

**A SURPRISING CATCH**

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

**F**or 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.



**H**ymn 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.

**W**e 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.

**T**here is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: [www.erucc.org](http://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](mailto:bkdaniel@erucc.org))

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus ([faw500@msn.com](mailto:faw500@msn.com))

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

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

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Tyler L. York, Office Administrator ([erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org)) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

*15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-662-2762 • [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)*

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

February 6, 2022

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand

**Chimes Concert** at 10:00 a.m. from Trinity Chapel's steeple

**Greetings and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship**

Isaiah: surprised by the Holy One in the Temple--

A vision, a call, a response:

**Here I am: Send me!**

Paul: surprised by the Spirit at his hateful work—

An interruption, a challenge, a response:

**I received from the Lord the word of grace I now proclaim!**

Weary fisher folk: surprised by Jesus at their empty boats—

A sign, a promise, a response:

**They left everything to follow!**

Let us worship the One whose call surprises and challenges us.

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Holy One, you are ready to meet us**

**wherever we are in our lives,**

**offering vision, interruption, hope**

**where we may least expect it.**

**Surprise us here at worship today**

**With some grace unexpected**

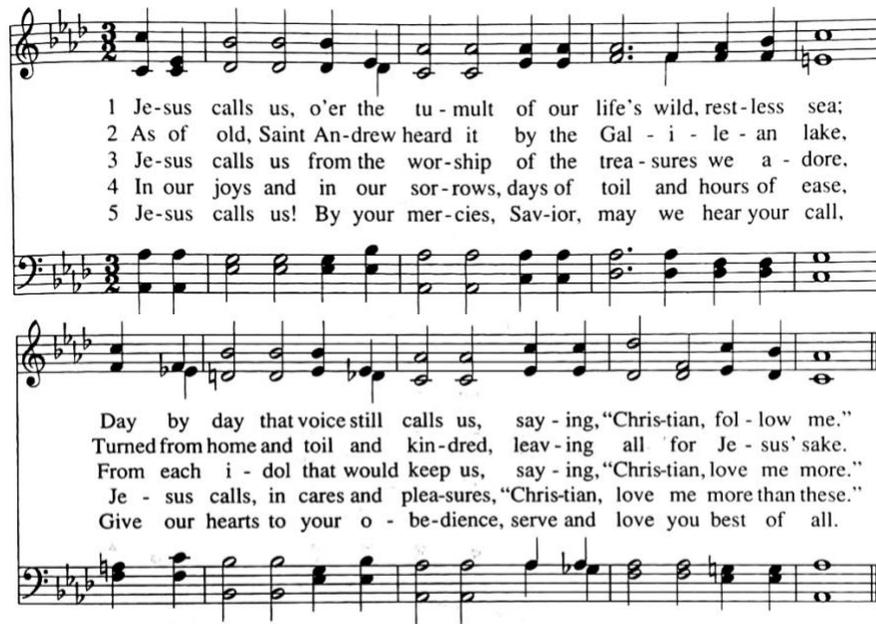
**that will change something in us**

**—large or small—**

**and send us into the world**

**inspired and impassioned to do your work.**

**In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**



1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;  
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,  
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore.  
4 In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,

Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."  
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all 'for Je - sus' sake.  
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."  
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."  
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

You call to us through the voices of the poor and the powerless,  
But we close ourselves off from their need:

**Lord have mercy**

You call to us through the cries of those who struggle  
to change structures of oppression, but we turn away from their challenge:

**Christ have mercy**

You hint, you invite, you surround us with calls to love you more fully,  
and follow you more faithfully, but we cling to comfort and safety:

**Lord have mercy**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**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, for ever. Amen.

\*Hymn *You Have Comd Down to the Lakeshore*

#173

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
 2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go: en mi  
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
 2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo  
 bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das; tan só - lo  
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly  
 trea - sure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my

*Estrillo (Refrain)*  
 D D7  
 que - res que yo te si - ga. Je -  
 re - des y mi tra - ba - jo.  
 ask - ing for me to fol - low. O  
 fish - nets and will for work - ing.

sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;  
 Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;

son - ri - en - do,                      has di - cho mi nom - bre;  
kind - ly smil - ing,                      you've called out my name.

en la a - re - na                      he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;  
On the sand I                      have a - ban - doned my small boat;

jun - to a ti                      bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
now with you                      I will seek oth - er seas.

## The Scripture

Isaiah 6: 1-8

OT page 635

Luke 5: 1-11

NT page 62

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

All:            Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

## Morning Prayers

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

## Offertory *We See the Lord*

--Anonymous  
ERUCC Singers

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**God who calls us to participate in your vision of justice for our world,**

**Let these offerings become our response:**

**all your people fed,**

**all your people safe,**

**all your people housed,**

**all your people educated.**

**Amen.**

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation

May God be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

**We freely give God thanks and praise.**

It is right and meet, beautiful and holy  
that we should, in ceaseless joy  
Give our thanks and praise to you,  
Holy and merciful God,  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise  
With the church that is, was, and shall be forever,  
We glorify you, joining this unending song:

Holy, holy, holy... God of love and majesty,  
The whole universe speaks of your glory,  
O God Most High

Holy are you, Eternal One.  
You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth  
Setting light into being  
Casting the stars in the sky  
Founding the evolving earth  
And all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power,  
And great is your wisdom.  
You look upon the lowly  
As your most cherished creatures.  
You visit upon the downtrodden  
With presence, grace, and the promise of eternal justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus,

Who reached into unexpected places,  
Calling women beyond the limits of their times  
Equipping men for nurturing love  
Welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion,  
The light of the world took bread, broke and gave it to the disciples, saying:

“This is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And, in like manner, after supper,  
Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks gave it to them saying,

“This is the cup of the new covenant  
poured out for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink of it,  
for the remembrance of me.”

Life’s greatest feast before us,  
We excitedly proclaim:

**Christ has died**  
**Christ is risen**  
**Christ will come again.**

### **Communion Prayer**

Dear God, you transform.  
You transform all that is before you  
So that at the touch of your grace  
We are never the same.

Dear God, you illumine.  
You bring light to all peoples  
Light to the nations  
Light into our hearts  
Light on your Way.

Dear God, we pray for your Spirit.  
Transform, illumine, bless.

Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup  
Into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

**In so doing,  
Hold us as your own  
Renew us as your people  
For the sake of the world you love.**

For all honor and glory are yours, O God,  
Through Jesus Christ,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in your glorious creation  
Both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

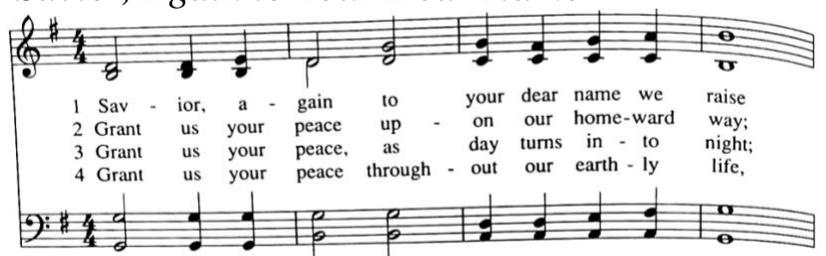
*(This morning we will bring communion to the congregation as you are seated in the pews. Please hold the bread until all have been served and the pastors extend the invitation for all to eat. Please hold the cup of grape juice until all have been served and the pastors extend the invitation for all to drink. In this way, we can commune together.)*

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.  
We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.  
May we bask in this glow  
Now and forevermore. Amen.**

### **\*Closing Hymn** *Savior, Again to Your Dear Name*

#80



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise  
2 Grant us your peace up - on our home-ward way;  
3 Grant us your peace, as day turns in - to night;  
4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
 with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;  
 stay with us till the com - ing of the light;  
 our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;

We join to bless you ere our wor - ship cease,  
 Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
 Keep safe all those who call up - on your name,  
 Then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

then, in the si - lence, wait your word of peace.  
 that in this house have called up - on your name.  
 for dark and light to you are both the same.  
 call us, O God, to your e - ter - nal peace.

**\*Blessing**

**\*Postlude** (*please be seated*)

**Interrupted by Love, Service Prayers for Epiphany 5** was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain.

**Service of Holy Communion for Season after Epiphany, Year B** was written by the Rev. Kaji Dousa, a United Church of Christ Pastor who serves as a pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City.

**The flowers on the altar** today are given by Mike and Ann McGreevy in honor of all those who struggle with mental illness and yet get up each day and try to do good for others.

**The yellow rose bud** is presented by Jim and Angela Britain in honor of their second cousin 1st Lt. Matthew James Reed, 82nd Airborne, Fort Bragg, NC.

