



Volume XXXX
Number IX
September 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 we wind down our summer, we look toward Fall, the splendor of color, and new beginnings in our lives and for our church. The first thing to highlight is Heritage Sunday on September 22 and then celebrating Middletown Heritage Days the next weekend.

The definition of heritage from The United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) tells us that "Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are irreplaceable life and inspiration sources."

What does this mean for us in the church? Well, here is the time to relive the past! Here is the time to remember the faithful who built our church, sustained it for many years, and give it hope for the future. I'm sure each person in this congregation has their brightest heritage memories of the church.

Our heritage is important because our very identities are shaped by it, and our heritage connects the past, present, and future and provides clues for people and cultures to see what worked, what didn't, and how to continue without making the same mistakes. Learning about our history and heritage helps us understand who we are, how we fit into the larger picture, and keep things afloat. Basically, it helps us understand who we are.

Our spiritual heritage does the same. It also connects us in many ways. It gives us the courage to stand up for what we believe in, not only in our families but also in our church family. Our spiritual heritage does not come from DNA, but from the ancient texts and teachings handed down over centuries.

This is evident in the Psalms. Psalm 16:6, the writer declares that he has a goodly heritage. The writer in Psalm 78 urges people not to hide their spiritual heritage but to show it to the coming generations. We should emphasize the praises of the Lord, the strength we have received, and the blessings in our lives.

This, my friends, is where we need to be as a church to share the Good News, love all people, and continue building community within and outside of our walls! May it be so!

Pastor's Pen	1
2024 Neighbors in Need Heritage Day Baked Sale Heritage Sunday Celebration Search & Call Committee Update Monthly Informational Meeting Handbell Choir Calling All Singers Heritage Day Volunteers Needed!	2
Plan Your Calendar	3
Plan Your Calendar (cont.) Community Outreach	4
Community Outreach (cont.) Around the Congregation	5
CCCC Highlights	6
July 2024 Financials	7
Blessing of the Animals	8



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



2024 Neighbors In Need

On the first Sunday in October we'll join with other UCC churches around the country to support the Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering. This is a special offering of our denomination that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. To contribute you can write a check to the church and note it "NIN" or pay online using Realm, our online giving platform.

Heritage Day Baked Sale

Baked donations are needed for Parish Life's bake table for Heritage Day on September 28. All should be individually bagged and labeled. Cakes, pies, etc. should be wrapped securely with Saran Wrap. No refrigerated foods are permitted, including Zucchini, pumpkin, banana bread, or carrot cake. Please note if any nuts are in the baked goods. Baked goods can be delivered to the church Friday evening between 6 & 7pm or Saturday morning between 8:30 and 10:30am. Please leave your name with your donation. Please add your name to the sign up sheet if you plan to donate. Call Connie Bell with questions at 240-215-5622.

Heritage Sunday Celebration

What does "Heritage" mean to you? Does that mean your ancestors? Your personal history? Family and friends from the past? Perhaps that feeling of heritage is remembered by a photo, Grandmother's quilt or sewing box. Does your confirmation or the baptism of a child evoke memories of a beloved family member! On Sunday September 22, we will celebrate our heritage. As individuals and as a church. We would like to decorate the sanctuary with remembrances of our heritage. Not just the church building, but the church people! These items will decorate the altar and window spaces thru the Heritage days festival. Please bring your remembrances to the church by Sunday the 15th to allow them to be placed accordingly. Larger items will also be displayed. Including quilts! Remember when we had them hanging in the chapel? Show us your heritage!

Search and Call Committee Update

The Search and Call Committee is putting the finishing touches on the Local Church Profile, and we're excited to share it with you soon! Keep an eye out in mid to late September for your chance to review and provide feedback. The profile will be sent out via email, and a few paper copies will be available in the Narthex or by request from the office. As always, please feel free to reach out to the Search Committee at cruccsearchcommittee@gmail.com.

Monthly Informational Meeting

Please plan to join us on September 15th at 9:15am to discuss our church's financial picture. We will not be voting on any budget itinerary, but this will be an opportunity for discussion and dialogue on our goals and plans as we move forward. This meeting will be hosted by the Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.

Handbells

The Jubilate Deo Handbell choir will begin its 50th year season in September. Our anniversary concert will be in the spring of 2025 where former ringers will be invited to join us for a selection in the concert. And as usual, the ringers will be providing regular special music throughout our church season. Come join us! Rehearsal begin Sept. 3rd at 6:45pm. Join the Ding-a-lings. Please contact Terry if interested.

Calling all Singers!

Choir begins their fall season! Choir will begin Thursday September 5th at 7:30pm in the Chapel. New or returning singers ALWAYS WELCOME!

Heritage Day Volunteers Needed!

We hope to have a few activities around the church from 12-3pm on Saturday afternoon. This is a great opportunity to remind the community about all the great things here at CRUCC. We really need everyone to step up and help. How, you ask, can you help? Here are some ideas:

1. **The Bounce House**-We need 4 or 5 volunteers to monitor the bounce house.
2. **Bake Table**-We know that CRUCC has the best bakers around. Please donate your famous baked goods for sale by Friday Sept. 27. Contact Gail Johnson, Connie Bell or Marty Estell for more information.
3. **Children's Scavenger Hunt**-We will create a scavenger hunt for children around the church and give a prize to children who correctly answer all of the questions.
4. **Children's Craft Project**-Two church members are planning a children's craft activity which will be held on the Parish House porch. Keep a look out for requests for materials or other ways to help.
5. **Set-Up/Clean-Up**-We will need help with set up on Saturday morning and clean up Saturday afternoon.

Not available on Heritage Day? Perhaps you could help during the week before Heritage Day with sprucing up the church property. Weeding flower beds or edging sidewalks or any other ways to make CRUCC look as inviting as possible. There are so very many ways to get involved. Which project would you like to participate in? Contact the church office or Nancy vom Lehn to sign up. Thanks in advance!



Sept 12th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

B I N G O

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!

B I N G O

BUDS

GUYS NIGHT OUT

9/30 @ 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.

Book of the Month:
"The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post"
by Allison Pataki
9/24 Noon @ Fratelli's

BOOK CLUB

NOTES

All are Welcome!

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

Ladies Chill Night

9/20 @ 5:30pm
Firebird's Wood Fired Grill

Join Us!

Please add your name
to the sign up sheet by 9/16.

Monthly Info Meeting
**CHURCH FINANCES
DISCUSSION**

hosted by Finance & Budget Committee

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

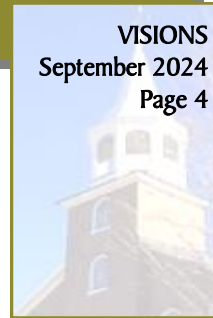
We gather
together

God on Tap

Monday 9/23 @ 6:30pm
Showroom

882 N East St, Frederick, MD

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



HERITAGE DAY

- Bounce House**
- Kid's Craft Table**
- Church Activities Displays**
- Church Historical Displays**
- Children's Scavenger Hunt**
- Basket Sale**
- Bake Sale**


September 28
Noon-3pm

See page 2 for volunteer opportunities.

Community Outreach



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.



Walk to End Alzheimer's
Sunday, October 13, 2024
11:00am Registration

Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium

To make a donation or to sign-up to walk with Beth Scott's Team, go to: <http://act.alz.org/goto/BethScott>. Check donations should be made out to the Alzheimer's Association and can be mailed to Beth or left in the Church Office. Please contact Beth at 301-788-3524 or BethOScott@aol.com.

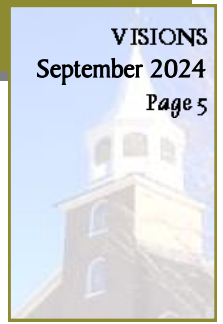
WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAM

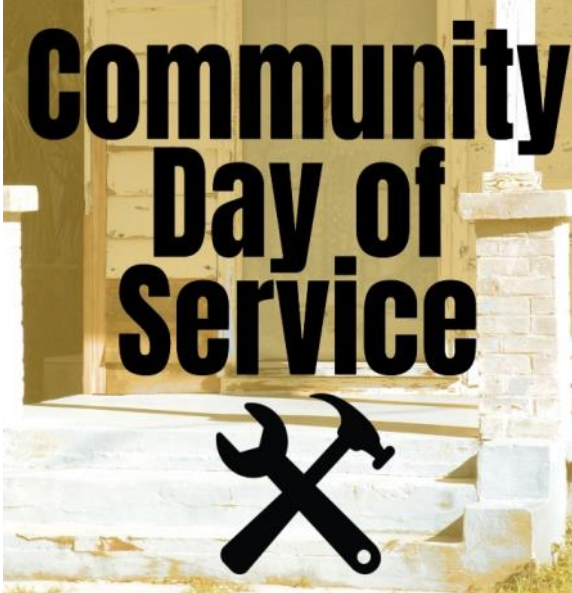
Many children in the Middletown valley area are provided a free or reduced priced lunch on school days, but they face the prospect of hunger on the weekend. In partnership with area churches, the weekend food program helps to fill this gap by providing weekend bags full of food for children in these area 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.







DeLauder Family Farm

6113 Broad Run Rd Jefferson, MD

We will work on disassembling & sorting scrap metal. Please contact Renee Brandenburg-Huffer at aquatictraining@aol.com for more details.

