

THIS WEEK AT COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday, February 18 – Saturday, February 24

Each week, the Community Reformed Church of Colonie provides opportunities for ministry, study, support, and fellowship. All groups welcome new participants with open arms. If you would like additional information about any group, please call or speak to the contact person indicated.

Sunday, February 18

Children's Sunday School – Will begin at 9:00 AM. for children in grades 3-6. Sunday school will meet in the Gathering Room.

Sanctuary Worship – 10:00 AM

Congregational Conversation – directly after worship today.

The Choir will be rehearsing both before and after Worship this morning, from 9:00-9:30 AM, and today after the Congregational Conversation. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining. See Ben, if interested.

Monday, February 19

Quilt Group and Shirley Shawls will have a combined meeting from 2:00 to 4:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Tuesday, February 20

Advocacy and Global Missions Committee will meet at the Church at 6:30 PM.

Wednesday, February 21

6:30-7:00 PM - Elders will meet in the Pastor's office.

7:00-9:00 PM – Consistory will meet in the Gathering Room.

Saturday, February 24

Family Ministry 10-11AM, we will be studying the story of "Jesus Wandering In The Wilderness"

GENERAL NOTICES

Today, February 18th - we will begin the first of our **congregational conversations**. The conversations will be held immediately following the worship service and last for about 45 minutes. This conversation will include various questions designed to help us understand more fully where and how God is at work leading us into our future. Please join in these conversations. If you are unable to attend and would like the questions, please contact Pastor Hoffman or one of the consistory members. Please pray for each of the conversations and the work that will begin following them.

Prayer Stations of Peter

For our Lenten journey there will be Art Stations set up by the Sound system. Each week a new station will be added. We invite you to read the piece provided by the artist and then if you would like use a process called Visio Divina or easier to remember Sacred Seeing, instructions for that will be at each station. If that is not for you there will be purple hearts available for you to hold and contemplate the artwork (we invite you to keep the purple heart and bring it with you each week) there will also be heart shaped paper to write down and remember your thoughts and feelings.

Quilt Group and Shirley Shawls - A combined meeting of the quilting group and "Shirley's Shawls" will be held on **Monday, February 19, 2024** from **2 to 4 pm** in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join us to create quilts that will be given to children through Project Linus or shawls that will provide comfort through our prayer shawl ministry.

If you plan to sew, please bring your sewing machine if you can, although we will have one extra sewing machine available. Everyone is welcome to work on a project, begin a project or just enjoy fellowship. Please contact Linda Murphy at lindamurph98@aol.com with any questions."

Family Ministries has an upcoming event scheduled on **February 24th**, 10-11AM, we will be studying the story of "Jesus Wandering In The Wilderness." RSVP is especially important for the February 24th event so that there are enough materials for everyone. Questions? Contact Sarah Huiest at crccsarah@gmail.com. All are always welcome.

Welcome and Coffee Hour Hosts

Our ministries of hospitality need your help to keep welcome and coffee hour functioning each week. Thank you to all of the current hosts! I hope that others will be considering participating in these vital ministries. There are a number of vacancies on the schedule for welcome and coffee hour hosts in the upcoming weeks. If you are able to volunteer, you can go to the site below to sign up. If you don't want to use sign up genius, let me know the date that you are available, whether you are interested in being welcome host or coffee hour host, and I will enter your information on the schedule.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAEA92AA6FAC43-47144592-welcome>

Thank you - Linda Murphy (lindamurph98@aol.com)

Community Outreach Team - During the month of **February**, we will be collecting cold cereals and bath soap. Jams, Jellies and Juices (all flavors) are a constant need, as well. Feel free to donate these throughout the year. Items may be placed in the basket on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. They will be donated to the Help Center Food Pantry on Vly Road. Your contributions are most appreciated.

The February Mission of the Month is Family Promise of the Capital Region. Family Promise of the Capital Region engages the community in support of families facing homelessness, providing temporary lodging, wraparound services, and the guidance they need to build a brighter future. (familypromisecr.org)

Donations to **The Family Promise** can be given via your yellow Mission of the Month Envelope, via PayPal, or directly on their web site. If you are paying by check or PayPal, please note "February Mission of the Month" and/or "Family Promise" on your donation. For more information, please visit their website:

<https://www.familypromisecr.org/donate/>

Things of My Very Own needs our help!!!!

From now through March 31st, please collect and donate your empty toilet paper rolls to help children impacted by extensive abuse and neglect. The cardboard rolls will be used to sprout host plants for our beautiful, winged friends. The butterflies will then help children through their healing process. Overcoming the effects of abuse is never easy, but they work to make healing from it magical.



Please bring your empty toilet paper holders to church. Our Community Outreach team will be collecting and delivering them to Things of My Very Own located in Schenectady.



Service of Healing

*Filled with compassion,
Jesus reached out his
hand and touched the man. Mark 1:41*

**Sunday, March 3
10 AM**

This special Lenten worship service calls upon Our Lord who is the Great Physician to touch us with his healing hand and anoint us with his soothing oil. For those worshipping in person, there will be anointing with oil in the midst of our ordained elders and pastor. For those worshipping at home, if you would like to be prayed for during this service, please send your name to crccsandy@gmail.com. Only your name, no personal details, will be read aloud.



