
REFORMATION TIMES

October 2021

STEWARDSHIP

Renewed in Christ

By God's great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

In the midst of all the challenges of life, we live with hope because of the promises God has given us in Jesus Christ. The verse from 1 Peter 1:3 (with which we always begin the liturgy for Holy Baptism) reminds us that, regardless of our circumstances, we can be continually renewed in our hope because of the resurrection of Jesus and the gift of new life that gives us.

During the coming weeks in worship we will hear from several members their reflections on the signs of life and hope in their lives and here at Reformation.

As you hear their stories, consider the bountiful blessings of God and the opportunity God gives us to share them with others.

Your inspiring faithfulness and generosity continues to make it possible for us to fulfill our mission to *Invite, Serve and Build*.

In a few weeks, you will receive your 2022 *Annual Fund* pledge card. It can be completed and returned in the mail or online (more details will follow). We will celebrate Commitment Sunday on October 24.



Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 2

You and your pet are invited to a Blessing of the Animals service on Saturday, October 2, at 10:00 am. The service will be held outside near the gazebo. If your pet is unable to attend the service, please feel free to bring along a photo of your pet.

You are also invited to bring along a donation for the Providence Animal Shelter. These items are part of their wish list:

1. Gently used sheets and towels
2. Wet dog and or cat food
3. Unopened dry cat food
4. Soft dog treats
5. Rawhides (not made in China)
6. Dog collars
7. Cat toys

Christmas Cards Bring Hope Behind Bars

A holiday message of care brings hope to an incarcerated man or woman in prison. Join the efforts of The United Methodist Church Prison Ministry & Restorative Justice Team of the Eastern PA Conference and Reformation's Community Action Ministry Team to create one or many Cards of Hope for this 2021 holiday season.

Pick up your prison ministry Cards of Hope packet at Reformation. Follow the very important detailed instructions provided. All cards are to be returned no later than October 31, 2021 to the Cards of Hope box located in Reformation's lobby. Let's serve our neighbors offering Christ's renewing gifts of hope and love this holiday season. Questions? Contact Deacon Beth at deaconbeth@relcmedia.com.



If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

1 Corinthians 12:26

Ryleigh Audrey Fuller, daughter of Morgan and Fran Fuller was baptized at Reformation on August 21, 2021.

Logan Harry Stankiewitch, son of Matthew and Emily Stankiewitch, was baptized at Reformation on August 22, 2021.

Lillian Fontes celebrated first communion on August 29, 2021 at Reformation.

Irene Davis entered eternal life on December 8, 2020. A memorial service was held on September 11, 2021 at Reformation.

Join Our Worship Team

We are building our worship team schedule for October - December.

Please contact the office if you are interested in serving as an assistant minister, acolyte, communion assistant, crucifer, greeter, reader, sound board operator, usher, or if you want to volunteer at the welcome table.

Thank you for being an essential part of worship!



Students enjoy time at the playground for part of Sunday School.



Celebrate Erik and Leah

Erik Flaten, our Director of Contemporary Music, and his fiancée, Leah Golub, are getting married in October! Join us as we celebrate their upcoming wedding at 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 3. You are welcome to bring cards for the couple and join us for light refreshments outside to celebrate.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and birthday wishes.

- Mildred Royer

Prepare for First Communion

It is our practice at Reformation that children receive their first communion at the desire of their parents. This can be done for any age (or ages if you wish for siblings to receive first communion together).

First communion instruction is an at-home lesson set that can be completed at your own time and pace. Any time we celebrate communion as a congregation is a date that can be chosen.

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

REFORMATION TIMES

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Reformation Lutheran Church

Deadline: Noon the 15th of every month

Materials to: newsletter@relcmedia.org

Congregation Council and Officers

Debbie Conley, *President*; John Grantland, *Vice President*; Pat Burke, *Secretary*; Tom Conroy, *Treasurer*, Jamie Anderson, Rachel Bingeman, Kristen Chorney, Eric Hathaway, Uli Neubert, Bev Norton, Mike Polito, Tyler Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski, and Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long.

Commemorate St. Luke on October 17

On Sunday, October 17, we will commemorate St. Luke the Evangelist in worship. Tradition says that Luke was a physician by profession. As such, commemorations honoring him often include a rite of healing. During worship that Sunday we will include a full Rite of Healing with opportunities for prayer and anointing.