September 7th 9am-12pm

Around the Congregation

<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	
September 1	TBD
September 8	Ruth & Bill Falconer
September 15	Debbie Ferrell
September 22	Laura & Tony Verdi
September 29	TBD
<u>COFFEE HOUR HOSTS</u>	
September 1	Guys Night Out Group
September 8	Linda DeLauder/Bill Steigelmann
September 15	CE Board
September 22	TBD
September 29	CCCC Board
<u>SOUND TECHS</u>	
September 1	Nick Fink
September 8	Tony Verdi
September 15	Pat Joy
September 22	Tony Verdi
September 29	Pat Joy

<u>LAYREADERS</u>	
September 1	Taylor Magda
September 8	Bunny Cramer
September 15	Andrew Corl
September 22	Emily Mathis
September 29	Gail Johnson
<u>USHERS</u>	
September 1	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
September 8	Isaac Cummings, Laura Verdi
September 15	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer
September 22	Be' Hill, Karen Koogle
September 29	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck

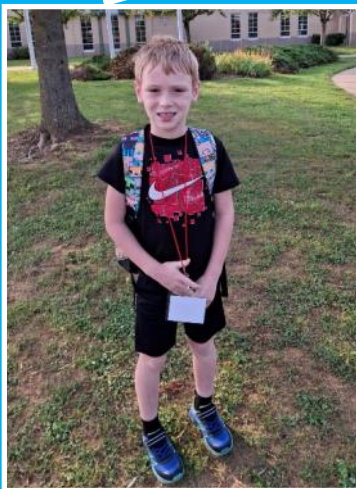


Church Attendance

July 2024		
	8:15 am	10:30 am
July 7	23	40
July 14	29	41
July 21	31	40
July 28	31	40

CCCC started the new School year on Wednesday, Aug 21st! Here are a couple of our students "First Day of School" pictures including Mr. Mike!

BACK TO SCHOOL!



Operating Finances Year to Date Ending July 31, 2024



CRUCC	Actual Jul 01, 2024 - Jul 31, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 14,314.00	\$ 153,048.39	\$ 123,683.61
Investment Income	\$ 4,804.99	\$ 14,321.17	\$ 12,172.83
Other Income	\$ 3,804.90	\$ 27,884.38	\$ 31,755.62
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 22,923.89	\$ 195,253.94	\$ 167,612.06
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 13,315.23	\$ 93,425.01	\$ 185,316.99
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 351.82	\$ 2,862.96	\$ 7,437.04
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 474.88	\$ 2,525.12
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,807.96	\$ 14,543.43	\$ 11,478.57
Utilities	\$ 3,299.72	\$ 18,824.46	\$ 15,775.54
Building & Property	\$ 2,084.65	\$ 12,726.26	\$ 17,073.74
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 187.00	\$ 1,813.00
Insurance Expenses	\$ 12,603.75	\$ 37,811.25	\$ (33,227.25)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 20,147.90</i>	<i>\$ 87,630.24</i>	<i>\$ 22,675.76</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 10,044.00	\$ 8,756.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 601.65	\$ 1,251.23	\$ 5,448.77
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 601.65</i>	<i>\$ 11,295.23</i>	<i>\$ 14,204.77</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 34,064.78	\$ 192,350.48	\$ 222,197.52
Net Total	\$ (11,140.89)	\$ 2,903.46	\$ (54,585.46)
CCCC	Actual Jul 01, 2024 - Jul 31, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 81,694.50	\$ 567,580.50	\$ 434,208.50
Investment Income	\$ 4.18	\$ 2,756.26	\$ 159.74
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 5,083.27	\$ 1,843.73
Designated Income	\$ -	\$ 60.41	\$ (60.41)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 81,698.68	\$ 575,480.44	\$ 436,151.56
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 65,895.72	\$ 465,204.98	\$ 350,768.02
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 6,233.35	\$ 37,821.61	\$ 40,178.39
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 672.82	\$ 2,827.18
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,003.53	\$ 18,354.90	\$ 26,845.10
Utilities	\$ 445.88	\$ 2,035.78	\$ 1,629.22
Building & Property	\$ 4,554.00	\$ 32,469.90	\$ 30,030.10
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 721.69	\$ 1,369.58	\$ 2,630.42
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 13,958.45</i>	<i>\$ 92,724.59</i>	<i>\$ 104,140.41</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 79,854.17	\$ 557,929.57	\$ 454,908.43
Net Total	\$ 1,844.51	\$ 17,550.87	\$ (18,756.87)

*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

Office Hours
Mon-Fri 10am-2pm
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.*



Blessing of the Animals

COMBINED OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Music, scripture & blessing
to honor our "friends"

OCTOBER 6TH @ 10AM

**We will bless animals, photos, ashes and stuffed animals.
Animal friends must be leashed or crated.**

