

## **THIS WEEK AT COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH**

### **Sunday, March 17 – Saturday, March 23**

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 17**

**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

**Congregational Conversation** – directly after worship today.

**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.

#### **Monday, March 18**

**Shirley's Shawls** - Our prayer shawl ministry will meet in the gathering room at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in being part of this ministry is welcome to join us. Please contact Linda Murphy (lindamurph98@aol.com) with any questions.



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today, Sunday, March 17,** we will have the second of the congregational conversations. This one will build on the first series of questions about our life and ministry together by asking us to define and describe our core values. Like the first conversation, this one will take place immediately after the worship service. Pick up a cup of coffee and find a small group and start the conversation. For those on zoom, please stay online and join the conversation with others. Everyone is invited and encouraged to answer the questions and send the responses to the church office. We look forward to hearing from you!

If you are unable to attend and would like the questions, please contact Pastor Hoffman or Lori Coté. Please pray for each of the conversations and the work that will begin following them.



During the week of March 17th, we are looking for a several people to be deliverers of some Paschal Parcels to the homes of those members who may not be attending Holy week services within the building.

If you wish to lend a hand in delivering, please indicate your willingness to Melody. You will find the addressed parcels on the table near the sanctuary doors. Your assistance is appreciated and we thank you.



## **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.

Ribbons are available on the table near the sanctuary doors.

We ask for your ribbons to be returned by March 24 and placed in the basket on the back table or mailed to the church office by that date.

You do not have to sign your name to the ribbon.

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 for 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.

## **Nursery Worker Substitutes Needed!**

Evelyn and Deb Desnoyers are here every week in the nursery, but sometimes life interferes, and we need a couple substitutes to fill in. If you are interested in being on the sub list, please contact Sarah Huiest, [crccsarah@gmail.com](mailto:crccsarah@gmail.com).

## **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. Feel free to donate these throughout the year. Items may be placed in the basket on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. 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.** “Our career education and coaching programs are designed to help young professionals and entrepreneurs challenge the status quo, train for success, and find their place and voice in the business world.”

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/>



The Lenten Cross which hangs behind the pulpit was created by worshippers who attended our Ash Wednesday service. On each slip of folded paper, we have privately written our Lenten sacrifices. As we nailed these papers to this Lenten cross, we have acknowledged what we will surrender, and asked for God's guidance.

This cross is fashioned from a Christmas tree trunk symbolizing both the birth and death of our Lord.



**WORSHIP SERVICE ~ March 17, 10 AM**  
**"How Many Times?"**

**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**

## Online Church Bulletin Board

[padlet.com/crccsarah/ChurchBulletinBoard](http://padlet.com/crccsarah/ChurchBulletinBoard)

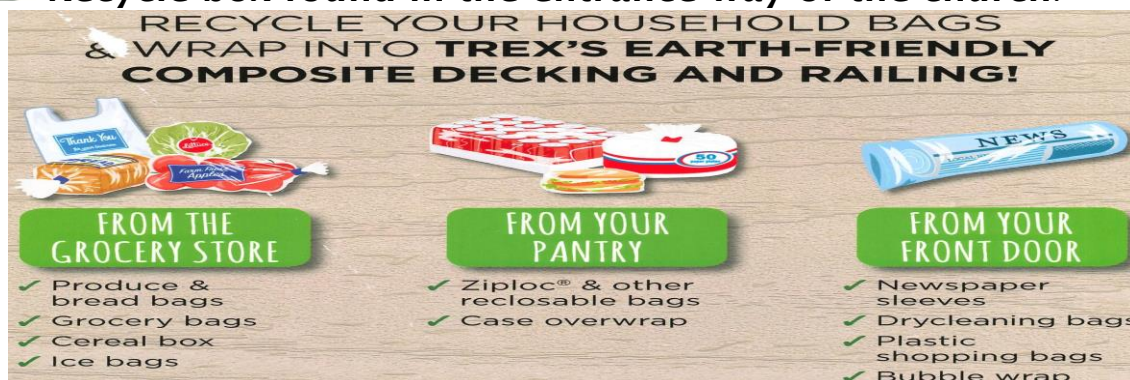
Questions? Contact Sarah Huiest,  
[crccsarah@gmail.com](mailto:crccsarah@gmail.com).

## Church Calendar

Contact Lori Coté at  
[crcclori@gmail.com](mailto:crcclori@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.



**Winter Weather Cancellations:** If wintry weather mandates the cancellation of church services, a notice will be posted on the School/Business Closings on local television stations and local internet news sites, an email will be sent out and it will be posted on our website, [www.communityreformedchurch.com](http://www.communityreformedchurch.com).

## **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Tuesday - Mark 11:1-11

Wednesday - Isaiah 50:4-9

Thursday - Psalm 31:9-16

Friday - Philippians 2:5-11

Saturday - Mark 15:1-39

Sunday - Palm/Passion Sunday

## **Household Prayer: Morning**

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day.  
Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours,  
then give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go  
as I seek to walk in your way of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life.  
Amen.

## **Household Prayer: Evening**

Forgiving God, who makes all things new,  
you know where I have flourished this day,  
and you know where I have failed.  
Help me to know that in all my challenges there is a seed of hope  
that enables me to more faithfully depend on you.  
May I rest in peace this night and awake refreshed  
to greet the newness of your day.  
Amen.



*Lent* IS A TIME TO  
  
CLOSER TO JESUS