



# 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 was at dinner with friends a few weeks back. These were friends I had not seen in a while and sadly, we have not stayed in contact very well. We were free lance musicians and played together many times over the years. We have such joyful memories of great music making and some entertaining stories thrown into the mix. The reminiscing was superb, the food excellent, but our time together was . . .well, taxing.

There were several reality checks for me in our gathering. The first is that I have turned into my father in that I take my time eating. Most everyone else had finished and a few of us were still eating. The others were ready to move on to dessert and get home. The other thing of note was that several of the friends never stopped complaining the entire time. This was probably the most noticeable thing of our time together, and has stuck with me since our meeting. I wondered about their happiness, how they were getting along, and really, still doing the constant complaining? It impacted our time together, and I left feeling a little sad for these people.

My "go-to" these days with life in general is that I go to the scripture for wisdom and for, hopefully, some insights from Jesus. It doesn't solve everything, just brings a little clarity. On the trip back I randomly pulled out scriptures from my memory. They included:

Ecclesiastes 3:13 – Enjoy the fruits of your labor; it is a gift from God.

Psalms 34:8 – Taste and see that the Lord is good; experience God's blessings daily.

Psalms 118:24 – Rejoice and be glad in each day that the Lord has made.

Philippians 4:4 – Always rejoice in the Lord; find joy in every circumstance.

1 Timothy 6:17 – Enjoy the good things God provides, but do not put your hope in them.

John 10:10 – Jesus came to give life abundantly; embrace the fullness of life.

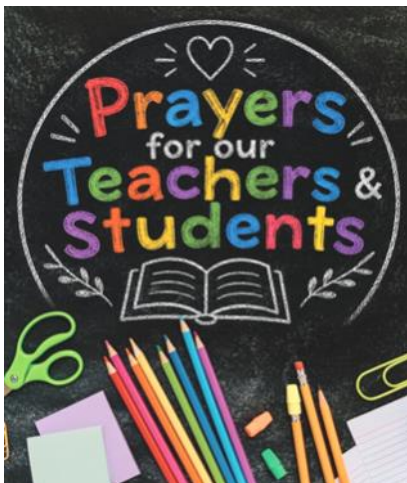
Life moves at breakneck pace, we know that. Life throws us curves – loss, struggles, disappointments, news reels – all sorts of things. Just how are we supposed to cope with all that we encounter on a day-to-day basis? We drive fast, we eat fast, we rush to get things done, and yes, we do have times when we complain. Richard Rohr made the observation that "our negative and critical thoughts are like Velcro, they stick and hold; whereas our positive and joyful thoughts are like Teflon, they slide away. We have to deliberately choose to hold onto positive thoughts so that they can leave their imprint." (Devotion from February 18, 2016)

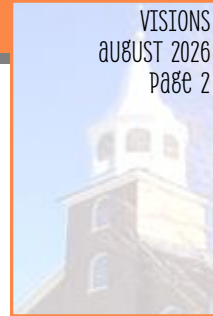
Don't sell yourself or your faith short. What if we worked hard at savoring those things in our lives that are already there. When something loving, beautiful, or positive happens in your life, gathering at church, family times. . .embrace it, stay with it, enjoy it. It is okay! Don't rush past it. Don't get on social media right away. Savor it, enjoy it, live with it awhile. Slow down at the table. Enjoy the community, the tastes, and the time. How about joining us for worship; enjoy the community, the joy, and our time together.

To rewrite/combine some of the scriptures above: Slow down, taste, welcome, and savor the goodness life brings. Offer thanks to God, for one another, and celebrate those special times together. May it be so.

*Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Greg*

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### Heritage Day

Heritage Day will take place on September 26th. This festival attracts a lot of visitors and is a great opportunity to tell the community about our church. This year we will have a bake sale, the bounce house, prayer tree information, kids crafts and a table on Main Street. Keep an eye out for opportunities to help plan and also to volunteer to help the day of the festival.

### Blessing of the Backpacks

If you or your child is a student, teacher or other school employee we invite you to join us for this special part of worship on **August 16th**. Bring a backpack, briefcase or other symbol of your work or study and we'll join in praying God's blessings for the coming year.

### Venezuelan Aid

In support of the UCC Church Relief fund to aid in the recovery efforts for Venezuela, Mary Garwood has donated collages that are available for a donation of any amount to support the UCC Church Relief Fund. The collages are on display in the back of the Chapel. Checks can be marked "Venezuela Aid" and made out to the church.

### Ushers Needed

Would you like to find an easy way to become involved at CRUCC? Ushers greet attendees, pass out bulletins, collect offering and a few other easy jobs. Ushers are scheduled roughly once every 6 services. Contact Nancy vom Lehn or the church office for more information.

### Make-Your-Own "Sundae"

Parish Life is hosting a Make-Your-Own Sunday after the 10:30 service on August 9th. Join us in the Coffee Hour space. There will be sprinkles, chocolate chips, M&M's, nuts, caramel syrup, chocolate syrup, and more.

### Card Shower Surprise

Judy Brandenburg is turning 85 on September 13th and the family has invited everyone to a card shower. Please send your birthday wishes to Judy at 6601 English Muffin Way, Room 124, Spring Arbor Assisted Living, Frederick, Maryland 21703-7678. Thank you so much!

### Drawing to God's Word

**AUGUST WISDOM**

- ◇ Proverbs 3
- ◇ Luke 2:41-52
- ◇ 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- ◇ 2 Timothy 3:10-17

**PROMPT:** Draw or write about Biblical subjects and Godly characteristics you'd like to learn about in the year ahead (even if you're not still in school!).



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!

## CHURCH-WIDE SECURITY UPDATES



In 2024, Missy, our CCCC Director, met with representatives from Homeland Security to discuss recommended security updates for our facility. One of the recommendations from that meeting was to replace the playground fence. Missy was able to secure grant funding to help offset the cost of that important improvement.

Another recommendation was a complete update to our security system. Since then, we have updated all existing locks, installed locks on all classroom doors, and replaced both the basement/Social Room and side exterior ramp doors.

The most visible improvement has been the replacement of the side ramp door. After significant delays caused by material shortages and vendor scheduling challenges, the doors are now complete. We extend special thanks to Missy's brother-in-law, Chris, for completing the work the door contractor was unable to finish. Chris installed the panels, door sweep, and kickplate, and he also painted both the Social Room door and the side ramp door.

Thanks to these efforts, we now have a safer and more secure entrance. In the near future, the door will also be equipped with an automatic door opener.





# Summer Fun







**August 16th  
Both Services**

**BACK TO  
SCHOOL  
BLESSING**

A graphic featuring school supplies like a ruler, pencils, a watercolor palette, and scissors on a blue and yellow background.

**SPIRIT SEEKERS**

**SUMMER  
BIBLE STUDY**

**Wednesdays @ 11:30am  
Parish House**

A graphic with a life preserver, a starfish, and a sun on a white background.

**Book of the Month:**  
"Whistler"  
by Ann Patchett

8/25 11:30am @ Aleko's

**BOOK CLUB**

*All are Welcome!*

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

A graphic showing an open book with the title "BOOK CLUB" and a blue pen resting on it.

*Available during our 10:30 Service*

**Children's  
Church**

**Ages up to 5th Grade**

**Please invite your family &  
friends to join us!**

A graphic with colorful circles and stars on a yellow and purple background.

**August 13th  
12pm-2pm  
Coffee Hour Space**

**BINGO**

*No Need to Sign Up  
Just Show Up!*

**BUDS**

A graphic featuring a bingo card and colorful bingo balls.

**GUYS NIGHT OUT**

*Join us for food & fellowship.*

**8/25 @ 6pm  
Frederick Keys**

**RSVP by August 2nd**

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

A graphic with a green background and a stylized mountain range.





## WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAM

[illegible]

- ◆ 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



## MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK



### FOOD ITEMS

- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tuna
- Instant Potatoes

### PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothpaste
- Toilet Paper

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.

## 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 240-457-3953.



## 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

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| August 2  | Nick Fink  |
| August 9  | Pat Joy    |
| August 16 | Tony Verdi |
| August 23 | Pat Joy    |
| August 30 | Paul Fink  |

### Coffee Hour Hosts

|           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| August 2  | Book Club               |
| August 9  | Parish Life             |
| August 16 | Property Board          |
| August 23 | Sarah & Gregg Petermann |
| August 30 | Cemetery Board          |

### Layreaders

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| August 2  | Laura Fontaine     |
| August 9  | Susan Thornton     |
| August 16 | Andrew Conl        |
| August 23 | Gail Johnson       |
| August 30 | Emily Magda-Mathis |

### Greeters

|           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| August 2  | Laura & Tony Verdi         |
| August 9  | Vickie & Dale Biggs        |
|           | and/or Beth & Mike Mummert |
| August 16 | Members of Consistory      |
| August 23 | Edward Fontaine, Judy Zeck |
| August 30 | Paul Fink, Barb Ohlen      |

### Ushers

|           |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| August 2  | Be' Hill, Nancy vom Lehn |
| August 9  | Laura Verdi              |
| August 16 | Linda DeLauder           |
| August 23 | Be' Hill, Karen Koogler  |
| August 30 | Linda Nickols, Judy Zeck |



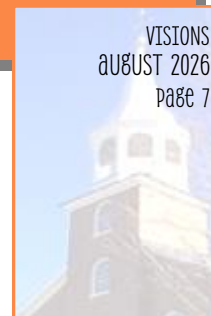
## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

|                        | 8:15 am | 10:30 am |
|------------------------|---------|----------|
| June 7 Outdoor Worship | 53      |          |
| June 14                | 23      | 41       |
| June 21                | 16      | 35       |
| June 28 Blended        | 47      |          |



# OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

VISIONS  
AUGUST 2026  
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| <b>CRUCC</b>                    | <b>Actual Jun 01, 2026<br/>- Jun 30, 2026</b> | <b>Actual Year<br/>to Date</b> | <b>Annual Budget<br/>Remaining<br/>This Year</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                  |                                               |                                |                                                  |
| Operating Income                | \$ 19,769.00                                  | \$ 168,623.15                  | \$ 183,069.93                                    |
| Investment Income               | \$ 377.28                                     | \$ 11,754.63                   | \$ (11,754.63)                                   |
| Other Income                    | \$ 4,286.69                                   | \$ 26,607.14                   | \$ 24,967.86                                     |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>            | <b>\$ 24,432.97</b>                           | <b>\$ 206,984.92</b>           | <b>\$ 196,283.16</b>                             |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                 |                                               |                                |                                                  |
| Compensation Expenses           | \$ 16,861.38                                  | \$ 98,208.73                   | \$ 134,384.35                                    |
| Operating Expenses              |                                               |                                |                                                  |
| Program Expenses                | \$ -                                          | \$ 350.00                      | \$ (350.00)                                      |
| Worship-Related Expenses        | \$ 99.94                                      | \$ 2,235.20                    | \$ 3,014.80                                      |
| Education-SS/CCCC               | \$ -                                          | \$ 239.34                      | \$ (239.34)                                      |
| Office & Supplies               | \$ 1,356.23                                   | \$ 9,307.83                    | \$ 13,342.17                                     |
| Utilities                       | \$ 3,054.34                                   | \$ 21,877.89                   | \$ 19,047.11                                     |
| Building & Property             | \$ 2,541.77                                   | \$ 8,823.14                    | \$ 21,826.86                                     |
| Equipment Maintenance           | \$ 848.00                                     | \$ 2,166.45                    | \$ (166.45)                                      |
| Insurance Expenses              | \$ -                                          | \$ 28,989.00                   | \$ 22,011.00                                     |
| <i>Total Operating Expenses</i> | <i>\$ 7,900.28</i>                            | <i>\$ 73,988.85</i>            | <i>\$ 78,486.15</i>                              |
| Ministry Expenses               |                                               |                                |                                                  |
| Ministry - Outreach             | \$ -                                          | \$ 6,911.00                    | \$ 5,389.00                                      |
| Ministry - Boards & Committees  | \$ 65.00                                      | \$ 1,957.08                    | \$ 3,942.92                                      |
| <i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>  | <i>\$ 65.00</i>                               | <i>\$ 8,868.08</i>             | <i>\$ 9,331.92</i>                               |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>           | <b>\$ 24,826.66</b>                           | <b>\$ 181,065.66</b>           | <b>\$ 222,202.42</b>                             |
| <b>NET TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$ (393.69)</b>                            | <b>\$ 25,919.26</b>            | <b>\$ (25,919.26)</b>                            |

| <b>CCCC</b>                     | <b>Actual Jun 01, 2026<br/>- Jun 30, 2026</b> | <b>Actual Year<br/>to Date</b> | <b>Annual Budget<br/>Remaining<br/>This Year</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                  |                                               |                                |                                                  |
| Operating Income                | \$ 97,437.50                                  | \$ 536,838.25                  | \$ 600,257.67                                    |
| Investment Income               | \$ 2,571.97                                   | \$ 3,725.62                    | \$ (3,725.62)                                    |
| Other Income                    | \$ 720.00                                     | \$ 10,472.05                   | \$ (1,341.05)                                    |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>            | <b>\$ 100,729.47</b>                          | <b>\$ 551,035.92</b>           | <b>\$ 595,191.00</b>                             |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                 |                                               |                                |                                                  |
| Compensation Expenses           | \$ 68,990.96                                  | \$ 439,071.44                  | \$ 496,355.48                                    |
| Operating Expenses              |                                               |                                |                                                  |
| Program Expenses                | \$ 7,547.40                                   | \$ 35,907.27                   | \$ 45,092.73                                     |
| Education-SS/CCCC               | \$ 337.71                                     | \$ 407.64                      | \$ 3,092.36                                      |
| Office & Supplies               | \$ 3,881.82                                   | \$ 22,733.31                   | \$ 27,066.69                                     |
| Utilities                       | \$ 605.88                                     | \$ 1,697.64                    | \$ 2,302.36                                      |
| Building & Property             | \$ 6,524.70                                   | \$ 31,743.24                   | \$ 36,756.76                                     |
| Equipment Maintenance           | \$ 73.02                                      | \$ 561.14                      | \$ 3,438.86                                      |
| <i>Total Operating Expenses</i> | <i>\$ 18,970.53</i>                           | <i>\$ 93,050.24</i>            | <i>\$ 117,749.76</i>                             |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>           | <b>\$ 87,961.49</b>                           | <b>\$ 532,121.68</b>           | <b>\$ 614,105.24</b>                             |
| <b>NET TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$ 12,767.98</b>                           | <b>\$ 18,914.24</b>            | <b>\$ (18,914.24)</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.



**God on Tap**

**Wed. August 19 @ 6:30pm**

**Parish House**

*Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.*

RSVP to Paul at [madfink30@msn.com](mailto:madfink30@msn.com)