



Be Transformed

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*

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



August 27, 2023

Thirteenth 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

Phil and Betsy Selby

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

PIANO PRELUDE *How Great Thou Art*

– William M. Runyon (1957)
arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;
Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Let us now worship the God who saves us!

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Gracious One,
your people in all ages have called on you to save them.
We are not different.
Save us from succumbing to the lures of consumerism;
save us from giving into the emotions of hate;
open our eyes to see your creation
and all the many ways that you have blessed us.
Grace us with your presence that we may learn your ways. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Be Still My Soul

#488

see next page

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Paul tells us not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought,
but we fail to heed his words. Instead of remembering that the last
shall be first, we push and shove to be at the head of the line.
Jesus has showed us the most excellent way, yet we continually go
astray, following the passions of our own hearts. Yet, you fill us with a
clean heart, O God, knowing full well that we will turn aside again and
again. Still, we repent and ask for your forgiveness.
Your grace is everlasting, for which we give thanks and praise to you.
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.**

1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear pa-tient-
 2 Be still, my soul: for God will un-der-take to guide in
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here when we shall

ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to
 fu-ture days as in the past. Your hope, your con-fi-
 be with God whom we a-dore, with dis-ap-point-ment

or-der and pro-vide; in ev-ery change God
 dence let noth-ing shake; all now mys-te-rious
 gone, no grief nor fear, sor-row re-placed with

faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul: your best e-ter-nal
 shall be clear at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
 joy for-ev-er-more. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

friend through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
 know how Je-sus' pow-er ruled them long a-go.
 past, all safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

***HYMN** *In Egypt Under Pharoah* – Dosia Carlson (1989)

**In Egypt under Pharaoh the Israelites were bound,
from plagues and tribulations no respite could be found.
Praise God who in surprising ways gave passage through the waves.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator saves.**

**From Africa to gangplanks, across a friendless sea,
black captives harshly treated all struggled to be free.
Praise God who strengthened advocates with power that does and dares
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator cares.**

**Wherever hurting humans unjustly live in pain,
the hungry, homeless, hopeless, cry out for growth and gain.
Praise God whose great redeeming love each servant freely gives.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator lives!**

THE SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8 – 2:10 OT page 49

Matthew 16:13-20 NT page 18

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

PIANO OFFERTORY *Sweet By and By*

– Joseph P. Webster (1875),
arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Lord, bless the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that we offer to you.
Bless them to your use and to the building of your kingdom on earth,
as it is in heaven. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN** *O Word of God Incarnate*

#315

see next page

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 O God, we hold this trea - sure from you, its source di - vine,
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of cloud - ed sky:
 a light that to all a - ges through - out the earth will shine;
 to bear be - fore all peo - ple your true light as of old!

We praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 'mid mists and rocks and tem - pest, still guides, O God, to you.
 till, doubt and striv - ing end - ed, they meet you face to face.

***BENEDICTION**

***THREEFOLD AMEN**

#812

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Alleluia Toccata*
 (please be seated)

Fenton Groden (b. 1982)

We welcome Jonas Dawson as our guest organist today.

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed by the Wyand and Inners families in memory of deceased loved ones.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 18 at 8:30 am, 94 at 10:30 am, and 50 online.



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

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

Today: August 27, 2023

Scripture Reader: Jim Weitz
Deacons: Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Elder: Peter Brehm
Greeters: Bob and Nancy Manthey
Sue Pinner
Welcome: Thi Nguyen, Pat Condo
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Kelly Esslinger
Fellowship: Julie Clark
Saturday Chimer: Dick Williams
Sunday Chimer: Trish Coffey

Next Week: September 3, 2023

Tyler L. York
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Tyler L. York
Danielle Carbone, Cliff Barr
Anne Hoffmann
Marj Berkheimer
Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Starr Schaeberle

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: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 2:23 – 3:15

The Rev. Carolyn Roberts will be preaching and leading worship. We will be sharing Holy Communion this morning 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:

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).

Tamara Tamas, currently living near family in Houston, is having open heart surgery tomorrow, August 28, and would appreciate your prayers. "You have been a blessing to me and your thoughts follow me wherever I am."

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 – 10:15 am

Take a moment to unwind and gather with other parents 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.



Upcoming at ERUCC

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."

GREEN TEAM – POTOMAC RIVER CLEANUP AT C&O CANAL

Saturday, September 23 Canal Rd, Point of Rocks, MD, 21777 9:00 – 11:00 am



Join us for a Potomac Conservancy River Clean-up. We will pick up trash in the park and along the canal. Children and youth are invited to participate as well.

We suggest you wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and a hat. Bring gloves with you and maybe bug spray too! Trash bags will be provided.

Registration required: bit.ly/47N1Z1W

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, September 26

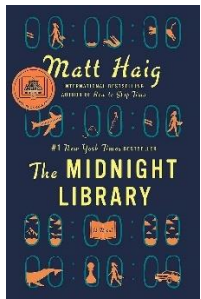
Liz Coffey Room / Zoom

7:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669



The Midnight Library by Matt Haig. Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

In *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig's enchanting new novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.



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

starting 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.

KIDS' CREATION CARE CLUB – POTOMAC RIVER CLEANUP AT C&O CANAL
Saturday, September 23 Canal Rd, Point of Rocks, MD, 21777 9:00 – 11:00 am



Children's Ministry and Kids' Creation Care Club invite all children and families to join us on Saturday, September 23 for a Potomac River Cleanup in partnership with the Potomac Conservancy and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Point of Rocks. We can help make a huge difference for the Potomac River as we turn to the water for a safe, healthy place to recreate outdoors.

We suggest you wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and a hat. Bring gloves with you too! Trash bags will be provided. Contact Pastor Kirstin or Linda Coyle to know more!

Registration required: bit.ly/47N1Z1W

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Monday, September 25

Community Room

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Save the date for God's Kids Club when FCPS schools are closed on Monday, September 25. More details coming soon!

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

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.

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.

DONATE TO FREDERICK FOOD BANK

The Department of Housing and Human Services (DHHS) Foodbank is requesting donations. The Foodbank recently expanded services and donations are needed to meet the growing need for services in our community. Donate through ERUCC by bringing items to the baskets located in the narthex of Trinity Chapel and the Main Sanctuary.

The Foodbank accepts the following donations:

- Non-perishable foods: canned fruits, canned peas, canned meats, pasta, peanut butter, rice, tomato sauce, and snack items.
 - Hygiene items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shampoo, and shaving cream.
 - Baby food: baby cereal, baby food jars, and infant formula.
-

SEPTEMBER 4

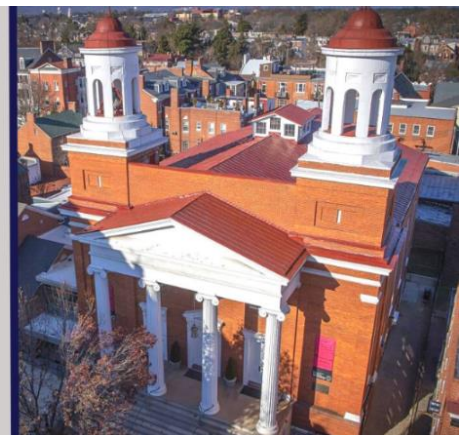
**THE ERUCC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY**

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 |
| 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!



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27, 2023

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Be Transformed

A new king rose to power. This king did not understand the past or remember that it was Joseph's wisdom and God-given insight that had saved his people in generations gone by. Instead, like many in power, he began to be afraid of Joseph's many children and grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. What if they join my enemies, he wondered, in the event of war? So, he conscripted and enslaved the people, forcing them into hard labor. Our Book tells us that Pharaoh and his slave drivers were ruthless, imposing harder and harder tasks upon God's people. He could force them to work, even to build great cities, but he could not steal their joy and love. And so, God's people grew in numbers.

Then Pharaoh called the midwives, the women who attended the births and brought the babies, squalling and slimy and so preciously alive, into the world. The midwives must have wondered if they would be killed when they went cautiously before the terrible ruler, but Pharaoh instead commanded them to do something horrible. He commanded that the women, called by God to bring life into this world, would instead kill the boy babies they helped birth.

The midwives left Pharaoh's presence breathing a sigh of relief. They knew just what to do. Instead of killing the babies, they lied to Pharaoh about the birth process, something he obviously knew nothing about.

God's preference for those on the margins is shown strongly throughout the scriptures, but perhaps nowhere as strongly as this story. How can the midwives help you find your power against those who would abuse or oppress? What skills do you have that keep giving life, even times and place that ask you to deal in death?



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