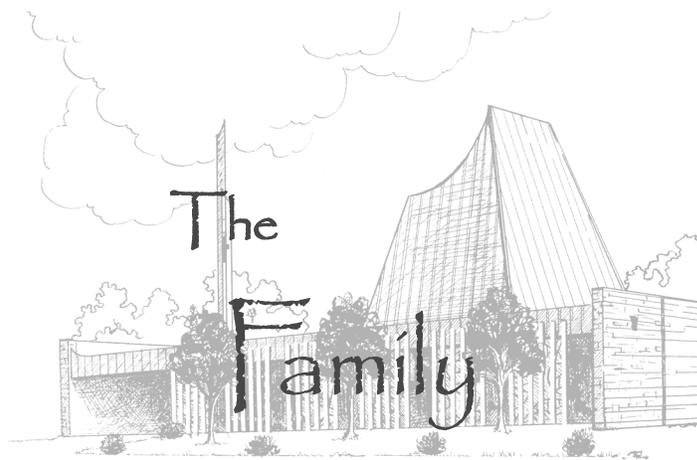


Bellevue Reformed Church

2000 Broadway, Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 393-1341

www.bellevuereformed.org

April 2022



The Preacher's Donkey

~Pastor Bill

A man bought a donkey from a preacher. The preacher told the man that the donkey had been trained in a very unique way (being the donkey of a preacher). The only way to make the donkey go, he instructed, is to say, "Hallelujah!". The only way to make the donkey stop is to say, "Amen!".

The man was pleased with his purchase and immediately got on the animal to try out the preacher's instructions. "Hallelujah!" shouted the man. The donkey began to trot. "Amen!" shouted the man. The donkey stopped immediately. "This is great" said the man and with a "Hallelujah," he rode off, very proud of his new purchase.

The man traveled for a long time through the mountains. Soon he was headed toward a cliff, he tried to remember, the word to make the donkey stop. "Stop," said the man. "Halt!" he cried. In his anxious state he could not remember the word to make the donkey stop and the donkey just kept going.

Oh, no!

Bible!...Church!...Please! Stop! shouted the man. The donkey just began to trot faster. He was getting closer and closer to the edge of the cliff. Finally, in desperation, the man said a prayer—"Please, dear Lord, please make this donkey stop before I go off the end of this mountain. Amen." The donkey came to an abrupt stop just one step from the edge of the cliff. "Hallelujah!" shouted the man...

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the miraculous renewing power of laughter— a gift from God. Laughter can help put life into perspective, renew our energy and clear our mind.

Hallelujah! May we all laugh, so hard we can't catch our breath. There are too many cliffs about. **Amen!**



Mission Corner

Our **Mission of the Month** focus this month is on the Church World Service (CWS) Kits program.

These kits mean communities—and the precious families they represent—will receive help when they need it this year. The needs are great; perhaps greater than they've been in recent history. Many people are suffering from natural disasters, disease and the effects of climate change as well as violence not only here at home but around the world.

If your heart aches for homeless people, your spirit worries over children who want nothing more than to learn, and your prayers surround those who have lost everything, then perhaps you would consider creating one of the kits listed below:

School Kit

- One pair blunt scissors (Rounded tip only. Remove from packaging.)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (No loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- One 12" ruler (30-centimeter)
- One hand-held pencil sharpener (Remove from packaging.)
- One large eraser (No pencil cap erasers.)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (Remove from packaging and rubber band the pencils together.)
- One box of 24 crayons
- One canvas bag with handles (Pick up at church or from Pat O.)

Hygiene Kit

- One hand towel (15" x 28" to 16" x 32") (No fingertip, bath, dish, or micro-fiber towels.)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb (Remove from packaging.)
- One fingernail or toenail clipper (Remove from packaging.)
- One bath size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids
- One-gallon Ziploc type bag (available at church).

All kits must be turned in by April 24 so that Pat and Bob can deliver them to Vermont for shipping.

If you would like to support this mission but are unable to construct a kit, you can still help by making a monetary contribution. Contributions help with shipping costs. You may bring your contribution to church (please write MOM/CWS Kits on the outside of an envelope and/or in the memo and include your name and the amount enclosed). Contributions can also be mailed or made securely online.

