

Weaving
the
Future

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 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, 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. Plates for offering are 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. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org
Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music* | Tyler L. York ~ *Office Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org
Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ jclayton@erucc.org
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*

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*
The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus* ~ burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com

Elders of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Marc Kline | Peter Brehm | Robin Cooney | Eric Weakly | Ave Barr | Matt Hueting



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



July 30, 2023

Ninth 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

Larry and Sedonia Martin

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**

O give thanks to the Lord, make known the Lord's deeds among the peoples.
Sing to the Lord, tell of all God's wonderful works.

Seek the Lord; seek God's presence continually.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Remember the wonderful works the Lord has done,
the miracles and the judgments of our God.

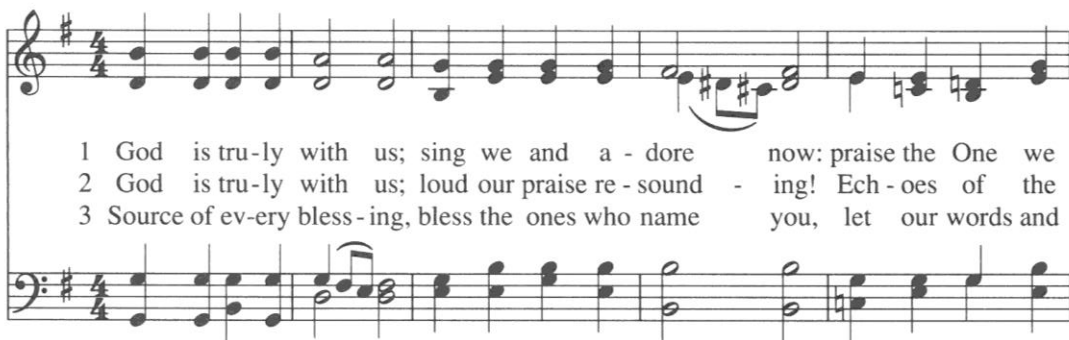
The Lord is our God; praise the Lord!

*OPENING PRAYER

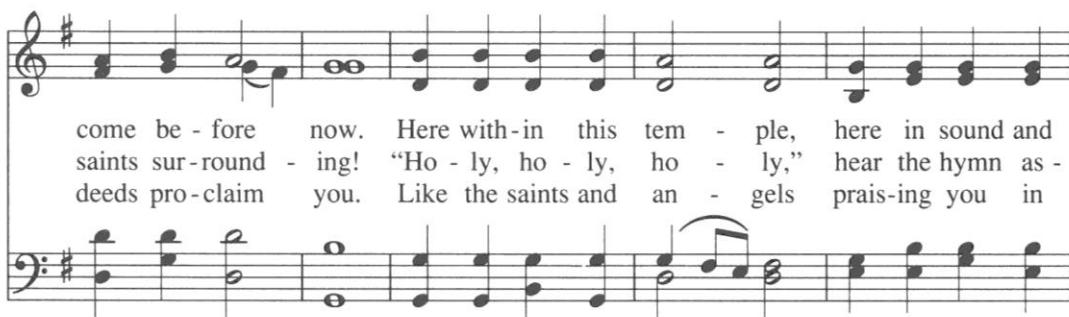
We could be many other places this morning, but we have chosen to be physically present here ... in this place, at this time, with these people. We pray that we are not just physically present, but spiritually open. Come and sit with us now and infuse us with your Spirit. Accept our worship; restore us with your shalom, your peace and your goodness in our lives. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN *God is Truly with Us*