Celebrate Our Confirmands on October 17

On Sunday, October 17, during a special worship at 3:00 pm, ten students will affirm the promises made at their baptisms during the Rite of Confirmation.

The congregation is encouraged to celebrate with our students by watching the livestream of the service at relcmedia.org/virtualchurch.

This year's Confirmands are:

Madison Benzing

Jillian Hacik

Marissa Kamin

Megan Reagle

Matthew Sharer

Corinne Skarbek

Adelaide Smith

Benjamin Strain

Emma Strain

Ethan Strain

Together, we continue to pray for these young members as we celebrate what God is doing in their lives!

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Pumpkins on October 24

Youth in grades 6-12 and friends are invited to carve or paint pumpkins at Reformation on Sunday, October 24, from 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. Contact Pastor Alina with any questions.

Thanksgiving Treats on November 14

Youth in grades 6-12 and friends are invited to create special Thanksgiving Treats for our food bags that will be distributed to local organizations. We will gather on Sunday, November 14, from 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. Contact Pastor Alina with any questions.

In God's Image: Shaping Your Ministry to be Inclusive and Safe for LGBTQIA+ Folk

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Annual Event, In God's Image: Shaping Your Ministry to be Inclusive and Safe for LGBTQIA+ Folk, will be held on Saturday, October 9, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia (Mayfair). Deacon Ross Murray will be the keynote speaker and will present on his new book *Made, Known, Loved: Developing LGBTQ Inclusive Youth Ministry*. For more information or to register for the event, contact Pastor Alina.





God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change ... - Psalm 46:1-2a

Dear Reformation,

Autumn is my favorite season of the year (meteorologically speaking!). For me there is nothing more delightful than a cool, crisp fall day with the colors of the trees changing around me. It is this time of the year that always gives me wonder at creation and the way it shows the beauty of change.

We are entering a time of change in our congregation just as our world is entering this time of change. We are preparing to say goodbye and thank you to Deacon Beth for her wonderful ministry among us at Reformation. We know that we celebrate with her and this new chapter for her and Bob as they enter retirement and that we are saddened at this loss of the gift of her work in this community.

Through this time, we are reminded of God's enduring presence and promise for our future as a community of faith. As my favorite Psalm reminds us "God is our refuge and strength" through any changes or challenges that come to us. (Or, as we will sing later this month, the hymn inspired by this Psalm reminds us: "A mighty fortress is our God!")

During this time, we continue to be reminded of the amazing things God does with change and we celebrate that promise that God's love for us never changes. Through these days of fall may we all be reminded of that gift as we look towards the future and where God is calling us.

Blessings,
Pastor Alina

Prison Ministry Thank you Notes

In February and March 2021 members and friends of Reformation wrote letters to inmates at SCI-Chester prison. Anne Metz, coordinator of Letters for Chester, has provided responses written by the recipients. Below is the last installment of these notes of gratitude from the inmates who receive our letters. To learn more as to how you can participate in future prison ministry in our region, please reach out to Linda Bucher at lindabucher1@verizon.net.

“ I am very grateful for your letters of hopefulness and concern. Thank you for thinking of us here as people because sometimes it's hard to move forward in life knowing I will be a felon for the rest of my life. Please keep me in your prayers as I've already added you to mine!! ”

“ This is just a short note of thanks. I thank you sincerely for your words of encouragement and positivity, and I must say that no truer words have been spoken...again I thank you. God bless and be blessed. ”

Let the Sewing Continue *Dress A Girl*

Dress a Girl Around the World is off to a strong start. We can already picture girls wearing their dresses and smiling! If you are interested in learning more or sewing with Dress a Girl, please contact Joyce McNally at 610-532-0318 or mcnallyjoyce@aol.com. Training is always provided. On Sunday, October 3 we will bless the colorful 65 dresses sewn thus far during both worship services. Thank you, Reformation! Join us in impacting a life one dress at time!



Reformation Library is OPEN!

Please come and enjoy the offerings of the Church Library which is now open for lending! Thank you to those who donated books over the past year including Deacon Beth, Ellen Conroy, Laura Reiter, and Sue Bianco. Ponder the power of reading with this quote from one of our recent library donations:

“What an astonishing thing a book is. It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.”

Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*

ECO Tip

- If you have a ceiling fan, reverse the direction. The fan should be run in a clockwise direction (stand under the fan and if you feel a breeze, reverse the direction so that air is being drawn upwards). This pushes the air up against the ceiling and down the walls, to gently re-circulate the warm air without creating a cooling "wind chill effect."
- Do you have a fireplace? This is a good time to have the chimney cleaned and get vent systems checked.
- Check windows for proper caulking. If you have single-pane windows, add storm windows. Even a plastic film over windows will reduce heat loss.

Electronics Recycling Event

Reformation and our neighbors, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County, are hosting an electronics recycling event for the community on Saturday, October 23, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

PAR Recycle Works will be on site to receive the recyclable items. PAR works with formerly incarcerated individuals to provide work experience and tech skills.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Pastor Alina.





REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO A

Fall Fest
to celebrate
Deacon Beth Barkhau

Let us celebrate Deacon Beth's ministry at
Reformation!

NOVEMBER 7 • SUNDAY • 3 PM - 5:30 PM
OUTSIDE AT REFORMATION

**3:00 - 5:00 pm: Food Truck • Campfire •
Yard Games • Playground •
Time for Fellowship with Deacon Beth and Bob**

**5:00 pm: Evening Prayer and Thanksgiving at the
Conclusion of a Call**

**Please bring your own chairs
and dress for an outdoor event!**

RSVP Requested: relcmedia.org/fallfestsvp

In the Community

INTERFAITH PHILADELPHIA

Art of Interfaith Understanding

Interfaith Philadelphia is offering three Art of Interfaith Understanding tours co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Division for Community Engagement.

All programs will be guided by Rev. John B. Hougen, PhD, a consultant with Interfaith Philadelphia and a volunteer guide at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Due to current restrictions on group tours at the museum, all upcoming tours will be offered virtually.

Cost: \$20 / \$10 with scholarship

(Each tour is valued at \$40, but donors make it possible for us to offer participants this discounted rate.)

Art of Change

Sunday, October 3, 2:00—3:30 pm

Wednesday, October 6, 7:00—8:30 pm

We will contemplate and discuss four art works: two from Mexico, one from Europe, and one from India. All four artists had strong convictions and sought to reform the societies in which they lived. Guided meditations and discussions will reveal the spiritual and religious dimensions of the paths these artworks urge us to follow. We will explore our responses to their calls for action.

Visit interfaithphiladelphia.org/art for more info.



**Interfaith
Philadelphia**

SWARTHMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **Anti-Racist Faith Lecture Series**

This fall, SPC is excited to host a lecture series that will continue our anti-racist faith formation. An Anti-Racist Faith seeks to inform and undergird the work to which we are called, opposing racism endemic to our society, while promoting racial tolerance that strengthens the fabric of our common life. From a policy statement adopted in 1999 by the General Assembly of the PC(USA), entitled Facing Racism, “We believe antiracist efforts are an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. We believe our work is inherently intersectional in dismantling all systems of oppression, and so, we desire to come together in ways that can transform lives and perpetuate values that will change both church and society.” To this end, we’ve invited speakers with expertise in biblical studies, Presbyterian church history, liturgy and theology, to bring this anti-racist work into conversation with Scripture, church and denominational history, and our practice of worship.

In the afternoon on Sunday, October 17, Dr. William Yoo (Columbia Theological Seminary) will build on this foundation to lead us in a lecture via Zoom, sharing his work on the history of slavery and anti-Black racism in Presbyterianism in the United States.

The capstone to our series will be to welcome the Rev. Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes (Union Theological Seminary) on Sunday, November 21, who will help to develop and lead liturgy in worship that morning and follow up with a lecture that afternoon on anti-racist language and practices of worship.





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Sunday Worship: 8:30 am Indoor & Online Worship
11:00 am Indoor & Online Worship
Worship services are livestreamed to our virtual church page.

Pastors

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

Return Service Requested

Label

REFORMATION TIMES

October 2021

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.

Saturday, October 2
10:00 am Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 17
8:30 am & 11:00 am Worship
St. Luke Celebration
3:00 pm Confirmation

Saturday, October 23
9:00 am - 1:00pm
PAR Recycle Works
Electronics Recycling Event