

Volume XLI
 Number II
 February 2025

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,

Throughout my career, showing up in public places wearing my clergy collar has brought about some interesting conversations. I have shared some of those times with you. Today it was at the chiropractor's office.

As I sat waiting for my much-needed appointment, I evidently grimaced as I shifted in my seat. The gentleman next to me said, "I'm sorry you are hurting today. I'll pray for you." I thanked him and replied that we all need prayers right now. He immediately was on the defensive and said, "What does that mean?" I assured him there was no hidden meaning. I meant just that. In this time (for our country and each other) we need to pray for one another. He then asked me an interesting question. "What does it mean to be the church?" We ended up having a wonderful discussion. Who would have thought.

So, I ask you. What does it mean to be the church? In this time and place, how can we be the church? Anxiety is high. Nerves are frayed. People are overwhelmed. Feelings are non-partisan. Angst and worry does not have any political affiliation. All these things are just with us through many situations. So, again, what does it mean to be the church?

As God has created us to be multi-dimensional, several scriptures come to mind. Romans 12:3-8 reminds us that "we are the BODY of Christ." Acts 17:24-28 reminds us that we are the FAMILY of God. Several others remind us that we are the HOUSE of God. Others say we are the TEMPLE of God. Folks, in plain words, we are charged to be Christ-like in all that we say and do. If you belong to a service club, you represent them well throughout the community. If you wear a work uniform or teach school, when you are out in public you hopefully represent your employer in a positive light. The church should be no different. If we are going to claim/protest/insist that "yes" we are the church and that we represent Christ's teachings, then we will represent our faith, our church, and our God wherever we go. Do it! Live it! All the time.

In this new year, there are changes ahead, on all levels. Not just politically. There will be health issues, family issues, life issues...you can add to the list. If we really, I mean REALLY, believe that we are faithful followers of Christ's teachings, that we represent God's love for ALL persons, that the Holy Spirit is part of who we are and walks with us. . .then we need to believe it, live it and show evidence of it all the time. No exceptions. I know, I know. The fingers point to me, too.

We can start by taking care of ourselves. Maybe find some quiet time each day that you sit, meditate, pray, something that will give you some calm and focus. The scripture says to "love our neighbor as ourselves." Well, if we do not love and take care of ourselves, we are little or no use to others.

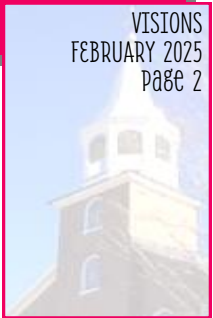
I leave you with a prayer that I recently found. Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber shared this prayer on her website. May it bring peace, focus, and direction to you.

Dear God. All I can think to say this morning, is please guide my attention to that which is worthy of it. When I am overwhelmed by everything that has to get fixed in this broken down world, show me what is MINE to do then please give me the strength to do it and the humility to rest afterwards. Open my eyes to behold that which is hopeful and lovely and to know that the terrifying and malicious will always be there and that looking away for a moment is not callus, it's calculating. Guide my attention to that which is worthy of it: making art, cooking food, loving people, noticing birds, petting dogs, contacting friends, and doing the work that is mine to do. And when I am scrolling through meaningless videos, once again wasting more precious moments on this Earth than I realize, snap me out of it, Lord and help me just go for a walk or something. In your holy name, Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Greg

Pastor's Pen	1
Weekend Food Program Bible Study By-Laws Revisions Stewardship Update Officer Installation CCCC Highlights	2
2024 Annual Community Outreach	3
Community Outreach Thank you Notes Around the Congregation	4
2025 Consistory, Boards, Committees	5
Plan Your Calendar	6
December 2024 Financials	7
Emergency Shelter Donations	8





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 schools: *Middletown Elementary, Primary, Middle and High School, Myersville, Valley and Wolfsville Elementary.*

How Can YOU Help These Children?

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ PURCHASE the specific foods needed and put the items in the designated box located in the Narthex
- ◆ VOLUNTEER your time to pack the food.
- ◆ DELIVER the food to a school.

Stewardship Update

To date, we have received 56 pledges to the 2025 General Fund for a total of \$189,223 and 8 pledges for the 2025 Capital Fund for a total of \$4,976. Feel free to send your Estimate of Giving Card to the church office or drop it in the collection plate on an upcoming Sunday. Thank you for your support

Officer Installation

Each year we recognize and install the new members of our Consistory, Boards and Committees. All new and returning members are invited. Please join us on **Sunday, February 2nd** as we affirm their contributions.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed



Each week one of the best ways we have to make new and renew old connections with members and friends of the church is at the coffee hour. We have the supplies of coffee, tea and juice. All that's needed is one or two people to set out the items and do a bit of clean up afterward. Many people provide a simple munchie (fruit or veggies or cookies) but that is not a requirement. If you would like to host once or twice during the year, please contact Debbie in the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday 2/16
@ 9:15AM
Chapel**

Voting on the Revised By-Laws

Revised By-laws were distributed via email in January.
Hard copies are available in the Narthex.
We will have a discussion followed by a vote.

Wednesday Bible Study

BIBLE STUDY has a new name. We are now known as the "Spirit Seekers." Yes, we are still working with the Bible, but we are looking at where the Spirit is evident in our day to day lives. We meet Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30ish....coffee and goodies included. We would love to include you. My invitation to start a second group still goes. Let me know some times that might work and we will get to work on another group.

By-Laws Update

Revised draft By-laws were distributed via email in January. Hard copies are available in the Narthex. Please review and plan to attend the meeting on February 16th at 9:15am in the chapel. We will have a discussion followed by a vote.

CHILDREN CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

SOCCER SHOTS

SOCCER SHOTS HAS STARTED AT CCCC FOR THE WINTER! THE KIDS LOVE PLAYING INSIDE WHILE THE PLAYGROUND IS COVERED IN SNOW!





Discipleship Board Direct Giving

- \$1,500 to UCC Disaster Ministries
- \$300 to Middletown Valley People Helping People
- \$500 to Frederick County Mental Health Association
- \$300 to Hoffman Homes

Advocates for Homeless Families

- \$312 collected at our 5pm Christmas Eve Service

Fish Fund and Other Friends In Need

- \$2,380 was collected

Middletown Valley Food Pantry Collection

- Over 562 food pantry items collected

Middletown Valley People Helping People

- Gift cards and school supplies collected for Back to School
- Toys, toiletries and \$850 in gift cards collected for “Adopt a Family” at Christmas

Middletown Valley Weekend Food Program

- \$2,650 was donated
- Several bags of food items were collected

Frederick County Public Schools

- Over 15 bags of clothing collected for Annual Fall Clothing Give-Away

Community Living (White Gifts)

- Provided over 176 toiletry items and over \$230 in gift cards

Frederick County Soup Kitchen

- Six meals provided and served throughout the year

Heartly House

- Toiletry and health care items were collected

Growing Project

- \$1,100 was donated

UCC Special Offerings

- \$675 for One Great Hour of Sharing
- \$110 for Strengthen the Church
- \$420 for Neighbors In Need Fund
- \$335 for the Christmas Fund
- \$4,650 for Disaster Ministries



Thank you! to everyone who participated in the community outreach efforts listed here. This is just a sampling of the many ways our congregation reaches out to the community. We can make a difference!

MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK



FOOD ITEMS

- Mayonnaise
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Salad Dressing
- Hamburger Helper

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Deodorant
- Paper Towels
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Toothpaste

Collection boxes are found in the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel.

RAISERIGHT GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

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.



THANK YOU NOTE



Our family wants to say a big thank you to all who sent cards, visited, sent food and phone calls following Chris' passing. We truly appreciated your prayers and thoughtfulness for our family.

