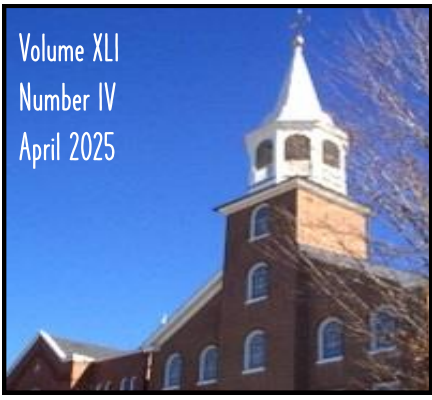


Volume XLI
 Number IV
 April 2025



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,

I am blessed with many wonderful friends and colleagues from my career as a musician and my time in the church as a musician and pastor. There are people from all over the globe who have crossed my path and left me changed in one way or many! I am grateful for our associations, whether brief or ongoing.

One person, Chris, retired from being an elementary/middle school librarian. He talks about spending years in the printed world and how there were times early in his career when he would read many of the books in the libraries that he oversaw. He would imagine becoming the main character in the stories. Over the years as things became busier, that close association with books waned as administrative duties became more involved. He said that things sort of stayed that way until one evening he was reshelving books and saw several books that piqued his interest. He ended up checking out the books, reading them, and again allowing his imagination to place him in each of the stories.

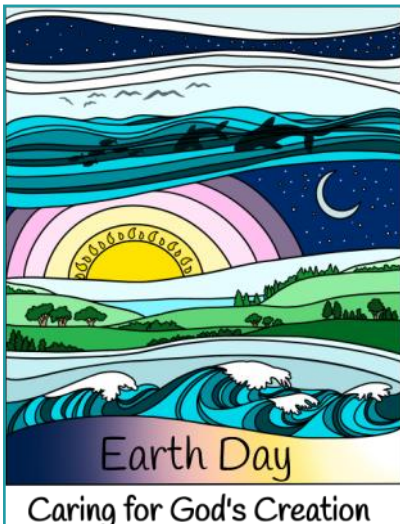
I received a weekly meditation from several writers, and one from last week talked about using our imagination to deepen our relationship with God. She shared how she read one of her daughter's library books from school. Her daughter had checked out Ann Rinaldi's book, *Wolf by the Ears*, a story about a slave girl who belonged to Thomas Jefferson. She said that, like my friend Chris, she put herself into the role of the main character. She said, "Her actions were my actions. Her thoughts were my thoughts. I used my imagination to more fully enter into her experience. History became real to me!"

My thoughts immediately turned toward the winding down of Lent and the upcoming events of Holy Week. We've heard the scriptures, told the stories, and been through the busyness of Holy Week. How about THIS year, we become a part of the story? Put yourself in the main character role or find a character from the various stories and "become" that person this year. Absorb yourself in the story, using your creative imagination to bring the stories to life. Find that quiet time we talked about in last week's sermon to absorb the story as one of the characters. Come join us as we worship together, finding a more meaningful Lenten and Easter experience living with and in God's word.

Wishing you all a meaningful remainder of Lent and the upcoming events of Holy Week and Easter.

Soli Deo Gloria!
 Pastor Greg

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Home Projects Needed

Are you in need of assistance (due to low income or health issues) with home projects?

The projects can be any minimal home repair or maintenance that can be completed in a half day and located in the Middletown Valley and surrounding towns. Examples: painting projects, yard work cleanup, small home repair projects, etc.

Volunteers Needed

Middletown's Day of Service will not be successful without volunteers!

Please consider giving some of your time to help! Many volunteer opportunities available and all ages are welcome for this day that is so fulfilling for all who participate. Please mark your calendar to spend part of the day with us!

MIDDLETOWN VALLEY COMMUNITY
Day of Service
APRIL 26, 2025

Please contact Deb at Zion Lutheran Church
301-371-6500, ext. 203 to register your project or to volunteer.

Share Your Palm Plant

Palm plants are needed to decorate the sanctuary for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. If you are able to share your palm plant(s), please bring them to the church sanctuary the week before Palm Sunday.

Walking the Labyrinth

The labyrinth is an ancient aid to spiritual development. Walking its path mirrors the journey pilgrims made to Jerusalem and other holy sites and provides a means of deepening one's own spiritual journey. On Good Friday, April 18th, the labyrinth will be set up in the chapel from 1:00-6:00pm. Hosts will be there to answer questions and help you experience the labyrinth. From 6:00 to 7:30pm the church will be open for quiet prayer, communion, and private prayer. No service. Just come and stay as long as you like

Easter Morning Continental Breakfast

Parish Life annual Easter Sunrise Continental Breakfast will be held in the Coffee Hour Space immediately following the Sunrise Service. We will be serving bagels, muffins, fruit, juice and coffee. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are planning on joining us. Everyone is welcome!

CHILDREN'S CENTER HIGHLIGHTS



CCCC celebrated Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's Birthday with a fun spirit week! Each day the kids dressed up to different themes from Dr. Seuss books. Even some of our parents dressed up!



Thank You to John DeLauder and Jason Moser from Property Board, Missy Payne, Kristin Staub and Emma Ranneberger from CCC for doing all the painting in the house. Special Thank you to John for taking care of the additional projects and repairs that were needed.

★ ★
★ ★
★ ★

WEAGLY HOUSE PROJECT

★ ★



Big Thank You to the members of the Eastern Gas and Transmission Community Council group who came in and pulled up all the old carpet and padding, and disposed of it the dumpster. They also helped load and dispose of all of the trash and old furniture left from the former tenets.

