

Volume XLII
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 March 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,

Lent is upon us. What will that mean for you this year? Something different? What is your goal for this season of Lent?

Lent usually is a 40 day period of reflection, rededication, and refreshment of ourselves. The 40-day period is called Lent after an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. The idea was for Christians to imitate Christ's time in the desert and to set aside time to sort out, clear out, and take inventory of our lives to hopefully improve ourselves. Sort of like a thorough "spring cleaning."

Instead of trying to find something to give up for Lent, why not *take up* something. Don't overwhelm yourself. Find one task to add, improve, or enhance your routine. How about regularly joining your worshiping community on Sunday?

Here is a little writing from New Zealand author Joy Cowley. It is from her book *Psalms Down Under*.

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*Hey, Jesus,
 did you say something about possessions?
 Well, it just so happens
 that I'd be very pleased
 if you'd take some of this stuff
 which keeps getting in the way.*

*For example, that old trunk
 filled with ideas which no longer fit.
 In the past they've served me well
 but now they're tight. They chafe
 and are splitting at the seams.
 You've given me new garments to grow
 into.*

*Over here, I've got stacks of answers
 dating back to the days
 when life was filled with questions.
 You took the questions last collection.
 I don't know why I'm hanging on to these.*

*Down by your feet, are some masks,
 I keep accumulating those
 in spite of the fact that I promised myself
 I'd never wear masks again. They're so
 heavy!
 These bundles are heavy too,
 judgmental attitudes wrapped in fear.
 Can you help me to move them?*

*Hey Jesus,
 why don't I just hand it all to you
 and let you deal with it?
 Why don't I just stand here
 and admire the results of our spring-
 cleaning?
 You know, this house is surprisingly big.
 I didn't know I had so much space.
 Hey Jesus,
 would you like to move in?*

Complete the Scripture verses (NIV, unless marked) using letters found in the words



See! The winter is _____; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

"Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it _____, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you." (Luke 11:36)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the _____, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them ... ? (Psalm 8:3-4)

We all, like sheep, have gone _____, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the _____ and members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Greg



One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship. This offering is taken by all Christian denominations and supports more than 100 relief projects around the world. This year's OGHS offering is on Sunday, March 30th. You can place your offering in the offering plate or simply send a check to the church and note it "OGHS."

Stewardship Update

To date, we have received 58 pledges to the 2025 General Fund for a total of \$191,729 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.

Easter Egg Hunt

Parish Life is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on April 19 from 2-3 pm for ages 10 and under. Bring a basket. There will be crafts and cupcake decorating. Please add your child's name to the sign-up sheet so we can be prepared for the event. Please enter through the ramp door to the Social Room.

Donations for Candy to Fill Easter Eggs

Small, individually wrapped candies and stickers are requested to fill plastic eggs for the Easter egg hunt. Please place your donations in the box in the Narthex by April 13th.

Ladies Luncheon

The Parish Life Board is hosting a Ladies Lunch to be held on Sunday, March 16 at Schroyer's Tavern at Noon. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church office by March 12.

Search Committee

The Search and Call Committee is currently reviewing pastoral profiles. Due to the confidential nature of this portion of the process, the committee is not able to share specifics, however we appreciate the continued support and prayers as we move through this process.



OFFICER INSTALLATION

Each year we recognize and install the new and returning members of our Consistory, Boards and Committees. On Sunday, February 2nd we affirmed their leadership at both services.



CCCC VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to some of our teachers, Patty Guyton, Hayden Payne, Emma Ranneberger, Kristin Staub, and Patty's son, Wyatt for helping serve 85 meals at the Soup Kitchen on 2/2/2025.

Ladies Luncheon

March 16th @ Noon
Schroyer's Tavern

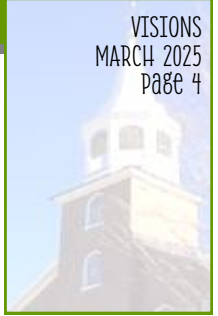
at Maryland National Golf Club
836 Hollow Rd, Middletown

Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

GUYS NIGHT OUT

3/24 @ 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 301 712-802



MONTHLY INFO MEETING

The March
meeting has
been cancelled.

March 13th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!



Ladies CHILL NIGHT

3/28 @ 5:30pm
Capital Crave

Please add your name to the
sign up sheet in the Narthex by 3/23.

Join Us!



God on Tap

Wednesday 3/12 @ 6:30pm
Showroom

882 N East St, Frederick, MD
Please RSVP by 11/10 to
Christine at 97cfontaine@gmail.com.

PLAN YOUR CALENDAR (CONT.)



Book of the Month:
"The Second Mrs. Astor: A Heartbreaking
Historical Novel of the Titanic
3/25 Noon @ Fratelli's by Shana Abe

BOOK CLUB

All are Welcome!

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

April 19th 2-3pm Social Room
Children up to age 10. Add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

EASTER
Egg Hunt

JOIN US

Women's Bible Study
7pm Wednesdays via Zoom
New session begins March 12 & will focus on:
"Matthew Pray Like This"
by Barb Roose
Contact church office for link

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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.

MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK



FOOD ITEMS

- Pasta
- Canned Beans
- Mayonnaise
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Sugar

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toilet Paper
- 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.



AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Altar Flowers

March 2	TBD
March 9	TBD
March 16	Karen Koogle
March 23	TBD
March 30	Margaret Brandenburg

Coffee Hour Hosts

March 2	Karen Koogle, Jeanette Martin
March 9	Linda DeLauder
March 16	TBD
March 23	Connie & Gary Bell
March 30	Property Board

Greeters

March 2	Laura & Tony Verdi
March 9	Vickie & Dale Biggs and/or Beth & Mike Mummert
March 16	Members of Consistory
March 23	Mary & Griff Garwood
March 30	Barbara Ohler, Paul Fink

Sound Techs

March 2	Nick Fink
March 5	Ash Wednesday Pat Joy
March 9	Tony Verdi
March 16	Pat Joy
March 23	Tony Verdi
March 30	Pat Joy

Layreaders

March 2	Taylor Magda-Mathis
March 9	Paul Fink
March 16	Laura Fontaine
March 23	Emily Magda-Mathis
March 30	Gail Johnson

Uskers

March 2	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
March 5	Ash Wednesday Debbie Locke, Mike Locke
March 9	Janet Stock, Nancy vom Lehn
March 16	Isaac Cummings, Laura Verdi
March 23	Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer
March 30	Be' Hill, Karen Koogle



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

January 2025

	8:15 am	10:30 am
January 5 Combined	56	
January 12	16	43
January 19	Cancelled due to Snow	
January 26	21	47





CRUCC	Actual Jan 01, 2025 - Jan 31, 2025	
REVENUE		
Operating Income	\$	51,224.94
Investment Income	\$	4,812.70
Other Income	\$	4,136.04
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	60,173.68
EXPENSES		
Compensation Expenses	\$	14,074.67
Operating Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$	200.00
Worship-Related Expenses	\$	1,121.19
Education-SS/CCCC	\$	79.95
Office & Supplies	\$	1,817.01
Utilities	\$	4,537.88
Building & Property	\$	4,217.39
Insurance Expenses	\$	18,300.50
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$	30,273.92
Ministry Expenses		
Ministry - Outreach	\$	1,953.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$	1,575.18
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	\$	3,528.18
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	47,876.77
Net Total	\$	12,296.91
	Actual Jan 01, 2025 - Jan 31, 2025	
CCCC		
REVENUE		
Operating Income	\$	83,772.50
Investment Income	\$	4.49
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	84,022.23
EXPENSES		
Compensation Expenses	\$	65,303.95
Operating Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$	3,690.93
Office & Supplies	\$	3,262.21
Utilities	\$	224.94
Building & Property	\$	6,414.38
Equipment Maintenance	\$	105.37
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$	13,697.83
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	79,001.78
Net Total	\$	5,020.45

**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

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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.

7-9am & 12-1pm
Drive-Thru Ashes

March 5th

Ash
Wednesday
invites us to
turn away from
sin and toward the
love and mercy
of God.

7pm Service

