

Cross and Lent's COMMENTS

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



Lent 2025

Pastor Bob Hoffman

Each year, Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday worship service where we reflect on our sins and God's gracious love and forgiveness. This meaningful and special service always gives a good start for the weeks that follow. Plan on coming on **March 5, at 7:00pm**, and participating in the Ash Wednesday worship service.



This year, our Lenten worship theme is titled, "Everything in Between." This theme is based on the gospel of Luke and will include several familiar and well-loved stories (The Good Samaritan, Martha and Mary, Zacchaeus, The Lost Sheep and others) that invite us to put ourselves in between the scripture message and our current social and political environment. Our challenge will be to envision where and when and how we can be God's agents in bringing the good news of each story to our world and the community where we are.

February 2025

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Upcoming Events

Upper Room for All	February 12 th
Albany Synod Workshop	February 22 nd
Book Group	February 25 th
Ash Wednesday	March 5 th



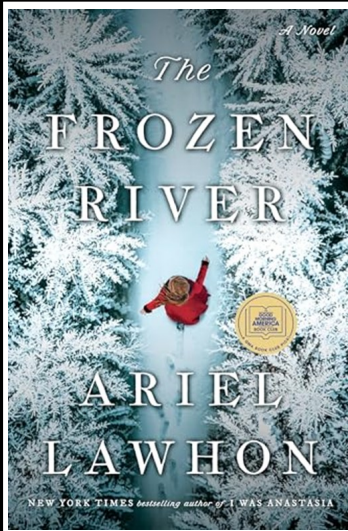
Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5
7 PM

You are dust, and to dust you will return.

This ancient formula will be heard by millions of Christians all over the world this Ash Wednesday, as the sign of the cross is made with ashes on their forehead. This symbolic act is both a solemn reminder and an invitation to renewal. All are welcome as we begin together the sacred walk towards Easter.

For those planning on worshipping on Zoom and wishing to receive Ash Wednesday worship materials, please notify the church office crclori@gmail.com by February 16.



Book Group News

Book Group will meet at the church on the 4th Tuesday, which is February 25th, at 6:00pm.

The book for February is Frozen River, written by Ariel Lawhon. As always, all are welcome. Questions? Contact Karen Reynolds.

Pastor Search Committee Update

Our Church Profile is now in the process of being disseminated throughout the RCA Classes, seminaries, and colleges under the direction of our supervisors, Noreen and Mashona.

At our last meeting, we prepared questions and topics for applicant interviews.

We have received some applications and are in the process of sifting through their profiles and setting up interviews.

We continue to welcome any questions or concerns you may have. Please keep the search committee in your prayers, as we seek to discern God's direction and will, in the calling of our new pastor. Thank you all for your support.

Taking Notes

By Mark Kaercher

Do you remember taking notes in school? When was the last time you did so? Chances are, even though you didn't realize it at the time, that hand-written note probably helped you better remember what you learned, and it made you more intentional about your learning.

Years ago, my pastor at a previous church encouraged me and others to write in our Bible for exactly the same reasons! Many, including myself, would not even dare consider writing in a Bible, the holiest of books. So, I have a different suggestion. What if we wrote in our worship bulletins?

Bruce suggested to the Men's Group a while back that one of the best resources for daily devotions is the Sunday bulletin. It is filled with many things that we might find inspiring during the week: the mission statement, the quote for contemplation, hymn verses, prayers, and more! So, you may see me using one of our branded pens (writes well and we have a LOT of them!) to take a few notes during worship.

I promise I'm not doodling. I hope that annotating the bulletin will make me more present and thoughtful about what is said, sung, and heard in the service. And who knows, maybe this will give me the courage to start writing in my Bible too!



