



“Open Table” by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

## **WORLD COMMUNION & CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

**Evangelical Reformed  
United Church of Christ  
October 6, 2024  
10:30 AM**

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

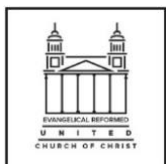
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

## **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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org) • [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)**



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



October 6, 2024

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from  
The New Century Hymnal

\*All who are able may stand

## **WORLD COMMUNION & CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

*On World Communion Sunday, we consciously gather with followers around the planet to take in the bread and cup of life and liberation. We worship, acknowledging the brokenness and hope that exists around the world and proclaim that the death-dealing ways of the powers-that-be are not the ways of God and Jesus, the radical one from Nazareth.*

### **GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Friends, one of the central tenants of World Communion Sunday is the idea that we belong to one another. We are knit together by the Spirit across state lines, over oceans, through Zoom screens, and between differences of opinions. We are knit together. What a gift that is!

To celebrate this good news of belonging, we are going to pass the peace to one another. Introduce yourself to someone new. Exchange a hug, a high five, or a handshake, or a warm smile, wave, air high five or to express your connection, and relish in the gift of community.

Friends, the peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you.**

### **PRELUDE**

*A Place at the Table*

– Murray / True

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

If you are hungry,  
**there is room at God's table.**  
If you are weary,  
**there is a seat saved for you.**

If you dream of belonging,  
**you belong here.**  
From north, south, east, and west,  
**God invites us home. Let us worship our nourishing God.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God, open up something new in us.  
Open up curiosity, hunger, attentiveness, or compassion.  
Open up the parts of our hearts most in need of your centering Word.  
And then, like yeast in bread, may your love expand in us.  
We are listening. We are hopeful. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

#394

**In Christ there is no East or West,  
in Christ no South or North;  
But one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
God's service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.**

**In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,  
and neither slave nor free;  
For men and women live in God,  
and all are kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West,  
in Christ meet South and North;  
One joyous, true community  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Family of faith, no matter what you have experienced this week, no matter what you brought with you into this space, Jesus is always inviting you to the Table. That's the amazing thing about God's love—it does not keep score, and it knows no end.

So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you must, but because you can. Let us do so, trusting that with these words, God is already inviting you into deeper faith. Let us pray:

#### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Creator God, we hear your invitation to love our neighbors as ourselves, to live as if we belong to one another.**

**And yet, what is out of sight is often out of mind.**

**Forgive us for training our hearts to focus only on what is in front of us.**

**Forgive us for ignoring the ties that binds us to all of creation.**

**Forgive us for assuming that you being with us means you can't also be with others.**

**Our gaze has been too narrow. Open our hearts and expand our understanding. Help us to celebrate the many places you are present in this world. Remind us of the ties that bind us to all of creation.**

**With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.**

#### **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Family of faith, there is a seat at God's table saved for you. And this is true even if you overlooked your neighbor, and even if you doubted God's love for you. If you chose scarcity over abundance, and fear over joy. God still has a seat saved just for you. Trusting this good news, join me in the words of forgiveness:

**We are known and loved. We are forgiven and enabled to begin again.**

**Thanks be to God for a love like this.**

#### **ANTHEM**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Children's Music and Movement

– arr. by Lyndell Leatherman

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Children of all ages are invited to participate in the service today. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is in the rear of the sanctuary and a wiggle space is available in the front of the sanctuary near the baptismal font.*

*Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume next Sunday.*

*Youth who wish to participate in the **Young Spirit Choir** may dismiss at this time for rehearsal in the Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite. Youth will return to their families in worship by 11:30 AM.*

## **MORNING PRAYERS**

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

Jesus was often feeding people.

From water into wine to the abundant catch of fish, from the feeding of 5,000 to dinner at Mary and Martha's house, Jesus was often breaking bread, sharing food and eating with his neighbors.

So we are not surprised that in one of his last conversations with his disciples, Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Family of faith, the offering is one way we try to respond to that invitation. So until all are fed, and all are known, let us give generously.

Let us feed God's sheep.

*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](http://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**

*One World, One Communion*

Senior Choir  
– P. Choplin

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Generous God, you give us sunlight to grow the wheat, and rain to nourish the soil. You give us bread, to satisfy our hunger and community to fill our hearts. You give us rituals that ground us, music that opens us, stories that teach us, and laughter that lifts us. So for all these gifts and countless others, we thank you. Take our offering and use it for your good. We are grateful and filled to the brim. Amen.**

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

**\*COMMUNION HYMN**

*Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken*

#346

**Bread of the world, in mercy broken,  
Wine of the soul in mercy shed,  
By whom the words of life were spoken,  
and in whose death our sins are dead,**

**Look on the heart by sorrow broken,  
look on the tears by sinners shed,  
And be your feast to us the token  
that by your grace our lives are fed.**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Scripture says people will come from the north and south, the east and west to sit at God's Table in God's Kingdom. There are few images more lovely than that. But until that beautiful, promised day when all of creation will share a table with Christ, we will keep gathering at this Table. And at this Table, we will share the story of God's love, break ordinary bread and drink from an ordinary cup. And at this Table, none will be turned away, for Jesus welcomes all. At this Table we will dream of a better world, where all are fed and none will leave hungry.

So, come! Join us and the whole world in this feast! This is Christ's Table. Come break bread and experience the community God formed us to be.

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

God, on this World Communion Sunday, we admit we are hungry in so many ways.

**We are hungry for justice, beauty, peace in the corners of the world that are in conflict, friendship across party lines, closer relationships and deeper faith. We are hungry for bread that nourishes our bodies and souls.**

Dear God, we are hungry, but we are also hopeful.

**We are hopeful because at this Table we are reminded of what community can look like, what love tastes like, and what welcome feels like. At this Table, we are united.**

As we gather at this Table, we ask that you pour out your spirit on this ordinary bread and cup. Transform this simple feast into a reminder of what could be— a world where all are fed, all are welcomed, and all are known. Until that day, may this bread nourish our bodies and spirits. May the joy of singing and feasting together lift our weary hearts. And may your radical welcome open deeper compassion in us for our neighbors.

**With gratitude for your love and a hunger for community, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night he was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:

**“This is my body which is broken for you.  
Whenever you eat it, remember me.”**

And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:

**“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you.  
When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me.”**

Now, let us come to receive the bread and the cup.

## **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward at the direction of the deacons to the chancel rail, where you will be served the bread and the cup. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. The cup contains grape juice (apple juice is provided in the center of each tray) and all bread is gluten-free. Please partake of the elements as they are given to you, then give the empty cup to the nearby steward before returning to your seat by the side aisle. If you want to receive the elements in the pew for any reason, please notify a deacon.*

*After all have received the bread and the cup:*

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

## **A BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE**

May the presence of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life. **Amen.**



**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We have been fed, dear God, by your presence and led by your light.  
May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.**

**THE SCRIPTURES**

Zaydan

Psalm 133

OT page 575

Luke 19:1-10

NT page 82

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Sam Chamelin

**COMMITMENT TIME AND BENEDICTION**

*After placing your card on the table as an act of consecration, please leave the sanctuary silently and proceed to the Celebration Luncheon so as not to disturb the meditation of others who are still completing their cards.*



# **A Prayer for Peace in Israel and Palestine**

By Rose Marie Berger

*“They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain...” —Isaiah 11:9*

## **God of Comfort,**

send your Spirit to encompass all those whose lives  
are torn apart by violence and death in Israel and Palestine.

You are the Advocate of the oppressed  
and the One whose eye is on the sparrow.

Let arms reach out in healing, rather than aggression.

Let hearts mourn rather than militarize.

## **God of Justice,**

give strength to those whose long work for a just peace  
might seem fruitless now. Strengthen their resolve.

Do not let them feel alone. Show us how to support their work  
and bolster their courage. Guide religious leaders to model  
unity and reconciliation across lines of division.

Guide political leaders to listen with their hearts as they seek peace and pursue it.

Help all people choose the rigorous path of just peace and disavow violence.

## **God of Love,**

we lift up Palestine and Israel — its people, its land, its creatures.

War is a monster that consumes everything in its path.

