



APRIL 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

“God Has Done Great Things”

As unusual as it might seem to read these words, coming from a lifelong preacher, I was left speechless a few years ago when my wife, Mae, and I made our first visit to the Grand Canyon. Knowing, at that time, that a newsletter article was due for a local church, I wondered how I might wax poetically regarding this experience while sharing it with the church family I served at that time. However, as I stood on a high ledge near the place where the above photo was taken and during a brief moment of reflection, it occurred to me that, when making verbal/written references to the mighty acts of God, one need not so much wax poetically as to simply tell the truth, the Good News, as we observe and experience God's magnificent creation.



I talk a lot whenever I'm in the presence of my wife because she is such a very good listener. However, as we approached the Grand Canyon's west rim, I became silent, tears welled in my eyes, and I could not speak. Because of my prolonged silence, Mae asked, “Marvin, are you okay?” Although I was not, I quickly said, “Yes,” to reassure her. Then, several moments later, after partially regaining my

composure, I continued, “If God made this Grand Canyon, and we know this is the work of the Creator, then God is even greater than the limited human mind has imagined, can imagine and ever will imagine in the future.”

While standing there on that ledge, I yielded to the powerful and spiritual urge to offer prayers for our ancestors, including the many Native Americans whose show of love, respect and signs of appreciation for the gifts the Grand Canyon has to offer are legion. Over and over again, while gathered with worshipers inside sanctuaries, I've said, “The Spirit of God is in this place...” However, when this same statement flowed from my lips, as I stood on the precipice of the Grand Canyon, the words felt different. As I spoke these same words, it seemed as if they were no longer confined to time and space. Once they were spoken, there was an urgent need to also add, “...and present in all other times and places also.”

By the end of the day-long visit, as the setting sun cast teasing shadows upon the walls of the canyon, not unlike those formed by a great painter with a skillfully stroked brush, this visit had become one of my life's most spiritual experiences.

At the end of the three-hour journey back to Las Vegas, I continued to experience intermittent moments of overwhelming joy accompanied by what I initially thought were unexplainable and silent tears. Then, well past midnight, as I sat peering through the windows of a nineteenth-story hotel room, a time of day when the pale desert darkness seemed to clash, as if at war, with the many neon lights of the city, it

Continued on Page 2

was in that still and quiet moment that I began to understand why mere words, coined by mortals totally failed to serve me while standing on the rim of the Grand Canyon. After all, who am I, that I should find within my limited vocabulary words fitting to acknowledge the mighty acts of God?

Such moments do not evoke our common, everyday responses, as if one mortal is reacting to the deeds of another mortal. No ... something greater happened to me on that day at the Grand Canyon, and perhaps it may best be shared by using words from the Virgin Mary's joyful prayer after her visitation by the Angel Gabriel. Mary did not say, "My lips or words magnify the Lord." And surely my own lips and words proved inadequate when observing the acts of God. What Mary said is, "My soul magnifies the Lord. And my spirit has rejoiced in God, my savior... For God who is mighty has done great things...and holy is God's name." My sense is that my very soul was touched in some indescribable ways as I tried, in vain, to comprehend that great act of God that is the Grand Canyon. I do not claim to understand such rare, spirit-filled moments fully, but this much I do know and proclaim, without hesitation, it is my very soul that magnified the Lord on that wonderful day.

Now, here we stand, in the midst of Lent 2024 and fast-approaching Holy Week and Easter. By faith, we will be reminded of other sacred, soul-touching, and redemptive deeds of God, such as the death and miraculous resurrection of Jesus. By habit/custom, we will become busy doing things that we may mistakenly equate with the normal "work of Holy Week and Easter." My fervent prayer is that

God was with you and those dearest to you during all of your Lenten experiences and remains with you throughout the season of Easter and beyond.

I leave with you the following adaptation of the word of the late great mystic and theologian Howard Thurman. His was entitled *The Work of Christmas*. I've chosen to entitle my adaptation,

The Work of Easter

When the melodic syncopations of the Easter Cantata are stilled, when the women who first arrived at the empty tomb have shared the good news of the resurrection with the apostles, and when they are reassured, beyond doubt, by the nail prints in his hands and a hole the size of a spear in Christ's side. And when those who cried "crucify him and those who prayed that he might live forever return to their homes, and when the apostles, having received from Jesus the Spirit of the Living God, go forth to share the Good News, The work of Easter begins:

*"To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, To release the prisoners,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers (and sisters), and
To make music from the heart."*

Therefore, during the next several weeks, my fervent prayer is that you will spend a lot of time humming, whistling, and singing as you rejoice in the mighty deeds of God, our Creator and our Redeemer. May your Easter be filled with life-transforming meaning and purpose that will enhance your lives forever.

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 5, 12:00 PM

Community Room / Zoom

Our annual meeting will be Sunday, May 5 in the Community Room with lunch being served immediately following worship. We will be electing new elders, deacons, and committee chairs.

Members and friends of the congregation may also participate via Zoom.

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 April, we will be skipping lightly through Ezra, Nehemiah, and other post-Exilic scriptures to see how the people returning from Babylon struggled to rebuild their lives and the Judean community.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study ~

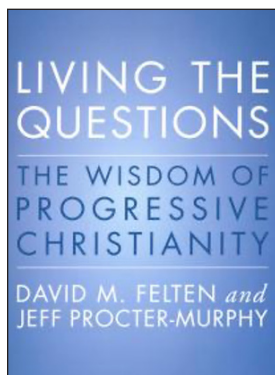
with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Tuesdays

North Room / Zoom 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398 Passcode: 973365



Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity

Revs. David Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy, along with an all-star cast of Bible scholars and top church teachers, provide a primer to a church movement that encourages every Christian

to “live the questions” instead of “forcing the answers.” We will supplement our reading with the DVD course of the same name, *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*, which includes commentary from such bestselling authors as Diana Butler Bass, John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Brian McLaren, and others.

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 April, we will study the story of Exodus, one of the two central stories in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament).

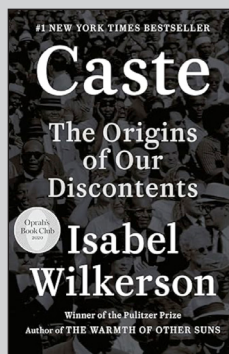
Let's Talk

Book Study of Caste ~

led by The Rev. Richard Leslie and Peter Brehm

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28

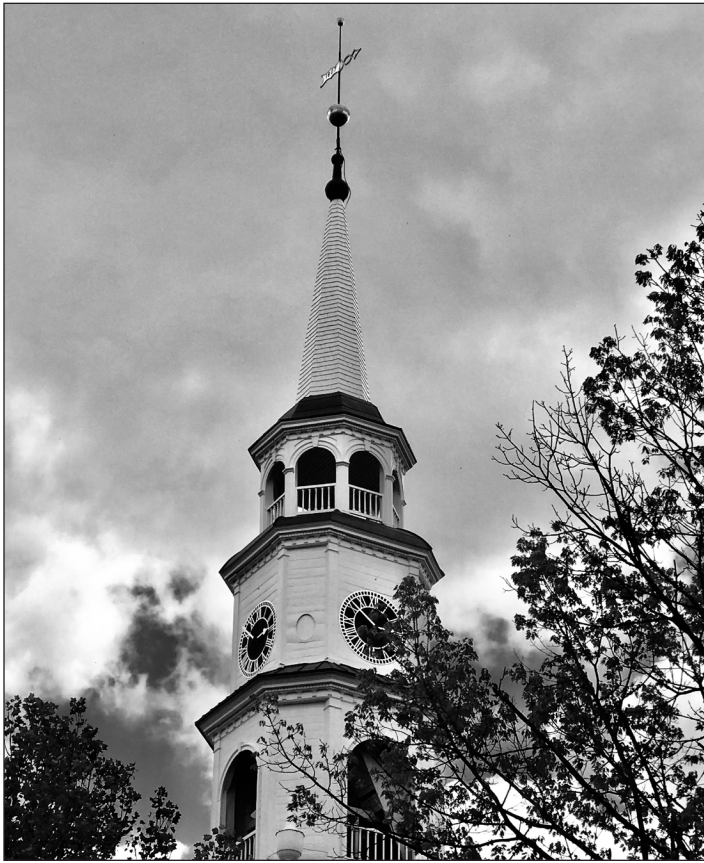
Community Room 9:30 – 10:15 AM



Richard Leslie and Peter Brehm will co-lead a study of the book *Caste* by Isabel 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.



CLOCK TOWER CAMPAIGN READY TO LAUNCH

Plans to restore and secure the historic clock tower are moving forward. The contractor is reviewing the final engineering report with pricing and a contract to follow. The next step will be the permitting process.

Plans are also moving ahead to address funding the project. While we are awaiting final pricing, we know that the restoration will be four to five times what was initially estimated. The initial church campaign, supplemented with a Maryland State bond and grants from the Delaplaine and Ausherman Foundations, plus funds from an unrestricted legacy gift, together do not meet half the expected cost. Clearly, another capital drive is needed.

Funding is being sought on multiple levels. We are continuing to pursue grants. A clock tower fund has been opened at the Community Foundation and an

extensive media campaign will launch in April seeking community support. Donations will be directed to the Foundation. Contacts are being made with prospective large donors. We are exploring building use partnerships, both non-profit and commercial. These combined efforts will be more and more visible over the next two months and will hopefully get us much closer to the needed goal.

Still, when all is said and done, it is our building and our ultimate responsibility. If we hope to complete the project debt-free, then the congregation will need to give again. Donors in the community will want to know that ERUCC is taking the lead in restoring the historic clock tower. Many have already given. The hugely escalated price requires that we give again.

A presentation will be given during fellowship time on Sunday, April 14. You will be updated on the project needs and where we stand. There will also be an opportunity for questions. We agreed as a church that the tower must be repaired. The time is upon us. Be sure to stay after church on April 14 to learn how we can get it done.

OUR PASTORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED APRIL 1 – APRIL 5.

We may take longer than usual to reply to your messages during this period.

The church voicemail will be monitored at least once daily, and messages requesting pastoral care and other urgent needs will be returned; all other messages will receive a response in the week of April 8.

thank you

The **Midweek Lenten Service** allowed us time for community and fellowship. Thanks to the following people for sharing their gifts of cooking:

Peter Brehm, Terry and Donna Logee, Julie Clark, Catie Schaeberle, Kim Sexton, Ave Barr, Betsy and Phil Selby, Marj Berkheimer, Starr Schaeberle, Linda Coyle, Thomasa Pomeroy, Susan Kulp and David Howard, Mark Ulrich.

A huge thank you to Eleanor Fisher for her help setting and cleaning up each week and to Kim Sexton for coordinating our soup makers.



Thank you to those who served in a variety of ways at the **memorial services** held in March for Pat Hevner, Barba Speak, and Jane Doll:

Ave Barr, Cliff Barr, Marj Berkheimer, Felecia Bishop, Gerry Blessing, Mary Lou Blessing, Peter Brehm, Angela Brittain, Jim Brittain, Pat Condo, Linda Coyle, Cathie Duncan, Will Duncan, Holly Davis, Matt Davis, Gail Ellam, Anne Hoffmann, Ken Hoffmann, Kathleen Jefferson, Karen Justice, Jeanellen Kallevang, Nancy Manthey, Allan Maples, Joan Maples, Larry Martin, Sedonia Martin, Sue Pinner, Carolyn Roberts, Bud Rossig, Jeff Schaeberle, Starr Schaeberle, Betsy Selby, Mark Ulrich, and Tyler L. York.



Dear Faith Partner,

It's clear from your faithful giving and engagement with our mission that your community embraces the joyous gift of Easter—thanking God for our salvation through Christ's sacrifice and generously blessing our neighbors in need—especially families facing grave hunger and poverty. So, I want to take a moment to thank you for your unwavering support of Heifer.

Your generosity has helped families build better lives for themselves. May your congregants be blessed with God's abundant and unending love this Easter season and throughout the year.

With peace and goodwill,
Christy Moore
Senior Vice President, Heifer International

As we reflect on Easter, we're reminded of the incredible joy and hope that comes with Jesus Christ's resurrection. It's a time of celebration, marking the ultimate act of love and generosity—the gift of new life. In the midst of this excitement, the Generosity and Stewardship Committee invites each of us to reflect on how we can embody the spirit of Easter through our giving of time, talents, and treasures.

One of the many treasures of our beloved Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ is its unparalleled spirit of welcome. Think about when you first joined our congregation. What moment made you feel like you belonged? Was it a friendly smile, a kind greeting, or a simple act of kindness? Share with us what made you feel welcomed, and think about how you can pay it forward by welcoming others.

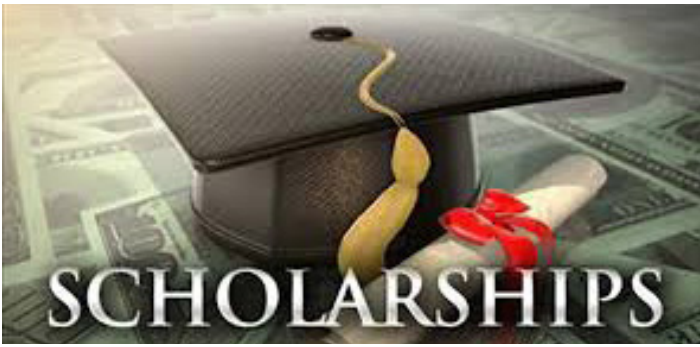


During this season of Easter joy, let's also take a moment to appreciate the generosity of our fellow members. Think about all the volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our church running smoothly. Whether it's the AV team, Sunday school teachers, nursery volunteers, greeters, or fellowship volunteers, their selfless efforts show us what stewardship looks like in action. Next time you go to church, thank one of our many volunteers.

As we pray, let's ask God for guidance on how we can serve our church community best. When you feel like you've heard God's call, act on it with joy and purpose. Your generosity, no matter how big or small, helps our church spread Christ's love in real and meaningful ways.

Thank you for all your support and generosity throughout the year. May the Easter season bring you renewed hope, joy, and purpose as we journey together in faith and service, with laughter as our companion and love as our guide.

With gratitude and blessings,
The Stewardship & Generosity Committee



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 the Rev. 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 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 welcomed.

Scholarships are gifts to church members for post-secondary undergraduate education and are awarded by the Scholarship Committee. 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 at: (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

Students wishing to renew scholarships must also contact the church office and provide the requested information. All application materials must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee through the church office by the April 30 deadline.

Any further questions can be directed to Sandra Trout, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, at troutsandra@aol.com.



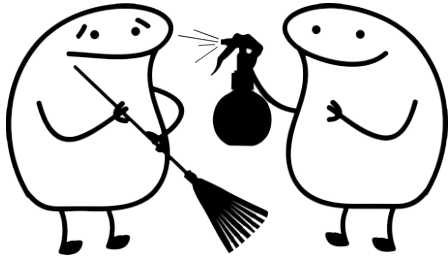
April Birthdays

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

Katharine Alley
Will Coffey
Patricia Condo
Ken Daniel
Alex Ebersole
Ben Gannon III
Kirsten Gitt
Bradd D. Hammond
Charlotte Henderson
Maddie Ireland
Mack Johnson
Ethan Kline
Dawn Lagrotteria
Tim Main
Joan Maples
Maddie Martin
Alayna Murray
Rob Peters Jr.
Randy Peterson
Alison E. Shafer
Tim Shepp
Janice Staley
Shelley Weakly
Charlie Woodward Jr.

Spring Work Day

Saturday, April 13, 9 AM – 4 PM



Spring is here! It's time for some spring cleaning and work on projects during ERUCC's Spring Work Day. Volunteers are needed to share their time and talent in cleaning up and doing some 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. We are also looking for volunteers to help provide lunch for the group. This is a great opportunity for youth to complete volunteer and community service hours.

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 at (301) 401-4947.

Welcome New Members

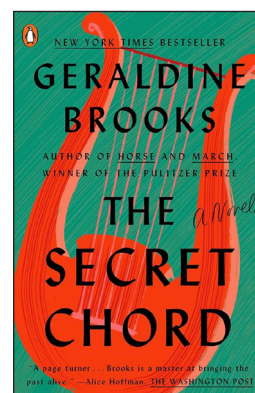


On March 3, we welcomed eleven new members into the life of ERUCC! From left to right: Christy, Grace, Clay, and Paul Yingling, Travis Hubbard and Reghan James-Hubbard, Jo Hindriks, Molly and Rob Black, Wayne Baine, and E.J. Kelly.

2024 ERUCC Book Group

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 7 PM on the fourth Tuesday of every other month in the North Room or virtually.



May 28

The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks

The Secret Chord provides a new context for some of the best-known episodes of David's life while also focusing on others that have been neglected—even more remarkable and emotionally intense. We see David through the eyes of those who love him or fear him—from the prophet Natan, the voice of his conscience, to his wives Mikal, Avigail, and Batsheva, and finally to Solomon, the late-born son who redeems his Lear-like old age. Brooks has an uncanny ability to hear and transform characters from history, and this beautifully written, unvarnished saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power will enthrall her many fans.

Upcoming:

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



Our ERUCC Family is encouraged to attend to see all the great things being done across Frederick County to care for the earth.

We would also love some ERUCC volunteers to greet, direct visitors, and manage the food and drinks!

Contact Linda Coyle at lkcoyle@yahoo.com to RSVP or volunteer.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Second Annual Green Team Networking Event

Tuesday April 16, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Community Room - Elevator available

15 West Church St. Frederick MD

Let's share, learn from and support each other in creating a more sustainable, just and healthy Frederick County. Tables available for you, your team & your posters, photos, fliers, or brochures.

Wine, non-alcoholic drinks and light snacks.

Set up at 6:00pm.

Co-hosted by Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS) and Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC)

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, *Let's Study the Bible*, North Room, 2nd Floor

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Adult Education, *Let's Talk*, Community Room, 1st Floor

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

Our Faith Our Vote—*Our Voice*



Join the 2024 Our Faith Our Vote Campaign *Your vote is your voice – don't give it up!*

The problems in our world often seem too big to confront. We see injustice daily and feel that change can't or won't happen. But our faith is infused with hope and built on a foundation of action. We serve as God's hands by serving the vulnerable, feeding the hungry, and standing in solidarity with the oppressed.

Voting is a natural extension of faithful action. Our representatives' decisions have a wide-reaching impact. We have enormous potential to make positive change. We must engage our legislators, vote, and encourage everyone in our communities to do the same.

Our faithful voice is needed. Although it is tempting to disengage from the political process, we know we must be involved as people dedicated to creating a just world for all.

Join the **Our Faith Our Vote** campaign. Discover how our congregation participates in the electoral process through faithful, nonpartisan engagement. As a nonprofit, we can't support specific candidates, but we can speak out about issues that affect us. Our UCC conference helps us with resources on civic engagement, voter registration information, issue education, and voter mobilization.

Raising your voice and voting is essential this election season! Will you join us?

