

Cross and ~~+~~ COMMENTS



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

Lenten Purge 2022

March 2022

On this year's Consecration Sunday, May 22, the Stewardship and Creation Care Team will be encouraging all to be in conversation with God about a yearly "creation care goal" as well as a yearly financial pledge. We are asking you to prayerfully consider creation care as holy and as sanctified as any other commitments we make to God as His stewards, including our time, talents and treasure. Many are already participating in the CLYNK bag program or other recycling and repurposing efforts on a regular basis. This Lenten season, we encourage all to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us and consider taking part in a Lenten purge, as described below, if you haven't already made it a tradition. The following article is written by Sandy Cornwell.

Many Christians sacrifice something during Lent to represent and remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. What sacrifice can you make in honor of Christ? What will you "give up" this Lent?

Over the years, you have heard friends and family talk about what they are going to give up for Lent. Chocolate. Bread. Sweets. Wine. Lots of food items that can, with a little creativity, be avoided without much hardship. And then there are the folks that "give up" things they never ate anyway such as calamari, licorice, or sushi. No hardship there – and certainly no sacrifice. Is there any honor when there is no true forfeit?

Several years ago, Bruce wondered in a Lenten sermon "Instead of

giving something up, what if I give something away? Not just on one day, but for every day of Lent." So, many of us accepted that challenge. Guidelines were set. The items chosen to purge from our life could not be just thrown into the trash. Could they be recycled, repurposed, donated? Research was needed and Google was appreciated. Old eyeglasses went to the Lions Club. Medical equipment went to Jezreel Ministries. Old towels to the animal shelters. Kitchenware to the church's garage sale. Table linens to the Shaker Heritage Society. Warm coats to the Street Warriors. In addition to household inventory, perhaps a kind word, a note of encouragement, a meal, a prayer or a card of thanks could be passed from your heart to another's.

With each day, we grew more mindful of all we have – and how we so often place value on possessions that we are no longer using. The clutter in our lives overtakes us. It is far easier to push those old jigsaw puzzles to the back of the closet than to drive them over to the nursing home. Our creativity is as bountiful as our possessions.

For some of our church family, purging is no longer a once in a year practice but now part of their everyday life. Each year, the Lenten purging gets more difficult as closets no longer hold clothes that have passed from style or fit. Our used books have moved on. Certainly

(Continued on page 2)

March 2022		Upcoming Events	
In this Issue:		Ash Wednesday	Mar. 2nd
Lenten Schedule	2	Service of Healing	Mar. 27th
Social Media	2	Good Friday	Apr. 15th
Mission of the Month	3	Easter Sunday	Apr. 17th



ASH WEDNESDAY ~ MARCH 2 7 PM

COMMUNION ~ MARCH 6 10 AM

SERVICE OF HEALING ~ MARCH 27 10 AM

COMMUNION ~ APRIL 3 10 AM

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY ~ APRIL 10 10 AM

GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 15 7 PM

EASTER ~ APRIL 17 10 AM

**All services will be available in-person and
live-streamed on Zoom**

Service of Healing

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

Mark 1:41

Sunday, March 27th at 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 brucecornwell@gmail.com
or Sandy at crccsandy@gmail.com.

Only your name, no personal details, will be shared with the worshippers.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media is an incredible tool that has emerged over the past 20 years. It tends to get a negative reputation for people's poor behavior and the ease of sharing misinformation. But did you know it can be an incredible evangelical tool?

As Bruce so eloquently pointed out in his February 6th, sermon, evangelism is not about recruiting new members to fill seats or grow our financials. Evangelism is about spreading the Word and Love of God with others – helping to guide them on (or even begin!) their faith walk.

The Thought for Today is shared on our Twitter page every morning. By retweeting, you could provide comfort or encouragement (or a smile!) to another. Our Instagram and Facebook pages are very active with ways to help others in need, information on the marginalized and disenfranchised, prayers, and our weekly worship service. Every "share" or even "like" can help reach people who are unaffiliated with our church, but whose lives can be enriched by the information shared. At the time this article is being written, a prayer shared on our Facebook page has reached over 1,000 people – 1,000 people lifting up a community in pain, touching souls that are hurting, and sharing God's love. I encourage you to follow our social media accounts and, if you feel comfortable, to share content that is meaningful to you.

You can find us on Facebook:
@ColonieReformed,
on Instagram: [colonie_reformed](https://www.instagram.com/colonie_reformed),
and on Twitter: @ColonieReformed.

Lenten Purge 2020 (Continued from page 1)

over the past two years, the world has changed for us all. We look at life differently and many priorities have changed. It has been a time letting go of so much and focusing on what is truly important and needed.

So we challenge you this Lenten season: What can YOU give away?

The Stewardship and Creation Care Team

Ellen Buono, Lou Ann Connelly, Linda Murphy and Jessica Kaercher

**Community Reformed
Church of Colonie**

701 Sand Creek Rd
Colonie, NY 12205-2497

Bruce K Cornwell, Pastor

Tel: (518) 869-5589

E-mail:

crcclori@gmail.com

Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Twitter:

@ColonieReformed

Facebook:

facebook.com/ColonieReformed

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



March Mission of the Month

City Mission of Schenectady

The March Mission of the Month is the City Mission of Schenectady. "City Mission of Schenectady, founded in 1906, is dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Our ministries are seeking to comprehensively meet the needs of the poor in a manner that dignifies and strengthens the individual, the family, and the community." They provide food, shelter, clothing, employment assistance, and emotional/behavioral support. You can support the City Mission by utilizing your yellow "Mission of the Month" offering envelope for March, through written check made out to CRCC with "March Mission of the Month" written in the memo, or by direct donation on their web site:

citymission.com/donate/.

Thought for Today

For over 40 years, our outdoor church sign has provided our community with moments of inspiration, hope, reflection, and humor. About 16 years ago, we began the "Thought for Today" ministry while our church sign was being rebuilt. Since then, this daily email communication has proved to be a vital link within our congregation. These "Thoughts for Today" offer words of encouragement as we journey through our hectic days as well as reminders of upcoming church services and events.

If you are interested in receiving these daily thoughts, contact Sandy Cornwell at crccsandy@gmail.com.

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 crccsarah@gmail.com or given to Sarah Huiest.