



Week 3



Abundant  
**Joy**

Overflowing  
Generosity

—2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NRSV)



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## Giving to God of My Spiritual Gifts

“...just as you did it to one of the least of these members of my family, you did it to me...”  
—Matthew 25:31-40, NRSV

One of the most vivid parables Jesus ever told is recorded in Matthew 25:31-40. “You did it to me” is a clear lesson. Actions are joined to beliefs. God will judge according to our response to human need and suffering. We will be judged on how well we serve, witness, and invite.

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### Abundant Joy this Consecration Sunday

When we think of giving to God of ourselves, we respond from gratefulness by giving our time, talent and treasures. Giving brings us joy!

This year we are looking at percentage giving in four areas:

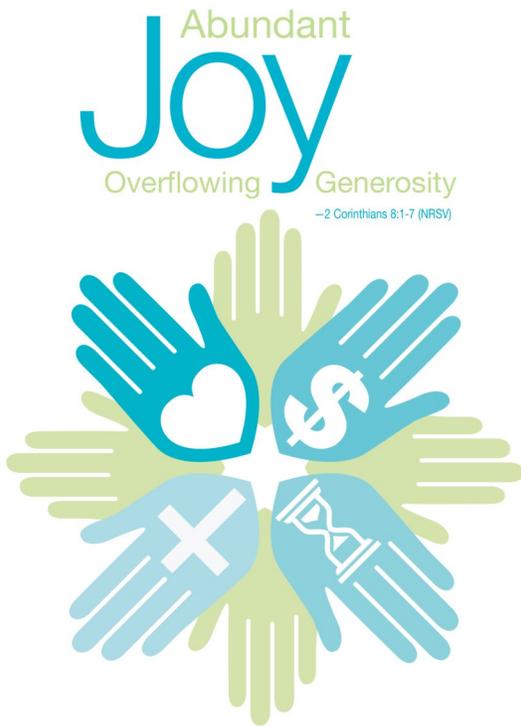
**First**, giving God a portion of our time daily for devotional prayer and study.

**Second**, giving God a portion of our worship when we worship with others in community.

**Third**, giving God a portion of our Spiritual gifts--God given talents and abilities that enrich our lives and the lives of those around us.

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## Giving to God of My Spiritual Gifts

"...just as you did it to one of the least of these members of my family, you did it to me..."  
—Matthew 25:31-40, NRSV

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As followers of Christ, we have been called to be people through whom Christ has eyes to see, ears to hear, feet to approach, hands to touch, hearts to feel, and souls to respond. To take up the towel of service may mean that as servants we will advocate, work toward reconciliation, and invite people toward a new way of living that is consistent with all that Christ came to model.

Serving, giving witness, and inviting are vital for the spiritual health of the believer and the congregation. As there are countless needs, there are also abundant opportunities to serve and gifts to employ in the gathered church and wider community. The wonder of it all is that in serving one another, we serve Jesus Christ.

### Questions for Reflection

- What opportunities do you see to serve your wider community?
- What gifts are needed to serve in these ways?
- How could you match peoples' gifts with these opportunities to serve?



### Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity

(Continued from page 1)

And **fourth**, giving God a portion of our income.

As we approach **Consecration Sunday May 5, 2019**, we spend time to prayerfully decide how much to financially contribute in the coming year. We consider how much we have given in previous years, our income and budget as well as the financial needs and budget of our church family. We seek to give joyfully.

Consecration Sunday is also a time to consider how we will invest a portion of our talents and abilities to benefit others within our church family here at CRCC. Thank you to the many who already invest their talents here, and CRCC is a richer community because of you! If you are not already invested or want to try a new avenue for your gifts, there are many ministries to engage your unique talents and abilities in service to others. Take some time to seek out ministries where you can joyfully use your gifts.