Peace is a gift shared at meals of memory with Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

Let us burn incense, not children. Let us break bread, not bodies.

Let us plant olive groves, not cemeteries.

We beg for love and compassion to prevail

on all your holy mountains.

## **God of Hope,**

we lift up the cities of the region: Gaza City and Tel Aviv,

Ramallah and Ashkelon, Deir El Balah and Sderot,

so long divided, yet so filled with life and creativity.

Come again to breathe peace on your peoples

that all may recognize you.

**God of Mercy,**

even now work on the hearts of combatants  
to choose life over death, reconciliation over retaliation,  
restoration over destruction. Help us resist antisemitism in all its forms,  
especially in our own churches. All people, Israelis and Palestinians,  
deserve to live in peace and unafraid, with a right to determine  
their future together.

**God of the Nations,**

let not one more child or elder be sacrificed on altars of political expediency.  
Keep safe all people from unjust leaders who would exploit  
vulnerability for their own distorted ends.

Give wise discernment to those making decisions to pursue peace.

Provide them insight into fostering well-being, freedom, and thriving for all.

Teach all of us to resolve injustices with righteousness, not rockets.

Guard our hearts against retaliation, and give us hearts for love alone.

**Strengthen our faith in you, O God of All Flesh,**

even when we don't have clear answers,

so that we may still offer ourselves nonviolently  
for the cause of peace.

Amen.

Please join us for **Fellowship**, light refreshments, and casual conversation after worship in our Community Room (1st Floor). **All are welcome to our table as we enjoy a catered luncheon in celebration of Consecration Sunday.**

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**The flowers on the altar** are in loving memory of Mike Condo who passed away October 5, 2016 by Patricia and Wells Condo.

**The yellow rose** is presented in honor of the 1<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary of Ida and Bernie Desrosiers by Larry and Sedonia Martin.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 15 at 8:30 AM, 132 at 10:30 AM, and 49 online.



**Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 AM or on-demand:**  
<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

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### Serving Today: October 6

Deacons: Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins  
Elder: Marc Kline  
Scripture Reader: Zaydan  
Greeters: Ave Barr, Cliff Barr  
Barb Barry  
Welcome Table: Julie Clark, Holly Davis  
Lobby Attendant: Cliff Barr  
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker  
Kelly Esslinger  
Nursery: Dawn Lagrotteria  
Fellowship: Renae Kline, Cathie Duncan  
Jim Weitz, Glenn Wallace-Weitz  
Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson  
Emily Button Kambic

### Serving Next Week: October 13

Robin A. Brady-Slifer  
Robin L. Brady-Slifer  
Matt Hueting  
Darryl Glick  
Cathie Duncan, Felecia Bishop  
Robin Cooney, David Cooney  
Andrew Beadle  
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker  
Jeff Schaeberle  
Ave Barr, Cliff Barr, Jen Powell  
Joan Maples, Allen Maples  
Pat Condo, Bud Rossig

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### **Next Sunday: October 13 – Creation Care Sunday**

God delights in creation and declares it good. We celebrate, remember, and advocate for creation as an act of faith.

*Pastor Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads will preach and lead worship. Spirit will be sharing in music leadership this morning. At Fellowship, The Transition Team will present on the church's heritage and then a special Congregational Meeting will be held where members of the congregation will vote on whether we should **consider** changing the name of our congregation from "Evangelical Reformed." A meal will be served.*

# 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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

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## 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:**

Raymond Slifer (father of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)  
The Black Family  
Susan Bonhag (friend of the Mercier family)  
Milt Crutchley  
Asher (Vida Penn's infant grandchild)  
Father of Sherry Murray  
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  
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.*

## **Adult Christian Education Opportunities**

### **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](https://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](https://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](https://bit.ly/ERWedstudy)  
Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500  
Passcode: 848933

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### **LET'S TALK**

*Let's Talk is an adult educational opportunity that focuses on how we can live out our faith and share our knowledge and expertise. Contact Linda Coyle, [lkcoyle@yahoo.com](mailto:lkcoyle@yahoo.com) with questions or ideas for a presentation.*

#### **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.

#### **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.

## Activities and Events at ERUCC

### 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 (learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/2bfytatb>) to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, 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.

