



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,

As I write this article, I had an “aha moment” that I have been with you three years. I actually organ subbed for Terry in July 2023, pulpit supplied in August, and spastically preached until you asked if I would “stick around until you found someone permanent.” You did, last November and here we are looking at an installation together for this November 22 at 3 p.m.

It is a time for lots of thoughts, lots of reflection, and unmeasured heaps of gratitude.

Thinking my years of experience would yield some pearls of wisdom, someone recently asked what and how I defined ministry, both from a biblical perspective and my own feelings.

My view of ministry has evolved over the years. It has never stayed the same. Whether musician, youth leader, pastor, or a combination of all three, the constant thing is that it regularly changes. And to be honest, that's what it should do.

For me, ministry involves several areas:

Service: Serving others through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Sharing Christ: Staying rooted in the teachings of Jesus and being a living example of that for others.

Celebrate Who We Are: Embracing diversity of ministry and people. Serving all people through preaching, teaching, helping others, and above all, being loving and meet people where they are.

Community Building: Whenever possible, build community and offer hospitality.

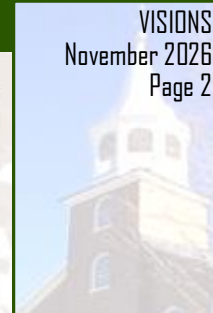
As I've said before, there are no magic beans to create ministry and be a healthy church. It takes all of us working together in love, service, and ministry. One area does not work without the others.

Throughout my ministry, I have had great mentoring along the way and I am grateful, blessed, and appreciative of all of it. Just like anything else, it has had its share of ups and downs. . . mostly ups.

This church has helped me heal and resolve things in so many ways; more than you know. There is a nurturing spirit here, there is welcoming and hospitality, and there is a sense of community and please know, these things are not found in every church. We must embrace and build on what we have, see it continue to welcome, promote peace, advocate for justice, and build community, all as Spirit-driven people, grounded in the love and teachings of Jesus Christ.

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The Catactin Association of the Central Atlantic Conference,
United Church of Christ, and Christ Reformed United Church of Christ
in Middletown cordially invite your presence and prayers for the
Installation of the Reverend Greg Shook as pastor to the congregation.

Service of Installation of Reverend Greg Shook

Sunday, November 22nd

10:30am Blended Worship
12:00-1:00pm Luncheon
3:00pm Service of Installation

Cake & Coffee immediately following the Service of Installation.

NOTES

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, have been mailed out. Copies are also available in the Narthex. You are encouraged to attend this meeting on November 1st at 9:15am in the Chapel.

Sub & Soup Sale

The Growing Hope Globally Growing Project, which includes nine churches in the community that raise money to fight world hunger, is hosting a sub and soup sale. There are foot long subs, country ham sandwiches, turkey and provolone sandwiches, and chicken noodle soup available for purchase. Orders are due by November 4th. Orders can

be picked up on Saturday, Nov 14th from 10-11am in the Church Parking Lot or after church on Sunday, November 15th. Order forms are available in the Narthex or you can call Linda DeLauder at 240-490-5880 to place your order.

Wreath-Making Workshop

The Parish Life Board is hosting a wreath-making workshop on November 29th from 1:00 to 3:00pm in the Social Room. The cost is \$5 and snacks and drinks will be served. Renee Brandenburg-Huffer will be the instructor. Bring gloves, pruning shears, and wire cutters if you have them. Bring a friend. Please add your name to the sign up sheet so we can be sure we have enough supplies.

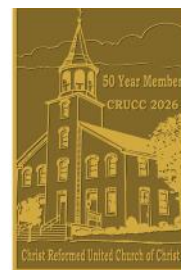


50+ Year Members 2026



During Homecoming Weekend on Sunday, October 11, we honored members who have belonged to our church family for more than 50 years. We presented each honoree with a special commemorative pin celebrating their enduring commitment to our church.

