

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



Made in God's image, we love. Out of our love, we care for others. In order to care for others, we share what we have to fund acts of love at Saddle River Reformed Church and in our community. Our financial gifts are as much an expression of our beliefs as our creed, our life, and our liturgy. You are part of the Saddle River Reformed Church, and this church is yours. Thank you for your continued support. Your presence and inspiration are essential to our common life and we look forward to seeing you on Consecration Sunday, Nov. 12 at 10am.

Calendar

- Worship - Sundays at 10am
Old Stone Church
- Bible Study & Lunch Bunch
Wednesdays at 11am in the
Lounge
- Sew & Sew Group
Friday, November 3 at 12
noon in the Lounge
- Consistory Meeting
Wednesday, November 8th at
6:15pm in the Lounge
- Consecration Sunday
November 12th
- Sew & Sew Group
Friday, November 17

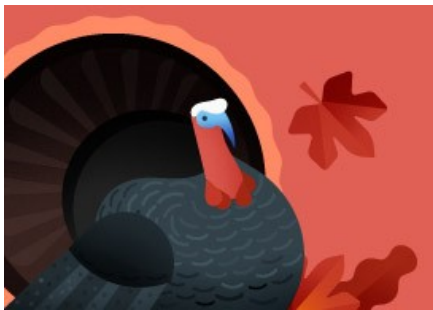


If you are unable to be with us to worship in person, you can participate via Facebook Live on our page:
You do not need to be a member of Facebook to access this link.
<https://www.facebook.com/Old-StoneSaddle-River-Reformed-Church-105866604368793>

Find us on the web and on social media
oldstonechurchonline.org
Facebook: Old Stone/Saddle River Reformed Church
Instagram: oldstonechurchnj

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**November 2023
Lectionary Year A**

November 1
All Saints Day
Revelation 7:9-17;
Psalm 34:1-10, 22;
1 John 3:1-3;
Matthew 5:1-12

November 5
Rev. Sanjiv Kattokola
**Twenty-Third Sunday after
Pentecost**
Joshua 3:7-17;
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13;
Matthew 23:1-12

November 12
Rev. Jodie Wu
**Twenty-Fourth Sunday after
Pentecost**
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25;
Psalm 78:1-7;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19
Rev. Roland Ratmeyer
**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after
Pentecost**
Judges 4:1-7;
Psalm 123;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;
Matthew 25:14-30

November 23
Thanksgiving Day
Deuteronomy 8:7-18;
Psalm 65;
2 Corinthians 9:6-15;
Luke 17:11-19

November 26
Angela Wei, RCA Seminarian
Christ the King Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24;
Psalm 100;
Ephesians 1:15-23;
Matthew 25:31-46

2nd Soup Sale a Success!!!

Thank you to everyone from the community that came out to purchase autumn soups. \$900 was raised for the Center for Food Action in Mahwah! CFA provides food, housing, utility, and heating assistance and offers counseling and advocacy services to low-income individuals and families.



Thank you to the soup chefs and everyone who helped to set up, serve, and clean up: Curt Baer, Marilyn Beisler, Lori Geiger, Linda and Cliff Kammerer, Cathy Lowden, Rosalie and Ernst Luthi, Nancy Peet, Suzie Peters, Rozanne Sullivan, Christine Van Wetering, and Kay Yeomans

November & December Missions Offering

The Deacons will be collecting funds during November and December for the Center for Food Action New Jersey.

Together we can help thousands of NJ families

Center for Food Action is one of the largest emergency food relief agencies in New Jersey. With a mission to prevent hunger and homelessness, CFA improves the lives of low-income families and individuals from over 100 towns in northern NJ. CFA provides a wide range of emergency and case management services so that our neighbors in need can put food on their tables, keep a roof over their heads, keep their lights and gas on, and heat their homes. Their advocates help provide information, referrals, counseling, assistance in accessing public programs, and other community services needed to help improve their lives.



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/>



November is International Orphan Awareness Month

There are 153 million orphaned children in the world. The factors that contribute to the on-going orphan crisis in the world include abuse and neglect, war and conflict, death of a parent, and genocide and infanticide. Christ reigns where children are without loving families. Pray to see how God is inviting you to respond.

Prayer of Hope

For 153 million orphans in the world.

Lord, our hope is in you.

For 443,000 children with no families in the U.S.

Lord, our hope is in you.

From the state of Mississippi, which has the highest number of waiting children, and Virginia, which has the least.

Lord, our hope is in you.

For 13,000 waiting children in the state of Michigan alone.

Lord, our hope is in you.

For one child, one loving family, and until no one orphan remains.

Oh Lord, our hope is in you.

By Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom Grier



November is Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. It is a month set aside with the intention of celebrating the cultures, traditions, ceremonies, languages, and history of Indigenous people. It is a time to recognize the beauty, strength, and resilience of the ancestral and contemporary Indigenous people.

It has been written in our Sacred Teachings, “My faith gave me the courage to speak.” Since the same faith lives in our spirits, we too have the courage to speak. For we know that the one who raised up Creator Sets Free (Jesus) to sit beside the Great Spirit will also raise us up to be with him. Then together, we will all stand before him.

So then, all that we suffer is for your good. This means that Creator’s gift of great kindness will reach more and more people. Then many people will give thanks to the Great Spirit, bringing him even greater honor. That is why we never lose heart. For even though our outer being is fading away, our inner being grows stronger every day.

For the troubles we now face are small compared to what is coming and do not last for long. Instead, they are getting us ready for the great and shining beauty of the world to come, a beauty beyond comparison that will

never fade away. So we set our minds not on the things we can see but on the things we cannot see. For the things we can see will last only for a short time, but the things we cannot see are from the world to come, which will never fade away.

—2 Corinthians 4:13-18, First Nations Version Translation



* Original artwork by Bizzy Feekes. This piece is titled “Force” and was originally published in a booklet titled *Where We Stand*.

Veterans Day Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship Prayer Book for the Armed Services (Augsburg Fortress, 2013), p. 66.



Thanksgiving Litany

Generous God, for the abundance of your blessings to us
day by day and year by year,

We give you our thanks.

For the simple pleasures of life: for garden harvests,
coffee conversation, and familiar surroundings,
For health and strength to appreciate the wonder of life,
For needs met and desires fulfilled,

We give you our thanks.

For foods distributed to nourish body and spirit,
For homes which supply shelter, which nurture
order and beauty, and offer hospitality,

We give you our thanks.

With hearts that forgive as freely as you have forgiven,
With enthusiasm of spirit for the gift of life,
With music which declares your everlasting goodness,
With prayers for mutual understanding and peace,

We worship you with joy.

With creative pursuits which contribute our God-given talents,
With words which honor you as Creator, Redeemer, and Holy
Spirit,

With time volunteered and dedicated to service in church and
community,

With years committed to extending the love of Jesus Christ,

We worship you with joy.

With gifts of money which reach farther than we can manage
ourselves,

With deeds done in service of neighbor and stranger,

With holy days set apart to celebrate your goodness and grace,

With family and
friends distant and
nearby,

**We worship you,
God, with
grateful hearts
and joyful spirit.
Alleluia. Amen.**

*—Rev. Kathy Jo
Blaske*



Christ the King Sunday

**Time: The last Sunday before
Advent**

**Purpose: Christ the King
Sunday celebrates the
complete authority of
Christ as king and Lord of
creation.**

Website and Social Media

Have you checked out our website or social media feeds recently?
There are new postings several times a week on Facebook and
Instagram. Be sure to check them out and follow and/or give us a
“like.”

Website: <https://oldstonechurchonline.org/>
Facebook: Old Stone/Saddle River Reformed Church
Instagram: oldstonechurchnj



The River Mission

Offering help, hope, and a future

October, 2023

It's not just us. We know that the Lord oversees all that we do at the River Mission. And we also know that so much of what we do is possible because of the generous hearts of people all around us. God working, not only in the River Mission, but through it. We'd like to share a few of the people-helping-people occasions from the past few months.



Nicole, Donna, and Theresa, regulars at the River Mission, came across a homeless man recently. Wanting to lend a hand, they asked at the River if we could help. We were able to secure several items for him including a backpack with a hoodie, sweatpants, and other necessities. And we were able to do that for him because people from the River took the time to care, and because we received donations of backpacks from Operation ChillOut. The gentleman is now off the streets and staying at the Shelter.

People helping people who help people. How cool is that?

Kelsey has been with us at the River Mission since the summertime. She has taken amazing steps to rise up out of homelessness. One of her current goals is to return to college to complete a culinary degree. But she needed a computer. Pastor Don brought her case to his Facebook friends, and a former high school classmate of his contacted us and offered a substantial contribution toward the purchase of a laptop. Pastor Don and our Security chief, Dean, had the honor of presenting the computer to Kelsey. Who knows, maybe she'll be preparing River dinners in the future!



