



# The Blawenburg Beacon

Newsletter for the members and friends of the Blawenburg Reformed Church

2016 JUNE

## A Time to Give Thanks, a Time of Farewell, a Time to Welcome

Blawenburg Church has been and is in transition. To borrow the term used by our denomination, we are “transformed and transforming.” During this time of transition, the Consistory believes that we have become a more spiritual and missional church. Life is all about change and development, and we believe that the key to that development is to follow the call that Christ has for each of us.



### Thanks and Farewell, Sarah

For the past year, we have had the pleasure of having Sarah Hong as our Church Administrator. When we received her letter of application, we knew that she was taking her lead from Christ. She has treated her year with us as a mission. She has helped us get and stay organized, especially in this time without a pastor. She has taught us a few new things about how our publications and website can reach out to the community. Indeed, we have been blessed with her many talents at a time when we found ourselves back in a season of change.

Sarah, Marc, and their family will soon move to Louisville, KY, where Marc will be the Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Thank you, Sarah, for your pleasant and enthusiastic manner, for the way you helped us grow, especially in the area of communications, for the Christian spirit you brought to your work, and the calm and steady way you handled yourself when times were difficult. We wish you all the best in your new city and new home. We’re sure that God has another call for you, and we’re also sure that you will rise to the occasion and serve God well.

*“May the Lord bless you and keep you.*

*May the Lord show you his kindness and have mercy on you.*

*May the Lord watch over you and give you peace.” - Numbers 6:24-26*

### Welcome, Karen

We were fortunate to quickly find a candidate to serve as our Church Administrator. Karen Larsen, a resident of Bridgewater, and Elder and Classis delegate from North Branch Reformed Church, will officially join us on June 1. Karen was the Executive Assistant to the President of American List Council for many years when it was in Montgomery. She also wears many other hats, from volunteering in her church to helping those who need assistance with living, to serving those who need counseling. She holds a BA in Elementary Education from The College of New Jersey and an MA in Counseling from Liberty University. She is also a licensed professional nanny! We look forward to getting to know Karen and seeing how her many talents can help us as we work together to serve God in the coming months.

- Dave Cochran, VP of Consistory

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...and more!

We commit our gifts to **WORSHIP** gathering as a community to celebrate God's presence among us!



### Scents and Sensitivity

We do have people in our midst – and we really do mean people, not just a single person – who are sensitive to and challenged by the use of fragrances.

How can we be sensitive to those with chemical intolerance? A fragrance-free area is not the answer. Scents flow with the breeze. A separate room is isolating and impossible to create in our sanctuary. But for some members and visitors, strong fragrances cause allergic reactions which result in sneezing, coughing, headaches, or irritated lining of the nose. Pure scents like the old-time frankincense and myrrh do not cause problems, but today's mixtures of petrochemicals do. So if you are accustomed to wearing perfumes, aftershave, or other products that emit a strong fragrance that may cause difficulty for your fellow parishioners, please consider refraining from wearing them on Sundays. For further reading:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/26/chemical-sensitivity-fragrance-church\\_n\\_4163785.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/26/chemical-sensitivity-fragrance-church_n_4163785.html)

AND <http://whereisgod.net/?s=perfume>

### June Worship Schedule

**June 5**—3rd Sunday after Pentecost  
 8:32 AM, *Family Worship and Breakfast* (pages 3-4)  
 10:00 AM, *Service of Holy Communion*  
 Preacher: **Rev. Paul Walther**, retired RCA pastor

**June 12**—4th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Preacher: **Rev. Ken Bradsell**, Protestant Church in Oman  
*Education Hour with the Bradsells following worship* (page 6)

**June 19**—5th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Preacher: **Pastoral Candidate**

**June 26**—6th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Preacher: **Nancy Curtis**

### Grateful to our guest preachers in May!



May 1—Rev. Paul Walther



May 8—Lynwood Spell with wife Assiyah and son Samuel



May 15—Jo-Ann Hoffman and Nancy Curtis



May 22—Nancy Curtis

May 29—Rev. Kirsty DePree



**Hine ma tov**—Katie Connolly and Barb Reid sing a beautiful rendition of Psalm 133 as the Offertory on Sunday, May 22. *“How good and pleasant it is when people dwell together in unity.”*



