

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
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Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*
Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant* | Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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Elders of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

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

15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-662-2762 • www.erucc.org



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



August 20, 2023

Twelfth 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 Robin A. & Robin L. Brady-Slifer

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 have climbed trees and over mountains hoping to find a place of belonging.

Love is possible here in this beloved community of faith.

We cross the boundaries that divide us by ages and stages, ethnicities and genders, hurts and disagreements.

Love is possible here where we work to break down the barriers that can divide us.

We open our hearts and ready our hands to reach out to one another, and discover One who is within and beyond us.

Love is possible when we open our hearts and minds to know each other.

Let us worship together in love.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**We reach out to you, God, in our believing and in our doubting.
We reach out to you with our dreams, our songs, and our listening.
We know you have already reached out to us before we even thought
about reaching out to you, so we come with hearts open and full of
thanks. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Hear the Voice of God So Tender* tune – BEACH SPRING

**Hear the voice of God, so tender, gathering us in righteousness,
Giving, as our sure defender, steadfast love and faithfulness.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Giving as our sure defender, steadfast love and faithfulness.**

**God is healing and forgiving creatures who are sore distressed,
Opening doors to hopeful living, as, by love, we're daily blessed.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Opening doors to hopeful living, as, by love, we're daily blessed.**

**Listening to the Spirit's guiding, breath beyond the written code,
We, in covenant abiding, seek to write our letters bold.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
We, in covenant abiding, seek to write our letters bold.**

**Shed the old wineskins of warfare for the fresh new wines of peace,
Knowing God sustains our welfare with a love that will not cease.
Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Knowing God sustains our welfare with a love that will not cease.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy Dream-giver, sometimes our vision becomes focused on ourselves. Sometimes we respond to new visions with fear and try to block them, even injuring those who share them. Sometimes we keep dreams locked in our heads and focus on the grief for what is lost to us. God, return us to you in community.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God will do what God will do. Yet God gives room for us to do what we will do. In the mystery in the middle of both of those truths, God works for good. God forgives, restores, and gives new life. Thanks be to God!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

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 *Children of God

#533

see next page

THE SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:16-20 NT page 181

Genesis 45:1-15 OT page 42

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

MORNING PRAYERS

SHARING OUR STORIES

Rodney Martin

1 Chil - dren of God, lift hearts to one an - oth - er;
 2 For God whom Je - sus loved has tru - ly spo - ken:
 3 Fol - low with rev - erent steps the great ex - am - ple
 4 Then shall all shack - les fall; the storm-y clan - gor

where pit - y dwells, the peace of God is there;
 the ho - lier wor - ship which Christ deigns to bless
 of Christ whose ho - ly work was do - ing good;
 of wild war mu - sic o'er the earth shall cease;

To wor - ship right - ly is to love each oth - er,
 Re - stores the lost, and binds the spir - it bro - ken,
 So shall the wide earth seem a ho - ly tem - ple,
 Love shall tread out the bale - ful fire of an - ger,

each smile a hymn, each kind - ly deed a prayer.
 and feeds the wid - ow and the par - ent - less.
 each lov - ing life a psalm of grat - i - tude.
 and in its ash - es plant the tree of peace.

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

Standing firm and holding to the tradition we were taught, let us offer to God tithes, offerings and gifts from our grateful hearts in order for the work of love and justice to continue in our community and in our world.

OFFERTORY *You Are My All in All*

– arr. L. Larson
Dan Smith, soloist

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God, who loves all of earth, every created thing is beloved to you.
We give thanks for your embrace and dedicate our gifts to your love.
May these gifts transform us and the world beyond us. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN** *This Is A Day of New Beginnings*

#417
see next page

***BENEDICTION**

***THREEFOLD AMEN**

#812

POSTLUDE *(please be seated)*



We welcome Jonas Dawson as our guest organist today.

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
* In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in loving memory of Isabel Kreh Wilcoxon, Susan Nelson Cramer Kreh, and Lola Ann Dorcus by Susan Kreh.

The yellow rose bud is presented in honor of my late husband, Col. John E. Justice, and all those who have served in the United States military.

Attendance Last Sunday: 18 at 8:30 am, 104 at 10:30 am and 39 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

Today: August 20, 2023

Scripture Reader: Richard Leslie
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Elder: Starr Schaeberle
Greeters: Rachel and Tom Ford, Rob Smith

Welcome: Holly Davis
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Schaeberle
Fellowship: Darryl Glick, Mark Ulrich
Starr Schaeberle
Saturday Chimer: Suzanne Morris
Sunday Chimer: Robin and David Cooney

Next Week: August 27, 2023

Jim Weitz
Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Peter Brehm
Bob and Nancy Manthey
Sue Pinner
Thi Nguyen, Pat Condo
Jeff Baker, Kelly Esslinger

Julie Clark

Dick Williams
Trish 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: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8—2:10 | Matthew 16:13-20

The book of Exodus begins many years after Joseph lived, so many in fact, that a new Pharaoh comes to the throne “who does not know Joseph.” The descendants of Jacob and his 12 sons are now slaves and have become so numerous that they frighten Pharaoh: “What might they do against us?” He decides to solve the problem by killing all the male babies born to the Israelites, but his plan is foiled ... in part ... by several resourceful women.

The Rev. John 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:

Nathan Cable, 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

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.

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with The Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg

Sundays, resumes September 10 North Room / Zoom 9:00 – 10:15 am

Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888 Passcode: 327128

We are currently studying the foundational stories of the Old Testament, the big stories in the order they occurred. The Exile ... and the Exodus ... is that one event with two names ... or two? And if they are different, which came first? Was Daniel in the lion's den because Joseph put him there? If you've ever had questions like these, join us! No prior experience needed; just bring your Bible.

In September we begin the story of how the loose confederation of tribes that entered the Promised Land became a kingdom that reached its zenith under Solomon.

Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

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

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398 Passcode: 973365

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 – 8:15 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500 Passcode: 848933

Like the Sunday morning class, this new evening 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.

We 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. After that, we will focus on the foundational stories of the Bible in order, as the Sunday morning class is doing.

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.  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Upcoming at ERUCC

INAUGURAL BLACK FESTIVAL IN FREDERICK

Saturday, August 26

Carroll 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 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!

SENIOR CHOIR PICNIC

Thursday, September 7

Community Room

6:30 pm

It's time for the Senior Choir to gather to start a new year! Bring a dish to share. Come ready to have fun and sing together again.

ICE CREAM SUNDAE 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 Sundae 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.

CHIMES SERVICE AND LEARNING GROUP

Thursday, September 14 **IHOP, 2421 Osprey Way S, Frederick** **10:00 am**

The Chimes Service and Learning Group first meeting this fall is a 10:00 am breakfast meeting at IHOP, off Rt 26, on September 14. We welcome new faces! Please reserve your spot at the breakfast by emailing Sue Pinner at pinbenco@gmail.com.

TUESDAY EVENING YOGA

Tuesdays, September 19 – October 24 **Community Room** **7:00 pm**

Join your ERUCC friends for a new six-week cycle of Tuesday night yoga beginning April 18! You will need to bring yoga mats, blocks if used, and a water bottle. Space is limited to 20 participants. For more information or to sign up, contact Renae Kline, rdkline15@gmail.com. The 6-week session is just \$60! Payments should be marked “yoga.”

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.

**There will not be rehearsal Sunday, August 20.*

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

WATERCOLOR CLASSES WITH MARTI

Thursdays, September 7 – October 19

Liz Coffey Room

10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Fall is almost here and it's time to learn a new skill or polish up an old one. Come join the class starting September 7 through October 19 (no class October 12), Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the Liz Coffey Room. Classes will include painting flowers, landscapes, trees, birds, oceans and many others. This is a great way to center yourself and let go of stress. The classes are \$35 each, with a minimum of four classes. You will receive lots of individual attention, and all skill levels are welcome.

For information & registration, call or text Marti Easton: (203) 249-9205.

UCC MAKES SPECIAL APPEAL FOR HAWAII

**"There is so much loss,
so much that one day was
there and is now ashes."**

Rev. Dr. David Popham, Hawaii Conference Minister

The United Church of Christ, through Wider Church Ministries, is issuing a special appeal to provide essential items and long-term support to those impacted by wildfires across Hawaii, including the deadly wildfires on the island of Maui.

Donate directly to the UCC's wildfires relief fund: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires> or make a donation through ERUCC (note "Hawai'i" in memo field) and we will pass those funds along to the relief effort.

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.

ERUCC COLLECTS ITEMS FOR FREDERICK FOODBANK YEAR-ROUND

Don't forget! ERUCC collects items for the City of Frederick Foodbank operated by the Department of Housing & Human Services, which provides a three- to five-day supply of food to individuals and families who are facing an economic crisis and cannot afford to buy their groceries. Currently, the City operates two locations, serving between 600 to 800 households each month.

You can find donation baskets in the Trinity Chapel narthex and the Main Sanctuary narthex every week. The Foodbank accepts a wide range of donations, including non-perishable food items such as:

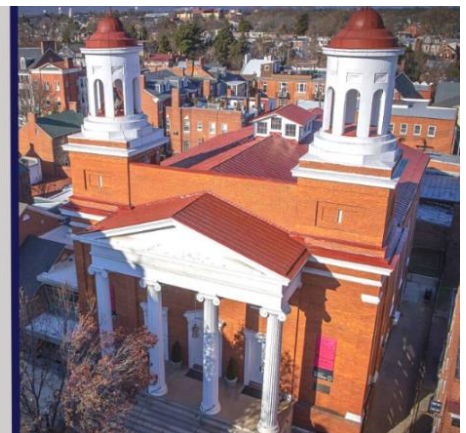
- Breakfast cereals
 - Canned fruits
 - Canned meats
 - Canned vegetables
 - Pasta
 - Rice
 - Other staple items (home canned foods cannot be accepted)
-

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 <i>will not rehearse August 20</i>
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!



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 20, 2023

Genesis 45:1-15

Bold Moves

In today's story, Joseph, having achieved success and power in Egypt, is reunited with his brothers who assumed that he was dead or enslaved in terrible conditions. Consider the words of this meditation as an invitation to reconcile a difficulty in your own life.

Imagine yourself standing, beginning to walk. You move with ease, each step making you stronger, never tiring...Imagine that you come to a hill and you begin to climb, noticing the terrain around you. It is the most beautiful kind of hill you can imagine. What does it look like? Is it dry desert and rock? Rain forest? Mountain meadow? Glaciers?

Now imagine that you get to the top of the hill, and the view of the valleys and plains around you opens up. You can see a long way. Imagine that the place spread before you is the country of your life... It is populated with all the people you have known and every place you have ever been and everything you have ever done. As you look over it, you can see it at a distance, yet you can see it all clearly – the country of your life...Take a few moments to locate someone precious, or something that brings you joy, or someplace that brings you peace from sometime in your life. Enjoy your memories and feelings as you look upon that beloved person, object or place ...

Now turn your gaze. Somewhere in the vast country of your life, there is something that still feels out of place. It is time to look at the thing that it is time to forgive. From your safe place, high on the hill, you can look at it with fresh eyes. You can see that thing for what it is – one thing in the country of your life, not the whole of it.

You know what it is – this thing that needs forgiving... Is it something in yourself? Or done by another?... Look at it from this distance and with this clarity. See again how the thing that needs forgiving is only one place in the country of your life – one part (whether large or small) of all the vastness that you have seen and known ...

Allow yourself to imagine how it would change the geography of the country of your life if you were to forgive the thing that needs forgiving...Would the thing change in shape or color? Would it reflect or absorb the light in a different way? ... Would it become smaller? Would it disappear altogether, leaving room for something new? ...

Allow yourself to imagine forgiving that thing. Allow yourself to imagine that it is already forgiven by a God whose love is more powerful than any human act. When you are ready, return to this place and this time.



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

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