



Healing Powers

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

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

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Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant* | Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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

Elders of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

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 30, 2024

Sixth 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**

We come with all our hopes and longings to find rest for our souls.

We gather here to worship God.

We come with all our disappointments and dreams to gain strength for our lives.

We gather here to worship God.

Come, let us worship.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of all our longings, you are the fire that kindles our hearts with hope and possibility. You fill us with desire for life, and you hear our voices whether we shout for joy or cry out with sorrow. We trust in you and give thanks for your presence in all the stages of our lives. Help us to be open to the movement of your Holy Spirit in your world. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Now Thank We All Our God

#419

Stanza 1 in German
Stanzas 2, 3 in English

**Nun danket alle Gott, mit Herzen, Mund und Händen,
der grosse Dinge tut an uns und allen Enden;
der uns von Mutterleib und Kindesbeinen an
unzählig viel zu gut bis hierher hat getan.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Out of the depths, we cry to God, in our suffering, and in our pain. Out of the depths God cries to us, asking us to repent, to return to God with our whole hearts, to admit our sin, and to accept forgiveness. So let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Out of our depths, we cry to you, O God.
You know us better than we know ourselves.
You know our hurts and fears and discouragements.
We are sorry when our actions and non-actions hurt others.
Heal us when we give up hope and allow fear and shallow self-interest to
dominate our lives.
Help us when we lose sight of who we are and forgive us when we make
enemies of those you have given us to love.
Out of our depths, we cry to you, O God. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Listen and find comfort
God loves us.
God forgives us.
This is a new day.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

MUSIC FROM OUR GERMAN FRIENDS

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 at the front near the baptismal font.

*HYMN

There Was Jesus by the Water

#545

**There was Jesus by the water speaking to the pressing crowd,
When, behold, there came a ruler from the synagogue, who bowed,
Saying, "Come and heal my daughter, lay your healing hands upon her,
heal her, please, that she may live."**

**As the Savior healed another, news was brought that she was dead.
"Do not trouble Jesus further." Jesus heard the news and said,
"I will come and see your daughter, and will lay my hands upon her,
Do not fear, she yet may live."**

**Jesus went back with the ruler where they heard the mourners weep.
Jesus said unto the wailers, "Why this tumult – she's asleep.
I will go unto his daughter, and will lay my hands upon her,
Do not laugh, only believe."**

**Jesus touched the little daughter, saying, "Little girl, arise!"
And she rose to see her father's and her mother's stunned surprise.
They then held their little daughter and they laid their hands upon her,
Trusting how he made her live."**

THE SCRIPTURES

Jack Day, read in German

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 OT page 275

Mark 5:21-43 NT page 39

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MORNING PRAYERS

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

Generosity does not measure the resources we have. Rather, it notes the capacity we have to give from the abundance we have received and the trust we place in God's generosity to renew the gifts we bring. Let us give generously to meet the needs that confront our community and to demonstrate the power of our collective faithfulness.

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

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Senior Choir
– African-American Spiritual
arr. A. Snyder

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, accept these gifts we bring. May they be a symbol of our desire and commitment to play our part in your unfolding story of love.

*CLOSING HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West

#394

**In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.**

**In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.**

***BENEDICTION**

Let us go from this place to serve the world God loves
with hearts full of tenderness and joy
and minds full of eagerness and hope.

And may the blessing of God who goes with us and meets us on the way
surround each one, this day and always. **Amen.**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.



**We welcome our friends from Klein Schwechten to our service today:
Paul Büttgen, Hedi Hoedt, Lieven Hoffmann, Magnus Köhn, Ida Schaaf,
Hann Schaaf, Margarethe Schernikau, Friederike Schernikau,
Jaron Schlemmer, Fin Schmidt, Stefan Schlemmer, Maren Schlemmer,
Rene Schernikau, and Kathrin Schernikau.**

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

Today, in lieu of Fellowship in the Community Room, we will gather for an **All-Church Picnic** at Catoctin Creek Park, 2929 Sumantown Rd, Middletown.

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in loving memory of Michael Rhoads by Barbara, Gregory, and Belinda.

The yellow rose is placed in honor of all military personnel who served past and present by Jeff and Starr Schaeberle.

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: 14 at 8:30 AM, 118 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 30

Deacons: Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins
Elder: Peter Brehm
Scripture Reader: Jack Day
Greeters: Susan Kulp, David Howard
David and Robin Cooney
Welcome Table: Marj Berkheimer, Sue Pinner
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Larry Martin
Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery: Meredith Neely
Fellowship: ALL CHURCH PICNIC
at Catoctin Creek Park
2929 Sumantown Rd, Middletown

Serving Next Week: July 7

Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins
Tyler L. York
Zaydan Fulp
Susan Kulp, David Howard
Cathie Duncan, Danielle Carbone
Julie Clark, Holly Davis
Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Schaeberle
Julie Clark, Joe Adkins, Quynn Adkins
Hollie Mercier, Kyle Miller
Pat Dorsz, Bobby Van Dyk

Next Sunday: July 7 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 | Mark 6:1-13

Jesus' hometown crowd didn't think much of him – they said he was behaving way above his station. Why weren't they happy a local had made good? Human nature is like that, when people we know change, we don't hesitate to remind them of the foibles of their past as if their changing is offensive to us. But God's story is one of transformation. God desires authentic change. This week, we are challenged to consider our call, as individuals and as a church; who accompanies us and whom do we accompany; how and whom do we reject. How might inclusivity be encouraged as we take our place in the accomplishment of God's vision of mercy, justice, and peace?

We will share in communion this morning.

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

Activities and Events at ERUCC

ERUCC – GERMAN PARTNERSHIP

Our German friends are here through 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 30, 12:00-3:00 PM – All Church Picnic at Catoctin Creek Park.
- 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 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:

- 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

CREATING HOUSE CLEANING PACKAGES FOR SHIP STUDENTS

As part of our German Partnership, our youth and German youth will be packing up “Welcome Home” bags for students in SHIP (Frederick’s Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) on the 4th of July.

We are collecting items to make 12 kits. **Please consider bringing these items to worship on Sunday, June 30, to the Church picnic on June 30, or to the church office by noon on July 1.**

- Paper towel rolls
- antibacterial wipes
- toilet paper
- Dawn Dish Soap (specifically DAWN! It can also be used for fighting lice and bedbugs)
- dish sponge/brillo pads
- liquid hand soap

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, July 23

North Room / Zoom

7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669



Anxious People by Fredrik Backman. Looking at real estate isn't usually a life-or-death situation, but an apartment open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage. The captives include a recently retired couple who relentlessly hunt down fixer-uppers to avoid the painful truth that they can't fix their own marriage. There's a wealthy bank director who has been too busy to care about anyone else and a young couple who are about to have their first child but can't seem to agree on anything. Add to the mix an eighty-seven-year-old woman who has lived long enough not to be afraid of someone waving a gun in her face, a flustered but still-ready-to-make-a-deal real estate agent, and a mystery man who has locked himself in the apartment's only bathroom, and you've got the worst group of hostages in the world.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY NEXT WEEK

Mortgage Assistance: On the first Sunday of each month, we have a special opportunity for giving towards Mortgage Assistance. Donations fund ERUCC's mortgages with the Fisher Fund and FCB Bank, a division of ACNB Bank, payments on which are about \$153,000/year.

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 & YOUTH! ✨
Sundays, July 14, 21, and 28 following Thought for the Day in worship

We are thrilled to invite all children and youth from Pre-K through middle school to our summer program **GLOW!** This special program will take place during the "Junior Church" time (following Thought for the Day in worship) in the Thomas Room.

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

✨ Fun games

✨ Theme-related short skits

✨ 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.

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

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.

CHURCH PARKING LOT REMINDERS

Please save spaces in our parking lot on Sunday mornings for people who have reduced mobility. City of Frederick public garage parking is free on Sunday from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Kindly call the church office in advance at 301.662.2762 to confirm space is available before parking during the week.

