PRAISEWORTHY LIVING

Thank you for worshiping 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 worshiping 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
Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music* | Tyler L. York ~ *Office Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org
Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ jclayton@erucc.org
Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*
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 15, 2023	Twentieth 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 Allen and Joan Maples

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

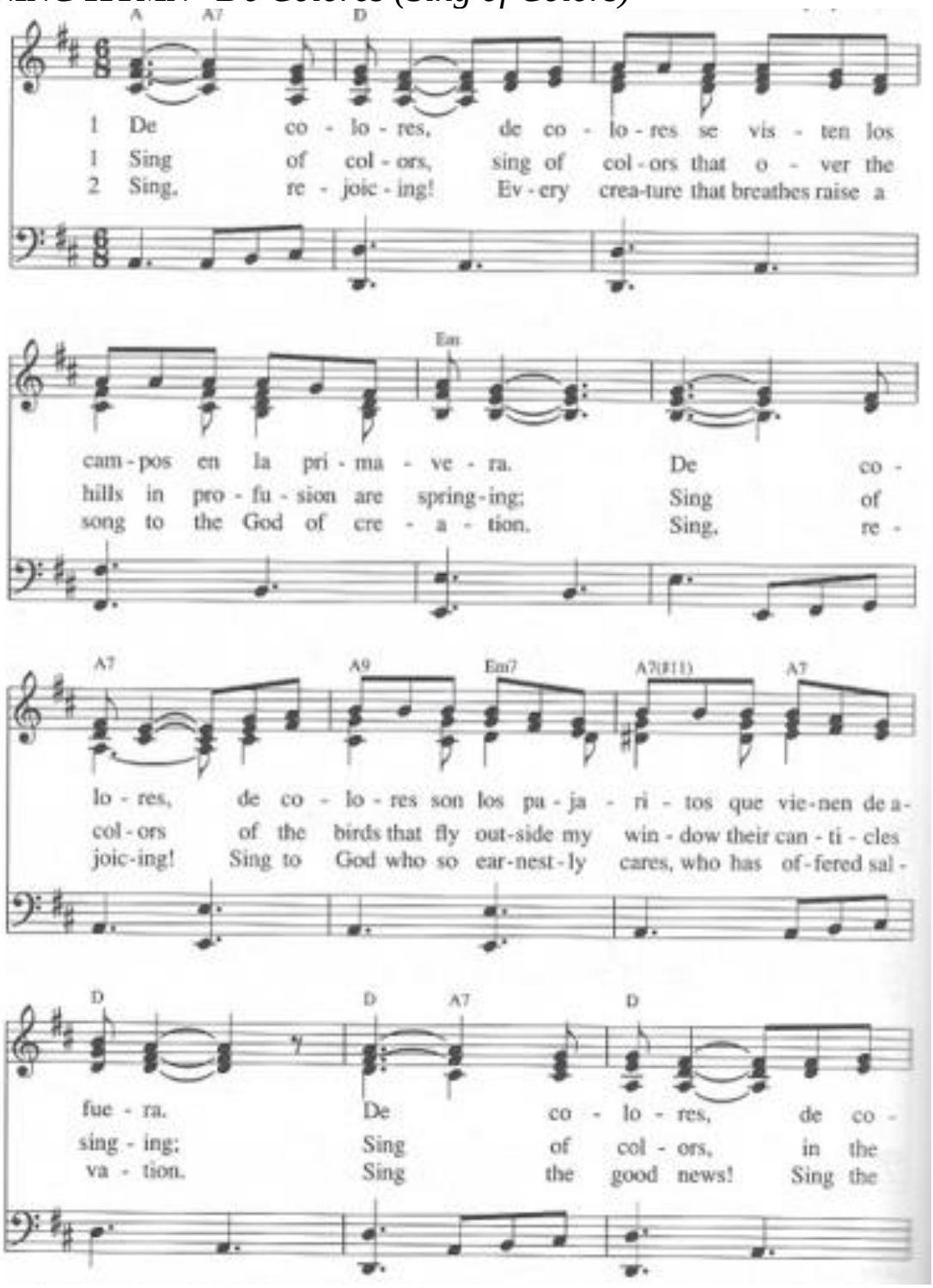
*CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 106)

