

Gathered and Scattered

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

**F**or Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room. (Accessible by the stairs from the Church Street Entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are located in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.



**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 ([burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com](mailto:burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.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.

Tyler L. York, Office Administrator ([tyork@erucc.org](mailto:tyork@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 -

June 5, 2022

Pentecost

10:30 am

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

\*All who are able may stand

**Chimes Concert** at 10:00 am from Trinity Chapel's steeple

### Greetings and Announcements

**Prelude** *Festive Procession*

-- K. Johnston  
ERUCC Ringers

### \*Call to Worship

And in the last days it shall come to pass, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,

**And your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young shall see visions.**

When the Day of Pentecost had come, they were all gathered together in one place.

**And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.**

And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them.

**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.**

### \*Opening Prayer

**God of wind, word, and fire, we bless your name this day for sending the light and strength of your Holy Spirit. We give you thanks for all the gifts, great and small, that you have poured out upon your children. Accept us with our gifts to be living praise and witness to your love throughout all the earth; through Jesus Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn *O Spirit of the Living God*

#263

1 O Spir - it of the liv - ing God, pure Light and Fire Di -  
2 Blow, Wind of God! With wis - dom blow, dis - perse and put to  
3 Teach us to ut - ter liv - ing words of truth which all may  
4 So shall we know the power of Christ, the strength of love to

vine: burn bright - ly in your church once more, its life and  
flight the mists of er - ror, clouds of doubt which hide you  
hear, the lan - guage all can un - der - stand when love speaks  
save, so shall we rise with Christ to life which soars be -

faith re - fine, Fill it with love and joy and power, with  
from our sight. Burn, Wing - ed Fire! In - spire our lips, re -  
loud and clear; Till ev - ery na - tion, age, and race shall  
yond the grave; And earth shall win true ho - li - ness, which

righteous - ness and peace, till Christ shall dwell in  
new in us your call to preach with zeal your  
blend their creeds in one, and all to - geth - er  
makes your chil - dren whole, and draws us on by

hu - man hearts, and sin and sor - row cease.  
great good news: God's love ex - tends to all.  
use their gifts to see your will is done.  
grace to reach cre - a - tion's glo - rious goal!

### **\*Call to Confession**

God speaks to us through the Spirit. Hearing requires being open to the Word and honest about ourselves in wholeness and brokenness. Trusting in God's mercy, and wanting to hear the good news of grace and forgiveness, let us confess our sin and ask for acceptance.

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**God of wind and fire, we confess that sometimes we fear your Spirit. In those moments when the Spirit gushes, pushes, and challenges us to move toward the unknown, we would rather cling to comfort, to what is familiar. Forgive our hesitations, God, and renew our ability to entrust our lives to your care. Move us again beyond the boundaries of language and nationality, into endless compassion and extravagant love. In this world, so in need of forgiveness, peace, healing, and good news, may we be among those who overcome fear, offer messages of hope, and practice your infinite graciousness. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

God does not wait for us to be perfect before loving us. Indeed, Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners, proof of God's embracing love. Accept the grace and forgiveness of God, and walk as reconciled people in the Spirit. You are a child of God – loved and accepted. Amen.

### **Anthem *Do Lord***

-- V. Stephenson  
ERUCC Ringers

### **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.**

Chords: F, Gm D Gm, F, Dm C, F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

Chords: F, Gm D Gm, F, Bb/C C7, F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Chords: Bb, F, G7, C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Chords: F, Gm D Gm, F, Dm C7, F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

**The Scripture**

Genesis 11: 1-9

OT Page 9

Acts 2: 1-8, 11b-18

NT Page 119

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

## Morning Prayers

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

Offertory *Song of Pentecost*

-- J. Raney  
Senior Choir

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit we have been uniquely fashioned to serve your will. Bless these offerings and the ministries they support in your name, and may they be multiplied by the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### – SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

#### Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Almighty God, in creating heaven and earth your Spirit moved over the face of the waters. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers, anointing them to speak your Word.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him and declared him your beloved Son. With your Spirit upon him he turned away the temptations in the wilderness. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord ascended, he promised to be with us always, baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, as on the Day of Pentecost.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, showing forth the fruit of the Spirit until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Amen.

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

*This morning we will bring communion to the congregation as you are seated in the pews. Please hold the bread until all have been served and the pastors extend the invitation for all to eat. Please hold the cup of grape juice until all have been served and the pastors extend the invitation for all to drink. In this way, we can commune together.*

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

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for his holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn** *Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us*

#267

1 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us, come with Pen - te -  
2 We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the grace of  
3 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us words of

cos - tal power; give the church a strong - er vi - sion,  
for - mer years; for to - mor - row's un - known path - way,  
fire and flame. Help our strug - gling voic - es praise you,

help us face each cru - cial hour. Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion,  
hear, O God, our hum - ble prayers. In the church's pil - grim jour - ney  
glo - ri - fy your ho - ly name. Good Cre - a - tor, Sav - ior, Spir - it,

Je - sus Christ, the Cor - ner - stone, still the church is  
you have led us all the way, still in pres - ence  
Three in One: what mys - ter - y! We would sing our

called to mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.  
move be - fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.  
loud ho - san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

**\*Benediction**

**\**Sevenfold Amen***

#814

**Postlude** (*please be seated*)

**The flowers on the altar** this morning are placed by Cathie and Will Duncan in loving memory of their parents, Bill and Ev Brumbaugh and Jack and Sally Ducan.

**The yellow rose bud** is presented by Kate McDermott in honor of Capt. James Greene, U.S. Army, 5th Special Forces Group, currently serving at Ft. Campbell, KY.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 16 at 8:30 am, 87 at 10:30 am, and 82 online.

Watch  
Worship  
Live



**Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 am**

<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>



Want to listen to the sermon again?

Visit our YouTube channel: [bit.ly/erucc\\_youtube](https://bit.ly/erucc_youtube)

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### **Today: June 5, 2022**

Liturgist: Robin Cooney  
Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick  
Elder: Tyler L. York  
Greeters: Danielle Carbonne, Sandy Gray  
Anne Hoffman  
Welcome: Ave Barr, Marj Berkheimer  
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Ethan Kline  
Kelly Esslinger  
Fellowship: Green Team, Harrison Fisher  
Chimers: *Saturday:* Dick Williams  
*Sunday:* Robin and David Cooney  
Communion: Linda Coyle, Felecia Bishop  
Stewards: Jeanellen Kallevang,  
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick

### **Next Week: June 12, 2022**

Robin Cooney  
Chuck Baldree, Matt Pomeroy  
Gerry Blessing  
Eliza Stitely, Cathie Duncan  
Jo Ann Fritz  
Holly Davis  
Kelly Esslinger, Larry Martin  
Jeff Baker  
Maples Family  
Suzanne Morris  
Kelly Esslinger

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## **FELLOWSHIP**



Please join us for fellowship in the Community Room after worship to chat with friends, welcome our visitors, and enjoy a time of refreshment.

The Community Room, located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Worship Next Week: Trinity Sunday**

Our scripture readings for this Sunday are Romans 5:1-5 and John 16: 12-15. Jesus told the disciples he had much more to tell them, but it would be too much to bear. They would have to depend on the Spirit of Truth for further instructions. What does it mean to trust the Holy Spirit to help us to live into the future with hope?

The Rev. David Cooney will be preaching and leading worship this morning.  
The Senior Choir will be singing.

**Hospital and Prayer List** – Your pastor wants to be available when members of ERUCC are in the hospital. Please let us know so that we can visit with you and your family and provide support. We always ask permission before adding a name to be included in the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

**Prayer List** - Please remember the following people in your prayers: Nancy Tordoff (mother of Kim Sexton), Mike Farner (friends of Darryl Glick and Mark Ulrich), Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby), Tamara Tamas, Patti Patterson, Katharine Alley, Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Mack Johnson, David Howard, Paige Coffey, Jane Doll, Michael Rhoads (son of Barbara Rhoads), Westin (great nephew of Sandy Gray & Danielle Carbone, Peggy Githerman, Jeannette Johnson, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle) Bonnie Devilbiss, Maria Csiba (mother of Tamara Tamas), Betsy Fisher, James “Jimmy” Sutphin (friend of Dan Smith), The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).

