
REFORMATION TIMES

February 2020

Celebrate! We are Debt-Free!

Madaline Heim, Reformation's oldest member at 102 years young, who has been a church check co-signer for many years, is pictured below signing the check to pay off our mortgage. Reformation is now debt-free for the first time since 2005!



Candlemas @ Home

On **Sunday, February 2**, Candlemas @ Home kits will be available for families. They include a candle and litany for blessing, a traditional Candlemas practice in the church.

SOUPer Bowl Sunday



On **Sunday, February 2**, you are invited to help us celebrate SOUPer Bowl Sunday! We will collect cans of soup for the

Media Food Bank and Chester Eastside, Inc. Bring a can (or two!) of soup with you to worship that day. Thank you for helping us tackle hunger right here in Media.

Ash Wednesday February 26

Worship

On Ash Wednesday there will be worship at 12:00 noon and 7:30 pm. Both worships include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.



Ashes Under the Tent

Stop by the East Parking Lot any time between 5 and 6 pm for a brief (3-4 minute) gathering for prayer and the imposition of ashes under the pop-up canopy.

Faith-Life Connections Class

Join us in Creighton Hall at 9:45 am February 2, 9 & 16 for **Loving Vincent**. Led by Laura Reiter, participants will view and discuss the award-winning, animated biographical movie utilizing the artwork of Vincent Van Gogh. As Moira MacDonald, a Seattle Times movie critic, wrote, "Loving Vincent is almost too beautiful for its own good; I found myself, too often, so dazzled by the form that I quite forgot about the content." Contact Laura Reiter or Deacon Beth with any questions.

Go Paperless

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically instead of or in addition to a print copy? Email the office at rlc@relcmedia.com to make the change.



Share a Lent Devotion

Share a reflection to be a part of our daily devotions this Lent! Visit relcmedia.org/lent to learn more and complete a submission. Daily Devotions will be emailed each morning beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Contact Pastor Alina with any questions.

Calling All Soup Makers

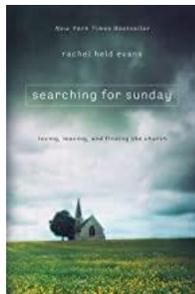


Sign up this month on the large Lenten Soup Supper board located in the lobby if you would like to share your favorite soup recipe on Wednesday evenings,

starting **March 4**. Each Wednesday night, we need at least seven crock pots of warm hearty soups.

Read With Us this Lent

Our Lent 2020 Book will be *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans. Copies of the book will be available on the counter in the lobby. If you wish to join a discussion about the book you can join CG3 or CG4. You can also look for reflection questions in the weekly emails! Questions? Contact Pastor Alina.



Be a Soup Supper Coordinator

Each Wednesday evening in Lent (March 4-April 1) Soup Suppers are held in Creighton Hall. We are looking for two coordinators (to serve as a team) for each of those five Wednesdays about 5:45-7:30 pm. The coordinators will oversee and manage this popular food fellowship (setting up the kitchen, ensuring food is on-site and set out, tidying up the kitchen). Training will be provided. Please speak to Deacon Beth or contact her at deaconbeth@relcmedia.org if you can help.

Check Our Online Directory

Did you know that Reformation has an online directory with an app you can access from any device? Please take a moment to check your information in the directory to see if it's up to date or if something needs to be changed. If you have an updated photo, we'd be happy to upload that for you, too. Please email all directory changes/additions to Anna at rlc@relcmedia.org.

