

THE NEW HACKENSACK REFORMED CHURCH



AN INTRODUCTION BOOKLET FOR PROSPECTIVE PASTORAL CANDIDATES

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WWW.NHRC-CHURCH.ORG

Dear Pastor,

On behalf of the Consistory and congregation of the New Hackensack Reformed Church, thank you for taking the opportunity to find out more about us.

We are a congregation of over two hundred with a strong sense of mission within our community and within the world. We have many active members who are dedicated to serving Christ as they serve each other and our community. We have an active Congregational Care program to help members during times of need.

We are a big church with a small church atmosphere representing a blend of many denominational backgrounds. We have people who grew up in a Reformed Church, however, most of our congregation come from other denominations such as Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Catholic Baptist and more. We believe the diversity of faith backgrounds is one of our strengths., We are all on a journey with Christ and can grow and learn from each other as we remain true to God's Word.

We are currently looking for a senior Minister with strong preaching, leadership, and administrative skills. Our former Pastor retired in June 2025. We have been fortunate to continue our worship services, both in-person and online with the help of a group of retired ministers and preaching elders providing pulpit supplies and a resolute Consistory and congregation.

Our Search Committee looks forward to the possibility of meeting you. In the meantime, may God grant you encouragement and strength as you continue to serve Him.

Yours in Christ,

Roger Eddy

Vice-President of Consistory

WELCOME TO THE NEW HACKENSACK REFORMED CHURCH

Through these words and photographs you may gain better understanding of our history, the church today and New Hackensack's dreams and direction for the future.

WE ARE...

- a 268-year-old church that has continued to grow throughout the decades.
- reformed in our theology yet representing a blend of many denominational backgrounds.
- a mid-size church with a small church attitude.
- noted for our spirit of friendliness and our desire to grow in our faith and works as we serve God and others.
- a church that is open and welcoming to all.

WE NEED...

- prayers as we seek to find the pastor God has chosen to lead our congregation.
- a pastor who will inspire us with preaching and living the word of God.
- a spiritual leader who will help us on our individual and collective journeys of faith.
- a pastor to help us meet the changing needs of God's church in the future.
- a pastor who will lead us, challenge us, and sometimes push us to be a church that God wants us to be.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NEW HACKENSACK REFORMED CHURCH

In 1758, at an age far less complicated than the one in which we live today, a handful of people had a vision. That vision became the New Hackensack Reformed Church, a church which today continues to witness to the love and power of Jesus Christ.

Since 1758, that vision has only periodically dimmed and remarkably, has never been lost. Life is never lived on a flat plane, nor is history, and we must recognize that there are good years and bad years, magnificent moments, and miserable moments. We are people of memory and of history, but we are also people of hope and promise. We remember our past with gratitude, and we look forward to our future with great anticipation.

In 1766, our first church edifice (a 20' x 25' building with a steeple) was erected, and by 1834, a new church was built. From our first pastor, The Reverend Isaac Rysdack, to our most recent, The Reverend Keith Tamlyn. We have been blessed with leadership and religious guidance throughout the years.

In the 1960's we acquired an 11-acre parcel with a magnificent house built in 1840, and that home is now our parsonage. We completed the building of our Education Center in 1969, and our present sanctuary and Fellowship Hall were completed in 1990.

As we continue in the 21st century, we at New Hackensack Reformed Church look back on our history with pride and look to our future with promise and commitment to fulfill our vision.



OUR COMMUNITY

New Hackensack Reformed Church is in Wappingers Falls in Dutchess County. Dutchess County is in the heart of the Hudson Valley, midway between New York City and New York's

capital, Albany. The western border includes thirty miles of Hudson River shoreline with Connecticut forming the eastern border. The character of the area is suburban and rural with two cities on the Hudson River. Wappingers Falls is just south of Poughkeepsie, the most populous town in the County. Public transportation includes the Metro-North Railroad system which serves the area with direct commuter trains to New York City, Amtrak, and Stewart International Airport, approximately 30 minutes away in Newburgh, NY.



Dutchess County is a wealth of historical homes, cultural and sporting events as well as numerous other activities for all ages. Some of our major attractions include the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home and Presidential Library, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic site, Walkway Over the Hudson, Culinary Institute of America, Innisfree Gardens, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Dutchess Stadium, home of the Hudson Valley Renegades baseball team, the Bardavan 1869 Opera House, the Young-Morse Historic site (Locust Grove), the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College, Bannerman Castle on Pollepel Island, and Splash Down Beach Park. Also, there are wineries, distilleries, public gardens, hiking trails, pick-your-own farms plus an extensive network of parks and recreation centers with various activities including hiking along the Appalachian Trail. These activities offer a mix of history, culture, and natural beauty, making Dutchess County a beautiful place to live.

The 3,329 acres of public parkland, eight public golf courses, five yacht clubs or boating facilities also offer a variety of activities to our residents.

Dutchess County offers many opportunities for employment. The largest employers include Vassar Hospital, Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital, Vassar College, Dutchess Community College, Marist College, the State of New York, along with many opportunities in retail, finance, manufacturing, the arts, science, and technology.

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

We worship at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday in the Sanctuary. Services are live streamed on Facebook and YouTube and may be viewed from our homepage. Links are posted on our homepage.

We offer a *Children in Worship* program for ages three to sixth grade during Worship.

Nursery care for children younger than three are provided in the Nursery.

Youth in seventh grade and older will attend worship with their families.

Communion is offered the first Sunday of every month to all those who have confessed Our Lord Jesus as Savior



CHURCH COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES



There are several councils and committees that serve to oversee the spiritual growth and the various activities of the body of Christ at NHRC. The Holy Spirit calls members of the congregation to use the gifts He has given in various areas of service. These councils and committees fall under the authority of consistory and are chaired by a deacon or an elder.

Congregational Life's purpose is to promote and encourage the involvement of the congregation in a variety of dedicated events such as the spaghetti dinner, coffee hour, food collection for the food pantries, and luncheons for funerals and Consecration Sunday. We also have fundraisers which help with the upkeep of the kitchen. The Council also stands by to assist other Councils and groups in their programs.



Congregational Care Committee serves to supplement the spiritual and physical well-being of our Church members. The Congregational Care committee works to meet the unique needs experienced by our members, recognizing that we are spiritual, physical, and social beings. The Pastoral Care Team consists of members who make themselves available for home visits, hospital/nursing home visits, phone call card ministry participation. This team collaborates with our pastor in meeting the needs of our members. The Shepherd Program, when called upon, help meet a family's needs when there is a serious illness, a death, or a need. They might include welcoming new members, visiting after the birth of a new baby or a death of a family member, or simply offering a helping hand during a time of need.

Christian Education Council oversees all aspects of faith formation in our church—from Nursery through Adult Education. We ensure the Nursery is lovingly staffed each Sunday to provide a safe, caring environment for our little ones, through our Children and Worship Program, we nurture their faith, teach them about God's love, and prepare them to participate meaningfully in worship with the whole congregation.

The Education Council plans engaging activities such as, Kid Socials, Ice Cream parties, Christmas events, and service activities to help build community among the children while centering on God's Word and mission. Adults in our congregation are also encouraged to grow in faith through opportunities like Sunday morning Bible Study, the church library, and a variety of other educational programs.



New Hackensack Nursery School has been established for over 50 years. Founded by a group of mothers in 1965, who felt that the four-year-old child was a special individual who required a school setting that provided freedom to develop independence and creativity. Today, they continue this vision in all their preschool programs.

Outreach Council is a Mission minded council. The Council provides opportunities for service that proclaim and spread the love of Jesus Christ. That love comes in many forms: volunteer support, financial support, needs collection or simply prayer. The council responds to special appeals from the Reformed Church World Service, providing aid in times of national or international crisis. We are currently providing support to Hudson Valley ALS Association, American Red Cross Blood Services, Crop Walk, Church World Services, Food Bank of Hudson Valley, Sparrows Nest, Liberty Staton and Rural and Migrant Ministry to name but a few of the Councils services to the community.





