

Cross and **COMMENTS**

OCTOBER

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

BAPTISM AND BIBLES!



September 19th, was a very exciting day for our congregation. We witnessed the baptism of Orson, son of Danielle and Jonathan. We also had the honor of passing down God's Word to our third and fourth grade students! Stella, Annabel, Darren, and Lila all received their first Bible from the church. Congratulations to all the families on these wonderful milestones!



Choir is BACK! Rehearsals are 9-9:30AM AND 11-11:30AM, Sunday mornings. The choir will begin singing during worship in the middle of October. See Ben April, Director of Music Ministries, for more information: benapril27@gmail.com.

**WE KEEP MOVING FORWARD, OPENING NEW DOORS, AND DOING
NEW THINGS, BECAUSE WE'RE CURIOUS AND CURIOSITY KEEPS
LEADING US DOWN NEW PATHS.**

-WALT DISNEY

Over the past 2 years, there have been doors closed to us that may never open again. Our world has changed. But with joy and renewed energies we have found new doors and they have been opened.

As you already know, our order of worship has changed. After much discussion and research by the Worship team, adjustments have been made. Approximately half of our Sunday attendance is participating via Zoom. Others view the services on Facebook or on YouTube later in the week. Attending church is no longer just a Sunday morning, ten to eleven experience at 701 Sand Creek Road. This shift was anticipated. Adaptations needed to be made.

Some of the changes to our worship service were made because of copyright requirements. Because the service is posted on the internet, material and music copyrights must be secured. You may have noted the list of credits in your bulletin.

The placement of announcements has been moved to the end of the service where they can be removed before the video is posted online. Printed announcements will appear in the bulletin following the printed order of worship. Worship will begin promptly at 10 so all are encouraged to arrive at church or login prior to that time. Those days of moseying into church during the announcements have passed.

After further review, it was realized almost all members are now using PayPal, direct payment, or mailed check for their offering. Since so few bring their offering to church on a Sunday morning, it seemed service adjustments were needed. An offering box now is located near the sanctuary door for those who bring their offering to church. The dedication of our time, talents, and treasure has been added to the communion service.

Maintaining privacy is a major concern. The elder's prayer which may include specific names and concerns of our church family on Sunday morning will be edited before social media postings. We will no longer include personal telephone numbers in the bulletin announcements, only email addresses or the option to contact the church office. Parents have been asked to sign release forms regarding photographing their children. Times have certainly changed.

Change is difficult for us all, but it is said change is the only constant in our world. With God's grace and guidance, we have opened a new door and stepped onto a new path. We have made these worship changes, but we know further adjustments lie ahead. Our ability to adapt and revise is the true strength of our congregation. We are richly blessed. Thanks be to God.

“Thank you,” to all the willing volunteers that were at church the morning of Sept 11. We were able to accomplish so much because so many showed up. Without volunteers, the church would have to pay for many services, and some may, in fact, never get done. We have a beautiful sanctuary and grounds, which take many hours of dedicated volunteers. Your gift of time helped the team of volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year to keep all that we have looking beautiful. What people see as they drive by is one of the first impressions that they get when looking for a church. I know this because it was one of the many things that impressed my wife and I when we were looking for a new church when we moved to Colonie three years ago. I am starting my term as Deacon of Property and Grounds, and am looking forward to putting names with faces as I start my term of service. You may contact me with any concerns or needs through Pastor Bruce, or email me at kki243@verizon.net. Thank you again, and let’s keep up the good work.



Yours in Christ,
Kevin Ingalls

Caring For Creation

By: Ellen Buono

My mother, who turned 93 this summer, grew up on a ranch 30 miles outside of Walla Walla, Washington. She told the story of being the only one of her siblings born at home because she came during the wheat harvest of 1928. She was also a child during the Depression years. When I was in grade school and learned about recycling, I remember my mother telling me “Of course that’s what you do.”

I learned from her that a bath only needed to be six inches deep and “showers are better” to use less water because Mom’s family only had a cistern on the ranch. Things were reused until they could be used no longer. She taught her children early that stewardship meant to take care of the things God has blessed us with and leave things better than you found them—that was Mom’s motto.

As the Stewardship committee expands to become Creation Care and Stewardship, the change seems a logical progression. Stewardship has always been about what we do with what God has entrusted to us; how we are wise and honorable with what has been given. Now our committee begins to look beyond stewardship of our time, abilities and finances to encompass our impact on--and stewardship of--the world around us. We hope you join with us as we find ways for our community to care for our world.

"We are all intricately made and have gifts to share. Don't ever feel that your gift is insignificant. God gave you that gift, so embrace it, and share it with others. You never know who you may inspire."

~Tina Bottini

August at CRCC saw the election of elders and deacons to consistory. New committee chairs were needed as three devoted members of CRCC were exiting their time on Consistory. Tina Bottini, Beth Colbert, and Jerry Kallner have each served on consistory for multiple terms. Consistory is the governing board of our church. Members are elected by the congregation and expected to fulfill a four year term. Many stay on longer...sometimes MUCH longer!

Tina can't remember *how* long she has served on consistory, but she has filled the offices of both Elder and Deacon. She has also been able to see our leadership transition to the "worshipful work" approach. "When I first joined, it was a business meeting, and over the years it has turned into a worship service where those who are around the table are able to share stories and talk freely, knowing they are listened to and upheld in prayer by those around the table," says Tina. Stepping down will give Tina more time to pursue her many outdoor hobbies and spend time with her family, who consists of husband Bo (Kevin, who just came ON to consistory), Topher (35), Steven (34), Drew (28), Rah (27), and dog Sadie.

