

*Be Transformed*

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

**F**or Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.



**W**e have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

**W**e ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

**T**here is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

***Donate online by scanning this code:***

***or you may use our new texting donation system. Send a donation amount to 301-804-2933 . You will receive a text back within minutes with a link. Click the secure link and provide your method of payment and a receipt will be sent to you! Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.***



Thank you.

# EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

10:30 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand. **Bold** print indicates responses by all  
Hymns can be found in the back of the bulletins

### Greetings and Announcements

#### Blessing of the Backpacks

### Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

We, who are many,  
**are one in Christ.**

We, of varying gifts,  
**are one in Christ.**

We, of different cultures and world views,  
**are one in Christ.**

We, who offer praise in different ways,  
**are one in Christ.**

Thanks be to God.  
**Hallelujah!**

#### \*Opening Prayer

**If it had not been for you, God, we would not be here. From busy and chaotic lives and from slow and static lives you call us to worship. Give us courageous faith, creativity, persistence, and compassion as we discern what is your will, and follow you with our whole selves. Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn *Many Gifts, One Spirit*

*No. 177*

#### \*Call to Confession

#### \*Prayer of Confession

Sometimes we fail to say “No” to those who demand of us things that are contrary to your will.

**Forgive us.**

Sometimes we fail to say “Yes” to risks that require faith that we have not yet acquired.

**Forgive us.**

Sometimes we fail to wait, for you to create a seemingly impossible

opportunity for hope, when all hope is lost.

**Forgive us.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Though we may falter,

God's steadfast love is always ready to hold and support us.

**We are forgiven by God's grace; thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Thought For the Day**

**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, for ever. Amen.**

**The Scriptures**

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service**

**Anthem** *Many Gifts, One Spirit*

- A. Pote

*ERUCC Singers*

**\*Closing Hymn** *We Would Be Building*

- No. 607

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

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**Worship Notes:** Today's prayers are from Seasons of the Spirit™, Pentecost 1 2014

**Every Sunday at 10:30**

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzloh0xyyacgg5fmjnoi>

**Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9\\_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w)



**The flowers on the altar this morning** are in honor of this congregation who embody the UCC motto, “to believe is to care, and to care is to do”. They are given with gratitude by Jean N. Fish and Barbara J. Biser.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in memory of Wes Andrews by Jack Day and Peter Brehm.

**Prayer List** - Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Maryann Simmons, Betsy Fisher, Peggy Githerman, The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Mark Ulrich, Tamara Tamas, Al Peden, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Tina Baker, Alyce Schimid (sister of Dennie Schmid), Lois Wilson (Dan Smith’s aunt), Jerry Cassell (brother of Ave Barr), Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Susan Matesa (friend of Dan Smith & Austin Byrd), Larry Maples, Dustin Chapman (friend of Catie, Alex & Sean), Jane Doll, Susan McCauley (niece of Jack Stush), Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Terry Smiley (uncle of Scott Smiley), Shawn Smiley (cousin of Scott Smiley), Joe Jahoda (Kim Jahoda’s dad), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Frank Tymczyszyn (brother in law of Nancy Jones), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).

Tamara Tamas  
517 Sugarbush Circle  
Frederick, MD 21703

Mark Ulrich  
8831 Lew Wallace Rd  
Urbana, MD 21704

Betsy Fisher  
309 Upper College Terr  
Frederick, MD 21701

We ask you to remember all of those currently serving in the Armed Forces. Your prayers and cards are welcomed and appreciated by those on our prayer list.

**Worship Next Week: August 30** [Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship next Sunday](#) 10:30 a.m. In Romans 12: 9-21, named in some Bibles as “Marks of the True Christian,” Paul writes a description of what the Christian life looks like. It reads like a list of instructions, and perhaps was written to offer advice to new Christians. In these exhortations, Paul calls the Christian community to put its faith into action. The imperative verbs give a sense of urgency to the community’s calling. Exercising love, rejoicing in hope, overcoming evil with good – all go to the heart of what it means to be Spirit-led. A “call to faithful living” is a consistent theme in the readings for this Sunday. Exodus 3:1–15 narrates Moses’ call. It also serves as the call to the people of Israel to hope in God’s promise of a secure future. In Matthew 16:21–28, Jesus calls both teacher and followers to discipleship.

**WORSHIP ON THE PATIO AT ERUCC**  
**Wednesdays at 6 pm**

Please bring your own chair and wear a mask.

Pastor Daniel will be leading the service and Brenda Hedges will be providing music.

**Join Tuesday Bible Study via Zoom Meeting ID: 608 416 206** **Passcode: 588188**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/608416206?pwd=NzFtVUsxUmQ5eGpxMmk4WDB6Z0lUUT09>

Each Monday, we will send out a Bible study sheet. The passage will be one of the lessons from the previous Sunday's scripture readings. You are invited to use the material for your own personal reflection and, if you wish, join a Zoom call on Tuesdays at 11:00 am to discuss the passage with others.

If you wish to be added to this Bible Study mailing, please let Amy know: [aaguilar@erucc.org](mailto:aaguilar@erucc.org)

**Everyone** is invited to join Pastor Daniel for a check-in **Tuesday and Thursday at noon:**  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/683955819> If you need to know how to set up Zoom, contact the office and we will attempt to walk you through the process. PW 551754

**Youth** are invited to join Pastor Daniel for a Zoom call **every Wednesday** at 4:00 pm:  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/405187542>

### **THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY from 7-8 p.m.**

#### **The Book of Acts**

(If you are interested in participating in this study, contact the church office for the materials)  
**Via Zoom (Link will be sent to participants)**

In the last two generations, since the mid-twentieth century, much has changed in our society and the role of the church. Christianity no longer enjoys the kind of taken-for-granted support in and from the society that it once did. Today American society is an officially secular, religiously pluralistic, and ethnically diverse one. In many ways, this is also the world of the Acts of the Apostles, a world where Christianity was not socially sanctioned nor mandated by the government. Christians were a minority and the church was more of a mission movement than an established social institution. As we negotiate these changes in our social role, Acts will be helpful to us.

#### **Stay Connected and Get Informed!**

There are many ways to receive information about what is happening at church each week. The weekly bulletin, the weekly informational email, and our monthly newsletter, The Trinity Chimes, Facebook, and Instagram. @eruccfred

**Thursday Thoughts**-A weekly emailed message that shares updates, highlights the upcoming service's scripture and focus, and includes announcements about Sunday School. To sign up to receive Thursday Thoughts, contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or [aaguilar@erucc.org](mailto:aaguilar@erucc.org) and share your preferred email address.

**Trinity Chimes**—ERUCC's monthly newsletter. A more in-depth look on what's happening with the congregation. How we're reaching out, learning and volunteer opportunities, member and social program updates. Receive Trinity Chimes by email! Contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or [aaguilar@erucc.org](mailto:aaguilar@erucc.org) to request to be added. (Paper copies also available upon request.)

### **ERUCC ADULTS ARE INVITED TO A ZOOM CALL WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM INDEN, GERMANY**

Sunday, August 30 at 12 Noon

Topic: ERUCC - Inden adult meeting

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92603064358?pwd=bjJsdm5xOGRxZnNKOEwxUWsxSHU0UT09>

Meeting ID: 926 0306 4358

Password: 317709

# HOW TO BE ANTI-RACIST

ENGAGEMENT, CONVERSATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

"Becoming an anti-racist is a life-long journey. It happens in community with other committed people who journey together and commit to decentering whiteness, leaning into practices to decolonize socialized patterns of thinking and behaviors. The process includes relearning history, correcting false narratives, and working towards radical shifts in policies and structures that harm black lives." ~Velda Love

## Book Discussions

**7 pm via Zoom Calls**

You can find the Zoom link on our Facebook page

**August 3**

"How to be an Antiracist"  
by Ibram X. Kendi

**September 1**

"Between the World and Me"  
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

**October 19**

"Stamped from the Beginning"  
by Ibram X. Kendi

**November 2**

"So You Want to Talk About Race"  
by Ijeoma Oluo

**December 1**

"I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World  
Made for Whiteness"  
by Austin Channing Brown

## Movie Discussions

**7 pm via Zoom Calls**

You can find the Zoom link on our Facebook page

Watch the movie at home and then engage in the conversation. If you do not have access to streaming services, call the church office to make arrangements to see the films.

**July 26**

"American Son"

**August 23**

"13th"

**September 20**

"I'm Not Your Negro"

**October 25**

"When They See Us"

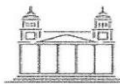
**November 29**

"Mudbound"

## Conversations

Susan and David Howard - Sunday evenings this fall  
(dates to be determined)

UCC White Privilege Curriculum - winter of 2021  
<http://privilege.uccpages.org/>



EVANGELICAL REFORMED  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(301) 662-2762

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ERUCCFred/>

### Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor ([bkdaniel@erucc.org](mailto:bkdaniel@erucc.org))

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus ([faw500@msn.com](mailto:faw500@msn.com))

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry ([ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org))

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Amy Aguilar, Office Administrator ([erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org)) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • (ph) 301-662-2762 • [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)



## Be Transformed

**Shiphrah and Puah, midwives to the people in Moses' time, speak:**

**Shiphrah:** A midwife helps women deliver babies. We bring pure, beautiful life into this world so full of corruption and death. Whatever time of the day or night, when we get the call, we go.

**Puah:** I don't know how the Pharaoh found out about us, because we mostly move in circles with other women. But, sure enough, one day, his soldiers were at our door. They said, "You must come with us immediately."

**Shiphrah:** Naturally, we assumed we were going to be killed, but there was no time to say goodbye.

**Puah:** When we got to the palace, we were led out of the dust and sun, and into the moist cool inner room. And, there he was, the Pharaoh himself!

**Shiphrah:** He told us that we must no longer be bringers of life. Instead, he instructed us to kill the children before they even arrived. And he did not kill us. He let us go, to be his agents of death.

**Puah:** By the way he commanded it, we realized the Pharaoh didn't understand very much about how babies are born.

**Shiphrah:** So we nodded and agreed, knowing in our hearts that we would never do as he said.

**Puah:** Instead, we went on helping the women when the birth pangs came. And some mothers died, and some babies too, but most of them lived.

**Shiphrah:** Later, when he asked us about this, we said, Life is too vigorous to be put down so easily. Now our people are stronger than ever.

**Puah:** And because we followed the way of life, not the way of death, so are we.



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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