REFORMATION TIMES

Published Monthly by

Reformation Lutheran Church

Deadline: Noon the 15th of every month

Materials to: newsletter@relcmedia.org

Congregation Council and Officers

Dick Hughey, *President*; Talitha D'Italia, *Vice President*; Marilyn Gilroy, *Secretary*; Tom Conroy, *Treasurer*; Emily Black, Deb Conley, Megan Gress, Skip Hoffman, Andrew Marcus, Uli Neubert, Bev Norton, Layla Phillips, Mike Polito, Pastor Alina Gayeuski, Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

Be Still – Holy Interruptions

As we enter the season of Lent, remembering on Ash Wednesday that we are dust and to dust we shall return, join Deacon Beth on **Saturday, February 29**, at the newly rededicated Penn Museum to explore images of life and death. We will meet at 10:00 am in the museum café and receive a brief orientation followed by time to explore the museum. All participants will receive a journal. Our Holy Interruptions workshop will end with story-sharing around a community meal in the cafeteria. Your cost is travel, admission to the museum, and lunch. Sign up in the lobby. See Deacon Beth with any questions.

Preparing for First Communion



It is our practice at Reformation that children receive their first communion at the desire of their parents.

First communion instruction is a take-home lesson set that can be completed at

your own time and pace. Once the lessons are completed, the family will set up a meeting with Pastor Alina, and then choose a date for the child to receive first communion.

This can be done for any age (or ages if you wish for siblings to receive first communion together) and can be done at any time of the year.

Families desiring for their child to receive their first communion should contact Pastor Alina.

Serve at the Welcome Church

On **Sunday, February 23**, we will provide hot beverages after the service at the Welcome Church. We will meet at Reformation at 2 pm and carpool to the Welcome Church, across from the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. The Welcome Church serves those who are living with homelessness. Sign up in the lobby. For more information, contact Deacon Beth or Linda Bucher.



Men: Hear Ken's Army Stories

The Men's Breakfast group is inviting all Reformation Men to our next Breakfast on **Saturday, February 8**. Our guest speaker is Ken Delmar, who has graciously volunteered to talk about his six years in the military service from Boot Camp to Discharge. Join us to hear Ken's unique perspective of Army life. Coffee and fellowship begin at 8:30 am, breakfast is served by 9:00 and the presentation starts at approximately 9:30 am.

Celebrate Valentine's Day



February is Valentine's month, as well as Heart Month, so grab your **Sweetheart**, wear some red, and join the Lunch Bunch at **Barnaby's Restaurant**, 5501

Pennell Road, Aston. We will celebrate Valentine's Day at noon on **Wednesday, February 12**. Sign up in the lobby. See Karen Chorney or Edna Bogert with any questions. All are welcome!

Donate to Support DAP Prom



This year DAP (Domestic Abuse Project) is hosting a Prom Pop-Up Sunday during their Teen Health Summit (not at Nana's Attic this year) on Wednesday, April 15. Help make prom dreams come true with

donations of gently worn prom or adolescent formal wear and accessories. Drop off now through March 31 at DAP's main office, 14 W. 2nd St., Media, PA, Monday-Friday, 8:30 - 4:30. DAP is also making themselves available to schools who desire a more personal experience within their building. For more information on the Teen Health Summit or to inquire about a school pop up, call Nicole Powell, Community Education Manager, (610) 565-6272. DAP provides counseling services, emergency shelter, legal services, medical advocacy and outreach for families in our community.

Mark E. Davis Scholarship

The Mark E. Davis Scholarship was established by The Rev. William and Irene Davis, following the death of their son, Mark. Applications for the 2020-2021 academic year are on the counter in the lobby or by contacting Gary Kamin at gdkamin@verizon.net. All applications and support materials must be received or postmarked by the May 1, 2020, deadline. Complete details can be found in the January Reformation Times. Any questions should be addressed to the following committee members: Sandy Coll, Ellen Conroy, Evan Davis, Rebecca Funk, or Gary Kamin.

YOUTH GROUP

Save The Dates

February 9 – College Care Kit Making

March 27-29 – Tuscarora Youth Retreat

May 3 – Scavenger Hunt and Dessert

Support CC Migrant Ministry

Chester County Migrant Ministry (CCMM) is a non-profit Christian ministry serving the immigrant community in Chester County and the surrounding area. Reformation partners with CCMM in their efforts to offer assistance with immigration procedures, citizenship classes, a Christmas for Migrants program, blankets, coats, health kits, donated furniture and appliances, distribution of food baskets, prayer shawls and other services. About 200 people per month visit the CCMM office for services and assistance.

