

# Trinity Chimes



SEPTEMBER 2020

*Evangelical Reformed Church United Church of Christ*

## FROM PASTOR DANIEL

One of the many challenges of these days of the COVID pandemic is how many choices have been taken away from us. Each one of us can compose a long list of things we can no longer do, at least for now. Each one of us has stories about trips to the store to find something only discovering that either that item was out of stock or the brand was not available.

Each one of us is adapting to the changes in our own unique ways. There are moments and even days when these restrictions and lack of choices cause frustration, sadness, and anger. There are also moments, as some of us have discovered, when having fewer choices is actually freeing.

It can be freeing to have less activity on our calendars. It can be freeing to have fewer obligations. It can be freeing to have hours of free time and the opportunity to choose something we have been wanting to do for a long time such as read a book, garden, walk, write letters or notes to old friends.

The Wall Street Journal published an article in June titled, "Why the American Consumer Has Fewer Choices—Maybe for Good." The writers recount how U.S. companies spent the past decades trying to please everyone. The pandemic made that impossible, and now some no longer plan to try. Restaurants are scaling down menu. Some grocery stores now offer only four choices of toilet paper. Before the pandemic, stores typically carried about 40 varieties.

"Some executives said they plan to stick with fewer choices when the pandemic fades, saying it forced them to reconsider whether American consumers need such vast choices that sometimes overburden factories and stores. The Covid-19 impact has shown that retailers and consumer-goods manufacturers were "addicted" to endless varieties, said IGA Chief Executive John Ross: "We may not need 40 different choices of toilet paper."

What some companies found was that by reducing the options or choices, they were able to streamline the production and supply chain processes. Slimmed down menus helped reduce prep work and costs.

I like having choices. But I can also tell you that I get overwhelmed when there are too many choices. Too many choices can create stress such as going into certain coffee establishments. Starbucks proudly advertises a choice of 80,000 different drinks combinations. Who needs that many choices?

Just as we may have rediscovered cooking, gardening, cleaning, reading, walking, time with friends during this pandemic, we may also discover that having less choices about some things may result in less stress.

What do you think? Would you be happier by having less variety to choose from when shopping?

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## **SEPTEMBER WORSHIP NOTES**

(Scripture notes from *Season of the Spirit* and *Pulpit Resource*)

### **September 6**

Exodus 12:1–14 related the story of the first Passover as the enslaved Hebrew community prepared for an epic journey. It was to be a political journey, from slavery to freedom. It also was to be a journey toward community culture and identity. In Matthew's gospel in chapter 18, verses 15–20, Jesus offers that "true greatness" comes in the way we live with each other, especially in "reproving another who sins." Holding each other accountable before the community and before God is a great and hard commandment.

We will be sharing in Holy Communion this morning. Please prepare your worship centers at home with bread or crackers, water, wine or juice.

### **September 13**

Today's service will focus on environmental stewardship. Our focus scripture will be Genesis 1:24-2:4, 50:15-20. Rev. Esther Ziegler will be preaching this morning on behalf of the Green Committee.

### **September 20**

Wandering in the wilderness, faced with difficulties of survival, the Israelites complain in Exodus 16: 2-15. Despite their complaint, God graciously gives them the food they need. Jesus tells the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, Matthew 20: 1-16, in which the master of the vineyard in which the master of the vineyard is shown to be incredibly gracious.

### **September 27**

In Exodus 17:1–7 , the people of Israel ask, "Is God with us, or not?" This is an understandable question when people are struggling in a wilderness of uncertainty. God answers through a guiding cloud, the crossing of the Reed Sea, and by providing manna and water for the journey. How does God continue to say, "Yes, I am with you"?

In Matthew 21:23–32, Jesus faces religious authorities who refuse to take a stand either way. Jesus responds to this time of testing by declaring the importance of standing with God's truth, regardless of the consequences.



### **WORSHIP ON THE PATIO AT ERUCC Wednesdays at 6 pm**

Please bring your own chair and wear a mask.  
Pastor Daniel will be leading the service and Brenda Hedges will be providing music.

## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY at 11:00 a.m.

This class will be meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/608416206?pwd=NzFtVUsxUmQ5eGpxMmk4WDB6Z0IUUT09>

Meeting ID: 608 416 206 Passcode: 588188

Now is a great time to explore our online Bible Study!

Each Monday, we will send out a Bible study sheet. The passage will be one of the lessons from the previous Sunday's scripture readings. You are invited to use the material for your own personal reflection and, if you wish, join a Zoom Call on Tuesdays at 11:00 am to discuss the passage with others.

Join Tuesday Morning Bible Study Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/608416206> Password: 588188

If you wish to be added to this Bible Study mailing, please let Amy know: [aaguilar@erucc.org](mailto:aaguilar@erucc.org)

## THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

7-8 pm

**Called to be the Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89672369983?pwd=VkljN0gvbHJ6ZVZJaVRKY0s0WmlpZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7236 9983 Password: 427069

(If you are interested in participating in this study, contact the church office for the materials)

As we study Acts, we see a church that is dynamic and alive, not static or stuck. The gospel message and movement did not come to an end with Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. There was a whole new beginning, one that no one could have predicted. In so many ways, Acts is the perfect book for a God is still speaking Church. Here more truth and light breaks forth from God's Holy Word each new day as the movement of faith spreads like wildfire. Among the matters to which Acts pays attention, in addition to leadership and conflict, are cultural diversity and the encounter with people who are not of our race or culture; the use of wealth and possessions; the role of women in the church; the relationship between church and state or between Christians and civil authorities; and the challenge of persecution. Beyond that, Acts is full of rollicking good stories and adventures.