ALBANY SYNOD
INVITES YOU
TO AN INSPIRING FESTIVAL DAY
OF LEARNING, FELLOWSHIP
AND CELEBRATION

ATTENTION!
PREACHING
ELDERS
CHURCH LEADERS
MUSICIANS
PASTORS

ATTENTION!
PREACHING
ELDERS
CHURCH LEADERS
MUSICIANS
PASTORS

WORSHIP: THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

FEBRUARY 22, 2025 | 9 AM TO 3 PM
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTIA
224 NORTH BALLSTON AVENUE,
SCOTIA, NY 12302

Workshop Offerings will Include:

Writing Prayers and Readings for Liturgy
Good Enough Church Music
Conducting Congregational Prayer
How to Lead a Funeral

Best Practices for Children's Messages
Empowering New Leaders for Worship
Heartfelt Celebration at the Lord's Table
Disability and Accessibility in Worship

more workshops will be added as speakers are confirmed

**Learn more and register
at albansynod.org
Registration opens
Nov. 15!**

**Registration Fee:
\$20/individual, \$50/church.
Childcare provided.
Includes lunch!**

NexTrex Plastic Film Recycling Moves to the Next Step

Lou Ann Connelly

Your response to our plastic film recycling campaign in benefit of the Cobleskill United Methodist Church has been remarkable. Together, we have kept hundreds of pounds of trash out of our landfills.

With your help, they have collected and recycled enough soft plastics this year to earn three benches: for their church, for the Code Blue Warming Center at Warnerville UMC, and for the Radez Elementary School's playground.

At this time, the Cobleskill church is slowing down their "Bags to Benches" project to focus on additional Creation Care initiatives. Since we no longer need to transport the plastic recyclables to Cobleskill, our church no longer needs to be a collection point.

All those items you have been placing in the bin at church can be brought directly to Price Chopper/Market 32, Hannaford, Kohl's, or Ocean State Job Lot.

Every time you shop at one of these stores, bring your plastics and scope out the recycling receptacles near the front doors. If you don't see them, ask in the store.

According to their websites, all these shops accept and recycle all the same plastics that you have been bringing to church.

Going on vacation? Visiting relatives or friends out of town? Check out Nextrex.com for their other collection partners in different parts of New York or wherever you are. As I write to you from Florida, I found 9 places here that are NexTrex partners.

✚ **What to recycle:** Soft, deformable plastic bags and film, such as newspaper bags, dry cleaning bags, bread bags, produce bags, and plastic food storage bags

✚ **How to recycle:** Remove receipts or any other items from bags

✚ **Where to recycle:** Look for bins and signage near store entrances

✚ **What not to recycle:** Rigid crinkly plastic bags, food or cling wrap, prepackaged food bags, film that has been painted or has excessive glue, degradable bags, snack/candy bags, frozen food bags, pet food bags, foil coffee bags, pouches, bedding/garment bags, floral wrap

Thought for Today



For decades, our church sign has provided our community with moments of inspiration, hope, reflection, and humor. About 15 years ago, we began the "Thought for Today" ministry while our church sign was being rebuilt. The Thought for Today is a daily email communication that has proven to be a vital link within our congregation. These "TfT" 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.



Youth Group

This December, members of CRCC Youth Group volunteered at multiple community locations. They sorted toy donations for Toys for Tots, organized food at The Regional Food Bank, and brought donations to Mohawk Hudson Humane Society on Christmas Eve morning for Morning of Kindness!



Upper Room for All

"Christ is among us in fresh ways when we gather together, listening to God and to each other."

- The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide

Are you interested in connecting with other members of our congregation and deepening your faith? We will use prayer and discussion resources found in The Upper Room, a bimonthly guide that offers daily devotionals and prayers.

Please join us in the gathering room at church on **Wednesday, February 12, from 6-7:30PM!** Dessert and coffee/tea/water will be served. Please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/CRCCUpperRoomforAll>

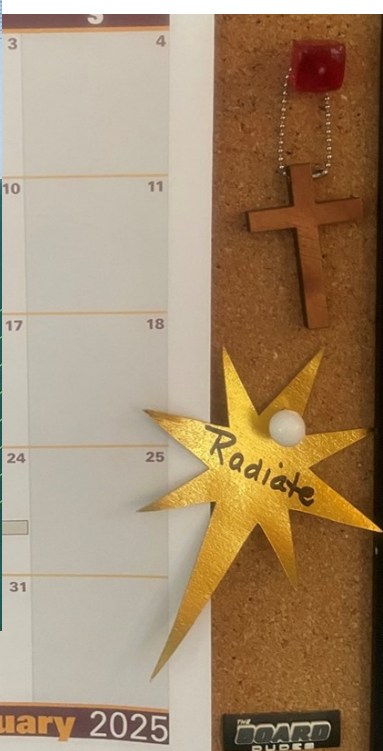
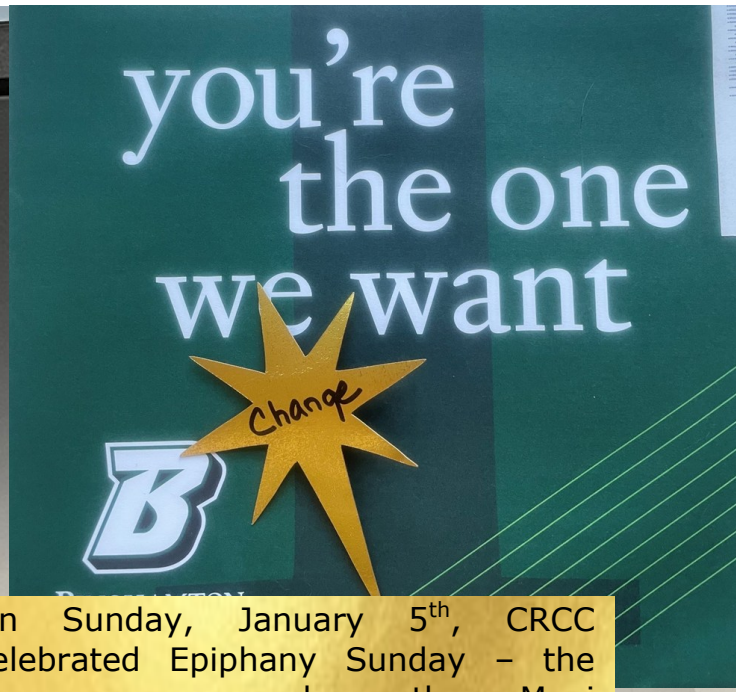
Questions?

Contact Mark Kaercher at markkaercher1971@gmail.com.

Did You Know?

The church building was originally built with a flat roof. It leaked. A lot. Deacons and elders would mop puddles in the aisles during hymns. Chairs were continually rearranged to avoid the ever-present dripping. After snowfalls, members would climb up onto the roof to shovel off the weighty snow, hoping to decrease the amount of melt. In 2004, the new green metal roof was installed, as well as new large windows. Air conditioning was also added. The project took about 5 months to complete. During that time, we worshipped in the gathering room – and we were very cozy!





On Sunday, January 5th, CRCC celebrated Epiphany Sunday – the day we remember the Magi presenting their gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. In recognition of the star that guided them to baby Jesus, Star Words were once again randomly selected by those in worship. These words are meant to be a guide and encouragement in the year ahead. Congregants were encouraged to put their star word somewhere that they would see it regularly. Some went on refrigerators or bulletin boards. Others were placed bedside and in doorways. Where did you place your star word?



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facebook.com/ColonieReformed

Worship Hours

We invite you to join us for worship and fellowship every Sunday at 10 AM in person and via Zoom.

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



This vital ministry focuses on the urgent prayer concerns of our church family and community.

Prayer requests will be sent to you via E-mail from either Sandy Cornwell or Karen Latta.

For those without email access, Karen Reynolds will provide phone contact.

You will receive the email request directly and will not have to pass the request on to others.

Prayer updates will be sent when possible.

It is our hope that we will be able to reach even more people who will actively pray for one another.

If you are interested in participating in the E-chain ministry, contact Sandy Cornwell at crccsandy@gmail.com.



Facebook

facebook.com/coloniereformed



Instagram

[colonie_reformed](https://instagram.com/colonie_reformed)



Padlet – Online Bulletin Board

padlet.com/crccsarah/churchbulletinboard



Website

Communityreformedchurch.com



Community Reformed Church of Colonie

Communications/Media Coordinator: **Sarah Huist**

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 Huist.