



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



You may or may not have noticed the news clip a couple of weeks ago that our Local Church Profile has been posted on the United Church of Christ Opportunities website. We are officially in the position where the Search Committee is receiving Profiles. All this leads me to these words to you as your Interim.

1. This is the part of this transition period where you as a congregation will know the least about what is going on. The Search Committee is bound by confidentiality. So even though curiosity will arise here and there, trust them to be diligently doing their task.
2. No one knows the answer to the question – “When will we know who has been chosen to be advanced to the congregation as the candidate of choice for the next settled pastor?” As I told the Committee – it will take as long as it takes. Their task is to prayerfully consider the Profiles (by the way those are “hefty” documents!) of persons who are seeking a new call to a local church ministry. They get a new set of Profiles about every two weeks. Each one is evaluated and the Committee does the hard work of discernment and consensus.
3. I am a great believer in the work of the Holy Spirit in this work because I have seen it. Therefore, your task is to lift your prayers to God as known in the Holy Spirit to guide the CRUCC Search Committee in their discernment and also to guide interested candidates in their discernment.
4. It is entirely likely that 2021 will bring with it a change in pastorate to your next Settled Pastor. Positive anticipation is a good thing. You as a church are ready for this new phase of your life.
5. According to the way the United Church of Christ determines ministers, the Search Committee does the “heavy lifting” of interviewing, vetting, considerations. When they reach a consensus, they will present one candidate to you the congregation and ask for congregational vote to call that person. Even though you won’t be involved in the process at this stage, you will have a good introduction to the candidate.
6. 2021 is a year of hope. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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"For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way; Good health, good luck and happiness for today and every day".
Health, luck and happiness to all.



Happy St. Patrick's Day
from Called to Care

Grace and Peace.
Rev. Clara

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.

Congratulations to the New Consistory Officers

President: Joe Kroener
Vice President: Edward Fontaine
Secretary: Terri DeLloyd

Thank you for your willingness to serve your church during this coming year.

Board/Committee Update

Thank you to the following that have volunteered to serve on a Board or Committee. The new additions are as follows:

- ◆ Stewardship: Sandy Oliynyk, Paul Fink
- ◆ Ushering Coordinators: Nancy Vom Lehn, Bill Falconer
- ◆ Children's Center: Angie Stillisano, Kristi Lare, Mike Remsberg, Melissa Estes

We still have one open position on the Christian Ed Board and the Nominating Committee. There are two open positions on Stewardship. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Chris Johnson.

Vaccination Help?

Do you, or someone close to you, need support to navigate the internet in order to register for a vaccination? One of our members has graciously volunteered to help. Please contact the church office and we will pass your contact information on.

Main Street Parking Lot Update

Last September, the Town approached us about leasing a piece of land on our green space (12-14 East Main St.) which is just east of the Weagly House. The Town has been interested in potentially using this area for parking and they were looking at creating 15 parking spaces on the land proposed to be leased from us. After ten years, we would have the option of having the Town return the land to its green space, or extending the lease. This issue was presented at our annual meeting where it was stated that if the Consistory came to an agreement with the Town in some form, we would eventually involve the Congregation in a vote.

At their February meeting, the Consistory voted to decline the offer because of a number of concerns. The most serious issue was that such a venture was incongruent with our mission on the use of that property, and how the nearby Weagly House and CCCC playground might be impacted. Much thought and soul searching went into this from both the present and the prior Consistory board. In addition, we thank all members who provided us feedback on the parking proposal offer.

Settled Pastor Committee

Our Church's Profile has been posted in the UCC Opportunities. Now the work of discernment begins for our

committee as they read candidates' profiles and identify a match for CRUCC. Please keep them in your prayers.

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship. This offering is taken by all Christian denominations and supports more than 100 relief projects around the world. This year's OGHS offering is on **Sunday, March 14th**. You can mail your offering to the church office. Simply write a check to the church and note it "OGHS."

Fun Facts About Our Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir.

Did you know the largest bell ever to have ever existed in recorded history is the 300-ton Dhammazedi bell? Cast in 1484 by King Dhammazedi of Mon, this bell was located at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Rangoon, Burma (Myanmar). It was 20 feet tall and 13 feet wide! The bell remained at the pagoda until 1602. That

year, Portuguese warlord and mercenary Philip de Brito removed it and attempted to carry it on a specially constructed raft down the Yangon Riger to Thanlyin. However, the raft carrying the bell sank at the confluence of the Yangon and Bego Rivers. The Dhammazedi bell remains buried to this day, possibly well preserved beneath some 25 feet of sediment. Numerous attempts have been made to locate and recover the bell, thus far without success.

Ringer of the Month: Brenda Fogle

Brenda has been playing two years. Brenda loves to hear how her notes blend to make a full song. She loves the friends she has made playing bells. Brenda enjoys singing and being with her kids and grandkids. Her favorite food is seafood/crabs. She says that something unique about her is that she likes to think outside the box.



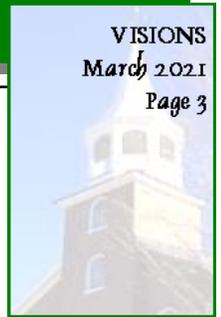


Sometimes you just need to laugh:

- “The only thing some folks give up for Lent are their New Year’s Resolutions.”
- Will Rogers said: “I bet any Sunday could be made as popular at church as Easter if you made them into fashion shows too.”



- ◆ Chat time with MS/HS --- March 7th and 21st- just a time to say hello and chat briefly to catch up. Hope to see you there at 12 noon. Link to be sent via email.
- ◆ Thank you to Tracy and Judy for helping to deliver the Valentine’s Day bags, I could not have done it without you. And to the children who created the beautiful cards, thank you so much.



Children’s Center News

For the last few years, some of the CCC staff have spent Super Bowl Sunday serving at the Soup Kitchen in Frederick. As expected, this year looked very different. Rather than making a meal and serving it in person on a plate, this year we made 125 brown bagged meals that our school age class helped fill with water, chips, granola bars, fruit cups and hoagie sandwiches. We are always grateful for the opportunity to give back and serve our community! We want to thank our school age class for their help prefilling the bags on Friday, and for our "super-aides" Ms. Emma & Ms. Audrey for spending their Sunday making the sandwiches fresh for delivery!



Operating Finances

2021 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – JANUARY 31, 2021

	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Variant
Operating	\$51,399.72	\$37,857.79	\$43,060.18	\$8,339.54
Children’s Center	\$45,079.18	\$72,573.41	\$45,958.67	-\$879.49
Global	\$96,478.90	\$110,431.20	\$89,018.85	\$7,460.05

*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

*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.*

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- ♦ Lenten Candle Liturgy – as part of our Sunday morning worship the person giving the call to worship will have a lighted candle. After appropriate words to begin a service of worship in Lent, that candle will be extinguished. As part of a Good Friday service, the last candle will be extinguished. On Easter morning, all seven candles will once again be lit.
 - ♦ Midweek Meditation – During Lent, “Young Thoughts” will be dedicated to three traditional practices for this season: prayer (Justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self), almsgiving (justice towards others). We will try to move beyond only giving up chocolate or chewing gum to the implications of Lenten Practices.
 - ♦ Lenten/Easter Bags – Although we have no idea where we will be in this pandemic by the first of April, we will be putting together Lenten/Easter Bags similar to what we did for Christmas Eve. These bags will include the Communion Elements for Maundy Thursday. They will have a bit of palm branch since they will be distributed on Palm Sunday. They will have the worship aids for Easter morning.
 - ♦ Maundy Thursday Service – We will have a Maundy Thursday service that will include communion.
 - ♦ Good Friday Service – We will have a time for worship on Good Friday
 - ♦ Easter Morning – April 4th we will celebrate Christ's Resurrection.