



MARCH 2024

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.

From the Pastors Desk

Approximately two years ago, a survey was administered among the officers, committee/ministry leaders, and staff of ERUCC to measure the pulse of the congregation at that time. The opportunity (a leadership retreat) passed us by, as the congregation moved into its current period of pastoral transition. Recently, the responses to that survey have been shared with your Interim Pastor, will be shared with the soon-to-be-named Transition Team, and will be given full consideration, as we chart a way forward in consultation with the Spiritual Council/Elders and all of you.

Unlike the earlier survey, completed by church officers and staff, the Sankofa Survey, seeks responses from you and ALL other ERUCC participants. We would like to hear the voices of ALL of the ERUCC participants and, hereby, invite each of you, to respond to the Sankofa Survey ASAP, but no later than March 15, 2024. Because church circumstances have changed, during the past two years, and the questions are slightly different, we trust church officers, committee/ministry leaders, and staff will also respond to this Sankofa Survey.

Respond to the Sankofa Survey at: bit.ly/sankofasurv

If you prefer to respond using a paper copy, please contact the church office.

Allow me to remind all concerned persons that we are about to select church participants to serve on the Transition Team (The T Team), and will do so, immediately following worship on Sunday, March 3, 2024. Your participation in the selection process is a key to our efforts to enable church-wide participation in our overall interim journey. (For more information regarding our selection process, please visit the erucc.org Website and, under the Pastoral Transition heading, please read the "From the Pastor's Desk" article dated February 8, 2024. This article provides all you may want to know about the purpose and role of the Transition Team and the procedure we plan to use when selecting Team members. Briefly stated, we need YOUR help as we take this next important step on our interim journey. We hope to see all who are able to be present on March 3.

I invite you to join me and members of the Consistory in prayer as we move closer toward this important day of decision-making. The Peace of Christ be with you.

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan, Interim Senior Pastor

MARCH WORSHIP NOTES

Lent



This Lent focuses on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples: Peter. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith.

We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

We continue to reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace.

May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

March 3 - Third Sunday in Lent



"Praise the mount"

Psalm 19 | Matthew 16:13-20

"Praise the mount of God's unchanging love..."

This lyric represents Peter's mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, "This, I believe..." then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountaintop moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.

We will receive new members and share in Communion this morning. The Senior Choir will be singing.

March 10 – Fourth Sunday in Lent



"I'm fixed upon it"

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 | Matthew 16:21-23

When your world unravels and your beliefs are tested, you may cling to what you know. As Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Peter protests. Peter is fixed upon the way he thinks things should go; he resists the pain of what will come. But Jesus is fixed upon his calling and calls Peter out. For everyone, there comes a time when your faith is tested and you will have to face difficult and inconvenient truths. We may want to take the easier path, the path with less pain. We may want to cling to easy or simplistic answers. Instead, what does it look like to welcome complexity? Can you stay fixed upon your convictions while also expanding your perspective?

Spirit will be sharing in music leadership this morning.

Today we will be celebrating the baptism of Caiseal Penn Bernstein Lynch.

March 17 – Fifth Sunday in Lent



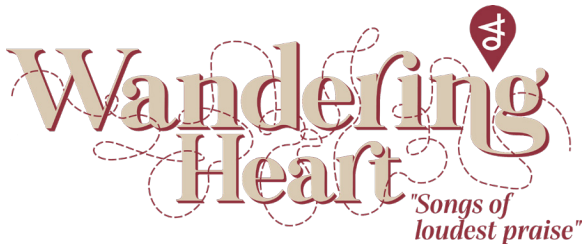
"Teach me"

Psalm 119:9-16 | Matthew 18:15-22

Peter is often all or nothing—either resisting Jesus or drawing closer to him in earnest. In this scripture, we see a version of Peter who is hungry to learn. His posture is humble and open—he wants to absorb Jesus' teachings like a wet sponge. He asks a question and might expect a straightforward answer: "How many times should I forgive?" Instead, Jesus' math is not predictable—it's infinite. Forgiveness is abundant; grace is not earned. In your own faith, do you find comfort in theological formulas? Do you wish for straightforward answers? Can you let go of black-and-white thinking and instead embrace the infinite colors of grace?

Today the Senior Choir will offer their Lenten Cantata—Gabriel Fauré's Requiem.

March 24 – Palm Sunday



"Songs of loudest praise"

John 12:12-16

As Holy Week begins, Peter is no longer front and center, and so we imagine he is with the rest of the disciples when Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt. As they witness crowds shouting hosannas, the disciples are confused. When they look back on this experience, perhaps they will remember the songs. The singing is surely etched in their memories. As we imagine ourselves in the crowd on this day, may we remember that they are supposed to be praising Caesar, but instead they are shouting for the one entering the city on a donkey. Their singing is subversive, courageous, and contagious. Their praise shows the ripple effect of public displays of faith.

