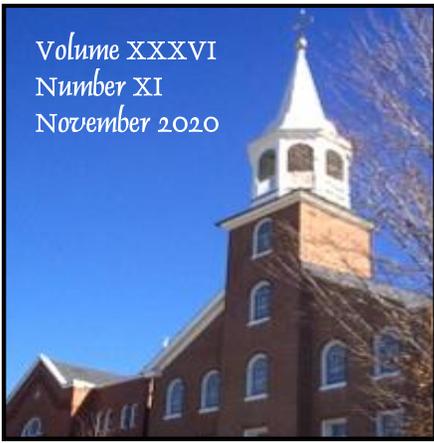


Volume XXXVI  
Number XI  
November 2020



# 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

Fall is one of my favorite seasons. I missed the reds, yellows, oranges of turning leaves when my family moved to Florida when I was eight years old. In western Pennsylvania trees would be ablaze with color and the temperatures were so much more reasonable than mid-summer! Playing in mounds of leaves (so carefully raked by our tolerant parents) was obligatory. Fall was the time for two special holidays. When I was little, Halloween was under the old rules – go out with your friends, don't worry about people putting bad stuff in your candy, and willingly accept apples (especially if candied). Thanksgiving was centered in my grandmother's dining room. We were not a large extended family, but Thanksgiving meant I got to see my cousins from Ohio. And the food – my grandmother was an excellent cook and meals at her house were a treat! When I was very little, I got to "help" by keeping her company when she made her pies. Yes, there is a picture of me reaching over to untie her apron strings when she was working. I said I "helped". And of course, as soon as Thanksgiving was over our town welcomed Santa Claus to town in the park across the street from Zions' Evangelical and Reformed Church.

This year I am still enjoying the first hints of fall. The brisk air still energizes me. The holidays of Fall still stir emotions within me. This year though, those holidays will look and feel different. If the positivity rate of the virus cooperates Halloween will be spent in the West Virginia mountains as we try for a change of scenery. Thanksgiving will not be spent with life-long friends because we are all in that vulnerable category. Traveling to see our children and grandchildren will not be an option. Taking all the precautions necessitated by the virus is a sadness, but an important act of responsibility in order that future holidays be filled with joy.

Our church life will continue to be different as we move into the third season of the pandemic. That said, your leadership is committed to make our life together meaningful and possibly an opportunity to create new memories. During the online service on November 1 (an online service) we will be including a Service of Remembrance for those from our church community who have died during this past year. We will speak their names. We will light a candle in their memory. We will also remember those family members and friends who have also gone to eternal rest. Then we will light a candle to honor all those quarter of a million persons from our country who have died because of COVID. On November 15 we will bundle up and gather outside for a service led by the Praise Team and we will dedicate our pledges to the life and ministry of Christ Reformed UCC for the 2021 calendar year. The last Sunday of November will be the beginning of a new year – a new church year. It is the first Sunday of Advent.

This fall feels very familiar and also very different. In all the seasons of our lives we can rest assured God is with us. Thanks be to God.

*Grace and Peace, Rev. Clara*



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**"Give thanks not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of your life. Appreciate and never take for granted all that you have."**  
~Catherine Pulsifer

*Thankful*

*Appreciate and enjoy your  
Thanksgiving Day.  
Called to Care*

# STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

## November 15

### 10:30am OUTDOOR SERVICE

Join us as we celebrate our church and dedicate the financial commitments of our members and friends to the church's work in 2021.



#### **Stewardship Update**

Stewardship pledge cards will be mailed the week of November 2nd. Pledge cards will be collected at our live service on Stewardship Sunday - November 15th. There will also be options for submitting your pledge cards by mail or electronically. Stay tuned.

#### **Upper Room Devotions**

For a number of our members one of the daily devotional tools they use is the Upper Room. Debbie Bruns has put copies of the Upper Room in the mailbox on the Parish House porch. If you would like a copy of the devotional you are welcome to stop by the Parish House and take one from the mailbox. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact Debbie in the church office.

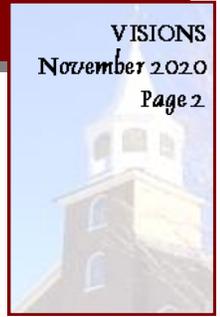
#### **Gift Cards Church Fundraiser**

Christ Reformed earns 2-16% rebate on gift cards purchased through the Scrip program. Please use the enclosed form to order all your holiday gift cards. Send completed form and payment to Debbie in the church office. If you don't see the card(s) you would like to order, please contact Gail Johnson at [gaillynn08@comcast.net](mailto:gaillynn08@comcast.net). You can also set up your own Scrip account and order cards online by going to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) (enrollment code FAD49C783388L.). Your cards will be available for pickup at the church office the following week, or if you prefer, we can send them to you in the mail. Cash or check payments will need to be submitted to the church before the order can be submitted unless you choose to set up online payment through the PrestoPay option.

#### **Adopt a Family**

While we are now enjoying a delightful Fall season, soon cooler days will prevail and that means Christmas is not that far away. This Christmas season the Discipleship Committee will be asking for gift card donations for Middletown Valley People Helping People, [MVPHP] a non-profit organization that helps families in need in our area. Because of COVID-19, 2020 also brings with it an

even greater challenge and urgency this holiday season in assisting more children and families with Christmas gifts and holiday meals. This year MVPHP is asking for gift cards for gifts for the children in \$25.00 increments to Walmart, Amazon, Kohl's and Target. Also needed are gift cards in \$25 increments to Safeway, Weis and Giant Eagle for groceries. Please note that Walmart and Target cards can also be used for grocery items. Gift cards may be purchased through the church's gift card program (see Insert). MVPHP says that if possible it would greatly appreciate having activation slips attached with tape to the back of the cards when received. They also recognize there may be some who cannot give \$25.00 cards but may want to make a small monetary donation instead. Last year, through your generosity and help from many others in our community MVPHP was able to provide toys, clothing, boots, shoes and gift cards to over 200 local children. We are asking that gift cards be brought to the church office no later than November 22nd so they can be given to MVPHP that afternoon in order to be distributed to families on December 3rd, 2020.



Did you know that we have P.T. Barnum to thank for bringing handbells to the United States? In the 1840's, while touring in the United Kingdom, he discovered handbell ringers in Wales. Barnum brought them to the U.S., dressed them in Swiss costumes hoping to appeal to the U.S. audience, they began touring, and the rest is history. Sometimes our rehearsals can feel like a circus. I guess that's natural! Our Jubilate Deo choir played at the outdoor service in September. Even though we played as loud as we could, some folks still could not hear us. It is a bit frustrating, but we will persevere! If you would like to hop on board to help us play music during the Christmas season, we would be happy to have you. We will begin rehearsing holiday music the first Tuesday in November. Please let me know ([annegrieger18@gmail.com](mailto:annegrieger18@gmail.com) or 765-891-1187) prior to then if you are interested. You do not need to know how to read music; the only requirement is the ability to attend practice every Tuesday night from 7 to 8:15pm.

#### *Ringer of the Month: David Grieger*

David came to handbells unlike most folks, he was a director before he learned to play. In fact, he was the one that introduced Anne to handbells. He directed for three years, then several years later began playing. Altogether he has been involved, in one way or another, with bells for about 10 years. His hobbies include playing the piano and dulcimer, bike riding, reading and walking trails. When he is not ringing he is busy providing childcare to his three year old grandson Alister.



Sometimes you have to just laugh:

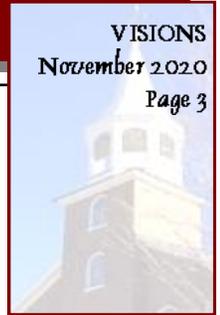


A devout, churchgoing father was trying to teach his son that lying is a sin and that he shouldn't lie about fishing and other things. "Do you know what happens to fishermen who lie when they die?" he asked his son. The son quickly replied, "They lie still!"

Johnny was on his way home one Sunday evening with a full string of catfish when he saw the town's preacher approaching him. Since there was no way to escape, Johnny walked up to the minister and said "Reverend, see what these catfish got for biting worms on Sunday.



- ◆ On Sunday, November the 8th, youth and children are to pick up their bags for our Thanksgiving drive. The bags will be on the Parish House porch. Please let Kathleen know when you have picked up your bag. Bags are to be returned on Sunday, November 22nd at 1pm. She plans to take a picture of you all when you return them.
- ◆ Please join us for Children's Church/ Sunday school each Sunday via Zoom at 9am. Link sent out each week.



**Comfort & Joy: Share your Story**

With COVID changing how little we connect these days this is a great time to remember and reflect and share those moments with others. Recently I came into possession of a booklet that was done back in 1996 for Advent which contained short stories, poems and recipes from congregants about what the holiday meant to them. I would like to replicate that by doing a booklet 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? I am going to call it "Comfort and Joy". I would like to hand out on the first Sunday of Advent, please email or hand deliver your entries to Kathleen no later than November 8th.



**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.

*Growing Project Update*



The Myersville Area Growing Project's **Harvest Festival** was held in the afternoon following our outdoor church service on October 18th. Unlike earlier years, the cake auction and refreshments were omitted, but an auction to rent and display the project's artistically painted Milk Can for the next 12 months was won by our church. The highlight of the Festival was an informative presentation by Max Fin Finberg, President and CEO of *Growing Hope Globally*, the charity that uses the funds raised by more than 50 Growing Projects -- located in states from coast to coast across the nation -- to help relieve world hunger. He noted that their work continues even in the Age of the Coronavirus, and that our local Growing Project has contributed more than \$300,000 since it was established more than a dozen years ago.



*Operating Finances*

**2020 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>Variant</b>
Operating	\$311,425.84	\$290,168.00	\$268,172.39	\$43,253.45
Children's Center	\$423,228.31	\$612,290.79	\$467,079.54	-\$43,851.23
Global	\$734,654.15	\$902,458.79	\$735,251.93	-\$597.78

*Christ Reformed  
United Church of Christ*

Rev. Clara Young, Pastor

OnLine Worship 10:30am  
Zoom Coffee Hour 11:30am

Church Office Hours  
Mon/Wed/Fri 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](mailto:christreformeducc@comcast.net)  
[www.crucc.org](http://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 7:00am – 5:30pm  
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.*

# ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING *via Zoom* November 8th at 11:30am

For those that are not available for the November 8th meeting or wish to cast a vote without participating via Zoom, the Consistory has opted to offer email and mail-in options. Should you wish to cast a vote, please see the voting instructions below. If you do not participate via Zoom and have questions regarding the budget, please contact Debbie in the church office.

**Voting Instructions:** Each CRUCC MEMBER may cast only one vote. There are three voting options:

- ◆ **Attend the Zoom Meeting.** Meeting details will be sent by email before November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ **Vote by email.** To vote by email, send your vote to [debbielbruns@comcast.net](mailto:debbielbruns@comcast.net) with each member's name and by indicating one of the following: For (support the motion), Against (reject the motion), Abstain. Votes by email must be received by November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ **Vote by US Mail.** To vote by US Mail, please complete the ballot that was mailed out in October and return it to the church office. If you did not receive a mail in ballot, please contact Debbie in the church office. Votes cast in this manner must be received by November 6<sup>th</sup>.

The motion being voted is:  
"We move to adopt the  
proposed 2021 budget for  
CRUCC as presented."

