

A photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, a person is kneeling on a stone floor, their back to the camera, in a prayerful posture. The church has high ceilings with arched windows and doorways. A string of warm, glowing lights is draped across the scene, forming a decorative border around the text. The text is centered and reads "Who Are You, Jesus?".

Who Are You,
Jesus?

Welcome to Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Thank you for worshiping with us at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

If you are a guest, please visit us at the Welcome Table in the rear of the sanctuary. We would love to meet and learn more about you and are available to answer your questions ERUCC. Please also feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. We encourage you to join us for in the Community Room for Fellowship after the worship service for casual conversation and connection over light refreshments.

ERUCC is an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. We welcome into the full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

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 2nd floor, below the sanctuary, and on the 1st floor, outside the Community Room. Single-occupant, all-gender, accessible restrooms are located outside the North and Flora Rooms on the 2nd floor.

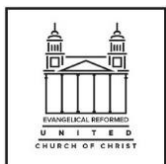
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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.

15 WEST CHURCH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701
(301) 662-2762 • erucc@erucc.org • www.erucc.org



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



September 15, 2024 Seventeenth 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 116*)

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

We love God, who has heard our cry, responds to our prayers, and abides with us through our distress.

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

We praise God, who protects, provides, and prepares their people.

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

We worship God, who walks before us in the land of the living.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creator, we have come in response to your call to worship you. We have come, onsite and online, to be in community with our neighbors. We have come with quiet contemplation and boisterous joy. In grief and with hope, we come to gather in your name, to honor your presence, and to give you praise. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#23

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

We live our lives imperfectly, for we are flawed. But we are also loved by God in whose image we were created. Let us reshape ourselves toward that image as we make our confession before God and each other.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer.
We know we do not always live as we ought:
We turn away from You, from our neighbor, and from our true selves.
We dim Your light within us with our pride, our self-righteousness, and
our need for control.
We know You love us, you do not abandon us,
and again and again you call us back to love, to grace, and to your light.
Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, God knows the journey that has shaped you, honors the efforts you have undertaken, and sustains you when you extend yourselves forward. God, who is merciful and grace-filled, delights in you. Be bold and encouraged for God believes in you and journeys with you. **Amen.**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Children aged 5 through 5th grade who wish to participate in **Junior Church** may meet leaders at the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the Thomas Room.*

*Youth who wish to participate in the **Young Spirit Choir** may dismiss at this time for rehearsal in the Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite.*

Children and Youth will return to their families in worship by 11:30 AM.

***HYMN**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

#191

**Before your cross, O Jesus,
our lives are judged today;
the meaning of our eager strife
is tested by your way.**

**Across our restless living
the light streams from your cross,
and by its clear, revealing beams
we measure gain and loss.**

**The hopes that lead us onward,
the fears that hold us back,
our will to dare great things for God,
the courage that we lack,
The faith we keep in goodness,
our love, as low or pure,
on all, the judgment of the cross
falls steady, clear, and sure.**

**Yet humbly, in our striving,
we rise to face its test.**

**We crave the power to do your will
as once you did it best.**

**On us let now the healing
of your great Spirit fall,
and make us brave and full of joy
to answer to your call.**

THE SCRIPTURES

James 3:1-12 NT page 230

Mark 8:27-38 NT page 43

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Richard Leslie

MORNING PRAYERS

CONSECRATION SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Tommie Bradshaw

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

The Holy One creates, sustains, and renews with abundant generosity. Let us demonstrate our participation in the kingdom, our trust in God, and our stewardship of our resources through our giving to support our collective ministry.

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

You Sing Ove Me

Senior Choir
– H. Sorenson

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, may our gifts honor your name and your generous Spirit within us. We thank you for the opportunity and privilege of contributing to your kingdom and our world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said

– tune O WALY WALY

**"Take up your cross," the Savior said,
"if you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart
and humbly follow after me."**

**Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength will bear your spirit up
and brace your heart, support your arm.**

**Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still;
For Christ did not refuse to die
upon a cross on Calvary's hill.**

**Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down,
For only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

***BENEDICTION**

May you reflect the goodness of God in the land of the living.
May you appreciate the beauty of God's creation.
And may you know and be known in every encounter.
Rest in the creative beauty of the Holy One as you go in the peace of your
identity. **Amen.**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

POSTLUDE *Please be seated.*



Worship Notes: Today's liturgy is from *Inclusion: Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Year B*, written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. The Prayer of Confession was written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'.

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 in memory of loved ones by Jack Stush and Audrey Rayfield.

The yellow rose is presented by John Stush and Audrey Rayfield in memory of their uncle, Jack Kiser, US Army.

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 155 at 10:30 AM, and 58 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

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

Serving Today: September 15

Deacons: Harrison Fisher, Kyle Harrison
Elder: Tyler L. York
Scripture Reader: Richard Leslie
Greeters: Rachel and Tom Ford
Sue Pinner, Robin Cooney
Welcome Table: Molly Black, Jeanellen Kallevang
Lobby Attendant: Eric Weakly
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger
Nursery: Robert Kambic
Fellowship: Laura Rhoderick, Mark Ulrich
Darryl Glick, Julie Chappell
Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

Serving Next Week: September 22

Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain
Jeanellen Kallevang
Jo Ann Fritz
Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Barb Barry, Kim Sexton
Betsy Selby
Felecia Bishop
Larry Martin, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle
Susan Kulp, David Howard
Carolyn Roberts, Colin Nealy
Robert Morris, Jake Stein, Rhea Stein

Next Sunday: September 22 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8 | Mark 9:30-37

The epistle from James may be understood as a meditation on the contrast between godly and worldly leadership. The attributes of a godly leader are laid out in James 3:13: evidence of works born out of good conduct that are done in the gentleness of wisdom. In the passage from Mark 9, Jesus tells the disciples that he is to be betrayed, killed, and resurrected on the third day. The disciples turn to arguing with each other about who is the greatest among them. Jesus teaches his ambitious followers about the shape of faithful discipleship by taking a little child in his arms and blessing the child. God's wise children are called to welcome and care for the "little ones" among us. Wise ones reach out with encouraging presence to those who are vulnerable.

Our Season of Stewardship continues as we hear from Justin Coen. The Senior Choir will sing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE

Evangelical Reformed UCC wants to be there for you when you're experiencing an illness, hospitalization, or other life event for which you, or someone you love, may need a visit.

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:

Milt Crutchley
Asher (Vida Penn's infant grandchild)
Father of Sherry Murray
The Apalachee High School Community, GA
Craig, Carrie, Aaron, Chase and Maddy Percopo (friends of Lois Gaul)
Kat Weedon (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Tom Frazier
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)
Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
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

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

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.

GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays, starting September 17

Trinity Chapel, 7:00 PM

Experience tranquility and wellness in this Gentle Yoga Class. Led by experienced Yogamour instructors, this nurturing practice focuses on gentle postures, mindful breathing, and deep relaxation techniques. Join us in this spiritual journey to strengthen the body, soothe the mind, and connect with your inner self. Participants of all levels are welcome.

Each drop-in class is \$10. Questions? Contact Renae, rdkline15@gmail.com.

To access the yoga classroom in Trinity Chapel, walk through the gate to the left of the building, down the walkway to the side door, and into the hallway leading to the classroom.

PRAYER GROUP FOR CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Please join our virtual prayer groups for Consecration Sunday, led by Tommie Bradshaw, our Consecration Sunday Prayer Team leader. We will pray for the Consecration Sunday program, its leadership team, and guest leader, and that all members of the congregation will seek God's will for them in coming to a faithful decision regarding what God is calling each to give.

Thursday, September 19, 9:00 AM

Wednesday, September 25, 6:00 PM

Thursday, October 3, 9:00 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/prayCS24

Meeting ID: 851 2023 3251

Passcode: 554121

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.



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

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

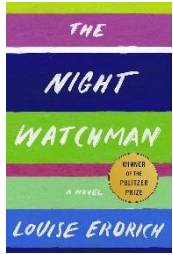
Tuesday, September 24

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.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY – A SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP AND REFLECTION

This year's Season of Stewardship will conclude on Consecration Sunday, October 6, when we formally offer our Estimates of Giving to the church for the coming year and joyfully join together after the 8:30 AM worship service for a Celebration Breakfast or after the 10:30 AM service for a catered Celebration Luncheon. We are using the spiritually-focused stewardship program again this year, and we hope you find it meaningful.

The Consecration Sunday program is grounded in Biblical teaching that financial stewardship is part of our faithful response to and worship of God. It provides us with a structure in which we can, together, examine our values and our patterns of giving and think consciously about what percentage of our income God is calling us to give.

We are grateful to be on this spiritual journey with you and look forward to celebrating with you on October 6!

