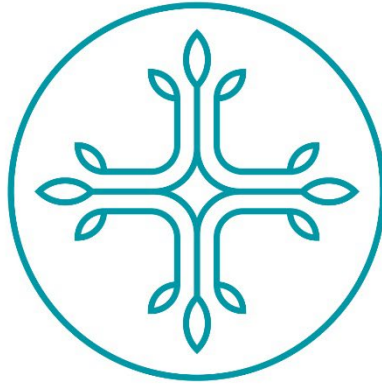




CHRIST
THE REDEEMER
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 23, 2026

Welcome to CHRIST THE REDEEMER...

We're glad you've joined us. Whether you have followed Jesus your whole life or you can't remember the last time you stepped foot in a church, we want you to feel welcome to come as you are and worship with our church family. If you have any questions about our church or where to find something, please don't hesitate to ask. We're excited about what God is doing among us as we seek to live, grow and serve as followers of Jesus in Portland and in our surrounding neighborhoods. So, welcome to CTR, we'd love to have you as part of our family.

During our service, our nursery is open for babies who are crawlers through 3-year-olds. If you need help finding the nursery area, please ask any of our greeters!

Children's Church is in session. After the blessing each week, children age 4 – 1st grade are welcome to go to Children's Church. They will re-join their families after the sermon.

→ You may use this QR code to link to the lyrics in our worship service today.



THE RHYTHM OF OUR WORSHIP

On the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), when Jesus' disciples found themselves troubled and confused, Jesus met them along the way. When they confessed their troubles and doubts to Him, His words and presence began to change them. He unfolded God's Word to them, pointing to His own person and work. He dined with them, giving thanks and breaking bread. The disciples recognized their Lord's presence with them and hurried to tell others the good news.

In the Emmaus story, we recognize the pattern of historic Christian worship as it began to take shape. Our worship liturgy at Christ the Redeemer moves through a specific rhythm: God **SUMMONS** us as His people, God **SANCTIFIES** us to Himself, God **SPEAKS** to us in His Word, God **STRENGTHENS** us at His table, and God **SENDS** us into the world to share His grace.

The emphasis throughout our worship is upon God's action and our appropriate response. In worship, we rehearse the gospel message of Jesus' death and resurrection and are caught up into the mission of the Triune God. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity as children of God and then impelling us outward into our world.

-adapted from City Church Philadelphia Guide to Our Worship

G O D S U M M O N S

[P R A I S E]

C A L L T O W O R S H I P

[L] O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

[P] **God's mercy endures forever!**

[L] Let Israel say,

[P] **God's mercy endures forever!**

[L] Let those now who fear the Lord say,

[P] **God's mercy endures forever!**

[L] This is the day that the Lord has made!

[P] **We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

[All] **Let us worship God!**

SONG

PRAISE TO THE LORD

GOD SANCTIFIES

[RENEWAL]

CONFESSION OF SIN

[P] **Loving and faithful God, we confess that we do not know how to pray as we ought, we do not desire what is most worthy of our love, and we do not follow you with single-minded devotion. We seek to justify ourselves and arrogate to ourselves the right to condemn others. When affliction strikes, we doubt your power, love, and wisdom. Forgive us for our foolish and unloving ways and for our misplaced hopes. Work in our hearts and minds to conform us to the image of your Son, that our lives might testify that nothing in all creation can separate us from your gracious and merciful love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness.
He will not always accuse;
neither will he stay angry forever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us for our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his loving kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:8-12

[P] **Thanks be to God!**

SONG

I WILL WAIT FOR YOU [PSALM 130]

LIFE OF THE PEOPLE
[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

NEW TO CTR? Welcome! If you would like to connect, learn more about our church or subscribe to our weekly announcement email, please use this QR code.



THE PEACE OF GOD
and THE BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

[L] May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

[P] **And also with you.**

[L] People of God, what is our prayer for these and all our children?

[All] **May the Lord be with you.**

[Children] **And also with you.**

After the blessing each week, children aged 4 – 1st grade are welcome to go to Children's Church downstairs in The Commons. They will re-join their families after the sermon.

SONG

‘TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S C R I P T U R E[found on **page 68-69** in the pew Bible]

Exodus 32:1-20, 30-35 ESV

Read by Jocelin Yagel

The Golden Calf

32 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

² Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” ³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.” ⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’

⁹ “I have seen these people,” the Lord said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. “Lord,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger;

relent and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” ¹⁴ Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

¹⁵ Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. ¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

¹⁷ When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, “There is the sound of war in the camp.”

¹⁸ Moses replied:

“It is not the sound of victory,
it is not the sound of defeat;
it is the sound of singing that I hear.”

¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”

³¹ So Moses went back to the Lord and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”

³³ The Lord replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. ³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.”

³⁵ And the Lord struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

[L] The grass withers and the flower fades,
but the Word of God stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8

The Word of the Lord.

[P] **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Series:

LEAVING EGYPT, FINDING HOME

Sermon:

IDOLATRY AND THE GOD WHO RELENTS

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts

Lead Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #95

[L] What is idolatry?

[P] **Idolatry is having or inventing something in which you trust in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in his Word.**

Westminster Larger Catechism Q & A #104

[L] What duties are required of the first Commandment

[P] **The duties required in the first commandment are, the knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; believing him; trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; being zealous for him; calling upon him; giving all praise and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man; being careful in all things to please him, and sorrowful when in anything he is offended; and walking humbly with him.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Deacon David Odenbach

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

SONG

DOXOLOGY [OLD 100th]

G O D S T R E N G T H E N S

[T A B L E]

C E L E B R A T I N G H O L Y C O M M U N I O N

A Word about Communion: Communion is the family meal of Christians. Baptized believers actively looking to Jesus as their hope for salvation are warmly invited to share in this meal with us as our brothers and sisters.

- *Please follow the directions given by the pastor in how to come to the front to receive the elements and then return to your seat.*
- *Once you receive the bread and wine/juice, please hold on to it as you return to your seat. We will partake together as one body after everyone has received the elements.*
- *Children and those who are not partaking are also welcome to approach the servers for a prayer or word of God's blessing. We ask that you fold your hands as you approach so the server is aware.*
- *Please dispose of your communion cups and any other trash in the wastebasket located at the back of the sanctuary as you leave today. Thank you!*

W O R D S O F I N V I T A T I O N & I N S T I T U T I O N

P R A Y E R O F T H A N K S G I V I N G

P A R T A K I N G O F T H E E L E M E N T S

S O N G

O LORD, MY ROCK AND MY REDEEMER

PRAYERS OF REFLECTION

PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH SIN

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

G O D S E N D S

[MISSION]

R E S P O N S E S O F J O Y

O F F E R I N G O U R L I V E S A N D R E S O U R C E S

[our tithes and offerings]



If you would like to give online, please use this QR code:
This takes you to our online giving portal.

SONG

COME THOU FOUNT

B E N E D I C T I O N a n d S E N D I N G

[L] Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

[All] **Thanks be to God!**

[L] Go now, and be a diverse people, who having gathered around the table of God's grace, extend his grace to others.

[All] **Amen.**

HIGHLIGHTS

August 23, 2026

NEW TO CTR? Welcome! If you would like to connect, learn more about our church or subscribe to our weekly announcement email, please use this QR code.



1 ON THE CALENDAR

ANNUAL SOCCER MATCH w/NDA

SUNDAY, AUG 23 – 1 PM | Deering High School, 82 Ludlow St, Portland

Join us this afternoon from 1:00–3:00 PM at Deering High School for the latest matchup in our friendly rivalry with NDA (North Deering Alliance Church)!

With NDA currently leading the overall series 3–2, there’s plenty at stake as CTR looks to even the score!

Players ages 13 and up are invited to take the field, and everyone else is warmly encouraged to come cheer on our team. Whether you’re playing or supporting from the sidelines, it’s a great opportunity to enjoy some friendly competition, connect with others, and spend a fun Sunday afternoon together.

Come help us fill the sidelines, encourage our players, and show plenty of CTR spirit!

FALL LAUNCH NEIGHBORHOOD COOKOUT

SUNDAY, SEPT 13 – After the Worship Service | CTR, 61 Neal St, Portland

Join us on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**, as we celebrate our Fall Launch with a cookout! Following worship, we’ll gather for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun—and we warmly invite our West End neighbors to join us. There will also be things for the kids to do!

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, and cookies will be provided. Members of the congregation are invited to **bring a side dish or dessert to share**. Please keep your dish in a cooler, as refrigerator space will not be available during the service or cookout.

Table seating will be provided, but feel free to **bring a lawn chair** if you’d like to sit near the children’s activities or on the lawn.

We hope you’ll join us as we begin a new ministry year, reconnect after the summer, and extend a warm welcome to our neighbors!

For more information, please contact Claire Roberts at clerkus@gmail.com or 956-270-2565.

INQUIRERS' CLASS

SUNDAYS, beginning SEPT 20 – 9 AM in the Meeting Room

Interested in learning more about CTR? Considering joining our church as a member? Come to our Inquirers' Class! This is a great opportunity to hear about our heart and our history as a church, to interact with our leaders and staff, to meet other newcomers, and to ask your questions about who we are and what we do.

Attending the class does not mean you have to join the church now. However, if you would like to become a member, the Inquirers' Class is a prerequisite.



SIGN UP HERE

Questions? Contact Pastor Alden Groves at agroves@ctrportland.org or 215-704-0132.

NEW TO CTR DESSERT NIGHT

MONDAY, SEPT 21 – 7 PM, The Roberts', 64 Brook Rd, Portland

If you are new—or still feel new—to Christ the Redeemer, we would love to have you join us for a relaxed evening of dessert and conversation at the home of Sean and Claire Roberts. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet others, learn more about CTR, and begin building connections within our church community.

Join us on Monday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. at 64 Brook Road in Portland. Whether you have been attending for just a few weeks or for several months, you are warmly invited. We hope you'll come!

IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDIES

Beginning SEPTEMBER 26 – In The Commons

Do you desire to go deeper in God's word in community with others? Join us for a weekly bible study at the church. This fall, we will begin going through the book of Galatians, diving into Scripture together as we learn what it means to experience freedom through our identity in Christ. Be sure to sign up so we can make sure we have materials and discussion table placements for all.

Men's Study

Saturdays, 6 AM, beginning September 26, in The Commons

Women's Study

Thursdays, 6 PM, beginning October 1, in The Commons

Questions? Contact Pastor Sean Roberts (SRoberts@CTRPortland.org) or Director of Community Development, Amanda McKrell (AMcKrell@CTRPortland.org).



SIGN UP HERE

BOOKS & BUBBLY

WEDNESDAY, OCT 7 – 7:00 PM | 64 Brook Road, Portland

Join us for our next **Ladies' Books & Bubbly** gathering on **Wednesday, October 7, at 7:00 PM!**

This meeting's selection is *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz—a clever mystery within a mystery. When an editor receives the latest manuscript from a bestselling crime writer, she discovers that the final chapters are missing—and that the author's own sudden death may hold clues to more than one murder. Full of twists, puzzles, and classic whodunit charm, it should give us plenty to talk about!

Whether you finish every page or simply want to enjoy a relaxed evening of conversation and connection, we'd love to have you join us!

For more information, please contact Claire Roberts at clerkus@gmail.com or 956-270-2565.



CTRKids

Gospel-centered, Nurturing, Fun
CTRKids is re-launching next month!

CTRKids exists to partner with families in raising the next generation of disciples who know the Gospel, love Jesus, and live out their faith with confidence and joy.



Our Planning starts with you!

We are already preparing for a great year ahead, and we want to make sure we have the most up-to-date information for your family.

Please take a moment to complete the Family Information Update using the QR code below.

Scan the QR code or visit
<https://ctrportland.breezechms.com/form/e72237> to fill out the
Family Information Update by **September 13.**



We are re-launching Children's Church, Christian Formation classes and Youth Group!



Children's Church

Kids who are 4 years old-1st grade will be dismissed during the sermon to learn about the Elements of Worship in age-appropriate ways!



Christian Formation Classes

Offered for kids who are potty trained-middle school, these smaller classes study the stories in the Bible!



Youth Group

For 6th grade and up-come hang out, grab some food, build friendships, and grow in your faith. We meet every other Wednesday night!

The Elements of Worship curriculum helps kids understand and participate in the different parts of our worship service in **Children’s Church** and beyond!

All kids can follow along with our new interactive CTRKids Order of Worship,
available on the Kids Table in the foyer each Sunday!



CF Classes

Sundays from 9:00-9:45

Ram Island	Potty Trained-Kindergarten	Nursery	The Gospel Project
Bug Light	1st-2nd grade	The Corner Room (old nursery)	The Gospel Project
Two Lights	3rd-5th grade	The Commons (large room downstairs)	The Gospel Project
Head Light	6th grade+	Downstairs Foyer	The Gospel Project

Our **Christian Formation classes** use The Gospel Project curriculum, helping kids of every age see how the whole Bible points to Jesus. With age-appropriate lessons and **resources to help parents continue the conversation at home**, we will grow together in knowing and loving God and his great story of redemption!

We Need You!

CTRKids is growing, and we need **you**! Whether you love teaching, welcoming families, playing with kids, or simply want to lend a hand, there’s a place for you.

Please reach out to Abby Reid if you are interested in volunteering.

Phone: 404.723.4448 E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org



-CHRIST THE REDEEMER-

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Belong. Lean in. Launch out.

CTR Community Groups

launch mid-September, but our planning has already begun.
We'd love to reserve a place for you!

Whether you're a returning member, joining for the first time,
or not sure yet — we'd love to hear from every household.

PLEASE RESPOND BY **AUGUST 23.**

ABOUT COMMUNITY GROUPS:

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GROUP?

Community Groups are smaller, regular gatherings in one another's homes — a place to share meals, open Scripture, and pray for each other as we learn to follow Christ in our everyday lives: our workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and friendships. *Want the fuller picture?*



[Visit the Community Groups page](#)

HOW DOES GROUP PLACEMENT WORK?

We'll help match you/your family to a group nearby based on your neighborhood and schedule. If you're continuing in a group, we'll be in touch to confirm your spot; if you're new or requesting a change, we'll follow up with a recommendation soon after you respond.

HOW DO I RESPOND?

It's simple:

- **[Fill out the form](#)** (use the QR code): We'll be in touch soon!
- Or email Amanda McKrell, Director of Community Development, at amckrell@ctrportland.org.



In Community Groups, our goal is to deepen our love for one another, our love for God, and our love for our neighbors. We do this by spending regular time together, growing in friendship, and initiating ongoing conversations that grow our confidence to follow Christ in our daily lives.



DEEP ROOTS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As part of our **Deep Roots Capital Campaign**, we've invited everyone in our community to prayerfully consider how they can support the next chapter of our church's life together.



TO
PLEDGE
ONLINE

If you would prefer to make a pledge online, please visit our **online pledge form**—and feel free to share the link with friends, family, or others in your circle who believe in the mission of our church.

Every gift, every conversation, and every step of faith helps us put down deep roots for generations to come.

SERVE...

At CTR, we believe that part of what makes the church a beautiful place is that it draws people with various passions and gifts into one body. Below are some opportunities to use your passions and gifts to serve one another and our local community.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIESAbby Reid
Phone: 404.723.4448
E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org

WELCOME TEAM MINISTRY Abby Reid
Phone: 404.723.4448
E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org

MEALS MINISTRY Tammy Locke
Phone: 207.671.0936
E-mail: tam74maine@gmail.com

MUSIC..... Kendra Hollen
Phone: 207.272.4104
E-mail: khollen@ctrportland.org

SPECIAL EVENTS.....Claire Roberts
Phone: 956.270.2565
E-mail: clerkus@gmail.com

How Do I Get and Stay Connected at CTR?

At CTR we long for clear communication and deep bonds. We are excited that you're interested in being more connected and involved. The following is a list of our communication channels and their purpose in the life of our body:

1. EMAIL NEWSLETTER (*Keeping in Touch*)

This is the primary vehicle by which we communicate regarding the life of our church. Most weeks you will receive an email with announcements and upcoming events. From time to time, our elders will also use this vehicle for church-wide or members only correspondence. **NOTE:** *If you are not regularly checking your email from CTR, it will be difficult to feel and be connected in the life of our church. [Use this QR code to sign up for the email.]*



2. CTR APP & TEXT MESSAGES

The CTR App is designed to help those in our church interact with each other. It is largely crowd sourced and includes information on informal meetups, prayer requests, live and past sermons/services, different hobby groups, ways to give, etc. [See page 20 to download the App.]

Text Messages are sent exclusively as reminders about events in the days/hours immediately beforehand.

3. SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday mornings employ several communication methods, including written **announcements in our Order of Worship**, verbally highlighted **announcements**, and (new) **projected announcements** running before and after the service. Sunday Morning announcements are focused on pointing people to events and ministries that help them explore or integrate more fully into the life of our church. Given the diverse backgrounds and circumstances of those attending Sunday Morning Worship, only on rare and exceptional occasions will these vehicles be used by leadership for information that is primarily member focused.

4. CTR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

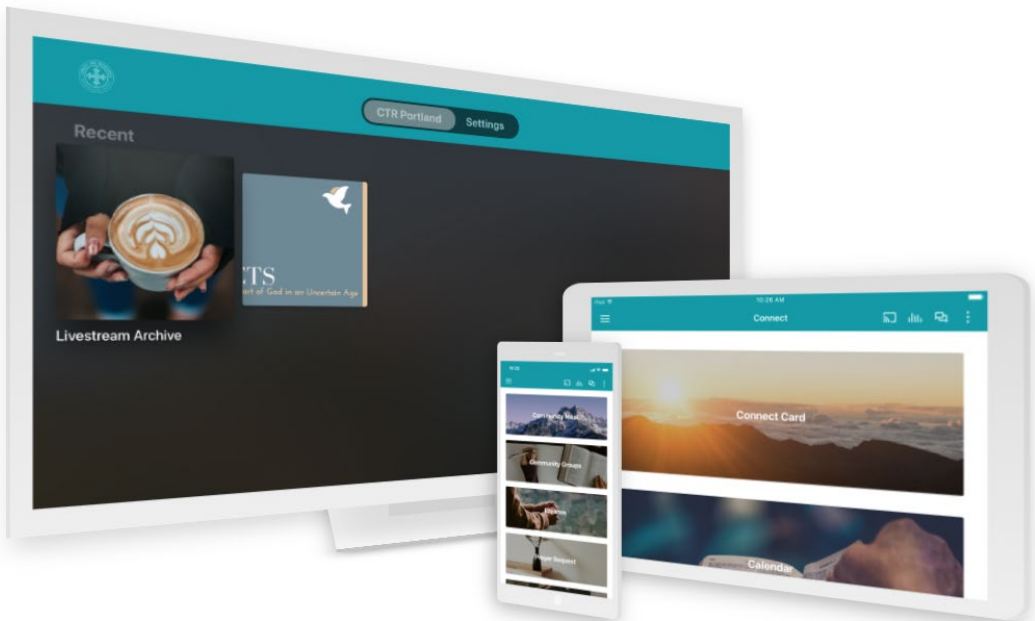
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

The CTR Website [ctrportland.org] is designed to be our front door– a welcoming place for new people to discover and learn about our church. It is minimal in announcements and church life information.

Social Media [Instagram & Facebook] is used for promotion of church events. People are encouraged to “re-post” as a way of sharing with and inviting their friends. [@ctrportland]

If you would like to access or have had difficulty accessing any of these vehicles, please contact ctr@ctrportland.org. Our admin, Cheryl Sullivan, is happy to help you get integrated into our communication systems.

DOWNLOAD THE CTR APP!





**CHRIST
THE REDEEMER**
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church
longs to be a diverse people who gather around
and extend the table of God's grace.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:00 AM

Reverend Sean J.S. Roberts, Lead Pastor

E-mail: SRoberts@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 956.207.1398

Reverend Alden D. Groves, Associate Pastor

E-mail: AGroves@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 215.704.0132

**Kendra Hollen,
Music Ministry Director**

[E-Mail: khollen@CTRPortland.org]

**Amanda McKrell,
Director of Community Development**

[E-mail: amckrell@CTRPortland.org]

**Abby Reid,
Children's Ministry Director**

[E-Mail: areid@CTRPortland.org]

Cheryl Sullivan, Administrator

[E-Mail: ctr@CTRPortland.org]

In need of assistance?

If you're experiencing a material need beyond what you can manage, the CTR Deacons may be able to help. Please call them at 207-331-1304 or email deacons@ctrportland.org. All inquiries will remain confidential, and you will receive a reply within twenty-four hours.

CTR is located at
61 NEAL STREET, PORTLAND, ME 04102
207.878.1211 | <https://ctrportland.org>