

# FRONTSTREETER: APRIL 2021

**The Reformed Church of Canajoharie**

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## PASTOR'S PAGE

Teresa and I are doing fine. She has lingering symptoms of COVID, the most frustrating of which is not being able to smell or taste. She is getting her breath and strength back. I was not aware I had the disease until I went to Glenville to see my mother in the nursing home and failed the quick test to get in. So I called Teresa on the way home, and we hunkered down for 2 weeks. Apparently, the experts believe that ten days after infection you are considered non-contagious. We took the two weeks. Since then, we have been recovering and appreciate the prayers, the food, and the support from all the congregation. When I got tested I was not eligible for a vaccination. When the appropriate time has passed, I will get it. Some say the antibodies are good for 90 days, and that a vaccination is allowed 30 days after infection. Admittedly, there is a certain amount of uncertainty, given the newness of the virus. I call the county health to make sure. Anyway, we want to get it done before we go to Iowa for Marcus' wedding. So that's the update.

During our time, we counted the days until we could feel that we were out of the woods. We had a low-level anxiety, not feeling too bad, but knowing that some folks have died from this. Now, it is interesting to see the various reactions of people. Some take our illness in stride, others are a little concerned that there might be something lurking around us that is waiting to leap out at them. It is not our desire to make anyone uncomfortable. We have considered getting T-shirts commemorating the event.

What I want us all to know from this is that God gave us brains to make reasonable decisions. There are a couple of ways to look at things. For myself, I go for the clearest guidance that is suggested by non-emotional science. Before we were infected, I had one fellow tell me that if I had enough faith I would not get the virus. If this is true, I stand convicted. Others have represented the mask issue as a matter of freedom. There have been a lot of speculation and suspicion that it all is part of a conspiracy. (Might I suggest that if you are concerned about being monitored by a chip injected along with the vaccine that you get rid of your smart phone? If you are worried about being tracked, the smart phone is already doing that.) Still others seem to think that the best course of action would be to roll everyone up in a plastic ball and wait it out.

I think the thing that gets people going the most is the uncertainty. This virus has been virgin territory for most of us. We are not used to things being this far out of our control and a present danger to us. We like to think we can control our surroundings. But we can't. That makes us afraid. And as Frank Herbert says, "Fear is the Mindkiller". Nothing is certain, except the love of God for his people and his promise of eternal life for all who believe in him, who are called according to his purposes. As we were waiting to see if the virus would get bad enough for us to go to the hospital, which it did not, praise God, we were left with the knowledge and faith that whatever happened to us, we belonged to the Lord, and his path for us is the best path. When everything else that we depend on, without even realizing that we do, is stripped away, God remains. His love given to us through Jesus remains. So let us remain in him.

*Pastor Matt*

## RCA GLOBAL MISSION – CAMBODIA

### GARDEN OF LIFE



Garden of Life is a team of people working together to provide professional training in counseling and access to a wide range of life enrichment services to bring widespread healing among the people of Cambodia. In doing so, Cambodians will “flourish” and enjoy their lives to the fullest measure.

Cambodia is experiencing a large gap in the need for life enrichment and counseling services. Overcoming the impacts of horrific trauma experienced during the Khmer Rouge regime and the subsequent Vietnamese occupation. Both inflicted deep, debilitating wounds and scars on the minds of most Cambodian people. This impact transcends generations and permeates the emotional and mental wellbeing of the following generation of young people living with secondary trauma and social dysfunction. Garden of Life is a program motivated by the love of Jesus Christ to make a significant step forward in filling this gap by training new Cambodian professional counselors and trainers who can then raise additional new counselors to serve the Cambodian people in their language. This is the first Christian, Cambodian center to serve a large number of Cambodians struggling with post-traumatic stress syndrome plus other mental and emotional well-being issues.

The team started working together about three years ago. The co-founders are from Cambodia and Australia/Sri Lanka. I (Deb Wilson) am facilitating the team and development of the organization. The team is one-half Cambodian and one-half expatriate people working together to accomplish our vision.

Garden of Life began providing counseling services this year! We were able to hire two part-time counselors and begin serving individual clients. The gesture they are making with their thumb and forefinger is forming a heart to let you know they love you and thank God for you all.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions in Cambodia, only three of the six planned training workshops were held and we were limited on the number of participants we were allowed to host. But we are pleased that, despite the challenges this year, 34 participants from about 10 different organizations received professional development training. The topics were: Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Peer Supervision, and Counseling Children and Adolescents.

We suffered setbacks this year. Two expatriate volunteers unexpectedly returned to their countries permanently. COVID-19 trapped Mark and myself in the United States for seven months following return due to my father’s illness and death. Our previous landlord for the counseling center required us to move as he wanted to move back into the building, so we needed to relocate unexpectedly. However, we did move forward and get counseling started. Praise God for His continuing work to build the Garden of Life.

**Prayers Needed:** Along with my husband Mark we ask for prayer for Cambodia and our family. Specifically for the Garden of Life, strength, wisdom, and discernment for our counselors, now two soon increasing to three. For the professional training planned for 2021 to be successfully implemented and able to reach a solid group of growing Cambodian counselors. Planned topics include counseling children and adolescents, dealing with suicidal clients, grief therapy to support families and friends of suicide victims, counseling skills, cognitive behavior therapy and self-care. And, for Cambodians to find abundant, purposeful lives Christ offers.

Thank You,  
Deb Wilson

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2	Barb Seeley (Ridge Rd ARC)	22	Teresa Draffen
3	James & Betsy Westman (1993)	26	Kurt Sunderland
10	Catherine & Edward Smith (2010)		Charon Davis
12	Catherine Smith	28	Kelly Boucher
	Scott Cole	29	Matt & Teresa Draffen (1989)
17	Rebecca Hawkins		



**Prayers for those in need of Comfort and Healing:** Barbara Bowden – health concerns; Clara & Bob Mount – health concerns; Charles & Nancy Jones – health concerns; John & Janet Rocas - health concerns; Emory Luck – painful ribs; Jane Hawkins – health concerns; Karen Konik (KK) – health issues; Jessica Eiss – health issues; Pat Sowizdral – upcoming foot surgery; Cathy Smith – health concerns; Cynthia Clements – health concerns; Melvin Smith – health issues.

**Prayers for those Homebound or in Healthcare Facilities:** Grace Fenno – Palatine Nursing Home; 154 Lafayette St., Palatine Bride, NY 13428; Paul Flint – St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452; Barbara Draffen (*Pastor's Mom*) Glendale Home, 59 Hetcheltown Rd., Schenectady, NY 12302; Alice McEwan (*Carol Cechnicki's Mother*) – St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452.

**Prayers for our Missionaries:** Felipe & Janelle Silva – serving in Romania; Mark, Deb & Zach Wilson – serving in Cambodia.

**Prayers for those who are incarcerated:** Scott Cole – DIN# 15B2351, Great Meadow Correctional Facility Box 51, Comstock, NY 12821-0051.

**Prayers for:** Dan Cauwenberghs – (*Bobbi Cauwenberghs son*) working in Kosovo.



## April Events

**Tuesday Mornings**

**Knit & Stitch; 9AM** (Berean Bean)

**Bread Giveaway; 10AM – 12Noon** (Berean Bean)

**Wednesday Evenings**

**Woman's Bible Study; 6PM** (Berean Bean)

**Wednesday Bible Study w/Pastor Matt; 4PM** (via Facebook live)

**Mon. April 26<sup>th</sup> Comfort Zone; 6-6:30 PM** (In Front of Church)

- Drive-thru or walk-up in front of the church
- Gift bags and large items will be handed out
- Diapers will be available
- Social distancing - face masks will be required and enforced for car passengers and walk-ups

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## 30-Day Scripture Writing Challenge

# April

God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day this month to write down the following Scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the Scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write.

- |                                   |                     |                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 1  | 1 Peter 5:10        | <input type="checkbox"/> April 16 | 1 Corinth. 15:54-58 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 2  | Hebrews 11:11       | <input type="checkbox"/> April 17 | Joshua 10:25        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 3  | Isaiah 40:31        | <input type="checkbox"/> April 18 | John 5:6            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 4  | Jeremiah 29:11      | <input type="checkbox"/> April 19 | 1 Peter 1:3-6       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 5  | Colossians 1:27     | <input type="checkbox"/> April 20 | Job 5:16            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 6  | Philippians 1:6     | <input type="checkbox"/> April 21 | Psalms 147:11       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 7  | Romans 5:5          | <input type="checkbox"/> April 22 | Proverbs 13:12      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 8  | Romans 15:13        | <input type="checkbox"/> April 23 | Romans 5:2-7        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 9  | Romans 8:24-25      | <input type="checkbox"/> April 24 | Proverbs 24:14      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 10 | Philippians 3:13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 25 | Romans 12:12        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 11 | Romans 8:28-29      | <input type="checkbox"/> April 26 | Romans 15:4         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 12 | Psalms 3:2-6        | <input type="checkbox"/> April 27 | Hebrews 11:1        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 13 | Colossians 3:1-2    | <input type="checkbox"/> April 28 | Proverbs 23:18      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 14 | Isaiah 43:1-2       | <input type="checkbox"/> April 29 | 1 Corinth. 13:13    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 15 | 2 Corinth. 4:16-18  | <input type="checkbox"/> April 30 | Revelation 21:4     |



*Sunday Mornings  
beginning at 10AM here in our Sanctuary.  
All are welcome.*