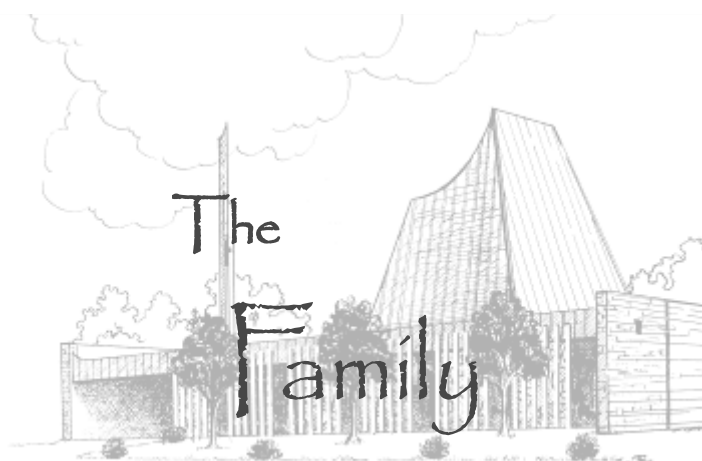


# Bellevue Reformed Church

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

[www.bellevuereformed.org](http://www.bellevuereformed.org)

*November 2022*



## Count Your Blessings

Gratitude Abounding!

It's November already! Some of the radio stations are already playing Christmas music, but we have not yet celebrated Thanksgiving. I can hardly believe how fast the time is going. I have been asked a few times already how long I have been at Bellevue Reformed, or when I started. At first, it was easy to answer in weeks. Now, probably because I'm bad at math, I lost count of the weeks and answer in months. That is exciting for me, and I hope that it is for you, as well. I am settling nicely into a routine, getting to know more and more of you by name, and basking in the glow of being a part of this community. If November had a playlist of music, I think *Count Your Blessings* would be in the top three songs for this season. "Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done."

God is indeed doing good things here!

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, we were invited to come early to fold the boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and by the time some of us got here, the work was already done! So many boxes are getting prepped and packed with good things to send to children around the world. Can you imagine the look on the faces of the little boys and girls who receive an entire box of treats? It warms my heart when I think of the generosity and dedication of the congregation.

We have been meeting with a few of our regular attendees who have decided to make Bellevue Reformed their official church home! The past few weeks we have gone over our core values, and polity, and things that set Bellevue Reformed apart from the culture in which we live. We have studied our mission statement and the process for becoming a member. This is good news for our congregation as a whole! It not only means that we are growing, but that we have folks who are willing to make a profession of faith and join more fully our Christ-centered community!

Our Bible study has begun on Wednesday mornings. Several of us have gathered for a few weeks now to delve into the scripture passages that will be heard on the following Sunday in worship. We have had rich discussions on a full range of topics that spring forth from hearing God's Word. Each of these weeks is a stand-alone study so if you have not been to one yet, you don't need to worry! We meet at 10 and we would welcome your presence.

These are three of the blessings I can count. How about you? What are you grateful for? What songs of praise has God put into your heart? Christmas will be here soon enough. For now, let's focus on counting our blessings.

~Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Heather Kramer

## Women's Circle

The Mary Martha Women's Circle is meeting on Wednesday, December 7 at 1 pm. We will meet at Jacob's Well. This will be our holiday meeting where we will share a meal (Dutch treat). We will be getting our meal from the Center Stage Deli. Please choose what you would like for lunch from their takeout menu (available online under Center Stage Deli or from a paper menu available in the church office). Please give your menu choice and payment to Pat O by Monday, December 5. Pam T will be leading devotions. We hope you can join us.

## Caroling at Baptist

We invite you to a caroling/cheer-spreading opportunity! As a Church family, we can bring joy to Baptist Nursing and Rehab Center residents by sharing a Carol Sing with them. Caroling is planned for Tuesday, December 13th at 2:30 pm. To enter the building, Carolers will have to have a COVID test upon arrival at the center and wear a mask while inside the center.

If you are interested contact, Pat O, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We must notify the Activities Director if we are coming.

## Mission Corner

Our **Mission of the Month** focus will be support of the Charland family.

Christmas, a time to rejoice and celebrate the birth of Jesus who brought light into a world of darkness.

However, sometimes it is difficult to celebrate when you're experiencing darkness in your personal life. That is the case with the Charland family (They are the daughters and grand children of Kelley M. Recently, Bethany, her sister Katherine, and Katherine's two children, Ryleigh, age 8 and Karter, age 6, experienced a devastating fire in their apartment that resulted in a total loss of their possessions.

To bring some light to the family the Mission Committee has decided to adopt them for Christmas.

On November 27 there will be a Christmas tree in the narthex decorated with "ornaments" that will contain the names of each family member and items from their wish list.

If you would like to bring a little light into their darkness you can do so by choosing an ornament from the tree and signing your name next to the corresponding item number on the list that will be by the tree. After you have shopped you may wrap your gift, label it with the person's name, place it in the large box, and check off the item on the list.

We are hoping all gifts can be returned to church no later than December 18 so that they can be delivered in time for the family to celebrate the joy that is Christmas.

Thank you for sharing in this meaningful endeavor.

## Operation Christmas Child

Because you took the time to fill a shoebox, put up a table, or help with postage a child will be able to experience God's love through the joy of Christmas. You put 104 shoeboxes together! Thank you!

## Sock and Mitten Tree

There will be a Sock and Mitten Tree in the Pastors' Lounge. We invite you to decorate the tree with hats, socks, gloves, scarves, and underwear for small children. Items will be given to Van Corlaer School and Things of My Very Own, Inc. Thank You.

## Prayer Team Info

Prayer Requests can be made Tuesday-Friday by calling or emailing the church office ([bellevuereformedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bellevuereformedchurch@gmail.com)/518.393.1341). Feel free to contact the Prayer Team at any time: Janet Galusha ([jays49@gmail.com](mailto:jays49@gmail.com)). After-hours requests may be sent to Lynn Barnes ([barnes.lynn@gmail.com](mailto: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

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)



## You're Invited!

This year Christmas falls on a Sunday. We want to let you know that church on Christmas morning will be a little different, but quite fun.

The first thing to note is that the service is at 11:00! Hopefully this gives families a little more time on Christmas morning, so they do not have to rush out the door. The second thing is that we will be *really* celebrating the birth of Jesus, complete with a party! We will sing happy birthday and there will be other surprises! Pastor Heather will do a blessing of the toys, so little ones may feel free to bring their favorite new toy from Santa.



## Fellowship Opportunities During the Christmas Season

By the time you receive this newsletter, our sanctuary should be decked in anticipation of the birth of our Lord and Savior. Our shoeboxes will have been packed and delivered to the distribution center. It is an exciting time of waiting and watching for signs of His coming. The Fellowship Committee would like to invite you to several events that will surely get you into the Christmas spirit.

### Special Craft Night December 5

Take a break from Monday night football and join us at Jacob's Well for some creative crafting. No special skills are necessary. December 5th, at 6:00pm we will be painting glassware and/or making cards. Glassware will be provided via Ruth's Place. Card-making supplies are provided by Pastor Heather. Light refreshments will be provided as well. If you could RSVP to Laura B at [Hike4now@aol.com](mailto:Hike4now@aol.com) it will help us with the setup to be sure we have enough workspace for all.

### Carol Sing December 18

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm--our favorite tradition of gathering in the sanctuary to sing real Christmas Carols is back—complete with wassail and cookies. Please come and take the time out of your busy schedule to relax, gather and make a joyful sound with your church family and friends.

### Unhanging of the Greens / Brunch January 8

As the season winds down, we will be faced with taking down our decorations. Sunday, January 8 immediately following worship we will be asking for your help in taking down our decorations. When the work is finished we will gather together for brunch prepared by the team led by Dave Terry. His eggs and sausage cannot be beaten. Please plan on joining us at some or all of the above activities. Join in the merriment and fun! Have a blessed Christmas season!



### Ruth's Place

The hours are **Tuesday, Thursday** and **Saturday** from 10:00am-2:00pm. Closed 12/24, 27, 29, & 31.

We ask everyone to follow COVID-19 safety protocols (wear a mask if you wish, maintain proper distancing, and stay home if you are feeling at all unwell). We are following necessary sanitizing procedures.

As usual, we welcome your donations of gently used items (clothes, household goods, seasonal items—no stuffed/fabric toys or furniture please) at 1910 Broadway during our open hours.

## Thank you!

Many of you help in a multitude of unseen ways around BRC. Know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

This month however, we are going to recognize two folks who keep us in tip-top shape—Jan Kolner and Rosanne Magagnos.

We THANK YOU for keeping BRC and The Well sparkling and for making it a safe, healthy environment. We thank you for keeping the LFFP in order, the bread box stocked, and for attending to the prayers and concerns of the community.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication!

Have you seen the new desk in the office yet? It is beautiful! The old one had seen better days. Thank you for the upgrade! It brightens the office.

Thank you to Bob O, Jeff G, and David B for tackling those overwhelming instructions and getting it put together. (Are those really screws in that bowl, or is it full of snacks?). You gentleman rock!



*Pictured Above: Bob and Jeff*

## Happy Birthday

### DECEMBER

- 6 Leona H
- 7 Jean G  
Ella  
Emma
- 10 Kelsey
- 11 Kelley M
- 15 Helen H
- 25 Noel F
- 26 David T  
Gabriella P
- 27 Addie F
- 29 Gordon H  
Carlos R

### JANUARY

- 1 Nyla Lewis
- 3 Christopher P
- 10 Jayvin M M
- 13 Roger S
- 14 Sandy A
- 16 Mary Ann R  
Samuel S
- 21 Audrey K
- 22 Terri O
- 24 Susan T



## Consistory Corner

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

- Scheduled the Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 11, after the service.
- Approved the 2023 Budget draft, to be distributed to the Congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting.
- Approved the slate of nominees for Consistory, including Lawrence Brown and Sharon Handerhan for Deacon, and Kelly McNeal and Shane Whalen for Elder. They will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting.
- Approved holding Communion on every Sunday during Advent and Lent; during off seasons months, it will be held once a month. A hybrid approach will be used with people coming forward for Communion, unless individuals are uncomfortable, and request to be served in the pews.
- Approved adding the wording “We are stewards of God’s creation and exercise care and respect for the Earth and the environment,” to our Core Values.
- Approved giving Pastor Heather an additional week’s vacation instead of the Classis recommended increase in salary of 4%.
- Approved Pastor Heather’s request attend a two week conference “The Calling of the Church in Times of Polarization,” in Amsterdam, Holland, on June 29 to July 8, 2023. She would use her continuing education time and a week of vacation. Consistory approved her attendance and the need for pulpit supply for two weeks.

## Assessment Info

Bellevue Reformed Church is part of a larger church body called the Reformed Church in America. Each congregation is “assessed” for each confessing member for the support of regional and national ministries that provide staff and other resources for church planting, church revitalization, local and global mission, and discipleship. (For example, BRC previously received a \$25,000 grant for Jacob’s Well.) The assessment for this coming year is \$108.01 per member. Whatever you can give toward this amount will be helpful.

Some people choose to use the Assessment Envelope from an offering envelope set to help defray the cost of the assessment for our congregation. Thank you.



## The Well News

### Ruth's Place Thrift Shop

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

Closed 12/24, 27, 28, 31

### Jacob's Well Cafe

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

Closed 12/24, 27, 28, 31

## Upcoming Events Cont.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 7:00pm

Worship/Birthday Party for Jesus

December 25, 11:00am

## Upcoming Events

Coffee Fellowship Time

December 4

Carol Sing at Baptist

December 13

Congregational Meeting

December 11

Church Carol Sing

December 18, 6:30pm

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

### 7:00PM

## Mission Statement

Attract our neighbors to life in God's kingdom

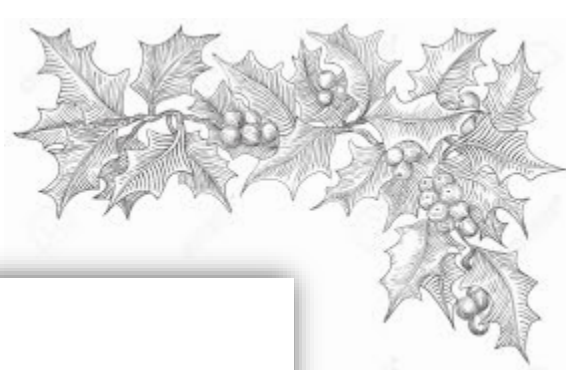
## Vision Statement

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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Website: [bellevuereformed.org](http://bellevuereformed.org)

### Staff

Rev. Heather Kramer  
*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)  
11:00am December 25  
10:15am Sunday School  
(Sept. – May)

### Monday

6:30pm Celebrate Recovery

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

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

### Saturday

7:00pm Christmas Eve Service  
(In-person & Livestream)

Our LiveStream service can be found on YouTube