

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"

April 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) and share celebrations with us.

- 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:**
 - April 22nd: Youth Sunday, Dr. Hodge will be in the South caring for his parents, so the young adults will have complete control over the service.
 - April 29th: Older Member Sunday, We will celebrate our 90+ members. Dr. Hodge's scripture text will be John 10:11-15 & 15:9-17 with the sermon title "No Greater Love."
- **MUSIC NEWS** – We are now signing up for special music for the summer. All Sundays are currently open & a sign-up sheet is on the door of Moira's office or you can contact her directly.
- **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, May 1st 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.
- **Calling all graduates!!** Please notify the church office if you will have a child graduating from high school or college this spring. We'd like to invite them to a graduate breakfast and recognize them in a worship service in early June.
- **The next Tidings deadline** is this Friday, April 20th. If you have an article for the May issue, please submit. Thanks!
- **Men's Fellowship** – We invite all men of Christ's Reformed UCC and bring a friend. We will be taking another road trip to Myersville. On Saturday, April 21st at 8:00 am. We will meet in CRC Parking Lot and travel together in the church van.
- **Micah's Backpack** – Please continue to bring your donations as we partner with Zion UCC on this service project. Any individually-wrapped single serving items are needed.
- **ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF THE CATOCTIN ASSOCIATION,** Central Atlantic Conference – United Church of Christ is Saturday, April 21st at St. Mark UCC, 1616 Cape Horn Road, Hampstead, MD. Registration begins at 9:00am. All are invited!
- **Youth News**
 - **Sunday, April 22nd** – Our youth will be leading service this Sunday! We will be meeting at the Hagerstown Diner on Dual Hwy @ 7:30 am Sunday. Please join us, so we can all get pumped up and excited for worship! *this is not an expectation, just an invitation* If your student would like to be involved, but does not yet have an “assigned” part, please see me first thing Sunday morning! I want to be sure that everyone who wants to, has the chance to serve!!!
 - **BOWLING APRIL 29th** – We will be meeting at 7/10 at 5pm. This event is open to all family members and is not a youth-only event.
 - **Challenge Course Day** – Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 2nd. While we won't be having a weekend retreat, we will still be spending a day together in the woods. More details coming soon!
 - **Pool Party & Scavenger Hunt** – The details for these events will be coming soon! Keep those peepers peeled!
- **Watch your mailboxes for the Church-Wide survey!** The Pastoral Search Committee needs your help and is hoping each member of the

church will take the time to complete the survey and give us their individual input. The physical copies can be returned to specially marked boxes in the Parish House and Narthex. Or you can complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRCsurvey2018>

- **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** – We invite all men of Christ's Reformed UCC and bring a friend. We will be taking another road trip to Myersville on Saturday, April 21st. Meet at 8:00 am in CRC East Parking Lot
- Join us as **we celebrate our 90+ members** on April 29th in the Worship Service at 9:30 am and Special Social Time at 10:45 am.
- **SAVE THE DATE!!** Washington County Gives is Tuesday, May 1st! Plan now to give your offering gift then to Aspiring to Serve!! You can give any time, but please try to give during the hour between 2 and 3pm... if we have the most donors during that hour, we get an additional prize!
- **Team BAM will be walking in the Great Strides Walk again this year** – Saturday, May 5th at the Fairgrounds. We'd love for you to join us! We really appreciate your continued support each year! If you would like to donate, please visit our website <http://fightcf.cff.org/goto/AmyMillerTeamBAM> or you can write a check to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and give it to Cindy Murray or Karen Stamper. Volunteers are also needed on the day of the walk! Please let Cindy Murray or Amy Miller know if you are interested in helping!
- **The Budget and Finance Ministry Team awards Student Loans** through the Maude Alexander Matthews Student Loan Fund. Members of CRC may pick up applications from PJ Everett, Chair of the Budget and Finance Team. If you have questions, PJ may be reached at 301-667-3362. The deadline for filing your application is June 30, 2018.

Community Events

Ongoing and Upcoming Hospice Programs



Hospice of Washington County, Inc. is committed to serving our community by empowering patients and families to provide quality end-of-life care and grief support for those coping with a life-changing loss. The flyers linked below provide additional information about available programs. Please note that the Children and Grief seminar is April

19. [Bereavement Services](#) [Honoring Our Parents](#) [Children and Grief](#) [Teen Grief](#) [Children's Remembrance Service](#) [Camp Hope n' Cope](#) [Bereavement Counselors](#)

Toot Uncommon Flute Concert - April 21



Saturday, April 21, 4 - 5 pm
Zion Reformed UCC
201 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown

Zion Reformed UCC is proud to again host a performance by the Toot Uncommon Flute Choir. Admission is free. A reception with light refreshments will follow the concert. For more information please contact the church office at zionruccadmin@myactv.net or 301-739-7244. [Flyer](#)

"We're Still Singing!" Hagerstown Choral Arts - April 21



Saturday, April 21, 4 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
15 Randolph Avenue, Hagerstown

Join the Hagerstown Choral Arts for a concert featuring a performance of Mozart's Requiem and a piece by Ned Wetheral commissioned especially for their 25th anniversary year. Admission is free; a free-will donation will be received. In addition, the drawing will occur for the quilt raffle - see quilts on [Facebook](#)

National Christian Choir - April 22



Sunday, April 22 at 6:00 pm
St Ann Roman Catholic Church
1525 Oak Hill Ave, Hagerstown

The National Christian Choir, a choir of over 150 auditioned voices from over 100 churches, will present an evening of musical worship. Plan to share in the beauty of music and worship as they offer praise and glory to our Lord. Seating is on a first come/first serve basis and will be available one hour before the service. Admission is free; an offering will be received. [Flyer](#)

Food for Thought:

This Sunday, the worship service will be planned and led by the youth — so get ready for unique perspectives! It should be a joyful day. The following Sunday (29 April) will also be a day of joy and celebration. On that day, we will honor members of the congregation who have served God for 90 years or more. There will also be a time to learn from them, as they share their wisdom with us whippersnappers!

On that day, 29 April, we will also continue our study of the epistles of John. The sermon will reflect upon the main theme of those “Johannine” (related to John): Love. I invite you to prepare for the next several Sundays by reading 1, 2, and 3 John (They are all short, so reading them will not be burdensome). One method for study and meditation on these scriptures would be to read one letter every day for three or four days. Then reflect upon the scripture, write about it, and pray about it. Here are a few questions that you might want to use as the focus of your meditation:

- What is the nature of God? (This sounds like a really difficult question, but the answer is clearly stated in the scriptures.)
- What is love, exactly? Is it one thing, or many? Are there degrees of love?
- Is God’s love different from the love that we feel toward each other?
- What is the opposite of love, according to the scriptures?
- How do faithful Christians respond to God’s love?
- What is the nature of evil, sin, hell, and Satan?
- Other scriptures tell us that our salvation is not something that we can accomplish on our own, no matter how many good works we do. But John’s letters tell us that works are essential in the Christian life. What is the difference between works that people do in order to win their salvation, and works done after conversion, after salvation, as a grateful response to God?

If you reflect upon these questions and study the letters of John thoroughly, you will likely hear the next few sermons differently. I invite you to become fluent in these letters and to share your interpretation of them with me.

In Christ,

Dr. Hodge

****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!