

Trinity Chimes



OCTOBER 2020

Evangelical Reformed Church United Church of Christ

FROM PASTOR DANIEL

In addition to thinking a lot about safety protocols lately – best masks to wear and have on hand at the church, how to secure hand sanitizing stations that have been on back order since March, how to remind people – nicely – that we need to maintain physical distance from each other -- I have also been doing a lot of thinking, reflecting, and praying about leadership in these days. It's one of the reasons why I have chosen to focus on the book of Exodus on Sundays in September and into October. What can I, we, learn from Moses' leadership and the challenges he faced. I've been exploring that alongside the leadership of Jesus. Then there's what we have been learning and discovering in our Thursday evening Bible Study on the Book of Acts and leadership and life in the early church.

What do these stories say about leadership for these days with the challenges of a pandemic and a contentious political landscape on top of the usual congregational life? It's pretty clear from the stories of Moses and the journey of the people of Israel, as well as Jesus and the disciples, that leadership requires a team. Moses could relay messages from God over and over again but nothing was going to change or happen unless some in the community took action. Jesus could take five loaves of bread and bless them and multiply them to feed five thousand people but it required the disciples to distribute the bread. Peter and Paul were great motivational speakers, painting a picture of new life in Jesus, but the Jesus movement spread because others took on leadership and tasks.

All of this leads me to reflect on how do we notice, name, and nurture leaders at ERUCC. In some areas of our congregation's life, we are stuck due to lack of persons willing to serve as committee chairs and team members in areas such as education and worship. We also need to identify new members for finance and persons willing to take on leadership as treasurer and finance chair in the 2021. These needs and opportunities have been with us long before the pandemic, but the pandemic has added burdens to the smaller number of people already serving in leadership. I know I have shared this concern before. I know also people have listened to this request from me and others. I am not sure that the critical nature of these needs has been heard.

The time to step up is now. Understanding that, like Moses, we may each feel "who am I to lead," I ask you to look inward and discern whether you are feeling a call to serve in some committee member or leadership capacity. Additionally, is there someone you can name that would bring new energy to these areas of the church's life?

I welcome your thoughts and ideas. You can also talk with Peter Brehm, elder and President of the Consistory (pbrehm@comcast.net) or Marc Kline, chair of the Spiritual Council (mkline354@gmail.com).

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OCTOBER WORSHIP NOTES

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

October 4

Our first lesson from Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 continues the wilderness journey of the people of Israel. In the reading for this week, we hear the word of the Ten Commandments. God's wisdom for creating healthy communities is found in these words. Jesus' parable in Matthew 21: 33-46 seems to be a word of sobering wisdom. This morning we celebrate World Communion Sunday. This day is observed in many parts of the world to acknowledge the fact that Christians around the world are – symbolically – gathered around a common table.

For those coming to in-person worship, you are welcome to receive the bread and cup from Pastor Daniel as you are seated in the pews. If you are participating in worship via live streaming, please prepare communion with bread, a cracker, juice or wine or water. We will bless these gifts together and receive them as one community.

You can add your Ten Commandments card that was included in the worship packets to your worship center.

October 11

In our scripture readings for this Sunday, we are invited to reflect on what it means to be formed as a community of God's people, committed to living out the ways of God. Exodus 32: 1-14 contains what is likely one of the most confusing and dramatic stories in the Hebrew Scriptures. It has been interpreted in myriad ways but mostly as a cautionary tale of turning toward other gods. In Philippians 4: 1-9, Paul uses the Greek word *ekklesia* -- which translates "called out" -- to describe the early Christian church. He calls the church to stand firm in the faith, to focus on what is true, honorable, and just. And in all, pray, rejoice, and focus on all that is truly good in God's realm.

October 18

In Exodus 33:12–23, we are privy to a conversation between God and Moses. Reminiscent of last week's struggle of the Hebrew people with an idea or presence of God vs. a tangible, physical god, Moses also asks for proof of God's presence – to see what God looks like. Matthew 22:15–22 tells the story of discerning taxes, where the stamping of Caesar on the coinage settles the question – "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and unto God the things that are God's" (v. 21). While this can be seen as an example of the separation of church and state, it also harkens back to the wilderness experiences of discerning and following God's guiding presence.

October 25

As the community of Jesus' disciples, we are called to find ways to proclaim the love of God to our neighbors. The Gospel lesson in Matthew 22: 34-46 reminds the emerging Christian community of Jesus' rules – unconditional love for God and neighbor. Today's reading from the Hebrew scriptures, Deuteronomy 34: 1-12, brings to an end, the life of Moses. He is given a glimpse of the promised land, but he will not cross over into it.

Dear Kind People of ERUCC,

Your many cards, well wishes, and most especially your prayers were so uplifting during my recent hospital event and continue to be appreciated. Thank you ALL so very much. My family is multiplied when I think of my church people.

Most sincerely, Patricia Condo

NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

ERUCC will be receiving this special offering on October 4. There is an envelope in your offering envelope packets for NIN.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR DANIEL at 11 A.M.

October 13, 20, 27 November 3, 10, 24
(This will be a hybrid class – you can attend in person or Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/608416206?pwd=NzFtVUsxUmQ5eGpxMmk4WDB6Z0lUUT09>

Meeting ID: 608 416 206 Passcode: 588188

Explore the Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings mean to his disciples and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?

In *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today.

Each session will begin with a 11-13-minute video introducing the lesson followed by discussion.

If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Daniel know so you can receive a copy of the book.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY from 7-8 pm

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89672369983?pwd=VkljN0gqbHJ6ZVZJaVRKY0s0WmlpZz09>

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.

October 1 Acts 17: 16-34

October 8

Acts 19: 1-20

October 15 Acts 20: 17-38

October 22

Acts 25: 1-12

October 29 Acts 26

TUESDAYS WITH TED Tuesday, October 13th , from 6 – 7 p.m.

Participants Can Join the Ted Talk by Zoom Call

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92398918264?pwd=SIVFYzNKUklpczJsMElnOTdtRVdvZz09>

Meeting ID: 923 9891 8264 Password: 313735

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)



November 10

“The Race for Your Attention” with Kristan Harris

A handful of people working at a handful of tech companies steer the thoughts of billions of people every day, says design thinker Tristan Harris. From Facebook notifications to Snapstreaks to YouTube autoplays, they're all competing for one thing--your attention. Harris shares how these companies prey on our psychology for their own profit and calls for a design renaissance in which our tech instead encourages us to live out the timeline we want.

Wednesday Evening Book Study with Esther Ziegler

The Wednesday Evening Study Group is meeting at 7 pm via Zoom. We are 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 until 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

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=T0JPUGxQVWk0YnJzT1lpQk9uWHIhZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 7205 5650 Password: 249876

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=OTFoRGJ0QnNvU2hZVXBBbTh5VjUQT09>

Meeting ID: 840 6114 0430 Password: 268380

October 25

"When They See Us"

November 29

"Mudbound"

Conversations on Exploring Whiteness

Why Talk About Whiteness? Because we can't talk about racism without it.

With Susan Kulp and David Howard

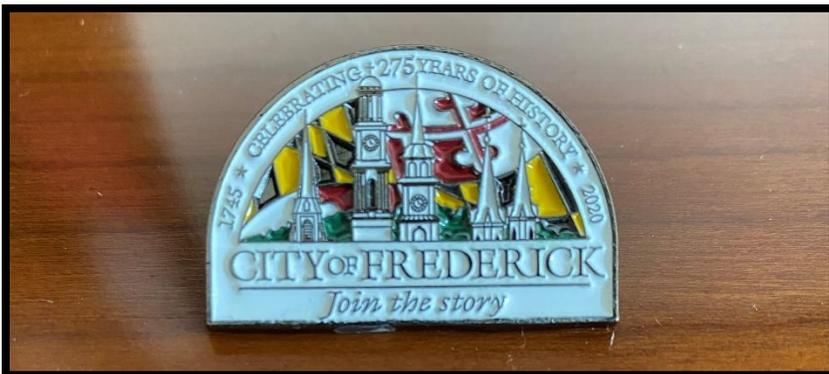
October 11 and 18 at 7 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84957370471?pwd=eHBMejdGQmExRC9jeENYdG1MNEUQT09>

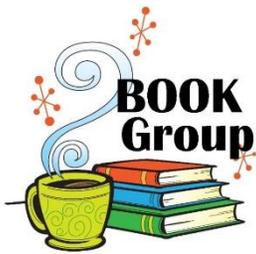
Meeting ID: 849 5737 0471

Passcode: 869500

275TH ANNIVERSARY PINS



These lovely lapel pins have been donated to ERUCC by the City of Frederick in honor of our 275th anniversary. If you would like one or more, please contact Amy in the church office or by email. We can include your pins in the worship packets which will be mailed next week. We will also have them available at the church office and at worship on Sunday.



ERUCC BOOK GROUP 2020

Join the Conversation Via Zoom Call at 7 pm
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969287938?pwd=eGhQaDJlVWkzazhOZldqd3pFN3pqQT09>

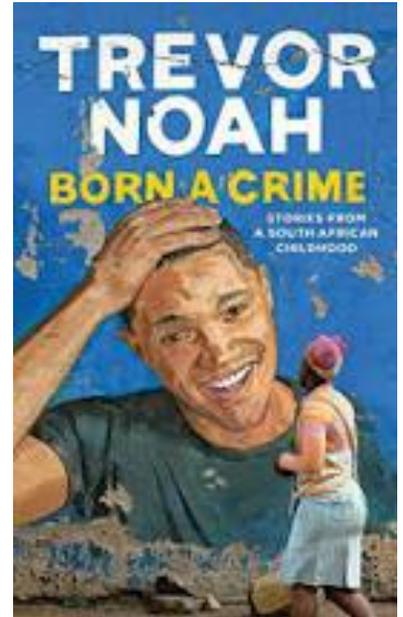
Meeting ID: 899 6928 7938

Password: 685141

October 27

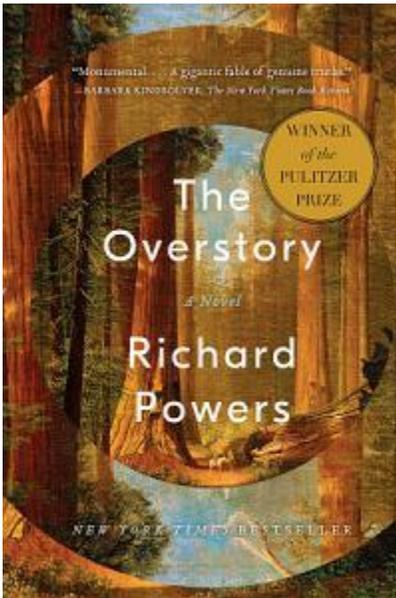
***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah**

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 into a glimpse of his world.



November 24 The Overstory
Pulitzer Prize, Fiction, 2019

A monumental novel about reimagining our place in the living world, by one of our most "prodigiously talented" novelists (New York Times Book Review).



The Overstory unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fable that range from antebellum New York to the late 20th-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

An air force loadmaster in the Vietnam War is shot out of the sky, then saved by falling into a banyan. An artist inherits 100 years of photographic portraits, all of the same doomed American chestnut. A hard-partying undergraduate in the late 1980s electrocutes herself, dies, and is sent back into life by creatures of air and light. A hearing- and speech-impaired scientist discovers that trees are communicating with one another.

These and five other strangers, each summoned in different ways by trees, are brought together in a last and violent stand to save the continent's few remaining acres of virgin forest. There is a world alongside ours - vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe.

DAYTONA BEACH WORK TRIP

November 14 – 21, 2020

We are gathering a small group, less than ten people, for a Daytona Beach mission trip, November 14 - 21. We will be working with the same organization as we did in 2018 and 2019. Contact Pastor Daniel if you are interested and want more information about the safety protocols, travel plans, housing, etc.

ERUCC WORK WEEK HELP NEEDED

October 19-23

8-4 Monday through Thursday, Friday as needed

The Property Committee is grateful for the time and energy people have given over the years during our ERUCC stay-at-home work weeks. We have done all kinds of things that have saved the church money, utilized members' skills, and created new bonds of friendship.

Led by Keith Stickley and our Facilities Manager, Jaci Clayton, you can make a difference by offering to help with any of these projects currently identified. More will be added to the list as we get closer to the week:

- Painting – elevator entrance and touch up
- Repair of gutter on the parish house
- Removal and disposal of old air conditioning units (Trinity Chapel)
- Repairing windows after air conditioning unit removals
- Power washing – front steps of the main church building, patio, brick walls, other areas
- Brick repair Trinity Chapel
- Repair Trinity right side staircase outside doors. Stationary door does not lock at the bottom
- Remove and attempt warranty claim on one of the kitchen lights in the exhaust hood
- Add switched lighting in the dirt side of trinity basement
- Service snow blower (see if it starts)
- Replace ladies room exhaust fan Trinity (Noisy)
- Replace cracked glass at Thomas room
- Check out potential leaks in roof that have caused stains on ceiling tiles in upper balcony of the sanctuary

***Please contact Keith, Jaci, or Pastor Daniel if you want to work on a specific project and/or when you are available.

OUTSIDE REPAIRS CONTINUE

Repair and painting of the columns and soffits of the main church building continues. We thank Val Boring of Steeples Plus for this much needed work. This project has been funded by your generous contributions to the 275th Anniversary Fund and a grant from the Delaplaine Foundation.



A SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO ERUCC BYLAWS

ERUCC's Consistory voted to approve changes to the ERUCC Bylaws at its August meeting. By way of background, ERUCC's Constitution can be modified only by a vote of the entire congregation; the Consistory has the authority to modify the bylaws. Drafting the adopted changes began in the Fall of 2019 and was driven in part by wanting committee management practices (example: the use of committee co-chairs) and congregational communications (example: the use of on-line meetings versus only in-person meetings) to be reflected in the bylaws. How prescient we were!

A summary of the edits are:

Article II. Membership

Page 4: Section 1 - Special Meetings. Requests for Special Meeting can be made in writing or electronically.

Page 4: Section 2 - Place of Holding Meetings. If approved by the Consistory, a meeting can be held online as well as in person.

Page 4: Section 3 - Notice of Meetings. Notice of meetings can be distributed on paper, electronically, or using both mediums.

Page 4: Section 4 - Quorum: A quorum can exist in person or using on-line participants who have been verified to be members of the congregation.

Page 5: Section 6 - Voting. Voting can occur in person or using one or more electronic methods that must be approved by the Consistory in advance, such as email, or on-line using Zoom, etc.

Article III. Consistory

Page 5: Section 1 - General Duties. This section was edited but not modified.

Page 6: Section 2 - Members and Term of Office. Committees can now have co-chairs. Committees can designate one of the co-chairs to represent the Committee on the Consistory and vote or identify a Committee member to represent the Committee on the Consistory and vote.

Page 7: Section 7 – Meetings. The Consistory can meet on-line, in person, or use a hybrid model. The Consistory can choose to have the Executive Committee meet in lieu of the full Consistory meetings each month, providing the full Consistory meets at least quarterly. The Treasurer is confirmed to be a voting member of the Executive Committee. The Consistory can vote using email. All members of the Consistory (and any congregation member who requests a copy) will receive all minutes of all Consistory meetings. Attendance at Consistory meetings to open to all members of the congregation.

Page 8: Section 8 – Special Meetings. Special Consistory meetings shall be held when requested by any member of the Executive Committee or the Senior Pastor.

Page 8: Section 9 – Quorum. The text has been edited to clarify who is a member of the Consistory and confirms that the Treasurer is a voting member of the full Consistory.

Article IV. Pastor and Officers

Page 9: B - Powers and Duties. Text is added to specify that the pastor's rights and duties shall be reviewed and redefined from time to time.

Page 10: Section 3 – Election and Tenure. The role of Financial Secretary has been eliminated since these responsibilities have been taken over by the Treasurer.

Page 11: Section 7 – Powers and Duties of the Treasurer. The text has been edited to reflect current Treasurer responsibilities and to reaffirm the Treasurer’s ability to vote on executive Committee and full Consistory meetings.

Page 11: (Former) Section 8 – Powers and Duties of the Financial Secretary. This section has been deleted.

Article V. Organizational Structure

Page 15: Section 6 Nominating Committee. The text has been edited to permit up to two members of the Consistory and up to two other members of the congregation to be part of the annual Nominating Committee.

Remaining edits delete references to the Financial Secretary and Kemp Hall and updates the Stewardship Committee name to reflect its current name, Stewardship/Generosity Committee.

Thanks go to all of the contributed suggested changes and edits, and especially to Allen Flora. Members can get a copy of the document by emailing the office.

UPDATE ON WOMEN’S RETREAT

Our annual women's retreat has been a great time for fellowship. Much of the draw for the retreat has been the interaction we have with one another.

We have talked about this and we knew that we could not offer an overnight experience. Then we talked about a November face-to-face one day at the church. We know that many of us are still not socializing with many people outside our family units and we do not want to create a conflict where some of us can come and some of us decline coming because of safety.

One of our reopening values is to offer opportunities where people could be in person as well as online. Honestly, we cannot see how we could do that with a retreat. Nor do I see Zoom as a good format for what we enjoy most on retreat -- getting away, sharing fellowship, and having meaningful fellowships.

It is our recommendation that we cancel the retreat, currently scheduled for November 20-21, until we can meet face-to-face.

Thanks for your understanding.

Starr and Barbara

ERUCC WINS AWARD WITH FREDERICK BUILDING ASSOCIATION

ERUCC has won the Best Commercial Design Award with the Frederick County Building Industry Association. These awards for excellence were presented on Wednesday, September 23, at Rockwell Brewing Company.



ERUCC deeply values your faithful contributions throughout this past year! Your generosity and stewardship have enabled the church to continue its spiritual, communal, and social justice ministries and its mission in Frederick and beyond. You are indeed the Faces of Love! Thank you for your love.

Sunday, October 25, is Consecration Sunday! On this day we will make our financial commitment to the church for the coming year through our pledges. Throughout this month, you will hear stories from our church family about the ways they have experienced the Face of Love in ERUCC. As you listen, we invite you to reflect each week on your own stories and experiences, to think openly about what God has given you, about your values, your relationship to money, and about what portion of your income God is calling you to give. These experiences offer the opportunity to deepen our personal, spiritual relationship to God as we consider the connection between our personal faith and what God calls us to give to support our church - our ministries to our children, youth, adults and communities, our commitment to social justice, our talented and supremely dedicated pastor and staff, and the hospitable building that holds us even when we are not present.

While in normal times we urge everyone to attend the Consecration Sunday service and prayerfully offer your pledge, we know that many will not be present in person. If you will not be worshipping in person, we invite you to pledge by:

- Using the “I Want to Pledge” button on the ERUCC web site (www.erucc.org);
- Mailing in a completed pledge card by October 25;
- Attending services in person on October 25 and offering your pledge card in the plate;
- Stopping by ERUCC between 12 noon and 2:00 on October 25 to drop off your pledge card.

