

Volume XLII
Number VII
July 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.



PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Flock,

I recently had the pleasure of reconnecting with music major friends from my early days at Shepherd College. Once we caught up on families and what was happening (most are retired), we moved to talk about all the different musical experiences we've had throughout our careers. The server at our table seemed to be drawn to us and when we got up to leave said, "I can tell that you all love each other." It's true. We do.

The instrumentalists talked about the various groups we performed with. My friend Dave, a retired teacher, relocated to Florida and still plays with several community groups. Others are retired from military bands and choruses. Others had successful careers as teachers and conductors. Some had experiences of being with the same group for extended periods of time, while others enjoyed the life of a free-lance musician where the group was different each time. I was fortunate to be a regular of some groups and also free-lance with many different ensembles. We would show up for one rehearsal with the group and perform a concert. Solidarity and skills had to come together immediately and be maintained through the final note of each concert.

The thing that was a reoccurring theme in our discussion and sharing was that our experiences had provided each of us the ability to work with most any group and in any situation. Good or not-so-good, each experience helped to shape our personalities and work ethics. Our varying career experiences provided many and invaluable opportunities at building community.

Two scriptures came to mind. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 – "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." Also, 1 Corinthians 12:12 -- "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ," and John 13:35 – "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Sound familiar? My experiences as a career musician and pastor remind me of these scriptures and what I feel the church should be inside and outside the walls of its building. Jesus charged and challenged us to be builders of community wherever we are. Those exploring, seeking, and searching from OUTSIDE the walls of a church, must witness, experience, and embrace the community that dwells INSIDE. We must keep that in mind when we gather whether it be for Book Club, Men's Night Out, Heritage Days, or our worship.

As the wonderful 1960s/70s hymn goes, "They Will Know We Are Christians" by our love and our welcoming of all God's people. Like our server, hopefully visitors and members alike will experience and say, "I can tell you love each other" and will want to be part of this. May it be so.

Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Greg

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Summer Stewardship

We hope your summer plans provide plenty of time for rest and renewal. While you are vacationing, however, we hope you keep in mind that the church's expenses do not take time off. Salaries, utilities, insurance and mission commitments are year-round realities. We appreciate your continuing support of the church through your pledges and offerings!

CRUCC Notes

Debbie in the church office sends out weekly emails that highlight upcoming events, news, etc. If you are not currently receiving these emails and would like to, please contact her in the church office.

Layreaders

We are always looking for additional Layreaders to help lead elements of our 10:30am worship service. If you would like to be added to the schedule, please contact Debbie in the church office.

Property Board

We are grateful for the dedicated *volunteers* on our Property Board, who help keep the church well maintained and running smoothly. They are available whenever needs arise. If you have concerns or issues for the Board to address, please use the form on the table in the back of the Chapel.

SPEND SOME TIME WITH GOD THIS SUMMER. CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO COMPLETE THE BINGO CARD BY THE END OF SUMMER. HAVE FUN!

Summer BINGO

TELL SOMEONE GOD LOVES THEM	INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN YOU AT CHURCH	LISTEN TO A SONG ABOUT GOD	DRAW OR PAINT A BIBLE STORY	SING YOUR FAVORITE WORSHIP SONG- EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO SING IN THE SHOWER
GO OUTSIDE AND ENJOY GOD'S CREATION	BE STILL	WRITE A WORD LIKE GRACE & TRACE/ DECORATE AROUND IT	GO TO CHURCH	DRINK A GLASS OF WATER- JESUS IS LIVING WATER!
WRITE SOMEONE A NOTE	PRAY FOR OR WITH SOMEONE ELSE	READ YOUR BIBLE	WATCH THE SUN RISE OR SET WHILE PRAYING	TELL SOMEONE A BIBLE STORY
WATCH A BIBLE STORY VIDEO	MEMORIZE A BIBLE VERSE	MAKE SOMEONE SMILE	TALK TO GOD ABOUT A WORRY	THINK ABOUT SOMETHING YOU LOOK FORWARD TO
SAY THE LORD'S PRAYER OR SING JESUS LOVES ME	BREATHE DEEP AND THANK GOD FOR HIS GOODNESS	EXERCISE OR STRETCH, THANK GOD FOR HEALTH	GO FOR A WALK, PRAY FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS.	READ FROM PSALMS

grace & joy

THE OFFICE AND THE DAY CARE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY JULY 3RD IN CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.



serving is
BETTER TOGETHER
join
CONSISTORY

We are seeking one or two church members to fill recent vacancies on Consistory. Please prayerfully consider whether you are called to serve.

For more information, contact Gregg Petermann

Drawing to God's Word

JULY FREEDOM & VICTORY

- ◇ Exodus 15:1-18
- ◇ Psalm 118
- ◇ 1 Corinthians 9:19-27
- ◇ Galatians 5:1, 13-26

PROMPT: Draw or write about the ways Jesus has set you free—and how you are a living testimony of his victory over death.



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!



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
CCCC PRE-K
CLASS OF 2026**



We gather
God on Tap

Wednesday July 15 @ 6:30pm
Parish House

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

RSVP to Paul at madfink30@msn.com

*Summer
Office Hours*

Monday-Thursday
9am-3pm

Friday
9am-12pm



Book of the Month:
"Theo of Golden"

by Allen Levi

7/28 11:30am @ Aleko's

BOOK CLUB

All are Welcome!

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

Available during our 10:30 Service

**Children's
Church**

Ages up to 5th Grade

Please invite your family & friends to join us!

GUYS NIGHT OUT

Join us for food & fellowship.

7/27 @ 6pm

Modern Asia

1306 W Patrick St Frederick

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

July 9th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

BINGO

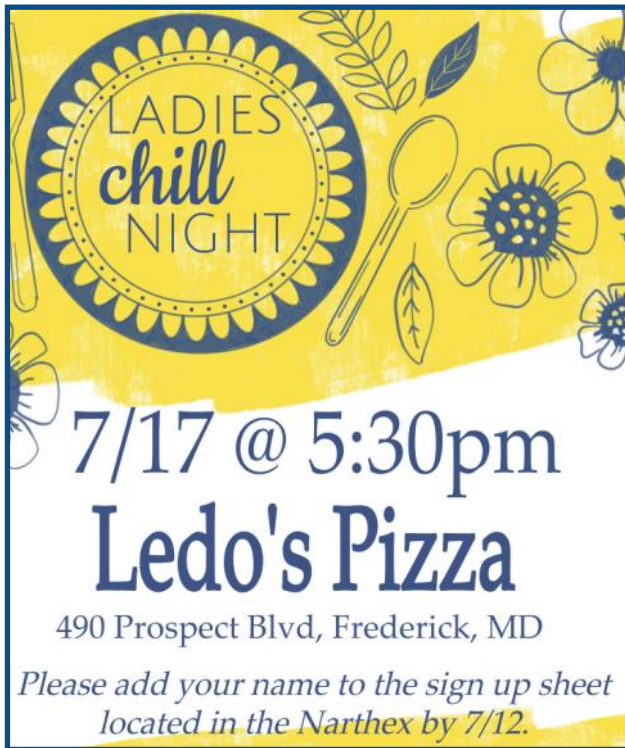
*No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!*

BUDS

SPIRIT SEEKERS

**SUMMER
BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesdays @ 11:30am
Parish House



LADIES
chill
NIGHT

7/17 @ 5:30pm
Ledo's Pizza
490 Prospect Blvd, Frederick, MD
*Please add your name to the sign up sheet
located in the Narthex by 7/12.*



Knitters
Knitting & Crochet Group
July 15th
1:00-3:00pm
Parish House



July 12
**ICE CREAM
SUNDAY**
following our 10:30 Service

Coffee Hour
Space

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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 2024, over 136 kids were served. 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



MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK



FOOD ITEMS

- Spaghetti
- Pasta Sauce
- Ramen Noodles
- Applesauce
- Cereal
- Picnic Items

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothpaste
- Hand Lotion
- 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

Turn everyday shopping into fundraising dollars

 RaiseRight.

SMALL
ACTS.
**BIG
IMPACT.**

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Sound Techs

July 5	Nick Fink
July 12	Paul Fink
July 19	Pat Joy
July 26	Tony Verdi

Coffee Hour Hosts

July 5	TBD
July 12	Parish Life
July 19	Gail, Jeannette, Marty
July 26	TBD

Layreaders

July 5	Laura Fontaine
July 12	Sue Wickless
July 19	Taylor Magda-Mathis
July 26	Paul Fink

Greeters

July 5	Laura & Tony Verdi
July 12	Vickie & Dale Biggs
	and/or Beth & Mike Mummert
July 19	Members of Consistory
July 26	Mary & Griff Garwood

Ushers

July 5	Be' Hill, Nancy vom Lehn
July 12	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck
July 19	Debbie Locke, Mike Locke
July 26	Janet Stock, Nancy vom Lehn



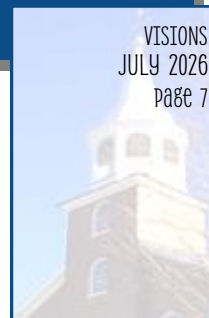
CHURCH ATTENDANCE

May 2026

	8:15 am	10:30 am
May 3	21	67
May 10	21	72
May 17	25	40
May 24	23	48
May 31	21	43

OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING MAY 31, 2026

VISIONS
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CRUCC	Actual May 01, 2026 - May 31, 2026	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 14,234.00	\$ 148,854.15	\$ 202,838.93
Investment Income	\$ 7.55	\$ 11,377.35	\$ (11,377.35)
Other Income	\$ 4,652.68	\$ 22,320.45	\$ 29,254.55
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 18,894.23	\$ 182,551.95	\$ 220,716.13
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 15,648.65	\$ 81,347.35	\$ 151,245.73
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ (350.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 278.30	\$ 2,135.26	\$ 3,114.74
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 47.99	\$ 239.34	\$ (239.34)
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,466.51	\$ 7,951.60	\$ 14,698.40
Utilities	\$ 835.76	\$ 18,823.55	\$ 22,101.45
Building & Property	\$ 933.34	\$ 6,281.37	\$ 24,368.63
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 1,318.45	\$ 681.55
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 28,989.00	\$ 22,011.00
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 3,561.90</i>	<i>\$ 66,088.57</i>	<i>\$ 86,386.43</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 6,911.00	\$ 5,389.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ -	\$ 1,892.08	\$ 4,007.92
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ 8,803.08</i>	<i>\$ 9,396.92</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 19,210.55	\$ 156,239.00	\$ 247,029.08
Net Total	\$ (316.32)	\$ 26,312.95	\$ (26,312.95)
CCCC	Actual May 01, 2026 - May 31, 2026	Actual Year to Date	Annual Budget Remaining This Year
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 81,991.00	\$ 439,400.75	\$ 697,695.17
Investment Income	\$ 210.22	\$ 1,153.65	\$ (1,153.65)
Other Income	\$ 345.00	\$ 9,752.05	\$ (621.05)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 82,546.22	\$ 450,306.45	\$ 695,920.47
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 68,464.49	\$ 369,901.52	\$ 565,525.40
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 7,086.52	\$ 28,359.87	\$ 52,640.13
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ -	\$ 69.93	\$ 3,430.07
Office & Supplies	\$ 3,570.05	\$ 18,851.49	\$ 30,948.51
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 1,091.76	\$ 2,908.24
Building & Property	\$ 4,447.22	\$ 25,218.54	\$ 43,281.46
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 102.43	\$ 488.12	\$ 3,511.88
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 15,206.22</i>	<i>\$ 74,079.71</i>	<i>\$ 136,720.29</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 83,670.71	\$ 443,981.23	\$ 702,245.69
Net Total	\$ (1,124.49)	\$ 6,325.22	\$ (6,325.22)

**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
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.

STUFF THE BUS!



- ♦ Earbuds (With or without Cords)
- ♦ Notebook Paper (Wide & College Ruled)
- ♦ Composition Books (Black)
- ♦ Spiral Notebooks (Wide & College Ruled)
- ♦ Three-Ring Binders 2 1/2"
- ♦ Crayola Coloring Pencils 12 pack
- ♦ Plastic Pocket Folders
- ♦ Dry Erase Markers 4 Pack (Black, Fine Tip)

Please place school supplies in the yellow bin provided in the Narthex. You can also go on-line to <https://tinyurl.com/2026-Stuff-The-Bus> and ship to a consolidation site or click on the QR code below.



**DEADLINE:
AUGUST 3RD**