

Volume XXXX
Number VI
June 2024

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 your Designated Pastor, I feel the need to lead you in some sort of discussion about the future of Christ Reformed UCC. I have spent a great deal of time researching, reading, and processing information that might make this possible for us. I was drawn in by a study (for the lack of a better word) by Barbara Lloyd through the United Church of Canada. I presented it to both the Church in Ministry Committee and Consistory. Both groups seemed excited and have given their blessing to proceed.

I have used the word discernment several times recently. Someone asked about it at the early service a few weeks back. Merriam-Webster says it means the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure: skill in discerning, an act of perceiving or discerning something. I don't think our task is obscure. I think we know the direction and what we hope would come from studying our situation and where we see ourselves in the future.

Let's look at discernment from a biblical standpoint. I like this definition I discovered online. In the Bible, discernment is the ability to think biblically about all aspects of life, and to make careful distinctions about truth. It is also the ability to distinguish between good and better, and even better and best. Discernment is considered a special grace gift by some, and is essential for all people, and must be constantly nourished. The New Testament says that discernment is required for the believer, and intersects the Christian life at every point.

The study I found is called Open to the Spirit. There are five areas that we will examine, process, and discuss that hopefully will give us some insight into the future. The theme for the first chapter is Radical Welcoming. What does "Radical Welcoming" mean to you in the context of the ministry of Christ Reformed UCC? Plan to attend the worship service on Sunday, June 30, at 10 a.m., and we will begin our discernment process together. It is a time of thinking, processing, and dreaming about what our church can be for the future.

The Bible says that the Word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of one's heart. A discerning mind demonstrates wisdom and insight beyond what is seen and heard. Life is full of difficult decisions for which there are often no easy or obvious choices. We all need discernment. Paul and Timothy write that love, knowledge, and discernment go hand in hand.

In Philippians 1:9-10 (NIV), Paul prays, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ."

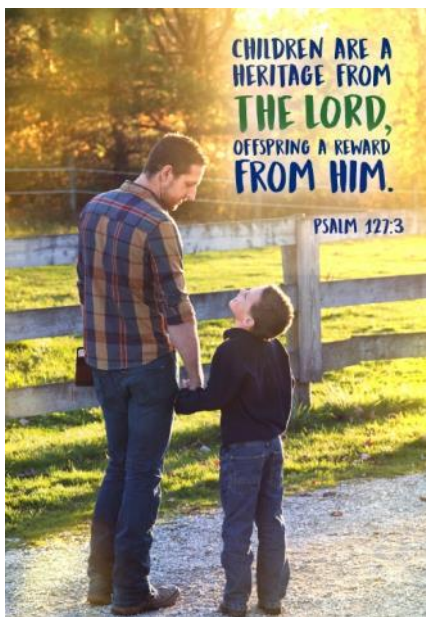
Before June 30, you can do several important tasks. One is to pray for our church, this process, and our future. Two is to think of what Radical Welcoming means to you and the times and places you have been radically welcomed.

May the Spirit continue to love, sustain, and radically welcome us in this community of faith. See you June 30!

Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Greg



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Search and Call Committee

The Search & Call Committee would like to thank everyone that took part in the Congregational Survey. Please be on the lookout for a calendar of dialogues that the Search & Call Committee will be hosting to gain further insight into your survey responses.

Field of Hope Growing Project

The Field of Hope Growing Project is a joint effort of ten local churches and is affiliated with Growing Hope Globally (formerly Foods Resource Bank), an international organization whose mission is to alleviate world hunger by globally connecting local communities through agriculture. Each year, in support of the Field of Hope Growing Project, members of the Churches donate their land, time, labor and money to help eradicate hunger through sustainable programs that grow lasting solutions to hunger. 2024 marks our seventeenth year of working toward helping our brothers and sisters rise out of hunger and poverty. We begin each Growing Project in the spring with the Blessing of the Seed service on Sunday, June 2nd and finish in September or October with the Harvest Celebration. Please look for more information in future bulletins to learn how you can support this Project.

