

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,

I love Spring. The darkness, barren lands, and trees re-emerge from their rest and come to life in a palette of golds and greens. To me, Spring restores my faith in renewal and rebirth and gives way to the bright sunny days of Summer. Spring also brings us the promise and hope of Easter, which takes us through the darkness of Lent into the warmth, sunshine, and promise of the Easter message. It's all about renewal, regenerating, and moving forward.

As Spring unfolds, I can't make the drive to the Middletown Valley without remembering the words from Song of Solomon 2:11-13. *¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.*

Judy Collins is one of my favorite songwriters. Her career has been amazing and she has proven herself as a wonder musician and lyricist. One of my favorites of her efforts is a song called *The Fallow Way*. It is a song she composed while out for a morning walk in the Spring of 1997. It speaks of the transition from winter to spring and then to summer. The text is too lengthy to print here, but do a Google search for the text. Here is a link to the song. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7JMosPONbU>

Judy says this about transitions:

Wintertime comes what may. In wilder places, when winter comes and everything shuts down, we really do learn something. The problem is that for many people in many ways, winter doesn't matter anymore. We can have peaches in the middle of winter. We can have heat and light, and not have to cooperate and hunker down. But in the long run, we should take a message from nature, obey it, and listen to what it's talking to us about. To do that takes discipline and it takes a space – the kinds of things that most people have a hard time coming up with.

Transitions take time. We want to go "full steam ahead" and make things happen. It doesn't work that way. Transitions take time. It is a slow process. Time is time and to do things well and be our best, we don't need to hurry. As a church, we are transitioning and unfolding, yet again. Yes, the winters have been with us, but there is an unfolding in store for us, just as Mother Nature has an unfolding in store for the earth. Yes, it will take work and time. However, let us embrace this time together with love, patience, dreams, open minds, and excitement. Thanks be to God!

Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Greg

Volume XXXX
Number V
May 2024



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Consistory Corner

There will be a Congregational meeting on May 19, 2024 at 9:15am in the Chapel. The primary purpose of the meeting is to get a report from the Weagly House Committee with their recommendations on the future of the property. The congregation will then be asked to vote on their recommendation. Consistory is considering a request from the Society of St. Vincent dePaul to put a donation box in our parking lot. Consistory asked for more information before voting on the request. Revisions to the By-Laws of the Church are being reviewed by the Consistory, which is expected to vote on changes at their May meeting. Once approved by Consistory, copies of the by-laws with changes clearly marked, will be made available to the Congregation and a Congregational vote will be scheduled for fall. If anyone has any questions or concerns that you would like to bring before the Consistory, feel free to talk to any Consistory member.

Contact Information Update

Realm is our online database where you can locate your giving history and contact information. It's also used to send out the newsletter and other mailings to the congregation. Have you accessed your REALM profile recently? Is all of your contact information correct? Don't have a REALM account? Contact Debbie in the church office for help. Not sure how to update your information in REALM? Nancy vom Lehn will be available in the Coffee Hour space after church each Sunday in the month of April to enter the updates for you. Questions? See Nancy vom Lehn or contact Debbie in the church office.

Update from the Search and Call Committee

The Search and Call Committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to verify their information in Realm is accurate. This was an important first step to ensure that the Search and Call Committee can contact all members of the congregation. Please be on the lookout for an email in early May! The Search and Call Committee will be sending out a survey via email, your input is invaluable to us and we invite everyone to participate! Your participation in this survey will play a crucial role in shaping the criteria and qualities we seek in our next pastoral leader. Your perspectives will help us understand the needs and desires of our congregation, ensuring that we select a candidate who aligns with our values and vision for the future. The survey will cover various aspects related to the search and call process, including:

1. Desired qualities and characteristics for our called pastor.
2. Priorities for the pastoral role and responsibilities.
3. Vision(s) for the future of the church.

Additionally, the Search and Call Committee will be gathering information that will be utilized in the crafting of the mission statement. Following the review of the survey responses by the Search and Call Committee, we will be hosting dialogue sessions to further discuss

responses and begin the work related to updating our mission statement to better reflect the mission of CRUCC. Your honest and thoughtful responses will provide invaluable guidance to the Search and Call Committee as we work to complete the Church Profile. The Search and Call Committee is committed to ensuring a transparent and inclusive process that reflects the collective voice of our congregation. Thank you in advance for your participation and support in this important endeavor!



**Interested in a Bible Study? Porch Sitting?
Coffee House Chat? Coffee & Conversation?**

Pastor Greg is looking to have a Summertime Bible Study. Venue/Topics/Day/Time all to be decided based on input from those interested. If you would like to fire up the Bible Study, please talk to Pastor Greg. Better yet, because he forgets things, send him an email! 301vicar@gmail.com

ONE GOD ONE VOICE
PRESENTS

ECHO

Concert of Divine Resonance

MAY 5TH

4:00 PM

PERFORMED IN REMEMBRANCE OF SUSANNA TABOR

THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

6909 Maryland Avenue • Braddock Heights, MD

FREE ADMISSION



Join Us!
Ladies
CHILL NIGHT

May 17 @ 5:30pm
Modern Asia

Please add your name to the sign up sheet by 5/12.

BOOK CLUB
5/28 Noon @ Fratelli's
Book of the Month: "Tom Lake"
by Anne Patchett

All are Welcome!

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

May 9th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!


B I N G O
BUDS

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

GUYS NIGHT OUT

5/20 @ 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.



