



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,

John 20:29 has Jesus saying "...So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing" (*The Message*).

Throughout Lent we have worked through the theme of being grounded in the "Good News." We have explored themes of being surprised, loved, challenged, etc. Each week the Gospel readings offer various situations demonstrating how the "good news" can still offer surprises, love, and challenges in our daily lives.

With all the turmoil in the world, sitting with people trusting me to share their concerns, and my own search of respite, I spent a lovely afternoon escaping to the theatre. I attended Middletown High School's production of *Seussical*. What a wonderful event. Equally wonderful was the showing of many CRUCC folks to share in the honoring of our own Susan Thornton. It was a super afternoon of examples of "good news" demonstration by love, appreciation, and devotion.

Driving home my mind went all sorts of places. First, I thought about Lent, Holy Week, and what we had to finalize before any of it could happen. My mind quickly then traveled to thoughts about the Sunday after Easter and the message for that day. The Gospel lesson for that Sunday is usually about Doubting Thomas. Then I thought about how sad to go through life with that label. And yet, through his doubting, his belief was strengthened. Next shift! My thoughts returned to the theatre and shows that were meaningful to me and carried a special significance. One of my favorites is *Fiddler on the Roof* (are you following me, yet?).

In that show, Tevye finally decides to give Perchik permission to marry his daughter Hodel and then has to break the news to his wife Golde. Cue the song, "Do You Love Me?" that Tevye and Golde sing. Golde runs the list of things they have done together saying, "see, I do love you." Of course, by the end of the song they realize, yes, they do love each other.

Okay, back to Doubting Thomas which then led to Doubting Us. Jesus invited Thomas to touch him, to experience the wounds, realizing that yes, it really was Jesus. With all the events of the world and things happening in people's lives, we often ask God, "Do You Love Me?" Admit it. At times we do ask that question. Like Tevye and Golde, God could run the list of all the times we have received God's presence, ongoing blessings, comfort, and grace. Yes, God loves us! Like Doubting Thomas, if we ran through the list of blessings, then we too would eventually realize that God loves us. The life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Christ is a good place to start. Proof.

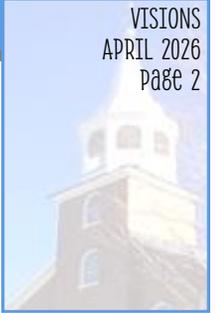
What do we do with all this? Well, the bottom line for Easter is hope. Hope that no matter what, the Spirit walks with us and surrounds us even when we doubt. And yes, we will doubt. Reach out, talk to God, yell at God, whatever you need to do, God can handle it. And when you doubt, remember Thomas. Think about Tevye and Golde. Ask God the question, "Do You Love Me?" And then run the list of your blessings, remember the relationships built, and bask in the hope of Easter. Like Thomas' realization, then we too can say, "My Lord and my God!"

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Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail leaves us with this prayer:

God of Life, You took Thomas's doubts, and absorbed them into the scars on Your body. Take now our doubts, our fears, our anxiety, and extend over them Your healing touch, so that we can be free. In the knowledge that we do not have to know, we do not have to understand, we do not even have to see – because You do. And You are with us. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Greg

NOTES

Confirmation Sunday

Palm Sunday is when we usually welcome our Confirmands into church membership. This year we are doing things a bit different and instead, they will lead the worship service on Palm Sunday and we will welcome them into the church membership on Sunday, May 3rd.

Maundy Thursday

"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 on April 2nd @ 7:00pm.

Foot Washing

Besides music, readings, and Communion, our Maundy Thursday service this year will include a time of foot washing (or hand washing) for those comfortable to participate. Foot washing is a Christian ritual symbolizing humility, service and love. It is primarily based on Jesus washing his disciples feet in John 13. It is a true act of servanthood and acts as expression of the "new commandment" to love one another.

Meditation & Labyrinth

On Good Friday, April 3, the labyrinth will be set up in the chapel from 1:00-6:00pm. 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. 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 & reflection. Pastor Greg will have a guided meditation for people to follow and he will be available for private prayer, communion, and/or anointing.

Easter Sunday

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.

Easter Morning Continental Breakfast

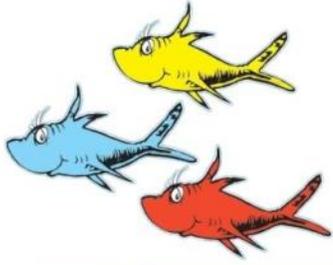
Parish Life annual Easter Sunrise Continental Breakfast will be held in the Coffee Hour Space immediately following the Sunrise Service. We will be serving bagels, muffins, fruit, juice and coffee. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are planning on joining us. Everyone is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

Drawing to God's Word

Our creator excels at design and artistic expression. As God's image-bearers, we can use our creative gifts to learn about and worship him. You can draw, doodle, color and journal as you reflect on God's Word. After reading the weekly Bible passages, grab some markers, colored pencils or pens to respond. Close each devotional time with prayer, thanking the Master Artist for making, sustaining, and blessing you!

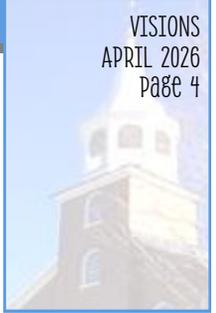
Spirit Seekers
Spring Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 11:30am
Parish House

DR. SEUSS READ ACROSS AMERICA SPIRIT WEEK MARCH 2ND - MARCH 6TH



CCCC had a special reading of *Horton Hears A Who!* by cast members from the new Suessical the Musical at Middetown High School. Thank you to Susan Thornton, the Director, Caleb Whitcomb, Horton and Eden Bishop, Mrs. Mayor!





GUYS NIGHT OUT

Join us for food & fellowship.

4/27 @ 6pm

Modern Asia

1306 W Patrick St Frederick

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



April 9th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!

B I N G O

BUDS

LADIES chill NIGHT

4/17 @ 5:30pm

Fajita Grande

5 Willowdale Drive Frederick

Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex by 4/12.

Knitters

Knitting & Crochet Group

April 15th
1:00-3:00pm
Parish House

Book of the Month:

"A Guardian and a Thief"

by Megha Majumdar

4/28 Noon @ Tapia's

BOOK CLUB

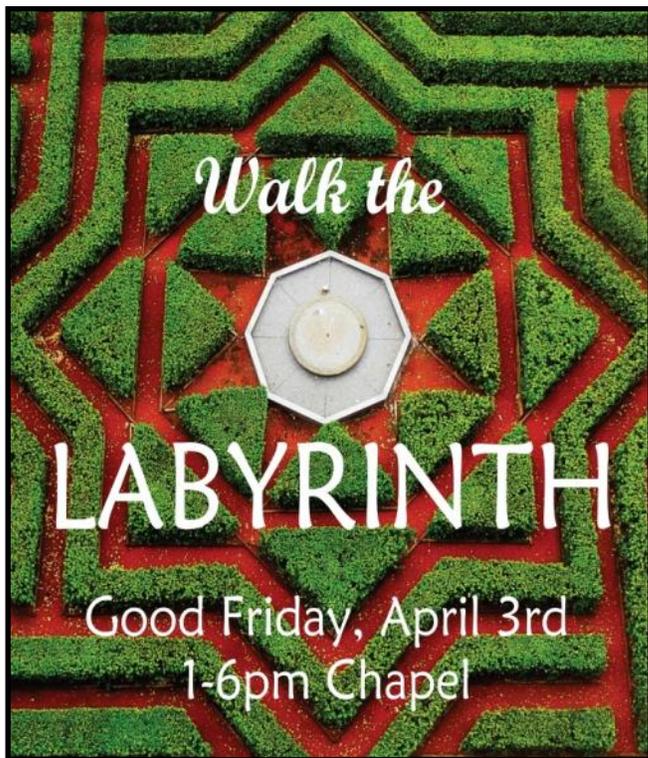
NOTES

All are Welcome!