- Front Row L-R: Janice Beachley, Judy Brandenburg, Bunny Cramer
2nd Row L-R: Linda DeLauder, Gail Johnson, Renee Brandenburg-Huffer, Margaret Brandenburg, Karen Koogle
3rd Row L-R: Shirley Keller, Kevin Martin, Crystal Fink, Elaine Harp, Mike Locke
4th Row L-R: Susan Keller, Keith Staley, Mike Kefauver
Back Row L-R: John DeLauder, Bob DeLauder



Below is a summary of the objectives and duties of our Consistory, Boards and Committee to help you decide where to share your talents and help our church grow!

CONSISTORY

Objective: Function as an executive council, providing leadership for the Church around significant spiritual and financial matters. Work in harmony with the pastor to develop and implement the vision for the congregation.

Duties and Responsibilities: Meet monthly on the second Monday evening of the month. Serve as liaison to a board or committee. Receive input/feedback from the congregation. Draft operating budget. Oversee constitution and by-laws. Serve communion. Host Coffee Hour on the first Sunday of November.

CEMETERY BOARD

Objective: Ensures perpetual care for past, present and future generations.

Duties and Responsibilities: Provide care and maintenance for the cemetery. Meet every quarter. Adhere to the bylaws of the cemetery and the state of Maryland. Host Coffee Hour when scheduled.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Objective: Oversees the Christian learning ministries and opportunities for all ages within the church.

Duties and Responsibilities: Meet monthly (except July) on the third Sunday of the month at 9:15. Provide curriculum for each faith building program. Plan and execute children's activities at the annual picnic. Host Coffee Hour when scheduled.

CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER BOARD

Objective: Provide guidance and input about the Center's operation to the Center's director, and act as a conduit for information between the church and the Center.

Duties and Responsibilities: Quarterly meetings the 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm. Attend center events as able. Host Coffee Hour when scheduled.

CHURCH PROPERTY BOARD

Objective: Maintain all of the Church properties, grounds, and equipment with the exception of the cemetery. Determine future needs and/or improvements and make recommendations to the Consistory, as appropriate.

Duties and Responsibilities: Manage building repairs and maintenance, landscaping, lawn care, snow removal, etc. Maintain an annual record of all maintenance and repair projects and costs. Communicate with pastor, Consistory, office personnel and CCCC about current projects. Host Coffee Hour when scheduled.

DISCIPLESHIP BOARD

Objective: Support congregational activities that build cohesion and Christian spirit within the church. Support local, national and international activities that reflect Christian principles and meet social needs.

Duties and Responsibilities: Meet the second Sunday of the month at 9:15. Organize Sunday of Service, Soup Kitchen, the Backpack program, Christmas gifts for families in need, Food Bank and Heartly House. Coordinate with Advocates for Homeless for the Weagly House. Maintain a connection with congregational members in need of care. Host Coffee Hour when scheduled.

PARISH LIFE BOARD

Objective: Develop and coordinate programs in the Church that promote fellowship, encourage emotional support, and deepen the spiritual life of the congregation.

Duties and Responsibilities: Attend monthly meetings. Assist with board sponsored events and activities. Host Ice Cream Sundays (June, July, August).

CHURCH AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Objective: Support and maintain an open relationship and communication between the ordained minister and the congregation.

Duties and Responsibilities: Support the pastor by providing a forum for the pastor to express concerns and reactions regarding their work. Listen to church members, openly and honestly communicate feelings and reactions to the pastor. Demonstrate concern and understanding for the pastor's contract.

FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Objective: Act as the fiduciary responsible for managing CRUCC's Restricted (Endowed) Funds. Serve to support the monthly financial reporting and accounting processes. Prepare a recommended draft annual budget each fall for the Consistory to deliberate and finalize.

Duties and Responsibilities: Attend and participate in monthly meetings, except during the summer. Review monthly financial reports for accuracy. Observe and analyze trends in giving and spending.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Objective: Staff committees and boards

Duties and Responsibilities: Review board and committee descriptions in order to accurately staff each board and committee. Gather input from boards and committees about possible new members. Recruit individuals to serve on boards and committees.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Objective: Responsible for matters concerning paid non-clergy staff and volunteer staff

Duties and Responsibilities: Assign liaison to non-clergy staff. Meet with personnel to go over expectations, needs and evaluations completed by the pastor. Prepare/update position descriptions. Form search committees to fill vacant positions.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Objective: Develop methods and means to call people into personal growth as people with capacity to give, serve, and care generously. Stewardship is about more than giving money.

Duties and Responsibilities: Help church members understand how the church budget is the "mission statement" of the church. Plan a Stewardship program. Help personalize giving so church members can see and pray for what their gifts are doing. Analyze present and past trends in giving. Host Coffee Hour on Stewardship Sunday in November.

Nominating Committee representatives:
Laura Fontaine laura.s.fontaine@gmail.com
Sharon Thomas oaklandfarmmd@comcast.net





**LADIES
chill
LUNCH**

Cracker Barrel
11/20 @ 12pm

*Please add your name to the sign up sheet
in the Narthex by 11/15.*



God on Tap

Tues. November 17 @ 6:30pm
Parish House

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

RSVP to Paul at madfink30@msn.com



Knitters

Knitting & Crochet Group

November 18
1:00-3:00pm
Parish House

Nov. 12th
12pm-2pm
Coffee Hour Space

No Need to Sign Up
Just Show Up!



**BINGO
BUDS**



**Advent
Concert**

"SING YOUR WAY TO CHRISTMAS"

featuring John Horman

**Sunday
November 29th @ 3pm**

Christ Reformed United Church of Christ
12 S. Church Street,
Middletown Maryland

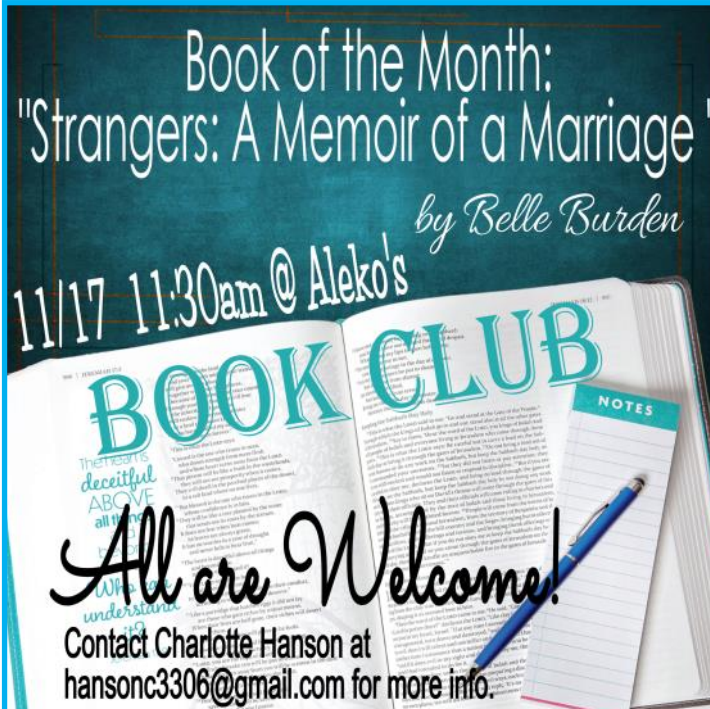
Book of the Month:
"Strangers: A Memoir of a Marriage"
by Belle Burden

11/17 11:30am @ Aleko's

BOOK CLUB

All are Welcome!

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





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.

SMALL
ACTS.
BIG
IMPACT.



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

MIDDLETOWN FOOD BANK



FOOD ITEMS

- Pasta
- Minute rice
- Brown Sugar
- Spices

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.

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Sound Techs

November 1	Nick Fink
November 8	Pat Joy
November 15	Tony Verdi
November 22	Pat Joy
November 29	Tony Verdi

Coffee Hour Hosts

November 1	Consistory
November 8	TBD
November 15	Stewardship Committee
November 22	TBD
November 29	CCCC Board

Layreaders

November 1	Gail Johnson
November 8	Emily Magda-Markis
November 15	Andrew Conl
November 22	Sue Wickless
November 29	TBD

Greeters

November 1	Laura & Tony Verdi
November 8	Vickie & Dale Biggs and/or Beth & Mike Mumment
November 15	Members of Consistory
November 22	Mary & Griff Garwood
November 29	Barbara Olker, Paul Fink

Ushers

November 1	Pat Joy, Nancy vom Lehn
November 8	Gloria Tasker, Laura Verdi
November 15	Linda DeLauden, Trish Parr- Brandt
November 22	Be' Hill, Karen Koogle
November 29	Linda Nichols, Judy Zeck



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

SEPTEMBER 2026

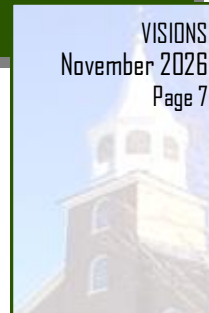
8:15 AM

10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 6	22	48
SEPTEMBER 13	19	61
SEPTEMBER 20	12	53
SEPTEMBER 27	19	37



OPERATING FINANCES YEAR TO DATE ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



CRUCC	Actual Sep 01, 2026 - Sep 30, 2026	Actual Year to Date	
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 16,162.00	\$ 212,441.15	
Investment Income	\$ (1,272.93)	\$ 16,396.32	
Other Income	\$ 4,910.71	\$ 40,137.86	
Total Revenues	\$ 19,799.78	\$ 268,975.33	
			Annual Budget Remaining This Year
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 31,138.26	\$ 165,801.69	\$ 66,791.39
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ (350.00)
Worship-Related Expenses	\$ 96.00	\$ 3,512.31	\$ 1,737.69
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 23.18	\$ 389.32	\$ (389.32)
Office & Supplies	\$ 1,344.92	\$ 14,265.38	\$ 8,384.62
Utilities	\$ 3,350.52	\$ 29,918.08	\$ 11,006.92
Building & Property	\$ 909.87	\$ 19,426.54	\$ 11,223.46
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 2,166.45	\$ (166.45)
Insurance Expenses	\$ -	\$ 39,412.50	\$ 11,587.50
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 5,724.49	\$ 109,440.58	\$ 43,034.42
Ministry Expenses			
Ministry - Outreach	\$ -	\$ 11,911.00	\$ 389.00
Ministry - Boards & Committees	\$ 367.43	\$ 2,711.51	\$ 3,188.49
<i>Total Ministry Expenses</i>	\$ 367.43	\$ 14,622.51	\$ 3,577.49
Total Expenses	\$ 37,230.18	\$ 289,864.78	\$ 113,403.30
NET TOTAL	\$ (17,430.40)	\$ (20,889.45)	\$ 20,889.45

CCCCC	Actual Sep 01, 2026 - Sep 30, 2026	Actual Year to Date	
REVENUE			
Operating Income	\$ 82,194.60	\$ 800,261.05	
Investment Income	\$ 161.16	\$ 4,264.19	
Other Income	\$ 233.00	\$ 11,419.05	
Total Revenues	\$ 82,588.76	\$ 815,944.29	
			Annual Budget Remaining This Year
EXPENSES			
Compensation Expenses	\$ 69,446.42	\$ 652,276.79	\$ 283,150.13
Operating Expenses			
Program Expenses	\$ 3,889.47	\$ 57,010.38	\$ 23,989.62
Education-SS/CCCC	\$ 1,060.68	\$ 1,881.70	\$ 1,618.30
Office & Supplies	\$ 4,241.84	\$ 34,943.64	\$ 14,856.36
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 3,245.64	\$ 754.36
Building & Property	\$ 4,167.00	\$ 48,364.24	\$ 20,135.76
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 81.00	\$ 2,601.81	\$ 1,398.19
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 13,439.99	\$ 148,047.41	\$ 62,752.59
Total Expenses	\$ 82,886.41	\$ 800,324.20	\$ 345,902.72
NET TOTAL	\$ (206.78)	\$ 15,710.96	\$ (15,710.96)

**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 9am-3pm
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.



THERE
OUR
HEARTS
WILL BE

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

**Sunday
November 15
8:15am &
10:30am**

To help celebrate our church and dedicate the financial commitments of our members and friends to the church's work, we invite you to join us on Sunday, November 15th. Following the 10:30am service the Stewardship Committee will host Coffee Hour.