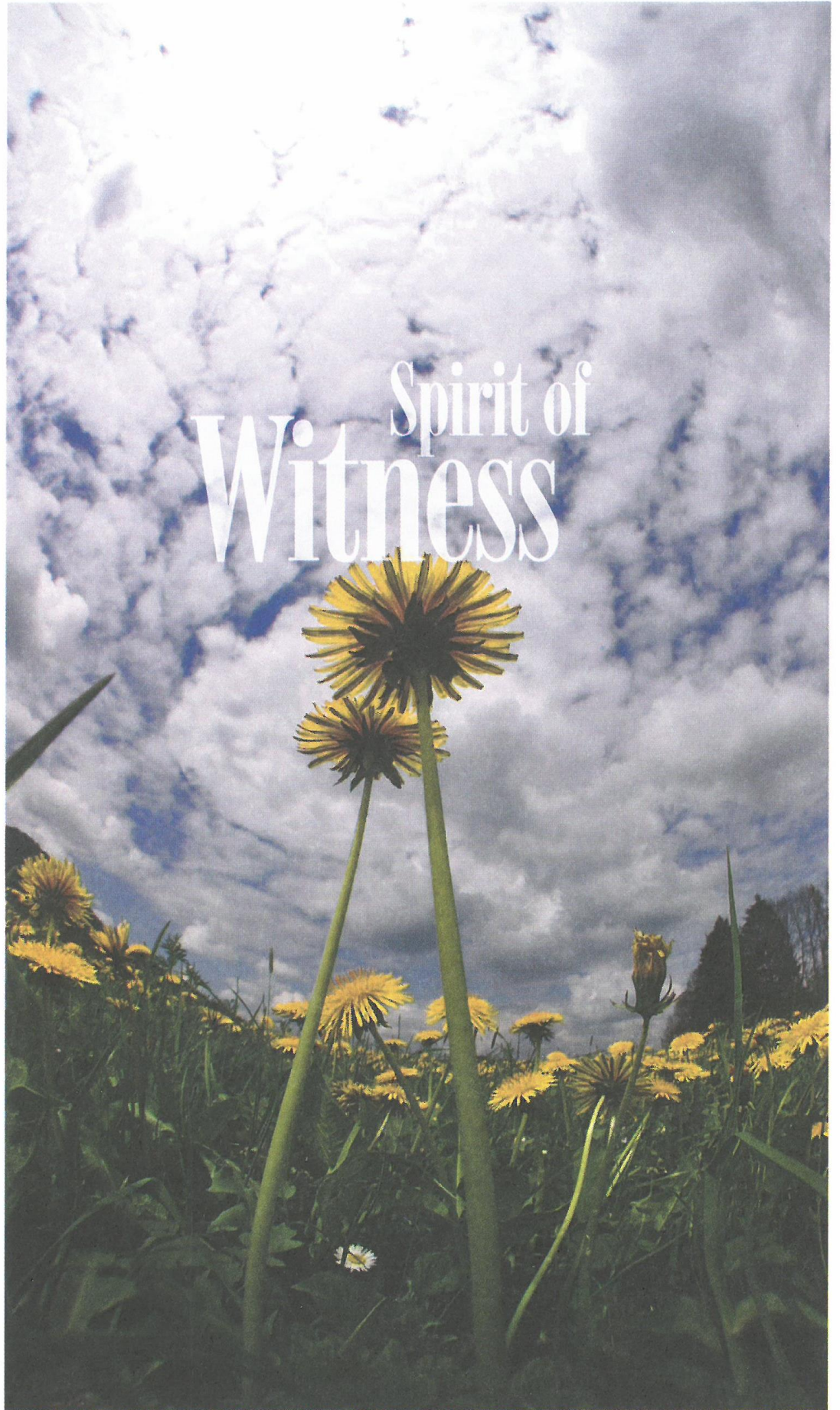


Spirit of
Witness



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

For 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.

Hymn 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.

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



Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Senior Pastor* ~ bkdaniel@erucc.org

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus* ~ burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org

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Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant* | Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



May 21, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

***Call to Worship** *(based on Psalm 68)*

We shout for joy
to God who rides upon the clouds!
**We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God,
before whom the earth quakes,
and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!**

God is Sovereign over the earth,
Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans;
God creates families for those who are alone.
**God leads captives to freedom
and breaks the yoke of oppression.**

God goes forth before the people,
marching through the wilderness of their lives,
bringing forth restoration and justice.

**Sing praise to God,
Rider of the ancient skies,
who dwells in holiness.**

Proclaim the power of God!
**O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary!
You give power and strength to your people.**

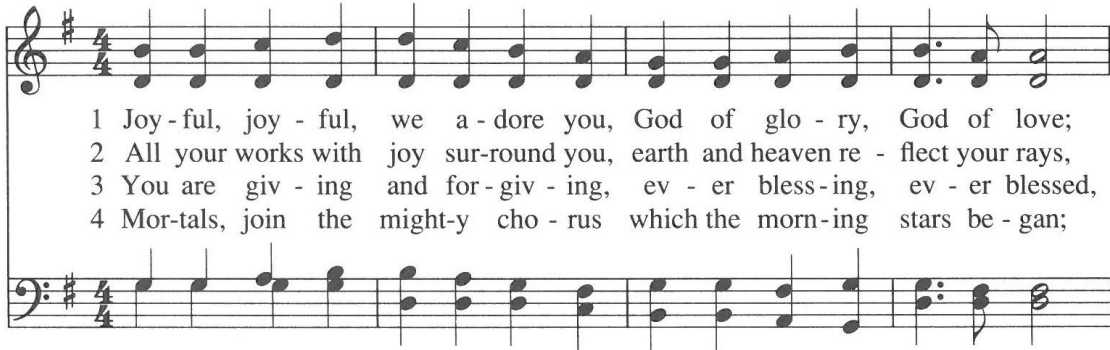
Let us worship God!

*Opening Prayer

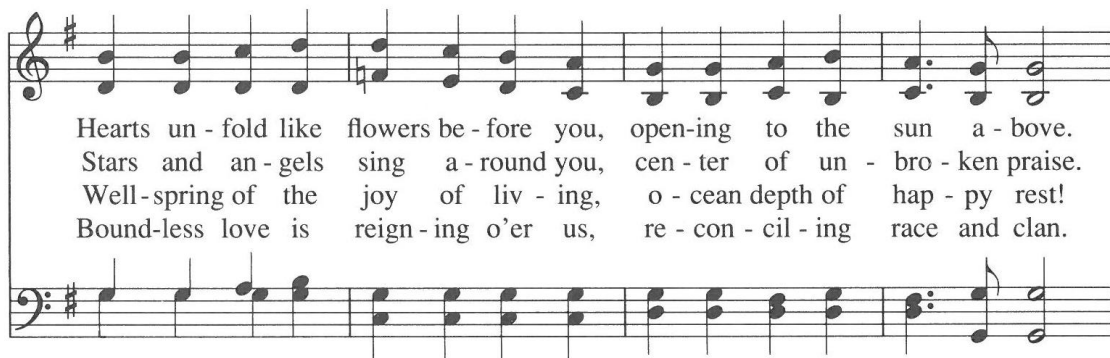
God Most High, we gather to honor and glorify you. Receive our invitation to dwell with us. Enfold us in your presence and fill us again with holy awe and mystery. We are yours and we claim you as our God. Amen.

*Opening Hymn *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

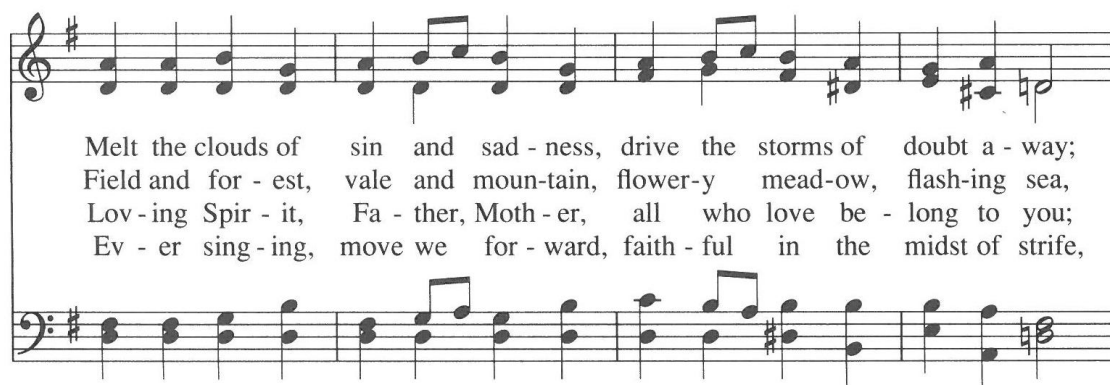
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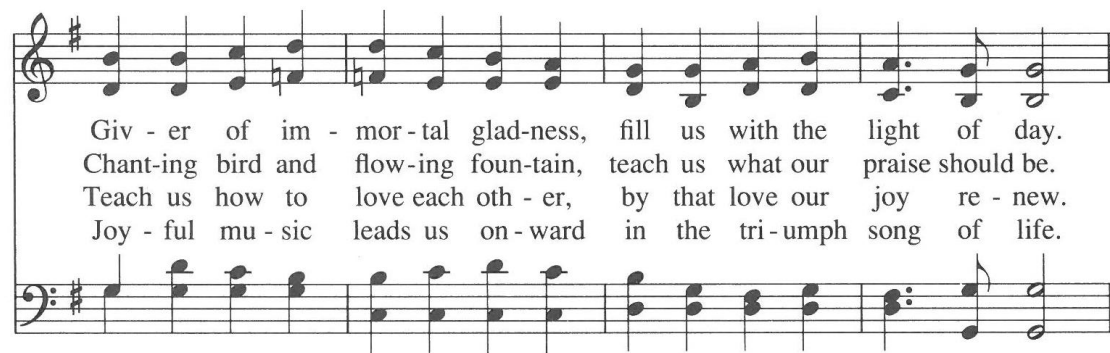
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Blessed One, you created human beings
for your glory and pleasure.**

**Forgive us for being self-absorbed and
choosing to live solely for ourselves.**

**Forgive us for ignoring the prompting of your Spirit,
your purpose for our lives, and for placing our will above yours.**

**Grant us courage to share in Christ's sufferings, to be his witnesses,
and to carry your loving compassion to a hurting world. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

As the Body of Christ,
we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's witnesses.
Each of us has our own story of what Jesus' life means for us.
Through our stories we can convey hope to the hopeless,
joy to the downtrodden, and peace where there is turmoil.
Therefore, let us "clothe ourselves in humility,"
sharing the Good News of Christ, that we "may all be one."
In this God is well pleased.

Ministry Moment

read remarks from German partners
and Franklinton Center at Bricks

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.

*Children ages 5 through 5th grade may be dismissed for Junior Church,
located in the Thomas Room, during the scripture reading.*

***Hymn** *Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise*

tune – LLANFAIR

**Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Alleluia!
To a throne in paradise; Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!
Enters now the highest heaven, Alleluia!**

**Christ, for you high triumph waits, Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
You have conquered death and sin; Alleluia!
You, our Sovereign, enter in! Alleluia!**

**Now, through parted from our sight, Alleluia!
In the depths of starry night, Alleluia!
May our souls with you arise, Alleluia!
Seeking wholeness at your side. Alleluia!**

**There we will with you remain, Alleluia!
Heirs in your eternal reign; Alleluia!
In the presence of your face, Alleluia!
We will dwell in heaven's grace. Alleluia!**

The Scripture

Acts 1: 6-14 NT page 137

John 17: 1-11 NT page 103

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 *Filled with Hallelujahs*

- Pepper Choplin
Senior Choir

Barbara Kershner Daniel, flute

***Prayer of Dedication**

**May these gifts, O God,
become action and intention,
fulfilling Christ's commandment to love. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

#82

1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;

Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis-mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow-er filled you, here with ten - der com-fort stilled you;

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.

***Benediction**

Continue to be faithful, remain committed, be witnesses for Christ.

For the God of all grace has called you to eternal glory through Jesus Christ, and will fulfill, restore, strengthen, and establish you through suffering and struggle.

Go forth from this place, empowered by Christ's love, with Christ's name on your lips, the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your mind, God's love in your hearts, God's beloved ones always in your sight, and God's still speaking voice in your ear. **Amen.**

****Sevenfold Amen***

#814

Postlude *(please be seated)*

Witnesses to Hope: Service Prayers for the 7th Sunday of Easter was written by the Rev. Renee C. Jackson, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ,

The flowers on the altar today are placed by Jack Stush and Audrey Rayfield in memory of loved ones.

The yellow rose bud is presented by John Stush in memory of his father, John Stush, US Navy.

Attendance Last Sunday: 22 at 8:30 am, 165 at 10:30 am.

Watch
Worship
Live



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 am or on-demand:
<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

Today: May 21, 2023

Scripture Reader: Bob Manthey
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Elder: Peter Brehm
Greeters: Tom and Rachel Ford, Pat Condo
Welcome: Julie Clark
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker

Junior Church: Thomasa Pomeroy, Linda Coyle
Nursery: Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship: Julie Clark, Laura Rhoderick
Saturday Chimer: Tricia Coffey
Sunday Chimer: Robin and David Cooney

Next Week: May 28, 2023

Confirmation Class
Betsy Selby, Andrew Beadle
Peter Brehm
Ave and Cliff Barr
Pat Condo, Rob Smith
Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Kendra Sampson
No Junior Church today
Unattended, but available for use
Families of Confirmands
Nancy Doll
Tricia Coffey

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 1st floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Despite what appears to be chaos in the amazing account of this day of Pentecost, Acts 2: 1-21, order rests in God's hands. God's Spirit pours abundantly on the community of disciples, renewing them with a diversity of gifts for the common good. Jesus promises his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit in John 7: 37-39.

