

**The Reformed Dutch Church of The Clove – A Timeline**  
 (Community Church of High Falls, Incorporated as High Falls Reformed Church)

1701	Services began to be preached in a log cabin at the present location of the Rochester Reformed Church. There have been six churches constructed at that location.
1738 – 1749	Reformed Dutch Churches located in Marbletown, Rochester, New Paltz and Shawangunk employ the same pastor
1750 – 1795	Reformed Dutch Churches located in Marbletown, Rochester and New Paltz employ the same pastor
Nov. 10, 1767	There are 59 First Subscribers of the Reformed Dutch Church of Rochester, as it becomes more formally organized
Pre - 1797	Early Dutch settlers in The Clove traveled to the New Paltz or the Rochester Reformed Dutch Church to worship. Because they had "a bad mountainous road and a creek to cross" they were seldom able to attend.
1797	Rev. Garret Mandeville from the Rochester and Warwarsing churches adds The Clove as a preaching station
1798	A small group met in a barn on what was then known as the Joenum VanWagenen farm. It was said that an empty molasses hogshead served as a pulpit. A molasses hogshead was a large cask or barrel used to hold molasses in addition to other food commodities.
1798 – 1802	Garret Mandeville is The Clove's first pastor
April 23, 1807	23 men signed a petition presenting it to the Classis of Ulster, requesting to form "into a church unconnected with any"
June 25, 1807	The Reformed Dutch Church of The Clove was organized. Henry Rosekrans and Henry R. Osterhoudt were elected elders and James Gosline and Frederick S. Elmendorf deacons.
1807	A log church was built on what was known as the John Sheeley farm on land donated by Dr. Jacob Broadhead. Dr. Broadhead also assisted in the construction and preached the dedicatory service. The John Sheeley house still stands at the corner of Old Clove Road and Cherry Hill Road.
1807 – 1808	R. A. Westervelt – pastor of Warwarsing, Rochester and The Clove
1814 - 1825	James Murphy – pastor of Rochester and The Clove
July 18, 1830	Sunday school was first organized and stone church built to replace log cabin. The church was called "The Clove Reformed Church of High Falls and Alligerville".
1826 – 1828	B. Y. Morse - pastor
1828 – 1834	B. B. Westfall - pastor
1834 – 1838	R. W. Knight - pastor
1836	120 families representing 109 communicant members were on the rolls
1840 - 1843	J. B. Alliger - pastor

1841	<p>Congregation acquired 7 acres of land on Berme Road adjacent to the Delaware and Hudson (D&amp;H) Canal for the purposes of building a parsonage.</p> <p>Lodewyck Hasbrouck sold To The Consistory of The Reformed Dutch Church of the Clove 7 acres on both sides of High Falls Road (Berme Road) - \$200.</p> <p>This lot (now vacant) was not located to the High Falls Cemetery as this was a public cemetery for any denomination. The lot was located about ½ mile on Berme Road towards Alligerville.</p>
1844 - 1845	James Lillie - pastor
1846	The church's debt rose to \$800 (considered large at the time) and the possibility of losing the church existed. The church was taken down and the pews sold at auction. The sale was successful and in less than one year the congregation was able to pay off their debt and rebuild a church at the Berme Road location.
1846 - 1853	Ephraim Depuy - pastor
October 21, 1847	Dedication for this new church is held and Dr. Broadhead, again, preached the first sermon
1855	New York Public Census for Marbletown showed the value of the Church and lot at \$1,000, capable of seating 325, usual number attending was 150 and number communicants being 102 and salary of the clergy, including use of real estate was \$550
1847 - 1859	George Harnden, of the Alligerville brickmaking and boat building family, constructed a scow for the purpose of carrying people from Alligerville to the church and often 150 persons at a time made the voyage down the D&H Canal. A bell which had been presented to the congregation by Dr. Broadhead and which had been used to call worshipers to the old church, hung on the scow and was used to call to the dock, persons who wished make the trip to the reconstructed church. Often a small organ (melodeon), owned by Mrs. Gertrude Decker, the first organ in Alligerville, was put aboard the scow and taken to the church. People sang to the accompaniment of this organ both in the church and during the round trip voyage from Alligerville.
1853 - 1856	Charles A. Evans - pastor
August 1855	Minutes of the church mentioned the need to build a lecture hall in High Falls
1856	N. W. Jones - pastor
1857 - 1866	Jacob N. Voorhees – pastor, a 44 widower from New Jersey
March 17, 1858	A motion was made by the consistory that a "Lecture room be erected in High Falls." A committee was formed to raise funds for construction of this lecture hall to be used by the Reformed Dutch Church congregation.
February 9, 1859	A brick chapel was built at Alligerville and dedicated by sermon preached by Rev. David Demerest from Isaiah 60:12. This building still exists and is now a residence on Church Lane.

April 11, 1859	<p>A meeting of the congregation was called for the purpose of considering the propriety of abandoning this church and building another one in High Falls. The minutes of that meeting reflected that, "instead of coming to any definite conclusion, the meeting was broken up in confusion worse confounded."</p> <p>Land was donated in the center of High Falls by the D&amp;H Canal Corp. "if a suitable building for religious worship be built within a reasonable time." As will be seen, the church was built in 5 months. The desire, supposedly, was to tone down the rough and tumble life that was present in High Falls during the Canal days.</p>
April 30, 1866	A committee consisting of Isaac Davis, William O. Church, James B. Krom and J. L. Snyder was named to make "specifications for a church and suitable materials"
May 21, 1866	The committee handed in their report which said that "A church was to be built 38 feet by 52 feet with 18 foot ceiling, foundation wall 11 feet for a basement 34 feet square basement to be of stone and church wall of brick. Estimated cost \$4,800. The ladies of the church donated the furniture and the bell (cost \$725).
July 8, 1866	A farewell sermon was preached in the Old Clove Church in preparation for its being taken down so that some of the building materials could be reused in the new church
July 31, 1866	The cornerstone for the new brick church was laid
January 15, 1867	<p>The old church on Berme Road was sold, the parsonage disposed of, new property in High Falls secured for that same purpose and the new brick church in village is completed. The flooring, ceiling beams, seats and pulpit from the old church were used in the construction of the new High Falls church. The cost of the new church was \$5,325, all of which was subscribed. The Rev. Charles S. Hageman of Poughkeepsie preached the dedicatory sermon. The appropriate text from Haggai 1:8: "Go up to the mountain and bring wood, and build the house: and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord." That Sunday morning was clear and 18 degrees below zero. The church was filled by 10:30am even though the service was not to begin until 11:00am.</p> <p>The choir opened the service singing the anthem "The Earth Is The Lord's and the Fullness Thereof." Prayers were said by visiting ministers and the 98<sup>th</sup> and 132<sup>nd</sup> psalms were read.</p>
1867 - 1874	N. H. VanArsdale - pastor
1869	A picket fence around the church lawn and stone horse blocks in front were built
February 29, 1872	It was announced that \$200 had been added to the salary of Rev. N. H. Van Arsdale, and to meet this additional obligation the Consistory had raised the assessments on the pews, which were to be rented on the first of March
1874 - 1887	W. H. Vroom – pastor
1875	<p>The Alligerville and Clove congregations, in cooperation with friends of the Mohonk Mountain House and the Alligerville Methodist Episcopal Church, began to build the Clove Chapel on Clove Road. Visitor and guests kept the chapel supplied with Bibles. Books, and furnishings and the congregations supplied the pastor.</p> <p>For many years, the Alligerville and Clove churches shared pastors, had Sunday School together and the Ladies Aid and Missionary Societies worked together</p>
1876	Clove Chapel completed

1879	Much discussion on the "feasibility of buying a hymn and tune book"
April 2, 1886	A Women's Missionary Society was organized. It was organized under "Promising auspices" – promises that have been kept by its faithful members from that time until now. (1940)
1887	A Christian Endeavor Society was organized. This society was not functioning in the mid-1900s.
October 15, 1879	"The Reformed Church was occupied on Sunday for the first time since its renovation, remodeling and repainting. Various improvements have been made. A large platform with a neat desk and chairs has taken the place of the old pulpit, the ceiling has been colored a sky blue and the pews and other wood work adorned with a new coat of paint and trimmed in tasty tint."
1887 - 1905	H. Hageman - pastor
March 1889	Voted that a Bible be given to each of the baptized children on the Children's Day following the child's seventh birthday. This custom was still being observed until at least 1940.
March 16, 1889	Under the leadership of Miss Amanda Krom, a group of 10 girls met and organized the "King's Daughters' Society", which had far-reaching influence on the spiritual lives of those 10 girls and others who joined later.
1891	A safe was bought and all papers pertaining to the history of the church were collected and placed in it
1892	A flag walk from the gate to the front of the church was built
August 20, 1892	The Reformed Church Sunday school went on an excursion by boat to Alligerville and had a picnic at Crystal Island
1905- 1908	J. VanderMeulen - pastor
March 7, 1907	12 ladies met at the parsonage and formed the "Ladies Aid Society" with Mrs. J. L. Snyder as the first president
1908 - 1913	H. W. Noble - pastor
1911	A monthly church paper was started
1913	Reference was made to the church's first annual Easter offering
1914 - 1915	E. O. Schwitter - pastor
1916 - 1921	G. C. Dangremond - pastor
1916 – 1921	During this wartime period, the church began to raise money for European relief, plays were given and suppers served
1925	The picket fence around the lawn was taken down
1922 - 1925	Thomas S. Braithewaite- pastor
1932	During the depression era, so many people moved away to find work elsewhere that the Alligerville Church closed. The Clove congregation began to share a minister with Stone Ridge.
June 1933	Church was newly decorated. The church also sponsored a Boy Scout Troop, gave a pageant called "Let There Be Light"
1933 - 1937	Clarence S. Howard - pastor

Nov. 25, 1939 about 9:30pm	A fire, believed to have been caused by defective wiring, caused considerable damage to the church. The St. John's Episcopal Church, now the D&H Canal Museum, offered the parishioners the use of their church for services. They extended every consideration during the 10 Sundays that the congregation worshiped there.
1941 – 1943	D. Ivan Dykstra – pastor
1943 – 1944	Gerard Koster – pastor
1947 – 1953	Gerrit Timmer – pastor
1955 – 1958	Roy P. Adelberg – pastor
1958	The Stone Ridge Reformed Church and the Reformed Dutch Church of the Clove merged to form the Marbletown Reformed Church. The church in High Falls was used for Sunday School and the church in Stone Ridge used for worship.
1961	A decision was made to abandon the church in High Falls and build a religious education building in Stone Ridge. Worshippers from the High Falls congregation petitioned the Classis of Ulster, asking permission to re-form a congregation in High Falls.
September, 1961	The Classis gave its consent for a one-year trial period
November 11, 1962	Reorganized as High Falls Reformed Church
1962 – 1968	Congregation shared pastors with surrounding churches
1962	Richard E. Lake – pastor
1962 – 1965	Sylvester D. VanOort – pastor
1965 – 1966	Jacob Weilhouer – pastor
1967	John R. Arnone - pastor
1968 – 1969	Clair F. Yohe – minister
Late 1960s	Alliance formed with the Reformed churches in Rosendale, Tillson, and High Falls, with a shared pastor and joint consistory as well as the individual consistories. At one point a vote was taken in regards to consolidating all three into one. High Falls opted out of this arrangement.
1969 – 1970	Richard L. Brihn – first installed pastor in 33 years. He is quoted as saying; "I doubt there is another congregation in the RCA which experienced death and then resurrection to a new and more meaningful ministry"
December, 1970	Talk of building an Educational Building & renovating the church to increase seating capacity by 40%
1971	A traffic cop was assigned to direct traffic on Sunday mornings by the church and there was conversation with the High Falls Fire Commissioners regarding a proposed parking lot across from the church near the canal. In meeting notes from June 1971, there is mention of the desire to build a residence for the elderly of the congregation.
September, 1971	Consistory meeting, it was decided that as of Jan 1, 1972, the High Falls Reformed Church would be known as the Community Church of High Falls, to be more inclusive of those from other denominational backgrounds
1971 – 1978	Richard L. Brihn – pastor
1978	Donald Hicks (interim) – pastor

1978 – 1980	Ian S. Todd – pastor
1981 – 1987	Conley A. Zomermaand – pastor
1987 - 1988	David Brechter – interim pastor
1984	Bill & Susan Philliber volunteered to sponsor a Youth Group and had a kick off/cook out event at their home
1988 - 2000	Helen M. McFadden – pastor, the first woman pastor
February, 1989	Installation of sound system in the church with a microphone on the pulpit
1989	Consistory notes mention that the Rondout Valley Clergy Association does not feel there is a need for a mission (food pantry). If the pantry continues it will be considered "our project" with their support. At the January meeting in 1989, it was noted that requests were received for 13 Christmas baskets. In 2012, it should be noted; six area churches as well as local businesses, organizations and individuals are now supporting the Food Pantry and in April of this year, 101 households (including 372 people) were served.
1985	Bill & Susan Philliber began a clown ministry which soon proved to be very successful. The group's name was "The Spectacle". From 1995 until about 1998, the clown ministry was revitalized under the name "The Continuing Spectacle". It was during both periods that we held very large successful yard sales. We stored sale items in the Philliber barn and Weezy Weber scouted out the bargains at local yards sales for us.
September, 1995	Began holding a 1/2 hour long "contemporary" service; the music was different than the traditional hymns used during the regular worship service and the sermon was shorter. This endeavor continued until October of 2009 when it was decided to combine the two services back into one, keeping some of the contemporary music in the early part of the traditional service.
1997	The North Marbletown church closed its doors & merged with CCHF and the North Marbletown Church was turned into a Mission Thrift Shop
2001-2002	Paul Benes - interim pastor
2002 - 2008	Nancy A McClure-Long - pastor
Spring, 2006	Church moved ahead with an on-line presence, the first of several "evolutions" of our current website. In 1986, the newsletter was produced using a mimeograph and at some point a copier was purchased. Our newsletter now can be viewed online at our website.
2005-2006	Replaced our aging boiler and installed air conditioning
2008 - present	Charles Stickley - contract pastor
May 2011 - ongoing	In May of 2011, our consistory was approached by the consistory of Rochester Reformed Church with an interesting proposal: How about we "yoke"? Yoking is two or more churches pooling their resources to share a "Call" with a full-time pastor. Our congregation and consistory agreed and at the writing of this booklet, the joint search committees are in the final stages of selecting a candidate.
August, 2012	Church celebrates 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary at the High Falls location after reforming from the merger with the Stone Ridge Reformed Church

*Sources: The information to compile this historical journey was assembled by Gary Kitchen from a variety of sources, which include The Church's Consistory Meeting Minutes and other Church records, Census Records, newspaper articles, data contained in the Daniel Smiley Research Center at Mohonk, Ancestry.com, personal remembrances, and the Marbletown Historian.*