

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

Only 19 months after my first time writing to you here in *Visions*, I now write for the last time. This wasn't as long a time together as any of us hoped. We—both the church and I—again face an uncertain future—"what happens now? what do we do next?"

God knows it's not easy to face the uncertainties of life, and the fear that accompanies them, so more than sixty times in the Bible the phrase "do not be afraid" appears. It's an easy thing to say; it's not an easy thing to do. I get it; there have been many times in my life I have had to face a frighteningly uncertain future. I have felt God calling me to do things and go places that scared me to the point of panic, of "I can't do this." There were times I fell on my knees and cried in despair...more than once. And there were times when I was shocked and amazed by who God is: God is here, God is good, God is love.

All over the Internet people write "fear is the opposite of love." I would argue that fear is sometimes a reaction to God's overwhelmingly powerful love. What God wants with and for us can sometimes be unnerving at the least, and terrifying at the most.

A number of years ago, Kathy and I traveled to California for a friend's wedding, and as part of that vacation we took a trip that had been on my must-do list for years: we drove the Pacific Coast Highway south from San Francisco to Los Angeles. At points the road winds through mountains and hugs the cliffsides of Big Sur and sometimes there's no guardrail between you and the surf a hundred feet below. It can be a deeply fear-inducing drive on one of the most stunningly beautiful and wondrous roads I've ever traveled.

This is the journey of faith. Life sometimes runs along cliffs of "the unknown", and there's no guardrail. We might balk at it, we might (as one couple I know did with the PCH) refuse to go that way because it scares us to death. But this journey is the best, and sometimes only, road we can take.

We both face this now. I don't know where I will go from here, and I know there will be times I will question the wisdom of what I am doing. The church doesn't know yet what will happen, what will be, beyond maybe the next step or three. But what we both can take hope in is the promise of God: that God goes with us, that God has us, and that we will end up in a place we never believed possible.

At some point on the PCH south of Big Sur, Kathy (who insisted on driving, so she wouldn't have to be on the side of the car that looked down the cliff) pulled off at an overlook. We got out of the car and looked back up the coast, at the route we'd just come down. It was twisty and the road looked precariously thin compared to the cliffs it ran along. We both were amazed that we'd come down that road, and awestruck by the beauty of what we'd come through.

May God grant you, Christ Reformed, a fearful and wondrous journey ahead and may you find places and times to pull off and be awestruck by where God has led you.

Kyle

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October 2023



Inside Kyle's Head	1
School Food Donations Fall Breakfast Joe Corbi Fundraiser Community Outreach	2
Community Outreach (cont.) Around the Congregation	3
Plan Your Calendar	4
Plan Your Calendar (cont) Thank You Note	5
CCCC Highlights	6
August 2023 Financials	7
CCCC Celebration Sunday	8

Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 5th
Chapel @ 9:15am



School Food Donations

With school starting last month, we have resumed collecting items for the Middletown Backpack Program (a list of requested items is on the table in the Narthex). As you shop this month, please pick up a few items and bring them with you to worship. Collection boxes are found in the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel.

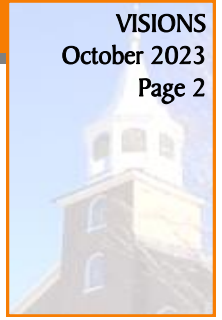
Fall Breakfast

Parish Life Board is hosting a Fall Breakfast in the social room on October 15th from 8-10am. They will be serving chip beef gravy, biscuits, eggs, potato casseroles, hot fruit, oranges, coffee cake, and drinks. Please place your name

and the number attending on the signup sheet in the Narthex.

Joe Corbi Fundraiser

Please help CCCC fundraise for new playground shade structures by supporting our Joe Corbi's/Clair's Gourmet Fundraiser. You can place your order on the order sheet that is on the table in the hallway. If you order, please drop off or mail a check to the center before Oct 2nd. Delivery will be on Oct. 30th at the center. Please stop by anytime between 1:00 and 5:00 pm that day to pick up your order. If you have any questions, please call or email Missy at CCCC.Middletown@gmail.com or 301-371-0360. Thank you for your support!

**Community Outreach**

Growing Project Harvest Festival

Please join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship as we gather to thank God for another bountiful harvest. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to bake a cake to contribute to the cake auction. Cake holders are available in the church office. Please contact Linda DeLauder at 301-293-3202 for more information.

