

# 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.*



### Pastor's Pen

Dear Flock,

As we begin our season of Lent in a few weeks, I wanted to offer some personal reflection to assist you in your Lenten journey this year.

I grew up in Hagerstown. When I moved to College Park to finish my undergraduate degree and begin graduate school, I missed Hagerstown ("home") a lot. I remember returning on occasion to see my mother or traveling up this way to perform with a musical group. I would usually arrive here after dark. There was a sense of anticipation while ascending South Mountain. No, the feeling had nothing to do with traffic. It was that feeling of reaching the top of the mountain and beginning the trip down the other side.

It was a special time because once we crested the mountain, the lights of the valley shone brightly in the darkness. That view meant I had arrived "home." What a settled feeling that conjured up for me. There are times when I still have that sensation. The mountain is crested, the valley appears, and there is the feeling of a whole-body sigh. I am home. Home meant being loved, accepted, welcomed, and nurtured.

Lent is traditionally a time in the church year when we are called to recognize our own powerlessness – our inability to make ourselves better or save ourselves. Personally, I think Lent should be the opposite. I feel like to be truly "into" Lent, it's a time of reflection, renewal, and refreshment. Yes, it's time to take an inventory of ourselves. Yes, that will involve some thought on your part. Yes, it might be tough. Tough, and yet, a necessary time of getting in touch.

We often think of Lent as being a time when we "give up" something to remind us of Christ's sacrifice in the desert. I remember a friend proudly remarking that she had given up brussel sprouts. She hated them in the first place, so it really wasn't a sacrifice. I would like to offer up a different approach as we journey through Lent this year. Why not "come home" for Lent.

Why not begin your Lenten journey by joining us for our Ash Wednesday service. If you're not sure, give us a try. I offer up our Mission Statement:

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.

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### Easter Flowers

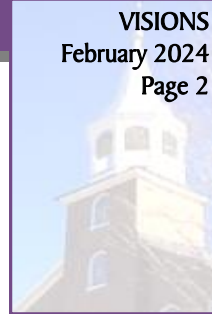
Use the enclosed order form to honor or remember special family members, friends or an event with potted plants which will decorate our sanctuary on Easter morning.



**Deadline to  
order is  
Tuesday,  
February  
27th.**

Come home. There is a place here for everyone, especially you! Join our community of faith as we make our Lenten pilgrimage together this year. Crest the mountain, see the lights, experience the sigh. Feel welcomed, safe, affirmed, and restored in your journey to the cross and beyond. Experience God's presence through Music, the Spoken Word, Prayers, and Fellowship. May we all reflect, experience renewal, and find restoration during this Lenten season.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*  
Pastor Greg



## Notes

### ***Consistory Corner***

Members of the Consistory and Search Committees met with Reverend Vertie Powers on Saturday, January 13. Reverend Powers is working as a consultant for the Congregation during this time of transition. She will also be preaching one Sunday a month. The first session was a time to get acquainted with each other and an opportunity for Reverend Powers to learn more about the Congregation. The next meeting, which is open to everyone in the Congregation, is scheduled for **February 24th, (time to be determined)**. Reverend Powers wants to hear more about the Vision/Mission of the Congregation and the plans to achieve that vision and fulfill that mission. We should also be prepared to discuss the criteria Christ Reformed is looking for in a new pastor and discuss how we are talking about the traumas of the last four years and how we are adjusting. Reverend Powers has two questions she would like us to reflect on: "Where and how has God guided us in our history?" and "Why does the world need the Church?" Please plan to attend this meeting on February 24th.

### ***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 14th at 7pm** in the sanctuary. This year, we will also offer "Drive-thru" imposition of ashes from 7am to 9am and 12pm-1pm in the church parking lot.

### ***Officer Installation***

Each year we recognize and install the new members of our Consistory, Boards and Committees. Please join us on **Sunday, February 4th** at both services as we affirm their leadership.

### ***Stewardship Update***

To date, we have received 65 pledges to the 2024 General Fund for a total of \$156,239 and 10 pledges for the 2024 Capital Fund for a total of \$5,556. Feel free to send your Estimate of Giving Card to the church office or drop it in the collection plate on an upcoming Sunday. Thank you for your support of this church and its many worthy projects.

### ***Consistory and Board Minutes***

Please note that minutes from our Consistory and Boards monthly meetings are available from the church office. Please contact Debbie to request a copy.

## WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAM

Many children in the Middletown valley area are provided a free or reduced priced lunch on school days, but they face the prospect of hunger on the weekend. In partnership with area churches, the weekend food program helps to fill this gap by providing weekend bags full of food for over 102 children in these eight schools: **Middletown Elementary, Primary, Middle and High School, Myersville, Valley and Wolfsville Elementary.**

### **How Can YOU Help These Children?**

- ◆ YOU can SPONSOR a child for a year at a cost of \$300.00, in whole or in part – simply make out your check to CRUCC and indicate on the memo line that it is for the Weekend Food Program.
- ◆ YOU can PURCHASE the specific foods needed and put the items in the designated box located in the Narthex
- ◆ YOU can VOLUNTEER your time to pack the food.
- ◆ YOU can DELIVER the food to a school.



CCCC is kicking those winter blues with Soccer Shots!! Soccer Shots is an outside vendor that comes to the school and teaches the children fundamental soccer skills and fitness. The kids have a great time running around and kicking the soccer balls!



## Around the Congregation

### ALTAR FLOWERS

February 4	Sue Wickless
February 11	Elaine Harp
February 18	TBD
February 25	Rachel Sanger

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

February 4	Taylor Magda & Emily Mathis
February 11	Bob & Jean Galey
February 18	TBD
February 25	Discipleship Board

### SOUND TECHS

February 4	Nick Fink
February 11	Pat Joy
February 18	Tony Verdi
February 25	Pat Joy

### LAYREADERS

February 4	Andrew Corl
February 11	Gail Johnson
February 18	Taylor Magda
February 25	Sue Wickless

### USHERS

February 4	Pat Joy, Nancy vomLehn
February 11	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer
February 14 Ash Wednesday	Be' Hill, Karen Koogle
February 18	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck
February 25	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke

## Church Attendance

### December 2023

### December 2023 Christmas Eve Attendance

10am Combined Worship	59
5pm Family Worship	66
7pm Worship	123

	8:15 am	10:30 am
December 3	29	67
December 10	22	54
December 17	46	49
December 31 Combined	74	





**Ladies Chill Night**  
**February 16**  
**@ 5:30pm**  
**Red Lobster**  
Please add your name to the  
sign up sheet by 2/11.  
*Join Us!*

**Guys Night Out**  
**2/26 @ 6pm**  
**Brewer's Alley**

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.

**Feb 8th**  
**12pm to 2pm**  
**Coffee Hour Space**

**BINGO**

*No Need to Sign Up  
Just Show Up!*

**B I N G O**

**BUDS**

**Tuesday**  
**2/20 @ 6:30pm**  
**Main Cup**

God on Tap is an opportunity for  
members and friends of CRUCC to  
gather to come to know each other

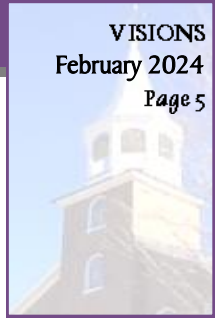
**.....on Tap!**

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

**BOOK CLUB**  
**2/27 Noon @ Fratelli's**  
**Book of the Month: "Ordinary Grace"**  
*by W. Krueger*

**All are Welcome!**  
Please contact Charlotte Hanson at  
[hansonc3306@gmail.com](mailto:hansonc3306@gmail.com) for more info

**Women's Bible Study**  
**7pm Wednesdays via Zoom**  
**This session will focus on John 1-12**  
*Part 1: The Living Word of God*  
Books are available in the Narthex. Contact church office for link



### **Discipleship Board Direct Giving**

- \$1,000 to the Religious Coalition
- \$500 to Advocates for Homeless Families
- \$500 for Heifer International
- \$500 to SHIP
- \$1,000 to Frederick County Mental Health Association
- \$300 to Hoffman Homes
- \$300 for Middletown Valley People Helping People

### **Advocates for Homelessness**

- \$366 collected at our Christmas Eve Family Worship

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

- \$2,900 was collected

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

- Bags of food pantry items were collected

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

- Gift cards and school supplies collected for Back to School
- \$845 in gift cards collected for "Adopt a Family" at Christmas
- \$172.50 was collected from our Bingo Buds

### **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
- Clothing collected for Annual Spring and Fall Clothing Give-Away

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

- Provided over 134 toiletry items and \$265 in gift cards

### **Frederick County Soup Kitchen**

- Six meals provided and served throughout the year

### **American Red Cross**

- 28 units of blood were collected, enough to save 84 lives

### **Heartly House**

- Toiletry and health care items were collected
- \$75 in donations

### **Growing Project**

- \$1,500 was donated

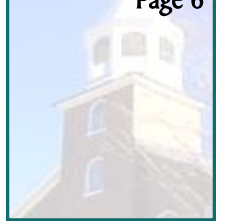
### **UCC Special Offerings (5 for 5)**

- \$22,000 for Our Church's Wider Mission
- \$711 for One Great Hour of Sharing
- \$455 for Strengthen the Church
- \$455 for Neighbors In Need Fund
- \$395 for the Christmas Fund
- \$603 for Hawaii Disaster Relief
- \$2,230 for Global Hope Disaster Relief



*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, Laura Fontaine, Laura Verdi, Nancy vom Lehn

New:

### **Deacons**

Paul Fink, JJ Bell-Godfrey, Jason Moser, Judy Zeck

New: Madelyn Cross, Meagan Fogle

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

Edward Fontaine

## **CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Dale Biggs, Richard Kefauver, Skip Lare, Scott Montgomery, Greg Shipley,  
Keith Staley, Sharon Thomas

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD**

Max Beadle, Jean Galey, Sue Wickless

New: Melissa Miller, Taylor Magda, Kendra Perry

## **CHURCH PROPERTY BOARD**

Terry Hill, Jason Moser, Garry vom Lehn

New: John DeLauder, Bill Falconer, Ethan Moser, Mike Mummert

## **DISCIPLESHIP BOARD**

Shirley Keller, Emily Mathis, Sarah Petermann

New: Renee Brandenburg-Huffer, Linda DeLauder, Lorraine Mandler, Bob Woods

## **PARISH LIFE BOARD**

Marda Blain, Marty Estell, Be' Hill, Karen Koogler, Jan Stock

New: Connie Bell, Dinah Esworthy, Gail Johnson

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

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

New:

## **CHURCH & MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Kathy DeLauder, Pat Joy, Gregg Petermann, Jenny Powell

New: Bunny Cramer, Beth Mummert

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Pat Joy, Jenny Koontz, Beth Scott,

New: Charlotte Hanson, Tony Verdi

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

Barb Ware, Bill Steigelmann

New:

## **USHERING COMMITTEE**

Nancy vom Lehn

## **FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Debbie Bruns, Griff Garwood, Susan Keller, Tony Verdi

New: Dick Foot, Bill Steigelmann

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

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

New: Jesi Bell-Godfrey, Debbie Locke, Mike Remsberg

# Operating Finances Year to Date (Ending December 31, 2023)



CRUCC	Actual Dec 01, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining Year to Date
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Operating Income	\$ 22,393.75	\$ 261,267.02	\$ 135,077.55
Investment Income	\$ 3,620.58	\$ 22,715.22	\$ (22,715.22)
Other Income	\$ 9,597.18	\$ 51,132.58	\$ 9,862.42
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$ 35,611.51	\$ 335,114.82	\$ 122,224.75
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 20,082.71	\$ 223,068.60	\$ 46,369.97
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 107.20	\$ (107.20)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 254.64	\$ 6,242.32	\$ 3,257.68
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 94.38	\$ 618.29	\$ 3,881.71
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,516.90	\$ 19,888.59	\$ 5,062.41
Utilities	\$ 3,014.23	\$ 32,153.88	\$ 1,046.12
Building & Property	\$ 3,631.43	\$ 75,942.49	\$ 2,057.51
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 714.90	\$ 1,671.90	\$ 828.10
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 9,226.48	\$ 136,624.67	\$ 16,026.33
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 24,296.00	\$ 804.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 3,709.13	\$ 5,537.33	\$ 1,212.67
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	\$ 9,209.13	\$ 29,833.33	\$ 2,016.67
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$ 38,518.32	\$ 389,526.60	\$ 64,412.97
Net Total	\$ (2,906.81)	\$ (54,411.78)	\$ 57,811.78
<b>CCCC</b>	Actual Dec 01, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023	Actual This Year to Date	Budget Remaining Year to Date
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Operating Income	\$ 65,250.25	\$ 901,132.75	\$ 61,822.01
Unrestricted Investment Income	\$ 1,603.85	\$ 2,622.88	\$ (2,622.88)
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 6,231.56	\$ 2,968.44
Designated Income	\$ 210.99	\$ 4,272.47	\$ (4,272.47)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$ 67,065.09	\$ 914,259.66	\$ 57,895.10
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 62,462.51	\$ 731,210.97	\$ 53,543.79
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 7,230.70	\$ 67,598.68	\$ 4,401.32
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 161.85	\$ 1,957.44	\$ 1,042.56
Office & Supplies	\$ 4,542.37	\$ 29,838.07	\$ 3,361.93
Utilities	\$ 331.14	\$ 3,663.70	\$ (663.70)
Building & Property	\$ 3,775.00	\$ 53,982.81	\$ 18,717.19
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 200.03	\$ 2,021.99	\$ 1,478.01
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 16,241.09	\$ 159,062.69	\$ 28,337.31
Designated Expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,316.50	\$ (2,316.50)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$ 78,703.60	\$ 892,590.16	\$ 79,564.60
Net Total	\$ (11,638.51)	\$ 21,669.50	\$ (21,669.50)

*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](mailto:christreformeducc@comcast.net)  
[www.crucc.org](http://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](http://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.*

A graphic for Ash Wednesday featuring a wooden cross partially buried in a pile of brown ash. A purple cloth is draped over the left side of the ash. The text is in a large, blue, serif font.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**7am-9am & 12pm-1pm**  
**Drive Through Ashes**  
**Wednesday**  
**February 14, 2024**  
**7pm Service**