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



**Give to Neighbors in Need:** <https://ppay.co/S11Jd0sRTes>

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### COMMUNION ON THE CREEK

Tuesdays, October 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 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 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>.

Please pray for those who gather, that the Spirit of God 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.

## **GENTLE YOGA**

Tuesdays

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](mailto: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.*

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## **CAMBRIDGE HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Thursdays

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](mailto:trishcoffey1195@gmail.com) or (240) 815-9118.

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## **T TEAM: HERITAGE PRESENTATION AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Sunday, October 13

Community Room / Zoom, ~11:45 AM

Zoom: [bit.ly/er1013mtg](https://bit.ly/er1013mtg)

Meeting ID: 882 6728 6934

Passcode: 056909



Lunch will be provided at Fellowship as a panel of T Team members first present on the Heritage focus point; a special Congregational Meeting will immediately follow.

As part of its understanding of our congregation's heritage, the Transition Team has identified four foundational topics that we could study in order to discern as a congregation whether we should make any changes. The first one we are studying is whether we should change the name of our congregation from "Evangelical Reformed."

At the Congregational Meeting on October 13, after a presentation from the study group and discussion, we will decide whether to consider changing our name.

We encourage you to review the information sheet prepared by the study group before the meeting: [bit.ly/ERname](https://bit.ly/ERname).



## **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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Liz Coffey Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### **CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND MOVEMENT**

Liz Coffey Room, 10:00 – 10:20 AM

This music group for children in Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### **YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Trinity Chapel, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

**Youth Sunday School**, with Middle and High School classes, meets in ERUCC's Trinity Chapel, 10 West Church Street. Enter through the side door behind the iron gate on the left side of the building. Always use the crosswalk. Teachers in their classrooms 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.

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### **JUNIOR CHURCH**

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 five through 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:trishcoffey1195@gmail.com) or (240) 815-9118.

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## **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](mailto:trishcoffey1195@gmail.com) or (240) 815-9118.

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## **YOUTH GROUP**

### **Prayer with Pastor Kirstin: Peace Prayers for the Middle East**

Sunday, October 6  
Zoom, 7:00 PM

A time for ERUCC Youth Group to share questions, concerns,  
and come together in prayer.

Zoom: [bit.ly/47V14Q0](https://bit.ly/47V14Q0)  
Meeting ID: 897 9451 0163  
Passcode: 172217

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## **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.

## **TRUNK OR TREAT**

Sunday, October 27

ERUCC Parking Lot and Patio, 5:00 – 6:00 PM



The ERUCC Youth Group is inviting the whole church to a spooktacular Trunk or Treat event! Put on your best cape, crown or costume and come join the fun. Trunks will be decorated to impress, as you make your way from car to car to fill your bag with treats.

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## **GOD'S KIDS CLUB**

Monday, October 28

Community Room, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

We will make crafts and toys from fall items, clean up sticks and leaves around the ERUCC grounds, cook snacks on the campfire, and take an exploration walk around town to see what fall brings! As part of our time together, we will create thankfulness gifts to give away. Bring a packed lunch and water bottle.

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 helpers should let Pastor Kirstin know they are attending.

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# **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**

No matter their mental health challenge.

No matter their immigration status.

No matter their sexual orientation.

No matter their economic status.

No matter their gender identity.

No matter their disability.

No matter their religion.

No matter their race.

## **Love your neighbor. No exceptions.**



## Other Announcements

Before National Coming Out Day, Join Us on a

# Queer Unity March



Affirming the importance of LGBTQ+ people and encouraging them to live openly and authentically in Frederick County and around the world



To show our community is stronger when we show up for each other, advocate for LGBTQ+ supportive local, state, national policies & legislation, and **VOTE WITH LOVE!**



## Oct. 10th 5 pm- 7:30pm



Meet @ The Frederick Center (5 E 2nd St.) and march with us to Winchester Hall, City Hall, and Baker Park Bandshell for speeches, spoken word, and stories from community members\*\*.



