



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

And he said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves."

Even the disciples could feel the stress of "burn-out" or just plain exhaustion from managing the day-to-day responsibilities. Although we have been isolated, working from homes, going to school virtually, unable to frequent recreation centers, we have spent a year filled with anxiety about our futures and exhaustions trying to manage our lives in isolation. And eating habits? Those have been all over the place as the stress of 2020 changed our lives. We had the "leisure" in that we didn't have to maintain our former schedules, but how we managed food was yet another stress point.

Now many restrictions are lifted, and we are beginning to go out. However, even now, in August of 2021, our "going out" is within a backdrop of a virus that continues to rage in this country and around the world. We so need to "rest awhile". In 2017 I felt that need. I was just tired, and I needed to rest and see a change in scenery. I needed "Sabbath Time" in my vacation time. We traditionally have gone to Davis, West Virginia for rest and recreation. While I was there, I did in fact relax and I also wrote this poem. The imagery is from the mountains, but it could be from a lakeside or the beach, or any other place where you find your emotional and spiritual center. This is the month of August – take the time to find your Sabbath time. Even Jesus and the disciples needed to get away.

SABBATH – TOUCHED BY GOD (-Clara Young, July 2017)

Antonym of stress-filled schedules
 Sabbath interrupts
 Re-creating present and past
 Future possibilities
 imagery of the Divine
 Droplets falling out of summer thunderstorms
 Joining water flowing ever onward
 Skipping over exposed memories of times long past
 Filling the void on the way to the sea
 Trickle to crescendo
 Taking stresses beyond the danger zones
 To calm waters flowing, curving, cutting new paths.
 Chirping sounds, rushing water, musical notes, Word proclaimed
 Sabbath whispers to our souls
 "Be still"
 "Be still and know"
 "Be still and know that I am God"
 "Be still"
 Morning yellow light illuminating forest floors
 Evening golden light bidding quiet rest
 Holy Presence
 Holy Nourisher
 Holy Protector
 Restlessness finding rest
 Sabbath taking – Holy finding



AUGUST

| | |
|--|---|
| Young Thoughts | 1 |
| Stewardship Committee Blessing of the Backpacks 80+ Club Bingo Book Club School Supplies Needed CRUCC Notes Midweek Bible Study Community Service Day | 2 |
| Kathleen's Korner Plan Your Calendar Operating Finances | 3 |
| Outdoor Worship Service | 4 |

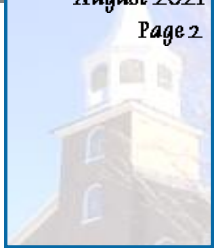
"This morning, the sun endures past dawn. I realize that it is August, the summer's last stand"
Where does the time go? Enjoy what is left of summer.



from Called to Care

Grace and Peace

Clara



A Message from the Stewardship Committee

As our church activities return to normal, it is appropriate to recall that Christian Stewardship entails much more than making efforts to strengthen and preserve our building and the viability of our church as a community of Christians who gather for worship each week. We are also called to follow the instruction from Jesus that we are to love our neighbors, and he defines this as meaning to reach out and help anyone who is in need of physical and emotional help, even those who are "foreigners," as the Samaritan was to the Jewish man who had been beaten by thieves on the road to Jericho. Those who have attended any UCC church for a period of years will recall that the denomination asks all congregations to collect a special One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering each year during the Lenten Season. Because of the COVID shutdowns and other reasons, this was not done earlier this year. OGHS funds collected from UCC churches is combined with funds from four other denominations and is used to fund disaster relief operations in the U.S. and around the world. As those who have gone on any disaster relief mission trip can attest, the trip's success relies on the earlier presence of a representative from one of the five denominations who brought a trailer filled with tools (shovels, rakes, hammers, saws, ropes, ladders, work gloves, masks, etc.), met with those in charge at the site, and lined-up the work assignments to be tackled by arriving groups of volunteers sent from churches far and wide. Therefore, because the need is great and growing, both in the U.S. and abroad, we are asking CRUCC members to make an offering to the OGHS fund on August 1st or 8th, in addition to their normal church offering. *Thank you, Sandy Oliynyk (Chair), Paul Fink, Bill Steigermann, Ed Higginbottom (Consistory Rep.)*

Blessing of the Backpacks



If you or your child is a student, teacher or other school employee we invite you to join us for this special part of worship on **August 15th**. Bring a backpack, briefcase or other symbol of your work or study and we'll join in praying God's blessings for the coming year.

80+ Club Bingo

We hope to be able to resume our 80+ Club in September. If you would like to attend, please give your name to Debbie at the church office, or contact Bunny at 301-662-8082. You will be included if you are not quite 80 but will be 80 by the end of the year. Everyone brings their own lunch with Called To Care providing beverage and dessert. Lunch is at Noon followed by Bingo until 2:00. Instead of the winner receiving a prize, winners are asked to donate \$.25 towards a charity to be decided. Our meeting schedule is the second Thursday of the month. Hope to hear from those who have attended and hopefully some new folks.

Book Club

The Book Club will resume in August! We'll be meeting at Fratelli's Restaurant at 11:30am on August 25th to discuss "Whistling Past the Graveyard" by Susan Crandall. On September 22nd, we'll meet at the same time and place to

talk about "What If It's True?: A Storyteller's Journey With Jesus" by Charles Martin. Hope to see you there.

School Supplies Needed

Middletown Valley People Helping People is collecting school supplies. Please place backpacks, school supplies and/or gift cards in the Bin in the Narthex or drop off to the church office before August 10th OR drop off to Middletown Fire Co. Activities Building August 11th from 10am-12pm. If you are unable to shop, you can send a check directly to MVPHP, PO Box 477, Middletown, MD 21769.

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. Also, if you would prefer to receive the notes at a different email address than the one we use, please let us know.

Midweek Bible Study

Wednesday Mornings @
8:00AM Via Zoom
with Pastor Clara

COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY: 9/11/2021 NEEDED: HOME PROJECTS IN MIDDLETOWN VALLEY

*Do you have a home project that needs more hands?
Do you know someone who would benefit from a home "rescue"?*

Put Community Service Day Volunteers to work on September 11, 2021.

- ♦ **Project examples: Painting, repairs, yard work, clean-up that can be completed by several people in 4 hours.**
- ♦ **Serving the elderly, people with disabilities, out of work, overwhelmed, injured.**
- ♦ **Contact Deb at 301-371-6500, ext. 203 to register your project.**

NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS!!

We are also looking for volunteers to help out. Please contact Debbie in the church office to add your name to the list if you are able to help.

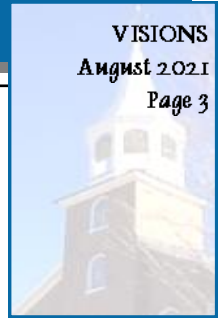


Signs and Wonders (sometimes you have to wonder about the signs) Here are a few to ponder:

- Sign at IRS office: "In God we trust; everyone else we audit."
- A popular speaker on humor and healing, Sister M.C. Macaluso, a.k.a "The Fun Nun" lives in Nebraska. Once driving by a church sign, it read: "Jesus Saves." And directly across the street was a grocery store sign that said "We save you more!"



- ◆ **Wednesday Evening Group** study to begin again on September 1st. Contact Kathleen for the Zoom Link. We will be doing a study on Fearless Conversation "Why Is Grace So Amazing". You can find the book on E-bay, it is a 13 week course. It is by Group with discussions from Acts, Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians and 1 Thessalonians. Book cost \$5. Sessions will start at 7pm. Hope to see you in the fall.
- ◆ **Sunday Evening Group** will resume on September 12th at 5pm. Contact Kathleen for the Zoom link.
- ◆ **Bowling Anyone?** August 22, we will be bowling at Terrace Lanes. We will leave the church at 12:30 and return by 4pm. I hope to see some of our children/youth ready to have a good time. It has been a while since we were able to do this, so let's have some FUN! Cost is \$13 per person. Sign up sheet in the narthex.
- ◆ **Anyone Interested in seeing the Newsboys?** At Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena in Baltimore on October 31, 2021 at 7pm. Floor tickets start at \$59. Sign up sheet in the narthex no later than Sept. 12th.
- ◆ **Needed:** aluminum cans (all sizes) and paper towel tubes for crafting projects.
- ◆ **Youth Sunday School** back in our space upstairs will resume on September 12th at 9:30am. It will be our kick off, wear your pajamas day. We will have snacks and juice as we get reacquainted. Hope to see you there.
- ◆ **Adult Sunday School** (that met off the chapel area) will resume on Sept. 12th at 9:30am.
- ◆ **Christian Ed Meeting** on August 2, 2021 at 7pm.
- ◆ **Youth Lemonade Stand Fundraiser** on August 15 at our outdoor service. Please be sure to stop by. All the proceeds will go to Barnabasaid to help feed the less fortunate.
- ◆ **Youth Meeting** on August 15—I would like to meet with all the youth (grade 6-12) on Sunday, August 15th at 1pm for about 30 minutes. Please place this on your calendar as I feel it is important that we meet.



Plan Your Calendar



Ice Cream Sunday
August 8, 2021

Following the 10:30 Service
Hosted by Parish Life Board

Ladies Only "Chill Night"

Main Cup
Middletown, MD

August 20th @ 6:30pm

Come and enjoy fellowship and food. Add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex by 8/16.

Operating Finances

2021 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – JUNE 30, 2021

| | Actual Income | Budgeted Expenses | Actual Expenses | Variant |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Operating | \$178,587.00 | \$227,146.74 | \$187,703.95 | -\$9,116.95 |
| Children's Center | \$368,853.25 | \$435,440.46 | \$310,060.05 | \$58,793.20 |
| Global | \$547,440.25 | \$662,587.20 | \$497,764.00 | \$49,676.25 |

*Christ Reformed
United Church of Christ*

Rev. Clara Young, Pastor

In Person & On-Line Worship
Sunday Worship 10:30am
Sunday Coffee Hour 11:30am

August Church Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm/Fri 9am-Noon
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

*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.*

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

- ♦ We will be live-streaming on FaceBook and Instagram.
- ♦ There will be baskets placed around the area to receive any offering or offering envelopes.
- ♦ The children and youth will have a Lemonade Stand for us to enjoy. This is a fundraiser for one of their projects.

Sunday, Aug 15 @ 9:30am
Parking Lot of Christ Reformed United Church of Christ
Middletown, MD

The graphic features a blue sky with white clouds and a green field in the background. The text 'OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE' is written in large, green, outlined letters. Below it, there is a cartoon illustration of a yellow pitcher and a glass of lemonade with lemons. The word 'lemonade' is written in a stylized, bubbly font. A list of three bullet points is enclosed in a semi-transparent white box. At the bottom, a white box contains the date and time 'Sunday, Aug 15 @ 9:30am' and the location 'Parking Lot of Christ Reformed United Church of Christ Middletown, MD'.