

# Cross and **COMMENTS**

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



Our theme is **“More than Enough”** as we move toward this year’s Consecration Sunday on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is a reminder that God’s abundance turns us toward others. God blesses us with more than enough to give back to God.

Central to this theme are the teachings of Paul when he asks the Corinthians to give generously to the Christian church. He instructs that God is the source of generosity who provides us the means to be generous. In the weeks ahead, look for attachments to our worship bulletin that reflect on this theme and ways we might give back to God as he has given to us.

Adapted from the Ecumenical Stewardship Center Resource – **“More Than Enough”**



## The Ten Commandments of Zoom Worship

Good news! “In person” church will resume with outdoor services (weather permitting) on **May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM**.

More good news: For those who choose to remain at home, services will continue to be available over Zoom! Since Zoom continues to be an important part of our church life, now seems to be a good time to revisit what it means to be a good Zoom attendee.

- I. **Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.** Prepare for the service by having your bulletin available and communion elements near when needed. This will allow you to fully participate even though muted on Zoom, our Lord will rejoice in hearing your voice.
- II. **Thou Shalt Be on Time,** which in Zoom terms, means 5 or 10 minutes early. We all know when you arrive late since tiles jump with each new entry – there is no sneaking into the last row.
- III. **Thou shall Identify.** First or last names please. Names of your device, or pet, or your #username may be confusing to the rest of us even if God knows who you are.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### May 2021

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Community Reformed Church of Colonie is committed to keeping our families safe during this time of trial. Please continue to join us on Zoom for meetings and services until we can all gather together again safely.





# Quilt Group News

## Even a Pandemic Couldn't Stop Us

Community Reformed's Quilt Group did not let a pandemic keep us from our mission – sewing items that bring comfort, warmth, and caring to those in need.

Although the group normally meets at the church twice a month from September through May to sew together, the spread of COVID-19 made that unwise. But this did not deter the 15 or so members of the group.

A year ago, member Ceil Donnelly suggest that we construct “Belongings Bags” for the boys and girls served by St. Catherine's Center for Children in Albany. The bags are designed to provide a cheerful and colorful way for the children to transport and store their belongings when moving from one living situation to another.

Last September, the group gathered in the church parking lot following CDC guidelines for masking and social distancing. We received the pattern instructions for the bags and shared fabric.

From that point through the months of fall, winter, and spring, members worked at home to assemble, sew, embellish, and complete the bags. Even some additional sewing enthusiasts volunteered to help the group. Thank you, Sandy.

We chose fabrics that would appeal to the age-range of the children served by St. Catherine's: 5 to 13 years old. Sports, animals, clothing trends, movie characters, and military themes are featured.

St. Catherine's requested 50-60 bags. To date the group has made more than 70, and more are just getting finished!

All who participated deserve a giant “Thank You” for their hard work and generosity (fabric is expensive and each bag requires more than 2 yards). We hope for many happy faces when the bags are distributed in May.

Lou Ann Connelly

*(The Ten Commandments of Zoom Worship – Continued from page 1)*

- IV. **Thou Shalt Dress Appropriately.** We love seeing you – just not some parts.
- V. **Thou Shalt Make Sure Your Camera Is Not at an Odd Angle** exposing only the top of your head or your nostril hairs.
- VI. **Thou Shalt Keep the Microphone on Mute** unless otherwise instructed. Ringing phones, barking dogs, roaming housemates, and lawn mowing neighbors divert attention and disrupt the worship recording.
- VII. **Thou Shalt Refrain from Eating Breakfast** during the service since fellow worshippers may begin coveting your toast and eggs.
- VIII. **Thou Shalt See and Be Seen.** Unless you are part of the witness protection program, provide a light source so that you do not become a dark shadowy figure in front of a bright window.
- IX. **Thou Shalt be Mindful of Your Surroundings.** Look behind you – and remember although you are at home, you are at church and, as a bonus, you get to sit in the same seat every week. And stay put – we all get a little seasick as you move from room to room carrying your device. Stop your video if needed and we give you thanks.-----
- X. **Thou Shalt follow the Golden Rule:** Zoom unto others as you wish they would Zoom unto you.

# CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS - 2021

The **Consistory** is currently accepting nominations to fill elder/deacon vacancies on Consistory (Board of Directors), beginning in September of this year.

There are **two vacancies** on the **Board of Elders**:

The Elder of **Adult Enrichment** (4-year term) coordinates all adult small group ministries including the men's and women's Bible Studies, the Book Group, the Wired Word, the Sew and Reap Quilters, Shirley's Shawls and newcomer classes, among others.

The Elder of **Evangelism and Welcome** (3 year term) administers the Welcoming and Fellowship Hour Hosts, guest follow-up, the church directory and all church communications including: the web site, the Cross and Comments newsletter, the outdoor sign and social media.

There are **two vacancies** on the **Board of Deacons**:

The **Deacon of Property** (4-year term) supervises the maintenance of all of the church's property including the building, the parking lot and the lawns.

The **Deacon of Community Outreach** (3-year term) synchronizes all outreach ministries including Break Bread, Share Bread; the Neighborhood Caregivers; Missions of the Month; the Panera Bread Ministry; food collection for the village of Colonie Outreach Center; and emergency relief following local disasters. In addition, the Deacon of Community Outreach manages the church's fundraising efforts.

Those elected to the office of **elder** are called along with the pastor to encourage spiritual growth among the members of the congregation and to help them walk in the way of Christ.

Those elected to the office of **deacon** are responsible for the ministry of compassion and material maintenance, representing God's love and mercy in Christ.

By bringing together the offices of pastor, elder and deacon, the **consistory** continues the full ministry of Christ in our day.

All members of the church are encouraged to prayerfully consider individuals to fill these positions. All nominees **must** be **active members** of the congregation. If, on the other hand, you feel God is calling you to serve in any of these capacities, please nominate yourself or ask another member to nominate you.

Full consistory meets approximately nine times a year as do the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons. Members of Consistory are also expected to attend one overnight (Friday-Saturday) leadership retreat usually held in early November.

Please detach and fill out the nomination form attached to this article (Page 4) and return it to the attention of **Bruce Cornwell** via snail mail or email.

Thank you everyone for your participation in this important process.



**Community  
Reformed Church  
of Colonie**

701 Sand Creek Rd  
Colonie, NY 12205-2497

Bruce K. Cornwell, Pastor

Tel: (518) 869-5589

E-mail:

Crcchurchoffice@gmail.com

www.communityreformedchurch.com

**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  
Albany, NY 12205-2432

Carol Grasso, Director

Tel: (518) 869-0131

E-mail:

cgrasso6@yahoo.com

## An update on "Shirley's Shawls" CRCC's prayer shawl ministry

Although the members of "Shirley's Shawls", have not been able to meet in person for awhile, our prayer shawl ministry has continued. In recent months, we have met on zoom for fellowship and prayer as we create our shawls and lap robes. Throughout this past year, people in need of comfort or support have been provided with shawls. While a silent prayer said by the congregation replaced our tradition of laying hands on the shawl, each shawl is sent to the recipient with blessings. We have a supply of shawls on hand and can provide one on short notice. If you know of someone who might benefit from receiving a shawl, or you would like to join our ministry, please contact me at [lindamurph98@aol.com](mailto:lindamurph98@aol.com).

– Linda Murphy

### CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS 2021

I wish to nominate:

Name  
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Deacon of Property

Elder of Adult  
Enrichment

Deacon of Community  
Outreach

Elder of Evangelism  
and Welcome

Name  
-----

Deacon of Property

Elder of Adult  
Enrichment

Deacon of Community  
Outreach

Elder of Evangelism  
and Welcome

Name  
-----

Deacon of Property

Elder of Adult  
Enrichment

Deacon of Community  
Outreach

Elder of Evangelism  
and Welcome

Your Name  
-----

(Unsigned Ballots will be discarded)



New Church Office Email for Lori Cote, Church Administrator

[rcclori@gmail.com](mailto:rcclori@gmail.com)

Editor: **Beth Colbert**

Layout Designer: **Bob Becker**

Articles are due by the 15th of the month and can be submitted to  
[jimandbethcolbert@gmail.com](mailto:jimandbethcolbert@gmail.com) or given to Beth Colbert.