



The Open Door - March 2021

The Reformed Church of Bushkill
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"Striving to Do What Christ Tells Us through Scripture"



From left to right: Pastor Jim Virtue,
Classis Stated Clerk Jim O'Connell, and
Professor Anthony Ciaccio



Two new monitors in place, creating new worship
experiences and livestream outreach.

Certificate of Completion

At the Classis of Orange meeting, on February 25th, 2021, Pastor Jim received a Certificate of Completion in taking yet another step in earning the title of "Commissioned Pastor". The course on Reformed Standards, which took place in the Fall of 2020, was designed to review the Creeds and Confessions recognized by the Reformed Church in America. These are the same Creeds and Confessions that we often recite responsively during the "What We Believe" segment of our worship service. They are in no way to be viewed as authoritative or to be accepted on the same level as Sacred Scripture, but they serve as a historic guide and commentary in understanding the essential Doctrines of Scripture. Many were written to combat

(continued on page 3)

Audio/Visual Ministry is Updated

Even though things have been far from normal this past year, some exciting things are happening at the Church. A new ministry is being launched that will create an engaging and effective quality livestream outreach. As a church, we were certainly behind the technology curve and we experienced many bumps in the road trying to incorporate the old equipment we had as we worked through the perils of COVID-19. The pandemic has literally forced us out of our comfort zone and think about not only how ministry will be done in the future, but how ministry is being done all around us right now. Our new system will allow us to increase our online presence and build a new online ministry as well as widen our ministry scope and opportunities within our congregation. New HD audio/video tools will allow those watching at home and those attending in the sanctuary to be more engaged and be more connected with

(continued on page 3)

**Turn your clocks one hour ahead
Saturday night, March 13th.
Daylight Savings Time begins that weekend.**

Articles for the April edition of the Open Door are due by Monday, March 15th. You can leave them in the church office mailbox, located near the conference room or e-mail directly to the church office, bshklch@ptd.net. You can also leave them in the Rubbermaid bin on the church office front porch.

Blood Drives on March 19th and April 3rd

We will be holding a blood drive on Friday, March 19th from 12:00 - 5:00 PM and on Saturday, April 3rd from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Rottenberg Hall.

Blood supplies are critically low at this time. Please consider an hour or so of your time and make an appointment on redcrossblood.org or call Michele Baehr, 570-242-7840.

Please remember to wear your mask at all times and stay socially distanced at least six feet apart.

We are not using prayer request slips at this time to minimize touching. You can text or e-mail them to Pastor Jim, 570-994-6627 / jtvrcb@ptd.net, to be included in that week's service. Also, prayer requests can be sent to Jen Schoonover, schooent@ptd.net or 570-588-6234 for the prayer chain.

Financial Report - MaryAnn Conza

01/01/21 to 01/31/21

Income \$18,596.25

Expenses 16,339.85
\$ 2,256.40

We start the year with a positive figure because there were a couple of donations this month amounting to \$6,124.60. We thank our church family members for their generosity. God not only blesses the Reformed Church of Bushkill, but the givers as well.

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." (1 Peter 5:2-3)

Blessings to you all,
MaryAnn

A Poem from Joanne Deis

Wondering, wondering, wondering away
I open my eyes to a whole new day
Each moment that passes its time flying by
I look up to the sky and ask the Father why
What's going on, what shall I see
My patience is growing as you mold me
I get bored and reckless just sitting around
I search for Your voice, there's not even a sound
Waiting on something I can't even see
Trying so hard to make something of me
Sometimes I cry when no one's around
Those are the days to my knees I bow down
Whispering prayers quietly in my head
Reminding myself of the promise Jesus once said
Oh mighty God do what You do
As long as this life can bring me closer to You.

(Certificate ... continued from page 1)

heresy in the Church and therefore are valuable to us today as a preventative measure in not allowing bad history to repeat itself. Pastor Jim is currently taking another course in Reformed Theology which prayerfully he will complete at the beginning of May.

If you do not feel comfortable yet to return to church and would like to pick up your offering envelopes for 2021, let the church office know and we'll have them there for you or in the bin outside if you prefer.

Please continue to consider making our church your charitable donation choice when you order from Amazon.

Go to [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com), log in to your account and choose our church *before* you start shopping.

Amazon will remember it each time you come back and will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to our church.

(Audio/Visual ... continued from page 1)

each other in the service. Most importantly we are building for the future. While my own heart fondly looks back on the big pipe organ in my childhood church, singing the familiar hymns and observing all the formality, I realize that if the church lives in the past, it will die in the present. The Apostle Paul said it in this way in 1 Corinthians chapter 9, "*... I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the Gospel*". Paul understood that "adapting without compromising" was necessary to effectively carry out the Great Commission and make Disciples of all nations.

Pastor Jim