



Heartbeat of Justice

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 and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus* ~ burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com

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

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music* • Tyler L. York, *Office Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org

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Tricia Coffey, *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Handbell and Children & Youth Choir Assistant Director*

Jenna Duranko, *Social Media Specialist*



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 am



**FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...**
We can choose a better way

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

Threshold Moment *Instructions For a Hard Choice*

Ron Terbush

First, you must take a deep breath.
Let oxygen dance through your lungs.
Exhale it slowly. Allow the hurt, the shame,
the anger to rise up in you. Let your mind run wild,
like a million loose horses. Let the narratives unfold, unroll,
a river of choppy water. Ask yourself how you got here. Look
down at your feet. Roll your shoulders back. Remember who you
are. Take another deep breath. Then, walk it back to the beginning.

Instead of looking at your feet, look at hers. Imagine where she
stands. Imagine what he needs. Dry the river of false stories
in your mind. Turn rushing water into a dry creek bed,
certainly not clean enough to drink. Call the horses.
Bring them home. Watch as they shake off
the dust of the day. Name what you're feeling.
Inhale again. Now you are ready
to choose a better way.

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Dawn Lagrotteria and Peyton Bowen
Jim Brittain and Eli Baker

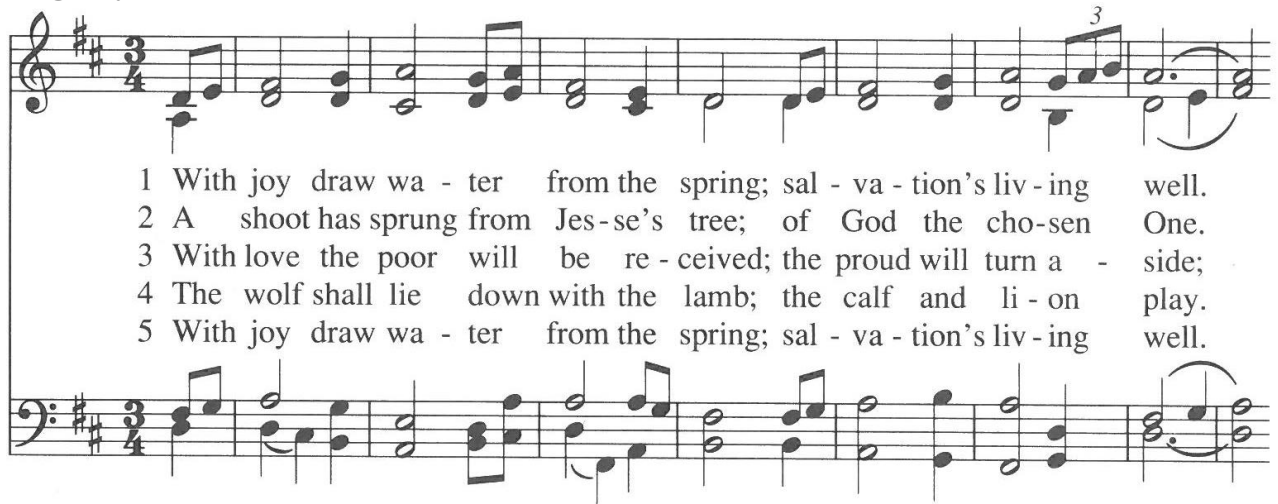
“What brings you joy?”

Today we light the candle of joy. May its light remind us of all the good news this season brings. May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy not only draw us closer to one another, but closer to God.

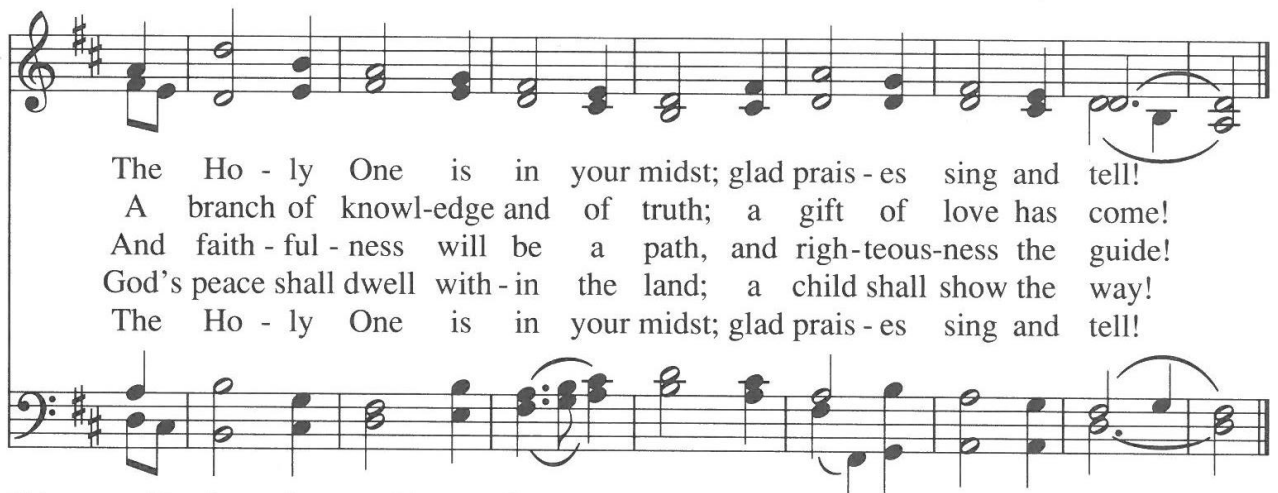
Family of faith, what brings you joy? **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn *With Joy Draw Water*

#109



1 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.
2 A shoot has sprung from Jes - se's tree; of God the cho - sen One.
3 With love the poor will be re - ceived; the proud will turn a - side;
4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and li - on play.
5 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.



The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!
A branch of knowl - edge and of truth; a gift of love has come!
And faith - ful - ness will be a path, and righ - teous - ness the guide!
God's peace shall dwell with - in the land; a child shall show the way!
The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!

*Call to Confession

A series of experiments by Princeton psychologists, Janine Willis and Alexander Todorov, taught the world that it only takes a tenth of a second for us to form an impression of a stranger. In other words, it only takes a tenth of a second for us to look at someone's face and determine a stereotype about who they are.

With decisions happening that quickly, it is not hard to imagine why we might need this moment of confession. The prayer of confession is an opportunity to slow down. We take that tenth of a second and give it room to breathe. We reflect on the decisions that we've made this past week and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them. And without fail, God wiggles God's self into the cracks of our lives, and we are made better for it. So with that confidence, let us go to God in prayer:

***Prayer of Confession**

**God of mercy,
a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,
to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt.
A million times a day we could choose the better way,
but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in.
Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.
Comparison and critique lead the charge.
Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.
Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.
Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.
Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way.
Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Family of Faith, hear this good news:
We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance.
We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community.
We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known.
This is the good news of the gospel.
No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way,
God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

- Traditional
Children's Music and Movement

Thought for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*Children ages 5 through 5th grade may be dismissed for Junior Church,
located in the **Thomas Room**, during the reading of the scripture.*

The Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10

OT page 663

Matthew 1:18-25

NT page 1

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Morning Prayers

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

Offertory

Cantata An Array of Glorias

Senior Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Glory to God in the Highest,
the Song of the Angels, the Angelic Hymn.

Gloria, No. 1 Chorus, RV 589

- Antonio Vivaldi
(1678-1741)

Gloria, from Twelfth Mass, K. Anh. 232

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Gloria, from Heiligmesse

- Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Sing Gloria!

- Joel Raney
(b. 1956)

*Closing Hymn *Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

#107

G Am7 G/B C D

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

G/B C Am7 D7 G Am7

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

G/B C D G/B Am7 D C G

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
 One with-out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

lives now in-side us for ev - er. . . .
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .
 weap-ons are bro-ken a - sun - der. . . .
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry. . . .

