



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 resume providing childcare during services beginning September 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**H**ymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the 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 for offering 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.

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

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

# EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

Sept. 5, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:30 a.m.

*†All who are able may stand.*

### Greetings and Announcements

#### Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together!

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

#### \*Opening Prayer

**Humble and gentle Savior, who makes all things new.**

**Be with us as we learn to love, trust, and rest.**

**May your joy strengthen us.**

**May we delight in your presence and experience your refreshing this day.**

**Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn *Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way*

#465

*See insert*

#### \*Call to Confession

#### \*Prayer of Confession

Rabbi, Teacher Jesus,

You who taught thousands

And yet were willing to learn from the least of these,

We confess that we pretend to know

When in truth we still wonder.

**Forgive our pretense,**

**That we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers,**

**To fresh ideas,  
To one another,  
To you.**

Vulnerable Christ,

You who lived in humble love,

**We confess that we have been proud in thinking we could make it on our own.**

**We confess that we have been afraid to receive goodness we did not earn.**

**We confess that we have need of your grace, mercy, and love.**

*(Moment of silence and reflection)*

**Forgive our pride and distrust**

**That we may care for one another**

**And follow in the example you set for us.**

**In your name we pray. Amen.**

#### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

Through Jesus, we have been given an example of one who was truly nourished and sustained by God. Who was of God, with God, and in God. In Christ, we are forgiven, made whole, and invited to join with Christ among God's children.

#### **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, forever. Amen.**

#### **The Scriptures**

Isaiah 35:4-7a

OT Page 663

Mark 7:24-37

NT Page 42

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**

## **Offertory**

## **Communion Prayer**        *Bread for the Hungry*

## **Invitation**

Come, you who are hungry for God's love.  
Come, you who are yearning the Christ's presence.  
Come, you who want community;  
Know that you are welcome here.

## **Prayer**

Creator God, from the beginning of time  
you have loved your people,  
feeding and nourishing us  
as from your own body.  
When our ancestors were slaves in Egypt  
you heard their cry and brought them to freedom.  
Their bread did not have time to rise –  
they followed when you called.  
Yet when they became hungry on the journey  
they complained to you,  
and you offered them manna.  
Centuries later, your people came to Christ Jesus,  
hungry for a healing word  
and strength for their journey.  
Christ fed them, and yet they demanded more.

We are like those people:  
**we complain when we think we don't have enough  
and we demand more.**  
**You offer us all the things we need each day  
but sometimes we feel unsatisfied.**

Yet in face of all this, you have never given up on us.  
You sent Jesus, the Bread of Life, to be one of us  
and share our very life.  
Help us to know the presence of Christ  
in this bread we share,  
and know that you feed us always and everywhere  
with the divine presence.

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

*(There will be two stations or two places in the front of the sanctuary where you can go to receive the bread and the cup. Before or after you have communed, you are invited to at the chancel rail this morning to receive healing prayers.)*

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

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **\*Opening Hymn *O Jesus, I have Promised***

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*See insert*

### **\* Benediction**

### **Postlude** *(remain seated)*



*We wish to thank Ann Thompson for being our organist while Alison is away.*

**Worship Notes:** Today's liturgy: Copyright © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2020 Seasons of the Spirit™  
SeasonsFUSION Pentecost 1 2021



**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)

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are in loving memory of my mother, Isabell A. Boone, whose birthday was September 7, by Jo Ann Fritz.

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

## **Worship Next Week: September 12**

The letter of James in chapter 3, verses 1-12, speaks of the qualities of teachers and the power of words and speech for good and for will. In our reading from Mark 8: 27-28, Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” Peter responds by answering, “You are the Messiah.”

