

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, light-colored, textured object. The hand is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with fingers curled around the object. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. Overlaid on the image is the text 'Be Love' in a handwritten style. The word 'Be' is in black, 'Love' is in blue, and the letter 'L' is replaced by a red heart symbol. A vertical green gradient bar is on the left side of the image.

Be Love

Thank you for worshiping 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

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*

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

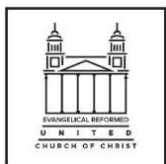
Quynn Adkins | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer | Angela Brittain

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 –



September 1, 2024

Fifteenth 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

Excerpt from *Northern Lights*

– Eric Ewazen
Jenna Duranko, marimba

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Song of Solomon 2: 8-13)

Hear the voice of the Beloved,
who comes leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills;

**Our Beloved, like a gazelle or a young deer,
stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows,
Beloved speaks and calls to us:**

Arise, my love, my dear one, and come away;
for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;

The time of singing has come,

and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, O love, O dear one, and join me.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creator God, you have loved us passionately into being.

We come today seeking your presence and to know we are your beloved!

**Enter our sanctuary and enter our hearts that we may look into your
loving gaze and see ourselves reflected there, as you see us.**

**Let our love for you reflect and mirror your perfect love as we gather as
your Beloved Community. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

For the Beauty of the Earth

#28

**For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thought and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

We are so often too slow to listen and to act, too quick to speak and to form excuses for our inaction, too quick to get angry and to look away from those in need. Let us ask forgiveness from God and each other by praying together:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Dear God, you call us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only.
You call us to love the world with your passion and to let that love be
expressed in justice, forgiveness, and peace.
Forgive us when our hearts are constricted with fear and do not let your
transforming grace open us to the world you cherish.
Forgive us when we honor you only with our lips and not with our actions.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, we are forgiven by God who always listens, who is always ready to hear us speak, and who longs to extend love and care to us.

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.

THE SCRIPTURES

Glenn Wallace-Weitz

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

NT 181

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

NT page 42

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Who Do You Resemble?*

Rev. Phyllis Byrd

MORNING PRAYERS

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

Hear these words from James 1:17:

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift is from above.”

We are thankful for the generosity within us that comes from God.

May we give generously to support God's church.

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 worshipping 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

Excerpt from *The Light You Bring*

– Nathan Daughtrey
Jenna Duranko, marimba

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of lights, we pause to bring ourselves and our resources to contribute to God's work. Accept our offerings of time and skill, listening and speaking. May they help spread your care and attention. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

***COMMUNION HYMN**

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

#331

**Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as conquers death.**

**Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.**

**Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.**

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 to the chancel rail, where you will be served the bread and the cup. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. The cup contains grape juice (apple juice is provided in the center of each tray) and all bread is gluten-free. Please partake of the elements as they are given to you, then give the empty cup to the nearby steward before returning to your seat by the side aisle. If you want to receive the elements in the pew for any reason, please notify a deacon.

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.**

*BENEDICTION

Go back into the world assured of God’s love for you and for us all.
Go back into the world with joy and energy to create
God’s Beloved Community wherever you are. **Amen.**

***THREEFOLD AMEN**

#812

POSTLUDE *Please be seated.*
Land

– Takatsugu Muramatsu
Jenna Duranko, marimba



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



Rev. Phyllis Byrd was born and raised in _____ City. Her bio has a blank because she wants you to guess her place of birth, based on the names of her dogs:

- Brooklyn
- Bear
- Bronx
- Ithaca

Rev. Phyllis Byrd is an Ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ. Thirty-four years ago, she was invited to work with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the area of Peace and reconciliation in Africa. She worked at the All Africa Conference of Churches when Archbishop Desmond Tutu was the President. Reverend Phyllis has worked extensively throughout Africa. She is currently the Director of the Just Communities Program for the Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC).

The Just Communities program (JCP) seeks to raise the capacity of our members and communities throughout Africa, to call to account the various institutions within society –the family, economy, politics, government, the church, and others to evaluate and challenge them on how well they enable each segment of society to live productively and with dignity. At the same time, the JCP and member churches challenge and evaluate the global trends that cause worldwide inequalities that result in massive poverty and inequalities in the world.

Rev. Byrd's appointment is made possible by our gifts to the Our Church's Wider Mission and direct gifts to Global Ministries.

