

Guided in Prayer

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: We have trained nursery staff (a 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 to 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, or donate online at www.erucc.org/give or by scanning this code:



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.

Restrooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the second floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is more information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor* ~ mmorgan@erucc.org
The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate Pastor for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org
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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 –



May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday in Lent

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from
The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

Here I Am Lord

– D. Schutte, arr. A. Sherman
Cambridge Handbell Choir

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Joy Together

Spirit
– C. Townley, arr. Butler-Moore

Joy together and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.

Joy together and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.

Refrain:

Celebrate joy and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.

Celebrate joy and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.

Praise together and worship the name. Praise together in Jesus.

Praise together and worship the name. Praise together in Jesus.

Refrain

Live together and worship the name. Live together in Jesus.

Live together and worship the name. Live together in Jesus.

Refrain

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day that God has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Let us worship the One who turns our sorrow into joy.

Our despair into hope.

Our doubt into faith.

Let us feel the wind of the Spirit refresh our lives.

Come, let us worship.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Ever present God, we are grateful that you meet us right where we are. Speaking our language and giving us the blessed assurance that you are with us. We look forward to the glory that awaits us, trusting that Christ will guide us to our heavenly home. In his name, we pray. Amen.

***A PRAYER IN THANKS OF THE MOTHERING SPIRIT**

We give thanks for women who have been our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, daughters, life-partners, and friends. We give thanks for men who have mothered us with their own caring, affection, nurturing, and friendship.

We pray for those for whom this is a day of mourning and sadness.

We pray for women and men who long to be parents, but who struggle with infertility. For those who have lost children, either in utero, through sickness, or through tragic accident. For those who have lost mothers and other important women in their lives. May they be comforted with the peace that passes all understanding. We lift to you now in our silent prayers the names of those who have mirrored your mothering spirit, Holy God. [*Silence*]

Give them your grace and bless them in their lives. Hear us, Mothering God.
Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

God Made from One Blood

#427

**God made form one blood, all the families of earth,
the circles of nurture that raise us from birth,
Companions who join us to work through each stage
of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.**

**We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
for all of the families we've known through the years,
The intimate networks on whom we depend
of parents and partners and children and friends.**

**Through families we've tasted the value of trust
and felt what it means to be loving and just,
Yet families have also betrayed their best goals,
mistreating their members and bruising their souls.**

**Help families in all of their various forms
to face with integrity struggles and storms;
Grant peace to our homes that will nurture the bud
of peace for the families you made from one blood.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of grace, we confess that we have done things we should not have done
and we have left undone things we should have done.

Forgive us, we pray.

Loving God, we confess that we have not trusted you with our whole hearts,
and we have not always been faithful witnesses.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Forgive us and strengthen us in your Spirit. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the words of 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful
and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Children ages 5 through 5th grade may be dismissed for Junior Church,
located in the Thomas Room, during the reading of the scripture.*

THE SCRIPTURES

Laurel Nguyen-Powell

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 NT page 119

John 17:6-19 NT page 111

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

– AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY –

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

PRESENTATION

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT

Siblings in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered.

Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Response: I am

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Response: I do, relying on God's grace.

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness the commitment we now make?

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER

Currently serving deacons, elders, and chairpersons are invited forward to participate in the laying on of hands, the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. The pastors and lay leaders may place hands upon the candidates and the congregation is invited to extend an outstretched arm.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ as elders, deacons, and chairpersons and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute these offices in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit to them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

DECLARATION

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce you are installed in your respective positions. In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

Thanks be to God.

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

From the abundance of God's generosity, all are invited to offer a portion of our gifts to Christ's church. Remembering the great love that Christ has for all people, we give these gifts to further spread the love of Christ in the world. May these offerings help fulfill our hope to be Christ's love and light in the world.

If you wish to give, you can give online at www.erucc.org, by placing your gift in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary before or after the service, or by scanning the QR code to give from your phone.



OFFERTORY

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Spirit
– P. Baloché

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Dear God, may these material gifts reflect our gratitude for your presence in our lives. We pray your blessing on their use, and on us as we offer ourselves in your service. Use them and us as witnesses to your redemptive love and grace. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#82

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you;
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

***BENEDICTION**

Go forth into the world,
refreshed by the truth you have received from Christ
and renewed by the knowledge that you belong to God.
Go forth as witnesses to the love and life of Christ. **Amen.**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

God Be with You

#809

**God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you, until we meet again.
O, God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you, until we meet again.**

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.



