

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 Hueting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Eric Weakly

Deacons of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Quynn Adkins | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer | Angela Brittain Jim Brittain | Matt Davis | Harrison Fisher | Kyle Miller

Transition Team of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Felecia Bishop | Tommie Bradshaw | Karen Justice | Terry Logee | Allen Maples Thomasa Pomeroy | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely | Lucas Nguyen-Powell | Isaac Pomeroy



EVANGELICAL REFORMEDUnited Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation –



August 4, 2024

Eleventh 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 (Inspired by Psalm 51)

The Holy One is just and merciful, righteous and compassionate, wise and near.

O God, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom. Enliven joy and gladness within our hearts.

We long for your presence and gather before you in gratitude and awe of your steadfast love.

O God, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom. Enliven joy and gladness within our hearts.

Create just, righteous, and loving hearts within us. Renew our spirits as we declare your praise and seek you in prayer.

O God, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom. Enliven joy and gladness within our hearts.

*OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we give thanks for your presence among us. In the chaos of our lives, you provide calm, healing, and sanctuary. Inspire us to be transformed as you immerse us in your everlasting love and relentless presence. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Give Me a Clean Heart

#188

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you [Repeat]

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Sometimes we feel that if we don't hold on to what we have, we will lose it, so we don't share what we can. Sometimes we make selfish decisions, that make things harder for other people. And there are times when we feel as if we are not enough. Let us therefore open ourselves to Christ's saving love as we humbly confess our sins before God and one another.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess that we have not always trusted you or believed in you. We have not always been wise enough to seek after your love. Forgive us and attend to us again, that we might offer praise that is worthy of your name, and seek peace throughout all your creation.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, please be assured we are forgiven, restored, and sustained.

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 Linda Coyle

2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a OT page 284 John 6:24-35 NT page 97

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

The gifts of God bless us, and the invitation of God is to share those blessings with generosity, gratitude, trust, and love. Let us give of our time, talent, and treasure from the abundance of God's provision to us.

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.



ORGAN OFFERTORY

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

- R.E. Kreutz, arr. C. Callahan

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, thank you for these gifts and the privilege of giving. Increase our collective resources that we might serve your kingdom and bring honor to your name. Amen.

- SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION -

*COMMUNION HYMN

Break Now the Bread of Life

#321

Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me, as you once broke the loaves beside the sea; Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord; my spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.

Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me, as you once blessed the bread by Galilee; Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall, and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

#257

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne! Alleluia! Yours the triumph, yours the victory alone! Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: Jesus out of every nation you've redeemed us by your blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now. Alleluia! You are near us; faith believes, nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight received you, when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts forget your promise, "I am with you evermore."

Alleluia! Bread of angels, you on earth our food, our stay. Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day. Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me, and the songs that sound in heaven will repeat your gracious plea.

Alleluia! Christ eternal, nothing can disrupt your reign; Alleluia! Born of Mary, heaven and earth are your domain. Human life you fully entered, tending those we count the least, serving both as Priest and Victim in the eucharistic feast.

*BENEDICTION

Go, in the assurance that you are redeemed.

Go, with compassion, courage, and conviction that a beloved community is possible and awaits your participation.

Go, in peace and hope, knowing that God is with us. Amen.

*THREEFOLD AMEN

#812

POSTLUDE Please be seated.

Prelude in C

Pachelbel

Worship Notes: Today's liturgy is from UCC Worship Ways. *For Mercy:* Service Prayers for the Eleventh 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 Bill Rhoads by Barbara and Gregory.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 109 at 10:30 AM, and 41 online.



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

https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC

Serving Today: August 4 Serving Next Week: August 11

Deacons: Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins Robin A. Brady-Slifer

Robin L. Brady-Slifer

Elder: Robin Cooney Ave Barr

Scripture Reader: Linda Coyle Patti Patterson

Greeters: Anne Hoffmann, Sue Pinner Cathie Duncan, Danielle Carbone

Cliff and Ave Barr Bob and Nancy Manthey

Welcome Table: Julie Clark, Holly Davis Robert Black, Betsy Selby

Lobby Attendant: Cliff Barr Niel Jefferson

Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle

Jeff Baker

Nursery: Robert Kambic

Fellowship: Renae Kline, Cathie Duncan Ave Barr, Cliff Barr, Jen Powell

Jim Weitz, Glenn Wallace Weitz Joan Maples, Allen Maples Kathleen and Niel Jefferson Pat Condo, Bud Rossig

Emily Button Kambic

Next Sunday: August 11 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 | John 6:35, 41-51

Living and loving like Jesus is hard, and many of us struggle to live in ways that are worthy of God's call. Faithful living is complicated because we live in a broken world. John 6:35, 41–51 offers a reminder of how followers of Jesus may be sustained and equipped for the work of turning from anger towards love. Love is not easy, soft, or nice. Sometimes, it can begin with anger and takes that anger as the impetus for challenging injustice, seeking liberation, and working for healing. The church is called to be such an agent for transformation in the world; ourselves transformed by the love of God.

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.

Cards and visits welcome:

Pauline Marendt c/o Village Crossing 2480 Waterside Dr, Room 210 Frederick MD 21701

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.

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, connect and reconnect 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 to learn more about us.



ERUCC BOOK GROUP Tuesday, September 23

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

North Room / Zoom

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574 Passcode: 226669

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdich. 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. Saundra 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.



7:00 PM

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 5-9

Mon-Thur, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM; Friday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Our VBS program, Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs is this week! 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?

Sign up to attend VBS by picking up a registration form in the Sanctuary Lobby or download the form at bit.ly/ER24vbs. Cost is \$25 per child. Pay by cash/check (note: VBS) or pay online by scanning the QR code or go to at ppay.co/uNLbG8dRRac.

Questions? Contact Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

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, <u>ksrhoads@erucc.org</u>; 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 <u>trishcoffey1195@gmail.com</u> or Pastor Kirstin, <u>ksrhoads@erucc.org</u> with questions.

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

8:30 – 9:15 AM **Early Worship Service**, Sanctuary

9:00 AM Coffee and Conversation, Kieffer Lobby, 2nd Floor

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Nursery Care**, 1st Floor

10:30 AM Worship, Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org

11:30 AM **Fellowship**, Community Room, 1st Floor

Stay Informed

TRINITY CHIMES

Changes are coming to our *Trinity Chimes* newsletter! We want to provide a high-quality publication full of meaningful information and content that fosters community, inspires you to engage with our mission, and nourishes your spirit. We are evaluating formats, content, and publication schedules and will share our plans with you soon. We plan to publish our next issue of *Trinity Chimes* by Sunday, September 8 – Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday!

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.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 4, 2024 John 6:24–35

"Bread of Life"

A Communion litany based on John 6:24-35

One voice: In the beginning, the Holy Three danced in the chaos just before creation. Out of their dance was formed All-That-Is, and they looked at it and blessed it, calling it very, very good.

Many voices: One of the parts of that creation was humanity. That's all of us! Created in God's image, we sometimes believed that we, alone, were All-That-Is, and our arrogance drove us from the beauty and peace that The Holy Three wished for us.

One voice: Many voices called throughout time, for humanity to return to our place in All-That-Is. But we did not always listen. When the time was right, one part of the Holy Three, that part called Christ Jesus, came to speak so we could hear.

Many voices: Jesus said, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. And the people replied, Teacher, give us this bread always.

One voice: And so, on the night before Jesus was killed by those who were threatened by his message of love and care for All-That-Is, he gathered with his closest friends and chosen family, and he gave them bread, saying "This is my body, the living bread that gives life to the world." After they ate, he passed them a cup and said "This is the cup of new life, that you might believe in the one whom the Holy Three has sent." Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Many voices: And so they ate and drank. And so we eat and drink and remember and rejoice.

One voice: Let us pray. Brother Jesus, we thank you that you have given us the bread that is your body, the cup that is the source of life. We eat and drink today in the strong name of the Holy Three - Creator, the Christ and the Redeemer. Amen.

