

**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***

Welcome to the reboot of the Ramapo Newsletter! After a hiatus, the newsletter is back to keep you informed about the various activities and ministries that are taking place on the corner of Island Road and West Ramapo Ave. The newsletter will come out every other month and will cover the events for the next two months. As we (Christina and I) were working on getting this ready, I was pleasantly surprised by the number of things we have to write about! For a small(ish) congregation, we are certainly busy with both internal and external ministry. Of course, there is always room for more! More ideas, more participation, more grace! and more love. Happy reading!

Last winter Jim and I started doing jigsaw puzzles again. This has been a favorite activity of our family for years now but was usually done while we were on vacation. As I was recovering from my first knee replacement surgery, we realized jigsaw puzzling was a creative and low-energy activity – something I could do that wouldn't stress my knee. Once we began, it's been hard to stop! Here's why we enjoy them so much: you take a bunch of random pieces, and through thought and reasoning, place them in their appropriate spot. Once the pieces start coming together – a beautiful picture begins to emerge. And when the puzzle is completed we have something lovely! It takes patience – the picture doesn't appear after the first few pieces are placed – but it is worth the wait and worth the work. I think about how our congregation is like a jigsaw puzzle. The Apostle Paul likes to equate worshiping communities to the human body – various parts that come together to form a whole. Jigsaw puzzle or body – we are different and we bring different gifts and abilities to the big picture. And when we work together – something beautiful emerges. Something that speaks to those in need, those who are lonely, anxious and weary. Something that speaks of the love and grace! of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In the following pages you will read about different pieces of our ministry – they are all important because they all speak to the

whole: they speak to what we can do together for the sake of the Gospel and the building of God's family. Find your piece(s) and join us!

*"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body (puzzle), joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part (piece) is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." Ephesians 4: 15-16*

**Great Good News!** The Window Restoration Project is nearly complete! We thank everyone who donated money for this important project. We also thank the skilled people at J&R Lamb for their careful work!

This means . . . we can move on to our next Fund Raiser! The Consistory has given the Worship and Nurture Committee permission to seek funds for a new piano for the sanctuary! It is our hope to purchase a new or gently used Yamaha upright piano to enhance our worship services. The current piano has seen better days and struggles stay in tune. With the gifted musicians we have, it's time for a better instrument! If you are interested in donating, please talk with Pastor Mary. There will be a fund raiser dinner in October. Stay tuned (pun intended!) for more details.

While this is actually going to happen in November, we figured an advance notice would be helpful. Start saving your loose change for our next "noisy offering." Our noisy offering will be held in November and will go to Metro Hope New Jersey so the organization can purchase toys for the children who attend their Sidewalk Sunday Schools.

Have you ever driven by and wondered why there are so many cars in the parking lot? Well we have the privilege of renting the education building to the Growing Seeds Learning Academy during the week. In addition, we have the following groups who rent the fellowship hall on a regular basis:

Sunday mornings at 7:30 am – AA meeting

The third Monday of the month – 6:00 pm – Circle of Friends Meditation Group

Tuesdays from 5-9 pm – The New Jersey German Shepherd Training Club

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm – AA meeting

The third Thursday of the month – 7:00 pm – Hudson Valley Wood Turners

Fridays at 1:00 pm – Noble Muslim Prayer Group

In addition we rent the Fellowship Hall out for baby showers, birthday parties and other celebratory occasions! It is a wonderful way to be present for our community!

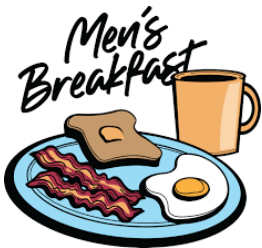
## Events & Happenings

**WORSHIP & NUTURE** – will meet on **Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> & October 1<sup>st</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.

**CLOTHING CLOSET** – Will hold a “Back-To-School” Bag Sale Saturday, **September 6<sup>th</sup>** from 9:30 am-noon. 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.



**CONSISTORY MEETING** – Consistory will meet on Tuesday, **September 9<sup>th</sup> and October 14<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.



Our next two gathering are scheduled for Saturday, **September 13<sup>th</sup> and October 11<sup>th</sup>**. Meet at the Ramsey IHOP at 8:00 am for a time of fellowship and food! All men – young and not-so-young – are invited.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – will meet **September 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 pm at the Parsonage. Starting September 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be using ***She is Called: Volume 3*** by Rev. Liz Testa. All are welcome!

**MAHWAH DAY** – Is **Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. We need help setting up, staffing our booth, taking it down, and are also requesting cash donations to purchase the necessary food items. This is an incredible opportunity to be present in our community. This year the Duck Races will make another appearance! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or you may reach out to the church office if you would like to volunteer.



**SEPTEMBER MISSION** – Mission Sunday is **September 21st**. Our mission for September is The River Ministry in Hackensack, NJ. This is a local ministry of help, healing, and hope sponsored by our Classis for the homeless in Bergen County. We will also be collecting men's socks, t-shirts and underwear over the coming weeks (there is a collection box in the coffee room). Your donations, as you are able, are appreciated.



**BABY BUNDLE LUNCHEON** - The Baby Bundle is a ministry that packs newborn gift packages for clients of the St. Joseph Clinic in Paterson. The luncheon will be held in **Fellowship Hall Saturday, October 11th at 1:00 pm. Donations of BABY WIPES AND DIAPERS (size 1), are needed!** For more information, please talk with Pastor Mary.

**Classis Great Palisades** - is scheduled to meet on **Thursday, October 16** beginning at 4:30 pm. This is the broader governing assembly that our congregation is a part of. The Classis meets three times a year for business meetings (which include the examination of future ministers, various proposals, justice issues, and worship). The Classis also meets when a new pastor is ordained, a current pastor is installed, a new congregation is born, and sadly, when a congregation closes its doors. Each congregation is expected to host a regular meeting and in October it will be Ramapo's turn. This will involve serving supper (possibly making it as well - we'll see. . . .). Please let Pastor Mary know if you are available to help between 5:30 and 7:30 pm on that day.

**OCTOBER MISSION** – Our October Mission offering is scheduled for the **19<sup>th</sup>** and will go to support the Solid Foundation Skate Park. The goal of this ministry is to give the youth of Paterson a creative and safe place to learn and practice skateboarding while learning about the unconditional love of our Savior.

**DISNEY KARAOKE NIGHT!** - **Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.** Please join your Ramapo family, friends from Old Stone Church, and families from the Growing Seeds Learning Academy in song! Pizza and beverages will be provided. Come and enjoy the fun even if you don't want to sing.





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.



## *RRC Photo Album*



If you have any photos and would like to add them to the next newsletter, please email them to the office: [ramaporeformedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:ramaporeformedchurch@gmail.com)