God on Tap

Tuesday
5/14 @ 6:30pm
Main Cup

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





RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, May 18

8:30am to 1:30pm

CRUCC Chapel

To schedule an appointment please visit
www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Keyword:
ChristReformedUCC or call the church office at 301-371-6610.

Around the Congregation

ALTAR FLOWERS	
May 5	Wendy Campbell
May 12	Connie & Gary Bell
May 19	TBD
May 26	Dick & Susan Foot
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	
May 5	Bunny Cramer & Dick Burd
May 12	Laura & Tony Verdi
May 19	GriFF & Mary Garwood
May 26	Property Board
SOUND TECHS	
May 5	Nick Fink
May 12	Pat Joy
May 17	Tony Verdi
May 26	Pat Joy

LAYREADERS	
May 5	Laura Fontaine
May 12	Sue Wickless
May 19	Sue Wickless
May 26	Bunny Cramer
USHERS	
May 5	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
May 12	Be' Hill, Karen Koogle
May 19	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck
May 26	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke

Church Attendance		
March 2024		
	8:15 am	10:30 am
March 3	31	60
March 10	23	57
March 17	26	56
March 24	23	80
Easter Sunrise:		35
Easter 10am Combined:		138

CCCC collaborated this month with the Middletown Lions Club and conducted free vision screenings on the Preschool classes.



EASTER 2024



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.




The Discipleship Board is looking to partner with another church for a mission trip this summer. If you are interested, please contact Linda DeLauder at linda_bill@comcast.net.

Strengthen the Church

On **May 19th**, Pentecost Sunday, we'll be collecting the Strengthen the Church offering. The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to

THE STRENGTHEN CHURCH



be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. You can write a check to the church and note it "Strengthen the Church" or use the QR Code. You can find more information about this offering at <http://www.ucc.org/stc/>.

MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK

FOOD ITEMS

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Vegetable Oil
- Canned Meat
- Instant Potatoes
- Cake Mix
- Crackers



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Liquid Hand Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant



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 March 31, 2024



CRUCC	Actual Mar 01, 2024 - Mar 31, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 11,676.27	\$ 89,329.06	\$ 187,402.94
Investment Income	\$ (99.13)	\$ 4,707.76	\$ 21,786.24
Other Income	\$ 3,984.48	\$ 11,871.58	\$ 47,768.42
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 15,561.62	\$ 105,908.40	\$ 256,957.60
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 18,089.06	\$ 39,629.79	\$ 239,112.21
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 225.13	\$ 1,832.87	\$ 8,467.13
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 262.90	\$ 2,737.10
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,524.47	\$ 7,647.29	\$ 18,374.71
Utilities	\$ 1,947.43	\$ 9,797.69	\$ 24,802.31
Building & Property	\$ 1,390.28	\$ 6,707.41	\$ 23,092.59
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 12,603.75	\$ (8,019.75)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 5,087.31</i>	<i>\$ 39,051.91</i>	<i>\$ 71,254.09</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,044.00	\$ 12,756.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 331.15	\$ 384.64	\$ 6,315.36
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 4,331.15</i>	<i>\$ 6,428.64</i>	<i>\$ 19,071.36</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 27,507.52	\$ 85,110.34	\$ 329,437.66
Net Total	\$ (11,945.90)	\$ 20,798.06	\$ (72,480.06)

CCCC	Actual Mar 01, 2024 - Mar 31, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
Revenues			
Operating Income	\$ 75,867.00	\$ 250,804.50	\$ 750,984.50
Investment Income	\$ 4.62	\$ 12.92	\$ 2,903.08
Other Income	\$ 1,454.27	\$ 4,379.27	\$ 2,547.73
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 77,325.89	\$ 255,196.69	\$ 756,435.31
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 62,150.15	\$ 179,639.69	\$ 625,283.31
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 3,765.63	\$ 13,162.46	\$ 64,837.54
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 3,475.00
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,640.65	\$ 7,583.96	\$ 37,616.04
Utilities	\$ 332.94	\$ 921.79	\$ 2,743.21
Building & Property	\$ 4,683.17	\$ 15,585.35	\$ 46,914.65
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 118.63	\$ 252.68	\$ 3,747.32
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 11,566.02</i>	<i>\$ 37,531.24</i>	<i>\$ 159,333.76</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 73,716.17	\$ 217,170.93	\$ 784,617.07
Net Total	\$ 3,609.72	\$ 38,025.76	\$ (28,181.76)

*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.*

SAVE THE DATE!!



A wooden signpost with a weathered wooden sign attached. The sign has the word "Worship" written in black cursive. To the left of the sign, the text "OUTDOOR" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. Below "OUTDOOR", the text "Join Us!" is written in a yellow cursive font. Below "Join Us!", the text "SUNDAY" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. Below "SUNDAY", the text "MAY 12 @ 10AM" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. At the bottom, the text "Note that we will only have one service." is written in a small, italicized, grey font.

OUTDOOR
Join Us! **Worship**
SUNDAY
MAY 12 @ 10AM
Note that we will only have one service.



A person's hands holding a yellow notepad with a black pen. The notepad has the text "Congregational Meeting" written in red cursive. Below that, the text "May 19th" is written in red cursive. Below "May 19th", the text "@ 9:15am" is written in red cursive. Below "@ 9:15am", the text "Chapel" is written in red cursive. At the bottom, the text "Discussion & voting on the Weagly House Proposal." is written in red cursive.

Congregational Meeting
May 19th
@ 9:15am
Chapel
Discussion & voting on the Weagly House Proposal.