

STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND

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

If you are a guest, please visit the welcome desk. 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.

For Children: We have trained nursery staff for ages 0-4. A deacon or greeter can guide you to the nursery. 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 and a children's table is available for quiet activities at the front of the sanctuary.

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 (accessible and equipped with changing stations) are located on the second floor, below the sanctuary, and on the first floor, outside the Community Room.

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

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The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita* | The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

Elders of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Robin Cooney | Matt Huetting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Eric Weakly

Deacons of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Quynn Adkins | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer | Angela Brittain

Jim Brittain | Matt Davis | Harrison Fisher | Kyle Miller

Transition Team of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Felecia Bishop | Tommie Bradshaw | Karen Justice | Terry Logee | Allen Maples

Thomasa Pomeroy | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely | Lucas Nguyen-Powell | Isaac Pomeroy



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



June 2, 2024

Second Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from
The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

PRIDE SUNDAY

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

This Little Light of Mine

Chancel Handbell Choir

– arr. Samuel Stokes

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Source of Life, in the beginning,
you made us and called us beloved.

When we forget how to love,
you remind us we are beloved.

When the powers of the world try to oppress us,
you name us beloved.

When our siblings in faith condemn us,
you claim us: beloved.

We are your beloved, so today we sing your praises, Source of Love.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**We come with joyful hearts for the gift of diversity
and bodies of all colors, sizes, and genders.**

For the gift of love and different ways in which we can love one another.

For the gift of community and families that extend beyond biology.

So today, we pray: increase our joy, O Holy One.

**We come with broken hearts for a society
that makes tiny boxes and wants us all to fit in them.**

For love that is conditional and asks us to be who we aren't.

For relatives that reject us and friends that forget us when we need them.

So today, we pray: deliver us from evil, O Holy One.

**We come with thankful hearts for strength and courage
to be and exist in this world as we are.
For dreams of new ways to dismantle systems of oppression.
For love and hope knowing a different world is possible.
So today we pray: be with us today and always, O Holy One.**

***OPENING HYMN**

Praise with Joy the World's Creator

#273

**Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge, grace bestowing without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.**

**Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, find the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence—
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.**

**Praise the Spirit sent among us, liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender, age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate that Spirit's treasure foolishness none dare deride.**

**Praise the Maker, Christ and Spirit, one God in Community,
Calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe when shown Christ's vibrant unity.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, God has named us beloved, and yet, this can be easy to forget. In a world of scarcity and threats, in a world that is rarely satisfied, the bravest thing we can do is trust that we belong here. So let us now turn to confession to tell the truth of our lives—to trust that even here, God's love is boundless. Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Divine Creator, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking forgiveness.

We confess that we have subjected others to the kind of rejection and misunderstanding that you yourself experienced in the form of Jesus.

We try to control the paths of those we love, deeming them unworthy of

acceptance when they veer from our expectations for how they “should” be or whom they “should” love. Meanwhile, in moments of doubt, we have sometimes sought approval from those who do not understand our truth instead of finding solace in the chosen family you have blessed us with.

Have mercy on us when we have believed what others say about us rather than what you promise. Have mercy on us when we have caused others to doubt your love.

Forgive us for the times when we have allowed ego to overshadow our ability to extend solidarity and support to our most marginalized siblings.

Help us to use whatever privilege or advantage we possess to uplift the voices of those who are vulnerable and oppressed. Grant us the courage to stand in solidarity with our queer and trans siblings. In times of fear and uncertainty, may we find solace in your promises.

Strengthen us with the knowledge that you will always take us in and hold us close, especially when we feel alone or misunderstood by those we hold dear.

Help us to live authentically and boldly as the children you created us to be. Give us courage to trust our belovedness. Strengthen us to embody your love and courage in all that we do. May our lives be a reflection of your boundless love and embrace. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Siblings in Christ, as long as we live on this side of heaven, there may be days when self-doubt and insecurity creep in or moments when fear and external pressures threaten our courage. There will surely be days when we fail to believe our own belovedness or affirm it in those around us.

