



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,

It's interesting to try and write a note about Easter when we are only on the Second Sunday in Lent. My question to you is "What is the message of Easter for you?"

Matthew 12:21 says... "In his name the nations will put their hope." Stop what you are doing and put yourself in the shoes of the women who went to the tomb in those darkened morning hours. Imagine the hopelessness when they arrived and saw the stone moved and found the tomb empty. For these women their day started in darkness and with many questions. Life is like that at times. We are in the dark, with many questions, thinking all is lost, and seemingly without hope.

Think back to January when we remembered our own baptism through the Baptism of Jesus. At this service we are reminded that Jesus calls each one of us by name. We listen to his voice. We remember that we belong to him forever. I'm sure Mary experienced that when she encountered Jesus that early morning.

The message of Easter is indeed hope. When life seems hopeless. When it seems like everything is working against us, hope is all we have. What is possible when there is hope?

I remember a story I heard many years ago in a sermon that put everything in perspective for me.

There was a teacher who was assigned to visit children in a large city hospital who received a routine call requesting that she visit a particular child. The teacher took the boy's name and room number and set out to provide an English lesson on nouns and adverbs. She was to help him with homework so he didn't fall behind in his studies.

It wasn't until the visiting teacher got to the hospital that she realized the boy's room was in the hospital's burn unit. No one had prepared her to find a young boy horribly burned and in great pain. Feeling that she could not just turn around and walk out, she stammered awkwardly introducing herself and outlining the lesson. The boy was barely responsive and yet she pressed on, stumbling through the English lesson, ashamed of putting him through such a senseless exercise.

The next morning the teacher received a call from a nurse in the burn unit asking, "What did you do to that boy?" Before the teacher could finish her outburst of apologies, the nurse interrupted her: "You don't understand. We've been very worried about him. But ever since you were here yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back; he's responding to treatment. It's as if he has decided to live!" Amazing? A miracle?

The boy later explained that he had completely given up hope until he saw the teacher. It all changed when he came to a simple realization. With joyful tears,

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the boy explained: "They wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a boy who was dying, now would they?"

I don't remember where this story originated and, if copyrighted, I don't know that either. This wonderful story invites us to celebrate the gift of life...hope...when all we seem to see around us is pain, disappointment, and brokenness. It shows us that on the other side of pain and uncertainty, there is resurrection and new life and transformation ahead. It reminds us of what is possible whenever there is hope!

Thanks be to God! Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Greg

Notes

Consistory Corner

The 2024 Consistory met on February 12, for our first meeting as a new board. The first order of business was to elect officers. Consistory chose Laura Fontaine to continue as president, Laura Verdi was elected vice president, and JJ Bell-Godfrey was elected to serve as secretary. Consistory also assigned consistory members as liaison to each committee and boards of the church. Consistory finalized the details of the contract with Reverend Powers as consultant. She is scheduled to be at the church again the weekend of March 9 and 10. Consistory talked about several issues related to the Children's Center. There was concern about tenants of the new apartment building walking their dogs close to the Children's Center playground. This is a problem both of hygiene and safety. Consistory has asked Property Board to put up "No Dog Walking" signs in this area. If the situation continues Consistory will look into a fence. There was another instance of the tenant of Weagly House being unable to access their vehicle. A consistory representative will talk to the management of the apartments. Consistory voted to reserve a space at Frederick Pride on June 22. If you have any issues or concerns you would like to bring before Consistory, feel free to talk to any member of Consistory.

Meeting w/Vertie Powers

Our next meeting with Vertie will be on March 9th at 2pm in the Coffee Hour space. All are invited. More details to come.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship. This offering is taken by all Christian denominations and supports more than 100 relief projects around the world. This year's OGHS offering is on Sunday, March 10th. You can place your offering in the offering plate or simply send a check to the church and note it "OGHS."

Book Club

Please join us on March 26 at noon at Fratelli's when we'll be discussing The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate. "A moving historical fiction of three women in search of family after the destruction of post-Civil War South, and a modern-day teacher who learns of their story and its vital connection to her students' lives". All are welcome!

Meditation & Labyrinth

On Good Friday, March 29th, from 12-1pm the church will be open for personal quiet prayers & reflection. Pastor Greg will have a guided meditation for people to follow and he will be available for private prayer, communion, and/or anointing. The labyrinth will be set up in the chapel from 1:00-6:00pm. 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. Hosts will be there to answer questions and help you experience the labyrinth.

Share Your Palm Plant

Palm plants are needed to decorate the sanctuary for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. If you are able to share your palm plant(s), please bring them to the church sanctuary the week before Palm Sunday.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Parish Life Board will host an Easter Egg Hunt for children through 5th grade on Saturday, March 30th from 2 to 3:30pm. We will meet in the Social Room for some activities, followed by the hunt. Please add your name to the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex if you are planning to attend. Donations of small wrapped candies, stickers, etc are appreciated for the egg hunt. They can be placed in the box in the narthex by March 24th Thank you.

Officer Installation

Each year we recognize and install the new members of our Consistory, Boards and Committees. On Sunday, February 5th we affirmed their leadership at both services.



Pre-K Teachers and Director
Ms. Ashley, Ms. Emma, Ms. Missy, Ms. Kristin



CCCC would like to recognize some staff who have been recognized by the state in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program, a voluntary program that recognizes individual child care providers who go beyond the requirements of State licensing and registration regulations for training, education, and experience. These teachers take extra professional development courses and attend state child care conferences to further their education to be the best early childhood education teachers they can be!

Erin Baltozer- level 5
Jennifer Bortz- level 6
Beth Duncan- level 6
Amanda Eden- level 3
Karla Estevez- level 3
Patty Guyton- level 4
Ashley Kinna- level 3
Sara Mckenzie- level 3
Stacey Nikirk- level 3
Missy Payne- level 6
Emma Ranneberger- level 3
Kristin Staub- level 3

Infant and Toddler Teachers
Ms. Karla, Ms. Stacey & Ms. Erin



Preschool Teachers
Ms. Jenni, Ms. Sara, Ms. Patty, & Ms. Beth



Around the Congregation

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 3	TBD
March 10	TBD
March 17	TBD
March 24	TBD
March 31	Margaret Brandenburg

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

March 3	Rachel Sanger
March 10	Judy Zeck
March 17	Wendy Campbell
March 24	Cemetery Board
March 31	N/A

SOUND TECHS

March 3	Tony Verdi
March 10	Nick Fink
March 17	Pat Joy
March 24	Tony Verdi
March 28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	TBD
March 31	Pat Joy

LAYREADERS

March 3	Dick Burd
March 10	Laura Fontaine
March 17	Bunny Cramer
March 24	Wendy Campbell
March 31	Susan Thornton

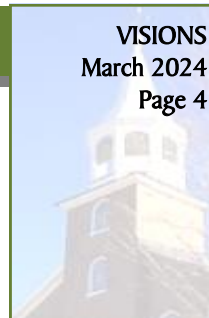
USHERS

March 3	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
March 10	Laura Verdi, Nancy vom Lehn
March 17	Wendy Campbell, Isaac Cummings
March 24	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer
March 28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Be' Hill, Karen Koogle
March 31	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke, Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck

Church Attendance

January 20224

	8:15 am	10:30 am
January 7	N/A	46
January 14	26	49
January 21	19	39
January 28	20	55

A stylized, golden-brown illustration of a man's head and shoulders, facing slightly to the right. The background is a textured, parchment-like gold.

GUYS NIGHT OUT
3/25 @ 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.

A background image showing a close-up of a plate with food, possibly a salad or a dish with meat and vegetables, with a white flower in the foreground.

Ladies Chill Night
March 22 @ 5:30pm
Firebird's Wood Fired Grill

Please add your name
to the sign up sheet by 3/17.

Join Us!

BOOK CLUB
3/26 Noon @ Fratelli's
Book of the Month: "The Book of Lost Friends"
by Lisa Wingate

An open book with text on the pages and a small notepad with a pen resting on it.

All are Welcome!
Contact Charlotte Hanson at
hansonc3306@gmail.com for more info.

March 14th
12pm to 2pm
Coffee Hour Space

*No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!*

A graphic featuring a bingo card with numbers and several bingo balls in different colors (blue, green, yellow, red). The word "BINGO" is written in large, colorful letters, and "BUDS" is written in a purple banner at the bottom.

B I N G O
BUDS

Saturday March 30th
2-3:30pm
Social Room

A collection of colorful Easter eggs in shades of yellow, green, blue, and pink.

**EASTER
EGG
HUNT**

Children through 5th grade.
Add your name to the sign up
sheet in the Narthex.

Women's Bible Study
7pm Wednesdays via Zoom
This session will focus on John 1-12
Part 1: The Living Word of God
Contact church office for link

A background image of several purple orchids in bloom.



Ladies Luncheon

March 10th @ Noon


Tapia's on Main

Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Sunday 3/10

SPRING FORWARD

→
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!
[+1 HOUR]



God on Tap

Tuesday
3/12 @ 6:30pm
Main Cup

Members and friends of CRUCC gather to come to know each other and wrestle with some of life's great (and small) questions.

For more information, please contact Christine at 97cfontaine@gmail.com.

Thank You Note

We want to say a big thank you to all who have called, sent cards, or sent food to us during Chris' hospital stay and since he's been home. And, a special thanks to Pastor Greg for his phone calls and visits. It has been greatly appreciated.

~Chris and Gail





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.



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 2023, they donated over \$24K to these charities. All are encouraged to bring their scrap metal for a good cause. Small items can be left on the back porch of the Parish House. Arrangements can be made for picking up large items by contacting Bill Traube at 240-457-3953.



MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK

FOOD ITEMS

- Sugar
- Ketchup
- Coffee
- Canned Meat
- Instant Potatoes
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Cake Mix



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toilet Paper
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Facial Tissue



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.

- ◆ Gift cards Only: 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.

