



Abundant
Joy
Overflowing
Generosity



—2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NRSV)

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Week 1




Giving God My Day

“Be still, and know that I am God!” —Psalm 46:10, NRSV

To be still reveals a willingness to value personal quiet time with God. No iPod, radio, TV, pager, cell phone. Just sitting quietly in the company of God. It takes practice.

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Ash Wednesday Worship

March 6
7:30 PM

You are dust, and to dust you will return.

This ancient formula will be heard by millions of Christians all over the world this Ash Wednesday as the sign of the cross is made with ashes on their forehead. This symbolic act is both a solemn reminder and an invitation to renewal. **All are welcome** as we begin together the sacred walk towards Easter.



Giving God My Day

"Be still, and know that I am God!"
—Psalm 46:10, NRSV

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Jesus says that his followers hear his voice (John 10:27). Reserving a place and time each day to "hear" the whisper of God allows God to put thoughts into our minds. As one person has put it, "God speaks every day! What is the quality of your antenna?" God invites us to hear and respond. From the often-ragged edges we can move closer to the center of life, to God.

Time with God each day allows us to know that we are treasured, loved by God. Devotional prayer allows us to listen, speak, forgive, and accept the gift of forgiveness. God may encourage us to take a risk, apologize, or make the tough decision. The Spirit may urge us to get help, slow down, stop running, ask, accept, or speak the truth. The list of possibilities is limitless, but most importantly, practicing devotional prayer allows us to be...just be...with God and ourselves.

Questions for Reflection

- What are your challenges to claiming a personal quiet time with God? What are the benefits of stillness in your relationship with God?
- What connections have you discovered between a receptive quiet time and abundant joy? Overflowing generosity?

Break Bread, Share Bread

The Community Outreach team has come up with a way to help fill our food pantry basket with items that are in high demand.

March	Baby Food
April	Microwavable Foods and Dinners
May	PB&J and Crackers
June	Canned Veggies Including Protein Based Beans
July	Granola and Energy Bars
August	Soup and Oyster Crackers

Please bring your donations with you to Sunday Worship. Thank you in advance for helping those in need.

Community Outreach

March Mission of the Month



INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP
for the HOMELESS

Emergency overflow Shelter

This month we will be collecting

Men's socks

Men's underwear

Men's tee-shirts

Washcloths

To provide to the men who stay at the emergency overflow shelter located at **176 Sheridan Avenue in Albany.**

As many of you know, once a month our church family signs up to provide monthly meals for 22 people at this shelter.

Tina Bottini and **Vicki Lane** serve the dinners every Wednesday during the winter months.

As always monetary donations are accepted as well!

Community Reformed Church of Colonie

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Worship Hours

We invite you to
join us for worship
and fellowship every
Sunday at 10 AM

Outdoor Services
are also available in
the Summer every
Sunday at 8 AM

Holiday and Special
Services will be
announced on our
website and this
newsletter

Colonie Community Day Care Center

701 Sand Creek Rd
Albany, NY 12205-2432

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daycarecenter.com

Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity

*Giving and Joy
They go together*

Don't you just love to give presents? To experience the joy when you give a special gift to someone you love? And see their pleasure and surprise in receiving it?

And joy is our reason for giving, too. A new baby arrives – we give gifts. Two people find love together– we give gifts. The love of God is manifest in Christmas – we give gifts.

St Paul shows us how joy and giving go together. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 he wrote to the Corinthians about a group of Christians in a far-off place who were living on the edge, lacking material wealth, and yet their joy overflowed into generosity: "We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part...They gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us."

God deserves so much more than we can ever give, but we can start by following the example of the Macedonians. First and foremost, they gave themselves to the Lord. Doing that makes all other giving possible.

How can we, too, give ourselves to the Lord? We can start by finding a way to give God a percentage of our time, talent, and treasure. We can think of it as "percentage living."

We can contemplate how we can give God a portion of each day, of our worship, of our spiritual gifts, and of our income. These four avenues of giving are our focus leading up to **Consecration Sunday on May 5.**

For each of the next few months we will consider each of them in turn as we prepare ourselves for this chance to consecrate ourselves and our time, talents, and treasure to God.

Book Group News



The March Book Group selection is:

My Grandmother Asked me to Tell You She's Sorry
by Frederik Backman.

According to Amazon, this new novel is "A charming, warmhearted novel from the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *A Man Called Ove*."

Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is seventy-seven years old and crazy—as in standing-on-the-balcony-firing-paintball-guns-at-strangers crazy. She is also Elsa's best, and only, friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother's stories, in the Land-of-Almost-Awake and the Kingdom of Miamas, where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal.

When Elsa's grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters apologizing to people she has wronged, Elsa's greatest adventure begins. Her grandmother's instructions lead her to an apartment building full of drunks, monsters, attack dogs, and old crones but also to the truth about fairy tales and kingdoms and a grandmother like no other.

My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry is told with the same comic accuracy and beating heart as Fredrik Backman's bestselling debut novel, *A Man Called Ove*. It is a story about life and death and one of the most important human rights: the right to be different. (Amazon)

The group will meet at **7:00 on Tuesday, March 26** at the home of Jodi Benitez. If you would like more information, please see Karen Reynolds.

Service of Healing

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.

Mark 1:41



Sunday, March 24 – 10 AM

This special Lenten worship service calls upon Our Lord who is the Great Physician, the Healer of body, mind, spirit, and soul. Through the laying on of hands, the anointing with oil, song, and prayer we humbly ask for restoration and healing.

Editor: **Beth Colbert**

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Articles are due by the 15th of the month and can be submitted to jimandbethcolbert@gmail.com or given to Beth Colbert.