



Trinity Chimes

Evangelical Reformed Church United Church of Christ
Frederick, Maryland USA

August 2021

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From Pastor Daniel

On July 22, twelve youth and three adults (Trish Coffey, Joe Adkins and myself) will be departing for our trip to visit with our German partners in Klein Schwechten. It has been two years since we have seen each other and we are all excited to be together again.

Our group is flying on Iceland Air which offers a stop-over in Iceland. We will be arriving on Friday the 23rd at 6:30 am and boarding a bus for the Golden Circle Tour, highlighting some of the best sites in beautiful Iceland. This is the same tour our ERUCC Scandinavian cruise group embarked on several years ago.

We will spend the night at a youth hostel type hotel and then leave early the next morning to fly to Berlin. Our friends will greet us at the airport and the rest of the day will be spent with our host families.

Sunday morning, I will be leading worship with Pastor Alex and youth from both groups will be reading scripture and reflecting on their dreams for peace.

Monday we leave for Ravensbruck. Some of you have read recently published historical novels such as Lilac Girls and Lost Roses which depict the lives of women resisters and spies during WWII who were imprisoned at Ravensbruck. We will be staying at a youth hostel there that has been transformed into an international youth meeting place. Here's some information from the website:

Our youth hostel has been a place of questioning, learning and understanding for many years. In the immediate vicinity of the former women's concentration camp, in the houses of the guards of the former concentration camp, in order to create the opportunity for school trips conferences and international youth encounters right next to today's memorial.

Located in the middle of several nature parks and countless chains of lakes, our Ravensbrück Youth Hostel is an ideal starting point for bike tours, canoe tours and hikes.

Sustainability seals of approval guarantee quality standards with the aim of conserving and saving resources, choosing environmentally friendly products where possible and offering educational offers with a social and environmentally-oriented focus.

As we gather with our German partners and learn more about this aspect of German history, we will be engaged in mutual conversations about climate change and the environment, the dynamics occurring in both our countries of white supremacy, anti-racism, and the dangers of rejecting freedoms such as freedom of the press.

So we will worship, learn, and engage in conversation but we will also have time to play. After a year of looking at screens for school, I believe both the German and the American youth are more than ready to run around, play games, and enjoy being in the nature.

On the way back to Klein Schwechen and our last evening with our host families, we will make a stop to visit the city Potsdam.

Thank you, ERUCC and friends, for your support of youth ministry. These opportunities nurture the faith of our youth and the adults who participate in this partnership as well as provide a foundation for understanding what it means to be global citizens.



Barbara

AUGUST WORSHIP NOTES

(Worship from Season of the Spirit and Pulpit Resource)

August 1

The writer of Ephesians in 4: 1-16 tells the people to forbear one another in love in order that the Body of Christ, the church, might be edified. In a reminder of the importance of nourishing the spirit with food that draws eternal life, Jesus calls himself the bread of life in John 6:24-35, bread that sustains the Body of Christ.

We will be sharing communion this morning.

August 8

Psalm 34: 1-8 is a song of praise. Jesus reminds his disciples that he is the bread of life in John 6:35, 41-51, and models the true life lived in God.

August 15

In today's passage from Ephesians 5: 15-20, the people of the early church are encouraged to live with wisdom, to use their time well, and to reject foolishness. People listening to Jesus struggle to discern his message in John 6:51-58. Just as God provides wisdom to Solomon, Jesus provides spiritual nourishment to the people. Together, these passages affirm the centrality of God's gift of wisdom in the life of faith.

Today we will be celebrating our annual Blessing of the Backpacks as we pray for another school year and ask God's blessing upon students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Students are invited to bring their backpacks and teachers and administrator their book bags.

August 22

The first reading from Ephesians 6: 10-20 is a reflection on the spiritual forces that get in the way of our living as God calls us to live, as well as a description of the ways in which God prepares and protects us for the challenges of the life of faith. This week's focus passage calls believers to prayer and perseverance, even amid trying times.

