



Bold Blessing

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.



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



March 5, 2023

Second Sunday in Lent

10:30 am



seeking:
*How do we
begin again?*

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 *The Blessing*

– Paul McKlveen
Cambridge Handbell Choir

Threshold Moment *How do we begin again?*

Nancy Jones

Do we slide into something new?
Do we make a formal announcement? Dearest reader,
I have decided to begin again. Do we turn gradually, a gentle yield
in a new direction; or like a wave,
do we crash onto the shore of a new day?
Do we grieve the change? Are there breadcrumbs on the path?
Will Nicodemus be there?
Will it ever be easy?
I'm not sure exactly how we begin again,
but I know that moths wrap themselves in silk,
and after quite some time,
after many long nights,
after days spent alone,
they break out of their shell.
They pull themselves out under open sky,
and they spend the rest of their days chasing the light.
Maybe it's always that way with beginnings.
Maybe it feels like the protective layer falling away.
Maybe we have to go it alone at first.
Maybe it feels like pulling and dragging yourself into something new.
Maybe there's always open sky at the other end.

A Time of Silence

*Call to Worship

What is it like to begin again?

It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

May we find God in our seeking.

May we learn as we go.

May we be brave enough to begin again.

Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

*Opening Prayer

Holy God,

We come to you today with our biggest questions:

Who are we called to be?

What do you need from us?

Where are you in our midst?

How can we follow you more clearly?

As we read your Word today, we ask that you would weave answers into the text.

Speak to us through these ancient stories that we might find what we are seeking in you. With gratitude and open hearts we pray, amen.

*Opening Hymn *This is a Day of New Beginnings*

#417

see next page

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of new life, you call us into unknown places,

and we bury our heads in the sand.

You promise all the stars in the sky,

and we doubt it can be true.

You speak of new life in the Spirit,

and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.

Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.

Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 * In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine.

No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven.

Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new.

Join me in saying:

We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

page 31

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Ministry Moment

Pam Miller, read by Robin Cooney
FCPS School Supply Drive

Anthem *This Little Light of Mine*

– Traditional
Chancel Handbell Choir

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 of all ages are invited to participate in the service today, including in the Sacrament of Communion. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table and a wiggle space is available in the front of the sanctuary near the baptismal font.

Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume next week.

*Hymn *As Moses Raised the Serpent Up*

#605

1 As Mo - ses raised the ser - pent up, God's
2 For God so loved the world that God, all
3 That Child was sent in - to the world not

Child is lift - ed high; And all who in that
hu - man life to free, Gave to the world God's
to con - demn but save; Now through Christ's name all

Child be - lieve shall nev - er, nev - er die.
Child that all might live e - ter - nal - ly.
are re - deemed— what won - drous love God gave.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "As Moses Raised the Serpent Up" (number 605). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are provided below the vocal lines. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for children's church services.

The Scripture

Genesis 12: 1-4a OT page 10

John 3: 1-17 NT page 93

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows,
who welcomes our questions, who invites us to begin again.**

**We believe that Jesus showed us a new way, a deeper faith,
a more compassionate existence.**

**We believe that all of our beginnings should return us to this foundation,
and that no matter how many times we lose our way,
God always welcomes us home. Amen.**

Morning Prayers

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

Offertory *God So Loved the World* (from "The Crucifixion")

– J. Stainer
Senior Choir

***Prayer of Dedication**

**God, for your love for us, mercifully steadfast, calling us to you, raising
us up, we give you thanks with these gifts and the way we intend to live
our lives. Amen**

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

Invitation

Dear co-workers in God's service, we are called to the feast prepared by
Christ.

We come tired yet hopeful. We come with laughter and tears.

**We come broken and blessed. We come to taste God's promise of a
world made whole.**

At this table, may we find rest. At this table, may we find hope. At this
table, may we be moved to plant new seeds, to nourish fresh sprouts, and to
join in bringing forth all the future fruit God is growing even now.

**To this table, we bring our dreams, our prayers, and our gifts with
hopeful trust in God's holy healing power and love.**

Words of Institution

On the night that he knew would be his last with them, Jesus gathered his disciples for a feast. They had walked many miles together. They had known trials. They had seen wonders. They would soon need to trust that God is in the business of bringing hopeful futures from even the most painful endings.

So after dinner was over, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it with them, saying take, eat, do this in remembrance of me.

Then he also took the cup, blessed it, saying, “take, drink, do this in remembrance of me.”

Every time we do this, beloved co-workers in Christ, we too remember that God is in the business of bringing hopeful futures even when we have no idea of what is to come. We eat and drink today to be filled to the brim with that good news. We eat and drink this day to become holy channels of Christ’s hope and healing for ourselves and for our world.

Prayer for Bread and Cup

God of the table,
You feed the wild birds of the air with fruit-filled
Branches and we flock to your table today.
Longing to taste the hope and healing that you promise.

Nourish us with the bread
That sustains our souls and gives us hope.
Wash over us, reviving our roots in you.
Bless these elements we share
That the future you long for might
Burst into bloom in our hearts and in the world.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward at the direction of the deacons. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. Consume the bread and drink from the cup as it is given to you, and hand your empty cup to one of the ushers.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rain-bringing God,

We give thanks for the gifts of bread and cup

Flowing with your promise of a future full of hope.

**Carry us forth with courage to live for the love of all that
we do not yet see.**

With trust in your eternal stream of new life we pray.

Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *Lift High the Cross*

#198

see next page

***Benediction**

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry.

Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful.

Seek the faithful.

Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace.

Amen.

***Sevenfold Amen**

#814

Postlude *(please be seated)*

Lift High the Cross

198

George William Kitchin (1827–1912)

John 1:29–34; Rom. 5:6–11; 6:3–8; Rev. 7:9–17; 22:1–5

Rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt.

Refrain, in unison

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim; Let

all a - dore and praise that sa - cred name.

Last time, end

Stanzas, in harmony

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, the
2 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
3 O Christ, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your
4 Set up your throne, that earth's de - spair may cease, be -
5 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Child of God.
on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

to Refrain

The flowers on the altar are placed by Cliff and Ave Barr in memory of their parents Paul and Ival Barr and Bill and Betty Lou Cassell.

The yellow rose bud is presented in honor of Alex Schaeberle, who wears the Marine Corps uniform. Thank you to him, as well as the Schaeberle and Sexton families, for their sacrifices made in service to our country.

Attendance Last Sunday: 18 at 8:30 am, 134 at 10:30 am, and 63 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

Today: March 5, 2023

Scripture Reader: Nancy Jones, Ron Terbush
Dan Smith
Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Elder: Laura Rhoderick
Greeters: Anne Hoffmann, Nancy Manthey
Danielle Carbone
Welcome: Marj Berkheimer
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Larry Martin
Kendra Sampson
Fellowship: Sexton and Schaeberle Families
Saturday Chimer: Dick Williams
Sunday Chimer: Robin Cooney

Next Week: March 12, 2023

Pam Shepp, Ron Terbush,
Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel
Chuck Baldree, Matt Pomeroy
Peter Brehm
Rob Smith, Kathleen Goebel
Eliza Stitely
Jeanellen Kallevang
Jeff Baker, Larry Martin
Kendra Sampson
Starr Schaeberle, Julie Clark
Nancy Doll
Tricia Coffey

FELLOWSHIP

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Third Sunday in Lent

Seeking: Will you give me a drink?

John 4:5-42 | Exodus 17:1-7

In the heat of midday, Jesus seeks out a Samaritan woman drawing water from a well. His command to her is also a question and an invitation into a new way of life: "Will you give me a drink?" This question creates a dialogue between them in which Jesus sees the woman fully; she leaves the well transformed. In the wilderness, the Israelites essentially ask: "Will you give us a drink, God? Will you take care of us, even now?" This week, we might imagine ourselves at the well or in the wilderness. Are we willing to care for our neighbors, seeking to not just quench thirst, but to find living waters that sustain us all?

Spirit will be singing. Pastor Kirstin will be preaching this morning. Today we will be celebrating the baptisms of Sarita Harrison and Lucy Anne Moulton.

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:

Jeff Schaeberle, David Cooney, Mike Roberston (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson), Ed Hoffman, Bob Pinner, Stacie Carey (niece of Darlene Brunner and Jeannette Johnson), Ginny Peters, 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, 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).



**LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR
CHILDREN PRAYING**

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

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

Sundays

North Room / Zoom

9:00 – 10:20 am

The *Let's Study the Bible* class will not meet this Sunday, March 5, but will resume next Sunday, March 12.

Sunday Fellowship Opportunities for Adults

Friends and Fellowship

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 am

Come to the Community Room for some coffee or tea and to chat and relax.

The Parent's Place

West Classroom, Trinity Chapel

9:30 – 10:25 am

Take a moment to unwind in a new space for parents to gather in Trinity Chapel after your kids are in Sunday School. The West Classroom is the room to the right as you enter the chapel.

Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week

Tuesdays, February 28–March 28 North Room / Zoom

11:00 am – Noon

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398

Passcode: 973365

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

March 7 - The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger

March 14 - Teachings: Risking Challenge

March 21 - The First Dinner: Risking Rejection

March 28 - The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Esther Ziegler
The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings
Wednesdays, March 1–April 12 North Room / Zoom 2:00 pm

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

If you plan to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office (erucc@erucc.org) or Esther Ziegler (estherrziegler@gmail.com) via email for the link.

March 8 - Chapter 1: Sell What You Own
March 15 - Chapter 2: Hate Father and Mother
March 22 - Chapter 3: Slave of All
March 29 - Chapter 4: Nowhere Among the Gentiles

April 5 - Chapter 5: Outer Darkness
April 12 - Chapter 6: Your Father the Devil and
Afterword

This Week at ERUCC

CHIMES SERVICE AND LEARNING GROUP

Thursday, March 9 North Room 11:00 am

Our speaker will be Nancy Geasey to discuss Monocacy Church from 1700.

Upcoming at ERUCC

INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT ERUCC?

Three opportunities to learn more about ERUCC, the United Church of Christ, and what it means to be a church member will be held on:

Sunday, March 12 Community Room 9:30 am – 10:15 am

Sunday, March 12 Community Room 11:45 am – 12:30 pm

Sunday, August 21 Zoom 7:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/er19march Meeting ID: 859 8769 4208 Passcode: 378276

We will be receiving new members into the church on Sunday, April 16 at the 10:30 am service. Thanks to our newer friends and guests for your participation in the life of ERUCC and for the joy you bring us.

LET'S SING! – NEW 2ND SUNDAY OPPORTUNITY

Sunday, March 12

Liz Coffey Room

9:30 – 10:00 am

Did you know that singing together can be a therapeutic or spiritual experience, a great bonding activity and just plain fun? Research shows that people who sing together feel happier. So whether you are a gifted choir member or can't hold a tune, join us for a half hour hymn sing. We will be led by Kathy Gelles-Baxter, new choir member and trained vocalist.

ERUCC SPRING CLEANING DAY

Sunday, March 19

11:45 am

Following service on March 19, please join us for lunch followed by spring cleaning and maintenance of our spaces. Tasks include general cleaning, painting, polishing wood floors, and some general repairs.

Please RSVP or send inquiries to Property Chair, Owen York at property@erucc.org or (301) 401-4947.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday, March 19



**OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 19, 2023**

We will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ on March 19.

This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment, and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs, and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

GREEN TEAM NETWORKING EVENT

Wednesday, March 22

Community Room

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us in welcoming other Green Teams into our space. We will celebrate each other's accomplishments, discuss challenges, and look for ways to collaborate. Teams from UCC, Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Unitarian, and Quaker faiths and community teams from Middletown, Urbana, Frederick, and Thurmont will be invited. Light food and drinks will be served. If you know of any other teams that should also be invited, please let us know!

FRANKLINTON CENTER WEEKEND TRIP

March 23 –26



There were some items left to finish from our January trip to Franklinton. In consultation with Keith Stickley, we have scheduled a weekend trip for adults to Franklinton for March 23-26. Plan is to travel Thursday to have Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for working. If you want to drive down Friday night that's okay, too.

Let Pastor Daniel or Keith Stickley know if you have any questions and if you can go.

CONFIRMATION CLASS TO HOST MOVIE DAY

Saturday, March 25

Community Room

1:30 pm



The Confirmation Class invites you and your friends and family to a movie day to benefit Frederick County Animal Control.

Admission: unopened bags of dog or cat food, cans of dog or cat food, strong dog toys, cat toys and treats (especially Churu), food for small animals like guinea pigs, rabbits, and mice. Cash donations also gladly accepted!

SPECIAL LET'S TALK

Sunday, March 26

Community Room

9:30 am

Consistory President Peter Brehm joins Senior Pastor Daniel in a discussion on the preparations and planning underway as the Senior Pastor retires. Come join us with questions!

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, March 28

Liz Coffey Room / Zoom

7:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669

In the Shadow of the Mountain: A Memoir of Courage by Silvia Vasquez-Lavado. Read a book synopsis in the March *Trinity Chimes* at bit.ly/mar23chimes.

The ERUCC Book group meets bi-monthly at 7:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday. Our 2023 Book Group Coordinators are Susan Kulp and Rebecca Shillingburg.

Children and Family Ministry

SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, March 12

All scouts are invited to come in uniform on March 12 for a combined Scout Sunday! We would like to include both current and alumni scouts from all programs in the bulletin and in helping as greeters, readers, and such! To volunteer, see Evie Frazier or Pastor Kirstin.

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Wednesday, March 22

Community Room

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

We welcome back Kim Sexton to lead activities for God's Kid's Club. Bring any board games that you aren't going to play anymore, including ones with missing pieces! Pack a sandwich and share in soup with the congregation after our noon Lenten service this day.

ZIPLINE AT CAMP MANIDOKAN

Saturday, March 25

Camp Manidokan

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sign up in the Community Room or see Pastor Kirstin when you know you can attend. The cost of \$20 covers the zipline and food!

Kids and family members can take two zips along this wooded 840-foot zipline course. Young people need to be at least 50 pounds to go on the zipline. Adults need to weigh less than 275 pounds. There is a great viewing fence to watch and take pictures of your young ones zipping by! After, we will share in a devotion and campfire snacks, including hot dogs, Uncrustables, chips, fruit, and S'MORES!

FAMILY CAMPING

June 9 – 11

Cowan's Gap State Park, PA

We will take off for a camping trip at Cowan's Gap State Park in Pennsylvania. We have reserved a group spot for 40 people. If you want to rent a cabin or spot for an RV and share meals, fellowship, and worship with us, you can make your reservation by going to Cowans Gap State Park at: www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/CowansGapStatePark/Pages/default.aspx.

We have a planning team working on meal plans, and then we will send out the costs for the trip! We will plan some meals together, some packed lunches, and campfire snacks! Contact Pastor Kirstin for more information.

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 in the worship service. 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.

Youth Group Ministry

SUMMER GERMANY TRIP MEETING

Sunday, March 5

Community Room

following 10:30 am service

This will be the first of our summer Germany trip meetings.

LOW ROPES COURSE AT CAMP MANIDOKAN

Sunday, March 12

2:00 pm

We will be leaving the church at 2:00 pm to travel to Camp Manidokan to participate in a low ropes course experience with Pastor Kirstin. Please bring a refillable water bottle. Snacks and a light supper will be provided. The cost is \$10 per person.

Lent 2023 at ERUCC

SEEKING: HONEST QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER FAITH



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

This Lenten season, we will read many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. In these interactions, an unveiling often occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. We hope this devotional will help you unpack some of your big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. We encourage you to journey through these weekly readings and reflections at your own pace, asking yourself often: what am I seeking? What is God seeking?

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL and DAILY DEVOTIONAL CARDS

Lenten Devotionals and Devotional Cards are available in the rear of the Main Sanctuary and in Trinity Chapel. The devotional is also available in an e-reader version: online.flippingbook.com/view/928029194/.

LENTEN CREATION CARE CALENDAR

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and more intentional sharing. This year, our church is joining with many others in heeding the call to be stewards of God's Creation throughout this season. Consider using the Lenten Creation Care calendar found at bit.ly/carecal23 or printed in the rear of the Main Sanctuary as a reminder to be more mindful of the ways that our daily habits impact both our common home and all those with whom we share it.



MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays through April 5

Noon – 12:15 pm

Service of Prayer in Trinity Chapel

Lunch and Bible Study Reflection

12:15 – 1:00 pm

Theme: A Time to Grow

From Eden to Gethsemane to the garden in which Jesus was buried and raised, our story of faith wanders through much fertile soil. But in our current world of fast food and to-go meals, we often do not make time to explore where our food comes from and how we break bread together. Journeying through the season of Lent with this in mind, *A Time to Grow* encourages readers to slow down, move through the painstaking process of growth, and end together with great feasting and celebration of the resurrection. Themes of soil, water, light, time, fasting, feasting, and more guide the way to Easter Sunday. We will explore the intricacies of how faith is required to produce food and how that faith can lead us all to feast at the table on Easter morning.

March 8	Life	Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18; Mark 8:31–38
March 15	Water	Psalm 63:1–8; John 4:5–42
March 22	Light	1 Samuel 16:1–13; John 3:14–21
March 29	Restoration	Ezekiel 37:1–14; John 11:1–45
April 5	Time	Luke 19:29–40; Luke 22:66–23:56

Additional Announcements

MARKET STREET BRASS QUINTET

Sunday, March 5

Coffman Chapel, Hood College

3:00 pm

Our friends, The Market Street Brass is performing as part of the Hood College Music Department's spring 2023 concert series in Coffman Chapel, 521 Coffman Chapel Dr.

“We have a very nice variety of selections by Bach, Kamen, Ewazen, Bizet and others. It should last about 90 minutes including intermission. We have been working hard on this and would love to perform for a big, friendly audience. We hope to see some of the ERUCC choir and congregation there!” – Dan Cheston, Market Street Brass

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH

Friday, March 10

Calvary United Methodist Church

2:00 pm

Faith. This year's theme for the World Day of Prayer comes from the Prayer Committee in Taiwan. The stories of women who heard about faith in Christ and believe steadfastly, face injustice and persecution throughout the world. Their belief in Christ gives them the courage to persevere despite ill-treatment, punishment, and even death.

Please join Calvary United Methodist Church in celebrating the World Day of Prayer on March 10 with a 2:00 pm service in their Chapel, 131 West 2nd Street, Frederick.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME



Would you like to help someone learn to read? It's the gift of a lifetime! Find out more about the Literacy Council by registering for a [volunteer information session](#). There is still time to register for one of the [March trainings](#).

ERUCC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



ERUCC is fortunate to have several scholarship programs available to our members as they seek educational opportunities to develop knowledge and skill in realization of their full potential. The McCardell Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. Robert McCardell in honor and memory of members of the McCardell family. The Kieffer Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Henri L.G. Kieffer, pastor of this church from 1910-1946. The Liz Coffey Scholarship Fund was established in memory and honor of our beloved youth Liz Coffey. Also included are funds given in memory of Tina Baker, a long time educator and member of the ERUCC Scholarship Committee. Contributions to these Scholarship Funds by members and friends of the church are always welcome.

These scholarships are gifts to church members for post-secondary undergraduate education and are awarded by the Scholarship Committee. The awards are based on the quality of the candidate's plan for use of the funds, the ability and promise of the applicant, and the need for financial assistance. The aid may continue for subsequent years after an interview with the Scholarship Committee, submission of intent to reapply, and a transcript of grades for the current year.

Scholarship applications for new applicants are available through the Church Office, erucc@erucc.org or 301-662-2762.

Students wishing to renew scholarships must also contact the Church Office providing the information requested. All application materials must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee through the Church Office by the April 30 deadline.

Any further questions can be directed to Sandra Trout, Chairman of Scholarship Committee at troutsandra@aol.com or 301-676-6585.

NOTES OF GRATITUDE FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS



Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$2000 to the Department of Housing & Human Services Food Bank. Many Frederick County residents rely on the Food Bank to make ends meet. Your contribution has a direct impact on our community and the lives of our residents. Together we can continue our mission of helping those in need.

Opportunities to Serve

VOLUNTEER FOR SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

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.

MEAL TRAIN – HOLY CASSEROLER CREW



Meal Train®

All aboard the Meal Train! We are curating a list of individuals and families interested in providing meals and other necessities for church members in times of recovery. Participation is completely optional; you will receive a request and can accept however you are able. If you would like to be added to this list, please email your preferred contact information (phone/email address) to Kelly Esslinger at kellbell.erucc@gmail.com or see her before or after church. The “Holy Casseroler” crew thanks you in advance!

NOMINATIONS

In May our congregation will elect Lay Leaders for the coming year. To prepare for this, and with the Elders serving as the core Nominating Committee, we are starting to identify congregational members who might take on these important roles in the church. Please let Consistory President Peter Brehm know (pbrehm@comcast.net) if you wish to join the Nominating Committee or are interested in serving in one of the opening Lay Leader roles.

These include serving as Elder (two people); a Deacon (up to four people); Member-at Large (one person) and selected standing committee chairs. The Nominating Committee will begin by canvassing people who can stand for reelection to their position over the coming weeks.

Gracious God
**Give us the
courage to say
yes to the call.**

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 am	Worship , Trinity Chapel
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Nursery Care , Main Building
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>
9:30 – 10:25 am	Parent's Place , West Classroom, Trinity Chapel
9:30 – 10:25 am	Coffee and Conversation , Community Room
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>

Stay Informed

FEBRUARY TRINITY CHIMES

Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*, in the back of the sanctuary or online by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/mar23chimes.



WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

Subscribe to receive our weekly email newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code!

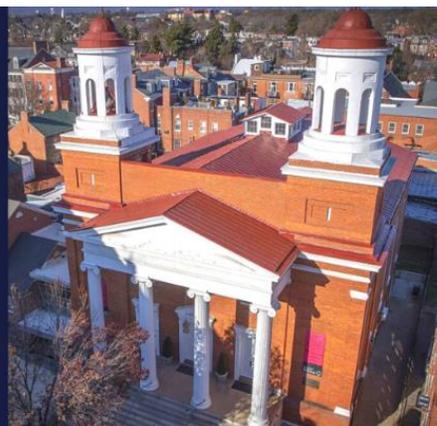


MISSION STATEMENT

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



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

seeking: *How do we begin again?*

write your own poem

Write a poem describing what beginning again feels, looks, sounds, and smells like. Include many sensory details.



This year we will be filling our chancel area with beautiful Easter lilies on Easter morning.

Plants will be ordered from the Dutch Plant Farm this year. You may take your plant home after the Easter Service.

If you would like to place an order, please fill out the information below and return with payment to the church office **by March 7.**

The cost per plant is \$13.

Donor Name: _____

I would like to place _____ **lilies** in the sanctuary for Easter morning.

If you wish your lily to be listed “in memory of,” “in honor of,” or “placed by [the donor],” please indicate which and **PRINT the names below.**

In memory of:

In honor of:

Placed by:

March 5, 2023

John 3:1-17

Bold Blessing
UCC Women's Week, March 5-11

Today we meet Nicodemus, a leader and teacher of the law. As a leader and teacher, Nicodemus is the one who other people come to for answers. If a conundrum is too complicated for the average person to unravel, Nicodemus knows what to think.

But although he is the teacher, Nicodemus knows he is not done learning yet. Whatever discomfort or even danger compels him to visit Jesus in the dead of night, his questions are even stronger than his fear. Because of his practice of learning and teaching in the temple, Nicodemus knows that the very best way to learn is in communities of other learners. He does not try to answer the unanswerable questions by himself. He is an example and a model of what it means to be a lifelong learner.

Like Nicodemus, participants in the United Church of Christ's Nollau Leadership Institute are life-long learners, ready to take the risks associated with seeking community to answer life's biggest questions. According to their website, the institute "is designed to cultivate today's leaders who are committed to creating a just, caring, and compassionate world. It is a program that acknowledges the many ways this hoped-for world is alive in each one of us, and how it comes into fuller expression when we journey together... Through in-person retreats, online interactions, and peer mentoring, Nollau provides leadership formation through a variety of learning modalities and within a community of practice. Small group work, journaling, art, embodiment, and spiritual practices are all part of the program alongside the interactive didactic sessions. The program culminates with a capstone project and consecration as a Diakonal Minister at the CHHSM Annual Gathering.

If you are interested in examining what it means to be a leader by exploring what it means to be human, to be in relationship, and to be part of something larger than yourself, CHHSM welcomes you to apply to this transformative year-long program: <https://www.chhsm.org/leadership/nollau/>.

"Nollau Institute." *CHHSM*, 25 Feb. 2022, <https://www.chhsm.org/leadership/nollau/>.



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

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