Worship and Music Council provides advice and counsel to the Pastor concerning the content of worship services, and recruit worship assistants as well as ushers and greeters, also arranges for communion and the coordination of flowers. The council provides oversight for the music program and its staff and maintains job descriptions and contracts for the music staff. The music program consists of the Chancel Choir, the Campanola Ringers, as well as guest instrumentalists and singers. The Technical Crew is responsible for the Projection, Live Stream, Sound and Hearing-Impaired Systems. They administer the projection of the Sunday worship, the announcements, and the live stream into Facebook, YouTube, and the NHRC website.

Property Committee is a group of volunteers whose duties broadly include maintenance, repair and upgrades of the buildings, equipment, and grounds of the church. They do as much work as possible, using talents and skills of committee members and others in the church. This includes such things as heating, electrical, and plumbing systems, painting, building repairs, lawn mowing, snow clearing, and many other projects that arise in the church, Education Center, and the parsonage.



Finance Committee reviews and assesses the financial needs of the church including the development of the annual budget, paying of the bills, managing investments and insurance needs. This can only be achieved adequately at year-end when pledges have been made, each committee chair turns in their proposed expenses, the negotiations committee presents salary projections for the new year, and all debts paid for the closing year.

Piggy Bank Bazaar

A craft fair for children that NHRC has held every December for the last 49 years is the cornerstone of our community outreach. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to purchase gifts since all our gifts are priced at no more than \$3.00. Volunteers transform the Education Center into Santa's Christmas Shop. Children and parents come to shop, enjoy games and snacks. The rooms are transformed into little shops where one can purchase gifts for children, women, men, pets, as well as floral and personalized gifts. Santa's elves work diligently all year long to make crafts, jewelry, crochet and knitted hats, gloves, and scarves. Girl Scouts help guide the children from room to room, and there are tables set up for the children to individually wrap their gifts, or they may have a volunteer wrap gift for them. The Piggy Bank Bazaar is truly one of our most cherished events.



FACILITIES

The church complex consists of a sanctuary and fellowship hall built in 1990. This part of the building includes a gathering area, narthex, small kitchen, a larger kitchen, choir room/library and two offices. The sanctuary accommodates four hundred. The balcony houses the choir, the bell choir, and the organ. Also, part of this complex is an education center that was built in 1969. The center includes the church office, three other offices, the nursery, youth room, and classrooms.

A colonial style parsonage built in 1840 includes five bedrooms and two baths upstairs and a spacious kitchen, which was remodeled in the 1990's, living and dining rooms, den, bathroom, and center hall

downstairs. There is also a detached three bay garage large enough for two cars and houses lawn mowing equipment. The church complex and parsonage are set on eleven acres of landscaped property surrounded by grass, trees, and walkways.





SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Donna Freck

David Grammerstorf, Chairperson

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Dutchess County Area Websites

Our Church

New Hackensack Reformed Church - <http://www.nhrc-church.org/>

Newspapers and General Information

Dutchess County Government - <https://www.dutchessny.gov/index.htm>

Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce -
<https://www.dccoc.org/>

Hudson Valley Magazine - <https://hvmag.com/>

News12 Hudson Valley - <https://hudsonvalley.news12.com/>

Mid-Hudson News - <https://midhudsonnews.com/>

The Poughkeepsie Journal - <http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/>

Think Dutchess Alliance for Business - <https://www.thinkdutchess.com/>

Museums and Cultural Centers

Dia: Beacon - <https://www.diaart.org/>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum -
<https://www.nps.gov/hofr/index.htm>

Mount Gulian Historic Center - <https://mountgulian.org/>

Cole Palen's Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome - <https://oldrhinebeck.org/>

Wing's Castle - <http://www.dupontcastle.com/castles/wings.htm>

Arts Mid-Hudson - <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/>

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center - <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