Members are: Ryan Payne, Jacob Higgins, Katherine Parr and Dan Younkin



We gather together

God on Tap

Wednesday 4/16 @ 6:30pm
Showroom

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

April 10th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!

B I N G O

BUDS

Easter

BREAKFAST

Sunday
April 20

Join us!

immediately following
the Sunrise Service

Book of the Month:
"The Lion Women of Tehran"
by Marjan Kamali

4/22 Noon @ Fratelli's

BOOK CLUB

All are Welcome!

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

Walk the LABYRINTH

Good Friday, April 18th
1-6pm Chapel

Cemetery Clean Up Day

April 5
8:30am-12pm

PLAN YOUR CALENDAR (CONT.)

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

**MONTHLY INFO
MEETING**

The April
meeting has
been cancelled.

Women's Bible Study

7pm Wednesdays via Zoom

This session will focus on:

"Matthew Pray Like This"
by Barb Roose

Contact church office for link

Spirit Seekers
Spring
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
- Pasta Sauce
- Tuna
- Crackers
- Hamburger Helper
- Coffee

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Hand Soap

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.



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

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Altar Flowers

April 6	TBD
April 13	TBD
April 20	Manda Blain
April 27	Susan Thornton

Coffee Hour Hosts

April 6	Marti Easton
April 13	TBD
April 20	N/A—Sunrise Breakfast
April 27	CCCC Board

Greeters

April 6	Laura & Tony Verdi
April 13	Vickie & Dale Biggs and/or Beth & Mike Mummert
April 20	Members of Consistory
April 27	Mary & Griff Garwood

Sound Techs

April 6	Nick Fink
April 13	Tony Verdi
April 17 <i>Mauudy Thurs</i>	Pat Joy
April 20	Tony Verdi
April 27	Pat Joy

Layreaders

April 6	Alison Lynch
April 13	Susan Thornton
April 20	Andrew Conl
April 27	Sue Wickless

Ushers

April 6	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
April 13	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck
April 17 <i>Mauudy Thurs</i>	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke
April 20	Isaac Cummings, Janet Stock
April 27	Laura Verdi, Nancy vom Lehn Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer

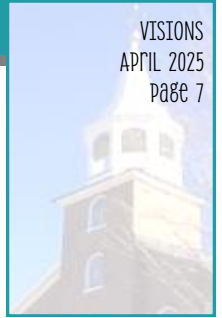


CHURCH ATTENDANCE

February 2025

	8:15 am	10:30 am
February 2	15	53
February 9	14	47
February 16	18	42
February 23	19	52





CRUCC	Actual Feb 01, 2025 - Feb 28, 2025	Actual Year to Date
REVENUE		
Operating Income	\$ 42,983.82	\$ 94,208.76
Investment Income	\$ 2.87	\$ 4,815.57
Other Income	\$ 3,955.20	\$ 8,091.24
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 46,941.89	\$ 107,115.57
EXPENSES		
Compensation Expenses	\$ 13,402.47	\$ 27,477.14
Operating Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 412.54	\$ 1,533.73
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 109.68	\$ 189.63
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,951.26	\$ 3,768.27
Utilities	\$ 4,361.12	\$ 8,899.00
Building & Property	\$ 4,113.21	\$ 8,330.60
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 18,300.50
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 10,947.81</i>	<i>\$ 41,221.73</i>
Ministry Expenses		
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 1,953.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 128.01	\$ 1,703.19
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 128.01</i>	<i>\$ 3,656.19</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 24,478.29	\$ 72,355.06
Net Total	\$ 22,463.60	\$ 34,760.51

CCCC	Actual Feb 01, 2025 - Feb 28, 2025	Actual Year to Date
REVENUE		
Operating Income	\$ 85,910.50	\$ 169,683.00
Investment Income	\$ 3.99	\$ 8.48
Other Income	\$ 5,238.00	\$ 5,238.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 91,152.49	\$ 175,174.72
EXPENSES		
Compensation Expenses	\$ 65,816.13	\$ 131,120.08
Operating Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$ 3,593.80	\$ 7,284.73
Office & Supplies	\$ 3,718.85	\$ 6,981.06
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 224.94
Building & Property	\$ 4,330.90	\$ 12,801.65
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 40.00	\$ 145.37
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 11,683.55</i>	<i>\$ 27,437.75</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 77,499.68	\$ 158,557.83
Net Total	\$ 13,652.81	\$ 16,616.89

**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.

Join Us!

Sunday, April 13th ♦ Palm Sunday ♦ 8:15am & 10:30am

On this day we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Thursday, April 17th ♦ Maundy Thursday ♦ 7:00pm

"Is it I, Lord?" was the question asked by each of the disciples at the last supper when Jesus said that one of them would betray him. It is a question that still resonates today and serves as the backdrop for our Maundy Thursday gathering. We'll share communion as part of the service.

Friday, April 18th ♦ Good Friday ♦ 1:00pm to 7:30pm

The story of Christ's crucifixion is humbling and has very personal meaning for each of us. On Good Friday the church's labyrinth will be set up in the chapel between 1:00 and 6:00pm. You are invited to use it as an aid in journeying into the mystery of Christ's death. From 6:00 to 7:30pm the church will be open for quiet prayer, communion, and private prayer. No service. Just come and stay as long as you like.

Sunday, April 20th Easter Sunday 6:30am & 10:00am

We'll celebrate Christ's resurrection at two services of worship. We'll gather at 6:30am for sunrise from the gazebo located in the cemetery. Following the service the Parish Life Board will host a continental breakfast in the Coffee Hour Space. We'll then celebrate with communion at our combined worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00am.



*Holy
Week
Schedule*