

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

A friend and colleague is very careful to differentiate between others being raised from the dead in the Bible and Jesus' resurrection. One of the greatest singular things of Jesus' resurrection is that it was done by one human (who is also God) for all humankind. It was accomplished not as a get-out-of-hell-free card in the theological game of Monopoly™ but to open the doors of our lives to newness of life.

I have to wonder how many of Jesus' disciples in the hours and days after his resurrection were reminded of God's statement through the prophet Isaiah, "I am doing something new; can you recognize it?" (Isaiah 43:19) Is God's new thing a replacement; out with the old/ in with the new? The Hebrew there indicates it could be replacement, or it could be a refreshing...a breathing of new life into something.

Jesus' manifestation after resurrection was a demonstration not of newness through replacement, but newness through refreshment, reinvention. While Jesus most definitely died and rose again from the dead, it was not as a ghost or a completely rehabbed body—the story of the apostle Thomas in John's gospel says that Jesus still bore the wounds of his torture and crucifixion.

Jesus' marks on his resurrection body remind his followers that our life in Christ does not replace this life, but is a radical reinvention, a renovation and upgrade, to our life in this reality. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God takes the life you and I have and breathes new life into it, build upon it, transform the broken or deteriorating parts, adding to the beauty that God has already made us. And, like any renovation, it is not once-and-done but an ongoing work of newness—maybe as often as "new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23).

Each day offers newness, offers the potential of eternity lived out in the here-and-now. With that perspective, then, we are invited to look at other people through the eyes of the potential that lies within them as well. It is that perspective that helps us bring that resurrection newness to the world around us.

May you see and feel and experience that newness this Easter and in the days to come!

Kyle

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Walking the Labyrinth

The labyrinth is an ancient aid to spiritual development. Walking its path mirrors the journey pilgrims made to Jerusalem and other holy sites and provides a means of deepening one's own spiritual journey. On **Good Friday, April 7th**, the labyrinth will be set up in the chapel from **1:00-6:00pm**. Hosts will be there to answer questions and help you experience the labyrinth.

Congregational Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed and sent back their congregation survey. The Church and Ministry committee sent out 280 surveys and received about 25% of them back. All the responses and the many comments have been shared with Pastor Kyle and the Church and Ministry members. Overall, the comments were positive about our church. Most of the concerns listed were not too surprising: low attendance; the few number of young families and children and the church's current finances. All the responses will be shared with the Consistory so they, along with Pastor Kyle, can continue to lead us in our walk with Christ.

Pastor Kyle's Installation Service

You're invited to Pastor Kyle's Installation Service on Sunday, April 30. There will be only one service at 10:30. A deli luncheon will be served immediately after worship. Please sign up on the sheet found in the Narthex. Pastor Kyle's installation service will be held directly after the luncheon. We hope you'll join us in this celebration!

Easter Morning Continental Breakfast

Parish Life annual Easter Sunrise Continental Breakfast will be held at **7:15am** in the Coffee Hour Space. We will be serving bagels, muffins, fruit, juice and coffee. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are planning on joining us. Everyone is welcome!

Easter Egg Hunt

The Parish Life Board will host an Easter Egg Hunt for children through 5th grade on Saturday, April 8th, from 2 to 3:30pm. We will meet in the Social Room for some activities, followed by the hunt. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for names and ages of those planning to attend.

Book Club

Our Book Club will meet at Fratelli's at noon on Tuesday, April 25th to discuss The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett. "This novel, charting the different fates of identical twin sisters, examines the bonds of sisterhood, Black identity, and defining oneself". New members are always welcome! Please contact Charlotte Hanson at hansonc3306@gmail.com for more information.

Coffee Hour Hosting Opportunities

We still have a few dates available if you would like to host Coffee Hour. Please contact Debbie in the church office if you are interested.

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 April 23 during worship, Meagan Fogle will present a segment on "Embrace Diversity".

Frederick School of Religion

The 39th Frederick School of Religion is offering eight classes covering a broad range of topics starting April 17, 2023 on Monday and Tuesday afternoons (1-3PM) and Monday evenings (7-9PM), for six weeks. They will meet at Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 W Patrick Street. For more information and registration forms, you may visit www.frederickschoolofreligion.org or call 240-651-1865 or 240-490-5657. All courses are eligible for up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units.

Melanoma Fundraiser

In honor of her daughter, Amy Hill, who lost her life to Melanoma, Be' Hill will be walking for the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) on May 6. If you would like to read Amy's story and support this cause, please go to Be's team's webpage: <http://join.melanoma.org/goto/forever21>. Thank you for any support you can give.

Women's Book Study

Have you ever felt you struggled to find your faith footing? As part of Amberly Neese "Untangling Faith" book study, we will be led by Sue Wickless and Wendy Campbell as we will explore the questions Jesus asked as a way to reclaim that faith. Chapters explore our own questions like Can God Be Trusted? and How Can I Grow in Faith. Amberly's unique humor and wit help find our way through deep and rich issues of personal faith, doubt, and growth. Study is on Wednesdays at 7pm via Zoom and will begin on April 26th. Please contact Sue Wickless at saw114@comcast.net for more information.