Howland Cultural Center - <https://www.howlandculturalcenter.org/>

CCS Bard Gallery - <https://ccs.bard.edu/>

Mid-Hudson Library System - <https://midhudson.org/>

The Art Effect - <https://thearteffect.org/>

Omega - <https://www.eomega.org/>

Wassaic Project - <https://www.wassaicproject.org/>

Theaters and Entertainment

Bardavan Presents - <https://www.bardavon.org/>

County Players at the Falls Theater - <https://countyplayers.org/>

Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra - <https://www.hudsonvalleysymphony.org/>

Kaatsbaan Cultural Park - <https://kaatsbaan.org/>

MJN Convention Center - <https://www.midhudsonciviccenter.org/>

Powerhouse Theater - <https://www.vassar.edu/powerhouse>

Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck - <https://www.centerforperformingarts.org/>

Colleges & Universities

Bard College - <https://www.bard.edu/>

Dutchess Community College - <https://www.sunydutchess.edu/>

Marist University - <https://www.marist.edu/>

The Culinary Institute of America - <https://www.ciachef.edu/>

Vassar College - <https://www.vassar.edu/>

United States Military Academy West Point - <https://www.westpoint.edu/>

Calvary Chapel Hudson Valley - <https://www.ccohv.org/school-of-ministry>

Adelphi University - <https://www.adelphi.edu/>

Education - School Districts

Pawling Central School District - <https://www.pawlingschools.org/>
Pine Plains Central School District - <https://www.ppcsd.org/>
Poughkeepsie City School District - <https://www.poughkeepsieschools.org/>
Tabernacle Christian Academy - <https://www.tabernaclechristianacademy.com/>
Red Hook Central School District - <https://www.redhookcentralschools.org/>
Rhinebeck Central School District - <https://www.rhinebeckcsd.org/>
Spackenkill Union Free School District - <https://www.spackenkillschools.org/>
Taconic Hills Central School District - <https://www.taconichills.k12.ny.us/>
Wappingers Central School District - <https://www.wappingersschools.org/>
Faith Christian Academy - <https://faithchristianacademy.org/>
St. Mary's School Fishkill - <https://stmaryfishkill.org/>
Webutuck Central School District - <https://www.webutuckschools.org/>
Dutchess BOCES Adult Education - <https://www.dcboces.org/>

Nonprofits and Community Service Agencies

American Cancer Society, Poughkeepsie - <https://www.cancer.org/>
American Diabetes Association - <https://diabetes.org/>
American Heart Association Dutchess Region - <https://www.heart.org/en/affiliates/new-york>
American Red Cross, Dutchess County Chapter - <https://www.redcross.org/local/new-york/eastern-new-york/about-us/locations/mid-hudson-valley.html>
Dutchess Outreach - <https://dutchessoutreach.org/>
Habitat For Humanity Dutchess County - <https://habitatdutchess.org/>
Hudson River Housing - <https://www.hudsonriverhousing.org/>
Meals on Wheels - <https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/>
Mental Health America of Dutchess County - <https://mhadutchess.org/>
Salvation Army - <https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/greater-new-york>
SPCA - <https://www.dcsPCA.org/>
United Way - <https://www.uwdor.org/>

Health Care Facilities, Hospitals, and Agencies

Northern Dutchess Hospital - <https://www.nuvancehealth.org/locations/northern-dutchess-hospital>
Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital of Westchester Medical Center - <https://www.wmchealth.org/locations/midhudson-regional-hospital>
Vassar Brothers Medical Center - <https://www.nuvancehealth.org/locations/vassar-brothers-medical-center>
VA Hudson Valley Healthcare System, Castle Point Campus - <https://www.va.gov/hudson-valley-health-care/>
Taconic Resources for Independence - <https://taconicresources.org/>

*****Not listed are an additional 82 food pantry and meal program resources, 13 residential health care facilities, 25 public libraries, more than 75 volunteer organizations, and free, confidential short-term supportive services for youth ages 4 to 21 years, who are dealing with personal, family, or school difficulties.***