The ministry transports over 100 people each year to the US Citizenship and Immigration Service offices in Philadelphia and delivers donated furniture and appliances to over 200 families annually. The Christmas for Migrants program provides Christmas gifts for over 120 families (approximately 600 people) each Christmas. CCMM is often the agency of last resort for many immigrants with a wide range of problems, and they serve a largely unchurched group who also are among the poorest of the working poor of the community.

If you would like to be directly engaged in volunteering with Chester Country Migrant Ministry, see Linda Bucher, Community Action Ministry Chair, or Deacon Beth

You
Belong 
in a Connection Group

Connection Groups are a great way to get connected or stay connected with others at Reformation.

You are invited to join a group and find a place to belong this Lent. All groups will begin meeting the week of February 23 and will meet for seven sessions at Reformation (unless otherwise noted).

Group leaders will contact group members with specific information after registration closes.

All groups are limited to 20 registrations. Please sign up online at relcmedia.org/lent or use a paper registration form available at the church. Registration will close on February 19.

Here are the Connection Groups being offered:

CG 1 – Classic Films from the Past

Sundays at 6:00 pm led by Ron Brzowski
Beat the winter blues by enjoying your favorite films and stars from yesteryear (like Jimmy Stewart, Katherine Hepburn, and Spencer Tracy).

CG 2 – Stretch, Pray, Eat

Mondays at 6:30 pm led by Kris Hughey
Enjoy a variety of 20-minute low-impact workouts, some prayer and reflection, and a light supper.

CG 3 – Searching for Sunday Book Discussion

Mondays at 7:00 pm led by Karen Chorney
(see description below)

CG 4 – Searching for Sunday Book Discussion

Tuesdays at 9:30 am led by Beverly Norton
Free childcare available

These groups will discuss our Lent book, *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans, which has been described as an invitation to consider “that faith has been misunderstood as a package of certitudes rather than a relationship of fidelity.”

CG 5 – *Visio Divina*: The Illuminations of the Saint John’s Bible

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm led by Karen Matthias-Long
Since the 6th century, monks have created hand-written bibles which included artwork known as illuminations. The Saint John’s Bible, completed in 2011, is the first completely handwritten and illuminated bible since the invention of the printing press. Hear the incredible story of its creation and learn the practice of *visio divina* (sacred seeing) as you explore some of the many spectacular images of this bible.

CG 6 – Games People Play

Wednesdays at 4:00 pm led by Sue Pritchard
Enjoy old-fashioned game-playing (board games and card games) for fun and fellowship. The first week will start with an easy card game, Wizard. Following weeks will feature favorites of participants or new games that are fun to learn.

CG 7 – Sewing For a Purpose

Thursdays at 7:00 pm led by Marian Filtz
Enjoy the fellowship and fulfillment that comes with sewing items such as hats for people undergoing chemotherapy, sewn prayer shawls, etc. Share your patterns or use others’ patterns.

CG 8 – Walk Local Labyrinths

Saturdays at 10:00 am led by Joyce McNally
This group will meet at and walk a different local labyrinth each week (all located within 25 miles). Labyrinth walking is a walking meditation, enjoyable by all ages (no prior experience needed). Each walk will have a spiritual intention and a book will be used to help with the Lenten journey. The first meeting will be at Reformation and will walk an indoor labyrinth.

CG 9 – Cheese With! Cheesesteak Adventure

Saturdays at noon led by John Grantland
Join the adventure to discover the best cheesesteak in Delco. The group will visit a different restaurant each week in search of the best Delco has to offer.

CG 10 – Re-evaluating and Re-aligning With the Spirit and Our Spiritual Practices

Saturdays at 2:00 pm led by Melissa Lavery
Re-evaluate, re-adjust, and re-align with the Spirit through personal reflection and contemplative practices. Learn about ways in which you can more deeply connect with self, others, and God using various contemplative practices and spiritual tools (e.g., yoga postures, breathing exercises, loving-kindness meditation, etc.).