~Johnson Family

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Altar Flowers

February 2	Marty Estell
February 9	TBD
February 16	TBD
February 23	TBD

Coffee Hour Hosts

February 2	Laura & Tony Verdi
February 9	Linda DeLauder & Bill Steigelmann
February 16	Jean & Bob Galey
February 23	Cemetery Board



Sound Techs

February 2	Nick Fink
February 9	Tony Verdi
February 16	Pat Joy
February 23	Tony Verdi

Layreaders

February 2	Emily Mathis
February 9	Susan Thornton
February 16	Andrew Conl
February 23	Sue Wickless

Ushers

February 2	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
February 9	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer
February 16	Be' hill, Karen Koogle
February 23	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 2024

	8:15 am	10:30 am
December 1	18	55
December 8	24	57
December 15	21	40
December 22	25	56
December 29 Combined Service:		61





CONSISTORY

Elders

Laura Fontaine, Nancy vom Lehn

New: Bob Galey, Susan Keller, Gregg Petermann, Sharon Thomas

Deacons

JJ Bell-Godfrey, Madelyn Cross, Meagan Fogle, Jason Moser

CHAIRPERSON OF CONGREGATION (1 year term)

Laura Verdi

CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard Kefauver, Scott Montgomery, Greg Shipley, Keith Staley

New: Dale Biggs, Skip Lare,

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Jean Galey, Melissa Miller, Kendra Perry

New: Max Beadle, Brenda Fogle

CHURCH PROPERTY BOARD

John DeLauder, Bill Falconer, Terry Hill, Ethan Moser, Garry vom Lehn

New: Gary Bell, Jason Moser, Mike Mummert

DISCIPLESHIP BOARD

Renee Brandenburg-Huffer, Linda DeLauder, Shirley Keller, Emily Mathis, Bob Woods

New: Laura Verdi, Sue Wickless

PARISH LIFE BOARD

Connie Bell, Marda Blain, Dinah Esworthy, Be' Hill, Gail Johnson, Karen Koogle,
Jan Stock

New: Marty Estell

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1 year term)

(Deacon), (Elder), (Cemetery Board)

CHURCH & MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Kathy DeLauder, Beth Mummert, Gregg Petermann, Jenny Powell

New: Pat Joy

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Charlotte Hanson, Pat Joy, Jenny Koontz, Beth Scott, Tony Verdi

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (2 year term)

New: Edward Fontaine, Bill Steigelmann

USHERING COMMITTEE

Nancy vom Lehn

FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Debbie Bruns, Griff Garwood, Susan Keller, Bill Steigelmann

New: Tony Verdi

CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER

Missy Payne (*Director*), Jesi Bell-Godfrey, Katie Blorstad (Parent), Debbie Locke,
Mike Remsberg

New: Mary Garwood, Judy Zeck



Spirit Seekers
**WINTER
BIBLE STUDY**
Wednesdays @ 11:30am
Parish House

Women's Bible Study
7pm Wednesdays via Zoom
This session will focus on John 17-21
Part 2: The Way to True Life
Contact church office for link

Book of the Month:
"The Frozen River"
by Ariel Lawhon
2/25 Noon @ Fratelli's

BOOK CLUB

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

No gather *together*

God on Tap
Wednesday 2/12 @ 6:30pm
Showroom
882 N East St, Frederick, MD
Please RSVP by 1/10 to
Christine at 97cfontaine@gmail.com.

GUYS NIGHT OUT

2/24 @ 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.

**Ladies
CHILL NIGHT**
2/28 @ 5:30pm
Gladchuck Brothers

Please add your name to the
sign up sheet in the Narthex by 2/23.

Join Us!

Feb. 13th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

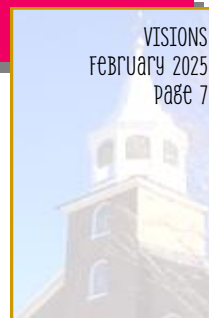
BINGO

*No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!*

B I N G O

BUDS

OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024



CRUCC	Actual Dec 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 23,920.00	\$ 246,158.39	\$ 30,573.61
Investment Income	\$ (1,053.14)	\$ 19,835.78	\$ 6,658.22
Other Income	\$ 5,615.14	\$ 48,888.53	\$ 10,751.47
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 28,482.00	\$ 314,882.70	\$ 47,983.30
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 13,942.24	\$ 160,560.38	\$ 118,181.62
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 238.31	\$ 4,213.18	\$ 6,086.82
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 79.95	\$ 382.12	\$ 2,617.88
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,033.71	\$ 22,963.34	\$ 3,058.66
Utilities	\$ 2,650.13	\$ 28,673.76	\$ 5,926.24
Building & Property	\$ 2,835.82	\$ 24,872.41	\$ 4,927.59
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 525.00	\$ 1,106.00	\$ 894.00
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 39,537.00	\$ 12,278.91
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 8,362.92</i>	<i>\$ 121,947.81</i>	<i>\$ 35,590.10</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 18,044.00	\$ 756.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 2,477.17	\$ 4,729.37	\$ 1,970.63
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 6,477.17</i>	<i>\$ 22,773.37</i>	<i>\$ 2,726.63</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 28,782.33	\$ 305,281.56	\$ 156,498.35
Net Total	\$ (300.33)	\$ 9,601.14	\$ (108,515.05)
CCCC	Actual Dec 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024	Actual Year to Date	Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 91,157.75	\$ 990,459.25	\$ 11,329.75
Investment Income	\$ 2,821.15	\$ 5,592.40	\$ (2,676.40)
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 5,185.27	\$ 1,741.73
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 93,978.90	\$ 1,004,535.33	\$ 7,096.67
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 64,962.76	\$ 809,918.34	\$ 6,054.66
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 5,198.76	\$ 67,560.14	\$ 10,439.86
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 175.18	\$ 2,514.38	\$ 985.62
Office & Supplies	\$ 3,435.80	\$ 35,523.11	\$ 9,676.89
Utilities	\$ 445.88	\$ 3,150.48	\$ 514.52
Building & Property	\$ 3,775.00	\$ 55,188.70	\$ 7,311.30
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 112.55	\$ 2,983.45	\$ 1,016.55
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 13,143.17</i>	<i>\$ 166,920.26</i>	<i>\$ 29,944.74</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 78,105.93	\$ 978,453.18	\$ 34,384.82
Net Total	\$ 15,872.97	\$ 26,082.15	\$ (27,288.15)

**Christ Reformed
United Church of Christ**

Rev. Greg Shook

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.

EMERGENCY SHELTER NEEDS

Heartly House, Inc.
ITEMS NEEDED
For Our Emergency Shelter

<p>PERSONAL CARE ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deodorant ● Body wash ● Lotion ● Toothpaste ● Shampoo and Conditioner ● Natural hair products ● Children's and baby shampoo ● Bottled hand soaps 	<p>HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Laundry detergent pods ● Paper towels ● Toilet paper ● Clorox wipes ● Trash bags ● Dish soap 
<p>HYGIENE & GROOMING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loofahs ● Razors ● Tissues ● Tweezers ● Nail clippers ● Q-tips 	<p>CLOTHING & COMFORT ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult pajamas (new with tags, all sizes) ● Adult underwear (new with tags, in packages, all sizes) ● Children's pajamas (new with tags, all sizes) ● Bath towels (new with tags, full size) ● Washcloths (new with tags)
<p>HEALTH & WELLNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Neosporin ● Over The Counter Meds Cold/Flu Pain Relievers Allergy Relief Cough Drops 	<p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grocery gift cards ● Journals ● 2025 planners and calendars 

HELP BEYOND SHELTER FREDERICK

STOCK
the **SHELTERS**
this winter

DONATION DRIVE

CLIENT ITEMS

- Diaper (size 5, 6 and 7)
- Pull-ups (size 5T/6T)
- Body Lotion
- Deodorant
- Individual Microwave Meals
- Individual Snacks
- Travel Size Toiletries
(Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Lotion)
- Black Hair Care Products
(Moisturizers and Gel)
- Chapstick
- Toothpaste

SHELTER ITEMS

- Multipurpose Cleaners
(Mr Clean, Pine-sol, Fabuloso)
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Large Cans of Coffee
- Hand Soap/Refills
- Laundry Detergent (Liquid or Pods)
- Trash Bags (33 gallon)
- Trash Bags (4 gallon)
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Zip-Lock Bags (gallon and sandwich)
- Bleach

**Please place donations
in the bins provided in the Narthex.**