**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

# Thoughts from Pastor Mary

In just a few weeks life is going to start getting really hectic. Thanksgiving gatherings, concerts, parties, shopping, cooking baking, decorating, wrapping – 'tis the season to be busy! It's easy to let the "reason for the season" get lost or pushed aside in the midst of our plans and activities. It's not that the plans and activities are bad. This can be a wonderful time of year to spend with friends and family, but, it can also be a challenging time for so many people. We know that this season is first and foremost about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This amazing gift of love, who came to be one of us for a short period of time. Who came to bear the wrath of God on our behalf. Who came to be "the complete forgiveness of all our sins." We know this season is about a baby in a manger who was sung of by the angels, adored by the shepherds and honored by the Magi. We know that – amid the lights and tinsel – it comes down to Christ. And it's Christ who sees us through the happy celebrations and it's Christ who sees our tears because of an empty seat. It's Christ who has blessed us with turkey and mashed potatoes and stuffing, and it's Christ who holds us when it's all too much. It's Christ who hears our laughter and it's Christ who sees our broken heart. This is what we give thanks for. This is what we celebrate.

# Kajuka School Update

So many exciting things are happening! As of October 29, 2026, the walls are nearly complete, the ground is being prepared for the flooring, and the latrines have walls and cement floors! It won't be long before the building is complete and the students can learn in their new, safe environment! Thank you to all who have supported this important project and to Tom for helping us make this happen!













# Committee Meetings

***Consistory:*** 11/3, 12/1. 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 arises 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 November meeting we will 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:*** Wednesday, 12/2. 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., Monica S., Rena VD., Justin D., and Pastor Mary. We are currently focusing on our annual Christmas Concert (12/5), Caroling Outing (12/13) and Sunday School Potluck and Christmas Play (12/20)

***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 members are Sharon P., Cathy D., and Pastor Mary. We 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 a 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

***Consecration Sunday*** - Sunday, November 15, 2026. Each Ramapo Member and Friend are asked to prayerfully consider how they can support the work and ministry of our congregation through your financial pledge. Your pledges will help our finance committee determine the operating budget for 2027. Your financial gifts go for the obvious things: utility costs, salaries, upkeep of the buildings, and the like. Your funds also work in quieter ways: showing love, mercy and grace! to our community. Following our worship service we will celebrate with a modified potluck: sandwiches will be provided so please bring a salad or dessert to share.

***The Choir*** **-** meets most Sundays following worship and sing once a month in a worship service. New members are always welcome.
Chimes. The chimes players are busy practicing for our Christmas Concert! They meet Sunday mornings after worship. Please see Justin if you are interested in joining.

***Confirmation Class -*** continues to meet after worship on most Sundays. We are working our way through the Heidelberg Catechism – one of the confessions of the Reformed Church in America. 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 (11/10, 11/24, 12/8) at the parsonage. We are currently studying four different types of prayer: Why?, Help!, Thanks!, and Wow! Our conversations are lively, our fellowship is sweet, and we are prayer warriors for each other. New friends are ALWAYS welcome!

***Mission Sundays*** - November 22 and December 20. Our November mission offering goes to support the work of Mahwah's CFA (Center For Food Action). We will collect both non-perishable food (which we will need by Nov. 16) and money to aid the CFA in offering food security for Mahwah residents. Our December mission offering is for the RCA Gift of Hope project. Our money will enable the denomination to purchase chickens, goats, water filtration tablets, and other essentials for families in need in various African nations.

# Fellowship Events

***Breakfast for All!*** Saturday, November 14 and Saturday, December 12 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.





***Crafts & Coloring Night!*** Friday, November 20 at 7:00 pm. Come for a fun night of craftiness (the good kind) and fellowship. Beverages are provided –just bring a snack to share. You may bring your own supplies or use some of Pastor Mary's. (She has a lot!)

# Community Outreach

***Clothing Closet Bag Sale*** - The Clothing Closet is open on Wednesdays from 9:30am – 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, December 5, beginning at 9:30 am. The Clothing Closet recently received a grant from our Classis to renovate the space. We hope to begin working on this project after Christmas!

# Holiday Events

***Thanksgiving Eve Service*** – Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 pm. Join us for a service of Scripture, song and prayer as we give thanks for the many blessings we receive.

***Decking the Halls (aka – decorating the sanctuary)*** – Friday, November 27 at 10:00 am. Join us for a fun and festive morning of decorating the sanctuary for the Advent season.

***Poinsettia Orders*** – due by December 1. A Ramapo tradition: order poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones.

***Christmas Concert*** – Saturday, December 5 at 3:00 pm. Come and celebrate the birth of our Savior in an afternoon of song. Various musicians from our Ramapo family will offer their selections and there will be Christmas carols for all. A reception will follow in the Coffee Room. A free will offering will go to bless The Center For Food Action. You may bring a cash donation or gift cards to local grocery stores.

***Mahwah Winterfest*** – Sunday, December 6 starting at 4:00 pm. The town's 5th Annual Winterfest kicks off with a parade of lights. It would be a wonderful and amazing thing if we could clean up the church model (currently in the cemetery garage), string it will Christmas lights and join the parade! Please talk with Pastor Mary if you are interested in making this happen!

***Christmas Caroling*** – Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 pm. Join us for a short program of Christmas Carols at Norfolk Village (where our Wilma lives). If weather and energy permits, we may also go and sing to some of our homebound members.

***Women's Bible Study Christmas Luncheon*** – Tuesday, December 15 at 12:30 pm at Nancy J.'s home. All Ramapo women are invited to attend!

***Christmas Open House*** – Friday, December 18 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the Parsonage. Come and see the parsonage decked out for Christmas. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and come for a time of festive cheer!

***Christmas Potluck and Sunday School Play*** – Sunday, December 20 following the worship service. Our Sunday School children are putting on a play and we need to be there to support them! A potluck will follow the service and the play will begin when we're all done eating.

***Christmas Eve Candle Light Service*** – Thursday, December 24 at 7:30 pm. This is another of our Ramapo traditions. Join us for a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This year – weather permitting – the service will conclude outside with real candles and the singing of "Silent Night." This is a lovely service to share with people you love.




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.