



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.



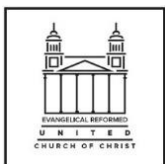
Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

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 Huetting



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



August 13, 2023

Eleventh 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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER

The Pomeroy Family

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**

We gather to worship, to hear what God will speak,
for he will speak peace to the people,
God will speak to the faithful,
to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Surely salvation is at hand for those who follow God;
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will join each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground;
And righteousness will look down from the sky.
Come, let us join our hearts in worship.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious One, we gather this morning with thanksgiving and gratitude, in thanksgiving for the ways in which You lead us as a family of faith, and in gratitude for your promise that when two or three of us gather, you will be there. May your Spirit fill us, so that we may lay down the worries and anxieties of the week just finished. May your Spirit fill us, so that as we enter a new week, we remember who You are and what matters in this world. We pray in the name of the one who showed us your peace perfectly, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped*

#22

see next page

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The Apostle Paul tells us there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. But we live in a society structured—implicitly, if not explicitly--to treat some people differently than others.

Forgive us, Lord, for too often we are complicit in this inequality, often without even knowing it. Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see these structures of inequality and seek to overturn them.

Then shall the words of Paul --“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”—then will they be realized on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - joi - ce— or - gan and
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

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.

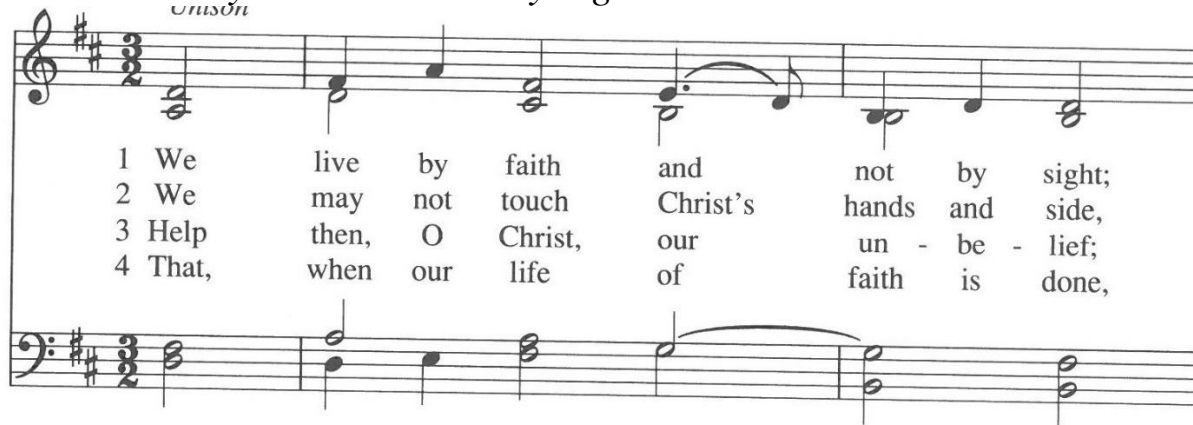
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

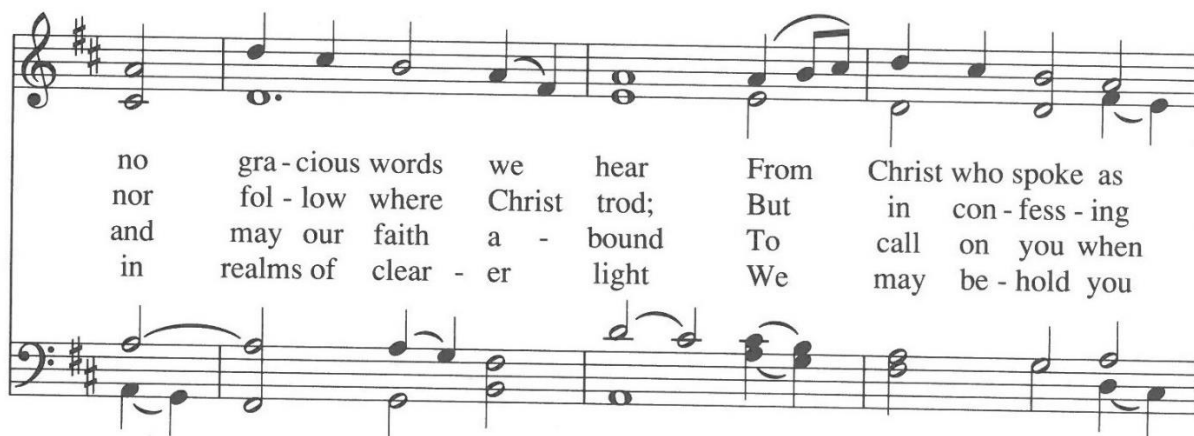
*HYMN *We Live by Faith and Not by Sight*

