

The theological honeymoon in America was short-lived. The deeply conservative immigrants from the 1834 Secession quickly grew deeply uncomfortable with their new American church partners. To the Midwesterners, the eastern churches had become too Americanized. They noticed alarming trends: congregations were singing hymns instead of the biblical Psalms, pastors were neglecting the systematic preaching of the Heidelberg Catechism to the youth, and the church practiced "open communion" by admitting individuals to the Lord's Supper without strict doctrinal supervision. Feeling that they had fled state control in Europe only to compromise their faith in America, a small group led by elder GIJSBERT HAAN officially revolted. On April 8, 1857, four congregations drafted letters of withdrawal, breaking away to form what would eventually be named the CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH. This pivotal 1857 split established the distinct denominational identity that directly shapes our theology and practice today.

August 30- ECSA



TODAY, July 26,

- Is the tenth Sunday of Pentecost

NEXT SUNDAY, August 2,

- Is the eleventh Sunday of Pentecost

FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
We still have room available in our VBS program this summer. All children 4-years-old through sixth grade are invited to attend *Snowball Mountain Challenge* August 17-21 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon each day. Register or volunteer through our church website and invite your friends!

Do you like games? Do you like to play? Do you like working with children? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you! We are looking for a volunteer to lead our recreation time for VBS. If you have always wanted to lead a *Laundry Basket Bobsled Race* or participate in *Widow’s Offering Hockey* or a *Snowball Scoop*, this is what you've been waiting for! Even if you can commit to only one or two days the week of August 17, you would be an invaluable part of our team! Please see Kelly in the office or let Linda Van Lenten, Bev Bentley, Carol Dunning or Jan Kuiken know that you would like to step out in faith and help in this way!

From the Deacons: New Hope is running low on food and is requesting help from supporting churches. The Deacons are organizing a food drive. There is an insert in the bulletin with suggested items and there will be a basket in the back of church for the donations. Thank you for your support!

Found item: If you lost a bracelet in the Barn, please see Ken or Kelly.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS
Rockpoint Community Church is seeking a passionate and Christ-centered Executive Director to lead Crossroads, our summer youth ministry program. This role provides spiritual, organizational, and administrative leadership for a dynamic camp serving approximately 200 students while mentoring staff, volunteers, and Counselors-in-Training. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a deep commitment to Jesus Christ, proficient management ability, and have strong leadership and team-building skills. This is an exciting opportunity to impact the next generation by creating meaningful experiences that help young people grow in faith and connect with the church. Interested parties may send their resume to office@therockpoint.org.

Line Dancing & Dinner Fundraiser – August 1, 5:00 PM
The Counselors-in-Training of Crossroads Summer Camp (a ministry of Rockpoint Church) invite you to a Line Dancing & Dinner Fundraiser to benefit the Tara Breur Family and help with their recent medical expenses. The event will be held in Fellowship Hall at Rockpoint Community Church. Tickets are \$60 (cash/check) or \$62.50 (credit card). To purchase / reserve tickets or for more information, call 973-427-1418 or email cit@therockpoint.org.

Biblical Study Tour to Italy (April 12-22, 2027): Visit the Vatican with its Sistine Chapel and St. Peter’s Cathedral; the impressive monuments of ancient Rome; Hadrian’s Villa; Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius; the spectacular Amalfi Coast; and much more! Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational tour. Contact Dr. Weima at weimje@calvinseminary.edu or 616-328-3110.

DENOMINATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
Thrive Faith Formation Tip- Summer is often a time when extended families gather for a reunion, giving the opportunity to connect with relatives we don’t see regularly. Think about a member of your church family whom you haven’t seen in a while, spend time praying for them this week, and reach out with a card, phone call, or text to let them know you’re thinking of them and praying for them. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive.

Kids Corner Devotions: Prayer: Meeting God in the Quiet - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion, “Prayer: Meeting God in the Quiet” at www.kidscorner.net. Contemplative prayer is like a quiet summer evening. Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God!” Try sitting quietly with God and just gently be still in his presence. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like Family Practices for Family Collection.

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY FAMILY

Thank you for your cards, calls, text messages, and especially your prayers for my healing and recovery. It has truly made a difference! - Rob Flim

Please keep *John & Marge Faber* in your prayers as John will undergo a knee replacement on Tuesday, July 28th.

Please pray for *Carrie Johnson* (wife of Rev. Michael Johnson of Cedar Hill Church) as she undergoes cancer treatment.



- 7/26 John Belanus
- 7/28 Erica LaGruth
- 7/29 Emily Lotz
- 7/29 Sue Dykstra
- 7/31 Trevor Morin
- 8/1 Lucas Ruit
- 8/1 Kathy Gorter

2nd collections recap:
7/19/26-
ECSA, \$532