In John 6:56-69, Jesus' own disciples seem to be offended by his teachings, yet Peter recognizes that in Jesus is the "Holy One of God." In Christ, the dwelling place for God, they have found their home and strength to go on when others have turned back.

August 29

Our first reading will be Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 as Moses asks the people of Israel to listen and obey the laws of God. In James 1: 17-27, Christians are urged to be doers of the word and not merely hearers. We actively love Christ through our deeds of mercy. A controversy arises in Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23, over the failure of Jesus' followers to obey the ritual demands of the Law. Jesus replies that his critics have abandoned the real meaning of the Law for the sake of human tradition.

The Rev. John Shillingburg will be preaching and leading worship this morning.

With gratitude to **AMY GERVASE-AGUILAR**



Our church administrator extraordinaire, Amy Gervase-Aguilar, will be relocating to Colorado to be closer to their children, Alex and Casey.

Amy served as church administrator from 2009 to 2013 and then returned in 2017. I cannot express enough how grateful I have been for her work and dedication to ERUCC. In so many ways, she has helped our congregation navigate

the transition into the new space. She has been the one so many first meet and in that capacity she exudes excitement for ERUCC, our mission, our values, and the many ways in which we engage in the community.

Please plan to be in worship on August 1 at 10:30 as we give thanks for Amy's years with us. In the meantime, please join me in expressing our deepest thanks to Amy.

~ Barbara

THANK YOU ERUCC!

I want to thank the wonderful staff and congregation of ERUCC for welcoming me not once, but twice... and now another send off!

When I first took this job at ERUCC it was to fill an income need in a time of uncertainty as we moved back from Brasil. Little did I know that it would also provide so much more in terms of personal fulfillment and connection. I came to love the people of ERUCC and its mission in the community. I got to live it without having to get up early on Sunday morning (sorry... I was mostly up early at lacrosse games).

Thank you for your love and support over the years. ERUCC has been such a blessing to me and my family. You will all travel with me in my heart as we embark on this new, scary, and impulsive move across the country. Please stay in touch!

Much love,
Amy and Berto!

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Dave and Katharine Alley on their recent retirement. Dave retired April 1 and Katharine retired July 1. ENJOY this next chapter!

WITH APPRECIATION

We give thanks to Elizabeth Slade for her time scheduling our Sunday Scripture readers. Thank you for this service, Elizabeth.



ERUCC 275TH ANNIVERSARY in Year 276TH CALENDAR OF EVENTS September – December 2021

SEPTEMBER

25 Book Launch with German Food picnic

OCTOBER

17 10:30AM German Service with German partners
24 3:00PM Organ Concert with Chris Lane
31 10:30AM Worship Homecoming Celebration

NOVEMBER

7 10:30AM All Saints/Totenfest Service including the reading of the names of those ERUCC members who have died in the past year as well as highlighting “saints” of ERUCC since our founding

14 9:30AM Conversation with Rev. Freeman Palmer
10:30AM Worship Rev. Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister,
Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ

21 9:30AM Conversation with Rev. John Dorhauer
10:30AM Worship Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

DECEMBER

11 Museums by Candlelight
27 Houses of Worship Candlelight Tour

275th Anniversary Celebration Book Launch and German Dinner

Saturday, September 25 • 6PM • Downtown Community Room

Join ERUCC members and friends as we celebrate the publication of the updated history of our church. With thanks to Rae Ann Butler and Stacey Collins who have led this effort, additional chapters and information will be added to the earlier work in our church history book, *Unto Us*. We thank writers Rev. Fred Wenner, Rev. Ken Daniel, Allen Flora, and Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel. Barbara Prescott dedicated considerable time editing the new material. We also thank church archivist, Jennie Russell, for her work in identifying photographs and working with scanned material. Doug White scanned the earlier work for publication.

As part of the evening celebration, we will be serving a German dinner. The menu will include: German potato salad, stuffed cabbage, brats, sauerkraut, green beans, rolls and butter, and German chocolate cake. Please use the sign-up genius link below to sign up for the dinner or call the church office at 301-662-2762. We are requesting a \$10 donation for the meal.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845ABAD2BA6FE3-book>

The evening is the kick-off for our rescheduled 275th anniversary events.

GIFTS RECEIVED

Toward mailing costs • Extra Mileage Mortgage Donations • In Honor of JoAnn Fritz “29th” Birthday
In Appreciation for the Online services • Towards the Youth Mission Trip • Family Shelter
CEREAL! Lots of cereal for the kids challenge • Coins for a Cause! • German Flood Relief



SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Following worship on August 8th, plan to stay after for our great, BIG, celebration to be held in the Community Room. We will be celebrating everything we have missed for the past 16 months – graduations, retirements, birthdays, marriages, anniversaries . . . everything!

Contact Fellowship Chair Angela Brittain at fellowship@erucc.org to help. We need people to decorate event themed tables and donations of decorations and paper products coinciding with the events we are celebrating.

Coming in September. Thursday Study

Walking in interstellar space requires a tether. It's a life-line that is attached from the walker to the mother ship. Among other things, it keeps the space walker from drifting away. It is a necessary connector. "Our hearts were made to find their rest in God, and they are restless until they do" (Augustine).

Many of us try to "go it alone", in effect, cutting the tether that links us with the "Mother Ship", that is our mother/father God. We are drifters. This course will patiently and deeply explore the concepts of Covenant Love, Liberation Theology, and Social Justice (2000BCE-2000AD), and how they connect. Ambitious journey? Sure! Come with me. Let's travel together.

Richard Leslie - jalrl@comcast.net

Beyond Shelter Campaign ~ Our Donations in Action!



Construction is underway and excellent progress has been made! Thank you for all your generous donations toward our \$25,000 pledge that will cover the cost of a counseling room.

If you want to help families impacted by homelessness embrace the path home by creating a permanent home for the Emergency Family Shelter please make your checks payable to ERUCC and designate it for the Shelter.

You may also donate online at <https://bit.ly/2VgvCrm>



For the past seven years, the Frederick Chapter of NOCC has held successful walks in Frederick to raise awareness, to promote education and

fund research. Funds raised have helped to provide local women with counseling services, meals, survivor care kits and much more. In addition, our impact is seen through support groups, educational conferences and more than 2 million has been designated to research.

Our event, **TOGETHER IN TEAL EVERYWHERE AS ONE** will be held on September 25, 2021 with a national broadcast that evening. Our walk will actually be more of a "hybrid" event and we will gather in local parks in smaller groups to help raise awareness. Last year the Frederick Chapter raised \$110,700. There are still women and their families in desperate need of help in their battle against ovarian cancer.

This year, I celebrate 9 years as a survivor! I continue to remain passionate about the cause and involved with the NOCC. I see first-hand how our support will help improve the lives of local women, families and communities touched by ovarian cancer but we continue to need your help. Please consider joining Cathie's Warriors or making a tax-deductible donation today in support of my fundraising efforts. To register or donate go to <https://give.ovarian.org/event/Frederick>

In addition, we will be having an on-line DigiTEAL Auction. Please visit the site between July 15-September 25 to view all the wonderful items and to place your bid! 32auctions.com/EA1Frederick

Thank you for your support in Ending Ovarian Cancer!

Cathie Duncan

STEWARDSHIP/GENEROSITY



THOUGHTS ABOUT INTENTIONAL GIVING

Do you want to avert your eyes and draw into yourself when someone says, “Stewardship Campaign?” Would you rather avoid the church’s annual pledge drive?

My Pavlovian response is anxiety, as I feel pressured and guilty at the thought of the yearly ritual, even before the campaign starts.

So why am I on the Stewardship and Generosity Committee? When Susan Kulp asked me to join, I tried to figure out how to run away without hurting her feelings. As I tersely informed God about why this was not a good fit (as if God didn’t know), I felt a nudge. Despite all of my misgivings, I joined anyway.

First, I had to try to figure out what “stewardship” meant. (I told you being on this team didn’t make sense to me.) I surfed the internet, which is both a short-cut for finding applicable Bible verses as well as a way to find out what various people have to say about the topic. Second, I took the same approach relative to “generosity.” (Of course!)

Perhaps not surprisingly, I saw that what “stewardship” and “generosity” actually mean is more than, and different from, the images and emotions those words have conjured up for me in the past. It is not only about money, it is not only about church, and it is not at all about someone in the church deciding that I should give and/or do more or differently.

Being a generous steward in our lives as a whole requires each of us to pause and think about how we can best use our personal gifts, time and treasure to live joyfully. After reflecting, we make decisions about how to devote all that we are, and that we have, to being who we want to be and giving of ourselves. We are purposeful in recognizing and choosing how to support our values and priorities.

Sometimes when Stewardship Committees have offered meetings about our use of time, most if not all members have described spending time related to family, work, school, etc., and didn’t remember to include church on the list (even active members). When Christians think intentionally about what our lives would be like if we were being generous stewards in all aspects of our lives, church becomes integral to our considerations, rather than an afterthought. It is impossible to separate being Christian from our values and priorities, who we want to be and giving of ourselves!

You know what you do well. You know what you really enjoy doing. You know what financial assets and physical possessions you have. Rather than unwittingly drifting into whatever, or (worse yet) feeling coerced into something, choose to live in all aspects of your life deliberately focused on fulfilling what you consider important and meaningful.

What does ERUCC mean to you? When you imagine your life lived with intention, what is ERUCC’s place relative to your gifts, time and treasure? After you pause to reflect, make decisions that are right for you.

During this fall’s Stewardship Campaign, I will be able to look the other Stewardship and Generosity Committee members in the eye, and go to church, knowing that my pledge decision is between God and me (and it always was). It is all about living my life as I choose so as to best give of myself to others. When I look at it from that perspective, I feel free and comfortable, not anxious, about a time of introspection and conversation with God about plans for my future!

- Jeanellen Kallevang

DID YOU KNOW?

The UCC Rev. William Green says generosity is self-expression. It’s actually self-centered! Self-centered is not the same as selfish. It means coming from who we are. We are not by nature selfish and stingy. We become self-ish when our inherent strength is obscured by fear and we hold tightly to anything (or anybody) who offers protection. We become this way when we can’t “see in the dark.”

2 CORINTHIANS 8:12-15: GIVING SHOULDN’T BE A BURDEN

For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

The generosity that we’re called to isn’t intended to be a burden. It’s intended to create a culture of equitability.

Let’s Be Curious About Stewardship of our Treasure

CRAFTING YOUR PERSONAL MONEY STORY



Join ERUCC’s Stewardship Team members Julie Clark and Peter Brehm in a discussion to help guide you into your personal money autobiography.

We will discuss money and spirit, money and society, and money and YOU! This ZOOM class will be offered twice, on August 22 and August 29 at 7PM. Come with a sense of humor and a generosity of hope!

You can play around with this quiz to understand what your money beliefs are to get your money juices flowing!

<https://bit.ly/3zRrBJh>

<https://bit.ly/2TzO8KS>

Meeting ID: 884 2317 5369 Passcode: 473395

Please contact Julie Clark at jclarkad@yahoo.com for additional information.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for families to volunteer to host our Sunday Fellowship Hour beginning September 12.

We provide everything you need - or you can bring a special treat if you want to dazzle us! If you know of a week you would like to host, please email Angela Brittain at fellowship@erucc.org.

Thank you.





ERUCC BOOK GROUP 2021

Join the Conversation ZOOM at 7PM

<https://bit.ly/3slxbJO> Meeting ID: 899 6928 7938 Password: 685141

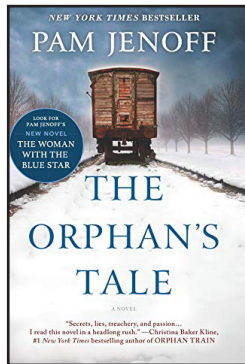
August 24

The Orphan's Tale

Pam Jenoff

A powerful novel of friendship set in a traveling circus during World War II, *The Orphan's Tale* introduces two extraordinary women and their harrowing stories of sacrifice and survival.

