

# REFORMATION TIMES

February 2023



## Ash Wednesday

We will mark the beginning of our Lent journey on Ash Wednesday with worship at both 12 noon and 7:30 pm. Both services will include the imposition of ashes and communion. The 7:30 pm service will be live streamed. We look forward to you joining us for worship on **February 22**.

## Ashes Under the Tent

Ashes will be distributed on **February 22**, 5:00-6:00 pm in the East Parking Lot, weather permitting. Stop by any time during this hour for a brief, 3-4 minute gathering for prayer and the imposition of ashes under the pop-up canopy.

## Midweek Lent Soup Supper and Evening Worship

Each Wednesday in Lent following Ash Wednesday, we invite you to gather for a soup supper and fellowship at 6:30 pm in Creighton Hall. The soup supper will be followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm. The first gathering will be held on **March 1**. You are welcome to join us for both – or come and join us at the start of worship. If you are able to bring soup or bread to the meal, please sign up in the lobby.

## Stations in the Street

### Prayer Path

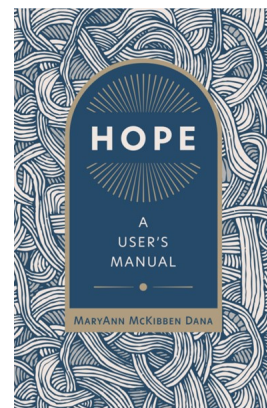
The wood chipped path around the Reformation property will once again host *Stations in the Street* – an art exhibit of the stations of the cross by Scott Erikson. You are welcome to visit the path anytime during Lent – **February 22 to April 9**. Booklets with information about the art and reflections from the artist are at the entrance of the path (in the corner of the East Parking Lot farthest from the gazebo).

## Living Hope - Lent Art Installation

During Lent, an art installation will be in the front of the sanctuary. Featuring our wooden cross, the display will change and grow during the weeks of Lent, depicting our Living Hope and the newness of life through the changing days of Spring.

## Lent Book

Read along with us this Lent! Our 2023 Lent Book is *Hope: A User's Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Copies are available at the church, as a Kindle download, or from your favorite book seller. Contact the church office if you need assistance obtaining a copy. Connection Groups for discussion will be offered – see Connection Group page for more details.



*Please see the Lent mailing  
or visit [relcmedia.org/lent](http://relcmedia.org/lent) for  
more information on these  
and other Lent opportunities.*



*If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

*1 Corinthians 12:26*

**Benny Strain** entered eternal life on December 20, 2022. A funeral service was held on December 23 at Reformation.

## Sunday School Dates

All children from birth to grade 6 are invited to join us for Sunday School. Children's Choir is for children age 4 to grade 5. Special Sunday celebrations are for all children and youth at Reformation. Contact Pastor Eileen with any questions.

Sunday School will be held on:

February 5  
February 12 (*Souper Bowl of Caring*)  
February 19  
February 26  
March 5

Children's Choir schedule:

February 26  
March 26

## Small Stars Update

The Small Stars Sunday School class for children from birth through age 2 is currently on hold until the Spring. The nursery continues to be open for families to use during education hour especially for those who have older children in Sunday School classes. Please reach out to Pastor Eileen with questions, and we hope to see our youngest disciples back soon!

## Prepare for First Communion



It is our practice at Reformation that children receive their first communion at the desire of their parents. This can be done for any age (or ages if you wish for siblings to receive first communion together).

First communion instruction is an at-home lesson set that can be completed at your own time and pace. Any time we celebrate communion as a congregation is a date that can be chosen.

Families desiring for their child to receive their first communion should contact Pastor Eileen.

## Reformation Facebook Group



*Did you know we have a Facebook group in addition to our church page? Scan this QR code to join!*

## Shopping Can Benefit Reformation



Planning to shop on Amazon for the holidays? Remember to use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and specify Reformation as the charity to benefit from your shopping.

### REFORMATION TIMES

*Published Monthly by*

**Reformation Lutheran Church**

Deadline: Noon the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month  
Materials to: [newsletter@relcmedia.org](mailto:newsletter@relcmedia.org)

#### Congregation Council and Officers

John Grantland, *President*; Debbie Conley, *Vice President*; Laura Reiter, *Secretary*; Tom Conroy, *Treasurer*; Jamie Anderson, Rachel Bingeman, Kristen Chorney, Eric Hathaway, Marian Filtz, Mike Polito, Tyler Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

## Upcoming Youth Group Events



- **February 12** – College Care Kit Making  
12:00 noon – 2:00 pm at Reformation  
Lunch will be provided.
- **March 24-26** – Tuscarora Lutheran  
Youth Retreat  
See additional mailing for more information.



## Summer Camp Registration Is Now Open!



Registration for summer camp is now open. Those who register before March 31 will receive an exclusive Early Bird T-shirt!

For more details, please go to:  
[bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp/](http://bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp/)

## SOUPer Bowl Sunday



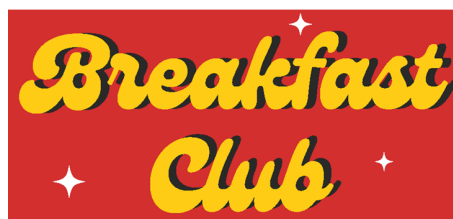
Th Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday,  
**February 12.**

This year, once again, Reformation will be collecting most needed items to support those in need. The donations will be delivered to the Media Food Bank and Chester Eastside. This year, we will be collecting:

**Cooking oil (vegetable and olive oil)**  
**Honey**  
**Pasta of all shapes**  
**Macaroni and cheese**  
**Dried beans**

Items will be collected through **February 12**, and may be placed on the tables in the hallway. Thank you for your support!

## Breakfast Items Collection



During January and February, the Breakfast Club (High School) Sunday School Class is collecting non-perishable breakfast items for Caring for Friends. What is needed:

- **Juice box or shelf stable milk/ chocolate milk**
- **Single oatmeal packets**
- **Cereal bars/granola bars (high-protein bars are appreciated)**
- **Tea bags or instant coffee, instant hot cocoa packets**
- **Fruit cups (with plastic lids or all metal only), fruit/vegetable squeeze pouches (such as Motts or GoGoSqueeze) \***
- **Packs of peanut butter crackers or another treat**

*\*Please note: Do NOT include fresh food, muffins, TastyKakes (they get mushy), chips, apple sauce with thin aluminum foil tops (they break easily in transit – pouches are best).*  
If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in the box in the narthex. Thank you so much for your consideration!

## Young Adult Group

The young adult ministry is hoping to restart this spring for those in their 20s and 30s. If you or a family member are interested and would like more information, please contact Pastor Eileen.



## Blood Drive



Reformation will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, **February 4** from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## Helping Hands Para Support Grants Available

Reformation has recently created the Helping Hands Para Support Fund. Grants are available to offset the cost of paraprofessionals or aids needed for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities to attend our education programs or other Reformation activities. Contact Pastor Eileen with questions or to apply.

## Reformation's Eco Ministry Featured!

The ELCA has created a Creation Care Ministry Database and Interactive Map. Reformation's Eco Ministry is among the featured congregations with links to our Eco and Eco Justice webpages for inspiration to other congregations looking to lead eco ministry initiatives. You can check out the map at: [lutheransrestoringcreation.org/map-of-lrc-care-for-creation-ministries](http://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/map-of-lrc-care-for-creation-ministries).

## Reformation CONNECT

Anyone interested in learning more about the ministry of Reformation or becoming members of the congregation are invited to join us for Reformation Connect on Sunday, **February 12**, at 9:45 am in the Choir Room. Contact Pastor Alina with any questions and to RSVP.

## February ECO Tip



Be good to your vehicle, and it will be good to you! Inflate your tires once a month or as necessary. Replace the air filter and tune up your engine regularly.

A new air filter can get you 10% more miles per gallon, and a tune-up can boost miles per gallon from 4% to 40%.

## Write a Lenten Devotion

Contribute a devotion that will be emailed to the congregation throughout this Lenten season! A Google form is available at [relcmedia.org/lent](http://relcmedia.org/lent) to share your brief responses to the prompt: "Where is hope alive for you this Lenten season?" Scripture and images may be submitted as well. Contact Pastor Eileen with questions.

