
REFORMATION TIMES

November 2021

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Renewed in Christ to Respond Generously

Throughout October we heard inspiring reflections from members on ways in which we are "Renewed in Christ." We are grateful for the thoughtful and faithful ways in which they have helped us all reflect on the blessings which God showers upon us and how we can respond to God's generosity.

On October 24 we celebrated Commitment Sunday, thanking God for the opportunity to indicate our plan to financially support the mission of Reformation in the coming year.

THANK YOU for your generous response to all that God has done and is doing in your life and in our life together as Reformation. If you have not had a chance to return your Estimate of Giving Card yet, please do so as soon as possible so we can plan for 2022 in a fiscally responsible manner.



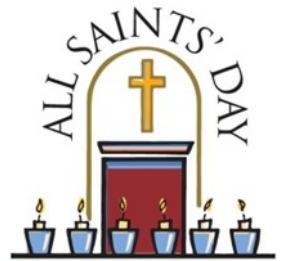
Eco Ministry Thanks Rose Tree Road Clean-up Crew

The Eco Ministry would like to thank the Rose Tree Road clean-up crew from October 9. The following people deserve a big thank you! First-timers Stephen and Adam Stroffolino, regulars Paul Stearns, Sally Burkam, Toini and Peter Scherer, and Marilyn and John Berberich. A total of 12 bags of roadside trash were picked up. We are sure our neighbors on Rose Tree Road appreciate our efforts!

We Remember All the Saints

On All Saints' Sunday, **November 7**, we remember and give thanks to God "for all the saints, who from their labors rest." The following members of Reformation are named and remembered on that day:

Woodie Benson
Irene Davis
Roger Johnsen
Lee Kleckner
Karin Kress
Betty Olchewsky



*"Rest eternal grant them, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon them."*

Thanks Living

In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

For Christians, "Thanksgiving" is not just a one-day holiday; it is a way of life – "Thanks Living." We give thanks to God for all our blessings by our daily choices, actions, and attitudes.

On **Sunday, November 14**, we will celebrate the abundant blessings we have received and give thanks to God. During worship, we will bless our food gifts which are being sent out into the community for Thanksgiving meals.



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

1 Corinthians 12:26

Madison Benzing, Jillian Hacik, Marissa Kamin, Megan Reagle, Matthew Sharer, Corinne Skarbek, Adelaide Smith, Benjamin Strain, Emma Strain, and Ethan Strain

participated in the Rite of Confirmation in a special worship on Sunday, October 17.

Katherine Victoria McMullen and Serge Yegiazarov were married September 19, 2021.

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.



Joyce McNally and Louise Clark display the dresses sewn for the Dress A Girl project. The dresses were blessed at worship on October 3.

Thank You for Cards of Hope

Thank you, Reformation, for your generous response to the Cards of Hope, Christmas 2021 prison ministry letter writing campaign. Your words of support and care help sustain another person living away from family and friends. Your generosity and kindness touches the lives of those who process the letters. And your prison ministry letters affirm that God renews us every day!

Thank You for Clothing Those in Need

Thank you to all those who participated in the underwear drive by The National Giving Alliance (formerly the Needlework Guild of America). Of the 7,152 items given away, 384 were from Reformation. Thanks again!

Sally Burkam

Farewell to Matthia McCracken

Administrative Assistant Matthia McCracken has left our staff to accept a position with the Fairmount Park Conservancy. She describes this new role as her "dream job." We appreciate Matthia's very fine professional work during her tenure with us and we wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

REFORMATION TIMES

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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.

ARTolerance Builds Bridges of Care

ARTolerance & St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church present VOYAGES OF WINDS: An Armenian Remembrance & Celebration on **Sunday, November 14.**

This musical program will feature the World Premiere of *Voyages of Winds* by Vartan Adjemian for Duduk and Wind Quintet with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra: Peter Smith, Angela Anderson Smith, Patrick Williams, Socrates Villegas and Ernesto Tovar Torres. Special Guests include Zulal, Armenian-American women magical vocal trio, Ara Dinkjian, Oud virtuoso and composer, and Udi Bar-David, Cellist & ARTolerance Artistic Director.

Event will be ticketed: \$25 Adults and \$10 Students. Reservations can be made by calling St. Gregory Church office at 215-482-9200.

Register for Bear Creek Connect Winter Camp

Connect is a fun-filled weekend at Bear Creek Camp during the winter! It's a time to Connect with God and to Connect with your friends. We have a blast doing activities unique to Bear Creek Camp in the winter, plus the friendships and faith-building you've come to expect from a time at camp! The weekends kick off on Friday night and run until Sunday after lunch. Cost for the weekend is \$120/person.

