

# Cross and ~~its~~ COMMENTS

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



## Welcome New Members!

January 2023

This fall, we welcomed four new members into the CRCC church family! Please take a minute to get to know a little bit about them, and feel free to introduce yourself on Sunday morning!

### Ben April

I'm a music teacher and freelance musician in Shaftsbury, VT. I love music, cooking, hiking, and hanging with my two cats, Merlin and Gandalf. I love the optimistic and inclusive attitude at CRCC. I'm also an unapologetic New England Patriots fan. :-)



### Kyrra Howard

I grew up in a Presbyterian church, then in high school we started attending a Christian and Missionary Alliance church. I like that CRCC is such a welcoming community. I especially like that CRCC is a Room for All congregation that affirms, as well as offers, a place to belong. I currently work at Northshire Bookstore in shipping and receiving. Obviously, I love to read, but I also like drawing, painting, yoga, and going for walks.

### Pam Zepf

I'm retired from RPI after 30+ years as a support staff/executive assistant. In my earlier years, I was a newspaper reporter. I have two grown children. One lives in New York City and one here in Latham. I work during the school year in the library at Shaker High School. At church, I'm grateful for Sunday worship and am enjoying Book Club. I'm hoping to participate in Bible Study in the future. My favorite things to do are spend time with my sons and friends and take our big goofy dog, Thor, for walks.



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#### Upcoming Events

Reverse Advent Boxes Due	Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Book Group	Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup>



## Amber Tobin

Amber works for the state as a Research Scientist. In her off time, she likes shopping, bargain hunting, and theme parks. In regards to why she chose CRCC, "I love how welcoming and friendly everyone is. I also really like how the church is accepting of everyone which was a large factor for me wanting to join." Amber characterizes herself as "very friendly and outgoing...a good listener," and she "loves talking with people."

## New Technical Director – Cameron Kaercher



Cameron Kaercher grew up in the Capital Region for most of his life. After jetting up north to Plattsburgh for his Bachelor's degree in TV Video Production, he is very happy to be home. While living back home over the past year, he has been working full time at Spectrum News 1 as a Technical Director. When he isn't in the TV studio, he loves reading about and watching films.

Cameron can be found in our tech booth on Sunday morning.

Please stop by and introduce yourself!

## January Mission of the Month

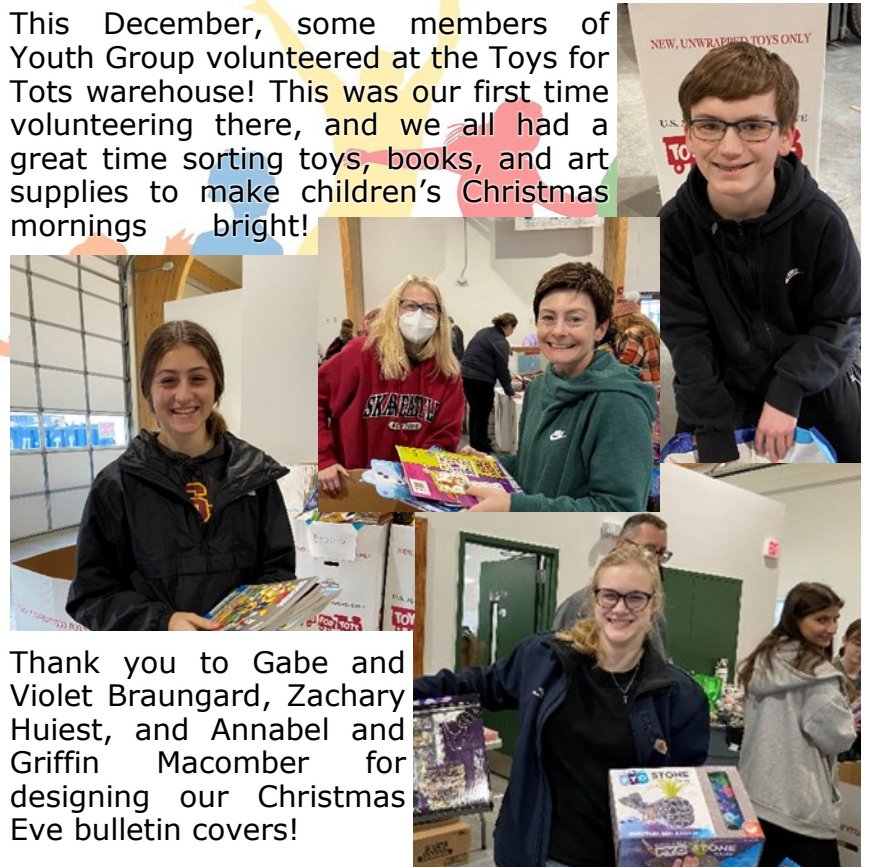
January's Mission of the Month is **The Help Center at Capital Church located at 31 Vly Road.**

The Help Center is a food pantry sponsored by the Capital District Food Bank. "We are happy to be able to provide groceries and clothing for those who are in need within our service area, zip codes: 12203, 12205, and 12309." The Help Center is available for South Colonie residents in need - Thursdays from 6pm to 7pm.

To make a monetary donation in support of this mission, please use your yellow Mission of the Month January envelope in your offering box and/or note "January Mission of the Month" in the memo on your check payable to CRCC.

## Youth News!

This December, some members of Youth Group volunteered at the Toys for Tots warehouse! This was our first time volunteering there, and we all had a great time sorting toys, books, and art supplies to make children's Christmas mornings bright!



Thank you to Gabe and Violet Braungard, Zachary Huiest, and Annabel and Griffin Macomber for designing our Christmas Eve bulletin covers!

# A Caroling We Go!

On Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, members of the choir traveled to some CRCC members' homes to delight them with a round of Christmas carols!



Dear Friends,

With deep appreciation, we thank you all for your gift. When we worshipped for the first time at Community Reformed on January 1, 1989, we knew we had found our new home and our church family. We give thanks to our Lord for the never-ending support and encouragement of this congregation.

Peace,  
Bruce and Sandy

# Reverse Advent Box

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Reverse Advent box this Advent season. Collection boxes are due to the church by January 22nd. The church will then divide up the items and distribute them to the appropriate organizations.



Merry Christmas

# HOMELESSNESS AND FOOD INSECURITY

**No one should have to worry about whether they will have food on their plate or a roof over their head. But the reality is that hunger and homelessness are widespread problems that affect far too many people.**

## In the United States

Many Americans are living on the edge, forced to choose between necessities like purchasing food, paying rent, or going to the doctor.

**37.2 million**

Americans live below the poverty level

**580,000**

Americans are homeless on a typical night

**44 million**

Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger

**1 in 6**

children in the U.S. live in poverty

## Worldwide

While there has been slow but steady progress over the past thirty years, there are still a tremendous number of people around the world who live in extreme poverty.

**795 million**

people do not have enough to eat

**767 million**

people live on \$1.90 a day or less

**6**

children die each minute of a hunger-related disease

**65.3 million**

refugees have been driven out of their homes



CRCC has donated \$500 to Joseph's House and the Outreach Van to assist in their services in providing support to the homeless in our area.

<https://www.josephshousetroy.org>

**If you would like to volunteer or donate to those who provide support for the homeless and those experiencing food insecurity, here are some suggestions:**

## Local



**South End Children's Café,**  
www.[southendchildrenscafe.org](http://www.southendchildrenscafe.org) ,  
Tracie Killar



**Street Soldiers Albany**  
www.streetsoldiers.community/contact ,  
Renee Fahey



**Interfaith Partnership for the homeless**  
[www.iphny.org](http://www.iphny.org), Janine Robitaille



**Food Pantries for the Capital District**  
[www.thefoodpantries.org](http://www.thefoodpantries.org)

## Nationally or Worldwide

UNICEF: <https://www.unicefusa.org>  
Save the Children: [www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)

## 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 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

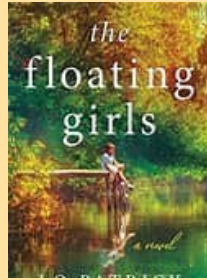
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# Book Group News



January Book Group meeting is January 24<sup>th</sup>, 6PM, at the church.

The Floating Girls by Lo Patrick



## Church Choir is BACK!

Rehearsals: Sundays at 9AM AND 11AM

See Director Ben April for more info.



## 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 [communityreformedchurch.com](http://communityreformedchurch.com)**

# Advocacy and Global Mission

This committee is new to our church. We are charged to address social justice issues through advocacy, providing information and the use of financial resources as Christian advocates.

The Bible talks a lot about justice. We're supposed to seek justice (Isaiah 1:17), loose the chains of injustice (Isaiah 58:6) and "let justice roll on like a river" (Amos 5:24). The goal of justice is to return things to a state of "rightness."

Advocacy - as Christians - seeks to bring justice to those facing violence, poverty, and discrimination and help more of God's children experience life in all its fullness (John 10:10). Engaging in advocacy helps us answer God's call to seek justice.

We will be sharing topics and ways we, as individuals and as a congregation, can support agencies and programs in addressing social justice issues. As a committee, we would like to support the issues that are of interest to our church family. Please let us know if there is a particular issue that you have a passion for or if you would like to join our committee.

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