

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"

September 19, 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) and share celebrations with us.

- For the warm words, delicious food and many hugs at Sunday's luncheon: Katherine and I are most grateful for them all. And our thanks to the social team that did all the work of planning and arranging the farewell social. Thank you!
- What are your celebrations? May you give God praise and honor and glory for them!

Prayer Requests

- Everyone affected by Montana's wildfires, by Mexico's earthquake, by Harvey, Irma and now Marie...
- And pray for the pastoral search process, as interim decisions need to be made, and the pastoral search team appointed this fall... so far there have been very few folks who have volunteered for the 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

- **Children's worship time:** Beginning October 1st, Branda will take the children into the auditorium to continue worship at their level. More details to come, but this program will be for all children/youth 5th grade and below. Older youth will rotate in as leaders and helpers.

- **Dare 2 Share Live** – Be part of a national teen movement of gospel conversations on September 23, 2017. Dare 2 Share Live is a national, live, multi-site training and outreach event that will inspire and unleash teens to spark a movement of Gospel conversations throughout the nation. In addition to the live video stream with high energy, dynamic training from Greg Stier, Zane Black, Tenth Avenue North, Propaganda and Skit Guys, attendees will experience a live local worship band and a live emcee.

Schedule:

- Morning (12:00-3:30pm) – Inspiration and Training
- Afternoon (3:30-6:00pm) – Outreach (Sharing and Service)
- Evening (6:00-7:30pm) – Praise and Prayer Celebration

If you plan on attending this AWESOME event, please sign up on the sheet in the kitchen.

For questions, email Branda at crchagerstown@gmail.com

- **Upcoming Services:**

- September 24th: Pastor Gregg will preach on “Generous Goodness,” from Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16 and Romans 12:21. A new selection of Prayer shawls will also be dedicated during this service.
- October 1st: This will be both world communion Sunday, and our Confirmation Sunday, moved up to allow Pastor Gregg to confirm our 4 confirmands before he leaves. The texts for the service will be Philippians 2:1-12 and Matthew 21:23-32. The meditation will be “Be Energetic in your Life of Salvation.”
- October 8th: This will be Pastor Gregg’s last Sunday in the pulpit. The texts will be Philippians 3:4b-14 and Matthew 21:33-46 and his title will be “Pressing on towards the goal...”
- October 15th: This is our laity service, and our Consistory president, Charlotte Trout will preach the sermon. Other lay leaders will participate in leading the service. Pastor Gregg will be in attendance, but have no official role. This will be his last Sunday with CRC.
- Save the date: Sunday, November 17th, the Central Atlantic Conference’s new associate conference minister, with oversight of our Catocin Association), 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.

- **Branda, Yeargan, Our program director has set up a new email address.** If you have any ideas, questions, or needs that concern any of the programming for the upcoming year, please contact Branda at crchagerstown@gmail.com.

- **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, September 19th 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.
- **Last week for the Annual Community Book Drive!** All books need to be in these week! Place your book donations in the box on the Church School Auditorium Stage. Thank you!
- **Pastor Gregg's remaining transition schedule (revised):**
 - Tuesday, Sept 26th through Friday, Sept 29th in FL (Back in office by noon Friday)
 - Wednesday, Oct 4th through Sat, October 7th in FL
 - Sunday, Oct 8th: final Sunday in the pulpit
 - Sunday, Oct 15th, laity Sunday: final Sunday at CRC
 - Tuesday, Oct 17th: final day in the office
 - Wednesday, Oct 18th: depart for FL
- **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.
- **Tentative Pulpit Supply for Oct 18 through Nov 26:**
 - October 22: Pastor Kyle
 - October 29: Pastor Kevin
 - November 5: Pastor Kyle
 - November 12: Pastor Kevin
 - November 19: Rev. Alex Vishio, associate Conf minister.
 - November 26: Rev. Fred Harris
- **Probable Advent/Christmas worship schedule:**
 - Sunday, Dec. 3: Our worship service will include pew communion, and the choir's Cantata will take up the "sermon" time for the service. The message for the day will be given through music and song, and still be scripturally based. Rev. Washburn will lead communion for us.
 - Sunday, Dec. 10th: Second Sunday of Advent: Rev. Fred Harris will preach.
 - Sunday, Dec. 17th: Our worship service will include a 20-minute children's pageant, with lots of Advent/Christmas hymns included.

- Sunday, Dec. 24th: our morning worship service will tell the story of how the world came to have a savior, sent from God. "The World Is about to Turn" is the theme for the service. Our program director, Branda Yeargan, will coordinate this service for us.
- Sunday, Dec 24th: At 7:00pm we will have a service of lessons and carols led by some of our elders.
- Sunday, Dec 31st: our annual Christmas hymn sing!
- **Fall meeting of the Catoclin Association:** Saturday, November 11, 2017 at Christ Reformed Church in Middletown. Contact the office if you would like to attend.
- **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. We will also be hosting an optional Congregational Vitality Event Saturday evening from 5:30PM - 9:30 PM

From the UCC national office:

Hurricane Harvey Relief

The Disaster Ministries page of the UCC website will be updated regularly with information as the disaster continues to unfold, the first installment is up now:

http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_harvey

We are asking for prayers, for donations and, as the long-term recovery takes shape, we will also ask for volunteers.

CLICK HERE TO GIVE ON-LINE: [Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund](#)

If you prefer to donate by mail, **make checks payable to Central Atlantic Conference United Church of Christ, with "Hurricane Harvey" in the memo.** Mail to: Central Atlantic Conference United Church of Christ, [918 South Rolling Road, Catonsville, MD 21228](#)

Community News

White Privilege: Let's Talk - Starts September 20



6 Wednesdays from 7-8:30 pm starting September 20

Church of the Holy Trinity

[17805 Oak Ridge Dr, Hagerstown](#)

Join us for a six-week study - a "sacred conversation on race," part

of a Resource for Transformational Dialogue. The study is an attempt to understand from a faith perspective "White Privilege" in its manifestations and impact. Rev. Kyle Powderly will lead the study. Each week will tackle a different topic, a chapter in the book "White Privilege: Let's Talk" developed by the United Church of Christ. Please join us, and bring anyone you think might be interested in being a part of this conversation. If planning to attend, please RSVP to [301-739-0702](tel:301-739-0702) or pastorcht@myactv.net. [More info...](#) [Flyer](#)

Spiritual Care Brunch and Learn - September 21

Pain Isn't Always Obvious



Suicide Is Preventable

Thursday, September 21 from 8:30 - 10:00 am

Meritus Parish Nursing Office

[1799 Howell Road, Hagerstown](#)

Meritus Medical Center's spiritual care department is hosting a monthly educational session for faith leaders, health care providers and members of the wider community. **This month's topic is: Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms of Suicide. Speaker: Patrick Ricker, LCSW-C.** There is no cost for the meeting or refreshments; however, an RSVP is required. RSVP [301-790-8296](tel:301-790-8296) or michelle.phillips@meritushealth.com.

Taste of the Town - September 24



Sunday, September 24 from 5:00-7:30 pm

Hager Hall Conference and Event Center

[901 Dual Highway, Hagerstown](#)

Last chance! Seating is limited to 500 and was sold out last year! 450 tickets have already been sold. Event benefits REACH. Sample delicious food from lots of different restaurants, farms and shops. Raffles and auction items add to the fun. Great event for a great cause! [More info and tickets...](#)

Save the date! A Conversation that Matters - October 18



Wednesday, October 18 from 9-11:30 am (reg 8:30)

Elgin Station, [40 Elgin Blvd.](#)

The Washington County Character Counts Coalition (and HARC) invites you to join us in a workshop: "**Our Kids Are Watching; We Are All Role Models.**" This is part of an ongoing "Conversation That Matters" series. [Flyer](#)

HARC volunteers wanted



HARC is seeking volunteers for the following:

Finance Team - numbers gurus wanted to support HARC's Treasurer and board of directors with budgeting and periodic review of finances.

Fundraising & PR Team - Enjoy raising money for and promoting a good cause? The HARC board of directors would love your help.

HARC Hike Team member(s) - This annual event raises funds for HARC and Micah's Backpack. We are especially in need of someone who enjoys social media and promotions and someone who would have fun creating a scavenger hunt addition to the event held on the C&O Canal towpath.

Please contact Kathy at [301-842-4272](tel:301-842-4272) or kathy.harc@gmail.com to join a team or for info.

Food for Thought:

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love... I thought about these words from the last hymn we sung on Sunday a lot during this past Sunday's farewell social time.

Katherine and I are so thankful for the love and embrace that we have received these past 9 years. I am particularly grateful for the way so many reached out to Katherine, both during our time here, but also on Sunday, too: your embrace of her has been a joy to see, and so sustaining and encouraging to her. Thank you! I, too, appreciated the many hugs, cards and words that were shared on Sunday. They were, and are, and will be a rich blessing that I will carry with me as we head to Florida.

Most of you will know that our sermon series during September has been about being a "large-hearted" congregation, a congregation filled with, respectively from each Sunday, generous Love, generous Hospitality, generous Forgiveness, and coming this Sunday, generous Goodness.

I thank you all for the ways in which both Katherine and I have experienced such love, hospitality, forgiveness and goodness. After a nine-year relationship of walking together with God, such qualities have become easier to share, and a two-way blessing, experienced by both pastor and people!

My thought this morning is about how it is more difficult to share large-heartedness with people we don't know well... in particular, in view of the next months ahead, with an interim, and eventually with a new pastor. My prayer is, during this next era in the life of CRC, as you walk together with God and with an interim and eventually a new settled pastor, that there will be much love, hospitality, forgiveness and goodness flowing into and through every moment together, from the very beginning of each relationship.

Transitions are challenging, but they don't need to be difficult. The more large-heartedness that is shared (in both directions), the less difficult and more rewarding these next months will be. So, from one and all, let much love, hospitality, forgiveness and goodness flow!

Food for thought!!
Pastor Gregg

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

If you wish to no longer receive Soul Food, please respond to this e-mail and change the subject line to "UNSUBSCRIBE," but we hope you won't!