



Chosen Journeys

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.



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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 –



July 9, 2023

Sixth Sunday after 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

CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER

Matt Hueting

As we journey through this time of transition, remembering our past and welcoming our future, 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;**
- **Caring for one another as God cares for us; and**
- **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 missions, remembering the work of our ancestors, actively participating in our congregation's life, and laying a foundation for our generations to follow. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CENTERING CANDLE

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the Holy Spirit's presence, even God's spirit within.

Our eyes shall be opened. The present will have new meaning, and the future will be bright with hope.

Rejoice, people of God! Not only is our God present and within, but our God is speaking, communicating with us and calling us to serve.

Speak to us, O God, your word of grace we long to hear. Let your word change us and empower us to serve as Christ's disciples. Amen.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, with faith we affirm your presence and your speaking.
We come to you today thirsty - thirsty for hope, thirsty for good news,
thirsty for a glimpse of you.
As we gather, we are open to hear and heed what you say to us.
Give us the courage to enter into your story with open eyes and open
hearts. Give us the courage to respond positively to your Word.
We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

#18

see next page

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful and Loving God, we ask for forgiveness
because our consciousness of you
is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.
Raise our consciousness of you, O God.

We forget that we are a reflection of your image.
We act as though you are a Sunday-only event.
Increase our mindfulness of you, O God

Help us to have a greater common awareness
of your deep mystery and infinite presence.
Rouse our awareness of you, O God.

Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception.
Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths.
Awaken us from faint-heartedness, O God.

Forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways.
Save us from cheap grace with your amazing grace.
**Forgive us, O God. We ask in the name of our Lord.
Jesus Christ. Amen**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Rev. Kathleen Stolz

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

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.

HYMN *Be Now My Vision*

#451

see next page

THE SCRIPTURE

Romans 7:15-25a

NT page 157

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

NT page 12

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *When, Where, How*

Rev. Bob Manthey

MORNING PRAYERS

OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS AND LIVES TO CHRIST'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Receive these gifts, O God, returning to you a share of what you have given so generously. Use them in ministries of justice, peace, and love, strengthening your presence and work. Amen.

Unison

Gregory of Nazianz, 11, 111, 1912, unapt.

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier (11, 111, 1912)

***CLOSING HYMN** *Open My Eyes that I May See*

– Clara H. Scott
see next page

***BENEDICTION**

My friends in Christ, go forth from this place, empowered by God, following Christ's example as servant of all, God's love in your hearts, God's still speaking voice in your ears, mind, and spirit guiding and empowering you. **Amen.**

***THREEFOLD AMEN**

#812

POSTLUDE (*please be seated*)



1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me;
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear;
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where;

place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - clasp and set me free.
 and while the wave - notes fall on my ear, ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear.
 o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

Refrain

Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

{ O - pen my eyes,
 O - pen my ears, } il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 O - pen my heart, }

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed by the Doll family in memory of their dad, Jack, and Jack and Jane's wedding anniversary.

The yellow rose bud is presented by Audrey Rayfield in memory of her father, Donald Baker, US Army.

Attendance Last Sunday: attendance will be reported in the July 16 bulletin.



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

Today: July 9, 2023

Scripture Reader: Peg Stahler
Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Ave Barr
Greeters: Cathie Duncan, Anne Hoffmann
Sue Pinner
Welcome: Pat Condo
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker
Matthew Mercier
Nursery: Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship: Kathie Gourlie, Julie Ebersole
Saturday Chimer:
Sunday Chimer:

Next Week: July 16, 2023

Tyler L. York
Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Starr Schaeberle
Kathy and Niel Jefferson
Felecia Bishop
Julie Clark, Holly Davis
Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle
Kelly Esslinger
Julie Clark, Linda Coyle
Shelley and Eric Weakly
Suzanne Morris
Robin and David Cooney

FELLOWSHIP

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34 | Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

The Rev. Sheresa A. Simpson-Rice, Associate Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, will be preaching and leading worship.

HOSPITAL AND PRAYER LIST

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:

Barbara Rhoads, William Day (brother of Jack Day), Pat Condo, Matt Pomeroy, Cathy Crome (sister of Nancy Jones), Sue Pinner, 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), 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, 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).

PASTORAL CARE

Evangelical Reformed UCC wants to be there for you when you're experiencing an illness, hospitalization, or other life-event for which you, or someone you love, may need a visit.

If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please first contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org. Outside of office hours, you may contact Nancy Manthey, pastoral care coordinator, at (240) 629-8030.



**LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR
CHILDREN PRAYING**

This Week at ERUCC

CLIMATE HOPE POSTCARD SUNDAYS



Last fall there was an UCC Climate Hope art contest for kids. Many of our children participated and drew wonderful pictures of what caring for the earth means to them, including Laszlo, who was a finalist in the contest! Out of all the contestants, the judges picked an overall winner whose drawing was made into postcards that will be used in a campaign to persuade the EPA to finalize rules to reduce pollution.

During July, the Green Team will host an Advocacy Table during Fellowship after worship. Stop by our table in the Community Room to learn more and sign a Climate Hope postcard!

