



Volume XXXX
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July 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,

I came across this meditation recently and secured permission to share it in our newsletter. It really hit home for me. I also thought it was a good pondering as we begin our time of discussion and openness to where God might lead the church to "What's next"? It's humorous, but effective.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 1 Corinthians 12:21 (NRSV)

Actually, the eye *can* say to the hand, "I have no need of you." The eye can discern texture without the hand, after all, and the hand can learn tactile navigation without the eye. The head and feet can likewise disregard one another. The feet can carry the head from place to place even when the head's thoughts are wandering in the clouds, and the head can imagine new methods of mobility if the use of feet is lost.

Our bodies, senses, and neuropathways adapt as we live and learn. Our relationships adapt too—Paul's wisdom notwithstanding.

Sometimes the toe says to the eye, "I have no need of you," not because the toe doesn't need the eye but because the toe is tired of being stubbed *hard* whenever the eye isn't paying attention. And sometimes the heel says to the hip, "I have no need of you," not because the heel is self-sufficiently able to hold the whole body but because the heel has lost trust in the hip's willingness to show up when it's time to carry the weight.

Few of us are so arrogant as to believe it's possible to go it alone in life. But when we are stubbed or bruised, weighed down or disregarded too many times by other members of the body, we can easily hide behind that defensive declaration: "I have no need of you."

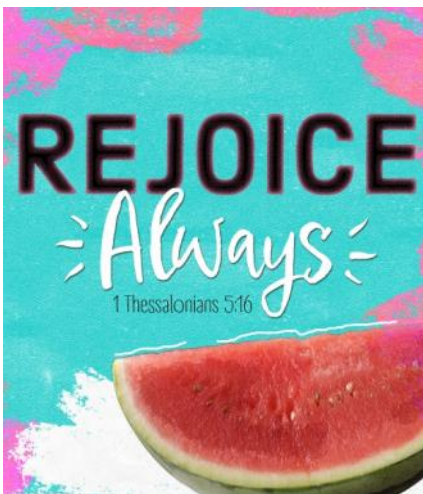
The ear says "I have no need of you" to the knee, the thumb says it to the heel, you say it to me, we say it them ... until the whole body is bruised and bleeding.

Yes, it's possible to function apart, just as it's possible to dysfunction together. But I cannot claim to be in the Spirit while dismissing you, and you cannot swear to be in the Spirit while giving up on me.

Prayer: God have mercy, I can be quite a heel.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Greg

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First published on June 17, 2024 by Rachel Hackenberg (rachelhackenberg.com).
My sincere appreciation to Rachel Hackenberg for permission to use this



Search Committee Update

The Search & Call Committee will be hosting Congregational Discussions to further explore the survey responses regarding the desired characteristics of our called pastor. The Search & Call Committee wants to ensure that our analysis and summation of the survey responses on this topic properly capture the congregation's vision of our called pastor. The discussions will be held in the Chapel on Sunday, July 21st at 9:15am and Wednesday, July 24th at 7:00pm. The intention of the two time slots is to ensure those with diverse schedules can attend. Attendance via Zoom will not be available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Search & Call Committee at crucsearchcommittee@gmail.com

Summer Stewardship

We hope your summer plans provide plenty of time for rest and renewal. While you are vacationing, however, we hope you keep in mind that the church's expenses do not take time off. Salaries, utilities, insurance and mission commitments are year-round realities. We appreciate your continuing support of the church through your pledges and offerings!

Pastor Greg Schedule

Greg will be on vacation and finishing up a Grief Certification Course from July 1-18. Pastor Ed Higginbottom will be on call for pastoral emergencies until July 5th. He can be reached at edwinhi@myactv.net or 240-707-8262. After July 5th, please contact the church office for assistance.

Guest Pastor Schedule

On Sunday, July 7, Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice, Associate Conference Minister, will be our guest pastor. Her topic for the day is "All I need to know. . ." and is based on Mark 6:1-13, with supporting readings, 2 Samuel 5:1-15 and 2 Corinthians 12:2-10. She is looking forward to being with us for that day.

On Sunday, July 14, Rev. Dr. Stephen Robinson will be with us to share in worship. He will speak on "Reality Check," based on Mark 6:14-20. Steve and his wife Darlene are long-time friends and colleagues of Pastor Greg. Steve is recently retired from Otterbein United Methodist Church in Hagerstown.

CRUCC Notes

Debbie in the church office sends out weekly emails that highlight upcoming events, news, etc. If you are not currently receiving these emails and would like to, please contact her in the church office.

Children's Center Security

Please be mindful that during the week from 6:30am to 6pm, the Children's Center is secured and you will need to see Debbie for access to the space during those hours. If Debbie is not available and you need to enter through the double glass doors in the Narthex, you will need to press the blue button and when prompted, give your name and the purpose of your visit. It is important to respect these security measures. Thank you!

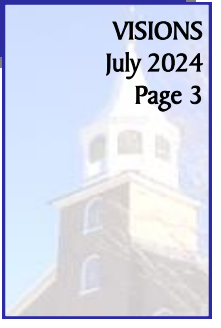
Layreaders

We are always looking for additional Layreaders to help lead elements of our 10:30am worship service. If you would like to be added to the schedule, please contact Debbie in the church office.

Bible Study

Summer
in the Psalms

WEDS @ 11:30AM PARISH HOUSE



Coffee Hour Space

July 14th
ICE CREAM SUNDAY
following our 10:30 service

SEARCH & CALL
COMMITTEE
PROGRESS REPORT
MEETINGS

Join us in the Chapel

7/21 @ 9:15AM
7/24 @ 7:00PM

Resumes in Sept.

GUYS NIGHT OUT

July 11th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!

B I N G O

BUDS

BOOK CLUB
7/23 Noon @ Fratelli's
Book of the Month: "Painting the Light"
by Sally Cabot Gunning

All are Welcome!

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

We gather together

God on Tap
Tuesday 7/9 @ 6:30pm
Main Cup

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



Happy Summer





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

- Jelly
- Mayonnaise
- Pancake Mix
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Chicken
- Pork and Beans
- Vegetable Oil
- Olive Oil
- Sugar



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Liquid Hand Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- 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.

Congratulations to our 2024 CCCC Pre-K graduates!



CCCC is off to a busy and fun summer!



Around the Congregation

ALTAR FLOWERS

July 7	TBD
July 14	TBD
July 21	TBD
July 28	TBD

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

July 7	Jj & Jesi Bell-Godfrey
July 14	Parish Life
July 21	Book Club
July 28	Discipleship Board

SOUND TECHS

July 7	Nick Fink
July 14	Tony Verdi
July 21	Pat Joy
July 28	Paul Fink

LAYREADERS

July 7	Paul Fink
July 14	Laura Fontaine
July 21	Wendy Campbell
July 28	Gail Johnson

USHERS

July 7	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
July 14	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck
July 21	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke
July 28	Laura Verdi, Nancy vom Lehn

Church Attendance

May 2024

	8:15 am	10:30 am
May 5	21	55
May 12	Combined Worship	
May 19	34	45
May 26	28	58



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

Operating Finances Year to Date Ending May 31, 2024



CRUCC	Actual May 01, 2024 - May 31, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 14,005.33	\$ 127,245.39	\$ 149,486.61
Investment Income	\$ 5.69	\$ 9,518.54	\$ 16,975.46
Other Income	\$ 4,147.04	\$ 20,151.68	\$ 39,488.32
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 18,158.06	\$ 156,915.61	\$ 205,950.39
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 13,222.16	\$ 66,785.11	\$ 211,956.89
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 274.45	\$ 2,287.20	\$ 8,012.80
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 211.98	\$ 474.88	\$ 2,525.12
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,495.35	\$ 11,517.07	\$ 14,504.93
Utilities	\$ 1,214.51	\$ 14,500.69	\$ 20,099.31
Building & Property	\$ 300.00	\$ 7,725.91	\$ 22,074.09
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 187.00	\$ 187.00	\$ 1,813.00
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 25,207.50	\$ (20,623.50)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 3,683.29</i>	<i>\$ 62,100.25</i>	<i>\$ 48,205.75</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 6,044.00	\$ 12,756.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 34.63	\$ 470.33	\$ 6,229.67
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 34.63</i>	<i>\$ 6,514.33</i>	<i>\$ 18,985.67</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 16,940.08	\$ 135,399.69	\$ 279,148.31
Net Total	\$ 1,217.98	\$ 21,515.92	\$ (73,197.92)
CCCC	Actual May 01, 2024 - May 31, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 75,844.50	\$ 417,908.00	\$ 583,881.00
Investment Income	\$ 5.02	\$ 22.51	\$ 2,893.49
Other Income	\$ 304.00	\$ 5,083.27	\$ 1,843.73
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 76,153.52	\$ 423,013.78	\$ 588,618.22
Expenses			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 62,387.41	\$ 334,377.24	\$ 481,595.76
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 8,421.47	\$ 26,709.94	\$ 51,290.06
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 3,475.00
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,396.56	\$ 12,296.27	\$ 32,903.73
Utilities	\$ 445.88	\$ 1,589.90	\$ 2,075.10
Building & Property	\$ 3,775.00	\$ 23,330.12	\$ 39,169.88
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 196.58	\$ 557.89	\$ 3,442.11
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 15,235.49</i>	<i>\$ 64,509.12</i>	<i>\$ 132,355.88</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 77,622.90	\$ 398,886.36	\$ 613,951.64
Net Total	\$ (1,469.38)	\$ 24,127.42	\$ (25,333.42)

*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.*



SCHOOL SUPPLY *Drive*



- ◆ PENCILS
- ◆ PENS
- ◆ CRAYONS
- ◆ GLUE STICKS,
- ◆ POCKET FOLDERS
- ◆ HIGHLIGHTERS
- ◆ **earBUDS W/ MICROPHONES**
- ◆ NOTEBOOKS
- ◆ SCISSORS
- ◆ ZIPLOC BAGS
- ◆ WIPES
- ◆ KLEENEX

**Please place backpacks, school supplies, gift cards in the yellow bin provided in the Narthex.
Sponsored by Middletown Valley People Helping People in
partnership with United Way's *Stuff the Bus*.**