



# Trinity Chimes

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ  
Frederick, Maryland USA

August 2023

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.

## *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](mailto:CommunityFOR443@gmail.com)  
for more information!**

## **Karen Georgia Thompson becomes first woman to lead UCC, in historic vote**

by Tiffany Vail | published on Jul 3, 2023



The General Synod of the United Church of Christ made history Monday, July 3, when it elected the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman, and the first Black woman, to lead the denomination as General Minister and President.

Rev. Thompson is the third woman nominated for the post, after the Revs. Yvonne Delk (in 1989) and Barbara Brown Zikmund (in 1999), but the first to be elected. A Jamaican immigrant, Thompson is the third person of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination.

"Today, United Church of Christ, we created a first together," she said after the vote. "It won't be the last first."

She thanked Delk and Brown Zikmund, stating that they "kicked in the doors," paving the way for her election.

"As I stand here before you as your newly and duly elected General Minister and President, I stand here as a Jamaican immigrant woman, a mother and a grandmother, a sister and a friend to many," Thompson said. "... The enormity of this moment will be with me for many years to come."

Her election took place at the UCC's 34th General Synod in Indianapolis, with 626 delegates voting for her election, 43 against and seven abstaining. She will start her new role Aug. 1, taking over from the Rev. John Dorhauer, who has served for the past eight years.

In a prayer after the vote, surrounded by her family, she



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# August Worship Notes

## Sunday, August 6

### 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 blessing: having to flee to another country, where he meets Rachel, the daughter of his mother's brother. Jacob stayed there for 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, he sends his family across the river one night 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.*

## Sunday, August 13

### Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 | Romans 10:8-13

Joseph was the son of Jacob's beloved wife, Rachel, and as such his father Jacob's favorite. Jacob gives Joseph a "long robe with sleeves," a style suitable for royalty, and suggests that Joseph does not have to work like his 11 older brothers. Joseph shares dreams with his brothers, depicting him as ruling over them. Consequently, his brothers hate him, and they conspire to kill him. But they find a less troubling and more profitable alternative--selling him into slavery.

*The Rev. John Shillingburg will be preaching this morning. Today we will observe our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Children, youth, and professionals in education are invited to bring their school bags to worship this morning to receive a special blessing for the upcoming academic year.*

## Sunday, August 20

### 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 determine 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.*

## Sunday, August 27

### Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10 | Romans 12:1-8

Four centuries have passed since Jacob's family entered Egypt. A new pharaoh (king) has come to power in Egypt--a new king who does not know the story of Joseph. The Hebrews have become numerous, and the pharaoh sees them as threatening Egypt's security. He orders all Hebrew infant boys to be killed but is frustrated by strong Hebrew women. Two midwives disobey the king's orders and let the babies live; one mother and daughter conspire to save their newborn boy, a boy who becomes Moses.

*The Rev. John Shillingburg will be preaching this morning.*

## Youth Annual Planning Meeting Sunday, August 27, 4-6 p.m. • Community Room

Youth, parents, and adult leaders are invited to take part in the first step of planning our 2023-2024 Youth gatherings!

If you CANNOT make it, please reach out to Pastor Kirstin so she can connect with you both before and afterwards. 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](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org).

## Adult Education: Coming Soon!

### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

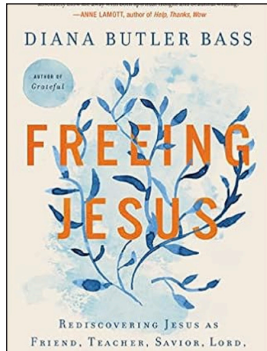
with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Tuesdays Sept. 12 - Oct. 24

North Room / Zoom 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Zoom: [bit.ly/3TdUnOy](https://bit.ly/3TdUnOy)

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398 Passcode: 973365



*Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence*  
by Diana Butler Bass

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 in Thursday Thoughts. Books are available now for \$10 on Sundays or in the church office.

### Let's Study the Bible: New Evening Edition

Starting in September, you can participate in a new evening edition of the current Sunday morning adult Bible study class. Led by John Shillingburg, the 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.

