
REFORMATION TIMES

July 2020

The Reformation *Gathering Safely Task Force* is working on protocols, policies, and procedures for minimizing the risk associated with COVID-19 in the ministries and programs of Reformation that will occur in the building and on the grounds. Until those are developed the building remains closed. Thanks be to God for the faithfulness of the members and friends of Reformation through whom the ministries of the congregation continue to flourish!

Work For Racial Justice

The sin of racism in our world, especially in our country, is one that must be named as part of the brokenness of our humanity. As people of God we are called to dismantle the systems that oppress others – especially our black and brown siblings in this world.

We continue to pray for peace, for understanding, for life, and most of all, for God's justice to come and renew the face of the earth as we do the essential work of eradicating racism from our communities. Together we are called to work for the future God desires for all of God's children.

We have collected resources meant to help us become educated on the issues of racial injustice and learn ways that we can be allies working to break down the things that divide us and oppress others. This is a part of our commitment to our Reformation mission in serving our neighbors and to the work of the gospel in this world. You can learn more and engage these resources at relcmedia.org/racialjustice.

What Fire Comes to Sing in You A Blessing

This blessing
had big ideas
about what it wanted
to say,
what it wanted you
to know,
to see.
This blessing wanted
to open your eyes
to the joy that lives
in such strange company
with sorrow—
wanted to make sure
to tell you,
lest you forget,
that no matter how long
it seems absent,
no matter how quiet
it becomes,
joy has never
been far from you,
holding a space
of celebration,

watching for you,
humming as it
keeps vigil.
But now that
it comes time
to speak it—
comes time to
lay these words
on your brow,
your beating heart—
all this blessing
can think to say is
*Look—
your life
a candle,
this day
a match.
Strike it and see
what blazes,
what fire comes
to sing in you.*

—Jan Richardson
from *The Cure for Sorrow*



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

Bill Swol entered eternal life on June 5. A private burial service was held.

Join the Movie Conversation

You are invited to participate in our online *Movies*



and *Meaning* group on **Wednesday, July 22**, at 7:00 pm. Registration for the discussion group is required. A Zoom link and discussion questions will be sent out in preparation for sessions.

You will find the link to register on our Virtual Church webpage. Try to watch the film on the streaming service you prefer within a week of our conversation. As you watch, pay attention to what you notice. What questions rise up in you? How does this film change the way you view the world and what does it call you to do? Then meet on Zoom for conversation and some additional background information about the film.

The film for the July 22 discussion is *Encounters at the End of the World*, a documentary by Werner Herzog. It is a film of spectacular landscapes, fascinating science, and eccentric characters. In addition to being a collection of fascinating stories, this film is a visual journey well worth taking. (Streaming on Vudu, YouTube, iTunes, Amazon Prime, Google Play)

Contact Karen Matthias-Long at kmatthiaslong@gmail.com with any questions.

Christ In Our Home

If you would like the *Christ In Our Home* booklet mailed to you, please email Anna Guy at rlc@relcmedia.org.

Help Fill the Freezer

A Caring for Friends meal supply pick-up and completed meal drop-off will be held at Reformation on **Tuesday, July 7**, and **Thursday, July 23**. Instructions are available at relcmedia.org/pandemicneeds. You will also find instructions to make “caring notes” which will be placed in snack bags. Caring for Friends provides meals for homebound and hungry people in the Philadelphia area.

Art in August

Join Deacon Beth for Art in August! Everyone is invited to participate in these interactive sessions on **Mondays, August 3, 10, and 17**, at 7:00 pm.

Gather your favorite markers, paint sets, pens, pencils, paper or canvas and join Reformation friends for three evenings of fun art engagement. Each Monday evening, Deacon Beth will introduce a world-renowned artist and highlight features of their work. Participants will then have time to create their own image based on the style of the artist. All members and friends of all ages are welcome to participate in these fun, colorful evenings. Art in August is a great opportunity to connect and create, all while building a living faith. Questions? Contact Deacon Beth deaconbeth@relcmedia.org.

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Published Monthly by
Reformation Lutheran Church

Deadline: Noon the 15th of every month
Materials to: newsletter@relcmedia.org

Congregation Council and Officers

Debbie Conley, *President*; Marilyn Gilroy, *Vice President*; Beverly Norton, *Secretary*; Tom Conroy, *Treasurer*; Pat Burke, Kristen Chorney, John Grantland, Megan Gress, Dick Hughey, Matteo Machado, Uli Neubert, Mike Polito, Pastor Alina Gayeuski, Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

Donate Back-to-School Supplies



The Faith Communities of Delaware County are collecting school supplies for local children in need of a little help to start the school year for 2020-2021.

Since we don't yet know when we will gather again in person, arrangements have been made for you to donate supplies by ordering from our Amazon Wish List. The items you order will be shipped directly to the crew that will fill the backpacks. You can find the wish list at <https://tinyurl.com/175Backpacks>.

Meet Online for Book Club

Read along with the Reformation Book Club and join in the conversation! The next meeting is Tuesday, July 21, at 7:00 pm to discuss ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens

You are invited to participate in the discussion whether you have finished the book or not! Contact Laura Reiter at longreiter@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is going virtual! Join us each day, July 12-16, at 6:30 pm for VBS! Each night will include a story, music, and special activities, as well as other activities for you to do at home with your family. ALL children are invited to participate! To register, please go to myvbs.org/relcmedia. Contact Pastor Alina if you have any questions.



Join the Second Sunday Social

Following worship on the second Sunday of the month in July and August, we will host a "Second Sunday Social," an opportunity for conversation and fellowship in a Zoom meeting. Look for the link in the Sunday emails and on the Virtual Church page.

Take the Eco Challenge

Over the past months, the pandemic has changed everyday life in a myriad of ways both expected and unexpected. Routines were upended, uncertainty and worry abounded, and our usual fast paced lives slowed down tremendously. We've had little choice but to put on our thinking caps and figure out new strategies to navigate the moment. And we've alternately been bedeviled or gifted with lots of time for reflection.

And now, as people of faith, what will be our takeaway from the pandemic? Will we look back at the photos of clear skies and cleaner air and think of them as merely a fleeting moment of relief for our planet? What insights, experiences, and new learning will inspire us to be better caretakers of creation after the pandemic? The Eco Ministry Committee invites you to answer the question below and share your thoughts with us. The collective wisdom and ideas received will be shared with the congregation in July, so that together we can energize each other to turn crisis into opportunity!

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." (Revelation 21:1a)

We invite you to consider and respond to the following question: During the pandemic, what environmentally friendly practice or perspective did you adopt that will help us bounce back better?

Learn more about our commitment to Eco Justice and submit your response at relcmedia.org/ecojustice.

Contact Eco Ministry Chair Marilyn Berberich mjberb@aol.com with any questions.





102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063
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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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July 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

Watch past worships at
vimeo.com/relcmedia