



# 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've pondered a great deal about what to write for this newsletter, and it's caused a little angst. My goals with sermons or Spirit Seekers is that it leave us with something to "chew" on for the week. I try to do the same with the newsletter. I read a recent article from Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Lutheran Bishop for the Delaware-Maryland Synod. I have a great deal of respect for Bill and his words. He always gives me something for chewing and reflection, and it has caused me to look at my own journey. So, I figured if a bishop could share such thoughts, I could, too. So here goes.

I've continued to reflect on the reading from last Sunday. Specifically, Acts 11:2-3 "When Peter got back to Jerusalem, some of his old associates, concerned about circumcision, called him on the carpet, 'What do you think you're doing rubbing shoulders with that crowd, eating what is prohibited and ruining our good name?'" (Message).

They might as well have aired their entire lists of concerns/dislikes with Peter, questioned his faith, and may have even considered that Peter was letting them down. We sit and listen and read and recite in our religious loyalty. It's all good until something makes us uncomfortable and think (or even speak) "well, that's not Christian!" You see, this exchange with Peter and his associates brings this to us in an "in-your-face" kind of way. Seemingly, Peter has gone from "religiously avoiding Gentiles to seeing the indelible image of God in them, and he comes to receive them as fellow Christ followers."<sup>1</sup>

I am sure that Peter's transformation of thinking and welcoming turned people's thinking on its head. We like to think of ourselves as enlightened, progressive, and welcoming, and yet, are we? Or do we still have that mindset of silently stewing with the mantra "this isn't right." Well, really?

The most powerful example of acceptance for me came when I heard Bill preach some years back. He recounted the story of how he and his two sons were changing the sign in front of the church. While Bill was inside getting more letters, a member drove by, did a U-turn in the middle of the street, and came back to confront those boys for vandalizing the sign. You see, Bill's adopted sons are both Afro-American, and it was assumed they were up to no good. The member quickly justified his concern but offered no apology.

In one of my churches, a homeless woman came into the early service and asked people for help to find hymns and what to do. She did her best to "fit in" but sadly, most tolerated her and yet, saw her as a nuisance. This changed one communion Sunday when she came to the rail to receive communion, and after receiving, she said quite audibly, "Is that all there is?" She saw it as "food" in a totally different way. People were radically changed from that experience.

In another church, a young person came to speak with me. They knew they were "different" and needed to share with someone they trusted. It was my first face-to-face with a trans person, and I learned so much from that experience. I watched as this child of God transitioned from a life that was full of physical, mental, and emotional trauma into a stable, thriving, and settled person, and is now a successful pharmacist.

Our churches still have work to do. I feel like we step forward and then often experience push-back. As we enter a month where we celebrate World Pride Day and Juneteenth, among others, be mindful where you and our church can offer radical welcoming to others.

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## PASTOR'S PEN (CONT.)

Peter's testimony is a not-so-subtle reminder for us that we are to love, not judge. We are to love as Christ loved. What does Jesus say, "Love others as I have loved you." In other words, trust God to be welcoming, loving, and accepting to all persons. People (visitors, guests, our own members, everyone) will know our path by how we love one another.

I close with the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today." May it be so.

*Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Greg*

<sup>1</sup> Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA. From his Bishop's Blotter, 5/21/25.

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## NOTES

### All-Church Picnic

It's church picnic time again! Join us on June 8th. There will be one service that day in the Sanctuary at 10am. The picnic will follow in the Chapel. The Parish Life Board will be providing fried chicken and sodas/water. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

### Heritage Day

Do you know what happens on the last Saturday in September in Middletown? It's Heritage Day! It's a great opportunity to tell the community about our church. For Heritage Day 2024, the church had a bake sale, a bounce house, historical displays, kids craft, a scavenger hunt, and a table on Main St. We are looking for some new ideas to attract people to our church. We are also looking for people to plan and help on Heritage Day. How about YOU? Contact Nancy vom Lehn and add your name to the list.

### UCC Disaster Relief

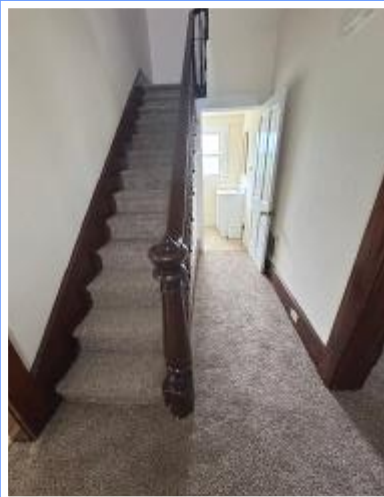
With all the recent disasters, it seems appropriate to appeal for assistance. There are several ways you can donate. Give a check made payable to *Christ Reformed UCC* and designated "disaster relief" or log in to Realm and make a contribution there. Let's carry forward the message of Easter and the Resurrection Story with our gifts of assistance. Thank you!