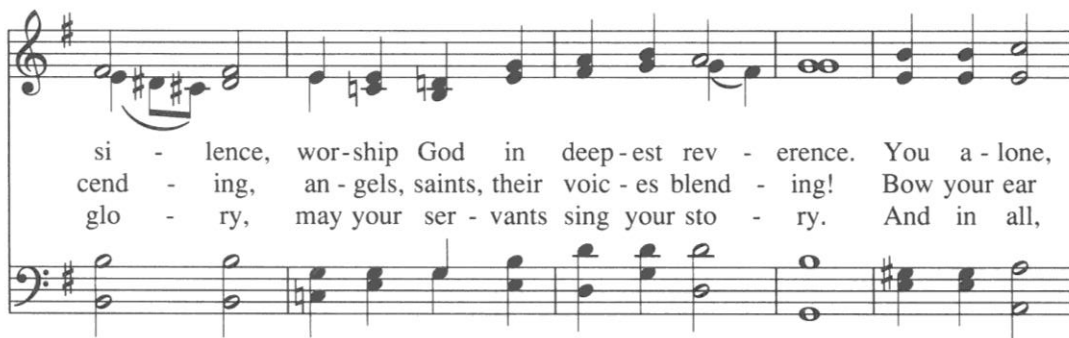
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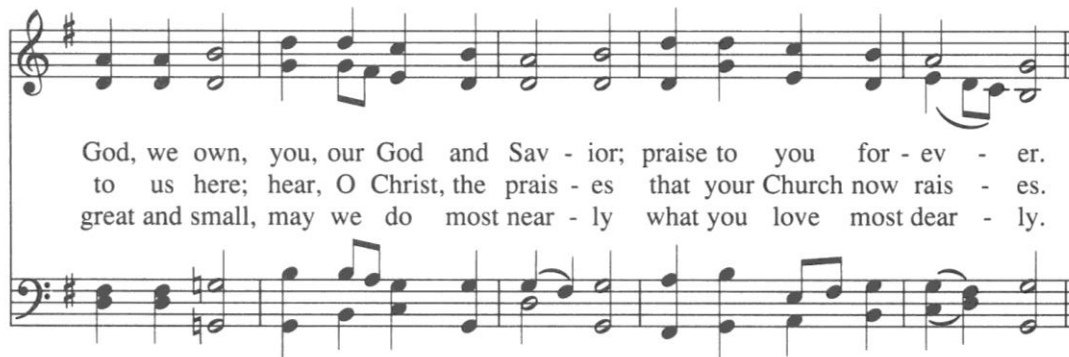
1 God is tru-ly with us; sing we and a - dore now: praise the One we
2 God is tru-ly with us; loud our praise re - sound - ing! Ech - oes of the
3 Source of ev-ery bless - ing, bless the ones who name you, let our words and



come be - fore now. Here with - in this tem - ple, here in sound and
saints sur - round - ing! "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," hear the hymn as -
deeds pro - claim you. Like the saints and an - gels prais - ing you in



si - lence, wor - ship God in deep - est rev - erence. You a - lone,
cend - ing, an - gels, saints, their voic - es blend - ing! Bow your ear
glo - ry, may your ser - vants sing your sto - ry. And in all,



God, we own, you, our God and Sav - ior; praise to you for - ev - er.
to us here; hear, O Christ, the prais - es that your Church now rais - es.
great and small, may we do most near - ly what you love most dear - ly.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The Apostle Paul tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. We know this in our minds, but all too often we fail to live it. Sometimes we don't believe it; other times we may question whether we even deserve it. Help us to get beyond thinking about it, so that we may simply live our days doing what Christ would do. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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.**

***HYMN** *God Moves in a Mysterious Way* tune – ST. ANNE

**God moves in a mysterious way great wonders to perform;
God plants firm footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.

Judge not God's way through human sense, but trust unfailing grace:
Behind a frowning providence there shines a smiling face.

God's purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.

