

Volume XLII  
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 June 2026

# 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.

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With June being Pride month, no doubt we will see a lot of rainbows around. I wanted to share some personal understandings and thoughts about its meaning and symbolism for us as God's children, members of the United Church of Christ, and Christ's ambassadors in a world that is hurting and needy.

"And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations." (Genesis 9:12)

This was God's promise, mercy, and faithfulness; God's covenant with humanity after the flood. So, the rainbow began its journey in the Bible as a testament to God's love for all of humanity. Yes, I know that is a scary thought. God loves even . . . We can finish that many ways, can't we?

I remember being taught by Martha Gish in Sunday School that whenever we saw a rainbow, that was to remind us of God's promises and love for us. . . ALL of us. Biblically, the rainbow symbolizes hope and a fresh start. God created the rainbow as a promise to never flood the earth again and that God is always with us.

The rainbow flag was created in 1978 to symbolize the diversity of the human experience. Yes, it has become a powerful symbol of the LGBTQ+ community, its social movements, and the diversity within the movement. However, over the years the flag has evolved to include additional colors and designs to represent the diversity within. It serves as a unifying symbol, rallying cry, and emblem of the ongoing journey for recognition, rights and acceptance. It is used by LGBTQ individuals and allies as the outward symbol of their identity or support, and it continues to be a symbol of hope and inclusion for ALL people.

Why the rainbow? Why not? Many cultures and people use the rainbow as a sign that a person can find hope and beauty in unexpected moments, even during the darkest of times. The rainbow is a symbol for all of God's children as the sign of prosperity, tranquility, universal peace, the oneness of humanity, and unity for our world.

Personally, whenever I toured with musical groups and traveled throughout the world I knew that if there was a rainbow visible, I was safe and I could patronize, gather, and yes, worship at that place and know that I was welcomed and accepted. That applies to anyone and everyone. People see the rainbow and know that place of worship, school, store, etc. is welcoming and safe. As far as I know, we are the only place of worship in this entire valley that offer the sign that we are an Open & Affirming house of worship.

With June being Pride Month, see the rainbow as a sign of welcome, hospitality, and love. A rainbow flag does not mean that we are a gay church any more than standing inside of a garage makes us a car. What it does mean is that we are committed to the basic teachings of Jesus that ask that we love God and love our neighbor.

As a church, feel a sense of pride that we extend an "extravagant welcome," and that "no matter where you live, where you grew up, what color you are, how much money you have (or don't!), who you love (or don't), you are welcomed, loved, and accepted into this community of faith." Thanks be to God!

*Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Greg*





**Pentecost Benediction**

Several of you asked for a copy of the benediction used for Pentecost Sunday. It is a benediction by Sarah Speed from her poem "A Blessing for the Seekers".

*Blessed are you who turn your face up to the sky,  
who open your arms to feel the wind,  
who notice all the things that we should notice.*

*Blessed are you who are fluent in wonder  
and familiar with awe.*

*Blessed are you who, even now, dream dreams,  
who have not lost hope,  
who swear the glass is still half-full.*

*Blessed are you who plant trees and sing the harmony, who  
tell the children how this world can be magic.*

*Blessed are you who walk and seek and turn over every  
stone, pointing out all the corners, designs, and colors that  
God lives in.*

*Blessed are you.*

**Field of Hope Growing Project**

The Field of Hope Growing Project is a joint effort of ten local churches and is affiliated with Growing Hope Globally (formerly Foods Resource Bank), which is an international organization whose mission is to alleviate world hunger by globally connecting local communities through agriculture. Each year, members of the Churches donate their land, time, labor and money to help eradicate hunger through sustainable programs that grow lasting solutions to hunger. 2026 marks our nineteenth year of working toward helping our brothers and sisters rise out of hunger and poverty. This year we will support the Haiti Baie-de-Henne Program, which focuses on increasing the resilience of families with regard to climate, security, and economic shocks, through the diversification of livelihoods. Training on soil conservation techniques helps increase the availability of safe water and agricultural production. Providing small loans to farmers help families diversify their livelihoods and earn an income during times of drought or between farming cycles to purchase food, pay school fees, and invest in seeds and other inputs. We begin the season with the Blessing of the Seed service on Sunday, June 7th and finish in September or October with the Harvest Celebration. Please look for more information in future bulletins to learn how you can support this Project or contact Linda DeLauder.

**Drawing to God's Word**

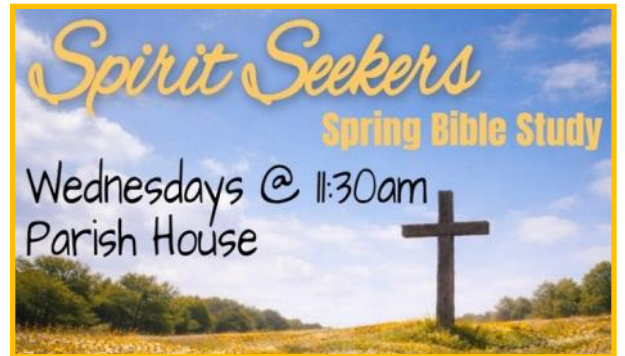


**JUNE  
PURPOSE**

- ◇ Proverbs 16:1-9
- ◇ Matthew 4:18-22
- ◇ Romans 8
- ◇ Ephesians 1

**PROMPT:** Draw or write about the plans you see God unfolding in your life. Ask him to strengthen your trust in his perfect timing.

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!



**GRADUATES**

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

**Tyler Thomas Gorman**, grandson of Richard Kefauver, is graduating with Honors from Barbara Ingrahm School of Art. He played the guitar in the school orchestra. Tyler plans to attend Hagerstown Community College in the fall.

**Joshua Hanson**, son of Matthew and Anna Hanson and grandson of Russ and Charlotte Hanson, will be graduating from Archmere Academy in Delaware. Josh has been active in soccer, volleyball and band and was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. He will be attending Wake Forest University in North Carolina planning to major in Biology.

**COLLEGE GRADUATES**

**Morgan LeeAnn Bruns**, daughter of Debbie and Travis, graduated with Honors from the University of New Hampshire. She received her Bachelors Degree in Biochemistry with a minor in Psychology. Morgan plans to get her PhD in Clinical Psychology.

**Kathryn Josephine "Joey" Cross**, daughter of Madelyn, has graduated from the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont with a bachelors degree in neuroscience with a minor in pharmacology. They have been accepted into the graduate school at Simmons University in Boston, Massachusetts where their plan is to obtain a masters in social work with a trauma practice certification. They will later have a practice that concentrates on children and adolescents.

**Reed Holter Gordon**, son of Leslie, graduated from Geneva College in Beaver, PA. He received his degree in Civil Engineering with a minor in Mathematics. In addition to his academic achievements, he played football for four years at Geneva and served as team captain for two years. Following graduation, Reed will begin his professional career with Whiting-Turner.



# TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK AT CCCC

Thank you to all our families who spoiled our teachers with food and gifts all week!





**GUYS NIGHT OUT**  
Join us for food & fellowship.  
**6/1 @ 6pm**  
**Modern Asia**  
1306 W Patrick St Frederick

**6/22 @ 6pm**  
**TBD**

Please RSVP to Bob at text/call 301-712-8022.

Available during our 10:30 Service

**Children's Church**  
Ages up to 5th Grade

June 11th  
12pm-2pm  
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up  
Just Show Up!

**B I N G O**  
**BUDS**

**6/27**  
**FREDERICK PRIDE**

- ~Man the Booth
- ~Donate Water
- ~Assemble give away items
- ~Make a \$\$ donation

**Volunteers Needed!**

Add your name to the sign up sheets in the Narthex.

Book of the Month:  
"Heartwood"  
by Amity Grace

6/23 11:30am @ Aleko's

**BOOK CLUB**

*All are Welcome!*

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

We gather

**God on Tap**

Wednesday June 17 @ 6:30pm  
Parish House

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

RSVP to Paul at madfink30@msn.com

## PLAN YOUR CALENDAR (CONT)



LADIES  
*chill*  
NIGHT

6/19 @ 5:30pm  
**Olive Garden**

5609 Spectrum Drive, Frederick, MD

*Please add your name to the sign up sheet located on the table in the Narthex by 6/14.*



Coffee  
Hour  
Space

June 14  
**ICE CREAM  
SUNDAY**  
*following our 10:30 Service*



*Knitters*

Knitting & Crochet Group

June 17th  
1:00-3:00pm  
Parish House

## CONFIRMATION



On Sunday May 10th and May 17th we welcome the newest members into our church family. Congratulations to our 2026 Confirmands.





**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.

**Field of Hope Growing Project  
Blessing of the Seed**  
Sunday, June 7th @ 3pm  
Growing Fields  
21720 Wolfsville Road, Myersville





## GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

**Purchase Cards on Sundays**  
*See Gail in the Coffee Hour Space*

**Order Directly Online**  
via <https://www.raiseright.com/>

**Submit Completed Order Form**  
*Available in the Narthex*

SMALL ACTS. 

