



CORE
OPENED

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.

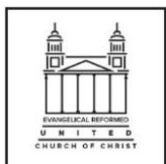
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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 8, 2024 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from
The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

REJOICE IN OUR WELCOME SUNDAY

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF THE TEACHERS

As we celebrate the ministry of discipleship and the ministry of those who help us make disciples, let us celebrate our commitment to the educational ministry of our church.

LITANY OF COMMITMENT

(To the Teachers) Sisters and brothers, you have been called by our church to fulfill the responsibilities of teachers of the faith. Will you commit yourselves by giving of your time to fulfill this ministry?

We will, with the help of God.

Do you understand that by accepting this ministry you are becoming agents of transformation in people's lives?

We do understand.

Will you share your love, peace and Christian joy with everyone so people may see in you the life of Christ?

We will with the help of God.

(To the Congregation) Will you, brothers and sisters, promise to support and care for those you have called to this ministry?

We promise with the help of God.

Please join in offering our support and prayers:

Bless, O God, the teachers and leaders of this ministry of formation and nurture. Give them your strength and your peace, that they may teach and lead with conviction, imagination, love, and patience. Strengthen their faith and their commitment by the gifts of your Spirit. Ground their lives in your life; center their wills in your will; and focus their spirits on your Spirit, that they may teach and lead for the common good. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

You Are Welcome Here

Spirit
– G. DeMan

Refrain: **You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey.
You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
come and join with us, we're united in the church of Christ.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice!

Today we choose to rejoice. Today we choose to worship and give thanks.

Seek the peace of God that will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Today, we choose God's peace; today, we place our trust in God.

Turn your thoughts toward God and away from the distractions and disappointments of life that will always flow in and flow out like the tide.

We come to worship God who alone is excellent and worthy of praise!

So, together we turn our thoughts to whatever is true and honorable.

We turn our thoughts to whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, and whatever is commendable.

We lift up our hearts, we lift up our voices.

We rejoice in the Lord always, again we say, rejoice!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God, we ask your blessings as we rejoice as a community.

Bless our worship together. May it be a humble reflection of our gratitude for who it is you have created us to be.

Bless our celebration that it may be an expression of our joy and love.

Bless our laughter and tears that they may build friendships and relationships.

Bless our differences as a source of our strength and a sign of our respect for one another and our love for you.

We are called to speak and to hear your vision of justice and of peace.

Help us to do that well and to do it faithfully.

Bless each one of us here today with your presence and our presence, with one another. You are faithful to all of us. Now grant that we may be faithful to you, to each other, and to the community around us. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

There Are Some Things I May Not Know

#405

**There are some things I may not know,
there are some places I can't go,
But I am sure of this one thing,
that God is real for I can feel God deep within.**

Refrain: **Yes, God is real, real in my soul;
yes God is real for God has washed and made me whole;
God's love for me is like pure gold,
yes, God is real for I can feel God in my soul.**

**Some folks may doubt, some folks may scorn,
All can desert and leave me alone,
But as for me I'll take God's part,
for God is real and I can feel God in my heart. [Refrain]**

**I cannot tell just how you felt
when Jesus took your sins away,
But since that day, yes, since that hour,
God has been real for I can feel God's holy power. [Refrain]**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

To open our hearts to God risks vulnerability, judgment, and condemnation. But throughout the scriptures, we learn that God is merciful and just, slow to anger, and eager to forgive. Let us then risk our confession, praying together:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we confess our tendency to exclude rather than to include, to form closed groups rather than open communities, and to prioritize comfort rather than embrace curiosity. Help us to truly love our neighbor, whether family, friend, stranger, or foe, as ourselves and with the same love you demonstrate toward us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, God's grace is sufficient to meet us in our weaknesses. And yet, faith without works lacks power, conviction, and life. Let our commitment to the gospel and life with Christ be reflected in our attitude and actions toward those with different life experiences, identities, and cultures. Be open to the possibilities, wonders, and joys that God's diverse creation presents.

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

I Heard My Mother Say

#409

**I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say,
"Give me Jesus"**

**Refrain: Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world, give me Jesus.**

**At midnight was my cry,
at midnight was my cry,
at midnight was my cry,
"Give me Jesus." [Refrain]**

**Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus. [Refrain]**

**In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus. [Refrain]**

THE SCRIPTURES

Laurel Nguyen-Powell

James 2:1-10, 14-17 NT page 229

Mark 7:24-37 NT page 42

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

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

James 2:8 states, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well." Let us do well in sharing and giving of our resources, gifts, and time within and beyond this faith community for the glory and love of God.

This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift to our church's ministries and programs. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts to share God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us.

If you wish to give, you can give online at www.erucc.org, by placing your gift in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary before or after the service, or by scanning the QR code to give from your phone.



OFFERTORY

Draw the Circle Wide

Spirit
– M. Miller

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sovereign God, receive our offerings for the nurture and expansion of your kingdom. May they be magnified and the spirit of generosity among your people amplified so that all may do well. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

I Am the Light of the World

#584

Refrain: **"I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

**When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun! [Refrain]**

**To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above! [Refrain]**

**To free the prisoner from his chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To call a man your brother everywhere. [Refrain]**

**To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old man's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth! [Refrain]**

***BENEDICTION**

Go now with the peace of God resting upon you. Go with the love of Christ dwelling within you. And depart with the presence of the Holy Spirit abiding in your heart, mind, and soul. **Amen.**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

God Be with You

#809

POSTLUDE *Please be seated.*



**We thank Laura Walling and Joe Baker for sharing their gifts
with us in worship today!**

Worship Notes: Today's liturgy is from *Inclusion: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth 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. The Call to Worship is adapted from "What Do You Imagine?" from First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, TX. The Opening Prayer is adapted from liturgy by the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests.

Please join us for **Fellowship** with light refreshments and time for casual conversation after worship in our Community Room (1st Floor). Today we will enjoy a special treat of milk and cookies!

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy V. Gaver and Mrs. Phoebe Crum, and Great-grandfather William J. Seward, by Martha J. Kline.

The yellow rose is presented in remembrance and honor of those Americans who were prisoners of war (POW), those who remain missing in action (MIA), and their families.

Attendance Last Sunday: 12 at 8:30 AM, 103 at 10:30 AM, and 44 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

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

Serving Today: September 8

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Jeanellen Kallevang
Scripture Reader: Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Greeters: Ave Barr, Sue Pinner
Felecia Bishop, Cliff Barr
Welcome Table: Robert Black, Thi Nguyen
Lobby Attendant: Jaci Clayton
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Nursery: Emily Spear, Ben, Abby
Fellowship: *Rejoice in Our Welcome:
Milk and Cookies*

Serving Next Week: September 15

Harrison Fisher, Kyle Harrison

Tyler L. York
Richard Leslie
Rachel and Tom Ford
Sue Pinner, Robin Cooney
Molly Black, Jeanellen Kallevang
Eric Weakly
Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger

Starr Schaeberle, Mark Ulrich
Darryl Glick, Julie Chappell
Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

Next Sunday: September 15 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

James 3:1-12 | Mark 8:27-38

The letter of James speaks of the qualities of teachers and the power of words and speech for good and for will. In our reading from Mark 8: 27-28, Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” Peter responds by answering, “You are the Messiah.”

Our Season of Stewardship begins with thoughts from Tommie Bradshaw. The Senior Choir returns to share their wonderful gifts with us.

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 Apalachee High School Community
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)
Tyler Schaeberle
Pauline Marendt
Cliff Barr
Haley Duff
Sherry Murray
Charlotte Blue and Family (friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Emogene Wyand
Richard Leslie
Bob Pinner

Betsy Fisher
Delmar Speak
Donna Hill (mother of Collen Baldree)
Philip Hill (father of Colleen Baldree)
Tanya Pearre (sister of Colleen Baldree)
Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)
Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley)
Lee Thomas
Joan Thomas (mother of Dan Smith's friend)
Autumn Crutchley
Jason Rhoads
Nathan Cable
Greg Rhoads
Marcia Eisenstein
Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)

Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)
Jeannette Johnson
Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)
Marcy Channell (daughter of Jo Ann Fritz)
Paige Coffey
Fran Wenner
Bonnie Devilbiss
Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield)

Please notify the church office when you want your request removed from the prayer list.

Activities and Events at ERUCC

Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday

Sunday, September 8

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

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

EARLY WORSHIP | 8:30 AM

An Intimate Service with Communion and Prayer

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE | 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study

SUNDAY SCHOOL | 9:15 AM

Children and Youth Faith Formation

WORSHIP | 10:30 AM

A Vibrant, Intergenerational Service

JUNIOR CHURCH

Children's Faith Formation

dismissed from Worship

FELLOWSHIP | 11:30 AM

A Celebration of Connection and Community



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



ERUCC is an
Open and Affirming
Congregation

REJOICE IN OUR WELCOME SUNDAY

Sunday, September 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

GET-OUT-THE VOTE POSTCARDING

Sunday, September 8

Community Room, 9:00 – 10:15 AM

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



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

BIBLE STUDIES for ADULTS

SUNDAY MORNING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

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

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

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

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

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

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.