Our unbelief is sure to err and scan God's work in vain;
God is God's own interpreter, whose truth shall be made plain.**

THE SCRIPTURE

Genesis 29:15-28	OT page 26
Romans 8:26-39	NT page 158
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	NT page 14

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. John Shillingburg

MORNING PRAYERS

MISSION MOMENT

Owen York

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

OFFERTORY

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Receive our gifts, O God, gifts of time, talent, and resources, and bless these gifts to your use. We offer them with a humble heart, because we know all that we have comes from you. Scripture tells us that—in every age—you have been a God of abundance, not scarcity. May we live in confidence of your abundant love and provision. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

#76

see next page

***BENEDICTION**

***THREEFOLD AMEN**

#812

POSTLUDE *(please be seated)*

Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
 tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
 shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of Jack Patterson by Patti and family.

The yellow rose bud is presented in honor of veterans by Peter Brehm and Jack Day.

Attendance Last Sunday: 18 at 8:30 am, 71 at 10:30 am and 42 online.



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 am or on-demand:

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

Today: July 30, 2023

Scripture Reader: Rebecca Shillingburg
Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Elder: Peter Brehm
Greeters: Susan Kulp, David Howard,
Sue Pinner
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Larry Martin
Jeff Schaeberle
Fellowship: Linda Coyle, Peter Brehm,
Cliff and Ave Barr
Saturday Chimer: Dick Williams
Sunday Chimer:

Next Week: August 6, 2023

Patti Patterson
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Ave Barr
Ave and Cliff Barr,
Danielle Carbone
Marj Berkheimer
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle
Matthew Mercier
Green Team

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 light refreshment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-32 | Psalm 145:8-9, 14-19, 21

In Genesis 32, Jacob, the trickster, is facing the consequences of tricking his brother Esau for his birthright and his father Isaac's his blessing: having to flee to another country, where he meets Rachel, daughter of his mother's brother. Jacob stayed there 20 years, marrying Rachel ... and Rachel's older sister, Leah. When God tells Jacob to return to his ancestral land, he's not expecting a joyous homecoming. Instead, Jacob fears his brother will attack him. Nearing his homeland, one night he sends his family across the river and stays alone, beside the river Jabbok.

The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg will be preaching this morning. Our children will present a special Vacation Bible School song. We will share in the sacrament of communion at the chancel rail.

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:

Rich Stolz, Manny Greber, Hillal Eastburn, June Brehm, Barbara Rhoads, Pat Condo, Matt Pomeroy, Cathy Crome (sister of Nancy Jones), Greg Rhoads, Luke Chappell, Holly Davis, Mike Roberston (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson), 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).

Hillal Eastburn

120 Burgess Hill Way, #216
Frederick MD 21702

Barbara Rhoads

7431 Willow Rd, #29
Frederick MD 21702

Bonnie Devilbiss

10 West 14th St
Frederick MD 21701

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.

This Week at ERUCC

CLIMATE HOPE POSTCARD SUNDAYS



Last fall there was an UCC Climate Hope art contest for kids. 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!

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.



Welcome back from Germany: Paige, Alex, Alyssa, Lucy, Trevor, Liam, Colleen, Jared, Quynn, Hollie, Joe, and Pastor Kirstin! **Let's Talk** with the youth and adults who participated in our German exchange at 9:30 am in the Community Room. Come hear about their experience in Klein Schwechten and this year's program which focused on nature and its preservation.

Upcoming at ERUCC

COLLECTING FABRIC MASKS FOR ART IN AUGUST

During COVID times, especially before we were all able to get ahold of N95 masks, most of us wore fabric masks. The Worship and Design team would like to create an art piece about the epidemic using these fabric masks. We are unsure just what the form of that piece might be since we are not sure how many fabric masks are still out there. We will be collecting clean masks in a container outside the sanctuary through the month of August. Please donate if you are interested. Masks will not be returned. If you have questions, please contact Ave Barr.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 13

10:30 am Worship

Calling all students, teachers, bus drivers, school employees and administrators! Bring the tools of your trade for Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 13 during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Additional Announcements

LOVE IS ALWAYS THE ANSWER...

Recently the LGBTQ+ community has seen a nationwide increase in political attacks and a rise in anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination.

Frederick County and FCPS Board of Education is no exception...

FCPS Policy 443: Creating Welcoming and Affirming Schools for Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students was created because of the efforts by and for the courageous, brave, persistent, and vulnerable trans and non-binary students seeking a welcoming and affirming place at their public school.

Several groups in Frederick County are advocating that Policy 443 be reconsidered. They have organized to be present at every BoE meeting to take up public comment time to challenge the policy and spread misinformation and fear.

Students are listening. Students are watching.

What's YOUR message to them? Join the efforts to advocate for public education and the rights of LGBTQI young people and their families.

Help be the OTHER voice in the room!

Email CommunityFOR443@gmail.com for more information!

Children and Youth Ministry

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 31 – August 4



Tomorrow begins one of the most fun and rewarding weeks of the summer – Vacation Bible School! This year’s VBS theme is “Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!” As a church family, we can pray for the children, families, and youth and adult volunteers as they celebrate the love of God through activities, Bible stories, music, and friendship.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY 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!!

As we say goodbye to summer, we invite families of children and youth to play at a parent supervised pool party at the home of Dan Smith and Austin Byrd. We are sure to make a BIG SPLASH! Contact Dan for address and directions at (301) 514-8615. Bring your own dishes, cups, silverware, and a dish to share. Julie Clark is helping to organize food, and we ask you to bring your own dishes, silverware, and a dish to share.

RSVP and Questions: Julie at jclarkad@yahoo.com or Pastor Kirstin at 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 or (240) 815-9118.



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	Children's Summer Musical Rehearsal , Trinity Chapel, upstairs
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!

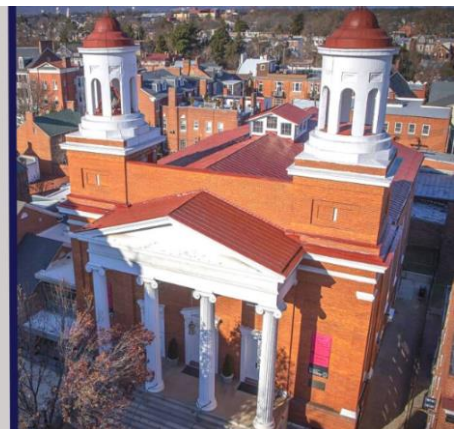


MISSION STATEMENT

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



Weaving the Future

Today's reading contains many mini-parables, a couple sentences each. Parables, short and seemingly simple stories meant to instruct and guide, are used often by Jesus as a means of teaching. Although they are simple, the parables sometimes leave the listener scratching their head and asking, "what did that mean?" It's a paradox of our faith, that it is the very mysteriousness of the parables which reveals so much. Because there are nearly infinite meanings to each one, parables are one of the strongest examples that, as we say in the United Church of Christ, "God is still speaking."

Your reaction to the parable reveals a God who continually invites us into the surprise of an ongoing conversation, one in which the partners know and love one another but still can't guess what the other is going to say next. As you dive into the mystery of the parable you are invited to get curious, ask questions, and express wonder, ultimately growing in your understanding of God's work in your life, and your own faith journey.

But your reaction to the parables is not the only measure of your ability to ask questions as you grow in your faith. Take a look at the order of service (also called the liturgy) for your worship service today. Does it contain a prayer of confession? The prayer of confession works like a parable - it invites you into conversation with God and with yourself. As you say the words of the prayer of confession, you are invited to get curious, ask questions and express wonder about God's work in your own life and the life of your faith community.

One of the parables today says that the kingdom of heaven is the net that is thrown into the sea, catching fish "of every kind." One of the many ways of thinking of this parable is that in the Reign of God, all are drawn into, and pulled together into the divine. But then some fish are kept, and some are not. Perhaps we include the prayer of confession as a small parable in our worship services because we do not believe that fish are born worthy or unworthy. Instead, we believe that within each person is the power to grow, change and be transformed.

