



What's going on this February?

ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 26

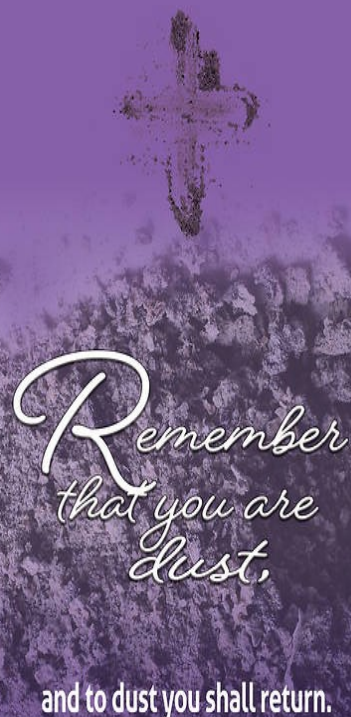
Ash Wednesday, the day that begins the season of Lent—a time for reflection, repentance, and a refocusing on the cross—is February 26. The imposition of ashes will be available in the sanctuary from 7:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. If, as well as having ashes imposed, you would like to attend a short worship service to lead you into the process of reflection/repentance/refocusing, plan to be in the sanctuary at 12:00 noon or 6:00 p.m.

While Ash Wednesday and Lent do not arrive until the end of the month, it's not too early to think of how we will observe the season. Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent this season, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be "up to" in his name. What pursuits are we "up to" in our lives that call us to be our best selves, and our best selves as the church? Our first sermon, on February 23, to begin the Lenten season will be "Store up" — Matthew 6:1-6. Our Jubilation! choir will provide special music and skits.

In the case of inclement weather, please confirm that both worship services will be held by checking the church website (www.coltsneckreformed.org) or by listening to the message on the church office phone (732-462-4555). See page 2 for details.

2020 FITNESS CHALLENGE

Several members of our congregation have joined together in a fitness challenge. The goal? To walk 2020 miles in the year 2020! You can split the 2,020 miles among the members of your team (five or fewer members per team), or—if you're really ambitious, you can do all 2,020 miles on your own. Regardless of how you decide to rack-up the miles, you will have the support and the camaraderie of the entire group. Tracking your miles is done through the website <https://runtheedge.com/pages/run-the-year-2020> and there is a \$25 fee per person. So, grab a couple of friends (you don't even have to walk together—your team could include a daughter in California, and a nephew in London, and a friend in Sussex county!), sign up, and get walking! Contact [Victoria McKenzie](#) or [Claire Morris](#) for all the details.



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FOCUS ON FAITH

Dear Friends,

We move into the church season of Lent on February 26, Ash Wednesday. Lent is certainly significant as it draws us closer to Jerusalem where Jesus confronts the powers and principalities of this world; it's meaningful as we are compelled toward Holy Week with its heart-rending drama of farewell, Last Supper, and crucifixion. It's one of my favorite seasons – not because I'm maudlin or morose, but because it makes me mull over many things. Lent is, for me, a spiritual comma, a space to both breathe

and then move forward.

One thing that I do during Lent is to consider how my faith has changed or grown. We are not static believers – we are life-long learners, journeying forward in faithfulness. The theological term is “sanctification” – becoming more Christ-like as we live, learn, and serve. Certainly it isn't a straight line; sometimes our path takes us a step back before we again move forward. Yet we are always called

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“We are not static believers—we are life-long learners, journeying forward in faithfulness.”

IS THERE CHURCH WHEN IT SNOWS?

If there is a snowstorm or other weather emergency, there are ways you can find updates about the church service schedule:

The church website will be updated with any pertinent messages listed on the front page—just scroll down on the home page.

www.coltsneckreformed.org

A bulk email will be sent detailing any changes to the morning worship schedule (if you currently are NOT receiving the weekly (Friday) email from the church office, you will NOT get the weather email; call the church office if you need to be added to this email list).

So, just because there's snow on the ground, don't assume that church is cancelled—remember, our minister has a very short commute (just a few steps) to get to church!

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 2

Super Bowl of Caring: On Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, the Junior/Senior High youth will be taking a special collection of \$1.00 or a can of soup. Everything collected will be donated to Open Door Food Pantry in Freehold. So, remember to bring in your can or your dollar on February 2!

Super Bowl Sub Sale: The Super Bowl subs you ordered will be available for pickup on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, during Coffee and Fellowship. If you forgot to place an order, there will be some extras so you might be in luck! The sale is sponsored by our youth group and all proceeds will help support the summer youth mission trip. The price of a sub is \$12.

NAMETAG SUNDAY (FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)

As you arrive to church on Sundays, you are greeted perhaps by our greeters in the parking lot and then again by the ushers as you are handed a bulletin. But what happens when you take your seat in the pew? Do you greet the people next to you? Or the ones behind or in front of you?

What if this were your first time walking into The Colts Neck Reformed Church and you didn't know anyone and no one said hello?! Well folks, we have visitors sitting in our pews just about every Sunday! While that is a blessing for us it is also important that visitors are acknowledged and made

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY—WELCOME PADS

Have you been looking for a way to get involved that doesn't require a lot of time? This may be the opportunity you've been waiting for.

As you know, every Sunday morning we ask the congregation to sign and pass the Welcome to Worship Pads (the red pads that are in the pews). Do you wonder what happens to those pages after you sign them? They are collected by a volunteer, usually on Monday mornings, and the visitors are rec-

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FEBRUARY MISSION NEWS

MISSION 2020

Your representatives at RCA's Mission 2020 Conference extend their thanks for your support in sending them to the conference in mid-January. They have returned refreshed and inspired by the presentations and interactions with many RCA global missionaries, as well as World Renew staff, RCA pastors, and volunteers. If you would like to hear more please don't hesitate to speak with Victa McKenzie, Scott Brown, or LuAnne Petrie about their experiences there.

MISSION TRIP

It is a go! We are heading to North Carolina for our next mission trip. Sign-up sheets are posted on the Mission Bulletin Board. We would love to have you join us. Below is some pertinent information:

When: Saturday, February 22, through Saturday, February 29

Where: Lumberton, North Carolina

Sponsors: Church World Services – Disaster Response Team

Experience required: None. Just a willingness to learn and try!

Work: Construction work—from demolition to repair, insulation, sheet-rock, painting.

Cost: \$300. Colts Neck Reformed Church will fund the remaining costs as part of the mission budget.

Leaders: LuAnne Petrie and Greg Robinson

Sleeping accommodations: Dormitory style

Transportation: Driving—Approximate time will be 10 hours

We ask you to commit as soon as possible so that we can confirm with Church World Service and begin to finalize our plans.

Please let LuAnne Petrie know if you are a “definite”, and submit your money to Pam Licata in the church office.

CONTACT: [LuAnne Petrie](#) or [Greg Robinson](#)

FEBRUARY HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands Collection (HHC) of gently used winter outerwear for Anderson's Meet the Need (a 501(c)(3) organization), continues this month until February 16th. Items being collected include coats and jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and warm socks. Anderson's MTN will distribute donated clothing at “pop up” distribution centers, making the clothing available within the communities where they are needed. Please place donated items in the designated collection bin or coat rack in Fellowship Hall, near the Mission Bulletin Board.

**If you, or someone you know in our congregation, would like to sponsor a month-long HHC collection, contact [Dean-na Martin](#), [Victa McKenzie](#), or [LuAnne Petrie](#).*



The next meeting of the Mission Commission will be at 8:00 a.m. on February 2, in the Ministry Center conference room. A light breakfast, coffee, and tea will be provided. We will adjourn prior to the 9:15 worship service. All are welcome to attend.

MAST (MISSION AMBASSADOR SUPPORT TEAM)

Our newest CNRC PIM (Partnership in Mission) share recipient, Rev. Dr. John Huber, and his wife Lynn, are at long last in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where Rev. Huber will use his extensive background (20+ years serving in the Middle East and Southeast Asia) in Christian-Muslim relations while teaching at Mekane Yesus Seminary. He will be equipping pastors, evangelists, and church planters to serve effectively in a country that is 40% Muslim.

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

This refreshment time only happens with the help of volunteer hosts, like you! Team up with friends or as part of a church group (a church school class, a Bible study group, a book group, etc.) The hosts provide finger foods (store-bought or homemade cookies, brownies, doughnuts, etc.) and milk for coffee. Everything else is provided (coffee, tea, paper products, lemonade mix) along with [detailed instructions](#). Hosts also serve and clean up.

To make it easy on yourself, remember:

- ✓ **Keep it simple!** Coffee and Fellowship is meant to provide a bite to eat, not a meal.
- ✓ **Keep the focus!** This is a time of fellowship and sharing. Items need not be homemade—it's not a baking contest!—store-bought is perfectly fine.
- ✓ **Keep in touch!** Contact Dianne O'Hara (cnrc.care@cnrc.church) or Pam Licata (office@cnrc.church)—with questions or to be paired up with another family.

OUR NEWSLETTER PRIVACY PRACTICES

You may notice that throughout the newsletter, we don't disclose the email addresses, phone numbers, or physical addresses of our volunteers (unless the volunteer has specifically asked us to do so). We do this to protect their privacy. It would certainly make it easier for you to contact them if we included their contact information in our articles, but doing so exposes their information to anyone, anywhere, who finds the information on the internet. We ask that you look for their information in your church directory (*updated directories are available in the church office*), check the weekly bulletin announcements, or contact the church office and we will make the information available to you. We will continue to print contact information for staff members. Thanks for understanding!

CHURCH SCHOOL LENTEN CHALLENGE—WALK HIS WAYS!