### Missed Worship?

Listen to sermons online at [blawenburgchurch.podbean.com](http://blawenburgchurch.podbean.com) and view the bulletin at [www.blawenburgchurch.org/calendar](http://www.blawenburgchurch.org/calendar)



*We commit our gifts to **HOSPITALITY** caring for those in our congregation and the greater community.*



### Feeding Families with Love

At the start of the year we were looking to hire a part-time Coordinator to lead our new Family Worship & Breakfast services. No candidate came forth, but many members of our church community stepped up to the plate to make this

first season a success, warmly welcoming at least three families to BRC these past six months. Thank you to the Cochrans, the Terhunes, Wendy Herbert, Alan Taback, Bernice VanNostrand, Emma Murphy, Morgan VanLiew, and others who made this event a reality. We look forward to starting up again the Second Sunday of September, with new energy, and a new pastor!



Thank you to Jean Beachell and Alan Taback for serving on Consistory these past two years. We are grateful for your faithful leadership in our church. Your gifts and talents are very much appreciated. We know you will continue to love and serve even off of Consistory.



### Blessings to Our Seniors!

Emma Murphy and Morgan VanLiew (pictured above) will be graduating from Montgomery High School on June 21. Both girls have contributed so much to the vitality of our church throughout their lives, volunteering with Family Worship, serving in the nursery, assisting with BVS summer camps, and helping wherever they were needed! We wish them all the best in their next adventures and hope that they'll always remember that they have a home here at BRC. Emma will be attending Hampshire College in Massachusetts. Morgan will be attending the University of Connecticut.

**See page 5 for more notes of gratitude!**

*We commit our gifts to **LIFE-LONG LEARNING** providing spiritual growth opportunities for all.*



**On May 22 special guest Salim Manzar** offered an incredibly informative comparative look at Islam and Christianity from the perspective of his Muslim faith. We hope to have him back for a Q&A in the Fall. **Join us on June 12** for part 3 of our Perspectives on Christianity and Islam series, featuring Ken Bradsell (page 6).

### Diving into the Word

**Weekly Bible Study** on Tuesdays at 10 AM

We are following the Revised Common Lectionary and read the passages that our preacher will be focusing on in his/her message the upcoming Sunday. If you can't join us Tuesday mornings, read along from home!

June 7 – 1 Kings 21:1-21a; Psalm 5:1-8; 2 Samuel 11:26-12:15; Psalm 32; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3

June 14 – 1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42 and 43; Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

June 21 – 2 Kings 2:1-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; 1 Kings 19:15-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

June 28 – 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:1-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### More Fellowship & Learning in June

**Family Worship on Sunday, June 5 @8:32 AM** in Cook Hall

**Men's Breakfast on Wed, June 15 @7:30 AM**, location TBA. The breakfast will be continued throughout the summer months for those who are available. For more information, contact Joe Pavlicek (jpavl1999@aol.com or 908.256.6968).

**Mary & Martha on Tuesday, June 21 @6:30 PM** at the home of Bernice VanNostrand (vns206@aol.com or 908.359.6579).



Jen Lizzi leading music during Family Worship on May 1

### God's Love Grows

For over 15 years Bernice Van Nostrand has been blessing our community with beautifully told Bible stories using the Children in Worship curriculum. She faithfully gives of her time and talent to the preschool every Thursday and Friday morning, planting the seeds of God's love in the lives of our children, and for that we are forever grateful.



Bernice shares the Parable of the Mustard Seed with the Blossoms on May 20.



## Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504 | 609-466-6600  
 info@blawenburgvillageschool.com | Karen Hill, Director



### June Events

- June 3**—Field Trip to Doyle’s Unami Farm
- June 17**—Donuts with Dad
- June 17**—Last Day of School
- June 20**—Pre-K Graduation

### Summer Camp begins July 5!

*The Happiest Place on Earth: A Disney Experience.*

The program will provide four weeks of camp for preschool students ages 2.5 to 6. Students will participate in arts and crafts, music and movement, literacy activities, dramatic and pretend play, water exploration and playground activities. Snack will be provided by the school. Students are responsible for bringing lunch each day. Register for one week or all four!

Above: Making volcanoes during afternoon enrichment!

Right: Flowers from Garden Week!



Like us on facebook to view more news and events!  
 #blawenburgvillageschool



If you would like to Adopt-A-Project to help with the upkeep of our church property, please see the list in the APRIL Beacon or talk to Jean Beachell or Ethel Terhune. Many hands make light work!

**THANK YOU** to Allison Clancy for refurbishing and sealing the memorial benches in front of the church! They will continue to beautify our campus and honor our friends, Len Hunt and Fran Ficken.

**THANK YOU** to Don and Ethel Terhune for painting and updating the Memorial Hall warehouse to make it a wonderful venue for our events and for the larger community to enjoy.

We commit our gifts to **MISSIONS** serving those in need both locally and around the world.

## Perspectives on Christianity and Islam:

### Part 3, On the Ground in Oman by Bob Bradsell

On Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, former Blawenburg Church pastor Kenneth Bradsell will lead the church's 10 o'clock worship service. Rev. Bradsell served here from 1976 until 1982, in his first position as Minister. Now serving as Lead Pastor in the Protestant Church of Oman, on the Persian Gulf, Rev. Bradsell will bring a rare first-person account of how the Christian and Muslim faiths intersect in that troubled part of the world. Rev. Bradsell will lead an after-church discussion on the subject.

From Blawenburg, Rev. Bradsell went on to serve churches in other parts of the country, and in several leadership positions within his denomination, the Reformed Church in America. Until recently, Rev. Bradsell served as a senior executive with the RCA. He was tapped to head up the RCA's mission in Oman early in 2015.

"Returning to Montgomery always puts a smile on my face," Bradsell says. "It's such a wonderful town for kids to grow up in. My two sons were born here, and we still have many friends here."

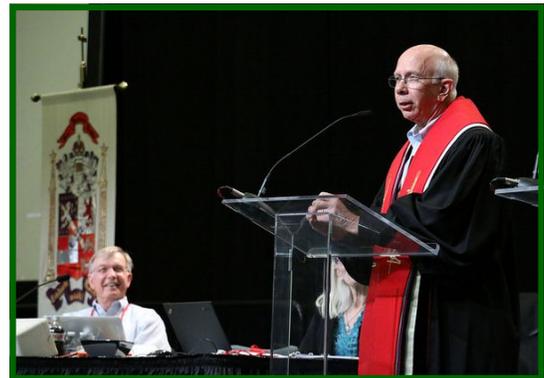
Rev. Bradsell will share his unique up-close-and-personal perspectives on the Christian-Muslim relationship. "Oman is one of the quieter places in the Middle East these days," Bradsell says. "It's managed to serve in a kind of Switzerland-like role in the area. Leaders of various groups come to Oman when they want to talk – proof, I suppose, that talk is possible on some very difficult subjects."

This will be the third in a series of special programs at Blawenburg Church offering a comparative look at Islam and Christianity. Earlier, Dr. Maryann Coffey led a program on Understanding Islam; and Princeton management consultant Salim Manzar presented a comparative look at the two faiths from the Muslim perspective.

For more reading about Christianity in Oman:  
<https://www.usmeyouthnetwork.org/2016/03/omans-interfaith-diplomacy-how-the-worlds-only-major-ibadi-community-embraces-the-tenants-of-coexistence-and-religious-plurality/>

From the Spring 2016 Issue of RCA Today:  
<https://www.rca.org/news/friends-not-enemies>  
 The author is organizing another **Women's Trip to Oman this fall!** If you're interested, read more on the RCA website or see the flyer in Cook Hall.

**EDUCATION  
OPPORTUNITY**  
 Sunday, June 12  
 @ 11:30 AM  
 in Cook Hall



### Older Americans Month

by Barb Pavlicek, Missions Chair

Thank you to all the BRC Trailblazers! For our May Mission-of-the-Month, the Reformed Church Home, we reached our additional goal of \$500.00 from the congregation to go with the donation of \$1,000.00 from our recent rummage sale. Your generosity will help to promote healthy aging and increase community awareness on the issues pertaining to our seniors.