Even still, the promises of God are for us. Though the road is long and difficult, nothing can separate us from God’s love—not religious doctrine, not denominational decisions, not a person’s unbelief, not even our own fears.

Friends, each day is a new chance to affirm life, to start over, and to love more fiercely. We are being renewed daily. This is our hope.

**We are all loved, forgiven, embraced, and cherished.
We are God’s beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

ANTHEM

We Are Marching/Siyahamba

Children’s Music and Movement
– South African song

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.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Patti Patterson

Isaiah 56:1-8 OT page 686

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 NT page 174

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

RECOGNITION OF OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS

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

Family of faith, we celebrate our gifts knowing that the work is not yet done; the world is not yet as it should be. And so each week, we bring the gifts God has given us to build a world where all people are included, welcomed, and made whole. Let us now offer our gifts back to God.

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 our church's ministries and programs. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts to share 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.

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

Morning Has Broken

Senior Choir

– Scottish Gaelic tune, BUNESSAN

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, you have gifted us with so much. We lay these gifts before you with hope for a better world where your image is honored in each person. Use them for the building of your kingdom, and give us courage to dream of that day. In the name of the Beloved we pray, amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

God, we gather at this table representing all people in all places in our world. We bless and pass the bread and cup as Christ passed it to his friends. Please allow these elements to remind us of the good that you have done and inspire us to do the good that Christ calls us to do. May we leave this table revived and refreshed, having sipped from the cup of bold courage so that we may challenge all forms of injustice and pain. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:

**“This is my body which is broken for you.
Whenever you eat it, remember me.”**

And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:

**“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you.
When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me.”**

Now, let us come to receive the bread and the cup.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward at the direction of the deacons. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. The cup contains grape juice, and all bread is gluten-free. Consume the bread and drink from the cup as it is given to you, and hand your empty cup to one of the ushers.

After all have received the bread and the cup:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

A BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

May the presence of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We have been fed, dear God, by your presence and led by your light.
May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Help Us Accept Each Other

#388

**Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**

**God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!**

***BENEDICTION**

As we conclude this Pride Sunday worship, we understand that the work continues. May the love that binds us together as one family, chosen by God, continue to inspire us to extend grace, compassion, and understanding to all whom we encounter.

As we go forth from this place, may our particular gifts, personalities, and identities shine brightly within us, ever reflecting the imago Dei [image of God] in us and the belovedness in which we have been shaped.

And may the assurance of God's unwavering presence accompany us on our journey, reminding us that we are never alone, and that we are deeply loved and cherished just as we are.

Go now in the peace of God, the love of Christ, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.



Fellowship: Please join us after worship in our Community Room for a time of fellowship.

The flowers on the altar this morning are in honor of our grandsons Duncan and Luca.

The yellow rose is placed in honor of all past and present military personnel for their service.

Attendance Last Sunday: 16 at 8:30 AM, 131 at 10:30 AM, and 45 online.



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

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

Serving Today: June 2

Acolyte: Katie Zander
Scripture Reader: Patti Patterson
Deacons: Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins

Elder: Eric Weakly
Greeters: Anne Hoffmann, Ave Barr
Cliff Barr, Danielle Carbone
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang
Molly Black
Audio/Visual: Larry Martin, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger
Nursery: Robert Kambic
Fellowship: Renae Kline, Cathie Duncan
Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Jim Weitz, Glenn Wallace Weitz
Emily Button Kambic

Serving Next Week: June 9

Linda Coyle
Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slier
Tyler L. York
Cathie Duncan, Barb Barry
Robert and Nancy Manthey
Thi Nguyen, Rob Black

Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger

Ave and Cliff Barr, Jen Powell
Joan and Allen Maples, Pat Condo
Bud Rossig

Next Sunday: June 9 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20 | Mark 3:20-35

Leadership is a daunting task. Responsibility upon responsibility is overwhelming, and the desire to accomplish often threatens what is best for those whom we lead. It is natural to look at the examples of our heroes, but authentic leadership comes when the Holy Spirit guides us. Leadership is redefined when we follow first. We are presented with an example of God's Spirit leading in ways that are subversive to human expectations in Mark 3:20-35. The mark of God's leadership seems to be a reversal of human ways. What does that reveal about your perspectives on leadership? Where do you see God's upside-down work in the world?