#256

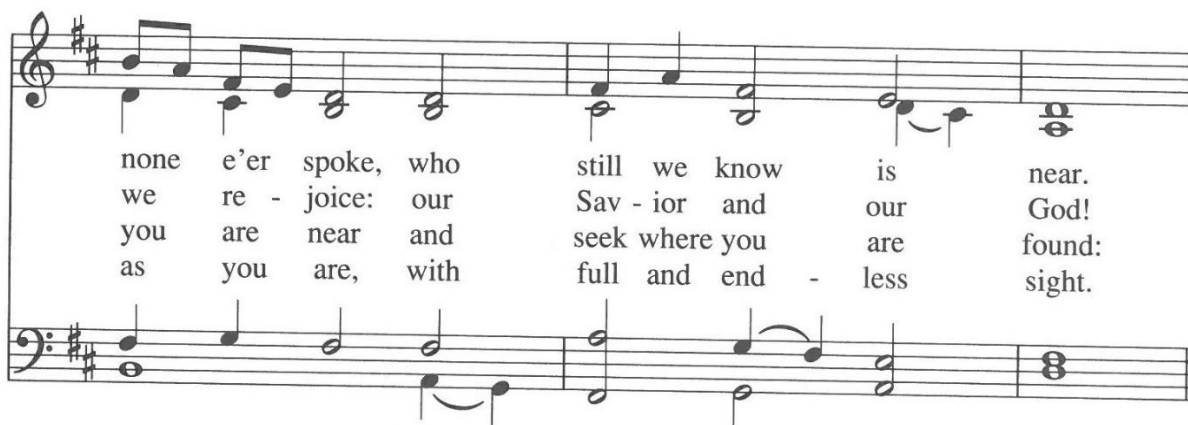
υμνος



1 We live by faith and not by sight;
2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;
4 That, when our life of faith is done,



no gra - cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as
nor fol - low where Christ trod; But in con - fess - ing
and may our faith a - bound To call on you when
in realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
we re - joice: our Sav - ior and our God!
you are near and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

THE SCRIPTURE

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

OT page 34

Romans 10:8-13

NT page 160

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. John Shillingburg

MORNING PRAYERS

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

OFFERTORY DUET

– Angela Brittain, Dan Smith

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, we offer to you our time, talents, and our abundance. All are gifts from you. We return these portions and ask that You use them to build your kin-dom here on earth. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West*

#395

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;
4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;

But one com-mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
God's ser-vice is the gold-en cord close - bind-ing hu - man - kind.
For men and wom-en live in God, and all are kin to me.
One joy-ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through-out the whole wide earth.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Christ There Is No East or West'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the final two lines. The third system contains the final two lines of the hymn. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREEFOLD AMEN**

#812

POSTLUDE (*please be seated*)

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in honor of this congregation who embody the UCC motto, “to believe is to care ,and to care is to do.” They are given with gratitude by Jean N. Fish and Barbara J. Biser.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 am, 126 at 10:30 am and 39 online.