Beginning September 13, the class will meet tentatively in person or by Zoom at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, finishing up by 8:15 or so.

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.

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*.

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recalled Synod's theme, quoting Revelation 21:5 — "Behold, I am making everything new."

### Locally rooted, globally focused

As the denomination's current Officer for global concerns and interfaith relations, Thompson speaks frequently about building connections on all levels.

"Being church means we are locally rooted and globally focused, connecting the issues we see in ways that allow us to bring justice to the world," she has said.

In speaking to the UCC Board before her nomination, she emphasized that dismantling oppressive systems everywhere is necessary for both communities and congregations, internationally and domestically, to thrive.

"Decolonizing the church on all levels has to be a priority," she said. "Decolonizing the church includes our commitment to racial justice and more. Being antiracist and inclusive requires that we decolonize our institutions in ways that afford all to be present and participate equally. This is a commitment to equity for all."

### Looking ahead

In her nomination speech to General Synod on June 30, Rev. Thompson spoke about the hope she sees springing forth within the UCC.

"Here is the place where we have seen the Spirit of God poured forth among us in many ways. Here is the place where we continue to identify the many accomplishments of the ancestors. Here is where we honor the resilience of those who came before us, took risk and oftentimes did more with less than we currently have. And here is the place we identify as now, as we ponder the call of God to be salt and light to the world," she said.

Thompson has been serving as Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive for Global Ministries since 2019. She has served in the National Setting of the United Church of Christ since 2009, previously as minister for racial justice and minister for ecumenical and interfaith relations. Prior to joining National Setting staff, Thompson served on staff of the UCC's Florida Conference, as a church planter in Florida and in family ministries in New York.

Thompson holds a doctorate in ministry, with a dissertation in religious multiplicity among African Caribbean people, from Seattle University; a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary; and a master of public administration degree from North Carolina Central University.

The UCC Board will name an interim Associate General Minister to serve in Thompson's vacated position until the following General Synod 35 in 2025.

# Alice Brouillet's Estate

Last year we read a meditation of gratitude for Alice Brouillet, who died in 2020 and left a bequest of \$297,178 to ERUCC, a most generous surprise contribution the church did not know was planned. The estate was finally settled in late Spring 2023. The Finance Committee is now contemplating options in terms of how to use the funds to advance ERUCC missions.



The decisions that have been made include:

- Per ERUCC's Financial Policy, a tithe of the gift, \$29,700, has been added to the Mission and Social Justice budget for its use on efforts such as the program to support mental health needs for immigrant youth
- \$50,000 has been included in the 2023 budget to help offset the gap between our mission spending costs and income
- Up to \$15,000 was allocated to pay for Barbara's retirement events, (however, these celebration events cost just \$9,700)

The decisions that have yet to be made are how to spend the balance of \$207,600. Options that have been proposed:

1. We have raised about \$155,000 for the historic town clock tower preservation effort and received a \$100,000 Bond Bill. This means we can put down

the required 1/3 to start this \$600,000 project, estimated to cost at least \$600,000. Adding \$200,000 from the Brouillet Estate would allow the second payment, meaning we would still need to find the final \$200,000. The Property Committee is awaiting the engineer's structural evaluation report, with a verbal from the vendor indicating the needed preservation work is substantial, making this historic town clock tower effort more urgent.

2. Pay off the Fisher Fund loan balance in all or in part. The Fisher Fund Loan balance is around \$173,000. By the end of this year, it will be closer is \$160,000. Paying this off would save \$14,256 annually and reduce total yearly mortgage payments to ACNB and the Fisher Fund from \$153,778 to \$138,778. The balance could be used for future mortgage payments, the United Church Funds Building and Maintenance Fund, paying the primary mortgage principal, and/or supporting property projects like the historic town clock tower repair.
3. A variation on Option 2 is to pay off \$100,000 of the Fisher Fund loan and allocate \$100,000 for property projects like the preservation of the historic clock tower. The remaining balance could be added to the Mortgage Assistance funds to help pay the ACNB loan or placed with existing building preservation funds for future building repairs and maintenance.

