



Trinity Chimes

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ • Frederick, Maryland USA

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study, and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far. We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.

In the months ahead, the Stewardship Generosity Team invites ERUCC members to consider how we are engaged in the church's work—and how we might invite others to join us.

I am most actively engaged in the life of ERUCC as an Elder and as President of the Consistory. In those roles, I prepare for the Early Service on a rotating basis and help the Nominating Committee and the other standing committees. I have also participated in other aspects of the congregation's daily, weekly, monthly, and annual activities.

I've learned that it takes the entire congregational family to accomplish our mission. Congregational life requires many people to undertake many tasks, the coordination of which requires lots of communication, cooperation, grace, and even a sense of humor. These tasks include:

- Compiling, designing, and printing the bulletins,
- Setting up the sanctuary for the 8:30 and 10:30 services, including lighting altar candles and putting hymn numbers on the hymnal boards;
- Recruiting volunteers and confirming schedules for the Nursery;
- Preparing for and teaching Sunday School classes for children, youth, and adults;
- Recruiting volunteers and creating schedules for the Welcome Table, Greeters, and Deacons;
- Managing, maintaining, and running sound and streaming for services and events;
- Preparing communion elements and cleaning up afterward;
- Counting and recording offerings; and
- Preparing, serving, and cleaning up our Fellowship times.

These are just some of the many tasks—visible and behind the scenes—required each Sunday, most of which are the congregation's responsibility.

When I engage in these tasks, I often engage with other members, which not only fosters relationships but also allows me to be a part of a broader community focused on giving glory to God and serving our neighbors. And, more often than not, these tasks are interesting, fun, and offer a feeling of accomplishment. What any one of us can accomplish individually is small; what we can accomplish through collaboration with others is greater and more powerful. Even repetitive tasks—garden committee projects, fellowship, and many others that are not one-and-done—can be deeply satisfying.

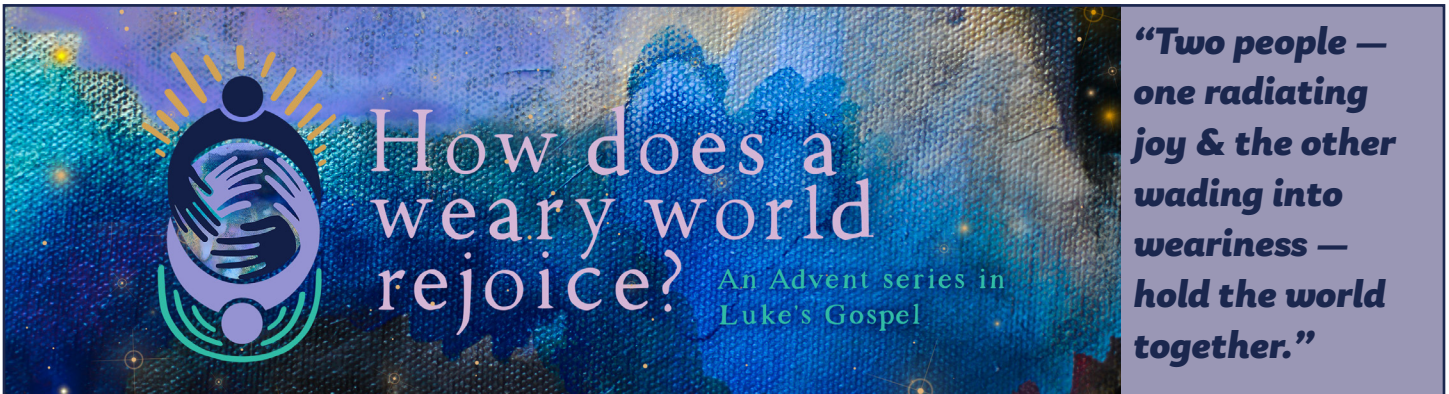
Participating in the life of the congregation allows us to give back to God. As wise ancestors have noted, to whom much is given, much is expected. I am blessed with health, time, and resources to give to the church's life, and it brings me joy to do so. I hope and pray that you find the same satisfaction in being part of our congregational family.

I have focused my thoughts here on just the “internal missions” we have—roles and responsibilities we undertake to further our congregation's spiritual and operational needs. I could write a second essay on how all this applies also to our “external” mission efforts to help our friends and neighbors in Frederick, the United States, and the rest of the world.

Each of us may have a different perspective on the efforts and benefits that can be received by participating in the life of ERUCC. As we close out 2023 and enter into a new year, I invite you to reflect on your time, skills, and interests and how you might steward them to engage in the life and missions of our congregational family.

Peter Brehm, *President of the Consistory*

ADVENT AT ERUCC



Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

As Advent comes again to a weary world, we ask, “How does a weary world rejoice?” From the opening chapters of Luke’s Gospel, we have found a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness. In the parallel birth stories of Jesus and John, joy arrives—despite trepidation, fear, or grief. In these stories, we find rhythms for rejoicing. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God’s closeness with great joy.

And so, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We acknowledge
our weariness*

**December 3
First Sunday of Advent**

We acknowledge our weariness

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Luke 1:1-23

As Advent begins, we start by acknowledging the weariness, grief, rage, and hopelessness we carry—and we also affirm that we are made for joy. Joy is designed to live in a full house of other emotions. We start the season with Zechariah and Elizabeth; they have battled infertility and have lived many years steadfast in their faith. Perhaps they feel the weight of hopes and dreams unattained. The angel comes to Zechariah with promise of good news, but Zechariah can’t fully receive it, and he is cast into silence for the duration of Elizabeth’s pregnancy. Sometimes weariness can harden us and prevent us from living fully. We’ve had hard journeys. Grief has left a scar on us. This is how we show up to Advent. Let us acknowledge the ways we, too, are hardened by disbelief. Like the psalmist, let us ask, “how long?” and plead for restoration.

The Rev. John Shillingburg will be preaching. The Senior Choir will be singing, and the Cambridge Bell Choir will offer special music. Communion will be shared at the chancel rail.



How does a weary world rejoice?

We find joy in connection

December 10
Second Sunday of Advent

We find joy in connection

Isaiah 40:1-11 | Luke 1:24-45

In community, our joy expands. When we can't rejoice, we can carry each other's joy. That is what Elizabeth and Mary do for each other. The good news begins to take shape in Elizabeth's womb, but scripture tells us that she stays secluded, hiding her pregnancy from others—that is, until Mary arrives at her door, also pregnant. Perhaps Mary's arrival is the inbreaking that changes everything for Elizabeth, for in that moment, her child leaps in her womb and she is filled with the Spirit. She can't help but rejoice. Her joy is contagious and wraps around Mary like a hug. Through the prophet Isaiah, we hear God speak tender words of comfort; this is the comfort we can give to and receive from each other during this season.

The Rev. David Cooney will be preaching. Spirit will be sharing in music leadership this morning.



How does a weary world rejoice?

We allow ourselves to be amazed

December 17
Third Sunday of Advent

We allow ourselves to be amazed

Psalm 126 | Luke 1:57-66

After Elizabeth gives birth, her neighbors and family celebrate with her. When it comes time to name the child, Zechariah affirms the name given by the angel and by Elizabeth. In that moment of affirming the promise, Zechariah's speech is restored. Everyone is filled with awe. How often do you allow yourself to be amazed? Wonder is all around us—can we recognize it? As we learn how to rejoice in a weary world, can we live in a way that allows amazement and wonder to surprise us often? In Psalm 126, those who expect to reap tears are granted a surprise: shouts of joy. Amazement is a balm for the weary.

*The Rev. David Cooney will be preaching. The Senior Choir will be offering their Christmas Cantata – **The Winter Rose**, by J.M. Martin, this morning.*



December 21, 7:30 PM Longest Night Service

Although Advent is a joyful season for so many, we also know that this time of year can be drenched in fatigue, grief, and loneliness. We will gather as a

community to honor that reality and draw near to God to allow space for healing and prayer.

Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue. Bring your tears. We hope this time of worship can be a gift to individuals and communities alike, providing a calm, quiet, and healing space. May you find peace in your journey.



How does a weary world rejoice?

We make room

December 24 Christmas Eve 10:30 AM

We make room
Luke 2:1-20

Luke's Gospel tells us that when Mary gives birth to Jesus, she lays him in a manger, for there was no place for them in the guest room. Scholars argue about where, exactly, the birth occurs—and why. Was it in a stable or the living room of a simple peasant home? Was Bethlehem teeming with visitors who were also there to be counted in the census? Was Joseph's family inhospitable because they disapproved of his marital situation? Regardless of where the birth occurs, we know that Christ is born in a crowded, unlikely place. And yet, God makes a place here anyway. God draws the circle wider as shepherds and unexpected guests arrive. This Christmas, let us also make room—for strangers and neighbors alike. For this is good news of great joy for all people.

Today we celebrate our annual Lessons and Carols service with our college students reading the scriptures. The Rev. David Cooney will be leading us in worship. The Senior Choir will be singing and the Cambridge Bell Choir will offer special music.

Join us for Christmas Eve Services:

- 5:30 PM Children's Service ~ Sanctuary, The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads
- 7:30 PM Family Candlelight & Carol Service ~ Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org
The Rev. David Cooney. Main Street Brass and Senior Choir will be performing.
- 10:30 PM Communion and Candlelight Service ~ Sanctuary
The Reverends John and Rebecca Shillingberg



How does a weary world rejoice?

We root ourselves in ritual

December 31
First Sunday after Christmas

We root ourselves in ritual

Luke 2:21-38

After eight days have passed, Mary and Joseph circumcise their child and give him the name Jesus. They return to the temple in Jerusalem to enact the sacred birth rituals of their culture and tradition. While they are doing what is customary, the unexpected occurs. A man named Simeon is led by the Spirit into the temple to proclaim Jesus as the “light of revelation.” Then, a prophet named Anna suddenly approaches them; she praises God and speaks about Jesus to everyone longing for redemption. Rituals mark sacred turning points in our lives. They can help us make meaning of celebrations, losses, and transitions. As new parents to Jesus, Mary and Joseph could feel weary for what lies ahead, but perhaps these sacred rituals—and those who bear witness to them—bolster them and give them courage for the journey. How do our sacred rituals root us and help us live into new chapters with courage?

The service will conclude with the “Letting Go and Letting God” ritual. This is a time when the congregation will be invited to write down on a piece of paper those things which each person wants released from the old year of 2023, receive God’s grace and move into the new year with divine blessing and hope. The pieces of paper will be placed in a bowl of water at the front of the chancel where they will dissolve.

The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg will be preaching. The Senior Choir will be singing.



How does a weary world rejoice?

We trust our belovedness

January 7
Epiphany Sunday
Baptism of Christ Sunday

We trust our belovedness

Luke 3:21-22

We began our Advent 2023 series by acknowledging our weariness and we conclude with trusting our belovedness; ultimately, our joy is rooted in the fact that we belong to God. In the story of Jesus’ baptism, the heavens part open and the voice of God wraps Jesus in joy and loving care. Some translations of Luke 3:22 read, “in you, I find happiness and delight.” Therefore, we can conclude that we are also the source of God’s joy. When we trust our belovedness, we live and give fully—we are compelled to treat all of creation with tenderness and care. When we trust our belovedness, we have endless reasons to rejoice.

We will be sharing Communion at the chancel rail this morning as well as receiving our star words for the coming year. This day, we celebrate Jesus’ baptism and remember the role our baptism has played in our lives. It is a day we also remember that along with Jesus we are beloved by God and empowered to participate in God’s healing work in the world. The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan will be preaching. The Senior Choir will be singing.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study ~

with The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Tuesdays through December 19

North Room / Zoom 11 AM – 12 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398 Passcode: 973365



Reading the Bible Again for the First Time by Marcus J. Borg

One of the vital challenges facing Christians today is how to read the Bible faithfully without abandoning our sense of truth and history. Reading the Bible Again for the First Time provides a much-needed solution

to the problem of how to have a fully authentic yet contemporary understanding of the scriptures.

Many mistakenly believe there are no choices other than fundamentalism or simply rejecting the Bible as something that can bring meaning to our lives. Answering this modern dilemma, Marcus Borg reveals how it is possible to reconcile the Bible with both a scientific and critical way of thinking and our deepest spiritual needs, leading to a contemporary yet grounded experience of the sacred texts.



Cantata

December 17 • 10:30AM

THE WINTER ROSE

by Joseph M. Martin

The *Winter Rose* incorporates traditional carols and newly composed anthems that visit the timeless Christmas story with fresh insight. Through music, narration, and simple symbolism, the cantata presents the life of Christ from prophecy to passion. The theme song is based melodically on the English folk song *The Salley Garden*.

Let's Study the Bible ~ Sunday Morning

with The Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg

North Room / Zoom • 9 – 10:15 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy

Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888 Passcode: 327128

We are studying the foundational stories of the Old Testament, the big stories in the order they occurred. No prior experience needed; just bring your Bible.

We are now in the stories about David, Israel's ideal king. Except for an ideal king, David was pretty ruthless at times and a not-very-good parent. What's with that?

Let's Study the Bible ~ Wednesday Evening

with The Rev. John Shillingburg

Wednesdays through December 20

North Room / Zoom • 7 – 8:15 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy

Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500 Passcode: 848933

Like the Sunday morning class, this new evening class offers an opportunity to read and discuss the scriptures, looking at them in their original context, considering when and by whom they were written, and how they have been interpreted through the centuries. All you need is a Bible; no prior knowledge is necessary.

We are currently studying the Prologue in Genesis (chapters 1-11), the original stories of the Hebrew scriptures - creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the flood, and the Tower of Babel.

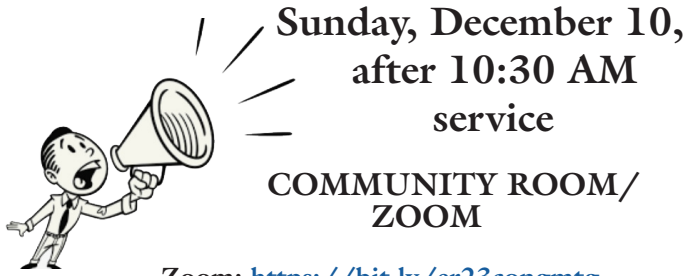


Coffee and Conversation

Sunday • 9-10:15 AM

Enjoy a warm cup of coffee, tea or cocoa, relax, and chat in the Kieffer Lobby.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Sunday, December 10,
after 10:30 AM
service
COMMUNITY ROOM/
ZOOM

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/er23congmtg>

Meeting ID: 863 7509 0179 Passcode: 318206

The Consistory invites you to attend ERUCC's annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 10, following the 10:30 AM service. Agenda items will include reports on Consecration Sunday outcomes, voting on a path forward for Trinity Chapel, and sharing and approval of the proposed 2024 ERUCC mission spending plan. We are the church, and everyone's participation is encouraged.

A light lunch will be served. You are invited to bring a dessert to share.

Review Informational Presentation on Historic Clock Tower

On Sunday, October 15, Owen York and Peter Brehm presented information on the Historic Town Clock Tower and Trinity Chapel during Let's Talk. Findings from the engineering report and the contractor's proposed scope of work were reviewed, options for our path forward were presented, and there was time for questions.

You can watch a recording of this presentation at <https://bit.ly/letstalkTC>.

Save
the
Date

Installation of
The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan



as

Intentional Interim Pastor

Sunday, January 28
3 PM

Year End Giving

As you contemplate donations this holiday season, please remember Evangelical Reformed UCC. Your contributions are needed for everything from special programs to basic operating expenses—both are deserving of your support. Please be as generous as you can this holiday season and in the year ahead. For the convenience of church members, we offer electronic giving at www.erucc.org/give.

Advent at ERUCC



How does a weary world rejoice?

An Advent Devotional: Art, Poetry, & Reflections for Advent in Luke's Gospel

Beginning with the first Sunday in Advent, this daily devotional follows the Christmas story in Luke 1–2, concluding with Baptism of the Lord Sunday. It includes weekly readings to follow at your own pace. This devotional is designed to help you practice joy in a weary world. Each week offers art, reflections, poetry, and hymns. May each week offer you rhythms for rejoicing—through acknowledging your weariness, finding joy in connection, allowing yourself to be amazed, singing stories of hope, making room, rooting yourself in ritual, and remembering your belovedness.

Advent devotionals are available in the rear of the Main Sanctuary or by contacting the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

Midweek Family Advent

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, & 20
5 - 6:30 PM

Dinner in the Community Room, Activities in the Thomas Room

This year, Advent has only three weeks! Each Wednesday evening of Advent, we will share a light dinner at 5 PM in the Community Room, then begin our program around 5:30 PM in the Thomas Room. Dress to be comfortable sitting on the floor or crafting at a table.

RSVP to Pastor Kirstin at ksrhoads@erucc.org, or sign up at Fellowship. When you RSVP, please note if you will be joining us for dinner, too, YUM! While Pastor Kirstin is still working out the details for the activities on December 6 and 13, on December 20, we will leave the building to go Christmas caroling!



Save
the Date



For unto us
a child is born!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

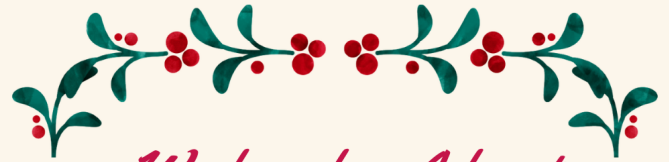
A Very Special Child

Sunday, December 17

Sanctuary • 6 PM

Come one, come all to our annual Christmas Pageant! *A Very Special Child* tells the Christmas story from the book of Luke. It begins with Elizabeth and Zechariah, follows the interwoven birth stories of Jesus and John, and concludes with Jesus' baptism.

Plan to come to enjoy a sweet performance, join in singing classic Christmas Carols, and partake in a brief cookies and milk reception afterward in the Community Room. Donations can be brought that day to contribute to SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership of Frederick County), and boxes of birthday cake mixes can be brought to donate to the family shelter.



Wednesday Advent Services

Sanctuary ~ December 6, 13, 20
12 - 1 PM

This Advent we will be in a different space on Wednesdays for our midweek Advent Services and time of reflection while enjoying a soup lunch. Join us in a brief service on December 6, 13, and 20 as we reflect from the front of the main sanctuary on the themes of *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups that takes a deeper dive into contemplating the extraordinary people of the Christmas Story.

Then we will make a cozy journey to share soup and bread at 2-3 tables in the Community Room as we eat together and reflect on some of our worship themes. All ages are welcome. Special thanks to Susan Kulp and Eleanor Fisher for organizing our soup lunches!

Let's Talk

December 3, 10 and 17 • 9:30 - 10:15 AM

Community Room

Advent for Adults! Exploring Advent through the Lens of Matthew

Long before the genealogical resources of 23andme, myheritage, and ancestry.com, the Gospel According to Matthew lays out a genealogical theology. Just as the Bible's theological history lays foundations for the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses, David, and the prophets, Matthew's genealogical theology lays foundations for the story of Jesus. But what does this genealogy say to us?

Join Carolyn Roberts as we explore one of the least-read texts of the Advent season: the genealogy of Jesus as found in Matthew 1.1-17.

Classes meet Sunday mornings, December 3, 10, and 17, 9:30 - 10:15 AM in the Community Room.



**3RD ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS COOKIE
SWAP**

**Sunday, December 3
North Room, 12:00 PM**

Celebrate the season's sweet treats at ERUCC's 3rd Annual Cookie Swap! Bring five dozen cookies and an extra container to take your cookies home in. Children and their cookie creations are welcome. We will also be taking cookies to our members who are homebound. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Starr Schaeberle at starr.schaeberle@comcast.net or (301) 662-6902.

Let us know what kind of cookie you will bring to help ensure we have a good variety: bit.ly/cookieswap23.

Cocoa Outreach at Kris Kringle Procession

Friday, December 8 • 6-9 PM

As we prepare for our second annual cocoa hospitality and outreach before and after the Kris Kringle Parade, we could use your help! Donations of large containers of hot chocolate mix, candy canes, and mini marshmallows are needed for this fun evening.

As our children invite neighbors for a cup of hot chocolate, adult helpers make sure hot water is full, cocoa is in cups, and invitations are shared to our Christmas Eve services and the Historic Houses of Worship Candlelight Tour. Guiding our young people as they share welcome is a fun and important task of its own. We will walk down to the corner to see the parade and then come back to clean up for the night!

Sign up to donate at <https://bit.ly/cocoa1208>.

Late Night Desserts

Friday, December 8 • 9 PM

We are hosting a "Younger" Adult gathering after the Kris Kringle Procession. Whether or not you are able to volunteer to serve cocoa earlier that night, join us at Brewer's Alley at 9 PM! Buy your own food and drinks, but enjoy dessert gifted from ERUCC with the hopes of helping us form a small group community! RSVP to Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

Collecting for The Mitten Project

In 2017, Federated Charities launched The Mitten Project by inviting the community to participate in a small action to reach out in kindness during the cold, winter months. Thousands of pairs of mittens (plus scarves, gloves, jackets, and socks) have been made available to anyone who needs them in the time since.

BRING YOUR DONATIONS OF MITTENS, GLOVES, SCARVES, WARM SOCKS, AND COATS TO THE DONATION BOX LOCATED IN OUR UPPER LOBBY TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Order Poinsettias by December 10

We will order poinsettias from Frederick High School this year to adorn our chancel on Christmas Eve. All funds will benefit the horticultural program and Frederick High FFA Chapter. Each plant will have 4-6 blooms and will cost \$10. Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve Services; however, we would appreciate having some left in our building for the Candlelight Historic Houses of Worship Tour on Tuesday, December 26.

To order, please complete an order form in the back of the sanctuary or your worship bulletin, or download and complete the form at <https://bit.ly/pointsettias2023> and return it with payment in the offering plate or to the church office by December 10.

Worship Design Team

Use Your Creativity with the Worship Design Team

The **Worship Design Team** is searching for helpers as we go forward with worship enhancements and thought-provoking displays. We'd like to compile a list of folks who like to design, sew, quilt, paint, craft, and even climb on ladders if necessary. This would be working on an "as needed" basis, not attending committee meetings, etc. Some projects might be things that can be done at home. Some might be done with others at the church. If you would be interested in sharing your skills or perhaps broadening them, please contact any member of the Worship and Design committee: Ave Barr, Pat Condo, Betsy Selby, Nancy Jones, Mark Ulrich, and Angela Brittain.

Our Church Office Will be Closed From December 25 - January 1

During this period, as we spend time with our family and friends, we may take longer than usual to reply to your messages.

Thank you.

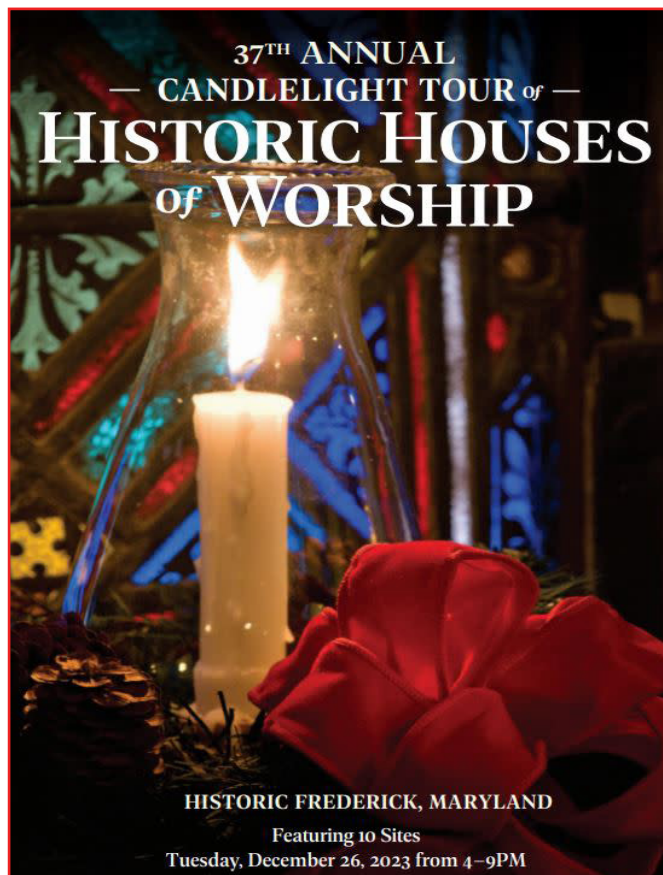
Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship

The beloved Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship returns this holiday season in Downtown Frederick. This special open house celebrates Frederick's tradition of religious diversity, local history, and the holiday season on Tuesday, December 26, 2023, from 4 PM-9 PM. This is Frederick's most popular church tour and is a great opportunity to step inside some of its most beautiful buildings.

We will be opening our main building at 15 West Church Street to the public for this Candlelight Tour. We will be offering refreshments and our wonderful hospitality.

Interested in volunteering at this event? Sign up at <https://bit.ly/ertour1226>.

Questions? Contact Julie Clark, Jclarkad@yahoo.com.



Alison J. Bomba

PSY.D., LLC

Licensed Psychologist

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Grief and the Holidays: Five 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 one or two new rituals or traditions.
- 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, everything is not 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, and give yourself permission to decline others.
 - b. Be prepared/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.



GRACE UPON GRACE.

From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

(John 1:16)

THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING: “GRACE UPON GRACE”

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

ERUCC will receive The Christmas Fund offering on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, which falls on December 24 – Christmas Eve – this year!

LEND SHIP A HELPING HAND THIS SEASON

Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership
of Frederick County



SHIP, the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership, provides critical resources and urgent services to the hundreds of Frederick County youth experiencing homelessness each year. This season, the Mission & Social Justice Committee invites everyone to lend SHIP a helping hand by dropping off critically needed, new, FULL-SIZED hygiene supplies in the upper lobby (4th floor) bin. Not sure what to choose? Grab one or more hanging mittens near the bin and bring them to the store as a reminder.

Bathing Items

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Face Wash
- Shaving Cream



Dental Items

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Dental Floss
- Chap Stick



Hair Care Items

- Hair Brushes
- Hair Ties
- Hair Accessories
- Ethnic Hair Care Products



Other

- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Face Wipes
- Pod Laundry Detergent
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Toilet Paper
- Q-Tips
- Band-Aids/First-Aid Items



**Questions? Ask a member of the Mission & Social Action Committee:
Michelle Beadle, Colleen Baldree, Kelly Esslinger, Shelley Weakly
and Kathleen Jefferson.**



Franklinton Center WORK TRIP January 13-15, 2024 Franklinton Center Bricks, North Carolina

Open to Adults and Youth (6th - 12th grades)

\$80 per person (includes housing and meals)
(This trip is being subsidized by budgeted funds for mission trips.)

Get ready, 'cause here we come! Participants in 6th grade and older are invited to sign up for our annual work trip to Franklinton Center at Bricks over the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend! We will leave early on Saturday, January 13, and return later on Monday, January 15 (time to be determined as we choose projects).

Attend an interest meeting in the Community Room on Sunday, December 17, at 9 AM or immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service. A final preparation meeting will be on Sunday, January 7, after we put Christmas decorations away following worship. Youth who will be attending the work trip to Franklinton Center at Bricks and their parents must attend this meeting. We will discuss expectations, work assignments, travel, packing, and food menus.

The Franklinton Center at Bricks is a conference, retreat, and educational facility in eastern North Carolina focusing on justice advocacy and leadership development. Franklinton Center is a historic center of transformation where issues affecting the marginalized, the oppressed, and the poor are addressed.

A former plantation, Franklinton Center traces its beginnings to the founding of Franklinton Christian College in 1871 and the Congregationalist Bricks School in 1895. A merger of those two schools in the 1950s formed Franklinton Center at Bricks. The Center is related to the United Church of Christ 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 are available for programs and meeting the direct needs of people.



December Birthdays

Please Note: Specific birthdates will not be published for privacy. If you would like to see a certain month's birthdays, please contact the church office.

Carol Baker
Ashley Baker
Colleen Baldree
Kitty Bradley
Natalie Clapp
Bettie Joe Crutchley
Milt Crutchley
Emma Davis
Matt Davis
Kelly Esslinger
Sarita Fisher
Henry Fromknecht
Connie Golleher
Susan Guissinger
Dessie Hoewing-Moxley
Link Hoewing-Moxley
Bruce Jett
Rena Kline
Kylie McNay
Grant Messner
Kris Niehoff
Sue Pinner
Wyatt Pomeroy
Danielle Poole
Tyler Schaeberle
Peg Stahler
Trevor Weakly
Parker Wenner
Michael Wenner
Emogene Wyand
Catherine Zier

Children, Youth *and* Family Ministry

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Friday, December 15 • 5-9 PM

Enjoy a night out while members of the ERUCC Youth Group care for your children! Donations toward Youth mission trips and retreats are welcome.

Our time will include a meal, Pageant practice, games, crafts, and a Christmas Dance Party! Feel free to wear your Christmas pajamas! We will stay inside for the evening. Check-in and check-out will be in the Community Room. Please RSVP by emailing Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org or signing up at Fellowship.

Parents/guardians must complete an annual registration so that we have emergency contacts, allergies, etc., available.

Email Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org, or the church office, erucc@erucc.org, for a copy to complete.



Children and Youth Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant,
A Very Special Child,

is inspired by the stories in Luke 1-3.

December practices take place on Sundays, December 3 and 10, in the Sanctuary following the 10:30 AM Worship service and on Friday, December 15, during the Youth Babysitting Night. Pageant participants will gather on Sunday, December 17, at 5 PM for dinner in the Community Room, a 6 PM performance in the Sanctuary, and a cookie and milk reception afterward. Talk with Ms. Trish or Ms. Kelly for more information.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Sunday, December 3, Thomas Room, 12 - 2 PM

or

Monday, December 4, 7 PM

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/safe1204> • Meeting ID: 825 7552 9900 • Passcode: 302452

It is that time of year to offer our Safe Church training. If you are setting a goal for yourself to volunteer with our children or youth headed into 2024, then this training is for you! Choose Sunday, December 3, from 12-2 PM in the Thomas Room (feel free to bring a lunch!) or join us for the same training on Monday, December 4, at 7 PM on Zoom. Volunteers will need to complete an application and a background check in addition to attending the training. Training is renewed every two years, and background checks are renewed every three years. Anyone attending Franklinton must have a background check completed.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church is a space where children ages 5-5th grade participate in creative spiritual formation activities that explore Biblical and theological themes, all while creating friendships, a sense of belonging as a part of our church community, and a love for Jesus set in an intentionally fun and engaging environment. Junior church meets most Sundays, excluding the 1st Sunday of the Month and other Sundays when we encourage families to join in worship together.

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 10 - Make decorations like coffee filter snowflakes, glitter snowflakes, and stars. Talk about how we make Jesus' birth a special occasion by decorating our house and Christmas trees to look festive and cheerful using paired scripture passages Luke 2:1-21 and Matthew 1:18-2:15.



**DECEMBER 17 -
Pine Cone Angels**

Talk about God's messengers playing a role in the birth of Jesus using paired scripture passages Luke 2: 8-13, Matthew 1: 20-22.

DECEMBER 24 AND 31 - No Junior Church.



YOUTH GROUP

DECEMBER 3 5:30 – 7 PM Youth Dress-up Dinner

DECEMBER 15 4:30 – 9 PM

Youth Babysitting fundraiser for mission trips and retreats.



Trish Coffey directs the children for the pageant, while Eli, Jeff Baker, Holly and Matt Davis, and Tommie Bradshaw help assemble the Putz.



The Green Team wishes you a joyful, restful, and peaceful Christmas Season.



Statistical Report on Consecration Sunday Results

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

A total of 92 giving units (households or single persons) completed Estimate of Giving Cards this year.

A total of 60 of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount.

A total of 62 giving units present to fill out Estimate of Giving Cards on Consecration Sunday committed a total of \$299,054.

Based on last year's giving records, we can expect to receive \$102,815 during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past twelve 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 \$243,594. This gives us a grand total of \$782,168 anticipated income for the next twelve months.

The total income for our general operating budget during the last twelve months was \$736,797.

Next year, we can expect our operating budget income to increase by \$45,371.

This is a 6.15 percent increase in total giving above last year (as of November 15, 2023).

Hanging of the Greens



Peter Brehm, Ave Barr and Mark Ulrich find the perfect place to set Mary in the window, while Peter Brehm, Bud Rossig and Chuck Baldree hang the outside wreaths.

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 AM

Early Worship Service, Sanctuary

9:00 AM

Coffee and Conversation, Kieffer Lobby, 2nd Floor

9:00 – 10:15 AM

Adult Education, North Room, 2nd Floor

Let's Study the Bible

9:30 am – 12:00 PM

Nursery Care, 1st Floor

9:30 – 10:10 AM

Sunday School

Pre-K – 2nd Grade, Liz Coffey Room, 2nd Floor

3rd – 5th Grade, Thomas Room, 2nd Floor

Youth (6th – 12th Grade), Clapp Conference Room, Church Office

10:10 – 10:25 AM

Children's Music and Movement, Liz Coffey Room, 2nd Floor

10:30 – 11:30 AM

Worship, Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org

Junior Church, Thomas Room, 2nd Floor

Children are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day during Worship

11:30 AM

Fellowship, Community Room, 1st Floor

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary



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

301-662-2762
www.erucc.org

Sunday Morning Schedule can be found on Page 19

ERUCC CHURCH STAFF

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

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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

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The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*

The Rev. Frederick Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*