We thank Laura Walling, bass, and Joseph Baker, drums, for participating in today's worship!

Worship Notes: Components of today's liturgy come from *Fulfilled: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday of Easter* was written by The Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ and Seasons of Spirit, May 16, 2021. The Prayer in Thanks of the Mothering Spirit is adapted from *Prayers for All Women*, written by Leah D. Schade.

Fellowship: Please join us after worship in our Community Room (1st Floor) for a time of fellowship.

The flowers on the altar are placed by Jack Stush and Audrey Rayfield in memory of loved ones.

The yellow rose is presented by John Stush in memory of his father, John Stush, US Navy.

Attendance Last Sunday: 7 at 8:30 AM, 128 at 10:30 AM, and 63 online.



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

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

Serving Today: May 12

Scripture Reader: Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Deacons: Robin A. Brady Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Ave Barr
Greeters: Cathie Duncan, Barb Barry
Bishop: Susan Kulp
Welcome: Thi Nguyen
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Kelly Esslinger
Nursery: Meredith Neely
Fellowship:

Serving Next Week: May 19

Tyler L. York
Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Tyler L. York
Tom and Rachel Ford, Felecia
Holly Davis, Molly Black
Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle
Emily Spear, Abby, Ben
Starr Schaeberle, Mark Ulrich
Darryl Glick, Julie Chappell
Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

Next Sunday: May 19 – Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 | John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

On Pentecost Sunday, Christians around the world celebrate the formation of the church when the Holy Spirit called people into community as Christ's body and blessed them with universal understanding of languages. Some theologians describe Pentecost as the Church's birthday. Others describe it as a "big bang" that brought the Church into being, for just as God's Spirit came rushing into the world over the waters of creation, in Acts 2, God's Spirit rushes into the world to gather and transform God's people.

So where does that leave us? If we are willing to be amazed, Pentecost is one of the most awe-inspiring days in our Christian calendar. If we are willing to be transformed, it is an opportunity to be renewed in energy and faithfulness toward the work of God's kingdom on earth when all people will experience true liberation and boundless love.

The Senior Choir will sing. We will receive the Strengthen Our Church Offering today and will welcome Nikao Washington through the Sacrament of Baptism. Nikao is the child of Karly Johnson and Chase Washington, the grandchild of Dwayne and Kathy Johnson, and the great-grandson of Patti Patterson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

ERUCC members who are in nursing homes and those who currently reside in their homes but are unable to come to regular Sunday morning services will continue to receive visits (and communion) from Rev. Bob Manthey.

If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

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:

Bill Gourlie
Pat Hanberry
Charlie Woodward
Milt Crutchley
Sherry Murray
Jack Mens
Charlotte Blue and Family
(friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Mark Ulrich
Emogene Wyand
Richard Leslie
Bob Pinner
Betsy Fisher
Delmar Speak
Donna Hill (mother of Collen
Baldree)
Philip Hill (father of Colleen
Baldree)

Tanya Pearre (sister of Colleen
Baldree)
Jim Baldree (father of Chuck
Baldree)
Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt
and Bettie Joe Crutchley)
Lee Thomas
Joan Thomas (mother of Dan
Smith's friend)
Autumn Crutchley
Jason Rhoads
Nathan Cable
Greg Rhoads
Marcia Eisenstein
Derek C. Hupp (grandson of
Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan
and Judi Mach and Tony and
Linda LaFianza)

Jeannette Johnson
Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of
Betsy and Phil Selby)
Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister
of Milt Crutchley)
Marcy Channell (daughter of
JoAnn Fritz)
Paige Coffey
Fran Wenner
Bonnie Devilbiss
Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law
of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Mary Remsberg
Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Kathy Blue Shores (friend of
Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Gretchen Manuel (niece of
Audrey Rayfield)

Please notify the church office when you want your request removed from the prayer list.

Today at ERUCC

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with 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. No prior experience needed; just bring your Bible.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

WEBSITE

www.erucc.org/give



one time or recurring gifts

GIVE THE NEW WAY



We're moving to a better way of giving. Scan to try it for yourself!

CASH OR CHECK

*made payable to
Evangelical Reformed UCC
15 W. Church St,
Frederick MD 21701*



*offering plates
are available in the
rear of the sanctuary
before and after worship*

This Week at ERUCC

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

Tuesdays

North Room / Zoom

11:00 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398

Passcode: 973365

Revs. David Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy, along with an all-star cast of Bible scholars and top church teachers, provide a primer to a church movement that encourages every Christian to "live the questions" instead of "forcing the answers." We will supplement our reading with the DVD course of the same name, *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*, which includes commentary from such bestselling authors as Diana Butler Bass, John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Brian McLaren, and others. Books are available through the church office for \$10.

GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays

Trinity Chapel

7:00 PM

Experience tranquility and wellness in this Gentle Yoga Class. Led by experienced Yogamour instructors, this nurturing practice focuses on gentle postures, mindful breathing, and deep relaxation techniques. Join us in this spiritual journey to strengthen the body, soothe the mind, and connect with your inner self. Participants of all levels are welcome.

Each class is \$10. Questions? Contact Renae, rdkline15@gmail.com.

To access the yoga classroom in Trinity Chapel, walk through the gate to the left of the building, down the walkway to the side door, and into the hallway leading to the classroom.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with Rev. John Shillingburg

Wednesdays

North Room / Zoom

7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy

Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500

Passcode: 848933

Like the Sunday morning class, this 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.



PASTORAL TRANSITION

Heritage - Mission - Leadership - Connections - Future

Learn more about our interim journey at www.erucc.org/transition

Upcoming at ERUCC

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Sunday, May 19

Through the Strengthen the Church Offering, people across the United Church of Christ support the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults, and sponsor leadership development for the church.

Faith Church UCC in New Braunfels, TX, received a CASA New and Renewing Church Grant made possible by the Strengthen the Church Offering. The congregation felt called to reach out and support the LGBTQIA Community in their region. They began by hosting the area's first Interfaith Pride Worship Service and later hosted a Drag for a Cause fundraiser for local youth living in an emergency shelter. The public witness of Faith Church UCC rallied the local progressive community.

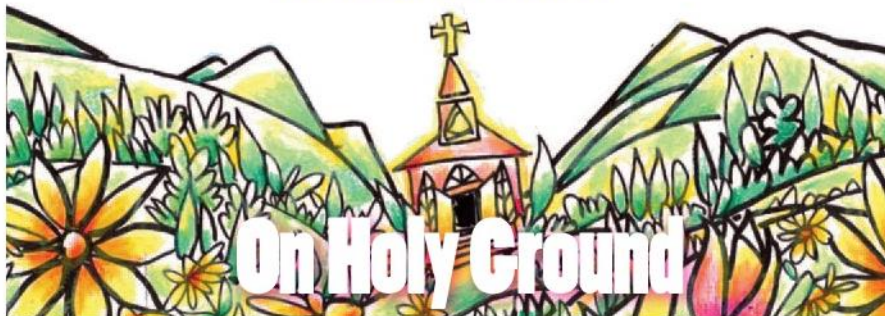
Before the grant, Faith Church took a "quiet" approach to its community. The grant encouraged the congregation to "come out" about its values, welcoming people into its congregation, and going beyond its walls to share its inclusive faith.

The church faces backlash for its courageous stances. "The threats were scary. But supporters also showed up and outnumbered the hate without returning any evil or malice in their direction. It was a peaceful, loving, powerful event!"

Faith Church UCC became the hub of progressive people in New Braunfels. "We had 13 people join the church the month following the event, and every week, we still hear from members of the progressive, marginalized, and disenfranchised people impacted by our taking a stand."

The Strengthen the Church Offering, helps congregations like Faith Church UCC with renewal initiatives. Together, through this offering, we help congregations live into our call to be a multicultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.

**Through the Strengthen the Church Offering,
we help support the work of conferences and the
national setting as we become a multi-racial/
multi-cultural church.**



Scan to donate to the
Strengthen the Church
Offering

FAITH AND DEMOCRACY 2024 – VOTER EDUCATION FORUM

White Christian Nationalism and the 2024 Elections

Wednesday, May 22

Community Room

6:00 – 8:30 PM

Join others at ERUCC for a communal viewing of a voter education forum hosted by the Central Atlantic Conference UCC's Justice and Witness Action Network.

The forum is led by Robert Jones, president and founder of Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) and author of *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: and the Path to a Shared American Future*, *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*, and *The End of White Christian America*. The forum is sponsored by Center for Common Ground, Christ Congregational Church UCC, Cleveland Park Congregational UCC, First Congregational UCC, Rock Spring Congregational UCC, Westmoreland Congregational UCC

We will RSVP as a church to view the livestream and will have light refreshments available. Feel free to bring your own dinner. When the forum concludes at 8:00 PM, you are invited to stay to talk about what we heard and learned; Rebecca Shillingburg will facilitate the discussion.

Alternatively, you can attend the forum from anywhere or in person at First Congregational UCC in Washington DC by RSVPing to attend at bit.ly/WhiteChristianNationalism.



Justice & Witness Action Network -- a justice movement of local churches, clergy & justice leaders of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ building & organizing power to secure a just and compassionate world for all.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, May 28

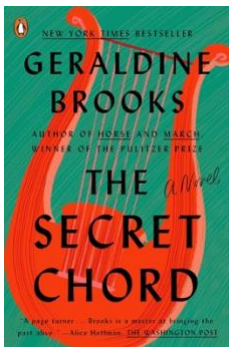
North Room / Zoom

7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669



The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks provides new context for some of the best-known episodes of David's life while also focusing on others, even more remarkable and emotionally intense, that have been neglected. We see David through the eyes of those who love him or fear him—from the prophet Natan, voice of his conscience, to his wives Mikhal, Avigail, and Batsheva, and finally to Solomon, the late-born son who redeems his Lear-like old age. Brooks beautifully written, unvarnished saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power will enthrall her many fans.

FAMILY CAMPING

Gifford Pinchot State Park, PA

June 7 - 9

We're camping June 7-9 in Gifford Pinchot State Park in Pennsylvania, about an hour's drive from ERUCC. The park includes multiple small sites next to one another for pitching a tent or bringing an RV, a central area with gravel ground that includes multiple picnic tables, and several fire circles. Our site is within walking distance of a shower house and a small sandy beachfront with a small playground area. We can also drive to other waterfront locations to visit the nature center, rent boats, or fish and to other green spaces to play other sports.

We plan to have cold breakfast items and supplies to pack or make sandwiches at lunchtime. We'd like to invite a couple of families to pair up to cook dinners on Friday and Saturday.

Sign up to camp in the Sanctuary Lobby! Cost per family is estimated to be \$30-40. Connect with Pastor Kirstin to help with programming and Owen York to help with meals.

GERMAN FRIENDS - SAVE THE DATES

Our German friends will be here before we know it! Our friends will arrive June 23 and depart July 6. We have several activities planned with our youth and there will be activities for the whole church to be involved in as well.

We can still have people join us for the trip to Bethany Beach from Tuesday, June 25 through Saturday, June 29. Email Pastor Kirstin ASAP to be a part of this trip. This activity is for youth completing 6th grade, adults who have gotten a background check and reviewed and agreed to our safe church policies since December 2022, and children of chaperones.

We also need help preparing some of our meals at church while they are here. Some of these days include the first day they arrive (June 23), the 4th of July cookout with ice cream, and a goodbye meal the day they leave for the airport (July 6). Please reach out to Starr Schaeberle, who has agreed to coordinate!

And mark your calendars now for an **ALL-CHURCH PICNIC** at Catoctin Creek Park after church on Sunday, June 30!



**LOVE IS
LOUDER**
Love Your Neighbor **OUT LOUD**

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.

The final Sunday for Junior Church until the fall is Sunday, May 26. We will share more soon about plans for the summer!

GOD’S KIDS CLUB

Tuesday, May 14

ERUCC

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

We will have many hands-on activities on “rocks” including painting rocks, hiding rocks, and learning from “rock” scriptures. If the weather is nice, we will also play at Baker Park, so wear running shoes, bring a water bottle and a packed lunch.

