Cross and Comments

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November 2026

All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 1

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.





November 2026

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Ordination and Installation





On Sunday, October 11th, two new members were Ordained and Installed into CRCC church offices. Debra Desnoyers is the Deacon of Stewardship and Creation Care. Mark Kaercher is the Elder of Congregational Discernment – this is a new position being created at CRCC.
We pray for wisdom, discernment, and guidance for their terms ahead, and we give them thanks for their dedication of time and talents to the life and work of CRCC.

Kaitlyn Dockal Baptism

On Sunday, October 18th, Kaitlyn Dockal was baptized, and she, Chaz, and Aubree were welcomed into the official membership of CRCC. God Bless Kaitlyn and the Dockal family on this next chapter in their faith journey.




Renovation Final Thank You

"Hurray" all renovation projects are now complete. Thank you for your support and gifts that made these upgrades possible. It has taken nearly six years but we have arrived at our destination. The kitchen, office, bathrooms, and doors are done at last. Please come and enjoy worship surrounded by these upgrades. We will be continuing to maintain and upgrade as needed, and as money and your gifts allow.
Yours in Christ,
Kevin Ingalls Deacon of Grounds and Maintenance.

Happy Birthday Gladys

On Sunday, October 25th, we celebrated Gladys Chamberlain's 89th birthday!! Happy Birthday, Gladys!



Jessica and Linda Going Off Consistory

The Ordination and Installation of Debra Desnoyers and Mark Kaercher to the offices of Deacon and Elder respectively, means two members of Consistory have stepped down. Jessica Kaercher and Linda Murphy have both faithfully completed strong terms of service. Read their thoughts about their time on consistory and future plans below.

Jessica Kaercher

I served as Deacon of Stewardship and Creation Care for 4 years (1 term). I came to this role simply because Bruce asked me to! I was fairly new to CRCC and didn't quite understand the responsibility but I trusted Bruce's judgement. He knew I had an interest in environmental issues and had served on a church council at my previous church.

Serving in this role has given me more confidence with knowing I'm a part of this church community. I have grown in my relationship with Jesus, feeling that he truly walks with me and hears my prayers. I've been able to think more deeply about God and understand how the Bible can teach us all how to live today.

I truly enjoyed being a part of the consistory. They care passionately about CRCC, are honest and humble, and open about their personal faith journey. I felt special being a part of this group. I, also, really enjoyed working with the Stewardship and Creation Care Committee because we worked so well together. Everyone contributed. We tried new things and started a couple events that may continue over the next few years.

To be honest, running a stewardship campaign was a real challenge for me, personally. Asking people for money makes me very uncomfortable. But when I focused on all the blessings God has given to me and the blessings that this church gives to others, I found it easier to talk about stewardship. I hope that came across over the past few years.

Even though I will miss the consistory meetings and being a part of this great crew, I'm excited to see what the new members will bring to the table. Change is how we grow!

Linda Murphy

I began my time on Consistory as Deacon of Stewardship and Mission and then as elder for Hospitality and Congregational Care. I joined Consistory because I wanted to try to make a contribution. Being a part of Consistory made me aware of the many tasks, issues, and challenges that have to be addressed to maintain CRCC as a vibrant faith community. I realized that prior to being on Consistory I had a limited appreciation of the amount of time and talents it takes to keep CRCC moving forward.

Although I will miss being part of a wonderful team of people grounded in faith, I will be continuing some of my roles as Elder, such as supporting our ministries of hospitality - the welcome and coffee hour hosts. I am, also, still involved with Shirley's Shawls and the Sew and Reap Quilters, just a couple of the ministries that make us such a giving congregation.

Mission of the Month is Veterans Miracle Center

The November Mission of the Month is Veterans Miracle Center in recognition of Veterans Day. "The Veterans Miracle Center's heartfelt mission is to offer Veterans and Active-Duty Military Personnel real solutions that will enhance their lives. We seek to provide clothing, personal care and hygiene products, houseware items, ambulatory equipment, toys for their children and much more — and all goods and services are available free-of-charge to Veterans and their immediate household." Donations to Veterans Miracle Center can be made via Zeffy on the church's website, through your weekly offering envelope or directly on their web site: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/veterans-miracle-mission. Thank you for your generosity.

