



# Trinity Chimes

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ  
Frederick, Maryland USA

September 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.



## Consecration Sunday is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship and generosity committee has selected the Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 8, we will ask our attendees and members, in person and online, to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and worldwide.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done so that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

You will not receive an Estimate of Giving Card in the mail before Consecration Sunday. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team, Consistory members, and committee chairs. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Peter Brehm  
President, ERUCC Consistory

# September Worship Notes

## Sunday, September 3

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 stations in the front of the Sanctuary.*

## Sunday, September 10

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12: 1-14 | Romans 13: 8-14

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads will be preaching and leading worship. Spirit will be sharing in music leadership this morning. We will celebrate *Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday* and bless those leading Christian education and formation for the coming year.

## Sunday, September 17

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalms 150 | Ephesians 5: 15-20

Today we will sing the liturgy, letting the words and music of hymns over the centuries help us to praise God, pray, confess, and hear the gospel. We will also hear some behind-the-scenes stories of some hymns. Be prepared to follow the advice of the apostle Paul, who counsels us to speak in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

*The Senior Choir will be singing.*

## Sunday, September 24

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 | Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

The Rev. Freeman L. Palmer, Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, will preach and lead worship.

*The Senior Choir will be singing. We will honor milestone ordination anniversaries of The Rev. Esther Ziegler, The Rev. Dr. Robert Peters, and The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel.*

## Let's Study the Bible ~

### Sunday Morning

with The Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg

### Resumes Sunday, September 10

North Room / Zoom • 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERSunstudy](https://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.

## Let's Study the Bible ~

### Wednesday Evening

with The Rev. John Shillingburg

### Wednesdays, Sept. 13 – Oct. 25

North Room / Zoom • 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERwedstudy](https://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.

## Tuesday Morning Bible Study ~

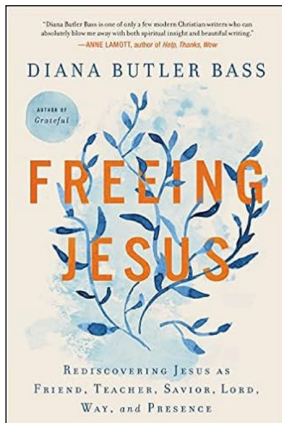
with The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Tuesdays, Sept. 12 - Oct. 24

North Room / Zoom 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Meeting ID: 875 1423 339 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.

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



## Senior Choir Picnic Thursday, September 7 Community Room, 6:30 p.m.

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.

## About ERUCC's Choirs

The **SENIOR CHOIR** is a traditional choir that sings most Sundays at the 10:30 a.m. service. Their four-part anthems range from classical style, to spiritual, to more contemporary pieces. Our choir plays a key role in leading hymns and sung responses during the worship services. They rehearse Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. and on Sundays following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. If you enjoy traditional music and can sing in four-part arrangements, the Senior Choir is the place for you.

**SPIRIT**, our contemporary Christian singing group, leads the 10:30 a.m. worship service once a month, and rehearses at 9:30 a.m. the morning of leading worship. If contemporary music is more your style, then Spirit is a good place for you.

If you are interested in joining either group, please leave a message for Alison E. Shafer, Director of Music, at the church office at (301) 662-2762.

# DONATE

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

[bit.ly/hcuccrelief](https://bit.ly/hcuccrelief)

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are praying with Maui.



[www.hcucc.org](http://www.hcucc.org)



## Your generosity impacts the world

As I begin my service as the UCC’s general minister and president, I am moved to reflect upon the extraordinary generosity of our donors. Our local church members, conferences, churches, and community members have all contributed to the building of the kingdom of God for such a time as this. May we continue to love one another as Christ called us to love.

During my 14 years of service at the UCC national setting, especially in my last role as Associate General Minister of Wider Church Ministries, I have been awestruck by your tremendous response to our Disaster Ministries’ appeals. In 2022, one-third of all donations were designated to help families and communities impacted by disaster. Through your caring, they received shelter, food, and spiritual support. Your giving will also aid long-term recovery efforts.

Our appeal to aid Ukrainian war refugees and displaced people has surpassed \$3 million and continues to garner generous support. In February, I led a 4-member UCC delegation to this war-torn region to assess refugee needs and how our faith partners were responding. In meeting those touched by your contributions, our team was deeply inspired and encouraged that the UCC is present in witness to Christ’s love because of you.

