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# REFORMATION TIMES

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June 2020

Reformation will continue to follow the guidance of state and county officials while placing the highest priority on the safety and health of all those who enter our building. Changes in the current status of the use of the building will be communicated to all members and groups well in advance of such changes. We thank God that while the church building is closed, the church (you!) continues to be actively engaged in ministry.

## **A Public Statement by the Interfaith Council of Southern Delaware County**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his letter to religious leaders once said, "Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

We, as members of the Interfaith Council of Southern Delaware County, Pennsylvania, affirm the interrelatedness of our communities and states. When an injustice occurs in our society, we find it imperative to not sit idly by. We grieve when we see miscarriages of justice, and we name our grief with the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breona Taylor, and many others who have been victims of systemic racism and who cry out for equity. For what affects one affects us all. This is why we cannot remain silent. For silence in the face of hate is itself iniquity. We cannot be complacent or complicit.

We feel we must speak up and speak out, and are united in decrying oppression, the upholding of white supremacy, and discrimination in all forms. We can and must band together to fight the ravages of overt and covert racism.

As a consortium of faith communities, we will continue to pray and work to call out acts of hate that hurt and divide our community. We are one.

*This public statement from the Interfaith Council of Southern Delaware County was signed by the rostered staff of Reformation and our colleagues in the area.*

## Join the Movie Conversation

You are invited to participate in our online *Movies and Meaning* group on Wednesdays, June 17 and 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.

To participate, first register. You will find the link on our Virtual Church webpage. Then watch the film on the streaming service you prefer. Try to watch it within a week of our conversation. As you watch the film, 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 for conversation and some additional background information about the film in a Zoom meeting.

June 17 - ***The Queen of Katwe*** is a film based on the true story of Phiona Mutesi, a Ugandan who grew up in poverty and became a chess champion. This is not your typical Disney "feel good" movie. In fact, someone has said that this is a "feel true" film. It is a film full of heart but contains challenges to both patriarchy and colonialism. The director Mira Nair, an Indian-American, wanted to make a film so that Anglo-Americans could see life through the eyes of "the other." Phiona's story is one that, in some ways, everyone can relate to. Be sure to watch through the end credits. (Streaming on iTunes, YouTube, Google Play, Amazon Prime, Vudu)

July 22 - ***Encounters at the End of the World*** is a documentary film by Werner Herzog. More details next month.

Contact Karen Matthias-Long at [kmatthiaslong@gmail.com](mailto:kmatthiaslong@gmail.com) with any questions.

## 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, 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](mailto:deaconbeth@relcmedia.org).

## Fun With Trivia!

Join us for our next Trivia Night. On Friday, June 26, at 7:00 pm, we will host our next Reformation Trivia Night. This event is for all ages. Come join us for a night of fun and fellowship! Registration is required – visit our website for more information and to register. Contact Pastor Alina with any questions.

### REFORMATION TIMES

*Published Monthly by*

**Reformation Lutheran Church**

Deadline: Noon the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month

Materials to: [newsletter@relcmedia.org](mailto: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, Dick Hughey, Matteo Machado, Uli Neubert, Layla Phillips, Mike Polito, Pastor Alina Gayeuski, Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

## SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

### RLC is Feeding the Homeless

Reformation's Feeding the Homeless Team provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner on May 28 to Upper Darby Life Center residents. As the Life Center is currently being renovated, residents are being housed at various hotels throughout Delaware County. In support of our neighbors living with both housing and food insecurity, Feeding the Homeless - Community Action Ministry Team coordinators worked to ensure nutritious meals were distributed to these hotel locations.

As result of this engagement not only were people fed, but new outreach partnerships were forged with Wayside Deli and Upper Main Line Y Food Pantry. May's meal preparation and delivery again affirms Reformation's commitment to cooperative care and servant leadership. Thank you, Reformation!

To learn more about how you can support this ministry visit Community Action Agency of Delaware County's website at [caadc.org](http://caadc.org) or speak directly to Reformation member Dave Smith.



## 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 upcoming titles and dates are:

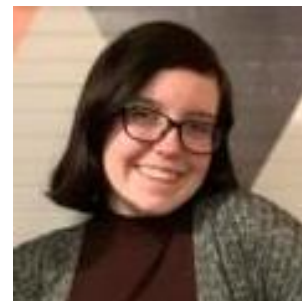
- June 23: ***Beantown Girls*** by Jane Healey
- July 21: ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens

You are invited to participate in the discussion whether you have finished the book or not!

Contact Laura Reiter at [longreiter@gmail.com](mailto:longreiter@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link for 7:00 pm on those dates.

## Welcome Back, Vivian!

Our 2019 Summer Intern, Vivian Long, is back with us for another summer! Vivian will be working on many of our virtual summer programs. Join us in welcoming her back to our Reformation team!



## 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](https://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 June, 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.



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

## Holiday Offering Fund Grants

In May the Holiday Offering Fund provided support to Circle of Giving 2020 and to the staff of the ICU at Riddle Hospital. Circle of Giving 2020 ([circleofgiving2020.weebly.com](https://circleofgiving2020.weebly.com)) is an organization started by two RTMSD moms to help families in need as a result of the Covid crisis. Working through the school district they are providing food to families in need in RTMSD and surrounding communities. Congregations which are part of the Interfaith Council of Southern Delaware County "adopted" departments at Riddle Hospital to thank and encourage them for their extraordinary work through the Covid crisis. Reformation has been sending notes and cards of thanks and a small gift card to all the staff of the ICU. Through the end of May, our Holiday Offering Fund has given nearly \$9,000 in emergency donations to 18 different groups.

## Watch Online Any Time

You can view past worships at <https://vimeo.com/relcmedia>



Pastor Alina, Pastor Wayne, and Deacon Beth lead worship on Sundays through Zoom.



## Council Members Installed

Members of the 2020-2021 Council were installed at worship on Sunday, May 31. We welcome newly elected Council members Pat Burke, Kristen Chorney, John Grantland, and Matteo Machado.

We give thanks for the faithful service of Emily Black, Talitha D'Italia, Skip Hoffman, Andrew Marcus, and Layla Philips, whose terms ended on May 31. We also thank those who served as

2019-20 officers: Dick Hughey, President, Talitha D'Italia, Vice President, Marilyn Gilroy, Secretary, and Tom Conroy, Treasurer.

2020-2021 Officers are Debbie Conley, President, Marilyn Gilroy, Vice President, Beverly Norton, Secretary, and Tom Conroy, Treasurer.

We give thanks to God for all these faithful servants!



2020-2021 Officers: Deb Conley, Marilyn Gilroy, Bev Norton, and Tom Conroy



Newly Elected Council Members: Pat Burke, Kristen Chorney, John Grantland, and Matteo Machado



Continuing Council Members: Megan Gress, Dick Hughey, Uli Neubert, and Mike Polito

## Congratulations High School Graduates!



**Olivia Biordi** is graduating from Penncrest High School where she was president of the National Art Honor Society and a member of the dance team. Outside of Penncrest, she was also a member of the PPAC Competition Dance Team,

and performed in numerous ballet and dance recitals. This fall she will be attending Temple University's Tyler School of Art & Architecture where she will major in Graphic Design.



**Miranda Polito** is graduating from Marple Newtown High School. She played the baritone in the band, sang in the choir, and acted in musicals. She was initiated into the National Honors Society her sophomore year and has participated in various

community service projects since elementary school. Miranda is planning to attend Marywood University in the fall and study interior architecture.



**Michael Cropper** is graduating from Penncrest High School. He will be attending West Chester University and his major is undecided at this moment. Michael played lacrosse all four years and was lacrosse captain his senior year.



**Joey Reitano** is graduating from Marple Newtown High School. His extracurricular activities include three years of marching band, concert band and jazz band. In addition, Joey achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 122 of Broomall, PA.

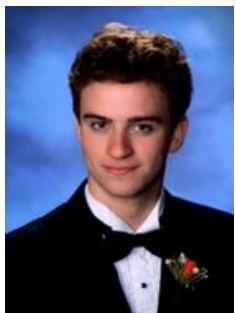
He will attend Temple University in the fall, majoring in architecture within the Tyler School of Art and Architecture.



**Lindsay Gamlin** is graduating from Penncrest High School, where she played varsity Lacrosse; managed the boys basketball team, and was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. She plans to attend the College of Charleston in the fall. She has not declared her major.



**Will Skarbek** is graduating from Springfield High School and plans to attend Temple University in the fall, majoring in business. He works at Thunderbird Pizza and enjoys spending time with his girlfriend and friends in his free time.



**Jack Walters** is graduating from Strath Haven High School this spring. In high school he played trumpet in the symphonic and marching bands, enjoying opportunities to travel to Orlando with the band and play at half-time of a Philadelphia Eagles game. He was a member of the high school track and field and cross country teams and enjoyed playing recreation baseball and basketball for Nether Providence and Media teams. He was an active member of the student government and enjoyed poker club. Jack will attend the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in science.



## Stay and Play Update

Dear Members of Reformation Lutheran Church,

In accordance with Governor Wolf's orders, we closed our doors on March 13. We had hoped to re-open before the end of the school year but that was not the case. Since our program does not run a summer camp, we will not re-open until the start of the 2020/2021 school year.

During the closure, we have maintained regular communication with our students and their parents through phone calls, e-mails, mailings and the oh-so-popular Zoom meetings. We have two drive by pickup days scheduled before the end of the school year so that families can pick up their child's items from their cubbies as well as art work that would have been showcased in our end of the year art show. As directors of the program, Diane and Marion are in the office 2-3 days a week. We have been sanitizing toys, inventorying supplies, tending to maintenance issues, staying on top of licensing paperwork and packing up the school for the remainder of the closure. Our staff have been busy finishing up their child observations and required trainings.

Since our families pay monthly, we issued credits to the families for the first 2 weeks of the closure since they paid for those days in advance. This resulted in a loss of just under \$7,000. Our parent representative decided to reach out to the families and see if they would donate their credit back to the program to help us offset the loss in our budget. We graciously received over \$4,500 of those funds back. We held an emergency board meeting in March, and it was voted that all our teachers would be paid until the end of the school year.

Additionally, during the closure, we were able to donate boxes of unopened food to the Media Food Bank. Thank you, Deacon Beth, for your help with this. We also had a parent who organized a collection to donate lunches to first responders. We are thankful to Pastor Wayne who has provided guidance and insight during this crisis and Paul Sterns who has responded to all our maintenance issues.

Diane P. Bullen, Director  
Marion Boas, Assistant Director  
[stayandplay@relcmedia.org](mailto:stayandplay@relcmedia.org)  
[relcmedia.org/stay-and-play/](http://relcmedia.org/stay-and-play/)

## Reformation Supports Foundation for Delco Covid-19 Response Fund

In May the Congregation Council voted to provide \$10,000 from our Endowment Outreach Fund to the Foundation for Delaware County Covid-19 Response Fund. The Foundation is providing substantial grants to frontline organizations serving vulnerable people in Delco – more than \$405,000 to 53 non-profit organizations as of May 28. Please visit their website ([delcofoundation.org](http://delcofoundation.org)) for more details about these grants. In the photo, Pastor Wayne presents the “over-sized” check to Frances Sheehan, President of the Foundation for Delaware County.





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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## REFORMATION TIMES

June 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)