

**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***

Dear Friends,

We are entering the wonderful, busy, sometimes complicated seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. We anticipate sharing stuffing, turkey, sweet potatoes with marshmallows (because you can't not have the marshmallows!), ham, cookies and candy with family and friends. We look for gifts that are thoughtfully purchased and wrapped. We look forward (I hope) to worship filled with thanksgiving, expectation and hope. We anticipate our Candle Light Service with plenty of readings and Christmas carols. These seasons can be delightful. But they can also be challenging. Challenging for those struggling with grief, for those who find social gatherings to be anxiety producing, for those who struggle to make ends meet on a regular basis. It can be challenging for those who are estranged from family and friends. As a community of followers of Christ, let's hold each other close during these seasons. And let's remember and then remember again what it is we are truly thankful for, what we are truly waiting for, and the birth we celebrate on Christmas. While yes, we are grateful for so many things, these seasons are about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The giver of every good gift. The holder and comforter when things are hard, and the hope for all of our tomorrows.

Thoughts for our food offering for The Center For Food Action

I recently noticed a post on the Mahwah Moms and Dads Facebook page. It was a reminder of what to purchase when you do so for a food pantry. Here is the gist of what it said:

1. Pasta sauce and spaghetti are the most commonly donated foods. Peanut Butter and jelly are right behind – but are only useful if the participant can get bread.
2. Mac n Cheese mixes only work with milk and butter/margarine which are harder to find.
3. Canned food is good as long as the recipient has a can opener. Look for pull-tab lids.
4. Consider cooking oil – olive oil is most appreciated.
5. Spices, spices and more spices – they can be as simple as salt and pepper sets.

6. Tea bags and coffee are welcome.
7. Sugar and flour are treats.
8. Tuna (in pull-tab cans) and crackers make a good lunch.
9. Cake mixes and frosting cans help celebrate birthdays.
10. Dishwashing detergent is expensive but everyone deserves clean dishes.
11. Feminine hygiene products are most welcome.

## *Events, Happenings & Announcements*

**WORSHIP & NUTURE** – will meet on **Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> & December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:30 pm. The Worship & Nurture committee oversees the worship and education ministries of our congregation. Current members include: Pastor Mary, Justin D., Bob A., Marian L., Alan M., Valerie P., Monica S., and Rena V.D.

**CONSISTORY MEETING** – Consistory will meet on Tuesday, **November 11<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm. The Consistory is the governing body of our congregation. Current officers are: Duke G., Michelle K., and Valerie P. – elders and Rob B., Joanna H., and Nancy J. – deacons.



**BREAKFAST FOR ALL!** Our next two gathering are scheduled for Saturday, **November 8<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Meet at the Ramsey IHOP at 8:30 am for a time of fellowship and food! This event is now open to everyone! The men will enjoy their breakfast in one part of the restaurant while the women enjoy theirs in another part of the restaurant. Children are also welcome! They can choose who they would like to eat with.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – will meet **November 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 pm at the Parsonage. We are currently studying ***She is Called, Vol. 3***. New friends are always welcome!

**PIANO FUNDRAISER** – The church is in need of a new piano for the Sanctuary. To offset the cost of the new piano, Ramapo Reformed Church will be having a Pasta Dinner on **a date to be announced**. Members of our congregation – young and not-so-young will serenade us with music during the dinner. Admission is \$10 per person and you will also have the opportunity to purchase a “piano key” for \$50.

**NOVEMBER MISSION** – Mission Sunday is **November 16<sup>th</sup>**. Our mission for November is the Center for Food Action. We will again be collecting food for the Center for Food Action. We ask that you consider donating an item that would contribute to a holiday meal (no perishable items please) or donate any item of your choosing. Gift cards are also a welcomed item. Donations can be dropped off during the week as the church office will have a collection bin. Please bring your donations to church no later than November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**NOISY OFFERING** – On Sunday, November 23, we will hold our second NOISY OFFERING. You are invited to bring your loose change which will be collected during the service by our children. November's NOISY OFFERING will be given to Metro Hope, NJ to help them purchase Christmas gifts for the children who attend their Sidewalk Sunday Schools.

**CONSECRATION SUNDAY** – As we worship our way through the month of November, we will be reminded of the importance of our financial gifts. It's true that we can worship our Lord with our praise, thanksgiving and service, but we are also called to give a portion of our money. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our ministry with your financial gifts. A letter and pledge card will go out in early November and you will be asked to bring your pledge to our worship service on **November 23**. Following our worship, we will celebrate with a modified potluck in the Fellowship Hall. Sandwiches will be provided and you are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share.



**THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNITY SERVICE** - Wednesday, **November 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm. We will collect canned goods for the Center for Food Action.

**DECKING THE HALLS** – We have a beautiful sanctuary that looks even more beautiful during the season of Advent. Consider joining us on **Saturday, November 29 at 9:00 am** to “deck the halls.” Refreshments will be provided.

**CLOTHING CLOSET** – Will hold a December Bag Sale Saturday, **December 6<sup>th</sup>** from 9:30 am- 12:00pm. Come & fill a bag for just \$5 and then get another bag free! Proceeds go toward special projects in our congregation. Open to all! 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.



**POINSETTIAS** – If you would like to help decorate the church sanctuary for Christmas, please consider ordering a poinsettia. Please keep an eye out in the church bulletin by mid- November with details.

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** – All members and friends of our congregation are invited to an Open House at the Parsonage on **Friday, December 12** beginning at 7:00 pm. You are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** – We hope to continue our tradition of bringing some Christmas Cheer to our friends at the Norfolk Village apartments. Join us for a time of caroling and fellowship on **Sunday, December 14** at 4:00 pm.

**CHRISTMAS PLAY** – With the blessing of so many talented children, we are able to present a Christmas Play this year! On **Sunday, December 21**, we will worship together at our usual time, enjoy a potluck following the service and then enjoy the Christmas Play following the meal.

**DECEMBER MISSION** – Our December Mission offering is scheduled for the **19<sup>th</sup>** and will go to RCA Gift of hope Global Mission to assist those in need with clean water, farm animals, medicine, and school supplies.

**BABY BUNDLES** – As you do your Christmas shopping, consider purchasing a gift for our Baby Bundle Ministry. There will be a tree with ornaments in the coffee room, please take an ornament, purchase the item and bring it back to church during the month of December.



**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** at 3:00 pm with a reception to follow.

**CHRISTMAS EVE & CANDLIGHT SERVICE** - Wednesday, **December 24<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm. Join us for a time of readings and Christmas Carols. All are welcome!



**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE CONGREGATION BY THE END OF THE YEAR!** Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the envelope list. If you do not like to use the envelopes, VANCO electronic giving is a great way to go! Please let the office know if you would like more information.

**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.