

# Trinity Chimes

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ  
Frederick, Maryland USA

December 2022

*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.*

While teaching a confirmation class many years ago about Christmas, I asked the students to remember what presents they got when they were five years old. Out of 30 kids, only one remembered receiving a bike that year. Then he admitted that he didn't actually remember the bike, but his mom and dad told him the story later. I asked if they remembered what gifts were under the tree when they were seven, or eight, or 10 years old. There was a smattering of remembrances of Game Boys and toys.

Then, I asked them what food they ate for Christmas dinner and who was at their table. They all started talking at once about turkey, ham, sweet potatoes loaded with marshmallows, Christmas cookies. We then talked about Christmas Day traditions—watching certain movies, taking a long walk, or playing football in the cold weather.

My own kids were young when I taught that class, and at the time I was feeling the pressure of getting them the toys that they just had to have. Hearing those confirmation class kids talk about what they remembered caused me to take a deep breath and, yes, remember the reason for the season.

For sure, we may not get the present we want. But we will receive gifts in the love and laughter of our families. Those of us who will be grieving an empty chair at the table this year will be blessed by the love of those who have gone before, for that love never ends. We can remember that the presents under the tree lose their shininess, break down, and even get lost in the garage or attic—or find their way to a donation box. Nevertheless, we will not forget the feeling of joy we had in receiving those gifts. We can remember how good the food tastes when our loved ones are gathered at the table with us, even if we don't remember all the details of all the “stuff” we unwrapped.

This Christmas season, I invite us all to take a holy pause each and every day and remember that no matter what is happening in our lives or in the world, the gift of God comes to us in Jesus Christ. The gift of love in Jesus never breaks down or disappears or is forgotten.

May you and yours be blessed this Christmas with love, peace, and hope.

Pastor Barbara Daniel

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 18 Community Room/Zoom following the 10:30 a.m. Service

<https://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 a.m. 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.



# ADVENT AT ERUCC FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION . . .



FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...  
*God meets us in our fear*

common phrase in the Bible. From generation to generation, God shows up in the midst of our fear and uncertainty and confusion. From generation to generation, faithful people have said “yes” despite apprehension. From generation to generation, our ancestors in faith have accepted the invitation. The prophecy in Isaiah paints a vision of what we work toward when we say “yes:” righteousness and equity reign, the wolf lives with the lamb, no harm or hurt shall destroy the earth, and a child shall lead the way.

*The Senior Choir will be singing. Communion will be shared at the chancel rail.*



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

the angel comes to him in a dream and says “Do not be afraid.” When he wakes, Joseph once again has the courage to choose a better way. He chooses to stay with Mary, to become an adoptive parent. He chooses peace over violence, grace over condemnation. When have our ancestors also chosen a better way, and when have they not? Isaiah 35 is a vision of what happens when we choose a better way: the wilderness blooms, water breaks forth in the desert, eyes are opened, ears are unstopped, sorrow and sadness flee. A highway shall appear and it will become a holy way.

*The Senior Choir will be singing the Cantata.*



FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...  
*We see God in each other*

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 carol 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.*

## December 4 God meets us in our fear

Luke 1:26-38 | Isaiah 11:1-10

When the angel Gabriel comes to Mary, she is perplexed and confused—and no doubt afraid. And yet, the angel’s news is: “Do not be afraid.” Do not be afraid. We hear this refrain all throughout the Christmas story and remember it is the most

common phrase in the Bible. From generation to generation, God shows up in the midst of our fear and uncertainty and confusion. From generation to generation, faithful people have said “yes” despite apprehension. From generation to generation, our ancestors in faith have accepted the invitation. The prophecy in Isaiah paints a vision of what we work toward when we say “yes:” righteousness and equity reign, the wolf lives with the lamb, no harm or hurt shall destroy the earth, and a child shall lead the way.

*The Senior Choir will be singing. Communion will be shared at the chancel rail.*

## December 11 We can choose a better way

Matthew 1:18-25 | Isaiah 35:1-10

As far as Joseph knows, his new wife has been unfaithful to him and broken their marriage contract. And yet, instead of punishment, he chooses not to publicly disgrace or humiliate her. This interruption in his life becomes a holy invitation when

the angel comes to him in a dream and says “Do not be afraid.” When he wakes, Joseph once again has the courage to choose a better way. He chooses to stay with Mary, to become an adoptive parent. He chooses peace over violence, grace over condemnation. When have our ancestors also chosen a better way, and when have they not? Isaiah 35 is a vision of what happens when we choose a better way: the wilderness blooms, water breaks forth in the desert, eyes are opened, ears are unstopped, sorrow and sadness flee. A highway shall appear and it will become a holy way.

*The Senior Choir will be singing the Cantata.*

## December 18 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



**FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...**  
*We tell this story*



**FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...**  
*God dwells with us*

*The 10:30 a.m. service will revolve around carols that are familiar and easy to sing and the scriptures assigned for Christmas Day in the Revised Common Lectionary. They both tell the story of love and justice that shapes the meaning of the day.*



**FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...**  
*We keep seeking*

harm. After the Magi go home by another way, Joseph is visited again by an angel in his dream. This time, the angel brings a warning, and like before, Joseph heeds the message. Fleeing from Herod's massacre, Joseph and Mary seek refuge in Egypt; they remain there, living as immigrants until Herod dies. Like the Magi, may we seek the divine and be willing to journey closer to God. Like the Holy family, may we seek safety for all families who are under threat. This new year and every year to come, let us keep seeking—wisdom, justice, and a better world.

*We will be sharing Communion at the chancel rail this morning as well as receiving our "star words" for the coming year. The Senior Choir will be singing.*

## **December 24 Christmas Eve**

- 5:30 p.m. Children's Service in the Main Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Family Candlelight & Carol Service  
Main Sanctuary
- 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service  
Trinity Chapel

## **December 25 Christmas Day**

Today's service will be a simple Sabbath after all the festivities of the past few weeks. It will be a chance in the quiet of the morning to remember, to rejoice and to respond to grace flowing freely in the humble birth of the God-made-flesh. It is also a chance for our church family to gather as the family of God.

## **January 1 We keep seeking**

Matthew 2:1-23

The Magi were seekers. They sought wisdom, the divine, and fortunes to tell the future. Their seeking leads them to Jesus, the newborn king of another culture and religion. And yet, their seeking is also what protects them from Herod's deception and

## **Longest Night Service • Thursday, December 22**

The holiday season can be filled with excitement and anticipation. As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, we await the birth of the Christ child within us. However, the holidays can also be a time of sadness, stress, and busy-ness that leave little room for praise and thanksgiving. The death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, recovery from addiction, illness, and financial struggles all mirror the lengthening of the nights at this time of the year.

ERUCC will offer our annual Longest Night Service, Thursday, December 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in Trinity Chapel. There will be gentle music, readings, and a time for quiet reflection. There will also be an opportunity to light a

candle in memory of a loved one, as a sign of hope. A time of refreshment and fellowship will follow the service.

**Longest Night Service**

**Thursday, December 22 • 7:30p.m.**

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

# FALL ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

## → TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR DANIEL

December 6, 13, and 20

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

Zoom: [bit.ly/3TdUnOy](https://bit.ly/3TdUnOy)

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398 Passcode: 973365

*The Heart That Grew Three Sizes* ~ 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!* How did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes on 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.



## With Appreciation

Since 2021, Bud Rossig and his friend, Beth Green have served as volunteers in checking the property each night to make sure the doors are secured and putting out the trash and recycling. Beth is retiring from this volunteer position and we express our appreciation for her years of service. Bud is going to continue in his ongoing stewardship of our property. Please thank him when you see him.

## Wednesday Advent Services

Trinity Chapel  
10 West Church Street

December 7, 14, and 21

12 noon – 12:15 p.m.  
Service of Prayer

12:15 – 12:50  
Soup Lunch & Reflection

## Wednesday Noon Advent Services

### *A Surprising God*

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 engage in 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.

# Handel's Messiah

## 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 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:

### December 4 PREPARATION

# 5	Bass Recitative	"Thus saith the Lord"	Hag. 2:6-7, Mal. 3:1
# 6	Bass Air	"But who may abide"	Malachi 3:2
# 7	Chorus	"And he shall purify"	Malachi 3:3
	Alto Recitative	"Behold! A virgin shall conceive"	Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:2

### December 11 PROCLAMATION

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

### December 18 PRAISE (*hallel – praise jah – God*)

# 30	Chorus	"Lift up your heads, O ye gates"	Ps. 24:7-10,
# 34a	Soprano Air	"How beautiful are the feet"	Romans 10:15
# 35a	Chorus	"Their sound is gone out"	Rom. 10:18, Ps. 19:4
# 39	Chorus	"Hallelujah"	Revelation 19:6, 11:15, 19:16

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

"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

On December 11, the Senior Choir will be singing Gloria settings by Mozart, Haydn, Vivaldi, and Joel Raney.



# Have Yourself a Very Merry Sustainable Christmas

**REFUSE!** It's ok to say no to the Christmas frenzy sometimes. Refuse the pressure to overspend, overeat, and over-schedule. Say yes to quiet time for spiritual reflection and worship. Say yes to sharing relaxed times with family and friends. Say yes to opportunities to be the hands and feet of God. Say yes to hearing God's word as we move through the season.

**REDUCE!** Say no to plastic when you can! Spread Christmas cheer with loving thoughtful gifts that minimize plastic packaging and waste. Give yourself a moment to think about the "end-life" of a product before purchasing.

Carry a reusable shopping bag with you to avoid ending up with lots of plastic bags.

Seek alternatives to plastic utensils, plates, and Solo cups for entertaining whenever possible.

Reduce food waste by donating excess food to one of these organizations:

<https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/8428/Donate-Excess-Food>

A gift subscription to Key City Compost would be a great sustainable gift! <https://www.keycompost.com/>

Giving gifts such as cloth napkins and handkerchiefs reduces paper waste and a good travel coffee mug is a gift that can reduce the use of disposable cups for years to come!

**REUSE!** Find gifts in thrifts shops. Create handmade gifts by repurposing things you already have at home. Make your own wrapping paper from newspaper, magazines, or even old clothing. Even if you are not crafty, you might find some things in your own home that are a great gift for someone else. Re-gifting does not have to mean being cheap if it is a good gift! It is certainly a good way of giving sustainably.

<https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13367/Resources-for-Reuse>

**RECYCLE!** You can recycle food waste in our ERUCC compost bin. Your food waste will be recycled into great soil!



**Live Christmas Tree Recycling** The City of Frederick and Frederick County will have live Christmas tree drop off programs. The dates and locations for this year are not yet published. Check the websites and the *Frederick News-Post* for details.

Christmas trees are collected annually and ground into mulch. This effort has many beneficial results and also conserves space in the landfill.

Christmas light recycling: There are a number of places to recycle Christmas lights and Mom's Organic Market is one! <https://momsorganicmarket.com/recycle-center/>

Techno Rescue (formerly E-End), 7118 Geoffrey Way, also accepts Christmas lights and all types of electronics for recycling.

