

**Saddle River  
Reformed Church  
worshiping at  
Old Stone Church  
September 2023**



**Calendar**

**Back to Church Sunday  
September 17**

Worship - Sundays at 10am  
Old Stone Church

Bible Study & Lunch Bunch  
Wednesdays at 11am in the  
Lounge

Sew & Sew Group  
Friday, September 8 at  
12:30pm in the Lounge

Consistory Meeting  
Wednesday, September 13th  
at 6:15pm in the Lounge

Back to Church Sunday  
Sunday, September 17

*Invite a friend  
to church!*



If you are unable to be with us to worship in person, you can participate via Facebook Live on our page:

You do not need to be a member of Facebook to access this link.

<https://www.facebook.com/Old-StoneSaddle-River-Reformed-Church-105866604368793>

**Find us on the web and on social media**

oldstonechurchonline.org

Facebook: Old Stone/Saddle River Reformed Church

Instagram: oldstonechurchnj

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## Calling all pet owners - Send in photos!!!

In honor of the Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on October 4, 2023, we will be running photos of our pets in the October newsletter. Please email your photos to the church office at [srrcoffice@verizon.net](mailto:srrcoffice@verizon.net) or text them to Stephanie.



## September 2023 Lectionary Year A

### September 3 - Communion

**Rev. Roland Ratmeyer**

#### Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15;  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;  
Romans 12:9-21;  
Matthew 16:21-28

### September 10

**Rev. Leah Ennis-Gasero**

#### Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14;  
Psalm 149;  
Romans 13:8-14;  
Matthew 18:15-20

### September 17

**Rev. Sanjiv Kattakola**  
Back to Church Sunday

#### Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15;  
Psalm 133;  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32;  
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

### September 24

**Rev. Mel Van Hattam**  
Seventeenth Sunday after

Pentecost  
Exodus 1:8-2:10;  
Psalm 124;  
Romans 12:1-8;  
Matthew 16:13-20

## Blessing of Backpacks

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers. We give you thanks for your children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding, and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school. May they be guided by your love. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example of your great love for us. Amen.  
*(source: Wendy Claire Barrie, Morehouse Education Resources, a division of Church Publishing Incorporated)*



## September & October Missions Offering

The Deacons will be collecting funds during September and October for **Hawai'i Community Foundation - Maui Strong Fund**. The **Maui Strong Fund** is providing financial resources that can be deployed quickly, with a focus on rapid response and recovery for the **devastating wildfires on Maui**. HCF is working in close collaboration with state and county leaders, nonprofit organizations, and community members to get an understanding of the quickly evolving priorities. Funding will support evolving needs, including shelter, food, financial assistance, and other services as identified by their partners doing critical work on **Maui**.



You can give to this ministry in person **during Sunday morning worship** (please make checks payable to Saddle River Reformed Church and designate as Mission of the Month) or **on-line using the church website and by selecting “Giving” from the menu or the “Give” button and choosing “Mission of the Month” in the dropdown list.** <https://oldstonechurchonline.org/>



## Prayer for Labor Day

Almighty God, guide us with your justice in the workplace, so that we may never value things above people, or surrender honor to love of gain or lust for power. Prosper all efforts to put an end to work that bring no joy, and teach us how to govern the ways of business to the harm of none and for the sake of the common good. Amen. *(source: A prayer for commerce and labor, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 78)*



## Prayer for 9/11

We remember the 9/11 attacks in NYC, DC & Shanksville, PA. Merciful God, bring comfort to those who mourn, healing to those still suffering from trauma, and reconciliation to a world in need of peace.



## New Roof!!!

The roof of the Education Building was replaced. We're looking forward to a leak free fall, winter, and spring.



## Tree Work in the Cemetery

Several of our dead and dying trees and branches were removed for the safety of people visiting the cemetery and protection of the gravestones.