Understanding the Trinity historic town clock tower engineering report will be a big consideration in these discussions, the Finance Committee and Consistory welcome your input since we will need to make this decision soon. Finance Committee Chair Will Duncan, Treasurer Rodney Martin, and I are often on hand before and after Sunday services. If you want to email me, please do so at pbrehm@comcast.net.

And in all cases, please say a prayer of thanks to Alice for being a good and faithful steward for her church!

Blessings,  
Peter Brehm, Consistory President

## WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE FABRIC MASKS?

Most of us wore fabric masks during COVID times, especially before we could all get hold of N95 masks. The Worship and Design Team would like to create an art piece about the epidemic using these fabric masks. We are still determining the form of that piece since we are unsure how many fabric masks we will receive. We will collect clean masks in a container outside the sanctuary through August.

Please donate if you are interested. Masks will not be returned. If you have questions, please get in touch with Ave Barr.





## Friends and Fellowship

**Sunday @ 9:30-10:15 a.m in the Community Room**  
Life is busy. We all need time to decompress. Come to the Kieffer Lobby to grab some coffee or tea and chat. This is an opportunity to relax, meet new friends, and catch up with old ones.

## The Parent's Place

**Sunday @ 9:30-10:15 a.m.**

**Trinity Chapel West Classroom**

The kids are in musical rehearsal, and you have a moment to chill. We are offering a space for parents to gather in Trinity Chapel. It's a good time to relax and talk with other parents. Coffee and snacks will be provided but if you love your Sunday morning Starbucks, stop by afterward. The West Classroom is located to the right as you enter Trinity Chapel.



## ERUCC Book List for 2023

2023 Book Group Coordinators:  
Susan Kulp and Rebecca Shillingburg

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3C0iXfl>  
Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574 Passcode: 226669

**September 26** *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig  
**November 28** *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

The ERUCC Book group meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every other month in the Liz Coffey Room or virtual.



## Inaugural Black Festival in Frederick

BlackFrederick.com and Nigerians in Frederick NIF Association invite our community 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 as a part of getting to know our neighbors and showing our support. As a predominantly white congregation, this is an excellent opportunity to learn about and celebrate the heritage and gifts of Black culture. If you want to go with others, contact Kirstin for a meeting time and location [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org). The event will be held Saturday, August 26, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. in Carroll Creek Linear Park. There is no need to RSVP, just show up!



## Stewardship and Generosity Let Us Reflect

Let us reflect on the gifts God had given us. How are we using our own gift to make this a better church community, especially in this time of change?

Every day we are reminded of the incredible gifts that God has bestowed upon each and every one of us. As faithful stewards, we are responsible for nurturing and sharing these blessings with others. Generosity in spirit and action is at the core of our Christian faith.

God's gifts come in various forms, be it talents, resources, or opportunities. Some of us have been blessed with the gift of leadership, enabling us to guide and inspire others in their spiritual journeys. Others possess the gift of compassion, offering comfort and support to those in need. We are all uniquely gifted, and it is our duty to utilize these gifts for the betterment of our church family and the wider community.

In the spirit of giving, let us remember that generosity is not limited to material possessions alone. It encompasses our time, energy, and love. By generously sharing our time, we can actively participate in church ministries, uplift others through acts of service, and create a nurturing environment for spiritual growth. By extending our love, we can build meaningful connections, lend a listening ear, and provide a helping hand to those facing challenges.

As we reflect on the gifts God has bestowed upon us, may we also be reminded of the ultimate gift of Jesus Christ. In selfless sacrifice, Jesus demonstrated the true essence of generosity and gave us the gift of salvation. Let us follow in Christ's footsteps, practicing sacrificial giving and selflessness in our own lives.

In the coming days and months, let us continue to nurture the spirit of generosity and stewardship within our church community. Together, we can make a lasting impact and be a beacon of light to those in need. May our actions be a testament to the abundant gifts we have received, and may they bring glory to God's name.

Your Stewardship and Generosity team,  
Robin L. Brady-Slifer, Peter Brehm, Julie Clark,  
Justin Coen, Stephanie Fisher, and Tyler L. York

## August Birthdays

- 01: Martha Kline, Alyce Schmid
- 04: Katherine White, Cliff Barr, Bob Funk, Christian Jansson, Ginny Peters
- 05: Kelly Spurrier, Dale Hevner
- 06: Caitlin Jones
- 07: Sydney Main
- 08: Mary A. Meyer
- 10: Sasha Hoffman
- 11: Marc Kline, Cindy Duranko
- 12: Paisley Schaeberle, Paige Coffey, Richard Leslie
- 13: Jeff Russell
- 15: Charles Curran
- 16: Laurel Nguyen-Powell, Don Perper, John Shillingburg
- 17: Esther Ziegler
- 18: Andrew McCarty
- 22: Isaac Pomeroy, Thomas Morris, Emi Rhoads, Marley Rhoads
- 24: Mark Daniel
- 25: Donna Logee
- 26: Jeannette Johnson
- 27: Carmen Conlon
- 28: Jared Hueting
- 29: Austin Bowen
- 30: Matthew Brunner



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



This year we welcomed 15 children and seven youth to a Food Truck Party VBS, ending Friday, August 4. Two groups (aptly named Pizza Pals and French Fry Friends) learned about being grateful while singing, playing, and crafting in addition to Bible Study and science. Highlights of the week include a mission opportunity and a food truck water balloon fight!

We are so thankful for the volunteers (called our Cupcake Crew) who helped in various ways! This is undoubtedly a church-wide ministry. We plan to sing one of our songs during worship August 6. You will be invited to sing along as well.

## Children, Youth, and Family Pool Party!



As we say goodbye to summer, we invite families of children and youth to play at the home of Dan Smith and Austin Byrd. We are sure to make a BIG SPLASH!! We are graciously invited for a potluck meal and parent-supervised swim. Julie Clark is helping to organize food, and we ask you to bring your own dishes, silverware, and a dish to share. Please get in touch with Julie at [jlarkad@yahoo.com](mailto:jlarkad@yahoo.com) or Pastor Kirstin at [ksrroads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrroads@erucc.org) with questions or to RSVP.

Contact Dan for directions at 301-514-8615.

## September 10: Welcome Back to the School Year!

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” As congregations in the United Church of Christ, we strive to live by those words every day. Our daily welcome is a vital part of who we are.

On September 10, we will join with churches throughout UCC’s Central Atlantic Conference in celebrating a “Rejoice in Our Welcome” Sunday!

At 9:30 a.m. we will welcome back all of our Sunday School groups with classes for grades PK-2, 3-5, and 6-12. We have a new curriculum for our children’s classes and are selecting something for our youth.

During the 10:30 a.m. service, we will bless our teachers and consecrate their work.

We will also begin Junior Church with a new curriculum based on Messy Church for ages 5-grade 5 with leadership and organization by Thomasa Pomeroy. Please consider helping with this once a month or every other month. We will continue to stay in the sanctuary on Sundays with Communion typically the first Sunday of the month.

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

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



### AUGUST 13

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



**Evangelical Reformed  
United Church of Christ**  
15 West Church Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

301-662-2762  
www.erucc.org

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9:15	Worship in Trinity Chapel
9:30 – Noon	Nursery Care (nursery, ground floor, main building)
9:30 – 10:15	Summer Musical Rehearsal (Trinity Chapel, upstairs)
10:30 – 11:30	Worship in main sanctuary
11:30	Fellowship in the Community Room



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world  
for all  
**ucc.org**

## ERUCC CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads** ~ *Associate for Faith Formation and Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org

**Alison E. Shafer** ~ *Director of Music* ~ alisonshafermusic@yahoo.com

**Tyler L. York** ~ *Office Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org

**Jaci Clayton** ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ jclayton@erucc.org

**Tricia Coffey** ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director* ~ trishcoffey1195@gmail.com

**Kelly Esslinger** ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music* ~ kellbell.erucc@gmail.com

**Jenna Duranko** ~ *Social Media Assistant* ~ plutojd@msn.com

**Ashley Murphy** ~ *Nursery Attendant*

**Angela Brittain** ~ *Designer, Trinity Chimes* ~ angela3cats@yahoo.com

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

**The Rev. Frederick Wenner** ~ *Pastor Emeritus*