www.communityreformedchurch.com

Rev. Trey Tirpak, Pastor—Telephone (518)869-5589

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Welcome Rev. Trey Tirpak



Previous worship services can be found on the church's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/
@communityreformedchurchofc1063



701 Sand Creek Rd, Colonie, NY 12205-2497

While we can't access our narthex bulletin board, we can STILL access our online one through Padlet Bulletin Board

(padlet.com/crccsarah/churchbulletinboard)

To add items to Padlet, contact Sarah Huiest (crccsarah@qmail.com)

Second Letter from Pastor Trey!

Grace and peace to you all Community Reformed Church,

So, it's been a month! I thought I would update you all on some of what I've been up to, and let you know some things on the horizon.

As I've mentioned, my goal for this programmatic year is to get to know you. From experiencing how you all so meaningfully and creatively worship the Lord, to sitting in on bible studies, to attending Junk in the Trunk and Trunk or Treat, I've been left with a lot of excitement! You are very welcoming, and I thank you for that.

I've also been getting to know you through pastoral visits and care contacts, and the Elders and I have been getting together and going through our rolls, just so I can get some more background information on everyone. Additionally, at our Consistory and Staff retreat in November, we will be discussing different events where I can get to know you more, and you can get to know me more, too.

As your pastor, though, my role extends beyond personal connections, and so I've started to attend committee meetings, and meet individually with each of our church staff, which I will continue to do going forward. I also met with our Daycare Director, and we'll soon have a pizza party with the staff. I'd like to note that it's been a joy seeing our daycare kids, and I look forward to reading with them soon!

The Consistory and I also had our first meeting together, and it was so lovely experiencing worship, storytelling, and communion at a Consistory meeting. In my report, I shared that I'll gradually be incorporating a more strategic focus into our meetings, centering on goals we will create and pursue together as the church's elected leadership. I also mentioned that goal-setting is something I hope to introduce for each of our committees. My hope is that you'll keep leaning into that creative spirit! I also shared that I've begun my intentional meetings with the worship committee, meeting with them as a whole and then the chair personally. The next group I'd like to meet with intentionally would be the finance committee.

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My hope in sharing all of this is to keep you in the loop. I know that, sometimes, sharing more information can feel like a lot and may even create more questions, but I truly want you to feel connected to what I'm doing as I get to know CRCC and also try to lead CRCC well. With all that in mind, I'd love to invite you to some upcoming services and events that I hope you'll take part in!

Please mark your calendars for these special services and events:

- Sunday, Nov. 2nd Service of Remembrance. As odd as it sounds, I'm looking forward to this special service and experiencing the unique ways CRCC holds space around grief. We are blessed to be a people who mourn and hope at the same time. Please invite those who may benefit from this service.
- Sunday, Nov. 9th First Communion. We will be celebrating Aubree and Gabe as they join us at the Lord's Table for the first time after intentionally learning about communion. We look forward to their presence and art!
- Sunday, Nov. 9th Property Asset Walk. After our service on the 9th, the Consistory—and anyone else who would like to join!—will be walking our property, both inside and out, in order for me to learn about it. During our walk, I'll be introducing some Asset Based Community Development practices. If you plan to join us, wear some good shoes and dress warmly.
- Sunday, Nov. 16th Blessing our newly renovated spaces. After our service on the 16th, we are tentatively planning on walking through and blessing our newly renovated welcome way, offices, washer-dryer room, and bathrooms. More details on this will come and plans may change.
- Sunday, Nov. 23rd Agape Service. I am excited to experience my first Agape Service on the 23rd, so come to worship with a little appetite and an open heart, ready to share a table with others whom Jesus calls his friends.

Sunday, Nov. 30th – First Sunday of Advent. Advent and Lent are two liturgical seasons I intentionally make extra special. This Advent, I'll be creating a series called "Grounded and Growing", inspired by the shoot that grows from the tree stump of Jesse. Please invite others as we embrace the holy practice of waiting and doing so with hope.

Sunday, December 21st – Love Sunday & New Members. On the Love Sunday of Advent we will be welcoming at least one new member into the life of CRCC, Cameron Carley my husband. If you would like to formally become a member of CRCC on that day, too, please let me or an Elder know soon!

