



The Clarkstown Reformed Church

Witness

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News from the parsonage

Things are thawing in the Clarkstown Reformed Church parsonage – having weathered the winter, we are ready for a period of activity! Time really flies by quickly, and it’s amazing to think that we’ve already been with the CRC community for six months. So many things have happened! Having gotten to know everyone in our small community, we have grown so much. (The one who has grown most of all, of course, is Junia – who has discovered walking, running, and climbing, in what seems to be a blur.)

We’ve been pretty busy during the winter months. In January, we both started online courses for ordination (and we still have some more courses to do). These courses take up a lot of time, but are very informative and useful, and we’re glad for this opportunity to learn. We have grown, too, in preparing for our sermon series on the Apostles’ Creed and in the congregation’s Bible studies. (Just to explain the last note: the Bible studies are run by other people in the CRC

community, not us, and they are a blessing to us as a family.)

After six months, we can honestly say that we appreciate the support given to us by the congregation. Thank you, everyone



View from the parsonage after the March 14th snowstorm. Thankfully the parsonage has a fireplace!

who has helped us settle in some way or another. We really appreciate your kind words, thoughts, and prayers. We especially appreciate everyone making us feel so welcome during coffee hour. What a privilege to know, too, that we can invite anybody to church and that they will feel welcome in our coffee hour.

News from the pulpit

In the first quarter of 2017, we worked our way through the Apostles' Creed, one of the earliest summaries of the Christian faith. With each sermon, we attempted to answer this question: What do we actually say when we recite the creed, as we so often do in Christian worship services? At the end of each sermon, we summarized what we mean when we say each article of the creed. The summaries follow below, after each line of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I know that there is a God and I put my trust in him; he is loving and caring, and I submit to his authority. He has authority over all (the seen and the unseen); He is unlike everyone and everything else.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,

I believe and put my trust in Jesus the savior, the expected Messiah who is fully

We're all set for spring and summer! Indeed, we recently bought a tent and camping gear. It would be a shame not to spend time in the beautiful nature of the surrounding area. If you know of any good camping spots, please let us know!

Grace and peace,

Sheree and Ronald

God and at the same time my brother. To him alone I pledge my allegiance.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

I believe that Jesus Christ was fully divine and fully human; He was truly born and shared completely in our humanity, even though He was God.

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

Jesus, at a specific time in history, in fulfillment of scripture, suffered humiliation, scorn and extreme pain. In his death he took upon himself the curse that was destined for us. Like all humans, he died and was buried.

he descended to the dead.

I emphasize this: Jesus truly died. I believe that God deals justly with humans. I believe that Jesus conquered the devil, sin and death.



The Apostles' Creed is a summary of some of Christianity's core beliefs. The creed originated in the second century. A few phrases were added as late as the fourth century. The creed was always tied to baptism, as it still is today in our RCA Liturgy. New converts to the faith were instructed in each of the articles of the Apostles' Creed, and used this creed as an expression of their faith when they were baptized. Today, when we baptize, the whole congregation affirms their faith in this way.

On the third day he rose again;

The resurrection is the center of Christianity. I am free from bondage and free to do good works. Creation is affirmed to be good. The resurrection was the launch pad of the kingdom of God, of which every act I do has the potential to have far-reaching consequences.

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

I believe that Jesus Christ – who remains a human – was given the place of highest honor in heaven. I believe that he

intercedes for us; through him we – as humans – have access to God.

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Jesus is coming again. He will judge all based on their works. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, I do not have to be afraid. I can trust in God's grace, which covers my sins.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

I believe and put my trust in the Holy Spirit, who is God. I believe the Holy Spirit is actively working in this world. The Holy Spirit brings me and others through me as witness to faith; the Spirit convicts of sin and judgment, but also comforts and encourages. I believe that the Holy Spirit produces in me and others love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that all things will be renewed.

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

I believe that the church is universal, and made holy by the Holy Spirit who is present in our community. The church meets together for edification, it provides for each other, and shares the sacraments.

the forgiveness of sins,

I believe that my sins are forgiven in Christ. I believe that I also have to forgive those who sinned against me.

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

I believe that there will be a resurrection of (physical) bodies that will never die

Outreach

Zumba® class for Walter Hoving Home

On Friday, February 24th, the Fellowship Hall was abuzz with excitement. The room was packed: everyone had donned their exercise clothes for a Zumba® class for the Walter Hoving Home. Under the energetic direction of Pauline Henriques, we danced the night away – all for the benefit of the Walter Hoving Home. Afterwards, we had a scrumptious dinner and we all got to meet a few new people. The event raised more than \$2500 dollars for the home. Thanks for organizing this event, Pauline!

The Walter Hoving Home will visit us on July 2nd, 2017. They will sing and share

again. I am assured of this because Jesus was raised from the dead. I believe in a future where God takes away all mourning, crying, death and pain.

testimonies, as they have done in the past. We are planning a meal, during which you can meet some of the ladies from the home and converse with them. More info will follow about the event and how to support the Walter Hoving Home – keep watching our website!



Dancing for the benefit of the Walter Hoving Home on Friday, February 24th.

Past events

Potluck

On March 5th, we gathered in the Disciples' Room for a potluck, instead of our normal coffee hour. We had a full spread of meals from all over, lively conversation and excellent pudding. Thanks to everyone for letting us share in your favorite dishes. Be sure to catch our next potluck!

Men's breakfasts

Since the beginning of the year, we have been meeting every third Saturday of the month in the early hours of the morning (for some of us, 8:30 a.m. is a challenge) to share some manly thoughts. At our first gathering, we embarked on a quest: rate all the diners – especially their coffee – around West Nyack. Be sure to join us for some good fellowship!

MOPS

Our MOPS program has been running smoothly. Every month a group of mothers meet to share breakfast and to talk about raising children, family relationships, personal health and life in general. This last month, CRC member Pauline shared with the group about holistic living. She pointed out that a

person is most likely to overeat when they are trying to fill a hole in their life. With mothers, the hole is often a lack of social interaction or stimulation that leads to unhealthy eating patterns. She encouraged mothers to be intentional about making time to have friendships and making time to have a relationship with one's spouse. In terms of healthy eating choices, she suggested starting by adding green food to one's diet. A salad, some broccoli, asparagus, etc., all of these add beneficial vitamins and fiber which dramatically improve health.

Our kids program during MOPS is still being tweaked. In the coming months, a few members of our Women's Bible Study, along with Barbara Gries, will be helping to develop the program more.



Our MOPS group was featured in the March edition of Rockland Parent. Click [here](#) to read the article online.

A letter from the Consistory

Dear Congregation,

In keeping with the Easter celebration of Jesus' sacrifice for us all, the Consistory would like to address our need for financial assistance. We are asking the Congregation to search their hearts to help us create a reliable and accurate budget going forward. In order to accomplish this, it would help us if you could make a monthly pledge or commit to a tithe.

In the alternative, it has also been suggested that maybe you could choose to make a full or partial payment toward one of our recurring monthly expenses. For example, one of our parishioners absorbs the fortnightly expense for the flowers on the altar.

The Lord loves a cheerful giver.

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

We appreciate and are thankful for the generous offering we have received from many of our faithful members. God bless you for giving this matter your prayerful consideration.

Yours in Christ,

The Consistory

New Members:

We are excited to welcome Pauline and Mike Henriques as new members. They are, of course, no strangers to our community, and we trust that they are already feeling at home. We feel blessed to have them with us!

Baptisms:

On April 2nd, 2017, we had the privilege of being present at the baptism of two beautiful babies:

-Skylar Bertolino (daughter of Keith & Alma Bertolino) &
-Matthew Papenmeyer (son of Jason & Nicole Papenmeyer)

Please remember in your prayers:

Thelma Connolly
Ann Essick
Kim Jedzinak
Barbara Zwynenburg

Upcoming events

- **Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS):** A time for mothers to meet each other, engage with bigger issues in life, and have fun! Why? Because moms matter; they are the driving force behind society. Sometimes they need a little time off. **CHILDCARE PROVIDED!** Our next meeting is on April 21st; we meet every third Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
- **Men's breakfasts:** Come help us rate the neighborhood's coffee – our men's breakfasts are shaking it up with some diverse "diner hopping". You're welcome to come discuss man-things and eat man-breakfasts.
- **Fellowship Lunch:** Bring along your lunch and come have fellowship with us every Wednesday at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Bible Study: Women's Bible Study** takes place every second Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and **Adult Bible Study** every second Friday at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to become part of both these caring and loving communities. They meet in the Carriage House.
- **Easter Service:** This year's Easter Service will take place on Sunday, April 16th. We will have an easter egg hunt and snacks for the kids.

Make sure to visit www.clarkstownreformedchurch.org for more details on these and other events!