Wednesday, September 11, 6:00 PM
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

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.

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

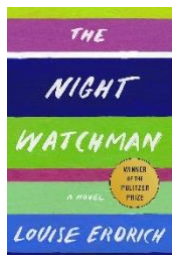
Tuesday, September 24

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.



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

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. Saundra Dalton-Smith's book *Sacred Rest*, explore which kind of rest each of us individually needs, and offer choices to practice rest in various ways.

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



Registration required: bit.ly/0828retreat

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

MISSION TRIP TO BERKS COUNTY, PA

October 6 – 11

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

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

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

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

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

Children, Youth, & Families

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL and MUSIC & MOVEMENT

begins Sunday, September 8

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

Pre-K – 2nd Grade

Liz Coffey Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

3rd – 5th Grade

Thomas Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

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

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

begins Sunday, September 8

Trinity Chapel, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Youth Sunday School, with classes for Middle School and High School, meets in ERUCC's Trinity Chapel, 10 W. Church Street. Enter through the side door behind the iron gate on the left side of the building. Always use crosswalks when crossing the street. Youth will be checked in by teachers in their classroom 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

begins Sunday, September 8

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

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.

YOUNG SPIRIT CHOIR

begins, Sunday September 15

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.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

WEBSITE

www.erucc.org/give



one time or recurring gifts

GIVE THE NEW WAY



We're moving to a better way of giving. Scan to try it for yourself!

CASH OR CHECK

*made payable to
Evangelical Reformed UCC
15 W. Church St,
Frederick MD 21701*



*offering plates
are available in the
rear of the sanctuary
before and after worship*

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

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

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate Pastor for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

Tyler L. York ~ *Office Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org

Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ jclayton@erucc.org

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*

CONSISTORY

Peter Brehm ~ *President* | Matt Hueting ~ *Vice President*

David Kehne ~ *Secretary* | Robert Morris ~ *Treasurer*

Rebecca Shillingburg ~ *Worship Chair* | Will Duncan ~ *Finance Chair*

Shelley Weakly ~ *Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Chair*

Julie Clark ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Dan Ebersole ~ *Property Chair*

Vacant ~ *Christian Education Chair* | Matt Davis ~ *Head Deacon* | Larry Martin ~ *Member-at-Large*

ELDERS

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Robin Cooney | Matt Hueting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Eric Weakly

DEACONS

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
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

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 8, 2024

Mark 7:24-37

Be Opened

Can you imagine your life being changed for the better with just a gentle touch, a loving word or even a compassionate smile?

The people we encounter in Mark's Gospel can. Their stories, packed into what is the shortest of the four gospels, tell of how the Son of God brings healing and hope to all he meets.

Mark brings us today a perfect illustration of new life in the healing of the deaf and mute man.

In the story, Jesus starts by placing his fingers in the deaf man's ears. Jesus is acknowledging nonverbally his understanding of what the problem is. It's a loving act that puts the man at ease.

He then spits on his fingers and touches the deaf man's tongue. Yes, a cringy moment for our modern sensibilities, but spit was believed to have healing qualities in ancient times.

The final step in this healing comes with Jesus' sigh, "Ephphatha!" — which is Aramaic for "be opened."

And with that, a man whose life was closed from the community because of his disability, opens to belonging and acceptance.

The word "Ephphatha" only appears eight times in the New Testament, almost always with stories of healing. It is a word, though, that we should add to our spiritual vocabularies, as the reminder to "be opened" is an important one in the places in which we are in need of healing.

Too often doubt and cynicism take over our lives, closing us off to the that healing of body, mind and spirit. Yet Jesus sees our situations and sighs, "Be opened!" For what has being closed to God's possibilities done for us?

In the Catholic tradition there is an optional baptismal rite that parents can request as part of the sacrament where the priest says a prayer as he touches the infant's ears and then mouth. The prayer is for the child to hear God's voice and to speak of God's grace as they grow. As you might have already guessed, it is known as the Ephphatha Rite.

Take a moment this day to touch your ears and then your mouth, praying to hear the Divine speaking to you and for the grace to speak words of love.

Caring Healer, may today we "be opened" to the many ways You are renewing, reviving and restoring us. May we hear Your Son's loving words spoken to us now and always, "Ephphatha!" Amen.

