

**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*

Once again, it's time for a Ramapo Newsletter! It's amazing how quickly time goes (especially when you're having fun!). I will admit that it takes some time and thought to come up with an appropriate opening for our newsletters. You want something that will grab the readers attention, and most importantly, remind them of who we are, what we are about, and who is holding us every moment of the day. Since there was a bit of a time crunch, I thought I would try the "help" my computer wanted to give me and use the AI option. So I put "Spring Church Newsletter" in the "what do you want to write about" box and I pressed go! The following is what came up:

*"As the season of renewal unfolds around us, we are delighted to welcome you to our Spring Church Newsletter. With longer days, blooming flowers, and the promise of new beginnings, we are reminded of God's grace and the fresh opportunities He provides for growth in our faith and community. May this newsletter inspire you, keep you connected, and fill your heart with hope and joy as we journey together through this vibrant season."*

It's not half bad. It got the season, it got the core of the gospel (without the !), and it named the purpose of the newsletter. It's kind of scary. As Christina said after I read it to her, "why would anyone write something original?"

But, here's the thing: maybe the compute can write a decent introduction, but the computer doesn't know this congregation. The computer doesn't know our joys and our struggles. It doesn't know or care what is on our hearts. When we (Christina and I) work on the newsletter, it's done with you – the church family gathered at the Ramapo Reformed Church – in mind. It's done with hope and love. Hope that we will continue to grow as a community in ways that bless us and our community. Love that we can extend to each other and the people around us. This newsletter isn't just a calendar of dates and events, it's a testimony of who we are, who we are called to be, and what we are called to do. So read about our family and know that you are loved.

Pastor Mary

## *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 the Jims (Shields and Stegink).

**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., Jim S., Wilma P., Nancy H., Sharon P., Dick O., Rena VD. Pastor Mary & Christina W. are on the committee, but are non-voting members.

**Consistory** Tuesdays, 5/12 and 6/2. 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.

**Worship and Nurture Committee** Wednesdays, 5/6 and 6/3 at 7:30 pm. The Worship and Nurture Committee oversees the worship and education ministries of our congregation. In March we began a second confirmation class. Our new students are Samuel D., Nova G., and Nina K. 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. 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** 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 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 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 (5/12, 5/26, 6/9 and 6/23) 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, May 9 and Saturday, June 13 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!



**Game Night!** Friday, May 15 at 6:00pm at the parsonage. Come for pizza and soda, conversation and cut-throat games of Uno, laughter and friendly competition with other games. It's a great night out and it's free!

**The Annual Church Picnic** Sunday, May 31 following our worship service. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, lawn chairs, lawn games, and a hearty appetite! All are welcome!



**Coloring and Crafts Night** Friday, June 19th 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!

## Community Outreach



**Baby Bundles Luncheon** – Saturday, May 9, 1:00 pm. Join us for a time of fellowship and outreach as we assemble newborn packages. Each package includes 1 package of diapers, 1 package of wipes, 3 “onesies,” 2 footie sleepers, a bib, a toy, a hat, a book, 3 pairs of socks, 3 swaddling blankets and 1 homemade blanket. The packages go to the St. Joseph Clinic in Paterson and are given to families who come with next-to-nothing for their infant. We are looking for **donations of Size 1 diapers and baby wipes.**

**Clothing Closet Bag Sale** Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 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. The Clothing Closet is also open on 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!



Mission Sundays: May 17 and June 21. Our May mission offering goes to support J.J. TenClay. J.J. works for the Reformed Church in America (our denomination) as a refugee resettlement expert. She has been working with churches in Italy to find homes for displaced people from various countries in Africa. Our June mission offering goes to the Reformed Church Home in New Brunswick, NJ. This is an agency of the RCA and as a RCA congregation, we are asked to support them.



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.