



Pushing the Boat Out

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.

Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor* ~ mmorgan@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 23, 2024

Fifth 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**

God of love,
welcome us in.
God of peace,
calm our hearts.
God of strength,
lift us up.
God of truth,
focus our minds.
God, you are here,
we are thankful.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, we come to you today with open hearts, open minds, and open spirits. We bring our worship, our praise, and adoration together today to you. Teach us your ways, your thoughts, and your love. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

God is Truly With Us

#68

**God is truly with us;
sing we and adore now;
praise the One we come before now.
Here within this temple,**

here in sound and silence,
worship God in deepest reverence.
You alone, God, we own,
you, our God and Savior;
praise to you forever.

God is truly with us;
loud our praise resounding!
Echoes of the saints surrounding!
"Holy, holy, holy,"
hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here;
hear, O Christ, the praises
that your Church now raises.

Source of every blessing,
bless the ones who name you,
let our words and deeds proclaim you.
Like the saints and angels
praising you in glory,
may your servants sing your story.
And in all, great and small,
may we do most nearly
what you love most dearly.

***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**

Gracious God, we come before you today to confess the distractions of our minds that keep us from worshipping you today.

Forgive us, O God; in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Holy God, your ways can be difficult to understand and embrace, we confess to you today the times we have doubted your ways.

Forgive us, O God; in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Peaceful God, sometimes our hearts and minds turn to violence when you call for peace. We confess now the times we have turned to violence first.

Forgive us, O God; in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We each pray silently in our hearts, confessing the burdens that weigh us down today.

Forgive us, O God, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Our God is a God of all people, all time, in all places.

Know that God is here with us and is encouraging us today. **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 ages 5 through 8th grade may be dismissed for GLOW!
in the Thomas Room, during the reading of the scripture.*

***HYMN**

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

#441

**Jesus, Savior, pilot me
over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
hiding rock and treacherous shoal;
Chart and compass ever be;
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

**As a mother stills her child,
you can hush the ocean wild;
Boisterous waves obey your will
when you say to them, "Be still."
Wondrous sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

When at last I near the shore,
and the fearful breakers roar,
Keeping me from peaceful rest,
then, while leaning on your breast,
May I hear your words so true,
"Fear not, I will pilot you."

THE SCRIPTURES

Darryl Glick

1 Samuel 17: 1-16, 32-50 OT page 291

Mark 4:35-41 NT page 39

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CONTINUING TESTAMENT

"Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself."
– Eleanor Roosevelt

SERMON

The Rev. Beth O'Malley
Dean of the Chapel, Hood College

MORNING PRAYERS

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

When we give to the work of God, we join with God in making our world a better place. Let us live into and share the gifts God has given us – our talents, our resources, and our very lives.

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

(We will) Be the Church

Senior Choir
– Scott Siciliano

This hymn was a winner of the 2019 Hymn Competition of the United Church of Christ Musicians Association.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God, we bring forward our best; use it to help our church, community, and world. We join our gifts for your glory. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Joys Are Flowing like a River (Blessed Quietness)

#284

**Joys are flowing like a river,
since the Comforter has come;
Christ abides with us forever,
makes the trusting heart a home.**

Refrain: **Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
what assurance in my soul.
On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me,
and the billows cease to roll.**

**Bringing life and health and gladness
all around, this heavenly Guest
Banished unbelief and sadness,
changed our weariness to rest. *[Refrain]***

**Like the rain that falls from heaven,
like the sunlight from the sky,
So the Spirit too is given,
coming on us from on high. *[Refrain]***

**See, a fruitful field is growing,
blessed fruit of righteousness;
And the streams of life are flowing
in the lonely wilderness. *[Refrain]***

**What a wonderful salvation,
when we always see Christ's face,
What a perfect habitation,
what a quiet resting place! *[Refrain]***

***BENEDICTION**

May we all go from this place seeking to be in God's presence more every day. In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.



**We welcome The Rev. Beth O'Malley,
Dean of the Chapel, Hood College, as our guest preacher today.**

Worship Notes: Today's liturgy is from Seasons of the Spirit.

STRETCH OUT YOUR  WITH

PRIDE!



Please join us for **Fellowship** with light refreshments and time for casual conversation after worship in our Community Room (1st Floor).

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in restorative healing, celebration, and love in commemoration of Juneteenth and Frederick Pride.

The yellow rose is presented by Audrey Rayfield in honor of her nephew, Dylan Rayfield, US Air Force.

Please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org if you would like to sponsor the altar flowers on July 14 or July 21.

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 98 at 10:30 AM, and 54 online.



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

Serving Today: June 23

Deacons: Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain
Elder: Gerry Blessing
Scripture Reader: Darryl Glick
Greeters: Barb Barry, Kim Sexton
Niel and Kathleen Jefferson
Welcome Table: Betsy Selby, Sue Pinner
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker
Nursery: Stephanie Fisher
Fellowship: Linda Coyle, Tommie Bradshaw
Shelley and Eric Weakly
Collen and Chuck Baldree

Serving Next Week: June 30

Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins
Peter Brehm
Jack Day
Susan Kulp, David Howard
David and Robin Cooney
Marj Berkheimer, Sue Pinner
Jeff Baker, Larry Martin
Jeff Schaeberle
ALL CHURCH PICNIC
at Catoctin Creek Park
2929 Sumantown Rd, Middletown

Next Sunday: June 30 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 | Mark 5:21-43

Out of the depths of grief, David laments the death of Jonathan and Saul. Out of the depths of desperation, Jairus calls to Jesus. Out of the depths, a woman grasps to touch Jesus' cloak. Experiences of vulnerability cause us to feel as if we have nowhere to turn. In these times and places, we are invited to turn to God, whose compassion knows no boundaries. In what ways does grief flow from and become shaped by different experiences of loss – loss of dreams, loss of relationship, loss of life? For what do we cry out and grieve in our lives and the church today? Where would we risk vulnerability for the sake of healing?

We welcome our friends from Germany to our service this morning. 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.

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:

Cliff Barr
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.

Activities and Events 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.

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

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 St NW and Pennsylvania Ave NW.

For more information and to sign up, please contact Shelley Weakly at shelley.w.weakly@gmail.com ASAP, 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!
- 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.
- 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
 - **Sign up to contribute items for our meals on July 3, 4, and 6:** bit.ly/346meals

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

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

Children and Youth Ministry

GLOW! - A FUN-FILLED SUMMER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH! ✨

Sundays, June 23, July 14, 21, and 28
worship

following Thought for the Day in

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. Let's make this summer a glowing success!

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

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 an ERUCC hospitality host?

Contact Tyler: tyork@erucc.org.

ERUCC SUPPORTS UNITED WAY STUFF THE BUS CAMPAIGN



ERUCC will be collecting NEW, UNUSED school supplies through July 30 for United Way's Stuff the Bus Campaign to benefit local schoolchildren. Supplies may be placed in the big yellow bins in the Sanctuary Lobby. The supplies most needed include markers, earbuds with microphones, composition notebooks, pencil boxes, and crayons. Complete lists of supplies may be found above the yellow bins.

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. Read the book ahead of time and then join for discussion. You can come to one, two, or all three sessions! For more information on the books and sessions and to register, visit:

<https://thebtscenter.org/summer-fiction-book-club-2024/>

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>

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Juneteenth

We give thanks to God
for freedom and emancipation of the enslaved people.

God heard the voices and supplications of enslaved people
those enslaved beyond Emancipation Day in 1863
cheated of their lives and livelihood by oppressors
beyond the pale of human rights and dignity.

From the shacks and plantations of Texas they cried:
“God, we pray, save our children!”

The snares of death encompassed them in the places
where they were held captive and used as commodity
God inclined his ear to them
delivering them from the distress and anguish of this living hell.

From the shacks and plantations of Texas they cried:
“God, we pray, save our lives!”

Because of their skin they were deemed less than farm animals
these African and African American people made in the image of the Divine
therefore they called on God all day long
praying to God to loosen their chains.

From the shacks and plantations of Texas they cried:
“God, we pray, keep us from harm and danger!”

We will pay our vows to God
in the presence of all people
we give thanks and praise to God
for the full emancipation for these human beings.

From the shacks and plantations of Texas they sang:
“God, we thank you for saving our lives.”

“All persons henceforth shall be free”
were the words spoken in 1863
today we reinforce with thanksgiving
God’s life, love and liberty.

From the depths of our hearts we cry:
“God, we thank you for deliverance.”

The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth

On “Freedom’s Eve,” or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.

Juneteenth marks our country’s second independence day. Although it has long been celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.

The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.

– from The National Museum of African American History and Culture



NATIONAL MUSEUM
of **AFRICAN AMERICAN**
HISTORY & CULTURE

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
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care , 1 st Floor
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org GLOW! , Thomas Room, 2 nd Floor <i>Children & Youth are dismissed from the sanctuary after Thought for the Day</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.

"Pushing the Boat Out"

The United Church of Christ celebrates our 67th anniversary this weekend. These opening paragraphs of our history describe the ways in which very different faith communities prepared to live into the slogan "in essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." How does your congregation still live out that slogan today?

On Tuesday, June 25, 1957, at Cleveland, Ohio, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, 23 years old, passionate in its impulse to unity, committed to "liberty of conscience inherent in the Gospel," and the Congregational Christian Churches, 26 years old, a fellowship of biblical people under a mutual covenant for responsible freedom in Christ, joined together as the United Church of Christ. The new church embodied the essence of both parents, a complement of freedom with order, of the English and European Reformations with the American Awakenings, of separatism with 20th-century ecumenism, of presbyterian with congregational polities, of neoorthodox with liberal theologies. Two million members joined hands...

A message was sent to the churches from the Uniting General Synod, signed by its moderators, Louis W. Goebel and George B. Hastings, its co-presidents, and co-secretaries Sheldon E. Mackey and Fred S. Buschmeyer. After acknowledging the separate ancestries of the parties to the union and citing ecumenical "relatives" of both denominations, the message stated, "Differences in ecclesiastical procedure, which in sundry places and times have occasioned tensions and disorders, are appointed their secondary place and are divested of evil effect." The union, the message continued, was possible because the "two companies of Christians hold the same basic belief: that Christ and Christ alone is the head of the Church ... From him [we] derive the understanding of God, ... participation in the same spirit, the doctrines of faith, the influence toward holiness, the duties of divine worship, the apprehension of the significance of baptism and the Lord's Supper, the observance of church order, the mutual love of Christians and their dedication to the betterment of the world" ("Report on the Uniting General Synod:" Advance, July 12, 1957, p. 22).

You can read more of the story of the birth and early decade of our denomination by navigating to:

<https://www.ucc.org/who-we-are/about/history/#united-church>



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE