

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"



June 22, 2022

Sunday Worship Service at Christ's Reformed @ 9:30AM

You are invited to worship with us each week on Zoom or in person.

To join by phone. Simply dial 1-301-715-8592, wait for the prompt, enter the access code 853 3757 7035 followed by #, wait for the prompt then enter # again.

To join the worship by computer, enter the following into your web browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337577035>

**** Here is the YouTube video link of last Sunday's service (June 19th). ****

<https://www.youtube.com>

Special Announcement

The Consistory and Property Committee would like everyone to know that they church is now equipped with several security cameras near the doors. This means you will be visually recorded at the locations. There is no sound. Thank you for continuing to work to keep everyone safe.

Opportunities to Connect: We are one body, called to serve

Upcoming Services: Sunday, June 26th, Guest Speaker, Rev. Esther Ziegler, will be speaking on the scriptures from II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14, Galatians 5:1, 13-25 and Luke 9:51-62. Her sermon is titled *"Do You Really Want This Job?"*.

Lectionary Group - The Lectionary Group will meet on Wednesdays at 11:00 am. Join Zoom Meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86393839530> or call the following local number: PH # 301.715.8592 and Enter Meeting ID: 863 9383 9530

Van - Transportation on the church van is now available if needed. If you need a ride please call the van line at 301-739-1745 *by noon on Fridays*.

ATS Building is in need of new tenants. Please be praying that we attain some new tenants. If you know of anyone interested in needing space have them check out our new "improved" website for details. Here is the link: <http://www.aspiringtoserve.org/about.html>

Rev. Norville will be on vacation from June 20th through June 26th.

Special Speaker – Rev. Esther Ziegler will be preaching the June 26th service. Please make her feel welcome.

Office Closed - Office will be closed on July 4th due to the holiday.

Faith Mentzer will be sharing in the service on July 17th.

National Christian Choir – Many of you have enjoyed their ministry. They are coming to Hagerstown. They will be at Saint Ann Catholic Church on Sunday, July 24th at 6:00 pm. Seating is available at 5 pm.

Directory – Our Church Directory needs updating and we need your help. Take a look at your information in the directory and let Cheryl know of any changes that need to be made. She can be reached at the church between 8 am and 3 pm M-F or email her at: Cheryl.crc@myactv.net. Please update your information by July 8, 2022.

Calendar Events

June 22	11 AM Lectionary
June 26	Third Sunday of Pentecost with Rev. Esther Ziegler
July 3	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
July 4	Office Closed – Holiday
July 6	11 AM Lectionary
July 10	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Confirmation Class meeting w/ Care Givers)
July 13	11 AM Lectionary
July 14-17	Youth Missions Trip
July 17	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost w/Faith Metzner sharing
July 20	11 AM Lectionary
July 24	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 27	11 AM Lectionary
July 31	Picnic at Black Rock Pavilion
August 3	11 AM Lectionary
August 7	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost with Communion
August 10	11 AM Lectionary

Mid-Week Devotions

Being Fruitful

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. – Galatians 5:22-23, NIV

I believe we can all agree that the world and our lives need more fruit of the Spirit. Yet, many of us may feel that we are just one person. Or ask, what can our church do with it's shrinking and aging membership? I would like to share my parable of the cherry tree.

For many years, there was a cherry tree in my next-door neighbor's backyard. Most summers, my neighbors could gather plenty of cherries, suitable for pies, cobblers and crisps. There were enough cherries to leave some for the birds. And sometimes, enough that my neighbor brought me a fresh baked cherry cobbler.

Still, a cherry tree is by nature, weak and through the years, this tree did what cherry trees do, dropping a branch now and again. With age, the branches were not replaced but the tree continued to produce plenty of cherries for humans and birds.

Then one year, a storm took out half the tree, right down the center. The base of the tree was split and the center exposed. The neighbors cleared the fallen portion of the tree and waited. And the tree bloomed the next spring and produced cherries once again.

Over the next few years, the exposed wood slowly rotted away until it seemed the tree was held up by a thin arc of wood beneath the bark. Still, it produced fruit and the birds continued to eat and spread little trees throughout the neighborhood. Eventually, of course, the remaining tree fell down and the ragged remains were cleared away.

I want to think about that tree every time I feel I can't do enough. Broken and aging, that tree still produced flowers in the spring and cherries in June. Maybe not as many as when it was young, but for the birds who received nourishment from the fruit, it was a precious gift. I hope I can be as faithful to my purpose and calling as that cherry tree and spread a little fruit in this world.

Charlotte Trout



Picture of actual cherry tree from parable above taken by Charlotte's neighbor.