

Volume XXXVIII  
Number II  
February 2023

# 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 church season of Lent begins this month, on Ash Wednesday—a 40 day journey (not counting Sundays) to the Cross. Lent is everything that Advent was not: Serious instead of joyous, about giving things up rather than getting gifts, Jesus being executed rather than born. Advent and Christmas are easier than Lent and Easter because it's easier for us to focus on the joy of Jesus coming than it is on the parts of life that reminds us of why we need Jesus.

Yet Lent is a beautiful season as well. While Christmas draws a connection between birth and love, Lent and Easter help us ponder the connection between death and love. We don't truly understand how Jesus' death on the cross accomplished God's plan for humankind; there are more ways to explain it than there are headstones in any cemetery, all of which fall short of completeness. What we do know is this was God Become Human doing this willingly for us, in love for every single human being who ever lived, lives, and will live.

This Lent, let us focus and reflect on that truth: That God did this because God loves you, and God loves your neighbor who occasionally does something that annoys you, God loves politicians and CEOs, God loves the über-wealthy as well as the poor, God loves the addict who ODs and the family that addicts hurts over and over...and if the very worst person who ever lived was the only human being ever created, God would still make this sacrifice for them, in love.

What kinds of sacrifice can we make, in love, for God this Lent?

Recently you should have received a letter in the mail from Consistory asking you to update your information and status with the church. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to take a few moments to do so today. For those of us who prefer pen-and-paper, there is a form with the letter you can fill out and get back to us in any number of ways. Or, you could do the quick and easy thing, if you haven't already.

In the letter you received and on the back of this issue of Visions there is a QR code—open the camera app on your smartphone or tablet, point it at the code and tap whatever pops up on screen. It will take you to the Google Form webpage of the survey. I promise you, it will take only 2-3 pain-free minutes to complete the form—I know, because I did it the other day.

So, don't stress out but, please, fill the form out one way or the other. It's simple, it's a great help for us all!

*Kyle*

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### **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 February 26 during worship, Jean Galey will present a segment on "Share Earth & Spiritual Resources". We hope you join us and bring a friend.

### **Book Club**

Our Book Club will meet at Fratelli's at noon on the February 28th to discuss The Maid by Nita Prose. "This quirky murder mystery is narrated by a lovable heroine who will steal your heart." Please contact Charlotte Hanson at [hansonc3306@gmail.com](mailto:hansonc3306@gmail.com) for more information. New members are always welcome!

### **Ash Wednesday**

The season of Lent, the 40 weekdays between Ash Wednesday and Easter, is a time given to spiritual reflection and exploration. In the early centuries of the church the observance was only a few days long, but after the Council of Nicaea in 325 it was extended to forty days. That number mirrored the fasts of Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Observance was very strict. Only one meal a day was eaten. Meat, fish and eggs were forbidden. In modern times the emphasis on fasting has been reduced, but Lent is still a season given to greater prayer, contemplation and service. We'll observe the beginning of Lent with a worship service on Ash Wednesday, **February 22nd at 7pm** in the sanctuary.

### **Church Access**

If you need access to the church during the week, please contact the Director, Missy in the Children's Center directly at 301-371-0360 or Debbie in the church office for access to ALL church facility spaces.

### **Growing Project Update**

We're so pleased to report that our local Growing Project raised a total of just under \$25,000 in 2022. I think that's probably a record! Thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthwhile cause. I know the beneficiaries in East Timor will be very appreciative of our gift.

### **Stewardship Update**

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.

### **Altar Flowers for 2023**

The 2023 Altar Flower Chart has been posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to honor, remember, or celebrate a special person or occasion, or simply want to enhance our worship service with flowers on the sanctuary altar, please add your name next to that date. A member of the Altar Guild will contact you near that time with complete details. Our altar arrangements are designed by C.M. Bloomers and cost \$62.00. Special requests are available at an additional cost.

### **Coffee Hour**

Beginning this month, we will be offering Coffee Hour BETWEEN the two services on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of each month. We will continue to offer Coffee Hour following the 10:30 service for the remaining Sundays. The Boards will have the option to meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month during the Coffee Hour between services.

### **Officer Installation**

Each year we recognize and install the new members of our Consistory, Boards and Committees. Please join us on **Sunday, February 5th** at both services as we affirm their leadership.

## **MOST NEEDED ITEMS**

### **FOOD ITEMS**

- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup
- Coffee
- Instant Potatoes
- Crackers
- Sugar
- Flour
- Jam or Jelly
- Oatmeal
- Juice
- Canned Fruit



### **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**

- Toilet Paper
- Bars of Soap
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Hand lotion
- Facial Tissue
- Paper Towels



### **Discipleship Board Direct Giving**

- \$2,000 to the Religious Coalition
- \$1,000 to Advocates for Homeless Families
- \$1,000 to Heartly House
- \$300 to I Believe In Me, Inc.
- \$500 to Frederick County Mental Health Association
- \$200 to Hoffman Homes

### **Religious Coalition New Emergency Shelter**

- \$325 collected at our Cantata

### **Fish Fund and Other Friends In Need**

- \$2,800 was collected

### **Middletown Valley Food Pantry Collection**

- Over 900 food pantry items collected

### **Middletown Valley People Helping People**

- Gift cards and school supplies collected for Back to School
- \$1,305 in gift cards collected for "Adopt a Family" at Christmas

### **Middletown Valley Weekend Food Program**

- Cases and bags of food items were collected

### **Frederick County Public Schools**

- Cases and bags of food items were collected
- \$250 in Gift Cards, 10 Hams and over 30 bags of clothing collected for Annual Spring Clothing Give-Away
- Over 15 bags of clothing collected for Annual Fall Clothing Give-Away
- Over 48 lbs of pet food and treats collected for Middletown High School Club "Middletown Organization for Animals" to distribute to Meals on Wheels recipients pet owners

### **Community Living (White Gifts)**

- Provided over 176 toiletry items and \$155 in gift cards

### **Frederick County Soup Kitchen**

- Six meals provided and served throughout the year

### **Heartly House**

- Toiletry and health care items were collected

### **Growing Project**

- \$1,900 was donated

### **UCC Special Offerings (5 for 5)**

- \$22,000 for Our Church's Wider Mission
- \$1,115 for One Great Hour of Sharing
- \$425 for Strengthen the Church
- \$630 for Neighbors In Need Fund
- \$675 for the Christmas Fund
- \$200 for Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative

*Thank you! to everyone who participated in the community outreach efforts listed here. This is just a sampling of the many ways our congregation reaches out to the community. We can make a difference!*





## **CONSISTORY**

### **Elders**

Wendy Campbell, Renee Brandenburg-Huffer, Gail Johnson, Laura Verdi

New: Laura Fontaine, Nancy vom Lehn

### **Deacons**

Paul Fink, Jason Moser, Bob Woods, Judy Zeck

New: JJ Bell-Godfrey, Rich Potter

## **CHAIRPERSON OF CONGREGATION (1 year term)**

Madelyn Cross

## **CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Skip Lare, Greg Shipley, Sharon Thomas

New: Dale Biggs, Richard Kefauver, Scott Montgomery, Keith Staley

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD**

Max Beadle, Meagan Fogle, Melissa Miller, Sue Wickless

New: Jean Galey, Kathy Powderly

## **CHURCH PROPERTY BOARD**

John DeLauder, Bill Falconer, Griff Garwood, Terry Hill, Jason Moser

New: Garry vom Lehn

## **DISCIPLESHIP BOARD**

Judy Brandenburg, Linda DeLauder

New: Shirley Keller, Emily Mathis, Sarah Petermann

## **PARISH LIFE BOARD**

Connie Bell, Margaret Brandenburg, Marty Estell, Brenda Fogle

New: Marda Blain, Be' Hill, Karen Koogler, Jan Stock

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1 year term)**

(Deacon), (Elder), (Cemetery Board)

New: Edward Fontaine

## **CHURCH & MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Kevin Martin, Pat Joy

New: Kathy DeLauder, Gregg Petermann, Jenny Powell

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Charlotte Hanson, Susan Keller, Tony Verdi

New: Pat Joy, Jenny Koontz, Beth Scott

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (2 year term)**

Bill Steigelmann

New: Barb Ware

## **USHERING COMMITTEE**

Nancy vom Lehn

## **FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Debbie Bruns, Terri DeLloyd, Susan Keller, Tony Verdi

New: Dale Biggs, Griff Garwood

## **CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER**

Missy Payne (*Director*), Terri DeLloyd, Mary Garwood, Mike Remsberg





Below is a list of current members that we are unable to locate. If you have contact information for any of these Members, please contact Debbie in the church office.  
Thanks!

Carol Anticevich  
Sherri Bentzel  
Doris Bidle  
Wesley Bidle  
Betsy Boyce  
Elizabeth Brewer  
Deborah Brown  
Jonathan Burket  
Caitlyn Cartlidge  
Emily Cartlidge  
Maribeth Champoux  
Kevin & Misty Clements  
Misty Clements  
Elizabeth Cofrancesco  
Jon Cofrancesco  
Stacey Collins  
Jessica Cone  
Mandy Cook  
Todd Crum  
Andrew Dahlen  
Laura Dahlen  
Peggy Dahlen  
Sarah Dahlen  
Brett Deavers  
Mike Deavers  
Brooke Deavers  
Hollie Divel  
Barbara Eccard  
Joseph Forsythe  
Katelyn Forsythe  
Cheryl Fox  
Kenneth Fox  
Kevin Fox  
Wendy Frazier  
Lynn Gartrell  
Courtney Geiser  
Larry Geiser  
Sarah Gentile