Operating Finances Year to Date Ending January 31, 2024



CRUCC	Actual Jan 01, 2024 - Jan 31, 2024	Actual This Year to Date
REVENUE		
Operating Income	\$ 56,436.40	\$ 56,436.40
Investment Income	\$ 4,804.45	\$ 4,804.45
Other Income	\$ 4,162.42	\$ 4,162.42
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 65,403.27	\$ 65,403.27
EXPENSES		
Compensation Expenses	\$ 12,379.72	\$ 12,379.72
Operating Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 1,424.44	\$ 1,424.44
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 75.95	\$ 75.95
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,983.33	\$ 2,983.33
Utilities	\$ 3,599.92	\$ 3,599.92
Building & Property	\$ 1,482.82	\$ 1,482.82
Insurance Expenses	\$ 12,603.75	\$ 12,603.75
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 22,370.21</i>	<i>\$ 22,370.21</i>
Ministry Expenses		
Ministry - Outreach	\$ 2,044.00	\$ 2,044.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 28.49	\$ 28.49
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 2,072.49</i>	<i>\$ 2,072.49</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 36,822.42	\$ 36,822.42
Net Total	\$ 28,580.85	\$ 28,580.85
CCCC	Actual Jan 01, 2024 - Jan 31, 2024	Actual This Year to Date
REVENUE		
Operating Income	\$ 93,081.50	\$ 93,081.50
Investment Income		
Unrestricted Investment Income	\$ 4.19	\$ 4.19
Total Investment Income	\$ 4.19	\$ 4.19
Total Revenues	\$ 93,085.69	\$ 93,085.69
EXPENSES		
Compensation Expenses	\$ 56,164.14	\$ 56,164.14
Operating Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$ 3,496.31	\$ 3,496.31
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,608.24	\$ 2,608.24
Utilities	\$ 588.85	\$ 588.85
Building & Property	\$ 3,775.00	\$ 3,775.00
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 10,468.40</i>	<i>\$ 10,468.40</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 66,632.54	\$ 66,632.54
Net Total	\$ 26,453.15	\$ 26,453.15

*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

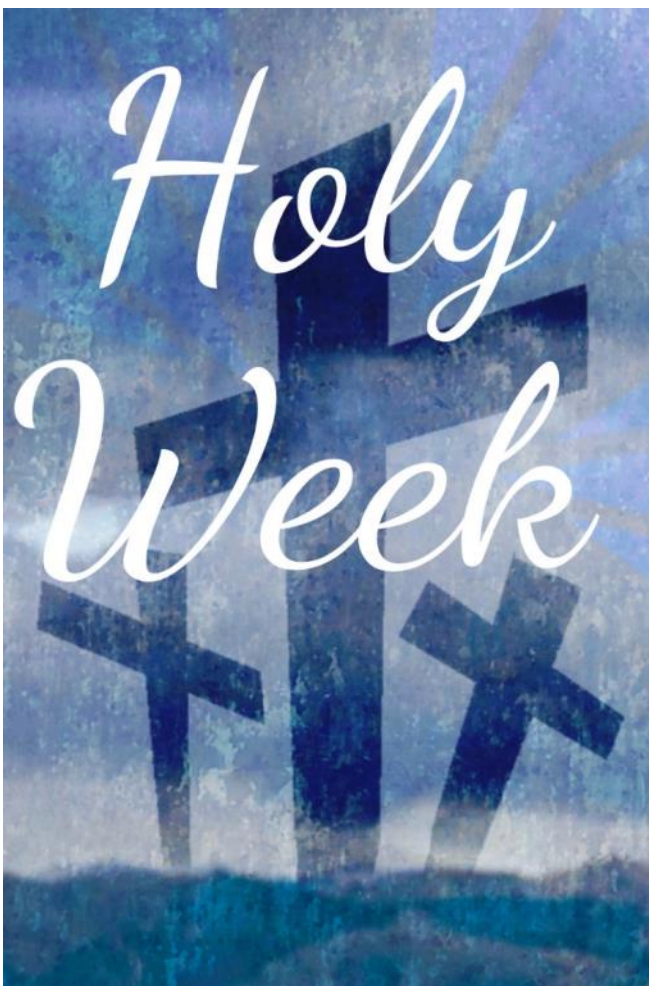
Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
PERMIT 2202
Frederick, Maryland 21701

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.*



Holy Week

SUNDAY, 3/24 PALM SUNDAY @ 8:15am & 10:30am
On this day we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

THURSDAY, 3/28 MAUNDY THURSDAY @ 7:00PM
"Is it I, Lord?" was the question asked by each of the disciples at the last supper when Jesus said that one of them would betray him. It is a question that still resonates today and serves as the backdrop for our Maundy Thursday gathering. We'll share communion as part of the service.

FRIDAY, 3/29 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, we will offer a time of prayer and reflection from 12pm to 1pm. In addition, the church's labyrinth will be set up in the chapel between 1:00 and 6:00pm. You are invited to use this time as an aid in journeying into the mystery of Christ's death.

SUNDAY, 3/31 EASTER SUNDAY @ 6:30am & 10:00am
We'll celebrate Christ's resurrection at two services of worship. We'll gather at 6:30am for sunrise in the gazebo in the cemetery. 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 combined worship at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.