# BIG IMPACT.

**AROUND THE CONGREGATION**

Sound Techs

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

Coffee Hour Hosts

June 7	Trish Parr-Brandt
June 14	Parish Life
June 21	TBD
June 28	Church Potluck

Layreaders

June 7	Susan Thornton
June 14	Sue Wickless
June 21	Gail Johnson
June 28	Emily-Magda-Mathis

Greeters

June 7	Laura & Tony Verdi
June 14	Vickie & Dale Biggs
	and/or Beth & Mike Mummert
June 21	Members of Consistory
June 28	Mary & Griff Garwood

Ushers

June 7	Pat Joy Nancy vom Lehn
June 14	Laura Verdi, TBD
June 21	Linda DeLauder, Trish Parr-Brandt
June 28	Be' Hill, Karen Koogle

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Thursday  
9am-3pm

Friday  
9am-12pm



**CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

	8:15 am	10:30 am
April 2 Maundy Thursday		36
April 5 Easter Combined		117
April 5 Sunrise		33
April 12	15	51
April 19	18	43
April 26	18	38

# OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING APRIL 30, 2026



<b>CRUCC</b>	<b>Actual Apr 01, 2026 - Apr 30, 2026</b>	<b>Actual Year to Date</b>	<b>Annual Budget Remaining This Year</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Operating Income	\$ 17,388.00	\$ 134,620.15	\$ 217,072.93
Investment Income	\$ 5,907.21	\$ 11,369.80	\$ (11,369.80)
Other Income	\$ 4,563.13	\$ 17,667.77	\$ 33,907.23
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 27,858.34</b>	<b>\$ 163,657.72</b>	<b>\$ 239,610.36</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 15,993.22	\$ 65,698.70	\$ 166,894.38
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ (350.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 49.18	\$ 1,856.96	\$ 3,393.04
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 104.40	\$ 191.35	\$ (191.35)
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,789.38	\$ 6,485.09	\$ 16,164.91
Utilities	\$ 1,791.83	\$ 17,987.79	\$ 22,937.21
Building & Property	\$ 320.31	\$ 5,348.03	\$ 25,301.97
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 191.50	\$ 1,318.45	\$ 681.55
Insurance Expenses	\$ 10,423.50	\$ 28,989.00	\$ 22,011.00
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 14,670.10</i>	<i>\$ 62,526.67</i>	<i>\$ 89,948.33</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 6,911.00	\$ 5,389.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 179.55	\$ 1,892.08	\$ 4,007.92
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 179.55</i>	<i>\$ 8,803.08</i>	<i>\$ 9,396.92</i>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 30,842.87</b>	<b>\$ 137,028.45</b>	<b>\$ 266,239.63</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ (2,984.53)</b>	<b>\$ 26,629.27</b>	<b>\$ (26,629.27)</b>
<b>CCCC</b>	<b>Actual Apr 01, 2026 - Apr 30, 2026</b>	<b>Actual Year to Date</b>	<b>Annual Budget Remaining This Year</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Operating Income	\$ 83,528.00	\$ 357,409.75	\$ 779,686.17
Investment Income	\$ 236.64	\$ 943.43	\$ (943.43)
Other Income	\$ (2.95)	\$ 9,407.05	\$ (276.05)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 83,761.69</b>	<b>\$ 367,760.23</b>	<b>\$ 778,466.69</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 68,656.47	\$ 301,437.03	\$ 633,989.89
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 4,212.99	\$ 21,273.35	\$ 59,726.65
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 69.93	\$ 3,430.07
Office & Supplies	\$ 3,956.22	\$ 15,281.44	\$ 34,518.56
Utilities	\$ 302.94	\$ 1,091.76	\$ 2,908.24
Building & Property	\$ 4,167.00	\$ 20,771.32	\$ 47,728.68
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 153.16	\$ 385.69	\$ 3,614.31
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 12,792.31</i>	<i>\$ 58,873.49</i>	<i>\$ 151,926.51</i>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 81,448.78</b>	<b>\$ 360,310.52</b>	<b>\$ 785,916.40</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,312.91</b>	<b>\$ 7,449.71</b>	<b>\$ (7,449.71)</b>

**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

Summer Office Hours  
Mon-Thurs 9am-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](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.



**OUTDOOR  
WORSHIP**

**June 7 @ 9:30am**

**Green Space Adjacent  
to the Parking Lot**

**We will have ONE Service.**

**Please bring lawn chairs.**



**JUNE 28TH**

*Church Potluck*

*following our 10am Combined Worship*

Join us in the Chapel.  
Parish Life will provide fried  
chicken and drinks. Please bring a  
side dish, salad or dessert to  
share. Sign up on the bulletin  
board in the Narthex.