Nancy Tordoff (knee replacement surgery on June 9)  
42 Sandelwood Dr  
Madison, CT 06443

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### **STAY INFORMED**

Read our Trinity Chimes monthly newsletter for more information about ERUCC activities, opportunities, and updates. You can find the Trinity Chimes in the back of the sanctuary and online at [bit.ly/June22Chimes](http://bit.ly/June22Chimes).

If you have an announcement for the bulletin, Thursday Thoughts, or Trinity Chimes, please send to [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

## Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

### **BIBLE STUDY CLASS with Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg**

**The Book that Breathes New Life**

**Online**

**9:00 – 10:20 am**

On May 1st, having finished our study of the Prologue in Genesis, we will begin reading the Acts of the Apostles. We invite anyone interested in learning about how to read the Bible and understand the context in which it was written and how it can speak to us today. No background is necessary, just a Bible.

To join via Zoom: [bit.ly/3GEIvhJ](https://bit.ly/3GEIvhJ)

Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888

Passcode: 327128

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### **LET'S TALK**

**Community Room**

**9:30 – 10:15 am**

**Today's Topic:** There is no *Let's Talk* session this morning.

**On June 12, 19, 26:** Spiritual Music led by David Howard. Composers throughout the centuries have been inspired to write sacred music based on texts drawn from the Bible and elsewhere. In three sessions, June 12, 19, and 26, I would like to explore some of these settings. In our time together we will read, listen to, and discuss music by JS Bach, Arvo Part, Monteverdi, Stravinsky, and Violeta Parra. I am looking forward to sharing with you some of my very favorite compositions.

## This Week at ERUCC

### **SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**



This Sunday, we graciously receive the **Strengthen the Church** offering. Donations are used to help re-imagine and build the future of the United Church of Christ. Shared at the conference and national levels, Strengthen the Church largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the United Church of Christ does not have a strong presence. It also provides support for existing churches' new initiatives.

**Mortgage Assistance:** On the first Sunday of each month, we have a special opportunity for giving towards Mortgage Assistance. Donations fund ERUCC's mortgages with the Fisher Fund and FCB Bank, a division of ACNB Bank, payments on which are about \$153,000 per year.

## Upcoming at ERUCC

### COMMUNITY GARDEN

Select dates through August 6

8:00 – 10:00 am

Our Green Team is offering the opportunity to work in the Community Garden near the Frederick News Post building on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. This is a great way to get some fresh air and exercise, enjoy the company of other volunteers, and help get food to folks in our community who need access to fresh vegetables.

Sign up to for dates in May – August: [bit.ly/3LtuBBc](https://bit.ly/3LtuBBc)

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### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 20 – 24

Community Room

9:00 am – 12 noon



Vacation Bible School: Knights of the North Castle will be June 20 – 24 for children 4 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. A donation of \$25 per child is suggested.

Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book. They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor—the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God. Contact Kim Sexton, [ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org) with questions.

### Can you help with food donations for VBS?

Sign up to donate at [bit.ly/22vbsfood](https://bit.ly/22vbsfood).

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### ERUCC OUTREACH AT FREDERICK PRIDE FESTIVAL 2022

Saturday, June 25

Carroll Creek Linear Park

ERUCC, is providing outreach at the Frederick Pride Festival hosted by The Frederick Center on Saturday, June 25. We proudly support The Frederick Center and our LGBTQ+ community. We will have a table at this event announcing our mission and programs to Frederick Pride visitors. Please consider signing up for a shift. Bring a water bottle and a chair and join us on a rain or shine day! For more information, contact Julie Clark, [jclarkad@yahoo.com](mailto:jclarkad@yahoo.com), or sign up at [bit.ly/3NaaMjn](https://bit.ly/3NaaMjn).

## Additional Announcements

### **NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY – WEAR ORANGE**



June 3 was National Gun Violence Awareness Day, also known as #WearOrange, a national, nonpartisan effort to raise awareness about the gun violence epidemic in America and honor the survivors.

During #WearOrange weekend, June 3-5, everyone who believes we can and must solve the problem of gun violence in America, will take action and stand together in a statement of resilience and fortitude as we advance our efforts. Look for orange decorations and buildings in orange lights throughout downtown Frederick. Wear orange to honor the survivors of gun violence. ERUCC is decorated in orange thanks to the efforts of the Frederick chapter of Moms Demand Action.

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### **POOR PEOPLE’S AND LOW-WAGE WORKERS’ ASSEMBLY AND MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON AND TO THE POLLS**

Join others from the Frederick area on a bus to the “Poor People’s Campaign Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls” on Saturday, June 18.

Book a seat at [rally.co/booking/115578/171/trips](https://rally.co/booking/115578/171/trips) for \$40 roundtrip  
The Frederick rally point for the bus is 66 Waverley Dr.

Departs 7:28am, Arrive 9:00am in D.C. | Depart D.C. 3:45pm, Frederick 5:17pm

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### **SUMMER COINS FOR A CAUSE**

The Coins for a Cause collection in June - August will be shared with The Frederick Center, a 501c3 organization that serves the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) communities. Since its inception in 2012, The Frederick Center has grown into a well-respected organization advocating and supporting our community which now proudly bolsters over 500 program events each year. They are leaders in advocacy and education. They have an HIV test kit distribution program, and over eight support groups open to the public.

Coins for A Cause is a program of ERUCC’s Mission and Social Action Committee to support organizations that make a difference here in Maryland that are not supported in our annual budget. A different beneficiary organization is chosen each season. Donations can be placed in the collection jars at the back of the sanctuary near the collection plates.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE: ERUCC MASKING GUIDANCE

**At ERUCC, it is recommended that everyone wear a mask at indoor church activities and worship services.** When you wear a mask, you help protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Whether you are cautious or comfortable, please continue to carry a mask should it be needed; masks are available from our Welcome and Evangelism team on Sunday mornings.

Please stay home when sick or if someone in your household is sick, get vaccinated/boosted, and get tested if you have symptoms.

Remember, no matter how you choose to worship and engage in the life and ministry of ERUCC, whether in-person or online at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org), you are welcome and valued.



## Opportunities to Use Your Gifts at ERUCC

Prayerfully consider how your talents, skills, and passions can be a blessing to ERUCC's mission and ministry. Where is God calling you to use your gifts at ERUCC? Your willingness to share your gifts and time will make ERUCC a stronger and more faithful church.

While many opportunities exist or await your spark of initiation, below are some ongoing areas of ministry for you to consider supporting:

### FELLOWSHIP

Consider helping with Fellowship! It's a great way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, births, or baptisms with your church family. We all want to celebrate your joy. Helping with fellowship can be as easy as helping set up before worship, helping to serve during Fellowship after service, or bringing a special treat to share.

Contact Laura Rhoderick or Starr Schaeberle, or sign up to share your gifts of hospitality at [bit.ly/ERUCC\\_fellowship](http://bit.ly/ERUCC_fellowship).

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## EVENT HOSPITALITY AND SUPPORT

