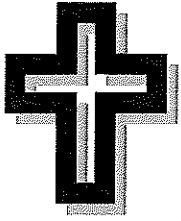


# 2024-2025 Colts Neck Reformed Church Annual Report



**Confess our Faith: Jesus Christ is Savior**  
**Nurture our Faith: Life-long Learning**  
**Reflect our Faith: Worship and Witness**  
**Carry out our Faith: Everyone in Ministry**



# The Colts Neck Reformed Church

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**CONFESS OUR FAITH:**  
JESUS CHRIST IS SAVIOR

**NURTURE OUR FAITH:**  
LIFE-LONG LEARNING

**REFLECT OUR FAITH:**  
WORSHIP AND WITNESS

**CARRY OUT OUR FAITH:**  
EVERYONE IN MINISTRY

SCOTT D. BROWN  
MINISTER

GENE RYAN  
FAMILY LIFE MINISTER

MAGGIE TRIPOLD  
DIRECTOR  
MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

DAVID TRIPOLD, PH.D.  
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MEGAN VALESKI  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR

ELLEN KARL  
ACCOUNTANT

GREG ROBINSON  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

LAURIE HARRIS  
ASSISTANT TREASURER

Dear Friends,

Another program year begins – and we are filled with thanksgiving. It is a privilege to serve as your pastors, and as such, we are grateful to God for the opportunities entrusted to us to welcome more and more people to receive the love of Christ. Along with that, we are grateful for all those who support the ministry of our congregation with your time, talent and treasure. I hope you will look through this annual report and be excited to be part of an expanding and energy-filled ministry. There is a lot of activity, but with each report presented there is an underlying story of people who are growing spiritually.

Informed by our involvement with the Resilient Church project through Whitworth University, we recognized one of our leading opportunities is in connecting with people with a variety of media platforms. As people are connecting in new as well as traditional ways (think “online worship”) we’ve added a part-time staff position. We are blessed in having Megan Valeski come onboard as our Communications Coordinator. We’re also recipients of a grant from Whitworth University to help fund these efforts, which includes updating our website.

After years of small changes in staff, this has been a year of several moves. Joy Lenz’s administrative responsibilities with the Early Learning Center morphed to Laura Tucker taking on teacher support and curriculum alongside director Stacey Savage. Our Early Learning Center has an enrollment of 102 students (2 ½ - Kindergarten)! After almost 20 years of service, Dianne O’Hara retired as our Congregational Care Coordinator. We are grateful to have Sandy Freeman take over that part-time role. Also – we are blessed as Olivier Gousse started as our sexton. Finally, a search committee is in place to seek our next music and worship arts leaders as Maggie and Dave Tripold will be retiring at the close of this coming program year.

Another shift and change is in timing of consistory terms. Previously new consistory members were elected in September and began serving in October – after the program year had begun. To allow newer members to be part of the program planning process, we’re now electing new members in July and have them begin serving early August. And finally, a most significant part of the previous year has been “Pave the Way.” Our three-year capital campaign engendered a wonderful and faith-filled response as \$1.3 million was pledged. Thank you! This has already allowed for a new clapboard exterior on 1/3 of the sanctuary exterior and a complete painting of the church building. Also, the centerpiece of “PTW” is a new driveway configuration and repaving of the parking lot, which includes not just paving, but new base and sub-grading. This work is set to begin this summer and will occur in phases over the coming months.

Thanks to your diligence and generosity, this past year the church is meeting our financial expenses and generously making benevolence giving a priority. What you give and how you serve literally makes an eternal difference. Your prayers, your volunteer time, your dedication and your commitment make this a most exciting ministry. May God bless you as together we seek to be a blessing to others.

Rev. Scott D. Brown

Rev. Gene Ryan

### CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS

*The following people have accepted the nomination by the nominating committee to serve on Consistory or next year's nominating committee. The election occurred during worship on Sunday, July 20, 2025.*

#### **DEACON**

*Pete Engelman  
Ginne Hooper  
Lucy Lennox*

#### **ELDER**

*Kristi Cilenti  
Joe Pisano  
Peter Sokol*

#### **2025/26 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

*Laurie Robinson  
Jillian Sherman  
Len Simicich*

The following tallies are based on the church's fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

<b>NEW MEMBERS (18)</b>	<b>BAPTISMS (11)</b>
Betty Lou Applegate Norman Applegate Joseph DeNotta Jessica DeNotta Allison Brown Dawn L. Seaman William F. Seaman Laura Truglio Victor Truglio Julie Self Joshua Self Laura Lombardi Izabela Buttacavoli Brett Buttacavoli Carol Skubik Steven Grosse Rebecca Todd Dencey Schmidt	Corinne Isla Zarra <i>August 11, 2024</i> Christian Pasquale DeServio <i>October 13, 2024</i> Jude Paul Grosse Todd <i>October 13, 2024</i> Sydney Josephine Smolinski <i>October 27, 2024</i> Victor Charles Truglio <i>November 17, 2024</i> Aidan Richard Thornton <i>January 12, 2025</i> Donn Joseph DeNotta <i>January 26, 2025</i> Cali Rae Gilpin <i>February 16, 2025</i> Samuel David Ryan <i>May 25, 2025</i> Landon Wyatt Marash <i>June 1, 2025</i> William Reed Weh <i>June 15, 2025</i>
<b>MARRIAGES (4)</b>	<b>MEMBER DEATHS (4)</b>
Jonathan Weh and Alyssa Secrest <i>July 13, 2024</i> Nicholas Tucker and Caroline Teel <i>November 22, 2024</i> Shamus Field and Lindsey Rappleyea <i>May 17, 2025</i> Henry Santos and Caitlin MacClellan <i>June 7, 2025</i>	Leonard (Mike) B. Williams III – <i>July 2, 2024</i> Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Kluge – <i>November 23, 2024</i> James McQuerrey – <i>January 6, 2025</i> Richard E. Hooper – <i>April 24, 2025</i>

## **COLTS NECK REFORMED CHURCH ANNUAL BUDGET**

### **“CHANGING LIVES FOR CHRIST”**

Thank you for your financial support of the ministries and mission of the Colts Neck Reformed Church. The 2026 budget reflects both gratitude for God's blessings and an intentional investment in our beloved and vibrant church.

Following is a snapshot of our plan for ministry. Spread throughout the three sections you'll also find budget numbers of what sustains our ministry—like utilities, insurance, maintenance and staff salaries. These are not merely costs; they are the foundations that allow our ministries to flourish. From heat in the sanctuary to church school curriculum, your offerings make possible all that we do in Jesus' name.

Over and above this annual budget is our 3-year capital campaign “Pave the Way.” Your additional gifts and pledges are vital to making necessary improvements to our buildings and grounds. Thank you!

Please prayerfully consider how you are called to return thanks to God for your blessings in a tangible way through your tithes and gifts. Your giving makes a life-changing impact. You may contribute in person through cash or check or via the church's online giving platform, found on our website – there you can set up one-time or regularly scheduled gifts. If you would like to give stocks or from charitable trusts, please speak with the financial secretary, Greg Robinson. The church's fiscal year begins July 1, yet we encourage you to review your giving plan throughout the year.

#### **Praising Jesus**

We seek to provide meaningful, inspiring, life-changing worship every week of the year. Both in-person, and on-line worship allows people to praise, pray and hear the Good News of Jesus. There is a buzz in the sanctuary, and we receive notes (and financial support) from worshipers across the country. People who are homebound, who work on Sundays, who have other commitments or are on vacation, church family members who live at a distance, relatives, and amazingly people who have never set foot in Colts Neck have found their way to us to worship God – sometimes in real time and others when it fits their schedule. It's a new way of being “church” yet we believe it to be true that if we don't embrace technology, we will be irrelevant in a decade. It's the trend of life – people work remotely, shop online, take college classes by zoom – so in extension, they wish to be spiritually renewed online.

Our in-person Sunday worship is supported by over 200 volunteers in the ministries of ushering, sound/video techs, sacramental service, music ministry, nursery care, coffee fellowship hosts, library readers. Baptisms are a special highlight and blessing. New members are joining, affirming their faith in Jesus! Weddings are covenantal blessings! Funeral services are times of both deep grief as well as a witness to the resurrection.

We have relevant and inspiring sermons and in addition to Sunday mornings, we offer a variety of special services including an “All Saints Day” remembrance service, a Thanksgiving service combined with St. Mary's, the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and a Tenebrae Good Friday service. We were blessed by a dynamic Youth Sunday. A highlight was the intergenerational musical, “A Not so Terrible Parable: a mysterious whodunit about the Good Samaritan.”

Our music program is superb – including five vocal choirs, four bell choirs, and Alleluia Jazz. In addition to singing/ringing on Sundays, a “sounds of Christmas” concert and a “Spring Ring,” our choirs also share their talent and faith at nursing homes, Monmouth University, and senior residences!

**Budget total: \$337,000**

#### **Making disciples of Jesus**

Our church seeks to help all persons grow in their relationship with the Lord, whether they are 8 months or 98 years old. Our Sunday morning church school teaches children 3 years old through 7<sup>th</sup> grade about God's love and brings Bible stories to life. In confirmation class, 8<sup>th</sup> graders (and older) reflect on their own faith journey, learn about the church, and prepare to become full members. Youth fellowships are growing and Camp Fowler is a significant faith-builder for our teens while also providing opportunities for fun and service. There are Bible studies offered, Sunday discovery times, an annual women's retreat with a guest speaker.

A significant ministry of our congregation is our Early Learning Center with 102 children engaged in growing educationally, spiritually and academically. This ministry has its own tuition-based funding.

We also dedicate ourselves to “making disciples” through congregational care. Our prayer chain is a vibrant link to keeping people connected and supported. We regularly express the love of Christ through meals to those welcoming a new baby or recovering from a hospitalization. Holy Yoga programs bring strength and balance within a spiritual context. Fellowship gatherings weave the fabric of the congregation even more closely. Women of d'Vine. Advent Family night, Gingerbread House Making, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Brunch, Ice Cream Socials, Mahjong, Book Discussion Groups, a great Rally Day picnic, a chili-cook-off, potluck suppers, quilting groups all provide opportunities for community.

**Budget total: \$247,000**

### **Serving Jesus**

Mission is the heart-beat of our congregation. We honor God by serving our neighbors. There are people with empty stomachs, empty wallets, empty lives – and Jesus gives us the opportunity to help fill them up with food, support and purpose. People from our congregation have been deployed on week-long mission service trips to rebuild places devastated by poverty or natural disasters. There have been many, many more who serve closer to home through many outreach partners. We volunteer with these organizations – collecting food and clothing, tutoring, blood drives, Pedals for Progress, CROP, serving meals, building homes, providing emotional support. A “day of mission” was a success with 80+ people volunteering at a variety of mission sites on an October Sunday afternoon. Our annual fundraiser, the Election Day Event – the bazaar and lasagna dinner raised over \$10,000 for benevolent causes; thanks to all who volunteer.

In addition to hands-on service, you are the ones who sacrifice financially to give money to feed the poor, house the frail elderly, comfort the afflicted, protect the community and share the Good News of Jesus. Our Christmas gift program is an amazing time of generosity. We partner with over 40 agencies and overseas missionaries who make a present-life-giving and eternal-life-providing difference. Additionally, we provide meeting space for numerous community groups as well as 2-step programs (e.g. AA) each week so that people can maintain sobriety and clean living.

**Budget total: \$335,000**

**Total dollars to fulfill our mission of “Changing Lives for Christ”: \$919,000**

## Financial Report, Fiscal year ending June 2025

### Statement of Operations - Consolidated All Funds for the twelve months ending June 30,

	/-----Year-to-Date-----/		
	Budget June 2026	Actual June 2025	Budget June 2025
<b>INCOME</b>			
Total Contributions	867,500	871,061	834,500
Early Learning Center (ELC)	551,150	538,062	491,750
Other	8,500	50,106	7,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,427,150</b>	<b>1,459,229</b>	<b>1,333,250</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Labor Expenses	856,728	862,580	839,440
Operating Expenses	407,952	363,043	328,477
Benevolences	135,000	136,842	129,000
Capital Expenditures	15,000	8,089	40,000
Other		27,785	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,414,680</b>	<b>1,398,339</b>	<b>1,336,917</b>
 Sub total change in cash flow	 12,470	 60,890	 (3,667)
Mortgage and loan Paydown	(30,000)	(97,151)	
Capital Campaign donations		530,986	
Capital Campaign Expenditures		(93,291)	
<b>NET CHANGE IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(17,530)</b>	<b>401,434</b>	<b>(3,667)</b>

### Summary of Operations

Total contributions for the fiscal year 2025 were \$871,000, and included a grant from Whitworth of \$10,000 and a donation from the Atlantic Cemetery of \$20,000 for partial forgiveness of the loan. Whitworth is a Christian institution, and the grant is to assist us to expand our online presence. Early Learning Center tuition is up due to higher enrollment.

Labor and operating expenses are up due to the increased enrollment in Early Learning Center. We had 82 students in October 2023 vs 96 students in October 2024. With an increase in enrollment come a corresponding increase in teacher salaries, supplies and curriculum.

In July 2024, we paid off the remaining \$77,151 mortgage balance. We used \$40,000 from the Endowment Fund, and the balance from our cash reserves.

The Atlantic Cemetery forgave \$20,000 of the outstanding loans in May. This was recorded as an in-kind donation, and a loan payoff (expense) in May.

At the end of the year, we had loans of \$155,000.

Our Benevolence program remains strong, both in terms of absolute dollars as well as the types of programs and activities we support.

Cash generated from the Church and the Early Learning Center from normal operations were positive for the fiscal year 2025, and we are budgeting positive cash for 2026 as well.

Our capital campaign which began in November 2024 has resulted in pledges over \$1,300,000, and actual donations received as of June 30, 2025 totaled \$531,000.

On behalf of the finance team, thank you for your generosity. Because of your financial contributions, we were able to support numerous programs and activities....both within the church, and throughout our local and global communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Robinson

## ADMINISTRATION REPORT

We are completing our first year with our new insurance carrier Church Mutual. Our coverage includes our Liability Package, Umbrella Policy, Worker's Compensation, Accident and Health Coverage, Auto Policy and Employment Practices Liability and Directors & Officer's Coverages. The total package saw an increase from 2023/2024 to 2024/2025 of 7.4%. Our Auto Policy renews in June, our EPL and D&O Policy in December and the balance of the coverages in September each year.

Our copy machine was up for renewal in October 2024. We opted to go with a new upgraded machine, similar to the one we had been using. The monthly lease cost increased by \$30.00; however, our maintenance costs dropped due to the age of the machine and our usage history. Our projected savings for the year is \$613.00.

Craig Jensen and Bill Perkinson worked to review the staff computers, replace equipment where necessary and upgrade all users to Windows 11.

Time was invested this year to determine if the church was eligible for non-profit funding. In the process I discovered "The National Fund for Sacred Places" which is a program in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is a matching grant program with awards between \$50,00 and \$500,00 "for the planning and execution of urgent capital projects at sacred places that are valued for their cultural importance as well as providing human services, strengthening communities and revitalizing neighborhoods..."

The repair and painting of the Church could have potentially been eligible; however, we had already raised the money so we were not eligible at the time. The driveway project was on a list of exclusions.

Scott and I reviewed the criteria and determined we could potentially be a candidate for future building projects, such as the structural integrity and stabilization of the steeple and the re-purposing of the out-buildings, as long as they are rehabbed and not turned into new construction. Applications are due in March of each year, and the final notification is in October. The Church should engage a structural engineer regarding the steeple to determine if, and when, work should be done, and whether or not we could receive a grant to complete it.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane D. Rappleyea*  
Commissioner for Administrator



## ATLANTIC CEMETERY

There is an excellent brief history of the cemetery in the 2006 book Celebrating the Journey, 150 Years of Ministry of the Colts Neck Reformed Church which may be obtained from the church office.

The cemetery is run by a twelve-member Board of Trustees. Six trustees are plot owners, and six trustees are members of the church's greater consistory. Rev. Scott D. Brown serves as President of the cemetery association. Ron Bird concluded his service as Treasurer in April of 2025, and Bob Wyatt has taken over the role as Treasurer. John Applegate is Secretary of the Atlantic Cemetery Association. The cemetery association's regular annual meeting is open to the public; it is held in the evening on the last Thursday in April. Until recent years the minutes of the trustees' meetings were hand-written in a leather-bound book. The minutes contain information such as the assets and expenditures of the cemetery, cemetery maintenance, the rules of the cemetery, and other issues that may be brought to the trustees' attention. That book may be viewed in the church office. Minutes of more recent meetings may also be obtained from the church office.

When the cemetery was first formed many church families bought large "squares" of plots in the cemetery. In recent years, however, each year just a few burial spaces are sold in the cemetery. At the current rate of sales, the cemetery will have space available for many, many years. There are an increasing number of cremains (ashes) burials rather than full burials. At the 2012 annual meeting the board approved the creation of a "Remembrance Garden" – a place where cremated ashes may be placed without the need for a cemetery plot space. The garden has since been built on church property adjacent to the southern edge of the cemetery; it has been used several times.

For the year ended December 31, 2024, the cemetery equity increased by \$16,460.27. Plot sales, cemetery and garden fees, and interest and increases in investments for the year were \$28,560.27. Expenses for the year were \$12,100.00. The cemetery's assets as of December 31, 2024, were \$311,782.86.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bob Wyatt*

Treasurer, Atlantic Cemetery

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT 2024-2025

This year, CNRC continued to use the **Presbyterian Curriculum (PCUSA)** to guide Sunday School programming. Students and teachers explored a rich series of thematic units including:

- *Make Peace*
- *Practice Generosity*
- *Go Tell*
- *Forgive*
- *Honor the Sabbath*
- *Love God, Neighbor, and Enemy*

### ENROLLMENT & STRUCTURE:

- **53 registered students** (with ongoing registrations expected)
- **Pre-K/Kindergarten:** 18 students  
*Teachers: Alyssa Giles and Krissy Garside*
- **1st/2nd Grade:** 8 students  
*Teachers: Sara Moran and Aly Wirth*
- **3rd/4th Grade:**  
*Teachers: Jillian Sherman and Christin Outwin*
- **5th/6th/7th Grade:**  
*Teachers: Marjorie Savage and Gerlinde Martin*
- Additional classes were supported with a growing **substitute teacher list** maintained by Rev. Gene Ryan and Sara Moran.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- **October 27, 2024:** One Room Schoolhouse on peacemaking led by Reverend Gene.
- **December 22, 2024:** Special Christmas activity.
- **March 23, 2025:** *Beyond the Laces* Assembly, presented by Bob Salomon and Rick Young, emphasizing kindness and perseverance.
- **April 13, 2025:** Easter celebration activity.
- **April 27, 2025:** One Room Schoolhouse on First Communion.
- **May 4, 2025:**
  - Service project: students wrote cards to church members.

**SAFETY-** We continue to improve the safety and security of children during church school. All teachers attended a mandatory safety training session prior to teaching this year. We also had a designated safety monitor every week. Thank you to our safety monitors: Joe Specchio, Kyle Hyrmack, and Bill Schmocker.

Date	Total Students	Pre-K/K	1st/2nd	3rd/4th	5th/6th/7th
9/15/24	38	14	8	10	6
9/22/24	32	13	8	7	4
9/29/24	23	9	4	7	3
10/6/24	21	8	5	3	5
10/13/24	24	18	combined class	6	n/a
10/20/24	20	8	7	4	1
10/27/24	23	One	Room	Schoolhouse	
11/3/24	35	12	9	8	6
11/10/24	22	8	3	5	6
11/17/24	33	15	9	5	4
11/24/24	17	6	5	4	2
12/1/24	26	10	4	7	5
12/8/24	37	16	9	8	4
12/15/24	20	13	14 (combined 1-4)		7
12/22/24	26	11	8	4	3
12/29/24	N/A	No	Sunday	School	
Fall Average	26	11	7	6	4
1/5/25	28	13	9	4	2
1/12/25	30	13	10	7	n/a
1/19/25	22	5	8	5	4
1/26/25	25	10	7	2	6
2/2/25	33	12	8	6	7
2/9/25	35	12	9	10	4
2/16/25	21	7	3	6	5
2/23/25	0	Intergenerational	Musical		
3/2/25	30	8	9	6	7
3/9/25	28	9	7	4	8
3/16/25	23	9	4	7	3
3/23/25	24	One	Room	Schoolhouse	
3/30/25	37	14	9	6	8
4/6/25	25	9	8	5	3
4/13/25	36	13	10	7	6
4/20/25	N/A	Easter			
4/27/25	N/A	One	Room	Schoolhouse	
5/4/25	25	11	7	combined 3/4 class and 5	7
5/11/25	26	9	7	6	4
5/18/25	N/A	Youth Sunday			
Spring Average	26	10	7	6	5
Year Average	26	11	7	6	5

## FIRST COMMUNION

Six children participated in the One Room Schoolhouse which focused on learning about communion. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the following children were invited to the Lord's Table:

**Gio Cilenti, Anna DeNotta, Michael Giles, Justin Ker, Connor Moran, and Madison Perloff**

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER (ELC)

The CNRC Early Learning Center celebrated its **54th year** of community service. Under the leadership of **Stacey Savage**, the ELC continues to thrive as a cornerstone ministry of the church.

This summer, we will conduct the second year of Vacation Bible School from July 21st-July 24th.

## BIBLE STUDIES

Weekly **Thursday and Friday Morning Bible Studies** continue to thrive, offering spiritual growth and fellowship for adults.

The **Women of D'Vine** group meets monthly on the **first Tuesday**.

## DISCOVERY HOUR

Discovery Hour offered dynamic adult education and spiritual enrichment. Below is a summary of offerings from **Fall 2024 through Spring 2025**:

### FALL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Capital Campaign Information Sessions (Sept–Oct)
- Christian Book Studies
- "Social Media 101" with Krissy Garside
- Christmas-themed discussions and activities
- Gingerbread House-making (Dec 22)

### WINTER & SPRING 2025:

- **January–April:**  
Topics included *Faith After Doubt* book discussion, *Exploring Spiritual Gifts* series, *Bereavement Support*, *New Member Class*, *Christian Book Study*, and *Mahjongg Lessons*.
- **April 6–May 18:**  
Featured events like the **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**, **Sanctuary Tour**, **Mom's Coffee Connection**, and the **Cemetery Walk** with Pastor Scott.

Discovery Hour concluded in **May 2025** and will resume in **September 2025**.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT:

The annual **Women's Retreat** was held **February 7–8, 2025**, at Grove Hall in Ocean Grove. Led by **Reverend Dawn Alpaugh**, the retreat offered both overnight and program-only options and was a time of connection, reflection, and renewal for participants.

## FACEBOOK AND DIGITAL MINISTRY

- **Daily Devotionals** are posted to the CNRC Facebook page, averaging **25–30 likes** and **5–10 comments** per post.
- **Daily Email Devotionals** are available to subscribers. Members can call or email the church office to be added to the list.

## CONCLUSION

Christian Education at CNRC continues to grow and thrive, offering spiritual enrichment for every generation. From Sunday School and the Early Learning Center to Bible Studies, Discovery Hour, retreats, and digital ministry, our programming helps nurture faith, connection, and character in a meaningful way.

We are grateful for all our teachers, leaders, and participants, and look forward to another joyful year of growing in Christ together.

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Respectfully Submitted,

*Sara Moran*  
Commissioner for Christian Education

## ENGAGEMENT

Our congregation continues in our commitment to "welcoming all into the life of our church family," both through engaging with our current members in our technologically advancing world and celebrating new members who joined us this year.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Currently, >1,100 follow our Facebook page and >360 follow our Instagram account (with each up ~60 and ~70 followers from last year, respectively). The estimated reach (from posts, stories, ads, tags, check-ins, page or profile visits from within and outside of followers) for Facebook is up nearly 2% from last year. Additionally, the church website is undergoing a revamp to support ease of use for smooth member sign-ups and awareness of church activities. Design 446 has been supporting our brand refresh through the Whitworth Resilience Project, and they will be delivering an updated website by Rally Day. Megan Valeski started in the new position of Communications Coordinator this summer, driving social media content and website updates and ensuring a strong and cohesive online presence.

**ONLINE WORSHIP:** We spread the good news of the Gospel through daily devotionals and online viewing options for our church services and musical concerts. We continue to explore and test ideas to incorporate our remote members with online presence.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We held three new member classes and we were so blessed to welcome eighteen new members this year. Classes take place both in person and online.

**MEMBER OUTREACH:** Moms and young families were identified as groups that sought additional community connection. We started a "Mom Group" this spring that meets the first Sunday of every month. This group will continue during the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kristine Cantin Garside*  
Commissioner for Engagement

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS Annual Report Summary: July 2024 – June 2025

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has remained attentive in maintaining, improving, and planning for the care of our church facilities and grounds. We are pleased to report several key accomplishments and progress on major initiatives:

### Capital Projects and Maintenance

- **Heat Pump Replacement:** One major capital expense was incurred this year — the replacement of a heat pump serving the first and second floors of the Community Center at a cost of \$6,500. Fortunately, no additional capital expenditures were required during this period.
- **Ongoing Maintenance and Improvements:** Our new sexton, **Olivier Gousse**, joined the staff in July and has made significant contributions. He connected all outdoor lighting and timers to a smartphone app, streamlining adjustments and increasing efficiency. He also completed ceiling plaster work and repainting in the choir room which was necessary after the installation of new LED lights.

### Grounds and Landscaping

- Longtime groundskeeper **Ed Janowski** notified us of his retirement at the end of the 2024 season. **Designer Landscaping, (Brian Olt)** has been contracted for the upcoming season's needs.

### Sanctuary Repair Project

- A subcommittee (Bob Gassaway, Joe Specchio, and Paul Anderson) was formed to oversee the upcoming **Sanctuary repair project**.
- After developing a detailed scope of work and receiving four bids, the team interviewed three firms. Following evaluation, a contract was signed with **Victor Zucchi and Son**.
- The painting of the complete exterior (following the clapboard replacement in the 1984 section of the sanctuary) was completed in July 2025.

### Pave the Way Capital Project

Planning for the **Pave the Way** capital improvement initiative has advanced steadily. A project team, including church leaders and committee members (Paul Anderson, chair, Pete Engelman, Bob Wyatt, Ed Nyland, Andre Ameer, Janine Smolinski, Lucille Centanni, Bob Gassaway, Kevin Robinson, and Scott Brown) met multiple times to develop:

- A comprehensive project schedule
- Phasing plans to minimize disruption
- A detailed scope of work and contractor bid list
- A cash flow schedule to align with available resources
- Finalized documents from Two River Engineering including updates required by Colts Neck Township and the Soil Conservation District, were received.
- 9 potential contractors were identified and given bid documents and spec sheets. Bids were received from 5 contractors/paving firms of which 4 were interviewed. The bid was awarded to Marlin Construction Services, Inc.
- The project is scheduled to begin mid-August 2025.

## **In Gratitude**

We are thankful for the dedicated efforts of our committee members, volunteers, staff, and professionals who have supported the care and stewardship of our sacred spaces. The progress made this year lays the foundation for long-term improvements that will benefit the entire congregation and community.

Respectfully submitted,

*Paul Anderson*

Chair, Buildings and Grounds Committee

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

At Colts Neck Reformed Church, we are blessed to be part of an extended church family that offers care, compassion, and connection. I'm honored to share that I have recently taken on the role of **Congregational Care Coordinator**, following in the thoughtful footsteps of Dianne O'Hara. I am grateful to be welcomed into this beautiful ministry and look forward to continuing the spirit of love and support that Dianne helped nurture.

Below are just some of the meaningful ways Congregational Care reaches out to serve the church family. Many of these were implemented by Dianne, and I am excited to carry them forward. If you would like to participate in any of these ministries, or if you or someone you know could benefit from them, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can email me at [cnrc.care@cnrc.church](mailto:cnrc.care@cnrc.church) or call the church office at **732-462-4555 x1150**.

Here are just a few examples of how people in our congregation share their spiritual gifts through Congregational Care:

- Volunteers prepare and deliver meals to families welcoming a new baby or navigating illness or grief.
- A prayer chain receives emailed prayer requests and lifts them up in prayer.
- Volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments or church services.
- Holding crosses are provided for ministers to take on visitations.
- Knitted blankets are lovingly made and gifted at baptisms.

### **Additional Areas of Care and Connection Include:**

- **Nametag Sundays** – Held throughout the year to help us get to know one another.
- **New Members Class** – For those new to CNRC or considering membership. These are held in person. New members are warmly welcomed during coffee hour and featured in our weekly church communications.
- **Annual Remembrance Service** – A time of reflection and healing held in the fall.
- **Visitor Welcome Centers** – Located at both church entrances and stocked with resources and welcome bags.
- **Bulletin Board Management** – Volunteers keep Fellowship Hall displays current with sign-ups and opportunities.
- **Hospitalization and Illness Follow-Up** – Ensuring Scott and Gene are informed, and check-ins are coordinated.
- **Visitor Outreach** – Supporting follow up with new guests.
- **Event Collaboration** – Working with consistory to plan activities throughout the year.
- **Medical Equipment Lending Program** – Supervised and managed as part of care support.

These are just a few of the many ways our church family cares for one another, much of it happening quietly and consistently behind the scenes. Congregational Care also works closely with Consistory to keep CNRC vibrant, welcoming, and connected to the community.

Other ministries under our care umbrella include:

- **Social Media Presence** – Facebook and Instagram continue to help us reach and engage with members and newcomers alike.
- **Holy Yoga** – Led by Barb Tucker, offering in-person sessions for wellness and spiritual growth.



As we move into the coming year, I look forward to continuing this important ministry with ongoing care, support, and prayer for all within our church family.

**If you'd like to be involved, or know someone who could benefit from Congregational Care, please contact me anytime at [cnrc.care@cnrc.church](mailto:cnrc.care@cnrc.church) or 732-462-4555 x1150.**

*Sandy Freeman*  
Congregational Care Coordinator

## **ELECTION DAY DINNER AND BAZAAR**

COVID and new township/health regulations required retooling this time-honored tradition. A new menu and a take-out system with a streamlined bazaar in Fellowship Hall have continued to generate funds for our benevolence budget. A delicious, generous portioned lasagna (either a meat red-sauce, or a vegetable white-sauce) was provided either hot or to-be-heated later. A green salad with meats, vegetables and cheese with a choice of dressings on the side and a piece of dessert (pie or cake) made it a complete meal. People shopped throughout the day and as they were picking up their meals. Thank you to *Cris Wyatt* for her extraordinary culinary expertise and to *Adrienne Spota-Walker* and *Lisa Specchio* for organizing the bazaar – and for the many volunteers who supported and served.

We anticipate more changes in the year to come so as to make the bazaar even more effective and a served sit-down meal that would ensure a great community spirit, an “all-hands-on-deck” common goal experience and yet meet required guidelines and be held at a time when more volunteers may be available. Stay tuned!

## **ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 30, 2025**

The Endowment Fund of Colts Neck Reformed Church is different from the Memorial Fund (which the church uses for current special projects).

The principal of the Endowment Fund is held in trust for the church. As of June 30, 2025 the total contributions were \$58,000 and the Endowment Fund Value was \$73,496.08. The net change from the prior year was -\$12,911.83. The Endowment Fund earnings are used to provide seed money for new projects, ministries, and missions. From July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 we had a distribution of \$40,000.00 and contributions totaling \$20,000.00.

The total distribution to date is \$67,826.74.

For additional information, please contact any of the committee members. They are *Paul Anderson*, *James Holder*, *Paul MacClellan*, and *Brad Lenz* and ex-officio member, *Rev. Scott Brown*. You can access the church website at [www.coltsneckreformed.org](http://www.coltsneckreformed.org) and select the category *Giving*, then *Giving at CNRC*, and then scroll down to *Endowment Fund* for an overview.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Brad Lenz*

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR REPORT

The 2024/2025 school year, which marked our 54th anniversary, was yet another year of growth and success for the school. We began the year with our highest enrollment in the last 10 years, housing three 3-year-old classes, two 4-year-old classes, one Transitional/Traditional Kindergarten and two Playgroups that grew from fourteen to twenty-nine children as the year progressed.

We continued using a cloud-based software package, Brightwheel, for billing and messaging for the school. Each family has their own account attached to the Brightwheel app from which they receive and pay their invoices, and they can message myself and their child's teachers. Brightwheel allows for bank drafts and credit card payments at an additional fee to the payers. Each teacher has a tablet in her room to use for all Brightwheel related activities, but most prefer to use their personal phone or watch.

As our preschool classes grew, so did our staff needs. Our preschool teachers included Ms. Susan Clarke, Ms. Mary Piotrowski, Ms. Jolene Gillespie, Ms. Allison Scher, Mrs. Elana Eng, Mrs. Danielle Quigley, Mrs. Denise Kline and Mrs. Kelly Wagner. The teachers were assisted by Ms. Crissy Applegate, Ms. Chloe Zarillo, Mrs. Stephanie Collura, Mrs. Starla Abbadessa, Mrs. Gina Glazier, and Mrs. Linda Krawewski. Mrs. Kay Brown returned as our music teacher and used Fellowship Hall for her classes. This Year Mrs. Laura Tucker came out of the classroom and began her new role as Curriculum Supervisor and Director of Special Events. In Mrs. Tucker's new position, she assisted the staff with curriculum development and supervised additional activities that she planned throughout the year. Under Laura's leadership several additional activities and special events took place at the school. Some of these events include and cereal box domino event where all cereal boxes were donated to the local food pantry, a whole school scholastic book fair, several new assemblies and a trip to the Algonquin Theater. Laura's new position has freed me up to take care of all administrative activities while growing the school. It also should be noted that both Mrs. Danielle Quigley and Mrs. Jolene Gillespie attained their CDA (Child Development associate degree). This year long program, which is financially supported by the school, requires participants to attend classes, build a portfolio, have an onsite observation and take a standardized test. This program seeks to prepare early childhood professionals who may not have come to teaching through a traditional route. Once CDA status is obtained there is a relicensing obligation every three years. We are extremely proud of both Mrs. Quigley and Mrs. Gillespie for their efforts.

Our Kindergarten class moved over to the Ministry Center this year to a brand-new classroom. The room was outfitted with new furniture, supplies and a smartboard. Mrs. Scher and Mrs. Wagner cotaught this group utilizing several widely used curriculums that are being used in our area. These new curriculums required both teachers to spend additional hours in-servicing to be proficient in teaching the curriculum. This class took part in many of the additional preschool activities and special events. The children were routinely assessed and receive report cards quarterly.

We were able to host both our Spooky Science Night in October and our Family Science Night in March. Both events were extremely successful, with over one hundred children in attendance at each event. This year these events expanded outside of Fellowship Hall, due to the growing population of families who take part in these two events. This year we utilized the classrooms as "breakout" activities to ensure Fellowship Hall was not overcrowded. We also hosted our Thanksgiving Feast for our 3-year-old families and our Polar Express Event for our 4-year-olds. We celebrated our Mother's Day Tea held at Colts Neck Firehouse #1 due to the increased enrollment and the large number of family members in attendance. We brought our Music Program Reception back to the School/Church campus with an ice cream truck outside. We extended our curriculum with several activities outside of the classroom. All our 3- & 4-year-olds went pumpkin picking at a farm in Monroe. Our 4-year-olds also took a bus trip to the Algonquin Theater, and our 3-year-olds enjoyed a farm day on camps. Our Kindergarteners also hosted an International Festival, highlighting what they had learned while studying various countries, which also included a musical component thanks to Mrs. Brown.

This summer we brought back a four-week summer program, which included a week of Vacation Bible School. Utilizing ELC staff, we were able to partner with Reverend Ryan and a few Church volunteers to provide both students and church children ages 3 to 8 with a fun filled week of religious education.

A note of gratitude:

Looking ahead to the 2025/2026 school year, we will be looking to increase staff, revise our staff handbook, and look for more opportunities to engage with the community outside of our school. We will also look to host events that bring our school community together to continue to foster that small school family feel. I am both humbled and grateful for the overwhelming support I have received from Reverend Brown, Reverend Ryan, the CNRC staff, Consistory, and the entire CNRC community. It is a blessing to be surrounded and supported by all those within this community.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Stacey A. Savage, Director*  
*Colts Neck Reformed Church Early Learning Center*

## FELLOWSHIP

We started the year with Fall events. Rally day is the last event covered by the prior year's committee.

### **EVENTS FELLOWSHIP HELD OR SUPPORTED THIS YEAR:**

**Rally Day** – Laura Burke arranged an ice cream truck, which was very successful! We assisted with the set-up for Rally Day. We manned a table and shared upcoming Fellowship events. We helped clean up the area and just generally helped as needed.

**Bike Rally-** We assisted the Mission Committee with their Bike Rally by serving post ride refreshments.

**Election Day Events-** We helped set up the Bazaar and manned tables to assist the craft sales, and the clean-up. Quite a few Fellowship Committee members volunteered to man the tables.

**Advent Church Family Night** – Many committee members helped with this event.

**Gingerbread House Making** – To continue the celebration of the Christmas season we hosted a Gingerbread House creation event. Kristine Schmocker created the gingerbread houses in advance so the focus could be on decorating and fellowship.

**The Christmas Gift Program** – We worked closely with the Mission Committee to coordinate a Christmas Gift Program for Open Door in Freehold. We organized the sign-ups, reminders, delivery, and coordination together with the Mission committee.

**The Christmas Party** – We supported the Axtell's in hosting the Church Christmas party. We supplied food, drinks, wine, beer, set up and clean up. Reverend Brown ran a hilarious gift exchange!

**Chili and Brownie Cook Off** – Lucy Lennox, Alison Johnson, and Ellen Karl organized a highly successful Chili and Brownie bake off.

**Shrove Tuesday** – We worked with Reverend Brown to continue a Shrove Tuesday tradition for the congregation. We had a full kitchen staff cook and serve three types of pancakes, bacon, sausage, and fruit salad. We had over 80 congregants attend and enjoy a Mardi Gras themed night.

**Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt** - Our fourth annual Easter Egg Hunt! Our Youth Group helped smaller children gather over 600 eggs! We asked for the eggs to be returned for next year.

**Easter Brunch** – We worked with Kristine Schmocker again to prep food for her brunch. Committee members worked to support Kristine Schmocker in this endeavor.

**Blue Claws game** – We helped Laura Burke sell Blue Claws tickets to benefit Raising Hope for Others.

**Camp Fowler Ice Cream Social-** We hosted an Ice Cream Social for everyone who attended Camp Fowler. The Youth shared their favorite moment with the congregation.

**Backpack Drive** – We assisted the Mission Committee in supporting Open Door's backpack drive.

### **Ongoing Activities:**

**Mahjong Lessons** – We continued mahjong lessons. Our group of 15 players are becoming very good at the game. New members are ALWAYS welcome.

**Raising Hope for Others** – Laura Burke is one of the primary forces behind the annual fundraiser. We encouraged Fellowship and Women of D'Vine members to attend and support Laura.

The **Women of D'Vine** meet on the first Tuesday of the month, attendance varies from 10-16+ people.

The **Women's Book Club** meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Attendance varies from 8-23 people.

The **Knitting** group, Knit One, Pray Too, is on hold.

The committee is kept informed via emails, bulletin announcements and phone calls. Every bimonthly Consistory report on Fellowship is shared with the committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

*Victoria McKenzie*

## MISSION COMMISSION AND BENEVOLENCES 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

As we reflect on the past year, the Mission Commission at Colts Neck Reformed Church celebrates the many ways our congregation has responded with generosity, compassion, and action. Rooted in our calling to serve others as the hands and feet of Christ, the Mission Committee has continued to live out our faith through meaningful engagement in four key areas: financial support to organizations, hands-on mission work, ongoing and special collections, and the Mission Ambassador Support Team (MAST).

As faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us, Colts Neck Reformed Church has provided financial support to a diverse range of mission partners throughout the year. These contributions served as tangible expressions of our commitment to sharing God's love through sustained outreach, both locally and globally. Whether responding to emergency needs or supporting ongoing initiatives, your financial gifts helped strengthen the work of organizations aligned with our values of compassion, justice, and community uplift.