COMMUNION ON THE CREEK

Tuesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22

Carroll Creek Trellis, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM

The heart of our calling as disciples of Christ is to be busy *good-newsing*. That's right – it's a real verb, but one you may be better familiar with as *evangelizing*. The great commission we are called to is not conversion; it's simply this: to spread the good news we learned about through Christ – the good news of God's universal love, our inherent human dignity, and the boundlessness of God's grace – into the world.

Sounds like good news indeed. Except we know what has become of this beautiful word. Evangelism has come to be associated with coercion and manipulation, fearmongering, othering and divisiveness, power-grabbing, and imperialism. In short, anything BUT good news. Yikes!

The time is long overdue to take this beautiful word back from the forces that have abused and distorted it for their own ends. But how? Well, there is no need to reinvent the wheel when Christ himself blessed us with the perfect way to tell and demonstrate the authentic good news: Communion. At the Lord's Table, everyone is welcome, and at that table, we rejoice together as we celebrate that all are already loved by our Creator, just as we are.

On each of the first four Tuesdays in October (1, 8, 15, and 22), Rev. Michelle Beadle will celebrate Communion on the hour from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the Trellis area of Carroll Creek Linear Park (NE corner where Market Street intersects park). These celebrations will last 15 minutes and will lift-up one of the following themes:

- Celebrating the Open Table
- Remembering What “Remembering” Means
- The Mystery of the Cross
- The Anatomy of Communion

All four themes will be lifted up once each Tuesday. Each week, the lesson rotation will stagger so that if anyone comes at the same time on different weeks, they will be able to enjoy a new celebration.

No RSVP is required, just come as you are when you feel so moved. But it's always great to know if we might see you! Drop us a note: <https://forms.gle/sAKTJbXFabUGMrE36>.

And please pray for those that gather, that the Spirit of the God of all life and all love illuminates our time, that any who would seek to disrupt our time has a change of heart, and that the spirit of abundance reigns among us.

Love your neighbor. No exceptions.



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right

Sunday, October 6

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 6, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Love of Church Unit to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through the national Love of Church Unit, <https://tinyurl.com/2bfytatb>, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), the Love of Church Unit continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

With your assistance, we can help our Neighbors in Need. Please give generously.

M E N T A L H E A L T H J U S T I C E F O R A L L

Mental health is
a universal
human
right

*"God will not falter or lose heart until
justice prevails throughout the earth."*

(Isaiah 42:4)

Thank You!

for supporting **Neighbors in Need!**



Children, Youth, & Families

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

begins Sunday, September 15

This music group for children in Pre-K through 5th Grade are invited to participate in rehearsals each Sunday morning following Sunday School from 10:00–10:20 AM in the Liz Coffey Room. Children will explore a variety of musical styles including the use of rhythm instruments, hand chimes, expression through movement, and vocal choirs.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

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. Teachers in their classroom will check in youth upon arrival. When class ends at 10:15 AM, Youth will return as a group to the Kieffer Lobby in the main building.

JUNIOR CHURCH

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays

dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

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.

YOUNG SPIRIT CHOIR

begins, Sunday September 15

dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

Calling all middle and high school students! We would love to have you join ERUCC's Young Spirit Choir! We will rehearse on the first and third Sundays of each month. After the Thought for the Day, you'll head to the choir room for rehearsal, and we'll finish up by 11:30 AM so you can rejoin your family in the sanctuary.

No singing experience? No problem! All you need is enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. We sing once a month during the 10:30 worship service, and we'd love to have you with us!

Want to know more? Visit our table in the Community Room after worship on Sunday, September 8, or join us for our first rehearsal on Sunday, September 15. For questions or to sign up, contact Trish Coffey at trishcoffey1195@gmail.com or (240) 815-9118.

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Thursday, October 3

Community Room, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Save the date for our first God's Kids Club of the school year! More details coming soon.

In God's Kids Club, children in elementary grades participate in creative, faith-filled fun through various activities, including art projects, creation care, and service projects. During God's Kids Clubs events, middle and high school youth are welcome to help with the leadership of activities.

YOUTH GROUP – CYBER SECURITY

Monday, October 7

Community Room, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

We will hear from Assistant State Attorney Tammy Leache about cyber security for parents and youth alike. Other youth groups will also be invited to attend.



