



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 are some of your Fourth of July traditions? Our family's traditions are, shall we say, varied? I like to play a record from my college choir where they sang Randall Thompson's Testament of Freedom. I watch while, at some point during the day, Randy sets off a firecracker cannon his dad made for him at least 70 years ago. I also watch while he manages to see how high a small can will ascend with the help of a firecracker. It helps that this childhood enterprise can be conducted on our property of over an acre and a third! We also have a small black-powder canyon that can project paper wads to some distance. Once the daytime fireworks have been accomplished, it is time to get a working steam engine toy of his father's into action, complete with a working steam whistle. This has been functioning for over 100 years! In the pre-COVID days when parades and spectators were common, we would often go up the road to Fairfax City for their Fourth of July Parade. While we lived in California we would go to a turn-of-the-past century historic home draped in bunting for a Teddy Bear Parade. Oven-fried chicken and chocolate cake are the required menu items for dinner. Depending on the weather, we might watch store packaged fireworks in the front yard. The day is capped off with the PBS Fourth of July Special from the National Mall and the 1812 Overture. Overall, a perfectly splendid day.

This year, more than other times, I am painfully aware that what may be a symbol of freedom for me, is not the same symbol for others. Yes, I know that the Fourth of July was not celebrated in places like Vicksburg, MS for years because, for them, that date meant the surrender of Vicksburg to General Grant. I knew the meaning of Juneteenth, yet I really did not understand until the events of this year. It wasn't until June 19, 1865, that the last of enslaved people learned they were free. Emancipation Day is much more symbolic of freedom for Black men and women than may be Fourth of July where they were both enslaved and being counted as 3/5 of a person. It would be difficult to say when women felt as free as men (all men are created equal). A beginning would certainly be when the 19th Amendment went into effect on June 4, 1919. That freedom and equality thing still has a way to go. It would be likewise difficult to assign a specific date to which LGBTQ+ folks felt free to be who they are in all fullness. The Stonewall Uprising of 1969 began a public conversation. The Marriage Equality Act of 2011 was a big step, as was this year's ruling from the Supreme Court that LGBTQ+ folks can't be fired because of sexual orientation or gender identity. Immigrants that arrive on our shores through New York Harbor under the watchful eye of the Statue of Liberty probably have a different hope for freedom than those who face detention and deportation on our southern border.

**"May we think of freedom,
not as the right to do as we
please, but as the opportunity
to do what is right.**

Peter Marshall



*Happy 4th of July
from Called to Care*

The pandemic is going to change the ways we celebrate the Fourth of July this year. Maybe we are being given an opportunity to contemplate what freedom means for each of us.

“Freedom cannot be bestowed — it must be achieved.”

Elbert Hubbard (American writer, publisher and artist)

Elbert Hubbard lived in the early part of the 20th century. His words were applicable then and now. When he lived, our country was in the midst of the Lost Cause effort to redefine the Confederacy. He died aboard the Lusitania, before women had the right to vote, before the atrocities of the Tulsa Massacre and decades before LGBTQ+ folks would achieve a small level of freedom to be themselves. (A side note: he was a cousin of my husband’s grandmother).

July 4, 1776 marks a time when we as a country exerted our freedom from the power of England. It was only the very beginning of a long, long road to living out the hope and power of freedom within our country. As the quote says – we can’t just declare freedom and it is so. Freedom must be achieved – and it is so worth it. May July 4, 2020 be a time when we think how we can work together so that all people in this great country can truly be free.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Clara



Notes

Children Center News

We are excited to announce that the Children's Center was able to reopen its doors on Monday, June 15th at 50% capacity! We are so grateful for the patience and understanding of all of our family members while we were closed for three months. So far, the staff and families are handling the new normal very well and the kids are so excited to be with each other again! For more updates and pictures of all the fun activities we have planned this summer, you can follow us on Instagram @christchurchchildrenscenter or Facebook.

CRUCC Notes

Pastor Clara sends out weekly emails that highlight upcoming events, news, etc. If you are not currently receiving these emails and would like to, please contact the church office.

Habitat for Humanity Fundraisers

Our Habitat for Humanity trip to Garrett County, Maryland is on and we have two opportunities to help support this mission. One way to help us make this trip financially possible is through the purchase of shares. Contact Beth Stitely or the church office for more information about how you can donate.

Another way is by purchasing artwork provided by CRUCC member Mary Garwood, a talented artist whose work has been shown and sold widely. Her watercolors of flowers, fruit, houses and landscapes are warm, colorful and elegant. In support of the church’s Garrett County Habitat Mission Trip Fund, Mary is donating a number of paintings she has done. Images of the paintings available were sent out in the weekly email blast. All proceeds will go to the Mission Trip Fund. Each watercolor is \$45. To arrange pick up or delivery, buyers can contact Mary at ggwaverly@aol.com or 301-371-9202. Payment can be made by sending a check (with “Mission Trip” in the memo field) directly to the church at Box 333, Middletown, MD or at the giving tab of the church’s website <https://crucc.org/online-giving/>.

Search Committee Update

The Settled Pastor Search Committee would like to welcome Rev. Clara to CRUCC. We are grateful for her presence during this time of transition, as well as her guidance through the Search Process for the Settled Pastor. The Search Committee is working with the Area Conference to set up virtual workshops to help us better understand demographic information needed for the Church profile. As we move forward in this process we will continue to provide updates for the congregation. Please feel free to contact Jesi Bell-Godfrey at cruccsearchcommittee@gmail.com with any questions. Peace & Blessings, Jesi Bell-Godfrey.

Thursday Talent

Thursday Evenings
in July @ 7:30pm

During the month of July, in place of our usual Hymn Sing, we will be hosting the following events LIVE on our Facebook page.

- 7/2 Kid’s Banjo Music by Skip Lare
- 7/9 Poetry by Bunny Cramer & Dick Burd
- 7/16 Hammered dulcimer by David Grieger
- 7/23 TBD
- 7/30 Origami by Gregg Petermann

KATHLEEN'S KORNER:



Bloopers from Sunday school students:

- “The Israelites made a golden calf because they did not have enough gold to make a golden cow.”
- “Solomon had 200 wives and 700 cucumbers.”
- After telling her class the story of God’s promise to give His people a land flowing with milk and honey, a Sunday school teacher asked the class what they thought about this. A little one spoke up and said “I think it would be pretty sticky.”

- ◆ Please join us for Children’s Church/ Sunday school each Sunday through Zoom at 9am. Link sent out each week.
- ◆ Our next Women’s Study series we will be discussing “Denial is My Spiritual Practice” by Rachel Hackenberg. Contact Kathleen for more details.
- ◆ Please join us Sundays at 5pm for adult study group. If interested please contact David Grieger at griegerdavid@gmail.com.
- ◆ Due to COVID-19, there will not be VBS. We will be doing a virtual VBS on Sunday’s beginning on July 19 and running for 5 consecutive Sunday’s. Be on the look out for printouts etc.

Operating Finances

2020 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – MAY 31, 2020

| | Actual Income | Budgeted Expenses | Actual Expenses | Variant |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Operating | \$177,975.48 | \$161,220.00 | \$145,782.60 | \$32,192.88 |
| Children’s Center | \$178,407.38 | \$340,161.55 | \$249,722.95 | -\$71,315.57 |
| Global | \$356,382.86 | \$501,381.55 | \$395,505.55 | -\$39,122.69 |

Thank You Notes

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 Dads life with such care and compassion.
~Julie Frye

I want to thank ALL of you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, food, and good wishes during the last eight months. There seems to be no end to all the unusual happenings in the Falconer Family. Your support has helped so very much. This is a very caring congregation. I am proud to be a part of it. Thanks again, May God Bless each of you!
~Ruth and Bill Falconer

Church & Ministry would like to extend some heartfelt thanks to those who have helped us transition to online services and to those who made Pastor Mark’s live Service of Release possible. Terry Sparks and her entire worship team have worked tirelessly to bring us a seamless service every week. The technical crew of Jesi Bell-Godfrey, Tiffany Corl, JJ Bell-Godfrey, and Andrew Corl ensure we have a service to participate in every week. A special thanks to Gregg Petermann for spearheading our goal of 100 YouTube subscribers so that the service can now be simulcast on YouTube and for his spectacular editing skills. Kathleen Rogers has kept our younger members engaged through Sunday School lessons and projects. Edgar Bower and Madelyn Cross have blessed us with their musical talents. Rev. Dr. Audrey Price was restricted from being here in person, but was able to participate in Pastor Mark’s service due to our wonderful technical team. Beth Scott and Daphne Gabb dedicated time and supplies to make Pastor Mark’s farewell album. Ed Link spoke of the wonderful memories Pastor Mark has given us all. He eloquently kept his cool while the horns were honking in the parking lot! Debbie Bruns is the well organized machine that keeps us essential. These people make having a weekly service look easy when in reality it is quite an undertaking. Thank you all and especially to all of YOU. You ALL are ministers of the Church. Please know that your time, talents, and dedication to CRUCC are much appreciated!

*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

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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

*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.*

- ◆ This is our first gathered worship since the pandemic began.
- ◆ 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, Instagram and YouTube.
- ◆ 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, updated information will be provided on Saturday evening on our website and Facebook page.

**SUMMER
WORSHIP
SERVICE**

Sunday, July 12th @ 9am

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