The Senior Choir will be singing.

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

7:30 PM – Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service

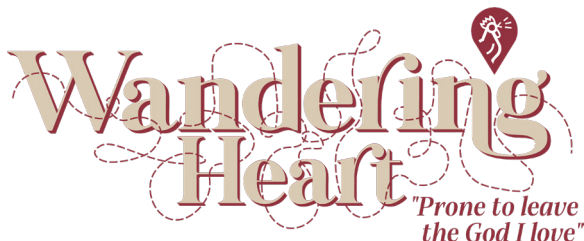
Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word “Maundy” comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means “commandment.”

As recorded in John’s gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34).

This service has three main parts:

- A Service of Light — based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light;
- A Service of Holy Communion in which we are invited to participate as one of The Twelve at the Last Supper;
- A Service of Shadows — Tenebrae — in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light.

March 29 – Good Friday ~ 12PM & 7:30PM



“Prone to leave the God I love”

John 13:31 - 19:30

On this Holy Day, we are paying close attention to how Peter acts in Jesus’ final hours. So much happens in a short amount of time: Jesus predicts Peter’s denial, soldiers come and Peter draws his sword, Jesus is arrested and Peter denies him, Peter denies Jesus again and again and the cock crows, then Jesus is crucified and dies. Peter is prone to mess up, to fight, to deny, to leave, to seek safety for himself. But aren’t we all? May we lament all the ways we are prone to leave the God we love.

March 31 – Easter



“And I hope”

Luke 24:1-12

We might expect that, after denying Christ, Peter would cover in shame—or perhaps even run away in an attempt to leave his past behind him. Instead, when he hears the news from the women, he doesn’t dismiss them like the other disciples. He gets up and runs to the tomb. When he peers into the empty tomb and sees the linen cloth, he is filled with awe. Even after the biggest failures, even after the worst-case scenario has happened, can we run toward hope? Like Peter, will we keep going? Will we keep looking for God in our midst?

Let's Study the Bible ~ Sunday Morning

with The Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg

Sundays North Room / Zoom 9:00 – 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.

In March we will be skipping lightly through 1 & 2 Kings, focusing the stories of the destruction of the Southern Kingdom. What happened to God's promise to maintain the throne of David forever?

There will not be a class on Easter Sunday.

Let's Study the Bible ~ Wednesday Evening

with The Rev. John Shillingburg

Wednesdays North Room / Zoom 7:00 PM

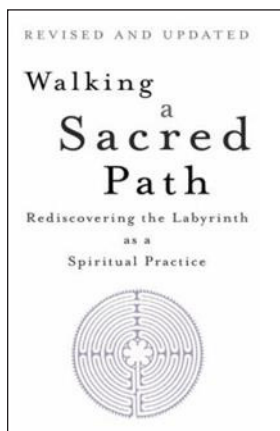
Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy

Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500 Passcode: 848933

Like the Sunday morning class, this 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.

In March we are concluding the stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs in Genesis: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel, and Joseph. Just how exemplary were these heroes and heroines of the Hebrew Scriptures? Do they provide good models for us today?

Tuesday Morning Bible Study ~ with The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg



Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool

by Lauren Artress

Tuesdays through March 19

North Room / Zoom 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398 Passcode: 973365

'Walking the Labyrinth' has reemerged today as a metaphor for the spiritual journey and a powerful tool for transformation. This walking meditation is an archetype, a mystical ritual found in all religious traditions. It quiets the mind and opens the soul.

Reading Schedule

| Date | Chapter | Title |
|---------------|---------|---|
| Mar. 5, 2024 | 6 | Rediscovering the Divine Within |
| Mar. 12, 2024 | 7 | The Labyrinth: Blueprint for Transformation |
| Mar. 19, 2024 | 8 | The Birth of a Vision |

Next: Beginning March 26, 2004, we will begin studying together *Living the Questions: The wisdom of Progressive Christianity*. Join us!



LENTEN CONTROVERSIES

led by The Rev. David Cooney
Sundays, February 25 - March 10
Community Room 9:30 - 10:15 AM

Why do the Sadducees, Pharisees, Scribes, Herodians, and Zealots all have a problem with Jesus? What were the political, social, and religious currents against which Jesus was swimming? Many of the answers are found in the books of the Apocrypha, literature considered scripture by some and not by others, that span the intertestamental times.

