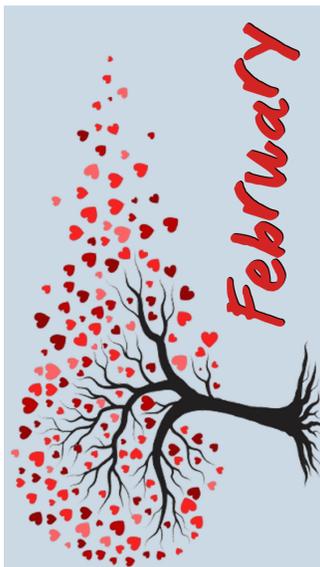


Cross and **Comments**

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



Worship News

February 2026

There are many ways to tell a story or share information. Each week, spiritual leaders stand in front of congregants and bring clarity to scripture, often through relatable stories that make the Word more accessible and engaging. These words may offer new insights, or shift the perspective of those listening.

This past December at CRCC, the Sunday after Christmas offered an alternate way to tell the story of Advent and the birth of Jesus. The service included hymns, visual art, and commentary from experts in the field of art and theology.

All of the images and commentary came from the Visual Commentary on Scripture (<https://thevcs.org/>). The site includes over 1200 images, “ranging from antiquity to present day”. Broken into three parts, the service provided time for attendees to have structured conversation in small groups. We answered questions and offered our thoughts based on the images in the bulletin. As CRCC member Danielle Williamson noted, “This particular service was so powerful for me. Art has a way of opening your mind. I think church, especially CRCC, is one of the best and safest places to let that happen. I felt a little awkward sharing at first, but after prayerful reflection and hearing other perspectives, I felt connected and filled with creative energy. It was a great way to start my week!”

At CRCC, we are no strangers to trying new ideas, especially when they include creative ways to share God’s Word. The Worship Committee, along with Pastor Trey, are dedicated to facilitating ideas that make worship engaging, meaningful, and offer new ways to strengthen our connection with God. Do you want to chat about a worship service? Pastor Trey and Elder of Worship, Melody York, are always available.

February 2026		Upcoming Events	
In this Issue:			
Mission of the Month	2	Ash Wednesday	February 18 th
Stewardship Team	3	Lenten Brunch	February 22 nd
Ash Wednesday News	4	Book Group	February 24 th

Stewardship help from the business community

The winter months can be a time to look ahead to the new year and make a commitment to find a new place for unneeded possessions. With a recognition that changes are needed to care for our planet, some businesses and nonprofits are providing us with additional ways to reuse, repurpose and recycle.

Staples – the location closest to CRCC is in the Northway Shopping Center, 518-435-9920, as well as other locations in the Capital District. There are many items that can be brought to Staples for recycling- laptop computers, cell phones, ink cartridges, CDs, DVDs, batteries and more. They also accept luggage, some small appliances and school supplies such as backpacks and insulated lunch bags. Refer to their website for details. <https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling> It might be a good idea to call before bringing large items to the store, as these guidelines may change. If you are an “Easy Rewards” member, you may receive points for recycling items.

Upstitch – 28 Essex Street, Albany, near Honest Weight food co-op, <https://www.upstitch.com> 518-618-2825). This nonprofit was founded with an intent to keep unused fabric, yarn and other craft supplies out of landfills by collecting them, then offering them for sale at affordable prices. They donate supplies to other nonprofits for their projects, including organizations that we at CRCC have supported; The Moon Catcher Project and Project Linus. Information about donating goods, the hours for their retail store, and online store, is available on their website. Their Facebook page frequently posts new arrivals, events and classes.

These are just a few of the opportunities to find a second use for some of our cast-off goods. Spending some extra effort can help us to preserve the planet that God entrusted in our care.

The Stewardship and Creation Care Team.

CCDC News

By Carol Grasso

It has been so busy the past couple of months, that it is nice to settle in for some quiet time.

Of course, it is rarely quiet here. We are planning some events in the next few weeks to get us through the cold winter days. Next week, we have a magician, Mr. Twisty, coming to do a show for the kids. Our Mr. Andy, the music man, will also come in once a month to sing with us.

February will be a busy month, as we celebrate the Super Bowl and the Winter

Olympics! We are planning our own Olympic event day. Everyone will be decked out in their favorite sports gear. We will also enjoy some tailgate treats. It is always a fun day.

February also brings Valentine’s Day. We have a “Dress Your Best” Valentine Tea Party. We enjoy tea (apple juice) and fancy cookies. We set it up at little tables with tea pots and fancy plates. It is adorable.

We are starting our Krause’s Easter Candy fundraiser. There will be flyers and order forms in the back of the Church. I appreciate your participation, as we use these funds to do all of our special events.

Ash Wednesday

February 18

Ashes to Go ~ 7-9AM & 3-5PM

Worship ~ 7 PM

You are dust,
and to dust you will return.

This ancient formula will be heard by millions of Christians all over the world this Ash Wednesday, as the sign of the cross is made with ashes on their forehead. This symbolic act is both a solemn reminder and an invitation to renewal. All are welcome as we begin together the sacred walk towards Easter.

A new feature for Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday, February 18, which is the start of the Lenten season leading up to Easter, we will offer *Ashes to Go* in our parking lot for anyone in the community who would like to receive ashes. There will be two time slots to receive *Ashes to Go*: 7-9 AM and 3-5 PM.

Individuals will drive up in their vehicles and receive ashes and a brief spoken blessing, without needing to leave their car.

Ashes to Go is intended as a complement—not a replacement—to our Ash Wednesday worship. We will also have our usual Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary that evening at 7 PM.

Here is a video if you want to see what this looks like!: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0fzxPGicKs>

Questions? Please see Pastor Trey.

Did You Know?

The application of ashes to the forehead was not typical of Protestant services and is still not the “norm,” for it is viewed by many as a Roman Catholic rite. In the early 90’s, that shifted, and some RCA churches began to embrace the theological aspects of the ash application - visually and physically.

Initially, we saved our extra palms and dried them for a year. They were then burned – in an old spaghetti pot. This produced a LOT of very acerbic smoke and was a reeking challenge to do outside in February. The ashes were then sifted numerous times and mixed with olive oil. This was quite a messy and time-consuming task.

One year, the weather was not cooperating with our outdoor burning attempt, and it was decided to purchase the palm ashes. We continue this practice today. New ashes are added to the small stone bowl, as needed and mixed with those original ashes, now decades old.

We remember all who have been touched and honor all the saints that have come before us.

Lenten Brunch

After worship on **February 22nd**, we will have a Lenten Brunch, hosted by the Community Outreach Team! A variety of foods will be available to share, as we fellowship together. To help with preparations, please sign up in the back of the church or email the office to let us know if you will be attending. Questions? Contact Kevin or Tina Bottini.

**Community Reformed
Church of Colonie**

701 Sand Creek Rd
Colonie, NY 12205-2497

Rev. Trey Tirpak—Pastor
treytirpak@crccpastor.org

Tel: (518) 869-5589

E-mail:

crccclori@gmail.com

Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Instagram:

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

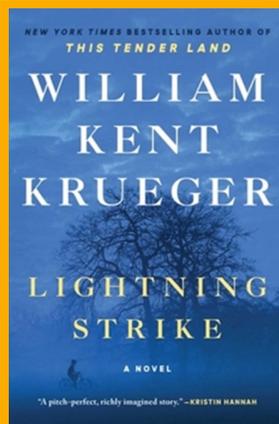
Carol Grasso, Director

Tel: (518) 869-0131

E-mail:

cgrasso6@yahoo.com

Book Group News



The sudden passing of Karen Reynolds has put the CRCC Book Group into a transitional time. The group has decided to continue to meet and carry on Karen's love for reading. The selection for February is **Lightning Strike** by **William Kent Krueger**. Discussion and fellowship will take place on Tuesday, February 24th, 6-8PM. During this time, all questions can be referred to Vicki Lane, Elder of Adult Enrichment. She can be reached at vlane1020@gmail.com.



Facebook

facebook.com/coloniereformed



Instagram

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



Padlet – Online Bulletin Board

padlet.com/crccsarah/churchbulletinboard



Website

Communityreformedchurch.com



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.