



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.



For Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room. (Accessible by the stairs from the Church Street Entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are located in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.

Hymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates for offering will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary. Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

Donate online by scanning this code:

Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.



Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

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

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (ksexton@erucc.org)

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

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15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-662-2762 • www.erucc.org

I Woke Up This Morning

African-American traditional

Leader (Unison)

All (Harmony)

1 I woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on
2 Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on

Hal-le - lu - jah,

Je - sus, Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
Je - sus, Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Hal-le-lu - jah,

Hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu - jah.

Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah.

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

Sept. 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:30 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Greetings and Announcements

Commissioning and Blessing of the Teachers

A reading from the Letter of James has these less-than-encouraging words:

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Yet we also lift up Paul's words in First Corinthians:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

James' words remind us of the responsibility entrusted to our teachers. Paul's words remind us of the spiritual gifts entrusted to each of us as teachers and learners, that together, we may serve the common good.

Teachers: We believe that all children, youth, and adults are a gift of God and a gift to the community. We believe that Christian formation and spiritual growth is ongoing, and that learning is a lifelong adventure to which we are committed. We ask not for your judgment, but for your prayer and support as we enter into this shared adventure.

We offer our support and prayer.

Bless, O God, the teachers and leaders of this ministry of formation and nurture. Give them your strength and your peace, that they may teach and lead with conviction, imagination, love, and patience. Strengthen their faith and their commitment by the gifts of your Spirit. Ground their lives in your life; center their wills in your will; and focus their spirits on your Spirit, that they may teach and lead for the common good. Amen.

Choral Call to Worship *You Are Welcome Here*

- G. DeMan

Refrain- Spirit only

Refrain- All

You are welcome here, no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey.

You are welcome here, no matter who you are, come and join with us, we're united in the church of Christ.

Stanza- Spirit
Refrain- All
Stanza- Spirit
Refrain- All

***Call to Worship**

Please stand as you are able

Jesus asks the disciples:

What's the word on the street? Who do people say I am?

They answer,

**Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah;
and others say one of the prophets.**

But Jesus presses them:

Who do *you* say I am?

Peter answers,

You are Christ—God's anointed one, God-with-us!"

Now Jesus presses *us*: What about you?

Here, in this moment, in this community, let us gather to worship God as we reflect on this fundamental question of faith and witness.

***Opening Prayer**

**You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods,
Where human pain and possibility are most urgent.
You call to us from our sacred stories,
where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort.
Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and
help us see with your eyes
the ways which lead to beloved community.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** *I Woke Up This Morning*

- No. 85

***Call to Confession**

God calls to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with the sacred and with one another.

Let us come before God to confess our failure to live by the best we know; let us confess our qualified response to the vision God sets before us. Let us pray.

***Prayer of Confession**

Where Christ Jesus is at the center.

**Christ calls on us to “lose our life in order to save it”;
to “take up our cross and follow”
in the ways of justice and peace.
Like the disciples before us,
we are often amazed and overwhelmed by this command.
We close our ears to such challenge and
our hearts to such risk.
Unstop our ears and open our hearts, that we may follow Jesus.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

God’s words and deeds are never careless. Through Jesus the Christ, God offers a model and a companion, a source of ever-flowing love and acceptance. In Christ, we are forgiven all our sins, and given strength and vision to start again.

We believe the good news of Jesus the Christ. Thanks be to God!

Sacrament of Baptism

**Response: Give to the newly baptized: strength for life’s journey,
courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the
hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

Thought for the Day

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Hymn *I Heard My Mother Say

- No. 409

The Scriptures

Mark 8.27-38

NT Page 43

Reader: The word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response *Lord Listen to Your Children Praying* - K. Medema

**Lord listen to your children praying, Lord send your Spirit in this place.
Lord listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r,
send us grace.**

Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

The Psalmist declares, "The heavens are telling the glory of God. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge." Let us share our gifts as yet another language in which we tell others of God's glory!