And, whether or not you make a pledge, we invite you to celebrate this day of worship and connection with everyone! To this end, the Stewardship/Generosity Committee is hosting a socially-distanced “**Consecration Sunday Drive-by**” for the entire congregation on Sunday, October 25, between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. Enter the church parking lot from West Church Street. Our gloved and masked team members will safely greet you with a tasty treat and a cheery welcome. Please exit through the rear alley to West Second Street. If you are not able to pick up your treat in person, let us know and we will deliver it to your home. If you have attended church, your treat will be ready for you to pick up after the service.

If you need a gluten-free option or need it delivered to your home, email, call, or text David Howard, dehowardcello@gmail.com ; 202-841-5061.

We are the church together and we look forward to going on our spiritual journey together this month and celebrating with you on October 25.

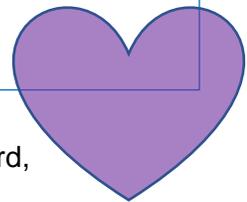
**Coming Together by Sharing
our Stories – Being Faces of
Love**

“I came to this church when Bill and I were married in 1957 and it has been a major part of my life since. Bill grew up in this church and I came from a small Lutheran church in Myersville growing up. What this church has to offer in activities and participation is wonderful to me and I enjoy it. I look forward to the time when we can get back to previous times of fellowship and camaraderie among members and I am there to support the church in any way that my age allows me to do now. I can only hope that the choir That I love so much will be back in the future. The church is a comfort place for me every Sunday and it is a blessing to me.”

Barbara Rhoads

“ERUCC (our church) is family, it’s love and it’s support. Our church is a loving, caring and accepting community. ERUCC is always there for us – all the time. Our church is a huge part of our life. It is our spiritual and faith community. We couldn’t live without our church community.”

Allen Maples



GREEN TEAM NEWS

The Green Team is starting a series of spiritual walks, each with a different focus. The goals are to become more connected to the natural world, deepen our commitment to caring for the earth, and connect with each other in a socially-distanced outdoors way and leave feeling hopeful and renewed.

The first walk will be in Waterford Park which is a new extension of Baker Park on the other side of Route 15. We will meet at the entrance on Meadowdale Rd at 2:00 pm and will finish around 3:30. This will be an easy walk on grass or paved paths. Our focus will be on trees. We'll share some scripture or poems, learn about the restoration work done in the park, identify some trees and share tree stories. All ages are welcome.

Spiritual Walk

Sunday October 11 from 2-3:30 pm in Waterford Park
Directions: Take the Route 40W exit; turn right onto Baughmans Lane; turn right onto Rock Creek Drive; turn right onto Meadowdale Road. Road dead ends at the park entrance. You can park on the neighborhood streets.



A prayer from Kevin Coyle, inspired by our recent readings in the Book of Exodus and exploration of what it means to be in the wilderness.

O Lord,

I don't know what will come in choosing months ahead and much seems beyond our control, but Your work is never finished. Your spirit labors silently in our heart transforming, renewing us, even in these wilderness times. Just as water flowed forth from a rock cracked by Moses long ago, You give us what we need, even in unexpected ways. Your words are like water to our souls, answering our longings, our need for spiritual nourishment. In the same way, help us nourish others in words and deeds as they too travel. Though we cannot go back to the past, help us find what is good in each day, even if it is something that seems small and trivial. You do not promise every day to be great and lifting, but You give a place to turn to. Whatever happens in coming months, be with us, every step of the way. Just as You called out the ancient leaders of scripture to awaken their people, lead us once more awakening us to Your presence in all places, people, and things.

Amen.

GET OUT THE VOTE

PASTOR DANIEL

I am grateful for an energetic group of ERUCC members and friends who have committed themselves to getting people to the polls this November. The UCC encourages its members and congregations to engage in voter registration drives, candidate forums, providing information on how to vote, and in this year, the process for obtaining mail-in ballots.

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ, writes: "For people of faith, the public arena we know as 'politics' represents much more than the partisan politicking we see on the news. It is a means by which we live out the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Scripture reminds us over and over that building right relationship in human community and with God's creation is an act inseparable from our relationship with God. So, it is important for faith communities to engage in nonpartisan voter education and empowerment programs that help us reflect on our collective life and work to uplift the common good through the political process." No matter your opinion or political affiliation, your voice – your vote – matters and you deserve to be heard.



Frederick V.O.T.E.S.

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY FOCUSED VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS! SOCIALLY DISTANCED GATHERING ON THE PATIO OF ERUCC (15 WEST CHURCH STREET) COMPLETE WITH FOOD TRUCKS, COZY FIRE PITS, HEALTH AND WELLNESS SESSIONS, MUSIC AND INSPIRING SPEAKERS.

