

# 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



SEPTEMBER

by Lucy Maud Montgomery

*Lo! A ripe sheaf of many golden days  
 Gleaned by the year in autumn's harvest ways,  
 With here and there, blood-tinted as an ember,  
 Some crimson poppy of a late delight  
 Atoning in its splendor for the flight  
 Of summer blooms and joys-  
 This is September.*

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Another season has come and is about to go as summer gives way to fall this September. We measure the seasons of our lives as well as the seasons of the year. In 2020 it has seemed to be a measureless season – the season of anxiety and isolation. That all seemed that much more bearable when the days were lengthening and sunshine filled our lives with possibilities. This year though, the possibilities were tempered with caution as vacation plans were reimagined. Now the days grow shorter in sunlight glow. Summer heat will soon be changing to autumn chill. And yet, and yet, we still live our days in the endless season of anxiety and isolation.

The autumn months have always been some of my favorite months of the year. There is a freshness in the air as the humidity dissipates. The leaves put on their yearly fashion show of reds and golds and oranges and yellows. In past times, this is when schools began, fall programming at church kicked off another year, the anticipation of the holidays was right before us.

My friends, how are we as the Church (with a capital "C") going to handle the continuation of the season of anxiety and isolation? I know the leadership at CRUCC is busy thinking of ways to make our virtual existence meaningful in this season of discontent. Kathleen has several book studies in progress or in the process of happening. Terry and the worship team are coming up with some innovative worship experiences. I am thinking of several different things. In October and November I would like to host a Book/Bible Study once again on Saturday mornings. The book I have in mind is The Greatest Prayer Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of The Lord's Prayer, by John Dominic Crossan. We will honor the lives of those members of CRUCC who have died this past year, along with honoring the now over 178,000 persons of our nation who have died because of COVID. I'm thinking about how we can have a virtual blessing of the animals service in October so those cats and dogs that cross our computer screens can get some attention for the love they give us. Those are just some of the fall events – along with other attempts to have the occasional outdoor service while the weather permits – that we have to look forward to this fall at CRUCC.

We are in a season of anxiety and isolation, but we are not alone. As the seasons of the year move along, so will this season impacted by COVID.

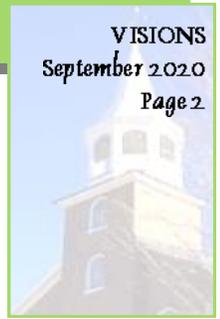
*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.  
 (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

*Grace and Peace, Rev. Clara*

**After such a brutally hot  
 summer, fall sounds pretty  
 darn good.  
 "Welcome September!"**



**Happy Labor Day to All!  
 from Called to Care**



**Cemetery Board Update**

People inquiring about burial lots in our cemetery are finding the only lots available are those for flush with on-grade headstones. The two outer sections of the cemetery on each end, the north side (along Main St.) and the south end (along Maple St.) are designated for flush with on-grade headstones only. The sections that do allow above-grade headstone are now completely purchased. The Cemetery Board wants to be understanding and accommodating to the family's wishes with regards to their loved one's final resting place. We feel that each person and family should be allowed to express how their loved ones should be memorialized.

During the Cemetery Board's second quarter meeting, the board voted to open Section XVI above the South Circle, lots 783 through 814, to allow above-grade headstones as well as flush on-grade headstones. This area was previously designated for flush with on-grade headstones only. This section is located on the south end of the cemetery towards Maple St. and bounded by the road extending from the South Circle and the back fence.

Lots in Sections III thru XV were historically purchased by families securing a number of graves at one time. We suspect that over time, family members who might have been considered for burial in the cemetery but were not ... perhaps due to having relocated or other circumstances. This leaves a number of graves in the heart of our cemetery that have owners but remain vacant...not the best use of the space. We want to inform the congregation that these vacant, unused lots can be transferred. If you have graves not planned for use, Bob Sheffler or Tom Mende can help you with the transfer. The cemetery board does not resell or advertise someone's vacant lots and locating persons to transfer the lot(s) to is the owner's responsibility. However if we are aware of potential transfers then perhaps we can help the two parties connect. Please help spread the word to our church family as well as to past members or friends who may find transfers desirable.

Recently the Cemetery Board determined that past congregation members will be considered a church member for lot purchases. The purchase fees are significantly

different for church members and non-members. Currently lot fees are based on 2010 pricing. Through comparable cemetery fees, the fees for lots as well as excavation will be increased. Additionally we have been informed the landscape fees will be increasing. The Board strongly feels that **NO** fee increases should go into effect until 6 months after CRUCC and the rest of the community return to some level of normalcy. We will post another note in the newsletter and bulletin 6 months in advance of any fee changes.

**Desserts Needed**

Desserts are needed for our October 4th Soup Kitchen. They must be in individually sealed bags (a brownie, piece of cake, 1-2 cookies, etc.) Desserts need to be dropped off at the church parking lot at 2pm on October 4th, or other arrangements for drop off can be made by contacting Anita Link. We are preparing food to feed 140 people, so we will need lots of desserts.



**2020 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Frederick, MD  
Sunday, October 11, 2020**

This year's walk will consist of individual walks around home neighborhoods. Please make a donation to help the Alzheimer's Association advance research into prevention, treatments and a cure for Alzheimer's. For the millions already affected by the disease, the Association offers care, education, support and resources in communities nationwide. YOU will be affected by this disease...either yourself or someone you know. The end of Alzheimer's disease starts here. Please help Beth exceed her goal of \$1,000. Or join her team! Thank you so much for your continued support! Use the link below to make a donation or join her team.

[http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=13502&pg=personal&px=5387232](http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=13502&pg=personal&px=5387232)

alz.org | alzheimer's association

*Plan Your Calendar*



**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.

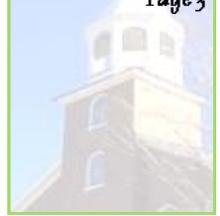
WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sundays @ 10:30am**

Pre-recorded services viewing options are available on our Facebook page, YouTube and Instagram (links posted on church website at [www.crucc.org](http://www.crucc.org))







# Community Day of Service

Due to the Covid-19 virus, Middletown's Community Day of Service team has made a change for our September Day of Service. Instead of assisting our neighbors on personal home projects, we are planning a town clean-up project. Each individual or family that would like to be involved in Community service and would like to participate for an hour or two in helping clean up our town can sign up at the sign-up link listed below. Please Join volunteer's and friends from Middletown churches as we come together to ensure our towns beauty while keeping to all safety regulations. To volunteer please sign up with our Sign-up genius at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4EAAAA2EAAF49-clean>

For help with Sign-up genius, contact Renee Huffer at [aquatictraining@aol.com](mailto:aquatictraining@aol.com)

**September 12**

# Thursday Hymn Sing

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

# CRUCC Young Moms

**Sept 22 @ 7pm**

## **CRUCC Parish House Porch**

We will meet (socially distanced) for conversation, a brief devotional and non-partisan voter outreach postcard writing Please bring a mask, chair and marker/pens. Contact the church office with any questions.

## Kathleen's Korner

Just for a laugh:

A man sees his friend on the street and says, "Hey what's wrong? You look kind of down." His friend sighs, "Yeah, I really thought today was going to be my day. I woke up at exactly 7am and realized it was July 7th- the 7th day of the 7th month. Then, I put on my pants and found exactly \$7 in my pocket. I knew it must be a sign! So, I took the number 7 bus to the racetrack, and would you believe it the 7th horse in the 7th race was named 7-up... running at 7 to 1 odds! So, I bet \$700 on him." "What happened?" asked the friend. "He came in 7th."

Moral: sometimes signs ... are just signs...



- ◆ Please join us for Children's Church/ Sunday school each Sunday through Zoom at 9am. Link sent out each week.
- ◆ Our next Ladies Book study group is beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 9th at 7pm. Hope to see you there. We have a wonderful group of ladies, so join us. Our book for this upcoming study is "KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE" by Paul E. Little. Zoom link is always sent out by Monday. Contact Kathleen to be added to the email list.

## Operating Finances

### 2020 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – JULY 31, 2020

	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Variant
Operating	\$230,042.69	\$225,694.00	\$198,569.16	\$31,473.53
Children's Center	\$331,619.69	\$476,226.17	\$376,056.86	-\$44,437.17
Global	\$561,662.38	\$701,920.17	\$574,626.02	-\$12,963.64

*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](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 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.*

Join together in spirit with the Christ Reformed UCC community by participating in our first ever virtual 5k to benefit the FISH Fund. Here's how:

1. On the weekend of September 25-27 commit to running, walking or even day-dreaming your way through 3.1 miles at a location of your choice (trail, treadmill, track...the options are endless!) *This is your own race, at your own pace.*
2. Make a \$25 donation (suggested minimum) to Christ Reformed's FISH fund. This is your "race entry fee." The easiest way to do this is through CRUCC's website <https://onrealm.org/christreformeducc/-/give/now> PLEASE BE SURE TO USE THE DROP DOWN BOX AND SELECT FISH FUND. Alternatively, you may mail your donation (with a notation that it is for the FISH Fund) to Christ Reformed UCC, PO Box 333, Middletown, MD 21769.
3. Take a photo of you and your (appropriately socially distanced) running crew and share it to the event page. Please also send a copy of any photos to Debbie Bruns at [debbielbruns@comcast.net](mailto:debbielbruns@comcast.net) for future church use. Feel free to also post your finish time (if you're keeping track!) for the friendly competitors among us. *Bonus points for making and posing with a race sign!*
4. If you'd like to purchase race swag please visit <https://www.bonfire.com/fishfund5k/>. PLEASE NOTE: *These items are offered at or near cost as a fun extra to boost camaraderie. Any proceeds will benefit the FISH fund, but primary donations should be made by following the instructions outlined above. A minimum of 11 shirts sold is needed in order for any to be printed.*

DATE AND TIME

**Fri, Sep 25, 2020, 6:00 AM –  
Sun, Sep 27, 2020, 11:00 PM EDT**



**Support CRUCC's FISH Fund as you run, walk or dream your way through 3.1 miles.**