September 3

Acts 10: 1-48

September 10

Acts 12: 1-24

September 17

Acts 15: 1-41

September 24

Acts 16: 16-40

## WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP WILL RESUME MEETING SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

The Wednesday Evening Study Group will begin meeting again on September 16 at 7 pm via Zoom. We will be reading and discussing Cathedral on Fire: a Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis by Brooks Berndt, Minister for Environmental Justice in the UCC. The title of the slim book comes from the concept that the natural world around us is God's cathedral and it is time to act as if it were literally on fire. As I write this, a major forest fire is burning in California and we are all aware of the devastation in Australia earlier this year, so perhaps we do not need to include the words "as if". Each week between September 16 and October 14, we will read approximately 10 pages of the book in preparation for the week's discussion.

If you are interested in participating in the group, please contact Esther Ziegler [estherrziegler@gmail.com](mailto:estherrziegler@gmail.com) or the church office prior to August 30 so the books can be ordered. Since we will be meeting via Zoom, we will need to have your preferred email address. A \$5 donation is requested for the book and may be paid through the church. You will receive your book in the monthly worship packet.

## TUESDAYS WITH TED Tuesday, September 15, from 6 – 7 p.m.

Participants Can Join the Ted Talk by Zoom Call

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92398918264?pwd=SIVFYzNKUklpczJsMEInOTdtRVdvZz09>

Meeting ID: 923 9891 8264 Password: 313735

**Tracy Edwards: Stop being a bystander in your own life**

"Life doesn't go from A to B -- it's messy," says sailing legend Tracy Edwards. In this inspiring talk, she tells how she went from teenage misfit to skipper of the first all-female crew in the toughest race on the seas -- and how she now helps young people around the world achieve their dreams, too.

**October 13**

**John Lewis and Bryan Stevenson**

**The fight for civil rights and freedom**

Civil rights leader and longtime US congressman John Lewis spent his life fighting for freedom and justice for everyone. In this illuminating conversation with lawyer and activist Bryan Stevenson, Lewis discusses the essential importance of voting, shares encouraging words of wisdom for the generation of young people currently organizing in the struggle for racial justice and tells moving stories from his decades of making "good trouble" -- at the Freedom Rides, March on Washington, and in the halls of Congress. "When you see something that's not right or fair or just, you have to say something," Lewis says. "You have to do something." (This conversation is part of the TED Legacy Project. Recorded November 19, 2019)

## **How to be Anti-Racist Engagement, Conversation & Opportunities**

"Becoming an anti-racist is a life-long journey. It happens in community with other committed people who journey together and commit to decentering whiteness, leaning into practices to decolonize socialized patterns of thinking and behaviors. The process includes relearning history, correcting false narratives, and working towards radical shifts in policies and structures that harm black lives". ~ Velda Love

### **Book Discussions**

**7 pm via Zoom Call**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87172055650?pwd=T0JPUGx%20xQVkJzT1IpQk9uWHLhZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 7205 5650 Password: 249876

#### **September 1**

*Between the World and Me*  
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

#### **October 19**

*Stamped from the Beginning*  
Ibram X. Kendi

#### **November 2**

*So You Want to Talk About Race*  
Ijeoma Oluo

#### **December 1**

*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*  
Austin Channing Brown

### **Movie Discussions**

*(Watch the movie at home and then engage in the conversation. Conversations will be held by Zoom call at 7 pm on the designated dates. If you do not have access to streaming services, call the church office to make arrangements to see the films.)*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84061140430?pwd=OTFoRG%20J0QnNvU2hZVXBbTh5VjIUQT09>

Meeting ID: 840 6114 0430 Password: 268380

#### **September 20**

"I'm Not Your Negro"

#### **October 25**

"When They See Us"

#### **November 29**

"Mudbound"

## SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS ON SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>! ON-LINE

Join us for Zoom Sunday School for Children and Youth Starting Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.



### Kindergarten thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School

Teachers: Dawn Lagrotteria and Kim Sexton

Time: Sunday's starting September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89653038025?pwd=djRPU05TNDFYczFMVUdOVzdmWnpuUT09>

Meeting ID: 896 5303 8025                      Passcode: 667229

### 5th - 7th Grade Sunday School

Teachers: Kathryn King, Arthur Slade and Jim Weitz

Time: Sep 13, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://zoom.us/j/92955152861?pwd=VStwT3ZISDILOVhhTWJRdTBoaHRyUT09>

Meeting ID: 929 5515 2861                      Passcode: hpQSF1

### High School

Teachers: Pastor Daniel, Stephanie Sites and Glenn Wallace

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84314617999?pwd=Rkd1N2JyZDFHdmtPYIBMTtkUzhUdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 1461 7999                      Passcode: 979546



Interested in church membership? A class for getting to know ERUCC, the United Church of Christ, and what it means to be a church member will be held on Monday, September 21st at 7 pm via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

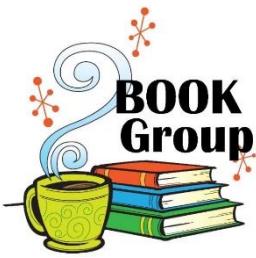
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87906983739?pwd=NUIwbDIEL3JwdDBQN05vUmVxa3F3dz09>

Meeting ID: 879 0698 3739

Passcode: 755516

If you are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Daniel at [bkdaniel@erucc.org](mailto:bkdaniel@erucc.org) or the church office at [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org) or 301-662-2762.

