
REFORMATION TIMES

April 2023



Palm/Passion Sunday **April 2 at 8:30 and 11:00 am** **9:45 am - Easter Egg Hunt**

The Great and Holy Week begins with the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem accompanied by the waving of palm branches and shouts of Hosanna! Worship begins with the Liturgy of Palms during which everyone will join the procession with the palms. The tone of the service shifts to the contemplation of the Passion of Christ as recorded in the gospel of Matthew. The passion narrative will be read by a variety of voices.

The Three Days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil – provide many wonderful worship opportunities to gather as a community and reflect on the passion of Christ. During the Three Days, we hear the story of the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ as told in the gospel of John. These three worship services can be seen as one continuous movement from the final night Jesus spent with his disciples, to the cross, to the burial and finally to the empty tomb!

Maundy Thursday Worship **April 6 at 7:30 pm**

The Three Days begin on Maundy Thursday. Beginning with an order of confession and forgiveness, a time is provided for all attending worship to come forward to receive individual absolution and the laying on of hands. It is also

the night that we hear the words of Jesus' new commandment (the Latin *mandatum* from which Maundy comes), to love one another. The altar is stripped at the end of worship and the congregation leaves the sanctuary in silence.

Good Friday Worship **April 7 at 12 noon and 7:30 pm**

Our noon worship will be a reflective service of readings and prayer. The passion recorded in John's gospel will help us focus on the cross at the center of our worship.

Our 7:30 worship provides an opportunity to focus and reflect on the cross. The reading of the passion as recorded in John's gospel is underscored by the singing of hymns that echo this great narrative. The darkness of the journey to the tomb becomes visually evident in the darkening of the sanctuary.

Easter Vigil Worship **April 8 at 7:30 pm** **Guest preacher: The Rev. Stacey-Kyle Rea**

This worship is one of the oldest traditions in Christian worship. Echoing the words from John's gospel that tell us that the women returned to the tomb "while it was still dark," we gather at dusk. Kindling a new fire, we enter the sanctuary to hear of God's great acts of salvation throughout history. The gospel reading then pronounces the great news of Easter: Christ is risen! To which we respond with the first Alleluias of Easter!

Easter Day Festival Services **April 9 at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am**

Celebrate Christ's triumph over the grave! There will be no education programs on Easter Day.



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Welcome Brianna Foti, along with her children,
Leonardo and **Mariella**, who joined Reformation
on **February 26**.

Leonardo and **Mariella Foti** received their first
communion on **February 26**.

A memorial service was held for
Steve Kratowicz on Saturday, **March 11**
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:

April 16

April 23 (*Eco Sunday*)

April 30

May 7 (*Caring for Friends Sunday*)

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School



This year's Vacation Bible
School will be July 10-14,
5:30-7:30 pm. Children Age 3
through completed Grade 5
are invited to join us! Stay
tuned for more info to register
or volunteer.

Psalm III

by Dallas Scott

The Lord is my Oasis
My sheltering Palm
my guiding star,
He sustains me in
this troubled world.
He shelters me from all evil.
He renews my soul.
I will praise him till
the end of my days.
For he is my rock
and my salvation
forever and ever.

Easter Egg Hunt



Reformation will host an
Easter Egg Hunt for all ages
on Palm Sunday, **April 2**
from 9:45 - 10:45 am.

Reformation Facebook Group



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

REFORMATION TIMES

Published Monthly by

Reformation Lutheran Church

Deadline: Noon the 15th of every month
Materials to: 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



- **April 30** – Scavenger Hunt
12:00 noon – 2:00 pm at Reformation

Graduate Info Needed

Information is needed for our students graduating from high school! Please send the following for your graduating senior to pastoreileen@relcmedia.org by **May 21**.

1. Name
2. School they are graduating from
3. Current photo
4. Baby photo

Graduates will be celebrated at both worship services on **June 4**.

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. 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: Ellen Davis Conroy, Evan Davis, Rebecca Funk, Marilyn Gilroy or Bill Grauer.



Bear Creek Camp Gala

We're excited for the return of the Bear Creek Camp Campfires & Cocktails Gala! Join us on **April 29, 2023**, for a lively evening of fun and community while supporting camp! The 4th Annual event will be held at Homewood Suites in Center Valley, PA. Come dine, dance, be with friends and family, play games, bid in live and silent auctions, and much more! Learn more at bearcreekcamp.org/gala.

BEAR CREEK CAMP GALA



Summer Camp Registration Is Now Open!



Registration for summer camp is now open. For more details, please go to: bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp/.

SAVE THE DATE!

May Play Day!



Bear Creek Camp May Play Day is Saturday, **May 6, 2023**! Join the Bear Creek Camp staff and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for an open house day of fun at Bear Creek Camp! Join us to explore camp, meet BCC staff, and fellowship with our camp community. Registration is free and lunch is included. For more information, please go to: bearcreekcamp.org/mayplayday/.

Baptism Invitation

Baptism

Pastor Eileen's son,
Luca, will be baptized on
Saturday, **April 22**
at 11 am at Reformation.

You're invited to come worship and celebrate
with us!

Get Involved with Community Action

Help us serve our neighbors! Volunteers are
needed to join our community action team in
various service opportunities throughout the year.
Community Action is responsible for things like
our Holiday Food Bags, Lent Care Kits, Souper
Bowl, St. Nick drive, and more! Participation in
community action can be as little as once a year
or as often as monthly; the needs of our
neighbors never stop! For more information or to
get involved, contact Linda Bucher at
lindabucher1@verizon.net or Pastor Eileen.

Explore the Holy Land!

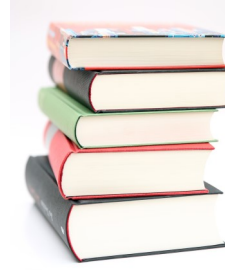
Pastor Alina and Pastor Dan will be leading a trip
to the Holy Land for Reformation and Holy Trinity
Lutheran Churches, family, and friends. The trip
will be **January 7-17, 2025**. More information
will follow, but if you are interested in being part
of the trip, contact Pastor Alina to be added to
the list!

Council Highlights

In March the Council meeting included these
highlights:

- Review of Annual Meeting minutes.
- Approval of funding requests from
Endowment Outreach for KenCrest, Lutheran
Settlement House, United Lutheran Seminary,
and Making a Change Group
- Announcement of Holy Week and Easter
services and Diane Bullen's retirement from
Stay and Play.

Library Book Club



Calling all Book Lovers! Join
us for Reformation Book Club
on **April 25** at 7:00 pm via
Zoom to discuss our next
enticing selection,
Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt. Contact
Laura Reiter at

longreiter@gmail.com for more information on
joining our discussion.

About *Remarkably Bright Creatures* (from
[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)):

"*Remarkably Bright Creatures* [is] an ultimately
feel-good but deceptively sensitive debut. . . .
Memorable and tender." — *Washington Post*

For fans of *A Man Called Ove*, a charming, witty
and compulsively readable exploration of
friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a
widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific
octopus

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began
working the night shift at the Sowell Bay
Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up.
Keeping busy has always helped her cope,
which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-
old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in
Puget Sound over thirty years ago.

Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly
Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the
aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone
can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of
his eight arms for his human captors—until he
forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what
happened the night Tova's son disappeared.
And now Marcellus must use every trick his old
invertebrate body can muster to unearth the
truth for her before it's too late.

Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel is a gentle
reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at
the past can help uncover a future that once felt
impossible.

LDR Thank You



Lutheran Disaster Response

A special offering was collected through February

for Lutheran Disaster Response and the work being done to help those impacted by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. With a match from Holiday Offering and an additional match of the first \$2,000, a total of \$16,180 was sent to Lutheran Disaster Response. Thank you, Reformation!

Join the Interfaith Gospel Choir



25th ANNUAL
Delaware Valley
Interfaith Gospel Choir

Would you like to sing Gospel music with a large choir?
All are welcome – those who sing gospel music and beginners who would like to learn more about this rich tradition.