Never heard of these books? Do not have them in your Bible? Come February 25, March 3 and 10 at 9:30 AM to Let's Talk in the Community Room to hear the story. The Rev. David Cooney will be leading the conversation about these mysterious books of the Apocrypha.

Looking Ahead . . .

BOOK STUDY OF CASTE

led by The Rev. Richard Leslie and Peter Brehm
Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28
Community Room 9:30 - 10:15 AM

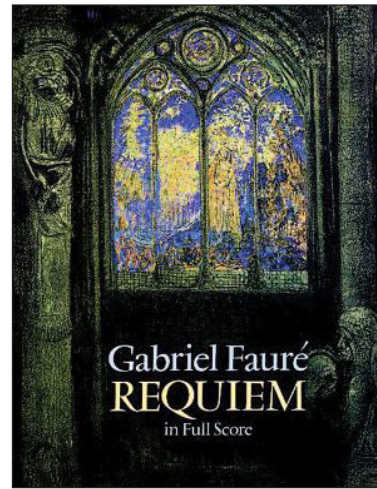
Richard Leslie and Peter Brehm will co-lead a study of the book *Caste* by Isabelle Wilkerson for four Sundays in April. Participating in this class will offer many "ah-ha moments," maybe some discomfort and lots of opportunity for discussion and reflection.

In *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched, and beautifully written narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend Let's Talk in April to be part of this important conversation. If you would like to participate but need a book (\$17), contact the church office.

Fauré Requiem

March 17 during Worship Service



Gabriel Fauré (May 12, 1845 - November 4, 1924) studied at the École Niedermeyer, a school that prepared church organists and choir directors in Paris. While there, Fauré studied with several prominent French musicians, including Camille Saint-Saëns.

Fauré was a prolific composer, and the Requiem is arguably his best-known choral work. A first version of the Requiem in D minor, Op. 48 was performed in 1887. When asked about his motivation for writing it, Fauré responded: "My Requiem was composed for nothing ... for fun, if I may be permitted to say so! It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death, and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience. As to my Requiem, perhaps I have also instinctively sought to escape from what is thought right and proper, after all the years of accompanying burial services on the organ! I know it all by heart. I wanted to write something different." In 1924 the Requiem was performed at Fauré's own funeral.

The Requiem takes a prayer for the salvation of the dead as its theme and has a well-established text. Fauré departed from this standard and included two new sections, the lyrical *Pie Jesu* and the transcendent *In Paradisum*. He also omitted the *Dies Irae* (Day of Wrath) and *Tuba Mirum* (The trumpet sounds). Consequently, the prevailing mood is one of peacefulness and serenity, and the work has often been described as a Requiem without the Last Judgment.

Midweek Lenten Service and Soup Lunch



We will have a brief service in the sanctuary at 12:00 PM each Wednesday through March 27 followed by time for a soup lunch and reflection in the Community Room.

Easter Cross Decorating Calling All Flowers!



As we journey through Lent toward the promise of Easter, you are invited to bring fresh flowers to the cross on Easter morning, Sunday, March 31.

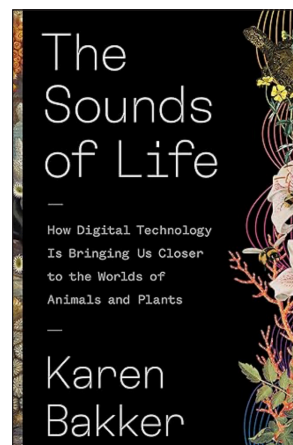
When you come to worship on Easter Sunday, you may add your flowers to the cross in the sanctuary to help celebrate Christ's joyous resurrection. The cross is then carried out onto the portico at the end of the 10:30 AM service to proclaim life made new and beautiful through Christ to our Frederick community.

Flowers may come from your gardens or a florist.



2024 Book Group Coordinators:
Susan Kulp and Rebecca Shillingburg

North Room / Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks
Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574 Passcode: 226669
The ERUCC Book group meets at 7PM on the fourth Tuesday of every other month in the North Room or virtually.



March 26

Sounds of Life: How Digital Technology Is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants
by **Karen Bakker**

The natural world teems with remarkable conversations, many beyond human hearing range. Scientists use groundbreaking digital technologies to uncover these astonishing sounds, revealing vibrant communication among our fellow

creatures across the Tree of Life.

At once meditative and scientific, *The Sounds of Life* shares fascinating and surprising stories of nonhuman sound, interweaving insights from technological innovation and traditional knowledge. We meet scientists using sound to protect and regenerate endangered species from the Great Barrier Reef to the Arctic and the Amazon. We discover the shocking impacts of noise pollution on both animals and plants. We learn how artificial intelligence can decode nonhuman sounds, and meet the researchers building dictionaries in East African Elephant and Sperm Whalish.

Upcoming:

May 28

The Secret Cord by Geraldine Brooks

July 23

Anxious People: A Novel by Fredrik Backman

September 24

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich

November 26

The Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore

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.

March 10

Lenten Journey: drawing landscapes on strips of paper to take home. The children will take home stickers to add to their landscape drawings each day. During the activity, we will talk about focusing on prayer, fasting, and giving during the Lenten journey asking how close do they feel to God with each one of these? Ties into Luke 4:1-14.

March 17

DIY obstacle course. We'll talk about how hard it can be to live life as a loving Christian. Sometimes things get in the way of our goals, but we know Jesus is always with us and loves us and he knows how frustrating life can be. Ties into Luke 4:1-14.

March 24



Egg People. We'll decorate hard boiled eggs with crayons, googly eyes, felt, and feathers. We'll talk about the egg as a symbol of new life and of the stone that was rolled away from the tomb. Ties into Luke 24:1-12

March 31

Easter Sunday – No Junior Church

Sunday School on Easter

On Easter Sunday, March 31, we will NOT have Children's or Youth Sunday School. Please remember to bring flowers to put on the cross. We will have some to provide if you forget. We would like to have a children and youth group photo at the flower cross on the portico right after worship with anyone able to be there.

Children, Youth, and Families

We're Bringing the Chicks!!!



Pastor Kirstin is excited to announce that we are participating this year with the HATCH THE CHICKEN Experience through a partnership with the Virginia Cooperative and a farm in Manassas. They delivered seven eggs and an incubator on February 27, and we expect the chicks to hatch around March 19 . . . just in time for God's Kids Club, and we will "host" them through Easter Weekend!

Prepare for an extra dose of cute fuzziness as we welcome them into this world, learn about the "Egg Citing Egg" using the curriculum sent from the farm, and talk about the symbols of new life at Easter. I'm sure you'll also want to take some family photos with the babies! I'm egg-cited for the opportunities this might provide! We are thankful for the Rent the Chicken Organization and Homestead Jenn who welcomes us to the program this year! Click here to learn more. <http://resources.hatchthechicken.com>

Save the Dates for Parish Life Events

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Saturday, April 13 | <i>Church Workday, including lunch</i> |
| Saturday, May 4 5-7PM | <i>Everybody's Birthday</i> |
| June 7-9 | <i>Family Camp Weekend!</i> Gifford Pinchot Park, PA |
| Sunday, June 30 | <i>Church Picnic</i> with our German guests, details TBD |

God's Kids' Club

Pre-K - 5th Grade; Youth helpers welcome

Good Friday

Friday, March 29, 9 AM - 12 PM

Like last year, we will host a half day of educational fun for our youngest group. I am sure we will have some chick time, and we'll interact with the symbols of Holy Week in some creative ways. No need to pack lunch. Snacks will be provided; please send a water bottle. Sign up in the upstairs lobby or by emailing Pastor Kirstin.



Rebecca Shillingburg, Worship Committee Chair, shares her knowledge during acolyte training at God's Kids Club.

Tiny Tots

Pre-K and younger

Saturday, March 23, Time TBD

Tots families are considering extra chick time on Saturday, March 23, with a story and feather game or craft. Time TBD by the group. However, all tots families are ALSO invited to come on Friday morning, March 22, and join the God's Kids Club crew with egg painting. Please have an adult stay with your Tiny Tot child. We will begin the morning at 9:30 AM and likely paint until 11:30 AM.

YOUTH GROUP

Middle and High School-age youth

**World Religions:
Purim, Ramadan, and Eid**
March 10, 5-7 PM

We hope to have guest speakers to share in teaching. In return, our youth will teach about Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Get ready, friends!

**German Culture and
Youth Sunday Planning**
March 24, 12-1 PM

More details to come! Look for updates by email and in the Band app from Pastor Kirstin.

Bethany Retreat
April 3-6, Wednesday-Saturday
Includes planning Youth Sunday Caring for God's Creation: Water/Earth, Earth Care and Just ice, and MAKING WAVES! In addition to clothing, bring some spending money for the boardwalk, sunscreen, and beach wear. We won't make everyone go into the water, but I suspect most will choose to get wet or at least lay on the beach!



In February, the Youth Group had SNOW much fun at Snow Riders in Harpers Ferry!

Easter

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

FRIDAY
MARCH 22



- KIDS ARRIVE AT 9 AM
- EGG DYEING 9-11 AM
- PALM SUNDAY STORYTELLING & PHOTOS WITH A DONKEY!
- REHEARSE PARADE FOR SUNDAY
 - LUNCH
 - SIDEWALK CHALK ART: WELCOMING OUR COMMUNITY
 - FUN WITH CHICKS!
 - EASTER EGG HUNT



The ERUCC Sunday School classes completed their campaign for the Heifer Project mission. Students collected loose change (and some dollars) in December and January, and the Congregation also contributed. Overall, the Church raised more than \$540, and the Heifer Project is providing a matching gift. All three Sunday School classes met their goals: the pre-K - 1st grade class chose to purchase sheep; the 3rd - 5th grade class and the Youth class (middle and high school) chose to purchase the Dream Basket which includes sheep, heifers, goats, ducks, and chicks. The classes exceeded their fundraising goals by raising more money than was needed for their projects. The students can make additional choices of what they wish to purchase for the communities the Heifer Project serves.



SCOUT SUNDAY Sunday, March 10

All scouts are invited to come in uniform on March 10 for a combined Scout Sunday! We would like to include current and alumni scouts from all programs in the bulletin and in helping as greeters, readers, and such! To volunteer, talk with Pastor Kirstin.



Pastor Kirstin, Jen Powell, Barb Barry and youth members preparing the palms for use on Ash Wednesday.



Nathan, one of our younger youth, has sent this drawing to share with the church. Nathan is currently in a residential program that is helping him with some healing and life skills.

Recently, Pastor Kirstin joined in a visit with his grandmother, Sherry. Nathan made this drawing for the church modeled after one he had made for a contest and presented that morning to the board. (They said he did an incredible job sharing!)

Nathan wants to say hello to the church and tell us he misses and is thankful for us! He wants to encourage others to make good choices and to learn to Love Yourself as an important lesson in self-care!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

March 10, 2024

One Great Hour of Sharing® (OGHS) is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. 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 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 with 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.

You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.

Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message)

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine... Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine..."

If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five.

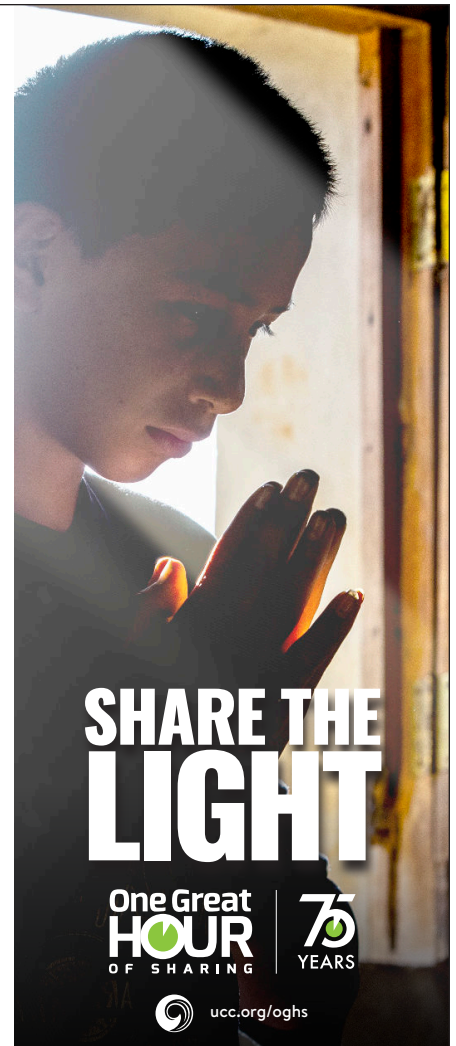
Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God's love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message—our light is on a light stand, for all to see—shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to OGHS.

Your contributions make a difference. Your dollars count. Give generously.

Share the light.



Photo: @disciplephoto



OFFERING DATE: MARCH 10, 2024

ERUCC Scholarships Available



ERUCC is fortunate to have several scholarship programs available to our members as they seek educational opportunities to

develop knowledge and skills in the 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 are available through the church office for new applicants: 301-662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

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, Chair of Scholarship Committee at troutsandra@aol.com.



March 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.

Melanie Anderson
Callie Baker
Emma Baker
Nathan Chappell
Gaylon Cornell
Holly Davis
Cathie Duncan
Denise Flora
Tom Frazier
Anne Hoffmann
David Howard
Daniel Ireland
Susan Johnson
Andy Johnston
Dave Kehne
Linda Marsh
Eli McNay
Keith Mercier
Lynn Morgan
Susan Moxley
Judy Peterson
Jeff Schaeberle
Starr Schaeberle
Sienna Schmid
Rob Smith
David Wenner
Fran Wenner



GREEN TEAM NEWS



As our congregational community grows and many new faces are in the pews, we want to share our church's commitment to Creation Justice. In 2021, we became a UCC Creation Justice Church. We voted to abide by the following Creation Justice Covenant.

"We, the members of this congregation, realize that God has given us an amazing planet on which to live. This planet is shared by the rest of humanity and will be shared with future generations as well. As such, it is our responsibility to care for this precious gift and keep it healthy for those who will come after us. Being good stewards of our environment will be at the forefront of our thinking as we plan for, and carry out, our ministries."

We further realize that negligence in the care for our planet has resulted in damage to our environment and that this damage has disproportionately affected marginalized people in our country and throughout the globe. Therefore, we commit to advocating for environmental justice so that those who may not be in a position to speak for themselves can reap the rewards of such efforts.

As a church, and as individuals, we pledge to care for our planet and to seek justice for those whose lives have been adversely affected by the neglect of our environment. This also means that we will recycle responsibly, use the earth's resources with as little waste as possible, support efforts at reducing the effects of climate change, help protect endangered species, reduce our carbon footprint and stop air and water pollution."


The Green Team has spearheaded some of the work to live up to this pledge but the whole ERUCC congregation has supported the effort. The work continues and new members are always welcome to join us. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM via Zoom. See Linda Coyle or Susan Kulp to get the zoom link or contact our office administrator, Tyler York, to get more information.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday April 16 6-8 PM


Green Team Networking Event in the ERUCC Community Room

This event is co-hosted by the ERUCC Green Team and the Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards of Frederick County (MACS). Green Teams from churches and towns are invited to join us for an evening to highlight the work being done to make Frederick a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable place to live. All congregational members and friends are also invited to attend. Look for more details in the April newsletter.



CLIMATE HOPE CARDS

FIRST NAME: Mallory AGE: 16 CONGREGATION: Middleburg Hts (MHCUCC)



This election year, the United Church of Christ is inviting children and youth to share their hopes for the world: What do they value? What would they like to see protected? What should adults remember when they vote this year, as seen through their children's eyes? ERUCC children and youth will have the opportunity to participate in the **Vote for Climate Hope Art Contest** sponsored by the UCC's Environmental Justice Ministries.

UCC.ORG/CLIMATE

SAY NO, KEEP YOUR DOUGH

Imposter scams often begin with a call, text message, or email. The scams may vary, but work the same way ... a scammer pretends to be someone you trust (**like a pastor!**) to convince you to send them money or share personal information.

Scammers may ask you to wire money, put money on a gift card, or send cryptocurrency, knowing these types of payments can be hard to reverse.



Learn to spot these scams and say no.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Be suspicious of any call, text, or email asking for money or information.

Never pay with a gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency. If someone tells you to pay this way ... its a scam.

Check with the real person, organization, agency, or company. Don't use the phone number or email they give you. Look it up yourself. Then call to find out if they're trying to reach you - and why.

The **Frederick School of Religion** convenes for its 40th year April 8th. The School is an ecumenical teaching organization that provides a 'Learning for Life' experience. This year's school consists of nine courses (eight six-week courses and one single afternoon course), which cover a broad range of topics appealing to diverse faith groups. The location is Brook Hill United Methodist Church, 8946 Indian Springs Road, Frederick, MD 21702. These courses will be offered on consecutive Monday and Tuesday afternoons and in the evenings from April 8 through May 15. Each 6-week long course is eligible for up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units. For more information and registration forms, you may visit our website www.frederickschoolofreligion.org or call 240-651-1865 or 240-490-5657.



CHILI COOK-OFF

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

COMMUNITY ROOM

DURING FELLOWSHIP

Get ready! It's time to turn up the heat for another ERUCC Chili Cook-off! This year, we will enjoy some friendly competition (and delicious cups of chili) during Fellowship on Sunday, March 10. More details to come as we near the date, but if you think your chili has what it takes to win - or at least fill some hungry bellies - sign up by March 3 to compete! We're looking for ten competitors who can bring the heat. Chili should be brought to church on March 10, ready to serve in a crockpot.

Sign up to compete (\$10 participation fee) at <https://bit.ly/481uzLR>.

Consistory News

As reported in the February Trinity Chimes, at our December congregational meeting, we approved the budget and authorized to begin fundraising and preservation work on the historic clock tower as well as development of a business plan for the building. We owe thanks to Finance Chair Will Duncan and Treasurer Rodney Martin for their budget development efforts and to David Cooney for heading up the historic clock tower efforts.

Other issues that I want to make sure the congregation is tracking include:

Easement with the Ruppert Companies: With Consistory approval, ERUCC signed an easement renewal with the Firehouse Building owner, Ruppert Companies, to allow that building's tenants to use the walkway on the western side of Trinity Chapel for emergency egress. This easement mirrors agreements made with the Ausherman Company for access to the rear of the Trinity Chapel garden and for emergency egress from the New Spire Arts spaces.

Possible return to "Light Use" for Trinity Chapel: Our understanding from the National Park Service, following a review by members of that agency of the structural condition and allied features of the tower, is that—while repairs need to be initiated on the Trinity Chapel tower—a collapse of the structure is unlikely. For this reason, and because of space constraints in the 1848 Church, a motion will be considered that Trinity Chapel be reopened for "light use" by members of the congregation, to be defined as:

- Wednesday 12 PM Lenten Services and meals
- Tuesday Night Yoga
- Meeting spaces in the East and West classrooms

For context, we will be obtaining a dedicated internet service in Trinity Chapel, which is currently needed for the HVAC system and the newer installed security lock system on the side door of the building. This internet service would also be needed to set up meeting spaces.

Use of Trinity Chapel as Cold Weather overflow space: ERUCC has agreed to allow the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs (RCEHN) to use Trinity Chapel as overflow space in the event of a cold weather emergency. RCEHN would use this space only if all other shelter beds are in use and additional people need shelter. At this time, ERUCC is only providing space and heat; the

RCEHN will staff the space and provide needed logistics, such as beds, etc. We will be drafting a Memorandum of Understanding on this partnership starting in February.

Vision insurance for Dr. Morgan: The Consistory approved an amendment to ERUCC's covenant with Dr. Morgan that will pay for his vision insurance and has asked the Personnel Council to explore in parallel the feasibility of offering this benefit to full-time staff starting in 2025.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission: The Consistory voted to endorse a request made by Mr. Willie J. Mahone, President of the Frederick Chapter of the NAACP, to County Executive Jessica Fitzwater, which read:

"I write regarding the matter of establishing a Commission on the issue of Reparations. As you may recall, in response to a questionnaire during your candidacy for County Executive you stated; "I would support a public engagement process like a Truth and Reconciliation Commission". We are now requesting the establishment of such a commission. Ideas for the design of the Commission may be gleaned by reviewing the design of such Commissions in various states and municipalities across the country.

The Commission can explore historical local governmental policies and practices, including such issues as school segregation, restrictive covenants, exclusion of African-descended residents from public parks and accommodations, government (law enforcement) role/inaction in lynchings, and enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act, government contracting, governmental assistance to entities, etc. Also non-governmental policies and practices can be explored; all with the goal of comprehensively addressing and coming to terms with the legacy of exclusion and oppression.

We would propose a target date of February 5, 2024, the date of the Frederick County annual Black History Month Celebration, for initial announcement and establishment of the Commission."

George Family Foundation Grant: We are grateful to Penny Pilgrim George and the George Family Foundation for a generous unrestricted gift of \$10,000. After reflecting on the foundation's prior support of ERUCC's technology platform and online presence, the Finance Committee recommended, and the Consistory approved, a request by Jeff Schaeberle and the AV Technical Team

Continued on page 17

Property Committee Reports

Clock Tower Report

The property committee is making headway toward beginning the restoration work on the City Clock Tower.

Since our annual meeting in December, we have finalized the contract with the engineer, and work has begun on completing the engineer's construction drawings. These are expected to us by the end of February. Once these are complete, the next step is finalizing and executing the contract with the contractor, we expect this to take around a month to finalize once the contractor can review the final engineer drawings. That puts us at the beginning of April for the contractor to start the permitting process. As this needs to go through the Historic Preservation Commission and then the building department, we expect this to take up to 2 months to be fully completed. We are looking at early summer for the project to begin.

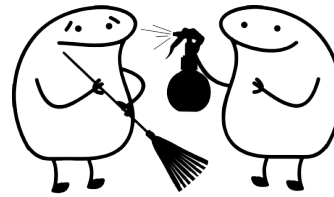


A team is hard at work behind the scenes on fundraising plans for the Historic Clock Tower restoration project

Consistory Briefings continued from page 16

to use the funds to underwrite a range of technology upgrades, including replacement of the streaming system's personal computer, the purchase and installation of monitor speakers for the choir loft, rewiring the cable that runs across the carpet to the monitor speakers, and replacement of the Downtown Community room personal computer that has reached its end of life. Thank you, George Family Foundation and Penny Pilgrim George for this gift!

Spring Work Day



Spring is coming! Spring is coming! It's time for some spring cleanup at ERUCC. We are looking for volunteers to share their time and talents cleaning

up and doing small maintenance on our spaces. Tasks include painting (as always), cleaning windows, cleaning chairs in the Community Room, and organizing, among other odds and ends. Also looking for some volunteers to help provide lunch for the group.

If you have time, we'd love your help Saturday, April 13, from 9 AM - 4 PM

Please RSVP to the Property Chair, Owen York, in person, via email at property@erucc.org, or by phone/text 301-401-4947.



Our ice sculpture of Frederick's Historic Clock Tower delighted the crowds at Frederick's Fire in Ice event on Saturday, February 3.



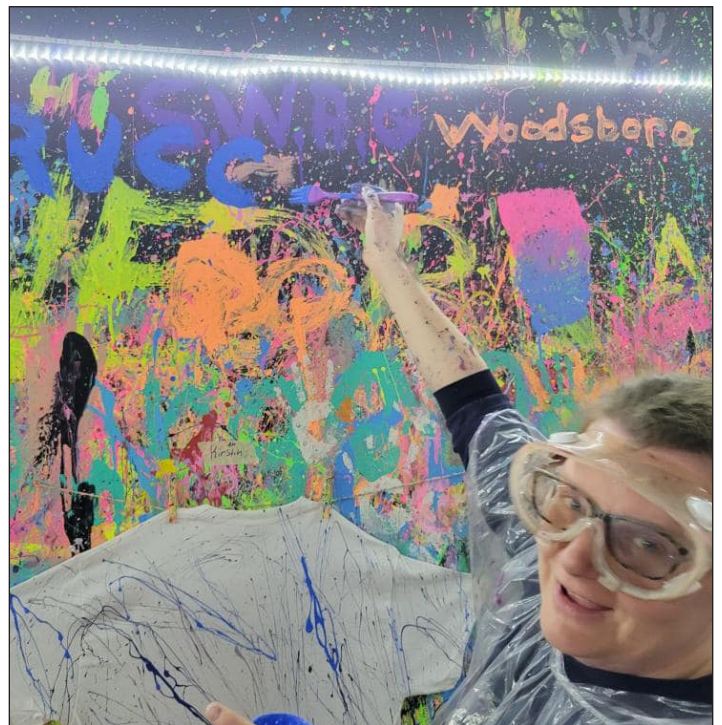
Younger adults recently enjoyed a night of dinner and fellowship with Pastor Kirstin and Dr. Morgan at White Rabbit Gastropub.



Youth sold and prepared sub sandwiches in early February to raise funds for mission trips, activities, and programming while our German visitors are here this summer.



The Worship Design Team continues to enhance our worship experience in meaningful, creative ways during this season of Lent.



Pastor Kirstin led children and youth on a KidVenture to Dream Free Art Studio to make splatter paint t-shirts!



Stewardship Leads to Generosity

Recently, God has called me to reflect and pray about how I have been allocating my time. Time is the one resource I rarely feel I have enough of. There are too many demands on my time, priorities, and plans. I need more time.

Or do I?

One of the greatest gifts God has given to me through this church has been the opportunity to serve on its Stewardship / Generosity Committee. The work this team does throughout the year, our discussions, and the intentional decisions we make to encourage, nurture, and strengthen our individual and collective spiritual disciplines of stewardship and generosity have had tremendous impacts on my own spiritual development. As a result, I have become a better steward of my finances and have a healthier relationship with money (still a work in progress on this front!).

I also think deeply about the spiritual gifts and talents God has blessed me with—and how I am being called to serve in different ways.

So, do I really need more time, or do I need to learn how to be a better steward of my time? If I were somehow given more time, I would not be prepared to fill it wisely. Not yet. I have work to do and conversations to have with my family and with God.

When I am a better steward of my time, I will have more of it to give to others.

What is God calling you to reflect on during this season of Lent?

Tyler L. York

Stewardship / Generosity Team Member



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: <i>Let's Study the Bible</i> , North Room, 2nd Floor |
| 9:30 – 10:15 AM | Adult Education: <i>Let's Talk</i> , Community Room, 1st Floor |
| 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Nursery Care , 1st Floor |
| 9:30 – 10:10 AM | Sunday School <i>Pre-K – 2nd Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room, 2nd Floor <i>3rd – 5th Grade</i> , Thomas Room, 2nd Floor <i>Youth (6th – 12th Grade)</i> , 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 <i>Children are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day during Worship</i> |
| 11:30 AM | Fellowship , Community Room, 1st Floor |



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

301-662-2762
www.erucc.org

ERUCC CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor* ~ mmorgan@erucc.org

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

John Shillingburg ~ *Proofreader, Trinity Chimes* ~ jdshilli@gmail.com

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

The Rev. Frederick Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*