



Wisdom*Quest*



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.

More information about the church can be found in this bulletin and at 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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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 –



August 11, 2024

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from
The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Brehm

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

Sinfonia

– J.S. Bach

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather to worship God who loves, forgives, and meets with us individually and in community. Let us put aside those things that will get in the way of worship today.

We put aside the things that will get in the way of worship today.

Let us build up and develop those things that will add to our worship today.

We build up and develop the things that will add to our worship today.

We gather to worship God in community.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God who loves us, who hears us when we are joyful and who hears us when we despair, hear our prayers and songs this morning.

Be close to us as we worship in joy and in sorrow.

Help us to be close to each other, helping and supporting, and reflecting the love of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Community of Christ

#314

**Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:**

**The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.**

**Community of Christ, look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.**

**Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.**

**Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound -
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world 'round:**

**Disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.**

**When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;**

**Our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident of God's love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Redeemer God, forgive us. We confess to our words and actions that grieve you. We speak words that divide and alienate rather than words that heal and invite dialogue. Help us to move past bitterness, anger, and resentment and toward reconciliation, gratitude, and hope. Renew us for life in community with our neighbors, friends, and foes. Guide us in the path of life and love. Forgive and release us from the bonds of guilt and shame so that we can be free to change and grow, free to receive your power and new life, and free to be your agents of transformation in the world. Holy God, in your mercy, hear our plea. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Redeemed, our Holy God hears your cries and responds to your call. New life in Christ awaits you. Receive the redemptive power of the Spirit at work with you and through you to a world that can and will be redeemed and restored in the name of our Blessed God.

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

O Word of God Incarnate

#315

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of clouded sky:
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

**O God, we hold this treasure from you, its source divine,
a light that to all ages throughout the earth will shine;
It is the chart and compass that all life's voyage through,
'mid mists and rocks and tempest, still guides, O God, to you.**

**O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,
to bear before all people your true light as of old!
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,
till, doubt and striving ended, they meet you face to face.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Patti Patterson

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 OT page 292

John 6:35, 41-51 NT page 98

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

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

Ephesians 4:25 reminds us that we are members of one another. That is true of the church, humanity, and all creation. The gifts we receive to sustain us have been given for our common good. When one member lacks, we all lack. When one flourishes, we all share in the abundance. Let us give generously to ensure all needs are met and God is glorified.

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

Lamb of God

– T. Paris, arr. L. Larson
Nancy Jones, Vanessa McCambridge

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, thank you for the gift of generosity. Make us bold stewards of the resources you provide. Increase our offerings and let our ministry testify to your goodness, nurture, and care for all. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

#77

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace;
Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

**We give thanks and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound:
Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.**

**So that when your love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,
Fear of death shall not appall us, glad your summons to obey:
May we ever, may we ever live with you in endless day.**

***BENEDICTION**

May you move forward from this time of worship assured of your redemption and empowered to be agents of redemption...transforming despair to hope, pain to joy, and endings to beginnings. **Amen.**

***THREEFOLD AMEN**

#812

POSTLUDE *Please be seated.*

Little Prelude and Fuge in B-flat

– J.S. Bach



Worship Notes: Today's liturgy is from UCC Worship Ways. ***For Redemption:*** Service Prayers for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

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 loving memory of Isabel Kreh Wilcoxon, Susan Nelson Cramer Kreh, and Lola Ann Dorcus by Susan Kreh.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 102 at 10:30 AM, and 32 online.



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

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

Serving Today: August 11

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer

Elder: Ave Barr

Scripture Reader: Patti Patterson

Greeters: Cathie Duncan
Danielle Carbone
Bob and Nancy Manthey

Welcome Table: Robert Black, Betsy Selby

Lobby Attendant: Niel Jefferson

Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle
Jeff Baker

Nursery: Meredith Neely

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

Serving Next Week: August 18

Harrison Fisher, Kyle Miller

Ave Barr

Eliza Stitely

Tom and Rachel Ford
David and Robin Cooney

Molly Black, Sue Pinner

Rich Stolz

Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle
Kelly Esslinger

Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer
Peter Brehm, Rob McGuire
Alex Martinez, Felecia Bishop

Next Sunday: August 18 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 | Mark 6:51-58

In 1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14, Solomon becomes king, and is a fine exemplar of a wise person with his request for the gift of discernment. People listening to Jesus, struggle to discern his message in John 6:51–58. Just as God provides wisdom to Solomon, Jesus provides spiritual nourishment to the people. Together, these passages affirm the centrality of God’s gift of wisdom in the life of faith. Our scriptures remind us through encouragement, example, prayer, and story, to take care and remain attentive to the way of God, the way of wisdom.

The Rev. David Cooney will be preaching and leading worship.

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:

Tom Frazier
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)
Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
Tyler Schaeberle
Pauline Marendt
Cliff Barr
Haley Duff
Bill Gourlie
Sherry Murray
Jack Mens
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 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

OVERDOSE RESPONSE TRAINING

Friday, August 16

Community Room

5:00 – 6:00 PM

Be prepared. Save a life. Learn the signs of an overdose and how to use Naloxone (i.e. Narcan) at an Opioid Overdose Response Training offered for free in partnership with the Frederick County Health Department and the Frederick Community Fridge. Registration is not required.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 18

10:30 AM Worship

The first day of school is just around the corner! Join us for our annual celebration and blessing for the start of the new school year. ALL students, teachers, and staff, from all levels of school are invited to bring their backpack, tote bag, or briefcase to church for a special on Sunday, August 18.

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 opportunities for adults also resume with **Let's Study the Bible**, led by Rev. John Shillingburg, and the first session of a **Let's Talk** series on prayer, led by Rev. Richard Leslie.

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 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 Sunday is a great opportunity to invite them to come and learn more about ERUCC.



Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday
Sunday, September 8

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

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, September 23

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

Save the date! We will discover and practice rest based on Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith's book *Sacred Rest*, explore further which kind of rest each of us is individually in need of, and offer choices to practice rest in a number of ways. Lunch will be provided from Prospect Pantry. Cost for the retreat is \$20 per person. Registration will begin later in August.

MISSION TRIP TO BERKS COUNTY, PA

October 6 - 11

Exciting news from the Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Team! We've been given the green light for a mission trip in Berks County, Pennsylvania, from October 6-11, 2024.

In June of 2023, a devastating flash flood wreaked havoc on Alsace Township and the surrounding areas in Berks County. The aftermath left homes, businesses, schools, and roads severely damaged. Despite the damages, they were denied state and federal aid, leaving many without the resources to rebuild. Local churches and civic organizations have stepped up to meet the needs of this community.

Now, we have a chance to make a real difference. 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.

This is an opportunity to do meaningful work and connect with a community in need. The registration deadline is September 8, 2024, so if you're interested or want more details, reach out to Sedonia Martin at 410-596-5419 or smartin@towson.edu.

Let's come together and make a difference where it truly matters.

Children and Youth Ministry

POOL PARTY – CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

Sunday, August 18

3:00 – 5:00 PM

Splash! As we say goodbye to summer, we invite families of children and youth to play at a parent-supervised pool party at the home of Rodney and Becky Martin (3228 Middle Ridge Way, Middletown). Bring snacks to share (no glass containers please) and a camp chair to have a comfy place to sit.

Please RSVP to Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org; Youth should RSVP on Band app.

YOUTH GROUP – OVERNIGHT PLANNING MEETING

Friday, September 6 – Saturday, September 7

Camp Manidokan

Let's kickstart our Youth Group this year with an overnight planning meeting! 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.

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



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

Stay Informed

Subscribe to receive e-news from ERUCC at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code!



Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

<p>WEBSITE www.erucc.org/give</p>  <p><i>one time or recurring gifts</i></p>	<p>GIVE THE NEW WAY</p>  <p><i>We're moving to a better way of giving. Scan to try it for yourself!</i></p>	<p>CASH OR CHECK <i>made payable to</i> Evangelical Reformed UCC 15 W. Church St, Frederick MD 21701</p>  <p><i>offering plates are available in the rear of the sanctuary before and after worship</i></p>
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Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

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

Worship services and events at Evangelical Reformed UCC are sometimes photographed and videotaped to document the vibrant life of our church. If you do not wish to be included in these recordings, please notify a deacon or the church office. Always obtain permission prior to sharing images and videos that include minors on your personal social media.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 18, 2024

1 Kings 2:10–12, 3:3–14

“Wisdom Quest”

It's the time of year when many of us prepare members of our households - or ourselves - to return to school. If you are a life-long learner and would like to return to school, the United Church of Christ has many opportunities for you, including Pathways. Pathways, an online program in progressive theology, offers many points of entry and programs of different lengths and intensity depending on what the student would like to focus on.

“PATHWAYS offers you a program for progressive theological engagement that values the past without being limited by it, moving intentionally into the present while looking boldly towards the future. We provide a welcoming online space to bring your questions, doubts, and desire to deepen your understanding. Pathways welcome all people who yearn for a still-speaking God. Whether you are on the path to authorized ministry, want to hone your current skills, or just want to explore your faith more deeply, we have a program for you.

What Makes PATHWAYS Unique

Why does a Pathways education work so well for its students?

- Affordable, Accessible, and Flexible – We are able to include students from a diversity of regions, backgrounds, and economic means, with coursework that flexes around the rest of your day-to-day life.
- Learner-Centered Adult Education – Our pedagogical approach, including weekly readings and facilitated online discussion forums, allows you to focus on your own personal educational goals so that you can get out of each course whatever is most relevant to your own needs.
- Asynchronous Education – Rather than following a traditional semester and set class-times, with just a computer and internet-access, you can opt-in to weekly forums for our six-week regular courses, four-week Explorer courses, or 12-week UCC history and polity courses.”

To find out more and to register for Pathways, navigate to
<https://www.secucc.org/ministries/pathways/>

