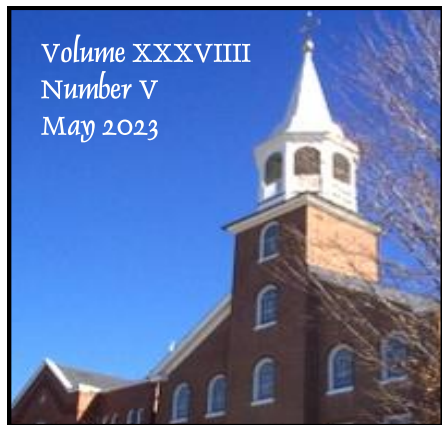


VISIONS

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

Having new cats after a few years of living fur-free has been a time of adjustment, not the least of which is sleeping arrangements. Our previous two cats enjoyed sleeping on the bed near or up against us, but one of our new kittens, Fiona, wants to be under the covers.

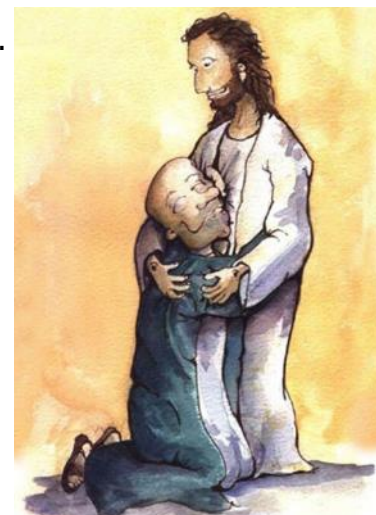
Recently, I got up in the middle of the night, and when I came back to bed Fiona did her usual: came up to the top of the bed, between my pillow and Kathy's, and signaled she wanted under. Half-asleep, I obliged, and she proceeded to tunnel down beside my torso and then my legs, and curled up against my shins and feet. Soon I couldn't hear but I could definitely feel Fiona purring. I did nothing to prompt this; until that moment Fiona and Irazu (her brother) only purred when Kathy or I pet or brushed them.

The "awww" factor aside, purring actually has a physiological benefit: domestic cats' purrs are at a frequency that stimulates cell healing and growth. Not that cats only purr when they're feeling injured or sick, because anyone who's been around a cat long enough knows they more often purr because they are happy and content.

Fiona was purring not because of anything I had done, but simply because she was snuggled up against me and that made her happy. In the darkness I wondered: had I ever been this way toward God? Have I ever been happy just to be in God's presence, have I ever sought to be with God, even for a short time, as a beloved pet might do snuggled against us?

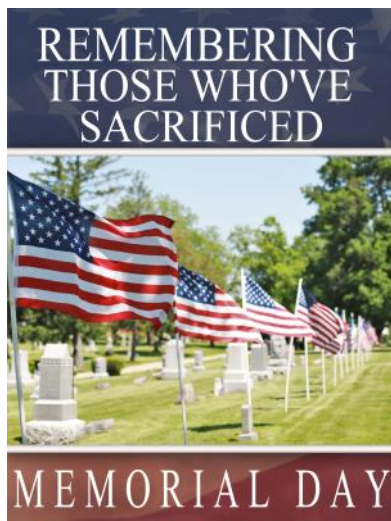
Anglican pastor Henry Martin painted Thomas' encounter with the risen Jesus in the image here. The expression on Thomas' face could not be more contented to be wrapped in the arms of God Become Human.

I invite you to join me in a post-Lenten discipline of thinking about and creating ways in our day to simply be in God's presence, to allow it to suffuse the space and time we are in at that moment, and to practice being content there. And may that time lead to a clarity of life where we begin to find, to make, peace in all spaces and live the "life more abundant" (John 10:10) that Jesus promises.



Kyle

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Book Club

Our Book Club will meet at Fratelli's at noon on Tuesday, **May 23rd** to discuss The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd. "Join us as we go back in time to 1739. This is a historical fiction account of real-life Eliza Lucas who becomes the first person in the American colonies to produce commercial grade indigo".

New members are always welcome! Please contact Charlotte Hanson at hansonc3306@gmail.com for more information.

Strengthen the Church

On **May 28th**, Pentecost Sunday, we'll be collecting the Strengthen the Church offering, "On Holy Ground", which goes to support new and renewing churches in the UCC and to aid in developing the spiritual life of youth and young adults. Half of the offering will be used to support programs of our own Central Atlantic Conference. You can write a check to the church and note it "Strengthen the Church". You can find more information about this offering at <http://www.ucc.org/stc/>.

Sunday Staffing

Terry Sparks and Kyle are the only staff who actually work on Sunday mornings. Debbie Bruns is "just" a member of the church on Sundays and is not here as staff. We might remember something we need to ask her or talk with her about church business and we speak with her then and there, while she is not "on the clock." This is a boundary all of us should be encouraged to cultivate. If you have something related to the business of the church you need to discuss with her, please take a moment to write yourself a reminder, and then call the office on Monday.

Donations Needed

We continue to collect items for the Middletown Food Bank, weekend backpack food program, and Heartly House domestic violence shelter. As you shop this month, please pick up a few items and bring them with you to worship. For a detailed list of items needed by Heartly House, please visit their website at www.heartlyhouse.org. Collection boxes are found in the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel.

Memorial Hall Boundaries

As the alley between Weagly House and Memorial Hall has its initial paving done and there are parking spaces behind the house and tenants in the house, it might be tempting to go down to check out the building project. Memorial Hall is still a construction zone, and poses a hazard to people on the property who are not part of the project. So, please refrain from going down the alley. Thank you.

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 15th**. Please include the graduate's name, school and any future plans. We will recognize graduates at both of our worship services on **May 21st**.

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. Our next will be presented this month. On May 28 during worship, Meagan Fogle will present a segment on "Embrace Diversity".

Upper Room

Our May/June edition of The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guides, in both large print and small print size, are now available in the entry area at the back of the Sanctuary. Please contact the church office if you would like one mailed to you.

Community Day of Service—September

Our Community day of service, in partnership with Holy Family, MUMC, and Zion Lutheran churches, is looking for home projects to be done. Examples of projects are indoor/outdoor painting, repairs, yard work, cleaning. Are you in need of assistance on small home projects or know someone that is? If you are in need of assistance, please contact Renee Brandenburg-Huffer at aquatictraining@aol.com for more details.



RaiseRight™



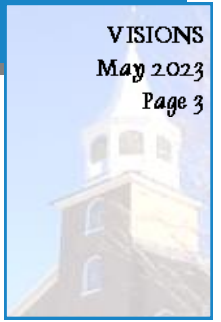
Did you know that you can donate to the church while you are grocery shopping or eating out? With every gift card you purchase from the church through the Raise Right program (formerly SCRIP), a portion of the value of the gift card is donated right back to Christ Reformed. For a list of the participating merchants, look for the order forms in the Narthex or go to the Raise Right website (<http://www.raiseright.com>). Questions? Call the church office or see Gail Johnson.

ENROLL ONLINE

<https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=3124C59B3388L>



CCCC had a great Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday, April 6th
The parents donated over 1,000 eggs for the children to pick up!



2023 Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Metal Recycling

Every Sunday from approximately 8:30am until 12:00pm in the Holy Family Catholic Community parking lot, Bill Traube and a core of volunteers collect any kind of metal, aluminum cans, steel, etc. All of the proceeds go to support 1) the local Middletown Ministerium Day of Service projects; and 2) local charities such as the Myersville Area Growing Project, Frederick Rescue Mission, Religious Coalition, Mission of Mercy, etc. In 2021, they donated over \$17K to these charities. All are encouraged to bring their scrap metal for a good cause. Arrangements can be made for picking up large items by contacting Bill Traube at 240-457-3953.



DISASTER RELIEF FUNDRAISER

We raised \$2,230 to support the UCC Disaster Relief efforts in Türkiye and Syria. All donations have been sent to the Global H.O.P.E. department at the UCC national office, and from there will go directly to relief efforts on the ground in Türkiye and Syria. A special thank you to Mary Garwood for her generous donation of shadow boxes to support this relief effort.

GROWING PROJECT

This is our 16th year that we are joining with Grossnickle Church of the Brethren and eight other churches to raise money to fight world hunger. This year we will be supporting a program in Tanzania that works with women farmers to improve their agricultural outputs and teaches them best business practices for their farms. Our Blessing of the Seed will be held on Sunday, June 11 at 3:00 pm and the Harvest Festival will be on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 2:30 pm. Please look for more information in the bulletins and future newsletters to learn how you can support our Project.

GARRETT COUNTY MISSION TRIP

Some folks have asked whether we are planning to have a mission trip to Garrett County this summer. We learned that there is an opening during the first or second week in August, possibly as a joint event with another church. For our church, this would be a joint initiative by the Discipleship Board and Stewardship Committee. If you have a possible interest in participating, please send an email to linda_bill@comcast.net.

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

Community Service Day

COMMUNITY DAY OF SERVICE

May 20, 2023 8am to Noon

6113 Broad Run Road

(Linda Delauder & Bill Steigelmann's Farm)

Volunteers are needed to help disassemble, sort and store the 40+ categories of donated metal pieces. Once you learn the process, you can work on your own at other times. Bill and other volunteers are often there at other times as well. If you would like to help, contact Renee Brandenburg-Huffer at aquatictraining@aol.com.

Get Out. Give Back. Feel Great.

WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAM

The Weekend Food program began in September 2012 with volunteers and partnerships from seven area churches and five local community organizations. For the 2022/2023 school year, this program is serving 80 students in seven schools throughout the Middletown Valley. There are several ways you can help:

- ◆ Sponsor a child @ \$400 per year (simply write a check and indicate "Weekend Food Program" in the memo line and send to the church office)
- ◆ Serve on one of the volunteer teams (shopping, packing, delivery)
- ◆ Donate food (a handy shopping guide for you to use while out shopping is available in the Narthex.) Donation bins are located in the Narthex.



Operating Finances Year to Date (Ending March 31, 2023)



CRUCC	Actual Mar 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 17,902.00	\$ 95,999.06	\$ 300,345.51
Investment Income	\$ 6.15	\$ 4,870.47	\$ (4,870.47)
Other Income	\$ 4,121.11	\$ 12,158.54	\$ 48,836.46
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 22,029.26	\$ 120,528.07	\$ 336,811.50
Expenses			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 20,392.93	\$ 58,250.10	\$ 211,188.47
Operating Expenses			
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 438.95	\$ 2,155.05	\$ 7,344.95
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,225.11	\$ 5,792.48	\$ 19,158.52
Utilities	\$ 3,141.00	\$ 12,865.25	\$ 20,334.75
Building & Property	\$ 799.85	\$ 24,807.79	\$ 53,192.21
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 284.00	\$ 284.00	\$ 2,216.00
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 5,888.91	\$ 45,904.57	\$ 106,746.43
Ministry Expenses	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 7,862.42	\$ 23,987.58
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 31,781.84	\$ 112,017.09	\$ 341,922.48
Net Total	\$ (9,752.58)	\$ 8,510.98	\$ (5,110.98)

CCCC	Actual Mar 1, 2023 - Mar 31, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 75,180.51	\$ 236,312.00	\$ 726,642.76
Investment Income	\$ 7.63	\$ 20.34	\$ (20.34)
Other Income	\$ 1,718.40	\$ 5,674.20	\$ 3,525.80
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 76,906.54	\$ 242,006.54	\$ 730,148.22
Expenses			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 54,708.69	\$ 161,932.90	\$ 622,821.86
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 4,801.08	\$ 12,604.32	\$ 59,395.68
Education	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,975.00
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,300.46	\$ 6,764.03	\$ 26,435.97
Utilities	\$ 562.28	\$ 1,124.56	\$ 1,875.44
Building & Property	\$ 3,804.68	\$ 13,325.64	\$ 59,374.36
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 171.51	\$ 3,328.49
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 11,493.50	\$ 34,015.06	\$ 153,384.94
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 66,202.19	\$ 195,947.96	\$ 776,206.80
Net Total	\$ 10,704.35	\$ 46,058.58	\$ (46,058.58)

Ladies Chill Night

May 19 @ 5:30pm
Ruby Tuesday

*Come and enjoy fellowship and food.
Add your name to the signup sheet in
the Narthex by 5/15. Contact the church
office for more details.*

Online Lectionary Based Bible Study

8am Wednesdays w/Pastor Kyle

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

Guys Night Out



Main Cup
5/22 @ 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.

The 80+ Club

Lunch, Bingo & Fellowship

May 11

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



Monday
5/15 @ 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 at 97cfontaine@gmail.com.



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

Contact Sue Wickless at
saw114@comcast.net for more info.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, May 20
8am to 1pm
CRUCC Chapel

To schedule an appointment please visit
www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Keyword:
ChristReformedUCC or call the church office at
301-371-6610.

Around the Congregation

LAYREADERS

May 7	Dick Burd
May 14	Bunny Cramer
May 21	Andrew Corl
May 28	Kathy Powderly

USHERS

May 7	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
May 14	Ed Higginbottom, Be' Hill
May 21	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke
May 28	Ryan Murphy, Judy Zeck

CHILDREN'S STORY

May 7	Meagan Fogle
May 14	Edward Fontaine
May 21	Gregg Petermann
May 28	Kyle Powderly

PSALMIST

May 28	Isaac Cummings
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ALTAR FLOWERS

May 7	Debbie Ferrell
May 14	Margaret Brandenburg
May 21	TBD
May 28	Outdoor Worship

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

May 7	CCCC Board
May 14	TBD
May 21	Mike & Debbie Locke
May 28	Outdoor Worship

SOUND TECHS

May 7	Nick Fink
May 14	Tony Verdi
May 21	Pat Joy
May 28	Tony Verdi



Church Attendance

MARCH 2023

	8:15 am	10:30 am
March 5	25	56
March 12	23	51
March 19	21	53
March 26	21	65

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.*



*Join Us
Outdoor
Worship*

MAY 28 2023
Pentecost Sunday
10am Combined Service