



**EXTRAVAGANT
OPPORTUNITY**

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

For 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.



We 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 worshiping 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.

We 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.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: 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 -

November 15, 2020 Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost 10:30 a.m.

*All who are able may stand. **Bold** print indicates responses by all
Hymns are printed at the end of the bulletin

Greetings and Announcements

Kim Sexton

Prelude *Sicilienne*

- G. Fauré

David Howard, cello

*Call to Worship

As dry land thirsts for water.
As budding plants reach for the sun.
As dying leaves fall to the earth.

Our longing souls call us to worship.

*Opening Prayer

**There is a richness here –
a richness that greets and grows and holds and challenges and keeps.**

**There is a richness here –
a richness that surrounds and brings and delivers and gives.
The richness holds us in our weakness,
fills us in our hunger,
finds us when we're lost.**

**So here, richly blessed, we have come, and we have been found.
Let this time together inspire us in richness and grace. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

No. 25

See back of bulletin

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

There is a richness here – a gorgeous, flowing richness of unending abundance.
But that doesn't mean that it guides us.
Our ways – within and beyond our control –
speak of something different:
of lack, of fear,
of something other than an acknowledgement of

God's endless and beautiful river of grace.

But how do we step into that river?

Do we step into it with trust?

Do we trust the current of God's generous gifts?

Or do we run from the river?

For when we run, when we turn away from God's gifts in distrust,

We lose the refreshment and joy of that richness...

And something else reigns.

Then, what's left?

Now is the time – now is the time to consider just how we distrust God's abundance.

Now is the time – now is the time to begin something new.

Now is the time – now is them time to trust differently. *Silence*

*Assurance of Pardon

Let us pray:

We haven't always trusted, God.

But now we do.

We acknowledge the richness of your blessings

We see your flowing river of love

And we wade into your grace.

There is a richness – a richness that says "yes" – eternally – even in the face of our behavioral "no"s.

There is a richness that penetrates distrust and offers so much more.

This richness forgives and gives even more.

We know this forgiveness.

And we thank you, God.

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

Matthew 25:14–30

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Carolyn Roberts

Prayers of the People

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

Solo Largo

- Vivaldi

David Howard, cello

***Closing Hymn** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

- No. 556

See back of bulletin

*Benediction

Go now as children of the light:

**Ready to serve,
Eager to give,
Delighted to love.**

And may God's blessing:

Source, Word and Spirit, One,
keep, lead and mold you, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Postlude



We welcome the Rev. Carolyn Roberts as our preacher this morning. Pastor Daniel is with a group from ERUCC in Daytona Beach working on hurricane relief.

Worship Notes: Written by the Rev. Kaji S. Douša, Senior Minister of Park Avenue Christian Church (DOC), New York City.



Every Sunday at 10:30 <https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzioh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w

You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in loving memory of my father, William B. Kreh, from Susan E. Kreh.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Jack Day and Peter Brehm.

Prayer List - Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Tina Baker, Bob Marendt, Cathie Duncan, Starr Schaeberle, Tom Ford, Anne Hoffmann, Lauren Jenkins (niece of Donna Logee), Ro Higinbotham, The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Alyce Schimdt (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, 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).

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: November 22 Ctrl + Click [HERE](#) to join worship Sunday 10:30 a.m. This day we proclaim the hope of God's eternal realm of justice and peace. In Matthew 25: 31-46, Jesus' teaching tells how and when God's reign comes in its fullness, the nations will be separated in the same way a shepherd separates sheep and goats. Jesus' disciples today are called to perform acts of mercy and justice to those in need – to live out God's great compassion.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ERUCC

We will be pre-recording a Thanksgiving Service that will be available for viewing on YouTube. Look for more information in the weekly emails. The service will include our traditional Thanksgiving hymns such as "America the Beautiful," as well as a reading of a President's Thanksgiving Proclamation.

The recording will take place on Sunday, November 22 following the 10:30 service for those who wish to participate.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

A response card for Christmas Eve services will be included in the worship packets being delivered at the end of November. In our re-opening guidelines, we can host 100 people in the Sanctuary and another 50 in the Community Room. You will be invited to complete the card and let us know whether you are interested in worshipping, in person, on Christmas Eve.

If we can continue to meet in-person safely, our plan is to have the 5:30 family service and 7:30 service in-person and live streamed from the Sanctuary. The 10:30 service will be in-person and held in Trinity Chapel.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us for Zoom Sunday School for Children/Youth at 9:30 a.m.

Kindergarten thru 4th grade Sunday School Teachers: Dawn Lagrotteria and Kim Sexton
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89653038025?pwd=djRPU05TNDFYczFMVUdOVzdmWnpuUT09>
Meeting ID: 896 5303 8025 Passcode: 667229

5th - 7th Grade Sunday School Teachers: Kathryn King, Arthur Slade and Jim Weitz
<https://zoom.us/j/92955152861?pwd=VStwT3ZISDlLOVhhTWJRpTB0aHRyUT09>
Meeting ID: 929 5515 2861 Passcode: hpQSF1

High School Teachers: Pastor Daniel, Stephanie Sites and Glenn Wallace
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84314617999?pwd=Rkd1N2JyZDFHdmtPY1BMTitkUzhUdz09>
Meeting ID: 843 1461 7999 Passcode: 979546

COVID Support-Encouragement Group November 17

The class is called “Surviving and Thriving During the Covid Virus.” The virus pandemic has been difficult for everyone. This group will provide a safe place to talk about what it’s like to go through the pandemic. The group will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 2-3 pm. It is a drop-in group, no preparation needed. Joan and Allen Maples will be hosting the group outside (weather permitting) or in the Community Room. Please bring your mask and a chair; and we will be social distancing. As a backup, we will be using Zoom, For additional information please contact Allen Maples at allen.maples@gmail.com or call 301-663-5351.

Join Tuesday Bible Study via Zoom OR IN PERSON! 11 a.m.

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/608416206?pwd=NzFtVUsxUmQ5eGpxMmk4WDB6Z0IUUT09>
Meeting ID: 608 416 206 Passcode: 588188

Explore the Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have mean to his disciples, and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?

In Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today.

Each session will begin with a 11-13-minute video introducing the lesson followed by discussion. If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Daniel know so you can receive a copy of the book.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY from 7-8 pm

The Gospel of Mark

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89672369983?pwd=VkljN0gvbHJ6ZVZJaVRKY0s0WmlpZz09>
Meeting ID: 896 7236 9983 Password: 427069

Genesis Study Group Wednesday Evening at 7 PM via Zoom

Wednesday Bible Study Group has resumed viewing and discussing *The Book of Genesis* as presented by Professor Gary A. Rendsburg of Rutgers University. This study is one published by The Great Courses. We are viewing the lectures by Professor Rendsburg beginning with the lecture “A Bride for Isaac” which moves us into the second generation of the matriarchs and patriarchs of the Hebrew people. Throughout November the focus will remain on the relationship between Isaac’s sons Esau and Jacob and the expanding family that God had promised to Abraham and Sarah. If you like messy family sagas, this is your kind of Bible Study.

Since this will be a Zoom class, if you have not been getting the link for the Wednesday evening class on *Cathedral on Fire*, please let Esther Ziegler know your email address to be added to the list. estherrziegler@gmail.com.

Coins for a Cause Is Back!

A new program sponsored by the Mission and Social Action Committee,

Coins for A Cause, launched this year in March, weeks before the

pandemic put the brakes on in-person worship. While many of us still worship remotely, our strong stewardship during this time shows how much we still care. The Committee decided to change this program to meet the current reality. We will support organizations that make a difference here in Frederick. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or added to your online giving.



During the last part of 2020, donations will go to the **Red Wiggler Farm**. The Red Wiggler Farm is a local organization that strives to create a community “where people with and without developmental disabilities come together to work, learn, and grow healthy food.” Check out their website at www.redwiggler.org! or [Red Wiggler on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtPjyfXWzJLcOOGQDmBzg).

How to be Anti-Racist Engagement, Conversation & 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

via Zoom Call

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86893297577?pwd=OEVSOVJrc1VRVzJmMkJydlk2S1Z4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 868 9329 7577 Passcode: 494164

December 1 at 7 p.m.

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

Movie Discussions

(Watch the movie at home and then engage in the conversation. Conversations will be held by Zoom call at 7 pm on the designated dates. If you do not have access to streaming services, call the church office to make arrangements to see the films.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84061140430?pwd=OTFoRGJ0QnNvU2hZVXBbTh5VjIUQT09>

Meeting ID: 840 6114 0430 Password: 268380

November 29

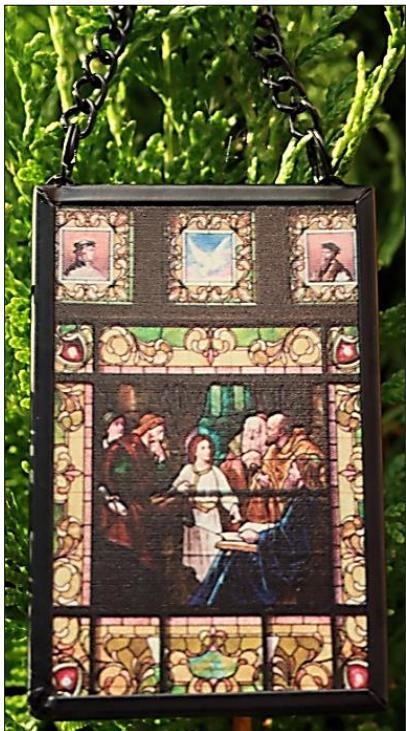
“Mudbound”

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 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 to request to be added. (Paper copies also available upon request.)



Now Available!

Excited to reveal the 275th Anniversary commemorative ornament, featuring Trinity Chapel's beautiful stained glass window.

This miniature, just 2"x3" in size, reproduces the historic window on glass, with a metal frame and hanger. Now available for sale at \$15 each, your purchase supports the *Preserving Our History* campaign. All funds raised through the sale of the miniature windows go directly into our historic building preservation fund.

Just 200 boxed miniatures were ordered, the shipment is here, and they are available for purchase today. Contact the office to submit your request.

A sincere thank you to Jeff Schaeberle whose photograph of the stained glass window was used to create this miniature. His talents shine brightly at ERUCC!



Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (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) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

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O God, Our Help in Ages Past

25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1–2, 4–5

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and a common time signature (4). It contains four lines of lyrics: 1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, 2. Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure; 3. Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame, 4. A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone, 5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away; 6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!

The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a common time signature (4). It contains lyrics: Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home: Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure. From everlasting you are God, to end-less years the same. Short as the watch that ends the night before the ris-ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pening day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens 556

Catherine Cameron, 1967

Gen. 5:1-2; Isa. 42:5-9



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
 2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
 3 As each far hor - i - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new,



Flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
 Known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
 Chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.



We, your chil - dren, in your like-ness, share in - ven-tive powers with you;
 Probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined power,
 May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or, well be - gun;



Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - a - ting, show us what we yet may do.
 Fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um-phant hour.
 Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.



Catherine Cameron, a professor of social psychology in California, wrote this text in 1967 with Haydn's Austrian Hymn in mind. This tune, Holy Manna, appeared in The Columbian Harmony (1825), and was attributed to the compiler of that volume, William Moore.

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
William Moore, 1825

**T W E N T Y - F O U R T H S U N D A Y A F T E R
P E N T E C O S T**

November 15, 2020

Matthew 25:14-30

Extravagant Opportunity

The one who was given much uses what he is given to make an even greater amount. The one who was given a moderate amount returned a moderate amount. The one who began with very little...wait for it...ended up with very little. Sometimes the parables can be hard to relate to in our modern context, but this one seems very familiar. Maybe the one who was given much really was smarter or more faithful. Or, maybe he just got better advice.

We all need supportive peers, wise mentors and the still small voice that is heard in our own prayer practice. In the parable, we don't know how the servants made the decisions they did. We don't learn who was advising them. But we do know the kind of support that is available to United Church of Christ ministers at many places along their career path.

United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the philanthropic arm of the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, operates with a covenantal spirit as it:

- provides direct financial support and compassionate responses to authorized ministers, lay church employees, and their surviving spouses/partners, in times of urgent need and personal crises
- administers and raises funds for leadership initiatives that promote faithful and fruitful ministry across the United Church of Christ

Through the Minister's Financial Vitality Initiative, Next Generation Leadership Initiative, CREDO and the Annuitant Visitor Program, the UCBMA is a financial partner and perhaps more importantly a compassionate supporter to pastors and their spouses. From providing peer mentoring and education to young pastors with promise, or financial aid for the widows of long-serving pastors, the UCBMA is available to help and support ministers wherever they are on life's journey.

To find out how you can support those who are supporting ministers and more about the work of the UCBMA please visit
<http://www.pbucc.org/index.php/art-ma-landing>.



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8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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