Each year, our Church School learns about Lent and Holy Week from their classroom lessons. This year we will challenge each student to travel in a 40-day walk with Jesus. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 26) and ends on Easter Sunday (April 12). It's a 40-day journey (not counting Sundays!) to focus on God and prepare to remember and celebrate Jesus' sacrifice on the cross to save each of us and his rising from the tomb to give us eternal life.

Many people decide to "give up" things for Lent to help them remember that Jesus gave his life for us, but you can also "take on" doing good things, just [\(Continued on page 10\)](#)

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETS WITH MENTORS

Our twelve Confirmation Class members have been meeting since September as they prepare to make their public professions of faith. In this faith journey, each class member is paired with an adult from our church who will be his/her mentor. The mentor meets with the student to discuss aspects of their faith. Together, the student and mentor use a packet of materials to facilitate dis-

cussions on such topics as the church, God, prayer, and the Bible. Mentorship has always been a meaningful experience for both the students and their mentors. Both are on a journey of faith and this is a chance to share experiences. The mentors have many life experiences to share and the students can share what it is to be on a faith journey in today's

[\(Continued on page 11\)](#)

CHURCH SCHOOL CHATTER

Our Church School teachers continue to find meaningful and fun ways to bring the love of Jesus into the lives of our children. This past Christmas, our pre-school class, led by Alyssa Giles and Krissy Garside, had a "Happy Birthday Jesus!" party. Here is a picture of the children celebrating the ancient story of the birth of Christ with a modern party.



[click image to enlarge](#)

NURSERY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2020-21



The 2020/2021 school year is an especially exciting time for the Colts Neck Reformed Church Nursery School because this begins our **fiftieth year** of providing quality early childhood education to Colts Neck and the surrounding communities. Our school's doors opened in 1970 with one class and one teacher. Much like watching a child grow and develop, we had no idea of how our programs would evolve. Our intention was and will always be, to meet the growing needs of our families while providing a preschool program that is based upon current best practices for educating young children, knowledge of child development, and theories of child behavior. CNRCNS promotes the development of the whole child through a play-based curriculum which inspires curiosity and creativity, encourages independence, and promotes character and a positive sense of self. We are committed to strengthening families by offering opportunities for discussions, parenting and child development workshops, and social

[\(Continued on page 11\)](#)



TWO FABULOUS FELLOWSHIP EVENTS!

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” by NENA Productions

Come out to enjoy a fun evening with other church family members and support local theater on Saturday, March 14th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Jersey Shore Arts Center in Ocean Grove. This entertaining, familiar Bible story (which we learned about in Chapter 3 of *The Story*) will feature Jeff Brown as Musical Director, Allison Walter as Stage Director, and Maggie Tripold, Lyn Lewis, and Len Simicich playing in
([Continued on page 11](#))

“Spamalot” by Spring Lake Community Theater

Join us in support of Asbury Park’s Trinity Church Food Justice program—the program that hosts Saturday Soup. Each year Spring Lake Community Theater donates all seats, for one show, to the Food Justice program. This year’s show is Monty Python’s “Spamalot”, to be held on Friday, March 20th, at 7:30 p.m. Minimum donation: \$30.00 per ticket; make checks payable to “Trinity Church”; in the memo write: “Food Justice”. Tickets will be
([Continued on page 11](#))

COME OUT FOR DANCE LESSONS IN MARCH!

The Fellowship Committee will present a four-week series of dance lessons on Sunday evenings in March. The classes will be held March 1, 8, 15, and 22 in Fellowship Hall from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Eileen Farrell will return as our instructor, teaching us “The Swing.” For both beginners and more experienced dancers, this is a great way to get together for fun and exercise! The cost is \$75 per couple for the four weeks (\$25/session for drop-in); \$40 per single for the four weeks (\$12/session). Sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

CONTACT: [Laurie Robinson](#)

JR./SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Lock-in: On Saturday, February 1, we will have a lock-in beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Horans’ house at 28 Village Lane. We’ll watch movies, play games, and just have fun! Then, on Sunday morning, we’ll assemble the subs for the Super Bowl Sub Sale. Email youth@cnrc.church to sign up.

Sub Sale helpers needed!: Helpers are needed on Sunday, February 2, for periods of time between 8:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. (before or after you attend worship) to make and distribute the sub sandwiches. We are looking for youth volunteers and adult assistants as well—it’s a lot of fun! Proceeds help support the mission programming here at CNRC. Email youth@cnrc.church to sign up.

Youth group Christmas party wrap-up: The Youth Group Christmas party was held on December 28th at the home of Paul and Debbie Horan. The youth engaged in a challenging game of Jeopardy followed by a white elephant gift exchange. Great fellowship and fun was had by all!



click image to enlarge

CONTACT: Paul and Debbie Horan youth@cnrc.church

OUR ONGOING GROUPS

(click the group’s title for detailed information on the group)

Women’s Book Discussion

Group: Feb. 11, noon—*The Traitor’s Wife* by Allison Pataki. Hostess: Kathy Rodman. Contact: [Lynne Garner](#)

Women of D’Vine: Feb. 4, 7:00 p.m. Hostess: Sandy Freeman. Contact: [Sandy Anderson](#)

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Sundays, 11:00 a.m., Ministry Center Conference Room. Contact: [Ben Zaccaria](#)

Young Women’s Bible Study: Not currently meeting—please consider attending the Sunday Morning Bible Study at 11:00 a.m.

Women’s Coffee Break Bible Study: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., Ministry Center Conference Room. Contact: [Barb Tucker](#)

Thursday Evening Bible Study: Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., Ministry Center Conference Room. Contact: [Debi Jensen](#)

Senior Bible Study: Fridays, 10:00 a.m., Ministry Center Conference Room. Contact: [Scott Brown](#) or [Debi Jensen](#)

Men’s Breakfast Bible Study: February 1, 7:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall. Contact: [Art Peslak](#)

Knit One, Pray Too!: Feb. 11 and 25. Contact: [Donna Mulligan](#)

Piece Makers Quilting Group: Mondays, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Contact: [Nancy Feuster](#)

Holy Yoga: [see schedule](#). Contact: [Barb Tucker](#)

Chronic Pain and Illness: Monday, Feb. 3, 11:00 a.m., Colts Neck Eatery, Colts Neck. Contact: [Lonnie Howlett](#)

Single Active Seniors: Our Single Active Seniors group is on hiatus while the group’s leader, Gerry Romano, focuses on her health. Please pray for Gerry.



PRAYER CHAIN

“What is a prayer chain?” you ask. It’s a group of people from the church who take time to pray for others. When someone needs prayers, his/her name and need is added to the list, the information is sent via email to those on the chain, and the prayers begin. To be added to this group, contact Dianne O’Hara (cnrc.care@cnrc.church).

If you have a prayer request that you would like to have sent out to the prayer chain and included in the weekly bulletin announcements, email Dianne (cnrc.care@cnrc.church) or call the church office. Email requests and requests left on voicemail that are received after 3:00 p.m. or on a Friday will be sent out on the next work-day. If you have an urgent request and Dianne is not available, speak to Pam Licata in the church office. The deadline to submit a request to be printed in the bulletin announcements is Friday, by 9:00 a.m.

Before submitting a request, please make sure you have permission from the person for whom we will be praying.

See our website for information on our Health and Wellness offerings, including Holy Yoga, [HERE](#).



YOUR DAILY PRAYERS ARE NEEDED

Please include the following members of our church family in your prayers. In addition to your prayers, they may really appreciate an occasional card, call, or (if local) visit. If you would like to be added to our rotating list of visitors, contact Dianne O’Hara (cnrc.care@cnrc.church). This requires a commitment of one visit every two to three months.

- ◆ Gavin Femiano, treatment for neurofibromatosis (NF) Type 1
- ◆ Kristin Howlett, daughter of Ken and Lonnie Howlett, ongoing health concerns
- ◆ Daniel Kibler, son of Nancy and Robert Kibler, autoimmune diseases
- ◆ Noelle, a friend of the Horan family, dealing with depression
- ◆ Emma Sklair, health concerns
- ◆ Tim Slisky, son of Vera Santucci, ongoing medical concerns
- ◆ Ginny Yanchus, Beth Burke’s mother, ongoing health concerns
- ◆ All residents of the Reformed Church Home which includes Marge Flock

PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO:

- ◆ The family of Ginny Allen who died on January 13, 2020
- ◆ Donna Mulligan and family on the death of her uncle, Kenny Mulligan, on January 9, 2020
- ◆ The Davison family on the death of their daughter, Rebecca, on January 23, 2020
- ◆ Karen and Darryl Feeney and family on the death of Darryl’s uncle, Donald Greer, Sr., on January 23, 2020

CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO:

- ◆ Jill Niehaus on the birth of her granddaughter, Allison Carol Tyler, on January 3, 2020. Proud great-grandparents are Carol and Al Niehaus.

Please keep Rev. Scott Brown, Pastor Debi Jensen, or Dianne O’Hara informed as to when you or a family member is hospitalized AND discharged. Hospitals cannot provide this information to us.

HOLY YOGA—NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

Who benefits from Yoga? Yoga is a great activity for anybody but is especially good for those dealing with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or heart disease.

What will Yoga do for me? Yoga will help you with strength, flexibility, and mind-body awareness. Yoga stretches and tones your muscles which helps with posture, increases your blood flow, helps you to focus better, improves your balance, and helps you to sleep better. These are just a few of the benefits of Yoga.

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CANNING AND CRAFTS

Our Canning Crew, led by Carol McCoy, loves to create jarred goodies to be sold at the EDE Bazaar. Our Crafters, led by Adrienne Spota and Mary Van Mater, create beautiful crafts to be sold at the EDE Bazaar. Join them all on February 9, 2020, at noon in Fellowship Hall as they team up to make Lemon-Ginger Marmalade, Corn Relish, and a craft to sell at the EDE next November.

Bring your own knife and cutting board, or borrow from us.

A \$5.00 donation towards supplies is appreciated.

Please sign up on the board in Fellowship Hall.

CONTACT: Dianne O'Hara cnrc.care@cnrc.church.

NEW MEMBER CLASS—"WHAT IS A NEW MEMBER CLASS, AND WHY SHOULD I TAKE ONE?"

What is a new member class?

A new member class is an introduction to the church. It's a time for you to learn what CNRC's beliefs are, and what our structures are. We will do a quick overview of our church history and spend a little time looking at the Reformed Church in America. We will also look at what's expected of a member and what being a "member" of a congregation means.

Who are new member classes for?

We ask all people who would like to become a confessing member of CNRC to attend a new member class. In other words, this is the first step for you if you'd like to publicly confess your faith and become a member of CNRC.

What is expected of participants?

The new member class is a one-time, informational commitment. Taking the class does not mean you have to become a member—it's perfectly acceptable to simply attend the class and not continue the process of becoming a member.

Why become a "member" of CNRC?

When someone becomes a member of our church family and makes a

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*A sincere thank you to our church family for prayers, concerns and cards concerning my husband Henry's recent surgery. There's a long way to go but with God all things are possible.
Sincerely, Janice Hammond*

DO YOU KNOW THAT OUR CHURCH OFFERS:

A monthly service specifically geared toward those with developmental disabilities?

The service is called "Joyful Noise" and is held on the first Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The service:

- ♦ is shorter
- ♦ involves a lot of interaction and repetition
- ♦ has no expectation of silence or even staying in one's seat
- ♦ has soft lighting to benefit individuals prone to sensory overload
- ♦ offers a quiet room for those who have the need

The essential message of love and joy for all God's people is presented in a simplified, meaningful way. It is a time of Christian worship with songs, prayers, Bible readings, communion, and fellowship. People are invited to participate at the level at which they are comfortable. Spread the word—the service is for the entire community as well as for our church family!

BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive at Colts Neck Reformed Church is scheduled for May 13, 2020. The last day you can donate at another drive and still be eligible for this drive is March 13, 2020—so plan your donations accordingly if you are planning to participate in our drive!



SAVE THE DATE!

March 29—Sanctuary Choir to sing the gospel mass by André J. Thomas—*Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy*.

April 26—17th Annual “Spring Ring” Handbell Concert, 7:00 p.m. Come and “Dance the Night Away” as we present bell music illustrating a variety of dance themes, both classical and contemporary.

May 17—Alleluia Jazz “The Beat Goes On” Concert, 7:00 p.m., followed by an old-fashioned ice cream social in Fellowship Hall.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

MONMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

We are honored and delighted to host the Monmouth Symphony Orchestra Chamber Orchestra in concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, March 29, at 3:00 p.m. Spend a delightful afternoon with the MSO Chamber Orchestra as it performs some of the best known and enjoyable chamber music pieces by composers including Mozart, Haydn, Fauré, and Grainger. The orchestra is composed of professional and highly talented amateur musicians, most of whom live and work in the central New Jersey area. The ongoing mission of The MSO is to make live orchestral music available and relevant in Monmouth County. Its dedicated and passionate musicians are committed to excellence, and to providing educational experiences which expand cultural

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“The ongoing mission of the MSO is to make live orchestral music available and relevant in Monmouth county.”

OUR MUSICAL ENSEMBLES

Click on a group’s name to learn more about it)

[Cherub Choir:](#)
vocal, pre-k and kindergarten

[Angel Choir:](#)
vocal, grades 1-3

[Alleluia Choir:](#)
vocal, grades 4-6

[Jubilation!:](#)
vocal, grades 7-12+

[Sanctuary Choir:](#)
vocal, adults

[Singing With the Seniors:](#)
vocal, adults

[Alleluia Jazz:](#)
instrumental, high school and adults

[Echo Ringers:](#)
handbells, grade 3 and up

[Joyful Ringers:](#)
handbells, grade 6 and up

[Celebration Ringers:](#)
handbells, high school+

[Exultation Ringers:](#)
handbells, adults

[Morning Bells:](#)
handbells, adults

[Men’s/Women’s Ensembles:](#)
vocal, adult men / adult women

[Instrumentalists:](#)
high school and adult

SINGING WITH THE SENIORS IN FEBRUARY

Do you like to sing “oldies but goodies” and patriotic songs? Can you spare an hour or so on a Wednesday and/or Saturday morning once a month? If so, this is the group for you! This is not a choir that sings for senior citizens, rather it’s a group who sings with them. We don’t rehearse, we just go and share the joy of music with the residents of the Reformed Church Home in Old Bridge and Brandywine Reflections in Colts Neck. Women and men of any age are welcome! You can come alone or with your partner/spouse – the more the merrier!