If you are interested in sponsoring the yellow rose, please contact the church office. We have openings in March through the end of the year.

**Attendance Last Sunday:** 12 at 8:30 a.m. 66 at 10:30 a.m. and 117 online.

Watch  
Worship  
Live



**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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w) 

You can get to the link on our homepage at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)

**Today: February 6, 2022**

Liturgist: Rev. Richard Leslie

Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick

Elder: Laura Rhoderick

Greeters: Danielle Carbone, Sandy Gray  
Anne Hoffman

Welcome: Ave Barr

Sound: Ethan Kline, Jack Day,  
Jeff Schaeberle

Chimers: Saturday: Suzanne Morris

Sunday: Kelly Esslinger

**February 13, 2022**

Linda Coyle

Chuck Baldree, Matt Pomeroy

Tyler L. York

Jo Ann Fritz, Cathie Duncan  
Sue Pinner

Jeanellen Kallevang

Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker

Larry Martin

Robin and David Cooney

Tricia Coffey

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Worship Next Week: Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany**

Luke 6:17-26 repeatedly intones: “Blessed are you who.” What does it mean to be blessed? Jeremiah 17:5-10 reads that to be blessed is to look for the long view, to feel oneself planted in an eternal stream of past, present, future, and infinity, and to trust that no mortal alone is in charge of our outcome.

Music will be shared by Spirit.

**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 Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Mack Johnson, Starr Schaeberle, David Howard, Paige Coffey, Al Peden, Barbara Prescott, Ginny Peters, Jane Doll, Michael Rhoads (son of Barbara Rhoads), Westin (great nephew of Sandy Gray & Danielle Carbone, Peggy Githerman, Jeannette Johnson, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle) Bonnie Devilbiss, Maria Csiba (mother of Tamara Tamas), Betsy Fisher, James “Jimmy” Sutphin (friend of Dan Smith), The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).

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## **Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults**

**BIBLE STUDY CLASS      Online      9:30 – 10:15 am**  
“The Book that Breathes New Life” with Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg.

To join via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3GEIvhJ>      Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888      Passcode: 327128

## **This Week at ERUCC**

**TONIGHT!      Community Room      6:00 – 7:30 pm**  
**A Survivor’s Story of Ravensbruck.** In July of 2021, ERUCC youth along with our German partners, visited the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp and Memorial Site. Those of us who went to Germany know the impact of our visit and stay at the camp memorial. Tonight, we will hear from Patricia Coates, whose mother survived the camp. Patricia will share her mother’s story and bring some documents and artifacts from her mother’s time in the camp. While this is a youth group activity, we are inviting members and friends of the congregation to attend.

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## **TUESDAY'S WITH TED**

**Tuesday, February 8**

**6:00 – 7:00 pm**

Join a group on Zoom hosted by Pastor Daniel to listen to and discuss the TED Talk by **Alejandro Aravena: My architectural philosophy? Bring the community into the process.**

When asked to build housing for 100 families in Chile ten years ago, Alejandro Aravena looked to an unusual inspiration: the wisdom of favelas and slums. Rather than build a large building with small units, he built flexible half-homes that each family could expand on. It was a complex problem with a simple solution-one he arrived at by working with the families themselves.

To join via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3erWnj1> Meeting ID: 923 9891 8264 Passcode: 313735

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## **CARING FOR OUR OLDER PARENTS**

**Wednesday, February 9**

**7:00 – 8:00pm**

Join members and friends of ERUCC for a conversation about the joys and challenges of caring for our older parents. Our goal is to provide a caring and confidential environment to identify needs and concerns and network with one another for mutual support. For more information, contact Pastor Daniel.

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## **SOLAR EXPLORATION**

**Wednesday, February 9**

**7:00 – 8:00pm**

The Property Committee is exploring whether we go solar in 2023 and is looking for input and support! Please join in a conversation about solar energy at our church. Contact Owen York at [owenjyork@gmail.com](mailto:owenjyork@gmail.com).

To join via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3ri1CJe>

Meeting ID: 975 9235 0245

Passcode: TJXw4M

## **Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults**

### **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Pastor Daniel (*Liz Coffey Room*)**

11:00 – Noon

Through 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 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.

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY with Esther Ziegler (*Trinity Chapel*)**

The Wednesday Evening Study Group will begin meeting in Trinity Chapel again at 7 pm. Beginning Wednesday, February 9th we will begin discussing the book *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass. The subtitle of the book is "Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence" and Dr. Butler Bass presents a chapter on each of those titles and descriptors used for Jesus. Our fall sessions were fairly academically oriented as we explored doctrines about Jesus but this book is more about relationship with Jesus. Participants will be expected to read about 30 to 50 pages of the book each week but the print is fairly large and generously spaced.

Please let Esther Ziegler [estherrziegler@gmail.com](mailto:estherrziegler@gmail.com) know if you plan to participate so a book can be ordered through the church office. The planned schedule is:

February 9	Introduction: Liberate Jesus and Chapter 1: Friend
February 16	Chapter 2: Teacher
February 23	Chapter 3: Savior
March 2	No class - Ash Wednesday
March 9	Chapter 4: Lord
March 16	Chapter 5: Way
March 23	Chapter 6: Presence

**THURSDAY EVENING STUDY with Richard Leslie (North Room)**

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Text: Richard Horsley, *Covenant Economics*.

To join via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3szJMTf> Meeting ID: 832 3432 9329 Passcode: 135141

*Covenant Love, Liberation Theology, and Social Justice (2000BCE-2000AD)*

We have meandered through 5 books of the Hebrew Bible, following the strands of Covenant. Part I is behind us but not forgotten. Part 2 will begin on Thursday eve, January 6, at 7:00pm. You can watch from your living room, using Zoom. We will spend the next 8/9 Thursdays, searching the Prophets for the way in which Covenant was/or was not lived-out in the land of Canaan. Please grab a cup of coffee or tea or your favorite drink, and your most comfortable chair and be with us. Everyone is invited and welcome to learn with us.

Richard Leslie, [jalrl@comcast.net](mailto:jalrl@comcast.net)

**Upcoming at ERUCC**

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

**Sunday, February 13**

On this day, the Youth of ERUCC will join in a nationwide youth movement to collect resources to tackle hunger. Our youth will be collecting monetary gifts in big soup pots following the service on Sunday, February 13. We will also be in the parking lot until 1pm to receive your drive by gifts. All monetary gifts and food will be given to the Frederick Food Bank.



**SPIRITUAL WALK**

**Sunday, February 13**

**2:00 – 3:30 pm**

**Catoctin Creek Nature Center**

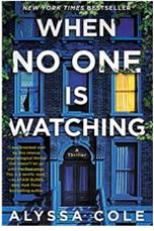
Bundle up and come out to experience the joys of nature in winter. Silhouettes of barren trees, crisp cold air, and snow awaken our senses to secrets that are hidden in other seasons. Tracks, deer beds, or other clues may help us figure out who lives in the park. Our walk will take us through woods and along Catoctin Creek. (This is a different route from the one we took last year.) An added bonus is that the Nature Center building with animals and nature exhibits will be open before and after the walk (12-5 p.m.). Weather permitting, we can visit the green roof.

## ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Contact Pam Shepp for more information

### February 22 - *When No One is Watching* by Alyssa Cole

Sydney Green is Brooklyn born and raised, but her beloved neighborhood seems to change every time she blinks. Condos are sprouting like weeds, FOR SALE signs are popping up overnight, and the neighbors she's known all her life are disappearing. To hold onto her community's past and present, Sydney channels her frustration into a walking tour and finds an unlikely and unwanted assistant in one of the new arrivals to the block—her neighbor Theo.

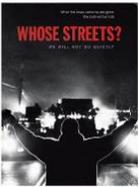


But Sydney and Theo's deep dive into history quickly becomes a dizzying descent into paranoia and fear. Their neighbors may not have moved to the suburbs after all, and the push to revitalize the community may be more deadly than advertised.

When does coincidence become conspiracy? Where do people go when gentrification pushes them out? Can Sydney and Theo trust each other—or themselves—long enough to find out before they too disappear?

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## HOW TO BE ANTI-RACIST MOVIE DISCUSSION



Watch the movie, *Whose Streets?*, at home and then engage in the conversation held on Zoom at 7:00 pm on February 20th.

If you do not have access to streaming services, call the church office to make arrangements to see the films.

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## SPRING CLEANUP WORKWEEK – APRIL 18-22

Save the dates! As in previous years, we will come together for a few days this spring to maintain our buildings, whether that be deep cleaning, painting, repairing, or organizing. We have a list of projects that we can do – saving us money and having a good time working together! Painting, updating Trinity bathrooms, wall repairs, clean outs, and other odds and ends are included on this year's list.

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## ERUCC YOUTH SCHEDULE

**Sunday School** Each week at 9:30 am

**Sunday, February 6**

**Community Room**

**6:00 – 7:30 pm**

We will welcome, Patricia Coates, whose mother was a survivor of the Ravensbruck concentration camp in Germany. She will share her mother's story along with some documents and artifacts.

**Saturday, February 12**

**Sub Preparation and Sale**

**9:00 – Noon**

This will be one of our major fundraisers for summer trips and activities.

Trish Coffey

**Sunday, February 27**

**Virtual Reality**

Kline's

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## FEBRUARY COINS FOR A CAUSE



The Coins for a Cause collection will be shared with Frederick Health Hospice ([frederickhealthhospice.org](http://frederickhealthhospice.org)) which provides “compassionate support to terminally ill patients and their families, and to those who were grieving. Hospice is not about how you die; it is about how you live.”

Coins for A Cause is a program launched by ERUCC’s Mission and Social Action Committee to support organizations that make a difference here in Maryland that are not supported in our annual budget. A different beneficiary organization is chosen each season. Donations can be placed in the collection jars at the back of the sanctuary next to the collection plates.

## LENT 2022 AT ERUCC

### Full to the Brim



Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It’s an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God’s lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES – March 2

### Noon in Trinity Chapel

A Time of Fellowship and lunch will follow the service

### 7:30 pm in Main Sanctuary

Services will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

## MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13

Service of Prayer in Trinity Chapel

Noon – 12:15 pm

### Lunch and Bible Study Reflection

*Theme: For the Beauty of the Earth*

Drawing on the beloved hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth,” each week of this 40-day Lenten devotional focuses on a different aspect of the splendor of nature, how God nurtures our spirit through creation, and how we must protect our precious home. As we walk with Jesus along shorelines, through gardens, and among trees, we learn from “the birds of the air” and “the lilies

12:15 – 1:00 pm

of the field.” When our Lenten journey takes us into the heart of Earth itself at Jesus’ tomb, we anticipate the resurrection with eager longing and active hope. Each five-minute devotional includes a scripture, reflection, and prayer. Every Wednesday, we will reflect on the previous week’s devotions. Please contact Pastor Daniel for a copy of the devotional book.

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### **SOUP LUNCHEONS – LENT 2022**

Each week during the season of Lent, a group gathers for prayer followed by a simple soup and bread lunch, and some reflection. We are looking for some people willing to make soup for the following weeks:

March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13

If you are unable to attend, you can still make some soup that we can freeze and heat up. Your gift of cooking is much appreciated. Please let Pastor Daniel know if you can provide this gift.

## A Surprising Catch

Today's scripture story tells how Jesus called the first disciples to be evangelists or "fishers of people." Although we have our roots in the evangelical tradition, many United Church of Christ congregations shy away from proudly evangelizing. In their book, *Glorify*, published by The Pilgrim Press, Rev. Emily Heath encourages the UCC to reclaim the title of evangelist. In chapter two, they write,

"I sometimes describe myself as a liberal evangelical. I'm sad that the public understanding of the word "evangelical" forces me to use a qualifier, but so be it. I believe in spreading the good news of God's love to all. But how I hope to do that looks very different from what most (at least in our North American context) might expect from an evangelical. To me, evangelism looks like this: marching in the local gay pride parade, growing vegetables to donate to the local food pantry, advocating for fair labor practices, working for peace, protesting racial injustice, providing good quality health care to those who don't have it, and so much more.

All of these things help spread the good news of God's love. All of those things are evangelism. We do them not just because we want to be good people, but more importantly because we are God's people...

When we are talking about evangelism, it's important to make sure we clear up one popular misconception: evangelism is not about church growth.

We do not do the work of evangelism in order to recruit new members for the team. This is not about adding to our membership rolls. And if the only time your church talks about evangelism is as a way to get more money in the offering plates and "save the church," trust me when I say it just won't happen. People will walk into the doors of your church and see the ulterior motivations from a mile away.

The point of sharing the good news is just this: to share the good news."\*

How can you reclaim the title of evangelist and share the good news in your community?

\*Heath, Emily C., *Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity*, Cleveland, Ohio, The Pilgrim Press, © 2016, Pages 26-27, Used by permission.



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