Offertory *How Can I Keep from Singing- Traditional American arr. J. Honoré*
Senior Choir

*Prayer of Dedication

Mother Father God, Parent of each of us, we bring to you our offerings of time, talent, and treasure as expressions of our gratitude and our devotion. May we continue to turn to Jesus as our guide in times of decision, our motivator to act against injustice; may we be Jesus' disciples in serving the common good and building your Beloved Community. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *"Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said*

- No. 204
Tune - O WALY WALY

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction** *God Be in My Head*

- V. Pennington

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart and in my thinking. REPEAT.**

**God be in my head, God be in my eyes, God be in my mouth, my heart,
and in my thinking. God be at my end and my departing.**

Postlude *(remain seated)*



"Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said, "if you would
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

6

my dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
 spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength will bear your
 fool - ish pride be still; For Christ did not re -
 death to lay it down, For on - ly those who

11

will - ing heart and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 spir - it up and brace your heart, sup - port your arm.
 fuse to die up - on a cross on Cal - vary's hill.
 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Worship Note

¹ Adapted from *Worship Ways*, Faith Formation Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland OH, ©2018.

² Adapted from *Hear Our Prayer*, Glen E. Rainsley, United Church Press, ©1996, page 127.

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in loving memory of grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy V. Gaver and Mrs. Phoebe Crum, and Great-grandfather William J. Seward, by Martha J. Kline.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is placed by Jean Kallevang in honor of my recently discovered half-brother, Master Sergeant Michael Joseph Dremel (USAF-Retired), who served in the Iraq War.

If you are interested in sponsoring the yellow rose, please contact the church office.



Sunday at 10: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzloh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w

You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

Today: Sept. 12, 2021

Deacons: Chuck Baldree and Matt Pomery

Elders: Peter Brehm

Greeters: Jo Ann Fritz, Sue Pinner, Linda Coyle

Welcome: Ave Barr

Sound: Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker, Jack Day

Chimers: Saturday: Suzanne Morris

Sunday: Kelly Esslinger

Next Week: Sept. 19, 2021

Joe Adkins and Matt Davis

Tyler York

Tom & Rachel Ford and Starr Schaeberle

Holly Davis

Kelly Esslinger, Amanda Spencer, Jeff Schaeberle

Tricia Coffey

Tricia Coffey

Honoring Teachers 2021-2022

Nursery Sherry Murray (Nursery)

Preschool - 5th grade Jim Brittain, Evie Frazier, Dawn Lagrotteria, Audrey Rayfield, and Kim Sexton (Trinity Chapel main sanctuary and back two rooms)

6th -8th grade Arthur Slade and Jim Weitz (Trinity Chapel Upstairs big room on West side)

High School Hollie Mercier and Stephanie Sites (Trinity Chapel Youth room)

Zoom Teachers Kathryn King Rabb and Catie Schaeberle

Children's Church will not be starting at this time. Children are invited to stay in worship with their families

Prayer List – Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Continuing: Tom Frazier, Family of Lt. Andrew “Stew” Alcorn IV, The Laird Family, Jeannette Johnson, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle) Bonnie Devilbiss, David Fall (brother of Mary Boswell), Michelle Smith (friend of Darryl Glick and Mark Ulrich), Maria Csiba (mother of Tamara Tamas), Trish Carey, Betsy Fisher, James “Jimmy” Sutphin (friend of Dan Smith), Danielle Hankey (friend of Ben Mercier), Leslie Tennant (mother of Maria Tennant), The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Alyce Schimid (sister of Dennie Schmid), Lois Wilson (Dan Smith’s aunt), Jerry Cassell (brother of Ave Barr), Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Susan Matesa (friend of Dan Smith & Austin Byrd), Susan McCauley (niece of Jack Stush), Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Terry Smiley (uncle of Scott Smiley), Shawn Smiley (cousin of Scott Smiley), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Frank Tymczyszyn (brother in law of Nancy Jones), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Jess Pautz (friend of Sean Sexton), Lila Cross (grandmother of Kathryn Cross).

*We ask you to remember all of those currently serving in the Armed Forces.
Your prayers and cards are welcomed and appreciated by those on our prayer list.*

Sunday Fellowship Hour Volunteers Needed:

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

Our season of **Stewardship** begins Sunday, September 19 and ends on October 10 when we will make our financial commitment to support ERUCC, its missions and ministries for the coming year. During this four-week period of reflection we will hear personal stories from members about acts of love they have experienced during the pandemic. As we reflect on our own stories, we have the opportunity to deepen our own relationship with God and others

Acts of Love – Being a Generous Steward

We want to be a generous steward, but what does that mean?

These are the thoughts of Jeanellen Kallevang from her article in the August Chimes:

“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.”

From the Stewardship and Generosity Committee



Weekly Education Opportunities

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

9:30 – 10:15 a.m in The Liz Coffey Room in the basement of the main Sanctuary Bldg

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 be more fully involved and more present in worship. Led by clergy members of the congregation. Rev. Lee Thomas will be leading September 19 and 26.

SEPTEMBER: LET'S TALK (*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 breakfast.

September 19 • *Climate Justice Sunday*

We welcome Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin - Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment

September 26 • *Who Will Speak for the Trees?*

The Green Team will talk about this resolution that was adopted by the UCC General Synod in July.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Daniel

11:00 – Noon in Flora Room

September 7 – November 2 *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.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY with Esther Ziegler

7:00 p.m. In Trinity Chapel

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.

God's Kids Club

FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING - WEDNESDAYS AT 5PM

Questions - contact Kim Sexton at ksexton@erucc.org.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/908860555?pwd=RG40MUVGTY9GRWJQVjZ3SINzS1VUQT09>

Meeting ID: 908 860 555

Password: 279307

DRAGON DAY SEPT 16TH 9AM-2PM

Join us in the preschool room for crafts, snacks, bingo and more. Bring a bag lunch and a gently used book for a bingo prize. Please RSVP to Miss Kim at ksexton@erucc.org to reserve your spot. Please wear a mask.

ERUCC YOUTH SCHEDULE - Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

September 12 we will be in the Community Room for breakfast and conversation.

September 19 and thereafter, in the youth room in Trinity Chapel



CAMINO DE SANTIAGO WALKING THE WAY OF ST. JAMES

Pastor Daniel is working with David Petrucci, of Petrucci Productions, in planning a pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago on SEPTEMBER 6 - 19, 2022

**TRIP INFORMATION NIGHTS: TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 14 AND 21
7 p.m. ~ COMMUNITY ROOM**

Join Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89260831611?pwd=T1N5SkdxYWJ4Q2syekFnSzhpQ3o2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 892 6083 1611

Passcode: 0035

Chimers Needed Ever wondered how the chimes are played in Trinity Chapel or have a burning desire to learn? Please join our team of chimers! No experience is necessary - you just need to know how to read music. The commitment is small - just 15 minutes on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning a couple times a month (or even once a month). We would love to teach more to carry on this great tradition. Please contact Tricia Coffey at 301-455-8720 (text) or trishcoffey1195@gmail.com (email). Thanks!

Children's/Youth music rehearsals begin September 13th. Please know that our top priority is ensuring that everyone remains safe. We understand that many of our children at ERUCC have not been vaccinated and we will be sure to wear masks and ensure social distancing during Youth Spirit rehearsals. For Children's Music and Movement rehearsals, we will be doing non-singing related music activities in order to ensure safety (bells, boomwhackers, plays, movement with ribbons/scarves, drumming, etc.).

In order to plan our activities and ensure we include as many people in rehearsals as are interested, please take the time to complete the survey available through the link below. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas! If you have any questions, please feel contact: Trish Coffey at 301-455-8720 or trishcoffey1195@gmail.com
Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H7K8RFX>

Our **Handbell Ringers** enjoyed being able to bring back this great tradition to ERUCC last year. We would love to continue playing and have more of you join us. You **DO NOT NEED TO KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC** to play! All of the notes in the music are marked for those who need it. To any teens and/or adults who are interested in learning more, please reach out to Trish Coffey at 301-455-8720 or trishcoffey1195@gmail.com. Rehearsal days/times to be determined.

TED Talk with Stacey Abrams September 14

<https://bit.ly/3iWG1SJ>

Meeting ID: 923 9891 8264 • Passcode: 313735

Three questions to ask yourself about everything you do. How you respond to setbacks is what defines your character, says Stacey Abrams, the first Black woman in the history of the United States to be nominated by a major party for governor. In an electrifying talk, she shares the lessons she learned from her campaign for governor of Georgia -- and some advice on how to change the world. "Be aggressive about your ambition," Abrams says.

September 19 – One Day – Five Events

We will be celebrating becoming a Creation Justice church throughout the day.

LET'S TALK – 9:30 IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

Maryland Environment Human Rights Amendment Proposal

We will host Rabbi Nina Cardin to speak on the proposed Maryland Environmental Human Rights amendment to the Maryland constitution. She will speak about what is in the amendment as well as the benefits of passage, possible opposition, the political process for passing an amendment and how we might become involved.

WORSHIP AT 10:30 ~ CREATION JUSTICE FOCUS

Pastor Barbara will deliver a sermon related to creation justice and the Green Team will present the new Creation Justice Banner to the church. It is also the beginning of the stewardship campaign and we will highlight the link between stewardship of our church, our community and the earth.

FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING WORSHIP – LOCAL PRODUCE SUNDAY

Help Needed! Calling all Gardeners!

One of the most effective things we can do to reduce our carbon footprint is to reduce our meat consumption and eat locally sourced foods. We are asking all ERUCC gardeners to share the bounty of produce from their gardens. If you are a gardener, please be thinking about what healthy delicious food you can prepare and share! Beautiful bouquets for the tables are welcome too!

SPIRITUAL WALK 3-4:30PM ~ WALKERSVILLE WATERSHED (Boy Scout Camp)

Thunderstorms cancelled our June walk in the Watershed, but now it is finally rescheduled! Come enjoy sights, sounds and smells of the forest. We may hear the bellow of bullfrogs or the screams of a red tail hawks or see a great blue heron lift off from the pond. This is wonderful time to connect with nature and each other. Everyone is welcome. The trail is relatively flat.

Green Team Happy Hour 4:30 - ??

Following the Spiritual Walk, you are invited to join us for spiritual drinks. Come join us for some wine, beer, soda and snacks at the Coyle house which is just uphill from the Walkersville Watershed. 8653 Chestnut Grove Rd. Red house with a hedge in front. You can join us even if you don't make it to the walk! All are welcome.

**ERUCC 275TH ANNIVERSARY
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://bit.ly/37Th0RV>

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2021

Mark 8:27-38

Who Are You Jesus? *Faith Formation Sunday*

The word “mandala” means a “special circle.” In many different countries people create mandalas as a way of praying or showing something about their beliefs. Some doctors have their patients make a mandala to help them express feelings they have trouble talking about. In Tibet, mandalas for peace are created in sand. The Navajo create similar sand paintings to heal sickness. When they are finished, they take the picture apart and sweep up the sand. Sometimes they sweep it into some water as a special blessing. They do this to remind themselves that everything in the world is always changing and the sand won’t stay the same forever. It starts out just as sand, then becomes a beautiful work of art, and then goes right back to being sand. But when they’re finished, the sand is special because it came from their art and it knows their prayers.

You can make a mandala on your own or with a group. First, gather supplies:

- items that can be used to create patterns within the mandala, such as buttons, marbles, checkers, bottle caps, building blocks, washers, scrabble tiles, mosaic tiles, pebbles, beads, seed pods, leaves
- paper circle cut from an 8½” x 11” sheet of paper.

A meditation before making a mandala. Sit comfortably and close your eyes. Take three, slow deep breaths and imagine God’s Spirit filling you with love from head to toe. Think about something sad that is happening in the world, something that you want to see change. Imagine God’s Spirit moving in the world to answer that prayer. Imagine God’s Spirit bringing love into that situation. Now, imagine God’s Spirit forming a big circle, a circle of love in that place. Imagine what the circle looks like and what it feels like. When you are ready, open your eyes. Use the items you have gathered to make a picture of your circle. You can do whatever you wish with your circle. Don’t worry about making mistakes. Trust that God is with you in creating the right mandala for today.

Today’s activity, on this Faith Formation Sunday, is adapted from Faith Practices: Praying and Making Ritual, Copyright © 2012 The Pilgrim Press. Faith Practices is an easily adaptable and inexpensive faith formation curriculum for all ages available at thepilgrimpress.com.



8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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