



FIRST in Caring

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.

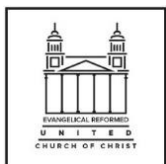
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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 22, 2024 Eighteenth 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 54*)

Let us humble ourselves as we seek the presence of the Sovereign God.

God is our helper, the upholder of life.

The Holy One saves and delivers, vindicates and redeems, listens and responds.

God is our helper, the upholder of life.

Give thanks to Holy Love and worship our Maker.

God is our helper, the upholder of life.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God, make yourself known among us. We lift our voices in song, our hearts in prayer, our minds in consideration, our lives in adoration toward you. We acknowledge that your Spirit leads, comforts, and challenges us as we follow you. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

#13

**O my soul, bless your Creator; all within me bless God's name;
Bless your Maker, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.**

**God forgives all your transgressions, all who suffer, gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.**

**Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin;
Like a mother and a father, God compassionate has been.**

**As it was without beginning, so it lasts without an end;
To their children's children ever shall God's righteousness extend:
Unto all who keep God's covenant and are steadfast in God's way;
Unto all who still remember God's commandments and obey.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us open our hearts, minds, and souls to the One who loves us without condition, trusting that we will receive grace and mercy.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we confess that too often we become fixated with our position in the world. We love to exert our power over others rather than use it for the benefit of the common good and your kingdom. Transform our hearts to crave you as the source of our power. Grant us strength to love only goodness and mercy. Make us your instruments of peace, joy, and hope in the world and agents of new life. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, grace and mercy follow you in anticipation of your repentance. Turn toward the ways of justice and righteousness. Let God's wisdom guide you and holy love use you for the glory of God and the blessing of all creation. 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.*

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

***HYMN**

Surely No One Can Be Safer

#487

**Surely no one can be safer than God's children, held in favor,
Not the stars so brightly burning, no the birds to nests returning.**

**With the flock God is abiding, heaven's plenty all providing,
Rich in mercy, never sparing, like a father, gently caring.**

**None shall ever meet rejection, be denied God's own protection;
Has there been a friend who better knows our hopes, our fears that fetter?**

**Whether taking, whether giving, God alone remains forgiving,
And with one true purpose holy to preserve our welcome solely.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Jo Ann Fritz

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8 NT page 230

Mark 9:30-37 NT page 45

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

CONSECRATION SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Justin Coen

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

Like the words of Psalm 54:6, we proclaim: "With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, Holy One, for it is good."

Let us give with the generosity of love made real, available, and free.

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

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Senior Choir
– arr. E. Lojeski

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all the gifts we receive from you and pray you will receive our gifts for your kingdom. May they be a blessing and gift in our extended community and the world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Children of God

#533

**Children of God, lift hearts to one another,
where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.**

**For God whom Jesus loved has truly spoken:
the holier worship which Christ deigns to bless
Restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken,
and feeds the widow and the parentless.**

**Follow with reverent steps the great example
of Christ whose holy work was doing good;
So shall the wide earth seem a holy temple,
each loving life a psalm of gratitude.
Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangor
of wild war music o'er the earth shall cease;
Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.**

***BENEDICTION**

May you go into the world renewed and refreshed with humble and expectant peace. Go forth with a willingness to witness to the love of God, the joy of the community of faith, and the hope of new life in Christ. **Amen.**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

POSTLUDE *Please be seated.*



Worship Notes: Today's liturgy is from *Position: Service Prayers for the Eighteenth 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.

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 Suzanne and Walter Schmid from Denman and JoyceAnn Schmid.

The yellow rose is presented in memory of M. Amos Martin by Larry and Sedonia Martin.

Attendance Last Sunday: 17 at 8:30 AM, 134 at 10:30 AM, and 6 online.



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

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

Serving Today: September 22

Deacons: Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain

Elder: Jeanellen Kallevang

Scripture Reader: Jo Ann Fritz

Greeters: Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Barb Barry, Kim Sexton

Welcome Table: Betsy Selby, Holly Davis

Lobby Attendant: Felecia Bishop

Audio/Visual: Larry Martin, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle

Nursery:

Fellowship: Julie Clark, Carolyn Roberts
Colin Nealy, Robert Morris,
Jake Stein, Rhea Stein
Linda Coyle

Serving Next Week: September 29

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Peter Brehm
Will Duncan
Nancy and Rob Manthey
Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Jeanellen Kallevang, Sue Pinner
Rob Smith
Kelly Esslinger, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker

Susan Kulp, David Howard

Next Sunday: September 29 – Faith and Democracy Sunday

James 5:13-20 | Mark 9:38-50

Our Gospel reading for this Sunday is from Mark 9:38-50. In a cultural context where who is in, who is out, and who is right is a significant concern, the first disciples are preoccupied with another who is not a part of their group. The epistle of James 5:13-20 gives us a picture of the early church that cares for those among them who are sick.

We recognize Faith and Democracy Sunday, a time of worship and mobilization to urge citizens to vote in the 2024 General Election organized by the Justice and Witness Action Network of the Central Atlantic Conference UCC around faith and democratic principles of valuing and affirming the voice and dignity of all, especially “the least of these” among us. We will also hear from Marj Berkheimer as part of our Season of Stewardship. 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:

The Black Family

Susan Bonhag (friend of the Mercier family)

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
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
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
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: NATURAL GREEN BURIALS

Sunday, October 13
Flora Room, 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM

Join Linda Coyle for a video presentation and discussion on natural burials as an alternative to traditional burials or cremation. Green burial has been defined as a way of caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health, and the restoration or preservation of habitat. Learn about the options available in Maryland and explore if a green burial is right for you.

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.

**A DEMONSTRATION
TO STAND WITH OUR
IMMIGRANT
NEIGHBORS**

**WITH FREDERICK COUNTY
ELECTED, FAITH, & CIVIC LEADERS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
3:30 PM, BEGIN TO GATHER
4:00 PM, PROGRAM BEGINS**

**FRONT STEPS OF ERUCC
15 WEST CHURCH STREET
FREDERICK, MARYLAND**



**LOVE EVERY
NEIGHBOR**

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 congregation members will seek God's will when coming to a faithful decision on what God is calling each to give.

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.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

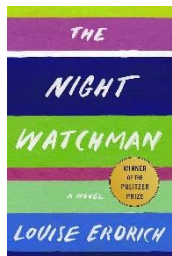
Tuesday, September 24

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.

CAMBRIDGE HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

begins Thursday, September 26

Sanctuary, 6:15 PM

Our Cambridge Handbell Choir for adults rehearses on Thursday evenings. This choir provides music once a month during the 10:30 AM worship service.

Questions? Please contact Trish Coffey, trishcoffey1195@gmail.com or (240) 815-9118.

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.

GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays, NOW STARTING October 1

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.

RACE TO THE POLLS: PREPARING THE UCC FOR THE 2024 ELECTION

Almost every ballot measure and candidate policy platform have implications for racial justice because racial disparities are woven into every part of our political system and common life. No matter what your political views are, in the 2024 election we all will be making choices that either maintain the status quo of racism or create greater equity and justice.

In the United Church of Christ, we have the resources of our faith and the covenants we share in our General Synod Resolutions to help guide us, but with all the information swirling around us, it can be hard to discern what and who will actually help us build a more just world for all.

So, we hope you'll join the UCC for this webinar where we will prayerfully engage in care-full conversation to discover the ways our faithful commitments to intersectional justice and collective liberation can guide our voting and campaigning in this vital moment for democracy in the United States.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/4gxIS08>

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

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 once each week. The 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 will be transitioned by their teachers to Children's Music and Movement. Participating children should be checked out by their grown-ups from the Liz Coffey Room at 10:20 AM. If not participating in Children's Music and Movement, children should be checked out from their Sunday School classroom at 10:00 AM.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Liz Coffey Room, 10:00 – 10:20 AM

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 REHEARSAL

rehearses the 1st and 3rd Sundays
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! 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 AM worship service, and we'd love to have you with us!

Questions? Please contact Trish Coffey, trishcoffey1195@gmail.com or (240) 815-9118.

CHANCEL HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

begins Sunday, September 29
Sanctuary, following worship

Our Chancel Handbell Choir, open to elementary, middle, and high school students, rehearses on Sunday mornings following the 10:30 AM worship service. This choir provides music once a month during the 10:30 AM worship service.

Questions? Please contact Trish Coffey, 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 on Preventing the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children: Trends in child pornography, sextortion, sexual solicitation of minors, and human trafficking.

ASA Leache will describe warning signs of trafficking and tips around how to be cautious/when to be suspicious about online communications. 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/>.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

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Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

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

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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*

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

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 Rehearsal , Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite <i>Participating Youth are dismissed from Worship (1st and 3rd Sundays)</i>
11:30 AM	Fellowship , Community Room Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal , Sanctuary <i>Begins Sunday, September 29</i>

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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 22, 2024

Mark 9:30-37

First in Caring

It's so easy for us to pick on the disciples for bickering about who is the greatest, especially after Jesus told them for a second time that the Son of God will be handed over, tried and put to death.

Yes, but ... which one of us is the greatest?

We can pick on them or we can take a step back and see how many times in our desire for greatness — measured by the riches, power and prestige the world offers — we miss the life Jesus is calling us to.

When Jesus discovers that this is what his followers were arguing about behind his back, he calls a time out. He then picks up a child for a quick sermon illustration. See this little one? Greatness doesn't come from what you can achieve or gain. Greatness comes from what you do to help the helpless and the vulnerable. Jesus then adds, "Anyone who wants to be first, must be last."

Our Savior's words go against everything we are taught in life, where first place is coveted and grabbing the prize is the goal.

In 1983, Harvard Divinity School appointed Henri J.M. Nouwen, a Dutch priest, theologian and author, to the position of Professor of Divinity. After only one academic year, Nouwen surprised his Ivy League colleagues by resigning from the prestigious position so that he could serve as chaplain for the L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto — a place where disabled adults and their caregivers lived together.

But it was at L'Arche that Nouwen met a young man, Adam, who could neither speak nor move without assistance. Nouwen would later reflect that it was his time at L'Arche, and especially with Adam, that gave his life purpose.

"The people I live with sometimes have a very hard time believing they are chosen," wrote Nouwen. "They suffer not so much from their mental or physical handicap, but from the feeling of being not wanted, not desired."

Nouwen stepped away from the world's greatness and by doing so illustrated the power of divine greatness.

"Who among us is the greatest?" It is the one who creates a more loving and welcoming place for the Adams of the world.

Loving God, may today we discover that in serving others last place is a glorious position to be in, for it is there your kin-dom work is done. Amen.



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

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