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Service. Christmas Eve is always so meaningful and beautiful, and I'm excited as we start to plan for that evening. We will be sure to keep you updated on the time and details, but I want you to think of a family or friend you know who might enjoy coming to our inclusive, creative church that evening.

God is doing so much here, CRCC, and I'm so grateful that we're experiencing that together. All of God's blessings to you and yours.

Rev. Trey Tirpak



GET READY FOR OUR ANNUAL

SILENT AUCTION

ALL ONLINE | STARTS THIS MONDAY

The auction will open at 8am on Monday 11/3 and close at 7:00pm on Sunday 11/9. All bidding is anonymous and some items are available for shipping. Get ready to harness your competitive spirit to benefit Camp Fowler! You can preview the auction with the link below.















https://www.32auctions.com/fowlerauction2025

Did You Know?

When the Shakers purchased the farmland in the late 1700's, they described it as a swamp. Anyone who looks at the church yard after a rain, sees that some things never change! In the 30 years following the building of this church, the parking lot was unpaved – just crushed stone, but mainly potholes and mud. Lots and lots of mud. Cars would sink and require towing. Oh, the mess!!

In 1997, the parking lot was paved with the help of a local construction not-for-profit. It was a massive project to remove 30 years of stone and debris, digging down almost 2 feet. Drainage was added – Yahoo! At the dedication, the congregation was given colored chalk. We were set free on the new asphalt lot and covered it with our words and drawings of thanks and praise.

Reverse Advent Calendars

A reverse advent calendar gives you the opportunity to create your own plan for giving to a charity for the 24 days leading to Christmas! Fill a sturdy box, bag, or even a laundry basket with your contributions. For added challenge, you may choose to make a list of items from A to Z (less 2 letters of your choice). Get the kids involved! CRCC is a big supporter of the Capital Church Food Pantry, so this year we are suggesting donations be of food, personal hygiene or baby care items. Food pantries are being emptied quicker than ever. We hope you will find this activity fun and know you are helping local families in great need.



In recognition of both Lung and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, the Mission of the Month for November is the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.



Did you know these facts from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute's web site?

- Dana-Farber offers one of the largest cancer clinical trial programs in the nation, with more than 1,100 active trials.
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been the top-ranked cancer hospital in New England by <u>U.S. News & World Report</u> for 25 consecutive years and is the only cancer center in the country ranked in the top 3 for both adult and pediatric cancer programs.
- Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund has received a 4-star rating (highest possible) from <u>Charity Navigator</u>, America's largest charity evaluator, recognizing our prudent financial management and low cost of funds raised.



Donations can be given via your yellow Mission of the Month envelope, online through the church's website, or directly through their website: www.dana-farber.org.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Open up the doors to your imagination!! Please return your box to church after Christmas. We will pick up your box if requested. Here are a few suggestions to get you going! Reminder: All food items are non-perishable and not outdated.

VARIETY CALENDAR

Cereal Peanut butter Stuffing mix Instant potatoes Macaroni and cheese Canned fruit Canned tomatoes Canned tuna Canned chili or stew **Applesauce** Canned sweet potatoes Canned kidney beans Crackers Rice Oatmeal Canned vegetables



PROTEIN CALENDAR

Canned tuna Canned chicken Kidney beans Peanut butter Hash or stew Baked beans

PERSONAL CARE CALENDAR

Shampoo Bath soap Shaving crème & disposable razors Toothbrushes & toothpaste Toilet paper, tissues Diapers & baby wipes Feminine hygiene product Deodorant

HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR

Dish soap & sponges Laundry detergent Paper towels Hand sanitizer Pet food

(Skip any two letters) December 1 - 24 A is for Applesauce - Z is for Ziti



BREAKFAST CALENDAR

Small jar instant coffee

Pancake mix (to mix with water only) Biscuit mix (to mix with water only)

Pancake syrup Granola bars Cereal Canned hash Canned fruit

Pasta

Spaghetti sauce

Canned soup

Granola bars







Out of the Darkness Walk



The Out of the Darkness Walk, which raises awareness and much-needed funds for The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, sends the message that suicide can be prevented, and that no one is alone. This year's walk was held at Saratoga State Park on Sunday, September 29th. "Thank you," to CRCC for the donations and to those who walked in "Billy's Brigade" in memory of Billy Kress, son of Diane Ogren. Diane raised over \$1000 for AFSP. Diane heads up Billy's Brigade every year and is always looking for walkers and support. Please reach out to her if you'd like to learn more or participate in next year's walk.