Angel Tree



Our annual Angel Tree collection will begin Sunday, November 22nd!

This year, we will once again be collecting gifts for Things of My Very Own and Grassroot Givers in two ways:

There will be angel tags on the tree in the back of the sanctuary for your choosing or you can go to: https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/crcc-angel-tree-2026

Things of My Very Own

When a child is removed from an abusive or dangerous situation, they may only possess the clothing they are wearing at that moment. This agency, which serves the Capital District, provides them with clothes, bedding, supplies – and even toys. This caring agency gives them "things of my very own" and helps them transition through those initial diffficult days.

Grassroots Givers

When communities work together, decreasing poverty becomes a reality. Grassroot Givers creates opportunities for individuals and families who are experiencing poverty in the Capital District by providing access to books, clothing, and home essentials.

Please return **unwrapped** gifts and items by **December 13**.
Questions? Contact Tina Bottini, Sarah Huiest, or Sandy Cornwell
Thank you for your support.

Mission in Motion – Banner Cleaning

Thank you to Pam, Maggie, Ellen, Cynthia, and Linda for giving of their time and toil on Sunday, October 11. With the guidance of Deborah Turpin, our textile expert, we were able to clean and vacuum 5 banners. Thanks, too, to Kevin and Tina Bottini for helping with the moving of banners and tables, and to all others who helped. Deborah has kindly lent us one of her vacuums, so we hope to get a group together to continue the project in November.







Christ the King Sunday

Agape Worship

November 22, 10AM

An "agape feast (also called a love feast), is a communal fellowship meal shared among Christians that expresses unconditional, self-giving love (agape) and Christian community (koinonia)." Once again this year, we will gather around tables for the Thanksgiving Agape service. There will be worship, song, a time of meditation allowing us to write down our thank you notes to God, and simple foods to share. Our "thanks" will be written down on strips of gold and white paper that will then be joined together forming a chain of thanksgiving. This chain would later encircle our Chrismon tree. This has become a beloved and meaningful tradition in our church.

Starting 11/1 there will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary requesting food items (cheese, cider, grapes, cookies) that will be shared during the service.

Strips of paper for the thank you chain are available to Zoom participants by request. Please reach out to Lori by November 5th if you would like them sent to you. They will need to be returned by November 20th so they can be included in the chain made during the service.

In the spirit of thankful giving, shelf-stable food donations to the Vly Road Food Pantry are encouraged.

Another way to be Stewards of God's earth - Composting

Composting is another step we can take to care for the earth that God provided for us. The organic (carbon based) trash that we produce in our homes and properties accounts for a substantial amount of the refuse brought to landfills. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) food waste is the single most common material that ends up in municipal landfills, accounting for 24% of the waste, with yard trimmings responsible for another 7%. As these materials breakdown they produce methane, a greenhouse gas. Composting at home can be one way to divert some of our food scraps, leaves, grass clippings and other organic matter from the landfills.

At home, you can compost fruit and vegetable scraps from your kitchen along with dry leaves from your yard. Naturally occurring microorganisms in these materials slowly breakdown these materials. The end product, compost, can be added to garden beds, around bushes, and trees. The compost will build soil health and provide nutrients to plants.

If you decide to start composting at home, there are a number of options. You can purchase bins at garden and home improvement stores. You can also build a composting bin out of readily available materials. Click on the link below for The New York State Department of Environmental Protection website to find information on building a compost bin, what items can be added to your compost and step by step guidance.

https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/recycling-composting/organic-materials-management/home-composting

With some additional time and effort, we can make the choice to compost some of the items that would otherwise end up in landfills. These small changes can be the beginning of making a difference.

The Stewardship and Creation Care Team

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Committee is seeking suggestions of group volunteer opportunities. We would love to serve God and fellowship together in the greater community. If you have any ideas, please contact Kevin or Tina Bottini.

The Committee is also planning a winter blues soup tasting in January and Café CRCC in February. Keep an eye on church announcements for more info in the coming months!

Trunk or Treat Thank You

A HUGE "THANK YOU!!" to everyone who donated candy, setup their trunk, or attended this year's Trunk or Treat!! We had more trunks than ever AND it was the first year we DIDN'T run out of candy mid-way through! A special Thank You to Carol Grasso and all of the CCDC staff for organizing the candy bowls and giving up their evening to make this event happen.