Sixteen-year-old Noa has been cast out in disgrace after becoming pregnant by a Nazi soldier and being forced to give up her baby. Noa finds refuge with a German circus, but she must learn the flying trapeze act so she can blend in undetected, spurning the resentment of the lead aerialist, Astrid. Whether their friendship is enough to save one another - or if the secrets that burn between them will destroy everything.



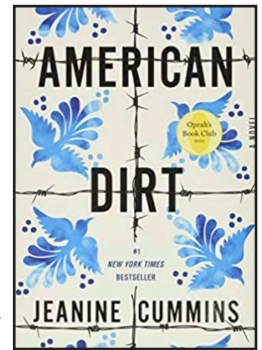
September 28

American Dirt

Jeanine Cummins

Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable.

Even though she knows they'll never sell, Lydia stocks some of her all-time favorite books in her store. And then one day, a man enters the shop to browse and comes up to the register with a few books he would like to buy - two of them her favorites. Javier is erudite. He is charming. And, unbeknownst to Lydia, he is the jefe of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city. When Lydia's husband's tell-all profile of Javier is published, none of their lives will ever be the same.



Upcoming:

October 26: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger

November 30: *Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots* by Deborah Feldman

August Birthday's

- 1** Martha Kline, Alyce Schmid, Katherine White
- 4** Cliff Barr, Christian Jansson, Ginny Peters, Kelly Spurrier • **5** Dale Hevner, Caitlin Jones
- 6** Sydney Main • **7** Mary Meyer
- 9** Sasha Hoffman **10** Marc Kline, Randy Kline
- 11** Cindy Duranko **12** Paige Coffey, Richard Leslie
- 13** Charles Curran, Donald Kline II
- 15** Laurel Nguyen-Powell
- 16** Don Perper, John Shillingburg, Esther Ziegler
- 17** Andrew McCarty • **18** Isaac Pomeroy
- 19** Alice Hatch • **22** Thomas Morris
- 23** Mark Daniel • **24** Donna Logee
- 25** Kathryn Groth, Jeannette Johnson
- 26** Carmen Conlon • **27** Jared Hueting
- 28** Austin Bowen • **29** Matthew Brunner
- 30** Michelle Flowers



A Word of Thanks from a Client to Amy regarding our Downtown Community Room

Dear Amy:

Now that the dust is settling, I finally have time to write you and thank you for your wonderful support and doing such an excellent job facilitating my mother's funeral reception. The family expressed collectively that the ERUCC's venue space was absolutely perfect for the occasion and I could not agree more. We are so grateful to you and the powers that be at ERUCC for having the vision to create such a beautiful space. You were a pleasure to work with and I cannot thank you enough.

ATTENTION LADIES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Chimes group will resume October 14th at 11AM at Bob Evans Restaurant on the Golden Mile.

What are Chimes? We are a learning and service group reaching out to the community. Events and Speakers to be announced. Stay tuned. Questions contact: Sue Pinner at pinbenco@gmail.com.



GREEN TEAM NEWS

The Green Team will wrap up the summer by volunteering with the Frederick Food Security Network Garden.

You still have time to get in on the fun! There are three more opportunities to volunteer at the Frederick Food Security Network Garden! This is a great chance to get to know someone new as you carry water, hack away at weeds or pick tomatoes. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come out at least once!

TIP: A few people have come out to volunteer but never found the group. SO to avoid that problem, here's what you need to do: Drive all the way in to the Frederick News Post building. You will pass Ballenger Creek Center on the left and a large garden farmed by members of the Frederick Burmese community on the right. Once you get to the FNP building, turn left and drive to the far end of the parking and diagonally across from the FNP building. We will gather at that end of the parking lot.

Remember your hat! Remember water!
Bring work gloves if you have them. Bathrooms are available inside the FNP building.

Oldsters!

These folks may call themselves Oldsters but they have spunk and are a lot of fun! Come join them on Tuesday August 3 from 8-10AM. See Cliff Barr for more info.

To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EA8A72EA1FE3-1sttuesdays>

Youth and Young Adults

Gee, I know! 8AM IS early on a Saturday morning but c'mon, you can do it! Join our young people on Saturday August 14 from 8-10AM. See Trish Coffey for more info.

To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EA8A72EA1FE3-2ndsaturdays>

Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards

Come meet up with people from churches all around Frederick. Let's create a Creation Justice community! Wednesday August 18 from 8-10AM. See Linda Coyle for more info.

To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EA8A72EA1FE3-3rdwednesdays>



Adventures in Germany

ERUCC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

God's Kids Club

Please note *God's Kids Club* will be transitioning to once a month after the first week of August 2021.

God's Kids Club ZOOM August themes and topics, all meetings begin at 5PM.

<https://bit.ly/3y69LL9>

Meeting ID: 854 6302 7021 Passcode: 252332

WEEK OF AUGUST 2

August 2 Ephesians 4: 1-14

August 4 Summer Bingo

Looking to September

We will return to **IN PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL** starting September 12 at 9:30AM. Classes will be held in Trinity Chapel and the nursery will resume operation.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH will begin for children aged 4 years old through 2nd grade following the Thought for the Day.

MONDAY MESS HALL will resume on September 13.

ERUCC YOUTH SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 15 • 6-8 pm
Youth Group picnic at the Hoffman's, 800 Carroll Parkway. Julie Clark is coordinating food. Come prepared for group games and planning for the year ahead.

Sunday, August 22 • 9:30AM
German Trip Sharing
Let's share our exciting adventures in Iceland and Germany with members and friends of ERUCC as we thank them for their support.

Vacation Bible School August 9-13

4 years old through
6th grade



**Be strong in the Lord and
in the strength
of his power.
Ephesians 6:10**



**9-11AM: Back Patio at ERUCC
Bible Stories, Games, Snack, Science
and Music
5-6PM on Zoom:
Recap of Bible Stories, Craft and Music**

<https://bit.ly/3y8rijx>

Meeting ID: 854 6302 7021 Passcode: 252332

A donation of \$25.00 per child is suggested.

MISSION FOR VBS:

We will be collecting new and gently used children's clothing For Strawberry Knoll Elementary School (Dan Smith Teaches here.) Boys and Girls sizes 5 to 8 underwear, socks and bottoms are in demand especially sweat pants or leggings.

Questions contact Kim Sexton at ksexton@erucc.org

Blessing of the Backpacks

Calling all Students, Teachers, Bus drivers, school employees and administrators. Bring the tools of your trade for Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 15 during the 10:30 service. Still worshipping at home pencils and prayers are in the worship packets.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated to God's Kids Club cereal box challenge. We collected over **160 BOXES OF CEREAL** which were donated to the Frederick Community Action Agency.

We had lots of fun setting the boxes up and knocking them down like dominoes.

Watch the action here: <https://bit.ly/2VgetxX>





SEPTEMBER 12

Plans are in place, as of now, always following the guidance of the Frederick County Health Department, to begin another year of Sunday morning programming in the life of ERUCC. Sunday School for all ages will begin on the 12th. Nursery care will resume again. Church members and friends will begin serving fellowship again. Pastor Daniel will be sharing a teaching sermon about worship and some of the things we have learned over the past year and a half. Even better, the Senior Choir will be singing again!

SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

September 12 - December 19 • 9:30 - 10:15AM

Let's Talk - Meets in the North Room of the Parish or Community Room

September 12 - Welcome Back

As we begin a new educational year - and in-person - we will take the time this Sunday to talk, share stories of the months we have missed each other, and reconnect. Come to the Community Room and enjoy the conversations and some refreshments.

September 19 - Climate Justice Emphasis

September 26 - October 31 - Spiritual Practices Series

November 7 - Saints of ERUCC - Come and learn about the impact of some of our church members.

November 14 - Conversation with Freeman Palmer (Community Room)

November 21 - Conversation with John Dorhaeur (Community Room)

November 28, December 5, 12, 19 - Advent Study (BKDaniel)

Bible Study Class (Liz Coffey Room)

In this class, we will seek to draw out the major themes found in the Lectionary scripture texts on which the sermon will be based. Exploring the lectionary Scriptural texts before the Sunday morning worship (10:30AM) service will help prepare participants to more fully involved and more present in worship. Taught by clergy members and others in the congregation.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES - FALL 2021

Tuesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Daniel

11:00 - Noon. Flora Room, ERUCC Parish House

September 7 - November 2

God's Promise: I Am with You

God's Promise: I Am with You, takes readers on a journey through scripture to consider circumstances in which God

articulated God's promise of presence. This study does not delve deeply into manifestations of God's presence but rather on God's articulation of God's promise. We will see anew that God offered these words of profound comfort and commitment to individuals and communities from the time of the patriarchs to that of the prophets; from the judges to the kings; before, during, and after the exile; into the New Testament and beyond, to the end of the age.

November 9, 16, and 23

Participants will choose a topic or Bible verse/chapter for discussion

November 30, December 7, 14, and 21

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent Light of the World

In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.

January 4 - March 1

What My Grandmothers Told Me

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt, as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place? And what can Jesus's grandmothers-of-the-faith teach us? By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.

March 8 - April 12

Entering the Passion of Jesus by AJ Levine

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Controversies in Early Christian History -- Do They Still Matter?



The Wednesday Evening Study Group will begin meeting again in person at 7PM on Wednesday, September 8th. We will be using curriculum based on *The Greatest Controversies of Early Christian History* and *How Jesus Became God* both written and presented in lectures by Bart D. Ehrman, the James S. Gray Distinguished Professor of New Testament at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The format of the sessions will include a recorded lecture by Prof. Ehrman followed by discussion facilitated by Esther Ziegler. The sessions cover a variety of topics spanning approximately the first 325 years of the Christian era. They range from questions about what the Bible really says about Jesus' birth to how the discovery of the "Gnostic Gospels" cast light on diverse Christian theologies from the 1st and 2nd centuries to how the Council of Nicea in 325 BC was influenced by Emperor Constantine. Join us in learning how Christians from the earliest days struggled to understand who Jesus was and who he is to us as a result of 2100+ years of evolving faith. The topics of each session are listed below.

1. Was Jesus Born in Bethlehem?
2. Did Jesus Expect to See the World's End?
3. How Close Were Jesus and Mary Magdalene?
4. Was Pontius Pilate a Secret Christian?
5. Was Jesus Raised from the Dead?
6. Is Paul the Real Founder of Christianity?
7. Did the Disciples Write the Gospels?
8. Is the Book of Revelation about Our Future?
9. Was Christ Human? The Docetic View
10. The Divided Christ of the Separationists
11. Christ's Dual Nature—Proto-Orthodoxy
12. The Birth of the Trinity
13. The Arian Controversy
14. The Council of Nicea



Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ

15 West Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

301-663-2762

www.erucc.org



ERUCC CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor
bkdaniel@erucc.org

Rev. Frederick Wenner, Pastor Emeritus
faw500@msn.com

Associate For Children's Ministries
Kim Sexton • ksexton@erucc.org

Director of Music ~ Alison E. Shafer
alisonshafermusic@yahoo.com

Social Media Coordinator ~ Jenna Duranko

Facilities ~ Jaci Clayton
jclayton@erucc.org

Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director
~ Tricia Coffey

Nursery Attendant ~ Sherry Murray

Office Administrator ~ Amy Aguilar
aaguilar@erucc.org

Trinity Chimes Designer ~ Angela Brittain
angela3cats@yahoo.com

August Coins for a Cause!



Food or school supplies? If you only had enough money for one, which would you choose? Each year we work together so that families do not have to make this choice. In August, money collected for Coins for a Cause will go to our school supply funds. Frederick County Public Schools Annual School Supply Distribution Project: 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.

This effort is sponsored by the Mission and Social Action Committee. While many of us still worship remotely, our strong stewardship during this time shows how much we still care. The committee decided to change this program to meet the current reality. Through Coins for a Cause, we will support organizations that make a difference here in Maryland that are not supported in our annual budget.

photo courtesy Kevin Coyle