9th—12th Grade Connect: Jan. 7-9, 2022

4th-8th Grade Connect: Jan. 14-16, 2022

Visit bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp

Congratulations, Confirmands!

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

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



(l. to r.) front row: Marissa Kamin, Megan Reagle; middle row: Jillian Hacik, Madison Benzing, Corinne Skarbek; back row: Ethan Strain, Emma Strain, Adelaide Smith. (Not pictured: Matthew Sharer, Benjamin Strain)

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

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.



On Sunday, Nov. 7, we will bid Deacon Beth Barkhau a fond farewell and godspeed as she begins a new chapter in life, retirement.

When Deacon Beth came to us nearly five years ago, we knew she brought a wealth of gifts, skills, and experience for ministry. But we could not then have imagined the dramatic and lasting impact her ministry would have on us at Reformation, as individuals and as a congregation.

We thank God for her and the myriad ways in which she has led, taught, inspired, listened, comforted, and challenged us to grow in faithfulness to our mission.

We will miss her warm and caring personality and her professional expertise and wisdom.

We are grateful for the countless contributions she has made to our life together, always to the glory of God.

And we are grateful for her beloved helpmate, Bob, who has provided assistance and support in a great many ways as a stalwart volunteer in many of our ministries.

I know you join me in wishing Deacon Beth and Bob the very best in the future, in giving thanks to God for them, and in joining our earthly voices with the heavenly chorus saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long



A Thank You from Elva South

This is a long overdue "thank you" to my church family.

I've never formally thanked the members who brought communion and conversation to me (in pre-COVID days!).

Now with the church-supplied tablet and the Pastor Alina lessons on how to use it, I feel I'm "sorta" taking part in the congregational setting.

Thanks to all. You make me feel I'm still a part of Reformation!

Thank you! - Elva South

2021 Gift Giving Opportunities

It is time to prepare again for our St. Nicholas Celebration at Reformation! Here's how you can participate:

- give a direct financial donation to any of the agencies listed below.
- shop for gifts and bring them, unwrapped, to worship by December 5 for a special blessing in worship.
- use the agency Amazon wish lists provided to ship directly to the organization or place an order from any online merchant and have your purchased items delivered care of St. Nick to Reformation no later than December 5.

Please contact St. Nicholas' helpers Bev Norton (610-850-3077) or Linda Bucher (610-566-0862) with questions.

Learn more about all the agencies and the items on St. Nick's Shopping Lists at relcmedia.org/stnick

Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends)

This ministry serves isolated homebound persons (primarily the frail elderly) in the Greater Philadelphia area with free daily home-cooked meals delivered weekly by volunteer visitors.

St. Nick's Amazon Shopping Link:
relcmedia.org/stnick

KenCrest

KenCrest provides services for early childhood development and for individuals with developmental disabilities.

St. Nick's Shopping List: New children's coats, hats, gloves for birth to age 5; diapers of any size.

Chester Eastside Ministry

A respected force for good in Chester, this agency provides food and clothing ministries, basic tutoring and educational enrichment programs, crisis counseling and community advocacy programs.

St. Nick's Shopping List: Target and Wal-Mart gift cards in an envelope marked "Chester Eastside."

Cradles to Crayons

Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12 who living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive.

St. Nick's Amazon Shopping Link:
relcmedia.org/stnick

Lutheran Settlement House

LSH serves the newly homeless, abused women and children, and low-income seniors.

St. Nick's Shopping List: New household kitchen items such as utensil sets, pots and pans, dinnerware, women's plus size winter coats, toys and art supplies for children.

Domestic Abuse Project

Domestic Abuse Project provides services for partners and their families who are in abusive relationships.

St. Nick's Shopping List: New household bed and bath items such as twin or full bed sheet sets, blankets, and bath towels.

Migrant Ministry of Chester County

This ministry works year-round with people who harvest mushrooms in Kennett Square.

St. Nick's Shopping List: New full Size blankets and new Bibles in English or Spanish.



Advent and Christmas



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, November 28, December 5, 12, and 19**), please contact the church office (rlc@relcmedia.org) and tell us the dates and worship time you are able to serve.



Longing for the Light of Healing and Hope

November 28 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.

December Preview

There will be many special events during the Seasons of Advent and Christmas in December. Mark your calendars and plan to join us in person or online! Look for more details in next month’s newsletter and on our website.

December 5

St. Nicholas Celebration during both worships

December 19

Blessing of the Greens during both worships
Hanging of the Greens following the 11:00 worship

December 24

Christmas Eve Worship (times TBA)

December 25

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

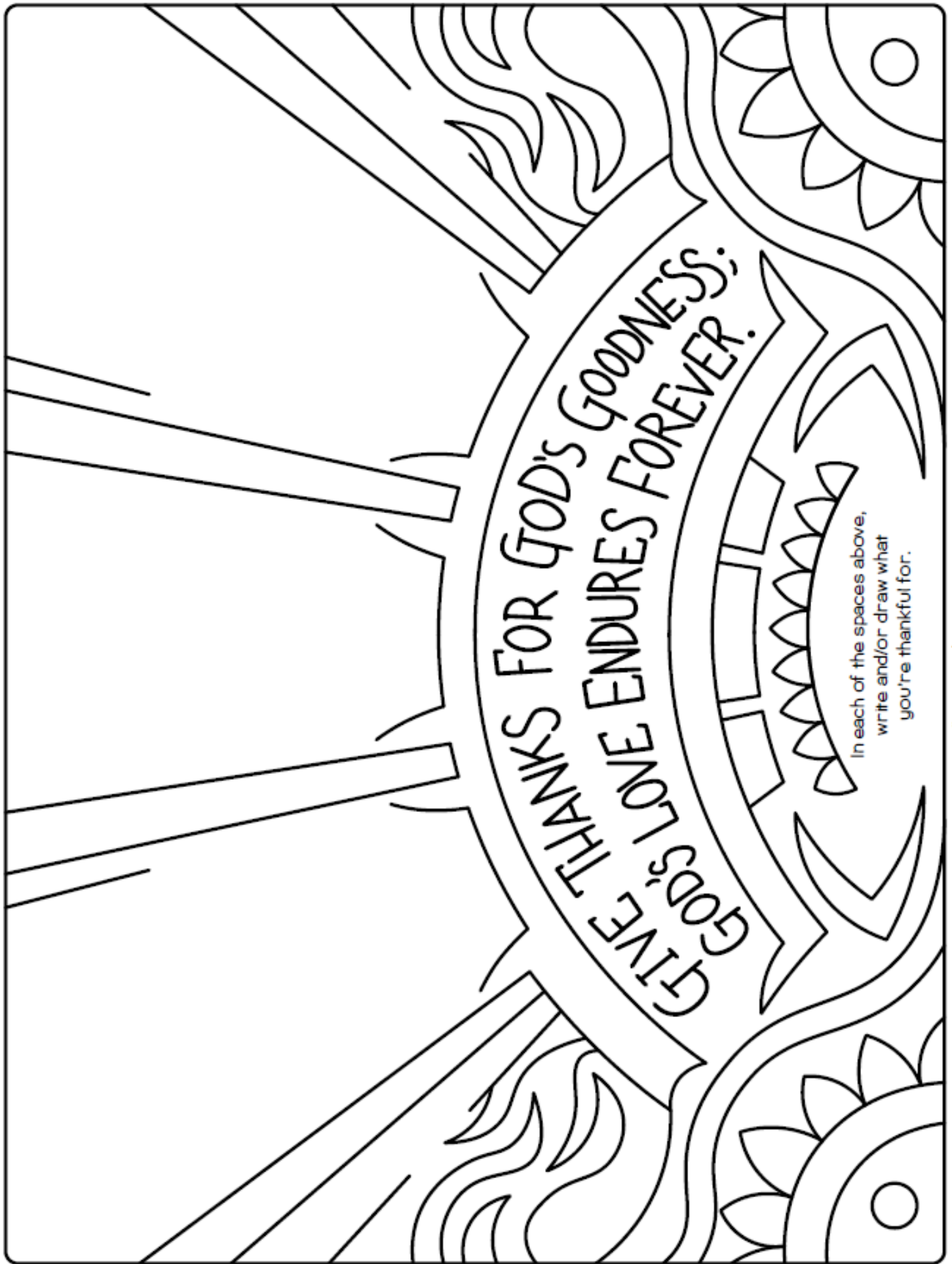
December 26

First Sunday of Christmas Worship at 10:00 am

Reformation Feeds People: Holiday Food Bags

In November and December Community Action Ministry Team will collect bags of food for both the **Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals**. The Holiday Food Bag program supports three outreach agencies: Second Time Around Grandparents, Migrant Ministry, and the Philadelphia Group. How might you help? Pick up a holiday food bag at church on Sundays November 21 or November 29, shop for the specific food items and gifts cards and return everything to Reformation no later than Sunday, December 5. Bags will also be available for pick up outside the main church entrance. Financial donation envelopes for the Holiday Food Bag program are available on the Reformation Lobby counter. If you have questions about donations or returning your holiday food bags, please contact Linda Bucher at 610-566-0862.





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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

November 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, November 7

3:00 pm Fall Fest to celebrate
Deacon Beth Barkhau

Sunday, November 14

8:30 am & 11:00 am Worship
Thanks Living

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent