



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 an “interesting” conversation with a pastor friend and we were talking about what is happening in our churches. I mentioned that World Communion has always held special meaning to me. My friend made the statement, “Why should we even bother this year?” I became speechless. I had no words to respond and, fearing a lightning strike, kindly rang off the call. I remembered an article by Rev. Dr. David Clark that I read in 2020. Pastor Clark is a pastor at the Bay Shore (UCC!) in Long Beach, CA. In my ongoing “sorting” activities, I found the article and it is shared with you. “Why bother,” my friend asked. Well, I encourage you to read on.

This Sunday, when there are so many divisions in our politics, country, and the world, Christians worldwide participate in a remarkable symbol of healing. The table renders moot the divisions that we often think are so important. The way we practice communion varies between traditions and congregations. The way we think about the Lord's Supper may be different. And the frequency of our celebration may be different, but we are one at the Lord's table.

We don't all have to believe the same way, or practice the same way, or do church the same way to be one. It turns out that God's table is more significant than our differences, and all are welcome. When God's people gather at God's table, we overcome the distinctions of class, culture, gender, and nationality. For a moment, we catch a glimpse of God's beloved community, where all are equal, and everyone has enough.

What Scripture Teaches: In 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul reminds a divided congregation that communion is when we are particularly mindful of other people's needs. At the Lord's table, we wait for one another. At the Lord's table, we share. At the Lord's table, we serve one another. At the Lord's table, we welcome one another. At the Lord's table, we make room for one another. At the Lord's table, we express our love for one another. At the Lord's table, we see the face of God in one another. At the Lord's table, we lay down our resistance and arrogance and self-righteousness for one another. At the Lord's table, we experience God's shalom, and we renew our desire to share it.

Communion in the United Church of Christ (UCC): In our tradition, the loaf is basic bread. We fill the cup with grape juice. When worshiping online, you are free to use whatever symbolizes the bread and cup to you. Both are symbols with dual meanings. The loaf represents Christ's body, his literal body, and the church body. One single loaf is a symbol of our oneness. It is blessed so that it may be a blessing to others. We break the loaf to remind our willingness to be broken for others. We give it freely, and we receive it with gladness. And at that moment, we know we are loved and belong.

The cup, too, is a symbol. It reminds us that the life Christ calls us to live is sacrificial. We are not here for our glory or gain, but for goodness and love, which, at times, is costly. The cup is also a symbol of the unbreakable covenant of God's love. There is nothing we do to deserve it, and there is nothing we can do to break it. It is ours to receive and remember. During World Communion Sunday, we are reminded that God loves our neighbors and even our enemies with that same love.

Breaking bread together is a sacred act. At the Lord's table, we rehearse for what is possible at our tables. Skeptics often derided Jesus for eating with sinners and outsiders. To eat with someone was to show acceptance. And yet Jesus ate with tax collectors, prostitutes, and all

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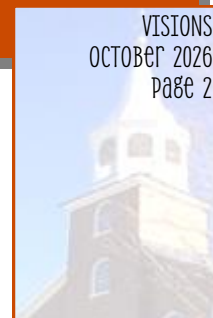
other kinds of misfits and rejected individuals. The last supper Jesus shared with his disciples was one in a long line of examples of the power of eating together.

World Communion Sunday is a Symbol of Unity: Jesus often told stories about banquets and feasts where the doors were thrown open to the least and the last. He fed the multitudes with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish, and everyone ate their fill!

The Lord's table and the Lord's supper is symbolic of all those meals and stories, and examples. And the Lord's table is extended when we eat together like we will after this service.

What is World Communion Sunday? It's the Sunday that we remember we are one. Thank you Pastor Clark, for this reminder!

Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Greg



NOTES

Homecoming Weekend
Join Us!

October 10th & October 11th
Christ Reformed United Church of Christ
12 S. Church Street, Middletown Maryland

Saturday October 10th 11am–2pm Church History Presentation Cemetery History Presentation Bounce House Live Music Kona Ice Food Truck	Sunday October 11th 10:30am–2pm Worship 50 Year Member Photo Luncheon Dessert Reminiscing
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Congregational Budget Meeting

Our constitution calls for a meeting of the congregation on the first Sunday of November to adopt a budget for the next year. Copies of the proposed budget, along with voting options, will be mailed out soon. Copies will be available in the Narthex. You are encouraged to attend this meeting on November 1st at 9:15am in the Chapel.

School Food Donations

With school starting last month, we have resumed collecting items for the Middletown Backpack Program (a list of requested items is on the table in the Narthex). As you shop this month, please pick up a few items and bring them with you to worship. Collection boxes are found in the hallway between the sanctuary and the chapel.

Homecoming/50-Year Membership Potluck Luncheon

Parish Life is hosting a 50-year membership potluck luncheon on October 11, following the 10:30 service. It will be a time of joy--reminiscing about our years at Christ Reformed. Please plan to attend. Please add your name, number attending, and the dish you plan to bring to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Drawing to God's Word

OCTOBER SERVICE

- ♦ Judges 6
- ♦ Proverbs 31:10-31
- ♦ Matthew 25:14-40
- ♦ 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

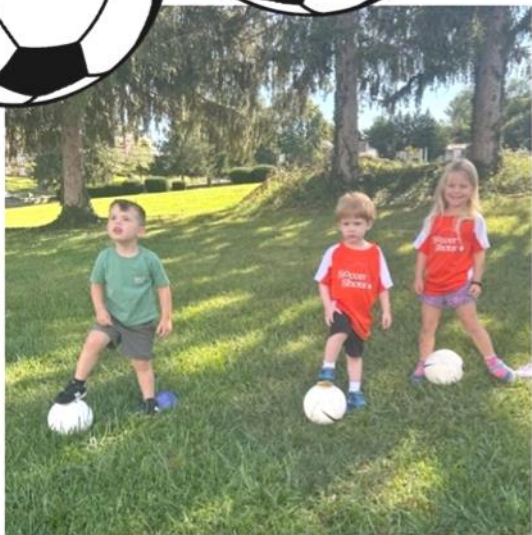
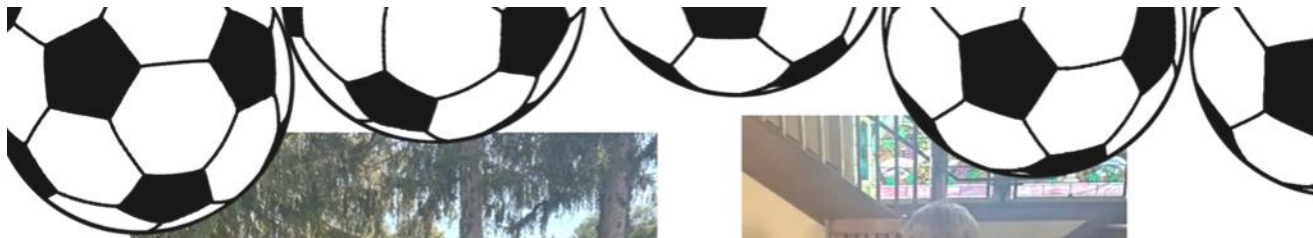
PROMPT: Draw or write about your God-given talents and interests—and ways to use them to glorify God and serve others.



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!

CLOTHING DRIVE

We are collecting gently used clothing for an upcoming fall clothing event at Ballenger Creek Middle School. Please label your bag/boxes with sizes and indicate for male/female and drop them off to the church office by December 1st



**CCCC LOVES HAVING THE
MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY
COME FOR STORY TIME
AND SOCCER SHOTS FOR
SOCCER!**



We gather
God on Tap
Wed. October 21 @ 6:30pm
Parish House
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.
RSVP to Paul at madfink30@msn.com

SPIRIT SEEKERS
SUMMER BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays @ 11:30am
Parish House

Book of the Month:
"Mockingbird Summer"
by Lynda Rutledge
10/27 11:30am @ Aleko's
BOOK CLUB
All are Welcome!
Contact Charlotte Hanson at
hansonc3306@gmail.com for more info.