## Property Projects Appeal

Our church property, like your own home, needs constant maintenance to provide a safe environment. This year we will have to pay out more than we originally expected for property projects. Upper Saddle River has a new fire official who has been working his way through the town to bring the various buildings up to code. We were cited for over 20 violations. New signage and repairs to our Education Building have cost us more than \$4000. When the solar panels were installed on the east side of the Education Building, only the roof under the panels was replaced. The remaining roof has exceeded its life expectancy and has been patched as much as possible. We now need to replace the rest of the roof at a cost of \$25,000. When the parsonage was vacated two years ago, we had it professionally cleaned and made some minor repairs. The contractors that have been brought in to provide estimates for the many needed repairs and updates to prepare the building for our next pastor or possible tenant estimate that it will cost \$50,000 at a minimum to make the parsonage whole. We have all of these expenses on top of the regular wear and tear on three aging buildings.

We know this is a time when many are experiencing higher costs in their own lives, and asking for funding from you above and beyond your normal contributions may be challenging. We humbly ask that you consider designating a contribution to fund our property projects.

In Christ's Name,

Your Consistory  
Members



## Sew & Sews Group

The Sew & Sews next meeting will be Friday, September 8 at 12:30 in the Lounge at which time they will discuss their plans for the coming months. This group is open to everyone. The group provides each other with lots of laughs, ideas, and fellowship.

## After Worship Church Socials

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for Sunday Iced Tea Socials. They are weekly, immediately following the service and provide us with a chance to chat and catch up with our church family while enjoying a treat or two (or three!).



Look out Molly Ringwald and Margot Robbie - Linda, Christine, and Nancy are in the house!

**THE REFORMED CHURCH HOME GOLF CLASSIC: SEPTEMBER 12**

(click on the image below for the full brochure)

**GOLF CLASSIC EVENT Sponsor**

**REFORMED CHURCH HOME'S GOLF Classic 31ST ANNUAL**

**EMS**  
*The best people*  
MAINTENANCE AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSOR**

The Reformed Church Home graciously thanks our event sponsor - EMS for their continued support and dedication to the mission of the Home.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH**

**THE COLTS NECK GOLF CLUB**

The Colts Neck Golf Club  
50 Flock Rd.  
Colts Neck, NJ 07722



**NJ Interfaith Center for Cancer Care**

**The NJ Interfaith Center for Cancer Care**

**INTERFAITH CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

**announces a new program!**

Join NJIC3 on **Wednesdays from 3-4pm** for an online interfaith cancer support group. This group is open to anyone who has faced cancer and would like to be in an interfaith environment, providing and receiving mutual support through deep listening, sharing, and contemplation. The group will be led by an NJIC3 staff member. If you'd like to join the group, please scan the QR code below to answer a few questions. Email Nobuko at [nobuko.njic3@improvingnj.org](mailto:nobuko.njic3@improvingnj.org) or Austin at [austin.njic3@improvingnj.org](mailto:austin.njic3@improvingnj.org) if you have any questions.

19 S. 2nd Avenue  
Highland Park, NJ 08904  
[www.njic3.org](http://www.njic3.org)

**NJ Interfaith Center for Cancer Care**

## Community Announcements

**USR Cares Invites USR Seniors to Lunch:** Join us for lunch at the USR Library, catered by Uncle Giuseppe's before the Library's screening of movies the first Thursday of each month. Upcoming dates are **September 7th** (movie to be announced). Interested seniors should rsvp to USR Cares one week prior to each lunch at [usrcares@gmail.com](mailto:usrcares@gmail.com) or 201-749-1615. Information about USR Cares is available at [www.usrcares.com](http://www.usrcares.com).



**2023 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event:** The Bergen County Utility Authority will sponsor this event on **Saturday, September 9, 2023** at Campgaw Mountain Reservation, 200 Campgaw Rd. Mahwah, NJ. Collection hours are 9-3. This event is free for Bergen County residents, ID required.



*Autumn Art Show*

Saturday, September 9th  
from 1-4 PM

Refreshments Provided  
at the Hopper-Goetschius  
House Museum

363 East Saddle River Road,  
Upper Saddle River, NJ

For more information, please  
contact Marica Lesznik at  
[mlesznik2@gmail.com](mailto:mlesznik2@gmail.com).

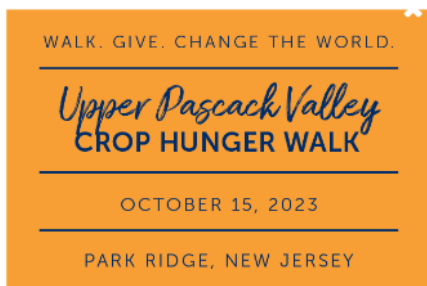
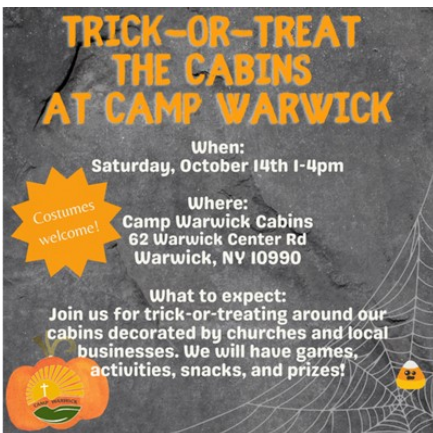


**Women's Bible Study** Please consider joining us for a simple Bible Study at the Ramapo Reformed Church. Pastor Mary will lead the group through various scripture readings in the style of Lectio Divina. No preparation is necessary! First session of the school year will be **Tuesday, September 19 at 1pm**. We will meet in the **Coffee Room of the church building (100 Island Rd)**. We will meet every other Tuesday from September through June.



**Woman's Club Events: Save the date! Our 7th annual Town Wide Garage Sale** will be on **Sat. Sept. 30th** (rain date Oct. 1st). Applications are on the website: [usrwomensclub.org](http://usrwomensclub.org). Start saving those treasures to sell as you organize this summer.

**USR GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS**  
**Curbside Bulky Trash:**  
**Friday, October 13, 2023**



**Upper Pascack Valley CROP Hunger Walk**

Sunday, October 15, 2023

CROP Hunger Walk  
 Park Ridge, NJ 07656

**USR Brush Pickup:** Bundled brush pickup will run through October 31, 2023. Bundles must be tied and able to be lifted overhead into a truck. No larger than 4” in diameter or greater than 5’ in length.

Rev. Mark Ennis of the Clinton Avenue Reformed Church in Bergenfield is looking for **ESL teachers for their Spanish-speaking outreach program.** Anyone with an interest can call the church office: 201-384-2454.



The Center for Food Action in Mahwah at 90 Ridge Road is open M-F from 10am-2pm to accept donations. Their most needed items are Supermarket Gift Cards, Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, etc.), Canned Hearty Soups, Canned Vegetables, Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Tomato Sauce, Toothpaste, Toothbrush & Dental Floss, Cold Cereal (low sugar) & Oatmeal, Powdered Milk &/or Boxed Milk, such as Parmalat, Canned Fruits, Instant Potatoes, 100% Juice, Baby Formula & Diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6, Bar or Bottled Soap, and Canned Dog Food & Canned Cat Food.

**Call 988 For Mental Health Emergencies**

The Federal Communications Commission approved a 3-digit dialing code, 988, for mental health crisis and suicide prevention.

The 988 line will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for calls, texts, and chat.



**September Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Mario Vitiello	9/7
Harrison Peet	9/16
Dylan Breen	9/19
Andrea Dente	9/22
Steve Dietze	9/22
Emily Bonaventure	9/27
Bernice Schweizer	9/28

John & Dot Coblentz	9/4
Justin & Kathleen Moore	9/17
Stephanie & John Peet	9/29

Any updates or additions, please email the church office at [srrcoffice@verizon.net](mailto:srrcoffice@verizon.net)

We welcome your donations through the online giving page on the church website at <https://oldstonechurchonline.org/> and click on the Give button.



If you have anything for the OCTOBER newsletter, especially **photos of pets**, please email the church office at [srrcoffice@verizon.net](mailto:srrcoffice@verizon.net).



**Saddle River Reformed Church**

worshiping at  
**Old Stone Church**  
500 East Saddle River Road  
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458  
201-327-5242  
srrcoffice@verizon.net  
www.OldStoneChurchOnline.org