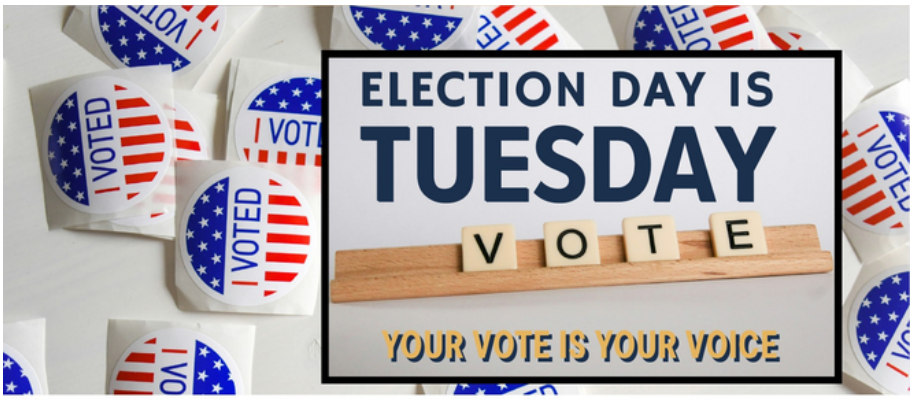










Election Day Is Tuesday — Your Vote Is Your Voice

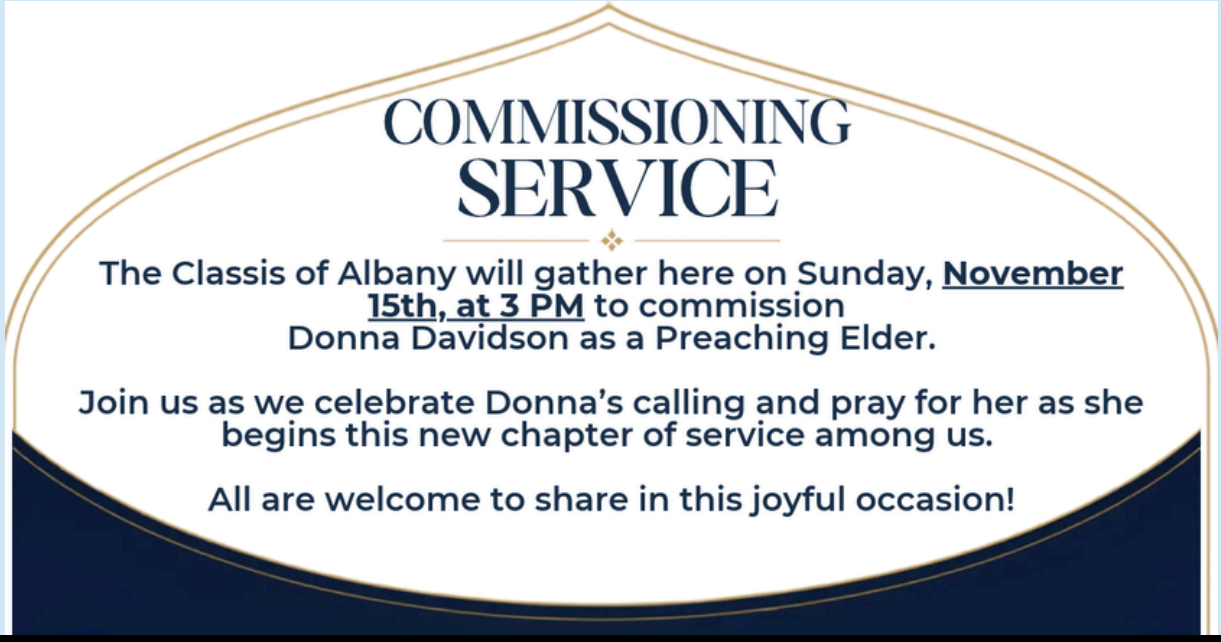
This is it. Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, just two days away. If you have not voted yet, now is the time to make your plan.

Today, November 1, is the last day of early voting. Or vote on Election Day, Tuesday, when polls are open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Not sure where to go? Find your polling place here:
https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov

The NY Attorney General's Election Protection Hotline, 866-390-2992, running Oct 24 through Nov 4. Anyone who hits a problem at the polls can call it.