Spirit will be sharing in music leadership this morning. You are invited to wear orange as a public witness in support of gun violence prevention.

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:

Gerry Hanberry	Tanya Pearre (sister of Colleen Baldree)	Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Sherry Murray	Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)	Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)
Haley Duff	Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley)	Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz)
Bill Gourlie	Lee Thomas	Paige Coffey
Pat Hanberry	Joan Thomas (mother of Dan Smith's friend)	Fran Wenner
Charlie Woodward	Autumn Crutchley	Bonnie Devilbiss
Sherry Murray	Jason Rhoads	Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Jack Mens	Nathan Cable	Mary Remsberg
Charlotte Blue and Family (friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)	Greg Rhoads	Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Mark Ulrich	Marcia Eisenstein	Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Emogene Wyand	Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)	Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield)
Richard Leslie	Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)	
Bob Pinner	Jeannette Johnson	
Betsy Fisher		
Delmar Speak		
Donna Hill (mother of Collen Baldree)		
Philip Hill (father of Colleen Baldree)		

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.

This class will suspend for the summer after our class on June 9.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

9:30 – 10:10 AM

On June 2, all Children and Youth Sunday School classes will meet in the Community Room.

June 2 is the final class for the 2023-2024 school year. We will give thanks for those who supported children and youth Christian Education classes and activities this year at a breakfast during Sunday School hour in the Community Room and during the 10:30 AM service.

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

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.

This class will suspend for the summer after our class on June 5.

"THE STORY OF PLASTIC" FILMMAKER DISCUSSION

Thursday, June 6

Virtual Webinar

7:00 – 8:00 PM



Join Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake for an exclusive screening of "The Story of Plastic"! Experience the film before engaging in an in-depth and thought-provoking talkback session with the filmmaker. Registrants will receive exclusive access to a

link for viewing the 95-minute film one week before the discussion. To watch the film, please register and join IPC for the live webinar discussion. ERUCC's Green Team Leader Linda Coyle will also share about our congregation's efforts to make a difference!

Register: bit.ly/3yLOCIK



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

IMMIGRANT YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REPORT PUBLIC FEEDBACK SESSION



JOIN US

JUNE 7 (12:00PM - 3:30PM)
(IN-PERSON & ONLINE)

This event is for advocates, providers, community partners, and anyone who supports the mental and behavioral health of immigrant youth.

Link to REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/GCtr8L2oSJC8VSTF9>

EVANGELICAL REFORMED UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST COMMUNITY ROOM
15 W. Church Street, Frederick, MD

*FUNDED BY FREDERICK COUNTY FY24 CPG

SCAN ME



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.

WEAR ORANGE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION – WE CAN END GUN VIOLENCE

Saturday, June 8

Community Room

10:00 – 11:30 AM



Frederick's Mom's Demand chapter will host a Round Table Discussion focusing on the impact of gun violence on survivors and how we, as a community, can meet the needs.

You are encouraged to wear orange to worship on June 9 as a public witness in support of gun violence prevention.

Ending gun violence is going to take all of us. Learn more about Wear Orange at <https://wearorange.org/>.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter their mental health challenge.

No matter their immigration status.

No matter their sexual orientation.

No matter their economic status.

No matter their gender identity.

No matter their disability.

No matter their religion.

No matter their race.

Love your neighbor. No exceptions.



Upcoming at ERUCC

ERUCC AT FREDERICK PRIDE 2024

Saturday, June 22

Carroll Creek Park

shifts, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Experience the Joy and Unity of the LGBTQ+ Community in Frederick. Join ERUCC at our outreach table to share our message of community! ERUCC will have a table at this event announcing its mission and programs to Frederick Pride visitors. Shifts are in 2-hour increments. All are welcome to volunteer. No experience necessary! Contact Julie Clark, Jclarkad@yahoo.com or (301) 305-8181 with questions.

Sign up now to volunteer with ERUCC's outreach during Pride: <https://bit.ly/ERatPride24>



A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

MASS POOR PEOPLE'S AND LOW-WAGE WORKERS' ASSEMBLY AND MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON AND TO THE POLLS

Saturday, June 29

carpool from ERUCC

7:30 AM



Join us at the Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Saturday, June 29 in Washington, D.C.! We will carpool from the church parking lot at 7:30 AM to the Shady Grove Metro Station. From there, we will take the Metro to the Archives stop and walk to 3rd Ave NW and Pennsylvania Ave NW. For more information and to sign up, please contact Shelley Weakly at shelley.w.weakly@gmail.com by Saturday, June 22 with the number of people going, if you can drive, and how many you can transport. Sponsored by Mission and Social Action Committee.

BE A BLESSING PRACTICE PEACE.
LEAD WITH LOVE.
BE JOYFUL. PRAY OFTEN. BE KIND. GIVE THANKS.
DO GOOD. HAVE COURAGE. WORK FOR JUSTICE.
BE THE LIGHT. ENCOURAGE OTHERS.  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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.

All church families are invited to the following dates:

- Sunday, June 23, 7:00 PM – Dinner at Church to welcome our guests!
- Sunday, June 30, 12:00-3:00 PM – All Church Picnic with German Families at Catoctin Creek Park. **Sign up to contribute to our picnic meal:** bit.ly/ERPicnic24.
- Monday, July 1, 7:00-9:00 PM – Political Party Conversation
- Wednesday, July 3, 7:00 PM – Frederick Keys Baseball Game! Cost \$10 per ticket
- Saturday, July 6, 2:00 PM – Goodbye Lunch for German Guests

We need help preparing some of our meals at church while they are here. Please reach out to Starr Schaeberle

- Sunday, June 23 – Cooking, Serving, Clean Up Dinner
- Wednesday, July 3 – Cooking, Serving, Clean-Up Dinner
- Thursday, July 4 – Cooking, Serving, Clean-Up Breakfast Buffet
- Thursday, July 4 – Cooking, Clean Up Cookout Dinner
- Saturday, July 6 – Cooking, Serving, Clean-up Late Lunch

Children and Youth Ministry

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, June 2

Community Room

during Fellowship

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. Come to sign up your child(ren) or to sign up as a volunteer. We will plan a Safe Church training between now and August 5 to allow new volunteers who have been a part of our church community for at least six months to help with VBS.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 5 – 9

Mon-Thur 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



ERUCC's Vacation Bible School will be August 5-9! This year's VBS program is **Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs**. We look forward to welcoming your children and their friends for a week of fun and learning. With daily themes like Shelter Protects Life, Food Energizes Life, Water Hydrates Life, Air Sustains Life, and Community Produces Life and activities including yoga, music, creative play, and compassion in action, who could ask for more?

Cost is \$30 per child. Questions? Contact Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

Other Announcements



PASTORAL TRANSITION

Heritage - Mission - Leadership - Connections - Future

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

SANKOFA DIALOGUES

Two Sankofa Dialogue sessions have occurred thus far, and at least two additional sessions will be scheduled soon. Previously shared Sankofa Survey responses included some truncated comments; a corrected version of the responses can be read/downloaded at bit.ly/3UNIZei.

Read a Report on the Sankofa Survey from the T Team: bit.ly/3VI3Jej

ABOUT PRIDE SUNDAY

The first Pride marches were held on June 28, 1970 in cities around the United States, on the one year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. Thousands of LGBTQIA+ people gathered to commemorate Stonewall and demand equal rights. Invisibility was not an option anymore. Within a few years, gay rights organizations were founded throughout the world.

Both Pride and worship are acts of celebration and protest, acts of remembrance, and enactments of a world where all belong. We practice these acts in a world where the safety and rights of LGBTQIA+ people are threatened each day. On Pride Sunday, we cry out for justice and rejoice in the beauty of our embodied selves. We remember the suffering of those who came before us and imagine new ways of loving ourselves and our neighbors.

Pride Sunday is a celebration of the image of God in everyone and the diversity of humanity. In the beginning, when God breathed the breath of life in us, God blessed us and called us very good. There is no better way to celebrate the fact that we were created in the image of the Divine than by being unapologetically ourselves and becoming the people God called us to be: authentic, whole, complex, and made to love, even when others say, “they have gone out of their mind” (Mark 3:21).

RESOURCES FOR THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY



Locally, The Frederick Center exists to support and advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people and their families so all thrive, are accepted, and affirmed in the broader Frederick community. The Frederick Center maintains a list of local, regional, and national resources at <https://thefrederickcenter.org>.

LGBTQ+ Crisis Hotline: [\(866\) 488-7386](tel:8664887386) | Mental Health Crisis Hotline: [988](tel:988)
Physical Emergency: [911](tel:911) | Maryland Resources: [211](tel:211)

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 – 12th Grade</i> , Community Room
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org
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

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Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

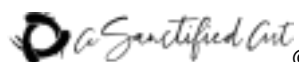
We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far. 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.

The Bravest Thing We Can Do

Trust your belovedness.
Let it be a protest,
an act of resistance,
a song of celebration.
Trust your belovedness in a world
that is rarely satisfied.
Wear it like a badge of honor.
Speak it as confidently as your last name.
Tattoo it to your heart.
When outside forces
chip away at your sense of self,
when life asks you
to hand over the keys,
remember the water.
Remember creation.
Remember how it was *good*,
so very good.
Let that truth hum through your veins.
Sing it so loud
that it drowns out the weariness of the world,
for the bravest thing we can ever do
is trust that we belong here.

—Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed



“Stretch Out Your Hand”

Today’s passage from Mark contains two short stories about how the presence of Jesus reveals the reign of God in ordinary things. The first story concerns feeding people on the day of rest, which violates the strict laws of the religious leaders of the time. The second begins on the same day, with Jesus going to the place of worship, again.

You might skip quickly over the again that starts the story in order to get to the main action of the story when a man with a “withered hand” is healed by Jesus, another act on the sabbath day that draws the ire of the authorities.

But let’s pause here, on the again. The again tells us that this is not the first time that Jesus and the people with him have gathered here, at the place of worship. Is it the first time that they saw the man with the withered hand? We don’t know. In fact, we don’t know very much about the man, except for that one descriptor.

Perhaps the man had been “withered” since birth, and had taken up residence in the temple, impoverished and hoping to beg or borrow enough money for his sacrificial offering. Maybe the man was a busy and wealthy landowner with a recent injury who had just popped into the temple to see what all the fuss about this new teacher was about. Maybe he himself was one of Jesus’ followers, and his hand was only the object of attention for the first time that day.

But, poor or prosperous, connected or lonely, we know that he did not ask for healing. Again, we don’t know why. Maybe he had been coming to the temple every day for years hoping for healing that never came until he just gave up. Maybe he did not ask for healing because he felt he did not need it. Or maybe he did not ask, because he hadn’t yet worked up the courage. But whatever his reason, Jesus offered healing anyway.

Here you are, dear reader, in worship on a Sabbath day. Maybe you have come from a long habit, as you have week after week, almost giving up hope for healing. Maybe you feel that your life is just fine without Jesus’ healing touch, but you popped in for some other reason. Maybe you haven’t been able to articulate, even to yourself, what you need today, let alone say it aloud. Whatever the reason, Jesus extends his hand to you now and offers you healing. You don’t even have to ask. The living Christ knows what you need and offers it to you without question, conversation or negotiation. May you receive the healing that Christ extends!

