

# Cross and Lent's COMMENTARIES



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## Creation Care

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. This season is usually about giving up something - like bad foods or habits. In the same spirit of our Reverse Advent Calendars, we call upon the congregation to give away instead of giving up this season. This might be by bringing in unused clothes to put in the donation bins or maybe participants could give of themselves by performing an act of kindness each day of Lent. Another option might be to give of their time. For instance, taking a bag to collect trash as you go for a walk, putting out bird feeders to take care of God's creatures, or knitting hats for babies in the NICU. We

encourage you to take photos of your activities to be shared on Facebook and Instagram, as an encouragement to others!

Submissions can be sent to Sarah Huiest [crccsarah@gmail.com](mailto:crccsarah@gmail.com).

For those that may have items to donate, check out our Padlet for Businesses that Reduce, Repurpose, and Recycle: <https://padlet.com/CRCCstewardship/businesses>

The Creation Care and Stewardship committee would also like to introduce this year's Stewardship Campaign. Our theme this year is Nurturing New Growth. The Community Reformed Church of

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### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Passion (Palm) Sunday  
April 2 – 10 AM**

The beginning of Holy Week recalls the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem riding upon a donkey, when his followers shouted "Hosanna" and scattered palms in his path. This is the final Sunday of Lent.

As a reminder of this humble entry, crosses made from palm leaves will be distributed as people leave the sanctuary.

**Good Friday – Tenebrae  
April 7 – 7 PM**

The word Tenebrae is Latin for deepening shadows. It is a solemn and somber service, recreating the

emotional aspects of the Passion story, the sense of the betrayal, abandonment, and the agony of the events. It is left unfinished, because the story is not completed until Easter morning.

**Easter Sunday  
April 9 – 10 AM**

**Christ our Lord is risen. Alleluia!**  
Celebrated against the background of the shadows and darkness of Lent and Holy Week, Easter Sunday expresses the hope that God has brought into the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

**All services will be in-person or live-streamed on Zoom.**

**They will also be posted to Facebook and YouTube in the days to follow.**

## March Mission of the Month



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
of the Capital Region

### The March Mission of the Month is **Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region.**

RMHC-CR has four main branches. They are the Ronald McDonald House, The Ronald McDonald Family Room, The Ronald McDonald Family Retreat at Krantz Cottage, and Helping Our Premies Excel (HOPE). Located across the street from Albany Medical Center, The Ronald McDonald House is a "home away from home - free of charge - for families with children facing serious medical issues." The Ronald McDonald Family Room is located "steps away from the NICU." It "offers a refuge from the stress and tension of the hospital environment." While still being close to their babies, families can take a break to relax, have a snack, watch some television, or connect with other family members. The Ronald McDonald Family Retreat at Krantz Cottage is located in the Village of Lake George. Here, families of children with serious illnesses can make lasting memories without many of the worries they are typically burdened with. Their lodging is free, and they have access to a Family Support Specialist. This individual acts like a concierge, supplying them with donated activities and helping them meet their needs while enjoying their time away. HOPE is the newest program of The Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region. Approximately half of the RMHC clientele is families of premature babies in the NICU. Through HOPE, families are provided with tote bags filled with items to help families during their child's stay in the NICU.

Donations can be made in your yellow Mission of the Month envelope for March. Please be sure to notate on your check that it is for March's Mission of the Month. For more information, please go to their website: <https://rmhcofalbany.org/>

## Shirley's Shawls



"Shirley's Shawls," our prayer shawl ministry, had combined meetings with the "Sew and Reap Quilters" during January and February of this

year. The quilt group has been making bright and colorful placemats for the residents of Shaker Place and the Meals on Wheels program. The prayer shawl ministry continues to knit, crochet and weave shawls or lap robes for members of our church family. In addition, we have made six lap robes for The Community Hospice. Their aim is to provide each client, who is a veteran, with a certificate noting appreciation for their service and a warm, comforting red, white and blue lap robe. For members of our congregation, as well as their family and friends, we still have an inventory of completed shawls and lap robes. Contact me, an Elder, or a Deacon if you know of someone who would be comforted by receiving a prayer shawl. Shirley's Shawls always welcomes new members. If you might be interested in joining our ministry, watch the weekly bulletin for meeting dates or contact me at [lindamurph98@aol.com](mailto:lindamurph98@aol.com).

