

# Soul Food:

## A Weekly Update of Christ's Reformed UCC

*"Growing people of faith who live in Jesus, love one another and bear abundant fruit"*

January 17, 2018

### Celebrations

If you have celebrations in your life, we want to celebrate with you! Celebrations take many forms: new babies, marriages, accomplishments at work, a child's successes, transitions in life, just plain old good news. Please contact the church office ([crc1854@myactv.net](mailto:crc1854@myactv.net)) and share celebrations with us.

- We have good news. Starting February 1, 2018, we will have an Interim Pastor assigned to our church - Rev. Dr. G. Derrick Hodge. We all look forward to him being with us during this time period until a new settled Pastor is installed. When you see him here during February, please welcome him and thank him for bringing his experience and knowledge to our church. I know Rev. Hodge is looking forward to being with us. Thank you to the following members of the Interim Selection Committee who worked many afternoons and evenings reviewing the applications and conducting interviews: Judy Miller, Bill Shank and Larry Sprankle. ~ Larry Hoeck, Consistory President
- What are your celebrations? May you give God praise and honor and glory for them!

### Prayer Requests

- Pray for the pastoral search process and team
- For the ATS fifth floor, that God would find just the right tenant to use the space to his glory and to meet our city's needs

### Connections

- **Upcoming Services:**
  - January 21<sup>st</sup>: Rev. Kyle Powderly will be our speaker. This is also Consecration Sunday when we lay on the altar our gifts and talents.
  - January 28<sup>th</sup>: Rev. Kevin Munroe will be our speaker
- **The Lectionary Reflection Group** continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am to study and reflect upon the Lectionary for the following Sunday. All are invited.

- **An Evening Prayer Study:** Everyone in the church family is invited to a bi-weekly time of prayer and study: the next one will be Tuesday, January 23rd at 6 pm in the Strunk Library.
- **Place Altar Flowers in Memory/Honor of Your Loved Ones** – There are a few dates left so check out the new altar flower chart on the Parish House bulletin board. The cost of the flowers will again be \$40.00. Please send your check, payable to Christ's Reformed Church, to the attention of Karen Stamper, Office Manager.
- **The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast** will be the third Saturday in January (1/20/18) at 8:30 am in the Social Hall. See you then!
- **This Sunday is Consecration Sunday:** On Sunday, January 21st, we will all once again have the opportunity to re-commit ourselves to the spiritual practice of giving...the giving of our resources of time, talents, and 'treasures.' We don't give offerings to the church (to God) to help the church budget! We give offerings because doing so is the singular practice that helps us be free from selfish self-interest in all aspects of our lives! Please join us on the 21st as we offer our (public or private) promises and pledges to God. [Don't forget to bring your orange commitment cards!!](#)
- **2018 Offering Envelopes** – Christ's Reformed Church members are asked to pick up their 2018 offering envelopes from the Church School Auditorium. Thank you!
- **High School Students!!!** During the month of February, please make plans to attend our Sunday School hour. Branda will be leading a study called, "Are You A Red Cup Christian? *How to live a stand-out faith in a fit-in world.*" You aren't going to want to miss it! The book is available in digital format, for those of you who would like to take a look at it ahead. \*Our college students are also welcome to be a part of this discipleship event.\*
- **SOUPer Bowl Sunday** is February 4th. We will be collecting foods and supplies for St. Mark's Food Bank and the REACH Shelter. Please see the lists posted in the Kitchen for their current needs. Your item(s) for the collection will serve as your "admission" to our soup lunch that will follow Church School hour. If you are able, please bring a soup to share for lunch, as well!
- **Cardboard Sled Derby** – Our friends at Cedar Ridge are hosting a Cardboard Sled Derby FUNdraiser on Sunday, February 25th. Registration is at 1pm, derby begins at 3pm. Each team allows for 2 riders and 1 pusher, but as many would like to build each sled. Let's show our support for Cedar Ridge and send at least one team! See Branda to register! Advance registration is \$35/team, \$40 at event. There is also a discounted tubing rate for the day! For more details, visit [www.cedarridgeministries.org](http://www.cedarridgeministries.org)

## Food for Thought:

*The Gift of a Bible* by Kristi Woods in the Jan/Feb Issue of the *Upper Room*

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey. <sup>106</sup> I have sworn, and I fully mean it: I will keep your righteous rules. <sup>107</sup> I have been suffering so much LORD, make me live again according to your promise.  
<sup>108</sup> Please, LORD, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise. Teach me your rules!  
<sup>109</sup> Though my life is constantly in danger, I won't forget your Instruction.  
<sup>110</sup> Though the wicked have set a trap for me, I won't stray from your precepts.  
<sup>111</sup> Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart's joy. <sup>112</sup> I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one." – Psalm 119:105-112

My hand reached for the gift as everyone in the congregation watched. I pulled the brown book toward me, admiring its big, gold lettering. HOLY BIBLE was stamped across the front. At the time I didn't realize how precious the gift was.

A few years later, that same brown Bible was snuggled under my arm as I walked into a small country church. Each Sunday as I read from that Bible, my faith and God's word became real.

It's so easy to leave our Bible closed and untouched. But the Bible is personal, a lamp for our path today and for the future. Reading the Bible offers guidance in any stage of life. It encourages us to forgive, to find hope, and to love well.

My graduation gift from a thoughtful congregation has served me well for nearly 30 years. Its pages — some of them now taped due to years of use — contain many handwritten notes of insight and guidance. Its words have provided powerful wisdom to lead me through these 30 years. God's word is truly a lamp for life's path, a gift given to each of us.

Dear God, thank you for the Bible and your guidance through it. May its words become an even brighter lamp, guiding us every day. Amen.

*I will seek guidance from the Bible today!*

Food for thought!!

**\*\*Like every good meal, I'm better when shared...please forward me to the people in your life!**

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