

# 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"*

November 15, 2017

### 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.

- What are your celebrations? May you give God praise and honor and glory for them!

### Prayer Requests

- And pray for the pastoral search process, as interim decisions need to be made and the pastoral search 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...
- Other current events: what items in this week's newspapers and newscasts need our prayers? What aspects of life in our Congregation need prayer?

### Connections

- **Upcoming Services:**
  - Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Central Atlantic Conference's new associate conference minister, Rev. Alex Vishio, will be our preacher. He will also be our contact person in the Conference office for our pastoral transition support. He will preach at the 9:30 service and **we will have a combined adult Sunday school time** at 11am for him to meet and talk with our membership.
  - November 26<sup>th</sup>: The Rev Fred Harris will preach.
  - December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Our Choir Cantata will be this Sunday, and will serve as the "sermon" for the morning. Rev. Marilyn Washburn will lead the communion liturgy.
  - December 10<sup>th</sup>: Rev. Fred Harris will preach
  - December 17<sup>th</sup>: The Christmas pageant will take the place of a sermon

- December 24<sup>th</sup> morning: Branda will lead the service
  - December 24<sup>th</sup> evening: The elders will lead a service of lessons and carols.
  - December 31<sup>st</sup>: our Christmas hymn sing and a couple of elders will share some faith stories.
- **Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference**: Friday, November 17, 2017 beginning at 7:00 PM with Worship. Saturday, November 18, 2017 from 8:30 AM – 5:15 PM. The conference will also be hosting an optional Congregational Vitality Event Saturday evening from 5:30PM - 9:30 PM.
  - **Breakfast is served!** Sunday, November 19th, we will be serving a hot breakfast to the residents of the REACH Shelter. If you are interested in serving in any way, please see Branda or Tom VanMetre. This is a great opportunity to serve our local community.
  - **Community Thanksgiving Worship Service** – On Sunday, November 19th at 7:00 pm, the Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC) will sponsor the Hagerstown Community Thanksgiving Service which will be held at Congregation B’Nai Abraham at 49 East Baltimore Street in Hagerstown. There will be a combined choir anthem. The choir will rehearse at 5:30 pm prior to the Thanksgiving Service. All are welcome to attend and participate!
  - **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, November 28th at 6 pm in the Strunk Library.
  - **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.
  - **CRC Pastoral Care for Oct 18 through Nov 30**: Pastor Kevin Munroe and Pastor Kyle Powderly will be available to offer pastoral care during this “pre-interim” period. Please contact the church office if you need a pastoral care visit during this time frame. (This will continue through Dec 31 if an interim is not in place by Nov 30.)
  - **Anniversary Offering**: We are down to the last three Welcome mugs that we give out to visitors. Depending on quantity and vendor, it will cost between \$500 and \$1000 to purchase more. This is an unbudgeted item in both the 2017 and 2018 budgets. The Consistory voted last night to use a portion of this year's Anniversary Offering to purchase more mugs. Funds in excess of the needed amount will be reserved in the Anniversary account for a future capital project to be determined by the 2018 Consistory.
  - **Church Building News** – If you are coming into church for a meeting or to do some work, please slide the meeting/group marker on the in out board or write your name on the white board. The church is a large

building and we need to know who is in the building at all times. Then when you leave, please slide your name back. Thanks!

- **Place Altar Flowers in Memory/Honor of Your Loved Ones** – The Worship Team needs your help again in donations of altar flowers. To place altar or chancel flowers for 2018, we are requesting you sign up for the week of your choice by completing an order form and turning it in to the church office or by signing 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.
- **Poinsettias** – A representative will be in the Church School Auditorium after worship through December 3rd to receive orders for Christmas poinsettias at \$8.50 each. Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 11th.
- **Harvest Home/Micah's Backpack** – The Serving Team will be collecting non-perishable items plus money donations for the folks at the St. Mark's Food Bank and Micah's Backpack. Any money donations can be given to Kathy Fisher or Becky Lohr. And any Micah's Backpack money can be given to Dave Bedard. Please set food items on the Church School Auditorium stage. These projects will be for the month of November. Thank you for supporting the St. Mark's Food Bank!
- **Christmas Pageant News:** Invite your friends and family to attend our production on Sunday, December 17th! Costume fittings will be during Church School on Sunday, November 26th. A read-through will be during Church School on December 3rd. Our final dress rehearsal will follow Church School and a family lunch on Sunday, December 10th.
- **Christmas Eve Service Planning is in full effect.** If you have any interest in participating in leading the service that morning, please see Branda by Sunday, December 3rd.

## Community Events

Save the date! HARC Community Thanksgiving Service - November 19



Sunday, November 19 at 7:00 pm  
Congregation B'Nai Abraham  
49 E. Baltimore St., Hagerstown

An ecumenical, interfaith service of thanks sponsored by the Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC) and hosted this year by Congregation B'Nai Abraham. This service is free and open to the public as we express our commonality in giving thanks. There will be a combined choir anthem with the rehearsal beginning at 5:30 p.m. - all vocalists welcome! [Flyer](#)

## REACH seeks Daytime Volunteers



Reach is looking for volunteers to cover the front desk and to help with crisis assistance. On the job training provided. Hours are 9am-1pm once every 1-2 weeks. Call 301-733-2371, ext.105, or email [pam@reachofwc.org](mailto:pam@reachofwc.org) for info.

## Sponsor families in need for Christmas



The Washington Co. Department of Social Services is once again seeking congregations (or individuals) to sponsor families with gifts for Christmas. The list of families will be smaller this year and concentrated on serving the families who truly have nothing and for whom your gifts will be a great blessing from above. The list of families will be available by Tuesday, November 21. If you or your congregation would like to sponsor a family/families, please contact Kathy at [kathy.harc@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.harc@gmail.com) or 301-842-4272 for further details.

## Food for Thought:

From *Our Daily Bread* – Great Love by Alyson Kieda

Today's Reading – 1 John 3:1-8 (NIV)

*<sup>1</sup> See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*

*<sup>4</sup> Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.*

*<sup>7</sup> Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

Recently, we took our twenty-two-month-old granddaughter, Moriah, overnight for the first time without her older brothers. We lavished lots of loving, undivided attention on her, and had fun doing the things she likes to do. The next day after dropping her off, we said our goodbyes and headed out the door. As we did, without a word Moriah grabbed her overnight bag (still sitting by the door) and began following us.

The picture is etched in my memory: Moriah in her diaper and mismatched sandals ready to depart with Grandma and Grandpa again. Every time I think of it, I smile. She was eager to go with us, ready for more individualized time.

Although she is as yet unable to vocalize it, our granddaughter feels loved and valued. In a small way, our love for Moriah is a picture of the love God has for us, His children. "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1).

When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we become His children and begin to understand the lavish love He bestowed on us by dying for us (v. 16). Our desire becomes to please Him in what we say and do (v. 6)—and to love Him, eager to spend time with Him.

*Dear Lord, thank You for loving us so much that You died for us and rose again that we might have eternal life with You. Help us to be examples of Your love to all we meet.*

How deep is the Father's love for us!

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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