2:30pm Hayride
3pm Service of Thanksgiving
American & Tanzanian Food
Scarecrow Workshop
Cake Auction
Games

Sunday, 10/8
@ 2:30 PM
Growing Project Farm
11720 Wolfsville Road
Myersville, MD

COMMUNITY TABLE**Sunday, October 1****We are in Need of:
SERVERS & DESSERTS**

Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex if you are able to help out.

**2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's****Sunday, October 15, 2023****11:00am Registration****Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium**

To make a donation or to sign-up to walk with Beth Scott's Team, go to: http://act.alz.org/site/TR?team_id=833309&pg=team&fr_id=16611&et=eEI7LusGeTgAZya5F6_NpyU70yf2kWWlvX5iTOLrjluSnC6s-YCHw
Check donations should be made out to the Alzheimer's Association and can be mailed to Beth or left in the Church Office. Please contact Beth at 301-788-3524 or BethOScott@aol.com.

MIDDLETOWN FOOD

FOOD ITEMS

- Fresh Produce
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tomato Products
- Soup
- Cereal
- Canned Veggies
- Condiments
- Pasta
- Oatmeal



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

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



The mission of Heartly House is to end domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and child abuse, and to provide victims with safety, shelter, and supportive services.

- ♦ Toiletry Items
- ♦ Gift cards: Walmart, Giant, Weis, Safeway, Food Lion, Target, Sheetz, Shell, Giant Eagle, CVS, Walgreens, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Wawa, Exxon, etc

Collection boxes are found in the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel.
Gift cards for Heartly House can be dropped off to the church office.

Around the Congregation

ALTAR FLOWERS

October 1	Laura & Tony Verdi
October 8	TBD
October 15	Mike Locke
October 22	Marda Blain
October 29	Wanda Hartley

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

October 1	Bob & Jean Galey
October 8	Laura & Tony Verdi
October 15	Emily Mathis & Taylor Magda
October 22	Connie & Gary Bell
October 29	Jesi & JJ Bell-Godfrey

SOUND TECHS

October 1	Nick Fink
October 8	Tony Verdi
October 15	Pat Joy
October 22	Tony Verdi
October 29	Pat Joy

CHILDREN'S STORY

October 29	Terry Sparks
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PSALMIST

October 29	Scott Fogle
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LAYREADERS

October 1	Andrew Corl
October 8	Wendy Campbell
October 15	Dick Burd
October 22	Bunny Cramer
October 29	Sue Wickless

USHERS

October 1	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
October 8	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck
October 15	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke
October 22	Laura Verdi, Nancy vom Lehn
October 29	Wendy Campbell, Isaac Cummings

Church Attendance

AUGUST 2023

	8:15 am	10:30 am
August 6	30	60
August 13	28	39
August 20	20	48
August 27	28	53





Ladies Chill Night

October 20 @ 5:30pm
Glory Days Grill

Come and enjoy fellowship and food. Add your name to the signup sheet in the Narthex by 10/15.

Contact the church office for more details.

Online Lectionary Based Bible Study

8am Wednesdays



Contact the church office for the Zoom link.

Guys Night Out



10/23 @ 6pm
Brewer's Alley

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.

Wednesday
10/18 @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.

BINGO! Buds

LUNCH, BINGO & FELLOWSHIP

October 12
Noon to 2pm
Coffee Hour Area

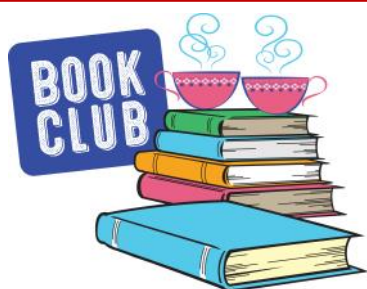
No need to sign up—Just show up!



HERITAGE DAY

Bounce House
Kid's Craft Table
Church Displays
Historical Displays
Children's Scavenger Hunt
Basket Sale
Bake Sale

RESCHEDULED
10/7 Noon-3pm



October 24 @ Noon
Fratelli's

All are welcome!

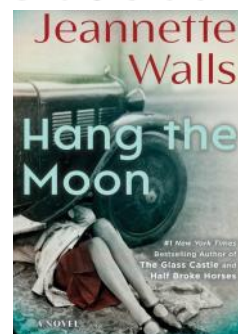
Please contact Charlotte Hanson at hansonc3306@gmail.com for more info.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

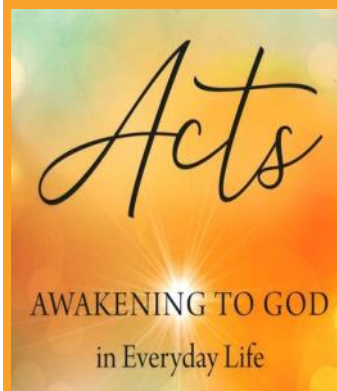
Hang the Moon

by Jeannette Walls

"Transport yourself to rural Virginia in the 1920s during Prohibition. Get ready to keep turning the pages as the plot takes surprising twists and turns concerning family business, racial tensions, family secrets, and land conflict".



Women's Study Group



*A Bible Study by
Melissa Spoelstra*

**Wednesdays
@ 7pm
via Zoom**

**Books are available in the Narthex.
Please contact the church office
for the zoom link.**

Sunday, October 1
9:15am in the Chapel

**CONGREGATIONAL
>>>> MEETING <<<<**

Join us as we discuss and process Pastor Kyle's departure and our next steps as we move forward. If you are unable to join us in person, please join us on-line via Zoom using the link:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81946421090?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81946421090?pwd=a3VRaC8yUTBFM2dxVS85WjRYbGN2QT09)
[pwd=a3VRaC8yUTBFM2dxVS85WjRYbGN2QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81946421090?pwd=a3VRaC8yUTBFM2dxVS85WjRYbGN2QT09)

Thank You Notes



Thank you Vernon M. Cassell, Jr. for purchasing a new American Flag for the church cemetery. Due to issues with the pole itself, he also coordinated with the Middletown Fire Department to have their Ladder Truck remove and replace the flag. He then took the old flag to be included in an annual ceremony with other American flags for disposal. He was very proud to do this as he is an Army Veteran.

ESTABLISHED ON
AUGUST 30TH 1998

CCCC

CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



Operating Finances Year to Date (Ending August 30, 2023)



CRUCC	Actual Aug 01, 2023 - Aug 31, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 19,952.00	\$ 185,160.56	\$ 211,184.01
Investment Income	\$ 5.51	\$ 15,308.98	\$ (15,308.98)
Other Income	\$ 3,985.53	\$ 32,188.51	\$ 28,806.49
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 23,943.04	\$ 232,658.05	\$ 224,681.52
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 18,173.95	\$ 152,766.74	\$ 116,671.83
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 107.20	\$ (107.20)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 433.10	\$ 4,312.82	\$ 5,187.18
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 495.96	\$ 4,004.04
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,927.64	\$ 14,498.26	\$ 10,452.74
Utilities	\$ 2,048.80	\$ 23,824.61	\$ 9,375.39
Building & Property	\$ 2,204.43	\$ 54,551.47	\$ 23,448.53
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 957.00	\$ 1,543.00
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 6,613.97	\$ 98,747.32	\$ 53,903.68
Ministry Expenses	\$ 53.34	\$ 14,185.98	\$ 17,664.02
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 24,841.26	\$ 265,700.04	\$ 188,239.53
Net Total	\$ (898.22)	\$ (33,041.99)	\$ 36,441.99

CCCC	Actual Aug 01, 2023 - Aug 31, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year to Date
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 65,648.00	\$ 593,065.50	\$ 369,889.26
Unrestricted Investment Income	\$ 6.75	\$ 1,001.62	\$ (1,001.62)
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 6,055.56	\$ 3,144.44
Designated Income	\$ -	\$ 24.98	\$ (24.98)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 65,654.75	\$ 600,147.66	\$ 372,007.10
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 58,312.63	\$ 465,611.67	\$ 319,143.09
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 8,498.87	\$ 44,045.75	\$ 27,954.25
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 1,007.79	\$ 1,992.21
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,093.35	\$ 18,176.85	\$ 15,023.15
Utilities	\$ 331.14	\$ 2,670.28	\$ 329.72
Building & Property	\$ 3,775.00	\$ 38,772.95	\$ 33,927.05
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 139.54	\$ 1,525.40	\$ 1,974.60
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 14,837.90	\$ 106,199.02	\$ 81,200.98
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 73,150.53	\$ 571,810.69	\$ 400,344.07
Net Total	\$ (7,495.78)	\$ 28,336.97	\$ (28,336.97)

*Christ Reformed
United Church of Christ*

In-Person Worship
8:15am Contemporary Worship

In Person & On-Line Worship
Traditional Worship 10:30am
Coffee Hour 11:30am

Church Office Hours
Mon-Fri 10am-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.*

CHILDREN'S CENTER CELEBRATION SUNDAY

October 29, 2023
10:00am Combined Worship

**Join us as we celebrate our own
Christ Church Children's Center.
Special music & Coffee Hour.**