

# REFORMATION TIMES

December 2023

## Longing for the Light

**December 3** is the First Sunday in Advent. Worship that day will include our "Longing for the Light of Healing and Hope" liturgy which includes a Prayer Litany and, optionally, Candle Lighting and Individual Prayer for Healing.

## Advent Gospel Procession by Children



There will be a special opportunity for children to be involved in worship during the season of Advent, beginning on **December 3**. Children will be invited to help the preacher bring the Bible forward from a table in the back of the sanctuary and stand around the preacher for the reading of the gospel. Everyone will then continue with the Sermon on the Steps as usual in the service.

## Parents Night Out

Reformation youth and adult volunteers will offer a game night for children ages 3 - 10 on Friday, **December 1**, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, so parents can go holiday shopping or on a date night. The suggested donation is \$25/child (and \$20 for each additional child). All proceeds go toward our upcoming trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans! Please reach out to Pastor Eileen with any questions or to reserve a spot.



## Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note: Except for Christmas Day, all services will be held in person and online.

### December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship at 10:00 am

Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00, 6:00 & 8:00pm.

All worships include Carols, Candlelight and Communion.

**4 pm** – a special service designed especially for children.

**6 pm** – a service featuring familiar carols sung in an upbeat contemporary rock style.

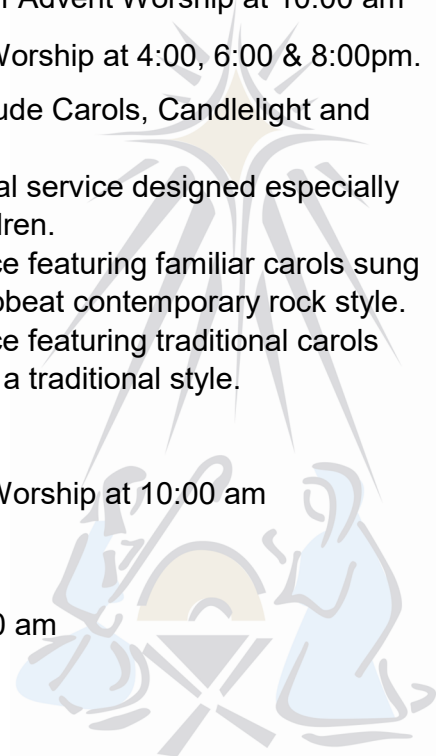
**8 pm** – a service featuring traditional carols sung in a traditional style.

### December 25

Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am  
(Online only)

### December 31

Worship at 10:00 am





Please note there will only be ONE SERVICE on the following dates:

December 25  
10:00 am Worship  
Online Only

December 31  
10:00 am Worship



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

*1 Corinthians 12:26*

Welcome **Sabrina** and **John Pitonyak** who joined Reformation on **October 22**.

**Nadia Jordan Pitonyak** child of **Sabrina** and **John Pitonyak** were baptized on **October 22**.

**Jane Schock** entered eternal life on **October 12**. A funeral service was held on **November 4** at Reformation.

Welcome **Kris Buonfiglio** who joined Reformation on **November 5**.

Welcome **Anita Barrett** who joined Reformation on **November 5**.

## Sunday School Dates



All children from birth to grade 6 are invited to join us for Sunday School. Children's Choir is for children age 4 to grade 5. Special Sunday celebrations are for all children and youth at Reformation. Contact Pastor Eileen with any questions.

Sunday School will be held on:

December 3  
December 10  
December 17

Small Stars will be held on:

December 3

Children's Choir schedule:

December 3  
December 17



## Council Highlights

The November Council meeting included these highlights:

- Updates on the annual stewardship and capital campaigns.
- Appointment of Brett Conley to a 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-year term as an Endowment Trustee.
- Approval of new members.
- Approval of proposed constitution and bylaw changes to be sent to the congregation for action at the Annual Meeting.
- Approval of funding requests for the establishment of a Mental Health Support Fund from the Endowment New Program Fund and support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Beit Jala from the Endowment Outreach Fund.

## Reformation Facebook Group



Did you know we have a Facebook group in addition to our church page? Scan this QR code to join!

### 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

John Grantland, *President*; Debbie Conley, *Vice President*; Laura Reiter, *Secretary*; Marian Filtz, *Treasurer*; Jamie Anderson, Madison Benzing, Kristen Forster, Eric Hathaway, Gabby Parker, Kaylee Troutman, Pastor Alina Gayeuski and Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan.

wrap up some justice

## SHOP FAIR TRADE ITEMS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Reformation is the first Fair Trade certified congregation in Pennsylvania in America's first fair trade town!

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### COFFEE

Shopping for someone who loves their morning coffee? Seek out fair trade sellers such as Equal Exchange!

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### CHOCOLATE

Add something extra sweet to stockings with some fair trade chocolate! Look for the fair trade symbol on items that can be found in most candy aisles!

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### ACCESSORIES

Jewelry, scarves, and more are items handcrafted by artisans around the world. Stores like Ten Thousand Villages offer a great selection of these fair trade gift items.

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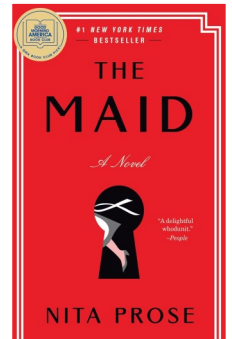


### HOLIDAY DECOR

Make your Christmas extra special with fair trade decorations. Check out the collection at websites like [serrv.com](http://serrv.com).

## Library Book Club News

Who doesn't love a great "who dunnit?" mystery to read over the holidays? Join us on Tuesday, **January 23** at 7:00pm via Zoom for a discussion of the award-winning debut novel ***The Maid*** by Nita Prose. All are welcome! Contact Laura Reiter for more details at [longreiter@gmail.com](mailto:longreiter@gmail.com).



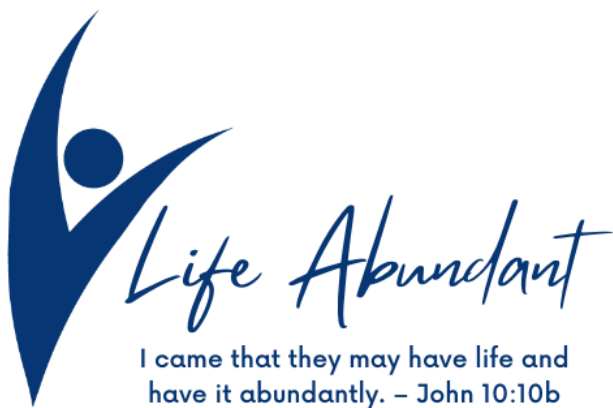
About *The Maid* from Goodreads.com:

Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by.

Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has been navigating life's complexities all by herself. No matter—she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. Her unique character, along with her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette, make her an ideal fit for the job. She delights in donning her crisp uniform each morning, stocking her cart with miniature soaps and bottles, and returning guest rooms at the Regency Grand Hotel to a state of perfection.

But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanor has the police targeting her as their lead suspect. She quickly finds herself caught in a web of deception, one she has no idea how to untangle. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had unite with her in a search for clues to what really happened to Mr. Black—but will they be able to find the real killer before it's too late?

A Clue-like, locked-room mystery and a heartwarming journey of the spirit, *The Maid* explores what it means to be the same as everyone else and yet entirely different—and reveals that all mysteries can be solved through connection to the human heart.



## Capital Campaign Update

On October 29, we returned our Estimates of Giving for the *Life Abundant* Stewardship Campaign and Capital Campaign. We are certainly witnessing abundant generosity from you!

As of November 5, we have received:

- 56 Annual Fund pledges
- 27 Faith Engagement Fund pledges
- 51 Capital Campaign pledges totaling \$331,424

Reformation, we are continually blown away by your abundant generosity that makes our worship, fellowship, education, and service possible! You truly go above and beyond as a community invested in our mission to invite all people, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith. Thank you for all that you do and for your continued generosity!



## Lead a CONNECTION Group

CONNECTION Groups will be starting the week of **February 11** and gathering for 7 weeks. If you have an idea for a CONNECTION Group and would like to be one of our leaders, please contact Pastor Alina or Pastor Eileen by **December 15**. Past groups have included Faith and Fitness, Book Discussions, Labyrinth Visits, Cheeseburger Adventures, Local History, Old Movies, Art, and more! Share your interests with others and make some new connections!

## Parkinson's Support Group



Come and bring your caretaker to share your story and your thoughts on how you are living with Parkinson's. Each person's story will help to support others in your journey to live well. We will explore all you need to know and use, to help find continued happiness. Sharing and caring is

the support we all need. This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 576 Concord Road in Glen Mills in the parish hall, which is handicap accessible.

For more information please email [darreeclark@gmail.com](mailto:darreeclark@gmail.com) or go to [SaintJohnsConcord.com](http://SaintJohnsConcord.com).

## Grief and Loss Group

**Grief and Loss Group**

 **GRACE**  
Lutheran Church

The Wellness Center  
2191 W Chester Pike,  
Broomall  
Enter from Mather Ave

Wednesdays, 7-8 pm

Pay what you can; professionally facilitated

For more info:  
610-356-1824 or [gracebroomall@gmail.com](mailto:gracebroomall@gmail.com)

Grace Lutheran Church hosts a Grief and Loss Group every Wednesday evening. Please contact them at 610-356-1824 or [gracebroomall@gmail.com](mailto:gracebroomall@gmail.com) for more details.

## Explore the Holy Land!

Pastor Alina and Pastor Dan will be leading a trip to the Holy Land for Reformation and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches, family, and friends. The trip will be **January 7-17, 2025**. More information will follow, but if you are interested in being part of the trip, contact Pastor Alina to be added to the list!



## Upcoming Youth Events



- **December 3** – Breakfast Club
- **January 7** – Breakfast Club
- **January 21** – Youth Gathering Meeting

## Winter Connect Weekend



CONNECT is a fun-filled weekend at Bear Creek Camp to share with camp friends and returning summer counselors in activities unique to BCC in the winter! The weekend kicks off on Friday night and runs until Sunday after lunch. Cost for the weekend is \$130 per person. Registration is now open and closes on Wednesday, **December 27**.

4th -12th Grade - **January 12—14**

Learn more at <https://bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp/>.

## 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 Eileen.

## Eco Tip for December

While Christmas shopping, consider giving eco-friendly or homemade gifts to those on your shopping list:



- Purchase green presents including energy saving items
- Books on green living
- Bicycles
- Mass transit passes
- Gift certificates to health food stores or organic restaurants
- Membership in an organic farm or co-op
- Donations to organizations that support the environment.

## Reinhard Scholar Thank You

*Dear Reformation,*

*Thank you so much for your generous gift and your invitation for me to visit the congregation.*

*Everyone was very warm and welcoming, and I enjoyed getting to know the congregation better. If Sunday (10/8) was any indicator, there are many amazing things happening at Reformation, and the Spirit is at work in you. I loved being present to help bless the Fresh Change bags as well. This scholarship not only allows me to cover additional costs for school (books, transportation), but also reminds me that people are praying for me and supporting me emotionally and spiritually. Thanks again and I hope to see you all in the near future.*



*Blessings,  
Cassandra*



*All ate and were filled – Mark 6:42*

Dear Reformation,

One thing I love about holidays is the food! I grew up in a family with a grandmother who absolutely loved to cook and create in the kitchen. When I think about walking into her home, it is the smells from the kitchen that are always my first memory. (And I could not wait to grab a warm spinach patty fresh from the stove as she was still making them!)

This connection makes the work we do at Reformation to ensure that all are fed at the holidays even more important. We know that these connections to tradition and family are what create the most central memories and points of joy in our lives.

We have just completed collecting 45 bags of food that were distributed by local organizations for Thanksgiving and we are starting to collect another 45 for Christmas.

But this commitment to feeding our neighbors extends far past our local connections. Each month we gather an offering for the ELCA World Hunger. In the past several years, that collection has been about \$7,500. This year we are on track to donate nearly double that amount! (Look for the final total in the Annual Meeting Materials!)

Your gifts and continued commitment to making sure all are fed is a remarkable reflection of our abundant generosity and the gift of life we want to ensure for all of God's people.

To learn more about the work that our gifts to the ELCA World Hunger enable, visit [elca.org/worldhunger](http://elca.org/worldhunger).

Thank you for your generosity and helping to make sure that all are fed!

Pastor Alina

## Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to help decorate the tree and hang wreaths and pine roping on Sunday, **December 17**, after worship. Join us also for the Unhanging of the Greens on Sunday, **January 7**, after the 10:00 am worship.



## Light the Advent Wreath



If you are interested in serving as an Advent Wreath lighter at one of our worships during the Advent season (**Sundays, December 3, 10, 17 and 24**), please contact the church office ([rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org)) and

tell us the dates and worship time you are able to serve. If you are already on our Worship Team, you can choose your date directly through the scheduling system.

## Shoe Collection for Sanctuary Village Update



Thanks to your generosity, we collected 152 pairs of shoes for Sanctuary Village! Sanctuary Village will be paid by the pound for the shoes collected and shoes will be sent to developing countries and sold by micro-entrepreneurs, stimulating their local economies. This will also keep shoes we collect out of landfills and incinerators.

## Pastor Eileen's Hair Color Fundraiser Update

The total collected during the month of October was \$994.04. The winning hair color was emerald green (or Eagle's Kelly Green?) by a landslide! These donations will go towards getting our Youth Group to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Thank you for your generosity!



# Interfaith Philadelphia

## ***Visionary Women: Rooted in Faith, Committed to Justice***

Visionary Women is an intergenerational program engaging issues at the intersection of religion, gender, race, and social justice concerns. As we move to create a group that is culturally, religiously, and ideologically diverse – we encourage participation in this experiential dialogue. Participants do not need to identify with a religious tradition or be a member of a congregation to enroll.

Since its conception in 2016, Visionary Women sessions offer immersion in five religious settings and facilitate the creation of meaningful relationships in a small group environment. Interfaith Philadelphia encourages and supports participants of Visionary Women to continue their interfaith learning and collaboration with each other outside of our monthly meetings and moving forward within their own communities.

**Six Sessions: January - May 2024,  
2:00-5:00 PM**

**January 7:**

2:00-3:30 pm Orientation/Welcome (Virtual)

**January 21:**

Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge  
(In-person)

**February 11:**

Beth Am Israel (In-person)

**March 17:**

Unitarian Universalists of Mt. Airy (In-person)

**April 28:**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day  
Saints (In-person)

**May 19:**

Greater Community Bible Tabernacle  
(In-person)

For more information and to register, please go to [interfaithphiladelphia.org/events](https://interfaithphiladelphia.org/events).

## **Faith-Life Forums**

Throughout the year, during the Education hour on Sunday morning, we will offer opportunities to learn about topics at the intersection of faith and life. Our next forum will be Sunday, **December 10** at 9:45 am with Michelle Brown, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County. Michelle will discuss the work that DAP is doing in the county and ways you can further support their work.

Save the date for upcoming Faith-Life Forums on **April 7** and **April 14** when Pastor Alina will present about her Doctor of Ministry research.

## **Media NAACP Luncheon**

The NAACP Media Area Branch cordially invites you to our 2023 Freedom Fund and Foot Soldier Luncheon. This event, which celebrates our collective efforts towards equality and justice, will be held on Saturday, **December 16**, at the prestigious Springhaven Country Club in Wallingford, PA.