## 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.

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**

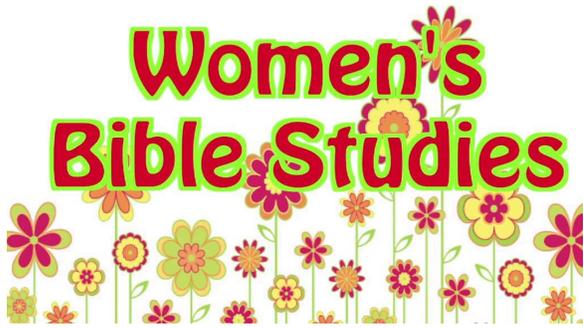


### Outdoor Worship

8 AM  
May 26  
through  
September 1

### Sanctuary Worship

10 AM



The Women's Bible Study will be held on **Saturday, 04 May, from 9:30 – 11:30 am, in the Gathering Room.** The theme will be "Beautiful, The Fabric of Holiness". The Scripture Reading will be from 1 Peter 3:1-7, and will cover "How Does God Define the Beauty of a Woman?".

The next meeting will be on **Saturday, 01 June 2019.** The theme will be "Confident, Evidence of Faith". The Scripture Reading will be from Hebrew 10:19-25 and 32-36.

All women are invited to attend.

# May Mission of the Month

**Lou Ann Connelly**

**May's Mission of the Month is the Christ Child Society of Albany, the local branch of the National Christ Child Society. Their motto, "Where love leads to action," truly depicts the caring work of this organization.**

**Their founder Mary Virginia Merrick used to say, "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child." And their actions live up to these words. The organization focuses on three essential needs of children: building literacy, empowering children and their families, and meeting basic needs, especially those of newborns and their mothers.**

**The local Albany chapter is based in Guilderland but covers all 14 counties of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, from the Vermont and Massachusetts state lines to Utica, and from Warrensburg to the Pennsylvania state line.**

**You may remember that Community Reformed's Quilt Group constructed nearly 50 quilts for the local chapter a few years ago. But quilts aren't the only need of newborns, so this month we are asking you to consider providing other needed items as listed below.**

**Your generosity toward the smallest of God's family will bring comfort and support to many. Thank You.**

**PLEASE NOTE: THEY DO NOT WANT NEWBORN SIZED CLOTHING  
ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE COLLECTING ONLY NEW ITEMS**



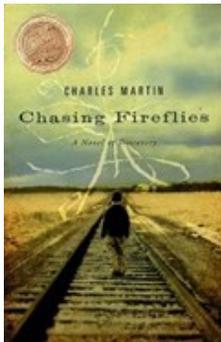
- **Clothing – sized 0-3 or 3-6 month**
- **Onesies**
- **Sleepers**
- **Hand-knit sweaters**
- **Caps**
- **Socks**

#### **Other**

- **Receiving blankets**
- **Diapers – sizes 1 or 2 only**
- **Hooded towels**
- **Board books**

# Book Group News

May's book choice is ***Chasing Fireflies: A Novel of Discovery*** by Charles Martin.



"When paramedics find a malnourished 6-year-old boy near a burning car that holds a dead woman, they wonder who his is---and why he won't talk! Chase, a small-town journalist, is assigned to cover the story and investigate the boy's identity. But will his search unearth long-buried emotions about his own history?" (Tree Swing Reading)

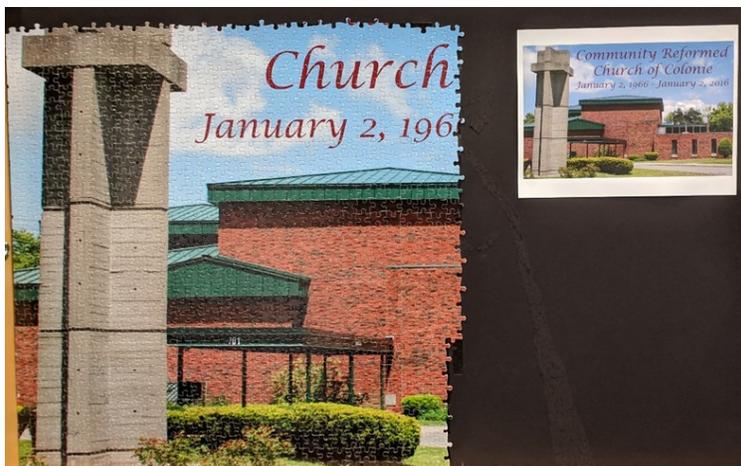
As one reviewer put it: "I have this book to thank for a week of late nights; I could not put it down. What a beautiful story of love and loss and redemption. It was suspenseful, moving, and inspiring—a remarkable combination."