Every vote shapes the community we share. See you at the polls.



Tax Deductions

Many of us are in the position of having to take required minimum distributions from our 401K's and IRA's. Did you know that there is a way to reduce the amount of tax you pay on those distributions? If you make arrangements with your distribution agency to send your intended offering directly to the church, the amount of taxable income on the year-end 1099 will be reduced by that amount.

This might be something to think about. Talk to your financial people to make these arrangements.

Meaningful Advent Ideas

The Christmas season is a crazy, busy time! Gift buying, cookie making, cleaning and decorating; the list is endless! Here are some ideas to make the season more meaningful for you and your family.





The Reverse Advent Calendar

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. Please return your donation to church by January 24, 2027 to have it delivered to the appropriate place such as the food pantry, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society or the Overflow Shelter. Click here for donation ideas!

Prayer Garland

Cut out 24 strips of green and red construction paper, Christmas themed scrapbook paper, etc. On each strip, write the name of a family member, friend or ministry. Staple the strips as links into one long garland. Hang the garland in your apartment or house as a decoration. Every day in December, have a family member remove one of the paper strips. As a family, pray for the person or ministry whose name is on that strip of paper. (6 Ideas for Celebrating Advent as a Family)

Daily or Weekly Acts of Service

This is a great idea that works well for all ages but especially for older kids. For example, you could participate in Morning of Kindness, a Colonie based group that performs acts of kindness on Christmas Eve and throughout December (sign up drops on Thanksgiving!) , make cookies for a neighbor, volunteer at the Regional Food Bank, etc. There are so many options to choose from!

Other Ideas for the Christmas Season or Throughout the Year

Make a Meal

As an individual, family or friend group, make a meal and donate it to The Overflow Shelter.

Donate to the Prayground

I don’t know about you, but I love watching the children playing on the prayround! You can help the mission of the prayground by donating books. Donate to the Prayground

There are so many ways to make the Advent season memorable! Hopefully this article inspires you to slow down a bit and add a little Christ to your Christmas and your entire year!

Questions? See Deb Desnoyers

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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
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Carol Grasso, Director
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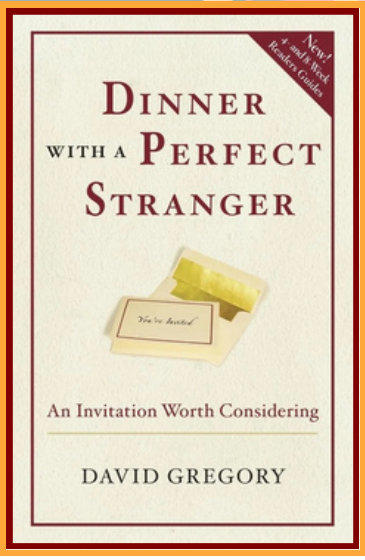
E-mail:
cgrasso6@yahoo.com

Book Group News



The November/December Book Group selection is **Dinner with a Perfect Stranger by David Gregory.** Some members may remember this book as part of CRCC New Member Class reading 20 years ago! If you have a copy you are willing to lend, please leave it on the back table in the sanctuary – make sure you have labeled it with your name so that it can find its way back to you! Discussion and fellowship will take place on Tuesday, **December 1**, at 6PM, at the home of Cynthia P.

Did You Know?

By Sandy Cornwell

THE COMMUNION TABLE QUILT

This table covering was the last piece made to complete our quilted set and was purchased with funds provided anonymously from a longtime church member.

This quilt, to be used as a Communion Table cover, is dual sided and multifaceted. The primary side reflects the colors of the liturgical calendar that are also found in the banners that surround the church walls. The quilt takes the form of a Greek Cross because of its four equal arms. Each of the four arms is dominated by one of the four main colors of the liturgical calendar - blue, purple, green and red.

The appliquéd symbols were selected because they are all symbols of Christ or of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper which appear on the various banners.

When the church colors change to gold and white, the entire quilt can be turned over to display the reverse side on which a Multiple Cross has been appliquéd. A Multiple Cross results when four Latin crosses are combined. They represent the four corners of the world over which Jesus reigns. Two extensions contain the following monogram: Iota Eta Sigma (IHS) - These are the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus.

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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 Huiest.