Please RSVP by Friday, **December 8**, to confirm your presence at this significant gathering at: [NAACPMediaFreedomFundLuncheon.eventbrite.com](https://NAACPMediaFreedomFundLuncheon.eventbrite.com).

**NAACP**  
Media Area Branch

Freedom Fund & Foot Soldier Luncheon 2023  
*99 years and Counting Down to Our 100th Jubilee!*

**Keynote Speaker**  
Renee Chanault- Fattah  
Executive Director, Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity  
Broadcast Journalist and Former NBC10 Anchor

**DEC 16**  
12:00-3:00 PM

**THE SPRINGHAVEN COUNTRY CLUB**  
600 S Providence Rd, Wallingford, PA 19086

[WWW.NAACPMEDIABRANCH.ORG](https://WWW.NAACPMEDIABRANCH.ORG)



## Finance Smart

by Christine Corson

Have you given your brain a workout lately? To be **Finance Smart**, you need to exercise your brain in creative ways. Try this fun seek and find puzzle to give your brain a little workout today!

R	T	X	G	F	H	V	R	N	W	A	I	L	X	R
G	C	S	E	M	W	J	O	R	O	K	M	J	I	S
I	K	A	N	F	L	O	Z	T	R	X	N	D	N	P
V	L	C	E	M	I	D	R	Z	L	R	C	Z	V	O
I	C	R	R	C	F	Y	L	S	D	H	D	E	I	X
N	Y	I	O	F	E	U	C	O	H	Z	D	P	T	T
G	C	F	S	K	A	O	R	R	U	I	H	L	E	L
Z	W	I	I	W	B	W	A	F	N	N	P	E	I	H
W	M	C	T	B	U	I	L	D	G	O	Q	D	Z	G
C	P	E	Y	C	N	V	R	P	E	J	S	G	T	E
M	F	M	B	U	D	I	O	U	R	P	E	E	X	Q
M	S	U	K	S	A	T	D	T	L	U	R	V	B	S
G	I	F	T	S	N	J	A	W	D	Z	V	R	T	Z
G	J	A	F	E	T	D	K	Z	R	U	E	H	F	K
C	A	P	I	T	A	L	C	A	M	P	A	I	G	N

LIFE ABUNDANT

SERVE

GENEROSITY

INVITE

BUILD

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

WORSHIP

WORLD HUNGER

SACRIFICE

GIVING

GIFTS

LDR

PLEDGE





## Kris Buonfiglio



I was born and raised in Souderton, PA. In 2010, I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications Media from Lock Haven University. I'm currently studying to obtain my

Masters in Organizational Management next year. I have lived in Media since 2020 and work as an Office Manager in King of Prussia. I dream to work more in creative arts as a writer someday. Writing, storytelling, acting, crafting and video games are some of my hobbies and passions. I am a member of two organizations: Swords and Stories, a theatrical stage group that focuses on promoting chivalric virtues of knighthood for the modern world and The Society for Creative Anachronism, an international and inclusive living history organization. I found Reformation online during the pandemic and started attending services virtually. I love the values that Reformation holds and I greatly appreciated seeing their support towards social issues and the LGBTQIA+ community. When I finally started attending in person, everyone has been genuinely kind to me and made me feel at home. Although I don't know how long I'll be living in Media, for now I really felt called to make Reformation my church home and I'm glad I said "yes" to this.

## Give a "Good Gift"



As you plan for the coming season of gift-giving, consider a gift of hope and love that can help make a difference in the world with ELCA GOOD GIFTS.

The ELCA Good Gifts Catalog has more than 40 options, with prices ranging from \$10 (for 10 chicks or to stock a backpack with food) to \$1,000 (for an ox and plow) with many other possibilities in between, from health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, seminary education to evangelist training.

It's easy to give an ELCA Good Gift.

Choose your gift by browsing the website at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) or by checking out the display in the lobby outside the sanctuary.

Make your donation to ELCA Good Gifts.

Get a card. You can pick up a card on the display table. If your gift is in honor of a friend or loved one, it's easy to tell them about it. A selection of printable cards and eCards are also available to print at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts).

(While gifts to [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives, there are other ways to give similar gifts. You may want to visit the website of Lutheran World Relief at [lwrgifts.org](http://lwrgifts.org) for additional "good gift" options.)

## Holiday Food Bags

Just a friendly reminder that Christmas bags must be returned (along with any cash or gift card donations) to Reformation by Sunday, **December 10**. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!



## SAVE THE DATE Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars—our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **January 28** at noon in the church sanctuary. More details to come!

## SAVE THE DATE Reformation Connect!

Interested in learning more about Reformation and exploring what membership means? Join us for a session on **Sunday, February 4**, at 9:45 am in Creighton Hall. This time will explore the ministry opportunities at Reformation and discuss what it means to join Reformation. Contact Pastor Alina or Pastor Eileen with any questions or to RSVP.

## Sound System Volunteers Needed



We are in need of some additional volunteers to help with our sound system during worship.

No experience necessary!

For more information, please reach out to one of the pastors or contact the church office.

## Get Involved with Community Action

Help us serve our neighbors! Volunteers are needed to join our community action team in various service opportunities throughout the year. Community Action is responsible for things like our Holiday Food Bags, Lent Care Kits, Souper Bowl, St. Nick Drive, and more! Participation in community action can be as little as once a year or as often as monthly; the needs of our neighbors never stop! For more information or to get involved, contact Linda Bucher at [lindabucher1@verizon.net](mailto:lindabucher1@verizon.net) or Pastor Eileen.

## How to Access the Reformation Church Directory



If it's been awhile since you accessed our church directory, here is a refresher on how to do so - either by using the app or your favorite web browser:

### **From your smartphone or tablet:**

1. Download the app "Instant Church Directory" from the App Store, Google Play or Kindle Fire
2. Open the app and enter your email address as it is listed in the directory.
3. Check your email for the code.
4. Enter the code into the app.
5. Enjoy access to the online directory.

### **From your computer:**

1. Go to: [members.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com).
2. Click "Church Member Login."
3. Find "First Time Signing In?" and click "Create a Login Now."
4. Enter your email address and create a password.
5. Verify your email address by clicking the link in your email account.
6. Sign in with your email and new password.

If you are unable to login or have any questions, please contact Andrea at [rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org).





## Seen Around Reformation

There is always so much to see at Reformation. We thank you for sharing your photos with us! *Please remember to send your photos of recent events to: [newsletter@relcmedia.org](mailto:newsletter@relcmedia.org).*



The "Kids Table" is set for the Sunday School students on Sunday, October 15, in preparation for the wedding banquet bible lesson.



The "Lunch Bunch" gathered at the White Dog Café in Glen Mills on November 2. They will meet again on Wednesday, December 6 at Riddle Village. Contact Linda Lorino for more details.



Sunday School students learning about the wedding banquet on October 15.



Pastor Eileen revealed her winning hair color from our Youth Group fundraiser on November 5, and John Grantland joined in on the fun. Go birds!



Dick and Kris Hughey teaching our Sunday School students about hymns from all around the world on November 5.



The Big Band from the Valley performs at Reformation on November 5.



102 W. Rose Tree Road • Media, PA 19063

relcmedia.org • 610.891.0600

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. Alina S. Gayeuski  
The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan



**Return Service Requested**

Label

## REFORMATION TIMES

### December 2023

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

**WELCOME:** Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.

Sunday, December 10

St. Nicholas Day

Sunday, December 17

Blessing and Hanging  
of the Greens

Saturday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Worship at 10:00 am  
Christmas Eve Worship at  
4pm, 6pm and 8pm

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Worship at 10:00 am  
(Online only)

Sunday, December 31

Worship at 10:00 am