

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 9, 2020

8:30 and 11:00 am

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude *Vision* Josef Rheinberger

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

We are called to follow— to walk in the way of justice and righteousness,

for we are children of God!

We are called to serve— to be Christ with and for one another,

for we are the salt of the earth!

We are called to shine— to be beacons of hope and witnesses to truth,

for we are the light of the world!

Come, you who are claimed as children of God,

salt of the earth and light of the world.

Let us worship the Lord!

The Prayer of Praise and Adoration

*The Hymn 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

*The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we have asked for Your righteous judgment against others, but we have not acknowledged the sin in our own lives. We have worshiped You with our lips, but have dishonored You with our actions. We have prayed for You to end the suffering in our world, yet we have not practiced compassion and generosity toward others. Our religion has become the source of quarreling rather than a testimony to Your grace ... (time for silent confession)... . Forgive our self-righteousness and give us integrity of heart, that we may shine forth the light of Your salvation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

*The Gloria Patri

p. 581 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshipers seated near you.

Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 58:1-9a*

p. 841 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 112:1-9*

p. 692 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Alice Parker, arr.

Hark, I hear the harps eternal, Ringing on the farther shore.

As I near those swollen waters, with their deep and solemn roar.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Glory to the great IAM.

And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day.

Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city faraway.

Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest;

And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Glory to the great IAM.

The Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 5:13-20*

p. 5 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 733

We All Are One in Mission

The Epistle Lesson: *I Corinthians 2:1-12*

p. 202 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

Outsmarted

Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The Affirmation of Faith

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

The Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

p. 35 in the Hymnal

February 9, 2020

The Service of Offering
The Gathering of Our Gifts
The Offertory

Father, We Praise Thee

arr. Benton Price

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Doxology, p. 606 in the Hymnal

Loving God, we give thanks for all You have given to us and praise You for Your astounding goodness. Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies for the ministry of Your church. Bless our offering for the work of Your Kingdom, and give us wisdom for the right use of all You have provided, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude

From God the Father

arr. Joseph Prentiss



The Rev. Allen H. Fisher, Jr., *Pastor*

The Rev. Brittany Tamminga, *Associate Pastor*

Lindsey Williams, *Interim Assistant for Education Ministries*

Mary Ann & Larry Casey, *Choirmasters*

Amy L. Shirk, *Organist*

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES 2/9-2/16

Today (2/9)

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Worship Services, S | 8:30 & 11am |
| Church School | 9:45am |
| Adult Mission Trip Meeting, CF | 12:15pm |
| Deacon Meeting, CP | 12:15pm |
| Sacred Dance, U | 1:30pm |
| Cantate, UCR | 5pm |
| Youth Fellowship & Dinner, FH | 6pm |
| Session, MH | 7pm |

Monday (2/10)

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Newsletter Item Deadline | |
| PW Faith Circle, CP | 1pm |

Tuesday (2/11)

| | |
|--|---------|
| Men's Breakfast, Bob Evans | 7:30am |
| PW Friendship Circle, Chancellor's Village | 10:30am |
| Stewardship Committee, CF | 7pm |
| Worship Committee, L | 7pm |

Wednesday (2/12)

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Prime Timers' Outing,* | 11:30am |
| Meditation, CP | 6:30pm |
| Cong. Retreat Planning Mtg., CF | 7pm |

Thursday (2/13)

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Women's Bible Study, MH | 9:30am |
| Handbells, S | 6pm |
| Adult Choir, CR | 7:30pm |

Saturday (2/15)

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Micah Breakfast, FH | 6:30am |
| Community Dinner, FH | 2pm |

Sunday (2/16)

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Worship Services, S | 8:30 & 11am |
| Church School | 9:45am |
| Sacred Dance, U | 1:30pm |
| Cantate, UCR | 5pm |
| Youth Fellowship Outing* | 2pm |

Location Key:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| CP: Church Parlor | MH: Middle House |
| S: Sanctuary | CH: Church House |
| EB: Education Building | CF: Conference Room |
| U: Undercroft | FH: Fellowship Hall |
| UCR: Choir Room in Ed. Building | CR: Choir Room |
| L: Library | EBL: Ed. Building Lobby |

*See announcement for details

Birthdays this Week

February

- Noah Fellingner
- Emma Whitford
- Keren Pritchett, Beth Valasko
- Porter Blakemore, Riley Eland, Addam Marcotte
- Opal Stroup
- Jeanne Carelock, Anita Holle, Carl King, Kalah Roche, Gay Sullivan
- Corey Chewing, Lynda Starnes
- Scott Bushman

Hospital Visitor 2/9-2/15

Susan Harrison, 287-3661

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

810 Princess Anne Street
 Fredericksburg, VA 22401
 (540) 373-7057 ~ FAX (540) 370-0210
 fredericksburgpc.org

Recordings of previous sermons are

available at:

fredericksburgpc.org/podcast/rss.html

or scan this with your QR code reader app.



February 9, 2020

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

8:30 and 11:00 am

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us!

To aid you in our liturgy, we want to acquaint you with our following custom: In the *Lord's Prayer*, we use the words, "*Forgive us our debts... our debtors.*"

We encourage you to stand for singing, if you are able, as the organ sounds the first note of introduction. When appropriate to the hymn, the organist and choir will lead the congregation in singing "*Amen.*"

Assistive listening devices (amplified earphones and Telecoil neckloops), and **large-print bulletins** are available from the ushers.

Child care is provided in the Education Building for infants through 4-year-olds.

All worshipers are encouraged to sign the Attendance/Friendship pad, greet your friends, and welcome visitors.

The flowers today are given by John and Debe Garrison to the glory of God and in memory of their parents.

Capsule of Concern: Bob Hornbuckle, Billie Plank, John Walker, Don Wilson

Our heartfelt **Christian love and sympathies** are extended to Michael Snow and family on the death of his mother, Jean, who died on February 4, 2020.

Lectionary readings for next Sunday, February 16:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;
I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Service Attendants

Liturgist
Bryan Eland

8:30 AM
Sanctuary Guild
Terrie Crawley

Greeters
Jerry & Trina Parsons,
Sharon Moser

Ushers
Ed & Piper Foresman, Tom
Lewis, Paul Kukla

Elevator Assistant
Bill Stewart

11:00 AM
Sanctuary Guild
Eric & Kathy Rocholl

Greeters
Brian & Kim Liska, Josh &
Ali Hoover

Ushers
Preston & Lynn Simms, Rod
& Judi Hughes

Elevator Assistant
Steve Spratt

Nursery Attendants
8:30 & 11:00 services
Nick Medina, Kathryn
Rexrode, Melissa Gloyd,
Emma Rexrode

We thank everyone who took part in in the **Rise Against Hunger event** last week: those who unloaded the truck, assisted with setup, prepared food and beverages, packed meals, and cleaned up. We also thank all those who contributed to the Souper Bowl offering that helped cover the cost of the meals.

It is never too late to join a **Church School class**, and this semester a number of our classes, including *Seeking to Understand the Parables* and *Women in the Biblical World*, lend themselves well to drop-in participation. Please don't let missing a few classes keep you away – see you in Church School.

Youth Fellowship TONIGHT: Itty-Bitty City: Church Edition. Join us for round 2. NEXT WEEK: We will have an afternoon of bowling. We'll depart from the church at 2:00 p.m., with plans to return in time for Cantate at 5:00 p.m. No Youth Fellowship/Supper.

The **2020 Confirmation Journey**: Our *Explorers* and Mentors pairs are as follows: *Kaileen Coffman* - Amy Ellis; *Avery Foresman* - Brian Raska; *Cameron Sidebotham* - Steve Davis; *Andrew Spinnanger* - Don Nance; *Charlotte Young* - Amy Talmadge. Please pray for these young people and the adults and families who have partnered with them on this journey.

On Wednesday, February 12, **Prime Timers** will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Ristorante Renato, 422 William St., order from the lunch menu and have separate checks. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the restaurant. Please call Mary Lowman, 540-710-4941, or Sue Moorefield, 540-899-7772, today for reservations.

Prime Timers will meet at the Robin's Nest Café at the Shannon Airport for lunch on Wednesday March 11, at 11:30. Tours of the airport museum will be available for the group. The museum exhibits change frequently so there will be different exhibits to see since our visit last year. If we have more than 10 persons the cost for the museum tour will be \$7.00 and if less than 10, the cost will be \$9.00. Our hosts for this outing are Gina Whitticar, 540-373-7271, and Jo Anne Kinnamon, 540-898-2500. Please call one of them by March 4, to reserve your spot, and to let them know if you will be touring the museum. (Shannon Airport: 3380 Shannon Airport Cir., Fredericksburg, 22408)

The **2020 Congregational Retreat** at Camp Hanover is March 7-8. This is a great weekend to make new friends and renew old friendships in God's creation as you enjoy activities for all ages, worship, campfire, singing, free time, and great fellowship. The theme is *Awakened by the Spirit: Finding Joy in God's Nature*. The food is great and the accommodations are suitable for almost everyone. Register at the table after worship services. Registration forms are also on the Church website.

The **congregation** may help support the **Cold Night Shelter** by donating socks, long underwear, gloves, t-shirts, and new/gently used pillow cases. Bring items to the church and place them in the bins outside the Sanctuary or in the Lobby. Please pray for the shelter and the guests.

The **Adult Mission trip** will be to New Bern, NC the week of March 22. We will be working with Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders to repair damage caused by Hurricane Florence. We worked with the Fuller Center last year, and there is work for all skill levels. There will be an **interest/information meeting on February 9, at 12:15 p.m.** in the Conference Room. A registration fee of \$125 is due by Feb 19, checks should be made payable to The Presbyterian Church with Adult Mission Trip in the memo. Marsha Lockett and John Howe are the organizers of this mission trip and please contact one of them for more information.

School Dressing Days - Our church has been asked to donate new and gently used hoodies, tennis shoes of all sizes for boys and girls, flats for teenage girls, and 3-ring binder notebooks. You may bring items to the church and place them in the bins outside the Sanctuary or in the Education Building Lobby. Monetary donations are also welcomed.

A position of **regular paid nursery worker** is available for our Sunday morning nursery. We are looking for someone available Sunday mornings from 8:15-12:15. If you or someone you know would like more information about the position, please contact Michelle Porter porters_porters@yahoo.com.

The **Sacred Dance Ensemble** began in 1996 as an interdenominational ministry following the call to glorify God through the art of dance. We offer visual interpretations of the spoken Word, hymns and sacred music, hoping to open the eyes of the beholder with new insight and understanding of God's love for us all. We welcome anyone who is curious to explore this form of worship on Sunday February 16, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Undercroft. We will use our whole selves to speak the Lord's Prayer. Questions? contact Vicky Wilder, 540-786-7227.



Bridging to Work

This time last year, a young woman in her 30s came to Micah’s respite house with a very poor prognosis. Doctors were not optimistic about her treatment and the likelihood of survival looked bleak. With time, a stable place to stay, support with medication and regular treatment regimen, she began to heal, seek housing and look for a purpose.

Initially, the woman found her place in the Community Cafe, “a pay what you can” restaurant Micah operated for two years. Slowly, we watched as a person who did not believe she could cook transform into an impressive and capable employee at a local restaurant.

Reflecting back on the last year, she notes how important it was to know someone was counting on her to show up in the cafe. She broke free from the norms of a chaotic childhood, learning a “language other than scream, yell and cuss.” And she found herself worthy of being a mother to her children and capable of cooking a meal for them when they came to visit.

She recently regained her driver’s license, obtained partial custody of her daughter, increased her income and is now working with Micah of churches to discern the next chapter of a workforce program. With her help, our churches have outlined a three-phase process. Participants begin with a volunteer assignment in one of Micah’s existing ministries. They will understand how meeting program expectations can earn

A financial or volunteer commitment helps us build a just, kind and humble community. Please place your gift in the church offering plate and put Micah in the memo line



them the opportunity to be placed with a community employer who could eventually hire them. With the monies available, Micah will pay (at minimum wage) the salary of those placed with an employer for approximately 30 days, at which time the employer can decide if they will hire the person. Staff, through a partnership with Rappahannock Goodwill Industries, will support the person through their volunteer placement, to community internship and even a period after employment.

This ministry, set to launch in early 2020, is currently looking for employer partners willing to have a trainee, paid by Micah, to work in their businesses for 30-60 days with the prospect offering a permanent job. We are also seeking sponsors whose contributions will cover the cost of bridging trainees from the volunteer phase to permanent employment. For about \$1,500, we estimate covering 30 days of trainee pay, transportation, phone minutes, start-up clothing and support costs.



At a funeral in our Micah community this year, the brother of the long-time friend we were remembering showed me a picture of a bird house he had been building. A tall red shaft rose up through the center and several smaller houses crisscrossed up the sides in a bright blue, yellow and green. Engraved around three of the entrances to each birdhouse were the names and lifespan of their mother, father and now our recently passed friend.

“It started off as one,” his sister clarified. “And then it just turned into a way to remember the whole family.”

For longer than Micah has existed, this friend of ours lived in tents, abandoned buildings, in hotels and on couches. Oh, the irony that his life would be commemorated with a permanent home for the winged creatures of God’s creation.

Birds, often symbols of change or spiritual messengers, are also how we at Micah often talk about what it means to love our neighbors. Sometimes we are the hummingbird—rapidly darting in and out of the problem with swift and purposeful solutions—tirelessly and gently nudging people toward healing and freedom from the burdens of their past.

There are moments, however, that the posture of an owl is a more suitable way to lead a neighbor through their season of change. Owls perch and listen. They float and strategize. They hover, quietly waiting for the moment of opportunity. Master of the complex, the owl specializes in the hard things, the scary places; and it ruffles no feathers with patient, calculated maneuvers.

But Micah, in its almost fifteen years of existence, has come to appreciate a third way, a spiritual one, which often transcends whatever impact we had imagined. We are ultimately affirmed that justice has been done and kindness has been loved when we find ourselves in the place of the cardinal, the little red bird so bold and striking in color that we don’t even have to be looking for it to notice its special presence. The cardinal manifests beyond statistics, solutions and even healing. As we prepare to love our friends and family on Valentine’s Day and as we consider the greatest love of the Easter season we are about to enter, Micah’s collaboration of churches invites you to prayerfully consider how your gifts will take flight as one of these birds in our community this coming year. Each time your prayers, time, presence and talents are extended to our neighbors in need you create a space for God to show up and make Fredericksburg a just, kind and humble community.

Your special offering this month will be used to help our collaboration of churches “Love your Neighbor. A financial or volunteer commitment helps us build a just, kind and humble community where all neighbors belong, participate, meet each other’s needs and engage in meaningful relationship. Place your gift in the church offering plate and put Micah in the memo line