The May meeting is set for **7:00 on May 28** at the home of Debi Todd. The group is open to all. Contact **Karen Reynolds** if you need further information.

## PUZZLE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

On March 13, 2019, a member of the congregation donated \$50.00 to purchase the one-thousandth piece of our Jigsaw Puzzle. This milestone means that we have reached the half-way point (it is a two-thousand-piece puzzle) and that we have raised \$50,000 since we started the campaign in 2014. With the funds raised, we have been able to pay off the smallest of our three building loans. The goal, of course, is to pay off all three loans and free the church from debt. We are well on our way.

When you are in church next Sunday, take a few moments to look at the puzzle. Each piece represents a \$50.00 donation. And while you're there, I invite you to take a pledge card and prayerfully consider making a pledge to the campaign. It can be small or large – it doesn't matter. Every gift is appreciated and gets us all that much closer to our goal



## Twilight

The setting sun at twilight glows, relaxing and serene.

Grass is swaying in the breeze like a peaceful sea of green.

Singing birds are in their nests; having gathered food all day.

Squirrels have since departed, when they chased the birds away.

The meadow seemed so quiet, without the animals at play.

There's still a while 'til darkness falls; I decided I would stay.

I found a tree stump on the path and decide to rest a while.

The breeze's cooling feeling brought, enjoyment with a smile.

Just beyond the stump lies a brook, amidst a row of trees.

You can feel the touch of nature with every cooling breeze.

A brook has ripples you can hear; it's like the meadow talks.

The reflections in the water make the ideal place for walks.

If only for a moment, you call this peaceful place your own.

You feel like you're in paradise and want to be alone.

The sky is growing dimmer as the sun sets in the west.

Soon the moon will be the center, as twinkling stars attest.

You see this scene reflected on water, gently flowing past,

Then forget your earthly problems and wish that it would last.

To see the twilight splendor, it's a gift of peacefulness.

You'll enjoy this view of nature, that God will surely bless.

William E. Ogren

March 27, 2019

## Outdoor Service Weather Guidelines

The worship committee has set the following weather guidelines for the outdoor service.

### The outdoor service will move indoors if:

Outdoor temperature under 55 degrees

Heat Advisory issued by the National Weather Service

Precipitation or the threat of precipitation

Wind interference with the sound system

Other weather related conditions that would interfere with conducting a worshipful service.

The decision for worship location will be made by the participating worship leadership one hour prior to the service.

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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

Carol Grasso, Director

Tel: (518) 869-0131

E-mail:

cgrasso6@yahoo.com

[www.coloniecommunitydaycarecenter.com](http://www.coloniecommunitydaycarecenter.com)



**Many Hands Make LIGHT Work**

**We can use your help!!**

**May 18**

**8 AM to Noon**

**Indoor and Outdoor Work  
Something for Everyone!**

**For more information,  
contact Jerry Kallner**



**Let us remember**

For the wife who lost her husband  
For the husband who lost his wife

**Let us remember**

For the mother and father  
who lost their child

**Let us remember**

For the child who lost a parent

**Let us remember**

To pray. To be grateful  
To never take our freedom for granted  
Thank you to those  
who have been called to serve  
And to those who have given their lives

**We will remember**

Editor: **Beth Colbert**

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Articles are due by the 15th of the month and can be submitted to  
[jimandbethcolbert@gmail.com](mailto:jimandbethcolbert@gmail.com) or given to Beth Colbert.