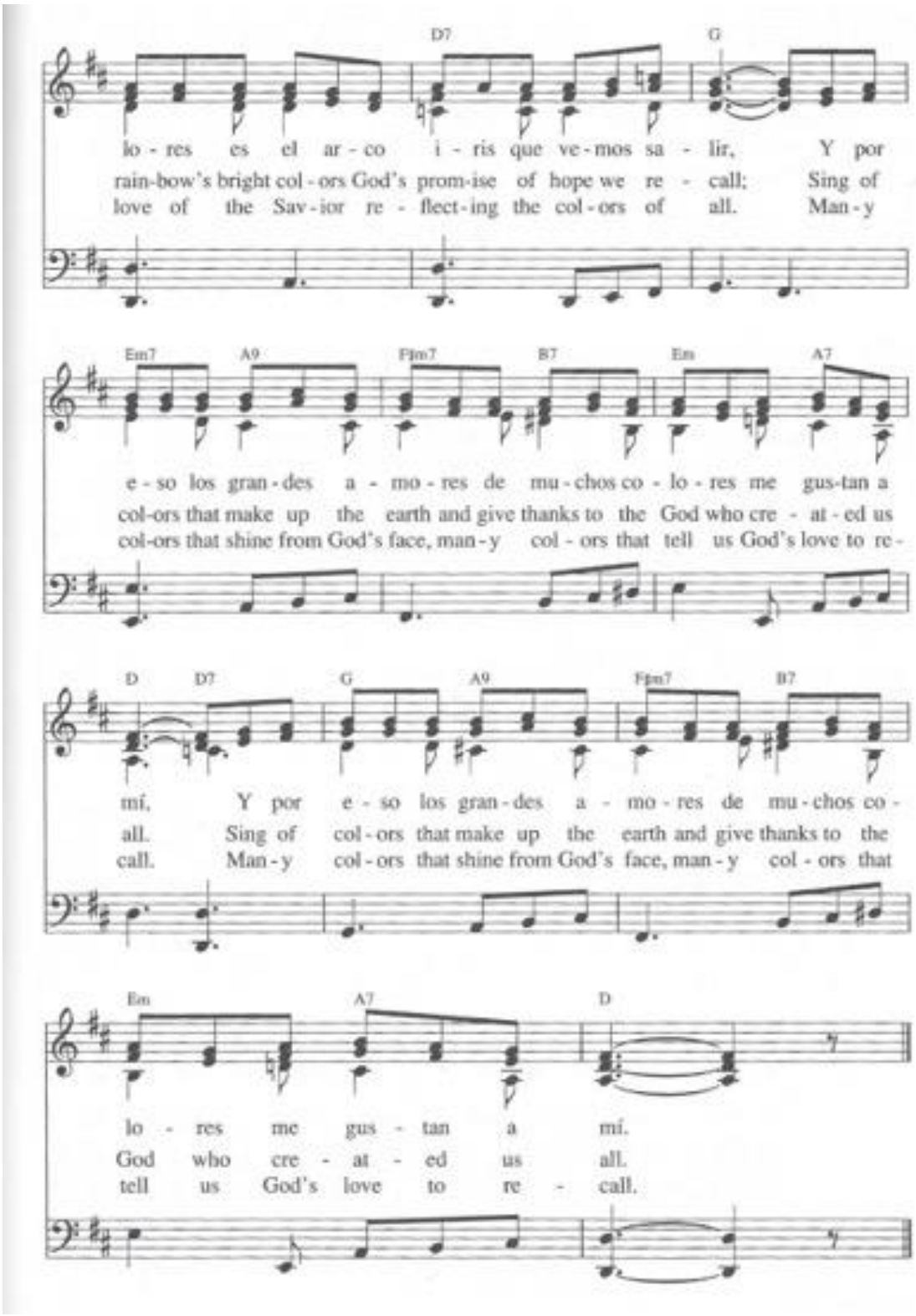
Leader: Let's thank the Holy One, for our God is good.
People: God's love endures forever.
Leader: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Creator or fully declare God's praise?
People: Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Our God is worthy of our Praise!
Leader: Remember us, O Holy One, when you show favor to your people that we may enjoy your blessings.
All: Let us worship our good God, who blesses us with infinite love and abundant grace. Amen!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, we gather today with hearts full of knowledge of grace. Even amid war and rumors of war, we see the beauty of your human family and feel your church's extravagant welcome. We invite your Holy Spirit to this space; prepare our hearts to receive what you have for us today. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *De Colores (Sing of Colors)* #402





***CALL TO CONFESSION**

We ask your forgiveness, O God, for times when we have fallen short and failed those you entrusted in our care. We know that we have a long way to go, so we ask that you open our hearts to your Holy Spirit. Renew our commitment to be the beloved community you are calling us to be.

***MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Each person can take this time to surrender to God privately anything weighing heavy on their heart.

Hear in our silent reflections, O God, prayers for forgiveness; the unburdening of our worries into your endless embrace, that we may know your mercy and compassion. Amen!

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

… God demonstrated his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8) Beloved in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

ANTHEM *It Was Good* – M. Helman
Children's Music and Movement

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY Tyler L. York

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 ages 5 through 5th grade may be dismissed for Junior Church, located in the Thomas Room, during the singing of the hymn.

***HYMN** *Pues si Vivimos (In all Our Living)* #499
see next page

THE SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:1-14 NT page 24

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Pues si vivimos

(In All Our Living)

St. 1, Mexican folk hymn; transl. anon.
St. 2, Elise S. Eslinger, 1983

Unison

D Em A7 D

1 Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra Dios vi - vi - mos
1 In all our liv - ing, we be-long to God;
2 God sent Christ Je - sus to be our sha - lom,

Bm Em A7 D

y si mo - ri - mos, pa - ra Dios mo - ri - mos.
and in our dy - ing, we are still with God;
to show us mer - cy and heal - ing love;

D G A Fm

Se - a que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,
So, wheth-er liv - ing, or wheth-er dy - ing,
So in our liv - ing, and in our dy - ing,

Bm Em A7 D

so - mos del buen Dios, so - mos del buen Dios.
we be-long to God; we be-long to God.
Christ is our sha - lom; Christ is our sha - lom.

SERMON "Unmeetable Needs and Unpleaseable People"
The Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen

MORNING PRAYERS

Peace-loving God,

The people of Israel and Palestine are on our hearts and in our prayers. We are heartbroken and devastated by the attacks launched on communities in Israel by Hamas and the escalation of violence by Israel against communities in the Gaza Strip. We mourn the horrific deaths, injuries, and abductions already suffered and join the calls for an immediate ceasefire to this violence.

The God of Abraham calls all people of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith to value life, honor humanity, and strive for peace. As people of faith, we are committed to praying and working toward an immediate end to the violence. We pray for healing and peace. We pray for a peace that brings about safety and security, justice, equality, and hope for all people.

We, the people of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, believe we are called by God to bring love where there is hate, hope where there is despair, light where there is darkness, unity where there is discord. We are here to support our neighbors and friends at Congregation Kol Ami, Beth Sholom Congregation, and the Islamic Society of Frederick in this time of violence and suffering.

We pray for peace, for shalom, for salam. Amen.

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

All we have comes from you, O God. So, we give our offerings and tithes with generous hearts in thanksgiving for all you do for us.

OFFERTORY *It Was Good* – M. Burrows
Senior Choir

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Take our offering, O God, bless it that it may be used to share your love and blessing in our community and the world. Amen!

***CLOSING HYMN** *I Love to Tell the Story* #522

see next page

***BENEDICTION**

May the Love of the Creator sustain you!
May the peace of Jesus flow through you!
May the presence of the Holy Spirit fill you with grace!
And give you the courage to share the good news! Amen!

***SEVENFOLD AMEN** #814

POSTLUDE *(please be seated)*

Today's liturgy is adapted from UCC Worship Ways: **"Filled from the Streets,"** *Adapted Order of worship for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*, October 15, 2023, continuing to Celebrate Hispanic/Latine Heritage Month, was written by the Rev. Pérsida Rivera-Méndez, retired UCC pastor.

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.
than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

We welcome The Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen, Generosity Officer for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United Church of Christ, as our guest preacher today.

The flowers on the altar are given by Cindy Smith and Cindy Duranko in memory of our dear friend, Jack Patterson.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 18 at 8:30 AM, 144 at 10:30 AM, and 37 online.

