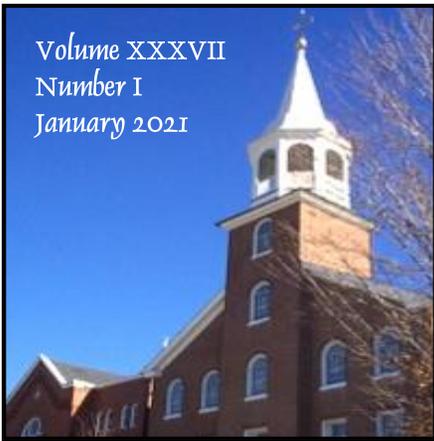


Volume XXXVII  
 Number I  
 January 2021



# 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

We are almost to a new year. I have heard many people say that this December 31st they want to be sure to stay awake until Midnight to be sure the year 2020 goes away. I've harbored such thoughts – although I know I will be sound asleep when we officially enter 2021.

As much as the year 2020 has been a test of patience we know that the difference between December 31, 2020 and January 1, 2021 will be largely a few minutes of increased sunlight. On January 1st we will still be wearing masks, social distancing, grieving the loss of life, making resolutions to change our pandemic diets into healthier eating, coping with the trials that are so familiar.

As a people of faith, we do have some options to change some of the trajectory that has so defined the year 2020. One of the honorifics we give the Messiah – the Christ – is Prince of Peace. As a people of faith, we can choose to live up to the words in what is known as the Prayer of St. Francis.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
 Where there is hatred, let me bring love.  
 Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.  
 Where there is discord, let me bring union.  
 Where there is error, let me bring truth.  
 Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.  
 Where there is despair, let me bring hope.  
 Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.  
 Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.  
 O Master, let me not seek as much  
 to be consoled as to console,  
 to be understood as to understand,  
 to be loved as to love,  
 for it is in giving that one receives,  
 it is in self-forgetting that one finds,  
 it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,  
 it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

May this prayer guide our spiritual resolutions for the year to come, 2021. And may this prayer guide our ministry and witness here at Christ Reformed United Church of Christ.

*Grace and Peace.  
 Rev. Clara*



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*May you have a year that is  
 filled with love,  
 laughter, brightness and  
 hope. Wishing all a  
 Happy New Year!*



*from Called to Care*



Have you ever heard of change ringing? Though it certainly can be done on handbells, it is most commonly done in churches that have 5 to 12 bells in the steeple, using ropes to pull each individual bell. With five bells there are 120 changes, or patterns possible. With 12 bells it is an unbelievably astounding 480 million. To ring all the variations at Westminster Abbey in London, it

would take 12 people 10 years of unceasing ringing!

*Ringer of the Month: Julie Frye*  
She has been ringing a long time - since middle school. Her favorite thing to do when not playing bells is anything to do with her grandkids. She loves Chinese food and camping. Julie enjoys playing because it takes her to a place where nothing else matters. It is calming and a great stress reliever.



**Memorial Hall Redevelopment and East Main Street Parking Update**

In December, the Consistory carefully considered comments and concerns from members regarding the proposed Memorial Hall redevelopment and an initial proposal to lease portions of our East Main Street properties for parking. In response to our discussion, the Consistory provided a letter on December 16th to the Town regarding our concerns about the project and that the Consistory needed additional dialogue and more information to fully evaluate the parking proposal. Should the Consistory believe a potentially viable proposal for parking on our properties exists, the Consistory will ensure that full and proper discussion by the Congregation is conducted prior to the Congregation formally considering it. Additional information on this will be provided as it becomes available in the New Year.

**Stewardship Update**

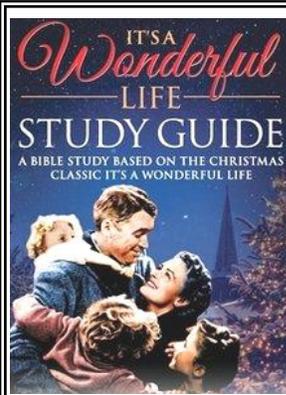
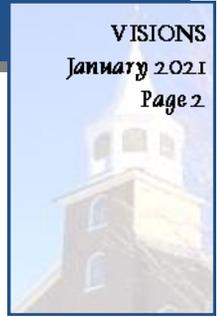
To date, we have received 74 pledges for the General Fund campaign for a total of \$197,028. Fourteen of the pledges did not specify an amount. Seven Capital Fund pledges for a total of \$4,620. You have the option to submit your pledge cards by mail or electronically using our Realm software (contact Debbie if you need help setting up your Realm account). Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the church and our ministries.

