



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,

Yesterday we sang one of, if not *the* favorite hymn of mine. It was sung at my first ordination and it just embodies the mission that we, the church, must embrace. It should be our rally cry, our song to march into whatever "battle" we are facing at the time. Why is this song so important? How does it apply to us?

Well, here's the text:

*1 The church of Christ in ev'ry age,
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.*

*4 For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.*

*2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.*

*5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.*

*3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.*

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1969

What do you see and take away from this text? Does it rally you to be God's advocate in the world? Does it motivate you to be God's purveyor of justice in our world that still discriminates and does not seek or offer justice to all of God's children?

English hymnwriter Fred Pratt Green was asked by the editors of *Hymns and Songs* to write a hymn that "tackled the relationship between Sabbath and Sunday. So far it has made it's way into many hymnals. The most popular tune used with this hymn is the tune is WAREHAM (1738) by William Knapp.

Many years back, when I was in the early discernment stages of wrestling with this nudge to be involved in church leadership, I was sent to speak and do an interview with John Williams, then District Superintendent for the Cumerland/Hagerstown District of the United Methodist Church. John knew that I was "resisting" the call to become more pastoral and so we kind of interviewed each other. I asked him what inspired him the most in his pastoral leadership. He said the thing that has kept him focused throughout his ministry was that through the ages, the church has prevailed. It hasn't been perfect. It has weathered all sorts of political movements, undergone change after change, witnessed injustices locally and worldwide, and still prevails. I could not stop thinking about his words for weeks. He then referred me to this hymn text.

Think about just in your lifetime what you have seen in our world and how the church has managed to serve, remain strong, and ready itself for the next task. This hymn calls out the church to be the agent of change and reconciliation in the struggle against injustice and hunger, both physically and spiritually.

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As the church, we are challenged by the needs of our world and the teachings of Jesus to, above all, love one another. So let's move forward. Move to be the shelter, Christ's servants, providers and sharers of bread at an open table, and to care for all, without reserve.

May the church of Christ continue forward to meet the needs of other!

Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Greg



NOTES

The Parish Life Board is campaigning for a new freezer for the Church. The current freezer is inefficient, leaky, and unreliable. You can donate through Realm or send a check to the church office written out to CRUCC with a note for the "Freezer For a Reason Campaign". Our goal is \$1,500. We thank you for your support!

FREEZER FOR A REASON CAMPAIGN

MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

HANDBELLS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On June 8th our Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir, consisting of Director Terry Sparks, Renee Huffer-Brandenburg, Madelyn Cross, Dinah Esworthy, Brenda Fogle, Julie Frye, Katie Murphy, Linda Nichols and Sue Wickless was joined by past members: Wendy Campbell, Carol Haggerty, Gail Johnson, Doug Remsberg, and Debby Weaver. Narration was provided by Paisley Murphy.



VOCAL & MUSICAL RECITAL



On June 22nd, our organist Edgar Bower, joined by his wife Lori Heinrich-Bower, provided an afternoon of vocal & musical celebration.





CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER

**Congrats
CLASS
OF 2025
PRE-K**





We gather together

God on Tap

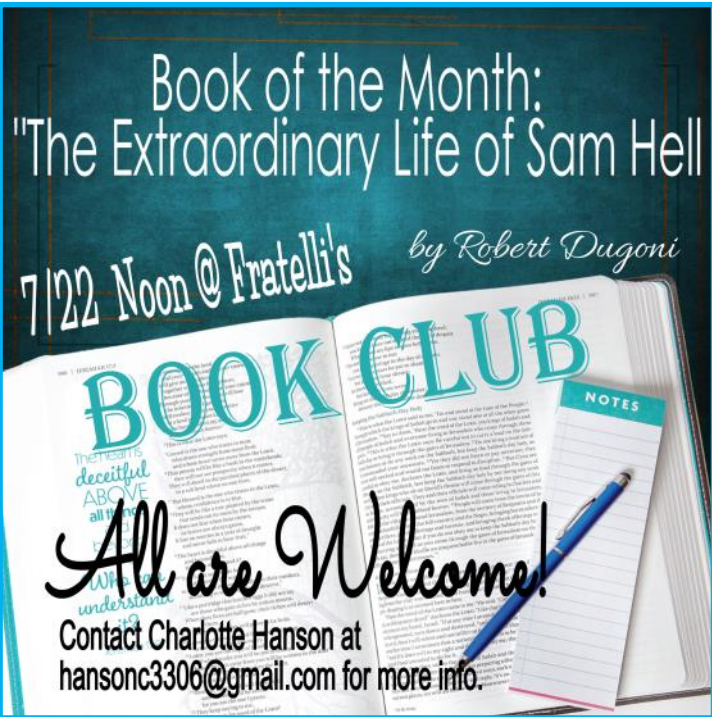
Wednesday 7/16 @ 6:30pm
Showroom

882 N East St, Frederick, MD

Please RSVP to
Christine at 97cfontaine@gmail.com.



Women's Bible Study
Resumes in September



Book of the Month:
"The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell"
by Robert Dugoni

7/22 Noon @ Fratelli's

BOOK CLUB

NOTES

All are Welcome!

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



Spirit Seekers

Spring Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 11:30am
Parish House

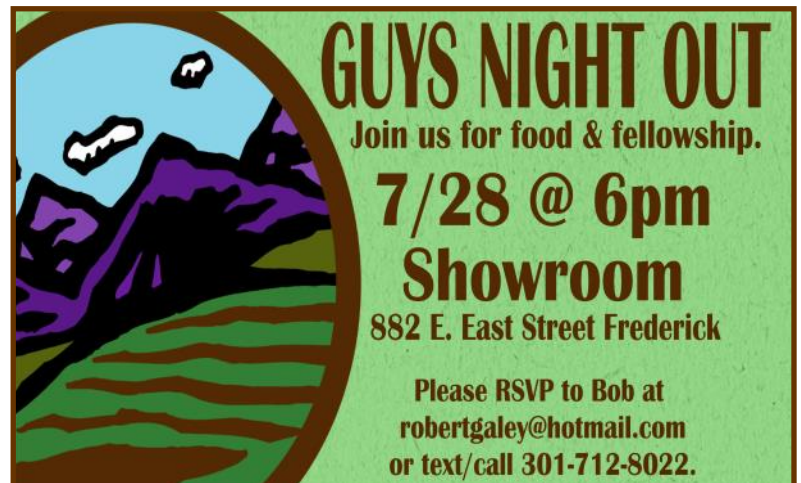


July 10th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!

B I N G O

BUDS



GUYS NIGHT OUT

Join us for food & fellowship.

7/28 @ 6pm
Showroom

882 E. East Street Frederick

Please RSVP to Bob at
robertgaley@hotmail.com
or text/call 301-712-8022.



THE OFFICE AND THE DAY CARE WILL
BE CLOSED IN CELEBRATION OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY.



Join us!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Strengthen the Church

There is still time to make a donation for Strengthen the Church offering. This Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. You can write a check to the church and note it "Strengthen the Church" or contribute using our online giving platform, *Realm*. You can find more information about this offering at <http://www.ucc.org/stc/>.

**STRENGTHEN
THE CHURCH**

METAL RECYCLING

Every Sunday from approximately 6:30am until 12:30pm in the Zion Lutheran Church (107 W. Main Street) lower parking lot, Bill Traube and a core of volunteers collect any kind of metal, aluminum cans, steel, etc. All of the proceeds go to support 1) the local Middletown Ministerium Day of Service projects; and 2) local charities such as the Myersville Area Growing Project, Frederick Rescue Mission, Religious Coalition, Mission of Mercy, etc. In 2023, they donated over \$24K to these charities. All are encouraged to bring their scrap metal for a good cause. Small items can be left on the back porch of the Parish House. Arrangements can be made for picking up large items by contacting Bill Traube at 240-457-



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

July 6	Nick Fink
July 13	Paul Fink
July 20	Pat Joy
July 27	Tony Verdi

Layreaders

July 6	Taylor Magda-Mathis
July 13	Andrew Conl
July 20	Laura Fontaine
July 27	Alison Lynch