The Lenten Cross which hangs behind the pulpit was created by worshippers who attended our Ash Wednesday service. On each slip of folded paper, we have privately written our Lenten sacrifices. As we nailed these papers to this Lenten cross, we have acknowledged what we will surrender, and asked for God's guidance.

This cross is fashioned from a Christmas tree trunk symbolizing both the birth and death of our Lord.



SERVICE OF HEALING ~ March 3, 10 AM

COMMUNION ~ March 10, 10 AM

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY ~ March 24, 10 AM

GOOD FRIDAY/TENEBRAE ~ March 29, 7 PM

EASTER ~ March 31, 10 AM

All services will be live streamed on Zoom and available for later viewing on Facebook or YouTube

THE LENTEN BANNERS

Commissioned by Paul and Phyllis Strube
In Memory of Loretta Strube

The traditional Lenten colors of purple and black dominate these panels. Purple and violet symbolize royalty since important secular leaders wore vestments made in these colors. Reddish hues reminded Christians of the blood shed by their King. In this way purple and violet came to be the choice for Lent and for penitential times. Black is used to symbolize death and grief. Liturgically, black can be used on Good Friday, though the absence of any color or furnishings more adequately conveys the emptiness of the day. Black is also used for Ash Wednesday when it symbolizes human death.

Six symbols were chosen to represent the events of Holy Week. The palm branch has come to symbolize Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Early in the week, a woman anointed Jesus with perfume from an alabaster flask. The thirty pieces of silver remind us of the paltry sum Judas received for betraying Jesus. The basin and the towel symbolize cleanliness and purity. Opportunities for washing were offered to guests as a sign of hospitality. Jesus' washing of the disciple's feet turned cleanliness into loving service. Hence the basin and the towel have come to symbolize ministry. The rooster reminds us that the cock crowed three times when Peter denied Jesus. Finally, the crown of thorns signifies the death of our Lord and Savior on the cross at Calvary on Good Friday. Note that each symbol's square gets progressively darker as Jesus approaches his fate. One should also note that the rooster was modeled after the weather vane of the First Reformed Church in Albany. The Community Reformed Church of Colonie was originally a mission church of the First Church in Albany.

Online Church Bulletin Board

padlet.com/crccsarah/ChurchBulletinBoard

Questions? Contact Sarah Huiest, crccsarah@gmail.com.

Church Calendar

Contact Lori Coté at crclori@gmail.com to have your date added to the calendar.



Recycle box found in the entrance way of the church.

RECYCLE YOUR HOUSEHOLD BAGS
& WRAP INTO TREX'S EARTH-FRIENDLY
COMPOSITE DECKING AND RAILING!

FROM THE GROCERY STORE	FROM YOUR PANTRY	FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Produce & bread bags✓ Grocery bags✓ Cereal box✓ Ice bags	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags✓ Case overwrap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Newspaper sleeves✓ Drycleaning bags✓ Plastic shopping bags✓ Bubble wrap



There's an easy way to properly recycle your refundable cans and bottles. No counting, no rinsing, and no waiting in long lines to make your return! And you'll be raising money for our Church so we can continue to spread God's word and do good works.

There are green plastic CLYNK bags in the church entryway that can be brought home and filled with your refundable cans and bottles. And thank YOU for doing your part to care for God's gift of the earth and supporting our church.



In addition to bringing in revenue for the church, the clothing collected in the Blue Bins located at the south end of our parking lot is sent to those in need throughout the US and third world countries. This is a great and convenient way to donate your clothing when cleaning out. Spread the word to your neighbors, coworkers, friends and family. Offer to bring the clothes to church for them.



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, an email will be sent out and it will be posted on our website, www.communityreformedchurch.com.

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Tuesday - Psalm 22:23-31

Wednesday - Romans 4:13-15

Thursday - Romans 4:16-25

Friday - Mark 8:31-38

Saturday - Mark 9:2-9

Sunday - Second Sunday of Lent

Household Prayer: Morning

God of ancient covenants, your steadfast love and faithfulness
are still new every morning.

I thank you that I can begin this day

in the confidence of your abiding love and unending mercy.

Help me to treat others— family, friends, coworkers, classmates,
and even strangers — with love and mercy in our encounters today.

When I disappoint or am discordant, help me to show love to others.

Open my eyes to the places, people, and circumstances
in which your kingdom has come near.

I pray in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of peace,

as the day draws to a close and the evening draws in around me,
I think of the creatures of the earth that also seek rest in the hours of the
night.

You love them even as you love me, and your covenant faithfulness covers
all of us. So, with the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, and the
tiny ones who burrow in the ground, I offer you all thanks and praise:
for your unending goodness; for the beauty of our home, the earth;
for your gift of life instead of a deserved destruction.

As your colorful bow now rests in the clouds,

so may we color the earth with the ways of peace

until all creation rests with you in completeness. In Christ's name I pray.

Amen.