
REFORMATION TIMES

March 2024

Easter Food Bags

When the holidays approach, we think of serving our neighbors who are less fortunate.

Reformation will once again provide



nonperishable grocery items for our neighbors in need during the Easter Season. Bags, along with a list of needed items, will be available on Sunday,

March 3. Please feel free

to take a bag (or 2), fill it with the requested items, and return it to Reformation no later than Sunday, **March 24.** You can also use the envelopes provided to make a monetary donation. Thank you in advance for your help in feeding our neighbors in need.

- The Community Action Ministry

Lutheran Night at the Phillies



Join Lutheran congregations from across the synod for Lutheran Night at the Phillies on **May 31**

at 6:40 PM. Tickets are \$28/person and include a donation to SEPA

Synod Youth programs. Make checks out to Reformation with memo "Phillies" or pay through Venmo @relcmedia. Contact Megan Perry at megansperry2003@gmail.com or Jen Troutman at jtroutman2@yahoo.com to secure a spot by **May 8.**

Easter Candy Collection



From **March 3 - 17**, we will collect individually wrapped candy to fill Easter Eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, **March 24.** Please contact

Pastor Eileen if you have any questions.

Easter Egg Hunt



Reformation will host an Easter Egg Hunt for all ages on Palm Sunday, **March 24** from 9:45 - 10:45 am. Please remember to BYOB—Bring Your Own Basket!

Welcome Pastor Karen Sease!



Pastor Sease serves on the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Staff as the Assistant to the Bishop for Vocations and Leadership, Mission Advancement. She will be our guest preacher for Easter Vigil. We look forward to welcoming her to Reformation as we celebrate the great vigil of Easter on **March 30** at 7:30 pm.



Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Mark your calendars and remember to turn your clocks forward on

Sunday, March 10



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Victoria Selby received her first communion on **January 28.**

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:

March 3

March 10

March 17

Children's Choir schedule:

March 3

Bible Presentations:

March 10

Sound System Volunteers Needed



We are in need of some additional volunteers to help with our sound system during worship. No experience necessary!

For more information, please reach out to one of the pastors or contact the church office.

Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



Tax season is in full swing! Hopefully you are prepared, organized and ready to file your 2023 taxes. If you haven't filed yet and need assistance, the AARP Foundation provides tax aide and you can get your taxes done for free, even if you are not a member. There are many local sites in our area offering this free service. They also offer virtual services. We have posted a flyer on the bulletin board in the church lobby listing the locations and the times they are available for you to make an appointment. You can also get all the information on their website at www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call their toll free number at 1-866-227-7669.

Don't procrastinate by waiting until April! You may need more time to take care of any unexpected issues that can arise. Get help if you need it and file early and that makes you... **Finance Smart!!!**

(Special thanks to Suzanne Clain for providing the AARP Tax Aide information.)

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

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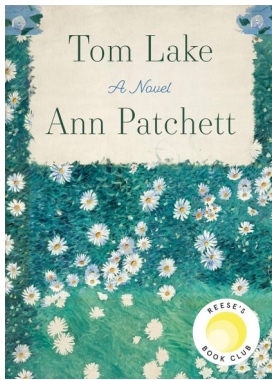
Reformation Lutheran Church

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*; Marian Filtz, *Treasurer*; Jamie Anderson, Madison Benzing, Kristen Forster, Eric Hathaway, Gabby Parker, Kaylee Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

Library Book Club News



Calling all book lovers! We look forward to our next Reformation Library Book Club selection, *Tom Lake* by noted author Ann Patchett. We will meet on Tuesday, **April 16** at 7:00 pm by Zoom. Please contact Laura Reiter at longreiter@gmail.com for more information.

More about ***Tom Lake***

from www.annpatchett.com/books:

In this beautiful and moving novel about family, love, and growing up, Ann Patchett once again proves herself one of America's finest writers.

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today.