Gabriella and her family recently started attending the River Mission service and dinner. They haven't been in the United State very long, so we communicate with what we remember from high school Spanish, with help from translator apps. That was enough to get to know each other a little and see how we could help this family. Gabriella had to carry her little one-year-old daughter everywhere she went because she had no stroller, and not even a baby sling. Pastor Don posted the situation on Facebook and a generous friend not only purchased this stroller, but the sling, too. (Thank you, Dorinda!)

With school starting last month, Gabriella's kindergarten and 2nd grade kids needed lots of school supplies. Paul, our River information officer, spread the word to his associates around town about the need to fulfill these rather lengthy lists. A couple of very generous people not only paid for the kids' supplies but actually did the shopping, too. ¡Que Dios los bendiga este año escolar, queridos amigos!

What's the most frequent request at any place that offers clothing to homeless and low income? The resounding answer is: Socks. When Pastor Don substituted for Pastor Mary at Ramapo Reformed Church recently, there, waiting on the steps next to the pulpit, were bags and boxes of socks and underwear. There is a constant need for these essentials at the River Mission. Thank you, Ramapo Reformed! We left that day with a car stuffed with Ramapo Church generosity.



But Wait-There's More!

Our food pantry was empty at the end of July. Warwick Church of the Nazarene was providing dinner that last day of the month. They arrived with a delicious homemade chicken dinner and cupcakes for dessert, but also brought lots and lots of canned goods! They didn't even know that our cupboard was literally bare. We love God's timing! When we told Pastor Debbie that it's tougher these days to keep our food pantry well supplied with more people attending and the price of food rising, she returned a few weeks later with more canned goods! Thank you, Warwick Church of the Nazarene for your incredible generosity!

And where would we be without Old Paramus Church and Trinity Church of Old Tappan?



Both continued their faithful contributions to the River Mission and helped stock the shelves over the summer. Claudia brought several bags of canned goods, also personal items donated by OPRC. And Pastor Kirsten from Trinity brought bags and bags of our most requested canned goods donated by church members.



The River Mission Family Expands! Welcome Bogart Church!

We celebrated Labor Day weekend with a fried chicken dinner served by Bogart Memorial Reformed Church as they made their debut at the River Mission.

Pastor Jodie and Pastor Imos and their great crew did a stellar job their very first time here. We're looking forward to a return visit from Bogart Memorial next month. They'll be joining us for Thanksgiving weekend!

We are thankful to God and grateful for the people who have spent their own time and resources to make all these situations happen!

And big Thank-you's to The Classis of Greater Palisades supporting the River Mission in so many ways, and Pastors Anna and Dwayne and the congregation of Second Reformed Church, Hackensack, with such a beautiful space to hold our services and serve our dinners.

The River Mission, Offering Help and Hope to Everyone... Especially the Homeless
Second Reformed Church
436 Union St., Hackensack, NJ 07601

201-677-2299

Thank you!!!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County sent a letter in gratitude for the donation we sent. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County is dedicated to making a significant difference in the lives of the children we serve. Our donation enables them to continue providing mentorship and support to these young individuals, fostering positive relationships, and helping them navigate the many obstacles they face.

The church office received a thank you note from **Family Promise of Bergen County** for our donation supporting their vision of a community where every working family has a stable home and the means to create a better life. Family Promise is able to empower homeless working families and those at-risk of homelessness to become self-sufficient by providing temporary housing and personalized support, including job training, financial education, life skills, transportation, childcare, enrichment for children, and more. Family Promise also addresses hunger in our community through the nightly Walk-In Dinner Program, which since 1991 has served more than 1.2 million meals to our neighbors in need.

Heifer International sent a letter of sincere appreciation for our recent contribution. Heifer International works in 19 countries providing families the resources, education, and opportunity to forge a new future - one filled with possibility.

The church office also received a thank you note from **Holland Christian Home Foundation** for our financial gift. Holland Christian Home was founded 128 years ago to serve the elderly in a Christ-centered homestyle atmosphere—small enough to care for each resident individually, but large enough to serve in a professional and beautiful setting. This “little jewel” in North Haledon is newly expanded, renovated, and welcoming to senior living and peace of mind. They have a new pricing structure, which makes entry more affordable.

Hope Christian Services sent in the mail an acknowledgement of our financial gift. Hope Christian Services, guided by their Christian calling, serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing a life filled with hope and love.

VisionTrust sent a note acknowledging our financial contribution. VisionTrust serves the world’s neediest children providing them with vital health, education, and spiritual development.



RCA Restructuring Team Roundtable Meetings This Fall Seek To Engage And Gather More Feedback

The restructuring team will be hosting another round of roundtable events this fall in order to gather feedback on the second draft of their proposals. Dates and locations for the fall roundtable events are now posted on the RCA website. These gatherings are open to everyone who is a part of the RCA. Please consider this your invitation to join the in-person event that is most convenient to you or the denomination-wide virtual event on January 8.

