

PRAISE
THE HOLY ONE

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. Thank you.



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.

Bonnie Hilton, Office Administrator (erucc@erucc.org) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

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

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

November 14, 2021	Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	10:30 a.m.
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Chimes Concert at 10:00 a.m. from Trinity Chapel's steeple

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship** *(based upon Hebrews 10:22-25)*

Come into this time of worship by the new and living way in Christ Jesus.

We come with true hearts in full assurance of our faith.

Come with joyful expectation.

We gather in full confidence of the gospel's promise.

Let us praise God together and open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: That we may encourage and support each other to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be God's instruments of grace.

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

In you, O God, we find refuge from our turbulent world.

We work each day to bear witness to your justice through our ministries.

While the journey towards true peace that lies ahead is long, our incremental steps continue to take us closer to that promised day.

Renew in us the strength, faith, and courage we need to persevere so that the promised day will come when your will will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

RESTORATION

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and power.**

Refrain

**I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.** **Refrain**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.** **Refrain**

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

**Living God, from the beginning you have been teaching us
what goodness is and how human beings should live together:
with integrity and justice, each one a refuge for the others.
Forgive our hard-heartedness, our lack of imagination,
our inability to read the value of each person and
to bring out the best in everyone we meet.**

**God, forgive us: we have made such a chaos of the earth.
Forgive our lust for power and religious strife,
separating us from one another and sapping all life's joys.
Teach us humility, keep our hope alive, sustain our love for all
humanity,
until conflict is stifled and we stand together in your silence
which is filled with eternal praise: with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Song *Why We Sing*

Greg Gilpin

Thought for the Day for Children

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed by 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, for ever. Amen.

***Hymn** *Steal Away to Jesus*

#599

The Scriptures

I Samuel 1: 4-20

Mark 13:1-8

OT Pages 244-245

NT Page 50

Sermon *"Birthpangs"*

Rev. Freeman Palmer

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Call to Offering

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

Offertory Anthem *All My Days*

M. A. Miller
Spirit

***Prayer of Dedication** (in unison)

**We return a portion of what we have received from you, O God,
in gratitude for all that you have bestowed upon us. Bless this offering.
Grant that it may continue to sustain and support the ministries of this
church to bring the light of Christ into this community and the world
beyond. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *How Firm a Foundation*

#407

***Benediction**

What endures is not the edifices we build,
but the work of God that we accomplish
through our ministries in the name of Christ Jesus.
Let us go forth from here empowered by the Holy Spirit
to be God's instruments of justice rooted in love
to further the work of Jesus and to move us closer to God's reign of peace.

***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)*

Today we welcome Central Atlantic Conference Minister, Rev. Freeman L. Palmer. Rev. Palmer began this call in February 2019 after serving nine years as Associate Conference Minister, Congregational Development for the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ. Originally from Washington DC and a proud alumnus of Georgetown Day School, Rev. Palmer is a second career minister, attending seminary after a fifteen-year career as a broadcasting executive with CBS Inc. Rev. Palmer's educational background includes a BA in Economics from Swarthmore College, an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Master's in Divinity with Honors from New York Theological Seminary. Rev. Palmer was ordained at New York City's Riverside Church in 2004 to his first call as an Associate Minister at Middle Collegiate Church in Manhattan. After living twenty years in Jersey City, NJ, Rev. Palmer relocated with his spouse, Donal, an ordained ELCA minister, to Baltimore MD, where they welcomed their nine-month-old puppy Pooh. A prayer that Rev. Palmer offers daily is Psalm 143:10, "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your Good Spirit lead me on level ground (NIV)."

Worship Notes: Today's liturgy has been adapted from Worship Design Studio, the UCC Book of Worship, and Seasons of the Spirit.

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of my father, William B. Kreh from Susan E. Kreh.

The yellow rose bud on the stand is placed by Jeanellen Kallevang in memory of my dad, Lt. Col. Charles Darrell Knight (USAF – Retired), who served in the Korean and Viet Nam Wars.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 23 at 8:30 a.m. 144 at 10:30 p.m. and online



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

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: Nov. 14, 2021

Deacons: Chuck Baldree, Matt Pomeroy

Elders: Peter Brehm

Greeters: Starr Schaeberle, Jo Ann Fritz,
Sue Pinner

Welcome: Betsy Selby

Sound: Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker,
Jeff Schaeberle

Chimers: Saturday: Dick Williams

Sunday: Robin/David Cooney

Next Week: Nov. 21, 2021

Joe Adkins, Matt Davis

Cliff Barr

Linda Coyle, Tom & Rachel Ford

Holly Davis

Kelly Esslinger, Amanda Spencer,
Jack Day

Suzanne Morris

Kelly Esslinger

Worship Next Week: November 21, 2021 We welcome UCC General Minister and President, The Rev. Dr. John Dorhaeur, will be preaching. His focus text will be Hebrews 12: 1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." The Senior Choir will be singing. ERUCC bells will be ringing.

Hospital and Prayer List – Your pastor wants to be available when members of ERUCC are in the hospital. Please let us know so that we can visit with you and your family and provide support. We always ask permission before adding a name to be included in the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Prayer List - Please remember the following people in your prayers: Barbara Prescott, Patti Patterson, Ginny Peters, Terry Logee, Bob York (grandfather of Tyler York), Michael Rhoads (son of Barbara Rhoads), Katharine Alley, Westin (great nephew of Sandy Gray & Danielle Carbone) Jean Fish, Barb Biser, Peggy Githerman, Tom Frazier, Jeannette Johnson, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle) Bonnie Devilbiss, Maria Csiba (mother of Tamara Tamas), Trish Carey, Betsy Fisher, James “Jimmy” Sutphin (friend of Dan Smith), Danielle Hankey (friend of Ben Mercier), The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Alyce Schimd (sister of Dennie Schmid), 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)

Sunday, November 14, 2021

**A Frederick Community Day of Recognition
for the Hungry, Homeless & People in Poverty**

3:30 - 7:00 p.m. Interfaith Dinner for the Hungry

(Preparation, serving and cleanup at the Soup Kitchen, Frederick Housing and Human Services, 100 S. Market St.)

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Virtual Interfaith Candlelight Prayer Walk*

Steps toward Housing as a Human Right

7:30 - 8:00 p.m. Virtual Program on Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Evil of Poverty*

Steps toward Healthcare as a Human Right

**Zoom Meeting ID: 839 7668 3939, Passcode: NHHAW*

Sponsored by Frederick Interfaith and the MLK Beloved Community Committee
For information and to volunteer, contact frederickinterfaith@gmail.com or
annette.breiling@gmail.com

*“As long as there is poverty in this world, no man can be totally rich
even if he has a billion dollars.”*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “The American Dream” speech, 1961

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 include prepackaged snacks, instant soup, popcorn, cocoa, tea, candy and raisins. Monetary donations welcome and will be used to defray the cost of postage. Donations can be put in the box in the entrances to both the chapel and main building. Questions contact Kim Sexton at ksexton@erucc.org.

Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Daniel (North Room)

11:00 – Noon. On November 16, we will be studying Isaiah 40.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY with Esther Ziegler (Trinity Chapel)

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 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.

THURSDAY EVENING STUDY with Richard Leslie (North Room)

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Text: Richard Horsley, *Covenant Economics* (no need to purchase unless you want to – it is a bit of a hard read).

Walking in interstellar space requires a tether. It's a lifeline 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 mothership 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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83234329329?pwd=MitIYXNQZTRVK0VmNkNUbzNka1VUUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 3432 9329

Passcode: 135141

In search of addresses. We are looking for the current addresses for all of our young adults between the ages 18 to 25 years old. Addresses can be emailed to Kim Sexton at Ksexton@erucc.org

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE (Flora Room) 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

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.

LET'S TALK (Community Room) 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

November: ERUCC and UCC Connection

November 14 Conversation with Rev. Freeman Palmer

November 21 Conversation with Rev. John Dorhaeur

November 28, December 5, 12, 19 **Advent Study** with Pastor Daniel

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

God's Kids Club is designed for children Kindergarten through 5th grade. Youth help for events is always welcome. Masks required for in-person events

Schedule for remainder of 2021

Nov. 21st 5:00-6:30 p.m. Care packages for college students and those serving in the military. A joint activity with the Youth Group.

Dec. 10th Zoom event 7 - 9 p.m. Decorate Christmas cookies

You will need to have your own cookies, sprinkles and frosting for this event.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81033127723?pwd=N0MzSnVNZFFJaSXo1SIVxSUduQ1NMdz09>

Meeting ID: 810 3312 7723

Passcode: 668761

Dec. 19th White Gift Christmas pageant for the 275th Anniversary

Dec. 20th Breakfast with Santa for dinner 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. As we get closer to the date we will decide if this will be zoom, hybrid or in person

Questions for God's Kids Club send to Kim Sexton at ksexton@erucc.org



Thank you for your Acts of Love! ERUCC is continuing to receive your pledges. Your generous contributions provide the foundation for our church's ministries and mission. The Stewardship and Generosity Committee is happy to report that as of Monday, November 8, ERUCC has received 97 pledges totaling \$401,709.00.