## Sermon on the Steps during Lent

During the season of Lent, the Sermon on the Steps will be in its regular spot in worship – following the gospel reading. Each week we'll share a children's book that connects to worship that day. In addition to coming up to join the preacher for the Sermon on the Steps, the children will also be invited up to join the presiding pastor at the time of the Great Thanksgiving at the beginning of the communion liturgy. The children will be invited to stand around the altar with a pastor throughout the communion liturgy and can return to their seats with their families after the Lord's Prayer.

## Church Directory Updates Needed



It's time to update our online church directory! Perhaps your contact information has changed or your

kids have grown since that photo was uploaded pre-pandemic. We are hoping to get our handy mobile directory up to date again and we need your help! All you need to do is download the **Instant Church Directory** app (if you haven't yet) from the App Store and login or create a login using the email address on file with the church. From there, just tap *menu*, *edit my family*. Here you can *choose file* to change your photo or update any of the other information listed. When you have completed all your edits, tap *submit edits* at the bottom and you will get a confirmation message that your information was received. If you are unable to login or have any questions, please contact Andrea at [rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org).





# Join a Connection Group

Once again this Lent, you can be part of a CONNECTION GROUP – a great way to renew your connection with others at Reformation. All groups will begin meeting the week of **February 19** and will meet for 7 sessions unless otherwise noted. Sign up online at [relcmedia.org/connectiongroups](http://relcmedia.org/connectiongroups). All groups are limited to 20 registrations. Registration will close on **February 12**. Group leaders will contact group members with specific information after registration closes.

## CG 1 – Connecting Threads

**Saturdays, 11 am - 12 noon in the ROCK Room**  
led by Laura Reiter and Marian Filtz

We have all benefited from the warmth that quilts provide! In this connection group, we invite you to share in quilt lore and in the age-old techniques of quilting. Our classes will have three parts. In the first part of our gathering, we will have "Show-n-Tell". We will bring quilt samples and we invite you to bring quilts you treasure. We will share the story of the quilt and the talented makers behind the needle. In the second part of your gathering, we will share some history of quilting, methods, strategies and the culture of quilting. Lastly, we will provide hands-on demonstrations and invite "audience" participation. We will provide all the supplies, fabric, batting, and needles.

Quilting connects us to the treasured past, crafty present and to each other as makers. We will be able to do some techniques anyone can do at home without a sewing machine. We know some of you already sew and others are curious beginners. We welcome everyone and are prepared and excited to adapt the class to meet your interest!

## CG 2 – Lenten Meditation and Labyrinths

**Saturdays, 10 - 11 am in Creighton Hall**  
led by Joyce McNally

We will look at the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit using different types of meditation techniques including the use of labyrinths. Each week will be focused on a different gift. Scripture readings on the gifts will be introduced with Lectio Divina, then we'll do a meditation highlighting the week's gift theme. Use of finger labyrinths and walking labyrinths will be utilized as examples of meditation.

## CG 3 – Hope, Health and Happiness

**Mondays, 7:15 - 8:30 pm in the ROCK Room**  
led by Kris Hughey

We will discuss the Lent congregational book, *Hope: A User's Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Discussion will be followed by 15-30 minutes of strength training exercises; small weights or soup cans will be needed. Copies of the book are available at the church, as a Kindle download or from your favorite book seller. Contact the church office if you need assistance obtaining a copy of the book.

## CG 4 – Hope: A User's Manual

**Mondays, 2:00 - 3:00 pm in the ROCK Room**  
led by Karen Chorney

We will discuss the Lent congregational book, *Hope: A User's Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Copies of the book are available at the church, as a Kindle download or from your favorite book seller. Contact the church office if you need assistance obtaining a copy of the book.

## CG 5 – Glimpses of Hope

**Select Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45 am in Creighton Hall**  
led by Community Group Leaders and Pastors

We partner with many organizations at Reformation to help serve our community. Leaders from select groups will speak about where their work is bringing hope to others, inspiring us to see living hope all around us this Lenten season.

# FROM THE PASTOR

*Where is hope alive for you this Lenten season?*

This is the question we are asking the congregation to ponder this Lent as a devotional practice, leaning into our 2022-2023 theme of *Living Hope*.