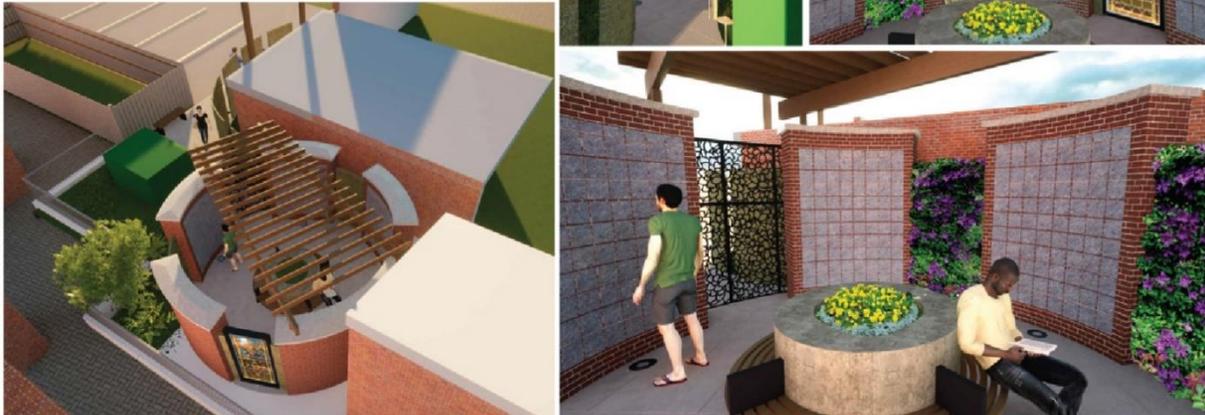


Please consider giving your time as we extend ERUCC's hospitality to the community of people using our spaces for their milestone life events, business meetings, and community gatherings. In supporting at these events, you are helping to fulfill our mission to do good work in Frederick and beyond. Many opportunities to serve in this ministry may only involve a few hours of your time and are often very fulfilling to support.

To help with upcoming events, contact Pastor Daniel or the church office, 301.662.2762, [events@erucc.org](mailto:events@erucc.org), or sign up on the bulletin board or online: [bit.ly/ERUCC\\_events\\_help](http://bit.ly/ERUCC_events_help).



EVANGELICAL REFORMED  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**COLUMBARIUM & MEMORIAL GARDEN**



Plans are proceeding with the architectural development of our new columbarium and memorial garden. Meetings are scheduled with the Frederick Planning Commission to review the design and scope of the project, before moving onto the Historic Preservation Commission for review.

Assuming all things receive approval, we are moving forward with the sale of niches in order to fund the construction of the structure.

**\$10,000 Top-tier Leadership niche (12"x12")**  
**\$5,000 Standard niche (8"x8")**

Each niche accommodates two urns.

Those interested in securing their final resting place here at ERUCC should contact the committee by email at [columbarium@erucc.org](mailto:columbarium@erucc.org) or calling the office at 301-662-2762.

**This is an exciting opportunity for our church congregation and downtown Frederick!**

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

June 5, 2022

Acts 2:1-21

### Gathered and Scattered *Strengthen the Church Offering*

The church year begins with Advent - the four weeks before Christmas. Then there is a short season of Christmastide, followed by Epiphany. Lent is the next season of the church year, which culminates in Holy Week and Easter. Eastertide, the season that follows Easter ends with Pentecost, which is today. After this, the church is in the long season known as Ordinary Time that lasts until Advent begins again in midwinter.

In thinking of the church year, for many churches, Easter is the high point of the year. With its majestic music, resurrection message, shiny new dresses and egg hunts, it can feel like it's all downhill from there. Pentecost can be easy to miss, just a stop on the way to the long stretch of ordinary time. But what if we framed it in a new way? What if Pentecost day - TODAY - was not a steppingstone but the culmination of all that we have been preparing for and the beginning of a new adventure?

On the first Pentecost Day, the disciples, mourning the perceived loss of Jesus and the life they had known with him, were ready to give up. Then the Spirit arrived! When they felt the Spirit's presence, they were infused with new energy. New gifts flowed from them, giving them the power to speak to their neighbors of all languages. Even Peter, who had barely been able to put a sentence together until now, suddenly preached with flowing eloquence. The church received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost day, and everyone paid attention.

Like the disciples, we, in these post-pandemic days, are mourning what we have lost and are trying to adjust to the new normal of the lives we have now. Now, more than ever, let us receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Now, more than ever, let us perceive how that Spirit is already at work, empowering the gifts of our congregation. Now, more than ever, let us speak in the languages that those around us need to hear - a message of salvation and love that only we can tell.

*Today, many churches receive The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering. STC reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.*



8.12" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE