

# Cross and **COMMENTS**

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

*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation...(James 1:17).*

Fresh in our minds is the loving gift-giving of Christmas. We spent hours and days finding the right gift for each of our loved ones.

But our gift-giving is only a pale imitation of God's generosity of gifts for us.

God's gifts include Spiritual Gifts that enable us to do his work. God also gives the gifts of life, faith, peace, love, wisdom, mercy, joy, and so much more. God gives us his Word in the scriptures and forgiveness in the reconciliation brought by Jesus. God provides for our physical needs and protects us from evil. And God has given each of us promises that we can rely upon and look forward to. God's generosity is boundless.

In preparation for **Consecration Sunday**, coming up on **April 26**, we will contemplate the gifts of God for the people of God.

And we will consider how we can respond to God's gifts for the benefit of our church and our world.

**Please join in preparing your heart to respond to God's gifts as we approach Consecration Sunday.**



*The Gifts of God for the People of God*

February 2020

| February 2020                |          | Upcoming Events        |                                 |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| In this Issue:               |          | <b>Communion</b>       | <b>February 2<sup>nd</sup></b>  |
| <b>Ash Wednesday Worship</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>   | <b>February 26<sup>th</sup></b> |
| <b>Youth Group News</b>      | <b>3</b> | <b>Communion</b>       | <b>March 1<sup>st</sup></b>     |
| <b>Book Group News</b>       | <b>4</b> | <b>Healing Service</b> | <b>March 15<sup>th</sup></b>    |

**Lenten**  
SCHEDULE

**ASH WEDNESDAY ~ FEBRUARY 26 7:30 PM**

**COMMUNION ~ MARCH 1 10 AM**

**SERVICE OF HEALING ~ MARCH 15 10 AM**

**PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY ~ APRIL 5 10 AM**

**GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 10 7:30 PM**

**EASTER ~ APRIL 12 10 AM**



2

# ASH WEDNESDAY *Worship*

**February 26**

**7:30 PM**

***“Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return”***

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season.

Lent is the 40 days (excluding Sundays) that come before the crucifixion of our Lord.

It is a time of penance, reflection, self-examination and spiritual redirection.

At the conclusion of our Ash Wednesday worship, Rev. Cornwell marks the forehead of each churchgoer with a cross made of ashes.

These ashes remind each of us that:

- † Death comes to everyone. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
- † We should repent for our sins.
- † We must change ourselves for the better.
- † God made the first human being by breathing life into dust and that without God, human beings are nothing more than dust and ashes.
- † We receive the mark of the cross made at our baptisms.

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are made by burning palms. We leave the service with the mark still on our foreheads so that we carry the sign of the cross out into the world.

The introspection of Lent allows us to celebrate the glory of Easter. It is a time of darkness ended with the rising of the Son.

Ash Wednesday begins our journey to the Cross.

All are welcome at this service. Nursery care will be available.



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS



The CRCC Youth Group has been very busy this school year! In September, members and parents went to the Schuyler Inn, a homeless shelter in Mendons. They worked to clean and organize the Kids' Club. In October, the group painted a new Little Free Library for Cook Park. November and December were filled with activities to help those in need during the holidays. In November, they volunteered at St Sophia Greek Orthodox Church for their Day of Simple Giving.



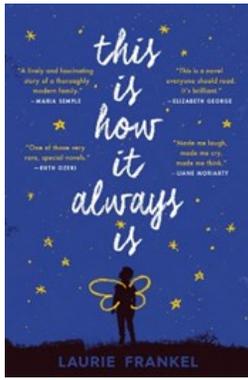
Stations were available for participants to do such things as write notes to service men or to pack gift bags of toiletries. In December, the youth group participated in Morning of Kindness.

They made pans of baked ziti to be delivered to the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless and donated supplies to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society.

Upcoming events include volunteering at the Regional Food Bank, reading and socializing shy cats at the Saratoga County Animal Shelter and volunteering for Whiskers Animal Benevolent League.



# Book Group News



Laurie Frankel's book, ***This is How it Always Is***, is the Book Group choice for February.

*This Is How It Always Is* is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again; parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts; children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.

When Rosie and Penn and their four boys welcome the newest member of their family, no one is surprised it's another baby boy. But at least their large, loving, chaotic family knows what to expect.

But Claude is not like his brothers. One day he puts on a dress and refuses to take it off. He wants to bring a purse to kindergarten. He wants hair long enough to sit on. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl.

Rosie and Penn aren't panicked at first. Kids go through phases, after all, and make-believe is fun. But soon the entire family is keeping Claude's secret. Until one day it explodes. (LaurieFrankel.net)

"A **bold, honest, heartbreaking story** about the choices parents make, and how life goes on, but not always according to plan. This must-read novel... is the perfect pick for book clubs."

—PopSugar

"Frankel has tackled this controversial topic in a **warm, funny and honest** way and one that will undoubtedly spark thought and conversation."

--The Fort Worth Star-Telegrams

The book is the 2018 winner of the Washington State Book Award and was named a Best Book of the Year.

The February Book Group meeting is set for **Tuesday, February 25**. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome. Please see Karen Reynolds for more information.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

On **Sunday mornings**, there is an Adult Bible Study that is open to both men and women. The class meets from **8:50 – 9:40 am** in the Lion's Room off of the Gathering Room. The present study is on "**Growing Older and Wiser**". Quote from the book, *"Life expectancy has stretched. In the Scripture Studies you will find examples of people who get older and wiser, and examples of people who just get older. You will find older people who should have listened to younger people and vice-a-versa. You will find honest expressions of fear and hope as the years accumulated and death seems closer. Throughout all of these stories you will find the constancy of God"*.

Through February, the topics will be as follows:

- ◆ **Listening to the Young** - Scripture Study: Job 32  
Purpose: To discuss and welcome the wisdom of younger believers.
- ◆ **When the Kids are Growntups Too** - Scripture Study: Exodus 18  
Purpose: To develop the courage to speak up and give advice with Godly wisdom.
- ◆ **Wiser by Faith** - Scripture Study: Genesis 24:1-9  
Purpose: To exercise trust in God in our dealings with family.
- ◆ **They Don't Always Listen.** Scripture Study: I Kings 12:1-20  
Purpose: To trust God's purposes when people we care about are headed the wrong way.
- ◆ In March, there will be a Lenten Study.

Doris Neese

**Community  
Reformed Church  
of Colonie**

701 Sand Creek Rd  
Colonie, NY 12205-2497

Bruce K. Cornwell, Pastor

Tel: (518) 869-5589

E-mail:  
CrcChurchOffice@gmail.com

www.communityreformedchurch.com

**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

# 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.

Please bring your donations with you to Sunday Worship.  
Thank you in advance for helping those in need.

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| February | Microwave rice – all different kinds/varieties   |
| March    | Hearty protein based soup (Chunky, Progresso, Dinty Moore)   |
| April    | Canned Tuna, chicken, Spam, Vienna sausage   |
| May      | Jarred sauces – red or white   |
| June     | Individual packaged snacks (fruit snacks, cheese & crackers, peanut butter crackers, pop tarts, pretzels, chips, granola bars) microwave popcorn |
| July     | Instant or canned potatoes   |
| August   | Microwave rice – all different kinds/varieties   |

## CAMP FOWLER

If there are any  
children planning on  
attending  
Camp Fowler this  
Summer, financial  
help is available.

For more  
information, please  
contact

**Doris Neese at  
518-456-6239**



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

## Attention:

There have been changes to the building. At the direction of Consistory, the gathering room door will remain locked throughout Sunday mornings. Sunday School children and parents will be admitted by their teachers, but all others are asked to use the main sanctuary doors. New locks have also been installed. Please contact Rev. Cornwell if you require frequent access to the building.

Editor: **Beth Colbert**

Layout Designer: **Bob Becker**

Articles are due by the 15th of the month and can be submitted to  
jimandbethcolbert@gmail.com or given to Beth Colbert.