Thanks to all our visitors and prospective new members for the joy you bring us.



## ERUCC Book Group 2020

Join the Conversation Via Zoom Call at 7 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969287938?pwd=eGhQaDJ1VVkzazhOZldqd3pFN3pqQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 6928 7938

Password: 685141

**September 22**

Read any book by Toni Morrison

**October 27**

*Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

Comedian Trevor Noah's stories of growing up in South Africa are vivid, sometimes harrowing, and often laugh-out-loud funny. The bonus of audio is that listeners get to hear Noah tell these stories in his South African-accented English, as well as hear him speak snippets of various other South African languages.... Noah's narration offers insights and intimacy, and as he gives voice to his mother, his friends, and his younger self, listeners are invited in to glimpse his world.

**November 24**    The Overstory

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## SAVE THE DATE

### ERUCC WORK WEEK

Monday thru Friday

October 19-23



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## APPRECIATION LETTERS RECEIVED

- From Tamara Tamas in appreciation for the care and attention of Pastor Daniel and the congregation during her recovery time. Food train, rides, visitation... all very much appreciated!
- From The Religious Coalition in recognition of our gift of \$2,083.33 on April 30.
- From The Religious Coalition in recognition of our gift of \$2,083.33 on June 30.
- From Rev. Joseph Michael in appreciation for the prayers and the stole in celebration of his ordination into the Christian Ministry.

# ERUCC Support for Frederick Agencies

ERUCC's spirit of generosity shines brightly in our mission giving. Practicing our call to extravagant welcome and radical hospitality, our contributions – budgeted at \$77,250 for 2020 -- continue to support the UCC's Our Church's Wider Mission, ERUCC mission trips, the Lancaster Theological Seminary, the Catoctin Association, overseas partnerships, plus peace and justice activities in our community. A sampling of local Frederick groups we are supporting this year includes:



**The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs**, founded in 1981 (ERUCC is a founding member), has been providing those most at risk in our community with emergency shelter for homeless adults and families, healthcare assistance to the uninsured, utility assistance, homeless prevention programs and food assistance through local food banks. With programs that directly support men, women and children, the organization works to eradicate homelessness in Frederick County. It partners with other service providers and the faith community to bring aid, awareness and attention of these social issues to our community and our legislators.

As part of ERUCC's support, we also host the

**Emergency Family Shelter (EFS)**. During 2019, ERUCC, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF), and Kol Ami hosted three to five families for four different weeks during the year. Each time, members volunteered to feed them dinner each evening. The families expressed their gratitude for the meal and a safe home for a week.

**Homewood Auxiliary Support** uses donations from the congregation to cheer residents in the Health Care Center with items such as televisions, live entertainment, flowers and tablecloths for the dining tables. Hospitality carts are stocked with free items residents may need and are delivered by volunteers.

**Habitat for Humanity**'s mission, whose vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live, is "seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope." Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County partners with families who are seeking the strength, stability, and self-reliance of affordable home ownership.

**Frederick Community Actions Agency (FCAA) Soup Kitchen**, is open 365 days each year and feeds thousands of people a free dinner each year at its facility located at the corner of All Saints and South Market.

**Frederick County Public Schools Annual School Supply Distribution Project (Stuff the Bus)**: ERUCC works with other community partners to organize this annual event, which provides and distributes backpacks and school supplies to children and families with limited resources. Donations of school supplies and money to purchase additional supplies are always needed.

Through our physical spaces, which require Property and Maintenance funds to maintain, heat, cool, and clean, ERUCC has supported a range of local groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Moms' Demand Action, Guiding Eyes, Church Women United, a Swing Dance Group, Frederick Children's Chorus, The Frederick Center, Narcotics Anonymous, Frederick County Teacher's Association, NARNON, Girl Scouts, First Aid and CPR training, Census Enumerator training, and La Leche League. We're hoping that once the COVID 19 pandemic has passed that we will again be able to provide shelter for these groups (with the good news being that our upgraded audio-visual technology in the sanctuary can also be used by groups who need this space and technology to communicate with their members)

Through administrative funds, ERUCC also supports our local Frederick business community, recognizing that strong local commerce makes Frederick a more robust community in terms of employment opportunities, shopping and recreating locally, generating tax revenues that support our City and County functions, and more. Specific groups we support include:

**Downtown Frederick Partnership**, which works to enhance, promote, and preserve the vitality and livability of Downtown Frederick, a national Main Street community.

**Frederick County Chamber of Commerce**, which serves as the voice of business and provides strategic leadership and engagement in building the future of business and the community through information, collaboration, advocacy, and services on behalf of the employers in our community.

The congregation continues to give generously of our time and talents, enabling us to help our community in more ways than are listed above.

In these times when it is sometimes easy to ask if we are making a difference, ERUCC is making a difference to our Frederick friends and neighbors. Through these organizations, the ERUCC funds that our Mission and Social Action Committee have budgeted, are feeding the poor, housing the homeless, providing assistance and support to those who are shut ins, supporting students and their educational needs, and helping maintain the local economy to the benefit of all. That is good news!

