



Trinity Chimes

November 2022

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ
Frederick, Maryland USA

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.

Zion Reformed UCC in Allentown, PA—also known as the Liberty Bell Church—held its last service on October 2. That Sunday marked the end of more than 250 years of faithful ministry and service, including hiding the Liberty Bell under the floorboards of the church during the Revolutionary War, preventing the British from melting the bell into ammunition. Zion Reformed is now added to a list of so many UCC congregations that have closed this year, including local Church of the Holy Trinity in Hagerstown and Grace Reformed UCC in Washington, DC, where Teddy Roosevelt worshipped as vice-president and president. Between 2020 and 2021, a total of 85 congregations of the United Church of Christ have closed.

There are some common themes woven through the history of these church closures:

- Congregations chose not to or were unwilling to respond to the changing demographics in their neighborhoods. Some saw the change and hoped it would go away. Others saw the change and tried to respond, but by then it was too late.
- In many cases, deferred maintenance of older buildings and the management of those buildings became too difficult. Time, energy, and financial resources were forced to focus on congregational survival rather than mission.
- Lack of engagement of members from fatigue, lack of time, or whatever reason contributed to the demise of these congregations. Many members thought, “The church has always been here.” Until it wasn’t.

As local churches, we can no longer assume that our congregations will just continue to exist without our being engaged and willing to consider new ways of being church. At our core, the Church’s mission continues to be the same—to bring good news to the poor, proclaim and embody justice, and worship with gratitude the God who has given us life. How the Church embodies that mission must evolve and change.

ERUCC is in a moment now when we are pausing or ending some activities due to lack of engagement and re-

sources: pausing hospitality in the Community Room, including for family celebrations, assessing our international partnerships, and ending some educational opportunities on Sunday mornings. These pauses give us the opportunity to prayerfully, carefully, and strategically consider how God is calling us at this time and place and the best next steps for our church. It will mean asking some hard but important questions:

- While we would hope that people will come to us on Sunday mornings, we have known for years that people’s first connection with ERUCC is through a vigil or rally on our steps or an event they have attended in our space. How will we learn about who is in our community and engage with them outside of Sunday morning and outside of our buildings?
- What are the best ways we can engage with international guests and experience the common life we share in the Body of Christ?
- If Sunday mornings are not working for faith formation experiences, what other times and opportunities are out there to provide care and support as we learn and grow in Christ?
- How do we, as a congregation, avoid slowly drifting into complacency and assume that the church will just always be there, no matter what?

I stand on my faith that God is still speaking and God is still at work in ERUCC. And I also believe that we need to listen to God’s voice and be prepared to be engaged in where God is calling and leading us. Together, may we prayerfully consider where God is calling our congregation, and may you consider where God is calling you to share your gifts, time, and energy.

Pastor Barbara Daniel

WORSHIP NOTES: NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 6

A community of faith, as well as individuals, can experience moments of doubt and crises of faith. In such moments, we can turn to God, hold on to faith, stand firm, and care for one another in love. In 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17, the Thessalonians are urged to hold on to the truth of their traditions and faith. Our Gospel lesson, Luke 20:27-38, is a riddle about the afterlife, asked in order to trap Jesus.

We will share in Holy Communion at the chancel rail on this All Saints' Sunday as we remember in prayer those members of the congregation and friends and family members who have died in the past year. The Senior Choir will be singing.

NOVEMBER 13

God is creating a new heaven and a new Earth, a reign of harmony, and wholeness for all creation. The prophet Isaiah foresees a day in Isaiah 65:17-25 when there shall be peace and rejoicing for the whole world. Jesus warns his disciples in Luke 21:5-19 against idle speculation about the future. We do not know exactly what the future holds, but we live with confidence in the present age because we know that God holds the future.

Spirit will be singing. Pastor Kirstin will be preaching.

NOVEMBER 20

The reign of God is observed on this Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday. The Apostle Paul proclaims the reign of Christ in Colossians 1:11-20. In our Gospel lesson, Luke 23:33-43, at the Place of the Skull, Jesus is crucified. This morning we will share in healing prayers.

The Senior Choir will be singing. Today we welcome CH (LTC) Craig M. Johnson, Fort Detrick Garrison Chaplain, a minister of the United Church of Christ, as our guest preacher.



ADVENT AT ERUCC

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION . . .

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday contains. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

There's room for every story

NOVEMBER 27

Matthew 1:1-17 | Isaiah 2:1-5
Our series begins with Matthew's genealogy. In that long list of names, we remember the trauma and triumph of those who came before; each name holds a story

and their story gives way to Christ's story. When you zoom in, you may not be able to see how each character propels the story forward, but when you zoom out, you can see how each story is woven together into a larger tapestry. The Isaiah passage illustrates a convergence of opposing groups and identities coming together. Instead of the way of the past—of war—they learn a new way by transforming their weapons into gardening tools. What are the old paths that we've followed, and where must we diverge into a new way?