Linda Murphy, for Shirley's Shawls

*(Creation Care — Continued from page 1)*

Colonie continuously works to develop new ministries and experiences for the congregation and visitors of all ages. We are able to do this through funds pledged by the congregation to the church, and we hope that in the coming months you will prayerfully consider what you might be able to contribute. We look forward to **Consecration Sunday on May 21<sup>st</sup>**, and will be providing more information about this year's campaign in the next newsletter.

*1 Corinthians 3:6-7 "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."*



## Did you know that undergoing the appropriate preventive cancer screening can...

- ✓ ...help prevent getting cancer?
- ✓ ...catch cancer at an earlier stage?
- ✓ ...increase the rate of cure?
- ✓ ...decrease the need for and duration of treatment?

Call **518-285-0717** to get started!

The ***Heart of Hope Wellness Campaign*** has partnered with Albany Medical Center to allow an easy pathway to your preventive screening. Call **518-285-0717** to get the process started—Feb. 1 until April 15, 2023. We will call you back within two weeks to set up your screenings. Calling before April 15 allows us to set everything up for you in an easy, hassle-free way! After April 15, accelerated scheduling for screenings will stop and we will resume our normal scheduling practices.



### **This program offers:**

- Initial counseling to determine which screenings are appropriate
- Imaging appointments for breast and lung screenings
- Procedural appointments for cervical and colorectal screenings
- Help with referral to primary care providers if you don't have one
- Referrals to dermatology
- \$50 gift card when a recommended screening is complete





## **Service of Healing**

*Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.*

Mark 1:41

**Sunday, March 12**

**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

Bruce at [brucekornwell@gmail.com](mailto:brucekornwell@gmail.com) or Sandy at [crccsandy@gmail.com](mailto:crccsandy@gmail.com).  
Only your name, no personal details, will be shared with the worshippers.

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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

**Carol Grasso, Director**

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**Tenebrae Worship  
April 7  
7 PM**

Tenebrae, or "Service of Shadows," is one of the oldest traditions in the Christian church for the commemoration of the passion and death of Christ. Through scripture readings and song, the story of Christ's betrayal, trial, and crucifixion is told. As the Passion story unfolds, candles are removed symbolizing the fleeing of the disciples. The darkness deepens, until only the Christ Candle remains. This light is removed from the sanctuary representing Christ's crucifixion and death. The Light of our Church returns in glory Easter morning.

This service will also be livestreamed on Zoom. All services are recorded for later viewing on Facebook or YouTube.

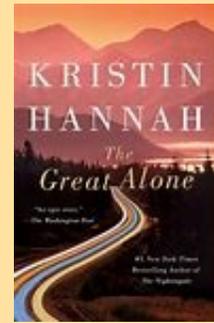
Due to the somber intensity of this service, child care is provided for children 2nd grade and younger.

**Church Choir**

We are seeking additional choir members for Tenebrae (Good Friday) and Easter Sunday worship services. Anyone who wishes to sing does not have to commit to both services; if only Tenebrae OR Easter works, you are more than welcome to participate! Please see **Ben April** ([benapril27@gmail.com](mailto:benapril27@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Book Group**

By Karen Reynolds



March's Book Group meeting is Tuesday, March 28th. We will be discussing the second half of The Great Alone by Kristen Hannah. All are always welcome to attend!

Dear Church family  
Thank you for all the prayers and cards when I was in the hospital. They made me happy and made me feel loved.  
From  
Zachary Huiest

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From,  
Zachary Huiest



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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.