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

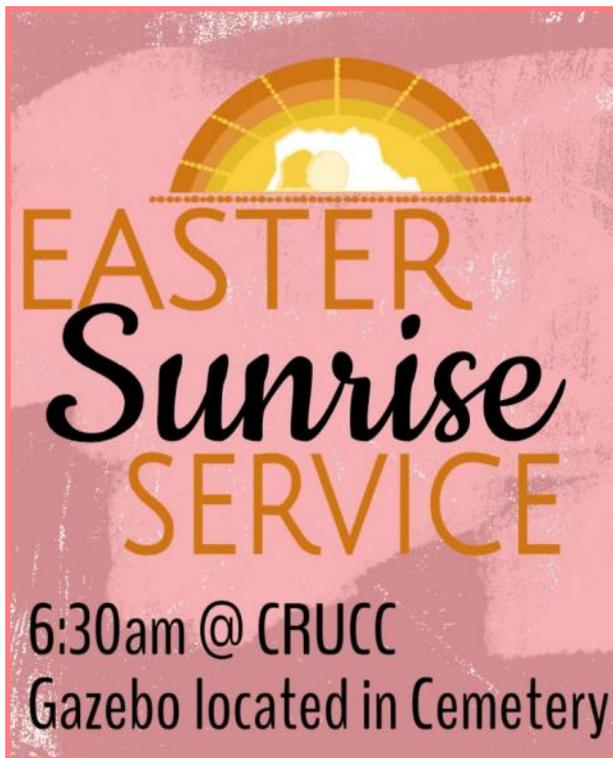


Walk the



LABYRINTH

Good Friday, April 3rd
1-6pm Chapel



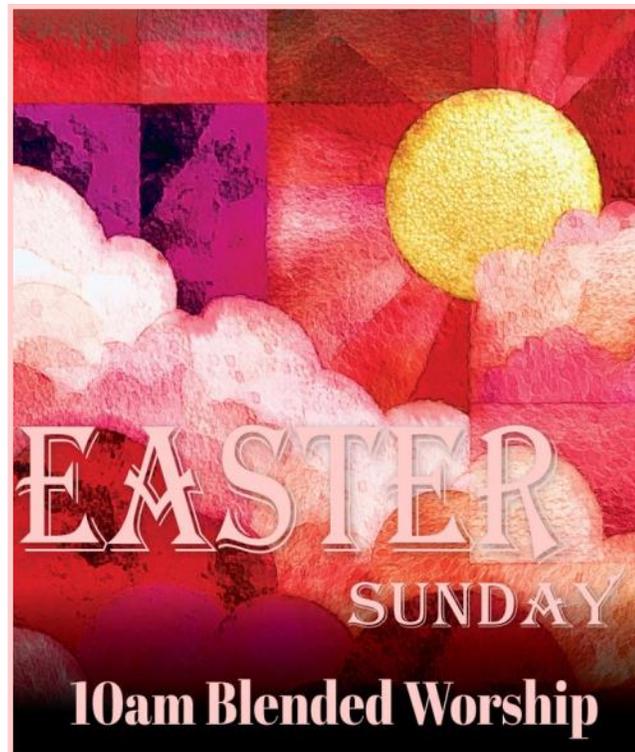
EASTER
Sunrise
SERVICE

6:30am @ CRUCC
Gazebo located in Cemetery

Easter
BREAKFAST

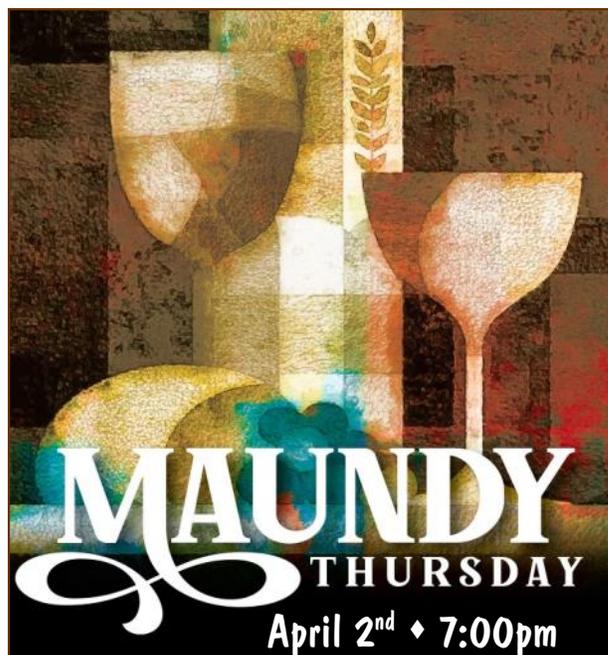
April 5

Join us! *Immediately following the Sunrise Service*

EASTER
SUNDAY

10am Blended Worship



MAUNDY
THURSDAY

April 2nd ♦ 7:00pm





MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK



FOOD ITEMS

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Beans
- Pasta
- Soup
- Oatmeal
- Pancake Mix

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Shampoo
- Toilet Paper
- Bars of Soap
- Body Wash
- Liquid Hand Soap

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.

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, 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

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Sound Techs

April 2 <i>Maunder Thurs</i>	Pat Joy
April 5	Nick Fink
April 12	Pat Joy
April 19	Tony Verdi
April 26	Pat Joy

Coffee Hour Hosts

April 5	N/A—Breakfast
April 12	TBD
April 19	Jean & Bob Galey
April 26	Christian Ed Board

Layreaders

April 5	Susan Thornton
April 12	Sue Wickless
April 19	Gail Johnson
April 26	TBD

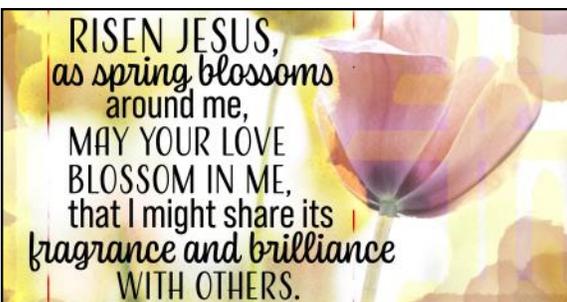


Greeters

April 5	Laura & Tony Verdi
April 12	Vickie & Dale Biggs and/or Beth & Mike Mummert
April 19	Members of Consistory
April 26	Edward Fontaine, Judy Zeck

Ushers

April 2 <i>Maunder Thurs</i>	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck
April 5	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lahn Debbie Locke, Mike Locke
April 12	Janet Stock, Nancy vom Lahn
April 19	Be' Hill, Laura Verdi
April 26	Linda DeLauder, Trish Parr-Brandt



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

February 2026

	8:15 am	10:30 am
February 1	22	40
February 8	16	38
February 15	18	44
February 22	18	38

OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2026



CRUCC	Actual Feb 01, 2026 - Feb 28, 2026	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 47,690.15	\$ 98,318.15	\$ 253,374.93
Investment Income	\$ 7.19	\$ 5,614.34	\$ (5,614.34)
Other Income	\$ 4,326.18	\$ 8,828.81	\$ 42,746.19
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 52,023.52	\$ 112,761.30	\$ 290,506.78
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 16,345.25	\$ 32,233.06	\$ 200,360.02
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ (350.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 152.15	\$ 1,579.71	\$ 3,670.29
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 86.95	\$ 86.95	\$ (86.95)
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,438.06	\$ 2,780.70	\$ 19,869.30
Utilities	\$ 4,771.85	\$ 11,040.87	\$ 29,884.13
Building & Property	\$ 2,065.71	\$ 2,614.26	\$ 28,035.74
Servicing of Organ/Piano		\$ 571.95	\$ 1,428.05
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 18,565.50	\$ 32,434.50
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 8,514.72</i>	<i>\$ 37,589.94</i>	<i>\$ 114,885.06</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 1,911.00	\$ 10,389.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 493.67	\$ 1,636.44	\$ 4,263.56
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 493.67</i>	<i>\$ 3,547.44</i>	<i>\$ 14,652.56</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 25,353.64	\$ 73,370.44	\$ 329,897.64
NET TOTAL	\$ 26,669.88	\$ 39,390.86	\$ (39,390.86)

CRUCC	Actual Feb 01, 2026 - Feb 28, 2026	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 86,885.50	\$ 172,282.25	\$ 964,813.67
Investment Income	\$ 219.86	\$ 462.82	\$ (462.82)
Other Income	\$ 3,986.00	\$ 4,208.00	\$ 4,923.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 91,091.36	\$ 176,953.07	\$ 969,273.85
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 64,230.35	\$ 133,058.24	\$ 802,368.68
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 7,196.73	\$ 12,397.47	\$ 68,602.53
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 69.93	\$ 69.93	\$ 3,430.07
Office & Supplies	\$ 4,408.44	\$ 7,897.88	\$ 41,902.12
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 242.94	\$ 3,757.06
Building & Property	\$ 5,236.50	\$ 10,163.50	\$ 58,336.50
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 67.76	\$ 108.34	\$ 3,891.66
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 16,979.36</i>	<i>\$ 30,880.06</i>	<i>\$ 179,919.94</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 81,209.71	\$ 163,938.30	\$ 982,288.62
NET TOTAL	\$ 9,881.65	\$ 13,014.77	\$ (13,014.77)

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

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christreformeducc@comcast.net
www.crucc.org

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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.



God on Tap

Wednesday 4/8 @ 6:30pm
Parish House

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Please RSVP to Paul at madfink30@msn.com