4 chances to participate in October!



From 6-8PM on Oct. 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd

OCTOBER 2nd

VOICE YOUR OPINION

Community voter registration launch party

OCTOBER 9th

ORGANIZE & OHM

Free yoga with Shelley Pentony

OCTOBER 16th

TAKE ACCOUNTABILITY & TAKE PART

With guest speaker Jay Mason, Frederick County BOE

OCTOBER 23rd

EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY

Black Lives Matter Youth Leaders & March to Ballot Box at Talley Center

 WWW.ERUCC.ORG

 [@ERUCCFRED](https://www.instagram.com/ERUCCFRED)

FREDERICK COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY IN NEED OF SUPPLIES AND FOOD

The Frederick Community Action Agency (FCAA) offers many services to the Frederick community. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, FCAA has continued to adapt and expand services to meet the needs of the Frederick community. At this time, FCAA is in need of the following supplies to continue to support the most vulnerable in our community:

Food Services:

Soup Kitchen: The soup kitchen is operating on a carryout basis daily from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM. Serving 150 meals each evening, FCAA is looking for local restaurants and caterers to aid in the preparation of those prepackaged meals. The Soup Kitchen is also in need of the following supplies:

- Paper lunch bags
- Plastic sandwich bags
- Granola bars
- Fruit cups, pudding cups, non-refrigerated Jell-O cups
- Small bottled waters
- Individually wrapped cookies or pastries
- Single-serve drinks, soda, tea, juice
- Single-serve chips or crackers
- Packets of ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise
- Individually wrapped spoons, forks, and knives

Foodbank: The Foodbank is operating Monday through Friday from 2 PM-4 PM on an appointment basis. Additionally, in collaboration with the Salvation Army, FCAA mobilized its Food Bank to serve local seniors and households. Food bags are currently being delivered to Taney Village and through food drops with the Asian American Center of Frederick and the Spanish Speaking Community of Maryland. To continue on-site and mobile food distribution, the Foodbank is in need of the following supplies:

- Cereal
- Canned Meat (tuna, stews, chili, etc.)
- Bread
- Toilet Paper
- Pasta
- Mac & Cheese
- Rice a Roni
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned Soup
- Canned Beans
- Single-serve containers of food (easy mac, fruit cups, pop-top canned items, single-serve packets of oatmeal/cereal)
- Rice
- Household Cleaners and cleaning supplies
- Paper Items such as tissues, paper plates, napkins, paper towels
- Peanut Butter
- Water
- Shelf-stable milk
- Juice
- Granola Bars/single-serve snacks
- Coffee
- Non-Refrigerated Fruit cups

Frederick County Community Food Drive October 1 – 11

In conjunction with the Maryland Governor's "Day to Serve" Proclamation, the Frederick Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Frederick Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick are sponsoring a "Frederick County Food Drive 2020."

ERUCC will be collecting supplies to deliver to the food bank. You may bring them during the week or on Sunday and leave in the Narthex or church office.

No contact donation drop-off is available at 14 E All Saints Street. Monetary donations may be contributed through [Friends for Neighborhood Progress](#) (make a note for "FOODBANK"). FCAA supports any donations, however, we want to ensure the safety of our donors. Please continue to lessen your exposure and only pick up items for donations during your routine trips to stores. For more information, please call FCAA at 301-600-1506.

ERUCC YOUTH SCHEDULE

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL Through October 18: Lessons from Hamilton

Each Week at 9:30 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84314617999?pwd=Rkd1N2JyZDFHdmtPYIBMTitkUzhUdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 1461 7999

Passcode: 979546

ACTIVITIES:

Sunday, October 4 2 – 3 pm Pack Care Packages

We will enjoy supper together as we assemble care boxes for college students. This is a shared event with God's Kids Club and parents. This event will be held at the church.

Saturday, October 17

Travel to DC for participation in the Women's March to fight for the rights of all people. More details to come but we are planning to travel by car to Shady Grove and take the metro into DC.

***previously scheduled bike trip will be rescheduled.

Sunday, October 25 4 – 5:30 pm Pumpkin Carving

Bring your pumpkin and carving tools to the church as we create our masterpieces.

Saturday, November 7 7-9pm Bonfire at the Mercier's.

Sunday, November 29 11:30 – 1:00 pm Decorating for Advent and Christmas

Bring a packed lunch. After we eat together, we'll decorate the church for the season.

Sunday, December 5 6-7:30 pm Dress Up Dinner (at the church)

YOUTHFUL MINDS: 5TH – 7TH Grade Youth Group

All participants are required to wear masks for all activities and maintain social physical distance.

Sunday, October 4 2-3 pm (at the church)

Preparing Care Packages for college students and those in the military. Joint activity with the ERUCC Youth Group and God's Kids Club. This activity will be held outside on the patio. What fun things or food can you bring for the boxes this year?

Saturday, October 17 4-5:30 pm Pumpkin Carving Hoewing-Moxley Farm

Please bring your own pumpkin and carving knives, snacks and water. S'mores will be provided.

This event requires an R.S.V.P. so that there are enough tables and chairs to socially distance for the carving. Please let Susan Moxley know if you are coming: sdmoxley@gmail.com or Pastor Daniel:

bkdaniel@erucc.org.

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 6th grade are welcome. Please email Kim Sexton for Zoom link and the supply list for each session. Ksexton@erucc.org

Themes for October

Week of October 5 th	Animals of Africa	Week of October 12 th	Germs and Vaccines
Week of October 19 th	Germs and Vaccines/ Halloween	Week of October 26 th	Halloween

October 30th Virtual Halloween Party from 4 to 6 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85314646506?pwd=dXRsZUphRTYrN1FvODITZiINb21rdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 1464 6506

Passcode: 198574y

Games, costume Contest and more contact Kim Sexton at ksexton@erucc.org

GOD'S KIDS CLUB, MINDFUL YOUTH AND YOUTH GROUP

God's kids Club, Mindful Youth and the Youth Group will meet on Sunday, Oct. 4th from 2 to 4 PM on the parking lot patio to assemble the care packages. Bring 24 of something to go in the care packages. Please wear a mask and be mindful of social distancing.

DONATIONS WANTED FOR CARE PACKAGES

The children and youth will be creating 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 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 3rd between 10 a.m. and Noon in the church parking lot. Questions contact Kim Sexton at ksexton@erucc.org.



- 3 Jane Doll (7431 Willow Road, Unit 41, Frederick, MD 21702) **
- 4 Peyton Bowen, Terri Perper
- 5 Gail Ellam, Eddie Higinbotham Jr.
- 6 Lisa Ausherman
- 7 Alex Martinez
- 8 Luke Chappell
- 9 Don Wyand
- 13 Mason Heffner
- 14 Laurie Pryor, Denman Schmid
- 15 Wes Bowen
- 17 Robert Morris
- 18 Mary Eikel, Kimberly Brown
- 19 Ave Barr, Will Duncan, Alexa Johnson, Cindy Smith, Dan Smith
- 20 Austin Byrd
- 22 Jack Day, Jeffrey Leister
- 23 Trish Carey
- 24 Betsy Selby, Brian Sheets
- 25 Toby Goldfus, Susan Leathery
- 27 Bonnie Devilbiss, 10 West 14th Street, Frederick, MD 21701 **
- 28 Bob Long, Carolyn Roberts
- 30 Laura Duncan
- 31 Keith Campbell, Kent Campbell

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

GIFTS RECEIVED

- Gifts have been received, in grateful appreciation for our live stream worship from persons joining us for those services.
- For postage and printing of bulletins
- Supplies for the Get out the Vote events
- Fillers for the care packages



Mortgage Assistance and the Path Forward

ERUCC Mortgages

With the successful completion in 2018 of the new foyer, meeting spaces and bathrooms under the parish house and 1848 Church sanctuary, parish house interior, and nursery, bathrooms, community room and commercial kitchen under a new rear patio and parking deck, the ERUCC congregation began the process of paying down the mortgages we took out to fund these improvements (We also funded this project with proceeds from the sale of Kemp Hall and land behind Trinity Chapel on which the New Spire Arts complex sits). There are two mortgages. The current balances are:

- \$2,323,436.04 owed to FCB, a Division of Adams County National Bank and
- \$222,185 owed to the Fisher fund, from which we borrowed to help fund construction.

ERUCC's annual repayments to FCB are \$138,778.92 (\$11,564.91 per month). Annual repayments to the Fisher Fund are \$14,256.28 (\$3,564.07 per quarter).

Once the building project concluded, ERUCC had about \$138,000 left in its Building in Hope Fund. Because adding \$153,034.60 (\$138,778.32 + \$14,256.28) in mortgage expense to our church operating budget was considered a big lift, the Finance Committee recommended, and Consistory approved, that we move the Building in Hope funds into a Mortgage Assistance account and using about half -- \$75,000 -- of these funds to pay the two mortgages. The plan in parallel was to invite the congregation to contribute \$79,034.60 to underwrite the other portion of this annual cost and gradually allow the budget to absorb increasing mortgage costs as the Mortgage Assistance funds were drawn down

This process worked well in 2019, with the congregation donating more than the Mortgage Assistance ask of \$78,034.60. ERUCC thus started 2020 with \$118,099.54 in the Mortgage Assistance account, with plans to again invest \$75,000 in mortgage payments and raise \$78,034.60 for the balance.

However, as of July, 2020, the Finance Committee reported that we have donated just over \$39,000 in support of Mortgage Assistance, or about 15% less than had been anticipated by the end of July. The Finance Committee hopes that higher than planned gifts in August through December will make up this delta in planned versus actual giving to Mortgage Assistance so that we achieve our goal of \$78,034.60 in 2020. Meeting or exceeding the 2020 goal will allow us to begin 2021 with a positive balance in the Mortgage Assistance account and thus help us more easily meet our financial obligations in 2021.

What Has Been Accomplished

What have we accomplished in terms of paying down our debts? A lot! The original Fisher Fund mortgage was \$300,000. Two years later -- and with thanks to all who have contributed to the Extra Mile Support payments intended to pay down the principal of the Fisher Fund loan as well as to the Mortgage Assistance efforts -- we have paid this mortgage down by just over 25%, while continuing to repay the larger FCB mortgage, which has been reduced by 3%.

The Path Forward

The Finance Committee is looking ahead to when the Mortgage Assistance account is completely consumed. Treasurer Phil Selby has developed two models. Option 1 calls for contributing 50% of the December 31 Mortgage Assistance account balance each year toward the mortgage expense and having the congregation fund the balance each year. This model looks like this:

Option 1 on How the Mortgages Get Paid						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mortgage Assistance Starting Balance	\$118,099.54	\$43,099.54	\$21,549.77	\$10,774.89	\$5,387.44	\$2,693.72
Contributed by the Mortgage Assistance account toward the Mortgages	\$75,000	\$21,549.77	\$10,774.89	\$5,387.44	\$2,693.72	\$1,346.86
Ending Balance	\$43,099.54	\$21,549.77	\$10,774.89	\$5,387.44	\$2,693.72	\$1,346.86
Funds Needed from the Budget or Congregation to Pay the Mortgages	\$78,035.20	\$131,485.43	\$142,260.32	\$147,647.76	\$150,341.48	151,688.34
Percent of Mortgages that the Congregation Needs to Fund	50.99%	85.92%	92.96%	96.48%	98.34%	99.12%

This model anticipates a big jump between this year and next year -- \$78,000 to \$131,500 – in budgeted funding of the mortgages. This model also assumes we donate the budgeted \$78,035.20 on Mortgage Assistance this year.

Option 2 speculates that if we can replenish (Phil’s more vivid word is “inject”) Mortgage Assistance funds annually with donated dollars above and beyond the funds needed from the congregation or budget, it will help minimize the increases in mortgage payments that must be included in the annual budget. Using \$25,000 and \$20,000 injection amounts as examples (we could aim for \$50,000 or even \$75,000 injections), this model looks like this:

Option 2 on How the Mortgages Get Paid						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mortgage Assistance Starting Balance	\$118,099.54	\$68,099.54	\$54,049.77	\$47,024.89	\$43,512.44	\$41,756.22
Mortgage Assistance account Injection	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Contributed by the Mortgage Assistance account toward the Mortgages	\$75,000	\$34,049.77	\$30,024.88	\$23,512.48	\$21,756.22	\$20,878.11
Ending Balance	\$68,099.54	\$54,049.77	\$47,024.89	\$43,512.44	\$41,756.22	\$20,878.11
Funds Needed from the Budget or Congregation to Pay the Mortgages	\$78,035.20	\$118,985.43	\$126,010.32	\$129,522.76	\$131,278.98	\$132,157.09
Percent of Mortgages that the Congregation Needs to Fund	50.99%	77.75%	82.34%	84.64%	85.78%	86.36%

Option 2 allows a more gradual increase year-over-year -- \$78,000 to \$119,000 – in budgeted funding of the mortgages for the 2020 to 2021 transition. This model also assumes we pay the increased mortgage amounts each year and donate additional funds to provide an “injection” into this account to help minimize the year-over-year increase in mortgage payments.

The Path Forward and the Asks

- If you want a copy of the spreadsheet Phil created that allows one to see what the impact is of differing amounts of injections in this second model, send him an email at selbypb@comcast.net.
- If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to the Mortgage Assistance Fund this year. An additional donation is also welcomed if you have already made one!
- As a congregation we need to discuss the approach we wish to take to fund our mortgage expenses starting in 2021 as part of our budgeting discussions this fall. Rather than wait for our congregational budgeting meeting in December, please let Finance Committee Chair Allen Flora (allen.p.flora@gmail.com), Treasurer Phil Selby (selbypb@comcast.net) or me (pbrehm@comcast.net) know which option you prefer – recognizing that our selecting Option 2 implies we will help support funding the injections.
- Take pride in the terrific progress already made in paying down these debts that have enabled us to move forward in our mission of supporting Frederick County organizations seeking social justice, addressing climate change and the environment, meeting the needs of people with behavioral health challenges, and more.



ERUCC

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OUR CHURCH STAFF

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