Thank you in advance for your dedication to this project. Last year we were the only local church participating (due to Covid-19).



Opportunities from Schenectady Community Ministries

- Be an intern. The Mission Committee is wondering if there is a Senior High School or early college student who might be interested in a paid internship at the Schenectady Community Ministries this summer. This person should have a connection to our church--attended, is a relative of one of our members, or another connection.
- Volunteer. SiCM serves free lunches in parks during the summer, to children and youth from infancy through age 18. In Bellevue, the Summer Meals will be at Hillhurst Park, July 5-8 at lunchtime.
- Participate virtually in the CROP Walk, May 1.
- Participate in SiCM's Urban Gardens Project.

For more information on any of these opportunities contact Pat O.

Prayer Team Info

~Janet Galusha

Prayer Requests can be made Tuesday-Friday by calling or emailing the church office (bellevuereformedchurch@gmail.com / 518.393.1341). Feel free to contact the Prayer Team at any time: Janet Galusha (518-708-4837). After-hours requests may be sent to Lynn Barnes (barnes.lynn@gmail.com).

Additionally, two members of the Prayer Team are available after worship on Sunday mornings for anyone wanting prayer. They will be at the front of the sanctuary.

BRC Prayer Team
Janet Galusha
Bill Book
Louise James
Rosanne Magagnos
Bob Obrecht
Linda Rademakers
Tana Rozelle

Please know that *"...we thank our God every time we remember you. In all our prayers for all of you, we always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel..."*
(Philippians 1:1-3a)





Samaritan's Purse/ Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

The Mission Committee voted to support Operation Christmas Child (OCC). The mission of OCC is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. They do this by partnering with local churches around the globe who fill shoeboxes with gifts. The shoeboxes are then delivered worldwide. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.

Our goal is to pack at least 50 boxes for boys and girls age 10-14. Each month we will focus on a specific item. A box is in the narthex for donations (*no war-related items, please*).

Thank you for helping us support this ministry.

April: Stuffedies

May: Hairbrushes and tooth brushes

June: Soap and wash cloths

July & August: School Supplies

September: Coloring books and crayons

October: Catch up

November: Packing Party

What's Happening in the Pastoral Search Process?

The Search Team is meeting on the monthly basis. Please keep the team members in your prayers.

- ☐ Larry Brown (Chair)
 - ☐ Nicole Gentile (Vice-Chair)
 - ☐ Sharon Handerhan (Clerk)
 - ☐ Helen Horn
 - ☐ Barbara Leone
 - ☐ Kelley McNeil
 - ☐ Shane Whalen
- ☐ The Search Team has submitted the Church Profile to the RCA.
 - ☐ The Team has finalized a job posting, which Consistory has now approved. In order to post the job, the Search Team is looking into how to link the church profile to the BRC website to make it accessible to applicants.
 - ☐ The Search Team has created a new email account, which will be used on job posting sites to give applicants a place to send their resumes and ask questions.

Tasks Ahead:

- Research where to post the open Pastor position online (outside of the RCA website)
- Ensure the BRC website is as up to date as possible for inquiring applicants, including linking the Church Profile to the website
- Begin creating guidelines to screen applicants, including who will be responsible for replying to applicants, what interview questions should be asked, etc.

Consistory Corner

At the March meeting, the Consistory took the following actions —

- Approved Christian Education purchasing new toys for younger children in the nursery.
- Approved a motion to accept the Pastor job description and job posting as developed by the Search Team.
- Approved maintaining the taped off sections in the pews.
- Approved the prayer blanket ministry to work in the Emmaus Room moving forward.
- Approved allowing our own membership and the Seventh Day Adventist Group to use the kitchen moving forward. Anyone using it must thoroughly clean and sanitize the kitchen and equipment after use.
- Submitted the Consistorial Report for 2021.

Happy Birthday

APRIL

- 1 Sonia V
- 3 Philip M
- 4 Beth H
Jeff R
- 5 Carol N
Susan M
- 7 Christopher G
Wendy P
- 10 Kayleigh P
- 14 Tim S
- 20 Joseph G
- 21 David B
- 22 Diane J

MAY

- 2 Jeff O
- 8 Sharon R
- 15 Susan S
- 18 Lynnea F
- 21 Luvina S
- 23 Kirsten T
- 30 Ava F
- 31 McKenna K

Women's Circle

The Mary-Martha Circle plans to meet on Tuesday, April 5 at 1:00pm.

We invite all ladies of the church to join us.



Lent 2022

Dear BRC Brothers and Sisters,

During Lent the Mission Committee asks you to consider a fast of sorts. We ask you to consider saving your spare money each day of the Lenten season as the Holy Spirit leads you. Please use an envelope to gather your offering (**Please write “Lenten Offering” on the outside and include your name and the amount enclosed**).

Your offering may be brought/mailed to the church anytime between Maundy Thursday, April 14 and Easter Sunday, April 17. If you would like your offering picked up, please call Pat.

This year’s offering will go toward the support of Roger and Sue S, our mission coworkers in Africa.

Please help BRC to help Jesus and the Roger and Sue during this time leading us to the greatest victory of all: The Resurrection.

Thank you for your participation in this effort.

In Christ Alone,
Your Mission Committee

Big shout out to our Snow Removal Team!

Thanks for keeping are walkways clear and all of us safe.

Thanks to all who do countless unseen tasks around the building!





Ruth's Place

Ruth's Place, a neighborhood thrift store in the Bellevue area. Located at 1910 Broadway, Schenectady, we provide low cost, good quality clothing and housewares to the community.

Donations being accepted include:

Clothing (in season, new or gently worn, stain free): footwear, scarves, hats, gloves, ties, belts, handbags, jewelry

Housewares: dishes, glassware, utensils, lamps, mirrors, pictures, Christmas related items; books

Items may be brought directly to Ruth's Place during our hours of operation:

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10:00am - 2:00pm

Upcoming Events

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 14, 7:00pm

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday, April 10, 10:00am

Blessing of the Animals Service

Sunday, April 10, 2:00pm

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, April 17, 10:00am

Newsletter Items Due

Wednesday, April 20

Mission Statement

Attract our neighbors to life in God's kingdom

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a growing community of fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ, who bear witness through our words and actions to the good news of God's reconciling love and his desire to restore all things through Christ.

A vital community life revolves around four core activities: worship, discipleship, fellowship and witness, each requiring intentionality and reflection, constant adaptation and commitment.

We want to play our part in Christ's mission both globally and locally, each of us seeking to be the presence of Christ wherever we live, work, play and learn. We also hear God's specific call to be Christ's presence to the Bellevue neighborhood.

By way of our own ongoing transformation, the forming of authentic relationships, acts of service and respectful conversations, we hope that many we meet on this journey will experience their own life-changing encounter with Jesus, and join us in becoming his students, servants and friends.

Bellevue Reformed Church

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Schenectady, NY 12306
Church Office: 393-1341
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E-mail: BellevueReformedChurch@gmail.com
Website: bellevuereformed.org

Staff

Rev. Dr. Bill Faulkner
Interim Pastor
Laurie S. Oldorff
Church Administrator
Jaime Galusha
Financial Secretary
David Barnes
Treasurer
Janet Kolner
Sexton
Rosanne Magagnos
Sexton

Elders

Janet Galusha
Patty Gentile
Monica Hardy
Pat Obrecht
Vice President of Consistory
Linda Rademakers

Deacons

Dave Barnes
Laura Brown
Nicole Gentile
Beth Halayko
Helen Horn
Chair of Deacons

Mission Coworkers

Roger & Sue

Please Join Us!

Sunday

10:00am Worship
(In-person & Livestream)
10:15am Sunday School

Monday

6:30pm Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday

6:30pm Life Beyond Codependency
(2nd and 4th /September-May)

Wednesday

1:00pm Bible Study
5:00pm Craft Ministry (4th Wed.)

Our LiveStream service can be found on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/BellevueReformedNY/>

