

*Flourishing*

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](http://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

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*

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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 Hueting | 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 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15)

It is good to give thanks to the Holy One,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High,  
**To declare your steadfast love in the morning  
and your faithfulness by night,**  
To the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

**For you, O God, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.  
**They are planted in the house of the Holy One;  
they flourish in the courts of our God.**

In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of nectar,  
**Showing that the Divine One is upright; God is my rock,  
and there is no unrighteousness in the Holy One.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Oh God, creator of heaven and earth, who grants us life,  
may the seeds of wisdom from the ancient sacred texts grow within us  
so that we may bear good fruit that nourishes a hungry world.  
May the Holy Spirit of Pentecost descend upon us this day as we give thanks  
to you Holy One, in Jesus's most precious name we pray. Amen.

## **\*A PRAYER IN THANKS OF THE FATHERING SPIRIT**

We give thanks for those who have been our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, sons, husbands, life-partners, and friends. We pray for people of all genders and sexual orientations, those who are transitioning, and those who are parenting in many forms and in the many ways families come together.

We pray for those for whom this is a day of mourning and sadness. For those who have lost fathers and other important men in their lives. For men and women who long to be parents, but who struggle with infertility and for those who have lost children. May they be comforted with the peace that passes all understanding.

We pray for those who strive to reflect the caring, affection, nurturing, and friendship modeled by our Triune God. Give them your grace and bless them in their lives. Hear us, Loving God. **Amen.**

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

*For the Fruits of All Creation*

#425

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.  
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

As we gather in worship, let us take this moment to consider our needs for transformation and forgiveness. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Dear God, the creator of all things based on love. You created us in your image of love and there have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you but to each other and all of creation. We ask for your forgiveness. Thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing love and grace to all we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Scripture tells us that we have been shown the way to reconciliation by Christ, who is within us whenever we turn to God for guidance and strength to transform our lives for a better kingdom here on earth. Know the peace of the Divine grace that is always there for you in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## **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 of all ages are invited to participate in today's service. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table, and a wiggle space is available in the front of the sanctuary near the baptismal font.*

## **\*HYMN**

*You Are Salt for the Earth, O People*

#181

**You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!**

*Refrain:* **Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God! [Refrain]**

**You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God [Refrain]**

**We are blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God! [Refrain]**

## **THE SCRIPTURES**

Quynn Adkins

1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13 OT page 259

Mark 4:26-34 NT page 38

**Reader:** May God bless the reading of this word.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

## **MORNING PRAYERS**

## **SHARING OUR STORIES**

Dave Kehne

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

Jesus has appointed us to bear fruit that will last. Fruit that will bring love and justice. Joy and hope. Bring what you can; together, the gifts we offer can transform lives. We invite you to participate in this opportunity of generosity to continue the mission of God's Love to the world.

*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](http://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**

*Filled with Hallelujahs*

Senior Choir  
– P. Choplin

*Commissioned by the congregation of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ in Frederick, Maryland for Alison E. Shafer celebrating 40 years as our Organist and Choir Director.*

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.**

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower* #433

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**Friends of God, as you leave this place, remember that God has chosen you to share the love you've found with a world of need. Go bear fruit that will last. Let your joyful hearts be signs of hope in these anxious times. Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Please be seated.*



**Worship Notes:** Today's liturgy comes from *Seed: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost* was written by Rev. Roberto Ochoa, the Minister for Ethnic Inclusion, & Congregational Support for Rural and Small Churches for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. The Prayer in Thanks of the Fathering Spirit is adapted from *Father's Day Prayers – Inclusive And Expansive*, written by Leah D. Schade.

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

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**The flowers on the altar** this morning are in loving memory of LeRoy I. “Pete” Crum, by daughter, Martha J. Crum Kline

**The yellow rose** is placed in the sanctuary today by Karen Justice in honor of US Flag Day, the birthday of the US Army and her husband Col. John Justice.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 14 at 8:30 AM, 101 at 10:30 AM, 32 at camp worship, & 40 online.



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

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

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**Serving Today: June 16**

Deacons: Harrison Fisher, Kyle Miller  
Elder: Matt Hueting  
Scripture Reader: Quynn Adkins  
Greeters: Tom and Rachel Ford  
Felecia Bishop, Rob Smith  
Welcome Table: Holly Davis  
Audio/Visual: Larry Martin, Kelly Esslinger  
Nursery: Stephanie Fisher  
Fellowship: Karen Justice, Peter Brehm  
Rob McGuire, Alex Martinez  
Felecia Bishop

**Serving Next Week: June 23**

Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain  
Gerry Blessing  
Darryl Glick  
Barb Barry, Kim Sexton  
Niel and Kathleen Jefferson  
Betsy Selby, Sue Pinner  
Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker  
Linda Coyle, Tommie Bradshaw  
Shelley and Eric Weakly  
Collen and Chuck Baldree

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**Next Sunday: June 23 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Samuel 17:32-49 | Mark 4:35-41

In Mark 4:35-41, the disciples are in a boat with Jesus in the middle of a storm and, in their fear, accuse Jesus of not caring for them. Jesus’ words, “Peace. Be still!” calm the storm. God is always with us, and we can rely on God. This week’s texts stand to testify that God remains close by God’s people. We are each created uniquely in God’s image. We are called to stay true to who God created us to be and to lead authentically. God is not for or against one group or people but for justice and peace throughout the world. How are you allowing God to use your authentic self and act courageously for justice for all?

*The Rev. Beth O’Malley, Dean of the Chapel at Hood College, will be preaching. The Senior Choir will sing.*



# 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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

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## 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:**

Sherry Murray  
Haley Duff  
Bill Gourlie  
Pat Hanberry  
Charlie Woodward  
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)  
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.*

## 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](mailto:rdkline15@gmail.com).

Enter via the side door of Trinity Chapel by walking through the gate on the left of the building.

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## JUNETEENTH - FREEDOM DAY

In celebration of Juneteenth (Freedom Day),  
the ERUCC offices will be closed on Wednesday, June 19.

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### JUNETEENTH – HEALING AS FREEDOM, FREEDOM AS HEALING: LINEAGES OF EMANCIPATION TOWARD WHOLENESS



Racial Justice Ministries and Join the Movement toward Racial Justice invite you to honor and celebrate Juneteenth this year by remembering and discovering the healing practices that sustained freedom in the bones of our ancestors, before and after emancipation. Through music and prayer, poetry and art, reflection and ritual, may we find a medicine bundle, a poultice, a libation, a Brush Harbor and a clearing, that teaches us the sound of freedom, echoing from legacies of healing and singing futures of wholeness.

Join us for a webinar gathering to:

- Explore the rich historical legacy of Juneteenth.
- Deepen practices of restorative healing.
- Listen and learn from educators, organizers, activists, and next generation leaders.

Register at <https://jointhefmovementucc.org/>

## **SACRED CONVERSATION ABOUT LIFE TRANSITIONS**

**Tuesday, June 18**

**Flora Room**

**2:00 – 3:30 PM**

Join us in sharing stories and challenges with the changes that life brings related to body limitations and changes in dependency when you just can't do as much yourself. We will gather in the Flora Room to listen, pray, and connect with each other in a time of holy sharing. Pastor Kirstin and Ave Barr will facilitate this time, knowing It is important, especially in seasons of change, that we lean on each other, and know we aren't alone. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Please let us know if you can attend by contacting Ave Barr or Linda Coyle.

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## **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](mailto: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**

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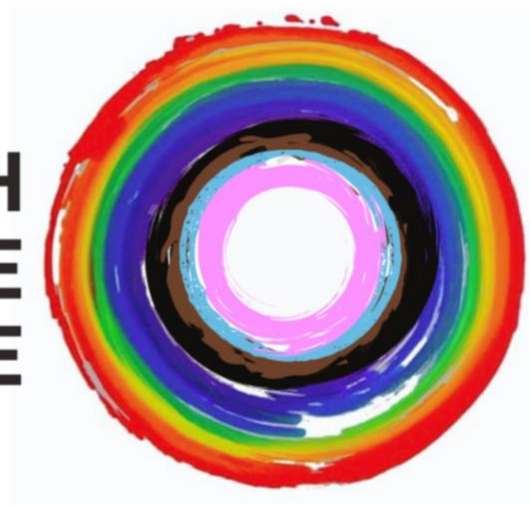
## **INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE**

**Saturday, June 22**

**Grace UCC, 25 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

**11:00 AM**

**INTERFAITH  
PRIDE  
SERVICE**



## Upcoming at ERUCC

### **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**



We are joining our partners at the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival for a historic assembly as we kick off four months of outreach to 15 million poor and low-wage infrequent voters. Our goal is to mobilize more than 250 UCC justice leaders and

clergy from across our region to show up and demand a moral public policy agenda that expands democracy to all people and ends the crisis of death by poverty and low wealth.

**Will you join us and stand side-by-side with poor people and low-wage workers to demand real change?**

Despite living in the richest country in the history of the world, 800 people a day die due to poverty and low wealth. And the needs of the 135 million poor and low-wage people of this country are barely mentioned on cable news or in our political debates.

This is a time for a mass mobilization of consciousness. We are the resurrection, not an insurrection.

Join ERUCC 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](mailto: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 the Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Committee.



## ERUCC – GERMAN PARTNERSHIP

Our German 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!
  - **Sign up to contribute to our welcome dinner:** [bit.ly/4aU5kfl](http://bit.ly/4aU5kfl)
- Sunday, June 30, 12:00-3:00 PM – All Church Picnic at Catoctin Creek Park.
  - **Sign up to contribute to our picnic meal:** [bit.ly/ERpicnic24](http://bit.ly/ERpicnic24).
- Monday, July 1, 7:00-9:00 PM – Political Party Conversation
- Wednesday, July 3, 7:00 PM – Frederick Keys Baseball Game, including fireworks!
  - Host families and youth should RSVP with Kirstin, as your tickets are covered
  - All are welcome! **Purchase tickets with our group for \$11.11 directly online:** <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Evangelicalreformed2>
- Thursday, July 4, evening fireworks in Baker Park
- 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 with questions or to volunteer at (301) 639-1309:

- 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

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**STRETCH OUT YOUR**  **WITH**

**PRIDE!**



## Children and Youth Ministry

**GLOW! - A FUN-FILLED SUMMER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH! ✨**  
**Sundays, June 23, July 14, 21, and 28** following Thought for the Day in worship

We are thrilled to invite all children to our exciting 4-week summer program **GLOW!** This special program will take place during the "Junior Church" time (following Thought for the Day in worship) on Sunday, June 23, July 14, July 21, and July 28. Sessions will be held in the Thomas Room and are designed for children and youth from Pre-K through middle school.

### **What is GLOW?**

GLOW! is a vibrant, engaging program where children will have a blast with glow stick crafts and activities while learning how they can shine brightly for Jesus. Just like a light brightens a dark room, we will discover how Jesus can illuminate their lives and the lives of others.

### **Activities include:**

- ✨ Glow-related crafts
- ✨ Theme-related short skits
- ✨ Fun games
- ✨ And much more!

Our program will culminate in a fantastic end-of-summer party with glowsticks and surprises galore! We would love for our youth to join in the fun, help with activities, and participate in the skits and games. It's a great opportunity for our youth to mentor and inspire younger ones.

**Don't Miss Out!** Mark your calendars now! We can't wait to see faces light up with joy and excitement. For any questions, please reach out to Trish Coffey at (240) 815-9118 or [trishcoffey1195@gmail.com](mailto:trishcoffey1195@gmail.com). Let's make this summer a glowing success!

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## **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](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org).

## Other Announcements

### CURIOUS IGUANA AUTHOR EVENT

Tuesday, June 25

Community Room

7:00 PM

We will welcome Curious Iguana later this month as they welcome *New York Times* bestselling author Riley Sager to Frederick to celebrate the release of his new thriller *Middle of the Night*. Riley will be joined in conversation by fellow author Richard Chizmar. They will discuss Riley's new jaw-dropping thriller!

Interested in volunteering as a hospitality host? Contact Tyler: [tyork@erucc.org](mailto:tyork@erucc.org).

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### SUMMER FICTION BOOK CLUB SERIES – CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Join The BTS Center, Creation Justice Ministries, and Damascus Project for a Summer Fiction Book Club! Each month, the book club will read a novel with themes around climate change and then gather for a lively session with a guest conversationalist. For more information and to register, visit <https://thebtscenter.org/summer-fiction-book-club-2024/>.

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### SUMMER READS – CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Creation Justice Ministries invites you to join a webinar series, **Summer Reads: Birth, Death, and Resurrection in a Climate-Changed World**, that weaves together the themes of birth, death, and resurrection. Through engaging conversations between authors of pivotal books, each session will offer a spiritual lens to view the profound challenges and opportunities presented by climate change.

Learn more and register at <https://www.creationjustice.org/summerreads.html>

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## Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

### WEBSITE

[www.erucc.org/give](http://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

## **Sunday Morning Schedule**

*subject to change*

8:30 – 9:15 AM	<b>Early Worship Service</b> , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	<b>Coffee and Conversation</b> , Kieffer Lobby, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Nursery Care</b> , 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor
10:30 – 11:30 AM	<b>Worship</b> , Sanctuary and Online at <a href="http://www.erucc.org">www.erucc.org</a>
11:30 AM	<b>Fellowship</b> , Community Room, 1 <sup>st</sup> 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/>.

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### **WEEKLY THURSDAY THOUGHTS EMAIL**

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



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

## **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.



## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 16, 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34

### "Flourishing"

Jesus spoke to his followers in a parable about planting seeds. In cold climates, seeds planted can take many months to grow into plants and bear fruit. The job of gardeners and farmers is not only patience. The job is also to tend; to fertilize and water and weed until at last the fragile plants break forth, and then leaves, then flowers and finally produce. It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.

This week, many congregations will be celebrating Juneteenth. Juneteenth has been celebrated for generations in African-American communities, although for some communities this will be the first year that this celebration is acknowledged. It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.

The seeds of Juneteenth were planted on June 19th, 1865 when troops rode into Galveston, Texas announcing the end of the civil war, and the freedom of all enslaved Americans. This was good news, yes. But this good news came more than two and half years after the signing of the emancipation proclamation. It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.

Juneteenth was heartily celebrated in the early part of the 20th century with rodeos, speakers, preachers, music, worship and heaping tables of food, but those celebrations were largely shut down during the Jim Crow era. Recognition of Juneteenth began to be revived in black communities by activists in the 1960s and 1970s. The first legislation to make Juneteenth a national holiday was introduced in 1996. The legislation was finally signed into law in 2021. It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.

Whether your Juneteenth celebration this year is generations old, or is new this year, remember that it is the fruit of a seed planted decades before you were born. And the cycle does not end with this generation. As is the nature of growing things, the fruit that you enjoy in this season will produce seeds that will also, in their time, bear fruit. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit. May the seeds you plant this Juneteenth, however small or mighty, grow beautiful fruit in its season.*