Knitters
Knitting & Crochet Group
October 21
1:00-3:00pm
Parish House

GUYS NIGHT OUT
Join us for food & fellowship.
10/26 @ 6pm
Modern Asia
RSVP by Oct. 23rd
Please RSVP to Bob at text/call 301-712-8022.

Oct. 8th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space
BINGO BUDS
No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!

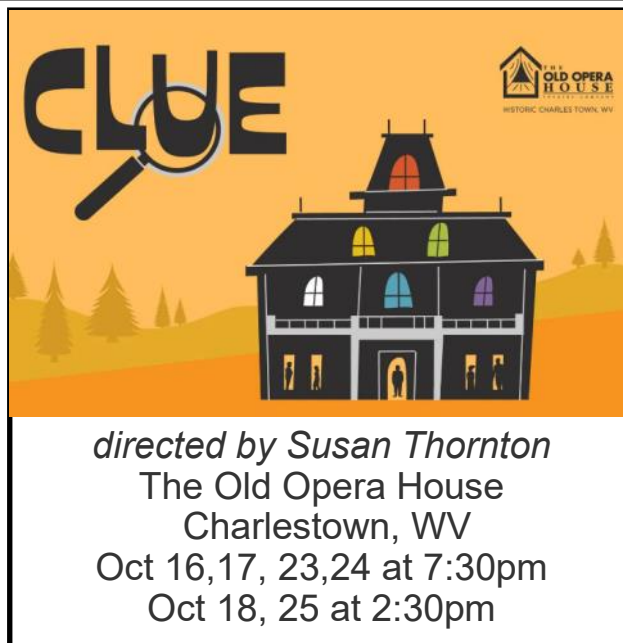
Available during our 10:30 Service
Children's Church
Ages up to 5th Grade
Please invite your family & friends to join us!



**LADIES
chill
LUNCH**

10/16 @ 12pm
Red Lobster

*Please add your name to the sign up sheet
in the Narthex by 10/11.*



CLUE

directed by Susan Thornton
The Old Opera House
Charlestown, WV
Oct 16,17, 23,24 at 7:30pm
Oct 18, 25 at 2:30pm

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**Growing Project
Harvest Festival**

2:30PM HAYRIDE
3PM SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
AMERICAN & HAITI BAIE-DE-HENNE FOOD
SCARECROW WORKSHOP
CAKE AUCTION
GAMES

SUNDAY, 10/11 @ 2:30 PM
GROWING PROJECT FARM
11720 WOLFVILLE ROAD MYERSVILLE, MD

MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK



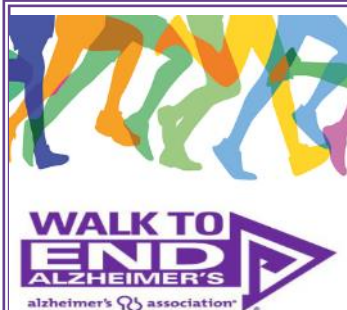
FOOD ITEMS

- Mayonnaise
- Minute rice
- Canned fruit
- Instant Potatoes
- Pasta Sauce

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissue
- 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.



Sunday, October 11, 2026 11:00am Registration Nyneo Field at Harry Grove Stadium

Please join Beth Scott in the fight against the disease by participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's. She is dedicated to making a difference in the fight to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia. **I hope you will support her with a donation today.** Thank you for your generosity. Together, we can end Alzheimer's. Check out Beth's page at: http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=19676&pg=personal&px=5387232. Please contact Beth at 301-788-3524 or BethOScott@aol.com.



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.



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

October 4	Nick Fink
October 11	Tony Verdi
October 18	Pat Joy
October 25	Tony Verdi

Coffee Hour Hosts

October 4	Mary & Griffy Garwood
October 11	Laura & Tony Verdi
October 18	TBD
October 25	Discipleship Board

Layreaders

October 4	Emily Mathis-Magda
October 11	Sue Wickless
October 18	Andrew Coil
October 25	Andrew Coil

Greeters

October 4	Laura & Tony Verdi
October 11	Vickie & Dale Biggs
	and/or Beth & Mike Mummert
October 18	Members of Consistory
October 25	Edward Fontaine, Judy Zeck

Uskars

October 4	Be' Hill, Nancy vom Lehn
October 11	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck
October 18	Mike Locke, Gail Rudisill
October 25	Janet Stock, Nancy vom Lehn



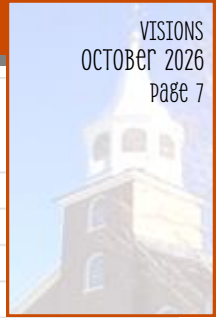
CHURCH ATTENDANCE

August 2026

	8:15 am	10:30 am
August 3	25	70
August 10 Blended		49
August 17	21	50
August 24	23	41
August 31	23	63

OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING AUGUST 30, 2026

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	Actual Aug 01, 2026 - Aug 31, 2026	Actual Year to Date	
CRUCC			
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 14,616.00	\$ 196,279.15	
Investment Income	\$ 6.67	\$ 17,669.25	
Other Income	\$ 4,203.43	\$ 35,227.15	
Total Revenue	\$ 18,826.10	\$ 249,175.55	
			Annual Budget Remaining This Year
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 15,502.89	\$ 134,663.43	\$ 97,929.65
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ (350.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 633.94	\$ 3,416.31	\$ 1,833.69
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 34.85	\$ 366.14	\$ (366.14)
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,795.14	\$ 12,920.46	\$ 9,729.54
Utilities	\$ 2,811.01	\$ 26,567.56	\$ 14,357.44
Building & Property	\$ 6,436.49	\$ 18,516.67	\$ 12,133.33
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 2,166.45	\$ (166.45)
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 39,412.50	\$ 11,587.50
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 11,711.43</i>	<i>\$ 103,716.09</i>	<i>\$ 48,758.91</i>
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 11,911.00	\$ 389.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 419.48	\$ 2,344.08	\$ 3,555.92
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 5,419.48</i>	<i>\$ 14,255.08</i>	<i>\$ 3,944.92</i>
Total Expenses	\$ 32,633.80	\$ 252,634.60	\$ 150,633.48
NET TOTAL	\$ (13,807.70)	\$ (3,459.05)	
	Actual Aug 01, 2026 - Aug 31, 2026	Actual Year to Date	
CCCC			
Revenues			
Operating Income	\$ 103,835.20	\$ 718,066.45	
Investment Income	\$ 171.62	\$ 4,103.03	
Other Income	\$ 250.00	\$ 11,186.05	
Total Revenue	\$ 104,256.82	\$ 733,355.53	
			Annual Budget Remaining This Year
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 73,914.36	\$ 582,830.37	\$ 352,596.55
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 12,074.71	\$ 53,120.91	\$ 27,879.09
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 413.38	\$ 821.02	\$ 2,678.98
Office & Supplies	\$ 3,206.83	\$ 29,843.80	\$ 19,956.20
Utilities	\$ 1,245.06	\$ 3,245.64	\$ 754.36
Building & Property	\$ 9,145.00	\$ 45,055.24	\$ 23,444.76
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1,771.56	\$ 2,520.81	\$ 1,479.19
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 27,856.54</i>	<i>\$ 134,607.42</i>	<i>\$ 76,192.58</i>
Total Expenses	\$ 101,770.90	\$ 717,437.79	\$ 428,789.13
NET TOTAL	\$ 2,485.92	\$ 15,917.74	

**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

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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.



HOMECOMING Celebration

Organ Concert

**Sunday, Oct 18
@ 2pm**

Join us for a **FREE** special recital
featuring Matthew Corl, a long-time
family member of the church.

**Christ Reformed UCC
12 S. Church Street
Middletown Maryland**



Halloween concert

Sunday, October 25th @ 3pm

**Christ Reformed UCC
12 S. Church Street, Middletown**

Music from the musicals: "Phantom of the opera"
and "Jeckyl and Hyde"
"Toccata and Fugue" by Bach
And special music of the season!

**featuring Edgar Bower, Madelyn Cross, Laura Fontaine,
Ryan Ireland, Kendall Neal, and Greg Shook**