

Volume XXXVII
 Number V
 May 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

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
 Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?
 God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
 We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.*

Verse 1, hymn by Julian Rush, 1985

March 8, 2020, the second Sunday in Lent, was the last Sunday our congregation gathering for inside worship. May 1, and May 2, the weekend of the fifth Sunday of Easter, our congregation will be gathering for one of two weekly services held, once again, inside the sanctuary of our church. Thanks be to God!

What will it be like? What will be different? What will be familiar? The answers vary for each question. Yet, the answers aren't what is important. We will gather in worship inside the sanctuary while sharing our time of worship with the broader online community participants as we allow the Holy Spirit to work among us, renewing us and leading onward to our journey into the future.

We will gather around the Sacred Table and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Those who join us online are encouraged to have some bread and drink, for you too are invited to the Table. Seeking to experience the Holy Spirit touch our lives and receiving God's Grace in the ancient ritual of our faith, we will begin the newest journey of Christ Reformed United Church of Christ.

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
 We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever,
 now and evermore.*

Grace and Peace Rev. Clara



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"Happy Mothers Day" to all mothers... "A mother understands what a child does not say."
 ~Jewish Proverb



Welcome Spring!
"Where flowers bloom so does hope". ~Lady Bird Johnson
 from Called to Care

IN-PERSON WORSHIP
Saturday, 5/1 @ 5pm
Sunday, 5/2 @ 10:30am

- ◆ Use Sign-Up Genius links that was sent via email
OR
- ◆ Call the church office and give Debbie your name, service date, and the number of people who will be attending.



Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir.



It is with mixed emotions that I must inform you that I need to resign as handbell director of the Jubilate Deo choir. David and I have given this much thought. We feel we are needed, on a more consistent basis, to help with Alister's care. This means that we will be putting our home on the market and moving to the Annapolis area as soon as we return in August from our volunteer summer

in Wisconsin. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the group and hope that you will work hard to find someone new to direct.

Thank you for this opportunity

Ringer of the Month:

Can you guess who our Ringer of the Month is? She has been playing handbells on and off for about six years. She works a lot but when not working likes to gather with friends. Her hobbies include jigsaw puzzles and crossword puzzles. Her favorite food, if they are cooked correctly, is scallops. She loves to play handbells because she loves music and enjoys the sound of the bells. Something unique about her is that she likes pigs feet! Do you know who this is? It's Kathleen!!

Graduation Information Needed

If you or a member of your household is graduating from college or high school, please send their information to the church office by **May 13th**. Please include the graduate's name, school and any future plans.

Easter Egg Hunt



On Saturday, April 3rd, we had our Easter Egg Hunt. Yes, it was different this year with the pandemic. We were outside the entire time, and it was, basically, just hunting for the eggs. But, all had a great time. We had a very small but energetic group of kids and lots of eggs for them to find. It was great to actually see folks in person,

and I believe all had a really good time. Thanks to all the folks who donated candy and other items to fill the eggs.

Middletown Food Bank Donations

The Discipleship Board continues to collect items for the Middletown Food Bank. There is 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.

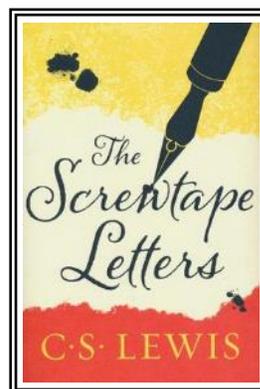
Live Stream Technology Donations

We have completed the installation of the 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 was 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) or by sending a check to the Church office with "LiveStream Tech Project" in the memo line.



**Adult Book Study
Sundays @ 5pm**

Please contact Kathleen at kathleen.rogers1@comcast.net for the link.



**Women's Study
Wednesdays @ 7pm**

Please contact Kathleen at kathleen.rogers1@comcast.net for the link.



Kids say the darndest things:

- After church on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I have decided I am going to be a minister when I grow up." "That's okay with us," the mother said, "but what made you decide to be a minister?" "Well," the boy said, "I'll have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit still and listen."
- Three small boys were bragging about their fathers. The first boasted that his dad owned a farm. The second one boasted that his dad owned a factory. The third boy, a pastor's son replied: "that's nothing, my dad owns hell." "No way," another boy scoffed. "How can a man own hell?" "Sure he can," the preacher's son said. "My mom told my grandma that the elders of our church gave it to him last night."



- ◆ Just letting you all know that although we are inside the building for worship, we will continue to share Sunday school through zoom until further notice. In May SS will go back to being 9am. I will sometimes ask you print out things for the lesson as I have done in the past.
- ◆ Children's story time will look different on Sundays as the children will be getting your message from their seats in the pews. I will forward your story to you at least 2 weeks in advance, so that you have preparation time. The Psalms readings will be suspended until further notice.
- ◆ Adults: for upcoming projects I would like to do with the children over the summer, please start saving toilet tissue and paper towel rolls. Also, any canned goods you use please clean out the can and save for me. I will need mostly 8 oz and 15 oz cans.
- ◆ Screwtape letters study group is still going and anyone who would like to join us is more than welcome. We read 3 chapters a week (because they are usually only about 3-5 pages each). And we discuss the questions at the end of the reading. For those who feel inclined to want to join, please reach out to me and I can get you started. Do not worry about not having the books, we can make it work. The first Wednesday of May we will be on chapters 18,19 and 20, answering the even questions.

- ◆ The children and I have spoken about an upcoming project that we want to pursue, it involves sponsoring a child, the cost is \$6 a month. I asked the children would they be willing to donate \$.50 a month to this cause and they agreed to do so. I am asking Mom's and Dad's, could you please help your child with this endeavor? It would be a great way to help them understand stewardship. I will continue to look into this project and keep you informed as we move forward.



Operating Finances

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

| | Actual Income | Budgeted Expenses | Actual Expenses | Variant |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Operating | \$99,615.53 | \$113,573.37 | \$96,622.91 | \$2,992.62 |
| Children's Center | \$153,405.71 | \$217,720.23 | \$141,908.68 | \$11,497.03 |
| Global | \$253,021.24 | \$331,293.60 | \$238,531.59 | \$14,489.65 |

*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.*

GROWING PROJECT

The Growing Project committee is looking forward to another successful year in 2021, raising funds for Growing Hope Globally. This is our sixteenth year of working toward helping our brothers and sisters rise out of hunger and poverty. We know we have made a real difference in the lives of many people around the globe. Please continue to support the Growing Project through your prayers, donations, and presence at our events throughout the year. For this year, we chose to sponsor the Haiti Mole St. Nicolas program. This program works with farmers in a severely food insecure region of Haiti where lack of roads and infrastructure prohibit many non-profits from working in that area. We liked that this program works with water issues in that region, both with providing access to a spring for drinking, and helping folks with better means of fishing to conserve resources. Please note these 2021 Growing Project events on your calendar and plan to join us:

- ◆ **Sunday, May 23 from 4:00-8:00pm – Chipotle Fundraiser**
- ◆ **Sunday, June 13 @ 3pm – Blessing of the Seed**
- ◆ **Saturday, Sept. 18 – Sub Sale**
- ◆ **October 17 @ 2:30pm – Harvest Celebration**

We are always grateful for corporate sponsors and individuals who sponsor an acre or portion of an acre on the Growing Project farm. For more information, please contact Bill Steigelmann at 240-490-5880.



**GROWING
HOPE**
G L O B A L L Y