### Gardening at Crawford House

Spring is in the air and that means it is time to garden! Even if you don't have a green thumb you are invited to work alongside the ladies of Crawford House as we prepare and cultivate a working garden at their home. We will be meeting at least one Monday per month, April through October. If you'd like to participate, please contact Ethel Terhune—908.359.6027.

**Join us Monday, June 13 & June 27, 6 to 7 PM!**

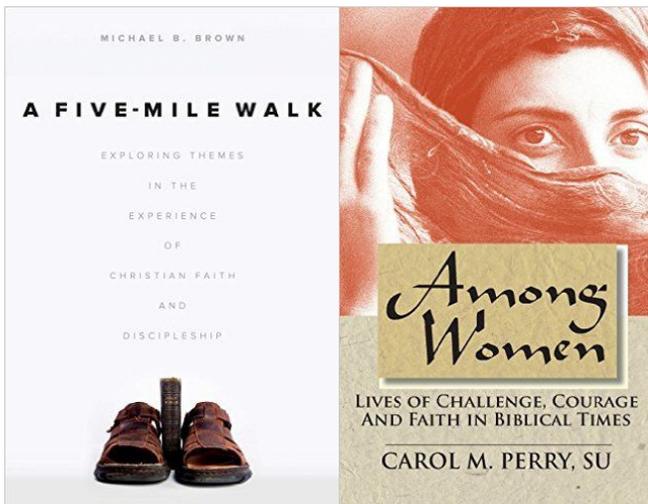
View our [calendar online](#) for more dates!

We commit our gifts to **PROCLAMATION** spreading the good news of salvation in Christ.

### Filling the Hall with Music & Art

Our monthly Blue Pomegranate events continue to provide a safe space to enjoy music and art within our community. On May 19 the warehouse in Memorial Hall was filled with the music of modern cellist Dan Kassel (photo at right) and the artwork of Jared Della Ratta.

We look forward to another celebration on the Third Thursday of this month, June 16 @7:30 PM. Hope to see you there! And invite a friend!



### Summer Reading Suggestions!

Our partner church, Marble Collegiate, has a staff full of incredible writers! Both Rev. Michael Brown and Sister Carol Perry released new books this spring. Check them out!

**A Five-Mile Walk.** In his newest book Michael Brown considers paths our journey takes, exploring our attitudes, emotions, expectations, community, and faithfulness. Read more at...

<http://www.marblechurch.org/a-five-mile-walk>

\*Book signing at MCC on Sunday, June 5 @12:15 PM.

**Among Women.** In her book, Sister Carol Perry invites us to see women of the Bible and to imagine them asking us, "What might you have done had you been me?" Read more at...

<http://www.marblechurch.org/among-women>

**Both books can be purchased online!** Support our church by shopping via [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) and choosing Blawenburg Reformed Church as your charity!



### Marble this Month...

- **Pray Out Loud: Human Sexuality in the RCA** - Sunday, June 5 @1:30 PM. Discussion and prayer facilitated by Chad Tanaka Pack.
- **LOVE Is the Only Way: Marble Community Gospel Choir Concert** - Sunday, June 12 @ 3 PM. Tickets \$20 general admission / \$15 students and seniors at the door
- **The Puzzle: Marble's Theatre Festival** - Monday, June 20 through Saturday, June 25 featuring plays by artists from across the country. Details [online!](#)
- **Men's Fellowship Event** - Friday, June 24 @ 7 PM, attending The Puzzle at MCC and then gathering at John Doe's Restaurant on 5th Avenue.
- **Pride Sunday** - June 26 @11 AM. Michael Brown's message will be titled "A Gospel for Everyone"
- **Spirituality and the Arts** - 10 AM every Sunday this summer, providing opportunities to gather together to stimulate creative expression and conversation about a variety of artistic endeavors that inspire and inform the mind, heart, and spirit.
- **WeWo** Worship on WEDNESDAYS @ 6:15 PM ...with LiveStreaming available!
- **Jazz Revelation** FRIDAY nights @ 6:30 PM.

