from the street outside? Were they joyful because they were sharing a meal with people they loved? Or were they grieving the betrayal Jesus told them was coming?

Did they realize the significance of the moment?

I used to imagine the point when Jesus broke the bread as this pure, miraculous instant where one little room in Jerusalem experienced complete redemption in Christ right here on earth. But I think that forgets the very human people who Jesus sat next to at the table. They didn't leave their humanity at the door. They carried it in with them, just like we do today.

We come broken. We come tired. We come jealous. We come distracted. We come hurt. We come joyful. We come grieving. We come anxious. We come angry. We come confused. We come empty. We come bursting.

But to the table we come. And there God greets us with a meal we cannot eat anywhere else. Jesus breaks the bread of life for us, and hands us a cup filled with the deep red wine that flows from his heart into ours.

Communion isn't holy because we come into it with our hearts fully set on God and our minds fully focused on the meaning of Jesus's sacrifice. It's holy because we don't do either of those things, and God cleanses us of our sins, anyway. We hear Jesus's words, but we only comprehend a sliver of them. We watch what Jesus does, but the world watches us and struggles to see the connection to the man we try to imitate.

And yet, in spite of all that, we come to the table, and Jesus feeds us.

The Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack

Drawer K / 88 Route 9H / Claverack, New York 12513 / 518-851-3811

[rdccministry.org](http://rdccministry.org)

# MARCH 2026

## Worship Schedule

*Worship starts at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary,  
followed by coffee hour in the Fellowship hall.*

- March 1** Rev. Vanessa Funk  
**March 8** Rev. Vanessa Funk  
**March 15** TBD  
**March 22** Rev. Vanessa Funk  
**March 29** Rev. Vanessa Funk  
**April 2** **Maundy Thursday**  
Rev. Vanessa Funk

## Lectionary Readings

### 3/1 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17;  
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

### 3/8 Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;  
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

### 3/15 Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

### 3/22 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

### 3/29 Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Kimberly Kline	3/2
Norma Barnard	3/2
Linda Theiss	3/2
Elena Campion	3/2
Anne Terwilliger	3/7
Priscilla Fosby	3/8
Kameron Case	3/15
Megan Schoep	3/16
Rev. Vanessa Funk	3/17
Shanda Steenburn	3/18
Nathan Winch	3/20
Gabriel Case	3/22
Christopher Post	3/22
Louise Bliss	3/24
Joshua Campion	3/30



## 2026 Lent & Easter Dates

### Palm Sunday - March 29 @ 9:30 a.m.

A Sunday of Hosannas and the passing out of palms.

### Maundy Thursday - April 2 @ 7:00 p.m.

Our Tenebrae service (service of darkness) includes communion  
and the extinguishing of candles.

### Easter Sunday - April 5 @ 9:30 a.m.

Our annual Easter celebration -- He is risen indeed!

# News & Notes



## Annual Report Meeting – Sunday, March 8

A congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 8** (following the worship service), to review both the church's **2025 Annual Report** and the **2025 Financials/2026 Budget**. Please plan on attending for these important reports and updates concerning our church's ministry.

## RCW Meeting on Sunday, March 8

See story on the next page.

## Craft Swap Fundraiser set for April 25

The RCW is holding a **Craft Swap** fundraiser on **Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** (See the ad for this event elsewhere in this newsletter.) Items for sale to include yarn, fabric, craft supplies, patterns, books, notions, tools, buttons, quilting, and more. Baked goods and beverages will also be on sale. Donations of craft supplies and baked goods are needed, along with event day volunteers. Please see or contact Kim Plass for more information.

## DVD & Soup Sale returns in March

The final DVD & Soup Sale for 2026 is on **Sunday, March 29, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, at the Claverack Free Library. So far, this year's Soup Sales have raised over \$1,000 for our programs. You can help by contributing a soup to sell or purchasing soup during the event. For more information, see Shirley Sullivan or contact the church office.

