

A House  
Divided

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 and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ**

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus* ~ [burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com](mailto:burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com)

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org)

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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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 –



July 16, 2023

Seventh 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** Renae Kline and Ethan Kline

**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**

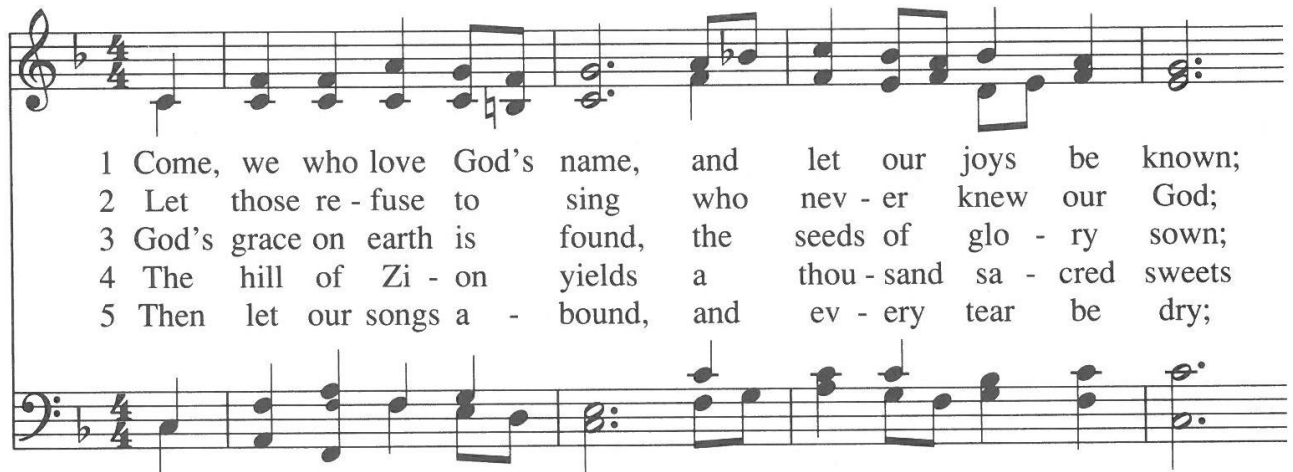
God calls us by name into the presence of holiness as God's holy people. We answer this call by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of God's own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Come, let us worship God.

## \*OPENING PRAYER

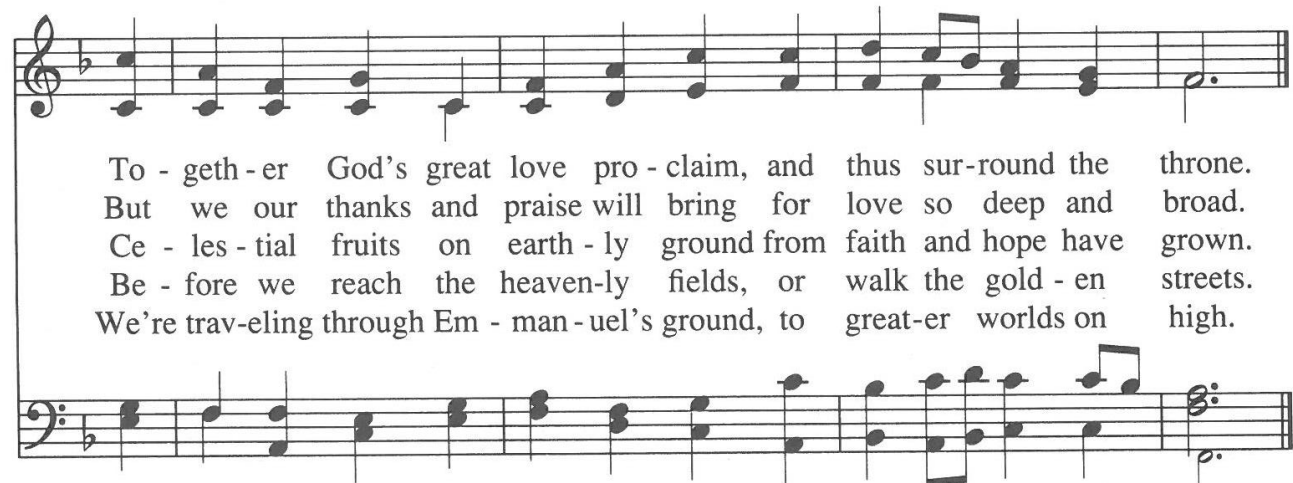
**Author of Life, Living Word, Holy Breath, we have stumbled through the week and fumbled our way back to our beloved church and our circle of faithful community. Illumine the steps before us and write your word on our hearts, for we seek you as we long to embody Christ and aspire to walk boldly in the light of his love.**

## \*OPENING HYMN *Come, We Who Love the Lord*

#379



1 Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;  
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;  
3 God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glo - ry sown;  
4 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets  
5 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery tear be dry;



To - geth - er God's great love pro - claim, and thus sur - round the throne.  
But we our thanks and praise will bring for love so deep and broad.  
Ce - les - tial fruits on earth - ly ground from faith and hope have grown.  
Be - fore we reach the heav - en - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets.  
We're trav - eling through Em - man - uel's ground, to great - er worlds on high.