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

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

Today: August 13, 2023

Scripture Reader: Linda Coyle
Deacons: Robin A. & Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Robin Cooney
Greeters: Sue Pinner, Felecia Bishop
Anne Hoffman
Welcome: Julie Clark
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Matthew Mercier
Fellowship: Julie Chappell, Keith Stickley
Peter Brehm, Ave Barr
Felecia Bishop, Joan & Allen Maples
Saturday Chimer: Dick Williams
Sunday Chimer: Robin and David Cooney

Next Week: August 20, 2023

Richard Leslie
Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Starr Schaeberle
Rachel and Tom Ford, Rob Smith
Holly Davis
Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Schaeberle
Darryl Glick, Mark Ulrich
Starr Schaeberle
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: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1–15 | 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

In the years since Joseph arrived in Egypt as a slave, his ability to interpret Pharaoh's dreams has made him second only to Pharaoh. Using grain reserves stored during years of plenty, he saves the people from seven years of famine. Sent by Jacob to Egypt to buy food, the brothers are bought to Joseph to conduct the transaction. They don't recognize him. After Joseph tests them to find out whether they have changed, he reveals himself to them in a dramatic reunion. He forgives them for selling him into slavery, telling them that what they meant for evil, God meant for good.

The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg will be preaching this morning.

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:

Ginny Peters, Meg Gessert (stepdaughter of Susan Kulp), James Miller (brother of Angela Brittain), Rob Peters, Rich Stolz, Hillal Eastburn, Barbara Rhoads, Pat Condo, Cathy Crome (sister of Nancy Jones), Greg Rhoads, Luke Chappell, Holly Davis, Mike Roberston (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson), 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.

Sunday Fellowship Opportunities for Adults

FRIENDS AND FELLOWSHIP **Community Room** **9:30 – 10:15 am**

Come to the Community Room for some coffee or tea and to chat and relax.

THE PARENT'S PLACE **West Classroom, Trinity Chapel** **9:30 – 10:25 am**

Take a moment to unwind and gather with other parents to gather in Trinity Chapel after your kids are in musical rehearsal.

This Week at ERUCC

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 13

10:30 am Worship

All students, teachers, bus drivers, school employees and administrators are invited to bring their school bags to the 10:30 am worship service to receive a special blessing ahead of the new school year.

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 in the upper lobby through the month of August. Please donate if you are interested. Masks will not be returned. If you have questions, please contact Ave Barr.



Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

New and returning opportunities for adult faith formation are coming in September!

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with The Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg
Sundays, starting September 10 North Room / Zoom 9:00 – 10:15 am

Our *Let's Study the Bible* class will resume Sunday, September 10! More details coming soon.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg
Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence
Tuesdays, September 12 – October 24 North Room / Zoom 11:00 am

In *Freeing Jesus*, Diana Butler Bass offers a refreshing take on the comprehensive, multi-faceted nature of Jesus, keeping his teachings relevant and alive in our daily lives. She challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.

Watch for a reading schedule and Zoom link in coming weeks. Books are available now for \$10 on Sundays or in the church office.

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE - WEDNESDAY EVENING EDITION
with The Rev. John Shillingburg
Wednesdays, September 13 – October 25 North Room / Zoom 7:00 pm

Starting in September, you can participate in a new evening edition of the current Sunday morning adult Bible study class. This class offers an opportunity to read and discuss the scriptures, looking at them in their original context, considering when and by whom they were written, and how they have been interpreted through the centuries. All you need is a Bible; no prior knowledge is necessary. This new evening edition will begin where the Sunday morning group did, with a seven-week basic introduction to the Bible: how it came down to us in the form we have it, how it's organized, the types of literature in it and what they mean for how we understand it.

The class will meet tentatively in person or by Zoom at 7:00 pm on Wednesday evenings, finishing up by 8:15 pm or so. If you are interested in participating in this new opportunity, please let Linda Coyle or John Shillingburg know. Tell us whether Wednesday evening is good for you, whether another evening would be better, and whether you will participate in person or by Zoom. And watch for more information in September's *Trinity Chimes*.

