

RAMAPO REFORMED CHURCH

100 Island Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

Rev. William F. Grob, *Pastor*

www.ramaporeformedchurch.org

Church Office: (201) 529-3075

Monday – Friday: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



PASTOR BILL'S EASTER NEWSLETTER



*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
- Proverbs 3:5-6*



Easter, 2020



Dear Friends,

Earlier this year when we still could travel, Debbie and I drove to Savannah, Georgia for a wedding. Stopping off along the way, we visited family on St. Simon's Island. On touring the island and learning about the history of this beautiful place, we came upon Christ Episcopal Church, practically adjacent to Fort Frederica. I was delighted to learn that while Savannah was the first missionary location for John Wesley, this church and fort was the first pastoral assignment for his younger brother, Charles. This brought me back to my church history lessons, where I studied how these two famous brothers did not fare so well in their first calling in the Colonies. In fact, Charles returned to England after a short time, while John returned just over a year later rather abruptly following a disagreement. Depressed and feeling unsuccessful in ministry, John was ready to forgo his calling and follow another path. Not too long after, John was walking on Aldersgate Street in London when he experienced a life altering change of heart. One thing led to another, and, like Martin Luther some two hundred years before, John founded a bold, new way of practicing faith and worship. All simply by doing what he felt God was leading him to do. Today we call this new way the Methodist Church, and it has been a witness to the gospel around the world ever since.

Continued...

We currently live in a time of uncertainty in dealing with the global coronavirus pandemic. I am quite sure we will get past this but at what cost, and what will the world look like when it is over? Yet when I think back to the great uncertainty John and Charles Wesley encountered when they were just getting started in the Colonies, my heart becomes strangely warmed as well. I realize that even when we think we are failing, God may just have better plans for us as we seek to follow. And is not this the Easter story? If anyone ever thought that life was over as they knew it, it would have been Jesus' personally chosen disciples on the first Good Friday. But God knew better. And on the third day the world changed, and it has never been the same since. I know I never get everything right all the time, but I do know that God is at work in each of our lives to help us find our way. Thus as we seek to move forward into our future, may the grace of God and the promise of the gospel, forged from the fire of Good Friday and Easter, help us as we seek to live on and support each other in this time of need. And until the time when we are allowed to visit in person once again, blessings be upon you, your families, and the communities in which we live.



Pastor Bill

Anchored in the past, sharing Christ's message today, and growing in faith into the future



CLOTHING CLOSET MINISTRY





The Clothing Closet is temporarily closed. We appreciate you holding donations at this time. Once re-opened, spring and summer items will be welcomed and appreciated.

RRC MONTHLY CALENDAR

These are indeed strange, new times, and as such, it is impossible to produce a traditional calendar of events. So instead, above is a fun calendar where there is a message for each day to go along with that day's holiday, some recognizable while others of which you may never have heard (I for sure did not know that 4/17 was "Blah, Blah, Blah Day!"). In any event, we searched for a scripture verse or passage that might correspond with each holiday, so that we all may have the opportunity to keep in touch with God who gives us strength and hope during these times of uncertainty. Enjoy and may the Lord richly bless you and keep you safe under the shadow of His wing (Psalm 91:1-6). - Pastor Bill

Ramapo Reformed Church

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Childhelp National Day of Hope</i> - Send a note of encouragement to a child Romans 15:5	2 <i>Reconciliation Day</i> - Make contact with some one you miss Romans 12:18	3 <i>World Party Day</i> - Say a prayer for those around the world who are struggling Philippians 4:3	4 <i>Handmade Day</i> - Make something from scratch to share with a friend Genesis 18:1-8
5 PALM SUNDAY Rejoice that Jesus is King! Mark 11:1-11 Worship Online	6 <i>Sport Day</i> - Take a long walk or exercise 1 Kings 18:41-46	7 <i>No Housework Day</i> - No cleaning allowed! Have Fun Ecclesiastes 8:14-15	8 <i>All is Ours Day</i> - Reflect on all the blessings God has given you Philippians 4:12	9 Maundy Thursday Reflect on what the Last Supper means to you Mark 14:12-25	10 Good Friday Reflect on why we call this day "Good" Mark 15:33-41 Romans 6:1-11	11 <i>Pet day</i> - Spend some extra time with your pet or research an animal you do not know much about Psalm 50:10-11
12 EASTER! He is Risen! Celebrate your new Life in Christ Mark 16:1-8 Worship Online	13 <i>Make Lunch Count Day</i> - Make a special lunch and eat it somewhere unexpected Psalm 23:5-6	14 <i>Reach as High as You Can Day</i> - Pick a dream and start working towards it! Philippians 4:13	15 <i>Rubber Eraser Day</i> - Remember that God does not condemn us for our mistakes Romans 8:1-4	16 <i>Healthcare Decision Day</i> - Make one choice to improve your health 1 Corinthians 10:31	17 <i>Blah, Blah, Blah Day</i> - Listen for what God is Really Saying	18 <i>Columnist Day</i> - Fact check all that you read to make sure it is the truth John 8:31-32
19 <i>Humorous Day</i> - Find the Humor in all situations Genesis 18:9-15 Mission Sunday Worship Online	20 <i>Look Alike Day</i> - Dress up as someone you admire Genesis 1:26-27	21 <i>Library Workers Day</i> - Read a book download a movie or send a thank you to the library 2 Kings 22:1-10	22 <i>Earth Day</i> - Plant some flowers, recycle, care for the garden Psalm 148 Genesis 2:1-3, 15-17	23 <i>Picnic Day</i> - Pack a picnic and find someplace fun to eat it Ruth 2:14-16	24 <i>Arbor Day</i> - Take a walk in the woods or plant a tree Psalm 1:1-3	25 <i>Telephone Day</i> - Phone a friend Psalm 25:1-22
26 <i>Audubon Day</i> - Reflect on the birds of the air & how they reflect God's care Matthew 6:25-33 Worship Online	27 <i>Tell a Story Day</i> - Share a favorite childhood story or book with someone Deuteronomy 6:4-7	28 <i>Super Hero Day</i> - Read about some of the Bible Super Heros of Faith Hebrews 11:1-40	29 <i>Dance Day</i> - Make up a dance to your favorite song 2 Samuel 6:16-19	30 <i>Honesty Day</i> - Choose to give only truthful answers for the day Ephesians 4:25-32	Looking into May - We will have to see what develops! 	

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Spring is beginning to bloom all around our church. Although we currently cannot be there together "in person", we thought we would share some pictures of how beautiful it looks at the start of this glorious season.



EASTER 2020

NEWS FLASH: Easter Not Cancelled! Jesus Still Rises from the Dead!

It won't be the same as Easters past, but the "reason behind the season" remains the same. Even though we will be celebrating Jesus' rising from the dead via video (just think if Mary had had a cell phone with her that first Easter morning!), the blessing of the day will still carry the strength of God's Spirit to see us through these uncertain times. In addition, we encourage you to check out our "RRC From Home" page on the RRC website to find online Holy Week and Easter services and messages. And it is our hope to host our annual Easter Egg Hunt with all of you, once we are able to be together again.



Easter flowers have been ordered. Pictures of them adorning the sanctuary, in addition to the dedications, will be posted on our website Easter weekend. If you have ordered flowers, and would like to pick them up after April 12th, please call the church office to arrange a time.

KEEPING IN TOUCH (WHILE STAYING APART)

The Ramapo Reformed Church wants to stay connected with our church community during this unprecedented time. Since we are practicing social distancing, we have looked to online outlets to allow us to bring information, church services and some entertainment to you. Here are some of the ways we are hoping to keep in touch, while staying apart:

And - *please* don't hesitate to let us know if you need help finding, or connecting, to any of the above. You can call us at the church office or email us at ramaporeformedchurch@gmail.com.



***Our "RRC From Home" page on the Ramapo Reformed Church website (www.ramaporeformedchurch.org).** This is a central spot to find videos, online services, messages and more. To get to it, you can use the link on our website's home page or navigation bar. Please check back regularly to see what has been added.



***Our Ramapo Reformed Church, Mahwah YouTube channel.** You can search for it on YouTube, or use the link found on the "RRC From Home" page. We welcome you to subscribe to our page or, if you prefer, all YouTube videos will also be posted on the "RRC From Home" page.



Our FaceBook page. Why not join the "friends" who are following us by adding the Ramapo Reformed Church to your Facebook friends list? We are posting often to keep our FB followers "in the loop" and entertained. Search for us at @ Ramapo Reformed Church. Enjoy!

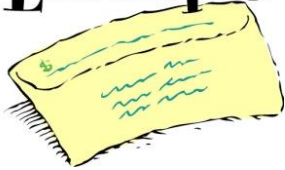
YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

We know that these are new and uncharted times for our church members and the world. We also understand that many are facing financial strains due to the economic impact of the Coronavirus. For those of you that are able, we are grateful for your continued financial support. If you are wondering how best to do this - please consider the following:



The Ramapo Reformed Church offers a convenient way to make your regular and mission offerings as church service has been temporarily moved online and as we all continue to practice social distancing. With our well established *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*, visit the "Online Giving" page of our website (www.ramaporeformedchurch.com). If you have any trouble, you can contact Roger Knauss (rogerknauss@verizon.net) or call the church office (201-529-3075).

Offering Envelopes



If you would like to continue with giving envelopes, they can be mailed to the church office or dropped in the mailbox outside the church office door during office hours (M-F, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm). We ask that you drop them during these hours so that we can ensure that they are safely retrieved. However, please refrain from visiting the church office when dropping them off, as we are continuing to make every effort to practice social distancing.

thankyou