Other Announcements

SONGS FOR THE EARTH: A MULTI-FAITH MUSICAL SERVICE

Sunday, October 20

Coffman Chapel, Hood College, 3:00 – 4:15 PM

The Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards (MACS) of Frederick County and Hood College jointly host a spiritual service, *Songs for the Earth* at Hood College's Coffman Chapel. The purpose is to remind people of faith of our shared mission to care for the Earth and all its inhabitants and find ways to work together. Various local groups will share musical gifts related to caring about and for the Earth. Representing diverse spiritual groundings, readings, and prayers focus on the dual themes of grief and hope through action.



Contact Linda Coyle with questions.

Free registration: bit.ly/songsforearth

CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE UCC 60TH ANNUAL MEETING

Miracles, Signs & Wonders

Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5

St. John's Grace United Church of Christ, 1000 South Rolling Road, Catonsville MD, 21228

**CENTRAL
ATLANTIC
CONFERENCE**



UNITED
CHURCH OF
CHRIST

The 60th Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ will convene beginning on Friday, October 4, and will be in session until the conclusion of the Closing Service on Saturday, October 5.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ will be a special guest and will deliver the Annual Meeting's Keynote Sermon on Saturday.

ERUCC is entitled to representation at this annual meeting by Consistory President Peter Brehm, who will attend, and two additional lay delegates. If you want to serve as a lay delegate, please contact Peter, pbrehm@comcast.net.

All persons holding ministerial standing in the Conference shall be considered voting delegates. Members of the Conference Board and moderators and registrars of the Associations, during their respective terms, shall also be considered voting delegates.

More information: <https://www.cacucc.org/am60>

FALL 2024 *Trinity Chimes*

*A Newsletter of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ
Frederick, Maryland*

The Fall edition of ERUCC newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*, is available to read now! Copies can be found in the Kieffer Lobby, at the back of the Sanctuary, and online at <https://erucc.org/category/news/monthly-newsletter/>.

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Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

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Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant*

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The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

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DEACONS

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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
9:00 AM	Let's Study the Bible , North Room
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care
9:15 – 10:00 AM	Children's Sunday School <i>Pre-K – 2nd Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room <i>3rd – 5th Grade</i> , Thomas Room
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Youth Sunday School <i>Middle School Youth</i> , Trinity Chapel <i>High School Youth</i> , Trinity Chapel
9:00 AM	Let's Talk , Flora Room
10:00 – 10:20 AM	Children's Music and Movement , Liz Coffey Room
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room <i>Participating children are dismissed from Worship (2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays)</i> Young Spirit , Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite <i>Participating Youth are dismissed from Worship (1st and 3rd Sundays)</i>
11:30 AM	Fellowship , Community Room

Stay Informed

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



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.

Who Are You, Jesus?

“Who do people say I am?”

Jesus is certainly brave in asking this question. Think about it. Would you really want to hear how someone perceives you? We all have an image we think we are putting out to the universe that is often perceived differently by others.

But Jesus, who is preparing his followers for his impending death — wants to see if the ragtag bunch is understanding the cost that comes with picking up the cross.

Of course, Peter, the one who leaps before looking, jumps right in with the bold proclamation, “You are the Messiah.”

Good job, Peter. Even though you still don’t quite understand what you just said. That will come — in time.

Your turn now. Who do you say Jesus is?

Before you give the Sunday school answer you were taught years ago, stop. Really give it some thought. Who would you say Jesus is for you right now? Your answer might just reveal where you are on your faith journey.

A pastor once asked a group of second graders the “Who is Jesus?” question. Their answers were of course adorable.

Jesus is my teddy bear. Jesus is my cookie monster. Jesus is my best pal. Jesus is my boo-boo healer.

A few years later, the pastor asked those children, now teens preparing for confirmation, the same question. Who is Jesus?

This time, the answers were not so adorable. Rather, they were raw and revealing.

Jesus is my safe place. Jesus is my sponsor. Jesus is my secret keeper. Jesus is the parent I wished I had.

The reality is that there will be many different Jesus’ who walk alongside us, being the unwavering love and hope needed as we change, grow and move on to new stages in life — either willingly or unwillingly. And that is the beauty of our Lord’s question. It reminds us that through it all, he is always exactly what we need.

Yes, Jesus is our Messiah. He is our Lord and Savior. He is also our Safe Place, our Secret Keeper, our Heartbreak Healer ...

Once again, it’s your turn. Spend some time in prayer, pondering Jesus’ question that he asks of you: “Who do you say I am?”

Jesus, You are my _____, and I thank You for Your unwavering love and care in each stage of my life. Amen.