If you want to participate in ERUCC's efforts to **Get Out the Vote**, please contact
Kathleen Jefferson at kathleen.jefferson@gmail.com or
Rebecca Shillingburg at rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com.

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

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 each month and other Sundays when we encourage families to join in worship together.

APRIL 14: Paper flowers - make multi-colored flowers out of tissue paper and pipe cleaners. Decorate a piece to be viewed in the community. During the activity, talk about the way you have to bury a seed to make it grow into a plant that can give you flowers. Scripture: Mark 4:1-34.

APRIL 21: Decorate a fish tank for our junior church classroom. During this activity talk about the wonders of the seas. Discuss how we can take care of and love our earth's ocean.

APRIL 28: Fairtrade chocolate story. Work together to create a collage on how chocolate gets to us. Discuss what fairtrade is and sample chocolate. View other fairtrade resources to show and tell the combination of fair wages and resources used in making things. Scripture: Proverbs 31:8-9.

YOUNG ADULTS

Haley Duff has volunteered to serve as a team leader for Young Adult Connections. Reach out to Pastor Kirstin to be connected with Haley or look for her in church!

Join Pastor Kirstin on Sunday, April 28, at St. Katharine Drexel for a presentation of **Experiences of Privilege and Racism** through Story and song. The event is free! Contact Pastor Kirstin to carpool and/or to meet up afterwards for food and discussion.

Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic Church presents
Invisible Systems: My Experience of Privilege & Racism through Story and Song
Sunday, April 28 - 2 PM
8428 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD

The performance will be followed by a facilitated conversation. Invisible Systems uses seven original songs, as well as dialogue, personal stories and visuals to explore the author's experience of her societal position, advantages and realizations about personal and systemic racism.

Performed by Lisa Bromfield and Angela Bowden / Text by L. Bromfield and A. Bowden /
Songs by Lisa & Bill Bromfield / Visuals by L. Bromfield & Angela Bowden / Recordings by Bill Bromfield

EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY!

Coming quickly around the corner is our Everybody's Birthday celebration on Saturday May 4 from 5-7 PM. Twelve tables will be decorated to represent a birth-day month! You'll share dinner, dessert, and stories in a multi-generational event. A SignUp Genius for food will be linked in the bulletin after Easter. A couple of birth-day games will round out our fun time together! Check in with Pastor Kirstin to volunteer to decorate a table!

TINY TOTS

This month we hope to visit a local farm. Goats and chickens and donkeys are all in the mix of possibilities for a lowkey activity with packed lunch possibility! Get in touch with Pastor Kirstin to be a part of choosing a date!

YOUTH UPDATES!

Bethany Beach! • April 3-6

Youth going to Bethany Beach will relax in the sun and sand, goof around with some mini-golf, and participate in a photo challenge designed by Pastor Kirstin and some creative play with “Making Waves!”

Pittsburgh Day Trip! • April 21

After an early morning departure we will explore some highlights of the City including the Duquesne Incline and Heinz Museum among other things.

Youth Sunday! • April 28

With an 8:30 AM arrival to practice one more run-through and finalize details, the youth will provide leadership during the 10:30 AM worship service.

GOODBYE CHICKS!!!

We are SO thankful to Farmer Glenda and the Homestead family that supports the Hatch the Chicken Program. It was great to anticipate the birth of the chicks, to watch those little fluffs be born, and to cuddle them as they peeped and shivered.

Our chicks returned to the farm on April 2. Farmer Glenda says thanks for all our caring for these little ones! Pastor Kirstin hopes this has been a fun way to demonstrate the joy of birth and new life during the Easter season!

We had the gift of naming the chicks! We are thankful for Peck, Peep and Lil’ Mac.



Look at those chicks! We celebrate the birth of three of our seven eggs. They sure were fun to play with!



Our kids loved painting eggs at the 3rd annual Eggstravaganza!



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

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The Rev. Frederick Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*