Church Access

This is a reminder that anytime a church member may need to enter the Church during the hours of Monday-Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm, you must check in with the church office or center office, even if you have a key, to let them know you are in the building so that you can be accounted for. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in this matter to make sure that we are all safe.



Ladies Chill Night

Outback
4/28 @ 5:30pm

*Come and enjoy fellowship and food.
Add your name to the signup sheet in
the Narthex by 3/22. Contact the church
office for more details.*



Monday
4/17 @ 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.

Guys Night Out



Main Cup
4/24 @ 6pm

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

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



Contact Kyle at kyle.crucc@gmail.com
for the Zoom Link.

The 80+ Club

Lunch, Bingo & Fellowship

April 13
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 @ 9:15 am
Coffee Hour Space

Contact Bill Steigelmänn. @ 240.490.5880 for more info.

Women's Study Group

UNTANGLING FAITH

Reclaiming Hope in the
Questions Jesus Asked

AMBERLY NEESE

Wednesdays @ 7pm via Zoom
Beginning April 26th
Contact Sue Wickless at
saw114@comcast.net for more info.



Children's Center Highlights



March was a busy month here at CCCC! Our students went on a Leprechaun Hunt to look for the Pot of Gold for St. Patrick's Day, Pre-K had their pictures done with their caps and gowns for graduation, Ms. Terry music classes and the Middletown Library has returned since Pre-covid to conduct Story Time with the children. We love building these community relationships with our neighbors and the children really enjoy the stories and songs!

We have also partnered with the Frederick Sheriff's Office and FEMA to participate in the Security Assessment At First Entry (SAFE) to assess our center and the church for safety vulnerabilities. On March 9th, we had a meeting with a person from Homeland Security, the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Department of Emergency Preparedness, Paul Fink, church member and Missy Payne, CCCC Director to walk through our building to access any security vulnerabilities. The center staff, church staff and some members of the church were also able to participate in the CRASE training, which is The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events training here at the church on March 27th. This training is to provide strategies, guidance and a plan for surviving an active shooter event, so that anyone who attends the children's center, works or worships here, can do so safely and be prepared.

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Thank you to everyone for your cards, messages and visits during my recent illness. They were very much appreciated. ~Judy Brandenburg



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 2nd Palm Sunday

8:15am & 10:30am

On this day we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

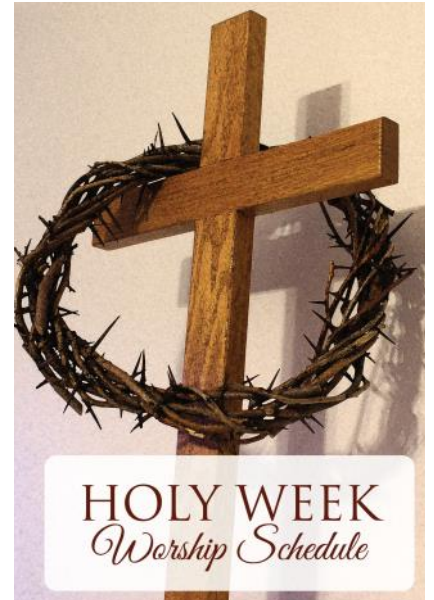
Thursday, April 6th Maundy Thursday

7:00pm

"Yes, come and mourn awhile. But mourn not as one without hope. For over the crest of that lonely windswept hill is a garden where stones dance and tombs sing, a place where tears become streams of living water.

There in the light of a never-ending sunrise stands a new yet ancient tree, a tree that, once heavy with death and despair, now springs forth with a bounty of joy and praise. All that hunger and thirst may gather in the

garden and rest beneath the arms of this everlasting tree. Look, weary pilgrim. See, the harvest is waiting. By faith reach up and take. Eat and be forever changed" (Joseph Martin). We'll share communion as part of the service.



Friday, April 7th Good Friday

1:00pm to 6:00pm

The story of Christ's crucifixion is humbling and has very personal meaning for each of us. On Good Friday the church's labyrinth will be set up in the chapel between 1:00 and 6:00pm. You are invited to use it as an aid in journeying into the mystery of Christ's death.

Sunday, April 9th Easter Sunday

6:30am, 8:15am & 10:30am

We'll celebrate Christ's resurrection at three services of worship. We'll gather for sunrise in the gazebo in the cemetery at 6:30am. Following the service the Parish Life Board will host a continental breakfast in the Coffee Hour Space. We'll then celebrate worship with communion at our 8:15am and 10:30am services.