More details and events online at [www.marblechurch.org!](http://www.marblechurch.org!)

## PROCLAMATION cont.

### The Forgotten Village

After rain postponed the VanHarlingen Society's annual May in Montgomery event scheduled for Sunday, May 1, our church was able to open our doors and host the event in the historic Harlingen School, more commonly referred to now as Memorial Hall. It was standing room only on May 15, as neighbors gathered to learn about the former State Village, located on present-day Skillman Farm.



### JULY/AUGUST BEACON

Please submit your completed articles or photos to Barb Pavlicek ([bjpmay1998@aol.com](mailto:bjpmay1998@aol.com)) and Karen Larsen ([blawenburgchurch@gmail.com](mailto:blawenburgchurch@gmail.com)) **no later than Monday, June 20**

Thank you for your attention to the deadline so that we can continue to publish the Beacon on the 1st of each month!



### Support Our Scouts! Troop 46 Strawberry Festival

**Sunday, June 5, 1 to 5 PM  
Montgomery Middle School**

### Communication Survey Results

Thank you to all of you who took the time to give feedback about our church's communication efforts! Your input is incredibly helpful as we look ahead and plan for future outreach. We realize many of you don't use the internet or email so we probably should have asked that in our survey, but here is a summary!

1. **We're glad to see that more than 50% of you regularly visit our website!**  
If you don't already do so, visit [www.BlawenburgChurch.org](http://www.BlawenburgChurch.org) and interact with our *calendar* and *blog*. This is one of our greatest tools for reaching our neighbors, and sometimes the first glimpse into who we are as a church. Please continue to give us your suggestions on how to make it even better!
2. **'Like' us on Facebook and 'share' events!** If you have a Facebook account please 'like' our church's page and share our events with your friends and family — the reach may be greater than you anticipated!
3. **More than 85% of you read the weekly e-news in its entirety—thank you!**
4. **We will continue to publish the Beacon monthly.** As we continue to make this a helpful publication that most of you turn to for news and events about the church, please add your contributions each month!
5. **Word of Mouth and Personal Invitations remain the best way to share information.** Continue to communicate with one another and those you interact with daily. And encourage others to engage with our other forms of communication as well!

**Please take note of our NEW EMAIL ADDRESS! — [BlawenburgChurch@gmail.com](mailto:BlawenburgChurch@gmail.com)**

## Consistory Highlights

### Meeting of Monday, May 16, 2016 @7:30 PM in Cook Hall

For a full copy of the minutes, please stop by the church office during open hours (see back page).

1. Historical BRC and Cemetery documents donated by Virginia Skillman, wife of Dix Skillman.
2. We look forward to meeting the final candidate for pastor later this month; more details to come.
3. We approved the recommendation to hire a new administrator, Karen Larsen.
4. Eric Perkins and Sonya Hunt have agreed to serve as elder and deacon, respectively.
5. We learned that Marble Church is facing financial difficulties and although our partnership will continue we will no longer receive monetary support. We will apply for a project grant from Marble to support our outreach events including Family Worship and Blue Pomegranate. Will need to brainstorm other ways to raise money for the church's operating expenses.
6. Worship team is still discussing how to best include Passing of the Peace in worship so as not to distract from flow of worship. Also still hoping to visit Marble Church this summer.
7. The BRC Cemetery Board has created a new Rules and Regulations document that will be made available in the church office and on our website.
8. We've made it through most of 2016 without needing to pull from endowments but did pull \$5000 this month to pay bills and pulled our 5% from the named funds to support special projects.
9. BVS teachers have had a lot of illness and surgery this year and we continue to pray for good health.
10. Rev. Ken Bradsell will be preaching on Sunday, June 12 and assisting with the installation of new Consistory members. He will also lead an Education Hour about Muslim-Christian relations in Oman following our fellowship time in Cook Hall.

## CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS

The following members have been proposed by the **Nominating Committee** and approved by Consistory to serve on the next term of Consistory from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018.

