

Cross and Gifts Comments

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



“For unto us a child is born and his name shall be called Wonderful.”



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Welcome the Christ Child in the
soft glow of candlelight

7:00 PM

Pre-registration is requested
for in-person attendance.

For the safety of all, masks will be required.

This service will also be available on Zoom.

Our annual Angel Tree collection has begun!

This year we will be collecting gifts for **Things of My Very Own** in two ways – even our Angel Tree is now hybrid!!

There are angel tags on the tree in the back of the sanctuary for your choosing or you can go to:

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/crcc-angel-tree>

When a child is removed from an abusive or dangerous situation, they may only possess the clothing they are wearing at that moment. This agency, which serves the Capital District, provides them with clothes, bedding, supplies – and even toys. This caring agency gives them “things of my very own” and helps them transition through those initial difficult days.



Please return **unwrapped** gifts and items by **December 12th**.

Questions? Contact Sandy Cornwell, Sarah Huiest, or Tina Bottini

Thank you for your support!

December 2021

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Upcoming Events

Men's Group	Dec 1 st
Women's Bible Study	Dec. 4 th
Angel Tree Gifts Deadline	Dec. 12 th
Candlelight Service	Dec. 24 th

Christmas Gift Prayer

Lord Jesus, Wise men travelled for miles to bring you the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open.

We also thank you for the amazing love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us.

Amen

Leadership Retreat 2021



At the beginning of November, our church leadership gathered for two days at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. With the exception of 2020, these retreats have been a yearly event for the past 3 decades and have contributed greatly to the health and well-being of our church.

The book used as the focus of the 2021 discussions was What Should Post-pandemic Religion Look Like? by Heidi Campbell and Troy Shepherd, as well as material from *The New Church in the New World* webinar series with John van de Laar. In these challenging times, it is important to look at the impact on the life of our church.

Attending this year were: Bruce Cornwell, Kevin Bottini, Marv Helf, Ellen Bueno, Marissa Lombardo, Karl Cote, Linda Murphy, Ana Crosbourne, Tina Bottini, Sandy Cornwell, Ben April, Lori Cote, and Sarah Huiest.

We thank them all for their energy and leadership as we move forward by embracing the future and honoring our past.



Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for their outstanding response to the request for bi-weekly food preparation for the Emergency Overflow shelter at First Lutheran Church in Albany. All available weeks have already been scheduled for this year.

This December, we would like you to consider two different missions. We once again have established an Angel Tree to benefit those in need. This year's tree supports Things of My Very Own (see separate article for more information).

You are also invited to make a financial donation to the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. Any donations received between now and the end of the year will be matched dollar for dollar through a Millennium Fund. There will be a special basket in the sanctuary on December 12th to receive donations. Donations can also be made online at iphny.org.

For further information you may contact:

Skylin Baestlein at skylinb@iphny.org or 518-434-8021.

CRCC is here, there, and everywhere!



Community Reformed Church of Colonie is on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and the world wide web! Are you looking for reminders and information about what is going on with the church and the community? The best place for that is Facebook: [facebook.com/coloniereformed](https://www.facebook.com/coloniereformed). The daily inspirational (and often entertaining) Thought for Today is sent out via email and is available on our Twitter account: @ColonieReformed. Instagram ([colonie_reformed](https://www.instagram.com/colonie_reformed)) is the place to go for pictures – they are often shared to Facebook, also.



Our website is evolving every week, so be sure to check out www.communityreformedchurch.com for access to the weekly bulletin, newsletters, information about ministries, past and present missions, and SO MUCH MORE! If in-person worship is cancelled due to weather, the announcement will be available on Twitter, Facebook, and the web site. If you have questions about any of our media resources, please contact Sarah Huiest crccsarah@gmail.com.



Caring for Creation: Honoring God's Creation through Environmental Stewardship



The three blue clothing recycling bins, run by American Clothing Recyclers, have been a part of Community Reformed's environmental stewardship efforts for many years.

The company strives to find uses for all the accepted items that you donate.

Among the items you donate to the blue bins, some are sold at reduced costs to families for whom new items may be unaffordable.

Other items are donated to help families such as those who have lost all their belongings in fires or natural disasters. For example, victims of hurricane Irene were given clothing through this company's donations, as were those who lost their homes in the Jay Street, Schenectady, fire several years ago.

Still other items are sent away to places in the US and developing nations to help clothe people living in poverty.

Even items you donate that are too tattered, damaged, or stained to be re-worn are used. They become reusable cleaning rags, still further reducing use of synthetic or single-use cloths and keeping them out of our landfills.

Items accepted include: all clothing, belts, blankets, drapery, hats, hand bags, shoes, sheets, towels, and even stuffed animals.

The company works hard to keep the area around their bins clean. And they will even return items that have been placed in the boxes by mistake, if you call the number on the box before it is emptied.

Every time you place something in the bins, you are helping to keep materials out of landfills and reduce the cost of waste disposal, but you are also supporting the church and its missions. In fact, the church is paid by the pound for items recycled in the bins, earning us several thousand dollars a year in support of the work of the church.

Your support of this stewardship effort helps in so many ways. Thank you.

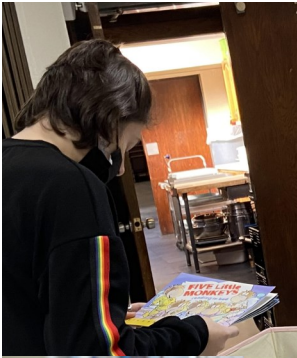


Youth News!

Throughout the month of October, Community Reformed Church of Colonie's Youth Group collected excellent quality children's books for Grassroot Givers – an organization in Albany that provides assistance to individuals in need throughout the area. Getting books into the hands of young people is a large outreach of theirs. On Sunday, November 7th, the youth group gathered to sort and "level" the 218 chapter books and 178 picture books collected! It was a great undertaking but everyone worked hard and even took boxes as "homework" to get it all done. 20 personal care bags were also packed with pizzazz!

We are hoping to participate in Morning of Kindness once again this year. This is a community service project event that takes place the morning of Christmas Eve. More information will be distributed as it becomes available.

There will be NO Sunday school for Grades 3-6 on December 26th and January 2nd.



Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to order your poinsettias!

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Total Plants ordered: _____ Cost: \$10 per plant



Cash

Check (Made payable to Community Reformed Church)

PayPal https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=2EA93DM627X2A

**Please return this order
including payment to the
church office by December 12**

Plants will be supplied by Valoze's Nursery

Community Reformed Church

701 Sand Creek Road, Colonie NY 12205

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Meet Emma!

Emma is not a new face around the church but she has a new role as the church's nursery worker!

Currently a local high school senior, Emma is happy to tend to our youngest congregants while their parents focus their energy on worship.

Be sure to say, "Hi!" and offer her some encouragement as her responsibilities expand.

Community Reformed Church of Colonie

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Bruce K Cornwell, Pastor

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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 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

Music News

As you know, the order of worship has been going through some changes. One of those changes has been the response sung after Bruce's benediction. After listening to it every Sunday over the past year, it dawned on me that the words are similar to those of The Irish Blessing:

***May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.***

The community choir that I direct in Schoharie ends each of their spring concerts with a choral arrangement of that text. I, therefore, decided to write a melody for the choir and congregation to sing in response to Bruce's moving words each week. I hope the words and music have been bringing a meaningful close to worship each week. I know the tune is still new, but as it becomes more familiar, I encourage you all to join us in singing.

Ben April
Director of Music Ministries

Adult Enrichment

The Wired Word Adult study will not meet for the month of December. Discussions will resume in the new year.

The Women's Bible Study group will meet Saturday, December 4th, at the church and also via zoom. They will be doing an Advent study.

Men's Group will meet Wednesday, December 1, 6-8PM, at the church.

All are welcome to attend any of these groups.



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 communityreformedchurch.com

Communications/Media Coordinator: **Sarah Huiest**

Layout Designer: **Bob Becker**

Articles are due by the 15th of the month and can be submitted to crcsarah@gmail.com or given to Sarah Huiest.