

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

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Genesis 8: 22

As I write this, I am looking out the window at the 17 or so inches of snow that has fallen in the past few days. The yard looks beautiful but, if I’m being honest (and I’m going to guess most of you are feeling similar feels), I’m ready for spring and flowers, leaves and green grass. Here’s the beautiful thing: Spring is coming! This is our newsletter for the months of March and April. By the time we get to the events at the end of April – the flowers will be blooming, the trees will have leaves, and the grass will start to look green again. We are in a season of hope. We cling to that hope!

We are in a season of hope as we journey with our Savior towards the cross and resurrection morning. We acknowledge our need for a Savior, our inability to save ourselves and the wonderful gift of salvation that comes with knowing Christ. It’s a sobering thought – that our Savior suffered, bled and died on our behalf. It would be easy to get mired down in shame and guilt, but here’s the beautiful thing: Resurrection Sunday is coming! Our Lord did not stay in that gloomy tomb. He rose victoriously and reigns forever and ever. We are people of hope. We cling to that hope!

We are in a season of hope as we navigate the ins and outs of our everyday life. Some days are easy, others are ridiculously hard. Through them all, we remember that our Lord is with us always. He is holding on to us always. He loves us always. Whatever our circumstances – they are just a season and – even though it might be hard to grasp – something far better is coming. We are never without hope. Cling to that hope!

Grace!

Committee Meetings

Worship and Nurture Committee Wednesdays, 3/4 and 4/1 at 7:30 pm. The Worship and Nurture Committee oversees the worship and education ministries of our congregation. For the months of March and April will be focusing on Lent, Easter, and our first-ever Hymn Sing! Current members include: Bob A., Duke G., Marian L., Alan M., Monica S., Rena VD., Justin D., and Pastor Mary.

Cemetery Committee Thursday, March 18th at 7:00pm. 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 of the cemetery are Alan M., Jim S., Jim S., Joanna H., Wilma P. and Christina W.. If you are interested in joining this committee please reach out to Alan Mann or call the church office.

Consistory Tuesdays, 3/10 and 4/14. 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 4 deacons (Rob B., Laura H., Nancy J., and Roger K.) and 3 elders (Duke G., Michelle K., and Sharon (Spike) P.)

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., Joanna H., 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. Other, larger things are contracted out to professionals. This committee is comprised of Rob B., Duke G., Roger K., and the Jims (Shields and Stegink).

Community Outreach: this committee plans events such as our participation in Mahwah Day (with the help of Hospitality and Fellowship), Mahwah Pride, and last year's Book/Game/Puzzle sale. Current members are Joanna H. and Pastor Mary. We would love to have some more help

Worship & Education Events

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

Chimes Coming soon! The chimes are coming out of storage in the hopes that we will have eager volunteers to play them for our Easter Worship. Please see Justin if you are interested.

Confirmation Class Pastor Mary is starting a new confirmation class on Sunday, March 8 following the worship 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 groups meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (3/10, 3/24, 4/14, and 4/28) at the parsonage. We will spend these sessions doing Lectio Divina readings from scripture. New members are always welcome!

Maundy Thursday Worship, Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 pm. Once again, we will be joined by our friends from Old Stone church. This service will be a short meditation and then a series of readings and hymns that remind us of our Lord's great sacrifice. The service will conclude in darkness. If you are interested in doing a reading, please talk with Pastor Mary.

Good Friday at Old Stone Our friends at Old Stone invite us to join them for a time of silent reflection on Good Friday (April 3) from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Come when you can and leave when you need to. There will be a self-guided, scriptural reflection to ponder.

Easter Sunday Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 am. Christ the Lord is Risen Today! Alleluia! Come and celebrate with us!

Hymn Sing Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 pm. Do you have a favorite hymn you would like included? Please talk with Pastor Mary or Marian L. We will spend our hymn sing offering our vocal praise to our Lord! All are welcome!

Fellowship Events

Breakfast for All! Saturday, 3/14 & 4/11 at 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!



Coloring and Crafts Night Friday, March 20th at 7:00 pm at the parsonage. Bring your favorite craft or use one of Pastor Mary's many (many) coloring books and join us for a time of creativity, conversation, and excellent snacks!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 5 following our Easter Worship service. The parsonage lawn will be peppered with plastic eggs filled with goodies. We look forward to your donations of trinkets and/or candy to bless our children!



Karaoke Night Saturday, April 25 at 6:00 pm. Back by popular demand, mark your calendar for our next Karaoke-Sing-Along-Eat-Pizza Night! At our last event we had over 40 people and it was great fun.



Wafflefest – Sunday, March 22nd following our church service. Please join us following worship for a time a good food and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please let us know what you plan on bringing!

Community Outreach

Clothing Closet Bag Sale Saturday, March 7 from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. Our loyal volunteers are getting the Clothing Closet ready for our quarterly bag sale. This sale will be a buy one/get one sale. All the proceeds bless this ministry and the ministry of our Ramapo congregation.



Corned Beef Dinner Saturday, March 14. Are you craving corned beef and cabbage? Then bring your friends and get your reservations in for our annual dinner. This year take-out will be available from 5:00-5:30 pm and the sit-down meals will be served after 5:30. Check your bulletin for an order sheet. Check the bulletin board for opportunities to help. We are grateful for the generous donation of the corned beef from Inserra Supermarkets and for the talents of our local chef, Dave H.



March Mission will go to bless Metro Hope New Jersey. Metro Hope NJ brings the gospel to children in impoverished communities through sidewalk Sunday Schools.

April Mission emphasis will be in support of two wonderful causes. The Hope Center in Toms River – helping those in need with food, clothing, and utilities. In addition, Dina's Dwellings in New Brunswick - sheltering women who have experienced domestic violence.



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.



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.