

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday, March 13: Second Sunday of Lent

- 9:15AM Adult Bible Study via Zoom:**
"Under the Wings" Luke 13:31-35 (Facilitator: Eddie Yates)
 Mother Hen Gathers Her Brood
- 10:30AM Worship Service** (in person and via YouTube)
10:45AM Children's Worship: Rev. Sieges & Cathy Browder (Theater Room)
- Following Worship: Intercessory Prayer Circle**
6:00PM Youth Meeting: Rev. Sieges & Cathy Browder (Youth Room)
11:45AM Consistory Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, March 14

- 12:00PM 2CFAR (via Zoom)**

Tuesday, March 15

- 12:00PM 2CFAR (via Zoom)**
7:00PM Book Study "The Book of Joy" (via Zoom)

Wednesday, March 16

- 6:00PM Supper in the Fellowship Hall (Please bring Your Own Meal)**
6:30-7:30PM Mid-Week Vespers (Parlor)
6:30PM Choir
Children's Fun & Activities (Marge Doty & **Volunteer Needed**)
Youth Study (Rev. Sieges & Rev. June Grubb)

Thursday, March 17:

- 12-2:00PM SWIRL Ministries Skit: "Becoming a Queen after the Heart of a King"** (Fellowship Hall)
 All women of the church are invited to this performance
- 4-6:00PM Clothing Ministry Workday**
6:30PM PFLAG Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

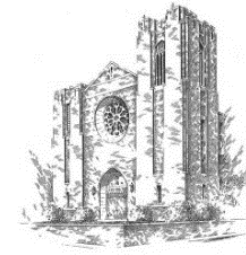
Saturday, March 19

- 12:30PM Lunch Ministry** (Kitchen)

Sunday, March 20: Third Sunday of Lent

- 9:15AM Adult Bible Study via Zoom:**
"It Bears Fruit" Luke 13:1-9 (Facilitator: June Grubb)
 Three different stories that encourage us to live with purpose and urgency
- 10:30AM Worship Service** (in person and via YouTube)
10:45AM Children's Worship: Rev. Sieges & Cathy Browder (Theater Room)
- Following Worship: Prayer Circle**
6:00PM Youth Meeting: Rev. Sieges & Cathy Browder (Youth Room)

MINISTERS: The Congregation of **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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First Reformed United Church of Christ

*Where People Discover...
 The Love of God...
 The Power to Love Others...
 The Ability to Love Ourselves*

March 13, 2022

The Worship of God

Second Sunday of Lent

**Please stand as you are able*

Prelude Christopher Kiser
***Chiming of the Hour**

Anthem "God Is There" Jay Althouse

*Everywhere I go God is watching. Everywhere I go God is there.
 In my joy and in my pain, through rainbow and the rain,
 God is watching, God is there.*

*Everywhere I go God is watching, holding me with love and tender care.
 When I'm filled with doubt and fear, I know God's love is near.
 God is watching, God is there.*

*In God I place my trust and my devotion. My faith is growing stronger every day.
 For God alone is light with full and endless sight that comforts me and guides me on my way.*

*When I need a friend and companion, I can speak with God in my prayer.
 When I'm in a time of need, my God, alone, will lead.
 God is watching, God is watching, God is watching.
 God is there. God is there.*

Words of Welcome Rev. Elizabeth Horton

***Responsive Call to Worship** Carolyn Robbins

We come together to remember and share the stories of our faith; rejoice in the goodness of the loving God.

Before our lives began, there was God. Through all our days, God walks with us.

Worship the one who gives and sustains life. Sing praises to the one who is our refuge. There is no place we can go where God is not. Amid life's fears, God's promises hold true.

Let us rejoice that we call out and God answers! Praise be forever to God, our Creator!

***Hymn** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Insert

***Invocation** Carolyn Robbins

Young Disciples Rev. Evan Sieges & Cathy Browder

Scripture Reading Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18
 (Common English Bible) Carolyn Robbins

The LORD's word came to Abram in a vision, "Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your protector. Your reward will be very great."

But Abram said, "LORD God, what can you possibly give me, since I still have no children? The head of my household is Eliezer, a man from Damascus." He continued, "Since you haven't given me any children, the head of my household will be my heir."

The LORD's word came immediately to him, "This man will not be your heir. Your heir will definitely be your very own biological child." Then he brought Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars if you think you can count them." He continued, "This is how many children you will have." Abram trusted the LORD, and the LORD

recognized Abram's high moral character. He said to Abram, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession."

But Abram said, "LORD God, how do I know that I will actually possess it?"

He said, "Bring me a three-year-old female calf, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a dove, and a young pigeon." He took all of these animals, split them in half, and laid the halves facing each other, but he didn't split the birds. When vultures swooped down on the carcasses, Abram waved them off. After the sun set, Abram slept deeply. A terrifying and deep darkness settled over him.

Then the LORD said to Abram, "Have no doubt that your descendants will live as immigrants in a land that isn't their own, where they will be oppressed slaves for four hundred years. But after I punish the nation they serve, they will leave it with great wealth. As for you, you will join your ancestors in peace and be buried after a good long life. The fourth generation will return here since the Amorites' wrongdoing won't have reached its peak until then."

After the sun had set and darkness had deepened, a smoking vessel with a fiery flame passed between the split-open animals. That day the LORD cut a covenant with Abram: "To your descendants I give this land, from Egypt's river to the great Euphrates,

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Horton

Eternal God, we are quick to join Abram's doubt and impatience, but we find it difficult to copy his faith and trust. We want to believe your promises, but the here-and-now problems of daily life consume our focus and erode our faith. Forgive us, we pray. Open our hearts to your love. Open our minds to your possibilities. Strengthen our faith, that we, too, may know the everlasting power of your love.

Assurance of Pardon

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 13: 31-35
Common English Bible

Rev. Horton

At that time, some Pharisees approached Jesus and said, "Go! Get away from here, because Herod wants to kill you."

Jesus said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Look, I'm throwing out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will complete my work. ³³However, it's necessary for me to travel today, tomorrow, and the next day because it's impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn't want that. Look, your house is abandoned. I tell you, you won't see me until the time comes when you say, *Blessings on the one who comes in the Lord's name.*"

Sermon

"Here You Are: The Hen House or the Fox's Den"

*Hymn

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Insert

Call to Serve and to Give

Rev. Horton

Prayer of Dedication

Carolyn Robbins

Congregational Response in Song

Tune: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

The world behind me, the cross before me.

The world behind me, the cross before me.

The world behind me, the cross before me.

No turning back, no turning back.

*Benediction

Rev. Horton

Postlude

Christopher Kiser

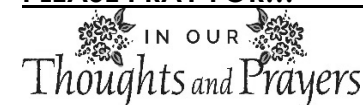
~ Please remain seated until the ushers direct you to exit. ~

After the service, you are invited to join in the Intercessory Prayer Circle at the front of the sanctuary.

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

We welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never, before attended one, you are welcome here.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...



We mourn the loss of Elizabeth Sink, long-time member of our church, who passed away early Thursday morning. We offer sympathy to the family during their time of loss.

*Bonita Hooper (recovering from surgery), Cheryl Walser, Jeff Hutchens, Lee Bouchard (upcoming surgery), Joyce Phillips, Tony Peele (recovering at home), Tammy Rhodes (recovering at home), Myrtle Latimer, Kathleen Danze, Alisa Johnson

MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Sherry Bonner, Ellen Bouchard, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Gerri Hill, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Deanna Michael, John Potts & Janette Neal, Lib Sink, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

OUR FRIENDS:

Wendi Greene (Bill Robbins' sister), Cindy Tatum (friend of Jerry & Patti Lovell), Beth Wrenn (friend of Patti Lovell), Marc Frye (friend of the congregation)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

LITURGIST: Carolyn Robbins

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Cathy Browder

DIGITAL MEDIA TECH: Jeremy Peterson

SOUND TECH: Dave Fulton

ACOLYTE: Parker Horton

BIBLE STEWARD: Patrick Horton

USHERS: Vicky Gray, John Smith, Ted Smith

CELEBRATIONS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

16th...Alane Holste
...Ron Sink

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

17th...Keith & Alisa Johnson

STAFF EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY:

15th...Christopher Kiser... **1 YEAR**

17th...Dan Horton

INTERCESSORY PRAYER PARTNERS

Intercessory Prayer is a powerful ministry. Praying for another person helps us connect more deeply to each other and amplify needs before God. While we pray together on Sundays, emergencies and unexpected circumstances happen during the week. In these cases, would you volunteer to be part of an **Intercessory Prayer Partner Ministry?** Like a prayer chain, this begins by calling one of our ministers, the church office, or Patti Lovell with your prayer request. It will then be shared immediately with volunteers who have **made a commitment to offer intercessory prayer immediately when they receive the message.** Communication will be either text or phone call. If you would like be on the list as an **Intercessory Prayer Partner, please call or text Patti Lovell at (336) 309-9302.** We'd like to have the list completed by Easter Sunday.

SWIRL MINISTRIES SKIT: BECOMING A QUEEN AFTER THE HEART OF A KING

Women, you are invited! Esther had to learn the ways of the kingdom to which she belonged. She had to learn the manners of court life, the intellectual, emotional and spiritual challenges of high position. To put it simply...Esther had to be transformed from a young lady into a queen before she could wear the title and fulfill the roll. In the same way, the Christian woman must learn the ways of the kingdom of Heaven. **(March 17th at 12:00PM)**

VERNON GASTON (V.G.) PRICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS! Applications are due to the church office by March 31. You can contact the church office for an application.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Lam. 3:22-23

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thy own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed— great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
 MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923
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FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10.Ref.

Fairest Lord Jesus

His countenance was as the sun — Revelation 1:16 KJV

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of all na - tions,

O Thou of God and man the Son; Thee will I cher - ish,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring; Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twin - kling star - ry host; Je - sus shines bright - er,
 Son of God and Son of man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's gló - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er Than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.
 Praise, ad - o - ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

WORDS: Anonymous German Hymn, *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; CRUSADERS' HYMN (ST. ELIZABETH)
 st. 1-3, tr. source unknown; st. 4, Joseph August Seiss, 1823-1904 Irregular
 MUSIC: *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; arr. Richard Storrs Willis, 1819-1900