### HANDBELLS 50TH ANNIVERSARY



In celebration of our handbell's 50th anniversary, we are inviting all past handbell ringers to join along with our current ringers to perform during our Worship Service on June 8th. Details have been mailed out to past ringers. Contact the church office if you have not received your invitation.

## WEAGLY HOUSE UPDATE



New blinds were installed by John DeLauder. Advocates for Homeless Families installed new carpet. Mike Locke cleaned the kitchen, laundry room and bathroom floors, and power washed the outside. After a through deep cleaning by Missy, the house is refreshed and ready to welcome new tenants. Advocates plans to move the new family in the first week of June.



# CCCC TEACHER



## APPRECIATION WEEK!

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR FAMILIES FOR ALL THE MEALS,  
GIFTS, AND SPECIAL MESSAGES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.  
CCCC ARE REALLY RAD!





God on Tap

Wednesday 6/18 @ 6:30pm  
Showroom

882 N East St, Frederick, MD

Please RSVP to  
Christine at [97cfontaine@gmail.com](mailto:97cfontaine@gmail.com).



ONE GOD - ONE VOICE CHOIR  
presents

# REQUIEM

*A Harbor of Love and Light*

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025 • 3:00 PM

CHRIST REFORMED CHURCH OF MIDDLETOWN  
12 SOUTH CHURCH ST. MIDDLETOWN, MD 21769

free admission

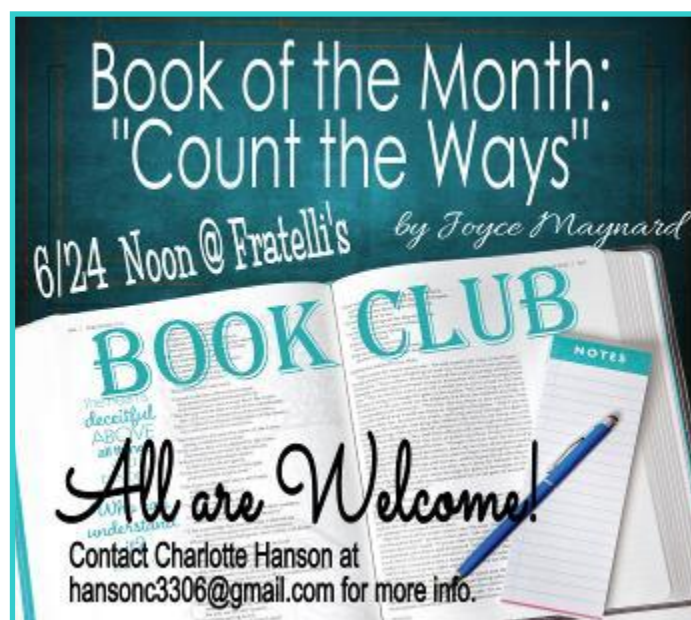


LADIES  
*chill*  
NIGHT

6/27 @ 5:30pm

## Madrone's

Please add your name to the sign up  
sheet in the Narthex by 6/22.



Book of the Month:  
"Count the Ways"

6/24 Noon @ Fratelli's by Joyce Maynard

# BOOK CLUB

*All are Welcome!*

Contact Charlotte Hanson at  
[hansonc3306@gmail.com](mailto:hansonc3306@gmail.com) for more info.



# Spirit Seekers

## Spring Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 11:30am  
Parish House



June 12th  
12pm-2pm  
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up  
Just Show Up!

# BINGO

## BUDS



## 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 Sauce
- Canned Meat
- Canned Beans
- Cake/Cookie Mix
- BBQ Sauce

### PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo
- 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

### Sound Techs

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| June 1  | Nick Fink  |
| June 8  | Pat Joy    |
| June 15 | Tony Verdi |
| June 22 | Pat Joy    |
| June 29 | Tony Verdi |

### Layreaders

|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| June 1  | Gail Johnson   |
| June 8  | Emily Mathis   |
| June 15 | Susan Thornton |
| June 22 | Andrew Corl    |
| June 29 | Sue Wickless   |

### Ushers

|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| June 1  | Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn       |
| June 8  | Janet Stock, Nancy vom Lehn   |
| June 15 | Isaac Cummings, Laura Verdi   |
| June 22 | Linda DeLauder, Bill Falconer |
| June 29 | Be' Hill, Karen Koogle        |

### Altar Flowers

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| June 1  | TBD              |
| June 8  | TBD              |
| June 15 | Charlotte Hanson |
| June 22 | Gail Johnson     |
| June 29 | TBD              |