Make a gift that supports the work of Rev: Byrd: <https://www.globalministries.org/donation>.

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 are in loving memory of my mother, Isabell A. Boone, whose birthday is September 7, by Jo Ann Fritz.

The yellow rose is presented in honor of veterans by Peter Brehm and Jack Day.

Attendance Last Sunday: 20 at 8:30 AM, 137 at 10:30 AM, and 38 online.



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

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

Serving Today: September 1

Deacons: Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins
Elder: Eric Weakly
Scripture Reader: Glenn Wallace-Weitz
Greeters: Anne Hoffmann, Rob Smith
Rob Peters, Danielle Carbone
Welcome Table: Julie Clark, Holly Davis
Lobby Attendant: Darryl Glick
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Jeff Schaeberle
Jeff Baker, Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery: Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship: Julie Clark, Joe Adkins, Quynn
Hollie Mercier, Kyle Miller
Pat Dorsz, Bobby Van Dyk

Serving Next Week: September 8

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Jeanellen Kallevang
Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Ave Barr, Sue Pinner
Felecia Bishop, Cliff Barr
Robert Black, Thi Nguyen
Jaci Clayton
Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Emily Spear, Ben, Abby
*Rejoice in Our Welcome:
Milk and Cookies*

Next Sunday: September 8 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

James 2:1-17 | Mark 7:24-27

The first lesson, James 2:1-17, relates the responsibilities of Christians, emphasizing charity as a sign of living faith. In the Gospel lesson from Mark 7:24-27, Jesus is encountered by a Syrophenician woman who earnestly asks him to heal her daughter. Though the woman and her daughter are Gentiles, Jesus reaches out in compassion and heals the daughter.

We will celebrate Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday! We will commission and bless those leading Christian education and formation for the coming year. Spirit will be sharing in music leadership 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.

Members who are in nursing homes and those who currently reside in their homes but are unable to come to Sunday morning services 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:

Kat Weedon (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Tom Frazier
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)
Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
Tyler Schaeberle
Pauline Marendt
Cliff Barr
Haley Duff
Sherry Murray
Charlotte Blue and Family (friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
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 Jo Ann 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

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY

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.

REJOICE IN OUR WELCOME SUNDAY

Sunday, September 8

Let us rejoice in God's extravagant welcome! On Sunday, September 8 we will surely rejoice as we celebrate our connection and community as we launch a new year of faith formation activities for children, youth, and adults.

Classes begin for **Children's Sunday School**, with classrooms for Pre-K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade, and **Youth Sunday School**, with classrooms for Middle School (6th-8th grade) and High School (9th-12th grade). Junior Church will also begin for children aged 5-5th grade and will again take place during worship following the Thought for the Day.

Faith formation for adults also returns with **Let's Study the Bible**, led by Rev. John Shillingburg.

Dr. Morgan will preach and lead us in worship, Spirit will lead us in song, and we will commission and bless Christian Education and faith formation teachers.

Following the 10:30 AM worship service, we encourage you to connect during a special time of Fellowship featuring a treat of milk and cookies in the Community Room.

Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday will certainly be a joy-filled day. If you have friends or family looking for a church community, this is a great opportunity to invite them to experience ERUCC.

GET-OUT-THE VOTE POSTCARDING

Sunday, September 8

Community Room, 9:00 – 10:15 AM

Join us in making a difference this November by helping to send non-partisan Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) postcards aimed at increasing BIPOC voter turnout in Georgia. Your support can empower infrequent voters who are overlooked by political campaigns, offering a bridge from non-voter to empowered voter. Come be a part of this impactful initiative to help make every voice count! You can also help with postcards immediately and on your own time from home.

Contacts: Rebecca Shillingburg, rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com, and Kathleen Jefferson, kathleen.jefferson@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDIES for ADULTS

SUNDAY MORNING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

with Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg
Sundays, beginning September 8
North Room / Zoom, 9:00 – 10:15 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERsunstudy
Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888
Passcode: 327128

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg
Tuesdays, beginning September 10
North Room / Zoom, 11:00 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERTuesday
Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398
Passcode: 973365

WEDNESDAY EVENING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

with Rev. John Shillingburg
Wednesdays, beginning September 11
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy
Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500
Passcode: 848933

LET'S TALK: AN EXPLORATION OF PRAYER

led by Rev. Richard Leslie
Sundays, September 15 – October 6
Flora Room, 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM

Jesus was a man of prayer. What does this mean for you and me? Can we have hope in this time? What is the relationship between our prayers, our hope, and contemporary physics? We will talk about, and all participate in the experience of centering prayer.

Let's Talk is an adult educational opportunity that focuses on how we can live out our faith and share our knowledge and expertise. If you have any questions or have ideas for a presentation or topic, contact Linda Coyle, [lkcoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:lkcoble@yahoo.com)

YOUNG ADULT GAME NIGHT

Sunday, September 15
Community Room, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Save the date for a fun evening of games and fellowship!

Contact Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE TRANSITIONS

Tuesday, September 24

Flora Room, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Join us for a special gathering where we will share stories and challenges related to life's changes, body limitations, and shifts in dependency. This is a sacred space to listen, pray, and connect as we navigate these transitions together. Pastor Kirstin and Ave Barr will lead us in this time of holy sharing, emphasizing the importance of leaning on each other and recognizing that we are not alone in our journeys.

Contact Ave Barr, Linda Coyle, or Pastor Kirstin with questions.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

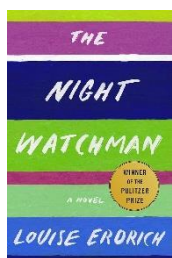
Tuesday, September 24

North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669



The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich. Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather, who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, September 28

Worman's Mill Clubhouse, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

At this retreat, we will discover and practice rest based on Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith's book *Sacred Rest*, explore which kind of rest each of us individually needs, and offer choices to practice rest in various ways.

We celebrate and honor the diverse identities and expressions embodied in the feminine spirit. Regardless of how you were defined by doctors at birth, you define yourself. All those who connect with any aspect of the feminine are welcome to join us at this retreat.



Registration required: bit.ly/0828retreat

Cost: \$20 per person. Lunch from Prospect Pantry is included.



MISSION TRIP TO BERKS COUNTY, PA

October 6 – 11

In June 2023, a devastating flood wreaked havoc on Alsace Township and the surrounding areas in Berks County, PA. The aftermath left homes, businesses, schools, and roads severely damaged.

Now, we have a chance to lend a hand on a mission trip to Berks County from October 6-11. With leadership from the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference UCC's Disaster Ministries, we have been called to the area to lend a hand. Our base will be at The Bridge Fellowship Church in Reading, PA, where comfortable accommodations await us in men's and women's bunk rooms. Plus, there's full access to kitchen facilities and bathrooms with showers.

Our work will be coordinated through Lutheran Disaster Ministries and focuses on home restoration tasks like drywalling, woodworking, flooring, and painting. Don't worry if you're not a pro—every skill level is welcome! We'll have a construction coordinator onsite to guide us and a tool trailer stocked with everything we need.

Our deadline to register our group is September 8, so if you're interested or want more details, contact Sedonia Martin at (410) 596-5419 or smartin@towson.edu.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. **Reject racism.**

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.



Children, Youth, & Families

YOUTH GROUP – OVERNIGHT PLANNING RETREAT

Friday, September 6 – Saturday, September 7
Camp Manidokan

Let's kickstart Youth Group this year with an overnight planning retreat! Our time together will include high ropes and pizza on Friday night and breakfast, lunch, and rec games on Saturday. We will envision and plan programming, activities, and mission projects for the 2024-2025 year.

RSVP on BAND app. Cost \$40. Pay by check or online by scanning the QR code or at ppay.co/QPDotubetQg



Parents will join us for planning on Saturday afternoon. Parents should let Pastor Kirstin know if they want lunch by August 23. Lunch cost is \$10.

GLOW! PARTY

Saturday, September 7
Community Room, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

All children and youth from Pre-K through middle school are invited to our end-of-summer GLOW Party with glowsticks and surprises galore!

Contact Trish Coffey at (240) 815-9118 or trishcoffey1195@gmail.com or Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org with questions.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL and MUSIC & MOVEMENT

begins Sunday, September 8

Children's **Sunday School** takes place in ERUCC's main building. Children should be checked in by one of their grown-ups at the Check-In Station in the Kieffer Lobby before class.

Pre-K – 2nd Grade

Liz Coffey Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

3rd – 5th Grade

Thomas Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

Immediately following Sunday School, children may participate in **Children's Music and Movement**, where they will rehearse songs to perform in the 10:30 AM worship service about once a month. Participating children should be checked out by their grown-ups from the Liz Coffey Room at 10:20 AM. If not participating, children should be checked out from their Sunday School classroom at 10:00 AM.

JUNIOR CHURCH

resumes September 8

Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, meets most Sundays during the school year. Children ages 5 years-5th grade begin 10:30 AM worship in the sanctuary with their families, then dismiss after the Thought for the Day for well-supervised instruction and activities held in the Thomas Room, located one floor below the sanctuary. On the first Sunday of each month, children participate in worship and communion with their families.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

begins Sunday, September 8

Trinity Chapel, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Youth Sunday School, with classes for Middle School and High School, meets in ERUCC's Trinity Chapel, 10 W. Church Street. Enter through the side door behind the iron gate on the left side of the building. Always use crosswalks when crossing the street. Youth will be checked in by teachers in their classrooms upon arrival. When class ends at 10:15 AM, Youth will return as a group to the Kieffer Lobby in the main building.

Other Announcements

DO YOU HAVE YOUR NAMETAG?

If you've lost your nametag, misplaced it, or never received one, please let us know so we can make sure you have one ready for Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday on September 8. Nametags are essential for connecting with guests, remembering names, and strengthening our community bonds. You can request a nametag using the request cards available at the Welcome Table before and after worship, or simply contact the church office at erucc@eruc.org.

VOTE WITH LOVE – OUR FAITH OUR VOTE

The United Church of Christ's 2024 Our Faith Our Vote campaign asks the church to answer the call of 1 John 3:18 to "let us not love with words or speech, but in action and in truth," by voting with love.



Vote with love for creation, for our neighbors both here and abroad, for a just peace, for repair and reconciliation of the brokenness of our nation. Encourage your family, friends, and community to do the same. The 2024 election season is well underway, so please check www.ucc.org/our-faith-our-vote for nonpartisan resources to empower faithful engagement in our nation's democratic process.

Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday

Sunday, September 8

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ
extends God's open and extravagant welcome to you.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!

EARLY WORSHIP | 8:30 AM

An Intimate Service with Communion and Prayer

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE | 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study

SUNDAY SCHOOL | 9:15 AM

Children and Youth Faith Formation

WORSHIP | 10:30 AM

A Vibrant, Intergenerational Service

JUNIOR CHURCH

Children's Faith Formation

dismissed from Worship

FELLOWSHIP | 11:30 AM

A Celebration of Connection and Community



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



ERUCC is an
Open and Affirming
Congregation

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor* ~ mmorgan@erucc.org

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

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Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant*

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The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

CONSISTORY

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Jim Brittain | Matt Davis | Harrison Fisher | Kyle Miller

TRANSITION TEAM

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

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

8:30 – 9:15 AM	Early Worship , 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 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org
11:30 AM	Fellowship , Community Room, 1 st Floor

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1, 2024

James 1:17-27

Be Love

In her book “The Gift to Listen, The Courage to Hear” the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson describes the impact soul listening has on our relationships with God and one another.

Soul listening is not to be confused with active listening, which is what we are taught early in life to succeed in the world. The goal of active listening is mutual understanding.

Soul listening’s goal, though, is to discover the riches buried deeply within our souls. It makes visible the divine within each of us. This kind of listening, writes Jackson, tells others that they are “important, loved and valued.”

Soul listening gets to the heart of what James was saying to the Christians scattered outside of Israel when he wrote “be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

Even in an ancient society void of voicemails and texting, James observed how the torrential downpour of words could do more harm than good. For when we are quick to fill those pregnant pauses — which are vital in forming thoughtful, loving responses — we drown out the voice of the Holy One who is always among us.

How many misunderstandings, fights, break-ups and church splits might have been avoided if only we listened — soul listened — first?

James’ words come to us today not as a tip on how to better communicate with one another, but rather on how to better love one another.

Twentieth-century theologian, Paul Tillich, believed that listening and love were intertwined, writing that, “the first duty to love was to listen.”

Life doesn’t need to be hard or heated or hurtful. Listen with love to your friends and family. Listen with love to the stranger you meet. Listen with love to the one you might disagree with. Listen to the one who is crying or laughing. More importantly, listen to the one who is silent. Listen with your soul, not your ears.

Divine Listener, who never fails to hear my cries, help me this day to listen to others with the same love and understanding you show me. May this day I talk less, and soul listen more. Amen.



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

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