

God's
Sustaining
Presence

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.



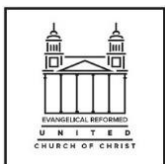
Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

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*
The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

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 –



October 1, 2023

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER

Dan, Julie, and Alex Ebersole

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

On this sacred day of World Communion, let us come together, opening our hearts to the transformative power of surrender.

We gather, ready to embrace the transformative power of surrender.

Just as the religious leaders questioned Jesus' authority, we, too, seek truth and guidance in our lives.

In our seeking, we turn to the divine, asking for truth and guidance.

With humility, we stand before the sacred presence, surrendering our false selves on this special day.

In humility, we surrender, ready to be transformed.

Together, let our faith shine forth, illuminating our journey on this World Communion Day.

Our faith lights the way; our inner journey transforms us on this World Communion Day.

PRESENTATION OF BREADS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

***OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious and Loving God,

As we gather here on this sacred World Communion Day, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and anticipation. We thank you for this special moment's gift and the privilege of coming together in worship and reflection with brothers and sisters around the world.

Lord, we open our hearts and minds to your presence and recognize the global community of faith joining us in this moment. May your Holy Spirit descend upon this place, filling it with light and love, and extend its grace to every corner of the earth where your children gather.

Grant us wisdom and understanding as we delve into the depths of your Word and the teachings of our faith. May our worship today be a testament to the unity of your people, regardless of borders or backgrounds.

As we embark on this journey of faith, may our hearts be open to your truth, our minds receptive to your wisdom, and our spirits ready to be transformed. May the words spoken and heard today draw us closer to you and one another, strengthening the bonds of communion that transcend all boundaries. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

***OPENING HYMN** *Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls*

#383

see next page

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

As we gather on this World Communion Day, let us celebrate the unity of the global body of Christ and reflect on our journeys of faith. Just as the religious leaders questioned Jesus' authority, we, too, have moments of doubt and pride and, at times, are swayed by our false egos. Let us now confess to God, acknowledging our need for divine guidance and transformation.

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

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William G. Tarrant, 1892; alt.

Rev. 5:11-14

1 Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise;
2 Faith - ful are all who love the truth and per - fect truth pro - claim,
3 And faith-ful are the gen - tle hearts to whom the power is given
4 O God of hosts, our faith re - new, and grant us, in your grace,

One fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.
Who stead-fast stand at God's right hand and glo - ri - fy God's name.
Of ev - ery hearth to make a home, of ev - ery home a heaven.
To join the songs sung by the saints in ev - ery time and place.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious and Merciful God, on this World Communion Day, we gather in the unity of our faith tradition.

Renew our hearts, O God.

We confess our human tendencies to question and doubt, to let pride overshadow humble obedience.

Transform our minds, O God.

As we share in this global celebration of communion, we are one creation.

Unite us in Your love,

On this World Communion Day, where faithful companions eat and drink in remembrance of you.

Fill us with Your grace, O God.

Today, as we reflect on the lessons of surrender, obedience, and authentic faith,

Light the way on this sacred transformative journey, O God. 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.

Children of all ages are invited to participate in the service today, including in the Sacrament of Communion. Today, children may remain on the carpet to decorate collection boxes we will use to receive donations for the shelter programs of the Religious Coalition. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is also available in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.

Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume next week.

THE SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:23-32 NT page 23

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Unmasking Faith: A Sacred Path To Transformation
Rev. Dr. Carolyn L. Boyd

MORNING PRAYERS

IT'S COMING: CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Tyler L. York

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

OFFERTORY *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

– H. Friedell
Senior Choir

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God,

As we offer our gifts and tithes today, we do so with hearts filled with gratitude and surrender. Just as we surrender our doubts and questions, we surrender these offerings as a symbol of our faith and trust in your divine guidance.

Bless these gifts, Gracious God and use them to further your work in our community and beyond. May they be instruments of love, compassion, and transformation in this world. We surrender them to you, knowing that your grace multiplies their impact.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

COMMUNION PRAYER

One world, spinning freely, yet too often fractured and confined.

We, too, often find ourselves broken, alone, feeling powerless.

Remind us of the words written long ago to Timothy, encouraging him to rekindle his faith.

Spark your fire within us, the fire that energizes and renews and brings new life to us and the world.

As a Samaritan paused to give Jesus thanks, so we gather on this day – people from around the world – to celebrate Christ's presence in our midst.

We use bread from our culture, and from others,

as a potent symbol that you, our God, are the God of all people, that your love reaches not only us, but others besides.

Open us to listen to them. Open us to learn from them.

Open us to be present for them not in patronizing and colonial ways but in loving, equal, and Christ-like ways.

This day we take Communion with all the world and in so doing declare that Christ is present for all people, challenging unjust systems with God's challenge and promise.

As we break bread and share a cup, may we remember the Christ present with us through all these years and across all this world, present with us as we rededicate ourselves to you. Amen

BLESSING

We bless you, gracious one, for the presence of your holy spirit in the church you have gathered. We pray, come, Holy Spirit; dwell in these breads and in this cup, that they may be for us both blessing and life. Come, dwell in your people of every land and language, that we may be united with one another as the body of Christ in every corner of the world. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise your holy name:

SANCTUS (*sung together*)

#793

**Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words:
you are holy, God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Today, Christ-followers meet in public worship and secret gatherings to break bread together. Today, in grand churches and shanty-town hovels, wine is shared. In different languages, by ordained clergy and faithful lay leaders, Jesus' last supper is remembered as these words are shared:

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord, Jesus, gathered for supper with twelve of his closest friends, his disciples. He took the unleavened bread of the Passover feast, and when he had given thanks to God for it, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant – a new relationship with God, marked by the forgiveness of your sins. Drink of it, all of you."

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward at the direction of the deacons. Come to the table, where you can try several different kinds of bread as we celebrate the diversity in the body of Christ. After you consume the bread and drink from the cup, hand your empty cup to one of the ushers, as you return to your seat by way of the side aisles. Please use the quiet time before and after you commune for private prayers, for your own needs and for the needs of others.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

You have met us at the table, Lord Jesus, to unite us with you and with brothers and sisters around the world. Go with us now into that world, that we may be loving faces of welcome among refugees, of freedom among the oppressed, of hope amid persecution, of peace amid violence, of living faith amid a culture of skepticism, and of kindness toward the earth and its inhabitants. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *I Come with Joy*

#349

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I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a bass line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will
free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
stay, And go with joy to love the world and
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

***BENEDICTION**

As we conclude our time of worship today, may we carry with us the lessons of surrender and authentic faith. Let our actions speak volumes about the transformation within our hearts.

Go forth with humility and a heart open to divine guidance. May your faith illuminate your life and the lives of those you encounter. Surrender to the divine will and let your authenticity shine brightly.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forevermore. Amen.

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

POSTLUDE

(please be seated)

Rev. Dr. Carolyn L. Boyd is an esteemed member of Hope United Church of Christ in Alexandria, Virginia, where she currently serves as Pastor of Congregational Care. With over thirty years of ministerial experience, she's proficient in multiple facets of congregational life and religious contexts.

An accomplished author, speaker, social commentator, radio talk show host, and voice over actor, Rev. Boyd's expertise spans from organizational development to diversity advocacy. She brings profound insights as a consultant to corporations, NGOs, faith-based institutions, and community-led groups, tackling issues from social justice to professional development.

As a dedicated practitioner of meditation and a certified Spiritual Director, Rev. Boyd's approach to "Soul Coaching" is transformative. Through her unique blend of holy listening and silence, she aids individuals in discerning divine revelations in their lives. In her consultations, she utilizes her intuitive abilities to address profound heart wounds, intergenerational trauma, and barriers to growth.

Previously, she chaired the Committee on Global Actions/Concerns for Church Women United (CWU), a national women's advocacy organization, and served as President for its DC Unit. Rev. Boyd's global advocacy has taken her from the Middle East to Asia, addressing issues like HIV/AIDS and water security. Locally, her endeavors focus on public policies, climate change, health disparities, and combating racism.

Rev. Boyd's workshops are grounded in faith, cultivating spaces for reconciliation and healing, especially during divisive times. Outside her ministry, she passionately serves the DMV community, enjoys exercising, painting, and actively participates in Zeta Phi Beta Sorority's civic initiatives.

A dedicated scholar, she boasts a BS in Political Science from Hampton University, an MBA in Marketing from Southeastern University, a master's in divinity from The New Seminary, and an Honorary Doctorate in Counseling from the University of Sri Lanka.

Rev. Boyd cherishes the guiding mantra, "God is present in all things with me." She describes herself as a paradoxical figure, reminiscent of a pioneering African Goddess. She shares her life with her husband, Dennis Clark, in Alexandria, Virginia, and is a proud stepmother and grandmother to two lovely step-grans.

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Mike Condo who passed away October 5, 2016 by Patricia and Wells Condo.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 12 at 8:30 am, 74 at 10:30 am, and 61 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

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

Today: October 1, 2023

Scripture Reader: Eliza Stitely
Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick

Elder: Eric Weakly
Greeters: Danielle Carbone, Ave Barr
Anne Hoffmann
Welcome: Marj Berkheimer
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Nursery: Dawn Lagrotteria
Fellowship: Green Team

Next Week: October 8, 2023

Julie Clark
Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Tyler L. York
Cathie Duncan, Sue Pinner
Susan Kulp
Jeanellen Kallevang
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle

Consecration Sunday Luncheon

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. **Holy Casseroles will be part of our fellowship today. Please join us and bring your appetite.**

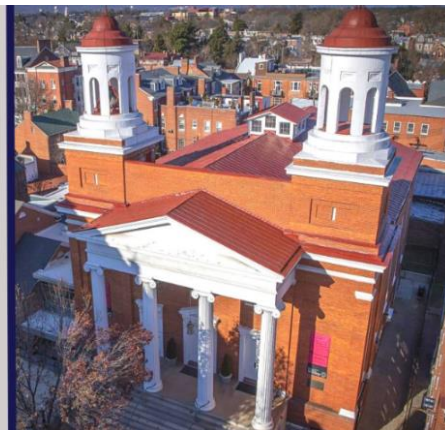
The Community Room, located on the 1st floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Consecration Sunday

Lamentations 3: 22-23 | John 21: 15-17

Today we will give God thanks by considering our contributions to God's work in the coming year. A special, catered luncheon to follow. The Rev. Suzanne Schmidt will be preaching and leading worship. Spirit will be sharing in music leadership this morning.

The Senior Choir will be singing.

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:

Raleigh Jenkins (brother of Donna Logee), Diane Lieder (sister of Donna Logee), Autumn Crutchley, Leandra Caughy, Christiane Armitage (sister-in-law of Linda Coyle), June Brehm, Jason Rhoads, Nathan Cable, Meg Gessert (stepdaughter of Susan Kulp), 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, 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.

Coffee Hour

FRIENDS AND FELLOWSHIP **Kieffer Lobby** **9:00 – 10:15 am**

Come to the Kieffer Lobby (Church Street level) to enjoy some coffee or tea and to chat and relax with new and old friends!

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

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

Sundays **North Room / Zoom** **9:00 – 10:15 am**

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

We are 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.

We are currently in the story of how the loose confederation of tribes that entered the Promised Land became a kingdom that reached its zenith under Solomon.

Sunday Education Opportunities for Children and Youth

SUNDAY SCHOOL **9:30 – 10:10 am**

We have two classrooms for **Children's Sunday School**. Our Pre-K – 2nd Grade class meets in the Liz Coffey Room and our 3rd – 5th Grade class meets in the Thomas Room.

Our **Youth Sunday School** class for 6th – 12th Grade meets in the Clapp Conference Room in the Parish House Church Offices from 9:30 – 10:20 am. Students should enter through the door leading to the North and Flora Rooms in the Kieffer Lobby then follow the signs up the stairs to the church offices.

All Saints Sunday - November 6

We will be remembering those in our congregation, as well as loved ones and friends, who died during the past year. During the prayers at both the 8:30 & 10:30 services, the names will be read, followed by the tolling of a bell. You are invited to bring a photo of whomever we will remember in prayer. These photos can be placed on a table in the front of the church. If you wish to include the name of someone who has passed away since last November 1, please contact the church office at eruce@erucc.org or 301-662-2762.

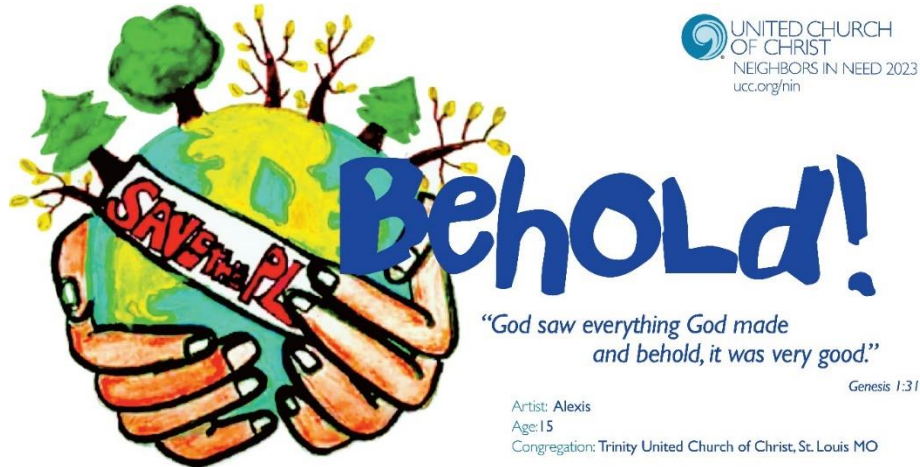
This Week at ERUCC

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES TODAY

Mortgage Assistance: On the first Sunday of each month, we have a special opportunity for giving towards Mortgage Assistance. Donations fund ERUCC's mortgages with the Fisher Fund and FCB Bank, a division of ACNB Bank, payments on which are about \$153,000/year.

Neighbors in Need:

Donations support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries.



CONSECRATION SUNDAY PRAYER CIRCLE

Tuesday, October 3

Community Room

12:00 pm

Zoom: [Prayer Circle #5](#)

Meeting ID: 786 3534 7984

Passcode: W1Et4Z

Please join our final virtual Prayer Circle, led by The Rev. Suzanne Morris, our Consecration Sunday Prayer leader. We will pray for the Consecration Sunday program, its leadership team, and guest leader, and that all members of the congregation will seek God's will for them in coming to a faithful decision regarding what God is calling each to give.

REVERSE TRICK-OR-TREATING FOR SHELTER PROGRAMS

This October, every part of the ERUCC family will team up with our siblings in Christ at Grace UCC to celebrate an entire month of reverse-trick-or-treating in support of the shelter programs of the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs.

We are sponsoring a month's worth of vital supplies needed to ensure their two shelter programs provide clean, safe environments that are comfortable and hospitable for their clients. We are collecting:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1500 individual travel size toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash)• 2400 individual grab-and-go snacks• 2400 individual water bottles• 40 rolls of paper towels | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100 rolls of toilet paper• 10 boxes of trash bags• 10 gallons of multipurpose cleaner• 20 bottles of laundry detergent |
|--|---|

Place donations on the table near the announcements board in the lobby outside the sanctuary.

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.

Reading Schedule

October 3: Chapter 3 - Savior

October 17: Chapter 5 - Way

October 10: Chapter 4 - Lord

October 24: Chapter 6 - Presence

WEDNESDAY EVENING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

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 are currently in 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

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 8

This year's Season of Stewardship will conclude on Consecration Sunday, October 8, when we formally offer our Estimates of Giving to the church for the coming year and joyfully join together after the 8:30 am service for a Celebration Pastries and after the 10:30 am service for a catered Celebration Luncheon.

CHIMES SERVICE AND LEARNING GROUP

Wednesday, October 11

Community Room

10:00 am

The next meeting of the Chimes Service and Learning Group is Wednesday, October 11. Our guest speaker will be Chip Jewel to talk about the history of the fire companies of Frederick County. All are welcome to attend!

ERUCC HOSTING CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE'S ANNUAL MEETING

CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE



UNITED
CHURCH OF
CHRIST

Our congregation is hosting the Central Atlantic Conference UCC's Annual Meeting from October 12 – 14. On Friday, October 13, we will provide conference attendees with a lasagna dinner. Please review the food needs on the Signup Genius link and click on the button to sign up. Please label your contribution "Annual Meeting" and bring it to ERUCC by noon, October 12. Place everything in the walk-in refrigerator, including frozen lasagnas since they can gradually thaw for reheating on Friday. Help with

set up, serving, and clean-up is also needed on Friday; a separate Signup Genius has been created for this. Thank you!

Food assistance needed: bit.ly/1012lasagnas

Serving assistance needed: bit.ly/1012serving

GREEN TEAM – CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP IN THE HOME KITCHEN

Wednesday, October 18

The Common Market, 927 W 7th St

6:00 pm

We all eat, right? Did you know that food is a major contributor to greenhouse gases? Yikes! Learn tips for reducing your carbon footprint right in your own kitchen! Even if you can't buy a new EV or put up solar panels, you can act now to be a better steward of our precious earth's resources. Sign up for this free seminar hosted by the Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards and the Food Council at The Common Market: <https://tinyurl.com/Oct18MACS>



Sunday, October 15: Informational Meeting on Trinity Chapel

Presenters: Owen York, David Cooney

Since receiving the engineering report and temporarily closing Trinity Chapel, ERUCC has, through the Property Committee, asked the engineering firm and construction company to collaborate on a risk assessment and a path forward to initiate repairs. This information session will review findings, path forward options, and needed decisions.

Sunday, October 22: ERUCC Columbarium

Presenter: Glenn Wallace-Weitz

Several years ago, a team under the leadership of Glenn Wallace-Weitz began working with Zavos Architects on the design of a columbarium in our back space. The goal was to create a design and from that design, construction plans so that we could determine the cost for this effort and then decide whether to build a structure. In parallel, Glenn has created documents and a process that people can use to reserve a niche in the columbarium. Today we hear an update on what has occurred and what still needs to take place.

Sunday, October 29: Children and Youth Programming

Presenter: Pastor Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

The movement of classrooms from Trinity Chapel to the main building has been just one of many changes to our Children and Youth Ministry this year. Pastor Kirstin will give an overview of ERUCC's Children and Youth programming throughout the year, so that we understand not only what is taking place but also where we can help support this ministry.

Those interested in securing their final resting place here at ERUCC should contact the committee by email at columbarium@erucc.org or calling the office at 301-662-2762.

\$10,000 Top-tier Leadership niche (12"x12")

\$5,000 Standard niche (8"x8")

Each niche accommodates two urns.



SCRIPTURE READING WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 29

Sanctuary

9:20 – 10:15 am

Interested in reading scripture in worship? Join a workshop to learn tips to make it come alive!

GREEN TEAM – SPIRITUAL WALK

Sunday, October 29

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

2:00 – 3:30 pm

For a truly spiritual walk, join the Green Team on a Mt. Olivet Cemetery tour on October 29 from 2:00 -3:30 pm. We will be led by Chris Haugh, expert on Frederick history and staff historian for the cemetery. We will visit some of the most popular history sites as well as learn some “unsettling” content. The tour is 1.5 miles mostly on roadways and is recommended for participants that are at least 16 years old due to some of the mature content. A fee of \$10 per participant is requested but everyone is welcome regardless of ability to pay. To register, contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762. Note “Mt. Olivet” on check and online payments.

Directions: Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 515 S. Market St. Frederick. Park by the Key Chapel.

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Saturday, November 4

Community Room

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Join women of all ages as we explore themes of “self” through discussion and creative work. We will consider questions of being our full and authentic selves, looking at the layers and dimensions in our lives as well as how change impacts us, and considering how we walk with one another to support full expression of our being. \$15 for lunch and programming. To register, contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762. Note “Women’s Retreat” on check and online payments.

Children and Youth Ministry

JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, meets most 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.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR

Our **Chancel Handbell Choir**, open to elementary and middle school students, rehearses Sunday mornings from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm in the Flora Room. This choir provides music once a month during the 10:30 am worship service. The first rehearsal will be October 15.

Contact Trish Coffey, 301-455-8720 or trishcoffey1195@gmail.com with questions.

TINY TOTS – ALPACA FARM DAY

Saturday, October 21

Whispering Meadows

10:00 am

Let's have a fun day at the farm! Meet at Whispering Meadows Alpaca Farm at 10:00 am and be ready for animal presentations and more! 13959 Unionville Rd, Mt. Airy, at 2:00 pm.

GOD'S KIDS CLUB – FALL FAVORITES

Friday, October 20

Community Room

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Make your own candy apple, scarecrow, and more as we celebrate the season of fall in many ways! RSVP By signing up in the Community Room or by emailing Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 29

ERUCC Parking Lot

5:00 – 6:00 pm

The ERUCC Youth Group is inviting the whole church to a spooktacular Trunk or Treat event! Trunks will be decorated to impress, as you make your way from car to car to fill your bag with treats. You can also reverse trick-or-treat by bringing donations for the shelter programs of the Religious Coalition as our final collection opportunity for our month-long mission project. Pick up a small pumpkin after worship on October 22 to decorate and return by the morning of October 29. During Trunk or Treat, each attendee will get to vote for their favorite. Put on your best cape, crown or costume and come join the fun.

YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday, October 11

Youth Room, Parish House

8:00 pm

In-person or Zoom meeting for those presenting October 12 with the Central Atlantic Conference.

Thursday, October 12

Community Room

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Youth and Young Adult Panel at Central Atlantic Conference UCC's Annual Meeting. Talk with Pastor Kirstin if you want to participate and have not yet received an email.

Saturday, October 21

Whispering Meadows

Time TBD

Whispering Meadows Alpaca Farm Day to support Peyton Bowen! Details to come.

Sunday, October 29

ERUCC Parking Lot

1:00 – 6:00 pm

Trunk or Treat! Families will need to loan their vehicles to the cause. Youth can decorate cars in the ERUCC Parking Lot starting at 1:00 pm. Event is 5:00 – 6:00 pm.

Sunday Morning Schedule

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:30 – 9:15 am | Early Worship Service , Sanctuary |
| 9:00 am | Coffee and Conversation , Kieffer Lobby, 2 nd Floor |
| 9:00 – 10:15 am | Adult Education , North Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Let's Study the Bible</i> |
| 9:30 am – 12:00 pm | Nursery Care , 1 st Floor |
| 9:30 – 10:10 am | Sunday School <i>Pre-K – 2nd Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room, 2 nd Floor <i>3rd – 5th Grade</i> , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Youth (6th – 12th Grade)</i> , Clapp Conference Room, Church Office |
| 10:10 – 10:25 am | Children's Music and Movement , Liz Coffey Room, 2 nd Floor |
| 10:30 – 11:30 am | Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Children are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day during Worship</i> |
| 11:30 am | Fellowship , Community Room, 1 st Floor |

Stay Informed

SEPTEMBER 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/sept23chimes.



WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

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



Worship services and events at Evangelical Reformed UCC are sometimes photographed and videotaped to document the vibrant life of our church. If you do not wish to be included in these recordings, please notify a deacon or the church office. Always obtain permission prior to sharing images and videos that include minors on your personal social media.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 1, 2023

Exodus 17:1-7

God's Sustaining Presence *Neighbors in Need Offering* World Communion Sunday

...I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903, in, "Letters to a Young Poet".

Today's Bible story, as God's people wander in the wilderness and begin to be disgruntled and fractious, is packed full of questions.

Moses first asks, "Why do you quarrel with me?" and immediately after, "Why do you test the Lord?"

The people chorus back with a question of their own, asking, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our livestock and our children with thirst?"

Finally, Moses, fearful he will be killed, pleads to God, "What shall I do with the people?"

In the end, the area where they are wandering brings up so many questions that they decide to name the place after the question they all keep asking, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

A century and a couple of decades ago, the poet Rilke urged his young correspondent to "live the questions." Moses and his people certainly lived the questions in this story. But are they the kind of questions that deepen relationships or cause more alienation?

Are we willing to ask questions of God, of our leaders, and of each other that draw us into better conversations? And what would it mean to consider the questions on our minds, rather than just ask them? What would it mean to sit with the questions over time? How might the questions deepen and enrich our faith? What questions strengthen and empower our faith communities? Which questions encourage and support community leaders? Which questions are worth living? Can we begin asking those questions, here and now?



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