March 24

Palm Sunday

8:30 am & 11:00 am worship

March 28

Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm worship

March 29

Good Friday

12 noon* & 7:30 pm worship

March 30

Easter Vigil

7:30 pm worship

March 31

Easter Sunday

8:00 am, 9:30 am and
11:00 am worship

*all services will be live streamed except for the
12 noon service on Good Friday

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 2024-2025 academic year may be obtained by downloading from the church website or obtaining a printed copy by contacting the church office. All applications and support materials must be received or postmarked by the May 1, 2024 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 William Grauer.

The Church Staff Thanks You



Thank you, Reformation, for your kindness and generosity. We thank God for the privilege of working in ministry partnership with Reformation and we are very grateful for your generous Christmas gift.

Pastor Alvin Hayslett *Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doran*

Vicar Paula Esternell *Valerie G. Foyke*

Eric Eldon *Liz Haggett*

Quinn Corbin *Andrea Trenton*

Lenten Care Kits

During Lent, zip lock bags, with a list of personal care items to purchase, 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)
- and to children in need, through Cradles to Crayons (socks and underwear)

Bags will be available beginning on Sunday, **March 3**, and should be returned (with the list enclosed) to Reformation by Easter Sunday,

Update on Chester Eastside

Chester Eastside Inc.

(CEI) is one of our longtime partner agencies. CEI operates a food pantry every Monday and Wednesday morning throughout the year, for residents of Chester and



surrounding areas. During the past few months, CEI has begun serving a hot meal several days a week, and there are plans to expand the hot meal program to three days a week. Additional volunteers are needed in both the food pantry and the hot meal program.

In addition, there has been a great increase in the number of Hispanic people being served at CEI. There is an urgent need for volunteers who are able to communicate in Spanish, as well as a need for legal counsel.

Donations of food, clothing, and household items are accepted and appreciated. If you are able to donate or help in any way, please get in touch with CEI at 610-872-4812 and speak with Tiffany Kea. If you would like more information, please see Linda Bucher.

Parkinson's Support Group



Come and bring your caretaker to share your story and your thoughts on how you are living with Parkinson's. Each person's story will help to support others in your journey to live well. We will explore all you need to know and use, to help find continued happiness. Sharing and caring is

the support we all need. This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 576 Concord Road in Glen Mills in the parish hall, which is handicap accessible. For more information please email darreeclark@gmail.com or go to SaintJohnsConcord.com.

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.

Community Action Team Update

The Community Action Team will hold their next bi-monthly meeting on zoom on **March 4** at 6:30 pm.



Please join us if you're interested in getting involved in community activities and service projects! Please notify Linda Bucher if you plan to attend.

Grief and Loss Group

Grief and Loss Group

**GRACE**
Lutheran Church

The Wellness Center
2191 W Chester Pike,
Broomall
Enter from Mather Ave



Wednesdays, 7-8 pm

Pay what you can; professionally facilitated

For more info:
610-356-1824 or gracebroomall@gmail.com

Grace Lutheran Church hosts a Grief and Loss Group every Wednesday evening. Please contact them at 610-356-1824 or gracebroomall@gmail.com for more details.

LIRS is Now Global Refuge



Global Refuge

In Reformation's continued support for immigrants and

refugees around the world, we want to make you aware of the rebranding of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) as "Global Refuge". The decision to rebrand as Global Refuge is rooted in the growing worldwide need for compassion and support. With millions of people displaced by war, famine, climate change, persecution, and more, our mission of providing the "long welcome" has become more crucial than ever. The accompanying growth in the demand for our essential, expanded suite of services has sparked the need to identify ourselves ever more clearly and create a bigger table of supporters. For more information visit globalrefuge.org.

Upcoming Youth Events



- **March 3** – Breakfast Club
- **March 15-17** - Tuscarora Retreat

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School



This year's VBS will be held from July 8 - 12. Be sure to mark your calendar! For more details, please visit myvbs.org/relocmedia or reach out to Pastor Eileen.

Faith-Life Forums

Throughout the year, during the Education hour on Sunday morning, we will offer opportunities to learn about topics at the intersection of faith and life. Our next forums will be **April 7** and **April 14** when Pastor Alina will present about her Doctor of Ministry research.



