



Cross and
COMMENTS

701 Sand Creek Rd., Albany, NY 12205-2497 – Bruce K. Cornwell, Pastor – Telephone (518) 869-5589 – www.communityreformedchurch.com

WELCOME BACK!

Sanctuary and Zoom Worship
September 12th, 10 AM

Over the past 18 months, so much has changed and so much has remained the same. On September 12, we will begin worshipping again in our sanctuary after 10 months of being away. We will find the same slate floors, comfy chairs, beautiful banners and, of course, familiar faces. However, we will find that some things have changed, as well. There have been several special modifications made to accommodate our new 4-camera system. Three cameras have been wall mounted and one camera is on a large rolling tripod. Seating will be different now because of the camera placement. Think of this as an opportunity to sit next to someone new! The area in the rear of the sanctuary that houses the sound system has also been expanded to allow space for the camera computer system, the video technician, as well as, our sound technician.

Our Sunday service is now what is being referred to as “hybrid worship” meaning we will continue to live stream our worship, as well as, being in-person. Over the past year, we have realized that many people cannot attend in-person worship because of health concerns, vacations, or living a distance away. Live streaming allows them to remain a vital part of our church family. Throughout the summer, about half of the attendees have been participating via Zoom. Others, however, are watching the services on YouTube or Facebook at their convenience. As a result of the pandemic, our church will no longer be defined geographically, by a building or even by specific worship times.

The new camera cart and tech station were constructed by Kevin Ingalls in memory of Earl Chamberlain. The narthex has been beautifully updated, also by Kevin, in memory of Billy Kress, and Bill and Carolyn Ogren. Dedications of these renovations will be held later this fall.

With the onset of the Delta variant, masks will continue to be required for worship services. In addition, seating will be arranged with social distancing in mind. As we transition back into in-person worship, many will remain hesitant to shake hands, hug or touch physically, and we ask for all to be respectful of each individual’s wishes.



September 12, 10AM – Blessing of the Backpacks

September 19, 9AM – Sunday school begins for grades 3-6.

September 19, 10AM – Bible Handing Down to 3rd and 4th graders

Blessing of the Backpacks: All students and educators are invited and encouraged to bring their school/work bag to worship on September 12th. During the children's message, a special prayer and momento will be given to offer a blessing on this new school year.

Sunday School – In an effort to provide a safe educational experience for everyone, we will not be restarting all programming this year. Sunday school will be offered for only those children in grades 3-6. We will meet in the gathering room. Children age 4-2nd grade, will have their educational opportunity during children's worship, which will continue to meet during the 10:00 worship service following the children's message.

Youth Group – Young people in grades 6-12 will meet monthly for discussions, games, and service activities. Youth group will begin in October. Please check your Sunday bulletin for details.

Bible Handing Down – We were unable to have our Bible Handing Down last fall, so we will be making sure everyone in grades 3 and 4 receives their first Bible from the church this year. If you have a child in third or fourth grade, please make sure you have connected with Sarah Huiest before the 19th.

All children attending Sunday school and Children's Worship will be required to wear a mask.

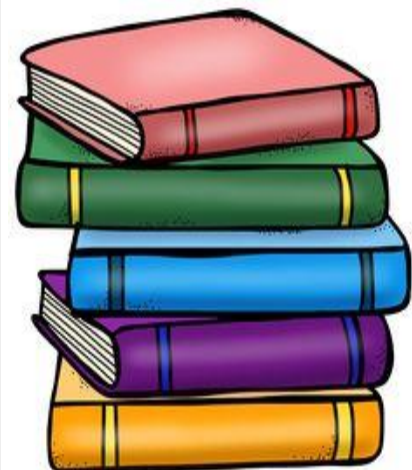
BOOK GROUP

September 28th - **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte.

October 26th - **The Good Sister** by Sally Hepworth

November 30th - **Let Him Go** by Larry Watson

Book Group meets the 4th Tuesday of every month, from 6-8pm. All are welcome to attend and to offer suggestions for future reads. Questions? Contact Karen Reynolds: kreynolds150@gmail.com.



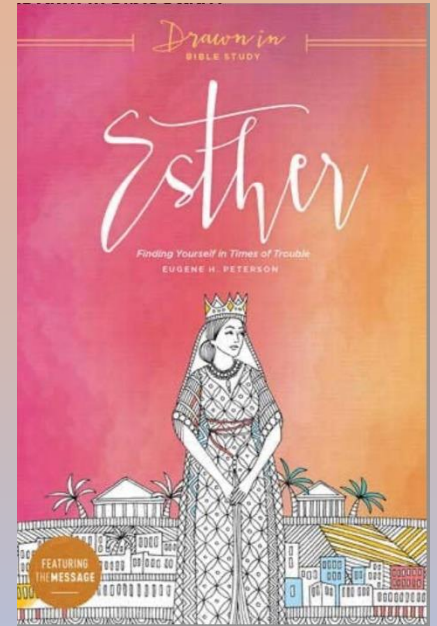
Adult Enrichment

Wired Word: This study group meets via Zoom on Thursday evenings. Discussions are based around current event articles: what does the Bible have to say about these issues, and what do YOU have to say about them. Articles and discussion questions are sent out in advance. Start date, time, and frequency of classes are still being determined. Keep an eye on the Sunday bulletin and social media for more information!

Adult Sunday school: This Bible study group has historically met on Sunday mornings before worship. There is no information available at this time as cases of COVID-19 and the severity of the new Delta variant are still increasing.

Women's Bible Study will resume on Saturday, September 4, at 9:30AM via Zoom. The new study is on Esther.

If you have any questions about these study groups, please contact Ana Crosbourne: anacrosbourne@gmail.com.



Men's Group

The men of CRCC have formed a new gathering group. They enjoyed a potluck breakfast on a rainy Saturday morning in June, and a potluck dinner in July. The dinner also featured Jerry Kallner sharing his faith story.

Moving forward, the group is planning a potluck dinner once a month. During the dinner, one of the men will serve as the discussion leader, where he will be invited to share his faith story, lead a small Bible Study, or something else that he feels the group will enjoy.

The group, called "Men Building with Logos", is open to all of the men of the church. For more information, contact Bruce Cornwell, Mark Kaercher, B.J. Todd, or Mike York. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, 9/22 from 6 - 8PM.

Calling all musician: We will be

resuming choir rehearsals in the fall! There will be a brief choir interest meeting on Sunday, September 12th, following worship. I plan to briefly outline my plan for restarting the choir and solicit your thoughts on the best times to rehearse. I also encourage folks to reach out to me if they have musical gifts (like playing an instrument). I would love to know so I can call upon music throughout the year.



For those who are unable to attend the meeting but desire to participate or learn more, please feel free to send me an email at benapril27@gmail.com. I look forward to making music with you!

Ben April
Director of Music

An update on “Shirley’s Shawls

The members of “Shirley’s Shawls”, the prayer shawl ministry at Community Reformed Church of Colonie, have continued our fellowship during these changing times. Last fall and winter we met on zoom, transitioning to outdoor meetings in the late spring. Throughout, we have knitted, crocheted and woven items for anyone facing health challenges or those coping with difficult times. We also provided shawls to celebrate the birth of two children who have joined our church family! A supply of pocket prayer shawls has recently been given to the pastoral care center at Ellis Hospital. These tiny shawls are created as a reminder of God’s love for us. They have been well received by patients since they can be kept with them at all times. Our ministry has a supply of completed shawls that we can provide to anyone in need of comfort or support. Contact me, at lindamurph98@aol.com, an Elder, or a Deacon if you know of someone who may benefit from receiving a prayer shawl. New members are always welcome. If you might be interested in joining this ministry, meetings will resume in the fall. Watch the “This week at Community Reformed Church of Colonie” for details.

Linda Murphy, for Shirley’s Shawls

Consistory

A New Year – A New Look

On September 26, our new members of consistory will be ordained and installed. The committee structure of consistory has been revised to reflect the current needs of today's church as well as the church of tomorrow.

Elders:

- Ana Crosbourne begins her second term overseeing Adult Enrichment. Some of her responsibilities includes oversight of the adult Sunday school, Wired Word studies, the book group, and other Bible studies. We are grateful for Ana's dedication and support of many of our church's educational programs.
- Karl Coté will be ordained and installed as the elder of Advocacy and Global mission. This is a newly formed committee which will provide resources, as well as, facilitate awareness and involvement in accessibility, mental health, and social justice issues.
- Linda Murphy will transition to the reformatted Hospitality and Congregational Care committee. She will oversee our welcoming hosts, fellowship hour, Home and Hospital Visitation team, the Prayer chain, and many other church ministries.
- Marissa Lombardo will continue to chair the Worship and Music Team. Included in her responsibilities are all weekly and special worship services and maintaining the liturgical supplies needed for those services

Deacons:

- Kevin Bottini will chair the Community Outreach Team which has been redesigned to better address the needs of local communities. Kevin will oversee shelter dinners, the missions of the month, the Angel Tree, local emergency relief, and many other local outreaches.
- Ellen Bouno will chair the newly developed committee of Creation Care and Stewardship. In addition to her responsibilities of supervising our annual stewardship drive and Consecration Sunday, she will be overseeing our present environmental impact policies and developing new ones.

- Marv Helf will continue his work on Financial Administration. His responsibilities include budgeting, the oversight of church finances' as well as, human resource needs.

- Kevin Ingalls will be ordained and installed as chair of the Property Committee, which is responsible for maintaining the church building and grounds.

New Staff Roles:

- Video and Livestreaming Supervisor. Lori Cote will take on this position, in addition to, her Church Administrator responsibilities

- Communication and Social Media Coordinator. Sarah Huiest will be coordinating the communications needed for our church in this changing world. She will continue as Director of Youth Enrichment.

- Director of Music Ministries. We rejoice in having Ben April join our church staff. Welcome Ben!!

And finally, we say a huge thank you to Elder Beth Colbert, Deacon Jerry Kallner, and Deacon Tina Bottini for their many years of dedicated and tireless work on our church consistory. Their hard work, creativity, and commitment have helped to form our beloved community.

A special thanks to Doris Neese who has served as our Elder representative to the Classis of Albany. Tina Bottini has now assumed that position. She will also be the Albany Classis delegate to the national General Synod which is meeting in October.

The Shakers said "Hands to Work. Hearts to God". We know when the Shakers tilled the soil our church is literally built on 250 years ago, they planted those words in the hearts of the generations that followed and they continue to flourish at 701 Sand Creek Road through the hands and hearts of so many dedicated persons. We are truly blessed. We are truly thankful.



**Community Reformed
Church of Colonie**

**701 Sand Creek Rd
Colonie, NY 12205-2497**

**Bruce K Cornwell,
Pastor**

Tel: (518) 869-5589

Email:

crcclori@gmail.com

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Twitter: @ColonieReformed

Facebook:

facebook.com/ColonieReformed

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
Colonie, NY 12205-2497**

Carol Grasso, Director

Tel: (518) 869-869-0131

Email:

cgrasso6@yahoo.com



Sewing to Serve

Lou Ann Connelly

Using quilts to provide comfort, hope, and support is the mission of our church Quilt Group. We gather on two Mondays a month from September to May, to construct quilts and other handmade items for individuals who are facing life challenges.

Every year we choose a different group of recipients, generally alternating between children/youth and adults. For this year's project we will be making lap robes and walker bags for the residents of Shaker Place Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, practically around the corner from the church.

Following CDC guidelines, the group will begin meeting in mid-September at the church. Our meetings begin at 5:30 in the sanctuary. We work on our projects for about an hour and a half, and then end with prayers and devotions.

No sewing experience is needed to be a valuable part of this group, and you do not need any special equipment. You don't even need your own sewing machine. If you can organize, iron, snip, or collaborate, you can provide needed help. And if you want to try your hand at learning to quilt, we will gladly encourage and guide you.

For more information or to be added to our email contact list, please call or text Lou Ann Connelly at 518-275-6572, or email her at louannconne@nycap.rr.com. We're looking forward to a fun and productive year and welcome you.

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 directly to Sarah Huiest.