



Volume XXXVIII  
 Number I  
 January 2022

# 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



A New Year is a time of beginnings. This year, Christ Reformed UCC, it is a time of endings and a time of beginnings. It is a time of hope and possibilities.

In early January you will meet as a congregation and decide whom will be the next settled pastor in the long traditions of pastoral leadership at this church. On January 30 we will be together as Interim Pastor and congregation for the last time. I am delighted to report that our Conference Minister will be with us this Sunday for the Service of Release. Rev. Freeman Palmer has been the CAC contact for your Search Committee. He has provided invaluable guidance and counsel during since the Local Church Profile went officially online. We are grateful for his service and look forward to his presence on January 30.

Two years ago, January 2020, I interviewed for the position of Interim Pastor and was selected. I began my ministry with you June 1, 2020. Between January and June, the world changed. Our country and our church were in a lockdown. No one wanted to shut the doors to the sanctuary. It was necessary. A wonderful Reopening Committee was formed to monitor the community spread and to make the decisions that would help keep us safe. I can't thank them enough for their dedication.

Together we reinvented how to be church and how to facilitate those ideas as an Interim. There was no roadmap. There were ideas and people willing to try new ideas. We all discovered that Zoom meetings meant we didn't have to drive anywhere after dinner. We found out that meaningful discussions could happen in adult studies conducted on Zoom and that those gathered might come from places throughout the US. We figured out how to conduct (and vote) in Annual Congregational Meetings so the business of the church could continue. We discovered how to continue serving meals for the Supper Club and collect food for the food pantry. We learned how to film worship services and thanks to the talents of the Worship Team, how to put those pieces of film together into a meaningful whole. We made the decisions about an air filtering system to clean the air in the sanctuary and invested in live-streaming equipment. I dare say none of those things (or the way they were done) was on the radar in January 2020!

You as a church learned how to take care of one another in meaningful ways. Cards, phone calls, goodie bags all help connect people together. As you move into your new future with your new Settled Pastor you will need to continue to do these things. The difference will be he will be able to visit more in our post-lockdown world. He will be able to get to know you sooner and better because he will see you in worship. Slowly and surely, we are moving toward that safer place.

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One of the things that suffered in this pandemic-driven time has been your (congregational members) participation in the nuts-and-bolts of making a church work. Some who have been faithful servants can no longer physically do what they once did. Some of you got out of practice when church was limited to the comforts of your home. CRUCC needs many helpers from everything to being willing to serve as a member of the Consistory to preparing the elements for Communion or setting up the music selections for the Carillon. Your new Pastor is not going to be able to do all these jobs! And it would be rather unwelcoming to assume he would! The church needs your time as well as your financial gifts. Please decide to take on at least one job and together it will make a big difference.

As is always the practice when leaving an Interim position, I will be looking at you from afar, but I will not be in contact with you. I will not be available for weddings, funerals, or anything else. Although I use Facebook as a contact point with many people, I will not be responding with comments or likes to postings related to CRUCC activities or members. You will always have a place in my heart – but for a time – there is distance.

The year 2022 is a year of new beginnings. May it be a blessed beginning for all at Christ Reformed UCC!

Grace and Peace

*Clare*

Plan Your Calendar



Wednesday  
Jan. 12 @ 7pm  
Main Cup

God on Tap is an opportunity for members and friends of CRUCC to gather to come to know each other and to wrestle with some of life's great (and small) questions.

.....on Tap!

Add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex. For more information, please contact Christine Fontaine at [97cfontaine@gmail.com](mailto:97cfontaine@gmail.com).

SETTLED PASTOR  
**CANDIDATE**  
WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022

- 6:30-8:30 PM: Open Zoom hours will be held to allow congregation members to join in an open discussion with the candidate. Zoom Meeting information will be sent out via email.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2022

- 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: The Search Committee will host an in person gathering in the chapel space at CRUCC. Coffee and breakfast snack items will be provided. Chairs will be setup to safely allow for conversation with each other and the candidate
- 2:00-4:00 PM: Open Zoom hours will be held to allow congregation members to join in an open discussion with the candidate. Zoom Meeting information will be sent out via email.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

- 10:30 AM: The candidate will lead worship and preach. After worship, we will hold a congregational meeting to vote on the call to our new pastor. For those that wish to attend the congregational meeting virtually, the Zoom Meeting information will be sent out via email.

If you have any questions, please contact  
Jesi Bell-Godfrey (Chair) at [cruccsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:cruccsearchcommittee@gmail.com)

Special  
Congregational Meeting

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9**  
**10:30am Combined Worship**  
**Meeting to Follow**

Join us in person or via Zoom to vote on the call of our new pastor.

**Contemporary Service**

Due to calendar conflicts the Contemporary Service will take a break until the new Settled Pastor begins his ministry with us. During the month of January there will be one worship service at 10:30am in the sanctuary.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Laughter is the Best Medicine:

- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- What's faster, hot or cold? Answer: Hot because you can catch a cold.
- How many men were born in the 1920's? Answer: none, only babies were born.



- ◆ Coming Soon: New Fellowship Gathering. This is for those who might not like night driving or want their significant other to come along. I will be introducing a fellowship luncheon for families.
- ◆ Wednesday Night Ladies Study: Ladies do not forget to pick up your book for our upcoming book read. It is located in the narthex. This next group read will start on Feb. 2nd. Wednesday at 7pm. Hope to see you there (ZOOM). **We will be discussing "Woman of Honor" based on Proverbs 31. Please have chapter one read.**
- ◆ Children: I appreciate all your work put into making some of our seniors happy. You worked very hard and I appreciate you and so do they. Thank you Jean, Marcia, MK, and Faith for filling in for me when I had other responsibilities to attend to on those Sundays.
- ◆ Sunday Night Group: We will not meet on Jan. 2. Our last meeting for this study will be on January 16.

## Stewardship Update

As of Dec. 26, here are the initial reports from our Financial Secretaries, Paul Fink and Nancy vom Lehn.

**Total Pledge Amount: \$169,716    Average Pledge: \$2,737.35**



- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 62 Total general Fund Pledges             | 5 Pledges for the first time     |
| 14 Pledges increased                      | 6 Pledges increased 1% - 10%     |
| 26 Pledges remained the same              | 6 Pledges increased 11%-50%      |
| 10 Pledges decreased                      | 2 Pledge increased more than 50% |
| 12 Pledges stated they would give as able |                                  |

## Operating Finances

### 2021 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – NOVEMBER 30, 2021

	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Variant
Operating	\$302,551.69	\$416,435.69	\$314,536.93	-\$11,985.24
Children's Center	\$753,905.03	\$798,307.51	\$597,050.32	\$156,854.71
Global	\$1,056,456.72	\$1,214,743.20	\$911,587.25	\$144,869.47

*Christ Reformed  
United Church of Christ*

Rev. Clara Young, Pastor

In-Person Worship  
Sunday Worship 8:15am

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

Church Office Hours  
Mon-Fri 9am-3pm  
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*

Mrs. Missy Payne, Director  
Mrs. Jesi Bell-Godfrey, Asst. Director  
6 Weeks—5th Grade  
Mon-Fri 7:00am – 6:00pm  
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 16**  
**9:15am in the Chapel**

*Join us in person or via Zoom*



***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!*