Operating Finances Year to Date (Ending February 28, 2023)



CRUCC	Actual Feb 1, 2023 - Feb 28, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
Revenues			
Offering Income	\$ 24,075.83	\$ 78,097.06	\$ 318,247.51
Grant/Loan Revenues	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ (7,500.00)
Investment Income	\$ 57.75	\$ 4,864.32	\$ (4,864.32)
Other Income	\$ 3,927.00	\$ 8,037.43	\$ 52,932.57
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 35,560.58	\$ 98,498.81	\$ 358,815.76
Expenses			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 18,683.15	\$ 37,857.17	\$ 231,581.40
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 586.69	\$ 1,716.10	\$ 7,783.90
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,168.52	\$ 4,567.37	\$ 20,383.63
Utilities	\$ 4,837.18	\$ 9,724.25	\$ 23,475.75
Building & Property	\$ 746.71	\$ 24,007.94	\$ 53,992.06
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 8,339.10</i>	<i>\$ 40,015.66</i>	<i>\$ 112,635.34</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 2,296.00	\$ 22,804.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 66.42	\$ 66.42	\$ 6,683.58
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 66.42</i>	<i>\$ 2,362.42</i>	<i>\$ 29,487.58</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 27,088.67	\$ 80,235.25	\$ 373,704.32
Net Total	\$ 8,471.91	\$ 18,263.56	\$ (14,888.56)

CCCC	Actual Feb 1, 2023 - Feb 28, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
Revenues			
Operating Income	\$ 73,793.50	\$ 161,131.49	\$ 801,823.27
Investment Income	\$ 6.15	\$ 12.71	\$ (12.71)
Other Income	\$ 3,815.40	\$ 3,955.80	\$ 5,244.20
Designated Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 77,615.05	\$ 165,100.00	\$ 807,054.76
Expenses			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 54,907.34	\$ 107,224.21	\$ 677,530.55
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 3,647.79	\$ 7,803.24	\$ 64,196.76
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,850.17	\$ 4,463.57	\$ 28,736.43
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 562.28	\$ 2,437.72
Building & Property	\$ 4,430.41	\$ 9,520.96	\$ 63,179.04
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 90.51	\$ 171.51	\$ 3,328.49
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 11,018.88</i>	<i>\$ 22,521.56</i>	<i>\$ 164,878.44</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 65,926.22	\$ 129,745.77	\$ 842,408.99
Net Total	\$ 11,688.83	\$ 35,354.23	\$ (35,354.23)



LAYREADERS

April 2	Paul Fink
April 9	Wendy Campbell
April 16	Sue Wickless
April 23	Gail Johnson
April 30	Laura Fontaine

USHERS

April 2	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
April 6 Maundy Thursday	Ed Higginbottom, Be' Hill
April 9	Ryan Murphy, Judy Zeck, Debbie Locke, Mike Locke
April 16	Laura Verdi, Nancy vom Lehn
April 23	Judy Brandenburg, Wendy Campbell
April 30	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 2	TBD
April 9	Diana Corl
April 16	Nancy vom Lehn
April 23	TBD
April 30	Church & Ministry

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

April 2	Terry Sparks & Madelyn Cross
April 9	Parish Life Breakfast
April 16	Mike & Debbie Locke
April 23	Susan & Dick Foot
April 30	Installation Luncheon

SOUND TECHS

April 2	Nick Fink
April 6 Maundy Thursday	Tony Verdi
April 9	Pat Joy
April 16	Tony Verdi
April 23	Tony Verdi
April 30	Pat Joy

CHILDREN'S STORY

April 2	Gregg Petermann
April 9	Wendy Campbell
April 16	Bill Steigelmann
April 23	Amanda Murphy
April 30	Kyle Powderly

PSALMIST

April 2	Isaac
April 9	Scott
April 16	Alice
April 23	Isaac
April 30	Scott

Church Attendance

FEBRUARY 2023

	8:15 am	10:30 am
February 5	30	62
February 12	23	48
February 19	20	44
February 26	21	74

Ash Wednesday—36

EASTER WEEK OFFICE SCHEDULE

April 7 Good Friday—Office Closed
April 10 Easter Monday—Office Closed
April 14th—Office Closed

Debbie will be on vacation from April 7th through April 14th. Kyle will be available in the office Tuesday, April 11th through Thursday April 13th between 10am and 2pm. Please call the office prior to stopping by in case Kyle is out visiting or running errands.

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

In-Person
8:15am Contemporary Worship
In Person & On-Line Worship
Traditional Worship 10:30am

1st & 2nd Sunday
Coffee Hour 9:30am

3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays
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

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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.*



Catoctin Association
Central Atlantic Conference
United Church of Christ



Service of Installation of Rev. Kyle Powderly

The Catoctin Association of the Central Atlantic Conference, United Church of Christ, and Christ Reformed United Church of Christ in Middletown cordially invite your presence and prayers for the Installation of the Reverend Kyle Powderly as pastor to the congregation.

Sunday, April 30, 2023

10:30am Blended Worship

12:00pm to 1:00pm Luncheon

The Service of Installation will immediately follow.