***Benediction**

****Sevenfold Amen***

#814

Postlude (*please be seated*)



Worship Notes: Today's poem and liturgy was written by: rev. sarah speed | sanctifiedart.org.

“Glory to God in the Highest” is the first Christmas carol. It was sung by the angels to the shepherds on the night when Jesus was born (Luke 2:14). When we sing the Gloria in Excelsis, whether it is Christmas time or not, we are singing along with the angels who announced Jesus’ birth many years ago.”

- Rev. Dr. Mark Birkholz, 12-24-2016, Lutheran Reformation

The flowers on the altar are given by Dan Smith and Austin Byrd in loving memory of their parents.

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

The red rose bud is in celebration of the birth of Sarita Elizabeth Fisher, daughter of Stephanie Martinez Fisher and Harrison Fisher on Tuesday, December 6.

Attendance Last Sunday: 14 at 8:30 am, 146 at 10:30 am, and 72 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

Today: December 11, 2022

Scripture Reader: Ron Terbush
Deacons: Chuck Baldree, Matt Pomeroy
Elder: Tyler L. York
Greeters: Nancy Manthey, Eliza Stitely
Cathie Duncan
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker
Kendra Sampson
Fellowship: Tyler L. York
Shelly and Eric Weakly
Saturday Chimer: Suzanne Morris
Sunday Chimer: Robin and David Cooney

Next Week: December 18, 2022

Young Adults
Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Peter Brehm
Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Pat Condo
Holly Davis
Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Schaeberle
Congregational Meeting:
light lunch provided
Dick Williams
Kelly Esslinger

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: We See God in Each Other

Luke 1:39-45; 56-58 | Luke 1:46-55

This week we return to Mary's experience. After receiving the news from the angel, she retreats to her cousin Elizabeth's house. When Mary arrives (perhaps unannounced), Elizabeth doesn't just welcome her—she is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks a blessing upon Mary as her own child leaps and kicks within her womb. She sees how God is at work and names it out loud. In this moment of profound solidarity, Mary and Elizabeth see the divine in one another. From generation to generation, we can see how God is at work in our relationships. The way we see the divine in each other impacts how we live and move in the world. When we view every human being as a child of God, we generate a different world.

Today we celebrate our annual lessons and carols service with our college students reading the scriptures. Special music will be shared by our bell choirs and children's choir. The Senior Choir and Young Spirit will be singing.

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.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Marcia Eisenstein, Bob Shafer, Joyce Kallevang (sister-in-law of Jeanellen Kallevang), Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie and Gaylon Cornell), Wayne Kolb (friends of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza), Conway Barnes (brother-in-law of George and Linda Kline), Mary Ellen Baker, Pat Hevner, Jeannette Johnson, Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby), Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Paige Coffey, Jane Doll, Peggy Githerman, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle), Bonnie Devilbiss, The McCarty family, 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), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).



**LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR
CHILDREN PRAYING**

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with The Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg

North Room / Zoom

9:00 – 10:20 am

Zoom: bit.ly/3QSB77N

Meeting ID: 833 1890 5798

Passcode: 891524

Magi and Shepherds ... Both ... at the Manger? Did you grow up with a nativity scene as part of your family's annual Christmas decorations? And were both the shepherds and the Wise Men present at the manger? Lots of us did ... and many of us still display them in our homes each year. But, did you ever wonder why the Christmas story in Luke chapter 2 doesn't mention the Wise Men? Or, in Matthew ... where are the shepherds? And where are the Christmas stories in the gospels of Mark and John?

Join the *Let's Study the Bible* class for the four Sundays in Advent, beginning November 27, as we do a deep-dive into the stories of Jesus' birth. No prior experience necessary, just bring your Bible ... and your questions!

LET'S TALK

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 am

Today: Advent Study Handel's Messiah. God has promised deliverance. We are called to prepare. Now join as we hear and share the wondrous PROCLAMATION of what God is doing! God is Still Speaking and we are listening. Led by David Howard & Bob Manthey.

Bass Air	"The people that walked in darkness"	Isa. 9:2
Chorus	"For unto us a child is born"	Isa. 9:6
Chorus	"Surely, He hath born our grief"	Isa.53:4-5

Next Week: Advent Study Handel's Messiah. We conclude our focus on Handel's Messiah praising God (Hallelujah) for the gift of God's presence and grace in the birth of Jesus. Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" will announce in music and message the greatness of our loving God. Come and join us. Led by David Howard & Bob Manthey.

Chorus	"Lift up your heads, O ye gates"	Ps. 24:7-10
Soprano Air	"How beautiful are the feet"	Rom. 10:15
Chorus	"Their sound is gone out"	Rom. 10:18, Ps. 19:4
Chorus	"Hallelujah"	Rev. 19:6, 11:15, 19:16

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

Tuesdays, November 29 – December 20 North Room / Zoom 11:00 am – Noon

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

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

This Week at ERUCC

ZOOM HAPPY HOUR – SHOW US YOUR DECORATIONS

Wednesday, December 14 Zoom 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ER22decor Meeting ID: 811 4201 6609 Passcode: 099647



Decorating the Christmas tree and our homes for the season is one of the most cherished traditions for many as families gather together, pull out boxes of beloved Christmas ornaments, and make memories together. These special items, moments and the memories held within form the traditions that we pass down from generation to generation. Grab a beverage and some snacks and join your friends from ERUCC for a Happy Hour of fun and conversation. If you wish, be prepared to show us your Christmas decorations, including any ornaments or décor with special meaning and memories.

Upcoming at ERUCC

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 18 Community Room/Zoom following 10:30 am service

Zoom: bit.ly/ER22CongMtg Meeting ID: 891 2964 6152 Passcode: 493929

The Consistory invites you to attend ERUCC's annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 18, following the 10:30 am service. Agenda items will include reports on Consecration Sunday outcomes, Property Committee capital projects, and sharing and approval of the proposed 2023 ERUCC mission spending plan. A light lunch will be served. We are the church, and everyone's participation is encouraged.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

December 18

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY NEXT WEEK

The Christmas Fund: The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18

Main Sanctuary

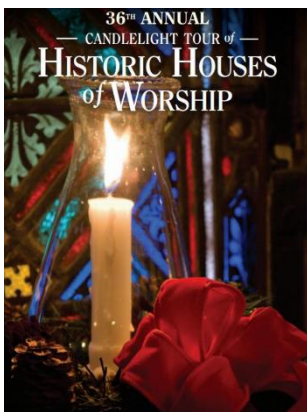
5:00 pm

It is time for the ERUCC Christmas Pageant! This is an exciting event each holiday season for all ages. This year we will be doing a version of the Christmas story called “A Spontaneous Christmas Pageant” and it is sure to be great fun! We will have two rehearsals: one on Sunday, December 11 following the 10:30 am service and one on Friday, December 16 in the evening. Dress rehearsal will occur immediately prior to the pageant in the late afternoon. If you are interested in participating, there are parts for everyone. Please reach out to Trish Coffey, (240) 815-9118 or trishcoffey1195@gmail.com or Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

CANDLELIGHT HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP TOUR

Monday, December 26

Public Hours: 4:00 – 9:00 pm



The beloved Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship returns this holiday season in Downtown Frederick. ERUCC is looking forward to welcoming many visitors into our buildings during the tour on Monday, December 26. We need you, our beloved ERUCC community, to be available on this night to welcome them.

Sign up to help: bit.ly/cndLTour22. More details on shifts and duties will be released soon.

Questions?

Contact Julie Clark, jclarkad@yahoo.com or (301) 305-8181.