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EXULTATION RINGERS TO RING AT ECUMENICAL HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Our Exultation Ringers Handbell Choir will participate in the 21st Annual Ecumenical Handbell Festival on Sunday, February 23, at the Presbyterian Church of Toms River. Several handbell choirs from area churches will also be participating. The guest conductor will be David Harris, who is the director of the renowned Raleigh Ringers, an internationally acclaimed, advanced community handbell choir based in Raleigh, North Carolina. The participating choirs will spend the afternoon rehearsing four joint selections and each choir will also ring a solo selection. The festival will culminate in a concert that evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Toms River, 1070 Hooper Ave., Toms River. Suggested donation is \$12.

OUR ALUMNI BELL CHOIR STILL “RINGING” STRONG!

Several former members of Celebration Ringers, ranging from ages 18 to 29, rang in worship on Sunday, December 29. It was wonderful to have these young adults back together again and leading in worship.



click image to enlarge

The alumni who participated were: David Sherman, Jillian Sherman, Clayton Reynolds, Paul Jensen, Luke Nestorowicz, Ben Zaccaria, Jack Lenz, Isabelle Nestorowicz, Faith Lenz, Elizabeth Applegate, Rebecca McKenzie and Luke Laffey. Many thanks to Kay Brown for keeping her former ringers connected to CNRC and to each other!

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

At the Colts Neck Reformed Church, the 9:15 a.m. worship service coordinates with our church school educational opportunities for 3-year-olds through 7th graders. As such, this service contains a “gospel for children” and also makes available a “family room” where the worship service is simulcast in a room where parents can bring infants and children who might be more comfortable in a less formal church environment. Professional nursery care for infants and toddlers is provided at both the 9:15 and the 11:00 a.m. worship services. The 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. services provide the same sermon, hymns, prayers, and special music.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

We worship at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. sharing in the sacrament of Communion at both services. We look more closely at the ministry of the Old Testament’s prophets – their role and importance (Chapter 15 of “The Story”). Brayden Savage is confirmation class liturgist. Joyful Ringers and Angel Choir will provide special worship music. Following the worship service, members of the youth groups will be collecting your donations of a dollar or a can of soup for Open Door, the food pantry in Freehold, as part of the “Souper Bowl of Caring”.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

At both services (9:15 and 11:00 a.m.) our Alleluia Choir and a special a cappella men’s ensemble will provide music ministry. Joey Callaci is confirmation class liturgist. The sermon will focus on “The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel)” – 2 Kings 17-19.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

The Bible talks about “exile” and how God’s people lived away from the Temple and needed to reestablish a sense of identity as they sang the Lord’s song in a foreign land. Why is it so challenging? Why is it important? What to do about it? The Sanctuary Choir will provide service music at both the 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Toni Guadagnino serves as liturgist.

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

We take a break from “The Story” as we approach the season of Lent. Reid Spears is our confirmation class liturgist. Our teenaged bell choir and our teenaged vocal choir lead us in musical worship. We look to the gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, where Jesus instructs us, “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

Rather than just “giving up” in Lent this season, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is “up to” and all that he asks us to be “up to” in his name

Our sermon focus for Lent

Store up—Matthew 6:1-6

Come up—Mark 1:9-15

Take up—Mark 8:31-38

Raise up—John 2:13-22

Lift up—John 12:20-33

(Continued from page 2 - [Focus on Faith](#))

to grow in wisdom and grace.

So how has my faith changed? What do I believe now that I didn't ten years ago? I know that I'm less sure of God's mind. I used to be more willing to declare what God meant or how God worked. But as I'm less sure of God's *modus operandi*, I'm more sure of God's overarching love. I'm grateful for *The Story* and how the biblical history reminds me that though the day-by-day and year-by-year can be challenging, God is yet at work. I don't know how God will make all things right, but I'm convicted that it will become so.

I'm also more aware than ever of the deep wounded-ness that people carry, and I am more dependent on prayer. I've also become more attuned to how scripture is radically inclusive. Though many might seem to use the words of the Bible to exclude people who are gay, or to limit the gifts of women, or to think that an immigrant is a "less than" – I see how wide the circle of grace is drawn and how it is not up to us to decide who is in or out of acceptability; rather, our job is to love one another. And love is love is love is love. God loves people. No labels—except that we are all sinners saved by grace.

May this be for you as well a time to reflect and consider, "how has my faith changed and deepened?" Following Christ is certainly an adventure!

Respectfully,



Scott D. Brown

(Continued from page 2 - [Nametag Sunday](#))

to feel welcome. Nametag Sundays help us to do this.

"Why do we have to wear nametags?" "Everybody knows me." "I know everybody." These are some of the comments we hear on Nametag Sundays.

Here are just a few reasons why we wear nametags:

- ◆ Wearing a nametag makes for a friendlier church.
- ◆ If you forget someone's name (or someone has forgotten yours), just read the nametag!
- ◆ Nametags make visitors feel comfortable.
- ◆ People are more approachable when wearing a nametag.
- ◆ Nametags are conversation starters.
- ◆ It helps new members and visitors get to know people.

So, when you see the nametag envelopes in the pews, be sure to fill out a tag, and put it on!

(Continued from page 2 - [Volunteer Opportunity](#))

orted into a book. Scott, Debi, and Dianne are given a sheet with the information from the pages. Some folks may have requested a phone call, while others are sent a note welcoming them to our church. The information is also used to invite visitors to our membership classes.

Along with collecting those pages, our volunteer straightens up the pews, and makes sure the pencils in the pews are sharpened.

If this sounds like a job you might be interested in, please contact Dianne O'Hara at cnrc.care@cnrc.church or 732-462-4555 for more information.

(Continued from page 4 - [Church School Lenten challenge](#))

like Jesus did. Each church school student will take home a packet containing weekly challenges and a chart to mark which challenges were completed. Our challenges will include a home and family challenge, a school or daycare challenge, an environment challenge, a neighborhood challenge, a global or world challenge, and a devotional (God!) challenge. Each week is different and each challenge will be fun and exciting to do. Examples of challenges are to smile at a stranger, write a prayer, learn to say something in a foreign language, remember to turn off lights, and eat lunch with someone who is lonely.

Families can work together on completing all the challenges. Also, if you don't have a church school child, the challenge packets will be made available in church for all members and friends of the congregation.

Walk the way of Jesus and reach out in love this Lent!

(Continued from page 4 - [Confirmation Class Meets with Mentors](#))

culture.

The mentors and students met on January 12 for the first time and will meet together several more times over the next two months. Please keep these young men and women along with their mentors in your prayers during this important time: **Connor Burke** and Keith Purcell, **Joey Callaci** and Bill Schmocker, **Toni Guadagnino** and Sandy Freeman, **Carl Hager** and Henry Swordsma, **Owen Kaufman** and Bruce Rodman, **Cayla Lamegos-Outwin** and Karen Nestorowicz, **Holly Mayrose** and Alyssa Giles, **Joey Mayrose** and Ken McMenamy, **Zach McCafferty** and Guy Vander Vliet, **Brayden Savage** and Sean Horan, **Reid Spears** and Reed Feuster, and **Sam Surdez** and Jason Moran.

(Continued from page 4 - [Nursery School Registration for 2020-21](#))

events where parents and children can connect with other members of the community. We are historically a cooperative nursery school with parents assisting in the classroom. We continue to encourage parent helpers but recognize that there is an increase in employment of both parents and a decrease in the availability of extended family to “baby-sit” siblings. Teacher assistants are therefore employed by the school and are scheduled in a classroom as a helper to stand in lieu of a parent. The cost is included in the “non-cooperative” nursery school tuition. For the younger child (starting at about 2-1/2 years old), we offer a half-day Playgroup program which is an introduction to a nurturing, yet structured, environment without the parent. For the 3- to 5-year-old child, we offer a traditional half-day preschool program, and a full-day program for the 4/5-year-old. We offer a transitional kindergarten program for 4- to 5-year-olds whose families feel they will benefit from one more year of our small-class environment before entering the public school system, those who are a “young five” with birthdays from June through November, and those who don’t meet the age requirement for kindergarten enrollment in their districts.

CONTACT: Stacey Savage nurseryschool@cnrc.church

[Print an application for the 2020-21 school year](#)

(Continued from page 5 - [Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat](#))

the pit orchestra! We have reserved a block of 20 tickets (we can get more!) at \$20.00 per ticket. Grab your friends and come out to see this amazing show. Sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

CONTACT: [Joan Ceinski](#)

(Continued from page 5 - [Spamalot](#))

available at the Coffee Hour Connection table on March 8 and 15 in Fellowship Hall, or from Pam Licata in the church office. Raffle and Dessert Reception will begin at 6:30 pm.

CONTACT: [LuAnne Petrie](#)

(Continued from page 6 - [Holy Yoga](#))

Holy Yoga (HY) is an experiential worship of our glorious Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. Come honor Him through movement at any or all of our scheduled classes. They are for all skills levels, for men and women, for anyone who would like to deepen their faith and improve their wellness. These HY classes are accessible to any adult, regardless of their mobility, flexibility, or strength. Modifications are possible with all of the poses. Dress comfortably (and appropriately for an activity held at a church) so you can move with ease.

We offer three different Yoga classes weekly for all different skill levels. More classes could be added, including an evening class, if there is enough interest.

- ♦ Holy Yoga: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. Poses are done on a mat. Bring your own, or borrow one of ours. The flow is slow moving.
- ♦ Balance HY: Thursdays 11:15 a.m. Poses are done with a chair or standing if you are able. These poses help anyone with balance, inner-ear, or mobility challenges.
- ♦ Chair HY: Fridays 11:15 a.m. This popular class is comprised of poses done in chairs or standing. Stretch and strengthen your way to health and happiness.

Join us in our beautiful Yoga Room, located on the lower level of the Ministry Center, to participate in any or all of our Holy Yoga Sessions.

Please email our Holy Yoga instructor [Barb Tucker](#) with any questions.

(Continued from page 7 - [New Member Class](#))

public confession of their faith they are:

- ◇ making a public statement of their commitment to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
- ◇ promising to participate in the life and ministry of Colts Neck Reformed Church.

In other words, “membership” is the process of becoming a committed part of our congregation. When someone becomes a member they promise to participate in the life and ministry of the congregation, and the congregation also promises to encourage them, help them grow in their faith, and care for them.

Our next class will be from 12:00-2:00 pm on February 9, in the Ministry Center Conference room. Please RSVP so we have enough materials prepared.

CONTACT: Dianne O'Hara cnrc.care@cnrc.church

(Continued from page 8 - [Monmouth Symphony Orchestra](#))

horizons. To this end, the activities of the orchestra may include concerts, scholarships, partnering with other groups and individuals, outreach to underserved populations, and attracting outstanding musicians of all ages.

The orchestra is under the direction of Music Director, Roy D. Gussman and Associate Director, Barbara Santoro.

Tickets for the concert are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, free for students with ID, and can be purchased at www.monmouthsymphony.org. Tickets will also be available the day of the concert.

CONTACT: Maggie Tripold music@cnrc.church



(Continued from page 8 - [Singing with the Seniors](#))

er! Anyone who has sung with this group can tell you that we are blessed by the residents every time we go and sing. And you can sign up month by month – come when you can!

Our schedule for February is as follows:

- ◇ Saturday, February 15, at Brandywine Reflections in Colts Neck
Meet there at 11:15 a.m. or at church at 11:00 a.m. if you'd like to carpool.
- ◇ Wednesday, February 19, at the Reformed Church Home
Meet there at 10:30 a.m. or at church at 10:00 a.m. if you'd like to carpool.

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to indicate your availability. Questions? Contact Maggie Tripold at music@cnrc.church or 732-462-4555.



Visit our [website](#) for lots of great information about the Colts Neck Reformed Church

COLTS NECK REFORMED CHURCH

P.O. Box 57 ♦ 139 Route 537 ♦ Colts Neck ♦ NJ ♦ 07722

Church office phone: 732-462-4555 ♦ Nursery school phone: 732-462-4662

Fax: 732-866-9545 ♦ Church office email: office@cnrc.church ♦ website: <http://www.coltsneckreformed.org>

Church office administrative hours: Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (*summer hours vary*)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Colts Neck Reformed Church welcomes you to come and be refreshed by the Word of God, times of prayer and praise, and the community of God's people! We are a welcoming and affirming congregation, committed to affirm the beauty, value, and gifts of all people. 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), socio-economic situation, or a person's mental, physical, or emotional health or ability. All are invited to participate in worshipping our gracious God and all are included in a community of faith, service and joy.

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7



OFFICE STAFF

Scott D. Brown—Minister

Extension 111; Home: 732-683-0530; email: revscottbrown@cnrc.church

Debi Jensen—Pastor

Extension 122; Home: 732-747-3963; email: associate.pastor@cnrc.church

Maggie Tripold—Director of Music and Worship Arts

Extension 114; email: music@cnrc.church

Stacey Savage—Director of Early Childhood Ministries

Extension 108; Direct line: 732-462-4662; email: nurseryschool@cnrc.church

Dianne O'Hara—Congregational Care Coordinator, Director of Health and Wellness Ministries

Extension 112; email: cnrc.care@cnrc.church

Paul and Debbie Horan—Directors of Youth Ministries

email: youth@cnrc.church

David Tripold, Ph.D.—Organist and Sanctuary Choir Director

Pam Licata—Church Administrator/Secretary

Extension 110; email: office@cnrc.church

Joy Lenz—Administrative Assistant, Nursery School Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Extension 116; email: joy.lenz@cnrc.church, reformed.informer@cnrc.church

CONSISTORY

Elders:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Reed Feuster | Vice President |
| Barbara Battles | Worship |
| Alyssa Giles | Christian Education |
| Jane Rappleyea | Administrative Leadership |
| Sean Horan | Discipleship for Youth / Young Adult Ministries |
| Katie Gilpin | Assimilation and Outreach |

Deacons:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Guy Vander Vliet | Clerk |
| Laurie Robinson | Fellowship |
| Paul Anderson | Stewardship and Finance |
| Morgan Savage | Building and Grounds |
| LuAnne Petrie | Mission—Hands-on Opportunities |
| Nancy Holm | Mission—Benevolences |

Articles for the Reformed Informer are due by the 10th of the month for the following month's issue. Submissions may be edited. Email submissions to reformed.informer@cnrc.church.

Articles/pictures/video for the Reformed Journal should be sent shortly after an event has been held. The media can be put on a flash drive / memory card (which will be returned to you!) and brought to the church office, or email submissions to journal@cnrc.church.