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701 Sand Creek Rd, Colonie, NY 12205-2497 — Bruce K. Cornwell, Pastor — Telephone (518)869-5589 —

January 2022

Creation Care

January 1st often inspires us to begin a new journey - whether it's a healthier body, building new relationships, or managing our finances. But after witnessing the environmental emergencies of 2021, we should create a new and bolder path to living a more earth-loving life...and we don't have to wait another day! It's impossible to heal the earth alone, and no one task will do the trick. But, if we all commit to making one or two (or more!) changes, together we will definitely make a big difference. Over time, the positive impact of each action will grow exponentially for all of us.

"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." Genesis 1:28

Here are a few small changes we can make this winter and beyond. Choose one or two and commit to it for the year, starting now.

- Change from brewing coffee in pods (K-cups) to brewing in a French press, percolator or drip machine
- Stop buying take-out cups of coffee, bottled water and other drinks; instead fill your reusable bottle at home
- Switch to cloth napkins, for at least one meal a day
- Use cloth bags for buying vegetables
- Shop at consignment and thrift stores; buy new only when necessary
- Bake a loaf of bread every week instead of buying one
- Reduce or eliminate take out food
- Learn to sew
- Research and plan your vegetable garden

You can stay inspired on this journey by reading about other people's experiences. Here are just a few recommendations:

- "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver
- "Eco Thrifty" by Deborah Niemann
- "Food Rules" by Michael Pollan
- Zero Waste blog at zerowastechef.com
- "All New Square Foot Gardening" by Mel Bartholomew
- "Mend and Patch" by Kerstin Neumuller

Thoughts? Ideas? Let the Stewardship and Creation Care Team know! **Ellen Buono, Linda Murphy, LouAnn Connelly, and Jessica Kaercher**



January 2022		Upcoming Events	
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**Faith is taking the first step
even when you don't see the whole staircase.**
~Martin Luther King Jr.

What to do with your Christmas Tree



What do you do with your fresh cut Christmas tree after the holiday? Most of us are fortunate enough to live in municipalities that offer curbside recycling that breaks them down into usable mulch. If you go for this option, be sure to remove every bit of tinsel, lights, and those hiding ornaments. Inorganic materials will not break down with these natural materials and pollute God's creation.

Other options?

If you have a backyard, leave it outside to provide much needed shelter for birds and other small animals. You can even leave it right in the stand!

You can remove and break down the branches to nourish your own garden. After removing the branches, the trunk can be used to line garden beds.

If you have been successful at keeping your tree hydrated, the branches can also be removed to make a wreath or other winter decoration.

Collect the needles to make some fresh pine potpourri! You can boil the needles in a pot of water, or dry and add some essential oils for a fresh pine smell all year round!

Let's make the most of God's blessings.

Sarah Huiest

January Mission of the Month

The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York

Not far from Community Reformed Church of Colonie, at 965 Albany Shaker Road, is The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. "The Food Bank provides food assistance to charitable agencies serving hungry and disadvantaged people, through: food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, youth programs, senior programs, and programs for the disabled."

Donations are sourced from farmers, manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, and community members just like you!

Throughout January, you may make a financial donation to the food bank using the yellow Mission of the Month envelopes in your offering box. Non-perishable and hygiene items can be brought in year-round, and placed in the basket on the back table in the sanctuary. A gift of your TIME would be extraordinary, as well!! There are a number of different volunteer opportunities available. Check out their web site for more information:

<https://regionalfoodbank.net/volunteer/>

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Dear Friends,

*With deep appreciation,
we thank you all for the gift you presented to us on Christmas Eve.*

*As we celebrate our 32nd anniversary at
Community Reformed Church,
we give thanks to our Lord for the never-ending support
and encouragement this congregation offers.
In a time when the total average career length of
a minister is now less than 5 years,
we feel truly blessed that we have been serving
our Lord with gladness over these
many years with you all.*

You are a truly amazing family in Christ.

*Peace,
Bruce and Sandy*



Youth News!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Youth Group's snack collection for Ronald McDonald House. They will help sustain weary families during a most challenging time in their life. The Youth Group also provided a warm meal for the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless this Christmas.

After a busy few months of service projects, the youth group will be doing a book study on ***Wolfpack by Abby Wambach*** in January and February.

If you are interested in participating, please contact **Sarah Huiest**, crccsarah@gmail.com, and she will get you a copy of the book.

There will be NO Sunday school for Grades 3-6 on January 2nd.

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 9 AM

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

Colonie Community Day Care Center

701 Sand Creek Rd
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Carol Grasso, Director

Tel: (518) 869-0131

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cgrasso6@yahoo.com

Gathering Zoom

Looking for a devotion to inspire you between weekly worship services? The Gathering Zoom meets on **Tuesdays at 4PM** and **Thursdays at 6:30PM**. A devotion is shared, reflected on, and prayers uplifted. For more information or the link to connect, please contact **Bruce Cornwell**. Devotions will resume **January 11th**.

Adult Enrichment

The Wired Word Bible Study will resume meeting on **January 13, 2022, at 7PM**. Class will meet every Thursday evening via Zoom for 8 weeks. Materials are emailed in advance, so please contact **Ana Crosbourne** if you are interested in attending.

Women's Bible Study will meet **January 8th, at 9:30** at the church and via zoom. Our study of Esther will continue.

Book Group News

January Book Group selection: ***Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte***

Meeting: **January 25th, 6-8PM**, at the church.

Future selections have not yet been made, and we are always open for suggestions. If you have read something you think would be a good book to discuss, please pass it along!

Questions? Contact Karen Reynolds.

New Year Prayer

“Eternal God,

You gave us the greatest gift:
the gift of life.

In the coming year, help us use it wisely.
May we grow in generosity, kindness and
forgiveness, hope, faith and love.

Amen.”

~Rabbi Evan Moffic

Winter Weather Cancellations

If wintry weather mandates the cancellation of church services, a notice will be posted on the **School/Business Closings on local television stations and local internet news sites, as well as on communityreformedchurch.com**

Communications/Media Coordinator: **Sarah Huiest**

Layout Designer: **Bob Becker**

Articles are due by the 15th of the month and can be submitted to crcsarah@gmail.com or given to Sarah Huiest.