I believe hope comes from where we see glimpses of God peeking through into our world; moments that make us feel like there is good yet to come. Hope is a living, growing being--which you'll see through our art installation in the sanctuary this season! Hope is what early Christians were so deeply in need of, the reason that the ministry of Jesus and the reality of the cross were so powerful: they inspired hope where there was none. So where is hope alive for me? Certainly here at Reformation, as we reflect on all that we do to inspire hope in one another through benevolence and service, both in the congregation and in the community. My hope is also living and thriving because of my close friends and family. Seeing how my loved ones love me, and love others, gives me hope for our world as children of God continually working to make it a better place.

This month and next, as we move through the season of Lent, you're invited to share where hope is alive for you. Go to **relcmedia.org/lent** and follow the button to write a devotion. It's a simple form where you can respond with your reflections on the question above, as well as submit Scripture passages or images that represent your hope. We will be sharing these responses with the congregation through email this season and can't wait to live in hope with you in this way.

In hope,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)

## Mark E. Davis Scholarship



The Mark E. Davis Scholarship was established by The Rev. William and Irene Davis, following the death of their son,

Mark. Applications for the 2023-2024 academic year may be obtained by downloading from the church website, a printed copy by contacting the church office, or electronically by contacting Ellen Davis Conroy by email at [DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org](mailto:DavisScholarship@relcmedia.org). All applications and support materials must be received or postmarked by the May 1, 2023 deadline.

Complete details can be found in the January Reformation Times. Any questions can be addressed to the following committee members: Sandy Coll, Ellen Davis Conroy, Evan Davis or Rebecca Funk.

## Seen Around Reformation



Our Sunday School students taking a hands on approach while learning about Jesus' baptism.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Kindling Faith: ULS Book Club with President Erwin via Zoom**

**February 27, March 27, April 24** at 7 pm EST via zoom. Dr. Erwin discusses *Flowers of the Killer Moon* and his perspective on Osage culture in this novel based on true events. The film version directed by Martin Scorsese will be released in May of 2023.

**Nolde/Lazareth Lecture**

**March 20** at 7 pm on the Philadelphia campus and Livestream. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White, Dean of Union Theological Seminary discusses her new book *The Psychology of Christian Nationalism*.

**Our American Muslim Neighbors: Christian Reflections on Islam**

**March 2, 9, 23, 30** (on Zoom) and **April 1** on the Philadelphia campus with a field trip to a local mosque with Dr. David Grafton of Hartford International University.

For more information and to register, please visit: [www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/community/calendar](http://www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/community/calendar).



UPCOMING EVENTS:

**See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love Book Club**

From January to March, in preparation for Valarie Kaur's receipt of the 2023 *Dare to Understand* Awards, we will read and discuss her book, *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, in three sections:

- Love for Opponents (rage, listen, reimagine) - **February 12** at 5pm
- Love for Ourselves (breathe, push, transition) and Epilogue (joy) - **March 12** at 5pm

While we recommend joining us for all three sections, we welcome your participation if you can only attend one or two. We do recommend, however, that you read all previous sections before attending, as each section builds on the earlier parts of the book. For more information and to register, please go to [interfaithphiladelphia.org/events](http://interfaithphiladelphia.org/events).

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES:

**My Identity, and the World Beyond Me**

Research shows that diversity increases creativity. Delve into your identity, articulating your beliefs and values, alongside diverse peers through a creative workshop. Sunday, **February 12**, 3:00-4:30pm.

**Encountering the Baha'i Faith**

Visit the Baha'i Center in Philadelphia on Sunday, **February 26**, 3:00-4:30pm, to learn about the Baha'i faith, their practices and their commitment to social justice during this season of Lent. For more information and to register, go to: [www.interfaithphiladelphia.org/2223-high-school-programs](http://www.interfaithphiladelphia.org/2223-high-school-programs).



102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063

relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am Indoor & Online Worship  
11:00 am Indoor & Online Worship  
Worship services are livestreamed to our virtual church page.

*Pastors*

The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski  
The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan

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## REFORMATION TIMES

### February 2023

**MISSION:** Called by Christ, we **INVITE** all people,  
**SERVE** our neighbors, and **BUILD** a living faith.

**WELCOME:** Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.

Sunday, February 12  
SOUPer Bowl of Caring Sunday  
12 - 2 pm Youth Group  
College Care Kit Making

Wednesday, February 22  
Ash Wednesday  
Worship at 12 noon  
and 7:30 pm

**Look inside  
for Lent  
information!**