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## Easter Lily Orders for 2026

If you would like to order an Easter Lily, please fill in the following form and place it in the collection plate or drop it off at the church office. You may also email your order to [office@claverackreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@claverackreformedchurch.org).

**Price: \$12 each -- Orders are DUE MARCH 23, 2026.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Message: (In memory of... In celebration of...)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# RCW to Meet March 8th

## Members to review/approve proposed donations

The RCW will meet in the sanctuary on **March 8, 2026** following the Congregational Meeting. By being efficient and organized, and sharing the following information ahead of the meeting, the RCW can accomplish the business that needs to be addressed and also be respectful of everyone's time.

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### **For efficiency -- information to consider:**

#### **Previously decided:**

- 50% of the money realized from the 2025 Bazaar will be distributed to charitable organizations (\$6,250.00) and 50% will be held for our church's needs and miscellaneous expenses.
- The RCW will contribute \$5,000.00 to the church's 2025/2026 fuel bill.
- At a cost of \$500.00, the RCW will purchase lighter weight tables for the C.E. Building's Meeting Hall.

#### **Suggested charitable organizations to receive contributions, and dollar amounts to be voted on:**

- Ghent, Claverack, and Salvation Army Food Pantries (\$3,000.00)
  - Veterans (\$500.00)
  - Camp Fowler (\$1,000)
  - Backpack Program (\$1,750.00)
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Thank you to Linda Nack, RCW Treasurer and Shirley Sullivan, RDCC Treasurer for co-ordinating efforts with the Bank of Greene County to complete all requirements for Linda Nack to officially assume her responsibilities as treasurer.

Thank you to Kim Plass for chairing the anticipated 2026 Bazaar and for chairing the craft fundraiser event on April 18. Please collect your craft materials and bring them to the CE Meeting Hall.

Thank you to Dianne Slusar and Irene Holzhauer for working together to continue our hospitality for events (for example: following a memorial service, a special Sunday service, or church celebration).

Thank you to everyone for helping in quiet unseen ways, or in ways where we see you contributing time, talent, and treasure.

If any woman has ideas for future events, be they social, or as a fund raiser, please bring your ideas to the meeting on March 8.

Louise Bliss, *President RCW*



# CRAFT SWAP

**Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**\$10**  
**Fill A Bag**

**Bring Items to Swap**

**\$5**  
**Fill A Bag**

Yarn, fabric, craft supplies, patterns, books, notions, tools, buttons, quilting, and more!

**Baked Goods & Beverages for sale**

Swap donations accepted April 19 - 25

**Reformed Dutch Church, Route 9H, Claverack, NY**  
RDCCministry.org

# Join a committee!

Working together through your talents & gifts while making new friends!

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**Worship** -- strives to provide a meaningful worship experience for all, glorifying God and bringing the Word into our midst

**Nurture** -- assists in providing Christian compassion to those in need of support within our church family and community

**Mission** -- supports God's mission of love through tangible needs and fundraising

**Fellowship** -- organizes and sponsors various get-togethers and activities to foster community

**Property** -- oversees the repair, maintenance, and historical needs of our buildings and grounds

**Stewardship** -- administering the use of the church's talents and funds in support of God's ministry

**Christian Discipleship & Education** -- develops and administers educational programs so that all may grow in the love of God

**Interested?** See a Consistory member or Reverend Vanessa for more information or to get started!



If you would like to **support this newsletter and other good works of the church**, please consider donating by scanning the QR code with your camera app.

*We appreciate every donation. Thank you!*

## Contact Us

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### The Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack

**Rev. Vanessa Funk, Minister**

Wednesdays & Thursdays. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
(616) 541-0855  
[rdccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:rdccpastor@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours**

Tuesday, 9am - 2pm;  
email or call for appointments  
(518) 851-3811  
[office@claverackreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@claverackreformedchurch.org)