

# REFORMATION TIMES

May 2025

## Summer Worship Schedule



Please note that our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, **May 25** and will continue through Sunday,

**August 31**. Summer worship times are 8:30 am and 10:00 am.

## Graduate Info Needed

Information is needed for our students graduating from high school! Please send the following for your graduating senior to [pastoreileen@relcmedia.org](mailto:pastoreileen@relcmedia.org) by **May 25**.

1. Name
2. School they are graduating from
3. Current photo
4. Baby photo

Graduates will be celebrated at both worship services on **June 1**.



## Spirit Day



On **June 1**, we invite you to show your school spirit by wearing apparel from any school to worship!

## Blood Drive Success!

Reformation hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive on March 22 and a total of 30 units of blood were collected. Thank you to everyone who donated!

SAVE THE DATE!

## Vacation Bible School



This year's VBS will be held from **July 21 - 25** from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Be sure to mark your calendar! For more details, please visit [myvbs.org/relcmedia](http://myvbs.org/relcmedia) or reach out to Pastor Eileen.

## Youth Service Camp

Reformation  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# YOUTH SERVICE CAMP

Youth entering Grades 6 - 12

Saturday, June 28, 2025

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

REGISTER  
HERE:

Learn - Serve - Advocate

Please contact Pastor Eileen for more details.

## Rose Tree Road Clean Up Success

by John Berberich

Thank you very much from Eco Ministry to all the people who turned out for our spring 2025 Rose Tree Road clean up including: Vincent Barrett,\* Joan Selby,\* Cristina Selby,\* Victoria Selby,\* Sarah Bocian,\* Lillian Bocian,\* Paul Fernandez,\* Kate Fernandez, Dick Hughey, Kris Hughey, Carol Muller, Marilyn Berberich, John Berberich. (\* Indicates first-time participants.) This was a record turn out with a large group of first-time participants. We collected 19 bags which was way more than usual, due to our earlier scheduled cleanup before the weeds grew and covered most of the debris.





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

1 Corinthians 12:26

**Quincy Brian Summers**, son of Gabrielle and Brian Summers, was baptized on **March 23**.

**Nora Dooley, Stella Dooley, Etta Epperson, Mckenzie Fuller, Parker LeGrand, Brianna Marcus, Victoria Selby, Quinn Sena-Urban, Hunter Wayne, and Anthony Welsh** received their Bibles during worship on **March 23**.

**Jameson Ellis Lavery** received his first communion on **April 6**.

**Betty Bell** entered eternal life on **March 20**. A funeral service was held on **April 12** at Reformation.

**Patrick Semo** received his first communion on **April 13**.

**Doris Kemper** entered eternal life on **March 26**. A funeral service was held on **April 16** at Maris Grove.

## Sunday School Dates



All children from birth to grade 6 are invited to join us for Sunday School. Special Sunday celebrations are for all children and youth at Reformation. Contact Pastor Eileen with any questions.

Sunday School will be held on:

May 4

May 18 (*Last Day of Sunday School*)

## Small Stars (Ages 0-3)



Join us for story time, play, and music for infants and toddlers on Saturday, **May 3**, at 9:30 am in the church nursery. Come join us for our last Small Stars until the fall!



## Council Highlights

The April Council meeting included these highlights:

- Welcomed Vicar Bruce to Reformation!
- Approved new members
- Approved funding requests from benevolence funds to support KenCrest's Taste the Possibilities event

## 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.

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

## Upcoming Youth Events



- **May 4** - Breakfast Club, Confirmation with Mentors, Youth Group 12 - 1:30 pm
- **May 18** – Last Day of Confirmation



## Summer 2025 Theme Announced and Registration is Now Open!



"All Together" is about the connections that unite us—at camp and beyond. Like intertwined roots, together we grow stronger through love and service, grace-filled faith and belonging and community. Bear

Creek Camp's overnight program is centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living, and small group development for all children who have completed grades 1-12. Each age group experiences a mix of small-group and all-camp activities throughout the week to meet their group's spiritual, social, and developmental needs. For more information and to register, please visit [bearcreekcamp.org/camps](http://bearcreekcamp.org/camps).

## Join the Delaware County Children's Chorus!



delaware county  
children's chorus

Does your child love to sing? Let their voice shine with Delaware County Children's Chorus! This exciting new choral program offers a joyful and welcoming space for young singers, with no audition required!

Ensembles:

Choristers (Grades 2-4): Tuesdays, 5:15-6:30 pm

Chorale (Grades 5-8): Tuesdays, 6:45-8:00 pm

Location: Reformation Lutheran Church,

102 W. Rose Tree Rd, Media, PA

Season Starts: **September 2, 2025**

Registration Opens: **May 1, 2025**

Give your child the gift of music and community!  
Visit [delcochildrenschorus.org](http://delcochildrenschorus.org) for more details.

## ELCA Draft Social Message on Child Protection and Maltreatment

Dear friends,

On March 21, the ELCA released a draft social message on child

protection and maltreatment. This draft social message is in

response to a request from the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and addresses the church's calling to protect and nurture children and youth, both within the church and within society more broadly. We are writing in hope that you will participate in the public comment period on this draft.



You can read the draft social message and complete an online survey by visiting [tinyurl.com/3fpcjeec](https://tinyurl.com/3fpcjeec). You can also email comments, affirmations, questions or concerns about the draft social message to the Theological Ethics team of the ELCA churchwide organization at [draftsocialmessage@elca.org](mailto:draftsocialmessage@elca.org). The survey and public comment period will be open until June 30,

ELCA social teachings are developed through a process of communal deliberation across the church, and your feedback will be prayerfully considered as this draft is revised. Your perspective is important to this process, so we hope you will find time to review the draft and share your comments.

A revised, proposed social message will be sent to the ELCA Church Council this fall for possible adoption as the newest social teaching of our church. If adopted, this social message will serve as a guide for people of faith to think theologically and ethically about children and the church. It will also serve as an official policy document to guide the church's public witness and to support policies at the congregational, synodical and churchwide level. Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

In Christ,

Ryan P. Cumming

ELCA Program Director of Theological Ethics,  
Education and Community Engagement

Roger Willer

ELCA Director of Theological Ethics



## Lutheran Night at the Phillies



SEPA Synod is organizing three options for Lutheran Night at the Phillies this year! Please register yourself by going to [tinyurl.com/44trmhxt](https://tinyurl.com/44trmhxt) or scanning the QR code



and using passcode "Lutheran".

A portion of each ticket sale supports SEPA Youth programs.

## Life Center Update



Our next serving date is **May 22**. Watch for our sign-up sheet and casserole pans in the lobby. For more info about this meal program and to offer your

assistance, please contact Dave Smith, [yanky68@comcast.net](mailto:yanky68@comcast.net) or 610-719-7190.

## Thank you, Reformation!

Dear Reformation,

I am extremely grateful for the outpouring of support as I recover from my recent medical issues. The cards and emails have been a source of joy and encouragement.

I feel very lucky to belong to such a strong faith community.

*Dave Helms*



## Eco Tips for May

*by John Berberich*



### RELAX!

This is probably the easiest Eco Tip of the whole year. We ask you to 'just do nothing' this month. Leave the lawn mower in the shed, put your feet up and let the grass grow. Your lawn can help! A healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground. Even the smallest grassy patches add up to a significant proportion of our land. If managed properly, this can deliver enormous gains for nature, communities and the climate. Enjoy!!

## Giving Thanks

*by Pamela Poe*

For that first sip of hot tea  
each morning,  
I give thanks.

For writers with wisdom  
on Zoom screens,  
I give thanks.

For fellowship in every  
Connect Group,  
I give thanks.

When silence and the dark  
are soft and welcoming,  
I give thanks.

When I hear bad news and  
can notice the helpers,  
I give thanks.

When volunteers or workers  
bring joy to others,  
I give thanks.

For working limbs and signs  
of healthy aging,  
I give thanks.

For small miracles all  
around me in all ways,  
I give thanks.

For furry beasts, random  
creatures and curious birds,  
I give thanks.

In the quiet and noisier  
symbols of hope,  
I give thanks.

Thank you. Thank you. Always, thank you.  
Thanks be to God for this day.



## Welcome, Barbara Ryan!



I was born a Lutheran. My maternal German grandparents were born Lutherans. I have a daughter who lives in Manhattan with her husband and my 2 granddaughters ages 6 and 8. I was confirmed at St. Andrew's in Audubon,

PA and married at Trinity in Havertown where I have been a member for 45 years. I have been very active in the life of the church including church council, Sunday school, financial secretary for 25 years and most recently Treasurer for 6 years. I moved to Media 7 years ago and I want to be a member of a thriving church near my home where I can develop local friendships and create a bond with all of you. I love the beach, traveling, walking through nature, and doing cryptograms and crostics. Thank you for welcoming me!

## Welcome, Beatrice Semo!

I am from Rome, New York. I moved to PA in 1999 to be with Michael, my husband. I was a special education and life skills teacher before transitioning to being a stay-at-home-mom. Now that my four children are older, I have gone back to teaching life skills 1:1 part-time and doing a variety of volunteer work such as AGTS & Meals on Wheels. I love to use my artistic and creative skills to do a variety of crafts.



## Holiday Offering Envelopes

Did you know that our Holiday Offering envelopes help Reformation live out our generosity every day? All gifts received through any special holiday envelope or given online and designated as holiday offering is used completely for benevolence.



This fund enables us to match other special offerings and make our gifts go twice as far and allows our Council to respond quickly to other needs in the community. In 2024, over \$15,000 moved through our Holiday Offering fund and out into the community and the world.

Please remember to use these special envelopes and help our reach go further! Thank you for the ways you continue to live out the generosity of God's love in this world!

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

**thrivent**

Do you have products through Thrivent? Some of their financial products come with the

benefit of Choice Dollars that can be directed to the nonprofit of your choice! These funds need to be designated annually to that nonprofit. Reformation is eligible to receive these choice dollars. This money is used for special projects at the church. Please remember to make your Choice Dollar elections and connect with your Thrivent Representative if you have any questions!

## Capital Campaign Update



A special Capital Campaign Update newsletter was sent out in March! All updates are always available at [relcmedia.org/lifeabundant](http://relcmedia.org/lifeabundant).



# FROM THE PASTOR

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God - 1 John 4:7

Beloveds, our theme this program year has been “Beloved Community,” and we’ve been intentionally thinking about what it means to live out mutual love and care for one another. One of the ways we are called to be in a beloved community in this particular time and place is to care for the immigrants and refugees in our country who are living in fear. For the month of May, we want to challenge the congregation to raise money for Global Refuge (formerly LIRS) in one of two ways.

Reformation member Linda Bucher has created a limited number of beautiful, hand-made pins from our Beloved Community logo, pictured below. These limited edition pins will be available on a first-come basis for a \$50 donation, 100% of which will support the mission and ministry of Global Refuge. Not interested in a pin? Donate on our website through the Global Refuge giving option, by cash or check in a designated Global Refuge envelope, or note Global Refuge on your Venmo contributions.

Reformation’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team will also match up to \$1,000 raised for Global Refuge in the month of May. We hope you’ll join us in being the beloved community together in this way!

In Peace,

Pastor Eileen (she/her)



## Finance Smart

by Christine Corson



I think you will agree that it’s been a long cold and flu season. With warmer weather finally here, we should be able to get together with family and friends without the worry of getting sick or being contagious. Being contagious is not a good thing when it comes to illnesses. But unlike the worry of giving your sickness to someone you love, giving of yourself is actually a good kind of contagious!

For example, when someone gives you a gift on Christmas, you may feel the desire to give them a gift in return. Another example is the generosity at Reformation, especially to the Capital Campaign. With the generosity this congregation shows on a daily basis, one can’t resist the urge to give! When one person gives, it makes another person want to give because giving spreads happiness and love, and the fruit of giving is evident in the physical and spiritual works around them.

Giving is contagious and very powerful, and it doesn’t have to be monetary. You can give basic necessities like food or clothing donations or even donate your time for a good cause. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6) so get out there and be “giving contagious”! And remember, giving of any kind always makes you...**Finance Smart!**

## 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.

## Ushers Needed!

We are in need of some additional volunteers to usher during worship—especially for the late service. For more information, please reach out to one of the pastors or contact the church office.



## Volunteer at PRIDE!

Every year, Reformation sponsors and participates in the Delaware County Pride Festival! This year you are invited to help us at our Reformation table on **June 14** for any amount of time between 1:00 - 6:00 pm. Contact Pastor Eileen to sign up!



## Lent Sermon on the Steps Books

Did you like the children's books read during worship this Lent? Consider picking one up for your own library or for a child in your life:

- The Gift of Baptism (Hutchinson)
- What is God Like? (Held Evans)
- The Good for Nothing Tree (Levine)
- A Church for All (Pitman)
- Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too (Grant)

## Overdose Prevention Program



The Pennsylvania Overdose Prevention Program is providing free Naloxone as well as drug-checking strips designed to detect xylazine and fentanyl. Reformation keeps

Naloxone stocked in our first aid kits located in the main lobby and in Creighton Hall kitchen. For more information, please visit [pa.gov/agencies/ddap/overdose/overdose-prevention-program](http://pa.gov/agencies/ddap/overdose/overdose-prevention-program).

## Ascension Day Worship



Join the congregations of the SEPA Synod's Delaware Conference for Ascension Day worship on Thursday, **May 29** at Christ Lutheran Church, Upper Darby. Fellowship will be at 6:00 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm.

The Rev. Annemarie H. Cook, Program Director for SEPA Synod Faith Alive, will be the preacher.

## Upcoming Concerts at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Wallingford:

*Concerts at Holy Trinity*

Come and hear the many musical offerings that Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has to offer! All concerts are free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken at each concert to support Holy Trinity's music program.

Friday April 25 at 7:00pm - Liz Jones, *Soprano* & Reid Simmons, *Piano*

Friday May 9 at 7:00pm - Braden Mulcahy, Reid Simmons, and Julia Williams, *Woodwinds and Keyboard*

Sunday May 18 at 3:00pm - 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Community Love Concert, Reid Simmons, *Director*

Sunday July 27 at 3:00pm - Farewell Concert, Reid Simmons, *Director*

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
927 S Providence Rd, Wallingford, PA 19086  
Jennifer Casey, Pastor  
Reid Simmons, Director of Music



## Community Love Concert! May 18, 3:00pm

Love singing in choir? Join in choral singing with community members near and far. Create beautiful music in high energy rehearsals.

Sing in a nonreligious concert to raise funds for LGBTQIA+ youth!  
**All people ages 14+ are welcome to join in singing regardless of faith, race, sexuality, or gender!**

### Rehearsal Dates:

(All must attend 3 rehearsals in addition to the dress rehearsal in order to participate in the concert)

Saturday 4/26/2025 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Sunday 4/27/2025 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Saturday 5/3/2025 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Sunday 5/4/2025 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Saturday 5/10/2025 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

**DRESS REHEARSAL (required):** Saturday 5/17/2025 from 12:00pm - 3:00pm

927 S Providence Road, Wallingford, PA

Questions?: [holytrinity927music@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinity927music@gmail.com) or 610-874-8652


Pastor, Jenn Casey | Director of Music, Reid Simmons

**CALLING ALL SINGERS!!!** You are invited to sing in Holy Trinity's 3rd Annual Community Love Concert. The goal of this concert is to assemble the largest possible "pop up" choir made up of passionate community members who love to sing and are united in spreading the message of love, peace, unity, and justice through the power of music. This concert is 100% secular. For more information on any of these events, please email [holytrinity927music@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinity927music@gmail.com).


## Grief Support Group

Be there for each other.

# Grief Support Group



2nd and 4th Wednesdays • 6:30 PM • Enter on Mather Ave • Suggested \$10 donation\*



**GRACE**  
Lutheran Church

2191 W. CHESTER PIKE, BROOMALL  
GRACEBROOMALL@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFO  
*\*No one will be turned away for lack of donation.*

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

## ELCA Women's Gathering



Save The Date


# THE GATHERING FOR THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA SOUTHEAST PA SYNOD

06.07.2025

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MEDIA, PA

Reformation will be hosting the "WELCA" gathering on Saturday, **June 7**. Please reach out to Joy Grace at [joygrace414lna@gmail.com](mailto:joygrace414lna@gmail.com) for details.

## Upcoming Events at Grace Lutheran, Broomall




**GRACE**  
Lutheran Church

# PUB THEOLOGY

WHERE CURIOSITY IS ALWAYS ON TAP

MAY 21, 5:30 PM  
THE ALE HOUSE IN NEWTOWN SQUARE

**This month: What is Islam?**  
We continue exploring Abrahamic religions by discussing the major tenets of this often misunderstood religion.




BAPTIZED WE LIVE SERIES

# BIBLE STUDY


**This month:**  
Putting the protest in Protestant

What is the scripture behind the Reformation?  
How does that shape us today?

May 14, 1 pm  
Fellowship Hall



**GRACE**  
Lutheran Church





## Ride/Walk for Understanding

Join us! Help us amplify awareness of our work and support our mission

**Sunday, May 4**

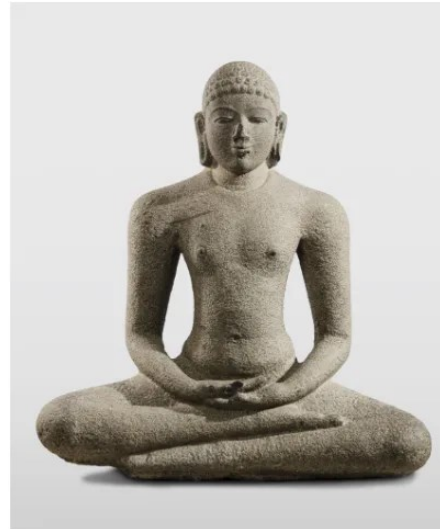
1:00 pm

Schuykill River Trail:  
Betzwood Trail Head  
175 Sullivan's Bridge,  
Norristown, PA 19403



Register for this and other events at [interfaithphiladelphia.org](http://interfaithphiladelphia.org).

## Art of Interfaith Understanding: Sacred Art from Asia: A Sampling



Many in the Western world find spiritual resonance with the faith traditions of the East. Our tour of the PMA's collection of Asian art will bring us face to face with art that introduces us to beliefs and practices of several Asian faith traditions. Our goal will be to respect each object and what it represents while pondering whether (or not) there is kinship with our own spirituality/faith/worldview.

**Sunday, May 18**

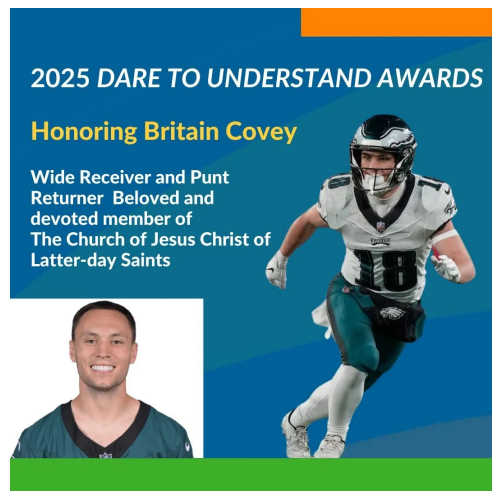
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Facilitated by Rev. John B. Hougen, PhD,  
Coordinator, Art of Interfaith Understanding Series.

Register for this and other events at [interfaithphiladelphia.org](http://interfaithphiladelphia.org).

## 2025 Dare to Understand Awards



Join us for the 2025 Dare to Understand Awards ceremony honoring Britain Covey, Philadelphia Eagles #18, Wide Receiver and Punt Returner, and beloved and devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, **May 15**, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Chapel, 1682 Wood Street, Philadelphia, PA. For more information, please visit [interfaithphiladelphia.org/events/2025-dare-to-understand-awards](http://interfaithphiladelphia.org/events/2025-dare-to-understand-awards).



## 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).

# Connection Group Edition!



Connection Group 1: Exercise for the Mind, Body & Soul.  
Led by Kris Hughey.



Connection Group 4: Soup & Study.  
Led by Karen Chorney.



Connection Group 2: Bagel and Bible.  
Led by Pastor Alina.



Connection Group 5: Count Your Blessings in Color.  
Led by Patty Boccella.



Connection Group 3: Lent Journey with Spiritual Authors.  
Led by Pamela Poe.

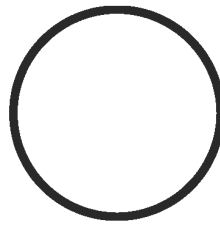
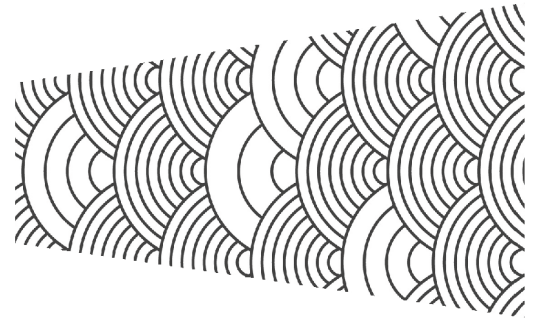
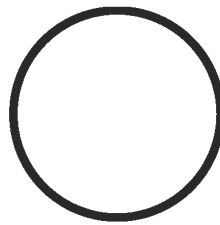
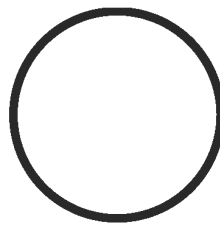
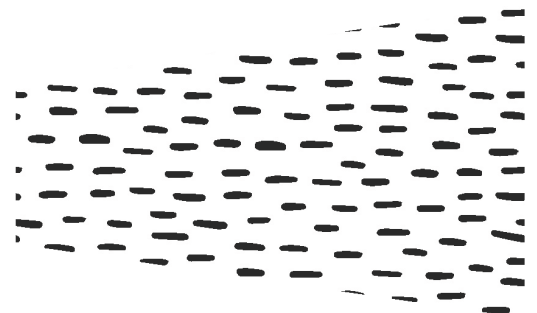
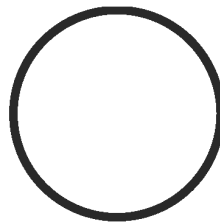
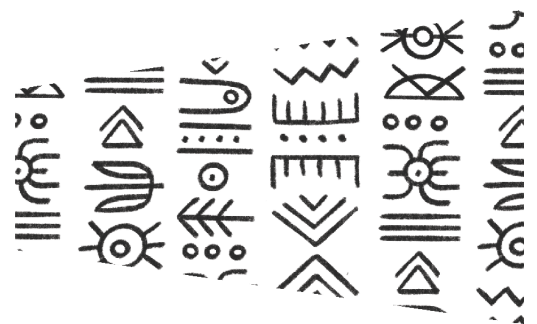
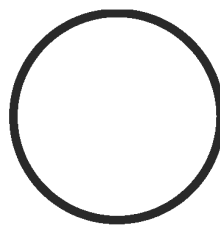


Connection Group 6: Finding Spirituality in Nature.  
Led by Joyce McNally, Louise Clarke & Marilyn Berberich.



# Pentecost

Flames stood over each person there and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit! – Acts 2:3-4







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. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski

The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan



**Return Service Requested**

Label

# REFORMATION TIMES

**May 2025**

**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, May 4

Thrivent Sunday

Sunday, May 11

Mother's Day

Saturday, May 25

Summer Worship  
Schedule Begins!