



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,

As you know, I moved back in March, and I have been slowly going through boxes (Lord, have mercy!) and will continue this adventure for a while. I had found my mother's bible and enjoyed a somewhat emotional "walk back" one Saturday afternoon. Well, two weeks ago, I finally found my dad's bible. He had marked many things, including a few newspaper articles, a scrap of my hair, and several other items. One thing I found was a piece of paper on which my father had written the date of October 23, 1976, and this scripture,

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11

Under the scripture, he also wrote the word "transition" and the phrase "I will place my trust in God."

After some deep breathing, I started to think about transitions in general, in my life, and in the life of our church. Transitions are a big part of our life, that is for sure! We are about to embark on a seasonal change. The weather will change, Fall schedules gear up, and summer leaves us for another year. How can we transition smoothly?

Well, there's still some time to practice some "Summer Sabbath Time." What? Well, how about some scheduled rest time... moments, even? Find some restful time where you can find times for a respite (even if brief!) and do something where you can feel God's presence. Here are some thoughts on how.

Finding some sabbath time is about honoring restfulness. I mean, after creation, God paused, rested, and called it good. How about a walk with some sacred intention? Yes, we need to complete every step to satisfy our fitness tracker, but what about taking a quiet stroll in a park or somewhere with water? What about doing something creative? How about creating a visual prayer space at home? How about finding some time to simply sit? On the porch, under a tree, and just listen. Let stillness be your prayer and respite. I pass a house on Main Street in Myersville, and there is a bed on the front porch rigged up like a porch swing! I love the idea, but would probably never leave the porch!

Churches experience transition as well. We are in the season called Ordinary Time and the liturgical color is green. This season of green reminds us of growth. Growth can be slow, often unnoticed, but always sacred. Find your rhythm for Fall. Take some time for yourself.

As an end note. As I pondered the scripture and date from my dad's note, were also the words "I will trust God through all things." Interestingly enough, my dad passed on November 26, 1976, so he would have written this about a month before he passed.

Sort of sums it up for me. Trust, never stop loving, and make time for self-care.

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QUARTERLY INFO MEETING

Sept. 28th
9:15am
Chapel
NEW DATE!

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Greg

Decorating Committee Members Needed

After 20+ years of serving on the decorating committee, Gertie Mende has decided to step down. THANK You Gertie for always spearheading such a great decorating team. This committee is responsible for organizing volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas. Other responsibilities including the ordering of the Christmas and Easter flowers and palm crowns., This committee is also responsible for decorating the sanctuary with the flowers and if needed, gather volunteers to help distribute them following the worship services. Gertie will be available to help with turnover purposes and should be available to help decorate for Christmas this year. Please contact her at 301-639-2109 for more information or if you are interested.

Conversation on Church Membership

If you've been hanging out here at Christ Reformed and are feeling like you might like to join us, let Pastor Greg know or contact the office.

Confirmation Class

We are working to organize a confirmation class beginning this fall. If you have a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild who you think might be interested, speak with pastor Greg or contact the office. A letter will be going out soon. We look forward to a group of young people coming together for this journey. We plan to have a mentor for each participant. If you would like to be a mentor and journey with us, please speak with someone on the Education Commission or Pastor Greg.

2025 Neighbors In Need

On the first Sunday in October we'll join with other UCC churches around the country to support the Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering. This is a special offering of our denomination that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. To contribute you can write a check to the church and note it "NIN" or pay online using Realm, our online giving platform.

Heritage Day Bake Sale

Baked donations are needed for Parish Life's bake table for Heritage Day on September 27. All should be individually bagged and labeled. Cakes, pies, etc. should be wrapped securely with Saran Wrap. No refrigerated foods are permitted, including Zucchini, pumpkin, banana bread, or carrot cake. Please note if

any nuts are in the baked goods. Baked goods can be delivered to the church Friday evening between 6 & 7pm or Saturday morning between 8:30 and 10:30am. Please leave your name with your donation. Please add your name to the sign up sheet if you plan to donate. Call Connie Bell with questions at 240-215-5622.

Sub & Soup Sale

The Growing Hope Globally Growing Project, which includes nine churches in the community that raise money to fight world hunger, is hosting a sub and soup sale. There are foot long subs, country ham sandwiches, turkey and provolone sandwiches, and chicken noodle soup available for purchase. Orders are due by Sept. 10th. Orders can be picked up on Saturday, September 20th from 10-11am in the church parking lot or after church on Sunday, Sept 21st. Order forms are available in the Narthex or you can call Linda at 240-490-5880 to place your order.

Birthday Card Shower

Ruth Falconer is turning 90 on September 10th and we want to shower her with birthday greetings. If you would like to send her a card, her address is: 500 Pearson Cir Apt 3008, Frederick, MD 21702-3423.