The Senior Choir will be singing.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION: NOVEMBER

LET'S TALK 9:30-10:15 a.m. ~ Community Room

NOVEMBER 6

Let's Talk! No really, let's talk! It's pancake breakfast day! What a perfect way to reconnect with church friends and support the youth group! Buy some pancakes and then sit and chat! See you there!

NOVEMBER 13

Congregational Profile and Reflection: Marc Kline and Richard Leslie will share a draft congregational profile that identifies how we see ourselves, what we think our strengths and weaknesses are and what our vision is for the future. The elders and consistory created the draft, but it's a work in progress. Your voices and insights are needed for it to be truly reflective of who we are. Come join the discussion!

NOVEMBER 20

Chill out day: This has been a busy fall so we are taking a week to chill out before heading into the advent season. Meet up in the community room for a relaxed morning of coffee and conversation before the 10:30 service. All are welcome!

NOVEMBER 27



HANDEL'S MESSIAH, MUSIC, AND MESSAGE

Join David Howard and Bob Manthey to explore the Christmas section of Handel's Messiah on the four Sundays of Advent, November 27 through December 18, 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the Community Room. David Howard has music training and experience

as a cellist for the National Symphony Orchestra. Bob Manthey is a retired United Methodist pastor who served local churches. Each of the four Advent Sundays we will listen to portions of Messiah and then discuss the music and message. The weekly schedule is:

November 27 *PROMISE*

# 2	Tenor Recitative	"Comfort ye my people"	Isa. 40:1-3
# 3	Tenor Air	"Ev'ry valley shall be exalted"	Isa. 40:4
# 4	Chorus	"And the glory of the Lord"	Isa. 40:5

Through November 20

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

with The Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg

He told them a parable . . .

North Room / Zoom - 9-10:20 a.m.

Zoom: bit.ly/3QSB77N Meeting ID: 833 1890 5798 Passcode: 891524

He told them a parable . . .

Whenever we hear this in a reading from the gospels, be prepared to DUCK! While they may appear to be simple stories telling a moral, there's often a lot more going on in the parables. And Jesus' real meaning may be at odds with a simple moral we may have heard many times before. Join us as we delve into these enigmatic stories told by Jesus . . . stories that often left even the disciples scratching their heads in confusion.

FALL ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

—» TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

11 a.m. – Noon ~ North Room, ERUCC Parish House

Through November 22 with Pastor Daniel

North Room & Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398 Passcode: 973365

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

“What in the world are we to make of the dizzying array of grand and grotesque images ‘revealed’ to an early Christ-follower named John? Enter expert scholar-teacher Greg Carey as the perfect guide through Revelations’ stunning gallery. Carey orients us to a ‘faithful and true’ focus on the ‘faithful and true’ Christ—a vital corrective to fanciful and false readings of Revelation that remain wildly popular.” (-F. Scott Spencer, author of *Salty Wives, Spirited Mothers, and Savvy Widows*)

What should modern readers make of the fantastical Revelation to John? Carey offers an accessible guide to the daunting Book of Revelation, inviting us not to decode every symbol or tame every dragon, but rather engage on its urgent questions of power and loyalty.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

November 27 ♦ Noon – 2 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.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6

We will be remembering those in our congregation, as well as loved ones and friends, who died during the past year. During the prayers at both the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services, the names will be read, followed by the tolling of a bell. You are invited to bring a photo of anyone we remember in prayer. These photos can be placed on a table in front of the church. If you wish to include the name of someone who has passed away since last November 1, please contact Pastor Daniel at bkdaniel@erucc.org or 301-662-2762.

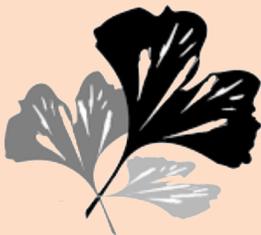


ERUCC HISTORY BOOK AVAILABLE

To commemorate the 275th Anniversary of ERUCC, the history book *Unto Us* has been updated to reflect our church history through 2020. The 8x11 hard backed history book, with color photo sections is available through the church office or on Sunday mornings.

Thanks to a generous donor, the cost of the book for purchase is \$20 per book.

If you are interested in purchasing a book, please call the church at 301-662-2762 or email the church at erucc@erucc.org. We have plenty available for Christmas gift giving.



C.O.I.P.P.

Children Of Incarcerated Parents Partnership

CHIMES LEARNING AND SERVICE GROUP

Thursday, November 10 • 11 a.m.

At this meeting of the Chimes Group, our speaker will be Shari Scher, executive director of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (COIPP). The organization was founded to help a special group of children in Frederick County. COIPP believes that children of incarcerated parents are a group of children who lack a voice of their own. Our work and our mission is to give them such a voice in the community, in the schools, and in their family. For more information contact

Sue Pinner at 301-228-2396.



ERUCC COMPOSTS AND SO CAN YOU

As part of our commitment to being a Creation Justice Church, ERUCC is working to keep as many items out of the landfill as possible. This includes re-using items, washing dishes, recycling, and composting. We have a contract with a local business, Key Compost, which regularly picks up our food waste and other compostable items.

If you wish to bring your compost from home and add it to the ERUCC bin, you are welcome to do so. It is a bin located at the end of the alley to the right of the main sanctuary building. Dump your compostable items into the bag that is in the bin. Please do not place any other plastic bags in the blue bin. No cost or sign-up needed; just show up and drop off!

Here's what you can place in the compost bin with Key Compost:

IS IT COMPOSTABLE?

YES	NO
fruit & vegetable scraps (including corncobs, nuts, pits, seeds)	PLASTIC or plastic coated
pasta, bread, cereal, rice	styrofoam meat trays
popcorn	aluminum foil
beans	candles
egg shells	synthetic corks
meat (raw & cooked)	gum
bones	dental floss
seafood (meat & shells)	Q-tips
dairy	dryer lint sheets
baking ingredients	disposable mop sheets
herbs & spices	vacuum cleaner bags
coffee grounds & filters	diapers
tea bags	hair or pet fur
paper towels & paper towel rolls	cat litter
pizza boxes	pet waste
flour and sugar bags	dead animals
paper plates (only 100% paper- no shiny coating)	(such as pets, roadkill, caught)
household plants (including soil)	fireplace or BBQ ashes
flowers & leaves	recyclable materials (clean paper, cardboard, glass)
items labeled BPI Certified Compostable or ASTM D6868 or D6400	items labeled Biodegradable or Oxo-Biodegradable

QUESTIONS?

SEND A PHOTO TO OUR TEAM AT INFO@KEYCOMPOST.COM

We generally say "When in doubt, leave it out!" If it is an item that looks questionable, it is not acceptable unless it is labeled as BPI Certified Compostable. "BPI" stands for the "Biodegradable Products Institute", indicating it has been independently verified.

God's Gifts to Me

Today I'm reflecting on God's gifts to me. Part of me saw a shortcut here. Part of me wanted to simply say "Jimi Hendrix" or "Netflix" or "the way bread smells" and leave it at that, but I don't think that was quite the idea. So I came up with a few slightly more thoughtful answers, but first let me give you a little bit of background.

I grew up in the church. My dad, my mom and my brother and sister all went, most every Sunday, wherever we lived. I was baptized. I was confirmed. I was an altar boy, then a head altar boy. I then married my now-ex-wife, and our two daughters were baptized. Church was a pretty constant part of life.

And all those years, I never learned a thing.

Now, I hope you'll forgive some good, old-fashioned candor for a moment. Back then, for me, church was an obligation. It was something to be endured, a box to be checked. I'd count the seconds before I could get home, throw off my itchy church pants, grab a donut, and turn on the football game—and that was me at 35 years old just as much as it was at 15! As I grew older, this sense of obligation didn't dissipate; it only deepened.

Don't get me wrong: I believed in God. That wasn't the problem. I always had a sense that something knew I was here. Something knew. I knew something happened after you died. I was essentially a deist, someone who saw a Creator in the laws of physics and nature, but not a Creator who directly intervened in the affairs of the universe, much less the pitifully insignificant world of human beings. I viewed God as remote. I thought miracles were silly. I did feel the universe needed something divine in order to explain itself, but that's as far as it went. We were the tiny Goldilocks planet that caught lightning in a bottle. The idea that His mind or agenda mirrored anything that could be deciphered by humans, or that somehow considered or benefited humans in any deliberate way? Foolish ideas. Christianity? It did more good than harm, I reasoned. There were a lot of good people at a lot of different churches. But at the end of the day Karl Marx's famous charge that religion was "the opiate of the masses" rang as true to me as anything else I'd heard on the subject.

To put it simply, the problem wasn't whether I believed in God. The problem was I didn't believe in God.

After moving to Frederick following an ugly divorce, I, to quote a poem written by a 16th-century Roman Catholic priest and mystic named St. John of the Cross, experienced an extended "Dark Night of the Soul." Suffice it to say that it got a little dark, as the name suggests. And then, in that

darkness... I felt God get involved. He was there! He wasn't over the rainbow or at the end of the universe. He was here, talking to me. It's OK, he said, and that was like a sword in the darkness. God was almost the perfect opposite of what I'd imagined. God was that same voice that was always there inside me; it had just picked up a microphone.