### **Today: Sept. 5, 2021**

**Deacons:** Mark Ulrich and Darryl Glick

**Elders:** Gerry Blessing

**Greeters:** Anne Hoffman, Cliff Barr, Rob Peters

**Welcome:** Ave Barr

**Sound:** Tadd Clarkson, Jeff Schaeberle, Ethan Kline

**Chimers:** Saturday: Dick Williams

Sunday: Tricia Coffey

### **Next Week: Sept. 12, 2021**

Chuck Baldree and Matt Pomeroy

Laura Rhoderick

Jo Ann Fritz, Tom Frazier

Jeanellen Kallevang

Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker, Jack Day

Suzanne Morris

Kelly Esslinger

**Prayer List** - Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Family of Lt. Andrew “Stew” Alcorn IV

Continuing: The Laird Family, Jeannette Johnson, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle) Bonnie Devilbiss, David Fall (brother of Mary Boswell), Michelle Smith (friend of Darryl Glick and Mark Ulrich), Maria Csiba (mother of Tamara Tamas), Trish Carey, Betsy Fisher, James “Jimmy” Sutphin (friend of Dan Smith), Danielle Hankey (friend of Ben Mercier), Leslie Tennant (mother of Maria Tennant), The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Alyce Schimd (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), 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), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Frank Tymczynsyn (brother in law of Nancy Jones), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Jess Pautz (friend of Sean Sexton), Lila Cross (grandmother of Kathryn Cross).

**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.**

### **Sunday Fellowship Hour Volunteers Needed:**

We are looking for families to volunteer to host our Sunday Fellowship Hour beginning September 12. We provide everything you need – or you can bring a special treat if you want to dazzle us! If you know of a week you would like to host, please email Angela Brittain at [fellowship@erucc.org](mailto:fellowship@erucc.org). Thank you.

## **Adult Educational Opportunities Resume in September**

### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Daniel**

11:00 – Noon. Flora Room, ERUCC Parish House

September 7 – November 2 *God's Promise: I Am with You*

### **Wednesday Discussion with Esther Ziegler**

*Controversies in Early Christian History -- Do They Still Matter?*

The Wednesday Evening Study Group will begin meeting again in person at 7 pm on Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be using curriculum based on *The Greatest Controversies of Early Christian History and How Jesus Became God* both written and presented in lectures by Bart D. Ehrman, the James S. Gray Distinguished Professor of New Testament at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. For more information, contact Esther Ziegler at [estherringler@gmail.com](mailto:estherringler@gmail.com)

### **Thursday Study**

Walking in interstellar space requires a tether. It's a lifeline that is attached from the walker to the mother ship. Among other things, it keeps the space walker from drifting away. It is a necessary connector. "Our hearts were made to find their rest in God, and they are restless until they do" (Augustine). Many of us try to "go it alone", in effect, cutting the tether that links us with the "Mother Ship", that is our mother/father God. We are drifters. This course will patiently and deeply explore the concepts of Covenant Love, Liberation Theology, and Social Justice (2000BCE-2000AD), and how they connect. Ambitious journey? Sure! Come with me. Let's travel together.

Richard Leslie, [jalrl@comcast.net](mailto:jalrl@comcast.net)

## **Weekly Events**

**Sunday School** IN PERSON begins September 12 at 9:30 a.m. Classes will be held in Trinity Chapel and the nursery will resume operation.

**Children's Church** will begin for children aged 4 years old through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade following the Thought for the Day.

**The Nursery** opens September 12 from 9 to Noon for infants through 4 year olds

**Monday Mess Hall** is back starting September 13<sup>th</sup>. All ages are welcome from 5-6pm to gather to share a meal and conversation. Suggested donation is \$2 per person.

**Chimers Needed** Ever wondered how the chimes are played in Trinity Chapel or have a burning desire to learn? Please join our team of chimers! No experience is necessary - you just need to know how to read music. The commitment is small - just 15 minutes on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning a couple times a month (or even once a month). We would love to teach more to carry on this great tradition. Please contact Tricia Coffey at 301-455-8720 (text) or [trishcoffey1195@gmail.com](mailto:trishcoffey1195@gmail.com) (email). Thanks!

**Children's/Youth** music rehearsals begin September 13th. Please know that our top priority is ensuring that everyone remains safe. We understand that many of our children at ERUCC have not been vaccinated and we will be sure to wear masks and ensure social distancing during Youth Spirit rehearsals. For Children's Music and Movement rehearsals, we will be doing non-singing related music activities in order to ensure safety (bells, boomwhackers, plays, movement with ribbons/scarves, drumming, etc.).

