

Lent 2024

Pastor Bob Hoffman

Do you have a favorite Biblical character - other than Jesus? Is there any particular one to whom you are drawn or, perhaps, resonates with you more than others? I do. And mine is Peter. I like Peter, because he's bold and brash and bumbling. Sometimes he gets it more than the others, but, on other occasions, he misses the mark badly. He puts himself out there and holds nothing back but is also willing to admit when he's wrong or when he blew it. I like Peter, because he's, well, human like the rest of us - imperfect, but also working on being better.

During our Lenten worship services this year, we are going to take a closer look at Peter through the resource entitled, "Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter." This is a resource produced by the same group of ministers who provided our Advent worship theme, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?"

Along with scripture readings from the gospels which introduce us more deeply to Peter, we will also be using the familiar hymn, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," as a way of seeing Peter through a different lens. We will begin figuring out faith with Peter on February 18th, with the theme, "Jesus Sought Me." The scripture lesson will be from Luke 5:1-11.

Other weekly themes are:

- "Rescue Me From Danger" (Matthew 14:22-33)
- "Praise the Mount" (Matthew 16:13-20)
- "I'm Fixed Upon It" (Matthew 16:21-23)
- "Teach Me" (Matthew 18:15-22)
- "Songs of Loudest Praise" (John 12:12-16) - Palm Sunday
- "And I Hope" (Luke 24:1-12) - Easter Sunday
- "Here's My Heart" (John 21:1-19) - First Sunday after Easter

I hope and pray you will learn more about faith as we look at it with Peter, together.

Cross and

COMMENTS

February

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

February 2024		Upcoming Events	
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Family Ministries

Family Ministries will meet on **Saturday, February 24th**, from **10-11AM**, in the gathering room. We will study the story of Jesus Wandering in the Wilderness. We will also be making succulent gardens. To make sure that there are enough materials for everyone attending, please be sure to RSVP to Sarah Huiest at crccsarah@gmail.com.

Quilt Group and Prayer Shawl Ministries



"Shirley's Shawls," our prayer shawl ministry, had a combined meeting with the "Sew and Reap Quilters" on January 15th, and we will meet again on **February 19th**, from **2-4pm** at the church. Both of these ministries welcome anyone who may be interested in participating.

The quilt group has been making quilts for **Project Linus**, which distributes them to children who are "seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need." The prayer shawl ministry continues to knit, crochet, and weave shawls or lap robes for members of our church family. In addition, some of our members have been making items for The Community Hospice. Their aim is to provide each client, who is a veteran,



with a certificate noting appreciation for their service and a warm, comforting red, white and blue lap robe. Both of these organizations have an ongoing need to supply quilts and lap robes. In early December, we provided twelve quilts to Project Linus, and in October, we brought five lap robes for veterans to The Community Hospice. We will be adding to these numbers in the months to come.



Shirley's Shawls has an inventory of completed shawls and lap robes. Contact me, at lindamurph98@aol.com, if you know of someone who would be comforted by receiving a prayer shawl.

Linda Murphy



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14th

7 PM

You are dust, and to dust you will return.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent is the 40 days (excluding Sundays) that come before the crucifixion of our Lord. It is a time of penance, reflection, self-examination, and spiritual redirection - a time of darkness ending with the rising of the Son. The introspection of Lent allows us to celebrate the full glory of Easter morning.

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 4.

February Mission of the Month

Family Promise of the Capital Region

February's Mission of the Month is **Family Promise of the Capital Region**. We have supported them in the past as they work at "affirming the humanity and dignity of homeless families and engaging our community in helping them achieve sustainable independence."

Donations can be made through your yellow Mission of the Month envelope or via PayPal. Be sure to note February Mission of the Month on the memo line or in the comment section.

For more information, visit their website: familypromisecr.org.



Service of Healing

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.

Mark 1:41

**Sunday, March 3
10 AM**

This special Lenten worship service calls upon our Lord who is the Great Physician to touch us with his healing hand and anoint us with his soothing oil.

For those worshipping in person, there will be anointing with oil in the midst of our ordained elders and pastor.

For those worshipping at home, if you would like to be prayed for during this service, please send your name to

Sandy at crccsandy@gmail.com.

Only your name, no personal details, will be shared with the worshippers.

A Note for the Community Outreach Committee

We recently attended a New York State Council of Churches Social Justice Committee Zoom meeting, which can be seen here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyONevPGNzg>.

The Committee includes the following issue related working groups – Criminal Justice, Economic Justice, Environment Justice, Housing Justice, Racial/Immigration Justice, Voting Justice, and Healthcare Justice.

Should you be interested in getting involved in any of these areas, information can be found at <https://www.nyscoc.org/> under the "Take Action" tab.

Please, also, feel free to reach out to Kevin Bottini or Pastor Bob Hoffman.



The Outreach Committee is hosting another Super Bowl Sunday food sale. Save yourself some time and effort cooking for the big game, and support CRCC at the same time. We will do the cooking for you! All foods come cooked, packaged, and ready to heat and eat. There will be a signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary. You may also place an order through Sign Up Genius using this link - <http://tinyurl.com/SuperBowlOrder24>.

Feel free to order for yourself, neighbors, and friends. Orders must be in by **Sunday, February 4th**. Pickup and payment will be on **Sunday, February 11th**, after the worship service.

If you require delivery (within a reasonable distance), please contact the church office, and we will make arrangements to get it to you.



Sausage/pepperoni breads

\$15



Tray of meatballs and sauce

\$20



Buffalo chicken wing dip

\$15

If you have any questions, contact Nancy Baker at Njb607@yahoo.com or anyone from the Outreach Committee.

We need your help!

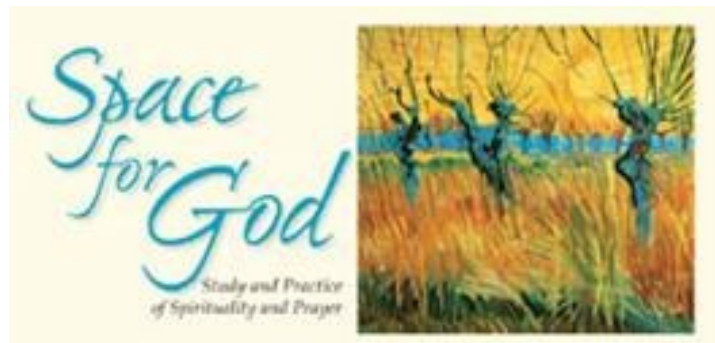
It's time to think prayerfully about a donation of your time and talents in a physical way. We need people who are willing to donate at least two or more hours a week to mow/trim lawns and maintain the garden beds around the church property. Cheryl Brooks and her husband Roy have faithfully done the job for many years and have decided it's time to retire. If you like to work outdoors caring for God's Creation, we would love to have the help.

We are also looking for someone to substitute and learn the ropes of cleaning the sanctuary and setting up the chairs for worship services. After many faithful years of service, Barry Bredice would like to pass the service set up procedure to a new volunteer and share the responsibility.

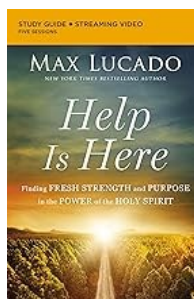
Please contact the church office, or contact Kevin Ingalls Deacon of Grounds, if interested in serving the church with these duties. The more that we can do to help our church, the less we will have to pay to have done.

Bible Studies

The Men's Group will NOT meet for the month of February. They will resume their study, Space for God by Don Postema, on Wednesday, March 13th, from 6-7:30.



For more information, please contact Mike York, Mark Kaercher, or BJ Todd.



The Women's Bible Study meets the second Saturday of every month at 9:30, in the gathering room. Their current study is Help is Here by Max Lucado. Their next meeting is **February 10th**. For more information, please contact Ana Crosbourne.

Sunday school for children in grades 3-7 meets in the gathering room on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45AM.

Questions? Contact Sarah Huiest.

PayPal

Some of you might be wondering, "Why give your offering through PayPal when you can still give by check or cash?" The answer is in the savings. Once you get a PayPal account set up, the process is fast and convenient, saving *time*. Also, if you pay online versus by check or cash, you can help save *paper*. The single use envelopes we use for offering get used up fast. Making the switch to digital could save paper and on paper *costs* for the church. Lastly, you can save *peace of mind* when you pay digitally. There is no chance of checks getting lost or misplaced, and using PayPal is a secure way to give your offering.

While paying by envelope is a good system, there is another benefit to paying by PayPal – credit card rewards. It is possible to earn points from credit card rewards when you pay through PayPal. Those points are something you could use towards other purchases or have more to give to the church, such as using the points on groceries for coffee hour.

If you would like some help setting up a PayPal account, please reach out to the church office for assistance.

**Community Reformed
Church of Colonie**

701 Sand Creek Rd
Colonie, NY 12205-2497

Bob Hoffman—Pastor
rev.robert.hoffman@gmail.com

Tel: (518) 496-1844

E-mail:
crcclori@gmail.com

Website:
www.communityreformedchurch.com

Twitter:
@ColonieReformed

Facebook:
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

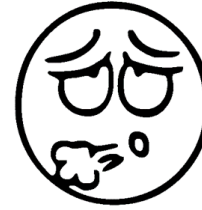
Tel: (518) 869-0131

E-mail:
cgrasso6@yahoo.com

Winter Weather Advisory!

If winter weather becomes a hinderance 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.

Toilet Paper Roll Collection!!

Things of My Very Own is in need of empty toilet paper rolls. They use the cardboard tubes to sprout host plants for the caterpillars they raise through their metamorphosis to butterflies. This transformative process is used as a healing tool, assisting these children in processing and working through their trauma. Empty toilet paper rolls will be collected until March 31st. Questions? Contact Tina Bottini, Kevin Bottini, or anyone on the Community Outreach Committee.

Break Bread, Share Bread



For the month of February, we will be collecting Shampoo and Hot Cereal! Jams, Jellies and Juices (all flavors) are a constant need, as well. Please feel free to donate these at any time throughout the year. Donations to the Help Center Food Pantry can be left on the back table in the sanctuary.



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.