You can still pledge by going to www.erucc.org, or mailing or dropping off a pledge at the office. Every pledge is welcome - no amount is too small.

We are all the church together!

From the Stewardship & Generosity Committee



Sunday, December 5, 2021 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

You are invited to celebrate the Holiday Season with Religious Coalition staff and Board Members at the future home of our new Emergency Family Shelter. See our progress as we work towards welcoming families in the early part of 2022.

White-Hayward Farmhouse
7516 Hayward Rd. Frederick 21702

Putz Construction

Church Family:

We are so happy to be entering the holiday season. One of the church's long held tradition is the Putz. The Putz is a miniature of the whole Christmas story. We will need help with the setup in the sanctuary. Over the next few weeks we will setup the houses and figurines after 5pm from Nov. 15th through the 19th. You can also help by donating the following next week:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| small pinecones | Spanish moss |
| pebbles | dried moss (both brown and green) |
| bark from trees | |

If you would like to help we would love to have you. Text or call Holly at 301-639-5702

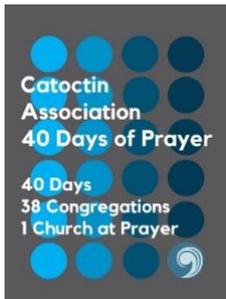
Domenik Ackerman, our pastoral intern in 2018, is being ordained this Sunday, November 14th at 1 pm at First Church in Cambridge, MA. If you would like to attend the service through livestream here is the link:

https://c.streamhoster.com/embed/media/WFsdGD/c03bfncsOGW/Sqhgm7sAWG7_5

ERUCC 275TH ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- | | | |
|----|------------|---|
| 14 | 9:30 a.m. | Conversation with Rev. Freeman Palmer |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Worship: Rev. Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister,
Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of
Christ |
| 21 | 9:30 a.m. | Conversation with Rev. John Dorhauer |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Worship: Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and
President, United Church of Christ |



The Catoclin Association is 38 churches - a wide diversity of geography, faith, and practice, and yet one body. Separate and together, we labor side by side for a more just and generous world. That work is rooted in prayer - the prayers of our people, congregations, and the wider church.

On October 6, 2021, the Association launched 40 Days of Prayer, where we will pray for each congregation, by name. We want to kneel in prayer as one association in prayer for each other through 40 days, to practice our covenant

commitments to each other to love and support one another as siblings in Christ, to strengthen and encourage each other as a new chapter of faith emerges in our region.

This week we pray for the following churches:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| November 15 | Faith UCC, Frederick |
| November 16 | St. James, Lovettsville |
| November 17 | Grace, Taneytown |
| November 18 | St. John's, Sabillasville |
| November 19 | Connections Six Eight, Hagerstown |
| November 20 | Catoclin Association |

HOW TO BE ANTI-RACIST

Engagement, Conversations, 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)

Tonight, November 14 at 7 pm, we will discuss the movie, *The Hate You Give*.

Watch the movie at home and then engage in the conversation.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82738349903?pwd=Vzc1NHl2Tkd2MGVpY2VoZWZHeWltZz09>

Meeting ID: 827 3834 9903

Passcode: 604359

INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT ERUCC

Two opportunities to learn more about ERUCC, the United Church of Christ, and what it means to be a church member will be held on: **Sunday, November 14** at 4 pm via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87955512697?pwd=NIBHc0d2YWFnZD1piWkMyOGJBTEFCUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 5551 2697 Passcode: 528796

Thanks to our newer friends and guests for your participation in the life of ERUCC and for the joy you bring us.

Green Team News

Spiritual Walk Sunday November 21st 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

C & O Canal Lock 26 at Dickerson - Come enjoy the fall weather as we walk between the canal and the Potomac River. The terrain is flat and easily accessible.

Directions: Take Route 85 (Buckeystown Pike) southwest out of Frederick. In about 10 miles Buckeystown Pike becomes Dickerson Road (Route 28). After crossing the bridge over the Monocacy River, continue about another mile. At Mouth of Monocacy Road turn right and continue for about another mile (where it ends). You will be at the Monocacy Aqueduct with parking on the left. We will meet there.

Coins For A Cause is going GREEN! No more bags . . . two glass collection jars have been placed at the back of the sanctuary next to the collection plates. The jars will remain there so feel free to drop coins and paper bills any Sunday. November donations will be given to

I Believe in Me Inc. "I Believe in Me operates an after school program which includes educational activities and mentorship for 24 underprivileged youth."

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.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

November 28 from Noon – 2:00 p.m.

The more hands, the merrier, and the quicker we will get things done. Join us after morning worship to help ready the church for Christmas.

Photos of Doors Needed: Send us a photo of the front door of your house or apartment? Our theme for Advent for this year is, Housing the Holy, and our guiding image will be an open door. Please send your photos to bkdaniel@erucc.org and they will become part of a new art installation in the hallway outside the Liz Coffey Room and the Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite. Thank you.



Community Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 23 at 7:30 pm
Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ
15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD

Sponsored by the Frederick Area Ministerial Association
and Frederick Interfaith

*Join us for prayer, music and fellowship in thanksgiving for
the blessings in our lives.*

The poster features a central text box with a white background and a green border. Below the text box are two images: on the left, a table laden with autumn produce like pumpkins and gourds, with a red banner that says "Family & Friends Gather Here"; on the right, a close-up of vibrant yellow and orange autumn leaves.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING –

Sunday, December 12th following the 10:30 service.

The Consistory hopes that you will be present for the annual meeting at which time the annual budget will be shared. **YOU ARE THE CHURCH** and we need your participation!!



ERUCC TRADITIONAL WHITE GIFT PAGEANT

As one of ERUCC's 275th anniversary celebration activities, we will be performing the traditional White Gift Pageant on December 19. For those of you new to the congregation, you won't want to miss this opportunity. The White Gift Pageant has a long and rich history dating back many years at ERUCC. "White gifts" will be presented during the Pageant and laid at the manger, hence

the name!

The Pageant provides opportunities for anyone who has a desire to participate to do so as a reader of a piece of the traditional Christmas story, through portrayal as one of the characters (angels, shepherds, etc.), or helping with sound and lighting. We invite you to join us this year for the Pageant. Please start thinking about how you might like to participate if you so desire. For more questions, please contact Trish Coffey at trishcoffey1195@gmail.com or 301-455-8720. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!



Poinsettias

We will be ordering poinsettias from the Frederick High School this year. All funds will benefit the horticultural program and Frederick High FFA Chapter. Each plant will have 4-6 blooms, cost \$10.00. Plants will be placed in the Sanctuary and in Trinity Chapel.

To order, please fill out the form and return with payment to the Church Office by December 1st.

Plants can be picked up after Christmas Eve Services; or if you like, they can be delivered to a homebound individual.

I would like to place _____ poinsettias in the church for Christmas.

Enclosed is _____ (\$10.00 per plant).

If you wish your poinsettias to be listed in memory of, in honor of, or placed by the donor, please indicate which and PRINT the names below.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Placed by:

Donor Name:

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 14, 2021

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Praise the Holy One *Stewardship Sunday*

Today's reading ends on 1 Samuel 1:20, but the story of Hannah does not end there. Keep reading through 1 Samuel chapter two, and you'll hear something remarkable.

In chapter two, when Hannah receives good news that a hope long deferred has finally been realized, she bursts into song.

Her song, flowing from her grateful heart, has brought hope, encouragement, support and strength to generations of women and men who needed reassurance that God's love and presence are steadfast and strong. Her song for example, inspired another song by another woman of hope. Mary, the mother of Jesus, sings a song inspired by Hannah which you can find in Luke 1:46-55. If you compare the two songs, what do you notice that is different? What do you notice that is the same? How do you feel that the first song, by Hannah, inspired the second song, by Mary?

Maybe you also have been inspired by a piece of music and felt the desire to respond. If your response to life's ups and downs is to turn to music, then join United Church of Christ member and disability activist Karl Shallowhorn on his podcast, *Mental Health Verses*. In each episode, Karl interviews a guest about the music that has encouraged or supported them through various of life's difficulties.

Karl knows that music that inspires is meant to be shared and created to be passed from listener to listener. On the Facebook page for his podcast, Karl invites anyone who would like to "Just send an email to mentalhealth-verses@gmail.com with your song and the reason why it has supported you... whether it was a time you may have struggled, or simply when the tune has lifted your spirits to another level."

Who knows? Maybe like Mary, the music shared will encourage you to create and share music of your own.