FRANKLINTON CENTER WORK TRIP

January 14 – 16, 2023

Open to adults and youth (7th – 12th grade)



Please let Pastor Daniel know if you are interested in going on the work trip to The Franklinton Center at Bricks, a conference, retreat, and educational facility in eastern North Carolina with a focus on justice advocacy and leadership development. Franklinton Center is an historic center of transformation where issues affecting the marginalized, the oppressed, and the poor are addressed. A former plantation, Franklinton Center traces its beginnings to the founding of Franklinton Christian College in 1871 and the Congregationalist Bricks School in 1895. A merger of those two schools in the 1950s formed Franklinton Center at Bricks. The Center is related to the United Church of Christ.

As with all church buildings, the more work volunteers can provide to maintain facilities, the more funds are available for programs and meeting the direct needs of people.

The work trip is open to adults and youth (7th - 12th grades) and costs \$80 per person (includes housing and meals). The trip is subsidized by budgeted funds for mission trips.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT AT ERUCC

Because the Cross Is a Movement, Not a Moment!

Saturday, January 21

Community Room

6:30 – 8:30 pm



The ERUCC Mission and Social Action Committee invites you and your guests (middle school age and older) to join us for an evening of fellowship, a shared meal, and an intentional time to explore your faith passions, harness your gifts, and consider how you can be an agent of the Good News to help change the world into a better reflection of God's love for all.

Dinner will be provided and childcare for elementary age and younger can be arranged. Walking with us through a brief facilitated exercise, you will end the evening having identified a need in the world that is

speaking most to you, explored how you would like to be part of the solution, and collaborated with others in the room who share your passion for being an agent of change.



Join *The Movement!* Register by scanning the QR code, go to bit.ly/JOINmvmnt, or email your interest to pastorbeadle@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact Michelle Beadle, Mission and Social Action Committee Chair, at pastorbeadle@gmail.com.

Children and Family Ministry

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Volunteers & Staff Working with Children & Youth

Adults and teen volunteers (7th grade or above) who will be working with children and/or youth should plan to attend. The final of three sessions:

Sunday, December 11

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Zoom

Zoom: bit.ly/dec11safe

Meeting ID: 858 4252 1180

Passcode: 663113

Sign up in the Community Room at Fellowship or email Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

BABYSITTING NIGHT

Friday, December 16

Main Building

5:00 – 10:00 pm

Members of the ERUCC Youth Group are willing and able to care for your children while you enjoy an evening out. Please contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762 if you wish to take advantage of this opportunity. Donations will be accepted towards our trip to the UCC General Synod meeting in Indianapolis and our trip to Germany in July.

COLLECTING HATS AND GLOVES

In this season of giving our Sunday School children would like to collect new hats and gloves from now through the end of January. Will you help them? Collection boxes will be available starting December 18. Thank you! Contact Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org with questions.

JUNIOR CHURCH

On all Sundays except the first Sunday of each month, children aged 5 – 5th grade may go to Junior Church after the Thought for the Day. Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, will take place in the Thomas Room most weeks. Parents should pick up children from Junior Church following service.

Volunteer leaders needed! Contact Pastor Kirstin for more information and to express interest.



Additional Announcements

2023 MISSION SPENDING PLAN



We 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.

Each year the Finance Committee and Stewardship/Generosity Committee works very hard to produce a carefully planned operating budget and mission spending plan for the upcoming year. The annual budget is prepared with a great deal of analysis, thoughtfulness, consultation and prayer. The budget provides the church's income and expenses in detail, and it is from that budget that our Mission Spending Plan emerges.

A 2023 Mission Spending Plan is available in the rear of the Main Sanctuary and Trinity Chapel and during Fellowship in the Community Room. This narrative budget is an illustrated guide to how your funds are used to further the work of the church in the world and highlights ERUCC's accomplishments and activities across four areas: Worship and Music; Christian Nurture and Fellowship; Mission; and Welcoming Spaces.

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. Call the church at (301) 662-2762 or email erucc@erucc.org to purchase.

STAY INFORMED



Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*, for more information about activities, opportunities, and updates. You can find the newsletter in the back of the sanctuary and online by scanning the QR code or at bit.ly/22DecChimes.



Please send announcements for the bulletin, Thursday Thoughts, or Trinity Chimes to erucc@erucc.org.

VOLUNTEER FOR FELLOWSHIP

Helping with Sunday Fellowship can be as easy as helping set up before worship, helping serve after worship, or bringing a special treat to share. Sign up at bit.ly/ERUCC_fellowship or talk with Laura Rhoderick or Starr Schaeberle for more details.



Understanding, Compassion, and Financial Relief

Each year, the Pension Boards receives cards, calls, and letters of thanks from grateful recipients of financial assistance from the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross—a UCC offering received each year by congregations across the country in recognition and love for retired servants of the church, their families, and survivors. Here are some excerpts from just a few of these expressions of gratitude:

“The Pension Boards is really helping me with a monthly annuity supplementation. It is so wonderful to know that I can now buy healthy food and not have to go to food banks—and will be able to buy Christmas presents for my grandchildren. There were many years when in order buy Christmas presents, I cut back on food spending.”

“I loved working in small churches. I remember a day in seminary when I overheard a couple of students talking, saying that the thing to do was get a small church to start and then that’s your stepping-stone to a bigger church. That’s when I decided I would always serve small churches. They deserve people with experience. But I didn’t stop to think about the tiny annuity I would have at the time I made the decision to work with small congregations. Help from donations to the Christmas Fund has been a Godsend. Thank you!”

“I’ve always been proud of the UCC that we’re open about all kinds of difficult things people face in life. I’m even more grateful for our wider church that expresses that openness by providing understanding, compassion, and financial relief when people really need it.”

In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,104,479)
- Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees (\$177,600)
- Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families (\$150,338)
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees (\$254,000)

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Welcome New Members

We received into church membership at the 8:30 am service today:

David Kehne & Bob Funk

13 Kline Blvd
Frederick MD 21701

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY...
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

Brenda Hedges & Marsha Thompson

9 Wood St
Woodsboro MD 21798

Liz & Ray Morgan

362 Catoctin Ave
Frederick MD 21701

*Welcome
New Members!*

Church Parking Lot

Reminders



**PLEASE SAVE SPACES IN OUR PARKING LOT ON
SUNDAY FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE REDUCED MOBILITY.**

**CITY OF FREDERICK GARAGE PARKING IS FREE ON
SUNDAY FROM 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM.**

**KINDLY CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IN ADVANCE AT
301.662.2762 TO CONFIRM SPACE IS AVAILABLE
BEFORE PARKING DURING THE WEEK.**



**PARKING ON THURSDAY EVENINGS IS
GENERALLY RESERVED FOR CHOIR MEMBERS.**

Advent and Christmastide 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 holds. 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. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Beginning with the first Sunday in Advent, this daily devotional follows the Christmas story through Epiphany. Including art, poetry, and reflections for the Season of Advent, this devotional is available in the rear of the Main Sanctuary, in Trinity Chapel, or by calling the church office at (301) 662-2762.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

A Surprising God

Wednesdays, November 30 – December 21

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Service of Prayer in Trinity Chapel, followed by a soup lunch and reflection.

The world is slowly emerging from the worst global emergency in a century, and the myriad struggles of the contemporary moment—division, isolation, illness, and uncertainty—make living our faith a challenge. For Christians, a number of questions have gained new urgency: Where do we find hope when it seems in such short supply? Where are the signs of God's peace in this divided world? Where do we find a deeper sense of joy?

