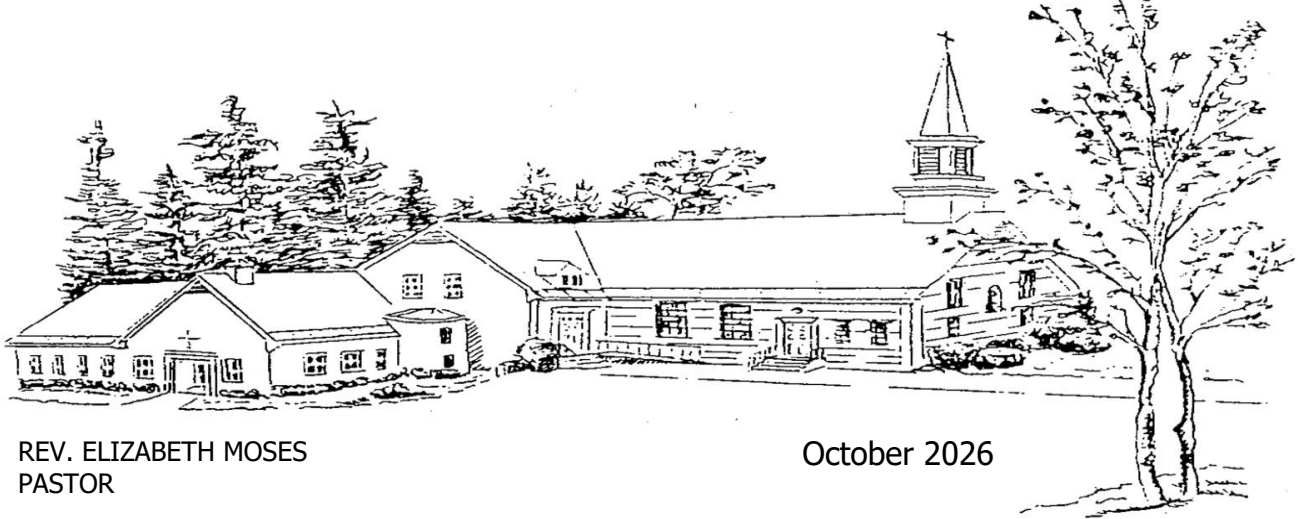




REV. ELIZABETH MOSES  
PASTOR

October 2026

## PASTOR'S PONDERING...

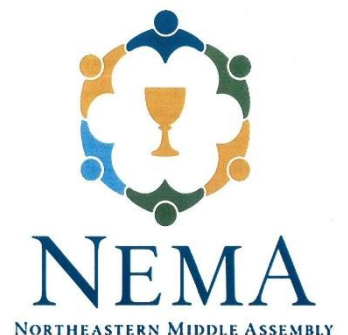
### **A New Middle Governing Body – NEMA**

On Saturday, September 26, Ministers of Word and Sacraments, and Elders from congregations who have decided to be a part of the Northeastern Middle Assembly (NEMA), gathered to formally put into existence this new middle governing body of the Reformed Church in America (Bethany was represented by Elder Wendy Delehanty and Pastor Elizabeth Moses.) On December 31, 2026, the Synod of Albany and its six classes will no longer exist. On January 1, 2027, the Northeastern Middle Assembly will formally be in existence. In preparation, many organizational and legal details had to be addressed. A Transition Team worked very diligently over the past month.

At the meeting, much of the work was shared. At this point, sixty congregations have chosen to be a part of NEMA. Initial Officers for the Assembly were voted upon; Rev. Matthew van Maastricht - President, Rev. Becky Town - Vice President, Rev. Lindsey De Kruif - Stated Clerk pro tempore, Elder David Vander Wal - Treasurer pro tempore. In terms of structure, there will be the following committees: Executive, Finance and Assets, Judicial Business and Overtures, Ordained and Commissioned Ministry, and Congregational Support. It has been proposed that a staff of six individuals be hired, one full-time and five part-time, to help support the ministry and mission of NEMA. Although much work has been done to envision and bring NEMA into existence, there are still many things that need to be figured out.

The Mission Statement for the middle governing body is:  
*"NEMA is a communion of Reformed congregations called together to support each other and foster relationships that encourage discipleship and equip the ministries of its congregations for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*

In all that it does it will strive to live relationally, encourage congregations and leaders to flourish, be faithfully adaptive, and be respectful of all.



Let us keep this new structure, its leadership, and all congregations in our prayers.

One more thing...NEMA is the Hebrew word for "delightfulness". May our Middle Governing Body be a delight to God in all that it does.

Peace and grace,  
*Pastor Elizabeth*

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## SUMMARY OF CONSISTORY MEETING – September 20, 2026

- \* Wendy Delehanty, Phyllis McClarty, Nancy Murray, and Pastor Elizabeth Moses were present in person. Jessica Fuglein was present via phone.
- \* The meeting was opened with a prayer and a devotion given by Phyllis McClarty.
- \* Reviewed Financial Reports and approved them. Talked about financial implications for the 2027 budget.
- \* Pastor Elizabeth shared her report which included contacts made since the last meeting.
- \* Pastor Elizabeth and Wendy Delehanty sat at a table representing Bethany RC at the Health and Wellness Fair hosted by Maria College in early September.
- \* Pastor Elizabeth, Wendy Delehanty, and Phyllis McClarty met with representatives from the Mendelssohn's Men's Choir about possible practices at Bethany RC.
- \* Approved purchasing a new computer for the church.
- \* Approved that Bethany RC would remain the primary evacuation site for Mater Christi School.
- \* Both Helping Hands and Wednesday Bible Study started back up in early September.
- \* Pastor Elizabeth will meet with representatives from the District Association of Rental Property Owners to discuss the possibility of holding meetings at Bethany RC.
- \* The next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18, after worship.
- \* The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Jessica Fuglein.

Summarized by Rev. Elizabeth Moses

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## OCTOBER WORSHIP LECTIONARY

October 4 – World Communion Sunday

"Reaching Out to All "

Philippians 3:4b-14 & Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

"Who's Chosen?"

Isaiah 25:1-9 & Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

"What do we owe?"

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 & Matthew 22:15-22

October 25 – Reformation Sunday

"Five Solas"

Matthew 4:1-4, Ephesians 2:4-10, Romans 1:16-17, Philippians 2:5-11,

Revelation 15:3-4

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## WORSHIP WITH US IN OCTOBER

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed are those who take refuge in him."

*(Psalm 34:8 NRSVUE)*

In the midst of the hotter days of late Summer, there was the occasional morning that broke just a touch cooler than the previous morning. It wasn't anything more than a mere twinge in the early morning air, but it was enough to signal that Autumn – with its shiny red apples, crisp air, and plump pumpkins, would soon be here again. The minute I first sensed it, it brought to my mind the word "foretaste". The most minute sensation of a cool morning in Summer provided a foretaste of the pleasures of Autumn.

This, in turn, reminds me of our Communion service. Part of the liturgy for Holy Communion states, "We believe that this bread and this cup are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall partake when His kingdom has fully come, when with unveiled face we shall behold him, made like Him in His glory."

The first Sunday in October we celebrate World Wide Communion, an Annual observance held around the globe to demonstrate the unity of Christ's church through the sharing of the Lord's Supper. It emphasizes that believers around the world are all

connected through Christ, across different denominations, cultures, and languages. If the slightest wisp of cool Summer air provides a foretaste of the glories of Autumn, think what that means when throughout the world, Christians together partake in Communion, the foretaste of the feast of God's love?

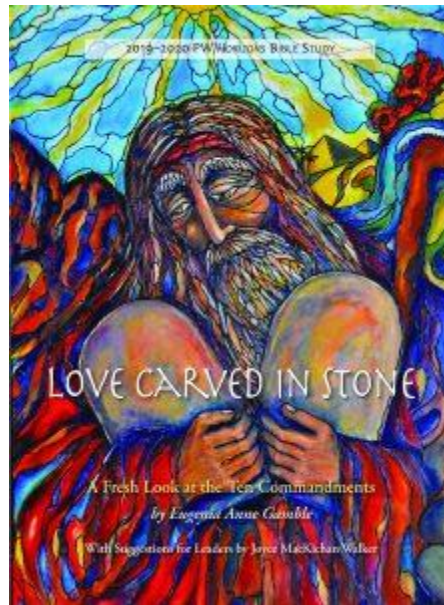
Please join us in October as we gather to worship with a grateful heart.

*Janny Mironchuk, Worship Committee*



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## BIBLE STUDY



### ***"Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments"*** **By Eugenia Anne Gamble**

A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. "Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community." "Love Carved in Stone" is a Bible Study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world.

All are invited to join either in person at the church, or via Zoom every Wednesday at 1 PM. ***(We will not meet on October 7 and October 21).***

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83512239240?pwd=ckFCSGJ6TUF1QkMzcG5lcUdrYTJ5QT09#success>

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Dear Coordinators and Volunteers,

I am writing with upsetting news. In early September, Rufino was picked up by ICE, and is currently being held in a detention center in Boston. We connected him to legal resources who will help him file a Habeas Corpus petition, as the arrest is unlawful.

Rufino attended every immigration hearing, and did exactly what he was directed to do by Homeland Security when he entered the country. With that being said, Asylum Seekers, mostly men awaiting their asylum hearings, are frequently arrested by "Street ICE" and detained.

Please pray for a positive outcome for Rufino and his family. Deya, Sherling, and Veronica are worried, but felt much better when he was able to call them. Rufino is able to make calls out of the detention facility, but he cannot receive calls. Our Asylum Legal Assistance Fund has and is being used to quickly put funds into an account at the detention facility for his needs. We are also offering support to his family for rent, food, and basic needs.

If you would like to support Rufino's family during this time, or the Asylum Legal Assistance Fund, please consider the following options:

1. Mail a check made out to Family Promise of the Capital Region with an enclosed note, or *Rufino's Family* on the memo line.
2. Mail a check made out to Family Promise of the Capital Region with an enclosed note, or *Asylum Legal Assistance Fund* on the memo line.
3. Make a donation online and send me (Mary) a follow-up email ([mary@familypromisecr.org](mailto:mary@familypromisecr.org)) so that the funds can be properly earmarked for Rufino's Family or the Asylum Legal Assistance Fund.

Address for mailed donations:  
**Family Promise of the Capital Region**  
**738 New Scotland Avenue**  
**Albany, NY 12208**

Link for online donation: <https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/family-promise-of-the-capital-region/donation-form>

As you contemplate this upsetting news, please remember that together we have helped many families in very difficult circumstances. This situation is very troubling,

but I believe we will get Rufino and his family through it.

Thank you for your prayers and support of our mission in so many ways.

With gratitude,

Mary Giordano

*Executive Director of Family Promise of the Capital Region*

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## **Brooks BBQ Drive Thru**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026**

**3 PM – 6 PM (or sold out)**

**Preordering not available.**

**Bethany Reformed Church**

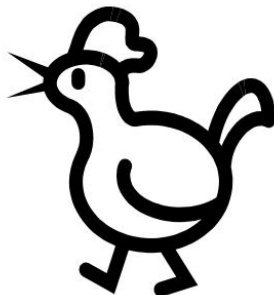
**760 New Scotland Avenue**

**Albany, NY 12208**

Convenient to Route 85 at Buckingham

**½ Chicken                      \$10**

**½ Chicken Dinner        \$17**



### **Dinner includes:**

Chicken half

Baked potato

Coleslaw

Roll

Dessert

**[www.bethanyrc.org](http://www.bethanyrc.org)**

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## HYMN SING

All are invited to a hymn sign led by Charlotte Palmeri on Sunday, October 18, at 3 PM at the Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church (2291 Western Ave, Guilderland, NY).

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## CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE

Please note a correction to David Hollner's new address. Please use the address below, and disregard what was written in the September Newsletter:

**David Hollner**  
**8619 Magnolia Bay Lane**  
**Miramar Beach, FL 32550**

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## BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Lyn Hohmann    | 10/04 |
| Kathy Casey    | 10/27 |
| David Hollner  | 10/28 |
| Elise Neyerlin | 10/31 |

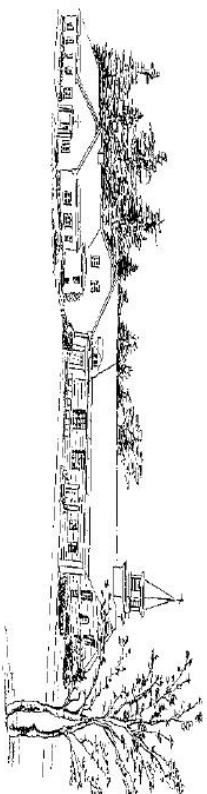
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## ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Bruce and Ellen Neyerlin | 10/03 |
| Andy and Janny Mironchuk | 10/16 |
| Vinny and Donna Trama    | 10/26 |

# October



# 2026

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                         | MONDAY                                                                               | TUESDAY                                                                                   | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                             | THURSDAY                                                                      | FRIDAY                                                                                                                    | SATURDAY                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                      | <b>Bold = Bethany Sponsored Events</b><br><b>* Communion</b>                              |                                                                                                                       | <b>1 9-2:30 PM</b><br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br>7 PM Boy Scouts     | <b>2 9-2:30 PM</b> Albany YMCA After School Program<br>10-2 PM Painters<br>7 PM Urdu Worship<br>7:30 PM Acceptance        | <b>3</b><br>10 AM We Are Not Alone<br>1 PM Good News Albany Church                                 |
| <b>4 10 AM Worship*</b><br>10 AM Good News Albany Church<br>12 PM Chin SS & Worship<br>6 PM Clean Team                                         | <b>5</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br>5 PM Preservation of AA | <b>6</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program                                 | <b>7</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br><b>10-2 PM Helping Hands</b>                             | <b>8</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br>7 PM Boy Scouts  | <b>9 9-2:30 PM</b> Albany YMCA After School Program<br>10-2 PM Painters<br>7 PM Urdu Worship<br>7:30 PM Acceptance        | <b>10</b><br>10 AM We Are Not Alone<br>1 PM African Violet Society<br>1 PM Good News Albany Church |
| <b>11 10 AM Worship</b><br>10 AM Good News Albany Church<br>12 PM Chin SS & Worship<br>6 PM Clean Team                                         | <b>12</b><br>5 PM Preservation of AA                                                 | <b>13</b><br>7 PM Fort Orange Stamp Club                                                  | <b>14</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br><b>1 PM Bible Study</b>                                 | <b>15</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br>7 PM Boy Scouts | <b>16 9-2:30 PM</b> Albany YMCA After School Program<br>10-2 PM Painters<br>7 PM Urdu Worship<br>7:30 PM Acceptance       | <b>17</b><br>10 AM We Are Not Alone<br>1 PM Good News Albany Church                                |
| <b>18 10 AM Worship</b><br>10 AM Good News Albany Church<br>12 PM Chin SS & Worship<br>6 PM Clean Team                                         | <b>19 9-2:30 PM</b><br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br>5 PM Preservation of AA   | <b>20</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program                                | <b>21</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br><b>3-6 PM Brooks BBQ</b>                                | <b>22</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br>7 PM Boy Scouts | <b>23</b><br>10-2 PM Painters<br>7 PM Urdu Worship<br>7:30 PM Acceptance                                                  | <b>24</b><br>10 AM We Are Not Alone<br>1-4 PM Good News Albany Church                              |
| <b>25 10 AM Worship</b><br>10 AM Good News Albany Church<br>12 PM Chin SS & Worship<br>6 PM Clean Team<br>6:30-8:30 PM Good News Albany Church | <b>26</b><br>5 PM Preservation of AA                                                 | <b>27</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br>7 PM Fort Orange Stamp Club | <b>28</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br><b>10-2 PM Helping Hands</b><br><b>1 PM Bible Study</b> | <b>29</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br>7 PM Boy Scouts | <b>30</b><br>9-2:30 PM<br>Albany YMCA After School Program<br>10-2 PM Painters<br>7 PM Urdu Worship<br>7:30 PM Acceptance | <b>31 Halloween</b><br>10 AM We Are Not Alone<br>1-4 PM Good News Albany Church                    |