

**RAMAPO REFORMED CHURCH**  
100 Island Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430  
Rev. Mary Stegink, Pastor  
[www.ramaporeformedchurch.org](http://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**

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. Usually new years bring new excitement, new hopes, new goals and resolutions that move us toward a happier, healthier life. Of course, these are good things for us to have and do. Making positive changes is good! Cutting unhealthy habits and food choices out of our life is good. Giving up harmful behavior is good. Being kinder to those around us is a blessing to those people.

But we're all of 8 days into this new year and our church family has already experienced two members being unexpectedly hospitalized. I've had an unexpected crisis in my left eye that, I learned today, has permanently damaged the vision in that eye. Our country is unsettled by the events that have taken place in Venezuela. A young mother lost her life when she turned down the wrong street at the wrong time and got in ICE's way. This isn't what we were hoping for at the beginning of a new year.

I suspect we're all for change when we're the ones controlling that change. We can control and therefore change what we eat. We can control if we smoke or not. We can control if we have that extra glass of wine or not. It's the changes that we don't welcome, don't want, and have nothing to do with that throws us for a loop, knocks us off our A game, and keeps us tossing and turning at night. So, in those moments when the change feels chaotic and frightening, we have to remember that we belong - body and soul, in life and in death, in stability and in change – to the One who does not change. Our Lord and Savior who has this whole world and each of our individual lives firmly in his hands. His love does not change. His plan for our world does not change. His care for us does not change. And that is a huge comfort.

## **Ramapo Reformed Church Newsletter: January & February 2026**

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The events and activities listed below are ways we can love and support each other outside of worship. They are meant to be ways to build community. To laugh, sing, study, enjoy pancakes, and/or play games. The more we do this, the more we can hold each other in times of change. So, in this new year – continue joining us or make a change and join us for the first time!

**Grace!**

**Pastor Mary**

# Events, Happenings & Announcements

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Tuesdays, 1/13, 1/27, 2/24.** The Women's Bible Study meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm. We are currently studying *She is Called, Vol. 3*. Our discussions are lively and thought-provoking. Please consider joining us! There is always room for new friends!

**WORSHIP & NUTURE:** Worship and Nurture Committee: **Wednesdays, 1/14 and 2/4 at 7:30 pm.** The Worship and Nurture Committee oversees the worship and education ministries of our congregation. Current members include: Bob A., Marian L, Alan M., Valerie P., Monica S., Rena VD., Justin D., and Pastor Mary.

**CONSISTORY: Tuesdays, 1/13 and Feb. date to be determined (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 generally have a good time doing it! The current consistory is comprised of 3 deacons and 3 elders, although we just voted to add a 4<sup>th</sup> deacon to the consistory.

**ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, 1/25 following worship.** Each year we are mandated by the Church Order of the Reformed Church in America (sounds very official, doesn't it?) to hold an Annual Meeting. The purpose is to walk through the preceding year and see how God was at work in our congregation and community. It would be easy to think of this as a bunch of dry reports, but really, it's about God's moving among us and blessing us with so much! We also approve the budget for the calendar year. Please make it a priority to join us on the 25<sup>th</sup>! Good things are happening at the Ramapo Reformed Church!

**KARAOKE NIGHT: Friday, 1/30 at 6:00 pm.** Karaoke Night is back for another evening of pizza, snacks, and music, music, music! This is a great night for singers and appreciators of music. It's almost impossible not to have a great time. Even if you don't think you can sing, join us anyway! There is a great deal of crowd involvement and the point is to have fun!

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING:** It's time for our annual Souper Bowl Sunday Soup Collection! Please consider bringing your gift of soup between January 18th and February 8. The donations will benefit the Center For Food Action here in Mahwah.

**BREAKFAST FOR ALL! Saturday, 2/14 (Valentine's Pancakes!). 8:30 am.** Breakfast for All (formerly known as Men's Breakfast) is exactly what it sounds like - a time of fellowship for everyone over breakfast at the IHOP restaurant on Route 17S. Who knew that double blueberry pancakes would taste better when shared with friends? Come and find out!

**ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday, 2/18.** It is Pastor Mary's hope to offer drive-up ashes this year. This is a weather dependent activity, however. But – if it's not too cold, too snowy and/or too windy, she will be available **in front of the church between 7:30 and 9:00 am** to offer you ashes. This is the beginning of Lent and on Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our humanity and our great need for our Savior.

**THE RETURN OF GAME NIGHT! Friday, 2/20 at 6:00 pm.** Do you miss those wild Uno games? Are you ready to try something new? Would you just like to enjoy a slice of pizza with friends? Well – join us for the reboot of Game Night!

**FEBRUARY MISSION: February 15th.** Our mission for **JANUARY 2026** will be in support of Mephibosheth Ministries. Mephibosheth in Ghana's goal is to teach physically and mentally challenged children to become productive members of society. Pastor Jehu's passion for intellectual and manual development and Andrea's love for the children with disabilities inspired them to establish the Mephibosheth Training Center, a school for the physically and mentally challenged in Apam, Ghana.



**CLOTHING CLOSET:** Open to all! **Wednesdays from 9:30am – 12:00pm.** The Clothing Closet accepts donations of gently used clothes all year round. They may be brought to the Clothing Closet on Wednesday mornings or dropped at the office any time. **Quarterly bag sale March 7<sup>th</sup>! Buy one bag, Get One Free!**

**2026 CHURCH DIRECTORY** – If you have an updated address/phone number OR would like to have your email included in the 2026 RRC Directory – please email the changes/additions to [ramaporeformedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:ramaporeformedchurch@gmail.com).



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.



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.

# *Christmas Decorations!*