- November 19, 2:00-5:00 p.m., NBTS' Sage Library, New Brunswick, New Jersey
- January 8, 8:00-10:00 p.m. Eastern, denomination-wide virtual meeting



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 and code enforcement 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 and Sanctuary 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 replaced 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



WEEKLY Bible Study/Lecture

Meets every Wednesday at 11am in the Lounge followed by the "Lunch Bunch" from 12:15-1pm. Come and join this group of men and women who meet every Wednesday at 11AM in the lounge to learn about the Bible. We talk about the words of Jesus and how they affect our hearts and our lives. We hear about Elijah (fire on the mountain), and Jonah (the whale story), and Naomi (quite the mother-in-law). Our leader, James Jones, teaches us about geography of the area, the mountains and rivers, the Roman roads, and how they affected life at that time. Studying the Bible in a group opens up questions and insights that we would never see on our own. Join us. You don't have to say a word. Just being there yourself adds to the spirit of the group. Let your mind experience the peace and love to be found here every week. If you like, you can bring a sandwich. After the lesson we move to the table to eat, relax and chat. There is no pressure. We understand if you just need to be on your way. †



After Worship Church Community Socials

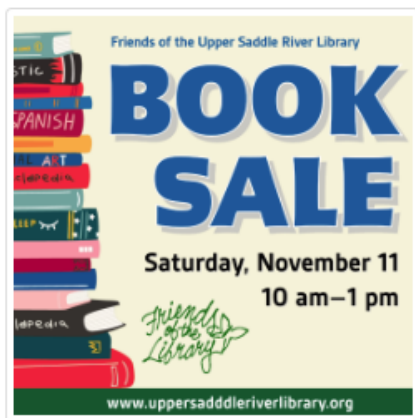
There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for Sunday Iced Tea Socials. They are weekly, immediately following the service and provide us with a chance to chat and catch up with our church family while enjoying a treat or two (or three!).



USR Historical Society At the Hopper-Goetschius House Museum

Wed., Nov. 1, 12 noon, luncheon at Ramsey Country Club with lecture by Dr. William Ferraro, Managing Editor of The Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia. He will speak on Washington's leadership marching from New York to the Yorktown siege. For information, visit our website: usrhistoricalsociety.org. Email: usrhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

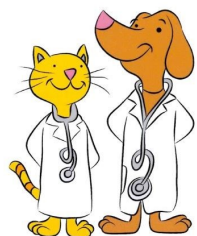
USR Cares Invites USR Seniors to Lunch: Join us for lunch at the USR Library, catered by Uncle Giuseppe's before the Library's screening of movies the first Thursday of each month. Interested seniors should rsvp to USR Cares one week prior to each lunch at usrcares@gmail.com or 201-7491615. Information about USR Cares is available at www.usrcares.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! We will meet in the **Coffee Room of the church building (100 Island Rd)**. We will meet every other Tuesday through June. **The dates for November are 11/14 and 11/28.**

Senior HelpLine
(201) 336-7400

A service of the
Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
Bergen County
Department of Human Services
Division of Senior Services

USR ANNUAL FREE RABIES CLINIC
FOR DOGS AND CATS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023
AT THE UPPER SADDLE RIVER FIREHOUSE
375 W. SADDLE RIVER ROAD, UPPER SADDLE RIVER
FREE FOR USR RESIDENTS ONLY
DOGS ON LEASHES WILL BE VACCINATED FROM 6-7PM
CATS IN CARRIERS WILL BE VACCINATED FROM 7-7:30PM

USR 5K Run – Thursday, November 23, 2023: Mark your calendars. The USR 5K Race will be held Thanksgiving morning, November 23, 2023. More information will follow on our website www.usr5k.org. If you are interested in being a sponsor or volunteer for the event, please contact Race Director Ed Gartner at usrrecreation@aol.com.

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.

UPPER SADDLE RIVER
PROUD TO BE
STIGMA-FREE

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lee Zimet	11/3
Lauren Kuczma	11/6
Lennon Conklin	11/10
Jay Coblentz	11/11
Steve Nixdorf	11/11
David Snider	11/14
Mathew Fretz	11/16
Marlene Baer	11/18
Lauren Thoms	11/18
Airika Coblentz	11/27
Janet Neir	11/27
Christine Van Wetering	11/30

Devon & John Seibert-Bailey
11/3

Any updates or additions, please email the church office at 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 **DECEMBER** newsletter please email the church office at 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