Congregational Meeting Weagly House

During the May 19, 2024 Congregational Meeting the Weagly House Task Force Committee presented a summary of their work regarding the disposition of the Weagly House. The Task Force Committee recommended that CRUCC not sell Weagly House. Following a summary of the information in the Weagly House Task Force Committee Final Report, the Congregation engaged in a dynamic discussion that allowed those in attendance to further delve into the Task Force Committee's recommendation. At the close of the discussion, a vote was called and the Congregation voted unanimously to not sell the Weagly House.

Consistory Corner

Consistory continues to work on revisions to the by-laws. Among the changes, is to add a new by-law to define the relationship between the Church and the Christ Church Children's Center. The Consistory is expected to vote on changes at one of the meetings this summer. Once approved by the 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.

All-Church Picnic

It's church picnic time again! This year we will be at Memorial Park (behind the Medical Center) on June 23rd. There will be one service that day at the park beginning at 11:00am. The Parish Life Board will be providing fried chicken and sodas/water. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or call the church office with how many will be attending and an idea of what side dish/dessert you will be bringing. You may want to bring a lawn chair if you don't want to sit on a picnic bench. Those with mobility issues should try and park in the parking lot of the Park. Everyone else should park in the church parking lot. We will have the van available to transport attendees. *Please note that we will not have a worship service at the church unless the weather is unfavorable. Then we would move all activities to the church.*



It looks like Wednesdays between 11-2 are the ideal times. Late morning or lunchtime gathering? There's still time if you are interested. Topics will either be parables or psalms. Please let Pastor Greg know very soon if you can participate. Better yet, because he forgets things, send him an email! 301vicar@gmail.com



Join Us!
Ladies
CHILL NIGHT

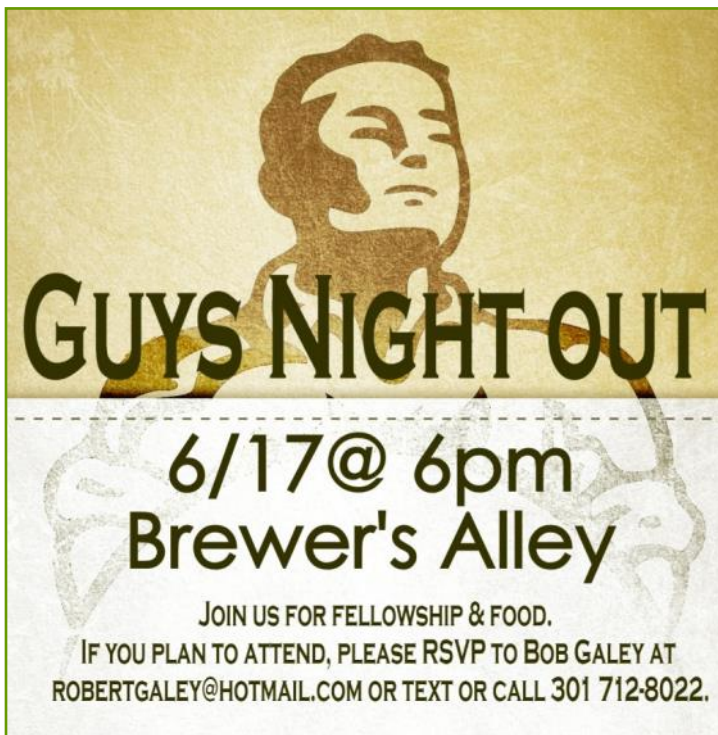
June 21 @ 5:30pm
Longhorn Steakhouse

Please add your name to the sign up sheet by 6/19.



CANCELLED

JUNE
CONSISTORY
INFORMATIONAL
MEETING



GUYS NIGHT OUT

6/17@ 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.

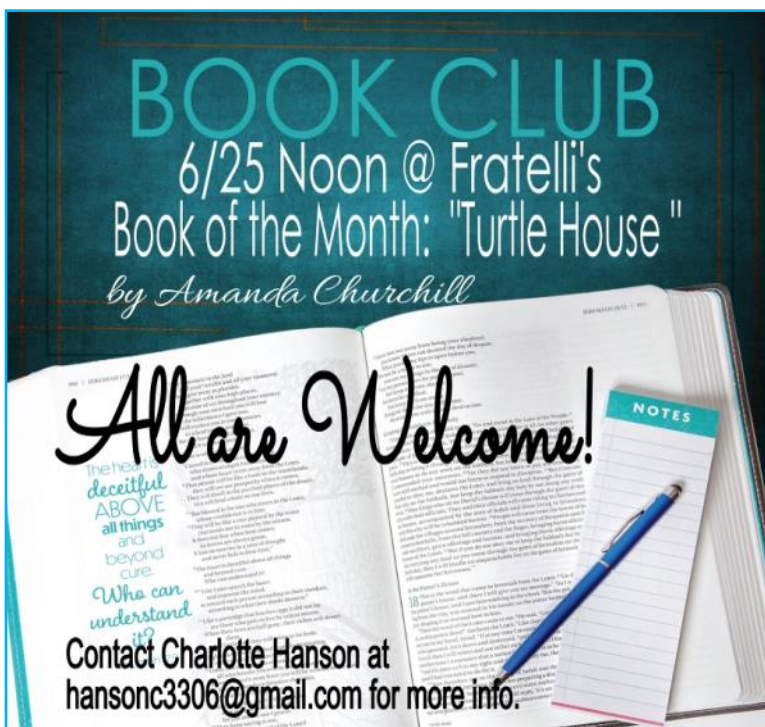


We gather
together

God on Tap

Tuesday 6/11 @ 6:30pm
Main Cup

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



BOOK CLUB

6/25 Noon @ Fratelli's
Book of the Month: "Turtle House"
by Amanda Churchill

All are Welcome!

The heart is deceitful
ABOVE all things
and beyond
cure.
Who can
understand
it?

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



June 13th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

B I N G O

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!

B I N G O

BUDS

CHRIST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RADICAL WELCOMING

AN EXPLORATION OF OUR EXPERIENCES OF WELCOMING AND BEING WELCOMED TO GOD'S MISSION.

WORSHIP SERVICE & WORKSHOP

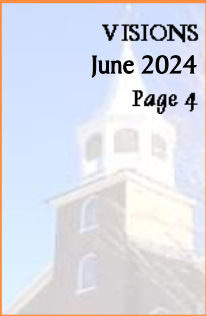
POTLUCK LUNCH TO FOLLOW

JUNE 30, 2024
10:00 AM

CHAPEL

PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE

On Sunday, June 30, we will begin our series *Open to the Spirit*, a guided study of five or six sessions of individual and group discussions. The study encourages us to process and imagine new ways of strengthening our church in the areas of Radical Welcoming, Empowering Leadership, Justice-Making, Loving, and Risk Taking. Looking at our strengths and weaknesses, the study is designed to see how the church is challenged in a multicultural and multi-faith world, and guide us to dream, envision, and become a stronger and vibrant spiritual presence in our community. We will have one worship service at 10am on June 30th, followed by a working lunch with small group discussions. Consistory will be providing the main dish. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. A sign up sheet is available in the Narthex. After lunch, we will gather for a brief closing time. Thank you in advance for being a part of this important study.



Around the Congregation

ALTAR FLOWERS

June 2	TBD
June 9	TBD
June 16	Jesi & JJ Bell-Godfrey
June 23	Outdoor Picnic
June 30	TBD

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

June 2	Wendy Campbell
June 9	Parish Life
June 16	Madelyn Cross & Terry Sparks
June 23	Church Picnic
June 30	CE Board

SOUND TECHS

June 2	Tony Verdi
June 9	Nick Fink
June 16	Pat Joy
June 23	N/A
June 30	Tony Verdi

LAYREADERS

June 2	Gail Johnson
June 9	Susan Thornton
June 16	Taylor Magda
June 23	Sue Wickless
June 30	Andrew Coel

USHERS

June 2	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
June 9	Laura Verdi, Nancy vom Lehn
June 16	Wendy Campbell, Isaac Cummings
June 23	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer
June 30	Be' Hill, Karen Koogle

Church Attendance			
April 2024			
	8:15 am	10:30 am	
April 7	30	54	
April 14	33	57	
April 21	23	48	
April 28	18	53	



CCCC and Families celebrated all of our staff this month for Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6th-10th. Special Thank You to the Adams' and Crowder Families for Breakfast, Kiska's and Engestrom's for the Pizza party, and the Abbs, Bussard, Dillow and Nalley families for lunch. Many thanks to the families and children for the cards, gifts and flowers all week! You made our staff feel so special. CCCC Teachers are Out of this World!



♥ TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK ♥



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.



BLESSING OF THE SEED SERVICE

Sunday,
June 2nd @3pm

Growing
Project Farm
11720 Wolfsville Rd
Myersville, Maryland



GROWING
HOPE
GLOBALLY

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

- 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.



CRUCC	Actual Apr 01, 2024 - Apr 30, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 23,911.00	\$ 113,240.06	\$ 163,491.94
Investment Income	\$ 4,805.09	\$ 9,512.85	\$ 16,981.15
Other Income	\$ 4,133.06	\$ 16,004.64	\$ 43,635.36
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 32,849.15	\$ 138,757.55	\$ 224,108.45
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 13,933.16	\$ 53,562.95	\$ 225,179.05
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 179.88	\$ 2,012.75	\$ 8,287.25
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 262.90	\$ 2,737.10
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,374.43	\$ 10,021.72	\$ 16,000.28
Utilities	\$ 3,488.49	\$ 13,286.18	\$ 21,313.82
Building & Property	\$ 718.50	\$ 7,425.91	\$ 22,374.09
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Insurance Expenses	\$ 12,603.75	\$ 25,207.50	\$ (20,623.50)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 19,365.05</i>	<i>\$ 58,416.96</i>	<i>\$ 51,889.04</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 6,044.00	\$ 12,756.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 51.06	\$ 435.70	\$ 6,264.30
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 51.06</i>	<i>\$ 6,479.70</i>	<i>\$ 19,020.30</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 33,349.27	\$ 118,459.61	\$ 296,088.39
Net Total	\$ (500.12)	\$ 20,297.94	\$ (71,979.94)

CCCC	Actual Apr 01, 2024 - Apr 30, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
Revenues			
Operating Income	\$ 91,259.00	\$ 342,063.50	\$ 659,725.50
Investment Income	\$ 4.57	\$ 17.49	\$ 2,898.51
Other Income	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,779.27	\$ 2,147.73
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 91,663.57	\$ 346,860.26	\$ 664,771.74
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 88,525.14	\$ 268,164.83	\$ 536,758.17
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 5,126.01	\$ 18,288.47	\$ 59,711.53
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 3,475.00
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,315.75	\$ 9,899.71	\$ 35,300.29
Utilities	\$ 222.23	\$ 1,144.02	\$ 2,520.98
Building & Property	\$ 3,969.77	\$ 19,555.12	\$ 42,944.88
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 108.63	\$ 361.31	\$ 3,638.69
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 11,742.39</i>	<i>\$ 49,273.63</i>	<i>\$ 147,591.37</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 100,267.53	\$ 317,438.46	\$ 684,349.54
Net Total	\$ (8,603.96)	\$ 29,421.80	\$ (19,577.80)

*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.*

Sunday, 6/23 @ 11am
Memorial Park
216 Prospect Street

Outdoor Worship
& Picnic

You're Invited!

Details on page 2