Ushers

July 6	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
July 13	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck
July 20	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke
July 27	Janet Stock, Nancy vom Lehn

Coffee Hour Hosts

July 6	TBD
July 13	Parish Life
July 20	TBD
July 27	Cemetery Board

Greeters

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



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

May 2025

	8:15 am	10:30 am
May 4	27	48
May 11	25	60
May 18	26	46
May 25	24	49



OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING MAY 31, 2025

VISIONS
JULY 2025
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	Actual May 01, 2025 - May 31, 2025	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
CRUCC			
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 14,074.00	\$ 142,508.76	\$ 221,648.24
Investment Income	\$ 6.40	\$ 11,260.20	\$ (11,260.20)
Other Income	\$ 4,342.70	\$ 20,488.35	\$ 26,086.65
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 18,423.10	\$ 174,257.31	\$ 236,474.69
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 13,788.77	\$ 70,637.77	\$ 179,794.23
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 249.00	\$ 2,899.98	\$ 2,800.02
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 327.72	\$ 517.35	\$ 482.65
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,537.43	\$ 7,430.56	\$ 14,419.44
Utilities	\$ 1,659.56	\$ 18,079.99	\$ 14,720.01
Building & Property	\$ 1,215.53	\$ 12,594.96	\$ 17,055.04
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 525.00	\$ 1,475.00
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 28,724.00	\$ 22,176.00
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 4,989.24	\$ 70,971.84	\$ 72,928.16
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 6,953.00	\$ 5,347.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 2.09	\$ 2,513.35	\$ 1,586.65
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	\$ 2.09	\$ 9,466.35	\$ 6,933.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,780.10	\$ 151,075.96	\$ 259,656.04
Net Total	\$ (357.00)	\$ 23,181.35	\$ (23,181.35)
	Actual May 01, 2025 - May 31, 2025	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
CCCC			
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 84,677.50	\$ 443,847.00	\$ 691,870.76
Investment Income			
Unrestricted Investment Income	\$ 4.92	\$ 22.46	\$ (22.46)
Total Investment Income	\$ 4.92	\$ 22.46	\$ (22.46)
Other Income	\$ 156.96	\$ 9,644.96	\$ (572.63)
Designated Income			
CCCC - Designated	\$ -	\$ 245.24	\$ (245.24)
Total Designated Income	\$ -	\$ 245.24	\$ (245.24)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 84,839.38	\$ 453,759.66	\$ 691,030.43
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 69,490.28	\$ 367,194.72	\$ 574,631.67
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 6,667.42	\$ 22,239.04	\$ 60,760.96
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00
Office & Supplies	\$ 2,941.03	\$ 14,940.61	\$ 31,359.39
Utilities	\$ 239.94	\$ 929.76	\$ 2,733.94
Building & Property	\$ 3,775.00	\$ 24,409.81	\$ 38,090.19
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 173.34	\$ 1,591.83	\$ 2,408.17
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 13,796.73	\$ 64,111.05	\$ 138,852.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 83,287.01	\$ 446,980.50	\$ 697,809.59
Net Total	\$ 1,552.37	\$ 6,779.16	\$ (6,779.16)

**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-Thurs 10am-2pm/Fri 9am-12pm
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.



SCHOOL SUPPLY *Drive*

Please place school supplies in the yellow bin provided in the Narthex. You can also go on-line to <https://tinyurl.com/Stuff-Bus> and ship to a consolidation site or click on the QR code.



- ♦ PENCILS
- ♦ COLORED PENCILS
- ♦ PENS
- ♦ CRAYONS
- ♦ GLUE STICKS
- ♦ POCKET FOLDERS
- ♦ HIGHLIGHTERS
- ♦ NOTEBOOKS
- ♦ SCISSORS
- ♦ LOOSE LEAF PAPER
- ♦ 3-RING BINDERS
- ♦ PENCIL CASE

DEADLINE: AUGUST 4TH

Sponsored by Middletown Valley People Helping People in partnership with United Way's *Stuff the Bus*.