*The Green Team wishes you a joyful loving merry Christmas with best wishes  
for a green New Year!*

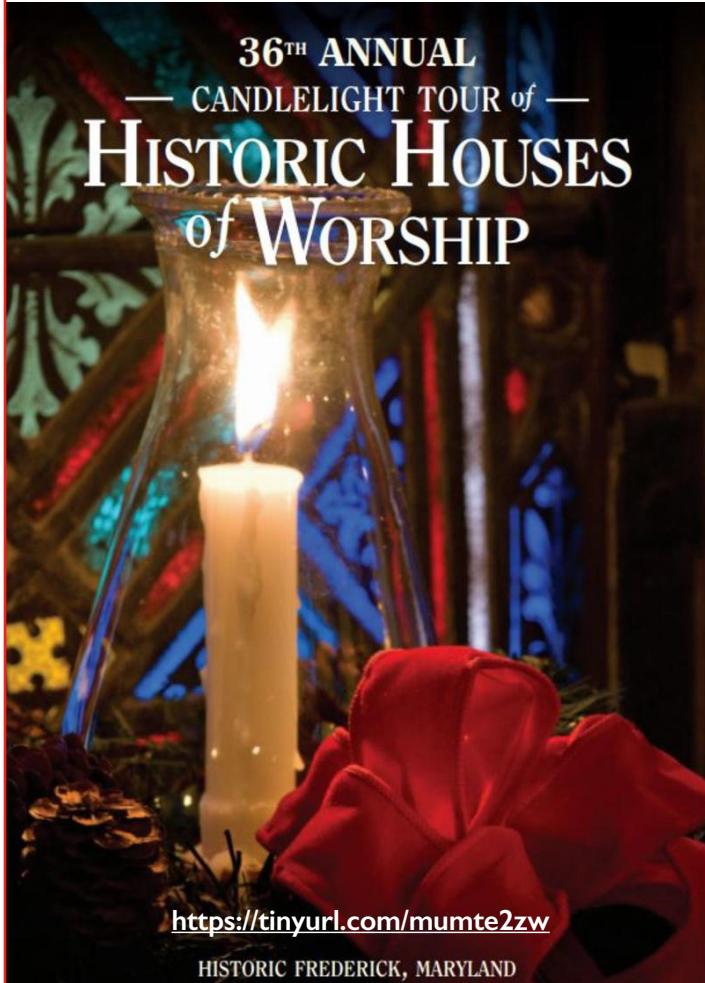
# Upcoming Events

Opportunity to Help

## Candlelight Historic House Tour 2022

ERUCC is looking forward to welcoming many visitors into our buildings on Monday, December 26 from 4-9 p.m. We need you, our beloved ERUCC community, to be available on this night to welcome them.

Click this link <https://tinyurl.com/2wa269f3> to sign up. More details on shifts and duties will be released soon. Questions? Contact Julie Clark at [jclarkad@yahoo.com](mailto:jclarkad@yahoo.com) or 301-305-8181.



# Save the Date

Installation

PASTOR KIRSTIN SHROM-RHOADS  
as

Associate Pastor for  
Faith Formation and Parish Life

Sunday, January 22  
3 p.m.



It's the Second Annual Cookie Swap  
December 4 at noon in the Liz Coffey Room. Please consider sharing a cookie and recipe that has a generational connection.

Bring 4 dozen cookies and an extra container to take your cookies home in. We will also be taking cookies to our shut-ins. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Starr Schaeberle at [starr.schaeberle@comcast.net](mailto:starr.schaeberle@comcast.net) or 301-662-6902.



Eight members and friends of ERUCC traveled to KY, November 12-19 and worked on homes in Madisonville and Dawson Springs devastated by the tornado that struck the area on December 10, 2021. Work included installing insulation, drywall, trim, and appliances. There was also painting, moving furniture, and placing sod. Front row: Barbara Kershner Daniel, Sedonia Martin, Larry Martin, Rob Peter. Back row: Keith Stickley, Sandy Gray, Kate McDermott. (not pictured Shawn Mumma.)

## December Birthdays

- 01** Ashley Baker **04** Susan Guissinger, Trevor Weakly **05** Wyatt Pomeroy, Parker Wenner, Catherine Zier **06** Danielle Poole **08** Kylie McNay, Michael Wenner **09** Milt Crutchley **10** Peg Stahler **12** Bettie Joe Crutchley **14** Bruce Jett **15** Renae Kline, Susanna Michalski **17** Matt Davis **18** Evelyn Manwiller **20** Kelly Esslinger **23** Tyler Schaeberle **24** Natalie Clapp **25** Sarah Pryor **26** Sue Pinner **28** Dessiea Hoewing-Moxley, Link Hoewing-Moxley, Grant Messner, Emogene Wyand **29** Carol Baker, Emma Davis, Henry Fromknecht, Connie Golleher, Kris Niehoff, Rick Wachter III **30** Kitty Bradley



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...

# 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL BEERS AND CARALE-ING

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7**

Join the Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ for a night of caroling, food, and beer. And celebrate the First Amendment with Jim Caruso, Founder for the 1st Amendment Society and CEO of Flying Dog Brewery. Non-alcoholic beverages also available.

**7-9 PM** at Flying Dog Brewery

FLYING DOG 1st Amendment Society

Open to the public; must be 21+ with valid ID.

# From The Stewardship Generosity Committee

## ***THANK YOU to all of those who helped with the Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program!***

On October 30, Consecration Sunday, members and friends, in person and online, offered their Estimate of Giving cards for the coming year. After the service we joined together in the Community Room for a joyful luncheon celebrating the culmination of our month of exploring together how financial stewardship is a part of our relationship to God.

The Stewardship and Generosity Committee wants to thank the many people who generously offered their time and loving energy to bring the Consecration Sunday stewardship program to fruition.

### **THANK YOU**

To the Consecration Sunday Team for implementing the program: Judy Bowman, guest leader; Richard Leslie, Trish Coffey, and Tyler L. York, speakers; Will Duncan, financial secretary; Peter Brehm and Stephanie Martinez Fisher, lay leader dinner organizers; Julie Clark and David Howard, Consecration Sunday luncheon organizers; Tyler L. York and Susan Kulp, Co-Chairs; and to Brenda Hedges for her service and to Carolyn Roberts for her knowledge about the program.

To the prayer team for praying daily for all of us, the congregation, and the program: Vida Penn, Peg Stahler, Carolyn Roberts, Richard Leslie, Jo Ann Fritz, Barb Biser, Jean Fish, Jeanellen Kallevang, Kim Sexton, Stephanie Martinez Fisher, and Susan Kulp.

To Jeff Schaeberle and the entire AV team for capturing the speakers on video and integrating the digital handouts and Estimate of Giving forms into the streaming service so that the community online could also participate.

To Jenna Duranko for posting memes on social media.

To Alison Shafer for coordinating music for the services.

To Dawn Lagrotteria for help with mailing.

To lay leaders attending the lay leader dinner and making phone calls and visits - Darryl Glick, Mark Ulrich, Owen York, Michelle Beadle, Betsy Fisher, Linda Coyle, Rodney Martin, Laura Rhoderick, Starr Schaeberle, Jeff Schaeberle, Sue Pinner, Erick Weakley, Marc Kline and members of the Consecration Sunday team.

To the Deacons and others who helped to distribute reservation and Estimate of Giving cards during the services: Mark Ulrich and Darryl Glick, organizers; Matt Pomeroy and Isaac, Jeanellen Kallevang, Eric Weakley, Andrew Beadle, Holly Davis, Matt Davis, Laura Rhoderick, Chuck Baldree, Robert Morris, Carolyn Roberts, Peter Brehm, Susan Kulp, and David Howard.

To the 8:30 service breakfast preparers: Keith Stickley, Joe Adkins, Julie Clark.

To the Luncheon helpers: Barbara Kershner Daniel, Robin A. Brady-Slifer, Robin L. Brady-Slifer, and others from the women's retreat for the set-up; to Alex Martinez, Keith Stickley, Joe Adkins, Quynn, Bud Rossig, Steve, Jen Powell, and Laurel for cleaning up; to Quynn and Kelly Esslinger for creating a music mix; and to Robert Morris for calling tables.

To our caterer, Jean Louis.

A special thank-you goes to Pastor Barbara Kershner Daniel for her guidance, support, and trust.

To all of those who helped out but whose names are not included here, please know that your contributions are deeply appreciated. The omissions are due to lack of consistent record-keeping and bad memory.

Estimate of Giving cards were offered on October 30 and those who were not present at the service are continuing to send cards. ERUCC thanks you for your generosity. If you have not yet sent in a card, it is not too late. Every gift makes a difference.



### **Statistical Report on Consecration Sunday Results**

A total of 98 giving units (families, married couples, partners or single people) completed Estimate of Giving cards this year. A total of 82 of these giving units increased their financial commitment above last year's amount. A total of 77 giving units present to fill out Estimate of Giving cards on Consecration Sunday committed a total of \$365,698. Based on last year's giving records, we can expect to receive \$92,548 during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past 12 months but have not yet completed Estimate of Giving cards. Based on the average total of loose offerings during the past three years, we can expect to receive \$2,629 during the coming year from that source. Church income from non-donor sources such as interest, rentals, and fees is expected to be \$238,675. This gives us a grand total of \$777,780 anticipated income for the next twelve months. The total income for our general operating budget during the last twelve months was \$719,478. Next year, we can expect our operating budget income to increase by \$58,302. This is an 8.1 percent increase in total giving above last year as of November 22, 2022.

# Pumpkins, Bats, and Cookies, Oh My!!

In our God's Kids' Club event on election day, our 14 kids created bats out of pumpkins and then answered questions before voting on who would be the best leaders in the bat community. They said things like:

*I will help the bat community by protecting all bats from danger.*

*I will help the bat community by providing affordable medicine.*

By being a part of the healing of the environment. By fighting for equity. By coming up with solutions to make sure all bats could have food including sharing portions and by bringing back food for any bats who can't fly. They thought of ways to decrease human fears that bats will bite them. They will be good leaders because they will represent all bats, being specifically non-racist and LGBT-supportive in their bat community.

Our kids are learning these values from you and from

what our church teaches about God. The presence of this church matters . . . Their play holds the truths that they know that both people and planet matter. And they are empowered to speak to the expected values of good leadership, which creates the BEST community.

We also baked cookies with Starr, which helped them practice teamwork, practice a skill, prepare gift bags with cookies for giving through Pastor Daniel's and others visiting church members throughout the week, and, of course, to eat a sweet treat!

Special thanks to Starr Schaberlee and Thomasa Pomeroy for their creative work and patience, and for youth Lucas and Eli who helped keep our younger kids engaged. For future God's Kids' Club days, we would love to have a rotation of volunteers that can help either a full or partial day. Let Pastor Kirstin know if this is the kind of engagement and ministry that interests you!



# December Upcoming Adventures!



December 4 ~ Second Annual Cookie Swap,  
Noon ~ North Room, Bake 4 dozen cookies!

December 9 • 6-7 p.m. Hot Cocoa  
Outreach for the Kris Kringle Parade.  
Contact Pastor Kirstin.



December 14 • 5-6 p.m. ~ Christmas Ornament Zoom Happy Hour!

Share your home holiday decorations as well as a decoration or ornament that has been passed down through the generations or tells a story about your heritage.

