



For Immediate Release

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Date: November 13, 2009

23rd Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship

MONDAY, December 28, 2009

4:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Frederick, Maryland

Frederick, MD - Frederick's most historic worship sites will open their doors to the public at 4 p.m. on Monday, December 28 for the 23rd annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship. Twelve of Frederick's most notable historic churches and one synagogue invite the public to join them in celebrating their heritage and holiday customs 4 until 9 p.m. This event is free and will delight adults, children, historians, and educators. This year, the Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship will be held on the Monday following Christmas. When Christmas falls on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the event is held the following Monday so that sites can hold regular services throughout the weekend.

Frederick's Historic District continues to be a destination of tradition and festivity. Church spires that highlight the Frederick skyline have become a symbol of Frederick's distinguished heritage and beauty. Three centuries of American architecture and history envelop holiday décor and provide the perfect setting for joyful celebrations and camaraderie. Outside luminaries attract visitors to the sites, where they will enjoy tours, interpretations, and seasonal music performed by vocalists, piano, organ or instrumentalists – with some sites offering complimentary beverages and light refreshments. Congregational members will act as hosts to greet visitors and answer questions about the history of the churches.

The tour includes the following worship sites: All Saints' Episcopal Church; Asbury United Methodist Church; Beth Sholom Synagogue; Calvary United Methodist Church; Centennial Memorial United Methodist Church; Evangelical Lutheran Church; Evangelical Reformed Church; First Church of Christ, Scientist; Frederick Presbyterian Church; Grace United Church of Christ; St. John's Catholic Church; and Trinity Chapel.

A sampling of the events include: Bell-chime demonstrations at Trinity Chapel, 4 – 9 p.m., Christmas Putz (Nativity scene) at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, 4 – 9 p.m. Organ, instrumental and soloist seasonal music can be heard at various locations throughout the evening. Tri-State Harp Ensemble at Calvary United Methodist Church, 4 – 7 p.m. Frederick Judaism, a 10-minute presentation with questions and answers, and the Torah will be displayed at Beth Sholom Synagogue, 4 – 9 p.m. One God, One Voice will perform 5 – 6 p.m. at Grace United Church of Christ, then again at Centennial Memorial United Methodist Church after 6:30 p.m. First Church of Christ, Scientist will answer questions regarding Christian Science.



The generous support of the participating worship sites and community sponsorship from Everedy Square and Shab Row, The Plamondon Companies, The Gazette as a media sponsor and the Tourism Council of Frederick County make this year's event possible.

We invite you, your family, friends, and house guests to make this tour a holiday tradition. A complimentary copy of the brochure with map and program descriptions are available at the Frederick Visitors Center, 19 E. Church Street (301) 600-4047 or (800) 999-3613, the U.S. 15 South-bound Visitors Center near Emmitsburg, at participating worship sites and sponsor locations – or visit the Tourism Website at www.FrederickTourism.org.

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