

# THE LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF UNITED REFORMED CHURCH OF CLIFTON AND PASSAIC  
*A church UNITED in Faith, Hope and Love!*

Issue No. 122

September-October, 2018

## HOW TO SLICE AN ORANGE

**R**awandan genocide survivor Clemantine Wamariya, in her memoir, *The Girl Who Smiled Beads*, learned an important lesson about sharing from her mother. “When slicing an orange to share,” her mother said, “you must never think, ‘This orange is mine. I’m giving you what’s mine.’ Rather you must think, ‘This orange is ours. We’re sharing what’s ours.’”

quoted by Peter W. Marty in the *Christian Century*, blog, September, 2018.

I like that thought because it helps to keep me humble. If I think of the orange as mine, then I have a right to be proud. After all, I shared **my** orange with you. “I am a generous person,” I say, as I pat myself on the back.

Furthermore, if this orange is mine then I can regard myself as superior to you. I am the giver, you are the receiver. I am a step above you, but in my “generosity” I have condescended to share what is mine. The orange has literally become a “hand-me-down,” given by a superior to her inferior.

Finally, if this orange is mine, you now owe me something; at some future time I will expect you to return the favor. At the very least you owe me a debt of gratitude. But gratitude that arises from obligation is not real gratitude; it is simply payment of a debt.

However, if this orange is ours, I cannot be proud for I am only giving you what is your due. I cannot regard myself as superior because we stand on an equal footing. Nor do you “owe” me anything. If the orange is ours, then sharing it is an expression of our love for each other. It’s an expression of our common life together in Christ.

In Acts 4:32 we read, “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.” This was not some primitive socio-economic experiment, rather it was an expression of love. Knowing the love of Christ, they felt compelled to share with one another. We don’t have to follow their example by selling everything and putting it in a common pot. However, we do need to hold our possessions lightly and use them to bless those around us.

In Christ’s love,

*Pastor Mike*



***This orange is ours.  
We’re sharing  
what’s ours.***

## People of United Reformed: Matthew Short

**Name:** Matthew Short, age 33  
**Nickname:** Matt  
**Spouse:** Erin, age 30  
**Years married:** 3 years  
**Children:** (of the feline variety) Buffy, age 11  
**Parents:** Marilyn and Glenn  
**Siblings:** 2 sisters, Kim and Erica, 4 brothers in laws!  
**Which # are you?** The baby of the family

**Favorite Things**

**Movie:** *Back to the Future*

**TV Show:** *Scrubs* and *This is Us*

**Kind of Music:** Classic Rock

**Song:** *Lightening Crashes* by Live

**Book:** At the moment it's *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

**Hobbies:** Traveling, eating out, going to the movies, spending time with my cat

**Food:** Chicken Francese

**Beverage:** Dr. Pepper

**When I have a day off the thing I most like to do:** clean and organize my home



**My idea of a perfect vacation:** a transatlantic cruise with my entire family

**Favorite Childhood Memory:**

Driving to Florida in our old station wagon

**One of the best things that ever happened to me:** was marrying my best friend.



**One of the funniest things that ever happened to me** was when we booked a cruise for our honeymoon, Erin and I had no idea that my cousin and his future in-laws would be going on the exact same cruise! We bumped into them multiple times on the trip.

**One of the hardest things I ever had to face:** was losing my father when I was just 22 years old.

**Something that very few people know about me is** I love cold weather vacations. I've been to Park City, Utah for the Sundance Film Festival and would love to go on an Alaskan cruise one day.

**If I had my dream job:** I would be working in the analytics department for a Major League Baseball team.



**Faith and Church Information**

**Favorite Scripture:** The Judgment of Solomon, 1 Kings 3:16-28

**Favorite Hymn:** In The Garden

**Favorite Praise Song:** Shine, Jesus, Shine (Matt knows all the hand motions too!)

## People of United Reformed

**How long have you been worshipping at United Reformed Church?** My educated guess would be 33 years.

**Favorite URC memory:** Growing up with my friends, going to Sunday School, Bible School and Youth Group together.

**What first brought you to United?** My parents raised me here; I didn't chose my church, but my church chose me.

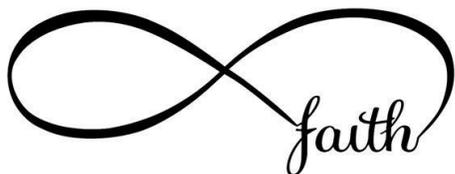
**The thing I most appreciate about United is** the love and support we provide for each other through the best and worst of times.

**Who had the biggest influence in shaping your faith and why?** My mother and my wife are strong and passionate in their beliefs, and it is something I continue to try and improve upon myself.

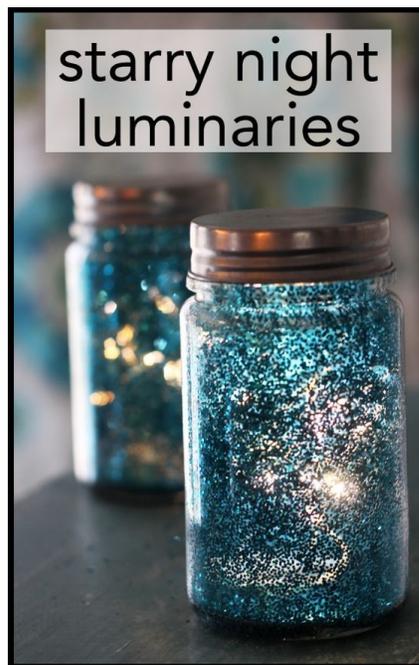
**The thing that God is teaching me right now is** patience. All good things come in due time.

**My biggest doubt or question about my faith is** how strongly it can be sustained with so much loss and suffering in the world. We live in troubling times, and it constantly tests my faith.

**What difference has God made in your life?** God has a way of giving me purpose and direction in the darkest and most trying times of my life. My faith is my light when I feel lost and powerless.



## Craft Corner



With summer coming to an end everyone wants to enjoy those final days eating alfresco and taking in the final warmth of the evening sun. Linger longer on the patio with these luminaries; they are the perfect way to extend that summer vibe as the sun begins to set earlier and earlier (and they are so easy to make!)

All you need are 4 simple things:

1. Mason Jars
2. Hairspray (Aerosol)
3. Glitter (any color you like or try multi-color)
4. LED Twinkle Lights (Moon Lights are sold on Amazon for \$12 a package or try the Target Dollar Spot)

Spray the inside of the mason jar with hairspray, add in the glitter and close the lid of the jar to shake the glitter all around. The inside of the jar will be covered in glitter at this point; add in the package of LED lights and you are all set to use your luminary at your next backyard barbeque. Long live summer!

## Women's Ministries

I hope you've enjoyed our summer fundraiser calendar (and helping us raise some funds for our missions and program needs as well). It's always interesting to realize that I have more pairs of scissors than I thought (I keep a pair in each cross-stitch kit I plan to work on) or to see how many items I actually have hanging on my walls (a lot!). If you haven't grabbed a calendar this year, it's never too late to add it to your list for next summer. Items can be counted any time during the summer (there will be copies at the back of the church in time for the summer months or Kim can send you a copy electronically—just let her know you need it). It's never too early to prepare!

**If you haven't already done so, please mark your calendar NOW and plan to attend the following:**

Saturday, Nov. 3,  
2018  
Soup and Sandwich Luncheon  
with Bake Sale  
11:30-1:00



Friday, Dec. 7, 2018  
Women's Christmas dinner 6:30 p.m.  
(Open to ALL women of the church and their friends.) Cost will be announced in the fall—once again the event will be catered by the Brownstone.

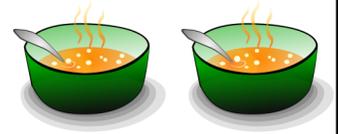


Saturday, March 23, 2019

Soup and Sandwich

Luncheon

11:30-1:00



Saturday, May 4, 2019

Baked Potato Supper

5-6:30 p.m.



Blessing bags will also be available during Lent—more on that to follow.

At present, we are studying a video series by Sheila Walsh. It's so powerful!! Come join us—we meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the lounge.

Women's Ministries doesn't hold meetings during July and August, nor will we be meeting in January or February, as we've often had to cancel those winter meetings due to extreme weather conditions. We will be resuming our time together from our summer hiatus on Tuesday October 9th at 7:15 PM right in the lounge. Come and join us! Remember all women, members and friends, are invited to join.

## A Big Thank You!

This summer the congregation was challenged to raise \$5,000 for our special building fund for repairs and replacement of the roofs, carpeting and other projects. We not only raised the funds but we exceeded our expectations!

A check was received this month from our Anonymous Donor, who agreed to match what the congregation raised. Since we met our goal, we received a most generous match. The check was in the amount of \$6,700.00.

A note was attached that read: "We are a small but mighty congregation. A big thank you to all who have contributed to this campaign. Let's keep up the good work we do--Clifton notices, God notices, and He is smiling at us as we do His work."



## We're on Facebook!

Become a fan of  
**"United Reformed  
Church of Clifton"**

and be sure to share the  
page with your friends

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### September

- 2 *Jessie & Stan Dunitz, Sr.*
- 5 Michael Franchini
- 6 Mark Mele  
Linda Barattini
- 7 Joseph Marrocco
- 8 Corrinne Mele
- 10 *Barbara & Don Ban*
- 16 Wendy Relyea  
*Justyna & Andy Egan*  
Sally Brask  
Evelyn Post
- 24 Sean Cooper  
Bob Zierold  
Don Ban  
*Beverly & Richard Rusconi*
- 28 Phil Makus
- 30 Janelle Downes

### October

- 7 Lauren Relyea
- 8 Luz Babilonia  
Bryan Hartman  
Rebekah Weber
- 9 Nancy Greco  
Dave & Kathi Bruinooge 16  
Agnes Straub  
Caryl Diana
- 18 Pastor Mike Weber
- 20 Cheryl Palmer
- 21 Barbara & Allen Berberich
- 22 Tommy Mele  
Kathi Bruinooge
- 27 Maureen Hafelfinger
- 28 Kimberly & John Rembis
- 29 Wendy & Butch Relyea
- 30 Lindsay Berberich



## Congratulations!!



*Patrick Fgan and Brainer Guevara got engaged this summer! Congratulations to the happy couple. May God bless you and give you many good years together to create precious memories and learn more and more about each other with each passing day.*

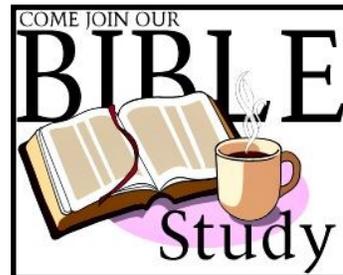


## Adult Sunday School Class News

The Adult Sunday School Class has resumed this past Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge. Please keep an eye on the church bulletin, as my schedule may change due to Sean and Brooke's possible move to the Midwest. I'm not sure when that will occur, so this schedule will be somewhat flexible.

We started class on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September by viewing the video "An Unlikely Disciple" about the beginning of Paul's ministry. The next video we'll be looking at is "Why Christians Suffer: The weight of Gethsemane." It encourages us to become true followers of Jesus the rabbi by obediently imitating our Rabbi Jesus in every way-to be willing to sacrifice and suffer in His name for what we believe, to be willing to identify with those Jesus came to love: the unlovable, to be willing to be unpopular because of our walk with Jesus. This lesson will probably begin on October 21<sup>st</sup> as I'll be on vacation on Sunday, October 14.<sup>th</sup>

We'd love to encourage you to join us as we continue to study Ray Vander Laan's series "That the World May Know." The first week of the video session we will look at the video and then for the next 2 to 3 weeks, we'll discuss a little bit of what the video has covered. Please feel free to bring your coffee/tea and join us! If you have any questions, please call Nancy C. at 973-472-3665 or email her at nrj582@yahoo.com.



# Education Update



### Consistory Members:

**Elders:** Marilyn Short, Tracy Haggberg, Nancy Tanis

**Deacons:** Dave Bruinooge, Wendy Relyea, Lorraine

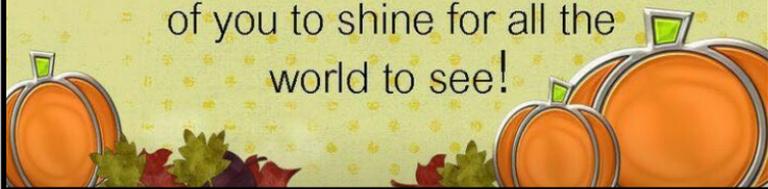
I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer! I was on a beach vacation in August and you all know that the beach is my happy place! I know a lot of you were at **Vacation Bible School: Shipwrecked Rescued by Jesus** in July and it was wonderful to see you all having so much fun (and learning a lot too).

Now that Sunday School has started up again earlier this month, it is a pleasure seeing everyone again on Sunday mornings. We are going to have a great school year!

Happy belated Birthday to Molly Rembis! On August 11'th Molly turned 4. Best wishes for a new year ahead.



Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God **picks you** from the patch, brings you in, and **washes off** all the dirt. Then He cuts the top and **scoops out** all the yucky stuff. He **removes the seeds** of doubt, hate, and greed. Last, He **carves you** a new smiling face and **puts His light inside** of you to shine for all the world to see!



### Memorial Flowers

Flowers may be placed at the altar in church in memory of or in honor of a loved one. A flower chart is located at the back of the sanctuary or you may fill out this form and return it to the church office one week in advance of the date you wish to reserve. The cost is \$27 (\$20 for the flowers and a delivery charge of \$7).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Scrip Update by Nancy Cooper

First, I want to thank those members who faithfully purchase scrip gift cards. Because of you, the church has earned probably over \$1,000 so far this year. **I'd love to encourage more of you to purchase gift cards on a regular basis.**

Cards may be purchased for almost all grocery stores in the area, the chain drug stores (CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid), chain restaurants (Applebees, TGIFridays, Red Lobster, etc.), and many of the fast food restaurants (Wendy's, Burger King, Subway, Dunkin). Nowadays, it seems as though many couples getting married also request gift cards as presents—check our list to see if the card is available through us!

**All you have to do to order cards is to place an order and enclose the money for it in an envelope in the offering plate. They'll be ordered early in the week and will be available to you the following Sunday. You don't have to run out to a store to buy them-it's certainly easy.**

I also have some gift cards available all the time: Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Dunkin, Amazon, Boston Market, Chipotle, Home Depot, Kohls, and a few \$10 Red Lobster and Olive Garden cards. Just see me after church in the lounge and you can pick them up or call me at home 973-472-3665 and you can come pick them up during the week.

Many of you have so graciously purchased gift cards in October, November, and December for Christmas gifts. The way time is flying, October will be here before we know it. Start planning what you're going to need to buy and spread your purchases out over those 3 months-that doesn't hurt the budget as much.

A participating retailers list can be found at the back of the church, so please check it out!! **Orders will be collected October 7th and 21st!**

## Kim's Recipe Corner

### Chocolate Covered Cherry Cookies

#### Ingredients:

1/2 cup softened butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup plus 2 TBSP all purpose flour  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 cup chocolate chips (your choice though dark chocolate would be delicious!)  
1/3 cup of maraschino cherries drained of juices

#### Instructions:

1. In a mixing bowl cream together the butter and sugar until well combined. Stir in the egg and vanilla extract. In another bowl whisk together flour, salt, baking powder. Stir the dry ingredients in with the wet. Stir in the chocolate chips and cherry pieces. Cover and refrigerate one hour to overnight.
2. On a baking sheet lined with parchment spoon the cookie dough. Bake at 325 degrees for 14-16 minutes in the upper 2/3 of the oven. Remove to cooling rack. Enjoy with a big glass of milk! \*Cookie dough may be made up to one day ahead and it can be frozen so treats can be prepared on a whim!





# United Reformed Fellowship News



On July 15th we held our annual summer worship service and indoor picnic. A good time was had by all and here are some highlights of our time together! Pastor Mike and Nancy Tanis (above) led the congregation in music and following worship everyone indulged in delicious picnic foods (below and to the right). Thank you for coming out and continuing such a fun tradition!



## Looking to Volunteer?

### Check out the Honey-Do List

Located in the 1st St. Lobby



### Committee Assignments

- Outreach:** Tracy Hagberg
- Property:** Pastor Mike
- Worship:** Nancy Tanis and Tracy Hagberg
- Fellowship:** Marilyn Short
- Mission:** Wendy Relyea
- Finance:** Dave Bruinooge
- Education:** Lorraine Sinski



Ideas, articles, big news, contributions? Feel free to share with The Light!! If there is something you'd like to see, reach out to Kim in the church office at [urc352@verizon.net](mailto:urc352@verizon.net) or (973) 365-1666.





Welcome to *Shipwrecked*, our VBS program this past summer! We had another successful year partnering with Actzion Ministries (with more children than past years!). The church was transformed into a tropical wonderland and the kids enjoyed daily music, gym, crafts and bible study with a wonderful program for their parents and visitors on the final day of VBS. Our little ones enjoyed the week! Molly Rembis (pictured left), Ben DiCaterino (pictured right) and Cataleaya Larco (pictured right below off center to the right)



**WHEN YOU STRUGGLE...  
JESUS RESCUES!**





# WHEN YOU'RE LONELY... JESUS RESCUES!



More VBS Fun! Left:  
Time to play outside!  
Below: Gym time  
Right: Music during the  
final program on the last  
day of VBS



# WHEN YOU'RE POWERLESS... JESUS RESCUES!





# United Reformed Church

352 Clifton Ave  
Clifton, NJ  
(973) 365-1666



Worship - 10:30 am

Sunday School - 9:30 am



On August 24th Jerry and Jane Declet celebrated 50 years of marriage! It was only fitting that their church family celebrate with them on August 26th. After service we had a reception to toast the Declets on many more happy years to come. To the left: Jerry, Jane, sons Jerry Jr. and Jason, daughters in law, Liz and Amanda and grandchildren Jayden, Samantha, Juliet and (little) Jerry as well as Jane's sister Lucille.

Below: The Declets with their beloved grandchildren.



On July 22nd Wilfredo Gonzales and Nicole Farrington joined our church family and had their son, Noah, baptized. What a special day for everyone! Above: Wilfredo, Noah, and Nicole Right above: Pastor Mike baptizes Noah Right below: The elders place their hands on Wilfredo in prayer

Welcome to our church family! We are so happy to have you here!

