



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,

Isaiah 43 says, "Remember not the former things of old. Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Most of you know that I live in Hagerstown, drive down Route 70, and take Route 17 into Middletown. Some have said, "Oh it's such a drive." Well, it is a drive, and Route 70 can certainly offer its share of challenges. However, there is the wonderful stretch of road between the Myersville exit and Middletown that I genuinely look forward to making each time. Why? Well, I love the scenery. I especially love seeing the "green" spaces of farms and fields, complete with cows and their calves, and watching how people transform yards and flower beds into works of art.

Seeing the beautiful farmland still intact here in the Middletown Valley makes me sad that Hagerstown has replaced the greenery and farmland with warehouses. I think about the past and how our Sunday drives were through beautiful areas of our county now littered with these warehouses. I long for the "old days" when all that was available and things were different. But if I am truly honest, there are still areas of green. The City Park is stunning, and there are other smaller parks to enjoy, and the mountains are still there. Maybe I just need to find different roads and places where there is still green. Maybe it is me who needs to adapt. Perhaps I am the one who needs to find other routes and areas to see the green.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

As spring approached, I noticed these little black "things" moving around several yards along Route 17. They are robotic lawnmowers! I couldn't believe it. Like those Roomba vacuums that move about your home, these move around the yard keeping the lawn nicely manicured. In one yard, the robot moves about at random, while in the other, the robot mows in beautiful, straight rows. I am fascinated by these little things running around the yards. The lawns are immaculate and perfectly manicured in all sorts of weather and times of day. After leaving the church one night after a meeting, I noticed that the robot even had headlights on it. I remember back to my younger days when my father sharpened the blades of the reel push mower, and it was part of my summer tasks to mow our lawn. Yep, with a push mower.



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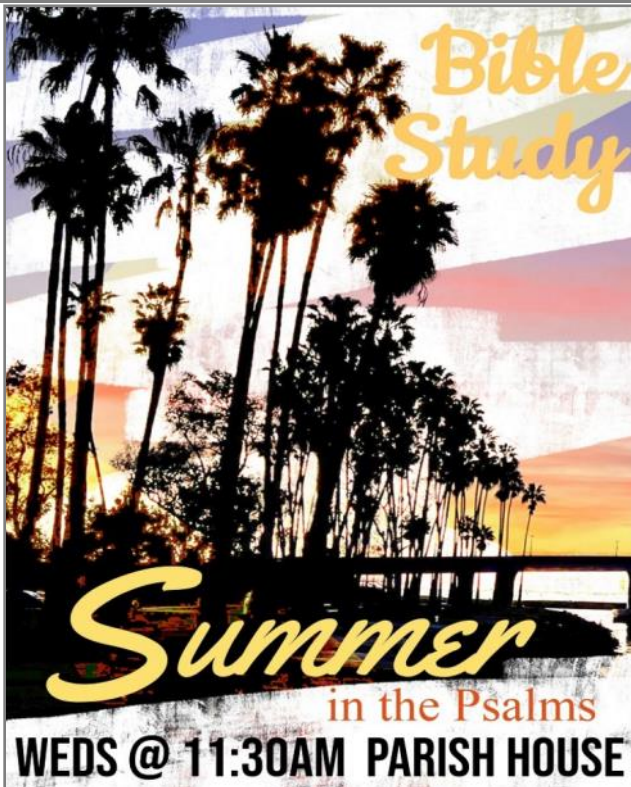


All this is to say that life and all around us evolve. Change happens. If Covid taught us nothing else, it taught us we had to seek other ways to accomplish things. What doesn't change? Indeed, our Creator's presence, love, and grace are as present as ever. The essential teachings of Jesus still apply as a living example of how to be God's ambassador and maintain civility. And the Holy Spirit never leaves our side, even in the worst of times. So, my friends, it is up to us to maintain our faith, be involved in our community, love one another as Christ loved us, and, if necessary, find new avenues to share the Gospel and still make the world a better place.

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



Notes



In Search of USHERS

Here is an easy way to become more involved in our church. Become an Usher! The current ushering schedule for our 10:30am services ends this month so here is your chance to help keep our services running smoothly. Questions? Please contact Nancy vom Lehn at gnvom@aol.com.

Search Committee Update

The Search & Call Committee would like to thank everyone that participated in the Congregational Discussions! Your input and the feedback from the ranking survey have been invaluable in providing additional clarity. Over the next few weeks, the Committee will be focusing on completing the Local Church Profile. Once this has been completed, it will be shared with the Congregation for your comments before it is posted on the UCC website. Thank you for your continued support and engagement in this

important process. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Search & Call Committee at crucsearchcommittee@gmail.com.

Blessing of the Backpacks

If you or your child is a student, teacher or other school employee we invite you to join us for this special part of worship on August 18th. Bring a backpack, briefcase or other symbol of your work or study and we'll join in praying God's blessings for the coming year.

Conversation on Church Membership

If you have been thinking about joining CRUCC or would just like to know more about our church and ministries, please contact Pastor Greg at 301vicar@gmail.com or 301-992-1305.

Volunteers Needed!



Now is the time to start planning for CRUCC's participation in the Heritage Day events on September 28th. Last year we had lots of great ideas that we can build on for this year. It's an "all hands on deck" kind of day - there is a place for everyone to help. This is a great opportunity to introduce members of the community to our wonderful church. Won't you please help? Become a member of the HD Planning committee. For more information, please see Nancy vom Lehn or contact her at gnvom@aol.com.





Coffee Hour Space

August 11
ICE CREAM SUNDAY
following our 10:30 service



Resumes in Sept.
GUYS NIGHT OUT

BOOK CLUB
8/27 Noon @ Fratelli's
Book of the Month: "The Island of Sea Women"
by Lisa See



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



God on Tap
Tuesday 8/13 @ 6:30pm
Main Cup

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

**CONSISTORY
INFORMATIONAL
DISCUSSIONS**

Join us in the Chapel
8/18 @ 9:15AM

Ladies Chill Night
8/23 @ 5:30pm
Outback Steakhouse

Join Us!
Please add your name
to the sign up sheet by 8/18.



Did you know that you can donate to the church while you are grocery shopping or eating out? With every gift card you purchase from the church through the Raise Right program, a portion of the value of the gift card is donated right back to Christ Reformed. For a partial list of the participating merchants, look for order forms in the Narthex or visit the Raise Right website (<http://www.raiseright.com>). We have a small inventory of gift cards that you can purchase from Gail Johnson on Sundays, submit the completed form (w/payment) to the church office or order directly online. Questions? Call the church office or see Gail Johnson.

ENROLL ONLINE: <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=3124C59B3388L>



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

- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Chicken
- Jelly
- Baked Beans
- Canned Peas
- Soup
- Coffee
- Juice



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

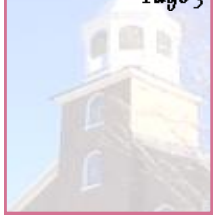
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Deodorant
- Bars of Soap



The mission of Hearty 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 Hearty House can be dropped off to the church office.



PROJECTS NEEDED!!



Saturday Sept 7th

Are you in need of some assistance on small home projects? Examples of projects are indoor/outdoor painting, repairs, yard work, cleaning. Since our introduction we have assisted over 40 families. If you are in need of assistance on a home project, please contact Renee Brandenburg-Huffer at aquatictraining@aol.com for more details.

Around the Congregation

ALTAR FLOWERS

August 4 Madelyn Cross & Terry Sparkes
 August 11 TBD
 August 18 Debbie Ferrell
 August 25 Linda DeLauder & Bill Steigelmann

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

August 4 Mike & Debbie Locke
 August 11 Parish Life
 August 18 Linda DeLauder
 August 25 Cemetery Board

SOUND TECHS

August 4 Nick Fink
 August 11 Paul Fink
 August 18 Pat Joy
 August 25 Pat Joy

LAYREADERS

August 4 Emily Mathis
 August 11 Susan Thornton
 August 18 Andrew Corl
 August 25 Sue Wickless

USHERS

August 4 Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
 August 11 Wendy Campbell, Isaac Cummings
 August 18 Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer
 August 25 Be' Hill, Karen Koogle

Church Attendance

June 2024

	8:15 am	10:30 am
June 2	28	54
June 9	26	52
June 16	22	56
June 23 Picnic		60
June 30 Blended Worship		56



SUMMER HOURS
 Monday-Thursday
 10am to 2pm
 Friday
 10am to Noon



Operating Finances Year to Date Ending June 30, 2024



CRUCC	Actual Jun 01, 2024 - Jun 30, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 11,489.00	\$ 138,734.39	\$ 137,997.61
Investment Income	\$ (2.36)	\$ 9,516.18	\$ 16,977.82
Other Income	\$ 3,927.80	\$ 24,079.48	\$ 35,560.52
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 15,414.44	\$ 172,330.05	\$ 190,535.95
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 13,324.67	\$ 80,109.78	\$ 198,632.22
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 223.94	\$ 2,511.14	\$ 7,788.86
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 474.88	\$ 2,525.12
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,218.40	\$ 12,735.47	\$ 13,286.53
Utilities	\$ 1,024.05	\$ 15,524.74	\$ 19,075.26
Building & Property	\$ 2,915.70	\$ 10,641.61	\$ 19,158.39
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 187.00	\$ 1,813.00
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 25,207.50	\$ (20,623.50)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 5,382.09</i>	<i>\$ 67,482.34</i>	<i>\$ 42,823.66</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 10,044.00	\$ 8,756.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 179.25	\$ 649.58	\$ 6,050.42
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 4,179.25</i>	<i>\$ 10,693.58</i>	<i>\$ 14,806.42</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 22,886.01	\$ 158,285.70	\$ 256,262.30
Net Total	\$ (7,471.57)	\$ 14,044.35	\$ (65,726.35)
CCCC	Actual Jun 01, 2024 - Jun 30, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 67,978.00	\$ 485,886.00	\$ 515,903.00
Investment Income	\$ 2,729.57	\$ 2,752.08	\$ 163.92
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 5,083.27	\$ 1,843.73
Designated Income	\$ -	\$ 60.41	\$ (60.41)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 70,707.57	\$ 493,781.76	\$ 517,850.24
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 64,932.02	\$ 399,309.26	\$ 416,663.74
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 4,878.32	\$ 31,588.26	\$ 46,411.74
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 647.82	\$ 672.82	\$ 2,827.18
Office & Supplies	\$ 4,055.10	\$ 16,351.37	\$ 28,848.63
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 1,589.90	\$ 2,075.10
Building & Property	\$ 4,585.78	\$ 27,915.90	\$ 34,584.10
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 90.00	\$ 647.89	\$ 3,352.11
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 14,257.02</i>	<i>\$ 78,766.14</i>	<i>\$ 118,098.86</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 79,189.04	\$ 478,075.40	\$ 534,762.60
Net Total	\$ (8,481.47)	\$ 15,706.36	\$ (16,912.36)

*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

Summer Office Hours
Mon-Thur 10am-2pm/Fri 10am-Noon
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.*

August 8th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

*No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!*



B **I** **N** **G** **O**

BUDS