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# REFORMATION TIMES

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April 2020

**For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.**      *Romans 1:11-12*

Dear Members and Friends of Reformation,

Two thousand years ago, people were dependent on means of travel and communication which were primitive compared to our modern technology. Separated by long distances, St. Paul communicated with other Christians around the eastern Mediterranean by means of letters which could take weeks or even months to arrive. In those letters, he often spoke of how much he missed them and how he longed to be with his friends again (e.g., Romans 1:11, Philippians 1:8 and 4:1, 2 Timothy 1:4).

In this time of physical and social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are fortunate to have technology like telephones and computers which make it possible for us to communicate with each other, see each other even when we are apart, and even worship “together” remotely.

And yet we feel the absence of in-person interaction with our friends and families. We, too, long to be with you so that, as St. Paul said long ago to the Christians in Rome, “we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and [ours].”

We are encouraged by the knowledge that we are all traveling this unfamiliar path together and that each person in our community is doing their part for the greater good. Thank you for your faithfulness in this challenging time – it is an inspiration to others.

As we are following the direction of our state and local officials, all worship and programs are suspended and the church building is closed until further notice. We cannot know when the threat of this virus and the social isolation it requires will end, but we know that it will end. And we know that God is with us every moment of every day, sustaining us with the promise and the presence of God’s grace.

Until we are able to be reunited in the presence of one another, remember that we are already united in Christ by God’s Spirit who gives us the hope to face the challenges of this day.

These words of St. Paul express the joy and hope we have in you:

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. . . . Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.      *Philippians 4:1, 4-7*

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Beth Barkhau  
Pastor Alina Gayeuski  
Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long



*If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*  
 1 Corinthians 12:26

**Emily Dannaker** entered eternal life on February 20, 2020.

**Ed Bumby** entered eternal life on February 23, 2020.

**H. Madaline Heim** entered eternal life on March 6, 2020.

**Ben Thomas** entered eternal life on March 16, 2020.

**Jeannette Brown** entered eternal life on March 24, 2020.

**Jordan Mirarchi and Adam Schreiber** were united in marriage on March 28, 2020.

### ***Christ in our Home Is Available***

The daily devotional booklet, *Christ in Our Home*, which is normally available at the church, will be mailed to anyone who requests it as long as our supply lasts. Please contact the church office at [rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org) or at 610-891-0600 (leave a message) and we will be glad to send it to you. The current issue began with devotions for April 1 and continues through June 30.

### **Stay connected – go to [relcmedia.org/virtualchurch](http://relcmedia.org/virtualchurch)**

We are deeply indebted to Jennifer Troutman for creating the Virtual Church page and continually uploading information which keeps it current, useful, and meaningful. THANK YOU, Jen!

### **Faith At Work**

Members of Reformation are putting their faith into action in many ways during this crisis. One way some members are serving others is by sewing masks and chemo caps. Sally Burkam, Linda Bucher, and Ginny Winderman are just a few of the members who are contributing in this way. Sally is sewing masks which will be used at HUP. Ginny has sewn hundreds of masks for healthcare workers and others. Linda has sewn many masks (including those pictured below) as well as chemo caps. Masks have gone to DuPont Hospital in Wilmington and to Terri Alexander, who works as a nurse and is a member of Reformation. Please share with us the stories of ways in which you are serving our neighbors in these extraordinary times.



**REFORMATION TIMES**  
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Deadline: Noon the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month  
 Materials to: [newsletter@relcmedia.org](mailto: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

## Serving Our Neighbors – A Look Back and A Look Forward

Your acts of generosity and in-kind giving impacted hundreds of people once again in March.

- The *Thirst Quencher Team* served at Media Food pantry providing, “Love in A Cup.” Thirst Quenchers serve in a variety of places bringing seasonally hot or cool beverages and a listening ear to those who are experiencing food insecurity or life transitions.
- At the onset of the pandemic and implementation of social distancing, over 40 completed hygiene care kits were delivered to the Phoenix Recovery Home. The Phoenix’s director Brandt Norton recently wrote, “I extend a huge thank you to Reformation for providing our houses with toiletry bags for our new and current residents. What a blessing!”
- Over 100 hot nutritional meals were delivered to the Upper Darby Life Center by our Feeding the Homeless team the last Thursday in March. To learn more about engaging in outreach effort, contact Dave Smith, Reformation’s Community Action feeding the homeless coordinator.

During this time of social isolation and pandemic, the Community Action Ministry Team continues to stay in communication with all our outreach partners. Once the social distancing restrictions are lifted, we will again receive in kind gifts such as: care kits, food and household item donations for local food banks, resume direct services such as Thirst Quenchers for The Well, The Welcome Church, plan larger community ‘cook offs’ for Caring for Friends, and schedule volunteer servant site events with partnering agencies of care.

You can make a difference and help right now.

- Contribute to Reformation’s Holiday Offering Fund. By doing so, your Congregation Council, pastors and deacon can assist agencies of care and many nonprofits sites who are in desperate need of financial support.
- Give the gift of life, donate blood or plasma. In this time of pandemic there is a desperate need for blood and plasma. Visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and follow the prompts. If you have questions about what it might be like to make a donation, contact Jessica Reitano, Reformation’s Community Action blood drive coordinator.
- Return again and again to those meaningful, gentle, acts of kindness that build a living faith. Pray for this world, your neighbors, loved ones and friends. Pick up your telephone and make a check-in call to someone you have not seen for a while. Connect with someone by sending an encouragement card. Create a thank you note and offer it to someone who continues to work during this time of social isolation (your mail carrier, your trash truck driver, your take out window server, your nurse, radiologist, receptionist, teacher, care giver,...you choose!)

As we look forward, what will we do once the social distancing restrictions are lifted? Continue doing what we proclaim each Sunday and strive to live daily: invite all, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith!

- Deacon Beth Barkhau



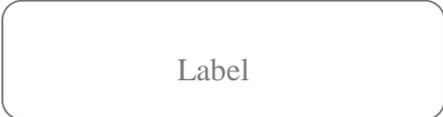
102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063  
relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

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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April 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.

Join us for worship and other  
faith building resources at  
[relcmedia.org/virtualchurch](http://relcmedia.org/virtualchurch)