

# Cross and COMMENTS

701 Sand Creek Road, Colonie, New York 12205-2497 — Bruce K. Cornwell, Pastor — Telephone (518)869-5589 — www.coloniereformed.org



Week 2



Abundant  
**Joy**

Overflowing  
Generosity

—2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (NRSV)



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April 2019

## Giving God My Worship

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...”  
—Hebrews 10:24-25, NRSV

People who don't regularly attend a Sunday service may say they can worship God as they walk in the woods, stroll with their dog, swing in the hammock, or tee up on the first hole. They may say that Sunday is the only day left to cut grass, wash clothes, shop, be with their spouse for quiet time, or drive the kids to play soccer.

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### April 2019

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### Upcoming Events

<b>Communion</b>	<b>April 7</b>
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>April 14</b>
<b>Easter</b>	<b>April 21</b>

### Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity

In 2 Corinthians 8: 3-5, in speaking about the people of Macedonia, Paul tells us “I can assure you that they gave as much as they could and even more than they could. Of their own free will they begged us and pleaded for the privilege of having a part in helping God’s people in Judea, it was more than we could have hoped for! First, they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God’s will they gave themselves to us as well”.

Paul had asked the comfortable people of Corinth, to consider the people of Macedonia. Despite their limited means, these people gave generously, not only money but their time. The Macedonians provided us the example that we can give a percentage of our lives to God.

Last month we thought about how to practice percentage living by giving to God a portion of what he has given us. One way is to give God our day. There

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# Abundant Joy

Overflowing Generosity

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Each of these activities can take on a “holy” shape through worship, but they can’t substitute for gathering regularly with other believers in worship to celebrate the presence of God in our lives. The benefits of gathering for worship and hearing God’s word are incredible. Each of us, gathered in Christian community, is a part of the body of Christ. Together, we build each other up into Christ, encouraging one another on the journey of discipleship to become more like Jesus.

Gathered in worship, focused on the living God, we are reminded why God created us in the first place—to be in relationship with God and with each other.

### Questions for Reflection

- What do you value most about worship with other believers?
- Where in worship do you glimpse God’s abundance and generosity?
- In what ways is the offering an expression of worship?

### Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity

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may be multiple distractions in our lives that take our time away from God. We can counter this by setting aside a daily time for devotional prayer. This can provide an opportunity to grow in faith by being present before God each day for a time that may include thanksgiving, praise and confession.

Another way to pursue percentage living is to give God our worship. Coming together for worship allows us, as a church family, to give the Sabbath to God. We set aside this time to gather in fellowship to pray, celebrate in song, and reflect on God’s word.

As we look towards **Consecration Sunday May 5, 2019**, we can consider how we can plan for percentage living. Giving back to God a percentage of our lives; our day, our worship, our spiritual gifts and our income to God.

## 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.

April	Microwavable Foods and Dinners
May	PB&J and Crackers
June	Canned Veggies Including Protein Based Beans
July	Granola and Energy Bars
August	Soup and Oyster Crackers

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

**Community Outreach**

# April Missions

## Mission of the Month

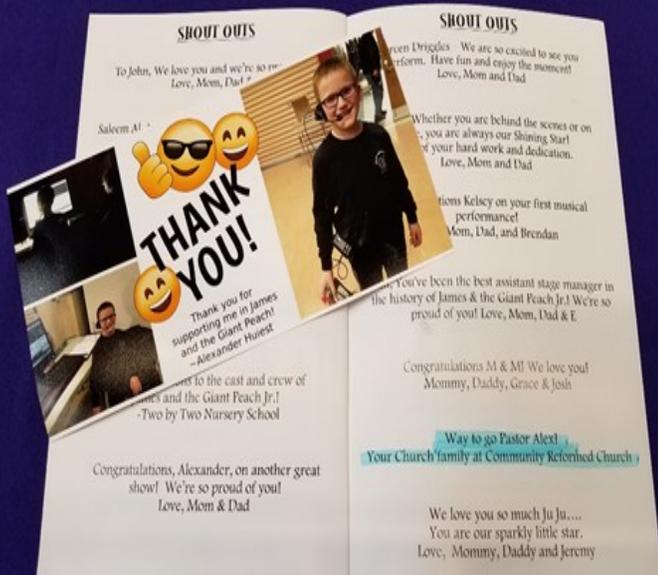
Friendship Soup – We will be collecting canned tomatoes, bouillon cubes and canned vegetables to put together soup kits to be supplied to those in need through the Colonie Village Outreach Center.

## Mission in Motion

On April 29<sup>th</sup> we will gather during coffee hour and assemble the Friendship Soup packets. Hope to see everyone there. Anyone and everyone can participate!

# Congratulations Alexander!

## Keep up the good work!



March 31<sup>st</sup> was an exciting day for our church family as we welcomed **Lakota Lynn McGowan** into God's family through baptism.

Lakota is the daughter of Melissa and Bill McGowan and the granddaughter of Sue and Barry Bredice.

## 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.coloniereformed.org

### 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

www.coloniecommunity  
daycarecenter.com



S C H E D U L E

**COMMUNION SUNDAY  
APRIL 7 at 10 AM**

**PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY  
APRIL 14 at 10 AM**

**GOOD FRIDAY  
APRIL 19 at 7:30 PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY  
APRIL 21 at 10 AM**

### Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity

*Giving and Joy – They go together*

Don't you just love to give presents? Joy is our reason for giving.

God deserves so much more than we can ever give, but we can start by following the example of the Macedonians. First and foremost, they gave themselves to the Lord. Doing that makes all other giving possible.

How can we, too, give ourselves to the Lord? We can start by finding a way to give God a percentage of our time, talent, and treasure. We can think of it as "percentage living."

We can contemplate how we can give God a portion of each day, of our worship, of our spiritual gifts, and of our income. These four avenues of giving are our focus leading up to **Consecration Sunday on May 5.**

## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet on **Saturday, 06 April, from 9:30 – 11:30 am**, in the Gathering Room. The theme is being "Resourceful". The Scripture Reading will be 1 Samuel 25:1-42. We will learn how Abigail used her ingenuity to save her family. The purpose of this lesson will be to consider how a women's ingenuity can help and protect those around her.

The Women's Bible Study will meet on the first Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Saturday, 04 May**, where the theme will be on "Beautiful, The Fabric of Holiness". The Scripture Reading will be 1 Peter 3:1-7, and will cover "How does God define the beauty of a woman?".

All women are invited to attend.



**April 19 – 7:30 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 songs the story of Christ's betrayal, trial, and crucifixion is told. As the Passion story unfolds, candles are removed symbolizing the fleeing of our Lord's followers. 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.

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

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.