

# Cross and **COMMENTS**



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May 2023

## May 21<sup>st</sup> is Consecration Sunday



As part of our worship service on May 21, we will have an opportunity to offer God our personal commitment of our time, our abilities, and our financial resources for the work of the church in our community and the world as a whole.

More than just a monetary commitment, what we offer to God on that day is ourselves as stewards and servants in the kingdom of God. On that day, *whatever* we

bring will be consecrated (made holy) for God’s purposes.

This year, in preparation for this important day, we have chosen to focus on the words of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 3: 6-7

*"So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."*

This Bible verse is one of many that references agriculture and farming, because the imagery is so relatable. We know what it’s like to plant seeds, tend to young shoots, pluck out the weeds, and try to deter the bugs and wildlife that would destroy the maturing plant. This is all done in the hopes of reaping a bountiful harvest or enjoying the fragrance and beauty of blooms and blossoms.

We know that the plant doesn’t mature in an instant; it takes time and care. We who plant, water, weed, and protect, are partners with God - the only One who truly makes the plant grow.

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May 2023		Upcoming Events	
In this Issue:		<b>Women’s Bible Study</b>	<b>May 6<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Mission of the Month</b>	2	<b>Consecration Sunday</b>	<b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Room for All</b>	4	<b>Book Group Meeting</b>	<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Break Bread, Share Bread</b>	5	<b>Summer Hours Begin</b>	<b>May 28<sup>th</sup></b>

## Spring Cleaning

It’s the time of year when many folks spring clean and refresh their homes. Is this you? If you have items you no longer want, or are needing new-to-you items, consider using businesses that focus on recycling and reusing.

**For suggestions, go to**

<https://padlet.com/CRCCstewardship/businesses>

# May Mission of the Month



Samaritan Counseling  
C E N T E R

## May's Mission of the Month is Samaritan Counseling Center

As their web site concisely states, "We aim to enhance the lives of our clients by focusing holistically on their mind, body and spirit, highlighting unique strengths and supporting relationships." Samaritan Counseling Center offers individual, couple, family, and pre-marital counseling. Since 1949, May has been Mental Health Awareness Month. Even though it is the 75th year, stigma, prejudice, and shame continue to abound in communities and families throughout the country. We need to do better. Emotional and behavioral issues can affect individuals of any age, race, religion, or socioeconomic status. Unfortunately, education, awareness, and resources are not equitably accessible. Peer or family pressure, finances, and availability of professionals are just a few issues that hinder care. Supporting Samaritan Counseling Center is only one small way we can improve the lives of our family, friends, and community. Please consider donating via your yellow "Mission of the Month" offering envelope, by check payable to CRCC with "Samaritan Counseling Center" in the memo, or directly through the donate button on their website:

[samaritancounselingcenter.org](http://samaritancounselingcenter.org).

**To learn more about  
Mental Health Awareness Month,  
you can visit:**

<https://www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month>

(Consecration Sunday—Continued from page 1)

By now you know we aren't just talking about tomatoes and roses. We are talking about the growth of our spiritual lives and our commitments to the process of growth in the work of God in the world.

We can be planters of the seeds of faith: with children and youth, with adults who are seeking a closer relationship with God, with people in crisis who need the rock of faith to sustain them, with those facing housing or financial hardships, with those battling loneliness, or with anyone who crosses our paths.

We can be caretakers of the planted seeds of faith, too. We can use our time, abilities and capabilities, and personal resources to foster others in their faith and to care for their physical, psychological, and emotional needs. We can conserve and protect the resources God has given us and channel them to the good of others as God inspires and directs each of us.

We can cherish the beautiful creation that God has provided for us and know that it's in our hands to tend and protect. We can partner with God in nurturing and sustaining it.

In the coming weeks, as May 21<sup>st</sup> approaches, take time to prayerfully and earnestly consider how God is calling you to dedicate your time, abilities, and financial resources to His work. How may you sow and water seeds that He will grow?

LouAnn Connelly

Creation Care Team

Spring

## To the Moms Who Are

To the Moms who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.  
 To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.  
 To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, to the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.  
 To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.  
 To those who knew they never wanted kids, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.  
 To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.  
 To those remembering Moms no longer with us.  
 To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for.

**Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.**

- Hannah Kardon, Pastor at Elston Avenue United Methodist Church



### 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.

## Kitchen and Bathroom Construction Update

Heaters and air conditioning units are up and operational. We have installed the tank-less hot water heater, and the electrician should be finished with new electrical service panel upgrades by the time this article goes to print. The new washer and dryer will soon be delivered, nearly completing the utility room portion of this renovation. The kitchen cabinets are expected to arrive sometime toward the end of June.

We anticipate the installation to begin following the July fourth holiday. Soon, we will be patching and painting the kitchen walls. We hope to have this completed prior to cabinet install. I am hoping that much of the painting can be done with volunteer labor, and I will be busy seeking that help!

