

Healing
Reign

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 (burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com)

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 (tyork@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 –

August 21, 2022

Eleventh 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 Prelude on "Simple Gifts"

- J. Wayne Kerr
John Widmann, guest organist

***Call to Worship**

God calls us. Whether we are young or old,
bent over or standing tall, or somewhere in-between;
in dry deserts and beside springs of water;
when we feel strong and safe,
and when we feel scared or abandoned.
God calls all of us and offers to set us free
from whatever keeps us bound.
Let us come, then, and offer worship and praise
to this wondrous God.

***Opening Prayer**

O sacred Word of Life,
we rejoice in your call in our lives.
Open our ears to the whispering Spirit
that gathers us into one body,
– your church.

***Opening Hymn** *God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

#531

1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Healing God, when we shoulder burdens not ours to carry,
unfold us with your grace.

When we clench our fists and our hearts with rage and anger,
unfold us with your grace.

When we let ourselves become overwhelmed with things around us and
ignore people,

unfold us with your grace.

When we make unwise choices, or ones that we know are unfaithful to you,

unfold us with your grace.

When we allow our doubts to shut us down rather than open us up to new wonderings and new possibilities,

unfold us with your grace. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

God – who is our rock, our refuge, the one who rescues, heals, and loves us
– also forgives us and sets us free to new and everlasting life.

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** *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

#543

see next page

The Scripture

Jeremiah 1: 4–10

OT page 698

Luke 13:10–17

NT page 76

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Morning Prayers

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the

cries of clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish
 thresh-olds framed with fears, From paths where hide the lures of
 griefs and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'
 fresh - ness of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to

strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.
 greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 stress, we know your heart does not re - coil.
 view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

Sharing Our Stories

Scott Harris

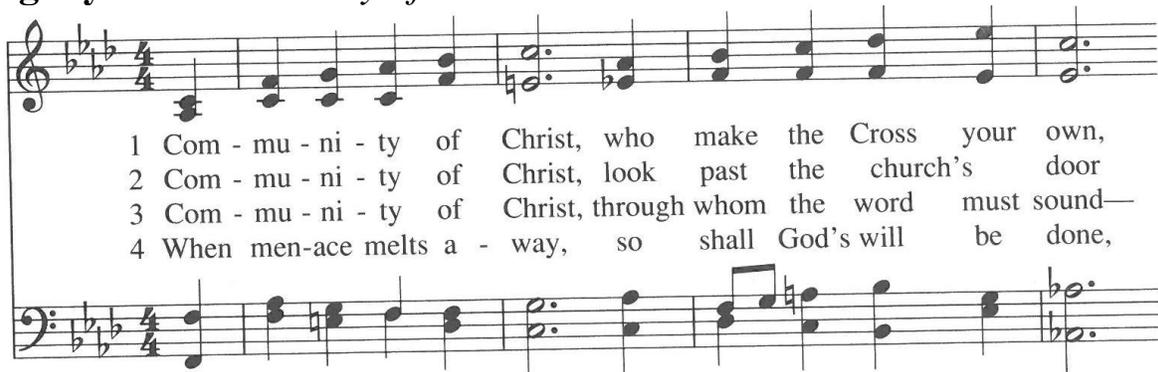
Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

Organ Offertory

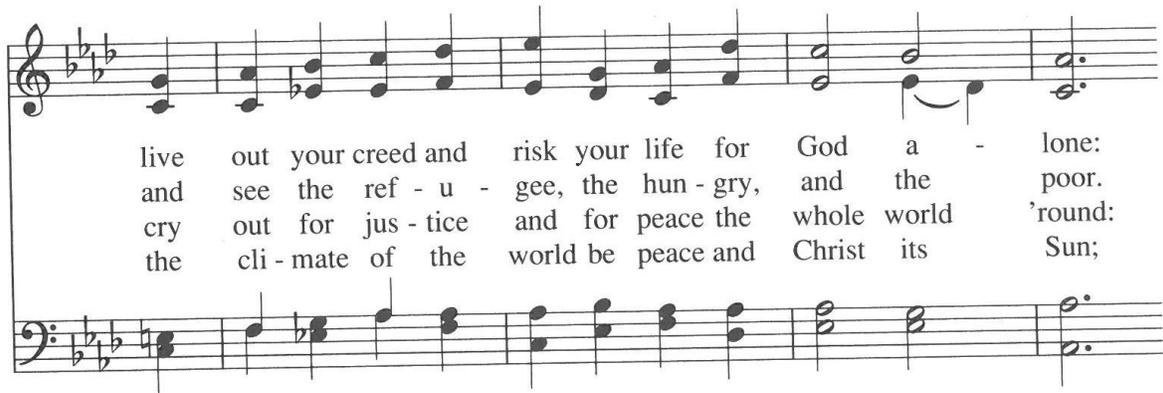
John Widmann, guest organist

***Prayer of Dedication**

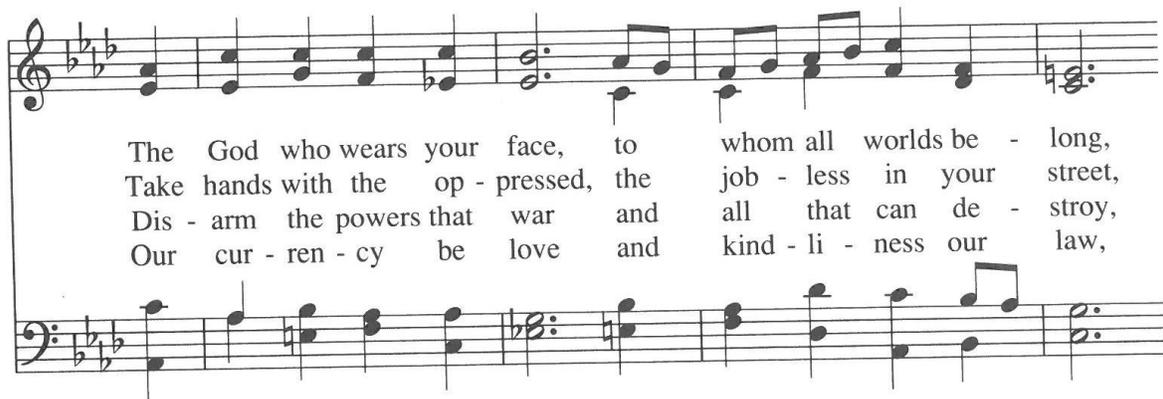
We give thanks, and offer God a pledge of our commitment, and the sign of our gratitude. Accept our offerings, O God. May the Spirit's fire refine it for your service and always for your glory. Refine us also, setting us free to minister in your name. Amen.



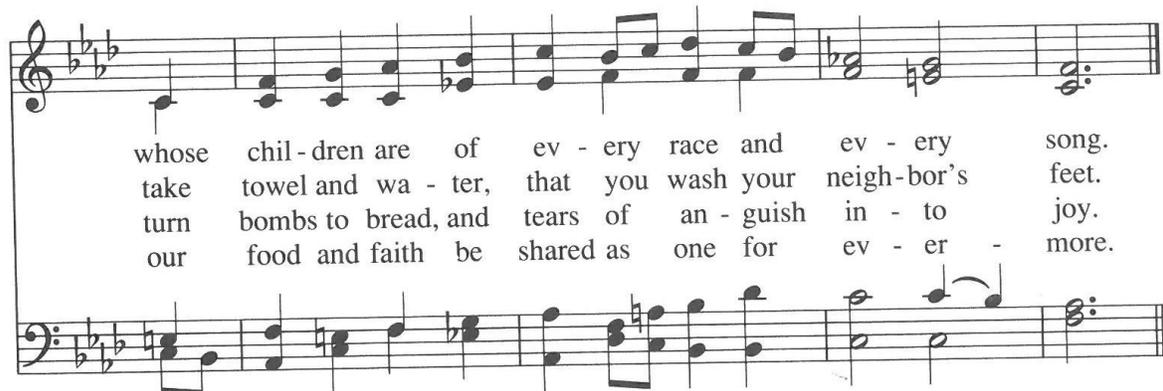
1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,



live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;



The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,



whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

***Benediction**

Touched by the presence of God, we go to be a healing presence in our world. Uplifted by the Spirit of Christ, we stand firm for all that is just and true. Go, and the community of the Christ goes with you.