Zoom: [bit.ly/ER22decor](https://bit.ly/ER22decor) Meeting ID: 811 4201 6609 Passcode: 099647

## Kids' Creation Care Club

The Kids' Creation Care Club is off to a great start! This group intends to have at least quarterly hands-on activities for kids to be involved in caring for the environment. Partnering with both our own ERUCC Green Team and the Potomac Conservancy for a breezy beautiful Saturday morning, this energetic team made a great impact in the waterways and canal path at Point of Rocks. With a treasure-hunt, adventure-seeking mindset, they climbed through a tunnel, up and down banks, over to the Potomac River boat ramp, and under the highway bridge. Some of the treasures included a snapping turtle (which we left alone), a metal sign-post, two tires, a shoe, lots of fishing line, a variety of bottles, a bag full of paint cans, a long metal binder of some kind, fishing weights, cigarettes, and more! Special thanks to ERUCC's own Scott Harris for organizing through the Conservancy as well as for the teaching gifts of many of our members who shared conversation about pollution, conservation, and other concepts that help us understand the variety of ways we can care for God's creation!



# Safe Church Training coming in December

## Safe. Church.

These two words should fuse together in our minds, right? We expect the church, of all places, to be safe for all people. However, even when unintentional, too many times children (and adults) have been harmed at church or in relation to church-sponsored activities. Usually, this happens by not following through on screenings and training or by inappropriate supervision. Let's continue to join in prayer and action together to ensure that we are doing all we can to make our programs and interactions safe for the children of our church.

Our policy's statement of purpose reads, "Aspiring to be a congregation where everyone can seek a closer relationship with God in a trusting and nurturing environment, the congregation of Evangelical Reformed UCC sets forth the following policies as a part of our goal to provide a safe environment for the children and youth who are entrusted to our care, at Events and Activities on our grounds, in our buildings, on trips, and in virtual spaces."

As a church, just like any organized body that cares for children and youth, there are standards and best practices. There are also requirements by our insurance company. As a part of our own policy, last updated in February 2021:

- 1) We have a process to apply as a volunteer (application, interview, references, # months known)
- 2) Volunteers participate in training
- 3) Background checks are completed for staff working with young people and for those doing overnights.
- 4) Volunteers covenant to follow the policies and keep our children and youth safe under our care.

Training is partially to review our policy, specifically to highlight *how* we live out the policies in different age groups and different locations.

We see our policies as important *both* because they protect youth and because they protect adults. We value the gifts of our village of volunteers and never not want a false accusation to be something that does harm to a well-intentioned adult or to our faith community as a whole.

Who should attend? This training is inclusive of staff, adult volunteers, and youth volunteers. It is helpful for parents to also consider attending, both for you to know what the expectation is for your child's care, and in case you can step into a role of shared supervision even as a backup.

There are three times we are offering this two-hour training at this point.

- Saturday, December 3, 9-11 a.m.
- Monday, December 5, 6-8 p.m.
- Sunday, December 11, 4-6 p.m.

Email Pastor Kirstin at [ksrhoods@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoods@erucc.org) to reserve a spot or sign up in the Community Room on Sunday. Please share other questions about the policy or training with Pastor Kirstin as well.



## Year after Year, Your Gift Brings Joy

The Advent season of waiting and watching is also a season of preparing. Our generosity prepares the way for hope, peace, justice, and community. United Church of Christ retired clergy, servants of the church, have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God's people. Now, through the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

Our gifts of gratitude and love bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sorrowful, and deep love to those who have ministered in God's love for so long. By giving generously to the Christmas Fund, we will help retired clergy, church staff, and their families to pay bills, maintain health insurance, and meet emergency needs. Year after year, our gifts make a difference, easing the anxiety of constant financial worries.

Last year, the Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, provided over \$1.6 million in pension and health benefits supplementation, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired servants of the church and their families. Every cent of that money came from the pockets of people like you. Please give as generously as you are able this year!

### 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

## ERUCC Youth Group Upcoming Activities

### 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 contact the church office at [erucc@erucc.org](mailto: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.



## Welcome New Members

Robin Lynn and Robin Ann Brady-Slifer have two daughters and two grandsons. They love to travel, kayak, and visit wineries. They live in Point of Rocks. Welcome!

# FRANKLINTON CENTER WORK TRIP

Open to Adults and Youth (7th - 12th grades)

**January 14-16, 2023**

Franklin Center, Bricks, North Carolina

\$80 per person (includes housing and meals)

Housing Hospitality Houses #2

(This trip is being subsidized by budgeted funds for mission trips.)

The Franklinton Center at Bricks is 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 1950's formed Franklinton Center at Bricks. The Center is related to the United Church of Christ and is managed by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries.

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

## SCHEDULE

### Saturday, January 14

6:30 a.m.	Leave ERUCC
Noon	Arrive Franklinton
Lunch	Work Projects
6:00 pm	Dinner
	Evening Reflections

### Sunday, January 15

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayers
9:00 – Noon	Work projects
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Work Projects
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Free time
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Evening Reflections

### Monday, January 16

Attend Community Martin Luther King, Jr, Breakfast  
Finish Up Work Projects/  
Leave for Home by 12:00



Too often we're rewarded by the world when we think of our faith in Christ as a moment in time – as something that happens inside of us: a moment when we came to believe, a moment when we were changed, a moment when we grew. We think of our faith as a noun.

But faith isn't a noun, it's a verb! Faith is action. Faith is risk. Faith is trusting that if we step out in courage and make real life choices about how to live our lives based on the Gospel promises of compassion, renewal, peace, and justice, that in that act of faith we will encounter God. That's why it's called *The Holy Way* and not *The Holy Comfy Chair*. **Faith is a Movement!**

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.

The Spirit of God has already spoken to you—you already know what you are being called to be part of. This is your chance to give it words and fill it with the breath of life. And the Spirit has spoken to you for a reason—because God already believes in you, that you can make a difference. Enter this Spirit space and bring forth that which is already in your heart. You got this, and we will all be made better for it.

Questions? Contact Michelle Beadle, Mission and Social Action Committee Chair at [pastorbeadle@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbeadle@gmail.com).

**Saturday, January 21**  
**6:30-8:30 p.m. • Community Room**

Register by Clicking Here:



Or go to [bit.ly/JOINmvmt](http://bit.ly/JOINmvmt)



**Alison J. Bomba**

PSY.D., LLC

Licensed Psychologist

## Grief and the Holidays: 5 Tips to Help You Cope

### 1. Acknowledge your loved one's presence and absence.

- a. Do *something* to acknowledge and remember your loved one. In other words (pardon the poor grammar), "Don't do nothing!"
- b. Hold a moment of silence, say a prayer, light a candle, arrange a place setting, share memories, visit a gravesite, etc.
- c. Have a family meeting (include children) to identify ways to acknowledge your loved one. Create a new ritual or tradition.

### 2. Accept help. Ask for help. Delegate.

- a. Utilize the resources and supports available to you (extended family, close friends, neighbors, community groups, religious organizations, school community, etc.).
- b. Accept offers to babysit, help with cleaning, prepare meals, have someone else host, etc.
- c. Task others with baking, decorating, and gift wrapping. Consider shopping online... or not at all.

### 3. Create new traditions.

- a. Let go of the idea that everything has to be OK . . . it's ok for everything to not be ok.
- b. Keep some old traditions and create some new ones.
- c. Don't forget (or be afraid) to involve children in the planning. Ask them for suggestions and ideas.

### 4. Prepare for social interactions.

- a. Manage isolation. Accept at least one invitation to attend a social gathering, while giving yourself permission to decline others.
- b. Be prepared and plan ahead for interactions. Grant yourself permission to decline invitations to triggering conversations. "I'd rather not talk about that right now."
- c. Develop a "back door plan" and prepare for inadvertently unhelpful statements from others.

### 5. Take care of yourself.

- a. Maintain routines: Drink water, eat meals, take vitamins/medications, exercise, leave the house, go to bed on time, obtain sleep, etc.
- b. Allow time to sit with your grief feelings...and allow breaks from active grieving. We need both.



**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 ~** bkdanield@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 Chimes & Children & Youth Choir Director ~** trishcoffey1195@gmail.com

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**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**