Watch Worship Live

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

Today: October 15, 2023		**Next Week: October 22, 2023**
Scripture Reader:	Laurel Nguyen-Powell	Pam Shepp
Deacons:	Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher	Betsy Selby, Jim Brittain
Elder:	Tyler L. York	Marc Kline
Greeters:	Rachel and Tom Ford, Rob Smith	Susan Kulp, David Howard Felecia Bishop
Welcome:	Holly Davis	Thi Nguyen, Sue Pinner
Audio/Visual:	Rodney Martin, Kelly Esslinger Jeff Schaeberle	Jeff Schaeberle, Kelly Esslinger
Nursery:	Owen York, Meredith Neely	*help needed*
Fellowship:	Julie Clark, Colin Neely	Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick

---

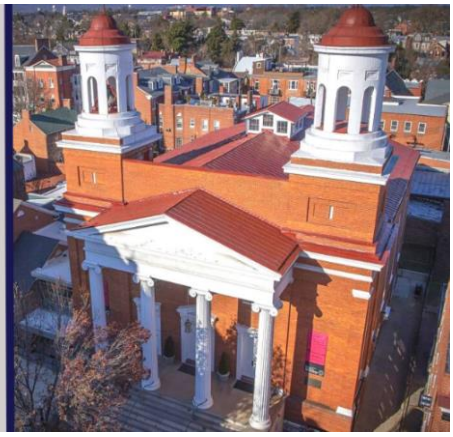
FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for fellowship in the Community Room after worship to chat with friends, welcome our visitors, and enjoy a time of light refreshment. The Community Room, located on the 1st floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

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: Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
I Thessalonians 1:1-10 | Matthew 22:15-22

The Rev. Bob Manthey will be preaching and leading worship.

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:
Sandra Trout, Audrey Rayfield, 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, resuming October 22 North Room / Zoom 9:00 – 10:15 AM

The *Let's Study the Bible* class will not meet on Sunday, October 15, so that its members may attend the *Let's Talk* presentation on Trinity Chapel at 9:30 AM.

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.

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.

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 through 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 17: Chapter 5 - Way October 24: Chapter 6 - Presence

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time
Tuesdays, October 31 – December 19 North Room / Zoom 11:00 AM

One of the vital challenges facing Christians today is how to read the Bible faithfully without abandoning our sense of truth and history. *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* provides a much-needed solution to the problem of how to have a fully authentic yet contemporary understanding of the scriptures.

Many mistakenly believe there are no choices other than fundamentalism or simply rejecting the Bible as something that can bring meaning to our lives. Answering this modern dilemma, Marcus Borg reveals how it is possible to reconcile the Bible with both a scientific and critical way of thinking and our deepest spiritual needs, leading to a contemporary yet grounded experience of the sacred texts.

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.

This Week at ERUCC

LET'S TALK **Community Room** **9:30 – 10:15 AM**

Zoom: **bit.ly/trinity411** Meeting ID: 817 1580 4143 Passcode: 271738

Sunday, October 15: Informational Meeting on Trinity Chapel
Presenters: Owen York, David Cooney, Peter Brehm

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.

AUDIO VISUAL (LIVE STREAM) TEAM OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, October 15 **Sanctuary Balcony** **10:15 AM – 12:00 PM**

Interested in seeing how the AV Team produces the live stream broadcast every week? The AV Team will be hosting an open house on Sunday, October 15. We will start before the service at 10:15 AM and continue for a short time after the service. Everyone is welcome. We encourage anyone with any interest in joining the team to stop by and check out what we do.

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! 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

SAFE TRAVELS TO GERMANY

We wish a safe journey and blessings for Joe Adkins and Julie Clark, Robert and Suzanne Morris, Terry and Donna Logee, Rodney and Becky Martin, Keith and Lisa Stickley, Diane and Chris Young, and Andrew and Michelle Beadle as they travel to visit with our German partners in Inden-Langerwehe from October 16 – 26. Please keep this group in your prayers during their travels.

Gute Reise!

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:

- 1500 individual travel size toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash)
- 2400 individual grab-and-go snacks
- 2400 individual water bottles
- 40 rolls of paper towels
- 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.

Donations may also be purchased via an Amazon Wishlist for direct delivery to the Religious Coalition: https://amzn.to/3rv2MEm. Please ensure you choose "Religious Coalition – Colleen Baldree's Gift Registry Address" as your shipping address.

Monetary donations can be made by noting "October Mission" in memo line.

Upcoming at ERUCC

LET'S TALK **Community Room** **9:30 – 10:15 AM**

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.

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. 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.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY **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 AM 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 erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

ERUCC Youth Group

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 5, 8 - 10:30 AM
Community Room

$7/person
$5/children 8 & Under
Free, 2 & Under

Special toppings bar, sausage, bacon, and beverages included!

Proceeds will benefit ERUCC Youth Group Mission Trips and Projects.

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

Sundays, staring October 15 Flora Room following worship

Our **Chancel Handbell Choir**, open to elementary and middle school students, rehearses Sunday mornings from approximately 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.

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 in the Community Room or by emailing Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

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! Address: 13959 Unionville Rd, Mt. Airy.

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! Put on your best cape, crown or costume and come join the fun. 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.

Sign up to decorate your car or contribute treats: https://bit.ly/3tqnjKC

Additional Announcements

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR - COVID GUIDANCE

As we continue our congregational life together this autumn, we are mindful that anecdotal and statistical data point to an increase in COVID-19 infections. We have been blessed with a relative respite from COVID over the past several months, but we should remain vigilant as we work to prevent infection, minimize risk, and protect the most vulnerable from COVID and other respiratory viruses like influenza and RSV.

ERUCC's approach to the virus is simply to ***Love Thy Neighbor***. To do this, we encourage you to do the following:

- Diligently follow basic health and hygiene practices like handwashing.
- Stay home if sick; we invite you to worship and participate online as you are able
- Test for COVID-19 if you are sick. If you test negative on two consecutive days, you do not need to self-isolate. If you test positive, you should self-isolate at home. Per Maryland Department of Health guidance, you can be with others after:
    - At least 5 days from the date your symptoms started OR if you do not have symptoms, 5 days from the date of your positive test; and
    - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; and
    - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.
    - You should continue to wear a well-fitting mask when around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days (through day 10).
- Test for COVID-19 if you were knowingly exposed to COVID-19 and do not have symptoms
- Wear a mask any time you wish. Mask are not required at ERUCC at this time. If you choose to wear a mask, wear a high-quality one (N95 masks are recommended) that fits well over your nose and mouth.
- Get your COVID-19, influenza and/or RSV vaccines as recommended by your healthcare provider.
    - Vaccines are the best way to prevent serious illness;
    - All Marylanders 6 months and older are eligible for a COVID-19 primary vaccine series and many are eligible for follow-up booster doses.

We encourage you to follow guidance from the CDC, Maryland Department of Health, and the Frederick County Health Department. ERUCC staff and lay leaders will continue to track and follow any additional guidance from these public health agencies and update our approach as needed.

Every U.S. household may place an order to receive four free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to your home at COVIDtests.gov.

WE PRAY FOR

SHALOM
PEACE
SALAM

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 – 9:15 AM	**Early Worship Service**, Sanctuary
9:00 AM	**Coffee and Conversation,** Kieffer Lobby, 2nd Floor
9:30 – 10:15 AM	**Let's Talk**, Community Room, 1st Floor
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM	**Nursery Care**, 1st Floor
9:30 – 10:10 AM	**Sunday School** *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 AM	**Children's Music and Movement**, Liz Coffey Room, 2nd Floor
10:30 – 11:30 AM	**Worship**, Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org **Junior Church,** Thomas Room, 2nd Floor *Children are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day during Worship*
11:30 AM	**Fellowship**, Community Room, 1st Floor **Chancel Handbell Choir**, Flora Room, 2nd Floor

Stay Informed

OCTOBER 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/oct23chimes.

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.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 15, 2023 Philippians 4:1-9

Praiseworthy Living

Children's Sabbath
Laity Sunday

Today is Laity Sunday, the day we celebrate the many astounding gifts of people who are not authorized or ordained ministers, and yet serve the church in manifold ways. On this day, we remember that the priesthood of all believers means that every person has a vital part to play in the life of local congregations.

Laity Sunday is a day of joy, a day to remember that when we focus on standing with one another, even as we maintain a variety of perspectives or behaviors, we are living God's dream for us. Laity Sunday is a day to remember the gladness of giving into the spaciousness of God's call and purpose for all people. Laity Sunday is a day to focus on, as the letter writer exhorts in the epistle to the Philippians, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise."

Laity Sunday is a day to remember that this journey can be full of wonder and bursting with possibility. In short, Laity Sunday is a perfect day to play together. If you haven't already, it's a good day to check out *"Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations"*.

This game is designed to get people talking about church vitality through the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Churches. It will help deepen relationships with each other and with the congregation's covenantal partners while laughing, thinking creatively and having critical conversations.

This game is for the decision makers and strategic thinkers. It's for the board room and the dining room table. It's for the flower arranging committee and the deacons. This game is for people who love their church and want to experience it grow in vitality and faithfulness. Roll the dice and move about a garden path with your church friends!

You can learn more about the *"Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations"*, and order one for your own congregation at uccresources.org.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2023 United Church of Christ