Upcoming at ERUCC

INAUGURAL BLACK FESTIVAL IN FREDERICK

Saturday, August 26

Caroll Creek Linear Park

11:00 am – 5:00 pm



BlackFrederick.com is excited to be partnering with Nigerians in Frederick-NIF Association to host the first ever Black Frederick Festival on August 26. We are invited to “join us as we share, celebrate, and educate the Frederick community about the richness of Black culture at the inaugural Black Frederick Festival! Our vision is to host an annual, economically viable celebration of Black culture that attracts people throughout Frederick and the surrounding areas. Our mission is to share, celebrate, and educate the Frederick community about the richness of Black culture.”

Pastor Kirstin invites all of our church to consider attending this free, family-friendly event, as a part of getting to know our own neighbors and to show our support. As a predominantly white congregation, this is a great opportunity to learn about and celebrate the heritage and gifts of black culture. If you want to go with others, reach out to Kirstin for a meeting time and location ksrhoads@erucc.org, but there is no need to RSVP, just show up!

ICE CREAM SUNDAY BAR TO KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, September 10

Community Room

during Fellowship

Join us at Fellowship in the Community Room after worship on September 10 for an Ice Cream Sunday Bar as our official KICK OFF to the new year! Pastor Kirstin will be available to answer questions about curriculum and volunteering opportunities and will share a schedule of fall events for children’s ministry, including Tiny Tots, God’s Kids Club, and Kids’ Creation Care.

INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT ERUCC?

Sunday, September 10

Community Room

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

If you are interested in learning more about ERUCC, the United Church of Christ, and what it means to be a church member, we hope you join us for a conversation led by Rev. Carolyn Roberts during fellowship in the Community Room. Questions? Contact erucc@erucc.org.

We will be receiving new members into the church on Sunday, September 24 at the 10:30 am service. Thanks to our newer friends and guests for your participation in the life of ERUCC and for the joy you bring us.

Children and Youth Ministry

YOUTH ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, August 27

Community Room

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Youth, parents, and adult leaders are invited to take part in the first step of planning our 2023-2024 Youth gatherings. If you are unable to attend, please reach out to Pastor Kirstin so she can connect with you before and afterward. We want as many of our youth voices as possible!

Our time together will include team-building, laughter, planning, laughter, dinner, and laughter! As I like to say, we come to play and pray together!

Contact Pastor Kirstin with questions, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

SUMMER MUSICAL – IN THE IMAGE

Sundays

Trinity Chapel, upstairs

9:30 – 10:15 am

The ERUCC summer musical 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 will take place from 9:30 – 10:15 am in Trinity Chapel. Attend rehearsals as often as possible. There will not be rehearsal on August 20. 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 SCHOOL and JUNIOR CHURCH RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 10

Trinity Chapel Classrooms

9:30 – 10:10 am

Children's Sunday School with classrooms for kids PK – 2nd Grade and 3rd – 5th Grade and a **Youth Sunday School** class for 6th – 12th Grade will resume September 10! We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another year of fun and faith formation.

We have opportunities remaining for additional teachers in the upper elementary and youth classrooms. Talk with Pastor Kirstin, Linda Coyle, or Dawn Lagrotteria to learn more.

Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, will also resume on September 10! On all Sundays, except the first Sunday of each month when we observe Communion, children aged 5 – 5th grade may go to Junior Church in the Thomas Room after the Thought for the Day in the worship service. Parents should pick up children from Junior Church following service.

Talk with Thomasa Pomeroy or Pastor Kirstin if you are interested in helping with this children's ministry. We are looking for volunteers to assist monthly or every other month.

Additional Announcements

NEW! RECYCLE BATTERIES AT ERUCC



Batteries power the modern world, whether it's your cellphone, tablet, power tool, or game console. When batteries lose their charge or ability to recharge, it's time to recycle them. With gratitude to the ERUCC Green Team, we now have a battery recycling program. A box is in the upper lobby outside the main sanctuary where alkaline, lithium, and button batteries may be recycled. Please carefully read directions to ensure safe and proper recycling procedures are followed.

AUDIO/VISUAL TEAM

We are looking for volunteers to join our AV team. No special skills or experience required. There are three people there each Sunday so you will always be with someone experienced. We will provide training on both audio and video consoles. If you are interested, please contact Jeff Schaeberle, jeff@erucc.org. You are also welcome to come up to the balcony on any Sunday to observe and learn more.

CHURCH PARKING LOT REMINDERS

please save spaces in our parking lot on Sunday mornings for people who have reduced mobility. City of Frederick public garage parking is free on Sunday from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

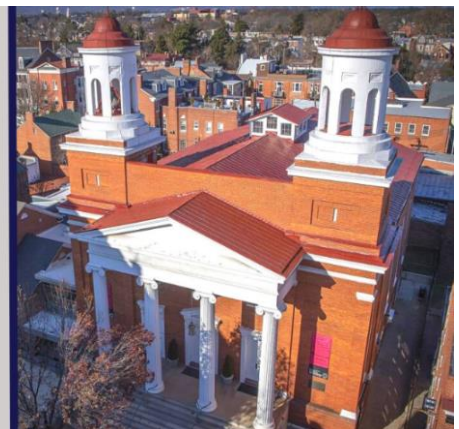
kindly call the church office in advance at 301.662.2762 to confirm space is available before parking during the week.

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



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, 1 st Floor
9:30 – 10:10 am	Children's 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, 1 st Floor

beginning September 10

8:30 – 9:15 am	Worship , Trinity Chapel
9:00 am	Coffee and Conversation , Main Building, Kieffer Lobby
9:30 am	The Parents' Place , Trinity Chapel, West Classroom
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Nursery Care , Main Building, 1 st Floor
9:30 – 10:15 am	Adult Education , Main Building, North Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Let's Study the Bible</i>
9:30 – 10:10 am	Sunday School , Trinity Chapel <i>PK – 2nd Grade, 3rd – 5th Grade, Youth (6th – 12th Grade)</i>
10:10 – 10:25 am	Children's Musical Rehearsal , Trinity Chapel, upstairs
10:30 – 11:30 am	Worship , Main Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Children dismissed from sanctuary after Thought for the Day during Worship</i>
11:30 am	Fellowship , Community Room, 1 st Floor

Stay Informed

AUGUST 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/aug23chimes.



WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

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



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 13, 2023

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

When All Seems Lost

In today's story, Joseph, the youngest and favorite son of Jacob is gifted a beautiful coat by his father. Joseph's brothers are jealous of Jacob's favor, and turn on him, plotting to kill him. One brother, Reuben, softens and suggests instead that they throw him in a pit. He tells his brothers that then they will be spared the blood guilt of killing their brother directly but thinks to himself that he will come back at a later time and rescue him. Then, seeing some slave traders passing by, the brothers decide to sell Joseph instead. Then, they take his coat, which they have torn and bloodied, to their father as proof that his favorite is no more.

This story, and Joseph's adventures in Egypt that follow this capture, was memorably made into a musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber more than fifty years ago. The musical, which began as a 15-minute cantata, has grown into a full length and often-staged musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.^{*} If not the only, it is certainly the most popular staged musical interpretation of a Genesis story, beginning with the lines,

“Way, way back many centuries ago,
Not long after the Bible began.
Jacob lived in the land of Canaan,
A fine example of a family man...”^{*}

and ending with a rousing call to follow your dreams no matter the circumstances.

For many, the musical, like another Rice and Weber production, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, has been a gateway into learning a bible story that they would not have easily walked into another way.

What about you? How have you learned the bible? What songs or chants have helped you to take it to heart and know it by heart? How can we, in our churches, introduce both our members and those in our communities to the stories that form our faith?

^{*}You can find this and all the songs from the musical at this resource: Webber, L.A. (1992). *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Songbook*. Hal Leonard.



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