

Cross and **COMMENTS**

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Remembering Our History

By Sandy Cornwell

As our church celebrates our 60th anniversary, we look back. Some of us have been at other churches as they celebrate milestones, such as this, and listen as they reflect on their history. Sometimes it's an endless litany of building projects and renovations and a long list of pastors. But is the history of a church just the building? Sometimes nothing is ever mentioned about the life and work of the church over the decades, but Christ told us to spread the Word... yet he never mentioned brick and mortar.

It started with a few energetic families from The First Church in Albany who wanted to provide a new place to learn about God nearer their homes. They chose the name Community, and that set the tone for the decades to follow. We're not just something with walls, but something more.

We, as a community, are pray-ers—so many are requested and prayed for. Prayers for our friends, families, neighbors, co-workers, and world. We pray for many we will never meet, but we know are God's children. We send shawls and quilts that are wrapped in love and the reassurance that God cares and so do we. Prayer is our hinge-pin.

We, as a community, have been brave, too. We stood up and broke down the barriers of discrimination for women in our denomination. We advocated for women to be ordained, and promoted women in leadership on Consistory. The first woman ordained as an Elder in the RCA happened here, and our strong support for women in ministry has led to commissioned preaching elders. And when the General Synod put an esteemed General Synod Professor on trial for officiating his daughter and her wife's marriage, and ousting him from his job, we, as a community, joined together with others in a grassroots group called "Friends of Norm." This eventually evolved into Room for All—the Reformed Church's national LGBTQ+ advocacy group. In fact, we were one of the very first churches to sign the Room for All roster, and publicly include their information on our website. We are a

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September 2026

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE • AUGUST 23, 2026

This year's Annual Congregational Meeting on August 23, was done in a new way! The meeting was combined with morning worship. Reports were shared in a booklet, with Pastor Trey telling of highlights, changes, and the year ahead. The budget was discussed, and voices were lifted in song. After worship, the rainy skies parted for a wonderful summer-end picnic! Greg Town, co-pastor of Knox Thompson's Lake Reformed Church with his wife Becky, graciously manned the grill, with sides, desserts, and fellowship shared by all!



Shawn Bredice Memorial Fund

In memory of our son Shawn, our family dedicates funds to an organization or project each year that benefits persons with Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities. Our church family has been generous to us in the past and joined us through Mission of the Month. Over the past 10 years, we have given over \$25,000 in scholarships and program funding.

This year, we are returning to a project that we provided the seed money to a few years ago. We want to help SUNSHINE AND COFFEE get up and running.

This unique program is run by South Colonie Life Skills teacher, Sara Norton. The middle school students are taught to run a coffee cart. They are responsible for inventory, customer service, making coffee, selling, cashiering and using the profits to help others. It is an absolutely wonderful program in teaching usable life skills.

These past years, they have been able to get sponsorship from area businesses. As they look for another sponsorship, we will support them.

BARRY AND I WILL MATCH DOLLAR TO DOLLAR THE MONEY RAISED FROM OUR CHURCH'S Mission of the Month DONATIONS.



Becoming "Uncle Mark" - my week at Camp Fowler

Over the years, you have certainly become familiar with my love of Camp Fowler. For many years, I have rented the prayer cabins for winter weekend get-aways, I have attended adult retreats there, and I have played in their annual fundraiser golf tournament. But I had never been there in the summer during camp. Well, thanks to some encouragement from Bob Hoffman, I volunteered to be a cabin counselor for a week this past July.

Growing up in the Lutheran church, I had attended the Annual Upstate NY Lutheran Synod youth gatherings, both as a participant, and as a volunteer. But I knew that my week at Fowler would be different. You see, it checked three boxes for me: working with kids, deepening my faith, and being outdoors.

I was assigned to a cabin with four high school aged boys, all of whom knew each other from previous camp years. But they quickly accepted Uncle Mark as their guide for the week, even though they had a better idea of how camp worked than I did. In addition to these four boys, I also loved interacting with as many of the other 90 kids in grades 3-12 as I could. We enjoyed meals together, played games, worshiped God, went polar bearing each morning, and sang a lot of camp songs! I adored being their Uncle Mark.

When people ask me how the week at camp went, I use the same word each time, Joy! It was such a joyful week. We laughed, we listened to each other, we cried, and we learned to lean on each other for those six days. But importantly, we did all of these things joyfully. It was an absolutely perfect week.