A Practical Guide to Discipleship

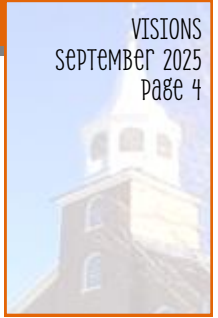
As Christians we claim and celebrate that we are followers (disciples) of Jesus Christ, walking faithfully along the path of the Holy Way of God's will. WOW! That's a tall order! How do we know we're actually on the path and doing it right? When others asked Jesus that question, he boiled it down simply enough: 'Love God with everything you've got and love your neighbor as yourself. Do that.' Right, OK...wait, what? That still seems rather broad. What does it mean practically? *How* are we to walk through our lives as disciples loving God, neighbor, and ourselves? What does that look like? Join us this September for **A Practical Guide to Discipleship**, a 3-part series in which we will explore what Jesus meant by *love* and how that translates into the four essential features of discipleship: Acts of devotion, worship, compassion, and justice. Rev. Michelle Beadle will lead these discussions in the Chapel from 9:15-10:00am on the following Sundays:





First Day of School 2025-26





We gather together

God on Tap

Wednesday 9/17 @ 6:30pm
Daphne Gabb's Home
102 Manda Drive, Middletown
Please RSVP to
Paul at madfink30@msn.com

Spirit Seekers

SUMMER

Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 11:30am
Parish House

LADIES
chill
NIGHT

9/19 @ 5:30pm
Manalu Restaurant
5227 Presidents Ct, Frederick
Please add your name to the sign up
sheet in the Narthex by 9/14.

Beginning September!
All voices welcome
to join choir!

Rehearsals:
Thursday
Sept. 4th
@ 7:30pm

WELCOME
BACK
CHOIR!

Book of the Month:
"My Friends"
by Fredrik Backman
9/23 Noon @ Fratelli's

BOOK CLUB

All are Welcome!

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

Have you ever played a musical instrument
and would love to pick it up again?

**Join the New
Main Street Community Ensemble**

- We value making music together while supporting and encouraging one another.
- No matter your skill level, you are welcome to be part of MSCE.
- Open to all 16 and older. Those 15 and younger must be accompanied by a designated, responsible adult.
- If you don't have an instrument, we will try to help you find one! Just ask.

All Rehearsals and Events:
Christ Reformed UCC, 12 S. Church Street, Middletown, MD 21769

**Main Street Community Ensemble
Kickoff Rehearsal**
Tuesday, September 9
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

As a general rule, rehearsals will be
hosted at this time on Monday
evenings, except on the second
Monday, in which case it will be held
the next evening (Tuesday).

Contact michelle.beadle@thrivingcommons.net or max.beadle7@gmail.com

Sept. 11th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!

BINGO

BUDS

GUYS NIGHT OUT

Join us for food & fellowship.

9/22 @ 6pm
Oscar's Ale House
906 N. East Street Frederick

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

THANK YOU NOTES

VISIONS
SEPTEMBER 2025
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Congregation of UCC

I would like too openly take this opportunity to thank Debbie Bruns & Missy Payne. They have spent many hours in the past months researching and applying for our UCC Federal grants we have received. They have taken it upon there selves to do this to see what might be available. Thanks to Debbie & Missy, our UCC has received over \$500,000 worth of these grants. They are being used for different things to better equip our church and daycare Center. Many of you might not know this, so a big shout out should go to Debbie & Missy.

Mike & Debbie Locke



Parish Life would like to thank all of the generous donors that contributed to our "Freezer for a Reason" Campaign! The new freezer was delivered on August 7th. Special thanks to Gary Bell for doing all of the research, checking with Coblentz to assure we had the correct circuit needed and coordinating the delivery with the Children's Center. Also, thanks to Gary Bell, Garry Vom Lehn and John DeLauder for unpackaging the unit and installing it in the kitchen. Thanks to the Property Board's input and Gary Bell for arranging to have the old freezer removed and donated to the metal recycling group at no charge. And thank you, Connie Bell, for starting this campaign and volunteering your husband to assist our Board in this endeavor! It is very heartwarming to see how our church members came together to accomplish this goal. We hope to have many more ice cream socials and events in the future using our new freezer! *With grateful hearts, the Parish Life Board*

Many thanks to our music team for their service at the community table in August. Thank all those who donated salads and deserts for the hungry in Frederick County. *Terry Sparks*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2024, over 136 kids in the Middletown valley area were provided a free or reduced priced lunch on school days, but they faced 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, Myersville, Valley, Jefferson 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.



14 Continuous Years of Serving Our Children

Heritage Day Volunteers Needed!

We hope to have a few activities around the church from 12-3:30pm on Saturday September 27th. This is a great opportunity to remind the community about all the great things here at CRUCC. We really need everyone to step up and help. How, you ask, can you help? Here are some ideas:



MIDDLETOWN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

1. **The Bounce House**-We need volunteers to monitor the bounce house.
2. **Bake Table**-We know that CRUCC has the best bakers around. Please donate your famous baked goods for sale by Friday Sept. 26 or Saturday by 9am. Contact Connie Bell or Marty Estell for more information.
3. **Greeters**-We need church members to greet guests as they enter the church, hand out information, direct them to the sanctuary and displays in the chapel.
4. **Children's Craft Project**-Two church members are planning a children's craft activity which will be held on the Parish House porch. Please volunteer to help with the project.
5. **Cookbook Display**-Bring in your favorite cookbook to display (hopefully we will get a nice collection of different books!) Pick your favorite recipe from your cookbook. We will make copies of your recipe to share.
6. **Set-Up/Clean-Up**-We will need help with set up on Saturday morning and clean up Saturday afternoon.

Keep an eye out for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board! Contact the church office or Nancy vom Lehn to sign up. Thanks in advance!

MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK



FOOD ITEMS

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Meat
- Canned Vegetables
- Jello/Pudding Mix
- Salad Dressing

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo
- Paper Towels

Collection boxes for non-perishables are in the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel. Homegrown fruits/veggies can be dropped off directly (301 W. Main St) on Wednesdays 1-3pm or Saturdays 9-11am.



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

September 7	Nick Fink
September 14	Pat Joy
September 21	Pat Joy
September 28	Tony Verdi

Layreaders

September 7	Taylor Magda-Mathis
September 14	Paul Fink
September 21	Laura Fontaine
September 28	Alison Lynch

Ushers

September 7	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
September 14	Marti Easton, TBD
September 21	Linda DeLauder, Trish Parr-Brandt
September 28	Be' Hill, Karen Koogler

Coffee Hour Hosts

September 7	TBD
September 14	Mary & Giff Garwood
September 21	TBD
September 28	CCCC Board

Greeters

September 7	Laura & Tony Verdi
September 14	Vickie & Dale Biggs and/or Beth & Mike Mummert
September 21	Members of Consistory
September 28	Edward Fontaine, Judy Zeck

Altar Flowers

September 7	Ruth & Bill Falconer
September 14	Laura Fontaine
September 21	TBD
September 28	Laura & Tony Verdi



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

July 2025

	8:15 am	10:30 am
July 6	24	58
July 13	20	43
July 20	22	49
July 27	17	50



OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING JULY 31, 2025



CRUCC	Actual Jul 01, 2025 - Jul 31, 2025	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 11,798.25	\$ 176,576.01	\$ 187,580.99
Investment Income	\$ 5,610.98	\$ 17,355.93	\$ (17,355.93)
Other Income	\$ 4,182.12	\$ 28,704.67	\$ 17,870.33
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 21,591.35	\$ 222,636.61	\$ 188,095.39
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 14,043.38	\$ 99,323.31	\$ 151,108.69
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 15,200.00	\$ (15,200.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 308.85	\$ 3,470.81	\$ 2,229.19
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 517.35	\$ 482.65
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,550.66	\$ 10,249.61	\$ 11,600.39
Utilities	\$ 3,389.56	\$ 22,885.44	\$ 9,914.56
Building & Property	\$ 2,007.12	\$ 15,102.08	\$ 14,547.92
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 986.00	\$ 1,511.00	\$ 489.00
Insurance Expenses	\$ 10,423.50	\$ 39,147.50	\$ 11,752.50
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 18,665.69</i>	<i>\$ 108,083.79</i>	<i>\$ 35,816.21</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 11,953.00	\$ 347.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ -	\$ 2,555.26	\$ 1,544.74
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 14,508.26</i>	<i>\$ 1,891.74</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 32,709.07	\$ 221,915.36	\$ 188,816.64
NET TOTAL	\$ (11,117.72)	\$ 721.25	\$ (721.25)
CCCC	Actual Jul 01, 2025 - Jul 31, 2025	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 78,228.00	\$ 622,351.00	\$ 513,366.76
Investment Income	\$ 5.92	\$ 2,874.45	\$ (2,874.45)
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 9,769.96	\$ (697.63)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 78,233.92	\$ 634,995.41	\$ 509,794.68
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 71,416.94	\$ 508,640.37	\$ 433,186.02
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 4,831.56	\$ 34,793.99	\$ 48,206.01
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 479.79	\$ 3,020.21
Office & Supplies	\$ 3,413.35	\$ 21,138.34	\$ 25,161.66
Utilities	\$ 479.88	\$ 1,649.58	\$ 2,014.12
Building & Property	\$ 20,384.25	\$ 48,569.06	\$ 13,930.94
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 225.08	\$ 1,946.91	\$ 2,053.09
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 29,334.12</i>	<i>\$ 108,577.67</i>	<i>\$ 94,386.03</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 100,751.06	\$ 617,218.04	\$ 527,572.05
NET TOTAL	\$ (22,517.14)	\$ 17,777.37	\$ (17,777.37)

**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.**

Middletown Heritage Festival

**Sept. 27
12:00-3:30pm**

**Musical Performances
Bounce House
Kid's Craft Table
Cook Book Displays
Historical Displays
Basket Sale
Bake Sale**

See page 5 for volunteer opportunities.



**MIDDLETOWN
HERITAGE FESTIVAL**