



# 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



The anticipation builds. Our Lenten Journey is coming to an end. What can this climax of this Holy Season look like in 2021 after a year of a closed sanctuary and the long exile of the pandemic. Your periodic updates from the Reopening Committee will keep you informed of where we are in relationship to the statistics of this pandemic and the desire that we open safely for all. That doesn't mean that Holy Week and Easter will look exactly like it did last year. We've learned a few things and circumstances are slightly different. Here are the ways we will gather even if scattered in worship this Holy Week.

Palm Sunday is March 28th. You'll want to tune into the various online platforms for worship at 10:30AM. Yes, we will hear familiar Palm Sunday hymns. We won't be convening for a Zoom Coffee Conversation. Instead, you will have a time to get your lunch and get in your car to drive to the church parking lot where Holy Week-Easter Bags will be passed out with a chance to say hello to one another.

The Holy Week-Easter Bags will have a variety of materials to support your worship experiences for the week. Included in them are palm crosses made by a non-profit community in East Africa. There is also an Easter bookmark. The individual communion elements will be in the bag for Maundy Thursday. The list of those who chose to give "virtual flowers" to F.I.S.H. "in honor of" or "in memory of" will be included with a bulletin for Good Friday. And of course, it wouldn't be Eastertime without a chocolate treat. Drive-by time for pick-up is between 12 noon and 1:00PM on Palm Sunday.

There will be a service of worship and communion on Maundy Thursday at 7:30PM. We will live-stream this service from the Chapel. The next day, Good Friday, we have a service of remembrance prepared in our online format, and previewing at noon, April 2nd. A highlight of that service is an original monologue written by Kathleen Rogers. In it she allows the Innkeeper we met at Christmas talk about the news from Jerusalem.

Easter morning, at 10:30AM we will gather together, in-person, for worship on the outside lawn next to the big parking lot. We are blessed with this space because we can accommodate more than two to three times the numbers of people than can be inside the sanctuary with social distancing. What better way to welcome spring, celebrate Christ's Resurrection, and look to the future than to be together in worship! It's been awhile since we were able to do this so here are our outdoor worship guidelines.

### EASTER MORNING OUTDOOR WORSHIP: APRIL 4, 2021, 10:30AM

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

1. 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!
2. Come around 10:10-10:30AM to park your car. We'll have people to direct traffic. Some of you might be directed to park within the drives of our cemetery.

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**"Wish you special joy at Easter".**



**Happy Easter from Called to Care**



3. REMAIN IN YOUR CAR, ushers will come to you and show you where you may sit in order to maintain social distance. Spaces will be marked off for placing your lawn chairs. Please fill out the lawn area so more people can be together safely.
4. WEAR A FACE MASK! You might want to wear a hat – the sun is bright on the lawn area.
5. At 10:00 AM the service will begin. We will be live-streaming the service on FaceBook and Instagram.
6. There will be baskets placed around the area to receive any offering or offering envelopes you wish to leave.
7. The restrooms in the narthex are available should there be a need. We ask you practice sanitizing measures after use.
8. After the service the ushers will escort you back to your cars. Please remain seated where you were.
9. In case of inclement weather, the usual notifications for cancellation will go out on Saturday night. We can handle cool weather, but rain interferes with electronics!

Grace and Peace Rev. Clara

## Notes

### Gift Cards Church Fundraiser

Christ Reformed earns 2-16% rebate on gift cards purchased through the Scrip program. Order forms are available in the church office or you can set up your own Scrip account and order cards online by going to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) (please contact the church office for the enrollment code). You can also contact Gail Johnson at [gaillynn08@comcast.net](mailto:gaillynn08@comcast.net) to order your cards. 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.

### Soup Kitchen

We are in need of desserts for our April 4th Soup Kitchen. Please contact Judy at 301-371-4773 and let her know if you would like to provide desserts. Make sure the desserts are individually wrapped. You can drop off your desserts to Judy on the Parish House Porch between 1-2pm on Saturday, April 3rd. If you are unable to make it during that time, please contact Judy to make other arrangements.

### Live Stream Technology

We have begun the initial stage of design and installation of a system that will give us the ability to live stream services. Consistory approved up to \$24,000 to cover the costs of the upgrades. This work will be completed by Audio Video Group, Inc., who previously installed our sanctuary sound system. Funding for the project will come 1/2 from Memorial Funds and 1/2 from cash reserves; these would be offset by member contributions to "Live Stream Tech Project". You can contribute to this upgrade either by using Realm ([crucc.org/online-giving](http://crucc.org/online-giving)) or by sending a check to the Church office with "LiveStream Tech Project" in the memo line.

### AmazonSmile

Did you know that when you shop AmazonSmile using the church's link, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the FISH Fund. We received almost \$200 last year. It is easy to set up and use for all your Amazon shopping needs. Once you set it up, you can bookmark the link so that your browser will always open directly to the church AmazonSmile link. Simply visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0610448> and start shopping!

### Fun Facts About Our Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir.



The Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir is thrilled to be ringing again. We rang from September through the Christmas season and then, due to Covid numbers, we went on hiatus during January and February. We resumed the first week of March and will rehearse through the month of April. We are extremely excited to welcome a new ringer, Lara Wilson. She has fit right in and brings the enthusiasm a new handbell ringer adds to an ensemble.

You will learn more about her in the future.

*Ringer of the Month:* Gail Johnson

Gail joined our group in September though she began ringing handbells over 20 years ago. Gail loves spending time with family, especially her grandkids. Her hobbies include knitting, crocheting, cross stitching, and reading. Gail's favorite food is french fries. She loves the beautiful sound of the bells and says she is learning so many new techniques. Gail says it is another beautiful way to hear music. Did you know that in high school she was a left-handed catcher on the softball team and played on a ladies league?





Kids say the darndest things:

- A Jewish boy in grade school was listening to his Hebrew teacher quoting Scripture, "The Lord our God is One," the teacher declared. "When will He be two?" the youngster asked.
- An associate was putting her 4 year old son Luke to bed when he exclaimed "I am exhausted!" "Exhausted?" She said, "who says that?" "John Michael", replied Luke. "You know the song he sings that says, 'Be exhausted, O God, among the heavens.



- ◆ I want to give a shout out to those (children) who wrote letters for our service people. I am sure that your letter touched and warmed someone's heart. Thank you for your service to serve.
- ◆ Youth chat time is April 11 and April 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Zoom link is forwarded the week of the chat. I hope to see some of you get on to say hello.
- ◆ Screwtape Letters study begins at 7pm on Wednesday the 24th of March. It will run about 10 weeks, please join us, the more the merrier.



*Plan Your Calendar*

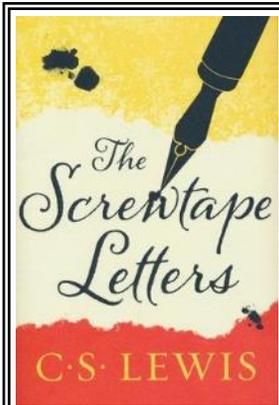


**Adult Book Study  
Sundays @ 5pm**

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

**Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday, April 3rd @ 2pm**

The Parish Life Board will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds. We are asking that each child bring a basket to collect their eggs, and we must ask for all to wear masks. Please email Gail at [gaillynn08@comcast.net](mailto:gaillynn08@comcast.net) if your child or children (include their ages) will be attending, so we have some idea of how many eggs we need to have ready for our hunt.



**Women's Study  
Wednesdays @ 7pm  
Begins 3/24**

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



*Operating Finances*

2021 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – FEBRUARY 28, 2021

	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Variant
Operating	\$74,518.05	\$75,715.58	\$66,806.19	\$7,711.86
Children's Center	\$89,960.26	\$145,146.82	\$91,971.13	-\$2,010.87
Global	\$164,478.31	\$220,862.40	\$158,777.32	\$5,700.99

*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.*



Sunday April 4th @ 10:30am

EASTER  
OUTDOOR WORSHIP  
SERVICE

Christ Reformed United Church of Christ  
Parking Lot, Middletown, MD  
*Details are provided in Rev. Clara's "Young Thoughts" article.*