



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,
Happy Easter!

It is interesting trying to write a newsletter article that can top the Resurrection of Jesus! I am being a little silly, however there is some truth to my opening line. How could we possibly top the miraculous events of Easter? Well, [let us](#) focus on Mary. Here's why.

You might find this difficult to grasp, but those of us who lead worship often find it difficult to feel "worshipful" or that we have had the worship experience we try so hard to bring to our congregations. [It is](#) tough and yet, I have experienced true worship in my time here with you. Why, here? Well, [it is](#) the sense and feeling of community.

Once Easter worship was over, I was sitting in the pastor's study thinking about the events of Holy Week. I recalled a conversation about 30 years ago with someone who, right after Easter worship, asked me, "Do you really believe in the doctrine of resurrection?" I told him he had asked the wrong question. Looking puzzled he asked me why.

You can believe something without it ever affecting you. You can believe that [brussel](#) sprouts or tofu is good for you without ever trying it. You can believe that your favorite team will be successful without ever going to a game. The thing about Easter is that it is not about the third person confession, but a first-person experience. I have always felt that Mary Magdalene's declaration of "I have seen the Lord" has always been more powerful, more meaningful, more significant than the traditional "He is risen. He is risen indeed!"

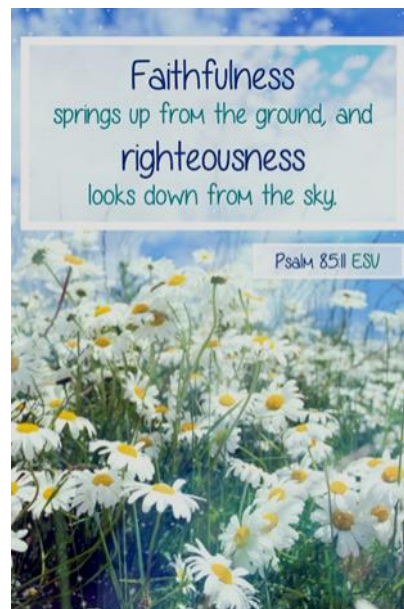
And if you are ever in a difficult [situation or](#) have doubts about the significance of the Lenten/Holy Week/Easter experience or the presence of Christ in our world ... well, remember that "I have seen the Lord," because we have. Even if we do not always recognize it, we have. Really? How? Where?

Well, this is powerful stuff. [It is](#) a statement that says, "Yes, there is still good, and beauty, and love in the world." "I have seen the Lord" is a proclamation and declaration that evil and death will never, ever get the last final word!

I pray you all have an Easter experience where you can encounter the risen Lord. Sometimes we have to really look, but it's there.

Just remember Mary's words, "I have seen the Lord!"

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*Thanks be to God! Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Greg*

Consistory Corner

It's hard to believe it's April already, it seems like the year has just begun and we're already in the second quarter. There has been a lot going on at Christ Reformed in the first three months of the year as part of the search for a settled pastor. We held three workshops with consultant Reverend Dr. Vertie Powers. She helped the congregation focus on the issues related to this time of transition at the church. At the second workshop we focused on the need for a new Vision/Mission statement, we began developing a plan for activities for children at the church, and looking at ways to make the church building more inviting, accessible and welcoming. In the third meeting with Reverend Powers we discussed, among other things, what we are looking for in a settled pastor. Most of you are already aware that Reverend Powers will not be able to continue as a consultant to Christ Reformed due to family issues. However we developed many ideas that we can discuss these further at upcoming monthly congregational information meetings.

These informational meetings also provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to raise questions for the Consistory, or to raise issues that congregation members feel Consistory should focus on. The next congregational informational meeting is this Sunday morning, April 7, between the two services.

By-laws Revised

In other Consistory related news, we have been working on revising and updating the church by-laws. The committee charged with revising the by-laws has submitted a draft to the full consistory for review. Once their comments have been incorporated into the by-laws and they have been approved by Consistory, the revised by-laws will be made available to the congregation for review, discussion and approval. It is expected that the vote will take place in late summer or early fall.

Book Club

The Book Club will meet at noon on Tuesday, April 23, at Fratelli's to discuss The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. Our story opens with the discovery of a skeleton in a well and flashes back to explore its connection to a town's Black, Jewish and immigrant history.

Sub & Soup Sale

The Growing Hope Globally Growing Project, which includes nine churches in the community that raise money to fight world hunger, is hosting a sub and soup sale. There are foot long subs, country ham sandwiches, turkey and provolone sandwiches, and

chicken noodle soup available for purchase. Orders are due by April 19th. Orders can be picked up on Saturday, April 27th from 11am to Noon or after church on Sunday, April 28th. Order forms are available in the Narthex or you can call Linda DeLauder at 240-490-5880 to place your order.

Church Access

Please remember to check in with Missy, the CCCC Director and sign-in and sign-out procedure when you need access to 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. 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.



Thank You Note

Thank you for the prayers and cards during my recent illness.
They were all very uplifting and greatly appreciated.

~Vi Burriss

Thank You!

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Plan Your Calendar

BOOK CLUB
4/23 Noon @ Fratelli's
Book of the Month: "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store"
by James McBride

All are Welcome!

Contact Charlotte Hanson at
hansonc3306@gmail.com for more info.

Ladies Chill Night
4/26 @ 5:30pm
Manalú Italian Restaurant

Please add your name
to the sign up sheet by 4/21.

Join Us!

GUYS NIGHT OUT
4/22 @ 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.

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



God on Tap

Tuesday
4/16 @ 6:30pm
Main Cup

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

Monthly INFORMATION MEETING

hosted by Consistory

April 7th @ 9:15 Chapel

Around the Congregation

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 7	TBD
April 14	TBD
April 21	TBD
April 28	TBD

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

April 7	Connie & Gary Bell
April 14	TBD
April 21	Linda DeLauder & Bill Steigelmann
April 28	CCCC Board

SOUND TECHS

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

LAYREADERS

April 7	Wendy Campbell
April 14	Taylor Magda
April 21	Andrew Corl
April 28	Paul Fink

USHERS

April 7	Pat Joy, Nancy vomLehn
April 14	Laura Verdi, Nancy vom Lehn
April 21	Wendy Campbell, Isaac Cummings
April 28	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer

Church Attendance

February 2024

	8:15 am	10:30 am
February 4	26	61
February 11	26	63
February 18	18	48
February 25	25	54

CCCC's Pre-K class worked together to make a special trap to catch the St. Patrick's Day Leprechaun! They came in the next day to find their classroom turned upside down! They went on a chase all through the center and church to find him and his pot of gold. They did not find him, however, he did leave them a special pot of chocolate gold coins to share!



The Great Leprechaun Chase!



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 February 29 2024



CRUCC	Actual Feb 01, 2024 - Feb 29, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 21,216.39	\$ 77,652.79	\$ 199,079.21
Investment Income	\$ 2.44	\$ 4,806.89	\$ 21,687.11
Other Income	\$ 3,724.68	\$ 7,887.10	\$ 51,752.90
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 24,943.51	\$ 90,346.78	\$ 272,519.22
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 9,161.01	\$ 21,540.73	\$ 257,201.27
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 183.30	\$ 1,607.74	\$ 8,692.26
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 186.95	\$ 262.90	\$ 2,737.10
Office & Supplies	\$ 3,139.49	\$ 6,122.82	\$ 19,899.18
Utilities	\$ 4,250.34	\$ 7,850.26	\$ 26,749.74
Building & Property	\$ 3,834.31	\$ 5,317.13	\$ 24,482.87
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 12,603.75	\$ (8,019.75)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 11,594.39</i>	<i>\$ 33,964.60</i>	<i>\$ 76,341.40</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 2,044.00	\$ 16,756.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 25.00	\$ 53.49	\$ 6,646.51
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 25.00</i>	<i>\$ 2,097.49</i>	<i>\$ 23,402.51</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 20,780.40	\$ 57,602.82	\$ 356,945.18
Net Total	\$ 4,163.11	\$ 32,743.96	\$ (84,425.96)
CCCC	Actual Feb 01, 2024 - Feb 29, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 81,856.00	\$ 174,937.50	\$ 826,851.50
Investment Income	\$ 4.11	\$ 8.30	\$ 2,907.70
Other Income	\$ 2,925.00	\$ 2,925.00	\$ 4,002.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 84,785.11	\$ 177,870.80	\$ 833,761.20
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 61,325.40	\$ 117,489.54	\$ 687,433.46
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 5,900.52	\$ 9,396.83	\$ 68,603.17
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,335.07	\$ 4,943.31	\$ 40,256.69
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 588.85	\$ 3,076.15
Building & Property	\$ 7,127.18	\$ 10,902.18	\$ 51,597.82
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 134.05	\$ 134.05	\$ 3,865.95
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 15,496.82</i>	<i>\$ 25,965.22</i>	<i>\$ 170,899.78</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 76,822.22	\$ 143,454.76	\$ 858,333.24
Net Total	\$ 7,962.89	\$ 34,416.04	\$ (24,572.04)

*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.*

April 11th
12pm to 2pm
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!

B I N G O

B I N G O

BUDS

The graphic features a dark blue background with a large, stylized 'B I N G O' in the center. The letters are in white circles with colored backgrounds: B (blue), I (teal), N (green), G (yellow), and O (orange). Below this, the word 'BUDS' is written in white on a purple semi-circular shape. In the background, there are several bingo cards with numbers and some colorful bingo balls (red, blue, green, yellow) scattered around. The text 'April 11th 12pm to 2pm Coffee Hour Space' is in red on the left, and 'No Need to Sign Up Just Show Up!' is in white script on the right.