

Advocacy and Global Mission: World Vision

By Donna Davidson

CRCC's Advocacy and Global Mission Team has identified World Vision to be the recipient of a financial contribution of \$500. World Vision conducts relief, development, and advocacy activities in its work with children, families, and their communities by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Author and pastor, Max Lucado visited Ethiopia in 2009. After his visit he was moved to become involved in assisting World Vision. Lucado was quoted at the time, "Not everyone can write a book, but all of us can do something." He reflected on Matthew 25: 35-36 which in part states: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me."

According to the World Vision website this organization has been operating for 70 years working to guarantee the sustained well-being of children taking a holistic approach to transforming lives. It has worked in over 90 countries, spanning 6 continents, with the primary areas of focus being in health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), faith and development, child protection, disaster management, and food security.

For 30 years the World Vision Water Works program has been working in impoverished areas to provide safe water, improved sanitation, and hygiene education (WASH) so that illnesses decrease, health improves, and the burden on women and children is lessened. As the world's largest nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world, World Vision brings clean water to one new person every 10 seconds.

According to World Vision Water Works: People are struggling to access the quantity and quality of water needed for drinking, cooking, bathing, handwashing, and growing food.

- 771 million people lack access to clean water: 1/10 people on the planet.
- More than 1600 children die every day from diarrhea caused by unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene practices. This is more children than die from HIV/AIDS and malaria combined.

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Cross and Comments

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



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How are women and girls affected by lack of clean water?

- Women and girls are most likely to be responsible for hauling water.
- They spend an estimated 200 million hours collecting water every day.
- In rural Africa the average woman or girl walks 6K (3.7 miles) to haul 40 pounds of water every day.
- This daily task robs the opportunity to spend time with family or pursue school and income activities.
- At childbirth, the lack of clean water, sanitation facilities, and proper hygiene contribute to high rates of disease and death among mothers and newborns.

To solve the global water crisis World Vision's mission is:

- To provide protected permanent water sources best suited for the location.
- Drill and rehabilitate wells, develop piped water systems, create other vital water points.
- Teach local community members how to keep water clean and flowing.
- Oversee building latrines and handwashing facilities.
- Promote healthy hygiene practices.

A study by the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill found that nearly 80% of wells drilled by World Vision, which integrates local water committees, usage fees and repair teams into its model delivering clean water were still operational after more than two decades. The foundation has provided \$80 million over more than two decades to enable water access to an estimated 2 million people.

For your reflection:

How long can you survive without water? When I was hiking in the Grand Canyon it was sobering to see signs posted reminding hikers to make sure they had enough water and memorials for individuals who didn't. Depending on various factors the average person may survive only three days without water.

In the US, it's easy to take water for granted...it comes out of the faucet any time you want it...or does it?

I was recently confronted with how quickly life can be disrupted by lack of safe water. If you live in the Town of Colonie perhaps you look differently about the access to safe water after a valve malfunction at the sewage treatment center quickly contaminated the water supply this past May. On 5/19/23 a boil water advisory was sent out to residents.

The school district staff and students received notification that there would be a 2 hr delay for the start of school. This was to allow time for school district employees to prevent access to water fountains, provide pallets of bottled water, and distribute hand sanitizer (the Pandemic taught us well). School resumed for the day after safety precautions were implemented.

I was able to accommodate the necessary recommendations at home using bottled water to brush my teeth and making sure I didn't swallow water while taking a shower. I cleaned and changed filters in my Britta water pitcher and Keurig coffee maker, sanitizing dishes, etc. I could boil water, eat food that didn't have to be prepared with water, or drive a short distance to a restaurant that wasn't impacted by the contaminated water. The Department of Health advisory lasted a short three days. We are fortunate to have had the resources to rectify the situation. What is a life threatening situation in many parts of the world, was a minor inconvenience for us. I am grateful to have choices.

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Want to learn more?

Check out [worldvision.org/cleanwater](https://www.worldvision.org/cleanwater)

What can you do?

More and more frequently, we are bombarded by news of climate change and the global water shortages. The issue is so critical that the UN Assembly declared March 22nd, World Water Day - an annual international call to action to focus the attention on the importance of fresh water and sustainable management of freshwater resources. The goal is to celebrate water and encourage everyone to use, consume, and manage water.

Want to do more?

Join World Vision's Global 6K for water on May 14, 2024, a one-day event when thousands of people around the world will walk, jog, run in their own neighborhood to support providing clean water to children at risk.

Why walk 3.7 miles to support clean water? 6K is the average distance people in developing countries walk for water every day hauling water that isn't even safe to drink.

Looking for something to read?

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park (reading age 10-12) takes place in 1985 during the Sudanese Civil War. It is based on the true story about Salva Dut, one of the Sudanese 'Lost Boys'.

Save the Date!

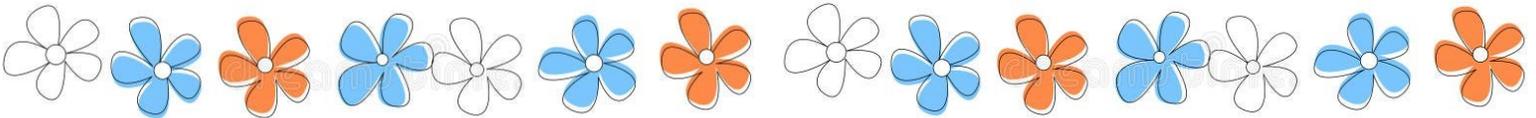
Sept. 17 after worship

JUNK IN THE TRUNK



Congregational Meeting

Community Reformed Church of Colonie's Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, August 6th, at approximately 10AM. Election for the position of Elder and discussion of the 2023-2024 budget will take place. Members of Classis will be joining us, as well. Attendance will be available in person and via Zoom.



Break Bread, Share Bread

Break Bread Share Bread is a partnership with the Food Pantry on Vly Road in Colonie. Even though they are a part of the Coalition of Food Pantries, there is always a need for certain food items.

During the month of July we will collect Juice! Items can be placed on the back table in the sanctuary, and will be donated to the Help Center Food Pantry on Vly Road.

Thank You! Community Outreach.

Member Milestones

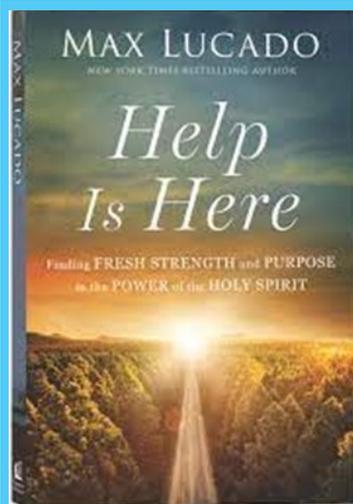
**Congratulations to recent high School graduates
Emily Terry and Harmony Bredice!**



Harmony will be attending Hudson Valley Community College in the fall to study Construction!



Emily will be attending the University of Tennessee where she will study Sports Journalism and Electronic Media. We have been fortunate enough to have Emily in our church nursery for the past year. We will miss her dearly and wish her all the best!

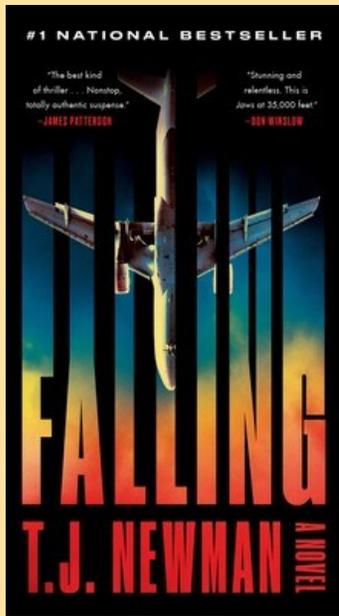


Women's Bible Study will start meeting on the **SECOND** Saturday of the month on September 9th, continuing with the 9:30 meeting time.

Their first study of the 2023-2024 year will be Help Is Here by Max Lucado.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Ana Crosbourne (anacrosbourne@gmail.com) to make sure you are added to the email list.

Book Group News



The book we will be reading for July is **Falling** written by T.J. Newman.

It is a mystery thriller about a pilot who has to make a very difficult decision.

If you like that one you may also like

Drowning: The Rescue of Flight 1421

also by T.J. Newman.

We usually take a break in August and hope everyone reads something they enjoy while vacationing.

We will convene in September having read **The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek** written by Kim Michele Richardson.

For those who enjoy that one, Kim Michele Richardson also wrote the sequel **The Bookwoman's Daughter**.

Next on our to-be-read list is **Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver. Because of the length of this book, we will take October and our combined November/December meeting for the discussion of this book.

Noting: Barbara Kingsolver won a Pulitzer Prize for this book.

That winds up another year of CRCC's Book Group. We have been going strong since 2004.

It is hard to believe 2024 will be twenty years of friendship, fun, and fellowship combined with the joy of reading some excellent books.

Looking forward to more love and laughter.

July Mission of the Month

The July/August Mission of the Month is the US Committee For Refugees and Immigrants -of Albany (USCRI Albany).

"The USCRI Albany Field Office has welcomed more than 4,500 newcomers to Albany, New York since 2005. Refugees resettled in Albany come primarily from Afghanistan, Burma, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and Syria.

Newly arrived refugees receive a comprehensive set of services including housing placement, cultural orientation, school enrollment, coordination of initial health appointments, referrals to ESL classes and employment preparation and placement."

Presently, they are working tirelessly to assist refugees being transferred to our area from New York City.

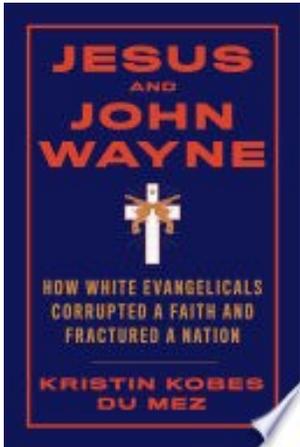
To support, US Committee For Refugees and Immigrants-Albany, you may make a donation through your yellow July "Mission of the Month" offering envelope, by check payable to CRCC with "USCRI Albany" in the memo line, or directly through their website: <https://refugees.org/donate-uscri-albany>



Book Review by Kyrra Howard

Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation

By Kristin Kobes Du Mez



Christianity is under siege, or so white evangelicals would have you believe. Kristin Kobes Du Mez gives readers a detailed history of how white evangelicals have adopted “militant masculinity” which casts Jesus as their warrior and weapon. The book discusses numerous figures that have been idolized and put up on a pedestal to represent the ideal man in their Jesus’ image. The focal comparison is actor John Wayne who is typecast as a heroic cowboy and idealized American soldier. Even though Wayne was married three times and it was widely known that he had many affairs, was a chain-smoker and hard drinker, he is used as an evangelical example of rugged American manhood where man is the authority figure, no matter the man’s past indiscretions. Wayne even said of his movies “he’d given ‘the blacks their proper position’” as slaves and that “I don’t feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from [the Native Americans].”

Later in her book, Kobes Du Mez delves into modern pushes for traditional male roles in the home. She discusses homeschool movements as “a steady source of teachings on militant patriarchal authority and Christian nationalism.” For instance, she mentions the Duggar family, famous for their homeschooling and tv shows, which portray the children and wives submitting to their father/husband. I recently watched a documentary about the Duggar family called “Shiny Happy People” where Kristin Kobes Du Mez is interviewed, and I would highly recommend it. In the book, she talks about the push of Duggar style tv shows, Christian movies and bookstores being a type of cultural evangelism, where congregations are a group of consumers devoted to evangelical materials. These materials are produced as a set of standards for Christians to follow and are meant to generate a shared cultural identity.

Briefly Kobes Du Mez mentions Kirk Cameron, who has won awards for his Christian movies, such as *Fireproof*. It has been interesting for me to connect the material from Jesus and John Wayne to current events involving Cameron. He has now moved on to spreading his authoritative Christianity through Brave Books, a publisher which pushes conservative Christian-value stories and claims they will help children “become God-loving, patriotic Americans.” They call their subscription service the Freedom Island Book Club, making their cause sound revolutionary and creating discontent so they have a problem that can only be overcome with the might and power of Christ. Jesus and John Wayne gives history and insight into white evangelical movements such as this, and I highly recommend it.

Du Mez Kristin Kobes. *Jesus and John Wayne : How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*. First ed. Liveright Publishing Corporation a Division of W.W. Norton & Company 2020.

Children’s books you can trust. (n.d.). Brave Books. Retrieved June 16, 2023, from <https://bravebooks.us/>

**Community Reformed
Church of Colonie**

701 Sand Creek Rd
Colonie, NY 12205-2497

Bruce K Cornwell, Pastor

Tel: (518) 869-5589

E-mail:

crcclori@gmail.com

Website:

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 in person and via Zoom.

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
Colonie, NY 12205-2497

Carol Grasso, Director

Tel: (518) 869-0131

E-mail:

cgrasso6@yahoo.com



**May 28 to September 3
(Labor Day to Memorial Day)
9 AM**

**Outdoor (weather permitting)
and
on Zoom (live-streamed)**

**If the weather is inclement,
services will be on Zoom only
with no in-person worship.
All services are available on
Facebook or YouTube
later in the week**

Summer Worship Weather Guidelines

Outdoor Worship will not be conducted if:

- ✝ Outdoor temperature is under 55 degrees
- ✝ Heat Advisory issued by the National Weather Service
- ✝ Precipitation or the threat of precipitation
- ✝ Wind interference with the sound system or camera system
- ✝ Other weather-related conditions or impending weather changes that would interfere with conducting a full worshipful service.



The decision for worship to be ONLY available on Zoom will be made by the participating worship leadership one hour prior to the service.

Please check our website for updated information.

Additional Nursery Worker Needed

We will have two individuals staffing the church nursery beginning in September. One position is already filled. If you or someone you know is interested in the remaining position, please contact Sarah Huiest crcsarah@gmail.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.