

Creation Care

Helping our planet by reducing purchasing

One of the ways we can glorify God is to preserve our beautiful planet, one of the many gifts God has bestowed upon us. We can help by taking steps to reduce our consumption, repurpose items, and recycle. While many of our neighbors are struggling to meet rising costs for housing and food, others of us may be purchasing more than we need.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that 42% of US greenhouse gases are associated with the energy used to produce, transport, and dispose of goods. The goal of reducing consumption is clear in the core belief of the Buy Nothing Project, "Buy less and share more – makes us all richer and the planet cleaner." This organization provides the means for members to give away or request needed items within their communities. No money can be exchanged. You can find more information at buynothingproject.org.

One of our committee members recently found a "new" wool pea coat through this site in her community. There are also local "Buy Nothing," "Pay It Forward," and "Free Items" pages on Facebook where members offer up and seek items from others. While not everyone is comfortable with on-line platforms such as these, there are other ways to reduce our consumption of resources.

The EPA suggests the following steps that everyone can take to "think green before you shop":

- ♥ Borrow, rent, or share items that will be used infrequently.
- ♥ Support companies that practice sustainability – look for eco-labels, such as Energy Star.
- ♥ Purchase items that are locally produced, made of recycled materials and easily recyclable.

We can all play a role in caring for God's creation by reducing consumption of goods, repurposing items and recycling.

Earth Day is **April 22**. It is an annual event to encourage care for the Earth—protecting the environment that is our home. It was first held April 22, 1970, and now features events around the globe.

Many commemorate Earth Day by having a neighborhood cleanup, taking a hike, or planting a tree or garden. This will be the first year our church community includes creation care as part of Consecration Sunday, on Sunday, May 22. Our stewardship as Christians has always included creation care (along with stewardship of our time, talent and treasures), but this year we will also be prayerfully considering making a pledge for the coming year to take a specific action toward caring for God's creation.

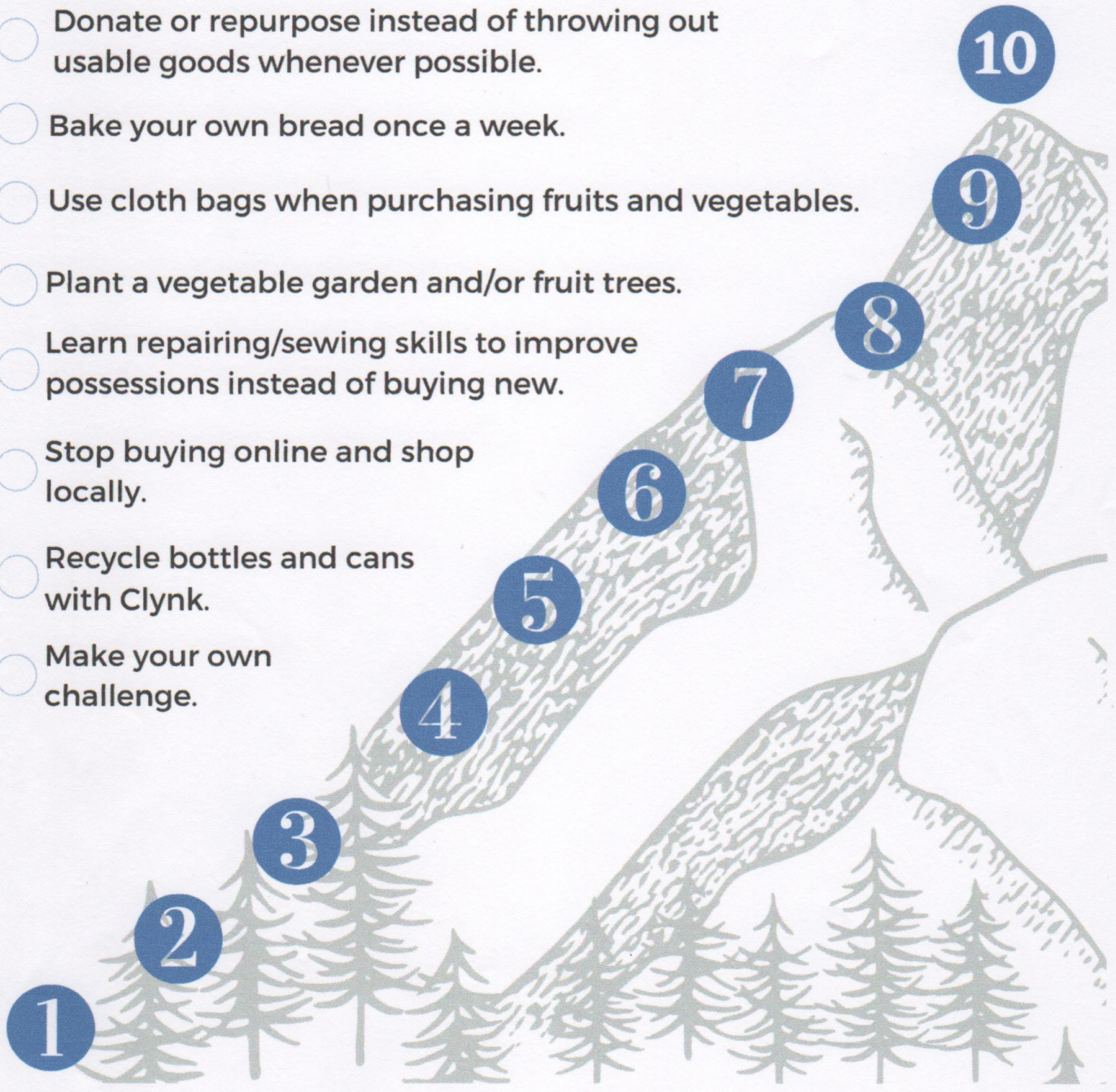
Designed by **Jessica Kaercher**,
on page 2 is a stair step chart of actions to consider.

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Check which action(s) you will commit to this year in caring for God's Creation. The number of actions corresponds to the number of steps.

- 1 Stop buying bottled water and take out coffee.
- 2 Donate or repurpose instead of throwing out usable goods whenever possible.
- 3 Bake your own bread once a week.
- 4 Use cloth bags when purchasing fruits and vegetables.
- 5 Plant a vegetable garden and/or fruit trees.
- 6 Learn repairing/sewing skills to improve possessions instead of buying new.
- 7 Stop buying online and shop locally.
- 8 Recycle bottles and cans with Clynk.
- 9 Make your own challenge.





HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Passion (Palm) Sunday

April 10

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 15

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 17

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.

April Mission of the Month

YWCA of the Greater Capital Region

The April Mission of the Month is YWCA of the Greater Capital Region in Troy. "Women come to YWCA-GCR in times of crisis, for safe and affordable housing, help with basic needs, such as food and clothing, victim advocacy, help with addiction, job training and career counseling, and case management. Some stay for just a few weeks, some for many years. We give women and women with children a second chance and a fresh start, by providing transitional and permanent housing combined with 360° of support in order to empower them to be able to achieve their goals and to become self-sufficient. YWCA-GCR staff can coordinate a variety of supportive services, such as financial literacy, job readiness training, education development and TASC preparation, clothing, food and make referrals for mental health, chemical addiction treatment, and advocacy."

Monetary donations can be given utilizing your yellow "Mission of the Month" offering envelopes or by check made payable to CRCC with "YWCA" in the memo.

We will also be collecting the following **NEW** items. They may be dropped off at the church or shipped directly to Sarah Huiest's home. Questions? Email Sarah crccsarah@gmail.com.

- † Twin size blankets
- † Twin size sheet sets
- † Twin size waterproof zip-style mattress covers
- † Towel and washcloth sets
- † Toiletries: Deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, etc.
- † Diapers (Size 2,3,4,5)



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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
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Carol Grasso, Director

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Reminder for Zoom Worshippers

Admission from the Zoom waiting room will begin 10-15 minutes prior to the beginning of worship. Please arrive early. Latecomers will be admitted when it is less disruptive to those already worshipping. Zoom tiles shift with each new admission so there's no "sneakin' in!" Please also remember to use your name as your Zoom ID, to expedite the entry process.

Book Group News



The April book of the month is The Four Winds by Kristen Hannah. Book Group will be meeting on **April 26, 2022**, at 6:00pm. Anyone who likes to read and talk to others about what they have read is welcome to attend.

Meetings are usually held at 6:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We have a free-will offering each month, which we use to promote literacy and/or goodwill at the end of the year. In the past, we have purchased puzzle pieces, donated money for Bibles, made contributions to libraries (Schoharie after the flood) and provided funds to Colonie Community Day Care to purchase books, etc.

Questions? Contact Karen Reynolds kreynolds150@gmail.com. All are Welcome!

The next Women's Bible Study is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2022, at 9:30. It will meet at the church and via Zoom.

The Wired Word is currently on a break. More to come on the date to resume.

New outdoor lighting!

Have you driven by the church at night recently? You may notice that the parking lot lighting has been repaired. Also, our wonderous cross is once again lighted, providing a symbol of hope to the community even on the darkest of nights. The Day Care space will be getting some new flooring and potentially lighting in the coming months. Be sure to check back here for more information on building and grounds improvements!

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.