

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 **Vanco Mobile** application and
make your donation via the app. Thank you.



Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com)

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director

Tyler L. York, Office Administrator (tyork@erucc.org)

Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr. • Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Kelly Esslinger, Cambridge Bell Choir Director, Events Team

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 –

August 14, 2022

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

Chimes Concert at 10:00 am from Trinity Chapel's steeple

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Let us sing to the God of Hosts
**who provides for us,
and whom we worship in this space.**

**How awesome is our God
who created from nothing
all that is beautiful in this world;
who anticipates our every need;
who loves us beyond measure.**

**O God, our God, give heed to our presence.
Hear our voices lifted up to you in praise. Amen.**

***Opening Prayer**

**We come before you this day, O God,
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.
As you have been with your people throughout history,
so we know you are with us even now.
In this time of worship,
help us to celebrate your presence among us,
and strengthen us to continue
the work you have begun. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn *My Life Flows on in Endless Song*

#476

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?
 Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Loving God, you provide all we need and watch over us.
But in response, we have often ignored your care,
and have not always lived in ways you long for.
We know that, like those who have gone before us,
and all of your people even now, we at times disappoint you,
going against your hopes and dreams.
Forgive us, God. Don't give up on us.
Continue to care for us, that we might do your will,
producing the fruits of justice and proclaiming your praise. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

**God has been with saints throughout history, and God is with us now.
Know that you are forgiven, and invited by God into new living.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Thought for the Day

Jim Weitz

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 *O Day of God, Draw Near

#611

see next page

The Scripture

Jeremiah 23: 23-29	OT page 726
Psalms 82: 1-8	OT page 542
Luke 12: 49-56	NT page 75

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
 2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
 3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
 4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
 5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;

Come with your time-less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
 The qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
 And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
 That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
 Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

Morning Prayers

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

Offertory *I Can Only Imagine*

-- B. Millard
 Angela Brittain, soloist

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Like countless others before us, O God, we offer ourselves to you.
 Take all that we have and are, and use that for the work
 of making your reign real on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

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

tune— O WALY WALY

**"Take up your cross, " the savior said,
 "if you would my disciples be;
 Take up your cross with willing heart
 and humbly follow after me."**

**Take up your cross; let not its weight
Fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength will bear your spirit up
and brace your heart, support your arm.**

**Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down,
For only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

***Benediction**

Be encouraged by your faith in God and in your desire to live into God's expectations for your lives. Receive God's blessing as beloved children of God. Look to Jesus this week as the perfecter of our faith – allow him to be an example for our living. Have faith in the work and power of the Holy Spirit through whom God's work in us is accomplished. **Amen.**

****Threefold Amen***

#812

Postlude (*please be seated*)

The Call to Worship and the Benediction was written by Henrietta Stith Andrews, a retired UCC Pastor who served as Associate Conference Minister in Michigan. Rev. Andrews is a certified Spiritual Director.

The other prayers are from Seasons of the Spirit for August 18, 2019.

We welcome **The Rev. John Shillingburg** as our guest preacher today.

The flowers on the altar this morning placed in loving memory of Isabel Kreh Wilcoxon, Susan Nelson Cramer Kreh, and Lola Ann Dorcus by Susan Kreh.

The yellow rose bud is presented by Peter Brehm and Jack Day.

Attendance Last Sunday: 19 at 8:30 am, 113 at 10:30 am, and 58 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 am
<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>



Want to listen to the sermon again?

Visit our YouTube channel: bit.ly/erucc_youtube

Today: August 14, 2022

Liturgist: Jim Weitz
Deacons: Chuck Baldree, Matt Pomeroy
Elder: Cathie Duncan
Greeters: Eliza Stitely, Cathie Duncan
Jo Ann Fritz
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Kelly Esslinger
Fellowship: Larry and Sedonia Martin
Chimers: *Saturday:* Nancy Doll
Sunday: Kelly Esslinger

Next Week: August 21, 2022

Youth
Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Tyler L. York
Tom and Rachel Ford
Cliff Barr
Julie Clark, Holly Davis
Ethan Kline, Jeff Baker
Larry Martin
Julie Clark
Dick Williams
Trish Coffey

FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for fellowship in the Community Room after worship to chat with friends, welcome our visitors, and enjoy a time of refreshment.

The Community Room, located on the 1st floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

beginning September 11

8:30-9:15 am	Worship , Trinity Chapel
9:30 am-12:00 pm	Nursery Care , Main Building
9:30-10:15 am	Adult Education , Main Building <i>Let's Talk and Let's Study the Bible</i>
9:30-10:10 am	Children's Sunday School , Trinity Chapel
10:10-10:25 am	Children's Music & Movement , Trinity Chapel
10:30-11:30 am	Worship , Main Sanctuary
11:30 am-12:00 pm	Children/Youth Hand Chimes Rehearsal , Flora Room
11:30 am	Fellowship , Community Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week

God breaks into our world and shakes things up. Jeremiah 1:4–10 tells the story of the prophet's call. Luke 13:10–17 Jesus is on his final journey to Jerusalem. In one of the towns, he visits a synagogue and accepts an invitation to teach. There he sees a woman who has been unable to stand up straight for 18 years.

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: The Family of Heather Krystofiak (friend of Laura Rhoderick), Mary Jean Thiele (friend of Mary Boswell), Cliff Barr, Mary Ellen Baker, Pat Hevner, David Cooney, Jeannette Johnson, Barbara Rhoads, Starr Schaeberle, Nancy Tordoff (mother of Kim Sexton), Mike Farner (friend of Darryl Glick and Mark Ulrich), Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby), Tamara Tamas, Patti Patterson, Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Mack Johnson, Paige Coffey, Jane Doll, Westin (great nephew of Sandy Gray & Danielle Carbone), Peggy Githerman, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle), Bonnie Devilbiss, Maria Csiba (mother of Tamara Tamas), Betsy Fisher, 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).

Peggy Githerman
208 Center St
Frederick MD 21701

Mary Ellen Baker
634 Schley Ave
Frederick MD 21702

STAY INFORMED

Read our Trinity Chimes monthly newsletter for more information about ERUCC activities, opportunities, and updates. You can find the Trinity Chimes in the back of the sanctuary and online at bit.ly/Aug22Chimes.

If you have an announcement for the bulletin, Thursday Thoughts, or Trinity Chimes, please send to erucc@erucc.org.

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY with Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg

This class will resume on September 11. Details coming soon.

LET'S TALK

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 am

Today: Attention: Native Plants create habitat and food for all types of wildlife from bees to bunnies. Join the Green Team for a walking tour of the patio and parking area to learn about some of our native plants and the roles they play in nature. We will also talk about plans for more native plants. Meet on the patio behind the church at 9:30 am to join the tour.

Next Week: Gratitude: Canning and Preserving food is great way to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. For many of us the process of canning can seem intimidating and time-consuming, but it is also rewarding. Matt and Holly Davis will share their tips and methods for safely preserving fruits and vegetables for the cold winter months ahead.

Upcoming at ERUCC

FELLOWSHIP: PILGRIM MEAL

Sunday, August 21

during Fellowship

Join those walking the Camino de Santiago in September for lentil soup and torte, typical foods served to those pilgrims walking the Camino.

INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT ERUCC?

If you are interested in learning more about ERUCC, the United Church of Christ, and what it means to be a church member, we hope you join us at the following opportunity:

Sunday, August 21

Zoom

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ER0821

Meeting ID: 824 9521 1145

Passcode: 343455

We will be receiving new members into the church on Sunday, August 28 at the 10:30 am service. Thanks to our newer friends and guests for your participation in the life of ERUCC and for the joy you bring us.

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, August 21

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Healthy Tools for a New School Year with Dr. Alison Bomba.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, August 23

Contact Pam Shepp for more information

Liz Coffey Room / Zoom

7:00 pm

Heartseeker by Melinda Beatty

Read a book synopsis in Trinity Chimes at bit.ly/Aug22Chimes.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

ERUCC has a long history of providing various music-related opportunities for children and youth. While these opportunities may change over time depending on the needs and desires of the congregation, the goals remain the same – for children and youth to enrich ERUCC worship by performing musical selections; to build self-confidence and leadership skills; and to develop an appreciation for music and its importance in worship and prayer.

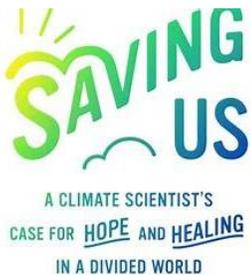
On September 11, we will kick off the year for children and youth music activities. **Children's Music and Movement** will rehearse each Sunday morning from 10:10–10:25 am in Trinity Chapel. During this time children will get to explore a variety of musical styles including the use of rhythm instruments, hand chimes, expression through movement, and vocal choirs. We will also hold **Cambridge handbell choir** rehearsals each Sunday morning from 11:30-12:00 in the Flora Conference Room. Both groups are open to participants in Pre-K through high school. We will be singing or playing in church at least monthly, and children of all ages are invited to join us in singing a quick song verse following the Thought for the Day each Sunday.

We look forward to these new, exciting opportunities and hope you will join us! If you have any questions, please contact Trish Coffey, 301-455-8720 or trishcoffey1195@gmail.com or Kelly Esslinger, 484-707-3233 or kellbell.erucc@gmail.com.

CREATION JUSTICE SUNDAY

Sunday, September 4

Devastating news about climate change bombards us daily. It is very easy to become overwhelmed and depressed about the future of our beautiful planet. But when we become hopeless, we see no reason to act. Hope is the antidote for despair and we need more of it! Hope is empowering and gives us the courage to act and advocate. But where do we find hope amidst all the news of wildfires, melting glaciers and droughts?



During Let's Talk, we will be discussing *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World* by Katharine Hayhoe, who is a leading climate scientist and a person of faith. She gives us ...cont. factual information, reasons to care and empowering ways to act and stay engaged. **Start reading now! You will love this book!**

We will also host the knitted Tempesty that day which shows the rise in temperatures in Maryland from 1900 to 2018. Our own Nancy Jones helped create this beautiful and informative piece of scientific artwork. A special musical performance representing climate change by David Howard on cello.

GERMAN VISITORS FROM INDEN AND LANGERWEHE

October 14 – 23

The Rev. Daniel Mueller-Thor will be leading a group of 20 youth and adults to Frederick October 14-23. We are still working on the program and will have details soon. If you are interested in hosting for this event and available to participate in activities, please let Pastor Daniel know.

SAVE THE DATE – WOMEN’S RETREAT

Saturday, October 29

Community Room

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

One day women’s retreat on October 29 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm in the Community Room. Please direct any questions to Starr Schaeberle.

KENTUCKY MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

November 12 – 19

Join us to work with Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders, a 501(c)(3) Christian organization dedicated to serving the victims of major disasters in the United States. It was organized in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and has supported rebuilding following all the major hurricanes since. Their clients are low-income, underinsured homeowners. The Fuller Center uses volunteer labor, grants, and donations to make its rebuilding efforts more affordable.

Contact Keith Stickley, keith.stickley@montgomerycountymd.gov, or Pastor Daniel, bkdaniel@erucc.org for more information. All skill levels are welcome.

SUMMER COINS FOR A CAUSE

The Frederick
Center
Embracing
Our LGBTQ+
Community



The Coins for a Cause collection through August will be shared with The Frederick Center, a 501c3 organization that serves the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) communities. Since its inception in 2012, The Frederick Center has grown into a well-respected organization advocating and supporting our community which now proudly bolsters over 500 program events each year. They are leaders in advocacy and education. They have an HIV test kit distribution program, and over eight support groups open to the public.

Coins for a Cause is a program of ERUCC’s Mission and Social Action Committee to support organizations that make a difference locally that are not supported in our annual budget. Donations can be placed in the jars at the back of the sanctuary near the collection plates.

Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Rev. Richard Leslie

Embracing Spiritual Awakening Guide: Diana Butler Bass on the Dynamics of Experiential Faith

11:00 am – Noon

September 6 – October 4

North Room

Best-selling author, speaker, scholar, and "cultural observer" Diana Butler Bass explores what Christianity may look like "beyond religion and beyond the church." In this engaging and provocative study, Diana leads a small group of diverse adults, young adults, and youth in fascinating discussion of how, both culturally and spiritually, we are in the midst of another of history's "great awakenings."

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY with Rev. Esther Ziegler

Faithful and True: A Study Guide to the Book of Revelation

2:00 – 3:00 pm

September 7 – October 26

North Room

What should contemporary Christians make of the last book in the New Testament? Greg Carey, Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary, offers an accessible guide to the Book of Revelation in his new book *Faithful and True-A Study Guide to the Book of Revelation*. Rather than translating the fantastic and metaphorical language of the first century, he invites us to learn what those first Christians were facing in their time and culture and to use it to engage the urgent questions of power and loyalty we face as Christians today. Books are available through the church office and the reading for each session will be about 10 pages long plus assigned passages in scripture.



**CELEBRATE
THE WORLD**

AUG 1-AUG 30

*"The Earth is what we all
have in common."
—Wendell Berry*

Additional Announcements

IT'S GETTIN' HOT IN HERE: The Environment, Climate, and the 2022 Election

Saturday, August 20

Virtual Event

9:30 – 11:30 am



The Environmental & Climate Justice Network of the *Justice & Witness Action Network* calls on local churches, clergy, and justice leaders across the Central Atlantic Conference to join us in the work of tending to God's world, and the people in it through the struggle for

environmental and climate justice. Our shared environment is in crisis, and as people of faith we are called to tend to it, to nurse its wounds, and to care for the people suffering due to climate change and environmental racism.

UCC justice leaders, clergy and local churches will gather for worship, learn from environmental and climate justice leaders about the state of the environment, climate and what is at stake in the November elections, and get prepared to work on environmental and climate justice issues as part of the elections and beyond.

RSVP now: bit.ly/Aug20-HotInHere

GLOBAL MINISTRIES MISSION DASH 5K: CLIMATE JUSTICE



Join Global Ministries for a 5K for climate justice! Creation care efforts by international partners evolve with each natural disaster and shift in weather patterns. Partners cope with the negative impacts of climate change by protecting and nurturing the natural world, preserving resources, and seeking to ensure food security.

Throughout the month of August, there will be opportunities to participate in advocacy actions in solidarity with international partners. This year, proceeds from the Mission Dash Virtual 5k will support climate justice projects that are led by the partners and communities being served across the globe.

Registrants may do the 5K anytime between August 1 and August 31, 2022. The cost is \$25 per person, and each registrant will receive a collapsible water bottle and magnet.

Register today: <https://globalministries.org/5kregistration>

Global Ministries is a joint witness in mission between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

ADVOCATES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, September 19

Clustered Spires Golf Club



All proceeds will benefit Frederick County homeless individuals and families with children. All golfers receive a light breakfast, lunch, use of practice facilities, and 18 holes of golf. Lunch will be served after the tournament, followed by raffle drawing, door prize drawings, and individual and team prizes. \$125 per golfer. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

To register, please go to www.ahfgolf.com before August 19, 2022. For questions, please contact: Ken Allread, Executive Director, 301-662-2003 or kallread@afh88.org.

Those interested in securing their final resting place here at ERUCC should contact the committee by email at columbarium@erucc.org or calling the office at 301-662-2762.

\$10,000 Top-tier Leadership niche (12"x12")

\$5,000 Standard niche (8"x8")

Each niche accommodates two urns.



