

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

New Pastor!

With great joy, we announce that **Rev. Trey Tirpak** has accepted the call to lead Community Reformed Church of Colonie. He comes to us as the previous associate pastor at First Reformed Church in Albany. Rev. Tirpak will join CRCC October 5th. If you are interested in learning about Rev. Tirpak's background, please read his bio here:

<https://balsam-reaction-dfd.notion.site/Rev-Trey-Tirpak-Bio-Ministerial-Portfolio-17be56db67ba8099bc55e6514aee279d>.

Pastor Bob Hoffman concluded his time on August 31st, and we are so thankful for his leadership the past 2 years. Rules mandate a one-month gap between interim and new pastor, so different individuals will be providing pulpit supply for the month of September. Finally, MANY THANKS to the Pastoral Search Committee for their tireless efforts, commitment and discernment during this process. Be sure to extend your appreciation when you see Ben April, Michele Braungard, Lexy Brown, Lou Ann Connelly, Pam Fitzpatrick, Alexander Huiest, Marissa Lombardo, and Michael York.

September 2025

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Upcoming Events

Backpacks Blessing	September 14th
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Daycare 50th Anniversary Celebration!

September is right around the corner! We are excited to welcome so many new families at CCDC. It's always an exciting time for us, and very crazy for sure! Our first day of school is September 2nd. It will be a day filled with laughs and many teary parents. Hopefully they will all settle in quickly.

We are planning a big 50th Anniversary on Saturday, September 27th. Everyone is invited! Food, fun, and reminiscing. It is hard to believe it is 50 years. So many children have come through these doors and have been loved and nurtured by years of amazing staff. We hope that many of our former kids come to see us!

Mark your calendars for our **Trunk or Treat night**, Wednesday, October 23, 6:30 to 7:30. Last year everyone had such a great time.

Let's do it again! If you are interested in decorating your trunk, contact Sarah Huiest crccsarah@gmail.com.

Enjoy the last few days of summer!

Did You Know?

By Sandy Cornwell

Our worship banners are brimming with symbolism. Much research was done as the designs were created several decades ago.

Take a moment to look at the purple Lenten banners. The rooster was modeled after the brass weathervane of the First Reformed Church in Albany which dates back to 1656. It remains on display to this day. The Community Reformed Church of Colonie was originally a mission church of the First Church in Albany seventy years ago. As we welcome Rev. Tirpak, the histories of our two churches are once again intertwined and new histories will continue to be created.

Confirmation Class Fall 2025

Confirmation Class will be taking place this fall for any high school youth interested in



becoming an active part of the membership of CRCC. Interested individuals should contact either

Lisa Gillan

(ljmcgee522@gmail.com) who will be teaching the class, or

Sarah Huiest

(crccsarah@gmail.com).

FINAL NOTE FROM PASTOR BOB

Two years ago, you and I were just beginning to meet each other. I had been attending the outdoor worship services as a guest and was anxiously waiting for September and the start of the Interim Ministry process. I imagine you were just as anxiously wondering about what that process would be like and what it would hold. But here we are, just two years later, and my how much has been accomplished in those two years. You helped me learn about the unique ministries of CRCC, and I think I opened some different doors of potential and possibility. But here's the most impactful thing for me: we did it together.

I could not have learned all I did about the many ministries emanating from CRCC without your support, patience, and guidance. And similarly, you would not have discovered new gifts, experiences, and encounters without someone new (and different) to suggest them. The teamwork we grew into has been such a blessing for everyone. That is what I want to celebrate the most and leave with you as an encouragement.

So, we say our goodbyes and we each enter the next chapter of our story, both being blessed because of the journey we took together. May God bless and keep you all. May God guide and uphold all your endeavors. And may God support and strengthen your fellowship now and forevermore.

Blessings,
Pastor Bob

Community Outreach

SAVE THE DATE!

Cafe CRCC 2025

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025

6-8pm

**A night of entertainment and fellowship,
including light fare and refreshments.**

The Community Outreach Committee, along with Ben April and Michele Braungard, are currently working on a lineup of acts. If you are interested in sharing your musical, literary, or comedic talents (or other gifts), please reach out to one of us. Otherwise, please join us on October 25th, as we celebrate together the many talents of our congregation.

Our committee is looking for other events and opportunities for our congregation to come together as a community of faith, to better build personal relationships with one another, and better serve our communities. In addition to continuing to serve meals at the shelter and supporting the Capital Pride Walk, we are seeking additional group volunteer opportunities within the 518 community, as well as some fellowship events. Some ideas that have been considered is a summer time Floral Caravan, where we visit the different gardens nurtured by members of our congregation; a themed pot luck dinner; a night out of darts, simulator golf, and other games at the Bunker in Schenectady; a night out at an axe throwing establishment; a popcorn and movie night at the church or a theater; and holding a CRCC time and talent auction again.

So please, if you have any ideas for community service, or congregational fellowship gatherings, please let us know.

Kevin Bottini

Deacon of Community Outreach

Alleluia Conference

In July, I had the pleasure of attending my third Alleluia Conference at Baylor University in Waco, TX. After attending for the hottest conference ever (112 degrees in 2023) and the coolest (upper 80s in 2024) this year was a reasonable middle ground, temperature-wise; only about 97 degrees the whole week! The daily Dr. Pepper floats were already melted by the time they were distributed to the conference-goers. Many thanks to Consistory and to the congregation for giving me the time and funds to attend!

This year, I attended the usual choral, contemporary, and piano sessions where we read through new music, as well as some wonderful piano sessions by the composer Molly Ijames. Her sessions focused on the importance of congregational singing, and how a church pianist can affect how the congregation participates. She also had some wonderful ideas about how to take older, more traditional hymns and keep them singable while "contemporizing" the piano part. Buckle up, CRCC – I'll be trying some of these ideas this fall!

During one of the Song Sharing sessions, I discovered a new group called Liturgical Folk, led by Ryan Flanigan. Ryan is a composer who focuses on creating more folk-like worship songs for both solo and congregational singing. We will be trying out a few of his songs this fall, including several during Advent. If you care to check them out, they're on Spotify and BandCamp. In particular, I enjoyed the song, "Let Us Be Known by Our Love."

Ben April

September Mission of the Month

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is September's Mission of the Month.

"Established in 1987, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is a voluntary health organization that gives those affected by suicide a nationwide community empowered by research, education and advocacy to take action against this leading cause of death.

"AFSP is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, including those who have experienced loss. AFSP creates a culture that's smart about mental health by engaging in the following core strategies: funding scientific research, educating the public about mental health and suicide prevention, advocating for public policies in mental health and suicide prevention, and supporting survivors of suicide loss and those affected by suicide."

For those that are newer to CRCC, we were directly impacted in 2017, when we lost 20 year old Billy Kress by suicide.

From Diane Ogren, Billy's mom:

"Please join me in walking in Billy's memory on 9/28/2025, or consider donating to this cause that I strongly believe in. Please help us if you can to save others and raise awareness of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention...thank you."

https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/participant/Billys_Brigade

Donations to AFSP can be made directly to Diane's team at the link above, through communityreformedchurch.com, or via your Yellow Mission of the Month Envelope. Please be sure to notate "September Mission of the Month."

Junk in the Trunk

Start saving household items that you no longer use but don't want to put in the landfill! On **Sunday, October 12, from 12:00-1:00 PM**, there will be a **Junk in the Trunk** event in the church parking lot. Anyone can give their items away and anyone can "shop" for new items! Popular items are children's toys, tools, home decorations, and office supplies. This is also a really nice social event. Folks walk from car to car to treasure hunt and visit. We hope to see you there! Questions? See Jessica Kaercher, Kyrra April, Ellen Buono, Lou Ann Connelly, Deb Desnoyers or Linda Murphy.



JUNK IN THE TRUNK

**Sunday, October 12
12:00 - 1:00 PM**

****If giving items, arrive at 11:45***

Community Reformed Church of Colonie

Even though we can't access our narthex bulletin board, we can STILL access our online one!

Our Padlet Online Bulletin Board
(padlet.com/crccsarah/churchbulletinboard)

is updated regularly. Don't see something there you wish you did? Contact Sarah Huiest (crccsarah@gmail.com) to have it added.

Upper Room for All

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2025
THE UPPER ROOM
 DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



"Christ is among us in fresh ways when we gather together, listening to God and to each other." - The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide

Are you interested in connecting with other members of our congregation and deepening your faith? We will use prayer and discussion resources found in The Upper Room, a bimonthly guide that offers daily devotionals and prayers. It's a wonderful and easy to use resource that can enhance your daily prayer life. Copies of the guide are available in the church, and online at <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>.

Please join us in the gathering room at church on Wednesday, September 10th, from 6-7:30PM! Dessert and coffee/tea/water will be served. For more information, please contact Mark Kaercher at markkaercher1971@gmail.com.

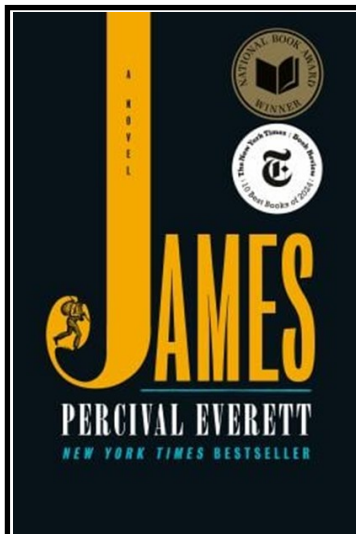
Children at the Lord's Table

Do you have a young person interested in making their First Communion?

Children at the Lord's Table classes will take place **Sunday mornings from 9-9:40**, in the gathering room, beginning September 21st.

The four-week course will culminate with youth partaking in their First Communion during Sunday morning worship.

Interested in participating? Please see Sarah Huiest crccsarah@gmail.com.



Book Group News

The next meeting will be **September 23rd, 6-8PM**. September's book selection is **James by Percival Everett**. All are always welcome.

Questions? Contact Karen Reynolds.

Construction Update

Ready? Set? Go one more time! We had a significant setback with our Bathroom/Office Renovation project, when we received the bad news that asbestos was discovered in demolition material. Remediation was successful, and we have received the green light, once again. The demolition and construction resumed on Monday, August 18th, and will most likely not be completed until early October.

The asbestos removal costs will be paid, in part, by a grant that we were richly blessed to receive from the Reformed Church of America. We applied for this grant in early winter, long before we even knew of this issue. While the asbestos remediation was underway, God answered our prayers when we received word that we would, indeed, be receiving these much-needed funds. God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good. Feel free to contact me after church services or call me at 518-894-0994, if you have any specific questions about the project.

Yours in Christ,
Kevin Ingalls

Stewardship Newsletter

We've all heard of spring cleaning but how about fall cleaning? Fall is a great time to clean out and declutter your home! What should you do with all of the stuff you don't want, though? Here are some great suggestions to help you get rid of your excess and keep it out of the landfill.

Blue Bins in the CRCC parking lot

Items accepted: clothing, belts, blankets, drapery, hats, handbags, paired shoes, sheets, sneakers, towels and stuffed animals.

Junk in the Trunk

Mark your calendars - October 12th, 12-1 PM in the church parking lot.

Green Disk Recycling

Old electronics ([For a full list of acceptable items click here](#)), the box will be in the church narthex once construction is completed.

Buy Nothing Groups

Search groups in Facebook for your local Buy Nothing or Pay It Forward Group. You can give away items for free to people right in your neighborhood!

Of course, all this cleaning can make you thirsty - or maybe you still have bottles and cans from a summer of fun! Save them all and help out CRCC's ministries by placing them in the **CLYNK** container currently found in the church kitchen. Bags and stickers are located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. They will be moved to the narthex when construction is complete.

Happy September, and thanks for helping care for our environment!



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**Community Reformed
Church of Colonie**
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Colonie_reformed

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



**SUNDAY SCHOOL
BEGINS 9/21**

Grades K-6

Planning to attend?
Contact Sarah Huie
crccsarah@gmail.com

Blessing of the Backpacks! SEPTEMBER 14TH



Students and Educators are invited to bring their backpacks to worship on

Sunday, September 14th, 10AM.

During worship, a special blessing will be given for the new school year.

All are welcome to attend!

Questions? Contact Sarah Huie
crccsarah@gmail.com



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facebook.com/coloniereformed



Instagram

[colonie_reformed](https://www.instagram.com/colonie_reformed)



Padlet – Online Bulletin Board

padlet.com/crccsarah/churchbulletinboard



Website

Communityreformedchurch.com



**Community Reformed
Church of Colonie**

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Articles are due by the 15th of the month and can be submitted to crccsarah@gmail.com or given to Sarah Huie.