We often overlook the importance of the gift of time. I honor the countless UCC local church members who volunteer their talents. They believe the UCC is changing lives through the spiritual formation of our members and leaders and the diverse ways we show up in the world.

Our giving emanates from the love God gave to us through Jesus Christ. The call to love is a call to generosity and care for one another. I look forward to our continued work together in ministry and mission in years to come. Work that will build on the generosity you exhibit as we continue to lift the kingdom of God for such a time as this.

Blessings,  
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson  
UCC General Minister and President

## Restoration Update on Frederick’s Town Clock Tower

Our Trinity Chapel restoration project of Frederick’s town clock tower continues. As reported in Thursday Thoughts, a structural engineer examined the tower in order to prepare a detailed report with findings and recommendations. An initial verbal report from the engineer indicated the need for the restoration is more imminent than originally thought. The engineer found significant rot in several of the large structural beams that support the wooden structure atop the 1763 stone tower.

The engineer’s report suggests that restoration work begin as soon as possible. We have already raised some of the projected costs of the restoration project, but know that we will need to raise more once we get an updated quote based on the engineer’s report.

We are planning to share more information at a special meeting soon. Look for an announcement in the worship bulletin and Thursday Thoughts.

### Property Projects

There are a few smaller property projects for which we are looking for your help to complete. If you have some time, maybe a friend or family member to help, and a willing spirit, we can use your help with the following projects as we look to close out the summer:

- Exterior windows cleaning: we have an extended window washer pole brush and squeegee
- Inventory Community Room chairs: carefully examine every chair to identify any needing cleaning, those needing repair/replacement
- Cleaning Community Room chairs: once identified, chairs will be cleaned using supplies and tools we will provide

Additionally, we are always ready to welcome new Property Committee members. If you want to share your knowledge and talents with ERUCC, please consider joining us. We typically meet every other month with our next meeting scheduled for September 24 at 9:30 a.m. Please reach out if you have any questions to me at [property@erucc.org](mailto:property@erucc.org) or (301) 401-4947.

Owen York, Property Committee Chair



**Sunday ~ 9:00-10:15 a.m ~ Main Building**

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.

## *Chimes Service and Learning Group*

What is the Chimes Learning and Service Group? This group is the only active women's group at ERUCC. We meet monthly, usually the second Thursday of the month. We invite speakers from the community to present at our meetings and have contributed to the ERUCC scholarship fund, the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County, Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (COIPP), and refugee relocation from our Widows Purse collection each month.

Our first gathering this fall is a breakfast meeting on September 14 at IHOP, 2421 Osprey Way S, Frederick, off Route 26 at 10 a.m. At our October meeting on Tuesday, October 11 (note change of day), our guest speaker will be Chip Jewell to share a history of the fire companies in Frederick County. In November, Chris Haugh will feature a history of Mt. Olivet Cemetery and current events.

Check Thursdays Thoughts and the Sunday worship bulletin for further details and updates. We always welcome new faces! Please reserve your spot at the September 14 breakfast meeting by emailing Sue Pinner at [pinbenco@gmail.com](mailto:pinbenco@gmail.com).

## *Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday* **September 10**

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

As a congregation, we strive to live by those words every day. Our daily welcome is a vital part of who we are. As we renew, restart, and re-imagine the year ahead, we also want to rejoice! On Sunday, September 10, ERUCC will join with churches throughout the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ in celebrating a **REJOICE IN OUR WELCOME SUNDAY!**

For us, this day marks the return of children, youth, and adult faith formation opportunities, including Children's Sunday School with classrooms for kids Pre-K-2nd Grade and 3rd-5th Grade and a Youth Sunday School class for 6th-12th Grade, as well as a restart of the Sunday morning **Let's Study the Bible** class for adults. Our popular Junior Church has been re-imagined and will also begin again during worship for children aged 5-5th grade.

Pastor Kirstin will preach and lead us in worship, Spirit will lead us in song, we will commission Christian education and faith formation teachers, and the Stewardship/Generosity Committee will launch our annual Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program to help us each intentionally reflect on the ways God is calling us to give in support of our church's mission and ministry and to grow spiritually in our personal relationship with God.

Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, all are encouraged to fellowship in the Community Room where there will be a celebratory ice cream sundae bar and an opportunity to join a conversation with Carolyn Roberts to learn more about ERUCC, the United Church of Christ, and what it means to be a church member.

Sunday, September 10 will certainly be a joy-filled day. If you have friends or family who are looking for a church community, this Sunday is a great opportunity to invite them to join us and to learn more about us! We are excited to rejoice together in our welcome!



### ***Did you know that ERUCC is part of an air quality monitoring network?***

Last fall, ERUCC joined an air quality monitoring collaboration between the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC, Interfaith Power and Light (DC.MD.NOVA), and the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) from the University of Maryland. A common assumption is that persons living near heavy industry, highways, and traffic experience poor air quality, have lower incomes, and are likelier to be persons of color. And because research has shown that poor air quality leads to higher incidences of asthma and related respiratory diseases, persons in these areas are more likely to have chronic illnesses. However, data is needed to verify these assumptions.

Federal government air quality monitoring data is available through [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov), home of the US Air Quality Index. Most days, most Maryland zip codes have good air quality indexes. However, measuring the air quality for an entire zip code masks areas experiencing poor air quality. To get more precise data at a microgrid level, air quality monitors were placed on UCC churches throughout the region. ERUCC received a monitor last winter. While many monitors were placed at UCC churches in Baltimore, ERUCC was chosen as an urban site that lacked the risk factors of heavy industry, traffic, and highways to serve as a contrast. Data is now coming in that will allow researchers to identify areas of concern and work with the affected communities to find solutions.

### ***Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the horrific news on climate change?***

Sometimes we tune out and ignore it all. We can do that because we are exceptionally blessed. Here in our Goldilocks land, it's not too hot and not too cold, not too wet and not too dry. At least that is true compared to many places. We are largely spared the extremes happening elsewhere. Even so, our actions make a difference and our faith calls us to care for the earth and all its inhabitants.

Instead of tuning out or becoming overwhelmed, action is a healthy antidote to all the bad news. When we act, we have agency and make a difference. When we act, we become more hopeful, which is good for the earth, for our fellow humans and for our own mental health.

ERUCC is full of opportunities to act and live in hope. Here are some actions we are taking to uphold our pledge as a Creation Justice Church.

- Recycling and Composting
- Native plant gardening
- Community solar for electricity
- Air quality monitoring
- Energy efficient lighting
- Advocacy through Climate Hope postcards to the EPA and other opportunities
- Spiritual walks
- Collaboration with community organizations that care for the environment

If you would like to join the Green Team or know how we can improve our Creation Justice ministry, email Linda Coyle at [lkcoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:lkcoyle@yahoo.com) or talk to any Green Team member.

We meet via Zoom on the 1st Monday of the month at 4:30 pm and welcome anyone interested in joining us.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81139200317?pwd=VlISOHhvY1htVElOcmRlVjE1NUNVQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 3920 0317      Passcode: 101266

### ***Stream Clean-up Event Saturday, September 23, 9-11 a.m., C&O Canal at Point of Rocks***

Join us for a Potomac Conservancy River Clean-up. We'll pick up trash in the park and along the canal. Trash bags are provided. Wear close-toed shoes, bring gloves if you have them, and maybe some bug spray. Children and youth are invited to participate as well. Sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/potomac-river-cleanup-at-co-canal-in-point-of-rocks-md-w-st-pauls-tickets-652941705217?aff=oddttdtcreator>

# Be careful who you hate.

# It could be someone you love.



Matthew 22:36-40

## Eating for Health & the Planet



### Making the Switch to a Climate-Friendly Diet

September 19 @ 6 PM  
The Common Market  
927 W 7th Street

**Free and Open to the Public**

Join us for the first installment of a free two-part series on cooking for the climate by Alison Wexler, National Board Certified Health & Wellness Coach (NBC-HWC), culinary coach, and Frederick County Food Council Steering Committee member.



### Scripture Reading Workshop

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

ERUCC Sanctuary

October 1st 9:15 - 10:15 am

## Interested in Knowing More About ERUCC? Sunday, September 10

Community Room, 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

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

## September Birthdays

Doug Brunner, Karly Johnson, Ben Mercier  
Darlene Brunner, Teddy Wenner  
Michelle Clapp, Darryl Glick, Claire Kershner  
Rachel Ford, Beth Bowen, George Hodges Sr.  
Sedonia Martin, Pat Hanberry, Felecia Bishop  
Nathan Cable, Karen Woodward, John Clapp  
Willa Coen, Betsy Fisher, Pauline Marendt  
Edward Garrett



Debbie Gohegan  
Skylar Njoya, Kim Sexton  
Brian Wenner  
Chloe Fromknecht  
Katherine Penick  
Bill Prescott, Natalie Perper

# Reflections from Intercultural German Exchange Program



In July, ERUCC sent a team of twelve, including nine youth and young adults, to Eastern Germany for our annual intercultural exchange program through our partnership with congregations in Klein Schwechten. We represented our church as we celebrated and journeyed together for our 10th year! Continue reading for a sampling of reflections on this year's exchange.



This trip to Germany was one to remember. As my last trip, it was a completely positive experience. I saw the church where Martin Luther nailed up his 95 theses, which allowed me to ponder the accuracy of history and the dynamics of historical questioning. We were also able to visit the Bundestag and meet with one of the German parliament members. It was such an interesting conversation, and I really appreciated the opportunity to learn how the German government functions and how it differs from that of the United States. I loved spending time with my wonderful host family and all our other wonderful German friends. I had a great time!

– Alex Cumber, college student





Our trip to Klein Schwechten to celebrate the 10th year of our partnership was simply a fantastic trip. On July 9th, we celebrated our 10th anniversary with a service where we presented our German host with the hand-print decorated alter cloth as a symbol of our church and community support of this unique partnership. The following day, we went to Prora, located along the Baltic Sea, to explore the region's history and environment. We had the opportunity to study the environment by picking up garbage along the coast and then, categorizing it and providing that information to the local government. While at Prora, we explored the forest and tree canopies on a unique walk that took us above the canopies on a boardwalk that reached a height of 140 feet. Then, to finish up the environmental aspect of our trip, we had a very informative two-hour tour of a waste-to-energy plant. This plant took in all the trash for the entire region, creating heating and electricity. We had a day trip to Berlin to visit their parliament building, the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, and the Berlin Mall.

I think more important than all else, we established new and existing bonds with our friends and partners in Klein Schwechten. These relationships were strengthened as we visited local sites and enjoyed each other's company at their dinner tables and the BBQs. This relationship is still strong and will continue as we start planning for their return to the US in 2024.

– *Joe Adkins, Group Leader*

While in Germany this year, we did many new things, as always! We traveled to the Baltic Sea, got to do a tree walk at one of the highest points on the island of Rügen, and went to several museums—in Berlin and in Rügen—that highlighted historical events of WW2 as well as the unification of Germany and the Berlin wall. For me personally, the biggest things that stand out about this trip have more to do with social and cultural themes. I think a lot about the difference in food, because I love food, and how their main courses have a lot of potatoes and meat. In America, I notice a lot more variety in types of food and also more vegetables in main meals. There's much exposure to how they have grown up in terms of privacy, social standards, and general interactions, which I found intriguing to learn about; although that is often uncomfortable, it is a necessary experience. The biggest takeaway from this for me was after taking a semester of German in college and then entirely forgetting the language, how quickly I adjusted to remembering what I had learned and being able to use it in conversation. They're really not kidding when they tell you to become fluent in a language, you need to go live there.

– *Colleen Hueting*



I could not have had a better trip to be my first one to Germany! Our students participated in this intercultural experience excitedly, since most were returning, with great anticipation for reconnecting with friends. The theme for the year was Faith, Peace, Earth. We were treated to some unique experiences of walking up into the trees on a circular boardwalk, eating ice cream many times (YUM!), learning how the villages began, seeing the Wittenburg Cathedral where Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses that challenged the Catholic church, having a Q&A with a senator from the region where our host families lived, visiting and hearing stories about the Berlin Wall, and learning about the history of Prora from the Nazi working-class vision for leisure through to being a youth hostel and luxury apartments today! These experiences evoked both an intellectual interest and an emotional/spiritual response.

As our activities included exploring earth and conservation themes, I continued to wonder about being a good neighbor. How are we good neighbors in general? How are we good neighbors to the earth/environment? And how are we good neighbors to our friends and partnership churches worldwide in Germany?

I look forward to helping in the coming years as our groups learn more about each other's daily lives, explore social trends in society, and participate culturally in local and regional celebrations! As our Klien Schwechten churches change in leadership, we pray with positive anticipation that this project will continue to be valued in their faith community just as it is in our own.

– *Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads, Group Leader*



# Reflections on General Synod 34

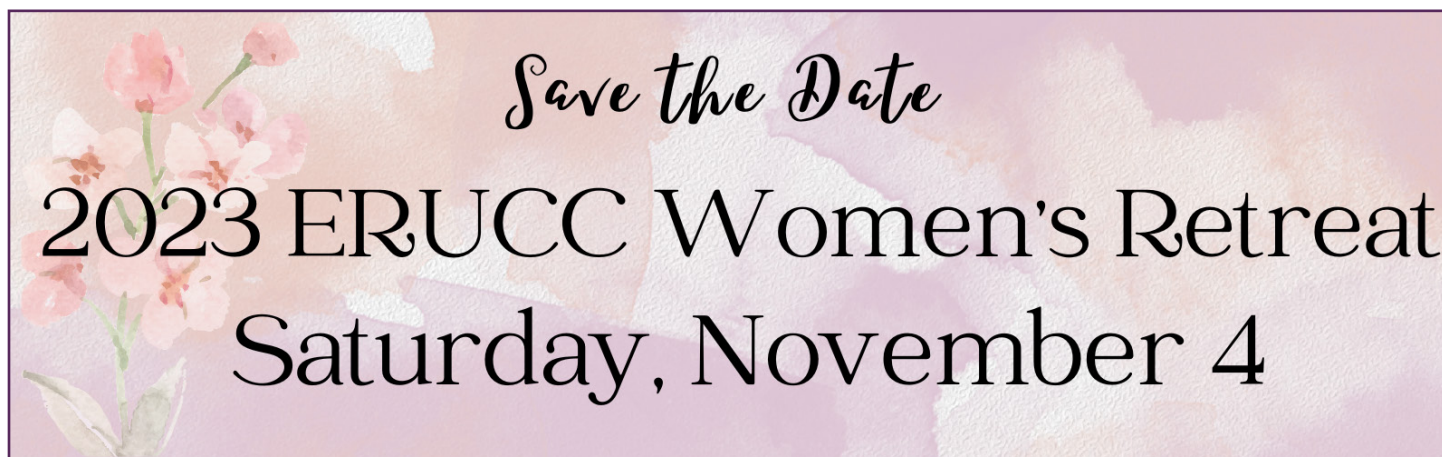
**Ben Mercier, ERUCC member and delegate representing the Central Atlantic Conference at General Synod 34**

The last time I was at Synod was four years ago, and a lot has changed, not just because I am no longer a ‘Youth at Synod.’ Our resolutions this Synod pushed the church to be more open-minded, accepting, and forward-thinking than ever. The newest and most significant change was a change to the bylaws, resulting in Synod being every three years instead of two. I ended up voting no, and while I will not go into the details of why in this reflection, I wanted to touch on how the no votes were handled, as I was impressed. The new change needed two-thirds support to pass, and the vote passed by ONE vote. If one person had changed their mind on the yes side, the change would have failed. A group of those in opposition put forth a resolution based on the dissenting opinion, outlining why the opposition did not vote for the resolution, and the UCC allowed the resolution to go forth. This was an incredible act of generosity by the delegates at General Synod. At that moment, I was proud to be a member of a community that cares about its minority just as much as it cares about its majority.

I am now entering my final year as a public policy major, and what better way to dip your toes into policy work than at Synod? As a delegate, I found it fascinating to debate, revise, and vote on resolutions

that impact our community. There is a sense of purpose over those five days, where every delegate knows a 30-minute debate over something as small as an inserted comma is meaningful and welcomed. I am proud to be a part of a community that appreciates the need for reviewing details, whether big or small, because, to someone, those small details matter. In plenary, you can feel the passion for progress, and I know the church is moving forward.

Synod isn’t all business. It also serves as a meeting space for friends across the globe. As a relatively new attendee at Synod, I enjoyed watching old friends reunite for the first time in years. I attended Synod fully believing I would be there to do business, and trying to branch out and make some new friends was a secondary objective, as I still don’t know many UCC members outside of my home church in Frederick. Yet, I was surprised when I encountered another Youth-at-Synod member from four years ago, my friend Kate. And let me tell you, reuniting with old friends at Synod is even better than watching others do it. Kate is from the Wisconsin Conference and attended as a delegate as well, and it was a delight to have a friend to enjoy Synod with. As I said, Synod isn’t all business. Synod is the connection between all parts of the UCC and is where you are reminded that you belong, not just in your own church but in every setting of the United Church of Christ.



*Save the Date*  
**2023 ERUCC Women's Retreat**  
**Saturday, November 4**



## ERUCC Book List for 2023

2023 Book Group Coordinators:  
Susan Kulp and Rebecca Shillingburg

North Room / Zoom: [bit.ly/ERUCCbooks](https://bit.ly/ERUCCbooks)  
Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574 Passcode: 226669

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



### September 26

*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

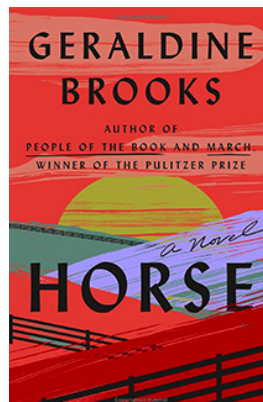
Somewhere beyond the edge of the universe is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells your life story and another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice. While we all wonder how our lives might have been,

what if you could 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 faces this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, and 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.

### November 28

*Horse*  
by Geraldine Brooks



## TUESDAY EVENING YOGA

September 19 – October 24  
Community Room, 7:00 p.m.

Join your ERUCC friends for a new six-week cycle of Tuesday night yoga beginning September 19! 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](mailto:rdkline15@gmail.com). The 6-week session is just \$60! Payments should be marked "yoga."

## GERMAN PARTNERSHIP 2024 HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES INFO MEETING

Sunday, September 17  
Community Room, during Fellowship

Monday, September 18  
Zoom, 7:00 p.m. [bit.ly/44sFKLO](https://bit.ly/44sFKLO)  
Meeting ID: 834 3973 2166 Passcode: 002136

Have you ever wondered what's involved in hosting our German partners in your home when they come to Frederick? Whether you have hosted our partners before or are curious about learning more about hosting responsibilities and the rewards, we encourage you to attend one of the informational sessions led by Renae and Marc Kline either during Fellowship on Sunday, September 17, or by Zoom on Monday, September 18. If hosting is not a good fit for you, other opportunities exist to support this partnership. Come learn more!

We anticipate the summer 2024 exchange to start on or about June 23 and conclude around July 7, including when we bring the Germans away from Frederick to Bethany Beach and for other programming.

# Vacation Bible School 2023



# Food Truck Party



# Children and Youth Ministry

The ERUCC Sunday School program is thriving! We are seeking volunteers to join our excellent team to accommodate the growing number of children. Sharing in the nurturing and teaching of children is a joy and honor. We would love to have you join us.

Our Sunday School programs for Pre-K-5th Grade runs from 9:30-10:10 a.m. in the Thomas Room and Liz Coffey Room, followed by Music and Movement in the Liz Coffey Room from 10:10 - 10:25 a.m. The Youth Sunday School meets from 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. in the Clapp Room in the Church Office. Children aged 5 - 5th Grade are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day during the Worship Service for Junior Church in the Thomas Room. Each class is led by at least two teachers. An age-appropriate curriculum provides weekly lessons, including Bible lessons, crafts, and activities. The students also often participate in projects that put faith into action. All persons working with children are trained in our safety protocols and procedures.

## **NEEDED: Substitutes for the combined Pre-K through Grade 2 class**

If you volunteer to be a substitute, you will assist an experienced teacher by helping with check-in and dismissal procedures, crafts, snacks, and classroom management.

## **NEEDED: Co-teachers, assistants, and substitutes for Grades 3-5**

The co-teachers of this class have multiple child/education-related responsibilities at ERUCC on Sundays, and we are seeking additional teachers and assistants to rotate into the classroom so that they are not committed to teaching every week. By volunteering for this age group, you would help us develop depth in our teaching capacity. As a new co-teacher, assistant, or substitute, you would follow the lead of an experienced teacher.

## **NEEDED: Substitutes for Middle School/High School Youth Class**

Teachers at this level should be comfortable meeting students where they are, going off-topic to follow the students' interests, and encouraging learning by asking deep questions related to the student's interests and following a curriculum. A goal is to make connections between life and faith.

## **NEEDED: Assistants for Junior Church - During the 10:30 a.m. service**

Our lead teacher for Junior Church needs at least one assistant each week. Junior Church is offered after the Thought for the Day during the 10:30 a.m. service and is open to all children aged 5 - 5th grade. An assistant is needed to help shepherd the children from the sanctuary to the classroom, check-in students, distribute materials, and help with classroom management. Volunteering to be an assistant once a month would be a great help!

## **NEEDED: Nursery Assistant**

Our Nursery Attendant needs at least one assistant each week. The nursery is for our youngest children from birth through Pre-K. Volunteering once a month or every other month would be most helpful.

Please prayerfully consider these volunteer opportunities. We encourage you to step out in faith and give teaching a try, even with a commitment of only one Sunday per month! We are certain that you will be making a positive difference in the faith lives of our children and be blessed in return. To find out more or to volunteer, see Pastor Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ([ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org)) or speak to Linda Coyle ([lkcoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:lkcoyle@yahoo.com)) or Dawn Lagroterria ([59dmbartles@gmail.com](mailto:59dmbartles@gmail.com)) from the Education Committee.

# Children and Youth Activities

## Potomac River Cleanup at C&O Canal in Point of Rocks ~ September 23, 9-11 a.m.

Children's Ministry and Kids' Creation Care Club invite children and families to join us on Saturday, Sept. 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. Last year, we had many families participate. We found a variety of trash, including a signpost, some clothing items, lots of fishing line, glass remnants, and a bag full of used paint cans. We also enjoyed spotting a baby turtle!

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 is required. Sign up here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/potomac-river-cleanup-at-co-canal-in-point-of-rocks-md-w-st-pauls-tickets-652941705217?aff=oddtcreator>



## Vacation Bible School

Many thanks to our sixteen children, seven youth, and twelve adults who took part in our Food Truck Party VBS! It was a joyful week, and we hope that our kids learned about God's gifts of abundance through food and through love, as well as many ways to practice giving thanks for the things we are given.

In addition to learning, our kids participated in missions by supporting the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs and its Emergency Family Shelter. In three days, our group collected 82 bottles of water, 453 snack items, and \$39 for this mission! Staff from the Religious Coalition, Colleen Baldree and Kavonte Duckett, spoke to our group on Friday and received our donations.

Thank you to all who helped by sending donations for our crafts and snacks and to all who kept us in prayer.

### Update on Children's Summer Musical

Our children's musical will be postponed until spring 2024 as we look for more children and youth to participate. Please see Trish Coffey if you want to have a role. We will continue to have a Children's Christmas pageant in December.

## Here's the Scoop! ~ Ice cream Social and Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday!

On Sunday, September 10, join our community after church fellowship for ICE CREAM SUNDAES! At this time, you can get a schedule of children's ministry events (like God's Kids Club and Tiny Tots), update your child's registration and photo permissions, get a summary of Sunday School lessons for fall, meet Sunday School teachers, and sign up for ways to participate in worship. For example, Acolyte practice is coming soon! We will also begin Junior Church on Sunday the 10th. We are so thankful that Thomasa Pomeroy will be taking the lead with the support of helpful volunteers. We will have a list of lessons for the first couple of months of fall and a position description for volunteers. We would love to see you there!

## Tiny Tots

Join us for a fruit-picking experience on **Saturday, September 16**, time TBD.

*Because the Fruits of the Spirit are ...*

LOVE JOY PEACE PATIENCE KINDNESS GOODNESS FAITHFULNESS GENTLENESS AND SELFCONTROL ...

But also because, with Tiny Tots, we want to share growth experiences for our children aged pre-K and younger with their families. Contact Pastor Kirstin with interest or to learn more.

## Youth

**Saturday, September 9**

Out of the Darkness, Suicide Prevention Walk in Shepherdstown, WV, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Sunday, September 24**, Tree Trekkers

**Saturday, October 21**, Alpaca Farm: Caring for God's Creation: Animals!

LATER IN OCTOBER, HALLOWEEN FUN!



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

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www.erucc.org

### *Sunday Morning Schedule beginning September 10*

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

### **ERUCC CHURCH STAFF**

**The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads** ~ *Associate for Faith Formation and Parish Life* ~ [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org)

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

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