ERUCC TRAVELLERS IN GERMANY

Please keep in prayer those from ERUCC who are traveling to Klein Schwechten in Germany through July 20:

Lucy Adkins
Quynn Adkins
Joe Adkins
Paige Coffey

Alex Cumber
Liam Cumber
Colleen Hueting
Jared Hueting

Alyssa Kline
Hollie Mercier
Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads
Trevor Weakly

Upcoming at ERUCC

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY NEXT WEEK

On July 16, we will gratefully receive **Extra Mile Gifts for Debt Reduction**. Donations are used to pay down the principal of the mortgages we have with FCB Bank, a division of ACNB Bank and the Fisher Fund, an endowment funded by former member Mary Starr Fisher for purposes to be decided by the pastor. To cover an unexpected building cost over-run, the congregation borrowed money from the endowment's principal and is now paying that back with interest.

AUDIO VISUAL (LIVE STREAM) TEAM OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, July 16

Main Sanctuary Balcony

9:45 am

Interested in seeing how the AV Team produces the live stream broadcast every week? The AV Team will be hosting an open house in the balcony on Sunday, July 16 before and after the service. We will start before the service at 9:45 am and continue for as long as necessary after the service. Everyone is welcome. We also encourage anyone with any interest in joining the team to stop by and check out what we do.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, July 25

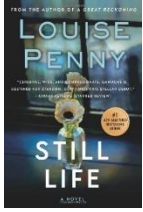
Liz Coffey Room / Zoom

7:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669



Still Life by Louise Penny Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surêté du Québec and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache smells something foul in these remote woods, and is soon certain that Jane Neal died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bowhunter.

Still Life introduces not only an engaging series hero in Inspector Gamache, who commands his forces---and this series---with integrity and quiet courage, but also a winning and talented new writer of traditional mysteries in the person of Louise Penny.

Children and Youth Ministry

SUMMER MUSICAL – IN THE IMAGE

Sundays

Trinity Chapel, upstairs

9:30 – 10:15 am

The ERUCC summer musical is back with *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 will take place from 9:30 – 10:15 am in Trinity Chapel. Attend rehearsals as often as possible. 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 31 – August 4



This year's VBS theme is "Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!"

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!

As our VBS week draws closer, we encourage the congregation to pray for our students and leaders and to help by donating from our Sign-up Genius. Financial donations are also welcome!



SCAN ME

Donation list: bit.ly/er23vbs

Consider checking this list weekly for updates as our teachers continue to plan.

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 am	Worship , Trinity Chapel
9:30 am	Coffee and Conversation , Main Building, Kieffer Lobby The Parents' Place , Trinity Chapel, West Classroom
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Nursery Care , Main Building
9:30 – 10:10 am	Summer Musical Rehearsal , Trinity Chapel, upstairs <i>Pre-K through high school</i>
10:30 – 11:30 am	Worship , Main Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org
11:30 am	Fellowship , Community Room

Stay Informed

JULY 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/july23chimes.



WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

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

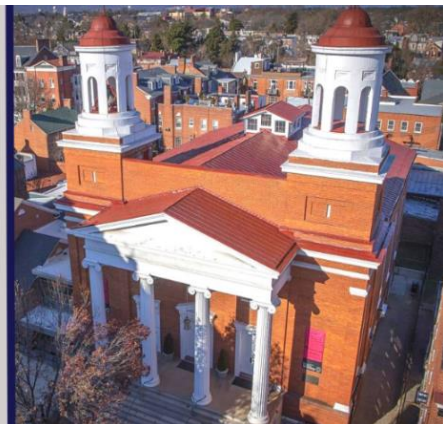


MISSION STATEMENT

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



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 9, 2023

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Chosen Journeys

[Jesus said:] "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Dear Jesus, our brother and friend,

Today we pray for all those who are weary, that they may feel the easiness of your yoke and the lightness of your load.

We pray for others who are ill, weary from battling the enemy within their own bodies. And we pray for the healing of our own illnesses of body, mind and spirit. Send your healing power like a balm over all who suffer in this way, and help us all to know that you are always near to comfort and to soothe.

We pray for others who are weary from the demands of overwork or from the worthlessness of worklessness. And we pray for ourselves, that we may remember that productivity is not a Kin-dom value. Send your grace, Holy Friend, upon all of us who suffer from the delusion that we are only as valuable as their work. Remind us that your ease is for all people, and draw them into the shelter of your mercy.

We pray for others who are trapped in cycles of addiction or violence. And we pray for ourselves, that the bonds of our violent and addictive tendencies be loosened bit by bit in the wake of your healing and hope. Shower us with the full confidence and faith to take the next step forward, and the next, then the next after that. Draw into our circles those who can counsel and guide us in new ways and patterns of being.

We pray for those who are pressed down into the cracks of the broken places in our society and culture. And we pray for ourselves when we find ourselves squeezed into the cracks, so heavily burdened by sexism, racism, or homophobia that it feels that we cannot stand. Raise us up, shattering that which keeps us fast and opening the eyes of all to the ease and joy of your justice.

We pray all these things in your name. Amen.