Beth served on consistory for seven years as the Elder of Evangelism and Welcome. Her final year, she also served as Vice President of Consistory. When Beth accepted the call to serve on consistory, it was actually the second time she had been approached. The first time, she knew she wasn't ready. When she was asked in 2014, however, her life had evolved and she felt called to serve. During her time on consistory, Beth savored her time greeting worshipers before the start of service. It allowed her to deepen her relationships with many individuals. "A couple of my favorite were two endearing older gentlemen who have since gone on to be with the Lord," she says. "Richard Hoogkamp (aka "Blue Eyes") and Bill Ogren. I just adored both of them and cherish the conversations we shared before and after worship."

(continued)

Jerry served as Deacon of Property for eight years. He oversaw (and often carried out) all repairs and maintenance. As many know, Jerry suffered a horrific infection many years ago, and it made him confront his relationship with God in a new way. After his recovery, he was approached about serving on consistory. Recalls Jerry, "I felt like it was my calling...How could I say no when so many people at CRCC prayed for me?" As both Tina and Beth also shared with me, Jerry felt that his time on consistory offered him an opportunity of great personal and spiritual growth. "I feel like it has made me a better father, and made me more confident in life." His favorite part of serving was writing the Deacon's prayer from his point of view. Jerry now has more time to dedicate to working on his home and his old car.

All three members are very thankful for their supportive committee members. Beth had a special message for some of those on her committee, "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank a few people who made my "job" easier. Maggie George and Danielle Williamson for championing the Coffee Host scheduling and organizing efforts so we all could thoroughly enjoy our fellowship time with each other! Doris Neese for championing the scheduling and organization of the worship greeters. She is a rockstar! And Bob Becker for always being there to publish the Cross & Comments newsletter. We couldn't have done it without each of these faithful members!!!!"

Consistory members are just people with jobs, families, and hobbies that have answered God's call to serve on the leadership board of His church. It is an unpaid position with a large commitment. They may seem to fulfill their duties effortlessly but can often use an extra hand. If you ever have an extra minute before or after worship, I encourage you to reach out to the Elder or Deacon of the day, and see how you can help. You never know how that simple act can alleviate stress or encourage them on their faith journey.

Tina, Beth, and Jerry, thank you for devoting so much of your time, talents, and treasures to the life and work of the Community Reformed Church of Colonie. We are excited to see what else God has in store for your faith walk!

Sarah Huiest

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our October Mission of the Month will support the café and cupboards at The South End Children's Café.

"The mission of the South End Children's Cafe is to impact food insecurity, address food equality and food justice, enhance academic success and positively influence the physical and mental health of children living in and around the South End of Albany, New York by offering free, healthy dinner time meals along with homework help and other enrichment programs."

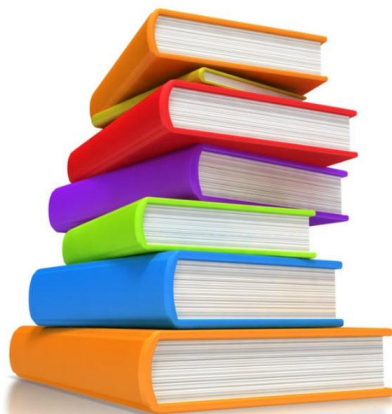
\$25 - One Bag of Love - bag of staple groceries, produce, and toiletries for 1 week for a family of five

\$50 - One Community Cupboard Restock - we have two Community Cupboards outside the Children's Cafe (visited 50-100 times a day!) to share nonperishable goods, groceries, produce, and other essentials with our neighbors

\$100 - Two Community Cupboard Restocks - restock both cupboards with free essential groceries and healthy food

\$300 - Fresh fruit for one month - fresh fruit salad is served to each child every day

\$600 - One child's meal for one year - includes after school snack and dinner



Youth News:

Youth Group is collecting very good-to-new quality children's books to benefit the children in the Albany area through Grassroot Givers. Books can be placed in the collection bin in the back of the church or given to Sarah Huiest.

CRCC Book Group meets Tuesday, October 26th, 6-8PM

Let Him Go by: Larry Watson

**Community Reformed
Church of Colonie**

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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 8 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) 869-869-0131

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cgrasso6@yahoo.com

Wired Word is BACK: Thursdays at 7PM on Zoom. This weekly Bible study helps us understand current events through our own personal lens and that of the Bible. Materials are emailed in advance. Class will run through November 18th, and then commence, once again, in January. See Ana Crosbourne, Linda Murphy, or Bruce Cornwell for more info.

Did You Know?

This fall, Lisa McGee, Vicki Lane, and Tina Bottini enrolled in Old Testament History and Introduction offered by the Albany Synod School of Ministry. This is the first of many courses required to become Preaching Elders. Each week they attend a three-hour, college-level class complete with homework. Courses will span over the next 2 years. Upon completion and evaluation, they will be available to fill-in for vacationing pastors at churches throughout our region.

Tina is also our church's current Elder Delegate to the Classis of Albany (our church's local governing body). Each church in the Classis of Albany has one Elder and one Minister delegate (depending on the size of the church). In addition to attending all classis meetings (3 or 4 a year), she is required to serve on a Classis committee. She will be serving on the Vocational Development Committee.

On top of all of this, Tina has also been chosen as the Classis of Albany delegate to the General Synod (our national governing body) which is meeting in October in Arizona.

Please keep Lisa, Vicki, and Tina in your prayers as they delve deeper into their spirituality and new ways to serve God's church and the community.

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 or given directly to Sarah Huiest.