Singers will attend four workshops led by our Music Director LaTisha Mays of 2nd Baptist Church in Media.
No auditions or church affiliations are necessary.
Let's sing together!

Register to join the choir at
<https://gospelchoir.eventbrite.com> or in person

Workshops @ 7:00 pm
Monday April 17th, 24th & Thursday April 20th & 27th

Concert @ 6:30 pm
Saturday, April 29th

Workshops and Concert Venue
First Church Media
350 West State Street, Media, PA 19063

You can register in person at First Church Media or online at: gospelchoir.eventbrite.com.

Rose Tree Road Cleanup Success

Thank you so much to the Benzing Family, the Scherers, David McCarrick and Tom Reeves for making our clean up on March 18 a great success. We were able to collect 12 bags of trash, along with numerous items too large to fit into bags. Hopefully, we will have another successful clean up in October.

- John Berberich

Celebrate Diane Bullen!



Reformation's Stay and Play Director, Diane Bullen, is retiring after 30 years of incredible leadership and commitment to our school.

Save the date for her retirement party on Wednesday, **June 21**, 5:00 – 7:00 pm at Reformation.

Join us in thanking Diane for all her work on behalf of the children and thanking God for her gifts and years of service!

ECO Sunday

Join us on Sunday, **April 23**, for a special Eco Sunday celebration! Every year, on the Sunday closest to Earth Day, our Eco Ministry Team hosts a special Sunday program. This year we will welcome our very own Carol Stephens as our presenter for a special education time in Creighton Hall. Activities for children of all ages will be led by our Eco Team during Sunday School. Stop by the special Eco Ministry display in the lobby to learn more about the ministry and enjoy some Fair Trade Chocolate!

Holiday Offering

Did you know that our Holiday Offering envelopes helps Reformation live out our generosity every day? All gifts received through any special holiday envelope (such as the Lent or Easter envelopes in your packs) or given online and designated as holiday offering is used completely for benevolence.



This fund enables us to match other special offerings and make our gifts go twice as far and allows our Council to respond quickly to other needs in the community. In 2022, over \$32,000 moved through our Holiday Offering fund and out into the community and the world.

ECO Palms Help Our Planet



This year our Palm Sunday (**April 2**) palms will be provided through a partnership with Lutheran World Relief. These Eco Palms are gathered and sold in a socially and environmentally just way.

These palms look different than the ones used in previous years—instead of a long, tan branch, these palms are green and leafy.

These palms enable Reformation to remain committed to our values as a Fair Trade congregation and to support the work of Lutheran World Relief throughout the world. To learn more, visit lwr.org.

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.

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.

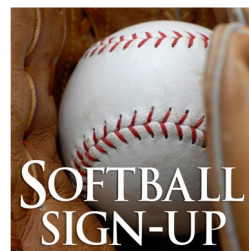
Sermon on the Steps in Easter—Pew Projects

During the season of Easter, at the end of the Sermon on the Steps, children will receive a Pew Project bag. The Pew Project bags will include simple craft items and instructions to make a project related to the day's scripture texts. Children are invited to keep everything in the bag, but we ask that the bags be returned at the end of worship so that they can be used for the next week's Pew Projects. Pew Projects start **April 16!**

Fostering Hope Delco

Fostering Hope Delco is a volunteer-run organization that serves families and children in foster care in Southeastern PA. They are always in need of volunteers as well as financial support and donations of duffle bags, clothing, and items for care kits. To learn more, go to: <https://fosteringhopepa.com/chapter/delaware-county/> to find links to specific items that they are looking for. Contact Linda Bucher for more information.

ELCA Softball



We will again be playing in the local co-ed, slow-pitch Church softball league. You do not have to be a member to play (friends and neighbors ages 16+ welcome) on team ELCA and we pull from several local Lutheran churches. Games usually run late May through early July and are held on weekday evenings. You do NOT have to commit to being at every game, this is for fun, fellowship and a little exercise. For more information or to signup, please contact Jameson Troutman at jame1227@hotmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities



Office Help:

Do you have some time to spare during our office hours (M-Th, 9 am-3:30 pm)? If so, please contact Andrea to get added to our Office Volunteer list. We can always use extra help with “stuffing the bulletins” (weekly), preparing our newsletters for mailing (monthly) and prepping various congregation mailings and packets (as needed).

Worship Team:

We are building our worship team schedule for the coming months and could always need more volunteers! Please contact the office if you are interested in serving as an acolyte, altar care help, communion assistant, crucifer, liturgist, reader, sound board operator, usher or welcome center volunteer. Thank you for being an essential part of worship!

Lent Sermon on the Steps Books

Have you and your children been enjoying the books that the Pastors have read during the Sermon on the Steps? If so, here is a recap of recent book titles for your reference:

- *May God Bless You and Keep You*
by Sarah Raymond Cunningham
- *God's Holy Darkness*
by Beckah Selnick and Shari Green
- *Water Come Down*
by Walter Wangerin, Jr.
- *You Are So Wonderful*
by Jacqueline J. Lewis
- *Maybe God is Like That Too*
by Jennifer Grant

Join the Lunch Bunch!



The Lunch Bunch at the Erin Pub on March 2.

The lunch bunch usually meets once a month for food and fellowship. For more information, please contact Sue Bianco or Edna Bogert. All are welcome!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

thrivent[®]

Do you have products through Thrivent?

Some of their financial products come with the benefit of Choice Dollars that can be directed to the nonprofit of your choice! These funds need to be designated annually to that nonprofit. Reformation is eligible to receive these choice dollars. This money is used for special projects at the church. Please remember to make your Choice Dollar elections and connect with your Thrivent Representative if you have any questions!

ECO Tip

Fifty-three years ago, Earth Day was established on **April 22** to create awareness and appreciation of our precious—and increasingly fragile—planet. Earth Day has over a billion participants around the world.



FROM THE PASTOR

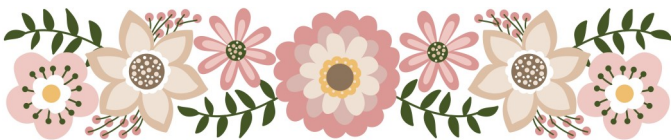
*Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.
Alleluia!*

Dear Reformation,

Spring is upon us! We begin this season of new life with the celebration of Christ's Resurrection in Easter. As we live into this hope of budding flowers, warmer weather, and the Easter season, we also look toward the end of the school year and the changes it will bring. Last month, Pastor Alina shared information about her upcoming sabbatical this summer. While we will miss her for the months she is gone, I am excited to keep our ministry going with all of you during this time! These months are sometimes slower, but we still need YOU in order to bring vibrancy to our worship and programs. This means continuing to serve in worship, volunteering for VBS and other summer opportunities, and helping us to live into where God is calling us in these months. I look forward to growing alongside you in this season, as Christ continues to call us to invite all people, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith.

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen



Easter Vigil Preacher Pastor Stacey-Kyle Rea

The Rev. Stacey-Kyle Rea, who serves as the Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Young Adult Discipleship in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, will be our guest preacher at the Easter Vigil service on **Saturday, April 8**, at 7:30 pm.



Lenten Care Kits

During Lent, zip lock bags, with a list of personal care items, will be available to fill and return.

These Care Kits will be distributed to:

- men and women at the Phoenix Recovery Houses (personal care items)
- women at the Well, a women's shelter in Philadelphia (personal care items)
- and to children in need, through Cradles to Crayons (socks and underwear)

Bags should be returned to Reformation by Easter Sunday, **April 9**. Thank you for your support!

Thank You From the Breakfast Club!



The Breakfast Club, our high school Sunday School Class, would like to thank you for the generous donations we received for our food drive. With your help, our

group packed over 100 breakfast bags for Caring for Friends! They are certain to bring many smiles to our homebound neighbors.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Kindling Faith: ULS Book Club with President Erwin

On **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.

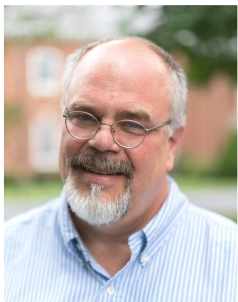
Summer Programs

Theological Education with Adults: The Challenges of Ministry in Such a Time as This, July 23-28 on the Gettysburg Campus. Rev. Dr. Emlyn Ott from Healthy Congregations walks us through the challenges of being the church in a post-Covid world.

Theological Education with Youth, July 23-28. The TEY one-week summer Academy is for high school students to live in an intentional Christian community on the Gettysburg campus of United Lutheran Seminary. Dr. Teresa Smallwood challenges participants to live out Jesus' call to justice.

For more information and to register for any of these programs, please go to:
unitedlutheranseminary.edu/community/calendar.

ULS Guest Preacher



The Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimmann, Senior Director of Continuing Education at United Lutheran Seminary, will be at Reformation on Sunday, **May 21**. He will preach and thank Reformation for our continued support as

a Partner Congregation of United Lutheran Seminary.

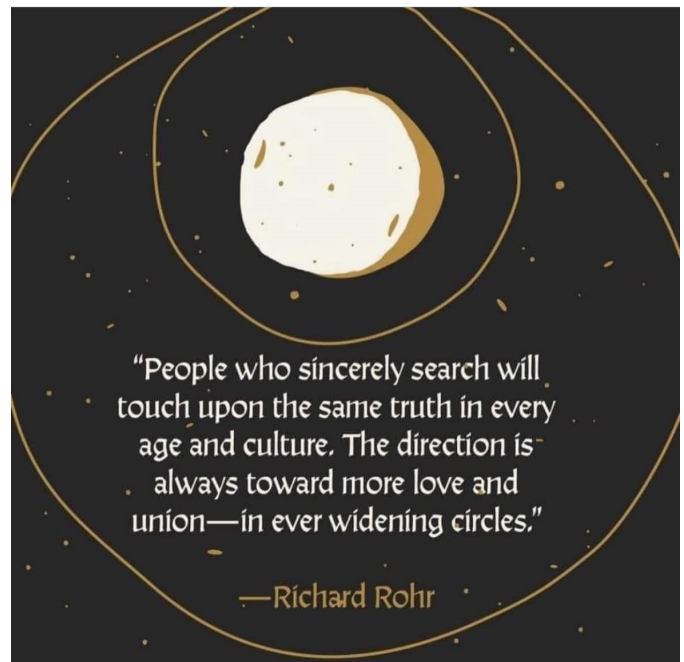
UPCOMING EVENTS:

Prayerful Looking: Art to Nourish the Soul

This event will take place in person at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) on Sunday, **April 16** from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.

"Visio Divina" (aka "Prayerful Looking") is a spiritual practice by which we open ourselves to the presence of the Divine. Guided group meditations on works of art will introduce the practice. An opportunity will follow for each of us to seek out a work that sparks awareness of the Spirit's role in our engagement with important personal issues.

For more information and to register, please go to interfaithphiladelphia.org/events.





Seen Around Reformation

There is always so much to see at Reformation. We thank you for sharing your photos with us! *Please remember to send your photos of recent events to: newsletter@relcmedia.org.*



Saying goodbye to the Alleluia banner during worship on February 19.



Children enjoying Bear Creek Camp Sunday on March 5.



"Let the little children come to us!" say Pastor Alina and Pastor Eileen during worship on February 26.



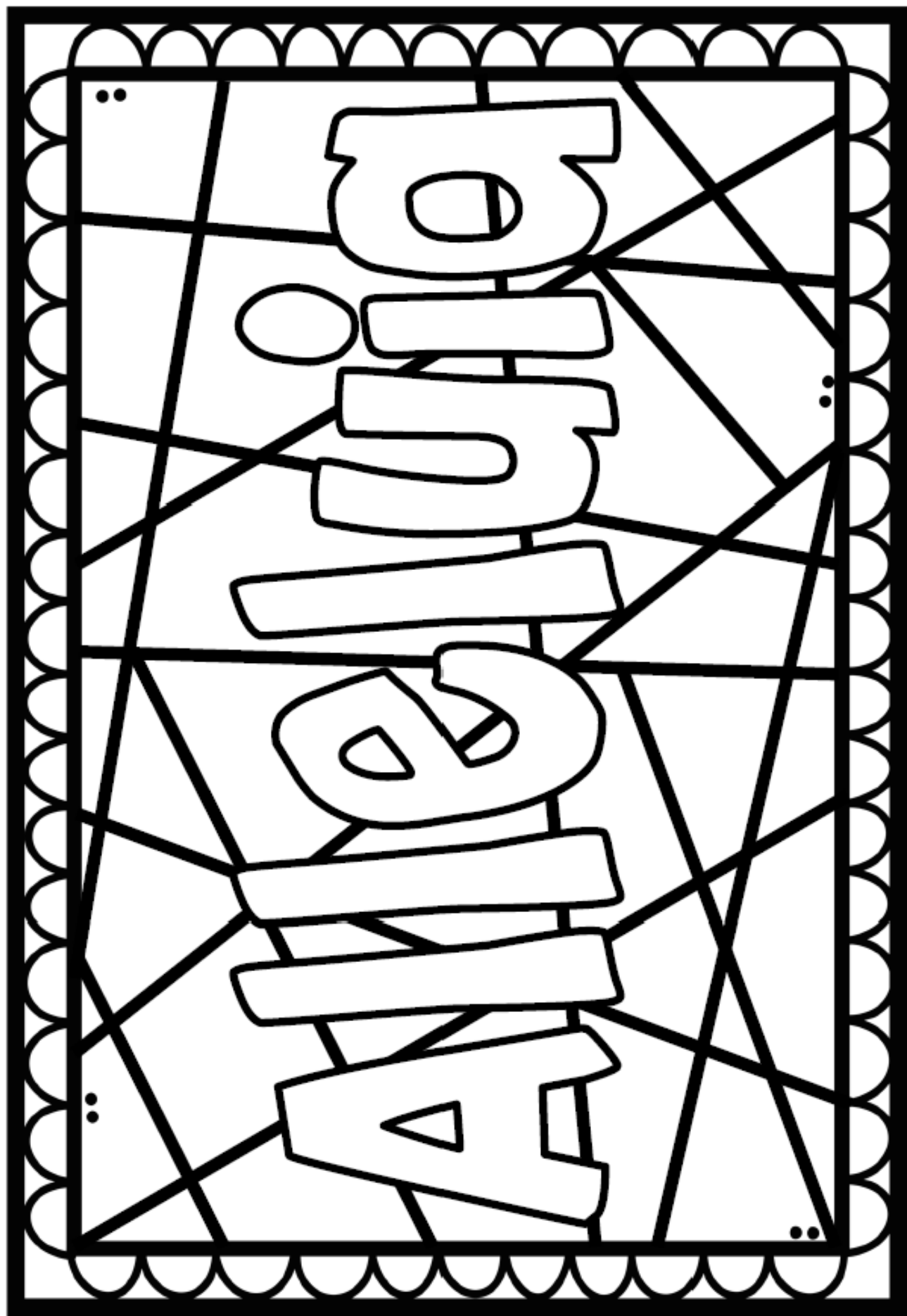
Cory Long, Founder and Executive Director of Making a Change Group, speaking at our Glimpses of Hope Connection Group on March 5.



Learning on the "Interfaith Book Trail" on March 5 at Swarthmore Friends Meeting.



The Breakfast Club class had Ellen Conroy and Lisa Squires present an overview of CPR, AED, choking and epipen procedures on March 5.





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



Return Service Requested

Label

REFORMATION TIMES

April 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, April 2

Palm Sunday

8:30 & 11 am

Easter Egg Hunt - 9:45 am

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday - 7:30 pm

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

12 noon & 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 8

Easter Vigil—7:30 pm

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday

8, 9:30 and 11 am worship