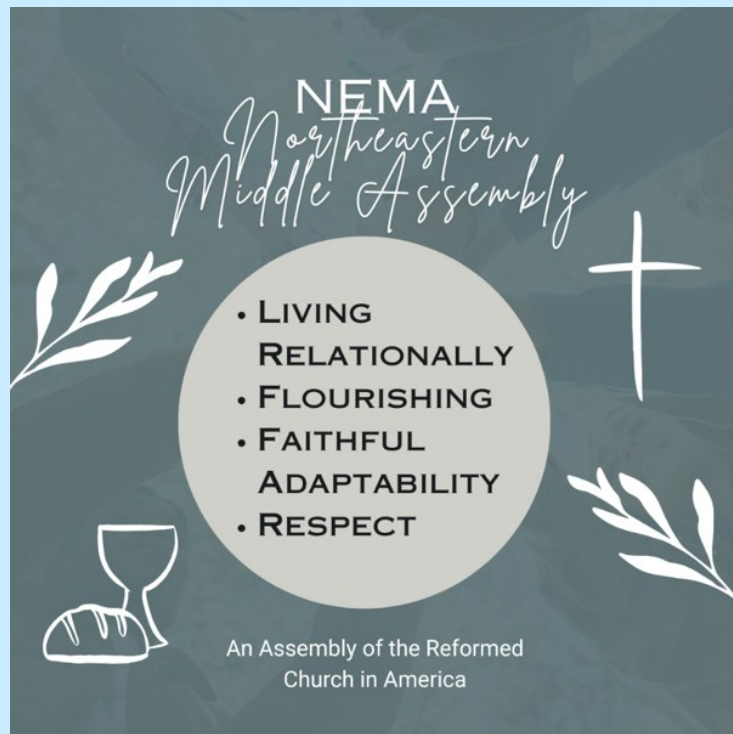
When I arrived home after camp broke, I sobbed. It had only been a few hours, but I already missed the kids, the other cabin counselors, the staff, and the many other volunteers. I have no doubt that my week at camp made me a better person.

When Bob encouraged me to volunteer, he warned me. He said that I'll do one week this summer, but will probably do more next year. Guess what? He's right! I'm hoping to do two weeks as a cabin counselor next year. And I'd like to encourage you to be a volunteer - cabin, kitchen or maintenance, or a camper! It was one of the best experiences of my life, and it might even become one of yours!



The Northeastern Middle Assembly

The transition team of the Northeastern Middle Assembly calls all ministers and elder delegates of the assembly to an organizational meeting on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Community Reformed Church of Colonie (701 Sand Creek Rd, Albany, NY).



The changes to the Book of Church Order which will ecclesiastically constitute our assembly will take effect on December 31, 2026. Until this point, we are in a phase of organizing our assembly, and we have work to be done so that we are ready to participate fully in the life and ministry of the Reformed Church in America as an official assembly.

At this meeting, inaugural officers and bylaws will be presented to the assembly for approval, and reports will be received from the Transition Team and its task teams on the structure and work of the assembly for feedback. This will allow the assembly to take the necessary steps to become a legally incorporated organization.

All ministers intending to enroll in the assembly and elder delegates from each congregation intending to join the assembly are welcomed to attend. Additionally, any congregation members from NEMA churches are welcome to attend. A meal will be provided. An agenda and reports for the meeting will be sent prior to the meeting. Look for them from Rev. Lindsey De Kruif, nominated stated clerk.

Please register for the meeting here: [NEMA Organizational Meeting](#). All ministers intending to enroll in the assembly and elder delegates from each congregation intending to join the assembly are welcome to attend. Additionally, any congregation members from NEMA churches are welcome to attend. A meal will be provided. An agenda and reports for the meeting will be sent prior to the meeting.



(Remembering Our History—Continued from page 1)

welcoming and inclusive congregation. We stood up, and today we proudly carry our church banner in the annual Capital Pride Parade.

We, as a community, also advocate and raise funds and awareness for food insecurity, suicide prevention, Alzheimer's—and so much more. We even helped unfold the AIDS quilt on the Washington Mall and read the victims' names aloud as persons walked between the beautiful panels. Our AIDS care went outside our doors – we did not speak in whispers. We, also, feed the hungry with food pantry donations, make and deliver homemade meals for the overflow shelter each winter, and are "Angels" every Christmas who give toys, clothing, and necessities to those in need.

