



Tenebrae Worship

April 7th

7 PM

Tenebrae, or "Service of Shadows," is one of the oldest traditions in the Christian church for the commemoration of the passion and death of Christ. Through scripture readings and song, the story of Christ's betrayal, trial, and crucifixion is told. As the Passion story unfolds, candles are removed symbolizing the fleeing of the disciples. The darkness deepens, until only the Christ Candle remains. This light is removed from the sanctuary representing Christ's crucifixion and death. The Light of our Church returns in glory Easter morning.

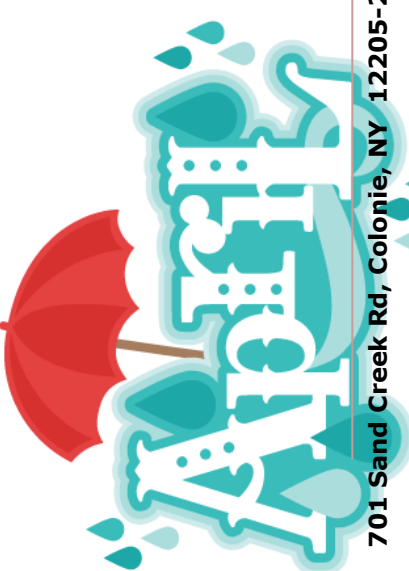
This service will also be livestreamed on Zoom. All services are recorded for later viewing on Facebook and YouTube.

Due to the somber intensity of this service, child care is provided for children 2nd grade and younger.

April 2023		Upcoming Events	
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Though the weather did not cooperate on Ash Wednesday, we were still able to worship via Zoom. During the meditation, congregants were asked to write down, "those hidden things underneath it all that prevent us from being authentic with one another and with God." Participants mailed and brought in those notes and nailed them to the Lenten cross the following Sunday. That cross has remained in the sanctuary throughout the season of Lent. It is fashioned from a Christmas tree trunk, symbolizing both the birth and death of Our Lord.



April Mission of the Month



Clean the World®

April's Mission of the Month is Clean the World Foundation

"The UN Sustainable Development Goals call for universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) globally by 2030. Clean the World Foundation is taking an active role in working with community-based organizations and country governments to achieve universal access to WASH around the world. Through our health and development programs – such as WASH in Schools, Women's Microfinance, and Women's Initiatives – we are working to provide sustainable and ongoing access to comprehensive WASH infrastructure and supplies, along with the long-term education necessary to change behaviors such as promoting exclusive breastfeeding and making a sustainable impact. Through our humanitarian aid efforts in disaster relief and refugee support, we work to ensure all displaced populations, and those in crisis, have the WASH access they need to sustain and improve health."

Financial donations can be made via your yellow Mission of the Month envelope. Please be sure to write "April Mission of the Month" in the check memo. They also have a link to their Amazon Wishlist on their website under "Get Involved": cleantheworldfoundation.org.

Sharing your faith in action can encourage others – please let us know if you end up making a donation through the Amazon Wishlist!

Advocacy and Global Mission

CRCC will be gifting \$500 to Direct Relief for aid needed in Turkey and Syria following the horrific earthquakes. Through Direct Relief, money will go directly towards medical needs. They have already made a financial commitment of \$3 million for response efforts.

More than 15 million people have been affected by these earthquakes. The number of collapsed buildings may possibly exceed 7,000. The number of deaths continues to rise by the thousands.

Direct Relief is a humanitarian organization, active in all 50 states and more than 80 countries, with a mission to improve the health and lives of people affected by poverty or emergencies.

Nongovernmental, nonsectarian, and not-for-profit, Direct Relief assists people and communities without regard to politics, religion, ethnic identities, or ability to pay.



Toothpaste tubes. Snack bags. Coffee pods? Even if your local waste collector won't take them as recycling, there is still a way to keep them out of landfills. TerraCycle will find a way. We are currently giving this service a try with recycling the daycare's plastic wear and our communion cups!

TerraCycle is a U.S.-based recycling business that collects non-recyclable waste to turn it into raw material for new products. The company also manages Loop, a consumer-products shopping service with reusable packaging.

Find them at terracycle.com to start recycling in your own home or business.



Return to Dust

Each new Palm Sunday brings a new palm cross to each of us. Recently, we were asked what to do with the crosses we been given from other years.

Here are a few suggestions:

- ✝ Keep a few where they could be readily seen like on a bookshelf or as a bookmark to remind you of the never-ending love of our Lord.
- ✝ Burn the crosses and scatter the ashes, returning them to the earth.
- ✝ Bury the crosses in a special area of your garden where they are not easily disturbed.

“Dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Passion (Palm) Sunday April 2 — 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 7 — 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 9 — 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.

Stewardship and Creation Care

It is God who Makes Things Grow



"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow,"

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Regarding this passage, Rev. Dr. Harold E. Kidd states that "in Paul's mind, the one who plants and the one who waters are one. Meaning their efforts were complementary part of one agricultural project. God's Project. The one who plants and the one who waters do not matter in comparison to God. Only God is the source of our growth. In so many words, the church is a watered garden. The church is the soil out of which God brings into harvest the fruits of ministry."

Like the one who plants and the one who waters, each one of us brings unique gifts to promote the growth of the church and its missions. We may share musical talents, help with the physical upkeep of the building and grounds, participate in ministries to provide comfort, assist with technological expertise, or participate in other numerous ways to enable us to do God's work in this world. Similarly, we can demonstrate our dedication to the stewardship of the earth in a variety of ways to achieve our goals to reduce consumption, reuse resources, and recycling.

In our giving of time, talents, and treasures in thanksgiving to God, the church is able to keep the "watered garden" and continue growing in God's image. As we prayerfully consider our pledges in the weeks to come, we can remember what Paul told us, that it is only God who makes things grow. As we approach Consecration Sunday, on May 21st, we can reflect on what God has grown for us and how we might give back to God.

The Stewardship and Creation Care Committee

Break Bread, Share Bread

Break Bread Share Bread is a program we started before Covid-19 hit us like a ton of bricks. We previously conducted this program in conjunction with The Village Outreach Center. The Outreach Center is no longer in operation, so we have teamed up with the Food Pantry on Vly Road in Colonie. For Advent, many created reverse Advent calendar boxes. When we delivered the collected food items to the Food Pantry, we met Cheryl. She runs the pantry and was completely overwhelmed with the number of items we brought. During our time there, she gave us a tour of the facility and explained how it works. Even though they are a part of the Coalition of Food Pantries, there is always a need for certain food items. We told her about our program at church, and she was thrilled that we would love to help. Cheryl also told us about her favorite parts of the job - meeting families, getting to know one another, being able to provide them with needed nourishment, and, most of all, being able to pray with and for them. What a perfect way to restart Break Bread Share Bread!

May Jams and Jellies

June Hot or Cold Cereals

July Juice

During the month of April, we will collect Dry Beans and Dry Lentils. Please no pinto beans; they have plenty of those.

Thank You!

Community Outreach.

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



Almighty God,
in giving us dominion over things on earth,
you made us fellow workers in your creation:
Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature,
that no one may suffer from our abuse of them,
and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

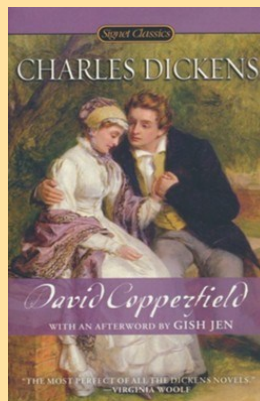
Tel: (518) 869-0131

E-mail:

cgrasso6@yahoo.com

**There is NO Sunday
School for grades 3-6
on April 9th or 16th**

Book Group



By Karen Reynolds
April's Book Group meeting is Tuesday, April 25th, from 6-8PM. We will be discussing the first half of David Copperfield by Charles Dickens. All are always welcome to attend!

Padlet Bulletin Board

The bulletin board in the church narthex is a great resource for upcoming worship services, small group updates, and community events. If you aren't in-person on Sunday, though, you can miss important info! That is why our Bulletin Board is now available online. Here you can find all of the information posted in the narthex and MORE! There are sections where you can post a personal fundraiser you are holding, goods for free or sale, as well as a community event you or a loved one may be participating in! Be sure to check it out, and check back frequently!

padlet.com/crcsarah/ChurchBulletinBoard

Questions? Contact Sarah Huiest crcsarah@gmail.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.