**Threefold Amen*

#812

Postlude Trumpet Tune in E-flat
(please be seated)

- Wayne L. Wold
John Widmann, guest organist



We welcome John Widmann as our guest organist today.

Today's liturgy is from Seasons of the Spirit, August 21, 2022.

The flowers on the altar this morning placed in honor of this congregation who embody the UCC motto, “to believe is to care, and to care is to do.” They are given with gratitude by Jean N. Fish and Barbara J. Biser.

The yellow rose bud is presented in honor of my late husband, Col. John E. Justice, and all those who have served in the United States military.

The red rose bud is placed in celebration of the birth of Paisley Elizabeth Schaeberle, daughter of Alex and Catie Sexton Schaeberle, born August 11, 2022.

Attendance Last Sunday: 10 at 8:30 am, 89 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 21, 2022

Liturgist: Youth
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Elder: Tyler L. York
Greeters: Tom and Rachel Ford
Cliff Barr
Welcome: Julie Clark, Holly Davis
Audio/Visual: Ethan Kline, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger
Fellowship: Julie Clark
Chimers: *Saturday:* Dick Williams
Sunday: Trish Coffey

Next Week: August 28, 2022

Marc Klein
Betsy Selby, Andrew Beadle
Peter Brehm
Kathleen Goebel, Felecia Bishop
Sue Pinner
Pat Condo
Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle
Kelly Esslinger
Green Team
Suzanne Morris
Robin and David Cooney

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week

In the letter to the Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16 the author urges mutual love to be the basis of communal relationships, and particularly to remember those in prison and peril, welcoming strangers and doing good and sharing what they have, following Christ's example. Our Gospel Lesson for this Sunday is Luke 14: 1, 7-14. Dining at the house of a Pharisee, Jesus notes how the guests jockey for a good position at the table. This leads Jesus to teach on the virtue of humility.

Today we will be receiving new members into the life of the church.

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

BIBLE STUDY CLASS 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: 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.

Next Week: Sustenance: Plant-based diets...why?! Paying attention to what we eat and how it is grown can lead us to a diet that is more sustainable for the environment and healthy for our bodies. Even if you are dedicated to meat and cheese, there are ways to improve your diet while also reducing your carbon footprint. Scott Harris and Susan Kulp will highlight some of the benefits of switching to a vegan diet and provide tips for how to get started. Even if you are not ready to make any big changes, come sample some tasty plant-based treats!

This Week 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 one of the following opportunities:

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.

Upcoming at ERUCC

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 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 Tempestry 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.

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 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.

YOUTH GROUP OLYMPICS

Sunday, September 11

Community Room

6:00 pm

Fun and games as we get to know each other and build community in our youth group for the coming year. Thanks to Trish Coffey for organizing!



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.

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

SUMMER COINS FOR A CAUSE



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.

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.

THE RELIGIOUS COALITION – VOLUNTEER NEED



If you love yard work and are looking for a way to give back, The Emergency Family Shelter can use your help! Mowing, trimming and some weeding of beds weekly. The mower and string trimmer will be provided. You can pick the day and time that works best for your schedule (once a week) on Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday

Sign up: bit.ly/3CnBpPk

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.



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.***

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
Let's Talk and Let's Study the Bible
- 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

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.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 21, 2022

Luke 13:10-17

Healing Reign

For eighteen years the woman in today's story suffered an ailment that kept her bent over and in pain. Jesus knew how to bring healing to the woman who suffered, but those around him wanted him to wait until after the sabbath. Jesus knew that suffering could not wait. If healing was available and ready at once, then it should be enacted.

Look around. What kind of suffering do you see in your region or neighborhood? Is there suffering that has been allowed to linger because it seems that it is never the right time to heal? What kind of healing can you and your congregation bring to those broken places?

Pray this prayer as you open your heart and mind to the suffering in your midst and the healing that might be available to alleviate that suffering.

Jesus, our friend and brother,
We breathe in and we breathe out.

With each breath in,
we receive the suffering of our neighbors.
With each breath out,
we exhale your healing power.

With each breath in,
we pray for courage and insight
With each breath out,
we become more like you.

With each breath in,
we feel your strength and clarity
With each breath out,
we step forward, reach toward.

Jesus, our friend and brother,
Guide us, we pray, as we breathe, pray, become, feel, step, reach, heal. Amen.



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE