

Volume XXXVIII
Number VI
June 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

Over the past 30, 40, 50 years our culture has developed this idea that politics is either a bad thing that will never get better, or an intensely personal thing. As a result, we've become a society that is passionately divided yet also largely indifferent to being involved in our governance.

Politics is not a bad thing, nor should we avoid talking about it, even in the church. Politics comes from the Greek word *politikos*, which is concern with the civic or public welfare, well-being. The welfare of our community—be it Middletown or Frederick County or Maryland or the United States—should be our concern as citizens of the Realm of God. Through the prophets (particularly Jeremiah) God repeatedly instructed God's people to look out for their community's welfare, literally the community's *shalom*.

Nearly 240 times *shalom* is used in the Old Testament. It means a LOT more than simply "peace" in Hebrew. It carries with it an understanding of wholeness, fulfillment of purpose, harmony of life. Being political, then, is to seek the *shalom* of our community by working towards it being a place where people are lifted up, find wholeness of being, of life, and create peace together in harmony with any and all who are here or come here.

Perhaps we need to reclaim the *shalom* understanding of politics. Politics should never be a means to get our way, to control others, to impose our world view on them. Instead, our politics should be that of doing that which lifts up the people of our community, imparts dignity to all people, builds equity in places of inequality that demonstrates love as *shalom*, as deep and abiding and life-bringing making of peace for all people.

Let's recognize that politics is a part of who we are. We as a church became political when we committed to providing backpacks of food for children in local schools who otherwise might not have enough to eat on weekends. We became

political when we committed to hosting the Community Table (what was the soup kitchen) the first Sunday of every other month. We became political when we decided in 2019 to be an Open & Affirming church.

A church that continually asks and seeks to answer the question, "How are we manifesting God's *shalom* in the world around us?" is a church that is both a blessing, and deeply blessed!

Kyle

Inside Kyle's Head	1
Book Club Community Day of Service Coffee Hour/Ice Cream Sunday Outdoor Worship & Picnic Church Access Water Color Classes And the Survey Says Called to Care	2
CCCC Highlights Our 2023 Graduates	3
Community Outreach	4
April 2023 Financials	5
Plan Your Calendar	6
Plan Your Calendar (cont.) Around the Congregation	7
Outdoor Worship & All Church Picnic	8



Book Club

Our Book Club will meet June 27 at Fratelli's at noon to discuss A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline. To Christina Olson, the entire world was her family's remote farm. Increasingly incapacitated by illness, Christina seemed destined for a small life. Instead, for more than twenty years, she was host and inspiration for the artist Andrew Wyeth, and became the subject of one of the best known American paintings of the twentieth century. New members are always welcome! Please contact Charlotte Hanson at hansonc3306@gmail.com for more information.

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? There are no restrictions or requirements to utilize these services. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Renee Brandenburg-Huffer at aquatictraining@aol.com for more details.

Coffee Hour/Ice Cream Sunday

Please note that our June 11th Coffee Hour which is normally held between services, will be held following our 10:30am service. Please plan to stay for strawberries and ice cream on the Parish House porch.

Outdoor Worship & Picnic

It's church picnic time again! This year we will be at Memorial Park (behind the Medical Center) on June 25th. There will be one service that day at the park beginning at 11:00am. The Parish Life Board will be providing fried chicken and sodas/water. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or call the church office with how many will be attending and an idea of what side dish/dessert you will be bringing. You may want to bring a lawn chair if you don't want to sit on a picnic bench. Those with mobility issues should try and park in the parking lot of the Park. Everyone else should park in the church parking lot. We will have the van available to transport attendees. **Please note that we will not have a worship service at the church unless the weather is unfavorable. Then we would move all activities to the church.**

Church Access

The Children's Center has implemented a sign-in/sign-out procedure when anyone enters the Church building during the hours of 6:30am to 6:00pm Monday-Friday. Please sign in on the form in the back of the chapel and if you see Missy, let her know you are in the building. Please make sure to sign out when you leave. It's important to know who is in the building in the event of an emergency. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in this matter to make sure that we are all safe.