ERUCC COLLECTS ITEMS FOR FREDERICK FOODBANK YEAR-ROUND

Remember! ERUCC collects items for the City of Frederick Foodbank, operated by the Department of Housing & Human Services. The foodbank provides a three—to five-day supply of food to individuals and families facing an economic crisis who cannot afford to buy their groceries. Currently, the City operates two locations, serving between 600 and 800 households each month.

You can find donation baskets in the Trinity Chapel narthex and the Main Sanctuary narthex every week. The Foodbank accepts a wide range of donations, including non-perishable food items such as:

- Breakfast cereals
 - Canned fruits
 - Canned meats
 - Canned vegetables
 - Pasta
 - Rice
 - Other staple items
(home canned foods cannot be accepted)
-



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
SUMMER READS
Birth, Death, and Resurrection in a Climate-Changed World

July 18: *The Quickenings*, Elizabeth Rush
August 15: *Our Last Best Act*, Mallory McDuff
September 19: *Life After Doom*, Brian McLaren

CREATIONJUSTICE.ORG/SUMMERREADS

The graphic features a light beige background with a faint city skyline. At the top, it says 'Creation Justice Ministries' and 'SUMMER READS' in large, bold letters. Below that is the subtitle 'Birth, Death, and Resurrection in a Climate-Changed World'. A list of dates and book titles follows. At the bottom, there are three book covers: 'The Quickenings' by Elizabeth Rush, 'Our Last Best Act' by Mallory McDuff, and 'Life After Doom' by Brian McLaren. The URL 'CREATIONJUSTICE.ORG/SUMMERREADS' is at the bottom left.

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:

www.creationjustice.org/summerreads



HISTORIC CLOCK TOWER PRESERVATION CAMPAIGN



It is time to repair and restore the historic and iconic clock tower, complete with the belfry, lantern, and spire of Trinity Chapel. Dry rot and decay, both natural byproducts of age, along with water damage and weathering over the years, require restoration. The estimate for repair is \$1,000,000.

Why make such an investment? The most important reason is the message it gives. We display a large banner declaring that God is still speaking. The tower declares a companion message: God is still here – and God is not going anywhere – and neither are we. Our belfry, clock tower, lantern, and spire still remind people of God's presence and reassure all passersby that God is still here.

Together we can meet this challenge. You received letters and a commitment card in the mail. The cards are slowly returning, and people are being generous. We need more responses, however. Please return your card using the self-addressed, stamped envelope, or bring it to church with you and place it in a designated collection basket.

We launched our community campaign earlier this month. The Community Foundation stands ready to collect donations. Check out our website: saveourspires.org. You will see a wonderful video telling about the project. Show it to your friends and encourage them to donate. Get the word out in every way you can. Our belfry, clock, lantern, and spire belong to the heart and soul of Frederick. We are the stewards. Let's get the job done. Send in your card today.

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.

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
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.

“Healing Powers”

Today we celebrate the United Church of Christ’s commitment to growing into a fully Open and Affirming (ONA) fellowship, as we read a story of Jesus healing those who have been marginalized and outcast. Following Christ, the UCC has been a beacon for healing and hope for those pushed to the edges because of their sexual or gender identity.

“Beginning in 1969, the United Church of Christ has advocated for the LGBT community. From the campaign to decriminalize same-sex relationships to support for marriage equality, the UCC has made a difference in the lives of LGBT citizens and their families. The issues have changed over the decades, but the basic commitment to full inclusion and human rights remains the same...

The ONA National Gathering this coming September is the family reunion of the Open and Affirming movement in the United Church of Christ! Members of any church—ONA or not-yet ONA—are welcome to attend. Expect a celebration with exuberant music, inspiring preaching, and workshops that will feed your mind and soul.

While the Religious Right and their allies in federal and state governments are renewing their attack on the basic civil liberties of LGBTQ Americans, and our international queer siblings are experiencing attacks and unconscionable laws, our growing community of churches needs to respond with confidence, commitment and faith.

This September’s National Gathering will focus on how ONA churches can act faithfully in our current social and political climate. We’ll learn best practices from vital and growing ONA churches. And, as is always true at our Gatherings, we’ll explore the intersections of our movement with other movements for social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.”

Find out more about how to register and at openandaffirming.org