Please reach out to me if you are interested in assisting! We have started planning the bathroom project, and hope to get that work underway following the completion of the kitchen. It would be nice to have both projects well on the way to wrapping up before services move back into the Sanctuary after Labor Day.

Kevin Ingalls - Deacon of Grounds.

# COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE IS A ROOM FOR ALL CONGREGATION



<https://roomforall.com/>



**Room for All is a non-profit growing out of the hopes and dreams, passion and faith, pain and longing of members of the Reformed Church in America. Most of us have long believed that LGBTQ people should be fully included within the church's life and ministry.**

## **Our Mission**

To support, educate, and advocate for the welcome and full affirmation of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the RCA and surrounding communities of people of faith.

## **Our Vision**

Compelled by the inclusive love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, Room for All envisions a day when all people—of all sexual orientations, gender expressions and identities, races, abilities, and ages—are fully affirmed as children of God, free of violence based on human prejudices and judgments.

## **We Are:**

- A non-profit organization founded in 2005
- Governed by a Board of Directors which seeks to represent the full diversity of members of the Reformed Church in America
- Committed to the integral work of racial equity on our Board and in our mission
- A network of supporting RCA members, clergy and congregations engaged in a cooperative effort to support LGBTQ people and allies across the RCA, educate about issues of sexuality and gender in relation to Christian life, and advocate for a radically inclusive welcome and affirmation of the full spectrum of God's people in all aspects of our congregational and denominational ministries
- Christ-followers who are committed to unity in diversity in the Reformed Church in America

# WALK WITH CRCC

## AS A ROOM FOR ALL CONGREGATION

# PRIDE PARADE

WASHINGTON PARK, ALBANY  
JUNE 11

Support our Sons, Daughters, Brothers, Sisters, Mothers, Fathers, Friends  
and other relatives who identify as LGBTQ by walking with other  
ROOM FOR ALL Congregations.

We will meet at the Moses statue at 10:45 and proceed to the parade line.  
Please contact Sue Bredice with any questions.

[Sbredice@yahoo.com](mailto:Sbredice@yahoo.com)  
518-522-4465

The Global and Advocacy Committee will be meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 to prepare for the  
parade. We will be making banners to carry and to firm up plans.

Everyone is invited to attend to help and share ideas.

## Break Bread, Share Bread

Break Bread Share Bread is a program we started before Covid-19 hit us like a ton of bricks. We previously conducted this program in conjunction with The Village Outreach Center. The Outreach Center is no longer in operation, so we have teamed up with the Food Pantry on Vly Road in Colonie. For Advent, many created reverse Advent calendar boxes. When we delivered the collected food items to the Food Pantry, we met Cheryl. She runs the pantry and was completely overwhelmed with the number of items we brought. During our time there, she gave us a tour of the facility and explained how it works. Even though they are a part of the Coalition of Food Pantries, there is always a need for certain food items. We told her about our program at church, and she was thrilled that we would love to help. Cheryl also told us about her favorite parts of the job - meeting families, getting to know one another, being able to provide them with needed nourishment, and, most of all, being able to pray with and for them. What a perfect way to restart Break Bread Share Bread!

May	Jams and Jellies
June	Hot or Cold Cereals
July	Juice

During the month of May we will collect JAMS AND JELLIES!  
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.**

**Community Reformed  
Church of Colonie**

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Twitter:

@ColonieReformed

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[facebook.com/ColonieReformed](https://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](mailto: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**

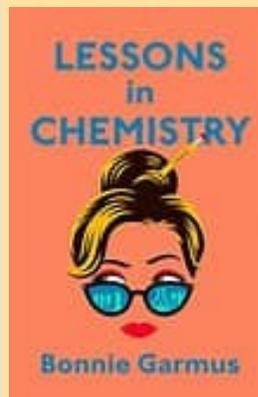
## Flower Sign-up

With so many new faces worshipping with us, we thought this would be a good time to introduce and refresh the church's Flower Ministry. For special occasions, one can sign up to celebrate or honor someone with a beautiful floral arrangement - it truly brightens up the pulpit area. Please submit payment of \$30 to the church office. You may sign up for through this link, <https://tinyurl.com/FlowerMinistry> or by contacting Lori (crclori@gmail.com) in the church office.

Please see Tina Bottini or Lori Cote with any questions.

**Women's Bible study will meet May 6th, and  
June 3rd, 2023, and then break for the summer.**

## Book Group



The Book Group is reading Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus this month.

The location for the May 23rd meeting is yet to be determined.



Save the date  
**June 11**  
**10:00-12:00**  
at the church

## PLANT SWAP

Indoor & Outdoor plants  
Cuttings too!



Communications/Media Coordinator: **Sarah Huiest**

Layout Designer: **Bob Becker**

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