**2021 Offering Envelopes Available**

2021 Offering Envelopes are available from Paul or Nancy. If you have not previously requested envelopes and would like to receive a pack, please contact Paul Fink at 301-371-4658, Nancy vom Lehn at 301-371-7457, or Debbie Bruns in the church office.

**Middletown Food Bank Donations**

The inability to hold church services has cut down our Food Bank offerings considerably, so the Discipleship Board has placed a box on the Parish House porch for canned and non perishable food donations. Please, if you can, pick up an extra item or two while doing your regular grocery shopping, and when you're in the vicinity, drop them off at the Parish House. The pandemic is affecting many, and more families find themselves in need, so our help is desperately needed. Thank you.

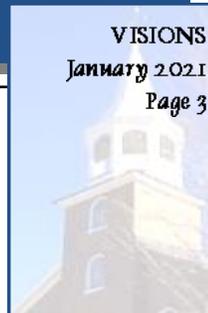


**Women's Study  
Wednesdays @ 7pm  
Jan 20-Feb 17**

We will be studying "It's a Wonderful Life" by Alan Vermilye. Please contact Kathleen at [kathleen.rogers1@comcast.net](mailto:kathleen.rogers1@comcast.net) for the link.



After 17 years of teaching at CCCC, our Pre-K teacher Ms. Tiffany is retiring! While we are sad to see her go, we are grateful for the dedication, love and care she brought to all the children throughout her time here and wish her nothing but the best on this new adventure!



More Church Bulletin bloopers :



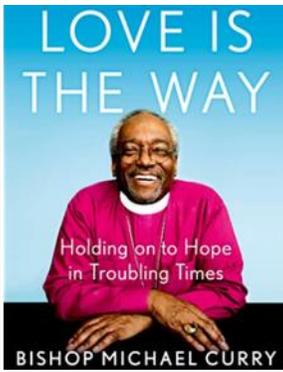
- "There is joy in the presence of angels over one singer who repents."
- "Thursday night, potluck supper, prayer and medication to follow."
- "All the youth choirs of Our Redeemer have been disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church."
- Pastor "Happy are those who find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord..."
- People "We shall sin with joyfulness to the Lord our God!"



- ◆ Please join us for Children's Church/ Sunday school each Sunday via Zoom at 9am. Link sent out each week.
- ◆ HAPPY NEW YEAR to each and everyone of you. I hope you had a celebration because 2020 was difficult, yet we made it through, that should be reason enough to celebrate. With that I want to say I hope to see more of each of you this year because He has been faithful to us, requires us to be faithful to Him.
- ◆ Be on the look out for our schedule of Psalm and story providers.

Stay safe!

*Plan Your Calendar*



**Winter Book Study**

**Saturdays @ 10am**

**Jan 9-Feb 13**

Please contact Rev. Clara at [revclara@crucc.org](mailto:revclara@crucc.org) for the link.



**Adult Book Study**

**Sundays @ 5pm**

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

**COFFEE HOUR**

**Sundays @ 11:30am**

Join us after worship at 11:30am for Zoom Coffee Hour. Link is sent out via email on Sunday mornings.






*Operating Finances*

2020 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – NOVEMBER 30, 2020

	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Variant
Operating	\$351,507.12	\$354,642.00	\$304,844.67	\$46,662.45
Children's Center	\$526,779.35	\$748,355.41	\$558,467.22	-\$31,687.87
Global	\$878,286.47	\$1,102,997.41	\$863,311.89	\$14,974.58

*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*  
*www.crucc.org*

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Christ Church Children's Center  
Childcare*

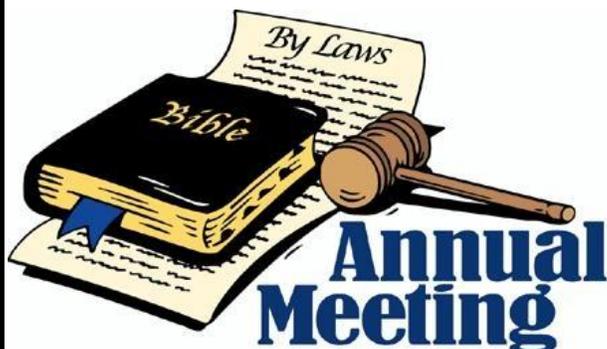
Mrs. Missy Payne, Director  
Mrs. Jesi Bell-Godfrey, Asst. Director  
6 Weeks—5th Grade  
Mon-Fri 7:00am – 5:30pm  
301-371-0360  
[www.christchurchchildrenscenter.net](http://www.christchurchchildrenscenter.net)

*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 Congregational Meeting

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17  
11am via Zoom**

*(following our online 10am Worship Service)*



*Join us as we look back over the past  
year, elect officers, and consider any  
other business brought forth by members.*

*Please plan to join us!*