Questions or want to \*\*sign up to give a speech, perform spoken word or share a personal story? Email: [pflagfredorganiz@gmail.com](mailto:pflagfredorganiz@gmail.com)



**PFLAG**  
FREDERICK

The Frederick  
Center  
Embracing  
Our LGBTQ+  
Community



**COMMUNITY  
FOR  
FREDERICK**

## HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF EFFORTS

ERUCC to receive special offering Sunday, October 13

Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida late on Thursday, September 26, as a category four storm empowered by high water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico, bringing a devastating 20-foot storm surge and 140 mph winds. After landfall in Florida's Big Bend region, the storm proceeded northeast into Georgia, western South Carolina, western North Carolina, and eastern Tennessee as a category 1 storm. As of this appeal, 100 people have been confirmed dead, with this number expected to rise as flood waters recede.

As of Monday, September 30, over 2 million customers are in the storm's impact area without power. It is estimated that Helene has caused between \$145 and \$160 billion in damage, which is also likely to rise. The magnitude of damage combined with the geography of the impacted area further exacerbates and complicates what is certain to be an extended recovery process. Due to power outages, disabled roadways, and remaining flood waters, the full extent of the damage is still being realized. Two United Church of Christ church buildings on Florida's Gulf Coast suffered significant flood damage because of the catastrophic storm surge, and a third experienced damage due to high winds and heavy rain.

The National Ministries of the United Church of Christ continue to communicate with conference staff in the Southern, Southeast, and Florida Conferences as they work to contact local congregations and become aware of their needs.

The United Church of Christ has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster and their plight fades from the headlines. Your support of this appeal will ensure that communities are supported and accompanied for years as they rebuild.

As we continue to pray for and support those who have experienced unimaginable loss, we invite you to support recovery efforts with a direct donation to the UCC Hurricane Helene relief efforts: <https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief>

Or, give via ERUCC to Hurricane Helene relief efforts: <https://ppay.co/J2phiV4dZok>



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## 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 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](https://bit.ly/songsforearth)



# 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

### WEBSITE

[www.erucc.org/give](http://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

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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*

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



## TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 6, 2024

Mark 10:2-16

### Enfolding Love

Many times we find ourselves skipping over the topic of divorce that we have in the first part of Mark 10:2-16, in favor of the more polite dinner conversation of Jesus blessing the children.

Divorce is never easy to discuss. It's deeply personal with complexities unique to each couple. Yet many still weigh in with their opinions, just as they did in Jesus' day.

Here, it's the religious legal experts — the Pharisees — who bring the topic to Jesus, hoping to catch the rising star of the Galilee in a false statement.

They ask straight out, "Is divorce lawful?"

At the time, there were two main teachings about divorce circulating among the Jews. There was the teaching of Hillel, a liberal rabbi, and then there was the more conservative rabbi, Shammai. The Pharisees wanted to know which camp Jesus was in. Neither.

Jesus was in the God camp, reminding them — and us — that life is messy. It is only God who knows each tangled heart intimately.

Jesus proceeds to answer their question by asking one of his own, "What did Moses say?" The Pharisees acknowledge that Moses allowed a certificate of dismissal.

And there you go. Moses allowed — not God, Jesus points out. It was never the plan for God's beloveds to experience the heartache of separation.

In a perfect world, there would be a love so strong that the ties that bind would never break. But we don't live in a perfect world. We live in a fallen one where God has given us free will to make decisions. Thankfully, God's redeeming love has the power to repair the brokenness in our lives.

Let's now go beyond married couples. What about the "divorces" — the breakups and breakdowns — among siblings, co-workers, and dear friends?

What if we realize that our fragile hearts are always at risk of the "hardening" that Jesus spoke.

What if this day we made a vow to all humanity to keep our hearts forever opened, allowing the space for the Spirit to come and heal the hurts, forgive the betrayals and grant the patience needed in our trying moments?

What if the pressing question isn't about the lawfulness of divorce, but more about the condition of our hearts?

*Loving God, we pray for Your enfolding love to come into our lives — revive relationships that are languishing, mend families who are torn, and grant peace and understanding for those whose partnerships have ended. May our hearts soften and beat in sync with Yours. Amen.*



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

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