

RAMAPO REFORMED CHURCH
100 Island Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430
Rev. Mary Stegink, Pastor
www.ramaporeformedchurch.org

Church Office: (201) 529-3075
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30am – 12:30pm
Tues/Thu 1:00pm – 5:00 pm

Worship Service: Sunday, 10:30 am



A Message From Pastor Mary

*“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you doing.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

The stores are full of back-to-school promotions. Halloween candy is making its debut on the shelves of the grocery store. In a few weeks we can all enjoy Mallomars again! The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting cooler and in a month or so, the leaves will start to show their colors. It's nearly Fall – in my opinion – the best season of the year!

It is also a season where, after our summer vacations, we get back to the ministry of the church. Obviously, ministry didn't stop during the summer. We faithfully met for worship and held each other in prayer. But there were fewer meetings and gatherings during the summer. It was a time to rest, relax a little more and enjoy God's creation. That's all about to change! September and October are full of opportunities to worship, to hang out, to do the business of the church, to study, to pray. As we continue as the family who worships at the Ramapo Reformed Church, these are all ways we can “encourage each other and build each other up.” Paul wrote these words to the followers of Christ in Thessalonica. Their lives were ruled by fear and danger. They didn't know what the next day would hold. They continued to look to their Savior for hope and encouragement – which is always a good thing, but Paul also reminds them that they can look to each other. Actually, they need to look to each other! If it's Bible Study or playing cards, if it's worship or singing a classic rock song at karaoke, if it's sitting in a meeting or packing Baby Bundles, if it's helping with Mahwah Day or singing in the choir, there is a place for you to be encouraged and to encourage others!

Committee Meetings

Consistory: Tuesdays, 9/1, 10/6. 7:00pm. The consistory is the governing body of our congregation. We hear reports from the committees, get updates on our financials, discuss the many building and grounds needs that arise and we generally have a good time doing it! The current consistory is comprised of 4 deacons (Rob B., Laura H., Nancy J., and Roger K.) and 3 elders (Duke G., Michelle K., and Sharon (Spike) P.) At the October meeting we look at who is staying on and who is going off. If you are interested in serving on the consistory or have an idea of who might be gifted to do this work, please talk with one of us!

Worship and Nurture Committee: Wednesdays, 9/2 and 10/7. 7:30 pm. The Worship and Nurture Committee oversees the worship and education ministries of our congregation. Current members include: Bob A., Duke G., Marian L., Alan M., Monica S., Rena VD., Justin D., and Pastor Mary. In the months of September and October the committee plans the annual Christmas Concert. This year we hope to have a guest harpist as well as musicians from our church family!

Hospitality and Fellowship Committee: meets as needed. The Hospitality and Fellowship oversees Potlucks, Fellowship Hour, Game Nights, Karaoke Nights, Coloring Nights, and a variety of other social opportunities for our congregation. The committee is chaired by Michelle K., and members include Jody F., Nancy J., Sharon P., and Pastor Mary.

Building and Grounds: oversees the care and maintenance of our properties. The things that can be handled by volunteers are taken care of in a timely manner. The next project will be replacing two sets of doors in the Education Building. Other, larger things are contracted out to professionals. This committee is comprised of Rob B., Duke G., Roger K., and Jim S.

Community Outreach: this committee plans events such as our participation in Mahwah Day (with the help of Hospitality and Fellowship) and Mahwah Pride. The current member is Pastor Mary. She would love to have some more help!

Cemetery Committee: This committee oversees all aspects of the cemetery, which consists of cleaning up the holiday decorations, removal of flags, grave sales, internments and monument installation. A meeting is held once year (usually March). We hear updates regarding financials, and discuss the grounds of the cemetery and what is needed for continual upkeep. The current committee members are Alan M., Jim S., Wilma P., Nancy H., Sharon P., Dick O., and Rena VD. Pastor Mary & Christina W. are on the committee, but are non-voting members.

Worship & Education Events

Choir The choir meets most Sundays following worship and sings once a month in a worship service. New members are always welcome.

Chimes The chimes have come out of storage and after a wonderful debut during our Resurrection service, we are excited to use them again. Please see Justin if you are interested.

World Communion Sunday It is our tradition to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the 2nd Sunday of the month, but in October we celebrate with brothers and sisters around the world on World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2026.

Confirmation Class Confirmation Class will resume meeting on Sunday, September 13 following the service. Confirmation Class is for those who are interested in professing their faith and becoming a full member of the Ramapo Reformed Church. Generally, this class is open to 7th-12th graders. If there are adults who are interested, please talk with Pastor Mary.

Women's Bible Study This group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (9/8, 9/22, 10/13 and 10/27) at the parsonage. Our conversations are lively, our fellowship is sweet, and we are prayer warriors for each other. New friends are ALWAYS welcome!

Mission Sundays: September 20 and October 18 . Our September mission offering is going to help our friends at The River Mission in Hackensack. The Mission is a safe place for unhoused men to get a warm meal and a bed for the night. Rev. Don McCracken helps fill their earthly needs while reminding them of the love of our Savior. Our October Mission offering will go to The Solid Foundation Skate Park in Paterson.

Hymn Sing Sunday, October 25 at 4:00 pm. We would love to host a Hymn Sing for our congregation and friends. All are welcome to this afternoon of songs, scripture and prayer! Please consider bringing some friends. A light reception will follow. And yes – this is the same weekend as Karaoke so it will be a bonus weekend for those in our fellowship who love to sing!

Fellowship Events

Breakfast for All! Saturday, September 12 and Saturday, October 10 at 8:30 am at the IHOP on 17S. Do you love bacon? (who doesn't?). Do you need to start your day with a hot cup of coffee (or a cold, caffeinated beverage)? Do you enjoy fluffy pancakes and/or a tasty omelet? Do you enjoy laughing with your church family? Well then – this is the event for you! It is open to all! And, if your wondering, we generally all pitch in \$20 to cover the bill and tip.



Family Picnic – Sunday, September 6 following worship. Pastor Mary and Jim invite our families to an end-of-summer/back-to-school picnic!

Game and Puzzle Night – Friday, September 18 at 6:00 pm. Pastor Mary and Jim invite all fans of card games, board games, and jigsaw puzzle making to the parsonage for an evening of fun and friendly competition. Pizza is provided! Just bring a snack or dessert to share.



Karaoke Night – Saturday, October 25 at 6:00 pm. What do you enjoy singing? Golden Oldies? Classic Rock? A Love Ballad? An Opera Aria? Come and join us for a night of great music and plenty of opportunities to sing along! Pizza is provided – just bring a snack or dessert to share – and bring your friends!

Community Outreach

Clothing Closet Bag Sale The Clothing Closet is open on Wednesdays from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. The CC is always ready to accept seasonal clothing that will either be given to people in need or sold for the bargain price of \$1.00 an item! The next Bag Sale will be Saturday, September 5 beginning at 9:30 am. The Clothing Closet recently received a grant from our Classis to renovate the space. We hope to begin work on this project in September!



Mahwah Day – Saturday, October 3 – all day. We have the Oreos and rubber ducks. We have the pickles and cornmeal. We have the ingredients for walking tacos. What we need is YOU! It could be argued that Mahwah Day is the most important event for reminding our community of our presence. It's an opportunity to run into old friends and make new ones. We need help setting the booth up (usually 8-11 am). We need help running the booth (12-5 pm). We need help taking everything back down (5 – 6ish pm).

We need people to cover for other people so they can take a few minutes and walk around. This is a big year with Michelle and Nancy J. taking over the deep-frying operations. Roger and Pastor Mary will handle the World Famous Duck Races. We need others run to the store, to take the orders, fill the orders and handle the money. Which means there are plenty of opportunities for everyone to be involved! Please consider helping for an hour or two. It's a fun day and we need you!

Baby Bundle Luncheon – Saturday, October 10 at 1:00 pm.

The fall packing event is coming up! The Baby Bundle Ministry provides newborn gift packages for clients who use the St. Joseph Clinic in Paterson. Each package includes a package of size 1 diapers, a package of wipes, three Onesies, two footie outfits, three swaddling blankets, three pairs of socks, a bib, a hat, a toy, a book and a homemade blanket. Because of the generosity of our church family (and one special individual), we have been able to provide more than 30 packages per event! We need your help with diapers and wipes – so between now and October 10, please consider donating a package of size 1 diapers and/or baby wipes. If you enjoy knitting and/or crocheting, we need baby hats and blankets. Please consider helping us with this important ministry!



Update on the Kajuka Village School Project

In our last newsletter we shared the conditions of the Kajuka Village School in Kenya. You may recall that the conditions were rather – well – awful. No ventilation, no floor, no furniture, and simple shards of a used chalkboard. You may also recall that children have to bring their own chair. . . if they have one. Otherwise, the students sit on a rock. It has been James' hope and prayer that a new school could be built. With our financial help, things are beginning to happen! Bricks have been delivered and the contractor has broken enough rocks for ballast in the foundation. Sand has been delivered in anticipation of the new floor! As of this writing, our congregation and friends of Tom have raised over \$6,000 for this project!

A little background for those who are new to our Ramapo family: James attended worship with us for over three and a half years. He worked at two of the gas stations on Franklin Turnpike near the NY border. He met Tom at the Mahwah Community Garden and they became friends. In 2023-2024 our church family helped raise funds to build a well in his Kenyan village. The well was dug and the community is enjoying fresh, clear water! James "retired" from the gas station last summer and headed back to Kenya at the end of August. He has stayed in touch with many of our members via What's App. He is excellent at sending picture and videos of the gardens they have planted, and now the hoped-for school. It is an honor to work with him on improving the school for the children of his village!





The Ramapo Reformed Church has “in-person” worship each Sunday (10:30 am) while also streaming it live for those who prefer to join us online. Please visit the “RRC From Home” page of our website for a link to livestream services and copies of our weekly bulletins. Live streamed services can be watched at **ANY** time!



Our Sunday school program, for children and students ages 3 - 8th grade are invited to attend following the Children's Message. They are dismissed with their teacher, Marian Latz, and will return at the close of the service. For more information, please reach out to Marian.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Volunteers are always needed to host Fellowship Hour. If you would like to host this time of fellowship following worship, please sign up on the board leading into the coffee room. Thank you!



Why not join the “friends” who are following us online by adding the Ramapo Reformed Church to your Facebook friends list? Click the “Like” button to receive posts and updates on your Facebook page.

The logo for VANCO, featuring the word "VANCO" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a dark blue background with a green-to-blue gradient.

VANCO

We are pleased to offer a convenient way to make your regular offerings. With our *electronic giving program*, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule or make one-time contributions. At NO COST to you! It is convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. To become an *electronic giver*, speak with Roger or call the church office.