
REFORMATION TIMES

September 2021



2021-22 PROGRAM YEAR THEME

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

These words from First Peter are spoken at the beginning of our baptismal liturgy in worship as we prepare to witness the pouring out of God's promises. Each time we hear these words we are reminded of how, through baptism, we are all renewed in Christ.

According to tradition, Martin Luther once said, "When you wash your face, remember your baptism." For Luther, the act of remembering that we are baptized and renewed in the promises of God's love should be as frequent and daily as the simple act of washing our face. And each time we are reminded of the renewing of God's promises for us each new day.

Throughout this year ahead, as we continue to navigate much that will be unknown and uncertain, we continue to hold to the promises of God that claimed us in baptism and continues to renew us every day. We invite you to discover those moments of renewal at Reformation through worship, fellowship, learning, and serving together as we live out our mission and celebrate our life in Christ.

Thanks to Kristen Ziegler for designing the logo for our theme.

Masks Required in Worship

Due to the rapid increase in COVID cases in our area, worshippers are again required to wear masks while in the building at Reformation and are encouraged to be vaccinated (if eligible). This change was made to bring us into compliance with CDC guidance. Thank you for taking this small step to comply with Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself.

Rally Day is September 12

Rally Day is Sunday, September 12! Our regular worship schedule resumes that morning with worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am. Please plan to join us that morning as we start another great year of life here at Reformation!

Blessing of Backpacks on September 12

Bring your backpacks to worship on September 12 for a special blessing as we celebrate the start of another school year and God's blessings in our lives every day!

**Connection Groups are back!
See Page 6**



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Luca James Zamonski, son of Lauren and Brandon Zamonski, was baptized at Reformation on July 25, 2021.

Hudson William Jeremiah Spieker, son of Colleen Spieker, was baptized at Reformation on July 25, 2021.

Arlene Moyer entered eternal life on August 19, 2020. A memorial service was held on August 12, 2021 at Reformation.



Joe McHugh, professional drummer and member of Souls Band, led our Fun In The Sun Day Drum Circle on August 8.

Irene Davis Memorial Service

A memorial service for Irene Dodd Davis, mother of Ellen Davis Conroy and Rebecca (Davis) Prince Funk, mother-in-law of Tom Conroy and grandmother of Will and Carter Prince and Liz and Andrew Conroy will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 11:00 am in the church.

Visitation prior to the service. A luncheon to follow (tentatively at the church).

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Campfire and S'mores on September 19

Youth in grades 6-12 and friends are invited to a campfire with s'mores at Reformation on Sunday, September 19, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Contact Pastor Alina with any questions.

Join Our Worship Team

We are building our worship team schedule for September—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!

REFORMATION TIMES

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Reformation Lutheran Church

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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, and Tyler Troutman.

Gazebo Dedication

On Sunday, September 26, at 12:00 noon, we will dedicate the gazebo that is given in memory of Deb Felton. Join us for this special dedication with music from Lansdowne String Quartet and light refreshments. All are welcome!



Clara Ward's 100th Birthday!

Clara Ward will turn 100 on September 11. Please join us to shower her with cards on this special occasion.



Fair Acres
340 N. Middletown Road
8C Room 304A
Lima, PA 19037

SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

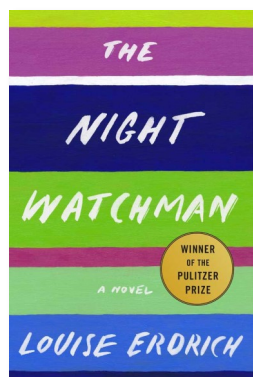
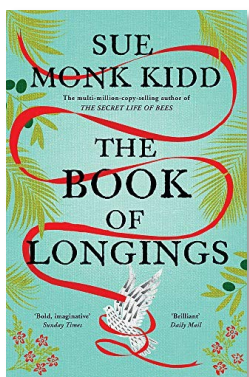
Clothe Those in Need

The National Giving Alliance (formerly the Needlework Guild of America) is once again collecting underwear for men, women, and children of all ages. Donations may be placed in the bins labeled "Underwear Collection" which will be located outside the main church entrance. The collection began August 1 and continues until September 15. Help will also be needed on October 6 to sort the donated items for distribution. Contact Sally Burkam for the October 6 time and location, or with any other questions.

Reformation Book Club

The Reformation Book Club will meet on Tuesday, September 21, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. We will discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd .

The last gathering of the year will be Tuesday, November 16. We will discuss *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. The meeting will possibly be in person - location and time to be determined at the September meeting.



THANK YOU

Gardening Angels Hard at Work

Our Gardening Angels have been busy all summer maintaining the beautiful flowers and shrubs which enhance the appearance of our building and grounds. Thanks to Toini and Peter Scherer, Sandy Coll, and Jeannie Robertson for their tireless efforts to care for the beauty of creation.

THANK YOU

Successful Summer for the Property Team

Thanks to our dedicated Property Team, nearly 70 maintenance tasks were completed this summer in and around the church building. We are grateful for the faithful work of the team which includes Ron Bingeman, Dave Black, Ron Fender, Bill Grauer, Dave Smith, and Paul Stearns, Property Ministry Chairperson.

“God’s work. Our hands.”



September 2021

GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS

Opportunities to Serve in September

Join with family and friends to volunteer with Kids Against Hunger, located in Broomall, PA. Kids Against Hunger is an agency dedicated to eradicating world hunger and assisting in the lives of those unemployed and underemployed who live with food insecurity. During the month of September, visit the ‘e’ Kid’s Against Hunger Sign Up Genius link below. Pick a day and time that works best for you to volunteer. Let’s use our hands to do God’s work!

tinyurl.com/fillbackpacks

Blessing of the Hands

On Sunday, September 26, we will celebrate God’s Work, Our Hands (GWOH) with a special hand blessing at both the 8:30 am and 11:00 am services. Wear any t-shirt to worship that day to celebrate our life together: your Reformation’s golden rod God’s Work, Our Hands or Live Generously shirts or any Reformation swag!

HEEDING GOD’S CALL

Memorial for the Lost and A Prayer Walk for The World

Reformation will host the September 2021 Delaware County Memorial to the Lost, an advocacy and remembrance display. Created by Heeding God’s Call to Prevent Gun Violence this installation will be on our grounds from September 4 to September 25. Visitors are encouraged to park in the east parking lot adjacent to Rose Tree Road and highway 252. Pick up an informative resource packet at Memorial to the Lost welcome kiosk. Take time to walk among the memorial set up along Reformation’s walking path. Pause to contemplate, to mediate, and to pray. Questions? See any member of the Reformation staff or the Community Action Ministry Team.

Double the Saturday Service Opportunities, Double the Fun!

On Saturday September 25, two servant opportunities take place at Reformation.

At 9:30 am we gather in the east parking lot to dismantle the Heeding God’s Call – The Memorial to the Lost located on the Reformation grounds. Before we take down the installation we will gather for a brief prayer service. If you would like to assist with this effort many hands and hearts are needed. Reach out to Community Action Ministry Team leader Linda Bucher at lindaucher1@verizon.net if you have any questions. There is something for everyone of every age to participate in!

Starting at 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, also in the east parking lot, Reformation will host the Delaware County Cradles to Crayons (C2C) “Big Give.” Volunteers are need for one hour shifts to assist with donations and Reformation hospitality. Visit cradlestocrayons.org/philadelphia/take-action/donate-goods/ to learn what is currently needed. Take an hour and assess if you have slightly used baby to teen clothing. Help us help Cradles to Crayons spread the word. Sign up to volunteer for the Big Give on Sundays at Reformation or reach out to Deacon Beth at deaconbeth@relcmedia.org



“By God’s great mercy we have been born a new to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Like many of you, my cell phone or mobile tablet is never far from my hand. One or the other is often within arm’s reach.

My electronic ‘e’ devices help me to stay connected to family and friends, read and send email, take photographs, make household payments, check out library books, even catch the latest news. So too each one assists me in my intentionality which is to stay connected to God’s living word and God’s truth: By God’s great mercy we have been born a new to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Utilizing one of three specific mobile applications, “apps”, help me to spend intentional time dwelling in God’s word.

Insight Timer is a free app with over 95,000 guided meditations led by the world’s top mindfulness experts, religious leaders, neuroscientists, and psychologists

The *Jesus Words Meditation* is also a free app which contains guided 10 to 15 minute biblical meditations based on the words of Jesus.

The *Pray As You Go* app is designed to help anyone to pray as they are travelling to and from work, study, while exercising, or sitting in a quiet place. A new prayer session is produced every day of the work week and one session for the weekend. It is not a ‘Thought for the Day’, a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer life in Christ.

Join me in setting an intention to dwell daily in God’s Word. Let me know if you need any help downloading these or other apps. Let us lean into each new day in confidence for we are born anew to a living hope!

With peace and loving-kindness,

Deacon Beth

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 are more 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.

“ To the church organization: Thank you so much for taking the time to remember about the brothers behind these walls at a difficult time like this with the most wonderful, uplifting, encouraging words of God to help me make it through the day. ”

“ I just want to say thank you for your support because a lot of people in our situation don’t really have much support. The fact that we were thought of is major. I appreciate the letter and hearing words like that keeps me motivated and looking forward to my future. I know GOD has plans for me and that’s where I’m keeping my faith. Thank you for your support. ”



Be Renewed in a Connection Group

Once again this fall you can be part of a CONNECTION GROUP – a great way to renew your connection with others at Reformation. All groups will begin meeting the week of October 3 and will meet for 7 sessions.

Sign up online at relcmedia.org/connectiongroups. All groups are limited to 20 registrations. Registration will close on **September 27**. Group leaders will contact group members with specific information after registration closes.

All groups will meet at Reformation (so long as pandemic precautions permit) except CG 2 which will meet on Zoom. The Connection Groups being offered are listed below.

CG 1 – Classic Screwball Comedy Films

Sundays at 6:00 pm led by Ron Brzowski

Enjoy great films and stars from yesteryear (like Cary Grant, Jimmy Stewart, Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy). There will be popcorn!

CG 2 – Exploring Celtic Spirituality

Mondays at 7 pm on Zoom led by Joyce McNally

Read and discuss *The Soul's Slow Ripening: 12 Celtic Practices for Seeking the Sacred*, by Christine Valters Paintner, to explore alternate ways of discerning your path from an author who is down to earth and honors a creation-focused theme of honoring your soul's seasonal rhythms

CG 3 – Book Discussion: *The Great Divorce*

Tuesdays at 7 pm led by Nancy Clark

Delve into this brilliantly imaginative classic book by C. S. Lewis. This profound meditation on good and evil is a dazzling allegory about Heaven and Hell and the chasm fixed between them. Come along as the narrator boards a bus for an incredible voyage from Hell to Heaven.

CG 4 – The Joy of Plant-Based Eating

Wednesdays at 7 pm led by Marilyn Berberich

Discover the health benefits and positive environmental impact of plant-based eating. Group members will have an opportunity to sample food that the leader will prepare for them.

CG 5 – Capturing Family Stories

Wednesdays at 7 pm led by Jennifer Breen

Learn and practice the art of interviewing family members or friends and documenting those stories by audio, video, and/or text.

CG 6 – Explosion in a Shingle Factory: Beginnings of Modern Art in the U.S.

Thursdays at 7 pm led by Dave and Sally Helms

Trace the careers of artists of The 1913 Armory Show during the first six sessions and on week 7 enjoy a visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to see some of their work.

Looking Ahead

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

SAVE THE DATE

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.



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 in Creighton Hall.

SAVE THE DATE

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.

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Pumpkin Carving or Painting 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.



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Sunday Worship: 8:30 am Indoor & Online Worship
September 5, 10:00 am Indoor & Online Worship
Starting September 12, 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

September 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.

Sunday, September 12

8:30 am Indoor & Livestream Worship
11:00 am Indoor & Livestream Worship
Rally Day
Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 19

7:30 pm Youth Group
Campfire with S'mores

Sunday, September 26

12:00 noon Gazebo Dedication