For Elder: Eric Perkins, as well as David Cochran for a one-year term extension

For Deacon: Sonya Hunt

An election will be held on June 5 at a **Congregational Meeting** following Worship. All nominees have been previously ordained to their respective offices. If there is no legitimate objection to their eligibility made to the Board of Elders beforehand, there will be a Service of Installation on June 12th during worship.

## General Synod Meets in June

June 5th is designated a Day of Prayer for General Synod. Remember the delegates and guests as they convene between June 9--14 at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, to discuss and make decisions about our church at large. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the assembly. Follow what's happening with regular updates at [www.rca.org/synodtoday](http://www.rca.org/synodtoday), on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/reformedchurch](http://www.facebook.com/reformedchurch)), or on Twitter (@RCAonline). If you like, watch plenary sessions live online. Check [www.rca.org/synodtoday](http://www.rca.org/synodtoday) for a schedule and link to the live stream.



**OFFICE HOURS**

**MON** 8:30 to 1:30

**TUES** OFF

**WED** OFF

**THUR** 8:30 to 3:30

**FRI** 8:30 to 11:30

*The Blawenburg Beacon  
is a publication of*

**Blawenburg  
Reformed  
Church**

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David Cochran

**Church Administrator  
& Beacon Publisher**  
Karen Larsen

*This June edition  
published by Sarah Hong*

**Beacon Editor**  
Barb Pavlicek

**JUNE Summary of Dates**

(see articles for more details)

**Thursday, June 2**

Karen Larsen's first day as Administrator! (p 1)

**Sunday, June 5**

8:32 AM—Family Worship & Breakfast (p 3-4)  
10 AM—Service of Holy Communion (p 2)  
Congregational Meeting following worship (p 9)  
1—5pm Boy Scout Strawberry Festival (p.8)

**Sunday, June 12**

10 AM—Worship with Ken Bradsell (p 2)  
Service of Installation for Consistory during worship  
11:30—Education Hour with Bradsells (p 6)

**Monday, June 13**

6:00 PM—Gardening at Crawford House (p 6)  
7:30 PM—Consistory Meeting

**Wednesday, June 15**

7:30 AM—Men's Breakfast (p 4)

**Thursday, June 16**

7:30 PM—Blue Pomegranate (p 7)

**Friday, June 17**

9 AM—BVS Donuts with Dad (p 5)  
Last Day of Preschool Classes (p 5)

**Monday, June 20**

9:30 AM—BVS Moving-On Ceremony (p 5)  
**Deadline for the July/Aug Beacon!** (p 8)

**Tuesday, June 21**

6:30 PM—Mary & Martha (p 4)

**Monday, June 27**

6:00 PM—Gardening at Crawford House (p 6)

**See page 2 for the Preaching Calendar!**

**See page 7 for events at Marble Church!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- 7 Emily Dumler
- 7 Bernice Van Nostrand
- 7 Alan Querec
- 14 Dave Cochran
- 20 Don Thiel
- 25 Bud Lewis
- 26 Ariel Meyer

**ANNIVERSARIES!**

- 5 Rick & Lisa White
- 16 Sarah & Marc Hong
- 22 Dave & Evelyn Cochran
- 24 Alan & Peggy Querec
- 24 Alan & Louise Taback

*If you don't see your name listed and it should be, please let Karen know so we can celebrate with you!*

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

- Worship Sundays @10AM**
- Bible Study Tuesdays @10AM** in CH Library
- AA Meeting Tuesdays @6:30PM** in CH Basement

**PLAN AHEAD**

- July 11**—Gardening at Crawford House
- July 21**—Third Thursday Blue Pomegranate in MH

**More events and meetings online!**  
[www.blawenburgchurch.org/calendar](http://www.blawenburgchurch.org/calendar)



**BLAWENBURG REFORMED CHURCH**

*In Service to the Risen Christ since 1832*

BRC is a ministry partner of Marble Collegiate Church in NYC.  
To learn more, visit [www.marblechurch.org/blawenburgchurch](http://www.marblechurch.org/blawenburgchurch).

*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.*