Brenda Gipe  
Gary Gipe  
Joanne Harstad  
Joni Hector  
Nicholas Herrmann  
Cecil Holter  
Chris Huffman  
Eric Jones  
Sam Jones  
Terry Jones  
Lynette Kaufmann  
Joyce Kefauver  
Mary Kefauver  
Erin Kelly  
Jennifer Kinsey  
Karl Koops  
Martin Kriete  
Jill Latterner  
Cathy Lepine  
Margaret Lewis  
Taylor Long  
David Lowman  
Lauren Lowman  
Tyler Martin  
Jillian McLaughlin  
Alex Mekkelson  
Karen Moberly  
Mykenzie Montgomery  
Bernard Murphy  
Kathy Murray  
Chelsea Nutter  
Perry Nutter  
Kaitlyn O'Brien  
Pauline Reeder  
William Remsberg  
Lois Rhoderick  
Katlin Rogerson  
Heather Rudisill

Kara Rudisill  
Judy Rye  
Stephanie Rye  
Vic Rye  
Jack Saunders  
Gloria Schroeder  
Laura Schultz  
Andreas Schwarz  
Valerie Schwarz  
Ted Scott  
Janelle Shank  
Debbie Simpson  
Kevin Simpson  
Todd Smith  
Robin Smyers  
Terri Stork  
Jean Stout  
Denise Stull  
Douglas Stull  
William Thurman  
Phillip Tucker  
Nathan Vallette  
Heather Vollmer  
Tiffany Vollmer  
Christine Ward  
Daniel Warren  
Joshua Weichert  
John Wickhizer  
Dakotah Wiles  
Grace Wood  
Eric Young  
Kristin Young  
Amy Zecher  
Lisa Zecher  
Scott Zecher

## Operating Finances Year to Date (Ending December 31, 2022)



<b>CRUCC</b>	Actual Dec 01, 2022 - Dec 31, 2022	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Offering Income	\$ 17,764.40	\$ 258,621.17	\$ 125,898.83
Grant/Loan Revenues	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (10,000.00)
Investment Income	\$ 536.99	\$ 11,059.12	\$ (11,059.12)
Other Income	\$ 5,511.11	\$ 60,864.52	\$ 5,796.48
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 23,812.50</b>	<b>\$ 340,544.81</b>	<b>\$ 110,636.19</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 19,490.53	\$ 223,930.56	\$ 19,271.44
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 2,666.93	\$ 8,567.74	\$ 1,732.26
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 639.00	\$ 1,831.76	\$ (81.76)
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,025.70	\$ 18,706.02	\$ 17,193.98
Utilities	\$ 4,165.92	\$ 33,370.30	\$ (3,470.30)
Building & Property	\$ 443.83	\$ 81,363.25	\$ 5,136.75
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,121.95	\$ (121.95)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 9,641.38</i>	<i>\$ 146,361.02</i>	<i>\$ 19,988.98</i>
Ministry Expenses	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 30,054.18	\$ 3,895.82
Designated Expenses (See Note)	\$ 410.05	\$ 63,858.81	\$ (63,858.81)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 35,041.96</b>	<b>\$ 464,204.57</b>	<b>\$ (20,702.57)</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$ (11,229.46)</b>	<b>\$ (123,659.76)</b>	<b>\$ 131,338.76</b>

*CRUCC Designated 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.*

<b>CCCC</b>	Actual Dec 01 2022 - Dec 31 2022	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Operating Income	\$ 52,519.50	\$ 771,258.00	\$ 214,442.00
Grant/Loan Revenues	\$ -	\$ 92,733.00	\$ (92,733.00)
Investment Income	\$ 1,768.33	\$ 1,841.19	\$ (1,841.19)
Other Income	\$ 40.40	\$ 12,034.75	\$ (4,278.88)
Designated Income	\$ 202.07	\$ 5,130.68	\$ (5,130.68)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 54,530.30</b>	<b>\$ 882,997.62</b>	<b>\$ 110,458.25</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 52,134.33	\$ 641,743.96	\$ 135,711.91
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 5,447.47	\$ 63,596.14	\$ (96.14)
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 165.48	\$ 2,723.42	\$ (223.42)
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,521.93	\$ 24,570.55	\$ (15,070.55)
Utilities	\$ 281.14	\$ 2,832.56	\$ 167.44
Building & Property	\$ 6,625.00	\$ 68,854.00	\$ 6,146.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 1,916.52	\$ 583.48
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 14,041.02</i>	<i>\$ 164,493.19</i>	<i>\$ (8,493.19)</i>
Designated Expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,450.00	\$ (2,450.00)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 66,175.35</b>	<b>\$ 808,687.15</b>	<b>\$ 124,768.72</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$ (11,645.05)</b>	<b>\$ 74,310.47</b>	<b>\$ (14,310.47)</b>

## Ladies Chill Night

**Modern Asia**  
**2/24 @ 5:30pm**

*Come and enjoy fellowship and food.  
Add your name to the signup sheet in  
the Narthex by 2/22. Contact the church  
office for more details.*

## Guys Night Out



**Main Cup**  
**2/13 @ 6pm**

Join us for fellowship & food.  
If you plan to attend, please RSVP  
to Bob Galey at [robertgaley@hotmail.com](mailto:robertgaley@hotmail.com)  
or text or call 301 712-8022.



**Monday**  
**2/6 @ 6:30pm**  
**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!**

For more information, please contact  
Christine Fontaine de Servellon at  
[97cfontaine@gmail.com](mailto:97cfontaine@gmail.com).

**Online**  
**Lectionary Based Bible Study**  
**8am Wednesdays w/Pastor Kyle**



Contact Kyle at [kyle.crucc@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.crucc@gmail.com)  
for the Zoom Link.

## The 80+ Club

**Lunch, Bingo & Fellowship**

**February 9**  
**Noon to 2pm**  
**Coffee Hour Area**

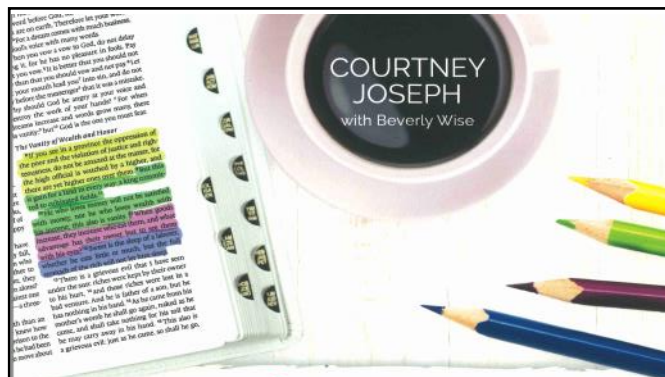
Add your name to the sign up  
sheet or contact the church  
office.

B I N G O				
5	18	27	24	21
1	42	28	2	23
11	13	★	7	34
10	8	29	36	8
44	6	43	31	13

B I N G O				
22	14	5	16	13
2	27	36	40	10
8	44	★	13	17
7	11	4	1	18
24	21	34	42	39



**Downstairs Discussion Group**  
**Sundays @ 9:15am Social Room**  
Contact Bill Steigelmann at 240-490-5880 for more information.



## Ecclesiastes

Wisdom for Living Well

AN IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY

Women's Study Group  
Wednesdays @ 7pm via Zoom  
Contact Sue Wickless at  
[saw114@comcast.net](mailto:saw114@comcast.net) for more info





## LAYREADERS

February 5	Sue Wickless
February 12	Laura Fontaine
February 19	TBD
February 26	Kathy Powderly

## USHERS

February 5	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
February 12	Linda D, Bill S.
February 19	Ed Higginbottom, Be' Hill
February 22	Ryan Murphy, Judy Zeck
February 26	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke

## ALTAR FLOWERS

February 5	TBD
February 12	Margaret Brandenburg
February 19	TBD
February 26	TBD

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

February 5	Linda DeLauder & Bill S.
February 12	Laura & Tony Verdi
February 19	Wendy Campbell
February 26	Christian Ed Board

## CHILDREN'S STORY

February 5	Gregg Petermann
February 12	Edward Fontaine
February 19	Wendy Campbell
February 26	Kyle Powderly

## PSALMIST

February 5	Isaac Cummings
February 12	TBD
February 19	Scott Fogle
February 26	Alice Barnet

# Church Attendance

## DECEMBER 2022

	8:15 am	10:30 am
December 4	18	63
December 11	22	64
December 18	18	88
December 25	Not Recorded	

Christmas Eve Services—Weather Cancellation

## *Memorials*

**Ron Shapard died on January 16, 2023.**

A service celebrating his life was held  
on January 28, 2023

# Children's Center Highlights



CCCC would like to congratulate Ms. Beth on her 10 year anniversary at CCCC! Beth started as a 2's teacher in 2013, the next year she moved to the Preschool class (3's) and has been there ever since. She has taught so many children in this community and has been such an asset to CCCC. Thank you Ms. Beth for your years of service and dedication.



*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.*

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We need to hear from you!

The Consistory is in the process of updating our membership information. Please keep an eye out for the Membership contact form that was mailed and emailed to you. Please return it to the church or complete it electronically using one of the

links by Friday, February 10, 2023.

Thanks for your help!



<https://forms.gle/rCK53VrHIJE7y9Wm8>