

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

George and Ira Gershwin wrote, “Summertime, and the living is easy” (from their opera, **Porgy and Bess**) and while it’s true that the pace of life can be a little slower in the summer, it isn’t always easy! People are affected by heat waves, droughts creep in and we worry about our gardens and the crops grown in our area. Tempers flare in the hot weather. Kids get bored without the routine of school. We choose to listen to worship from the cool of our homes rather than sit in the hot sanctuary. Yes – summertime can be great. It can be filled with family and friends, hot dogs and hamburgers, and trips to the shore. But it’s rarely easy. It’s a wonderful thing that – even though life changes, the weather changes, moods change – our God remains constant. Our God remains loving. Our God remains patient and kind and full of grace! He is the One who sees us through the easy and the hard. He is the One who sees us through the good, the bad and the ugly. Celebrate his constant, never-giving-up, never-ending love as you wade through this summer!

Vacation

Pastor Mary and Jim will be on vacation from July 16-26. This year we are welcoming our family back to our home for Camp Stegink 2.0. This year we are delighted that Jim’s mom will be joining us for the first few days. Part of her agreeing to come is that I would lead worship on the Sunday she’s here. So, I will be in the pulpit on July 19. On July 23 we are driving to Michigan to celebrate Jim’s mom’s 90th birthday (she is returning home on July 21). We will return on July 26. Duke will lead our worship service on the 26th. He’s been working with me on sermon writing and he’s doing great! If there is a pastoral need, please contact one of our elders: Duke, Michelle or Sharon (Spike).

July Mission Kajuka School Project



Many of you remember (and miss) our friend James. James worked for years at a local gas station and attended our worship services with his great friend, Tom. During his time with us, our church family was able to raise an incredible amount of money to help James' village in Kenya get a well. The project was successful and the men, women and children of Kajuka County have been enjoying fresh, clean water for about a year now. James returned to his home and family in Kenya at the end of last summer and he has been sending us updates on a regular basis. It is wonderful to see the children with their cups of water, the men and women planting and harvesting from their green gardens.



We now have another opportunity to bless the Kajuka Village. James has asked for our help in rebuilding their school. The current building has a dirt floor and corrugated metal walls. It gets very hot inside that building! In addition, the children need to bring their own chairs and if they don't own a chair, they bring a rock to sit on! They have a chalkboard but a good part of it is missing. Simple things that we take for granted aren't simple at all for the children of Kajuka Village. And then there is the restroom (or lack thereof) situation. The children use one side of an outhouse and it does not have a door. The other side of the outhouse – with the door – is for the teachers. While indoor plumbing is not currently an option, there are better options for restroom facilities.

James would like to rebuild the school with cement block and have a floor poured. He would like to purchase desks and a new chalkboard. Simple things that would make a world of difference!

In a few days, those of you who have email will receive a video from James that explains the project. There will be a direct Venmo link if you would like



to make a contribution. We will also have our mission offering on July 19. Just to be upfront – getting the money to James will be a bit of a process. We hope to write Tom a check and Tom will then wire the money to James.

Our children enjoy classrooms with the latest updates, air conditioning, and technology at their fingertips and we don't even think about it! Just imagine what our gifts will be able to do for the children of Kajuka Village, Kenya!



Committee Meetings

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.

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.

Consistory Tuesdays, 8/4. 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.)

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.

Worship and Nurture Committee Worship and Nurture Committee: Wednesdays, 7/1 and 8/5. 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.

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. The current member is Pastor Mary. She 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 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.

Confirmation Class Pastor Mary has started a new confirmation class on Sunday, March 1 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 group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (7/14, 7/28, 8/11, and 8/25) at the parsonage. We are using ***She Is Called, Volume 4*** for our study. Our conversations are lively, our fellowship is sweet, and we are prayer warriors for each other. New friends are ALWAYS welcome!

Hymn Sing date to be determined. We would love to host a Hymn Sing for our congregation and friends. We are having a challenging time finding a date that works for our committee and isn't during the hot season! Stay tuned!

Fellowship Events

Breakfast for All! Saturday, July 11 and Saturday, August at 8:30 am at the IHOP on 17S. Do you love bacon? (who doesn't?). 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!



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Take Us Out to the Ballpark! Our annual visit to cheer on the Rockland Boulders is scheduled for Friday, August 7 at 6:00 pm. This is a great outing for the entire family! Tickets are \$16 each and parking is \$5 per car (so save some money and car pool to the park!

Coloring and Crafts Night Friday, August 21 at 7:00 pm 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!



at



Family Picnic – Sunday, August 30 following worship. Pastor Mary and Jim invite our families to an end-of-summer/back-to-school picnic!

Community Outreach

Clothing Closet Bag Sale The Clothing Closet is open 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!



Mission Sundays: July 19 and August 16 . Our July mission offering is going to help our friend James with rebuilding the school in his village. Please see the article and pictures above for more information! Our August Mission offering will go to Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mathers. The Smith-Mathers work through our RCA Missions to bring reconciliation and healing to the people of South Sudan.



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 capital letters on a dark blue and purple gradient background.

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.