Sign up by emailing Pastor Kirstin or signing up on the clipboard in the sanctuary lobby.

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, May 19

Tree Trekkers, 9560 Old National Pike 2:00 PM

Youth group will meet at Tree Trekkers in Frederick for a challenging journey through the treetops! We have 10 spots, based on the RSVPs we had mid-April. If you want to go, reach out to Pastor Kirstin ASAP so she can see if she can add more! Cost is \$30 and a waiver must be signed online.

GERMANY PARTNERSHIP – SAVE THE DATES

Save the date! All youth and families, please plan to attend a Welcome Meal on June 23 and a Goodbye Meal on July 6 with our partners from Germany. More details to come.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – SAVE THE DATE

August 5 - 9

ERUCC’s Vacation Bible School will be August 5-9! Details and registration information will be shared in early summer. Questions? Contact Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

A brief **Vacation Bible School Meeting** will be held on Sunday, June 2, during Fellowship after the 10:30 AM service for anyone interested in helping this year.

Other Announcements

CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS AND GRADUATES

We will soon be celebrating the high school graduations of Liam Cumber (Governor Thomas Johnson High School) and Jared Hueting (Poolesville High School), the college graduation of Ben Mercier (Indiana University Bloomington), the law school graduation of Maria Lagrotteria (American University Washington College of Law), and the doctorate graduation of Maddie Martin (Penn State College of Medicine)!

Join us in worship on Sunday, May 26, to honor and pray for them.

We invite you to help celebrate our graduates by writing a card or note to say congratulations and share any special thoughts or memories that you have of these students. Drop the cards or notes in the labeled bags in the sanctuary lobby.

Please contact the church office if you or your child is graduating and not listed above.

YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITY PACK

As we continue to support young adults, we have been asked to help provide an activity pack for hanging out in the park. If you are interested in contributing, you can purchase an item from the list and bring it to the church office, or you can email Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org, to make a donation for these items! An Amazon card would allow the group to purchase some board games as well.

Wish List: bit.ly/4aNDn9Y

RESOURCES FOR MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION

As a denomination, the United Church of Christ takes seriously our responsibility to be good citizens and well-informed voters. The Maryland Presidential Primary & State Primary is Tuesday, May 14. Make a plan to vote!



The League of Women Voters of Frederick County has completed work with the national and state Leagues to offer nonpartisan candidate information through the online Voters' Guide at VOTE411.org. The League has a long tradition of publishing candidates' verbatim responses to questions important to voters.

Other resources are available through the Maryland State Board of Elections:
<https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/vote2024>

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

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	Let's Study the Bible , North Room, 2 nd Floor
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

TRINITY CHIMES

Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*! Find printed copies in the back of the sanctuary or read online at <https://erucc.org/category/news/monthly-newsletter/>.

WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL

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



Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

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.

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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 12, 2024

John 17:6-19

“Guided in Prayer”

Although for many people, Mother’s Day is a day of joy and celebration, for others it is a time of confusion, pain or frustration. Some churches try to honor all the emotions of this day by offering an alternative service around Mother’s Day that acknowledges the difficult feelings that this day might bring up. An emphasis on ritual and contemplation can be very healing for those incapacitated by the emotions of this day.

One such ritual allowed participants to move around to various stations in the room. At each station was a quote about the painful disconnect that Mother’s Day holds for some people. Participants were encouraged to respond to the quote with the activity at the station. After some time had passed, the participants gathered to share whatever had come up for them, with some profound moments of healing and insight shared.

If you would like to create a container for a service like this, that honors the difficulty of this day, here are some stations that might be helpful.

Art such as mandala or simple origami: Sometimes the healing needed is beyond words. Provide this space as a place to respond from that place beyond words.

Writing: You may want to provide pens and paper. The writings could be kept by the participants or ritually burned.

Prayer candles: Invited participants to light a candle from another flame, reminding them of the capacity for light to grow when it is shared.

Water: Provide a bowl of salt water, as a reminder of tears. Invite participants to say a short blessing and release a stone or glass bead into the water.

In so many settings, “negative” emotions are unwelcome. If you and your community decide to create a ritual like this, you may be surprised at the response you receive, as you demonstrate that you are safe place “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey.”



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

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