We, as a community, have cared for hundreds and hundreds of children over the past 50 years through the Colonie Community Daycare. It was the mission of our daycare to bring welcoming and affordable care to the community, and that remains our mission to this day.

We, as a community, shared our faith in unconventional ways: through drama and creativity, original music and scripts, clown costumes and props, drive in worship and drive through ashes. We've read so many unique books and studied the bible... Jesus taught through stories, and we keep the stories going through our worship and lives.

We, as a community, in times of great worry and anxiety, have kept our eyes on Jesus, and we're still here. We've weathered overwhelming financial woes, and endured a pandemic by staying together on Zoom with daily devotions and Sunday services. Each new challenge was met in ways that were new to us all. We never missed a beat.

We have changed our service and locations, too. Remember Christmas Eve at the Verdoy Firehouse? Muddy parking lots, leaky roofs, —even fire! We've been there and done that!

We, as a community, have sung with an organ, piano, and guitar – even a banjo and harmonica. There've been choirs, ensembles, and soloists. Classical music and original pieces. Very young children at the piano – and ukuleles. All raising our song to the Lord.

We laugh together and cry together. We baptized young and old. We confirmed youth. We welcomed children to our table. We celebrated marriages. We buried the ones we loved. We broke bread together and shared the cup. We also drank a lot of coffee and ate a whole lot of cookies.

So, here we stand 60 years later. We give thanks to God for all the saints who have gone before us and make the great tapestry that is the Community Reformed Church of Colonie. And, we give thanks to God that this tapestry keeps growing. And that every thread creates new depth and new beauty.

What a beautiful history.

We are the Community Reformed Church.

We are a community of Christ.

We are community.

60 YEARS TOGETHER

ROOT BEER • ICE CREAM • LAWN GAMES • FELLOWSHIP

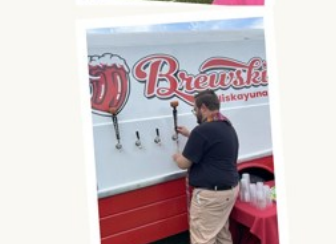
COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE • JULY 26, 2026



On Sunday, July 26, 2026, Community Reformed Church of Colonie celebrated our 60th Anniversary! The day began with a special worship service honoring the life and work of CRCC over the decades. Lexy Brown, Tina Bottini, and Pastor Trey read a beautiful piece written by Sandy Cornwell (also enclosed in this newsletter). May past members and friends came out for the celebration. By way of a generous charitable donation, Sue Bredice secured The Broken Inn's Brewski Bus, with owner Mike serving up cold and delicious root beer all afternoon. Vicki Lane's son, Benjamin, came with Vandor's Handcrafted Ice Cream truck, and treated us to many options of yummy homemade ice cream. Lawn games, a mahjong tutorial, a bouncy house, and wonderful fellowship filled the afternoon. Between setup, breakdown, and food donations, everyone came together to celebrate all that makes CRCC so special. Thank you for making it a special day to remember!



A CHURCH MADE OF PEOPLE



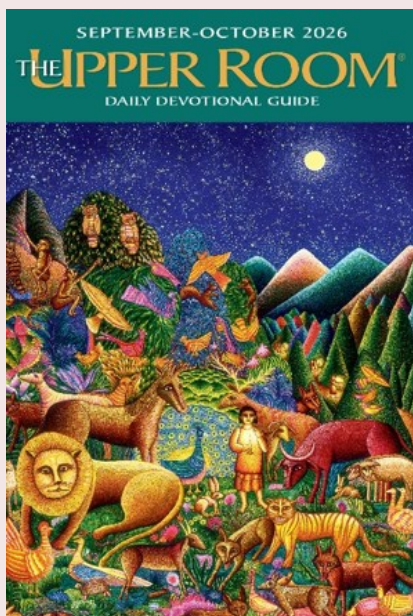


On **Sunday, July 19, 2026**, we celebrated **Doris Neese's 95th birthday!**

Doris said it was, "**the best birthday ever!!**"

Thank you to everyone who sent her cards and made this milestone so special for her!

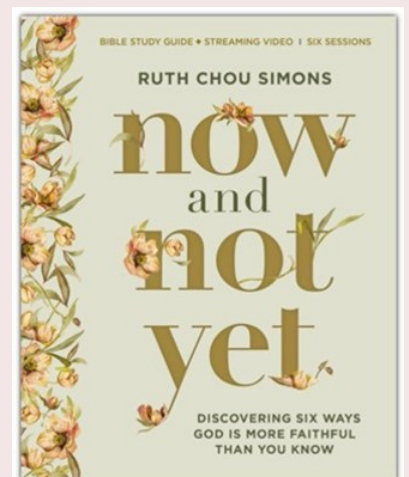
Bible Studies



Upper Room for All will restart on Wednesday, September 9th, 6PM in the Koinonia Room. This Bible Study meets the second Wednesday of every month and utilizes the Upper Room daily devotional. Interested individuals should contact Mark Kaercher.

Women's Bible Study will have their first meeting of the fall on Saturday, September 12th, at 9:30. They meet on the second Saturday of each month at the church. This fall, they will begin with a six-week study, Now and Not Yet by Ruth Chou Simons. Each study lesson includes a 20-minute video and study group questions. Questions? Contact Ana Crosbourne.

All are welcome to attend these small group studies.



September is Suicide Awareness Month



Please join me in supporting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

This year's walk on September 27, at the Saratoga State Park, will be right after the 9th anniversary of my son, Billy Kress's passing. The time has gone by so fast. Billy made a difference in many lives. Despite his own troubles, he wanted to help his peers with any emotional issues they might be dealing with. (Click the link for 1 min. video of Billy) <https://youtu.be/BIFxQkHaQXg>

I would love to have a team of supporters from CRCC. If you are interested and want to be a part of "Billy's Brigade," please click on this link to register for the walk/team or donate to AFSP in Billy's memory. <https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/participant/Diane-Ogren>.

Thank you, as always, for your support of AFSP's work to raise awareness and help stop suicide, and for all of the continuing love and support given to me by my family at CRCC.

Diane Ogren (Billy's Mom)

Editor's Note: Many people are new to CRCC since Billy's passing. Below is an excerpt from Billy's obituary. It just starts to scratch the surface of who Billy was. Billy was an absolute joy to be around. He was incredibly charming and always had a sparkle in his eye. He had a great sense of humor and an incredibly large heart. Billy also battled depression. He and his mom, Diane, fought so hard. I hope you will take a minute to watch the video Diane linked above. Depression does not always look the way you expect it to. Please consider supporting Diane, Billy's Brigade, and the AFSP.

"Bill's life journey came to an end on September 14, 2017, when his burdens became too much to bear. Bill will always be known for his infectious smile - that he used to get free cookies from waitresses as a small child. His quirky sense of humor made little girls giggle and endeared him to many.

"He loved in-depth debates about politics and was fascinated even as a child with the Civil War and later, WWI and WWII. He was an enthusiastic attendee at election night parties with his Mom's and Aunt's friends. Billy loved watching the New England Patriots and betting against his Pop Pop. He was also a dedicated worker in the deli at Price Chopper Supermarket in Loudonville.

"Billy was fortunate to have the support of many caring teachers as a student in South Colonie Schools. He was a challenge to motivate, but his personality always won their hearts. The family is forever grateful for the love and support they offered him. He also enjoyed running track and cross country and his coaches always encouraged him to be the best he could be."



The CRCC Quilt Group invites you to join hands with us this fall to make comfort quilts for veterans. Even if you have limited sewing experience, you can help bring honor and comfort to someone who has served to protect our country. We meet the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30, in the sanctuary.

Additionally, our beautiful, delicate worship banners need some TLC. We are looking for volunteers to help vacuum the banners to remove dust and grime that has accumulated. We need vacuums with a setting for **drapery** – this has proven tricky to find! If you have a vacuum with a DRAPERY SETTING that you are willing to lend to this project, or would like more information about the Quilt Group, please contact Lou Ann Connelly.

CRCC Budget

Matthew 6:21,

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Aligning Our Treasures to God's Purpose

Happy Fall y'all! Hopefully, you enjoyed your summer and had some time to rest with family, friends and the amazingly beautiful nature that surrounds us. Were you able to reflect on the blessings in your life? How about how *you* are a blessing to others? When we are able to direct these blessings towards ways that honor God, we can make our community and world a better place for all.

During this year's stewardship campaign, we contemplated how our personal values aligned with what God's desires are for each of us and focused on how CRCC has impacted our personal lives. We had the opportunity to submit a new Giving Card, pledging to support the missions of CRCC. Financial giving to the church allows us to spread God's love to each other, children, newcomers and those beyond our church family.

Please know that **Tuesday, September 1st begins our budget year**, so updated pledged amounts should begin then.

Placing our financial donations in the offering basket during worship, reminds us that these contributions are truly gifts to God. We sing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" If you give through Zeffy, you may pick up a laminated card where you find your nametag. These cards can be placed in the offering basket.

If you haven't already and would like to submit a Giving Card, they are available by the donation box or you can request one from Lori, crcclori@gmail.com. If you've already completed a giving card, your new envelopes are available to be picked up.

Thank you for your continued stewardship. Thanks be to God!

Four quilts made by Lou Ann Connelly and displayed by Lynne Craft, Ellen Buono, Lou Ann, Marilyn Matrazzo & Terry Cranfield. These quilts will be donated to Project Linus whose mission is to provide love, warmth and security by giving "homemade" blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need."



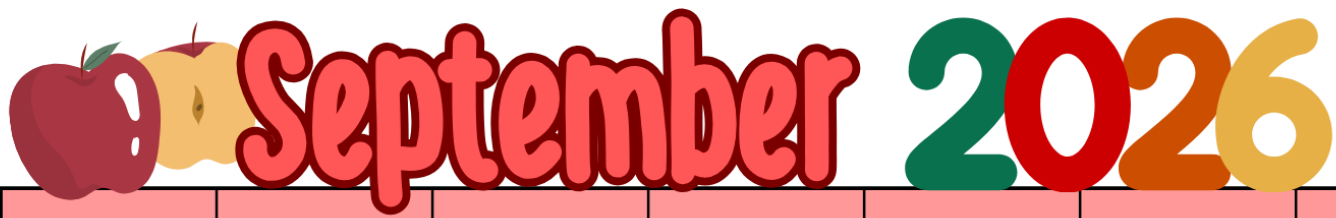
Ecumenical Worship Service for the Season of Creation

September 16 + 5:30 PM

*Lisha's Kill Reformed Church (Outdoor Pavilion)
2131 Central Ave., Schenectady, NY 12304*

Led by the Colonie-area clergy and faith leaders of the Capital Area Council of Churches





September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
 9am LAST OUTDOOR WORSHIP						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
 10am			 6pm	Worship Committee 6:30pm		 9:30am 12pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
 10am  10am		 6pm	Season of Creation Service @ Lisha Kill 5:30pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
 10am  10am Stewardship and Creation Care - 11am		 6pm	 6pm			 10am
27	28	29	30	October 1	2	3
 10am						 12pm

KEY

 Indoor Worship

 Outdoor Worship

 Women's Bible Study

 NEMA

 Bible Handing Down

 Blessing of Backpacks

 Upper Room for All

 Consistory

 Advocacy and Global Missions

 Orchid Society

 Book Group

Community Reformed Church of Colonie

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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

Worship moves
INDOORS
and back to **10AM**

10:00

**Sunday,
September 6th**



Community Reformed Church of Colonie and Colonie Community Day Care will be teaming up to put on a Trunk or Treat Event for the community this October. WE NEED CANDY DONATIONS! CRCC is providing the candy and other non-food treats for the event. We'd love to have you and your trunk there, too!! Want to be involved but have never done a Trunk or Treat before? Have no fear!! We are here to help! Contact Sarah Huiest crccsarah@gmail.com with any questions. All are welcome to participate and support this fun community event.

Fall Info for Families!

Children's Message, Children's Worship, and Nursery care will all return on Sunday, September 6th, when we return to our 10AM indoor worship. **Children's Message** takes place during the worship service, and is an opportunity for young people to come forward for a special message. Following the Children's Message, those age 4 through 2nd grade, are invited to go back to the gathering room for a story and activity, known as **Children's Worship**. **Nursery** care begins at 9:50 and is open to children birth through age 3.

*If you will potentially be utilizing Children's Worship or the Nursery, please be sure to go back to the gathering room BEFORE worship to sign out your **pager**. Our new pager system allows us to easily get ahold of you if your child has any needs during worship.*

If you are interested in your child participating in **Sunday school** (K-6) or **Youth Group** (7-12) this year, please see Sarah Huiest. **Profession of Faith** and **Children at the Lord's Table** (First Communion) are both available upon request.

Facebook



facebook.com/coloniereformed



Instagram

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



Padlet – Online Bulletin Board

padlet.com/crccsarah/churchbulletinboard



Website

Communityreformedchurch.com



YouTube

Community Reformed Church of Colonie

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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.