Junk in the Trunk

Another wonderful (and seasonably cool!) **Junk in the Trunk** event was held on Sunday, October 12th. More trunks than ever were present this year. The stewardship committee was able to raise funds through the bake sale table. Ben Vandor, son of Vicki Lane, was back with his delicious homemade ice cream. Fellowship was shared and treasures were exchanged. "Thank you," to everyone who helped make this event such a success for the community.



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Hallie's Baptism





On October 19, 2025, celebrated we Holy Baptism of Hallie Jean, daughter Lexy and James. Rev. Tirpak introduced two new traditions at this baptism. A member of Capital Area the Council of Churches welcomed young Hallie into the larger family of Christ and presented her with a gift. Additionally, Rev. Tirpak, Hallie, her parents, and her godparents all processed throughout the congregation, so that all could welcome their new sister in May God Christ. Bless Hallie and her family.

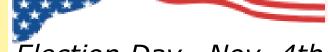


Service of Thanksgiving

Agape Worship Sunday, November 23 - 10AM

For many years, we held an evening worship service on Thanksgiving Eve. We worshipped around tables and shared a simple Agape or "Love" Feast. Last year, we brought this service back to Sunday morning. We will be making some changes from last year to this year, but our most important elements will remain. Keep an eye on the Sunday bulletin and social media for more information.



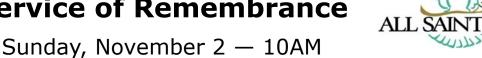


Election Day—Nov. 4th
As Christians, we are
called to seek the welfare of our communities, particularly the
poor and oppressed.
Take a few minutes to
make your plan to
vote, and learn what's
on your ballot. You can
visit

www.vote411.org/ ballot to find out what's on your ballot.



All Saints' Day Worship Service of Remembrance



Sullday, November 2 — ToAl·

The celebration of All Saints' Day has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, and it has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. Martin Luther held that all Christians are simultaneously sinner and saint: a sinner because of our rebellious nature, but a saint because of salvation in Jesus.

On this special Sunday, our church family gives thanks to God for "all the saints from whom their labors rest." Through prayer, song, and the lighting of candles, we honor those who we dearly love and will always remember. For those worshipping at home, please have a candle available to light during the time of remembrance and reflection.

Mission in Motion Event

Sunday, November 16, 11:45-1:00



The Outreach Team invites anyone with a sewing machine in good working order to gather on Sunday, November 16, after worship, for a Sew-In to make pillowcases for children and youth serviced by Things of My Very Own. If you don't have a machine, or lack sewing experience, you can help with trimming or ironing.

According their website, www.thingsofmyveryown.org, this organization supports children and youth who have been removed from their family home due to abuse, neglect, or lack of basic necessities.

As their website says, "The transition out of an abusive situation is often sudden and unexpected. Rarely is a child able to return home to retrieve belongings prior to their move. Things of My Very Own, Inc. recognizes the need for children to have basic necessities and things of their very own as soon as possible, so they can begin their healing process."

As in the past, our Angel Tree project will support this organization. This year, though, we are going to add handmade items for the children. Can you help?

If you can attend that day, just bring your machine, neutral thread, scissors or snips, and a full bobbin. Everything else will be provided: kits, instructions, and assistance.

These simple pillowcases go together with only three seams and only take about 10 minutes to complete.

If you plan to take part in this project, please let us know by adding your name to the signup sheet at the back table, or by emailing Lou Ann Connelly at louannconne@nycap.rr.com. In addition, if you will be unavailable that day, but would like to make some pillowcases at home, please let Lou Ann know.

Your help is greatly appreciated, and we thank you in advance for your participation.



A Clutter Free and Eco-Friendly Christmas

The Stewardship Committee is happy to announce that another successful **Junk in the Trunk** is in the books! Kitchenware, children's toys and so much more was given new life and kept out of the landfill!

But uh oh! Christmas is coming and with it the potential for more stuff to fill our homes. Do we really need or want all this stuff? How can we show our loved ones how much we care and not burden them with things they may not want or need? Here are a few suggestions to make your holiday season the clutter free, environmentally friendly, best one yet!

- 1. **Create a list.** Just like when you were a kid, create a short list of items you want or need but haven't bought yet. This way you don't get a bunch of unwanted items that you have to deal with later.
- 2. **Draw names from a hat**. Do you normally do a big gift exchange with extended family members? Instead of buying for everyone, suggest that everyone draw a name from a hat and only buy for that person. The group could also agree to only buy gifts for kids under 18.
- 3. **Buy adventures or experiences.** Instead of physical items, purchase a gift certificate for a class, concert, destination or attraction. A friend of mine with two adult daughters gives them "A Year of Experiences." She makes a list of 12 new adventures she and the girls will take once a month over the course of the following year.
- 4. **Thrifted Gifts.** Does your family like to thrift and go antiquing? Agreeing to only purchase second hand gifts can be a fun way to find just the right quirky gift!
- 5. **Handmade Gifts.** Are you a family of cooks? Does everyone have a special item they bake, cook, create, or make? This is another way to show your loved ones you care (and possibly fill their tummies!)

Now, this is great for adults, but what about the children in your life? This is a tough one as our materialistic culture really pushes kids - and adults - to want everything. Is it possible to trim their overflowing gift lists? While some of the ideas for adults can work for kids (adventures, experiences, or food perhaps) not all do.

- 1. **The Four Gift Rule**. Give each child four gifts Something they Want, something they Need, something to Wear and something to Read. Of course, the four gifts can be modified to suit your family and can be expanded to the Ten Gift Rule. Additional categories can include something to make, something to do for others (act of charity), something to play with, or something that's a surprise.
- 2. **Gift Certificates/Money**. Teens and tweens especially love to pick out their own things so gift certificates and/or money are highly desired gifts. You may end up with a bunch of stuff but at least it will be what your child wanted. This can also help them with financial literacy as they make decisions about how to use their gifts.
- 3. **Coupon Book**. A DIY coupon book is another idea for teens and tweens. Coupons could include rides to the mall, family movie or game night, a no chores week, one on one time with a specific parent or grandparent, breakfast in bed, dinner out at a favorite restaurant..the options are endless!

Wrapping Paper. Let's not forget about gift wrap! While technically recyclable, gift wrap can create a significant environmental impact. Glitter and plastic can make wrapping paper unrecyclable and gift wrap itself often contains harmful chemicals such as VOCs. Some alternatives to gift wrap are reusable bags, tins or jars, fabric, cloth napkins, or tea towels. Gifts for adults can remain unwrapped.

There are many ways we can create a more sustainable, eco-friendly and less cluttered holiday season. What will you do this year?

Community Reformed Church of Colonie

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Facebook:

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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

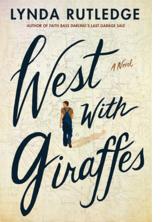
Carol Grasso, Director

Tel: (518) 869-0131

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Book Group News



CRCC Book Group will have a combined November/December meeting on **Tuesday**, **December 2**nd, **6-8PM**, at the home of Cynthia Placek. Discussion and fellowship will center around **West with Giraffes** by Lynda Rutledge. All are always welcome!

For questions about Book Group or Cynthia's address, please contact Karen Reynolds kreynolds150@gmail.com.

Community Outreach Opportunity

Our congregation is once again providing bi-weekly meals to the **Overflow Shelter at First Church in Albany**. Volunteers will prepare and deliver dinner to the Shelter for approximately 20 guests. You can sign up at https://tinyurl.com/OverflowShelterDinners2025. Please contact Tina Bottini tinambo85@gmail.com or Vicki Lane vlane1020@gmail.com with any questions.



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Padlet - Online Bulletin Board

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Website

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Community Reformed Church of Colonie

Communications/Media Coordinator: Sarah Huiest

Layout Designer: **Bob Becker**

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