On Groundhogs and Candles

Since at least the year 300, the Christian Church has celebrated February 2 as The Feast (or Festival) of the Presentation of Our Lord.

February 2 is the 40th day after Christmas. According to the gospel of Luke (2:22-40), Jesus was taken to the Temple on the 40th day after his birth for the required ritual presentation. The church has therefore celebrated this day as The Presentation of Our Lord.

For many Christians in Europe, February 2 has also been known for many centuries as Candlemas, the day on which candles which will be used in homes during the coming year are blessed.

In Luke's account, Simeon takes Jesus in his arms at the Presentation and proclaims that Jesus is "a light to reveal God to the nations." This association of Jesus with light led the church to use this occasion to bless candles for use in the coming year, hence "Candle Mass" or Candlemas.

February 2 is also the half-way point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. In many folk religions, beliefs and practices arose for predicting the coming of milder weather in the spring. Eventually, many of those traditions became associated with an animal predicting the weather. In Germany the badger became the weather indicator. For many centuries Candlemas Day was observed as Badger Day in Germany. German immigrants to Pennsylvania in the early 1700's brought this tradition and substituted the local groundhog for the badger.

So today, February 2 is best known to many Pennsylvanians (and others) as Groundhog Day. Much revelry is associated with this day in places like Punxsutawney (in western Pa.) and Pennsylvania Dutch areas like the Lehigh Valley as well as Berks, Lancaster, and other counties.

So Groundhog Day coincides with Candlemas because the Presentation of Our Lord is observed on February 2, a time at which early people longed to know how soon they would have relief from the cold winter weather.

When you hear the prognostication of Punxsutawney Phil on Groundhog Day remember that, regardless of the weather, we can trust that Jesus Christ is light of the world. That light has not and will not be overcome by the darkness of this world. We are called to let the light of Christ shine in us and through us as hope for the world.

Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

Bear Creek Camp Sunday

On **Sunday, February 16**, we celebrate the ministry of Bear Creek Camp. We will welcome a member of the camp staff to Reformation that day. A special program will be held during the Sunday School hour for all children and youth in the Community Room. Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend.

Summer Camp Registration

Registration is now open for all summer programs at Bear Creek Camp. To register, visit: bearcreekcamp.org.

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30 pm AA
2 Presentation of Our Lord SOUPer Bowl Sunday 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School & Adult Faith Builders 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Connections Group Leaders Meeting 1:30 pm Mah Jongg 8:00 pm Men's AA	3 1:30 pm FA Group 7:00 pm Alanon 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	4 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Women's AA	5 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Souls 7:15 pm Prayer Shawl 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	6 3:45 pm Music Together 6:30 pm Zumba 6:30 pm Library Committee 8:00 pm AA	7 6:30 pm Gratitude for Grandparents	8 8:30 pm Men's Breakfast 11:30 am Citizens Climate Lobby 7:30 pm AA
9 5th Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School & Adult Faith Builders 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Youth Group College Care Kit Making 12:00 pm Reformation Connect Luncheon 8:00 pm Men's AA	10 1:30 pm FA Group 6:30 pm Hospitality Ministry 7:00 pm Alanon 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	11 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm Council Meeting 7:30 pm Women's AA	12 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch 7:00 pm Souls 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	13 3:45 pm Music Together 6:30 pm Zumba 8:00 pm AA	14	15 Newsletter Deadline @ noon 7:30 pm AA
16 6th Sunday after Epiphany Bear Creek Camp Sunday 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School & Adult Faith Builders 11:00 am Worship 1:30 pm Mah Jongg 8:00 pm Men's AA	17 Office Closed 1:30 pm FA Group 6:30 pm Community Action 7:00 pm Alanon 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	18 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Women's AA	19 7:00 pm Souls 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	20 3:45 pm Music Together 6:30 pm Zumba 7:00 pm Eco-Ministry 8:00 pm AA	21 6:30 pm Gratitude for Grandparents	22 7:30 pm AA
23 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School & Adult Faith Builders 11:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Welcome Church 6:00 pm CG1 Classic Films... 8:00 pm Men's AA	24 1:30 pm FA Group 6:30 pm CG2 Stretch... 7:00 pm CG3 Stretching... 7:00 pm Alanon 7:00 pm Souls 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	25 9:30 am CG4 Searching... 12:00 pm Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm CG5 Visio... 7:30 pm Women's AA	26 Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm Worship 4:00 pm CG6 Games... 5:00 pm Ashes Under the Tent 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Worship	27 3:45 pm Music Together 6:30 pm Zumba 7:00 pm CG7 Sewing... 8:00 pm AA	28	29 10:00 am Holy Interruptions 10:00 am CG8 Labyrinths 12:00 pm CG9 Cheese... 2:00 pm CG10 Spirit... 7:30 pm AA

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church

102 West Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063 www.relcmmedia.org
Urgent Pastoral Care Line: 610-314-7747 All other phone calls: 610-891-0600

2020 Scholar-in-Residence Registration

Dr. Crystal Hall

Walking with the Risen Christ: Opening Scripture and Breaking Bread

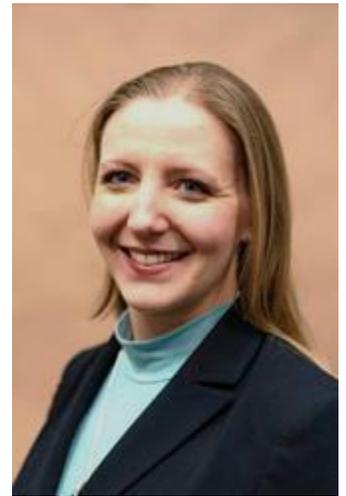
Saturday, April 25, 2020, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Dr. Crystal Hall is a professor of Biblical Studies at United Lutheran Seminary.

In her presentation Dr. Hall will explore Luke's Road to Emmaus story (Luke 24:13-35) and the way it connects with our lives as those who walk with the risen Christ now and how we are called to share this good news of resurrection.

Dr. Crystal Hall's research and teaching address the call to justice. Her research interests include Paul's writings, poverty and wealth in the Roman economy, ecology and liberation theologies. Her commitments include empire criticism, reading the biblical text within its historical contexts of empire, as well as feminist theory. She works to privilege voices that have historically been excluded from the classroom and the church.

Through the Contextual Bible Study methodology, Dr. Hall works to read the Bible prophetically with communities struggling against the structures that keep them marginalized. In addition to her work as an academic, Dr. Hall is a trained organizer and political educator. She has worked with organizations that draw on long lineages grounded in human rights, environmental justice and the leadership of the directly impacted. She has worked on staff with organizations including the Poverty Initiative (now the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice), United Workers and the Sierra Club.



Dr. Hall is a proud partner of Luis Larín. They reside in Baltimore. Dr. Hall enjoys salsa dancing, gardening and home improvement projects.

Registration is \$10 per person and must be postmarked by April 1.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Amount enclosed: \$_____

Make checks payable to Reformation Lutheran Church; write "S.I.R. 2020" on the memo line. Drop into the offering plate, or mail to **Reformation Lutheran Church, 102 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA, 19063.**



102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063
relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 am
Summer Worship: 8:30 am & 10:00 am

Pastors

The Rev. Wayne A. Matthias-Long
The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski

610-891-0600
www.relcmedia.org

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REFORMATION TIMES

February 2020

MISSION: Called by Christ,
we **INVITE** all people,
SERVE our neighbors, and
BUILD a living faith.

WELCOME: Called by Christ, we invite and welcome all people. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, age, abilities, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or employment status. We welcome all without regard to religious belief or identity, citizenship, political views, or anything that might divide us. Our unity is in Christ.

Sunday, February 2
SOUPer Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 16
Bear Creek Camp Sunday

Sunday, February 23
Serve at the Welcome
Church at 2 pm

Wednesday, February 26
Ash Wednesday Worship
at 12:00 and 7:30 pm