

THIS WEEK AT COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday, March 24 – Saturday, March 30

Each week, the Community Reformed Church of Colonie provides opportunities for ministry, study, support, and fellowship.

All groups welcome new participants with open arms.
If you would like additional information about any group, please call or speak to the contact person indicated.

Sunday, March 24

Children's Sunday School – Will begin at 9:00 AM. for children in grades 3-6. Sunday school will meet in the Gathering Room.

Sanctuary Worship – 10:00 AM

The Choir will be rehearsing both before and after Worship this morning, from 9:00-9:30 AM, and today after Worship. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining. See Ben, if interested.

Tuesday, March 26

The Book Group will meet at 6:00 PM in the Church's Gathering Room. We will be discussing "For Your Own Good". Please contact Karen Reynolds with any questions, kreynolds150@gmail.com



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Conversations

Thank You to all who participated in the second round of our congregational conversation last Sunday. We have received many very good responses which will be added to the work completed in conversation one. If you were not able to be present for this conversation, please pick up or request the question sheet and return it to the church office. The third, and final, conversation will be held on April 21st following the morning worship service.



PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY ~ March 24, 10 AM
"Singing Songs of Praise"

GOOD FRIDAY/TENEBRAE ~ March 29, 7 PM
"Through Shadows and Sorrows"

EASTER ~ March 31, 10 AM
"Steadfast Hope"

**All services will be live streamed on Zoom and
available for later viewing on Facebook or YouTube**



Passion Sunday Palm Crosses

The palm crosses that will be distributed at the end of our Passion (Palm) Sunday worship service were handmade by families in several villages in East Africa, to supplement meager incomes. Sales help support community projects such as agricultural and vocational training, schools, water systems, and emergency relief.



Easter Ribbons of Hope

Again this year we will adorn our Easter Cross with
Ribbons of Hope.

On these ribbons we ask you to write or draw your hope for Easter 2024 – hope for yourself, family, community, world, or whatever is on your heart during these difficult days. The ribbons will be attached to the Lenten cross which has been made from the trunks of Christmas trees. This symbolically follows Christ's life from His birth through His resurrection.

On Easter morning, we will celebrate the glory of our Risen Lord with our Easter hopes.

Prayer Stations of Peter

For our Lenten journey there will be Art Stations set up by the Sound system. Each week a new station will be added. We invite you to read the piece provided by the artist and then if you would like use a process called Visio Divina or easier to remember Sacred Seeing, instructions for that will be at each station. If that is not for you there will be purple hearts available for you to hold and contemplate the artwork (we invite you to keep the purple heart and bring it with you each week) there will also be heart shaped paper to write down and remember your thoughts and feelings.

The Stations will be left up through the week. If you would like to come in and take part in the Journey of Peter you may do so, Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 11:00 am and 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

Things of My Very Own needs our help!!!!

From now through March 31st, please collect and donate your empty toilet paper rolls to help children impacted by extensive abuse and neglect. The cardboard rolls will be used to sprout host plants for our beautiful, winged friends. The butterflies will then help children through their healing process. Overcoming the effects of abuse is never easy, but they work to make healing from it magical.



Please bring your empty toilet paper holders to church. Our Community Outreach team will be collecting and delivering them to Things of My Very Own located in Schenectady.

Community Outreach Team - During the month of **March**, we will be collecting cold cereals and bath soap. Jams, Jellies and Juices (all flavors) are a constant need, as well. They will be donated to the Help Center Food Pantry on Vly Road. Your contributions are most appreciated.

The March Mission of the Month is Mission Accomplished Transition Services. Donations to **Mission Accomplished Transition Services** can be given via your yellow Mission of the Month Envelope, via PayPal, or directly on their web site. If you are paying by check or PayPal, please note "February Mission of the Month" and/or "Mission Accomplished Transition Services" on your donation. For more information, please visit their website: <https://matransitionservices.org/>

Spring Clean-Up at Community Reformed

The Grounds and Maintenance committee has set **Saturday April 13th** as the date for this years Spring clean up. We plan to start at 9 A.M. and work till the jobs are complete. Outside work that we have identified is: rake and reseed area between shed and daycare where electrical work was done. Trim trees along Sand Creek road for better clearance to lawn mow under them, and repair damage to lawns from snow removal. Inside the Sanctuary we need to do a thorough cleaning of the Choir loft, Pulpit area, and Choir room-Library area underneath the choir loft.



A CONVERSATION ABOUT PEACEBUILDING IN THE HOLY LAND

Monday April 15, 6:30 p.m.

at the First Church in Albany, 110 N. Pearl Street, Albany

and Tuesday April 16, 7:00 p.m.

at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady, 8 North Church Street

You are invited to join Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) in a conversation about peacebuilding and advocacy related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Speakers include the Rev. Dr. Mae Cannon, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace, and Tamar Haddad, the Coordinator at Churches for Middle East Peace's women empowerment program: And Still We Rise (ASWR). Dr. Cannon is the author of several publications about the conflict including *A Land Full of God: Christian Perspectives toward the Holy Land* (Cascade, 2017).

Tamar Haddad is based in Jerusalem and previously served as the Project Manager for Gender Justice at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). This year presentations will give particular attention to the events that have unfolded in the Holy Land since October 7, 2023.

Formed in 1984, Churches for Middle East Peace (cmep.org) is a coalition of national church denominations and organizations working to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote just, lasting and comprehensive resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East. CMEP helps church organizations, leaders, and individuals nationwide advocate in a knowledgeable, timely, holistic, and effective way to express their concerns about justice and peace for all peoples in the Middle East.

Online Church Bulletin Board

padlet.com/crccsarah/ChurchBulletinBoard

Questions? Contact Sarah Huiest, crccsarah@gmail.com.

Church Calendar

Contact Lori Coté at crccclori@gmail.com to have your date added to the calendar.



Recycle box found in the entrance way of the church.



There's an easy way to properly recycle your refundable cans and bottles. No counting, no rinsing, and no waiting in long lines to make your return! And you'll be raising money for our Church so we can continue to spread God's word and do good works.

There are green plastic CLYNK bags in the church entryway that can be brought home and filled with your refundable cans and bottles. And thank YOU for doing your part to care for God's gift of the earth and supporting our church.



In addition to bringing in revenue for the church, the clothing collected in the Blue Bins located at the south end of our parking lot is sent to those in need throughout the US and third world countries. This is a great and convenient way to donate your clothing when cleaning out. Spread the word to your neighbors, coworkers, friends and family. Offer to bring the clothes to church for them.

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday - Isaiah 42:1-9
Tuesday - Psalm 71:1-14
Wednesday Hebrews 12:1-3
Thursday - John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Friday - Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Saturday - John 19:38-42
Sunday - Easter Sunday

Household Prayer: Morning

Jesus, in your passion and resurrection,
you show me there is no place you have
not been and no place you fear to go.
Morning by morning,
you awaken me more deeply to this truth.
Send me into the world this day
with the courage and wisdom
to be a faithful witness to your coming reign
of justice, mercy, and peace. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Although I have sought to serve you this day,
I have failed to keep your love.
You know my strengths and weaknesses more than I;
reveal them to me that I may be healed this night
and begin afresh tomorrow. Amen.

Lent IS A TIME TO

CLOSER TO JESUS