



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.



Inside Kyle's Head

The season of Christmas is past...well, nearly. January 6th is the twelfth day, when Christmas is done. Now comes the season of resolutions. This season is a much shorter one. The NPR show "Hidden Brain" recently said 25% of us break our new year's resolutions by the third week of January! Keeping our resolutions is so much harder than making them! There are a couple reasons why this happens.

One is that maybe we aren't inspired by our resolutions. We want to do something to improve ourselves, but our resolutions tend to be along the lines of losing weight or quitting a habit: correcting something we see as wrong or incomplete. Resolutions that are positive—wanting to learn a new skill, training for something you've always wanted to do—tend to be more successful because we are inspired to work at them.

Another, more key reason resolutions fail is that we see them as something we alone have to do. Using the example of weight loss, I think I am the only one responsible for what I eat, and when that desire for gratification overwhelms my willpower, I give up. Author and pastor Rick Warren says relying on willpower is never enough; what we need is Godpower.

We might think of God-power as simply spiritual: praying, meditating, things like that. Prayer certainly is a foundation for our resolve, because prayer keeps us connected with God. But faith is not a one-to-one relationship between me and God. It is communal, it is that fullness of life in God is found in our relationships with others.

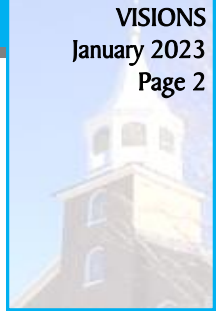
Part of keeping our resolutions, then, is recognizing what others around us do that supports or undermines our effort to keep our resolutions. Does that person say "Eat some cookies; they won't hurt you" or "Hey, since you're not eating cookies, I'm going to not eat any when you're around"?

Life, and faith, is a shared experience and it is amazing the profound effect we can have on each other's lives. We need other people, to rely on them for strength, to be the one they can rely on when they need help. That is how God weaves us together as a community. That sort of openness, of vulnerable hospitality, makes real here-and-now the realm of Christ's love we all yearn to experience.

Kyle

Inside Kyle's Head	1
Be the Church Series Stewardship Update Pledge Cards Offering Envelopes Annual Congregational Meeting Inclement Weather FISH Fund Volunteers Needed	2
Plan Your Calendar	3
CRUCC Holiday Highlights CCCC Highlights Thank You Note	4
Around the Congregation Operating Finances	5
Annual Meeting	6





Be The Church Series

We continue with our monthly series on the "BE THE CHURCH" that we as UCC members speak so much about and hold as our claim as followers of Christ. On January 22, Sue Wickless will present a segment on "Care for the Poor". We hope you join us and bring a friend.

Stewardship Update

Stewardship pledge cards were mailed in November. To date, we have received 61 pledges in the amount of \$183,183. You have the option to submit your pledge cards by mail or electronically using our Realm software (contact Debbie if you need help setting up your Realm account). Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the church and our ministries.

Pledge Cards

Did you know that your card is used for more than just to share your pledge for the coming year?

- You can request offering envelopes for the coming year
- You can request assistance in setting up online giving through the REALM application
- All of your contact information (address, phone number, preferred email) is confirmed and updated.

Please Please Please complete and return your card to church. You can drop it in the mail in the provided envelope or drop it in the collection plate. Feel free to contact Nancy vom Lehn or Paul Fink for questions about your pledge. Thank you in advance for helping us to update our church records.

Offering Envelopes

If you would like offering envelopes for 2023, please contact Paul Fink or Nancy vom Lehn. Requested envelopes will be distributed in January.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held in the Chapel on **January 22nd at 9:15am** in the Chapel. The meeting is a time to look back over the past year, elect officers, and consider any other business brought forth by members. Please plan to join us.

Inclement Weather

In the case of inclement weather you can get the latest word on our Sunday morning worship plans by checking the church's answering machine or by visiting the church's web page at www.crucc.org.

The FISH Fund

Each month members of the church or residents of the community come to the church seeking financial assistance. It may be mounting utility bills, an overdue medical or car repair obligation, a family emergency or it may simply be for groceries or gas. The pastor responds to those requests using the FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) Fund, which is made up of gifts from members of the congregation. We invite you to help support this source of aid to people in need. You can simply write a check to the church and note it "FISH Fund."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Coffee Hour Hosts

Each week one of the best ways we have to make new and renew old connections with members and friends of the church is at the coffee hour. We have the supplies of coffee, tea and juice. All that's needed is one or two people to set out the items and do a bit of clean up afterward. Many people provide a simple munchie (fruit or veggies or cookies) but that is not a requirement. If you would like to host once or twice during the year, please contact Debbie in the church office.

Children's Story Worship Leaders

We are also looking for volunteers to provide the children's story element to our worship. We will provide the lessons and any props you might need. Please contact Wendy Campbell if you are interested in helping out. Even once every few months would be very helpful.

Psalmist

We are also looking for volunteers to help out with the Psalm readings. If your child is currently not part of the rotation and would like to be, please contact Debbie in the church office.



Guys Night Out

Main Cup
1/16 @ 6pm

Join us for fellowship & food.
If you plan to attend, please RSVP
to Bob Galey bbertgaley@hotmail.com
or text or call 301-8022.

The 80+ Club



Wednesdays @ 7pm
Meets via Zoom beginning January 11
Contact Sue Wickless for more info



On December 11th, our Annual Christmas Cantata offered an evening that filled the Sanctuary with beautiful songs of praise and worship. Our ecumenical community of performers made hearts and spirits soar in preparation for the arrival of the Christ child.

On December 18th, the congregation received the Good News of Christmas from some of the youngest members of our community of faith, as they performed "Twas the Night of Jesus Birth".



Children's Center Highlights



It has been a busy month for the children's center. We held our Annual Children's Christmas Concert on Friday, December 16th for our 2's -Pre-K classes. A huge Thank You to Mrs. Terry Sparks for all of her time and patience to prepare them for this. We also had special visitors come on December 20th! Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus talked with each child and handed out books to them. Thank you Mr. Mike Locke for coordinating their visit.



Thank You Note

We would like to say thank you for the beautiful Oasis of Light Service Wednesday December 21st. We have been going to this service for eight years now. This service Debbie & I feel is very special as it's a reflection time of the past and present. This reflection can mean many things as Pastor Kyle touched on. Candles are lit with a remembrance said after each by the Pastor and answered by the congregation. Silent reflection time throughout the service gives individuals time to reflect on life and family losses etc. Beautiful piano music enhanced the experience as well as the songs sung by the Concordia Choir. A small communion concluded the services and the singing of Silent Night.

Merry Christmas, Mike & Debbie Locke



LAYREADERS

January 1 Dick Burd
January 8 Bunny Cramer
January 15 Andrew Corl
January 22 Gail Johnson
January 29 Paul Fink

USHERS

January 1 Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
January 8 Team 4
January 15 Team 5
January 22 Team 6
January 29 Team 1

ALTAR FLOWERS

January 1 Wendy Campbell
January 8 TBD
January 15 TBD
January 22 TBD
January 29 TBD

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

January 1 Linda D. & Bill S.
January 8 Laura & Tony Verdi
January 15 Bunny Cramer & Dick Burd
January 22 Consistory
January 29 Discipleship Board

CHILDREN'S STORY

January 1 Wendy Campbell
January 8 Bill Steigelmann
January 15 Amanda Murphy
January 22 Meagan Fogle
January 29 Kyle Powderly

PSALMIST

January 1 N/A
January 8 Isaac Cummings
January 15 Declan Murphy
January 22 Scott Fogle
January 29 Alice Barnett

Church Attendance

NOVEMBER 2022

	8:15 am	10:30 am
November 6	21	59
November 13	N/A	75
November 20	21	50
November 27	27	50

Community Service: 90



Operating Finances

2022 Operating Finances Year-to-Date – NOVEMBER 30, 2022

	Actual Income	Approved Budget	Budgeted Expenses	Non-Budgeted Expenses	Total Expenses	Variant
CRUCC	\$316,732.31	\$449,431.00	\$360,910.10	\$60,016.76	\$429,125.06	-\$112,392.75
CCCC	\$828,119.32	\$933,455.87	\$739,454.92	\$21,670.01	\$742,511.80	\$85,607.52

Per recommendations from the Annual Budget Meeting, adjustments were made to this table and financial reports were modified to provide a more clear picture of the finances. The CRUCC Non-Budgeted Expenses (which include sound system upgrades for both the Chapel and the Sanctuary, a new HVAC system and a portion of the new van purchase) will use funds from the Capital Improvement Fund and the Memorial Savings Account. The CCCC Non-Budgeted Expenses were due to funds that were inadvertently omitted from the 2022 CCCC budget, but will be included going forward.

*Christ Reformed
United Church of Christ*
Rev. Kyle Powderly, Pastor

In-Person
8:15am Contemporary Worship
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
6 Weeks—5th Grade
Mon-Fri 6:30am – 6:00pm
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.*

Annual Congregational Meeting

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
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!