### Coffee Hour Hosts

|         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| June 1  | Parish Life         |
| June 8  | Church Picnic       |
| June 15 | TBD                 |
| June 22 | Debbie & Mike Locke |
| June 29 | Discipleship Board  |

### Greeters

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| June 1  | Laura & Tony Verdi                                |
| June 8  | Vickie & Dale Biggs<br>and/or Beth & Mike Mummert |
| June 15 | Members of Consistory                             |
| June 22 | Edward Fontaine & Judy Zeck                       |
| June 29 | Paul Fink & Barb Ohler                            |



## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

April 2025

|                 | 8:15 am | 10:30 am |
|-----------------|---------|----------|
| April 6         | 23      | 54       |
| April 13        | 22      | 61       |
| Maundy Thursday | 38      |          |
| Easter Sunrise  | 39      |          |
| Easter          | 135     |          |
| April 27        | 23      | 32       |



# OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING APRIL 30, 2025

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| <b>CRUCC</b>                    | <b>Actual Apr 01, 2025<br/>- Apr 30, 2025</b> | <b>Actual Year<br/>to Date</b> |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                  |   |                                |
| Operating Income                | \$ 12,557.00                                  | \$ 128,434.76                  |
| Investment Income               |   |                                |
| Unrestricted Investment Income  | \$ 5,606.06                                   | \$ 11,253.80                   |
| Total Investment Income         | \$ 5,606.06                                   | \$ 11,253.80                   |
| Other Income                    | \$ 4,047.93                                   | \$ 16,145.65                   |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>            | <b>\$ 22,210.99</b>                           | <b>\$ 155,834.21</b>           |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                 |   |                                |
| Compensation Expenses           | \$ 14,053.13                                  | \$ 56,849.00                   |
| Operating Expenses              |   |                                |
| Program Expenses                | \$ -  | \$ 200.00                      |
| Worship-Related Expenses        | \$ 743.72                                     | \$ 2,650.98                    |
| Education-SS/CCCC               | \$ -  | \$ 189.63                      |
| Office & Supplies               | \$ 2,139.02                                   | \$ 5,893.13                    |
| Utilities                       | \$ 3,807.32                                   | \$ 16,420.43                   |
| Building & Property             | \$ 2,957.44                                   | \$ 11,379.43                   |
| Equipment Maintenance           | \$ -  | \$ 525.00                      |
| Insurance Expenses              | \$ 10,423.50                                  | \$ 28,724.00                   |
| <i>Total Operating Expenses</i> | <i>\$ 20,071.00</i>                           | <i>\$ 65,982.60</i>            |
| Ministry Expenses               |   |                                |
| Ministry - Outreach             | \$ -  | \$ 6,953.00                    |
| Ministry - Boards & Committees  | \$ 35.76                                      | \$ 2,511.26                    |
| <i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>  | <i>\$ 35.76</i>                               | <i>\$ 9,464.26</i>             |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>           | <b>\$ 34,159.89</b>                           | <b>\$ 132,295.86</b>           |
| Net Total                       | \$ (11,948.90)                                | \$ 23,538.35                   |

| <b>CCCC</b>                     | <b>Actual Apr 01, 2025<br/>- Apr 30, 2025</b> | <b>Actual Year<br/>to Date</b> |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                  |   |                                |
| Operating Income                | \$ 85,631.00                                  | \$ 359,169.50                  |
| Investment Income               | \$ 4.56                                       | \$ 17.54                       |
| Other Income                    | \$ 525.00                                     | \$ 9,488.00                    |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>            | <b>\$ 86,160.56</b>                           | <b>\$ 368,920.28</b>           |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                 |   |                                |
| Compensation Expenses           | \$ 98,729.52                                  | \$ 297,704.44                  |
| Operating Expenses              |   |                                |
| Program Expenses                | \$ 3,454.56                                   | \$ 15,571.62                   |
| Office & Supplies               | \$ 2,572.73                                   | \$ 11,999.58                   |
| Utilities                       | \$ -  | \$ 689.82                      |
| Building & Property             | \$ 3,823.89                                   | \$ 20,634.81                   |
| Equipment Maintenance           | \$ 128.00                                     | \$ 1,418.49                    |
| <i>Total Operating Expenses</i> | <i>\$ 9,979.18</i>                            | <i>\$ 50,314.32</i>            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>           | <b>\$ 108,708.70</b>                          | <b>\$ 363,693.49</b>           |
| Net Total                       | \$ (22,548.14)                                | \$ 5,226.79                    |

**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](mailto:christreformeducc@comcast.net)  
[www.crucc.org](http://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](http://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.



# Church Picnic

## Sunday June 8

*Details on page 2*

**Please Note: We will have one service @ 10am**