This report celebrates the accomplishments of the past year, shares stories of impact, and lifts up the many individuals whose generosity and faith have fueled our mission. As we continue striving to *"love not with words or speech but with actions and in truth"* (1 John 3:18), we remain committed to being a church that not only speaks of hope but actively brings it to life.

### Financial Support to Mission Organizations

Your financial gifts help support many mission programs and charities that provide relief and comfort to those in need. Colts Neck Reformed Church donated 15 percent of last year's contributions for mission benevolences, totaling approximately \$129,000. These contributions assisted eighteen organizations and projects addressing local needs in the Monmouth County area. Our congregation also supported twelve organizations dealing with regional and national needs. Internationally, Colts Neck Reformed Church supported Reformed Church of America programs and missions around the world. We also supported seminary education at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and Hope College.

In addition, generous giving from the congregation throughout the year supported a variety of other programs, including providing backpacks, knit-a-square collection, Christmas gift program, Crop Walk, food for hosting dinners at St. Peters in Freehold and funding mission trip expenses.

### Hands-On Mission Work

This year, our congregation continued to roll up its sleeves and serve with love. From preparing meals and organizing clothing drives to participating in local service projects, these acts of kindness created tangible change in our community and beyond. Each effort, whether large or small was rooted in the belief that our faith calls us not just to speak of love, but to live it.

One of the year's most impactful events was an adult mission trip to Whiteville, North Carolina, from February 14–21. Eleven members of our congregation dedicated a week to hands-on service, partnering with a local church community to meet real and immediate needs.

Throughout the week, the team tackled a variety of projects, including:

- Replacing the surface of a deck to improve safety and accessibility
- Repairing damaged flooring and making essential updates in the church that hosted us
- Fixing the roof of the church's pastor's home
- Sorting and preparing over 250 food boxes at a local pantry, helping to combat food insecurity in the area
- Installing new kitchen flooring and performing additional home repairs for a member of the church community

Although the work was physically demanding at times, the week was filled with camaraderie, purpose, and joy. Each task served as a reminder of the power of faith in action—and the team returned uplifted by the lives they touched and the relationships they built.

## **Ongoing and Special Collections**

Through generous and faithful giving, Colts Neck Reformed Church remained a steady source of support for those experiencing hardship. Our congregation once again demonstrated remarkable generosity through a full calendar of collections, drives, and outreach activities. Monthly collections, seasonal drives, and special appeals allowed us to respond to immediate needs while sustaining vital partnerships with mission agencies. These efforts provided essentials like food, home goods, school supplies, and warm clothing - each item is a reminder to recipients that they are seen, valued, and not alone.

### **Backpack Collection (August 2024)**

Throughout July and August, CNRC members contributed 116 fully stocked backpacks to support youth served by Open Door in Freehold. Thanks to the outpouring of generosity—and the dedicated coordination of Laurie Robinson, who spent countless hours shopping, sorting, and organizing supplies. Each backpack was filled with care and customized to the students' needs.

### **Food Sort at Fulfill (August 2, 2024)**

Eight members of CNRC volunteered in the Sort Room at Fulfill Food Bank in Neptune, preparing food packages for same-day distribution. Their work supported Fulfill's mission to combat hunger across Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

### **Clothing Drive (September 2024)**

Gently worn clothing and shoes were gathered for Family Resources in Shrewsbury. These donations offered warmth, dignity, and support to individuals and families navigating hardship.

### **St. Peter's Supper (September 27, 2024)**

Led by Beth Burke, CNRC hosted a community meal at St. Peter's Church in Freehold for approximately 85 guests in need. Volunteers provided food, hospitality, and a warm welcome to all who attended.

### **3rd Annual Bicycle Ride for Missions (October 6, 2024)**

On a beautiful fall afternoon, five riders participated in our third Bike Ride fundraiser—three on the long course and two on the short. The event raised approximately \$750 for mission work, thanks to the generous support of sponsors and the hospitality of the Fellowship Team and Victa McKenzie.

### **Day of Service (October 27, 2024)**

With 81 participants, our Day of Service brought the whole congregation together in joyful, hands-on outreach. After worship and a lunch generously donated by Saker ShopRite and Texas Roadhouse, volunteers fanned out to serve through projects including:

- Leading worship at the Reformed Church Home
- Sorting food and cleaning at Open Door
- Cleaning local roads with Clean Communities
- Painting the Choir Room at Church
- Cleaning and repairing pews in the Sanctuary
- Preparing food for the church bazaar
- Walking in our Crop Walk to raise money for food to stop hunger in our area
- Assisting at the Associated Humane Society
- Joining a Habitat for Humanity home build in Wall (October 25)

### **Lunches for SteamPark, Inc. (Nov. 17 & Dec. 1, 2024)**

On two dates, CNRC volunteers assembled and delivered 32 lunches to be distributed at SteamPark's Jersey City Academy—supporting their mission to uplift youth through education and nourishment.

**Thanksgiving Blood Drive (November 29, 2024)**

CNRC's Thanksgiving Blood Drive collected 24 units of blood in Fellowship Hall, providing vital support to local hospitals and patients during the holiday season.

**Christmas Gift Program & Soup Kitchen Outreach (December 2024)**

This year's holiday outreach was deeply impactful.

- All 87 children adopted through Open Door received gifts presented at the December 15 service and delivered for distribution.
- Over \$3,330 was raised to create 96 comprehensive care packages for guests of Trinity Church's Saturday Soup Kitchen in Asbury Park. Originally planned to include just blankets, gloves, and hats, the generosity of the congregation allowed for expanded contents: socks, flashlights, washcloths, deodorant, lip balm, dental hygiene items, anti-bacterial soap, and Dunkin' Donuts gift cards.
- On December 14, seven CNRC volunteers served lunch and distributed those care packages to soup kitchen guests, offering not just essentials, but dignity and compassion.

**Food Sort at Fulfill (January 17, 2025)**

Nine members returned to Fulfill to support food sorting and distribution.

**Household Goods Collection for I-RISE (January 2025)**

We collected and delivered a full carload of household items to Interfaith-RISE in Highland Park to aid refugee families.

**St. Peter's Supper (March 14, 2025)**

Eighteen volunteers served dinner to over 75 guests at St. Peter's Church. Special thanks to Beth Burke for leading the effort.

**Knit-a-Square Collection (March 2025)**

Our Church gathered over 600 hand-knitted and crocheted squares that were sent to South Africa for children's blankets. Deep thanks to Lynne Garner and the many knitters who knitted so many squares for months, that would be used to make blankets to keep children warm.

**Mission SWAT Team Project (April 9, 2025)**

Installed new kitchen flooring in a CNRC member's home, continuing our commitment to local, relational service.

**Easter Meals for Aslan Youth Families (April 2025)**

Collected 21 bags of Easter meal groceries for families connected to Aslan Youth Ministries in Red Bank.

**Raising Hope for Others Collection (May 2025)**

Gathered supplies for comfort bags to uplift hospitalized patients with warmth and encouragement.

**St. Peter's Supper (May 23, 2025)**

Served a lasagna dinner to those in need, led again by Beth Burke and supported by 18 enthusiastic volunteers.

**Fulfill Drive-Up Pantry Support (May 30, 2025)**

Eleven CNRC members helped distribute food to families at Fulfill's drive-up pantry site.

**Summer Blood Drive (June 26, 2025)**

Partnered with the New York Blood Center to collect 32 units of life-saving blood.

**Mission Ambassador Support Team (MAST)**

Colts Neck Reformed Church is blessed to work with Mission Partners throughout the world. Our Mission Partners do amazing work for their local area, and we were fortunate to have 3 of our 4 mission partners visit us at a Church service, including Tara Woodward Bosman from South Africa who we welcomed as a new Mission Partner this year.

Our Mission Ambassador Support Team (MAST) are members of our congregation who establish and build a relationship with their respective mission partner and families. The MAST partner stays in contact with

the partner in mission on a frequent basis, getting to know their partner as a friend and keeping updated of the partners struggles and triumphs and needs.

**Dr. Yohannes Bekele** – Ethiopia, (MAST Partner- LuAnne Petrie): Dr. Yohannes Bekele serves as the Director of the Christian-Muslim Relations Center at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, where he leads efforts to build bridges between faith communities through education and dialogue. With a deep commitment to theological scholarship and peacebuilding, he oversees academic programs that prepare pastors and church leaders to engage thoughtfully with Muslim neighbors across Ethiopia. Yohannes leadership has become a vital force in promoting mutual respect and reconciliation in regions marked by religious diversity and complexity. In April 2025, he visited our church, offering insights into his work so our congregation could better understand his commitment to interfaith understanding and community outreach.

**Linn Gann – India** (MAST Partner – Lucy Lennox): Linn is the founding president of *Mission Partners India* and has devoted herself to uplifting marginalized communities in South India through a blend of education, economic empowerment, and faith-based collaboration. Her initiatives include schools that offer hope and opportunity to Dalit children, income-generating programs like the Give-a-Cow initiative, and tailoring training that equips women from diverse backgrounds with life-changing skills. Linn's vision has led to the construction of vibrant community hubs and fostered strong partnerships between the Church of South India and supporters abroad—bridging continents with compassion and purpose.

**Amy Lewis - Central Asia** (MAST Partner – Carol McCoy): Amy continues to encourage and lead newly believing students in Central Asia. This spring she helped lead a student conference called "Connect" which had 90 students (believers for 1-2 years) from 4 countries gather to connect with God, each other, and to grow in capacity to connect the world around them with Jesus Christ. Amy is a leader, follower, translator, and partnership coordinator. She connects with the local team leaders who directly report to her. Amy returned home to CNRC in May to provide an update on her work.

**Rev. Tara Woodward Bosman – South Africa** (MAST Partner – James and Christine Romano): Tara is a missional networker in South Africa whose work bridges faith communities across continents. She has cultivated relationships between churches in Gauteng Province and those in North America—focusing on urban poverty, reconciliation, and holistic development. Through her involvement with the Tshwane Leadership Foundation and the Centre for Faith and Community at the University of Pretoria, she mentors young adults, fosters job readiness, and promotes urban workplace theology in areas facing economic hardship. Tara's ministry blends theological insight with practical action, fostering collaborative preaching, pastoral exchanges, and spiritually rooted social transformation. Tara visited us on Rally day sharing her journey and inspiring deeper reflection on justice, community, and global faith partnerships.

In conclusion, as we close out another year of ministry and outreach, we give thanks for the hands that served, the hearts that gave, and the spirit that sustained us through every moment. From feeding neighbors to fostering connections, each effort reflected our shared calling to be the light of Christ in the world.

Looking ahead, we celebrate the opportunities that await us—the chance to deepen our impact, expand our reach, and continue answering the call to serve with faith, compassion, and hope. Together, we step forward into a new year, ready to embrace the challenges and blessings that lie ahead, trusting in God's guidance every step of the way.

Respectfully submitted,

*Fred Berenbroick*

Hands on Mission

*Craig Jensen*

Mission Benevolences



## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Our CNRC family is truly blessed with a dedicated and skilled staff whose faith, commitment and vision keep our church programs and missions moving steadily forward, spreading Christ's love.

### **Scott Brown, Senior Minister**

We are grateful for Scott's extraordinary leadership and vision. Through his faithful guidance, humble leadership, and continuous demonstration of love for this congregation, our church continues to be a beacon of Christ's presence in our community. Our *Pave the Way* program is beginning to bear fruit in refurbishing the Church's physical structure and will soon result in improvements in access to our church campus. Scott's leadership of our church staff has brought about redefined roles and responsibilities that keep the church adjusting to a changing world. Perhaps most importantly, Scott's caring for our church family, through happy times and challenging times, has reminded us how much we are loved by God every day. This year we had the joy of celebrating Scott's 40<sup>th</sup> year of his ordination, as well as his 35<sup>th</sup> year as pastor at CNRC. Thank you, Scott, for all that you do!

### **Olivier Gousse, Church Sexton for Maintenance**

We welcomed Olivier to our CNRC staff at the beginning of this fiscal year, replacing Gary Fare who passed away in September 2023. If you see Olivier's friendly face around our campus, working on any number of projects, please make a point to say hello. We are grateful to have Olivier on staff caring for the church buildings and infrastructure.

### **Ellen Karl, Accountant**

This is Ellen's first full year as church accountant. She partners with volunteer Laurie Harris, in paying our bills and running our payroll, as well as our financial secretary, Greg Robinson. Ellen is a valued member of our staff and finance team. We are fortunate to have Ellen on our staff in this critical function.

### **Joy Lenz, Administrative Assistant and Early Childhood Learning Center Secretary**

Retiring after 18+ years of service with CNRC, we are thankful for the impact Joy has had on our administrative functions, our website, and our Early Learning Center. Although no longer on our staff payroll as of mid-September 2024, Joy has continued to handle our memorial contribution acknowledgments as a volunteer. Thank you, Joy!!

### **Pam Licata, Church Administrator/Secretary**

Pam continues to lead our administrative office functions so capably, and as such is a strong ambassador for CNRC. Pam is often the first point of contact with visitors and congregants alike, whether visiting our Campus Ministry Center in person or over the phone. Pam always presents a calm, professional and friendly response to any inquiry she receives and finds creative solutions to many complex challenges. Pam is an integral member of our CNRC staff team, and we continue to be so grateful for her leadership.

### **Susan Linnell, Digital Ministry Coordinator**

We thank Susan for her service to CNRC and for leading our Digital Ministry, overseeing our live stream productions, worship service projections, recordings, slide preparation and coordination of our technical team of volunteers. We are so grateful for Susan and her team, enabling so many of our church family near and far to worship with us.

### **Dianne O'Hara, Congregational Care Coordinator and Director of Health/Wellness Ministries**

Retiring after 20 years leading our Congregational Care ministry, we are thankful how capably Dianne helped develop this important ministry of CNRC. The Congregational Care Coordinator helps our ministers keep track of congregants who are sick, receiving treatment, and families who are grieving; following up with visitors and new members; managing the prayer chain; and works hand-in-hand with our deacon responsible for fellowship. We are delighted to have **Sandy Freeman** join the CNRC staff as of July 1 as our new Congregational Care Coordinator. Thank you, Dianne, and welcome Sandy!

**Gene Ryan, Family Life Pastor**

We are grateful for Gene's leadership of our Youth and Family Life Ministries, focusing this year on continued growth and active programming of our outreach to our young people, culminating in a full week at Camp Fowler in upstate New York by 20 young people plus adult chaperones. Our youth program continues to grow under his leadership, guiding their development of faith, bonding with one another, and experiencing the church as a caring, loving home. Gene concluded his leadership of the "Resilient Church" planning tool (the Whitworth Initiative) with Jeanne Sokol, that resulted in a \$10,000 grant to enhance our digital communications capabilities. Gene's service as President of the Regional Synod also concluded this year and we are deeply appreciative of this demonstration of his leadership skills. Finally, the entire church celebrated with Gene and Marcy of the joyous birth of their son Samuel. Congratulations, Gene, and thank you for all that you do!

**Stacey Savage, Director of Early Childhood Ministries**

Stacey's leadership continues to provide a model for providing Early Childhood Learning Center services in our area. The ELC enrollment for 2024-25 ended with 97 registered students. Enrollment for '25-'26 finds 104 students registered with waitlists in most of the classes. The ELC offered a new Kindergarten class (upstairs in the Ministry Center) this year, which is both exciting and challenging. We are so grateful for Stacey's leadership (along with the ELC staff), which is such a critical component of our community/outreach ministry.

**Dave Tripold, Organist and Sanctuary Choir Director**

Dave continues to inspire and lead our Sanctuary Choir to higher levels of choral singing. His organ playing is impactful and creative, both accompanying congregational singing on hymns and in playing service music. Sunday morning worshippers and Sanctuary Choir members alike are so blessed to have Dave share his musical leadership resulting in such meaningful worship experiences. This year we congratulate and celebrate Dave for 30 years as organist and choir director at CNRC. Dave has been a blessing to this church, and we look forward with both joy and some sadness at his final year as organist and choir director as he has announced his decision to retire effective June 2026.

**Maggie Tripold, Director of Music and Worship Arts**

We are blessed to have Maggie leading our CNRC Music Ministry. As highlighted in our Whitworth Resilient Church findings, CNRC's music ministry is one of our congregational cornerstones. Maggie's talents in tying in music that enhances our worship experience is truly remarkable. Her many musical talents and careful, thoughtful planning touches many areas of our church life. This year we celebrated Maggie's 25 years as Director of Music and Worship Arts, recognizing that her impact on CNRC over those years has been immeasurable. As with her husband Dave, she has been a blessing to this church. We look forward with joy and some sadness to Maggie's final year as Director of Music as she has announced her decision to retire effective June 2026.

**Personnel Committee**

I am deeply grateful for the service and leadership of our Personnel Committee: Shawn Burke, Steve LaRue, Alyssa Giles, and especially for our former Chair, Jeanne Sokol, who has been instrumental in keeping our team on a smooth track as we transitioned to a new chair. Jeanne has also been leading our Music Search Committee, a talented team of church members who are working to find replacements for Dave and Maggie as they prepare to retire. Thank you, Jeanne, for your all your help this year!

Respectfully submitted,

*Clark Petrie*

Vice President Consistory  
Chair, Personnel Committee

## **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS COMMISSIONER REPORT FOR THE 2024-25 PROGRAM YEAR**

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry at CNRC has had a fruitful year, continuing and building on established programs and introducing several new programs and groups that meet newly identified needs in the congregation.

The youth group continues to flourish, with a core group of teens meeting every week for fellowship, Bible study, and meals. A strong group of volunteer leaders has joined Gene, co-leading weekly meetings and ensuring that things continued seamlessly when he was on paternity leave and vacation. These leaders continue to provide examples of respectful leadership and Godly adulthood to our youth.

Youth programming this past year included regular meetings for teens, for young youth, and for high schoolers; all programs were well-received and regularly attended. Highlights included trips to Bullock Farms and Bell Works, beach days and movie nights, Youth Sunday, the lock-in, and Camp Fowler. It is good to note that as students move through their high school years and commit to jobs, honor societies, or sports, they are not always able to be at the regular Sunday meetings; but they consistently turn up when they can and slip seamlessly back into the group no matter how many weeks or months it's been since they were last able to attend. The relationships forged in youth group are intentionally maintained outside of church, and the teens in particular often arrange their own activities and meet-ups. This speaks to the safe, respectful, and fun space that youth group has become, thanks to Gene and the youth volunteers.

This summer marked the fourth year that CNRC sent a group of youth and volunteers up to Camp Fowler. It is impossible to understate the impact that this week in the Adirondacks has had on our young people (and on the adults!) who attend. The environment at camp is one where all are encouraged to step well outside of their comfort zone, and are well-supported when they do so. The kids gain a tremendous amount of physical and personal confidence; they learn how to support and encourage others who differ from them in a myriad of ways; and they also come home with a renewed respect for the earth, for God's word, and for each other. This week was one of the best so far, with several new campers and one new volunteer. I believe that our yearly trip to Camp Fowler is one of the most formative events of the year, and one that will continue for years to come.

Kay Brown has continued to lead "Bells and Brews" several times a year; an opportunity for alumni ringers to reconnect, ring bells together, and share food and drink. It is good to see our alumni back in church and leading worship.

An important new piece of programming for young families began this year. There has long been a need for parents of infants and toddlers to have a space where they can meet and find mutual support and encouragement. This year Krissy Garside launched a young moms' group, which has been meeting during the 11:00am Discovery Hour while older children are in their youth choir rehearsals. This group has been very well-received.

I am grateful to our congregation and consistory who continue to support these vital ministries of the church. With the church's support, Gene's leadership, and God's blessing, the next generation of the church is growing in faith, in grace, and in community.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tamar Goetke*  
Youth and Young Adult Ministries

## WORSHIP

The Colts Neck Reformed Church is a community of people committed to welcoming all into the life of our church family. We commit to affirm the beauty, value and gifts of all individuals. These commitments are not subject to a person's color, race, ethnicity, place of origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, relationship status (single, married, separated, divorced), socioeconomic situation, or a person's mental, physical, or emotional health or ability. Everyone is welcome to participate fully in the life of our faith-filled community.

This community is so ably led by our pastors – Rev. Scott Brown and Rev. Gene Ryan. We continue to be blessed with an outstanding music program directed by Maggie Tripold, Director of Music and Worship Arts and Dr. David Tripold, Organist and Sanctuary Choir Director, in addition to our vocal choirs, bell choirs and instrumentalists.

Our Digital Coordinator, Susan Linnell, has continued to expand online worship and offerings in creative and innovative ways, including negotiating an annual service contract with CSAV to ensure that our equipment is up-to-date and fully functioning. We continue to see an increase in the number of people worshipping and engaging online.

We continue to have one worship service at 9:30 a.m. except for communion Sundays when we also offered worship at 11:00 a.m. We offered a wide range of opportunities during the 11:00 hour including Bible studies, mission presentations, talks on a variety of subjects, i.e., Supportive Parenting, an organ tour, cemetery tour, etc. We continued to have youth choir rehearsals at 11:00.

### Highlights of the past year:

#### **WORSHIP SERVICES AND OBSERVANCES:**

- Hymn Sing; Rally Day Service with the theme "Pave the Way"; Remembrance Service, Thanksgiving Eve joint service with St. Mary's; Advent Family Night; three services on Christmas Eve including an impromptu pageant at a family service; Ash Wednesday; Palm Sunday; Maundy Thursday; Tenebrae Good Friday; three services for Easter Sunday including a sunrise service in Atlantic Cemetery; Youth Sunday; First Communion Sunday; Confirmation Sunday; Memorial Day; Pentecost.
- Sermon themes/series included: "Pave the Way" in the fall; Advent – first chapter of each gospel writer's giving their perspective of the birth and ministry of Jesus; Christmas Eve through Easter – the book of Luke; Summer – Paul's Greatest Hits: Life-Changing Verses from Every Letter.

#### **MUSIC MINISTRY:**

Vocal Choirs: Sanctuary Choir, directed by Dave Tripold; Jubilation! Choir (7th – 12th grades) led by Jeff Brown, Maggie Tripold, Ben Zaccaria, and Julianna Heck; Alleluia Choir (4th – 6th grades) led by Tammy Femiano and Dottie Weidman; Angel Choir (1st – 3rd grades) directed by Allison Brown and Kim Brown; Cherub Choir (pre-K and K) led by Jeanne Sokol and Matt Axtell.

Handbell choirs: Echo Ringers (grades 3-6) led by Kelly Tyma; Celebration Ringers (grades 7-12) led by Tamar Goetke; Morning Bells (adults) and Exultation Ringers (adults) led by Maggie Tripold.

Alleluia Jazz – our beloved director, Jim McQuerrey, passed away in early January. Jim had so ably led this instrumental ensemble for the past 8 years.

Women's Ensemble; Jubilation Alumni Choir; Alumni Ringers, individual instrumentalists and soloists; Jeff Brown, guest organist.

Our newest bell choir - "Bells and Brew" for alumni of Celebration Ringers – has rung several times in worship and will continue in the coming year under the leadership of Kay Brown.

**Outreach:** Our bell choirs performed during the year at Arbor Terrace, the Reformed Church Home, and Seabrook Village. Alleluia Jazz gave a concert at Arbor Terrace in October and at the RCH in April.

Singing With the Seniors resumed monthly at both the Reformed Church Home and Brandywine.

**SPECIAL CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES:**

- Sanctuary Choir led worship in December with Lessons and Carols.
- Exultation Ringers rang at Monmouth University's Holiday Concert in December and participated in the Ecumenical Handbell Festival in Toms River in March.
- "The Sounds of Christmas" concert - Alleluia Jazz, Celebration Ringers, Exultation Ringers and Jubilation!
- Spring Ring Bell Concert – "Mozart and the Movies" theme. We debuted "Dauntless Celebration" written by Ron Mallory in honor of Kay Brown for her retirement after 24 years of directing Celebration Ringers.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lynne Garner*