Water Color Classes

Marti Easton, one of our newest congregants, is hosting watercolor classes in the Social room on Saturdays through July 8th. Classes are from 10am to 12pm @ \$25 per session (4 sessions minimum). For additional information, please call or text Marti at 203-249-9205.

And the Survey Says...

We of the Church & Ministry committee have been gratefully reviewing the responses of the recent Congregation survey. Your feedback will be used as a part of Consistory's charting a vision and plan for the future of our church. In addition we and Pastor Kyle have identified two areas where we would like to enhance and support Kyle's ministry:

1. increase the number of congregation members he is connected to as well as to deepen all pastor-member connections. In addition, support his efforts to increase connections between congregation members.
2. efforts to enhance the ongoing quality of our worship experiences

There are a couple ways you can be involved in this right away. We will be creating a newly-formed Worship Planning team this Summer and will soon be looking for people with an interest in further developing our strong worship ministry. More immediately, as you'll find below, Discipleship Board is looking for people who are willing and able to volunteer to support our members in various ways. Your involvement will make Christ Reformed a stronger, more connected experience for everyone. Thank you again for taking time to respond to the survey, and we look forward to hearing how you will get involved!

Called to Care

Our Called to Care ministry has been combined with the Discipleship Board, at least temporarily. We are in the process of compiling a list of individuals who are willing to help out in some way. If you are interested in providing transportation (either locally or "down the road"), preparing meals, visiting folks in their homes or care facilities, visiting via phone calls or cards, or in some other way, please contact Debbie in the church office or Linda DeLauder (240-490-5880 or linda_bill@comcast.net). In addition, if you need assistance in any of these ways, please contact Debbie or Linda.



Thank you Mr. Mike for washing and waxing both our van and new mini bus. We are ready for our summer field trips! Thank you Mr. John DeLauder for driving the tractor to remove the old mulch and put down the new. Thank you to Ms. Emma, Ms. Kristin and Ms. Stacey for spreading over 20 yards of mulch! Our playground is beautiful because of your hard work.



Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Our 2023 Graduates

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Ella LaRue Brandenburg, daughter of Bryan and Keri, and granddaughter of Wayne & Margaret, graduated from Clear Spring High School. Ella plans to attend West Virginia University in the fall.

Morgan Bruns, daughter of Debbie and Travis, graduated from Middletown High School. While in high school, Morgan was on both the JV and Varsity soccer teams. She was a member of the National Honor Society. She was involved in several clubs, including a new club she initiated in her Senior Year. Morgan plans to attend University of New Hampshire pursuing a Bio/Chem degree with the intent of pursuing a graduate degree in Astrobiology.

Christian Luke James, son of Laurie and Glenn, and grandson of Gail and Christ Johnson, completed his studies through the Frederick County School System and graduated with the Middletown High School Class of 2023.

Gavin Keller, son of Michael & Melony, grandson of Shirley Keller, and nephew of Susan, is a graduate of Bob Jones Academy in Greenville, SC. He plans to attend Bob Jones University this fall majoring in Business Entrepreneurship/Financial Management.

Everett Moser, son of Jason and Angie, graduated from Middletown High School.

Baily Noble, son of Julie and Don, graduated from Middletown High School.

ADVANCED EDUCATION GRADUATES

Christopher McCartney, son of Sarah Foster and grandson of Mike and Wendy Campbell, will be graduating in June from James Rumsey Technical Institute in Martinsburg WV with an HVAC license. He is employed with Riddleberger Brothers in Winchester, VA.



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.





RaiseRight™



Church Fundraiser

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>





BLESSING OF THE SEED SERVICE

Sunday,
June 11th @3pm

Growing
Project Farm
11720 Wolfsville Rd
Myersville, Maryland




GROWING
HOPE

GLOBALLY

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

Mission Trips

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.



CRUCC	Actual Apr 1, 2023 - Apr 30, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 18,349.00	\$ 114,348.06	\$ 281,996.51
Investment Income	\$ 4,806.82	\$ 10,673.49	\$ (10,673.49)
Other Income	\$ 4,573.36	\$ 16,731.90	\$ 44,263.10
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 27,729.18	\$ 149,253.45	\$ 308,086.12
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 19,157.79	\$ 77,407.89	\$ 192,030.68
Operating Expenses			
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,783.14	\$ 7,575.62	\$ 17,375.38
Utilities	\$ 3,418.87	\$ 16,284.12	\$ 16,915.88
Building & Property	\$ 11,805.25	\$ 36,613.04	\$ 41,386.96
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 486.00	\$ 770.00	\$ 1,730.00
Ministry - Boards & Commi	\$ 147.84	\$ 214.26	\$ 6,535.74
Ministry Expenses	\$ 147.84	\$ 8,010.26	\$ 23,839.74
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 37,777.82	\$ 149,794.91	\$ 304,144.66
Net Total	\$ (10,048.64)	\$ (541.46)	\$ 3,941.46

CCCC	Actual Apr 1, 2023 - Apr 30, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 71,577.00	\$ 307,889.00	\$ 655,065.76
Investment Income	\$ 6.59	\$ 26.93	\$ (26.93)
Other Income	\$ 410.40	\$ 6,084.60	\$ 3,115.40
Designated Income	\$ 24.98	\$ 24.98	\$ (24.98)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 72,018.97	\$ 314,025.51	\$ 658,129.25
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 54,664.13	\$ 216,597.03	\$ 568,157.73
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 3,269.38	\$ 15,873.70	\$ 56,126.30
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 55.12	\$ 80.12	\$ 2,919.88
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,370.29	\$ 9,134.32	\$ 24,065.68
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 1,124.56	\$ 1,875.44
Building & Property	\$ 3,784.99	\$ 17,110.63	\$ 55,589.37
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 156.21	\$ 327.72	\$ 3,172.28
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 9,635.99	\$ 43,651.05	\$ 143,748.95
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 64,300.12	\$ 260,248.08	\$ 711,906.68
Net Total	\$ 7,718.85	\$ 53,777.43	\$ (53,777.43)

Ladies Chill Night

June 16 @ 5:30pm
Bonefish Grill

*Come and enjoy fellowship and food.
Add your name to the signup sheet in
the Narthex by 6/12. 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
6/26 @ 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.

BINGO! Buds

LUNCH, BINGO & FELLOWSHIP

June 8
Noon to 2pm
Coffee Hour Area

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



Downstairs Discussion Group

Sundays @ 9:15 am
Coffee Hour Space

Contact Bill Steigelmenn. @ 240.490.5880 for more info.



Monday
6/5 @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.

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.



Around the Congregation

LAYREADERS

June 4	Wendy Campbell
June 11	Dick Burd
June 18	Bunny Cramer
June 25	Kathy Powderly

USHERS

June 4	Be' Hill, Nancy vom Lehn
June 11	Laura Verdi, Nancy vom Lehn
June 18	Wendy Campbell, Debbie Locke
June 25	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer

CHILDREN'S STORY

June 4	Wendy Campbell
June 11	Bill Steigelmann
June 18	Amanda Murphy
June 25	Kyle Powderly

PSALMIST

June 25	Nate Miller
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ALTAR FLOWERS

June 4	Jesi Bell-Godfrey
June 11	TBD
June 18	TBD
June 25	Outdoor Worship

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

June 4	TBD
June 11	Parish Life
June 18	Property Board
June 25	Church Picnic

SOUND TECHS

June 4	Nick Fink
June 11	Tony Verdi
June 18	Pat Joy
June 25	Paul Fink

Church Attendance

APRIL 2023

	8:15 am	10:30 am
April 2	27	80
April 9	33	102
April 16	23	55
April 23	17	41
April 30	N/A	92

Easter Sunrise—18



*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 Summer Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 10am-2pm/Fri 9am-12pm
301-371-6610
Fax: 301-371-6912

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www.crucc.org

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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.*



**Outdoor Worship
& Church Picnic**
Sunday June 25 @ 11am
Middletown Memorial Park
216 Prospect Street
You're Invited!
More details on Page 2