

Cross and ~~+~~ COMMENTS

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



Give It Another Life

We all have special items at home that are broken, but we can't bring ourselves to throw them out. The solution? Bring them to a Repair Cafe! There are several every year in the Hudson Valley (go to repaircafehv.org/calendar). Skilled volunteers will look at your item and do their best to fix it right in front of you. You get to meet the repair person and learn how to make the repair while it's happening. While these cafes are usually free, donations are always accepted to keep this movement growing.



In honor of Earth Day, the **Colonie Library** will have a Repair Cafe on **Saturday, April 20th**, from **12:00-4:00** at **629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville**. Anyone can attend, there's no registration needed, and there's no cost. Common items that are fixed: lights, vacuums, jewelry, torn clothing, bicycles, chairs, and even dull gardening tools and knives can be sharpened. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Jessica Kaercher**.



SAVE THE DATE

What? Junk in the Trunk
When? June 2nd After Worship
Where? Church parking lot

April 2024		Upcoming Events	
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"Thank you," **Sandy Cornwell** and **Lexy Kuentzel** for providing a wonderful, dramatic monologue for the Service of Healing and Restoration. Lexy movingly portrayed Jairus' daughter, whom Jesus miraculously healed. The script was written by Sandy Cornwell, who has written

innumerable scripts that we have enjoyed in the past. Sandy also made the costume, selected the props, and staged the scene. We are so lucky to have such talent within CRCC!



CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Working Together: Justice can prevail. Peace is possible.

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.

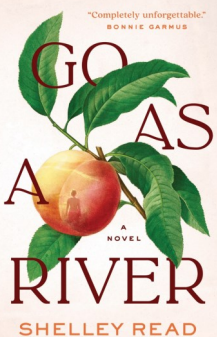
April Mission of the Month



GROW • EDUCATE • PROVIDE

Capital Roots works to reduce the impact of poor nutrition on public health in New York's Capital Region by organizing community gardens, providing healthy food access, offering nutritional and horticultural education for all ages, and coordinating urban greening programs. The heart and history of Capital Roots is their Community Gardens. Founded in 1975 as a way to bring the benefits of growing your own food to Capital Region inner cities, they now operate over 55 gardens in 4 counties.

All funds collected for April's Mission of the Month will be donated to Capital Roots to alleviate hunger throughout our communities. For more information about April's Mission of the Month go to: www.capitalroots.org



Book Group News

April's Book Group selection is
Go As A River by Shelley Read.

All are invited to take part in the book discussion
on **Tuesday, April 23rd**, from **6-8PM.**

Questions? Contact Karen Reynolds.



Building and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds Committee has set **Saturday, April 13**, as the date for this year's Spring Clean-Up. We plan to start at 9AM and work until the jobs are completed.

Outside work: 1) Rake and reseed area between the shed and the daycare where electrical work was done, 2) Trim trees along Sand Creek road for better clearance for mowing underneath them, 3) 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.

Questions? Contact Kevin Ingalls

No saint on earth lives life to self alone
or dies alone, for we with Christ are one.

–J.W. Schultze-Nordholt, translated by Norman J. Kansfield, 1982

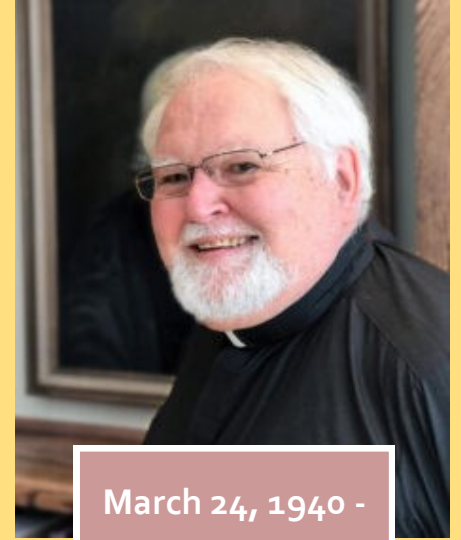
In 2004, a simple “I do” sent massive shock waves throughout the Reformed Church. **Rev. Dr. Norman Kansfield** officiated at the wedding of his daughter, Ann, and her long-time partner, Jennifer. I know firsthand how amazing it is when a parent blesses the marriage of the children they love – and Norm loved deeply.

In the chaotic months and General Synod trial that followed, Norm was removed from his position as President of New Brunswick Seminary, and General Synod Professor of the Reformed Church in America. He was deposed from the office of Professor of Theology and suspended from the office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament. A vocal and supportive group “Friends of Norm” arose and was the beginning of “Room for All.” Community Reformed Church was one of the very first churches to sign their covenant and has worked tirelessly to affirm and welcome all. Over the past 20 years, so much has changed in the Reformed Church, and sadly, so much hasn’t for many.

My most vivid memory of Norm was the huge bear hugs he gave Bruce every time they met. He exuded love. He lived his beliefs. He boldly walked through times of turmoil. He opened doors.

May he find forever rest in the glory of our Lord.

Sandy Cornwell



March 24, 1940 -
January 27, 2024

The Quilt Group and Prayer Shawls Ministry



A combined meeting of CRCC’s prayer shawl and prayer quilt ministries took place on February 19th. Some of us worked on quilts that will be provided to Project Linus, which distributes them to children who are “seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need.” Others of us, created items for anyone in need of a warm, comforting shawl or lap robe. We are also making red, white, and blue lap robes for The Community Hospice which will be given to their clients who are US veterans. Both of these groups welcome anyone interested in these ministries and enjoying fellowship. Watch the bulletin for updates and meeting times.



Recycle Beyond the Bag

Lou Ann Connelly

Imagine what a 1000-pound pile of plastic waste would look like. Then imagine it piled up in your backyard or suspended in the lake where you vacation.

If only there was a way to use that waste like it's a raw material, instead of adding it to our overflowing landfills.

Actually, a number of industries are finding that certain plastic bags and "stretchy" film can get a new life in their products.

One such company is Trex®, the maker of outdoor living products like decking and benches. Their products are made of 95% recycled materials.

To keep these materials out of landfills and available as raw materials, the company has launched a School and Community Recycling Challenge: organizations which collect and deliver 1000 pounds of certain plastics within a 12-month period will receive a furniture bench as a reward.

The **Cobleskill United Methodist Church** has taken up the challenge for 2024, dubbing their project *Bags to Benches*.

Community Reformed is on board to help them reach their goal by collecting plastic for them. Each time you deposit an item in the bin located in the narthex, you keep it out of the waste stream that threatens our soil and water and creates eyesores across our landscapes.

All you do is deposit eligible items into the bin. Although there is a list of eligible items on the bin, for your convenience you can cut out the lists below and keep them handy as you sort out your items at home.

Please note that it is important that the plastic be clean, dry, and free of food residue. Also, check your bags for other items that might have been left in them, such as cash register receipts.

Periodically the bin will be emptied, and the items delivered to a contact person with connections to The Cobleskill church. As participants in the challenge, they will take on the year-long task of weighing, recording, and delivering the collected plastics to a participating drop-off retailer.

If you would like more information about the challenge, log onto <https://nextrex.com/view/educate>.

Your efforts can keep that thousand-pound mountain of plastic out of our environment.

See Page 6 for a list of acceptable items for donation



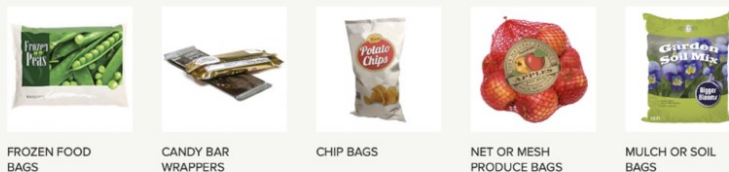
NexTrex® Plastic Bag & Film Recycling

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS IN NEXTREX® PROGRAMS



OR THESE

- Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging
- Pre-washed salad mixed bags
- Pet food bags
- Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
- Six-pack rings
- PPE- Gloves, mask, or protective wear
- Lamination film
- Silage and hay bags
- Backyard ice rinks
- Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths
- Bedding or linen packaging
- Shiny, crinkly films like floral wrap

Save the Date!

April 27th 8AM-Noon



**American
Red Cross**

**The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™**

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

The Advocacy and Global Mission Committee highlights the work and makes a \$500 contribution on behalf of our congregation to:

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The American Red Cross is part of a global network dedicated to relieving human suffering. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent network is the largest humanitarian network in the world with a presence and activities in almost every country.

All Red Cross and Red Crescent activities have one central purpose: to help those who suffer, without discrimination, whether during conflict, in response to natural or man-made disasters, or due to conditions of chronic poverty.

Since 1863, the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and promote understanding and respect for international humanitarian law.

As an independent, neutral organization, the ICRC has a permanent mandate under international law to take impartial action for prisoners, the wounded and sick, and civilians affected by conflict, including:

- Visiting prisoners of war and civilian detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions
- Educating military personnel and armed groups about their obligations under international humanitarian law
- Exchanging messages between members of families separated by armed conflict
- Helping discover the fate of missing family members
- Providing medical assistance for war wounded, displaced people and others
- Providing emergency relief such as water, sanitation, food and shelter

Recycle Beyond the Bag—Continued from Page 5

Plastics that are acceptable are the following:

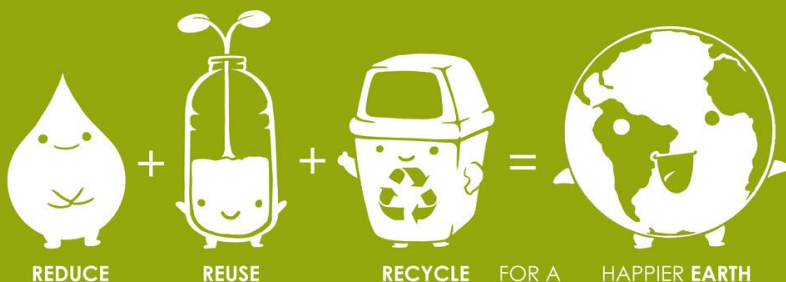
Those marked with a 2 or 4
"Stretchy" plastic film such as

- Electronics bags
- Plastic shipping envelopes
- Pallet film
- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Case overwrap
- Dry cleaner bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ziploc® or other resealable storage food bags
- Produce bags
- Product wrap
- Retail bags
- Air pillows and Bubble wrap for shipping
- Wood pellet bags
- Ice bags
- Cereal box liners
- Salt bags

Not acceptable:

- Shiny or "crinkly" bags, like potato chip bags or candy bags
- Those labeled with a 1 or 5
- Frozen food bags
- Net or mesh produce bags
- Degradable/compostable bags or film
- Prewashed salad mix bags
- Pet food bags
- Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
- Six-pack rings
- PPE gloves, masks, or protective wear
- Pool covers
- Lamination film
- Silage and hay bags
- Backyard ice rinks
- Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths
- Bedding or linen packaging
- Floral wrap

#EarthDay



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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

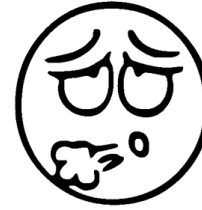
Tel: (518) 869-0131

E-mail:
cgrasso6@yahoo.com

Winter Weather Advisory!

If winter weather becomes a hindrance to us worshipping safely on Sunday morning, Zoom ONLY will be announced approximately 1 hour before worship begins. The Worship Team for the day will make the decision. Building closure will be announced on the church's website (communityreformedchurch.com), Facebook, Instagram, X account, and via email. Even if the decision is made to remain open, PLEASE exercise appropriate caution when deciding whether or not to commute. Keep in mind that you need to get TO and FROM the church safely and that weather where you live may be different than the church's location. Your safety is of utmost importance, and with Zoom, you can still access and participate in worship.

We love you but not your germs.



If you are feeling a little under the weather, please remain home and get the rest you need.

Some of our church family are at high risk of infection so what may not seem too bad for you could be dangerous to them.

So, please join us on Zoom.

God will understand and we will thank you.



Pancake Mix



Dish Soap

April Collection

Break Bread, Share Bread

For the month of April, we will be collecting Dish Soap and Pancake Mix! Jams, Jellies and Juices (all flavors) are a constant need, as well. Please feel free to donate these at any time throughout the year. Want to have some fun with your kids or grandkids? Have them pick out some yummy Peanut Butter to donate this month! Donations to the Help Center Food Pantry can be left on the back table in the sanctuary.



April Kid Picks

Questions? Contact Tina Bottini.

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.