Thomas G. Long and Donyelle C. McCray remind us that these are the questions of Advent in their new daily devotional, *A Surprising God*. Mindful of the stresses of life today in a world torn apart by conflict, marked by political division, and in the midst of a global health crisis, these devotions for Advent and Christmas invite readers to honest reflection on the challenges of being people of faith in this moment. Long and McCray explore what it means to wait for our salvation, to be open to the surprising thing that God is about to do, and to find hope in God's choice of the small and the insignificant.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 22

Trinity Chapel

7:30 pm

The purpose of this service is to provide a setting where people can come together in acknowledgment that, for many, this is a difficult time of the year. The service includes scripture, meditations, hymns, prayers, and the lighting of candles.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday, December 24


Children's Service	Main Sanctuary	5:30 pm
Candlelight & Carol Service	Main Sanctuary	7:30 pm
Communion Service	Trinity Chapel	10:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Sunday, December 25

8:30 am in Trinity Chapel and 10:30 am in Main Sanctuary

Today's service will be a simple Sabbath after all the festivities of the past weeks. It will be a chance in the quiet of the morning to remember, rejoice, and respond to grace flowing freely in the humble birth of the God-made-flesh. It is also a chance for our church to gather as the family of God. There will not be Sunday School, Junior Church, Nursery Care, or Fellowship.



Let this Christmas be the season
we renew our commitment
to be instruments of
God's peace.

Sunday Morning Schedule

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 (9:30 am) and Let's Study the Bible (9:00 am)</i>
9:30 – 10:10 am	Children's Sunday School , Trinity Chapel <i>Ages 3 – 2nd Grade, 3rd – 6th Grade, Confirmation Class</i>
10:10 – 10:25 am	Children's Music & Movement , Trinity Chapel <i>Pre-K through high school</i>
10:30 – 11:30 am	Worship , Main Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship , Community Room
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Cambridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal , Flora Room <i>Pre-K through high school</i>

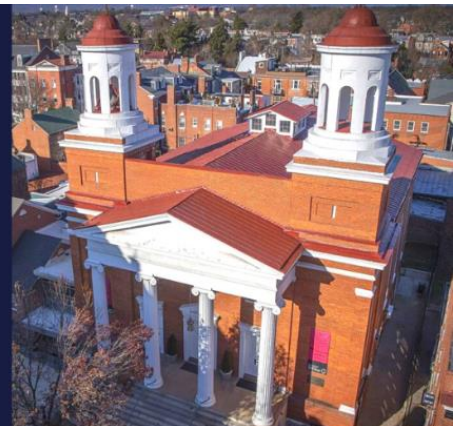


MISSION STATEMENT

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.



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022

Luke 1:46b-55

Heartbeat of Justice

On this third Sunday of Advent, we hear the stirring words known as the Magnificat spoken by the mother of Jesus, Mary. Through her words, Mary paves the way for the ministry of Jesus. His life is a reflection of her teaching and vision as found in the song she sings today. Although Mary is such an important person in our faith story, there is but one United Church of Christ community that carries the name of Mary, St. Mary's United Church of Christ in Westminster, Maryland. The origins of the name are lost to time, but the legacy of the name is a long one.

The area around Silver Run was settled predominantly by Germans who made their way across the Atlantic Ocean to Philadelphia and then south to the rich fertile land of this vicinity....There are still families in this congregation whose roots go back to these early residents of the Silver Run area in the mid 1700's.

A union agreement between a Reformed and Lutheran congregation dated 31 May 1762 is the earliest contemporary record of the congregation. That document states clearly that a church was already standing, and that it was named Saint Mary's. Even the German documents from the eighteenth century are unanimous in calling the church Saint Mary's, and not *St. Maria or die Marienkirche*, German forms by which both Protestant and Catholic churches dedicated to the mother of Jesus are known.

The first church building in place by May of 1762 was most likely a log structure covered with clapboard siding and hardly to be distinguished on the outside from the modest first-generation residences of the area. Nearly sixty years later the cornerstone was placed on a new structure. Among Pennsylvania Germans a church was usually not consecrated until it was both finished and paid for. It was on this occasion that a name was given to the building. One pastor usually was given the honor of selecting the name and of announcing it as a surprise during the consecration ceremonies. Names thus selected did not always "take", however, and local nicknames could prevail instead. In the case of St. Mary's church, the name of the circa 1762 building was automatically applied to the new one.

Three hundred years later, the name still sticks.

Information adapted from:

<https://www.germanmarylanders.org/churches/st-marys-united-church-of-christ-silver-run>



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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