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Patient and persistent God, we come polished and presentable to this comfortable room, as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe. Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of our Gospel in our hearts until we bloom and fill with your passion to serve in a world that is lasting. Amen.**

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of God dwells within you. If you hear nothing else today, hear these words: there is no condemnation. In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Dawn Lagrotteria and Maria Lagrotteria

## 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 *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

#318

1 Al - might-y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;  
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,  
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,  
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, your quick-ening grace be - stow,

Now let the dew of heaven de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
But give it root in ev - ery heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
But let it yield a hun - dred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
That all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing power may know.

## THE SCRIPTURE

Genesis 25: 19-34

OT page 21

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

NT page 13

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Esau, Esau, Esau!*

Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice

## MORNING PRAYERS

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

We bring our gifts because tendrils of God's love have worked their ways into the soil of our hearts. Sisters and brothers, let us yield our loves to God's abundant harvest.

### OFFERTORY SOLO

Matthew Mercier, trombone

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Giver of Life, we do not want the cares of the world and the lure of wealth to choke your word among us. As the sower casts seeds abundantly, hopefully, we long to participate in the seeding of the world. Receive these gifts as tokens of our lives. Send your cultivating Spirit to work among us until we yield and grow in grace, for we pray in the name of Jesus, who came out of love for the world. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN *You Are Salt for the Earth, O People*

#181

see next page

### \*BENEDICTION

May God, whose forgiveness is boundless, Christ, whose charge is freedom, the Holy Spirit, which grants us peace keep our minds and hearts in grateful communion as we seek to serve. **Amen.**

\*THREEFOLD AMEN

#812

POSTLUDE (*please be seated*)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!  
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!  
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!  
 4 We are a blessed and a pil - grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

G D/F# A7 D G D A7 D

Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the Cit-y of God!  
 Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!  
 Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!  
 Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the Cit-y of God!

*Refrain*

G D/F# A7 D G D/F# A7 D

Bring forth the reign of mer - cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

G D/F# A7 D G D/F# A7 D

Bring forth the reign of jus - tice, bring forth the Cit - y of God!

**The flowers on the altar** are offered to the glory of God in honor of all the ways in which this church supports, provides care, and loves one another.

**The yellow rose bud** is presented by John Stush and Audrey Rayfield in memory of their uncle, Jack Kiser, US Army.

*If you are interested in sponsoring the altar flowers next Sunday, July 23, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).*

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 24 at 8:30 am, 102 at 10:30 am and 56 online.

**Attendance Sunday, July 2:** 13 at 8:30 am, 114 at 10:30 am and 42 online.



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

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### **Today: July 16, 2023**

Scripture Reader: Tyler L. York  
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher  
Elder: Starr Schaeberle  
Greeters: Kathy and Niel Jefferson  
Felecia Bishop  
Welcome: Julie Clark, Holly Davis  
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle  
Kelly Esslinger  
Nursery: Rebecca Shillingburg  
Fellowship: Julie Clark, Linda Coyle  
Shelley and Eric Weakly  
Saturday Chimer: Suzanne Morris  
Sunday Chimer: Robin and David Cooney

### **Next Week: July 23, 2023**

Peter Brehm  
Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain  
Eric Weakly  
Bob and Nancy Manthey  
Rob Smith  
Thi Nguyen  
Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker  
Matthew Mercier  
  
Marj Berkheimer, Kelly Esslinger  
Emily Kambic  
Nancy Doll  
Tricia Coffey

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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 light refreshment.

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Worship Next Week: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Romans 8:12-21 | Genesis 28:10-19a (The Message translation)

*The Rev. Mark Wakefield, Chair of the Committee on Ministry for the Catoctin Association, 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).

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### **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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org). Outside of office hours, you may contact Nancy Manthey, pastoral care coordinator, at (240) 629-8030.

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**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!

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### 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

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### SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY THIS WEEK

Today, 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.

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### 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.

## TRAGEDY OF THE NUCLEAR AGE: JULY 16, 1945 TO NOW:

**Remembrance, Vigil for Peace, Call to Action to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons**

**Sunday, July 16**

**Memorial Park, 201 N. Bentz St**

**2:00 – 3:00 pm**

You are encouraged to join community members at this vigil and rally starting at 2:00 pm with an opening prayer and moment of silence, followed by worshipful sharing on peace and eliminating nuclear weapons.

At 2:15, there will be brief remarks by community and civic leaders, including a written statement from Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor and comments by former Congressman Roscoe Bartlett.

The final half hour will leave time for discussion and networking on topics such as the Back from the Brink Campaign, U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, H. Res. 77, Oppenheimer movie, and other topics.

*ERUCC is a co-sponsor of this event. Other sponsors include Back from the Brink, Prevent Nuclear War Frederick, Plant the Light, Prevent Nuclear War Maryland, Frederick Friends Meeting, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility.*

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## JULY MISSION PROJECT: SOLES OF LOVE

For the past 13 years Soles of Love has donated new, sturdy shoes to children of all genders in grades K through 12. The group works with ten non-profit organizations in Frederick County and Washington County to distribute donated new shoes to children in need before the school year starts. A positive note is also tucked into each pair of shoes. Last year, Soles of Love collected 5,000 pairs of shoes. The goal this year is 5,500 pairs of shoes.

Here is how you can help out:

- Bring new shoes to church and place them into the plastic bin in the narthex just outside the 1848 church sanctuary;
- Purchase shoes online and have them shipped to Betsy Selby (1204 Pinewood Drive, Frederick, MD 21701);
- Donate funds by check or online (note "Soles of Love" in the memo line) and Betsy will do the shopping.

Questions? Please email Betsy at [theselbys@comcast.net](mailto:theselbys@comcast.net).

**BE A BLESSING** PRACTICE PEACE.  
LEAD WITH LOVE.  
BE JOYFUL. PRAY OFTEN. BE KIND. GIVE THANKS.  
DO GOOD. HAVE COURAGE. WORK FOR JUSTICE.  
BE THE LIGHT. ENCOURAGE OTHERS.



## Upcoming at ERUCC

### ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, July 25

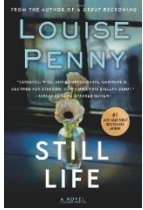
Liz Coffey Room / Zoom

7:00 pm

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERUCCbooks](https://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

### 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](https://bit.ly/er23vbs)

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

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### POOL PARTY

Sunday, August 6

Dan Smith & Austin Byrd's Home

1:00 – 4:00 pm

ERUCC Children and Youth (and parents) are invited to a POOL PARTY!!

Parents and all kids can come to a private ERUCC pool party on Sunday, August 6. at Dan Smith and Austin Byrd have graciously opened their pool for a parent supervised pool party. Contact Dan for address and directions at (301) 514-8615. Bring your own dishes, cups, silverware, and a dish to share. Questions? Contact Julie Clark, [Jclarkad@yahoo.com](mailto:Jclarkad@yahoo.com) or Kirstin Shrom Rhoads, [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org).

## 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](mailto:trishcoffey1195@gmail.com) or (240) 815-9118.

### Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 am	<b>Worship</b> , Trinity Chapel
9:30 am	<b>Coffee and Conversation</b> , Main Building, Kieffer Lobby <b>The Parents' Place</b> , Trinity Chapel, West Classroom
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Nursery Care</b> , Main Building
9:30 – 10:10 am	<b>Children's Summer Musical Rehearsal</b> , Trinity Chapel, upstairs
10:30 – 11:30 am	<b>Worship</b> , Main Sanctuary and Online at <a href="http://www.erucc.org">www.erucc.org</a>
11:30 am	<b>Fellowship</b> , 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](http://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!

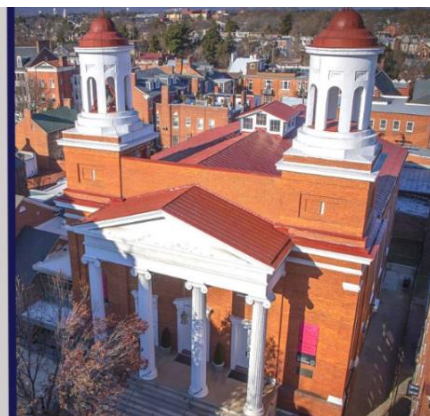


#### MISSION STATEMENT

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



## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16, 2023

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### A House Divided

In their very conservative town of Colorado Springs, CO, Vista Grande UCC has long been visible as an LGBTQ+ ally, using their sign and flagpole “to proclaim that Black Lives Matter, immigrants deserve justice and queer people are uniquely made in the image of an expansively loving God.”\*

Rev. Mallory Everhart, Vista Grande’s pastor, believes that the church’s visible commitment to providing safe haven for all on the margins helped the wider community and city to trust the congregation in the wake of last November’s tragic shooting at Club Q on the eve of Trans Day of Remembrance. The shooter killed 5 people and injured 22, but Rev. Everhart adds that he “traumatized an entire community.”

Everhart reflects, “On Nov. 20 and beyond, we were true to our reputation and rose up to hold space and provide care to a stunned and terrified community. In their book, *Emergent Strategy*, activist adrienne maree brown writes that community organizing ‘moves at the speed of trust.’ If I have any advice about crisis response, it’s this: make connections and build trust now. No matter your good intentions, you will not be a community partner in times of crisis if you don’t.”\*

In today’s reading, Jesus tells the parable of the sower, warning that not all seed that is planted falls on fertile ground. He is speaking as loudly to the church of the 21st century America as he did to his little community in 1st century Palestine. In a world with growing visible division and terror, your church community has the opportunity to sow seeds now that will grow and flourish or will wither and fall away when a crisis arrives. Today is the right day to ask where the seeds you are planting are growing in your congregation, in your community, and in all the world.

\*Quotations from: Larkman, C. (2023, January 13). *UCC pastor: In the new year, resolve to listen, make connections, build trust*. United Church of Christ. <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-pastor-in-the-new-year-resolve-to-listen-make-connections-build-trust/>



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

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