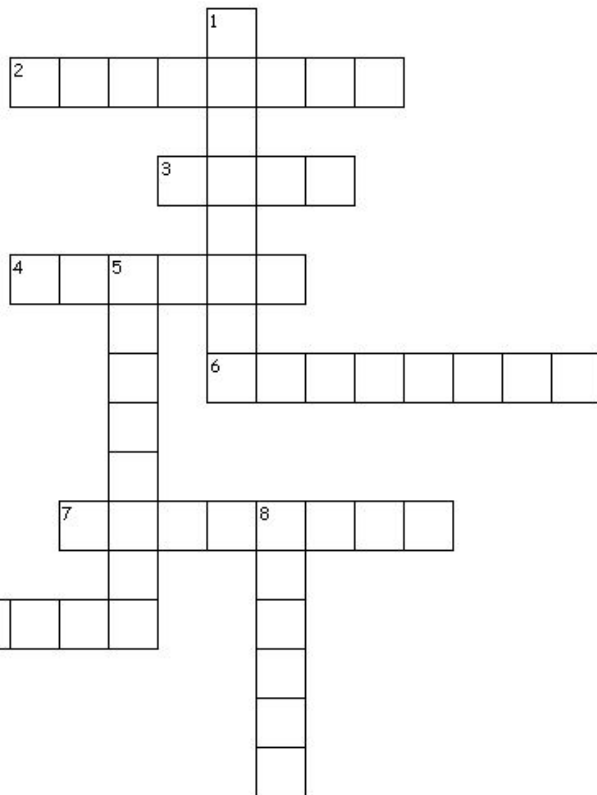


# Ramapo Reformed Church

In 1713, a group of Germans of the Lutheran faith came to the "Island" area of Mahwah. This was 63 years before the United States declared independence from Great Britain. The area was still a British colony. Mahwah was not a town yet. These families built a church and started a Lutheran congregation. Other settlers, who were French, English, Dutch, and Scottish, started a Reformed Dutch congregation. Their church was in Paramus. During the Revolutionary War, both of the churches may have been damaged. Some members of the congregations decided to build a new church together. In 1798, they built the Ramapo Reformed Church. The two congregations shared the church until 1848, when the Lutherans moved.

The building was used for many things. It held social gatherings, local government meetings, a school, and of course, religious services. It was considered Mahwah's community church for many years. Families would pay for the pews to sit in. So, poorer families and slaves/servants would sit in the seats on the second floor. The original pews on the first floor have been replaced, but almost all of the building is original. The wood sides, stained glass windows, balcony, and steeple are all original. This church is Mahwah's oldest public building. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. You can take a tour of the building!

Surrounding the church and across the street is a cemetery. There are many familiar names in this cemetery. Rodman M. Price, who was the governor of New Jersey from 1854 to 1857, is buried here! Sadly, when the church was first built, some Mahwah residents had slaves that worked on their farms. Despite popular belief, some people in the North also were slave owners. By the time the cemetery was used, the slaves had been freed. But, people who were not white were buried in a different section of the cemetery.



## Complete the crossword

### Across

2. The church is on the \_\_\_\_\_ Register of Historic Places.
3. What part of the church did people have to pay to use?
4. In 1713, when the group of Germans came to this area, it was still a British \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Which congregation did not move to a different church in 1848?
7. Many parts of the church, including the steeple and the wood sides, are \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The settlers who started the Lutheran congregation were \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

1. Rodman M. Price was the \_\_\_\_\_ of New Jersey.
5. The church was shared by a Reformed congregation and a \_\_\_\_\_ congregation.
8. What area of Mahwah did the group of Germans settle in?

## Observations