Today we will be celebrating the rite of confirmation as we welcome Quynn Adkins, Eli Baker, Peyton Bowen, Lucas Nyugen-Powell, and Katie Zander.

This morning we will be thank our Sunday School teachers, substitutes, and chapel greeters, Children's Music and Movement leaders, and Adult Bible Study teachers.

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.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Cathy Crome (sister of Nancy Jones), Richard Alley (brother of David Alley), Sue Pinner, Joann Miller (mother of Angela Brittain), Greg Rhoads, Luke Chappell, Holly Davis, Mike Roberston (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson), Bob Pinner, Stacie Carey (niece of Darlene Brunner and Jeannette Johnson), Marcia Eisenstein, Joyce Kallevang (sister-in-law of Jeanellen Kallevang), Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie and Gaylon Cornell), Wayne Kolb (friends of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza), Conway Barnes (brother-in-law of George and Linda Kline), Mary Ellen Baker, Pat Hevner, Jeannette Johnson, Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby), Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Paige Coffey, Jane Doll, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle), Bonnie Devilbiss, The McCarty family, 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).

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Bob Shafer, father of Alison E. Shafer, who passed away May 17, 2023. A funeral service will be held at Christ Reformed UCC 117 W. Main St. Sharpsburg, MD on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 11:00 am. The Osborne Funeral Home, 425 S. Conococheague St. Williamsport, MD will be open for visitation on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

This Week at ERUCC

SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP WALK

Sunday, May 21

Carroll Creek Linear Park

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Spring is here and it is time to rejoice and give thanks. Join the Green Team for a walk along Carroll Creek, where we can revel in the beauty of Frederick's public art installations and downtown nature. Depending on the whim of the group, we'll finish up with a stop at a creekside brewery or with a visit to Hoffman Brothers Ice Cream shop.

EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY

Sunday, May 21

Community Room

5:00 pm



It's my birthday, your birthday, everybody's birthday! Let's celebrate our birthdays with dinner and dessert. You'll be invited to sit with others in your own birth month to enjoy a slice of cake and share birthday memories and wishes. We hope to see you there and sing "Happy Birthday!" to everyone!

Please bring a side dish or salad to share. We'll provide the main dish. Consider signing up to decorate your birth month's table with a themed centerpiece or other decorations. For example, October might have

Halloween décor and February might have hearts and groundhogs. Sign up to decorate a table in the Community Room during fellowship or by emailing Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, May 23

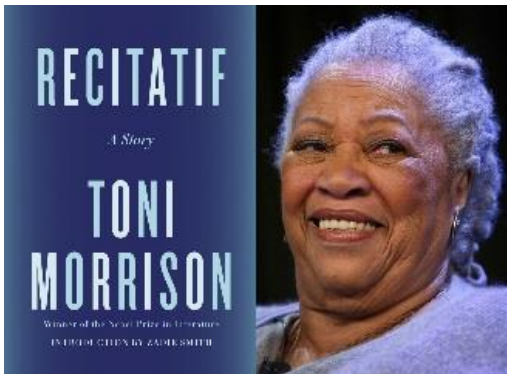
Pastor Daniel's Home / Zoom

6:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669



Recitatif by Toni Morrison. In this 1983 short story—the only short story Morrison ever wrote—childhood friends Twyla and Roberta lose touch as they grow older, only to find each other again later in life. Seemingly at opposite ends of every problem, the two women still cannot deny the deep bond between them. Morrison herself described *Recitatif* as “an experiment in the removal of all racial codes from a narrative about two characters of different races for whom racial identity is crucial.”

This evening will begin with a dinner of gratitude prepared by Pastor Daniel at her home before discussing the book.

PERIOD PACKS (MENSTRUAL HYGIENE KITS) SERVICE PROJECT

May 14 – June 18

Beginning this Mother's Day, May 14, ERUCC will officially launch a campaign to create period packs to help people in period poverty. These kits promote cleanliness and health during the menstrual cycle. In partnership with Church World Service, the UCC is working provide as many period packs as possible by the end of July as a General Synod service project. Our target date to assemble packs at ERUCC is Father's Day, June 18.



“Period poverty” is defined as a lack of access to menstrual products, hygiene facilities, waste management, and related education. This can result in missed days at school and work, discrimination, and social isolation. Recent research reveals that almost two-thirds of women in the U.S. with a low income could not afford menstrual products in the last year, while nearly half had to choose between food and menstrual products.

Needed donation items include the following:

- Regular and super-absorbency tampons
- Sanitary pads (unscented, long, super, ultra-thin)
- Bath-size soaps (3oz. bar or larger, no Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove packaging)
- Packs of flushable wipes (unscented 42-count)

Drop-off bins are located outside the sanctuary and Trinity Chapel. Financial donations directed to ERUCC should note that they are for the “Period Packs Project.”

For more information, contact your M&SA committee members: Michelle Beadle, Kelly Esslinger, Colleen Baldree, Angela Brittain, Kathleen Jefferson, Shelley Weakly.



Upcoming at ERUCC

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

ERUCC will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 28

The Holy Ground Where God Appears

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon, Associate General Minister United Church of Christ

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Exodus 3:5

Scripture names many places as holy. Yet my heart resonates most with Moses’ encounter with the burning bush in Exodus. God appears in the flames of a burning bush that is not consumed. Yet what matters most to me in this text is not where or to whom God appears, but why God appears.

God appears in response to the cries of God’s people who are being treated unjustly. God appears because of the people’s cries, and wherever God appears is holy ground.

I often have the privilege of standing on holy ground as I travel the breadth of our beloved Church. These are places where God shows up through the work of God’s people to treat other’s needs as holy.

Plymouth UCC in Des Moines is holy ground, a church that removed the stairs to the pulpit and replaced them with circular ramps, honoring a God who still speaks through preachers and laity who do not stand.

Plymouth Congregational in Kansas is holy ground, a church where one of our unhoused siblings welcomed me to “their church” after worship, before heading back outside by choice with his bags and dog. This reminds us that those unhoused should still have a home with us.

Saint John’s UCC in St. Louis is holy ground, a church that partners with the community to feed and clothe those in need of help, and whose members take communion to their surrounding neighbors as an extension of Christ’s table of grace.

Trinity UCC in Chicago is holy ground, partnering with the food security network to import organic fruit and vegetables in a neighborhood robbed of access to healthy food options.

Wherever you are this morning, take the time to see how God is moving through the work and witness of those who gather and know that you are, we all are, on holy ground.

The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations as we work to become a multi-cultural/ multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.



CELEBRATION OF REV. DR. BARBARA KERSHNER DANIEL

With gratitude and appreciation, we will celebrate Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel and her 40 years of ministry upon her retirement in June. Thank you to everyone who RSVP'd by May 18. Bring a smile, a hug, and maybe a few tissues.

Saturday, June 3, 2023

5:00 – 8:00 pm

- Reception in our Community Room
- Cocktail Attire preferred
- Beer, wine, soda, and appetizers provided
- Program can be viewed by Zoom at 5:30 pm

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/celebrateBKD>

Meeting ID: 861 3289 2634

Passcode: 625283



Sunday, June 4, 2023

10:30 am

Pastor Daniel's final Sunday and Service of Farewell in the Main Sanctuary and streaming online at www.erucc.org

11:30 am

A short program will conclude the service in the sanctuary and online followed by brunch at ERUCC

You are encouraged to park in the Court Street Garage (2 South Court Street, accessible from South Court Street and Citizens Way) or West Patrick Street Garage (138 West Patrick Street, next to the Frederick County Courthouse on the west side, and accessible from the second block of West Patrick Street and the first block of South Court Street).

If you have questions, please contact either celebration co-chair, Cathie Duncan at cathieduncan@comcast.net or (301) 788-5348 or Betsy Fisher at bcfishe@hotmail.com or (240) 285-5247.

ERUCC at FREDERICK PRIDE

Saturday, June 24

Carroll Creek Linear Park

10:00 am – 6:00 pm



ERUCC is an Open and Affirming congregation that proudly supports The Frederick Center and our LGBTQ+ community. The Frederick Center has organized Frederick Pride on Saturday June 24, 2023 on Carroll Creek. ERUCC will have a table at this event announcing its mission and programs to Frederick Pride visitors. Shifts are in two-hour increments. Bring your own water and a chair. All are welcome to volunteer. Contact Julie Clark, jclarkad@yahoo.com or (301) 305-8181 with questions.

Sign up to help with outreach: bit.ly/41xOCP9

Special Gatherings in Celebration

Pastor Daniel has planned some special gatherings as we give thanks for our time together. Please bring your photos, stories, and remembrances.



*Gratitude Tour
with Pastor Daniel*

Monday, May 22

Community Room, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Light supper for anyone who has served on the Consistory since 2006 including elders, deacons, and committee chairs

Tuesday, May 23

North Room, following Bible Study

Lunch with the Bible Study group

Tuesday, May 23

Pastor Daniel's House, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Dinner with the ERUCC Book Group

Saturday, May 27

Rodney & Becky Martin's, 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Party at Larry & Becky Martin's for current and former youth group members and their parents

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter their mental health challenge.

No matter their immigration status.

No matter their sexual orientation.

No matter their economic status.

No matter their gender identity.

No matter their disability.

No matter their religion.

No matter their race.

Love your neighbor. No exceptions.

Children and Family Ministry

JUNIOR CHURCH

Children aged 5 – 5th grade may go to Junior Church after the Thought for the Day in the worship service. Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, will take place in the Thomas Room. Parents should pick up children following service.

On Sunday, May 28, there will not be Junior Church so children can participate in Confirmation Sunday. The final Junior Church will be Sunday, May 21 until Fall 2023.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last day of traditional Sunday School is Sunday, May 28. We will thank our Sunday School and Music and Movement teachers, substitutes, and greeters at the 10:30 am service.

On June 4, Children's Music and Movement will meet at 9:30 am to rehearse and prepare for Pastor Daniel's final Sunday and Service of Farewell at 10:30 am.

Starting Sunday, June 25, rehearsals for the summer musical will begin during the Sunday School hour (see below for more details).

NURSERY

Please note, on Sunday, May 28, the nursery will be unattended but available for use by families as needed.

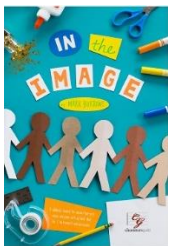
ZIPLINE

Saturday, June 17

Youth and children are invited to a zipline activity, campfire, and hiking at Camp Manidokan on Saturday, June 17. Please respond to Pastor Kirstin ASAP by text or email to reserve your spot! \$15 per person. Time to be determined by your availability.

SUMMER MUSICAL – IN THE IMAGE

rehearsals begin June 25



The ERUCC summer musical is back! During the summer months, ERUCC children and youth may participate in a musical. This year's show is *In the Image*, a story that explores what it really means to be created in the image of God. Through humor and exploration, the characters realize that being created in the image of God isn't just about how you look but about the attributes of God that show forth in your life.

Rehearsals begin Sunday, June 25 from 9:30 – 10:15 am in Trinity Chapel. Read more details in the May *Trinity Chimes*.

If you have any questions, or if you are an adult and are interested in helping with this effort, please contact Tricia Coffey, trishcoffey1195@gmail.com or (240) 815-9118.

FAMILY CAMPING

June 9 – 11

Cowan's Gap State Park, PA



We will take off for a camping trip at Cowan's Gap State Park in Pennsylvania. We have reserved a group spot for 40 people. If you want to rent a cabin or spot for an RV and share meals, fellowship, and worship with us, you can make your reservation by searching for Cowans Gap State Park: www.dcnr.pa.gov.

Join the Family Camping Planning Zoom meeting to discuss meals and activities on Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00 pm to work on meal plans, activities, etc.

Zoom: bit.ly/3nQaTJG

Meeting ID: 825 7660 6389

Passcode: 10485

Contact Pastor Kirstin for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 31 – August 4



This year's VBS theme is "Food Truck Party: On a Roll With God!" Read more details in the May *Trinity Chimes*.

VBS will be Monday – Friday from 8:30 am – 12:00 noon. We will stay until 3:00 pm on Thursday for those who are interested. During that day we will do some extended missional activities and water play! Families who want to request early drop off should do that through Pastor Kirstin. We will open registration to campers outside our church June 5 – 12. Pastor Kirstin is looking for youth and adult volunteers for a variety of tasks: snack makers, craft leaders, game leaders, scientists/teachers, storybook readers, and musicians. We are seeking volunteers to work any number of mornings and one extended afternoon.

NEEDED: 2 refrigerator boxes to make into food trucks

Safe Church Training

If you are planning to help at VBS and did not complete training after December 2022, then you will need to attend Safe Church training on Sunday, June 25 at 1:30 pm or make arrangements with Pastor Kirstin for an alternative training time.

Youth

ZIPLINE

Saturday, June 17

Youth and children are invited to a zipline activity, campfire, and hiking at Camp Manidokan on Saturday, June 17. Please respond to Pastor Kirstin ASAP by text or email to reserve your spot! \$15 per person. Time to be determined by your availability.

Opportunities to Serve

VOLUNTEER FOR SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Fellowship can be as easy as helping set up before worship, helping serve after worship, or bringing a special treat to share. Sign up at bit.ly/ERUCC_fellowship or talk with Starr Schaeberle or Laura Rhoderick for more details.

Additional Announcements

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY – WEAR ORANGE



Friday, June 2 is National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Frederick’s Mom’s Demand team will decorate our church building orange for Wear Orange Weekend, June 2-4, as we remember.

Saturday morning, June 3, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Hill Street Park Pavilion (100 Hill St, Frederick, MD 21703), Frederick’s Mom’s Demand team will be hosting a #WearOrange awareness event with their community partner, Heartly House, to raise awareness of the increased lethality of incidents of domestic violence in Frederick County when firearms are involved. Heartly House initiates or implements many of the community gun violence prevention measures that Everytown recommends, including Domestic Violence Danger and Lethality Assessments, Intimate Partner Violence Intervention, and Disarming Domestic Abusers. Help support this vital work. Children welcome!

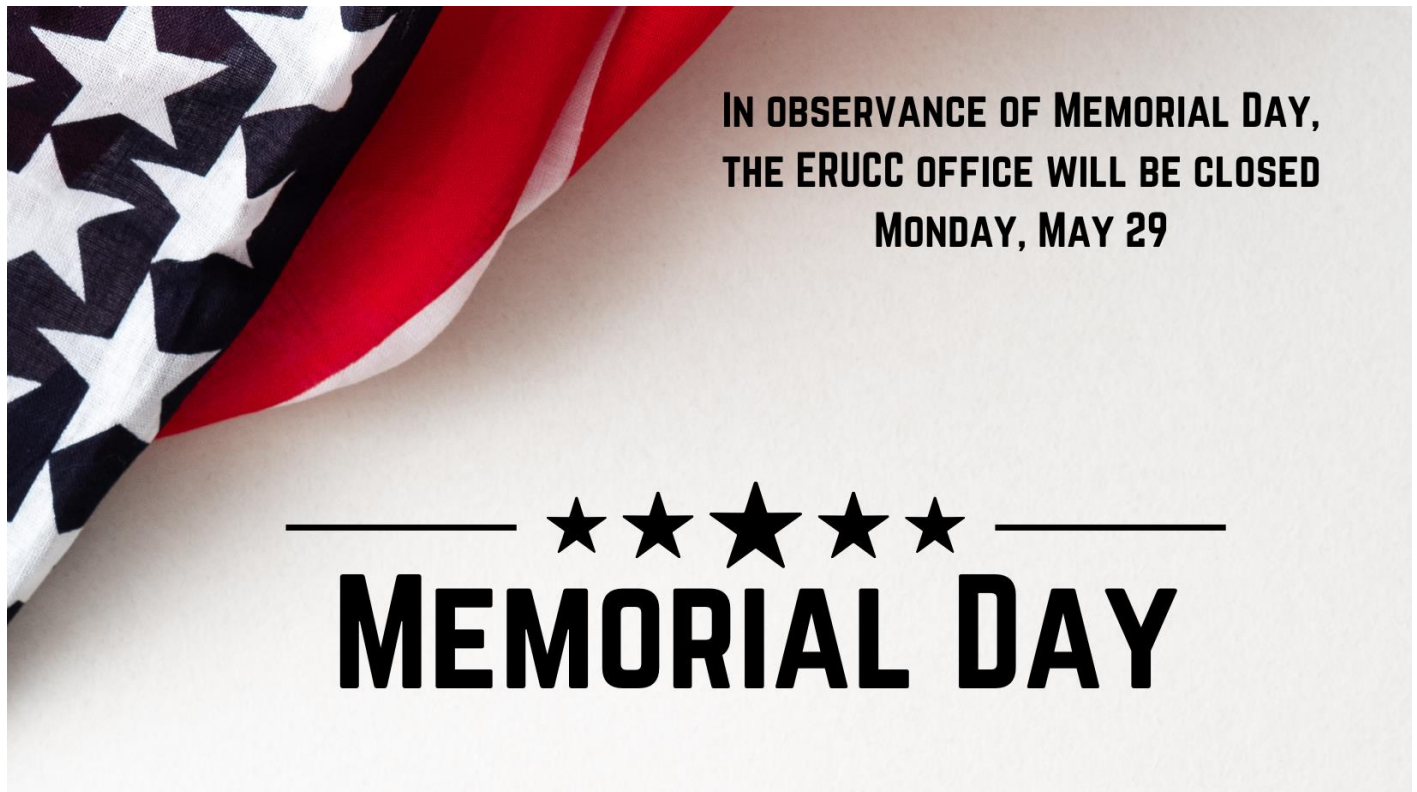
- In United States, excluding suicides, 2022 brought 20,138 killed through gun violence.
- Nationally, the gun suicide rate is 24,000 persons each year, 70% of all annual deaths
- In 2022, in the United States we have experienced:
 - 648 ‘mass shootings’ [4 or more people shot]
 - 2,700+ wounded, 672 deaths;
 - 36 mass murders [up 30% from 2021]
 - 332 people were shot on K-12 school properties
- Every day on average (all ages) 321 people in America are shot in murders, assaults, suicides & suicide attempts, unintentional shootings, and police intervention
- In an average year in Maryland, 796 people die by guns and 1,363 people are wounded. Gun violence costs Maryland \$10.5 billion each year.

SUCCESSFUL “RING MY BELL” CAMPAIGN FOR HANDBELLS

As we have heard during our 10:30 am service on several occasions this year, ERUCC has been blessed with a five-octave set of 61 handbells manufactured by the Schulmerich Handbell Craftsmen of Hatfield, Pennsylvania; we purchased a three-octave set in the 1960s and fourth and a fifth octave in the 1970s.

With the unanimous support of the Consistory, the ERUCC Handbell Choirs’ “Ring My Bell” campaign launched this spring to raise \$12,000

for a complete refurbishment service. With deep gratitude for all who supported the campaign, we are happy to announce \$13,839 was raised for this project. The handbells refurbishment will begin this summer.



Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 am	Worship , Trinity Chapel
9:00 am – 10:20 am	Adult Education , North Room and Online <i>Let's Study the Bible</i>
9:30 – 10:25 am	Parent's Place , West Classroom, Trinity Chapel
9:30 – 10:25 am	Coffee and Conversation , Community Room
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Nursery Care , Main Building
9:30 – 10:10 am	Children's Sunday School , Trinity Chapel <i>Ages 3 – 2nd Grade, 3rd – 6th Grade, Confirmation Class</i>
10:10 – 10:25 am	Children's Music & Movement , Trinity Chapel <i>Pre-K through high school</i>
10:30 – 11:30 am	Worship , Main Sanctuary and Online
11:30 am	Fellowship , Community Room
11:45 am – 12:15 pm	Cambridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal , Flora Room <i>Pre-K through high school</i>

Stay Informed

MAY TRINITY CHIMES

Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*, in the back of the sanctuary or online by scanning the QR code or going to bit.ly/may23chimes.



WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

Subscribe to receive our weekly email newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code!

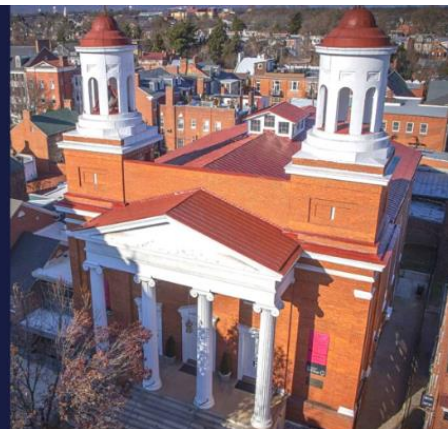


MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far. We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 21, 2023

John 17:1-11

Spirit of Witness ***Mental Health Sunday***

“Pandemic has us living at 80% of our stress capacity. This is why those minor things set us off. We aren’t going from 0 to 100 without cause. We are going from 80 to 100 with good reason. If there was no pandemic, the dog incessantly barking might cause usual stress levels to go up 20 points. We get annoyed and yell at the dog with a little more volume than strictly necessary. However, given the 80% stress we endure as a result of COVID-19, the same constant barking puts us at or over maximum capacity to cope. We might end up crying over the stubborn dog or feeling way more anger than the situation calls for.

Of course, not all of us are in the same boat. Those of us with more resources have an obligation to support those with fewer resources. We need to remember that for some of our neighbors pandemic conditions have elevated their stress levels to maximum; they are coping the best they can. Now is a time to practice compassion and not judgment. Remember that Paul tells us in Romans that we are to “owe no one anything, except to love one another.” If you are doing okay today, right now, what can you do to help someone else alleviate some of their stress? Reach out and listen before choosing what to do. Remember that people living alone, single parents, healthcare workers, retail workers, delivery people, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health challenges, People of Color, and many others have increased stress, often more than the 80% we can attribute to COVID-19.

One of the most often over-looked spiritual need is the need for community. A good spiritual practice is to intentionally connect with a community (church, AA, book club, etc.). Remember that it is okay to be stressed, to be overwhelmed, to feel what you feel in any given moment. It is not okay to ignore the stress, self-destruct, or take out our emotions on another person. We are not alone. God wants us to find life in God’s ways even now.”*

*Keefe, Rev. Dr. Rachael. “Recognizing Reality: The Stress of Pandemic.”
United Church of Christ Mental Health Network, 7 Sept. 2020,
<https://www.mhn-ucc.org/2020/09/07/2281/>.



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