

Blawenburg Beacon

Blawenburg Reformed Church

Serving God and the Community Since 1832



February 27, 2026

A Letter from Your Consistory's Supervisor

I'm from the Classis, and I'm here to help. ☺ In all seriousness, what does a Classis Supervisor do during the time of transition from one called pastor to another? The Reformed Church in America (RCA) Book of Church Order (BCO) states in 1.II.7.3, "The classis shall appoint a minister ... as supervisor of all proceedings of the consistory of a church without an installed minister...The classis shall determine the appropriate training and responsibilities for the supervisor." (2025 RCA BCO, pg 32) Later in its glossary it restates that a supervisor is "A minister appointed by the classis to oversee 'all proceedings of the consistory of a church without an installed minister.'" (2025 RCA BCO, pg 188) My name is Rev. Dr. David Kahler; I'm from the Classis, and I'm here to help. ☺

The denominational BCO purposely gives the bare minimum of what a Supervisor does and leaves it up to each individual Classis to further define the role of the Supervisor within their geographic region. We belong to the Delaware-Raritan Classis, and its bylaws state that the Classis Congregational Care Committee (CCC) shall recommend to Classis the name of a minister to supervise a congregation without an installed minister and that the CCC shall oversee the work of the Supervisor. The responsibilities of the Supervisor, as stated in the bylaws shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Attendance at all meetings of the congregation and consistory, due notice given.
- b. Oversee the administration of the sacraments.
- c. Assist the consistory in obtaining a minister, making use of various RCA resources.

Our Mission Statement

The Blawenburg Reformed Church is a covenant community of God's people united in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

We commit our gifts to worship, hospitality, life-long learning, serving those in need, and proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Winter 2026

In this issue:

Letter from Dave Kahler.....	1
Special Interest....	3
Worship.....	4
Fellowship.....	8
BVS.....	10
Missions.....	11
Events.....	14

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- d. Assist the consistory in completing the congregational profile form.
- e. Be certain the consistory understands the differences between ‘call’ and ‘contract.’
- f. Witness the ‘call’ or ‘contract’ by a consistory upon a prospective minister, keeping the consistory aware of current salary and benefits requirements as established by Classis. Calls or contracts containing exceptions to the salary and benefit requirements as established by Classis must be approved by Classis.

My name is Rev. Dr. David Kahler; I’m from the Classis, and I’m here to help. 😊 In all seriousness, I’m on this journey with you, from saying goodbye to Pastor Jeff to welcoming whomever our good Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, reveals to us. I will share more from my perspective on where we are in this process in the months to come. For now, please know that I’m praying for and with each of you as we look to the heavens for God’s direction for BRC. Should you have any questions about my role or the Classis and denominational guidelines written above, please funnel them up through the Elders, and I will do my best to answer them.

Sincerely,
Pastor Dave

Blawenburg Beacon

A publication of

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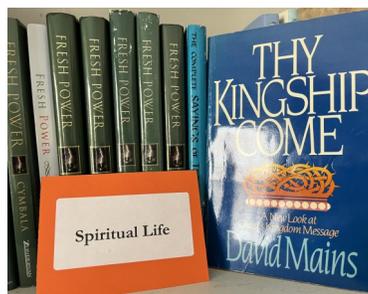
Monday - 8am - 1pm
Tuesday - 8am - 1pm
Wednesday - 8:00- 1pm
Thursday - 8:am- 1pm
Friday - 8am - 12pm

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Special Interest

Did you know that we have a library? Right across from Barb Reid's office you'll find a room filled with books on prayer and spiritual life. There are also biographies and stories about people of the Bible. You might even find some very interesting fiction. There are also study guides available for devotions during Lent. Feel free to browse and borrow a book or two any time you like.

Bernice Van Nostrand



Run with Rotary

Save the Date!

June 14

Sign up now:

<https://runwithrotary.org>



Worship

All Saints' Sunday

On November 2, we took a moment following communion to stop and light a candle in remembrance of our loved ones.



Advent



Nancy Curtis in the pulpit



Barb Reid and her family lit the Candle of Hope.

Worship—continued

Advent - continued



The Lewis family (Mike, Hilde, and Bob) lit the Candle of Peace.



Rita Das, her daughter-in-law, and grandson lit the Candle of Love.

An Advent play, written by Angie Rebert, about how Mary and Joseph felt about the upcoming birth of their baby, Jesus, was performed in church on December 21.



Mary (Angie Rebert) and Joseph (Dave Cochran)



Mary and Mary's mother (Gina Williams)



Laura Warren was the narrator.



Barb Antoniewicz sang *Mary, Did You Know?*

Worship—continued

Christmas Eve

We thank the young adults of our congregation for being scripture readers.



Barb Antoniewicz and her family lit the Christ Candle.



Anika Prince



Preetham Prince



The Pugliese girls - Marie and Akemi



Nancy Curtis delivered the Christmas message.

Worship—continued

Christmas Eve - continued



Barb Antoniewicz and Bernice Van Nostrand sang *O Holy Night*.



Linnea Eberly sang a verse of *Silent Night* in German.



The congregation sang *Silent Night* by candle light.

Scout Sunday - February 8



The Scouts led the congregation in the Scout Litany.



Senior Patrol Leader, Kaeson Mayer, addressed the congregation.



A number of Scouts and their families attended the service.

Fellowship



We welcomed Scout Troop 46 and Cub Pack 185 on February 8.



Eric and Sue Perkins serve coffee and refreshments following the worship service.

Potluck Lunch



Barb Bradsell, Gina Williams, Barb Reid, Evelyn & Dave Cochran, Alan Taback, Kevin Daly, Laura Warren



Bernice Van Nostrand and Sonya Hunt stop for a picture.



Nancy Meyer, Sharon Stevens, Barb VanLiew, Jim Corio, Peggy Querec, Yuri Pugliese, Bernice Van Nostrand

Fellowship— continued

Mary & Martha



The women of the church, and any friend who would like to join them, come together at Bernice Van Nostrand's home once a month for study, prayer, lunch, and fellowship. On this particular day, Katherine Smith, Emma Tufano, Hilda Cavanaugh, Bernice, Angie Rebert, Anne Woolley, Gina Williams, and Barbara Pavlicek discussed their favorite hymns, learned about the authors, and sang a little.



Birthdays

March

- 7 Tad Woolley
- 9 Reed Bekir
- 13 Eleni Chatzidaki
- 19 Joe Pavlicek
- 20 Allison Clancy
- 24 Cheryl Soos

April

- 2 Doug Hill
- 5 Bob Lewis

May

- 7 Irene Harrison
- 16 Barb Bradsell
- 22 Sharon Stevens
Ethel Terhune
- 26 Chip Parmele
Angie Rebert
- 29 Priya Krishnan
- 30 Sandy Jensen
- 31 Ranveer Das
Eric Perkins

June

- 6 Laura Warren
- 7 Alan Querec
Bernice Van Nostrand
- 10 Chris Osander
- 11 Michael Lewis
- 13 Lee Bekir
- 14 Dave Cochran
- 18 Nancy Curtis
- 26 Melissa Blodgett
- 27 Paul Blodgett

Blawenburg Village School

Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

609-466-6600

info@blawenburgvillageschool.com



Using a curriculum called *Children and Worship*, Bernice Van Nostrand and I have been teaching our BVS students Bible stories for years (Bernice much longer than I.) We tell the stories of Zacchaeus, Noah, and the Nativity. We teach the parables of *The Mustard Seed* and *The Good Shepherd*. We use simple wooden figures to illustrate the stories. Each week we ask the children the same question, “What are you thankful for today?” The answers range from mommy and daddy, to monster trucks, to unicorns. Every once in a while, the answer is, “Jesus”. Recently, when teaching about Noah, Bernice told the class that God found one good man on earth and asked the children who he was. Although she was expecting the answer to be “Noah”, the children shouted out, “Jesus!” We think they’re on to something!

Barb Reid



We sing A LOT during class!



Jesus fed five thousand with two fish and five loaves of bread.

Mission Donations



Food and Household Supplies

When there was an “all call” for food by the Montgomery Food Pantry, the people from our church readily stepped up and contributed. Many items came in neatly packed and ready to be transported to the pantry which is in the Otto Kaufman Center on Skillman Road.



Knitting Supplies

A spoon full of sugar may help the medicine go down, but a car trunk full of knitting supplies may help a young woman from the SHIP summer picnic help others to learn to knit and to possibly start a business of her own. See the mention of the knitting supplies and the thank you letter to our church on page 13 from Tom O'Leary, newly retired CEO, Executive Director of SHIP.

Montgomery EMS

Please see the very appreciative letter from the President of Montgomery EMS on page 12. The donation our church made of \$1,110.00 was 20% of the total receipts from Sinterklaas plus the free-will offerings from those who attended our craft fair. Since the EMS helps everyone in our community in their time of need, the Missions Team designated this group as the recipient of the 2025 donation.



Mission—continued



EMS Council of New Jersey's **2024 Squad of the Year!**

January 23, 2026

Blawenburg Reformed Church
424 Route 518
Blawenburg, NJ 08504

Dear Blawenburg Reformed Church:

On behalf of Montgomery Emergency Medical Services Inc. ("Montgomery EMS"), it is with profound gratitude that I acknowledge your generous contribution. Your thoughtful gift directly empowers us to continue providing life-saving emergency medical services at no cost to those in need. Thanks to your kindness, our all-volunteer squad, which operates solely on donations and grants, remains a beacon of hope and care within the community.

Your unwavering support speaks volumes about the spirit of compassion and unity that defines Montgomery. It's people like you who allow us to stand ready in times of crisis, and for that, we are endlessly thankful. Your generosity fuels not just our mission, but the heartbeat of a community that truly cares for one another.

At Montgomery EMS, our motto is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Your donation embodies this ideal, and we are deeply honored by your trust in us. Together, we continue to build a safer, healthier, and more caring place to call home.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being a vital part of our mission.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Siddharth Saran".

Siddharth Saran
President

Gift Information

Date of Gift: December 31, 2025

Amount: \$1,110.00

Please retain this receipt for income tax purposes. No goods or services have been provided by Montgomery EMS as a consideration for your making this gift. Montgomery EMS is a charity under IRS code 501(c)(3). Montgomery EMS EIN: 23-7365264

Montgomery Emergency Medical Services Inc.
Phone 908-359-0008 • Fax 908-359-0008 • Email info@mems47.org
Mailing: P.O. Box 105, Belle Mead, NJ 08502 • Physical: 8 Harlingen Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502

**Samaritan
Homeless
Interim
Program**

“Safe Harbor – Port of Refuge”

“A private, not-for-profit corporation providing interim housing and associated services for the homeless and working poor of the Somerset County Region”

Thomas O’Leary, LCADC, CCJS
Chief Executive Officer

January 16, 2026

Blawenburg Reformed Church
424 Route 518
P.O. Box 266
Blawenburg, NJ 08504

LETTER OF APPRECIATION 2025

Dear Friends at Blawenburg Reformed Church:

As you know, clients coming to SHIP are in desperate need of help. Many are the working poor. They include those that suffer from homelessness or being near homeless. Many are hungry or suffer from substance abuse dependency, HIV/AIDs, mental health issues, or neglect and isolation. Our services are tailored to each individual’s need and vary in duration according to each individual’s or family’s situation. SHIP provides this unique population with critically needed emergency interim services. These services may include advocacy, emergency interim housing, interim counseling, and support services that greatly enhance their chances or regaining their self-sufficiency again. SHIP is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the poor.

God brought you to us to help us navigate through the storms of every day. Through your assistance, we have served millions of meals and provided thousands of nights of shelter. He is, through your support, keeping the wind in our sails. Your assistance is helping us at SHIP engage the enemy in our battle against poverty.

As the Admiral of SHIP, I give all praise to God and thank you for your caring, faith, trust, generosity, and love at this time. Thank you so much for your generous donation of knitting supplies made on 11/25/2025.

Know that the smiles we see on the faces of those we serve are meant for you.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Tom O’Leary

Tom O’Leary
CEO, Executive Director

No goods or services were exchanged in consideration of this donation.

87 East High Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876

Phone: (908) 393-9545 – FAX: (908) 393-9542 – Email: safeharbor@ship908.com – Website: www.SHIP908.com

Sinterklaas 2025



Nancy Curtis, Phyllis Owens, and Lisa Hunt kept the workers well fed.



We stopped for a moment of prayer before the day began.



Last minute instructions before we opened our doors.



Sinterklaas - continued



The Soup Team
Jessie Thompson, Barb Antoniewicz, Dave Cochran and Pete Antoniewicz.



Barb VanLiew, Emma Tufano, and Bernice Van Nostrand are ready to go to work at the craft booth.



Now that's a lot of soup!



The Scouts helped us clean up in record time.