



Trinity Chimes

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ
Frederick, Maryland USA

May 2023

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.

For those of you who have retired, it is no secret that there is a lot to clean out and organize. During April, I gathered my 40-plus years of sermons, scanned them, and relieved myself of piles of paper. I did not take the time to read them, and one wonders if I ever will, but I found it interesting and amusing that there were so many sermons with the same theme.

Woven throughout my 40 years of ministry is a foundational premise that we are all called by God and commissioned or blessed for service and mission. Everyone has gifts from God, and those gifts are to be shared. That value was instilled from the time I was a child from my parents and Sunday School, carried through in middle school and high school with church and conference youth group activities and mission trips, and in college with the support of the chaplain and the local Lutheran Church I attended. When I was elected to serve on the Executive Council of the UCC while a student at Lancaster Seminary, there were leaders of the church who mentored me and encouraged me in leadership and service.

The gratitude for those who accompanied me on my journey of life and faith, identifying my gifts and encouraging me to share them, shaped my ministry and encouraged me to pass it on.

After I scanned the sermons, I turned to my gratitude folders containing emails and cards from the many I have saved throughout the years. As I read them, I gave thanks for how people have embraced their identity as beloved children of God and were excited and grateful to be called into areas of ministry they never imagined for themselves. These cards and emails have comments like, "I never thought I would like to go on a mission trip, sleeping in a room with a lot of people, being hot, and getting dirty. The trip changed my life." "Thanks for asking me to teach Sunday School. I have learned so much from the children, and they have changed the way I look at life." "I was so scared to stand up in front of the church and share my story but the support I received from the congregation was amazing."

You are, we are, all called by God, endowed with gifts for ministry, and commissioned to go and share those gifts.

Barbara

May Worship Notes

Sunday, May 7

Fifth Sunday of Easter

In 1 Peter 2:2-10, the readers are thought to have been Gentiles who became followers of Jesus. They are scattered throughout the lands of the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas under the rule of the Roman Empire and its culture. This letter aspires to guide and inspire them in their daily lives as they grow into being God's own people, recipients of God's mercy and inclusion. The theme of rocks and stones continues through this passage, with Christ being portrayed as a precious cornerstone for those who trust in him and a stumbling block for those who don't. This theme partly connects to today's gospel reading, John 14:1-14. Jesus, as part of his farewell discourse before betrayal and execution, speaks words of reassurance to his disciples.

We will be sharing communion this morning. The Senior Choir will be singing. The annual meeting of the congregation will be held following worship.

Sunday, May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Gospel lesson for this morning is John 14:15-21. As Jesus promised, God's presence abides in us through the Spirit—our advocate, comforter, and encourager—and the practice of love. God's nearness in Spirit blesses us in our witness. The hallmark of this relationship is love expressed in word and deed. The nearness of God is underscored by Paul's address to the Athenians, recorded in Acts 17:22-31. As Paul's witness proclaims the saving love of God in Christ, a church forms and grows. Even when God's presence is unrecognized, God in Christ draws near.

Spirit will be singing. The Cambridge and Chancel Bell Choirs will be ringing. This morning we will be celebrating the baptism of Hayes Messner into the life of the church and ordaining and installing the newly elected leadership of the church.

Sunday, May 21

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Jesus makes clear in Acts 1: 6-14, that the role of a disciple is to be Jesus' witness throughout the world, under the power of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel lesson, John 17:1-11, is part of Jesus' final prayer with the disciples, preparing them for their lives as witnesses to the saving love of God.

This morning we will be honoring our graduates.

Sunday, May 28

Pentecost

Despite what appears to be chaos in the amazing account of this day of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-21, order rests in God's hands. God's Spirit pours abundantly on the community of disciples, renewing them with diverse gifts for the common good. Jesus promises his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit in John 7:37-39.

Today we will celebrate the rite of confirmation as we welcome Quynn Adkins, Eli Baker, Peyton Bowen, Lucas Nguyen-Powell, and Katie Zander.

Sunday, June 4

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:2:4a reminds us that in the beginning, God expressed delight in creation and declared it "very good." In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus bestows authority upon followers to carry the good news of God's love to all places. The promise in verse 20 asserts that Jesus is the assurance that God will not abandon the community of creation. On this Trinity Sunday, the readings invite us to explore and celebrate the many ways God is revealed in and through continuing relationships within this good creation. God entrusts remarkable potential to all that is created. New beginnings emerge as the community of creation lives into such promise.

During the 10:30 service, we will give thanks for Pastor Daniel's ministry and honor her retirement with a farewell prayer.



Gratitude Tour with Pastor Daniel

Pastor Daniel has planned some special gatherings in celebration and thanks for our time together. If you belong to one of these groups, please bring your photos, stories, and memories to share.

Monday, May 1

Community Room - 7-9 p.m.
Gathering for those who have gone on a mission trip.

Monday, May 22

Community Room - 7-9 p.m.
Light supper for anyone who has served on the Consistory since 2006.

Tuesday, May 23

North Room - Following Bible Study - 12 p.m.
Lunch with the Bible Study group.

Tuesday, May 23

Pastor Daniel's House - 6-8 p.m.
Dinner with the ERUCC Book Group.

Saturday, May 27

Rodney & Becky Martin's - 12-3 p.m.
Party at Rodney & Becky Martin's for current and former youth group members and their parents.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Daniel

North Room & Zoom 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398
Passcode: 973365

Through May 23 ~ Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life

First released in 1995, this spiritual classic continues to be a bestseller, as thousands each year accept Marjorie Thompson's invitation to the Christian spiritual life. Offering a framework for understanding the spiritual disciplines and instruction for developing and nurturing those practices, *Soul Feast* continues to be a favorite for individual reflection and group study.

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|--------|--|
| May 2 | Reclaiming Sabbath Time: The Sacred Art of Ceasing |
| May 9 | Of Conscience and Consciousness: Self-Examination, Confession, and Awareness |
| May 16 | Companions on the Journey: The Gift of Spiritual Direction |
| May 23 | Entertaining Angels Unawares: The Spirit of Hospitality <i>(Please plan to stay for lunch as we celebrate our years together.)</i> |

Let's Study the Bible

Foundational Stories of the Old Testament . . . in Order!

The Exile ... and the Exodus ... is that one event with two names ... or two events all together? And if they are different, which came first? Was Daniel in the lion's den because Joseph put him there?

If you have ever pondered questions like these, join the Let's Study the Bible class beginning on January 8 for an 8-week (or so) survey of the big stories of the Old Testament in the order they occurred. We meet Sunday mornings from 9-10:15 a.m. You can participate in person in the North Room or by Zoom.

No prior experience needed; just bring your Bible!

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/ERSunstudy>

ID: 893 8670 5888 Passcode: 327128



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

A small group of ERUCC members has examined our current emergency preparedness level. As a result, we are preparing more first aid kits for our buildings and are seeking donations to refresh and complete those kits. Please consider contributing towards the purchase/donation of supplies with a direct purchase or monetary donation. Please note "First Aid" in the memo line. Emergency supply donation list: bit.ly/3lvVWLv



A fire drill occurred during the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, April 16. The Junior Fire Company reported the congregation quickly evacuated the building in 1 minute 48 seconds. It was noted the alarm was difficult to hear inside the sanctuary; the Property Committee will install a sounder strobe fire alarm in the rear of the sanctuary.

Photo by Jeff Schaeberle.



ERUCC at FREDERICK PRIDE

Saturday, June 24 • Carroll Creek Linear Park • 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

ERUCC is an Open and Affirming Congregation that proudly supports our LGBTQ+ community. ERUCC will have a table at this exciting Frederick Pride event, announcing our mission and programs to visitors. Interested in volunteering to staff the table? Shifts are in two-hour increments. Plan on the weather being sunny and warm. This event is rain or shine. Parking is located in parking decks. Bring water and a chair. All are welcome to volunteer. No experience necessary! Contact Julie Clark, Jclarkad@yahoo.com or (301) 305-8181 with questions. Sign up to help with outreach: bit.ly/41xOCP9

2023 Interfaith Pride Worship Service

Saturday, June 24, 2023 • 11 a.m.

Grace United Church of Christ

25 E. 2nd St., Frederick MD 21701 • 301-662-3312

Guest Speaker:

The Reverend Freeman Palmer

Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference UCC



The Rev. Freeman L. Palmer serves as the Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference United Church of Christ. Freeman began this call in February 2019, after serving nine years as Associate Conference Minister, Congregational Development, for the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Originally from Washington, DC, Freeman is a second career minister, attending Seminary after a 15-year career with CBS, Inc. Rev. Freeman lives with his spouse, Don, an ordained minister with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, in Baltimore with their Australian silky terrier Pooh.

For more information, contact The Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry at pastorgerrygrace@gmail.com.



Coffee and Conversation

Friends and Fellowship

Sunday @ 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the Community Room

Life is busy. We all need time to decompress. Come to the Community Room to grab some coffee or tea and chat. This is an opportunity to relax, meet new friends, and catch up with old ones.

The Parent's Place

Sunday @ 9:30-10:25 a.m.

Trinity Chapel West Classroom

The kids are in Sunday School, and you have a moment to chill. We are offering a new space for parents to gather in Trinity Chapel. It's a good time to relax and talk with other parents. Please drop in and check it out. Coffee and snacks will be provided but if you love your Sunday morning Starbucks, stop by afterward. The West Classroom is located to the right as you enter the Trinity Chapel sanctuary.

May Birthdays

01 Glenn Wallace, Colleen Hueting

03 Michaela Poole, Catie Schaeberle

04 Robin Cooney, Evie Frazier, Beanie Cornell, Asher

Wenner **05** Joesph Heverley, Donna Smith, Ryan

Curran, Harry Pomeroy **07** Christopher Baker, Andy

Fromknecht **08** Robert Marsh **10** Rebecca Shillingburg,

Tom Coffey **11** Jerry Carey, Laura McNay, John

Wenner, Alden Fisher **12** Kimberly Jahoda

13 James Hueting **15** Fred Wenner, James Graham,

Nancy Doll, Ryan Baker **16** Jennie Russell

17 Cameron Pain **20** Kathryn Cross **21** Tom Hueting,

Sara Hoewing **22** Rachael Wenner **24** Michael Sexton,

Matthew Mercier, Addison Baker **26** Delmar Speak

27 Kathy Johnson **28** Sandra Trout, Alex Schaeberle

29 Mary Ellen Rhoderick, Pat Hevner, Debbi Hendricks

30 Bob Ziegler **31** Karin Mens, Laura Baker

YOUTH GROUP

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Contact Pastor Daniel concerning these activities at bkddaniel@erucc.org.

May 7 - Hike

Meet at the church at 2 p.m. Return to the church by 5 p.m. Bring a water bottle and snacks.

May 21 - Church-wide Everybody's Birthday Party

Celebrate in the Community Room at 5 p.m.

May 27 - Gratitude Party with PD

Party at the Martin's for any current youth and former youth group people and their parents. 12-3 p.m.

May 28 - Pentecost

Confirmation at the 10:30 Service

MISSION OF MERCY

We have been called upon to bring lunch for the doctors, dentists, nurses, and volunteers who are serving members of our community in need of medical care. Can you help us?

ERUCC has promised to bring food for 35-40 people on the first Monday of each month.

Please contact co-chairs

Angela Brittain (angela3cats@yahoo.com) or Nancy Johnson Jones (ncjsquared@msn.com) to participate. We currently need friends to help in June and July.

MISSION OF
MERCY
Healing through Love

Holy Humor Fun!



You Can Ring My Bell: ERUCC Handbells Refurbishment

As we have heard during our 10:30 a.m. service on several occasions this year, ERUCC is blessed to have a five-octave set of 61 handbells. Manufactured by the Schulmerich Handbell Craftsmen of Hatfield, Pennsylvania, we purchased a three-octave set in the 1960s and fourth and fifth octave sets in the 1970s. Best practice calls for handbells to be cleaned, polished, and adjusted every five years. The last time ERUCC had this service completed was in 2001, meaning we now need to undertake a complete service, which costs \$12,000.



Friday, May 5
Community Room, 7–10 pm
Suggested donation: \$10/person

A celebration to raise funds for the
ERUCC Handbell Choirs' "Ring My Bell" campaign

The Consistory was unanimous in its support for this effort, which will entail seeking donations from the congregation. We are calling it the ERUCC Handbell Choirs' "Ring My Bell" campaign. Donations of any amount are invited. If it is helpful, refurbishing one bell costs \$200. Please note "handbells project" in the memo line or other description field when making a gift to support this project.

We are holding a major fundraising event to support this effort on the evening of Friday, May 5th in the ERUCC Community Room. The evening will feature a disco-themed celebration centered around our theme of "Ring My Bell." So, get your disco costumes ready and prepare for an evening of 21+ fun. Suggested donation of \$10/person. Non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

Welcome New Members



On Sunday, XXX, ERUCC welcomed Dan and Julie Ebersole, Alex, Jim Brittain, Leandra and Jenni Caughy, Laszlo and Joan Quinlan. Not pictured, Richard Sto.

Everybody's Birthday!



Sunday, May 21 • 5 p.m.

We'll gather for a dinner and dessert evening celebrating your birthday, and everyone else's too! You'll be invited to sit with others in your own birth month to have a slice of cake and talk about birthday memories and wishes! Our goal is to continue to get to know one another in our community of friends and families! We hope to see you there and sing "Happy Birthday!" to everyone!

Please bring a side dish or salad to share. Consider signing up to decorate your birthday month's table with a themed centerpiece or other decorations. For example, October might have Halloween décor and February might have hearts and groundhogs. Sign up to decorate a table in the Community Room during fellowship or by emailing Pastor Kirstin, ksrroads@erucc.org.



ERUCC Book List for 2023

2023 Book Group Coordinators: Susan Kulp
and Rebecca Shillingburg

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

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574 Passcode: 226669

MAY 23 - location will be at Pastor Daniel's house with dinner at 6 p.m. with virtual option using the Zoom link above.

Recitatif by Toni Morrison

In this 1983 short story—the only short story Morrison ever wrote—childhood friends Twyla and Roberta lose touch as they grow older, only to find each other again later in life. Seemingly at opposite ends of every problem, the two women still cannot deny the deep bond between them. Morrison herself described *Recitatif* as an experiment in the removal of all racial codes from a narrative about two characters of different races for whom racial identity is crucial."

July 25 *Still Life* by Louise Penny

September 26 *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

November 28 *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

The ERUCC Book group meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every other month in the Liz Coffey Room or virtual.



UPDATING CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

A new pictorial directory is in the works! With thanks to ERUCC photographers Rich Stolz, Tom Dorsz, and Jeff Schaeberle, we offered opportunities in April for you/your family to get a new portrait for the directory. If you were not able to get a photo taken and have not already submitted a photo of your own, you may also submit your own portrait to erucc@erucc.org no later than Sunday, May 7.

Holy Moments: Faith-Filled Fun with Pastor Kirstin

EARTH DAY Clean-Up Recap

We are thankful we had 19 church friends and additional neighbor friends who helped clean up Monocacy Village Park over Earth Day weekend. Many park-goers thanked us for our work. With the creek water low, many plastic bags and bottles could be removed to create fewer animal entrapment issues. Picking up cigarette butts also decreases the risk of animals eating them and becoming ill.

We celebrated with a fun Trash Bingo in which one team covered 15 spaces and two covered 14 spaces. We had some excitement with some of the ducks hanging out for a bit and with squirrels in the trees. A special find was a large glittery Easter egg found by Emily Spear. A treasure hunt map (of an area not at the park) spurred a spontaneous treasure hunt set up by the kids after their snack and playground play. Watching our kids playing in the same spaces they had helped clean was a great joy.



Earth Day clean-up.



Gods Kids Club made Ressurrection Gardens.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING:

Sunday, June 25, after church

Volunteers can talk with Pastor Kirstin about current volunteer needs. Thank you to those who have already done so! We've had some good energy so far!

Registration for church families will begin on April 30. Registration for our community will open on June 5-July 21. We will cap our number between 18-21 participants, with the variance in that number depending on the age of the children.

Safe Church Trainings Thursday, May 11 and June 25 Time TBA

If you are planning to help at VBS and did NOT complete training after December 2022, then you will need to attend one of these or make arrangements with Kirstin for an alternative training time.



New member, Julie Ebersole, has jumped right in teaching a Good Friday lesson to God's Kids Club.

Sunday School Updates

Sunday, May 28

- Last day of traditional Sunday school!
- No Junior Church for Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, June 4

9:30 a.m. practice Music and Movement for Pastor Daniel's Good-bye Service

Summer Sundays continue as practices for the Fall Musical!

From Sunday, June 25 to September 3, our 9:30 a.m. Sunday School hour will become rehearsals for the fall musical, "In the Image," by Mark Burrows! Grades pre-k through teen are all invited to participate. Please contact Trish Coffey for more information! We look forward to this performance on Sunday, September 24.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Save the Date!

We have chosen July 31-August 4 for **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!** We'll adjust the number of kids we can care for and the length of the day based on our number of volunteers. We will expect to design a 9 a.m.-12 p.m. day, which could be extended if we have enough folks for morning and afternoon volunteer shifts!

This year we will use "Food Truck Party: On a Roll With God!" as our theme. We'll involve ourselves in daily Bible lessons following the week's theme, "Give us this Day our daily bread" from Matthew 6:11. Each day, we will also explore the theme with a "Daily Special" of crafts, games, music, science, and mission projects related to food ministries. Our week will culminate in a food truck water balloon fight and a food project chosen by the students.

Pastor Kirstin is looking for 4-6 youth volunteers to shepherd our small groups, snack makers, craft leaders, game leaders, scientists/teachers, storybook readers, and musicians. Volunteers may be able to work mornings, afternoons, all day MWF, or some mix of these options! We will develop the schedule based on who we have! There are pre-designed sessions, but for creative-minded friends, Pastor Kirstin invites you to take a look at the lessons and share your vision!

Family Camping Information



June 9-11

You can make your reservation by going to Cowans Gap State Park at:

www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/CowansGap-StatePark/Pages/default.aspx

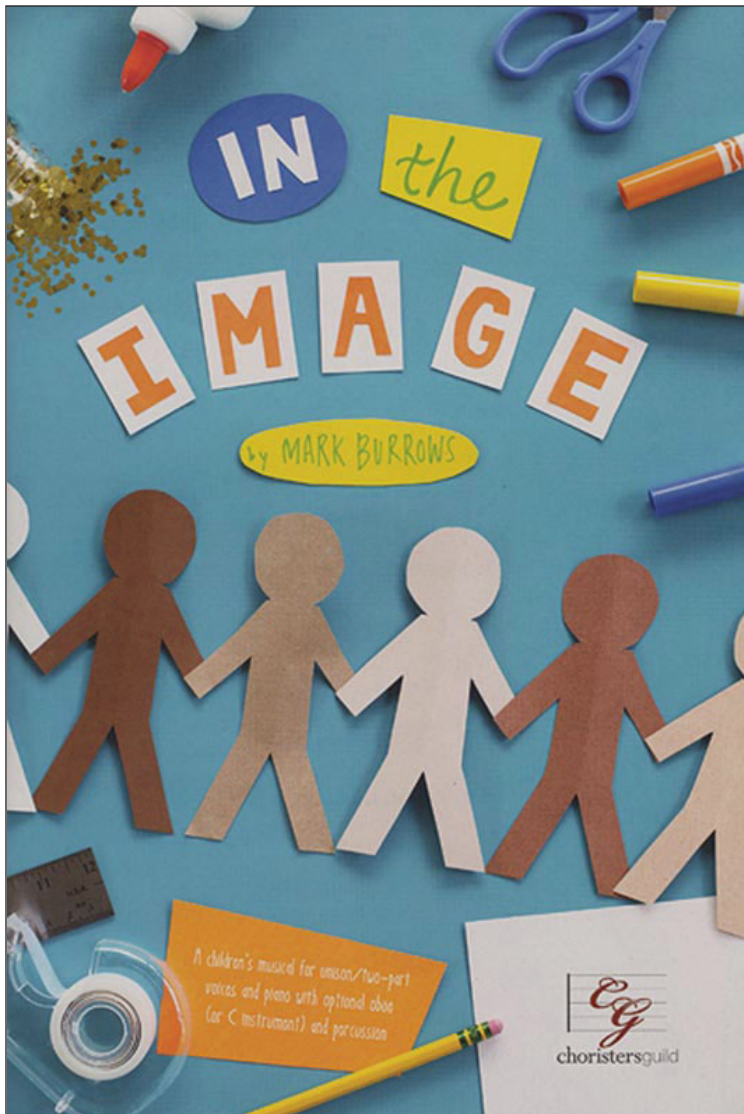
Family Camp Meeting, Monday, May 22, evening zoom

We are getting a really good response and invite you to sign up still! Sign up in the Community Room during Fellowship or by emailing Pastor Kirstin ksrroads@erucc.org.

The ERUCC Summer Musical is Back!

During the summer months after Sunday School has ended, ERUCC provides an opportunity for children and youth to participate in a musical. We would love to have you come join the fun and help us with our show!

This year we will work on a show called “**In the Image.**” This story explores what it really means to be created in the image of God. Through humor and exploration, the characters realize that being created in the image of God isn’t just about how you look but about the attributes of God that show forth in your life. If you and/or your child wants to learn



more about this adventure, please sign up to join us for the ERUCC Summer Musical!

We will begin rehearsing on Sunday, June 25 from 9:30-10:15 a.m. on the second floor of Trinity Chapel in the large room with the stained-glass window at the top of the back stairway. Rehearsals will continue through the summer with the production in the Fall. A complete schedule will be shared with everyone during the first rehearsal.

Participation is open to anyone willing to lend a hand, and we hope you will join us! These musicals help raise money for several youth programs and mission trips throughout the upcoming year. We are looking for older youth to help with essential pieces of the production in addition to participating in character/chorus roles this year, including assisting with directing, choreography, lights, sets, sound, and costumes.

There are also parts for those who want to sing in the chorus, parts for those who want to act, parts for those who want to dance, and parts for those who want to be involved but not on stage. If you have any questions or are an adult interested in helping with this effort, please contact Tricia Coffey (trishcoffey1195@gmail.com or 240-815-9118). We look forward to having you join us—it’s going to be great fun!!

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON JUNE 25!



GREEN TEAM NEWS

Spiritual Fellowship Walk Carrol Creek Canal

Sunday, May 21, 2-3:30 p.m.

Spring is here, and it is time to rejoice and give thanks. Join the Green Team for a walk along the Carrol Creek Park canal, where we can revel in the beauty of Frederick's public art installations and downtown nature. Depending on the group's whim, we'll finish up with a stop at a creekside brewery or a visit to Hoffman Brothers' Ice Cream shop. Or perhaps both!

Native Plant Garden at ERUCC!

Since last year, the Green Team has been steadily transforming the green spaces around our parking lot into native plant habitats. We are planting native perennials that require minimal care once established yet provide food and shelter for butterflies, bees, and birds. If you'd like to get involved, stay tuned. We will post planting dates and wish lists on the ERUCC Facebook page.

Would you like to learn about planting native plants? Check out the Maryland Native Plant Society website. It has a wealth of information and resources about what to plant, where to purchase plants, and more. <https://www.mdflora.org/>

Chimes Service and Learning Group

Chimes Learning and Service Group will meet May 11 at 11:30 am for lunch at Oscar's Alehouse located at 906 N. East Street.



Over the past few years, you may have wondered about the speakers who share their stories during the church service. ERUCC has moved to a Consecration Sunday model where we ask our church members to share themes such as how they feel gratitude toward God, or how they see giving as a part of their spiritual relationship with God. We are excited to bring forward this theme of you showing us why you want to give of your time, talents, and gifts to our church. Each of you is part of this wonderful community, and you are very special. We are grateful to be serving you!



Let's Sing!

New 2nd Sunday Opportunity

May 14 ~ 9:30 - 10:00 in the Liz Coffey Room
Mother's Day! Celebrate by singing together!

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, a new choir member and trained vocalist.



Many people attended the last Tuesday Bible Study with Pastor Daniel.

A letter from

The Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President National Ministries of the UCC

In the eight years I have served as General Minister and President, I have worshiped on Holy Ground in sanctuaries across this broad country and around the world.

I have danced with an elderly indigenous woman high in the Andes Mountains in Colombia.

I have knelt at the communion rail of a Mercersburg congregation in rural Pennsylvania. I have heard a majestic choir in Naples, Florida sing one of my favorite hymns, “*We Would Be Building*.” I have preached from the pulpit of the Berliner Dome in Germany.

I have sat with leaders from the Rocky Mountain Conference in, well, the Rocky Mountains at Camp La Foret, in Connecticut at Camp Silverlake, and in Rhode Island at Star Island. I have sat on bean bag chairs and throw rugs at a church in Asheville NC.

In sanctuaries humble and gilded, architecturally traditional and contemporary, stain-glass lit and stone-wall structured, I have watched and witnessed the stewarding of the ground we call holy. My worship among you has inspired, uplifted, and sustained me.

If I could name one thing that is common on that ground we call holy and where we meet our sacred, it would be that when we gather there lives are changed.

The outcast and the orphan, the trans woman and the gay man, the elderly widow and the hipster millennial, the rich philanthropist and the struggling single mother of three, the autistic child and the raging extrovert, the refugee and the

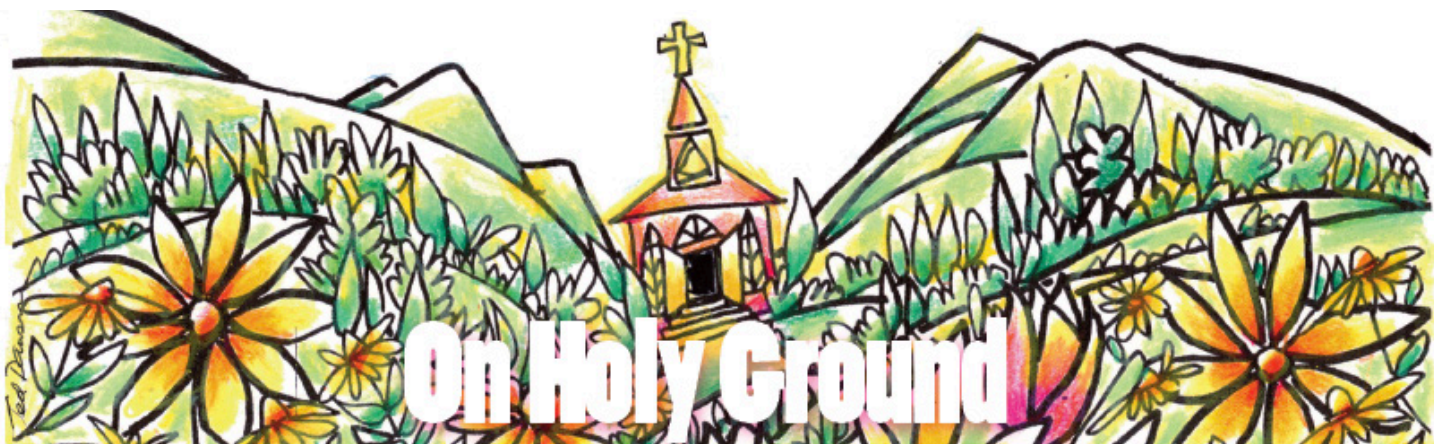
citizen, the street-dweller and the home-bound, the disabled and the agile all find a place where they are loved, spiritually fed, and celebrated as the child of God they are. There are so many who find it hard to locate their place of uplift and welcome in what can be a cruel world. Our churches become that place of refuge, comfort and sanctuary for so many.

As I close my time as the General Minister and President, I talk now openly and often about what has been for me the most gratifying element of the witness I have borne to the work of our churches. It is the need for a complete stranger to approach me and tell me their “The UCC Saved My Life” story. Those stories collect and conspire to speak of a commitment to radical inclusion proclaimed by disciples of the risen Christ who see in him an extravagant love offered to the stranger and the outcast, the vulnerable and forgotten, the marginalized and the oppressed.

Strengthen the Church is an opportunity for your gifts to sustain not just our growing, renewing, and birthing churches, but also to ensure that the holy ground they create remains the sacred space in which the extravagant welcome of our beloved Jesus is embodied.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a gift to sustain this work of our churches. Thank you for helping us create the kind of sacred spaces where holy ground transforms despair into hope, fear into self-confidence, anger into compassion, judgement into hospitality, and disdain into love.

ERUCC will receive the Strengthen the Church Offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. Through the Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering, we fund initiatives for leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.





Period Packs are an easy way to share your love with others. It's a chance to be a blessing to women who lack access to necessary feminine care supplies like sanitary napkins, tampons, and soap. And it's easy! Whether you are making Period Packs as an individual or hosting a Period Pack party, these simple kits offer women and girls a sense of dignity and peace of mind.

“Period poverty” is defined as a lack of access to menstrual products, hygiene facilities, waste management, and related education. This can result in missed days at school and work, discrimination, and social isolation. Recent research reveals that almost two-thirds of women in the U.S. with a low income could not afford menstrual products in the last year, while nearly half had to choose between food and menstrual products.

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING WE AT ERUCC CAN DO TO HELP!

Beginning this Mother's Day, May 14, ERUCC will officially launch a campaign to create Period Packs to help people in period poverty. These kits promote cleanliness and health during the menstrual cycle. In partnership with Church World Service (CWS), the UCC has called on all congregations to provide as many Period Packs as possible by the end of July as a General Synod 34 service project. Our target date to assemble packs is Father's Day, June 18.

There's no need to wait. We will gratefully accept your donations for Period Packs and financial contributions. Drop-off bins are located outside the sanctuary and Trinity Chapel. Financial donations directed to ERUCC should note that they are for the “Period Packs Project.”



NEEDED DONATION ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Regular and super-absorbency tampons
- Sanitary pads (unscented, long, super, ultra-thin)
- Bath-size soaps (3 oz. bar or larger, no Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging)
- Packs of flushable wipes (unscented 42-count)

For more information, contact your M&SA committee members including:

Michelle Beadle, Kelly Esslinger, Colleen Baldree, Angela Brittain, Kathleen Jefferson, Shelley Weakly

CHURCH WORLD SERVICES

Since their start in 1946, CWS has been a faith-based organization committed to building relationships with local organizations and partnering with individuals around the globe. They walk alongside our most vulnerable neighbors in some of the most overlooked and underserved communities in over 65 countries around the world.



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

301-662-2762
www.erucc.org

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 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 |



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world
for all
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ERUCC CHURCH STAFF

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

The Rev. Frederick Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

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

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

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

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

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

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music* ~ kellbell.erucc@gmail.com

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

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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