In order to plan our activities and ensure we include as many people in rehearsals as are interested, please take the time to complete the survey available through the link below. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas! If you have any questions, please feel contact: Trish Coffey at 301-455-8720 or [trishcoffey1195@gmail.com](mailto:trishcoffey1195@gmail.com)  
Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H7K8RFX>

Our **Handbell Ringers** enjoyed being able to bring back this great tradition to ERUCC last year. We would love to continue playing and have more of you join us. You **DO NOT NEED TO KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC** to play! All of the notes in the music are marked for those who need it. To any teens and/or adults who are interested in learning more, please reach out to Trish Coffey at 301-455-8720 or [trishcoffey1195@gmail.com](mailto:trishcoffey1195@gmail.com). Rehearsal days/times to be determined.

Our season of **Stewardship** begins Sunday, September 19 and ends on October 10 when we will make our financial commitment to support ERUCC, its missions and ministries for the coming year. During this four-week period of reflection we will hear personal stories from members about acts of love they have experienced during the pandemic. As we reflect on our own stories, we have the opportunity to deepen our own relationship with God and others

**Coming together by sharing Our Stories - Being Faces of Love**



“Being a part of ERUCC has been life changing for us. All in all, we have enjoyed a very rich life here at ERUCC. God has called us to be a part of something greater than ourselves, with like-minded people. In so doing, we have been blessed spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and have grown to be more understanding, loving and grateful people.”

- Jean Fish and Barb Biser From the Stewardship/Generosity Committee

## **God's Kids Club**

### **FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING - WEDNESDAYS AT 5PM**

Questions - contact Kim Sexton at [ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/908860555?pwd=RG40MUVGTy9GRWJQVjZ3SINzS1VUQT09>

Meeting ID: 908 860 555

Password: 279307

### **MOVIE NIGHT - FRIDAY SEPT 10<sup>TH</sup> @ 7PM**

Grab your popcorn and a snack get in comfy pj's and join us for a Classic Disney Movie – ON ZOOM

<https://bit.ly/3CW79ZZ>

### **DRAGON DAY SEPT 16<sup>TH</sup> 9AM-2PM**

Join us in the preschool room for crafts, snacks, bingo and more. Bring a bag lunch and a gently used book for a bingo prize. Please RSVP to Miss Kim at [ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org) to reserve your spot. Please wear a mask.

## **Creation Justice Sunday**

**September 19 – One Day – Five Events**

We will be celebrating becoming a Creation Justice church throughout the day.

# Camino de Santiago

*Walking the Way of St. James*

September 6-19, 2022



TRIP INFORMATION NIGHTS:

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 14 AND 21 7PM ~ COMMUNITY ROOM

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89260831611?pwd=TlN5SkdsYWJ4Q2syekFnSzhpQ3o2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 892 6083 1611. Passcode: 003521

## Be Opened

A woman comes to Jesus, asking for healing. Because this woman does not follow the same religion as Jesus and his followers, he at first turns her away. Did you catch that? It bears repeating in case you did not. Jesus refuses to heal the woman because she does not follow the same religion. Even Jesus cannot see past his notions of right and wrong, black and white, in and out.

But we have this story because the woman startles Jesus into changing his mind. Not only is her child healed, but Jesus and those who followed him then and follow him now are forever changed.

Even Jesus has to change his mind sometimes. Even Jesus has to pivot away from his entrenched beliefs to embrace a new way. Even Jesus has to be uncomfortably challenged before he can imagine a new way of doing ministry and healing those in need in his community.

This story is a powerful encouragement to those in leadership positions in church, who fear that change in this 21st context of ministry is both inevitable and impossible. Like Jesus, may you discover that while the only constant is change, you can be who you need to be to lead in these changing times. Jesus himself went through the process of recognizing that what he had been doing was no longer fruitful. Even Jesus saw that it was imperative that he open his heart and mind to new possibilities.

In her book, *Dynamic Discernment: Reason, Emotion, and Power in Change Leadership*, Sarah B. Drummond notes that she has studied change for more than two decades and in that time, she has “found that even change is changing.” She has uncovered “dramatic shifts in the language we use for the role of leader in bringing about change.” But change itself is not the end of the story. “Throughout the history of God’s interaction with creation, we see God providing the resources to face that which is uncertain and new.”\*

What tools is God providing you in this time of rapid change? How can you make the best use of those tools? What prayer can you offer to our Christ, who shows us how to change our minds?

\*Drummond, Sarah B. - *Dynamic Discernment: Reason, Emotion, and Power in Change Leadership*. The Pilgrim Press, 2019.



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

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