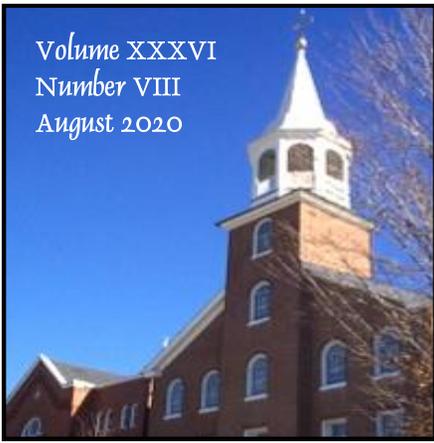


Volume XXXVI  
Number VIII  
August 2020



# Christ Reformed United Church of Christ

# VISIONS

*No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Because Jesus has taught us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves we declare Christ Reformed UCC to be an Open and Affirming church. We invite people of every race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, marital status, economic circumstance, and physical and mental ability into the worship, rites & sacraments, fellowship, and leadership of our church.*

## Young Thoughts



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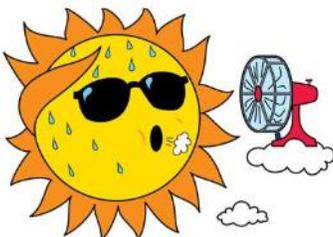
What a wonderful time to be gathered for our in-person outdoor worship service in July. Although we were all respectfully distant from one another, we were together along with those who chose to join us online. For those who might wonder, our attendance count was 78 people in person that morning. It was a good day!

It was so good, in fact, that we are going to have another summer outdoor service on Sunday August 16, 2020. Once again, we will begin worship at 9:00am in order to compensate for August heat. Once again, you will be asked to park your car and then stay there until the ushers come and help you find a safe spot. The big change is that we will be blocking off the flat upper park of the parking lot so that space is also available for chairs. We learned a lot about the morning sun patterns in July. We will also be shifting the worship leadership spaces in that direction to be able to make more of a connection with you. As a reminder, we have put the guidelines on the back of this Visions newsletter.

There is **one more thing** to know and it is an important part of our service. We will not be including Communion on our online service for August 2<sup>nd</sup> (the first Sunday of the month). Instead, in August, we will share Communion as part of our outdoor service. In order to do this safely, we need you to BRING YOUR OWN COMMUNION (BYOC). Just as you prepare some bread and something to drink for times of Communion when we worship virtually, we ask that you do the same for August 16. If you are coming to the outdoor service, bring some bread with you. You might bring some Goldfish crackers instead of bread as symbols of discipleship (holy fishing). Please also bring something to drink. A word about this....when we celebrate the sacrament of communion in sanctuaries, we have become very "economical". Some churches order those wafers (one each please), or we cut or tear off very small bits of bread. The cup is reduced to a common cup where we dip our small taste of bread or to those small disposable cups. Holy Communion is God's lavish Gift of Grace to us. That Grace is not bite-size at all! It more than satisfies. So, bring your bread – your Goldfish – your drink and participate in a Holy Picnic, remembering Christ's death and resurrection and celebrating the joy of being together on a summer morning.

### How to take the heat:

- ◆ Drink more fluids, regardless of your activity level.
- ◆ Don't drink liquids with dehydration caffeine or large amounts of sugar.
- ◆ Keep your body cool:
- ◆ Dress in lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- ◆ Wear brimmed hats.



Enjoy the final months of summer!  
from Called to Care

Grace and Peace  
Rev. Clara



**Habitat for Humanity Update**

Our Habitat for Humanity trip to Garrett County has been cancelled. We will be sending a donation to Habitat to help support their mission.

**Share your Story**

Kathleen recently came into possession of a booklet that was done back in 1996. There were stories from Pastor Mark, from the Remsberg's, the Corl's and the Johnsons to name a few. It was done for Advent and it contained short stories, poems and recipes from congregants about what the holiday meant to them. She read some of these stories and it totally warmed her heart. She would like to replicate that by doing a booklet like that with short stories, poems, recipes whatever you might want to share that makes the holiday special for you and your family. Is it a family tradition passed down for generations or is it something that you read that touches you and you feel the need to partake of it every year? We are going to call it "Comfort and Joy". We hope to hand out on the first Sunday of Advent. Please email to Kathleen or drop off all entries to the church office no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**A Stewardship Message**

We are all stewards who help to keep the CRUUC buildings and grounds in tip-top shape, through our financial contributions and occasional physical activities such as by

participating in the activities undertaken by the various Boards and Committees. In addition, stewardship means doing things to help alleviate the "life's distresses" experienced by those less financially well-off than we are. One way to do this is by participating in CRUUC "Mission Activities," such as:

- ◆ Contributing to the *Growing Project*, which raises funds we send to Growing Hope Globally to help alleviate world hunger.
- ◆ Local "Day of Service" events where we team with other Middletown churches to perform maintenance tasks at the homes of elderly or disabled citizens in the area.
- ◆ Join one of the week-long home-building and disaster-relief trips, which our church has undertaken nearly every year for the past 3 decades. Participation can be either "in-person" or "virtual" by purchasing "shares" that help to cover the costs associated with in-person participation.

Unfortunately, the last two items are not happening this year because of the coronavirus.

*Plan Your Calendar*

**CRUCC Young Moms**

**August 11 @ 7pm CRUCC Parking Lot**

We will meet (socially distanced) for conversation, games, and a brief devotional.

Please bring a mask, chair and your own snacks.

Contact the church office at [debbielbruns@comcast.net](mailto:debbielbruns@comcast.net) with questions.

**ATTENTION YOUTH & ADULTS PORCH GAME TIME**

6pm-7:30pm

August 7th Po-Ke-No

August 21st Yahtzee

Maximum of 5 people per event. Materials will be provided. Please email Kathleen at [kathleen.rogers1@comcast.net](mailto:kathleen.rogers1@comcast.net) to sign up. Deadline to register is August 5th. Feel free to bring a snack. Hope to see you there!



**Adult Book Study  
Sundays @ 5pm**

Please contact David Grieger at [griegerdavid@gmail.com](mailto:griegerdavid@gmail.com) for the link.

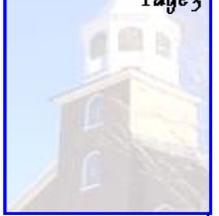
**Women's Book Study  
Wednesdays @ 7pm**

Please contact Kathleen at [kathleen.rogers1@comcast.net](mailto:kathleen.rogers1@comcast.net) for the link.



**Thursday Hymn Sing**

**Facebook Live!  
Thursdays @ 7:30pm**



Ethics—definition: “a set of rules that determine whether an individual or group’s actions are right or wrong”

YOU DECIDE:

“A 10 year old boy was questioning his father about being a good businessman. “Daddy”, he asked, “what are ethics?”

“Well, its like this son”, answered the father. “You know how your Uncle Jim and I own a store together?”

“Uh-huh”.

“Well, let’s say a customer comes in and buys a \$50 hat, and he overpays by \$20, if I split the difference with Jim, that’s ethics.”

• Mark Twain said “I have my values, and if you don’t like them, well, I’ve got some others”.

- ◆ Please join us for Children’s Church/ Sunday school each Sunday through Zoom at 9am. Link sent out each week.
- ◆ Join us on Facebook on **August 20th** to see the talented children and youth of CRUCC do their thing. Youth please have your performances sent in no later than August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ BE THE CHIURCH let’s show we care for others. I would love to see the children and youth share their love of people/neighbor by posting something in their yard, like a poster or a sign, even on the mailbox that says, thank you to the mail man who delivers to you every day faithfully. Or some sign in your yard that says, “Remember, Jesus Loves You”, just something to share the love of Christ with others so that maybe someone might see it and not feel so alone. And when you have made a yard sign or a mail box sign, it can be a sign in or on your car, send me a picture please. I would like to see us do this for the month of August. Let’s show the world that through all this, Christ is still speaking and he is using the children to do it.

- ◆ Beginning August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be having “Teen Talk Time” for the 6-12 graders. It will be time for them to talk about things that are going on in their lives, the world etc., time to just bare their souls and reach out to each other, maybe for comfort, advice etc. Time is Mondays, 6pm, dates are 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Check your email for the zoom link.
- ◆ Beginning Fridays August 7<sup>th</sup> 1-1:30/2pm we will have Devotion time with teens, time spent looking at a devotional and seeing what God might be saying to us.



## *Thank You Note*

On behalf of the Cutsail, Frye, Shank & Murphy families we would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks for all the cards and lovely messages we received following my father’s passing. As many in our congregation are aware, losing a loved one during the COVID19 crisis brings grief to a whole new level. Not being able to see Dad for more than two months has made his death difficult to process. We are so very grateful for the love and support from our CRUCC family. A special thank you to Rev. Clara who helped us celebrate Dad’s life with such care and compassion.

*Julie Frye*

*Thank You*

## *Operating Finances*

### 2020 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – JUNE 30, 2020

	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>Variant</b>
Operating	\$197,552.25	\$193,457.00	\$174,776.45	\$22,775.80
Children’s Center	\$201,805.85	\$408,193.86	\$331,560.67	-\$129,754.82
Global	\$399,358.10	\$601,651.86	\$506,337.12	-\$106,979.02

*Christ Reformed  
United Church of Christ*

Rev. Clara Young, Pastor

Contemporary Worship 8:15am  
Sunday School for All Ages 9:15am  
Traditional Worship 10:30am  
Coffee Hour following 10:30 Worship

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00am-3:00pm

301-371-6610

Fax: 301-371-6912

12 South Church Street  
P.O. Box 333  
Middletown, Maryland 21769  
*christreformeducc@comcast.net*  
*www.crucc.org*

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
PERMIT 2202  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Christ Church Children's Center  
Childcare*

Mrs. Missy Payne, Director

Mrs. Jesi Bell-Godfrey, Asst. Director

6 Weeks—5th Grade

Mon-Fri 6:30am – 6:00pm

301-371-0360

[www.christchurchchildrenscenter.net](http://www.christchurchchildrenscenter.net)

*Reaching out to help people to know  
God through Jesus Christ.  
Equipping people to love God through  
the community of faith.  
Sending people to serve God  
throughout the world.*

- ◆ You may participate in worship either in the safety of your car or out on the lawn (you will need to bring your own lawn chairs). Don't worry, we have a sound system, so you can hear!
- ◆ Come around 8:45-8:50am to park your car. **REMAIN IN YOUR CAR**, ushers will come to you and show you where you may sit in order to maintain social distance.
- ◆ **WEAR A FACE MASK!** If you do not, or think you cannot, you will be asked to remain in your car (open windows are fine) for the safety of you and others.
- ◆ At 9:00am the service will begin. We will be live-streaming the service on FaceBook, and Instagram.
- ◆ There will be baskets placed around the area to receive any offering or offering envelopes you wish to leave.
- ◆ There are **NO Bathroom Facilities** available.
- ◆ After the service the ushers will escort you back to your cars. Please remain seated where you were.
- ◆ In case of inclement weather, or if there is an increase in COVID cases in this area of Maryland by August 15th reported, the usual notifications for cancellation will go out on Saturday night.
- ◆ If the service is cancelled for August 16, we will try again at a later date and a worship meditation will be sent out by email.

**SUMMER  
WORSHIP  
SERVICE**

**Sunday, Aug 16 @ 9am**

Parking Lot of Christ Reformed United Church of Christ  
Middletown, MD