



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, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.***

Thank you.



**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)**

# EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

### Greetings and Announcements

#### Prelude

*John Widmann, guest organist*

#### \*Call to Worship

As we gather, may we open our hearts to receive newness of life.

**We come with hope for renewal.**

In our time of worship, may we be inspired by God's wisdom.

**We come seeking to learn and to draw closer to God.**

Come, let us worship, as the beloved children of God.

#### \*Opening Prayer

Cultivating God,

we come as your children to grow and learn,

because you are our divine vine grower.

God, we desire for you to abide within us,

and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.

As your branches, we ask you to nourish us

for continued growth.

**May you transform our hearts and minds  
as we hear your Word, sing your praises,  
and engage in holy dialogue through prayer.**

**May you help us to bear good fruit  
through the vine of Jesus Christ.**

**In Whose name we pray, Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

# 43

*See insert*

#### \*Call to Confession

#### \*Prayer of Confession

**O God, giver of life,**

**We confess the times when we fail to  
love our neighbors as we love ourselves.**

**God, forgive us when we ignore or  
we fail to see our neighbors in need.**

**Abiding God, also forgive us when we reject love from others, and shut down completely. As we confess the times when we did not tend to our own needs, and denied ourselves of your forgiveness and grace. In our failures, we have refused your invitation to grow closer to you. In our confession, O God, we pray your abiding love be shown through the ways we love more fully. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

O God, hear your beloved community as we repent and pray for your forgiveness. Give to us your grace and restore to us your love that is forgiven and fearless. God, we desire for your loving Spirit to renew and strengthen us daily. **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 Scripture**

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

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**

*Service of Holy Communion*

**Communion Prayer**

Through all the seasons  
and changes of our lives  
there is one that stands above all others:  
this Season of Easter,  
in which we celebrate with unbridled joy  
the presence of the risen and living Christ  
in our midst.

No matter where we have been,  
or where we find ourselves today,  
we are bold to gather in joy  
knowing that our living  
is tied up with that of Christ  
who lives forever.

With joy we gather  
at this sacred table  
to be sacred community:  
to be the people called by God  
into new and everlasting life.

We celebrate the joyous opportunity  
to share good news with all the world:  
that Christ's resurrection is for all people,  
that God's love is for all people,  
that this table and this feast  
are for all people.

We remember Jesus gathering  
with his closest friends  
yet knowing they would scatter,  
leaving him alone.  
Still, he gathered with them  
and shared this simple meal,  
taking bread and wine

and infusing them with new life;  
taking ordinary things  
and making them extraordinary in their new use.

And so we take the ordinary –  
bread and juice –  
and make it extraordinary by offering it to you.

We take this simple bread,  
and as it is broken we think of Jesus' words:  
"Take and eat; this is my body broken for you."

**It is broken that we may live in fullness and wholeness.**

We take this simple cup,  
and as it is lifted up we think of Jesus' words:  
"Take and drink; this is my blood, poured out for you and many for the  
forgiveness of sin."

**It is poured out that we may know ourselves forgiven.**

We know that in this meal  
we are gathered by a great community  
that has gone before us.  
We are bold to gather at this table  
with Thomas, and Lydia,  
with Paul and Ananias,  
and all those men and women  
who dared to join with one another  
in those first days,  
and boldly remember the presence  
of the living Christ in their midst.  
Bless us now in the sharing of this meal,  
that we may be enlivened to share your gifts  
with those who hunger and thirst  
for acceptance, for new life, for wholeness.

## **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Loving God, you have gathered us here  
out of love for you,  
and reminded us at this table  
that we are one people.**

**Send us out, now, into a hurting world  
to share the good news  
that Christ is alive for all people. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn** *Help Us Accept Each Other*

# 388  
*See insert*

**\* Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*John Widmann, guest organist*



**Every Sunday at 10:30**

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzloh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

**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)**

You can get to the link on our homepage at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)

**Worship Notes:** Today's liturgy: Abiding in Love: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B, was written by the Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey Guillaume, pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ in West Palm Beach. Copyright 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are in loving memory of John and Peggy Garst by the Charles Garst Family.

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

**Worship Next Week: May 9 Loving Friends**

*John 15:9-17 "...love one another."*

These are the words of Jesus to his followers. So simple, and yet not always so easy. Jesus' commandment to love one another in John, chapter 15, verse 12, is one of the strongest themes of Jesus' teaching. Not only does Jesus "command" us "to love one another," he shows us how: To love each other "as I have loved you." Jesus then "pushes the envelope" in verse 13: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:9-17).

Today, we will ordain and install the newly elected elders, deacons, and committee chairs and honor those who have been serving as deacons and greeters during the past year.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

John 15:1-8

### Abiding in Love

While today retired pastor Rev. Dr. Ron Patterson lives comfortably with his wife Charnley Marsden in Tacoma, Washington, his early life in Akron, OH was much more humble. Unsure of his life's direction, Ron met with his pastor, who encouraged the high schooler to enroll at Heidelberg College.

"My parents don't have the money for that," Ron told his minister. But endowment funds from both Grace UCC in Akron and Heidelberg College (now University) made college possible for Ron – as well as a long and successful career in ministry.

And he remains eternally grateful for such great generosity from people he never knew.

"All because of the endowments people like me, who had nothing, could go to college and seminary. That's why I've left a planned gift to the UCC. So much of what the UCC was able to do for justice and work in the world was because of our endowments at churches, camps, Conferences, and the National Setting," Ron continued.

"The UCC has something to say and to share, and the financial part is not the most important part but sure makes the other parts possible in so many ways. We need to be a place where prophets like Traci Blackmon can stand, and voices like Karen Georgia Thompson's can be heard."

To learn more about giving to the UCC, please contact Generosity Officer Andy DeBraber at [debrabera@ucc.org](mailto:debrabera@ucc.org) or 216.736.2168 or Generosity Officer Jessica Shine at [shinej@ucc.org](mailto:shinej@ucc.org) or (216) 736.2175.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2021 United Church of Christ

BUL0309