And then came the pandemic. I was riding out the quarantine alone and needed to get out and be among people. So I took long walks, from my condo over to downtown. But there was another reason: God was calling me to find a church.

I checked one, then another. It wasn't easy given all the lockdowns and protocols. Still I tried. Nothing clicked. That is, until I walked past a church with a banner outside that bore a simple message: God is still speaking.

The old me would have scoffed, conjured up an image of deep South congregations communicating in tongues. But this was not the old me. And this wasn't the church telling me something. This was God showing me something. God was speaking to me in front of a sign that said God was still speaking. And it was a simple message: go in there.

And so I did, and here I am. I listen to and talk with God now, walk with him on this path that he's created for me. And it's happened because of these three gifts.

The first is His grace in crafting and reshaping my path so that it's responsive to my failings and weaknesses. If I stray from the path, hey, here's a new path. It's like the yellow brick road, but fungible. It might not always be a walk in the park, and danger always lurks, but the path is there.

How do you know what the path is? That's the second gift. I always know what the path is once you tune into that still, small voice inside you, which I absolutely believe contains God. If I listen to that, at the very least, I'll never be uninformed.

And finally, even now, believing still doesn't come easily to me, or at least naturally. I marvel at people who develop and live into their faith so freely. My journey is different.

I am no expert on God or religion. You don't want me on your Bible trivia team. I don't go to church every Sunday. But I'm here, right here, right now. And so is He.

Thank you, God, for your gift of helping me believe.

~ **Scott Harris**

As shared in worship on August 21, 2022

ERUCC Family,
As you are aware, a very important midterm election will take place on November 8.

This election is critical for many reasons – voting rights, health care, women’s health,

climate change, gun violence, jobs, housing, and more. A lot of progress has been made in addressing some of these issues but there is so much more to do, and existing progress can be undone.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS - Early voting in Maryland started on October 27.

One important point to remember - voters can now register to vote on election day! So, there’s no reason to miss this opportunity to have your voice heard!

Here is a helpful nonpartisan voters’ guide published by the *Frederick News Post* that anyone can access:

https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/continuing_coverage/election_coverage/general_election_voters_guide/

Please make sure you have a plan to vote and encourage your friends and family members to do the same. And keep spreading the word!

In love and service,

Rebecca Shillingburg and Colleen Baldree, Members
ERUCC Mission and Social Action Committee



The ERUCC Worship and Design Team meets to discuss our 2022 Advent theme: FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION created by the artists and pastors at A Sanctified Art. From left: Mark Ulrich, Ave Barr, Nancy Jones, Pastor Kirstin, Pat Condo and Betsy Selby.

TUESDAYS WITH TED

6-7 p.m.

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3f4pkVP>

Meeting ID: 923 9891 8264 Passcode: 313735

TED

TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or fewer). TED began in 1984 as a conference where

IDEAS WORTH SPREADING

Technology, Entertainment, and Design converged, and today covers many topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. Our group watches a TED Talk and then discusses the ideas raised in the presentation.

NOVEMBER 8

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance with Angela Lee Duckworth



Leaving a high-flying job in consulting, Angela Lee Duckworth took a job teaching math to seventh graders in a New York public school. She quickly realized that IQ wasn't the only thing separating successful students from those who struggled. Here, she explains her theory of "grit" as a predictor of success.

DECEMBER 13

How Every Child Can Thrive by Five



"What if I was to tell you that a game of peek-a-boo could change the world?" asks seven-year-old *Molly Wright*, one of the youngest-ever TED speakers. Breaking down the research-backed ways parents and caregivers can support children's healthy brain development, Wright highlights the benefits of play on lifelong

learning, behavior and well-being, sharing effective strategies to help all kids thrive by the age of five. She's joined onstage by one-year-old Ari and his dad, Amarjot, who help illustrate her big ideas about brain science. *(This TED Talk was produced in collaboration with Minderoo Foundation as an educational tool for parents and caregivers around the world and is supported by UNICEF.)*



On October 7, the city of Frederick kicked off National Faith & Blue Weekend with a proclamation by Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor, on the ERUCC steps.

A Community Day of Prayer for the Hungry and Homeless
Sunday November 13, 2022

4:30 - 6:30pm Interfaith Dinner for the Hungry.
 (preparation, serving and clean up at the Community Table)

6:45 - 8:00pm Interfaith Candlelight Prayer Walk
 (beginning and ending at the Community Table)

Frederick Community Action Agency,
 100 S. Market Street, downtown Frederick

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information contact
frederickinterfaith@gmail.com



November Birthdays **01** Jesse Baker, Zoe Bowen, Sando Lynch **02** Tommy Colborn **03** Pam Shepp, Eliza Stitely **06** Lois Gaul, Tatiana Sorenson, Dawn Vargas **08** Lucas Fisher, Ella McCarty **09** Jerry Castellucci, Matt Pomeroy, Barbara Prescott, Laura Rhoderick **10** Ken Hoffmann **11** Sam Wenner **13** George Kline **14** Julia Chappell **15** Tyler York **16** Tadd Clarkson **17** Terry Logee **19** Mary Louise Blessing **20** Lisa Garrett **21** Kathy Gourlie, Larry Martin **22** Pryor Pryor **26** Lee Garrett **27** Rebecca Ireland **28** Jill White **29** Mary Staley, Suzanne Morris, Fred Niehoff, Jordan Wenner **30** Luke Jones, Allen Maples



Dennis Coyle, Scott Harris, Rev. Cooney, Susan Kulp, Pastor Kirstin, Dee Jenkins from AARCH and Robin Cooney enjoy the African-American History Walk.



CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Evangelical Reformed UCC encourages that we each approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective. We do not view giving to the church as a way to simply pay our bills, but rather as a way to give money back to God, through the church, as a way to promote spiritual growth and, deepen our relationship with God by supporting ERUCC ministry and mission.

Giving to ERUCC is a great way to connect your story with God's story. Giving is a way of building and strengthening your community of faith.

God created us as giving people. It is through giving that we find joy, connection, affirmation, service, and love. Being generous is how God made us. We have a need to give for our own spiritual development.

Our Consecration Sunday program asked us to consider the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" The program helped us learn about the spiritual principle of giving a portion, a percentage, of our income back to God.

On October 30, we celebrated Consecration Sunday in worship by dedicating our gifts to God. As a private act of worship, we completed our Estimate of Giving cards. We then connected to enjoy a Celebration Breakfast after the 8:30 a.m. service and a Celebration Luncheon after the 10:30 a.m. service. Over these shared meals, we gave thanks for the gifts we have been given and for the generosity of this community of faith.

If you still need to complete your giving estimate for the next year, you can do so online at <https://bit.ly/ERUCCestimate> or by returning to church the card mailed to your home.

~ Tyler L. York and Susan Kulp, Consecration Sunday Team Co-Chairs

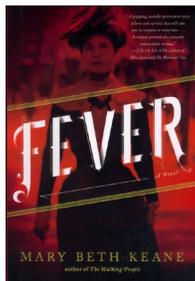


ERUCC BOOK GROUP

(Contact Pam Shepp at pam@vitalsources.com for more information)

The group meets in the Liz Coffey Room at 7:00 p.m. with Zoom option.

<https://bit.ly/3C0iXfl> Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574 Passcode: 226669



NOVEMBER 29

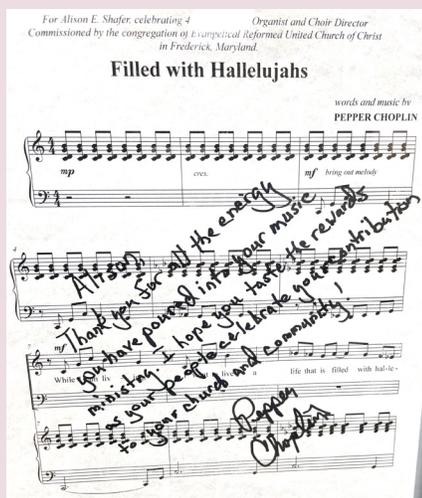
Fever by Mary Beth Keane

Mary Beth Keane has written a spectacularly bold and intriguing novel about the woman known as “Typhoid Mary,” the first person in America identified as a healthy carrier of Typhoid Fever.

A determined “medical engineer” noticed that she left a trail of disease wherever she cooked, and identified her as an “asymptomatic carrier” of typhoid fever. With this seemingly preposterous theory, he made Mallon a hunted woman. The Department of Health sent Mallon to North Brother Island, where she was kept in isolation from 1907 to 1910, then released under the condition that she never work as a cook again.

The ERUCC Book Group which started in 2006, is taking a hiatus for 2023. The November gathering will be its last meeting.

ERUCC COMMISSIONS NEW CHORAL MUSIC FOR ALISON SHAFER



In the spring, Pastor Barbara reached out to a few folks to alert us that Alison would be reaching 40 years as our Organist, Choir Master, and Music Director. Might we help plan a celebration, and what might it include? As the group formed, the idea of a new piece of music in her honor quickly rose to the top.

For her 25th anniversary, a new organ piece was commissioned. For her 40th anniversary, could we commission a new choral anthem? We made a list of some of the living composers represented in our choral library. We wrote to two composers whose music we sing routinely and whose websites indicated they were open to commissions. One sent regrets, as his time was already booked more than one year out. Pepper Choplin replied, “Thank you for singing my music!” He sent some options and said, “Let me know how I may be of help.”

And so, we requested a four-part anthem with piano accompaniment and an optional flute part. We completed a questionnaire from Pepper about the church, our worship style, the choir, and the style of music we generally sing. We also gave him some background on Alison, including her love of and involvement in Musical Theater as well as Church Music.

We were specific about the dedication:

For Alison E. Shafer, celebrating 40 years as our Organist and Choir Director. Commissioned by the congregation of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ in Frederick, Maryland.

We made a very open statement about the theme for the commission:

We do not have specific text in mind but want to celebrate and give thanks for Alison’s leadership including themes such as service to God, Christ, and the church (by individuals and through music); God’s love for all the world; and that every human is a beloved child of God.

And now we look forward to bringing this new anthem to worship on November 20. When he sent it, Pepper commented: “The theme will be perfect for Alison. In the midst of all she does, I remember you said she was very involved with the theater. This sounds a bit like a theater piece with its dramatic flow.” Indeed, it is a dramatic celebration, and we hope you will be with us that day and be *Filled With Hallelujahs!*

~ Bill Gourlie

A Vision for Junior Church

On Sunday, October 2 we returned to our first Junior Church post-COVID and we had 12 students! Junior church is a faith formation activity for elementary school-aged kids during the second half of the service, in which older family members continue to participate in worship. After an introduction activity in which each person introduced themselves and then shared something that they “rock” at (meaning that they are good at), Pastor Kirstin talked about a variety of ways that people through time and culture have used rocks as a prayer tool. Then we gave kids up to four rocks and invited them to write a person’s name or a situation that they want to pray for. Several children named people in their families. Others prayed for specific situations like a relative having surgery or a friend whose dad died recently. One child lifted up praying for people who have come through hurricanes and tornadoes. This allowed us to talk a little bit about how we can pray for people we don’t know but still care about.

Through October, Pastor Kirstin will teach a prayer practice each Sunday during Children’s Church.

Currently, we’re praying to find a person or pair of people who might teach three weeks in November and another who might teach three weeks in December. We will not have Junior Church on the first Sunday of the month so that we might all worship and take communion together. The month could have a consistent theme, like watercolor, yoga, reading children’s stories about creation, styles of crosses, or photography as a spiritual practice, for example. If you think that you have a skill or an interest that you could teach children, please reach out to Pastor Kirstin to talk more at ksrhoads@erucc.org.

Hello, ERUCC Friends!



We have recently received an invitation from the UCC Environmental Justice Ministries to participate in an art contest that also doubles as a postcard advocacy drive. Children of ALL AGES are invited to participate! They write the following message:

“We find ourselves in the midst of ongoing climate and environmental justice crises. The future sometimes seems uncertain and even frightening. Yet as people of faith, we are called to heed prophetic voices and fight for a livable planet.

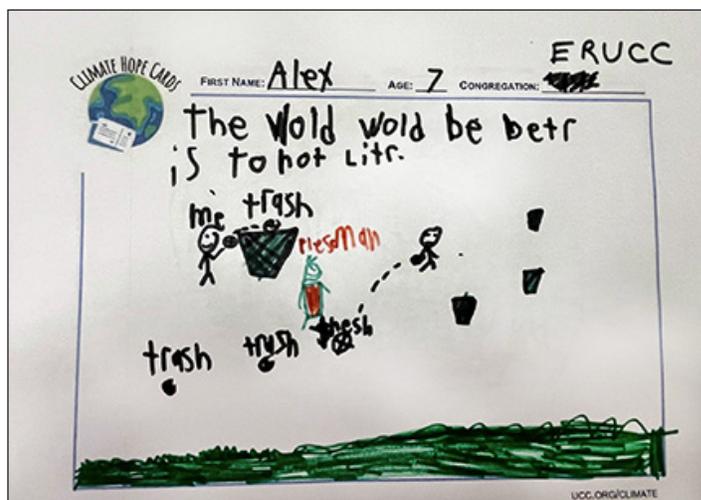
It is in action that hope is found. As the Israelites confronted the challenges of their time, the prophet Jeremiah passed along God’s message: Your labor is not in vain. There is hope for your future. (Jeremiah 31:17) That’s why we are calling all UCC children and youth: Draw or paint about climate hope, environmental justice, or protecting the Earth. Sunday school class and youth group participation encouraged. Winners will be selected in November!”

Given that we are a Creation Justice Church, this seems like a perfect way for us to demonstrate that together! I have signed us up as a church already and will soon receive from the UCC a way to return our artwork digitally. I’ve been excited to learn that many of our elementary students already feel strongly about caring for the earth, trees, the sea, and the universe. Coming soon, I’ll be inviting you to hear an interview

with myself and one of our fourth graders who wants to start a Youth Creation Club.

For the Climate Hope Cards project, we will be sharing postcard templates and supplies in the Community Room for you to color this there or take home with you to create and then bring back. In addition, you’ll hear more about the importance of reaching out to our legislators with this message in our Thoughts for the Day and Junior Church throughout October and November. Please know you can always ask for some time to have me share with your family more about this or any topic of faith and spiritual formation.

Let’s see if we can reach 50 cards or even more! Please return your cards to Pastor Kirstin through the office by Sunday, November 20. Feel free to contact me with questions as well! ksrhoads@erucc.org.



Some Reflections on Christian Community From Our Confirmation Class

The theme of our fall confirmation retreat, held October 7-8 at Mar-Lu-Ridge, was Christian Community. What does it mean to live in Christian community? How do we define community?

We read passages of scripture from I Corinthians, Romans, and Ephesians to hear how the early church described itself as a community. Words that stood out for the class included how the church described itself as a body and where everyone is needed. When people in the church do not engage or participate, the body, ie the church, does not achieve optimal performance. A body also describes a group in motion. Bodies are not truly static until, well, they are dead.

We talked about what it means to make a commitment to this community we call the Church. The group said the most important commitment to make is to show up, participate, pray, read the Bible, sing, and be kind.

We broke into three smaller groups to create Build Community acrostic poems. Listen to the wisdom of our young people and their mentors as they commit themselves to building community.

Be present
Unique creations
Inviting
Loving
Developing relationships

Caring
Opportunities await
My love for other
Multigenerational Community
Unity
Never leave someone out
Intentional inclusion
Treating others fairly
You are valued

Bible study
United
Interact with others
Love one another
Discipleship

Community
Open and affirming
Mentoring
Meeting new people
Understanding
Near to God
Independent point-of-views
Trusting
Youth

Be kind
Understanding
Inventive
Love
Door open to all

Caring
On the ball with God
Meaningful worship
Meeting others' needs
Unity
Nice
Inviting
Together
Yes to all genders & races



Mentors included (above from left) Bud Rossing, Linda Coyle, Dawn Lagrotteria, Betsy Selby, Tricia Coffey, Peter Brehm, Jim Brittain and Pastor Barbara.

left: 2023 Confirmation Class.

ERUCC Youth Group Upcoming Activities

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 ♦ PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Thanks to parents Joe and Marc for helping to plan and organize this fundraising effort for our summer trips.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 ♦ 5-7:30 P.M. ♦ PREPARING CARE PACKAGES

We will enjoy supper together as we assemble care boxes for college students. This is a shared event with God's Kids Club and parents. Thanks to parents Julie, Hollie, and Barb for organizing this.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 ♦ 6-7:30 P.M. ♦ DRESS-UP CHRISTMAS DINNER

Put on your finest and come for a special dinner. Renea Kline is organizing this evening on behalf of the parents.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 ♦ 5-10 P.M. ♦ BABYSITTING

This is a combination service and fundraising project as we offer an evening out for parents. We'll be babysitting at the church and inviting parents to give a donation to the youth group towards our summer trips. (6th Graders are welcome to help with this event.)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 ♦ CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 ♦ 1-2 P.M. ♦ FRANKLINTON CENTER TRIP PREP MEETING

SATURDAY-MONDAY, JANUARY 14-16 ♦ WORK TRIP TO FRANKLINTON CENTER

\$80 per person. Leaving the church at 6 a.m. Saturday morning. Returning early evening on Monday the 16th.

Babysitting Night



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
5-10 p.m.

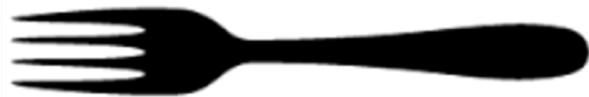
At the Church

Members of the ERUCC Youth Group are willing and able to care for your children while you enjoy an evening out. Please call the church office if you wish to take advantage of this opportunity donations will be accepted towards our future trips.

ERUCC Youth Group ALL YOU CAN EAT

Pancake Breakfast

Special toppings bar, sausage, bacon and beverages included!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 8 to 10:30 a.m.
ERUCC COMMUNITY ROOM



JOIN US FOR GOOD FOOD AND GOOD COMPANY!
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT YOUTH GROUP MISSION
TRIPS & PROJECTS.

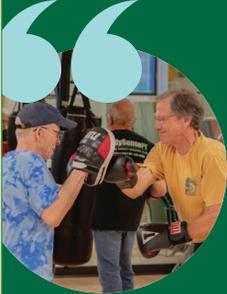




Our German friends enjoy treats at Brunswick's Beans In the Belfry and a visit to DC including the Lincoln Memorial.

The Community Foundation of Frederick County requests the pleasure of your company at the **36th Annual Report to the Community**

EVERY VOICE



As a supporter, you've continued to show your deep commitment to caring for **#EVERYVOICE** in Frederick County. Please help us celebrate the success and all that has been accomplished through grants and scholarships in FY2022.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022
Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center
Francis Scott Key Mall
5400 Holiday Drive, Frederick, MD

Gathering at 5:30 p.m. with cash bar
 Dinner served promptly at 6:15 p.m.
 Program at 7:15 p.m.

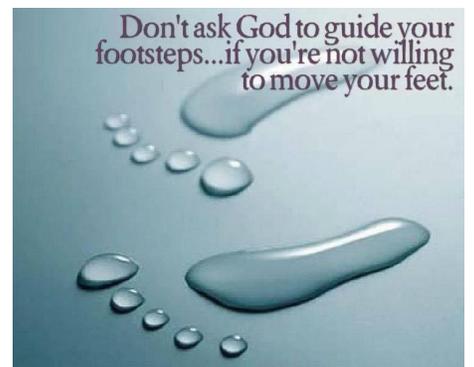
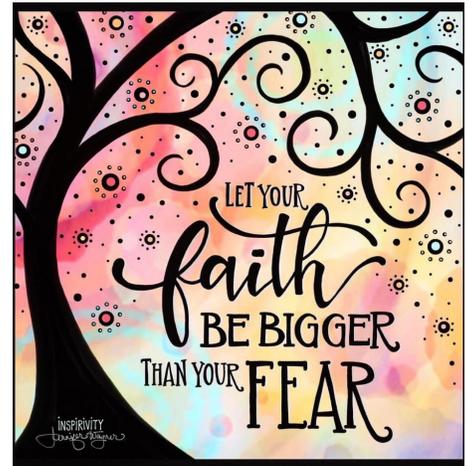
Honoring the 2022 Wertheimer Fellows for

EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEERISM:
Mary Giles Ellis

EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEERISM:
Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel

YOUTH IN ACTION:
Claire Mathews

Please R.S.V.P. by calling 301-695-7660, going to FrederickCountyGives.org/Nov17, or by scanning the QR code here.





Rodney Martin and Jeff Schaeberle work the soundboard for the Sunday livestream. Larry Martin works the soundboard for an event in the Community Room.



Trinity Chapel Restoration Update

The necessary scope of work on the Trinity Chapel restoration project is more extensive than originally planned due to limitations imposed on us by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Our original proposal did not meet their requirements. Because of the added cost resulting from this ruling and the prior suggestion at our public meeting that we completely reshingle the spire, we now have a decision to make.

Please join us on Sunday, November 13 following service in the Community Room or by Zoom to review the current scope of work needed and the options before us. This important discussion will inform the Property Committee's formal proposal to the congregation, which will be presented at the congregational meeting in December.

<https://bit.ly/TC13Nov>

Meeting ID: 857 7622 3982 Passcode: 706555



**Evangelical Reformed
United Church of Christ**
15 West Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

301-662-2762

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9:15	Worship in Trinity Chapel
9:30 – noon	Nursery Care (nursery, ground floor, main building)
9:30 – 10:15	Adult Education (main building) Let's Talk (9:30 a.m.) and Let's Study the Bible (9 a.m.)
9:30 – 10:10	Sunday School for Children (Trinity Chapel)
10:10 – 10:25	Children's Music and Movement
10:30 – 11:30	Worship in main sanctuary
11:30 – Noon	Children and youth hand chimes rehearsal
11:30	Fellowship in the Community Room



ERUCC CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Senior Pastor* ~ bkdaniel@erucc.org

The Rev. Frederick Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation and Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music* ~ alisonshafermusic@yahoo.com

Tyler York ~ *Office Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org

Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities* ~ jclayton@erucc.org

Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director* ~ trishcoffey1195@gmail.com

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Bell Choir* ~ kellbell.erucc@gmail.com

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Coordinator* ~ plutojd@msn.com

Sherry Murray ~ *Nursery Attendant*

Angela Brittain ~ *Designer, Trinity Chimes* ~ angela3cats@yahoo.com | **Scott Harris** ~ *Editor, Trinity Chimes*