If you are interested in joining the Mission and Social Action Committee, please contact either of the group's Co-chairs, Rebecca Shillingburg ([rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com)) or Colleen Baldree ([colleenbaldree@gmail.com](mailto:colleenbaldree@gmail.com)).

## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP/GENEROSITY COMMITTEE – ONE WAY OF GIVING

We are nearing the time when ERUCC will ask each of us to consider our relationship to God and what portion of our income we feel God is calling us to give to continue the ministries and mission of our church. It is also the time when many people begin to think about their strategies for charitable donations.

Did you know that if you are over 70 1/2, you can transfer money from a traditional or rollover IRA *directly* to ERUCC, or to any qualified charitable organization, and that this distribution will be *excluded* from your taxable income? This is called a **Qualified Charitable Distribution**, or **QCD**, and might be financially beneficial to you.

Since the distribution is not included in your taxable income, you pay *no* tax on that money. It also counts toward fulfilling your RMD. Just make sure that the check is paid directly from your IRA to ERUCC. (If the check is made out to you, the amount counts as your income and will be taxable to you.) You or your agent can easily set up a QCD. The transaction must be completed by the end of the year and acknowledged before you file your taxes. The Cares Act of 2020 suspends the requirement for a Required Minimum Distribution this year because of the Pandemic, but you can still make a QCD.

If you are interested in this form of giving or want more information, please contact our Treasurer, Phil Selby ([selbypb@comcast.net](mailto:selbypb@comcast.net)) or Finance Committee Chair, Allen Flora ([allen.p.flora@gmail.com](mailto:allen.p.flora@gmail.com)). As always, thank you for your generosity.

We encourage you to speak with your financial advisor or agent to see if this is a good idea for you. ERUCC does not offer tax advice or recommend one option over another.



## **Reflections on the Trinity Chapel Split System**

**Peter Brehm**

Earlier this year we reported that ERUCC had invested in the purchase and installation of a split system in Trinity Chapel. Here is a more fully fleshed out background of why this was undertaken and what was involved.

Trinity Chapel's boiler is quite old and, while operational, is feared by the Property Committee to be near its end of life. As you can imagine, new boilers required to heat a space the size of Trinity Chapel are expensive. Coupled with this, Trinity Chapel and its adjoining classrooms were air conditioned in the summer by aging, energy hogging window unit air conditioners. These were limited in terms of their capacity to cool the spaces and, especially in the Chapel, were noisy, forcing service attendees to choose between a cooler room and not hearing as well what was being said. The solution? A Split System Heat Pump that would relieve the need to use the boiler unless the weather became really cold, putting off the time when a new boiler is needed, and would be able to cool Trinity Chapel spaces in an effective, efficient, and quiet manner.

Working with Frederick Air Heating and Air Conditioning, ERUCC installed a Mitsubishi Electric Split System Heat Pump in a project that concluded in June, 2020. Operated using hand-held remote control devices, there are now:

- Four units in the Trinity Chapel worship space;
- One unit in the downstairs back hall;
- Two units in the first floor classrooms on the right;
- One unit in the first floor classroom on the left;
- Three units in the upstairs rear meeting room;
- One unit in the second floor classroom on the right; and
- One unit in the second floor classroom on the left.
- The system also includes three condensers, one located on the north side of the Chapel and two located in the rear.
- As part of this effort, wiring in Trinity Chapel was also upgraded. As reported previously, this entire project cost \$104,055.

The impact? In addition to making the building safer because of the upgraded wiring, the Chapel and attendant classrooms and meeting spaces are more comfortable and allow those using these spaces, including 8:30 service participants, better able to hear what is being said in the Chapel. The new system is also much more energy efficient, which supports our environmental mission.

The big payoff is whether the technology is bringing any benefits. Attendees at the 8:30 service report:

- "Great improvement – much more comfort – should help with attendance."
- "We have found the sanctuary to be quite comfortable and appreciate the quiet efficiency of the new system."
- "The new air conditioning makes the Chapel very comfortable on a hot summer's day. It's very quiet, which is nice. Have no distractions from the service."
- "The AC is excellent and quieter than the other units. The (new) units are attractive, too."

I'll close with a story. A master bricklayer and apprentice were building a wall. The apprentice kept laying the foundation bricks poorly, and the bricklayer would cause the apprentice to re-lay the bricks. This occurred several times, at which point the apprentice complained, "Why do I have to be so careful with the foundation bricks? They will be covered by dirt, and no one will ever know!" The bricklayer replied, "You will know, and God will know." The same is true of ERUCC buildings. New air conditioning, replacement roofs, repairs to steeple sidings and to front porch columns and soffits are not flashy, eye catching projects. But they are necessary for us to support our congregation and Frederick community who make use of our church home.

## **Coming together by sharing Our Stories - Being Faces of Love**

**From the Stewardship/Generosity Committee**



When the pandemic changed our lives in March, our beloved church rose to the occasion to find new ways to continue to worship and serve, be God's community, and stay connected. Now, we are in our new life of careful opening. But since we still can't all see each other in person, *we are inviting you* to share something of what has been meaningful to you or how you have experienced the church over these months. Just a few lines or short paragraph, whatever comes to mind! We will share them in Chimes or Thursday Thoughts over the next two months.

Here are a few reflections from people and next month we hope to have more. I am sure everyone has a story. Be bold! Just mail or email it to Amy, label it *My Reflections*. Telling and reading can weave us together. Thank you to those who have shared:

"I have been a member of ERUCC for 66 years. I can sum up in one word why I continue to attend and support ERUCC. That is inclusivity. What I have learned about inclusivity at church has allowed me to have compassion for all of God's children. My thanks to pastors Wenner and Kershner Daniel for their kindness, support and leadership." Jo Ann Fritz

"I love ERUCC because of its diversity, its biblical rootedness, its social activism, and its climate of love and caring." Richard Leslie

"The first time I received our packets and watched the Sunday Service, I felt grateful and calm. I was touched that Pastor Daniel, Kim, Allison, the ERUCC singers, Amy, Jeff and the sound crew, and others, worked with such deep love to bring God to us during a high-anxiety time." Susan Kulp

### **GREEN TEAM - Fall is Tree-Planting Time!**

**Is there a place in your yard that is calling out for a tree?**

**TREE FACT:** If every American family planted just one tree, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere would be reduced by one billion pounds annually. That is almost five percent of the amount that human activity pumps into the atmosphere each year. 300 trees can counter balance the amount of air pollution one person produces in a lifetime.

Source: coloradotrees.org

**TREE FACT:** A tree can be a natural air conditioner. The evaporation from a single large tree can produce the cooling effect of 10 room size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

Source: USDA pamphlet #363

Trees also reduce erosion, remove air pollutants and improve air quality, and reduce the overall quantity of water runoff through increased absorption. City of Frederick

Trees and forests have a profound effect on mood and health. Google "trees effect on mood" for some interesting findings. Also, check out NY State's Department of Environmental Conservation (dec.ny.gov) Click on *Nature, then Forest and trees, then Immerse Yourself in a Forest for Better Health*

There is the right size tree for every location. Why not start your research now, and as always, buying a Native tree is beneficial ecologically. The article *Marylanders Plant Trees*, Department of Natural Resources of MD State is a good place to start. dnr.maryland.gov.

## GREEN TEAM NEWS

### **New Class- CATHEDRAL ON FIRE**

Esther Ziegler will be teaching a Wednesday evening class using Cathedral on Fire: a Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis by Brooks Berndt, Minister for Environmental Justice in the UCC. The class will be conducted via ZOOM and will meet at 7:00 pm September 16- October 14. To sign up, contact Esther Ziegler [estherrziegler@gmail.com](mailto:estherrziegler@gmail.com) or the church office. For more info, check out Esther's write up in the educational classes section of the Chimes.

### **Climate in the Pulpit and Voting**

On September 13, Esther will be leading worship with a message about our calling to care for the earth and its implications for social justice and voting.

In advance of the elections our partner organization, Interfaith Power and Light is asking people to take a pledge to become Faith Justice Climate Voters. Here is what they say:

#### **As people of faith, we are called to care for God's Creation and to love our neighbors.**

This is a moment for fundamental change. We can help make change by electing leaders who are committed to working to end structures of oppression, environmental injustices, and take action to tackle climate change. To join the many people committing to this challenge, click on the link and fill out the form.

<https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/voter-pledge-form/>

### **Legislative Success**

Through leadership from the Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS), we and other faith communities around the county were motivated to speak out this summer. Thank you to everyone who wrote emails to council members, signed a survey or spoke at public hearings. Our collective voices as people of faith were heard and minds and hearts were changed. As a result, the Forest Resource Ordinance and an accompanying Zoning Ordinance were passed as was the Climate Emergency Resolution! We can make a difference!

### **Frederick Food Security Network Garden**

We did it! We committed to providing volunteers to help at the Frederick Food Security Network Garden once a week for the whole summer and we fulfilled that commitment. The mission of the FFSN is to improve food security for residents of local food deserts, reduce local water pollution by diverting rooftop runoff for use as irrigation and promote better eating habits and environmental stewardship in the Frederick community. We support this mission and are proud to work with Hood College on these goals. To everyone that came out to work, thank you!

## **COVID SUPPORT ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP FORMING**

The class is called "Surviving and Thriving During the Covid Virus." The virus pandemic has been difficult for everyone. This group will provide a safe place to talk about what it's like to go through the Pandemic. The group will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 2-3 pm. It is a drop-in group, no preparation needed. The September meeting dates are Sept. 1st and 15<sup>th</sup>. Joan and Allen Maples will be hosting the group outside (weather permitting). Please bring your mask and a chair; and we will be social distancing. As a backup, we will be using Zoom, For additional information please contact Allen Maples at [allen.maples@gmail.com](mailto:allen.maples@gmail.com) or call 301-663-5351.

## Ways of Giving / September

ERUCC has enabled two different ways that contributors can make online donations to support the church's missions. One approach uses PayPal, which can handle only one-time contributions and uses the donor's credit card to process the donation payment. The other approach uses VANCO, a financial service company, that allows donors to make a one-time or recurring, automatic payments to the church. VANCO allows donors to make donations using a credit card or directly from a checking or savings account.

Both methods are accessed through the ERUCC web page. Click on the link labelled **Give to ERUCC** (the actual link is: <https://erucc.org/give-to-erucc/>) located on the ribbon in the upper center of the ERUCC web site home page.



**PayPal:** After clicking on that, the page opens up and reveals name, address, and allied fields to complete in order to make a PayPal donation, including the amount to be donated and a drop down allowing the donor to specify which mission should benefit from the donation (General Fund, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Music Ministry, Local Missions, Benevolences, Special Offering, and Other). All of the PayPal donation can go to only one selection, meaning the donor cannot, for example, divide a single \$100 donation so that \$50 goes toward Youth Ministry and \$50 goes toward Benevolences. If you want to support two categories, you would have to make two donations. After clicking on the **Submit** button underneath the donation amount, PayPal will ask for credit card information. Once the PayPal **Submit** button is clicked, PayPal will charge your credit card for the amount of the donation, deduct about 3% of the donation as a processing fee (\$3.00 per \$100 donation), and transmit the remainder to ERUCC for deposit from the PayPal system into the ERUCC bank account.

**VANCO:** Underneath the PayPal fields there is a link entitled **Give Online (using Vanco Services)**. Clicking on this opens up a screen allowing the donor to create a profile, which must be done in order to use VANCO since the credit card or bank account information from which the donated funds are coming will be saved within it. There is also a link to log into an existing profile. [Vanco can help you recover existing profiles. ERUCC cannot.] There are also blanks allowing the donor to specify how much of the donation should be allocated to different church activities (Donation/Offering, 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Giving, Mortgage Assistance, Stewardship, Missions, Paver Project) as well as a place to data enter if this is a one-time donation or a repeating donation, and if repeating, the frequency, such as weekly or monthly. In contrast to PayPal, with Vanco the donor can divide a single \$100 donation so that \$50 goes toward Mortgage Assistance \$50 goes toward Stewardship. Once the Vanco **Submit** button is clicked, Vanco will charge the donor's credit card or debit the donor's checking or savings account for the amount of the donation, deduct about 3% of the donation as a processing fee (\$3.00 per \$100 donation), and transmit the remainder to ERUCC for deposit from the Vanco system into the ERUCC bank account. Vanco also charges a \$40 per month fee to host ERUCC's customized Vanco donation management software.

Some members round up their donation to help take the sting off the assessment of these fees. For example, some give \$103 when they want ERUCC to receive a \$100 donation to pay for the 3% being deducted. This is the donor's choice: ERUCC is grateful for all donations, whether or not the fees are covered!

### Introduction

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is well known among the faith community and many secular organizations as the justice church. Our work of justice is well documented and honored. As people of faith, our relationship with God, the guidance of the Gospel, and our love for humanity paves the way for liberation from all forms of hate and oppression. Liberation is a choice. We must choose to embrace it, stand for it, and fight to obtain it. The call to engage in public life and fight for justice and liberation is still the same as it was yesterday.

The journey to rid our communities of injustice and inequality has been long. It has been filled with obstacles and opposition. Yet there is no better time than now to be faithful to God's call. Led by our faith, focused on freedom, and energized by love, we can make a seismic shift toward justice and true democracy at this time in our nation's history.

Our vote continues to be a powerful tool for change in spite of the forces that seek to suppress it and to persuade us to vote against our best interest by focusing on issues that are not at the root cause of the problems in our communities. And just like our vote, completing the 2020 Census is more than about making our voices heard and being counted. It helps to shape the political and economic direction of every community in the nation.

### The Situation

There is no question that we are living in challenging times. Our current body politic and political environment continues to fail the vast majority of people. The forces of racism, homophobia, misogyny, militarism, xenophobia, corporate statism, and now antidemocratic and fascism continue to threaten the building of the beloved community. And sadly, false prophets and religious communities are promoting a brand of faith that is diametrically in opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the prophets of our sacred text.

2020 presents another defining opportunity in our nation's history. The outcome of the Presidential, Congressional, and State Level Elections will determine the trajectory of the nation for a decade or more. And, the 2020 Census is much more than a head count. It is a snapshot of the nation that determines how congressional seats are apportioned, how state and federal dollars are distributed, and where businesses choose to locate.

And let's not forget the long history of voter suppression used as a strategy to influence the outcome of elections by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting. Some of the old strategies are still being used, such as promoting the wrong date for Election Day, intimidating voters with threats of arrests or physical harm, and attacking voters to prevent them from entering voting locations. New strategies have emerged. Since 2008, states across the country have passed measures to make it harder for Americans—particularly people of color, the elderly, students, and persons with disabilities—to exercise their right to vote. These measures include limiting early voting, voter ID laws, reducing the number of voting locations, and purges of voter rolls.

### The Justice & Witness Action Network

The Justice & Witness Action Network (the Network) serves as the primary arm for the Central Atlantic Conference (the Conference) to carry out its mission and agenda for justice and witness ministries. It is a grassroots advocacy network composed of leaders, clergy, and local churches across the Conference.

The Network educates and engages members in community organizing, grassroots advocacy, prophetic witness and action, and shaping public policy that advances our vision. Our work is grounded in Conference and General Synod resolutions, consonant with historic UCC witness, informed by a biblical understanding of justice, prophetic ministry and action, and a set of guiding principles to define our work.

If you are interested in participating in the network or working on UCC efforts to Get Out the Vote, please contact Pastor Daniel at [bkdaniel@erucc.org](mailto:bkdaniel@erucc.org).

# FAITH & DEMOCRACY

## SUNDAY 9.20.20



## SAVE THE DATE

Faith & Democracy 2020, a campaign of the Justice & Witness Action Network, calls on local churches across the Central Atlantic Conference to come together on Sunday, Sep. 20, for a time of worship and mobilization to call on voters to vote in the General Election.

As people of faith, our vote serves as a powerful tool to rid our communities of injustice, racism and inequity. There is no better time than now to be faithful to God's call. The call to engage in public life. The call to fight for justice and liberation.

Join us for this important organizing moment in the Faith & Democracy 2020 campaign. Mark your calendar and prepare to receive the Faith & Democracy 2020 worship packet soon.



CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*God is still speaking,*



## **DEMONSTRATE YOUR PATRIOTISM AND FAITH BY VOTING IN NOVEMBER**

Because of the quarantine in place during the primary election this June, many polling places were closed and every registered voter throughout Maryland was sent an absentee ballot but that is not the plan for the general election.

In a letter to the Maryland State Board of Elections written on July 8, Governor Hogan proclaimed that:

Every early voting center should be open and every polling location should be open on Election Day to accommodate anyone who wishes to cast their ballot safely and in person.

To ensure that every Marylander who wants to vote by mail can vote by mail, SBE should promptly send out an absentee ballot request application to every eligible Maryland voter.

Every effort should be made to promote early voting, absentee voting by mail, and voting at off-peak times as safe and efficient options.



As a result of this mandate to the State Board of Elections, prior to the general election on November 3, every registered voter will be sent an application for an absentee ballot. If you wish to vote by mail, you will need to fill out that application and mail it to the Frederick County Board of Elections by October 20 in order to receive an absentee ballot. When you receive the absentee ballot, you then fill it out and return it via mail or a drop box located in the community. The ballot must be postmarked by Nov. 3, or dropped in a drop box by 8 p.m. that day. Drop box locations will be available the beginning of October; locations will soon be announced.

The applications for absentee ballots were expected to be mailed beginning in late August so check your mail carefully for the application and return it promptly if you plan to vote by mail. Submit your request shortly after receiving it because although the cutoff is not until Oct. 20, the demand is expected to be heavy which may slow down the return of your absentee ballot. The absentee ballot must then be filled out, mailed, and received by the Board of Elections before November 3, 2020.

If you wish to vote in person but want to avoid long lines, voting at one of the early voting sites before November 3, is an option that does not require applying for an absentee ballot and then returning it. These sites and drop box locations will be published closer to Nov. 3.

The Frederick County Board of Elections phone number is 301-600-8683 if you have further questions or you can go to their website at [frederickcountymd.gov/elections](http://frederickcountymd.gov/elections).

If you wish to check whether you are registered to vote and that your mailing address is current go to [vote411.org](http://vote411.org). The [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) website, provided by The League of Women Voters, allows you to check whether you are registered and that your information is correct. As we get closer to election day, it will also include a Voter's Guide with responses from candidates to assist you in deciding for whom you wish to vote and a sample ballot to familiarize yourself with what the ballot looks like.

The United Church of Christ's [Our Faith Our Vote Civic Action Center](#) provides similar information.

Covid-19 has changed our lives in many ways, one of which is making decisions about what is the safest (both in terms of health and in terms of security) way to vote. Please don't let these changes deter you from exercising your right and responsibility to vote both as a citizen and as a person of faith.



For the past six years, the Frederick Chapter of The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) has held successful walks in Frederick to raise awareness, to promote education and fund research in support of women, families and communities impacted by ovarian cancer. We are proud to say that we have raised over \$600,000! We are a national women's health organization focused on saving lives by fighting tirelessly to prevent and cure ovarian cancer and to improve the quality of life for survivors.

Consider these staggering facts on ovarian cancer:

- One in 78 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in her lifetime.
  - 22,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer this year.
  - 14,000 women will lose their lives to ovarian cancer this year.
  - There is no early detection test. Most cases are diagnosed when the disease is in advanced stages.

After much careful consideration and in order to keep our TEAL community safe, we have decided not to host our traditional Run/Walks. Instead, on **Saturday, September 26**, we will unite people across the nation touched by ovarian cancer for our **Together in TEAL - No Boundaries!** We'll use our voices and actions during the weeks leading up to event day to turn our country Teal from coast-to-coast. On September 26, kick off the day with an activity **YOU CHOOSE**. Run, walk, ride, skip, jump -- whatever gets you moving safely.

Then watch our online national broadcast featuring stories and celebrate the accomplishments of our **TEAL** community.

As an eight-year ovarian cancer survivor, I am passionate about taking the fight forward, to turn my own diagnosis into something meaningful. I would greatly appreciate your support of this important cause. You can register to walk as an individual, form a team or join Cathie's Warriors. We will plan to walk together in Baker Park on the morning of Sept. 26, but we'll certainly follow social distancing and safety guidelines. To learn more about the event, to donate or register to walk, please go to <https://runwalk.ovarian.org/frederick>

Thank you for your support!

Cathie Duncan, NOCC Frederick Chapter, Lead Volunteer

# ERUCC YOUTH SCHEDULE

**\*\*\*Please note that with all in-person activities masks are required as well as maintaining physical distancing.**

## **ACTIVITIES:**

- **Sunday, September 13**                   **Call with Klein Schwechten at Noon**
  - **Saturday, September 19**               **Kayaking and Canoeing**  
Thanks to the Huetting Family for planning this excursion. We are looking for kayaks and canoes to borrow.
  - **Sunday, September 27**                 **Youth Group Olympics from 6-7:30 pm at the church**
  - **Saturday, October 17**                 **Bike Trip**  
Chuck Baldree and Marc Kline are planning this 10-mile round trip biking adventure. Mid-morning to midafternoon. Bring a packed lunch.



## A NEW YOUTH GROUP IS FORMING: 5<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

(Name to be Determined)

**Monday, September 7 from 3-5 pm**

Have some fun at the Hoewing-Moxley's.

Games, tie dying masks, planning for the year ahead, determining a name for the group.

At least one parent or adult must be present with their child/dren. Please bring your own drinks and snacks.

Masks are required.

## ERUCC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### **God's Kids Club**

God's Kids Club will continue to meet via zoom Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 4 p.m.

Children Preschool thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome. Please email Kim Sexton for Zoom link and the supply list for each session. [ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org)

### **Themes for September**

Week of September 7<sup>th</sup>

Legos

Week of September 14<sup>th</sup>

Peace

Week of September 21<sup>st</sup>

Peace

Week of September 28<sup>th</sup>

Animals of Africa

Week of October 5<sup>th</sup>

Animals of Africa

### **Sunday School Resumes**

Sunday school will look different this year as we go virtual. Class will begin on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. for those in Preschool thru high school. Zoom links will be sent to families via e-mail. If you are interested, please let Kim Sexton know at [ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org)

### **Thank You Teachers!**

As we begin another Sunday School year, we want to take the time to thank those who taught for the 2019-2020 year:

**Preschool:** Dawn Lagrotteria & Evie Frazier

**Kindergarten to 2nd grade:** Audrey Rayfield & Joyce Anne Schmid

**3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade:** Arthur Slade & Kim Sexton

**Confirmation:** Elizabeth Slade & Jim Weitz,

**High School:** Glenn Wallace, Stephanie Pain & Laura Rhoderick,

**Children's Church:** Sara Hoewing, Julie Chappell, Jean Fish, Barb Biser & Betsy Selby.

**Substitute:** Catie Schaeberle

**Adult Education:** We would like to thank the following people for teaching adult education Allen Maples, Cindy Duranko, Tricia Coffey, Elian Coates, Cliff Barr, Alison Shafer, Mary Boswell, The Green Committee, Rev. Esther Zeigler, Rev. Fred Wenner, Rev. Lee Thomas, Rev Richard Leslie and Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel.

### **Donations Wanted for Care Packages**

The children and youth will be assembling care packages to send to our college students and those serving in the military. We are in need of donations to put in those care packages. Items needed include: prepackaged snacks, instant soup, popcorn, cocoa, tea, candy and raisins. Monetary donations welcomed and will be used to defray the cost of postage. Items can be dropped off or mailed to the church office during business hour on Sunday mornings or On Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> between 10 a.m. and noon in the church parking lot.

Questions, contact Kim Sexton at [ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org).

### **Addresses Wanted**

Before we know it, it will be time to make the care packages that we send to our college students and those serving in the military. Please make sure that we have an up-to-date address for your loved one. Addresses can be sent to Kim Sexton at [ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org).



# SEPTEMBER

## Birthdays

- 2** Doug Brunner, Karly Johnson, Ben Mercier  
**3** Darlene Brunner, Lucas Usry, Teddy Wenner  
**4** Michelle Clapp, Darryl Glick, Claire Kershner  
**5** Rachel Ford  
**6** James Higinbotham  
**7** Beth Bowen, **George Hodges, Sr.**  
**8** Bennett Baker  
**10** Pat Hanberry  
**11** Felicia Bishop  
**12** Karen Woodward  
**13** John Clapp, Mary Jane Wachter  
**14** Evan Johnson  
**15** Betsy Fisher, **Pauline Marendt**, Connor Sheets  
**17** Edward Garrett, Debbie Gohegan, **Peggy Yost**  
**19** Kim Sexton, Brian Wenner  
**23** Jason Judd, Bill Prescott, Suzanne Schmidt  
**25** Elizabeth Fisher, Cheryl Frederick, Kevin Kline, Natalie Perper

Please consider sending cards to our members that can no longer attend church services.

**George Hodges, 9902 Gas House Pike, Frederick, MD 21701**

**Pauline Marendt, 3030 Mill Island Parkway, Unit 111, Frederick, MD 21701**

**Peggy Yost, Homewood, 111 Willows, 7407 Willow Road, Frederick, MD 21702**

### **GIFTS RECEIVED**

- Gifts have been received, in grateful appreciation for our live stream worship from persons joining us for those services.
- To the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund
- Gifts to the School Supply Drive
- Towards purchase of a banner and the security cameras
- In recognition of the “unbelievable kindness, giving and chauffeuring”.



## ERUCC

**15 West Church Street  
Frederick, MD 21701**  
[www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)



## OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor ([bkdaniel@erucc.org](mailto:bkdaniel@erucc.org))  
Rev. Frederick Wenner, Pastor Emeritus ([faw500@msn.com](mailto:faw500@msn.com))

**Associate for Children's Ministries**  
Kim Sexton  
([ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org))

**Office Administrator**  
Amy Aguilar  
([aaguilar@erucc.org](mailto:aaguilar@erucc.org))

**Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director**  
Tricia Coffey

**Director of Music**  
Alison Shafer

**Social Media Coordinator**  
Jenna Duranko

**Nursery Attendant**  
Sherry Murray

**Jaci Clayton**  
Facilities