**A JUST WORLD
FOR ALL**

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Opportunities to Use Your Gifts at ERUCC

ERUCC RINGERS



Do you enjoy music and have an interest in ringing handbells with us? ERUCC has traditionally had several handbell choirs and would love to keep that tradition alive. We will begin handbell rehearsals for the upcoming year on Thursday, September 15 (adults and experienced middle/high school-aged youth). We will rehearse each Thursday evening in the Flora Conference Room from 6:15-7:00 pm. NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE is necessary. We will teach you, if you are willing to learn! Our goal is to play in church at least once a month. Please join us! We would love to have you.

Please let Trish Coffey know via text, 301-455-8720, or email, trishcoffey1195@gmail.com, if you are interested in joining us.

FELLOWSHIP

Consider helping with Fellowship! Helping with fellowship can be as easy as helping set up before worship, helping to serve during Fellowship after service, or bringing a special treat to share.

Contact Laura Rhoderick or Starr Schaeberle, or sign up to share your gifts of hospitality at bit.ly/ERUCC_fellowship.

EVENT HOSPITALITY AND SUPPORT



Please consider giving your time as we extend ERUCC's hospitality to the community of people using our spaces for their milestone life events, business meetings, and community gatherings. In supporting at these events, you are helping to fulfill our mission to do good work in Frederick and beyond. Many opportunities to serve in this ministry may only involve a few hours of your time and are often very fulfilling to support.

To help with upcoming events, contact Pastor Daniel or the church office, 301.662.2762, events@erucc.org, or sign up online: bit.ly/ERUCC_events_help.

*In the past month, we have hosted a celebration of ordination, YMCA youth cooking classes, non-profit board meetings, a meeting of the Frederick County Health Department who is studying the health disparities between local Black mothers and their babies with moms and babies of other races, programs of The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs, family celebrations, and programs for experiential learning and physical development of babies and children. **Our stewardship of space and hospitality makes many things possible.***

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

It is sooooo nice to be part of a faith community which cares for and supports one another. I am humbled by the number of messages and cards that I received during my recent illness (not to mention the prayers!). I thank every one of you from the bottom of my heart!

- Cliff Barr

WORK DAY

Thank you to Gerry Blessing, Peter Brehm, Jaci Clayton, Melissa DuBoyce, Kelly Esslinger, Marc Kline, Al Manus, Shawn Mumma, Keith Stickley, Eric Weakly, Trevor Weakly, and Owen York who collectively completed nearly 50 hours of work on Saturday, August 6! We appreciate your time and talents used in stewardship of our facilities.



MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far. We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.

Restore Us

In today's psalm, God's people are envisioned as a vine, planted and carefully tended by God. How might we participate with God in being planters and tenders of the church and its leaders?

Last winter, UCC President John Dorhauer and Pension Board President and CEO Brian Bodager encouraged church members to be vine tenders, as they described one of the crises facing church leadership.

"Seminary and educational debt, the debilitating nature of limited income and the uncertainty of a secure financial future represent a deepening crisis for many pastors in the United Church of Christ," they wrote in a joint letter. The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative (MFVI) is a program to help ministers address this problem with practical tools. Participants in the program receive financial gifts of \$9000 for debt reduction, \$1000 to seed a retirement account and the support of a cohort of fellow pastors and financial experts.

The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative strengthens ministry in the UCC by:

- increasing and enhancing financial literacy among UCC authorized ministers, with a particular emphasis on ministers from historically underrepresented groups within the denomination;
- assisting UCC ministers and their Ministry settings, Associations, Conferences, and the National Setting of the Church in "breaking the conspiracy of silence" that exists around pastoral finances;
- providing financial assistance to UCC authorized ministers toward repayment of educational and personal debt as well as seeding of pension funds;
- engaging key lay leaders in UCC churches in collaborative efforts to identify and address the connection between pastoral financial challenges and ministry setting financial challenges; and;
- launching a major fundraising campaign to solicit major gifts that will enable the long-term sustainability, and continued expansion of the program

You can be a vine-tender along with God, planting and nurturing growth. One way is to support the MFVI with your gift at pbucc.org.