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

Summer Camp Registration NOW OPEN!



Sign up for a week of camp this summer at Bear Creek! Registration is now open for summer 2024. Register at bearcreekcamp.org.

50 Years of Bear Creek Camp: A Night of Stories and Celebration



This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bear Creek Camp. Join others for a night of celebration on Saturday, **April 20**, in Center Valley. More info and tickets available at bearcreekcamp.org.

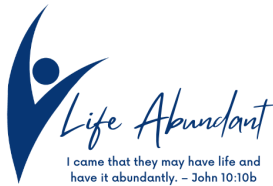
Thrivent Representatives Coming to Reformation



On Sunday, **March 10**, we will welcome representatives from

Thrivent. They will be available for conversation before and after each service as well as leading an education program at 9:45 am. If you have questions about your particular products with Thrivent or want to learn more about all that Thrivent offers, please plan to join us and speak with a representative. You can learn more at thrivent.com.

Capital Campaign Update



THANK YOU!

We have already received gifts toward our campaign totaling over \$140,000!

Thank you for your incredible generosity and

the support of these projects for the future of Reformation!

We are currently working with contractors to secure updated estimates and plan out the best timeline for the work to be completed over the next few years. Many thanks to Dave Chorney and Dick Hughey for their work on these projects! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Alina or Pastor Eileen.

You can always learn more and support the campaign at relcmedia.org/lifeabundant.

Explore the Holy Land!

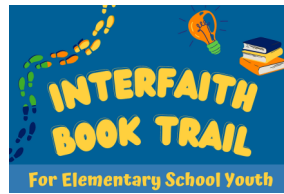
Pastor Alina and Pastor Dan will be leading a trip to the Holy Land for Reformation and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches, family, and friends. The trip will be **January 7-17, 2025**. More information will follow, but if you are interested in being part of the trip, contact Pastor Alina to be added to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

Become A Volunteer Tutor

The Volunteer English Program trains and provides volunteer tutors for immigrants and refugees living in Chester County. They will be hosting a 3-session training workshop via Zoom beginning on **April 2** from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. There is a \$40 fee for materials.

For more information or to register, please call 610-918-8222 or visit volunteerenglish.org.

Interfaith Book Trail for Elementary School Youth



Become an interfaith traveler! The Interfaith Book Trail is a 3-session program designed to acquaint children with each other's faith

traditions. Students will participate in hands-on activities and build a community that celebrates our neighbors!

April 7

2-3:30 pm

Baha'i Tradition

(session will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church)

April 14

2-3:30 pm

Campbell AME Church in Media

April 21

2-3:30 pm

Swarthmore College Interfaith Center

Questions? Contact Marilyn Berberich at 610-517-5261 or mjberb@aol.com.

Eco Tip for March

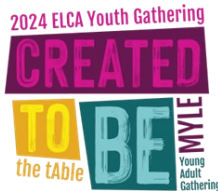


When you clean, **clean green!** Stock your kitchen cabinet with as many natural cleaning products as possible, including baking soda, white distilled vinegar and essential oils. Sponges and reusable cloth towels are

cheaper than paper products and don't contribute to waste in landfills.



I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. - Psalm 139:14



This July, Reformation will send 6 youth and 3 adults to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans! This Gathering's theme is "Created to Be," centered on the above verse from Psalm 139. Throughout the week, our youth will explore how we are Created to Be: Brave, Authentic, Free, Disruptive, and Disciples. We'll have the chance to be surrounded by 30,000 other Lutheran youth and their adult leaders, and we'll get to see and learn about a new place. This event is one I still remember from my own trip in high school, and I have no doubt that our youth will leave New Orleans transformed by this experience and with a renewed sense of who they were created to be. But first we have to get there! That's where you come in. Throughout Lent, worship will include invitations from our youth to sponsor and attend our mini Masters mini golf fundraiser on April 27. Any sponsorship level is meaningful, whether it's \$5 or \$500! You will also have the opportunity throughout Lent to purchase "Wonderfully Made" stickers to reflect on this theme and help us reach our goal. Finally, we hope you'll stop by for our Car Wash on May 18 to close out our fundraisers for the trip.

Thank you for your support of this meaningful faith formation opportunity! Our travelers will see you in late summer for a report-back to the congregation on what our time was like in the Big Easy!

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)

Trauma Informed Care Workshops

23 Mar	Violence and Trauma Campbell AME Church of Media
27 April	Racial Trauma Campbell AME Church of Media Coretta Scott King Empowerment Luncheon
11 May	Empathy and Relationships Pt. 1 Campbell AME Church of Media
11 June	Empathy and Relationships Pt. 2 Campbell AME Church of Media
Saturday Mornings: 9am-9:15 am Arrival (Breakfast Provided) 9:15-10am Book Study: Stand Your Ground 10am-10:30am Worship Gathering 10:30am-11:30am Workshop 11:30 Lunch Workshop Series  	

You're invited to register for these events at Campbell AME Church of Media. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Berberich. To register, go to form.jotform.com/240207426520142

SOUPer Bowl Update

Thanks to your generosity, we collected the following on SOUPer Bowl Sunday:



- Pasta/rice - 57 boxes
- Oil - 7 bottles
- Canned goods - 35 cans
- Cereal - 23 boxes
- Dried beans - 19 packages
- Honey - 3 jars
- Misc./other - 7 items

A grand total of 151 items were donated! Thank you to Phyllis Brady, Sandy Coll and Edna Bogert for counting, packing and delivering to Chester Eastside!

Kindling Faith 2024

ANTHONY RAY HINTON, AUTHOR

The Nolde Lecture series welcomes author Anthony Ray Hinton to the Philadelphia campus on Monday, **March 18** at 7:00 pm for a free lecture about his experience of living on death row for thirty years. The event will also be livestreamed and his book *And the Sun Does Shine* will be available for purchase and signing.

For more information about these events and to register, please go to:
unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar.

Recycle Old Clothes



Reformation has
partnered with
ACR Trading, a

local company that collects old clothes and shoes and recycles them. We have a collection bin at the west end of the building near the dumpsters. The following items are accepted: wearable clothing, shoes, belts, purses, linens, blankets and stuffed animals. All items must be clean and dry and placed in a tied plastic bag. Donations can be left in the bin at your convenience.

SAVE THE DATE!

Paper Shredding Event

Reformation's Eco Ministry group is sponsoring a paper shredding event on Saturday, **April 6** from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. This event is free and open to all. Be sure to mark your calendar!



Council Highlights

In February, the Council meeting included these highlights:

- Received thank you messages from organizations that we contributed Holiday Offering gifts to at the end of 2023.
- Approval of a match from Holiday Offering for the upcoming special offering for Bear Creek Camp Camperships as part of our Bear Creek Camp Sunday celebration on February 25.
- Approval of Ministry Team Responsibilities for the Constitution as a Continuing Resolution.
- Approval of an additional Youth Gathering fundraiser.
- Announcement of Ash Wednesday and Lent Service schedules.
- Approved a donation from Holiday Offering to ReconcilingWorks in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the organization.
- Approved a donation from Holiday Offering to support the victims of the fire in East Lansdowne.
- Reviewed and approved an estimate for the pavilion project.

Holy Week @ Home



Holy Week @ Home packets will be available on **March 17**. Packets will include scripture and activities for each day of Holy Week.



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.*



Pastor Eileen and friends celebrate RIC Sunday on January 28.



Sunday school teacher Chris Urban teaching the students how Jesus cares about us and listens to our prayers on February 4.



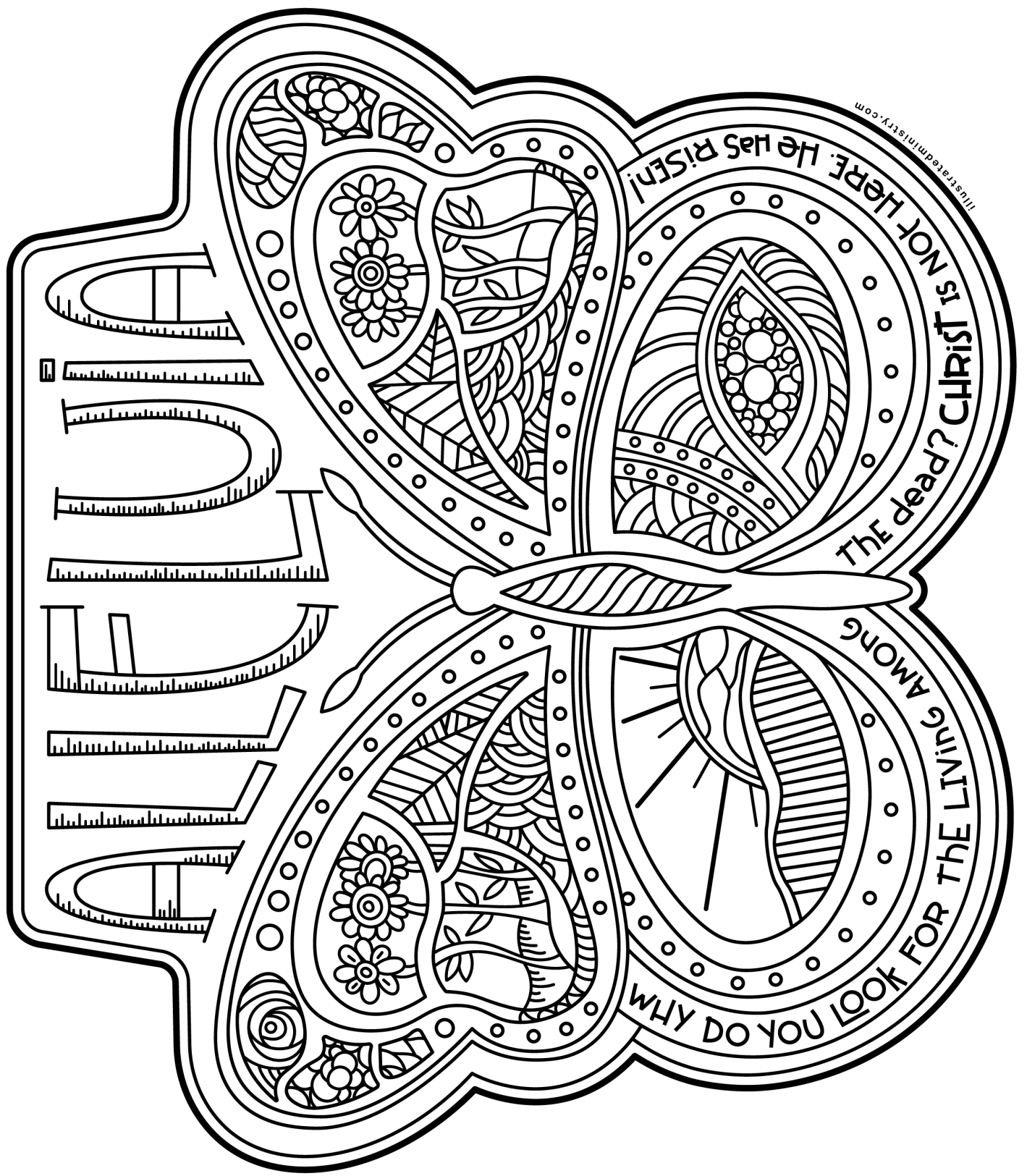
Sam Robins, Outreach Coordinator from the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County, speaking to our Breakfast Club High School group about healthy relationships on February 4.



Edna Bogert and Phyllis Brady delivering a donation of toiletries, towels, and pillows to the Domestic Abuse Project from Reformation members and friends on February 5.



Pastor Eileen had some help saying "Farewell to Alleluia" on February 11.





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

March 2024

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, March 10

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Bible Presentations

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday - 7:30 pm

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

12 noon & 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 30

Easter Vigil - 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday

8, 9:30 and 11 am worship