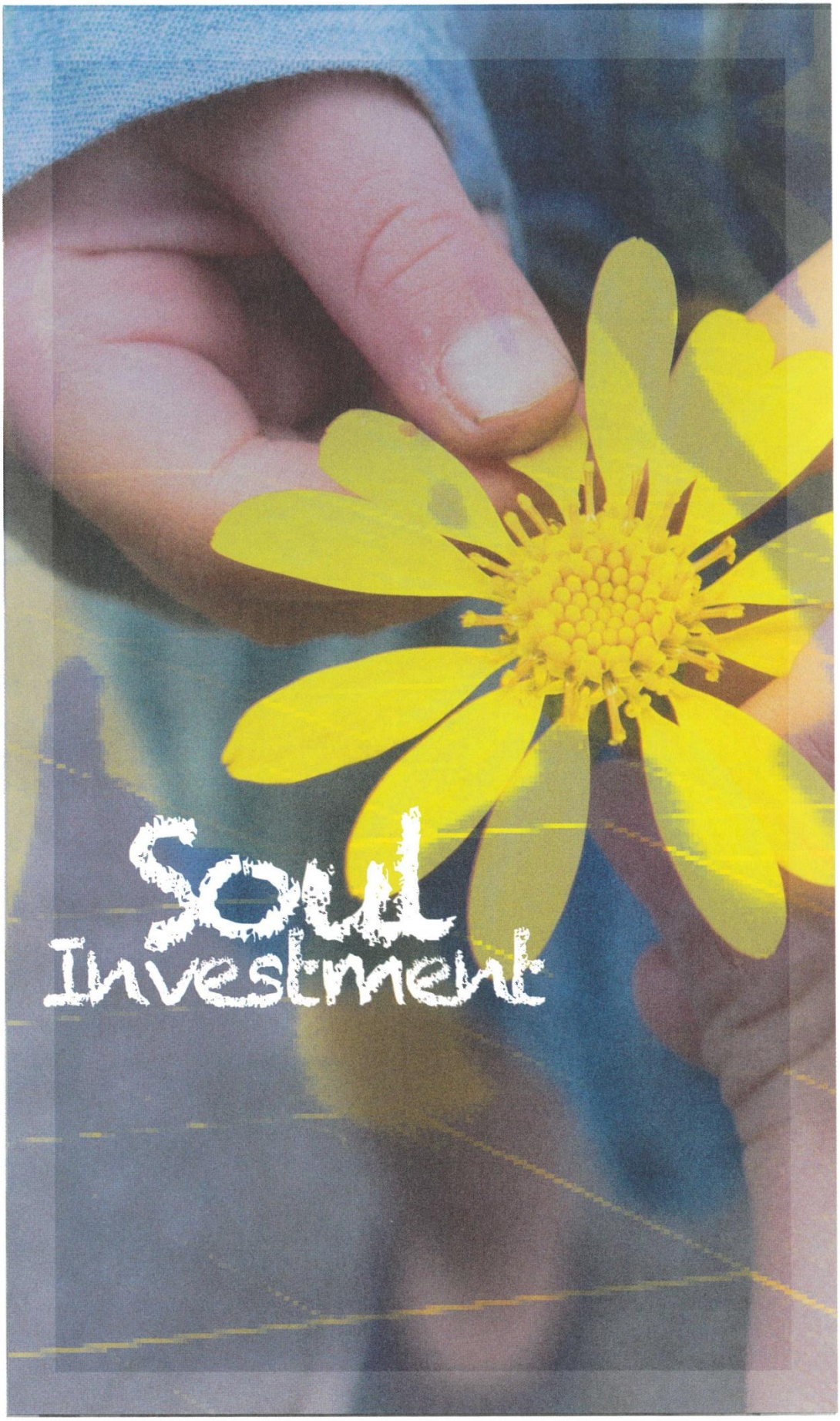
Soul
Investment

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 sanctuary lobby. We would love to meet and learn more about you and are available to answer your questions about 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 –

August 3, 2025 | Eighth Sunday after Pentecost | 10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal
**All who are able may stand*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Inspired by Psalm 107)*

Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!
For the Holy One redeems us and sustains us through times of trouble.
Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good!
For the Compassionate One hears our cries and sustains us through times of trouble.
Give thanks to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Amazing God, we honor and celebrate your presence among us.
We rejoice in your goodness and delight in your wonderful works.
We lament the world's suffering and take courage that you are with us.
We ask that you make your presence known to us.
Speak, O God, for we attune our attention for your guidance.
Receive our praise as we glorify your name! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing #17
stanzas 1 – 4

To you, O God, all creatures sing,
and all creation, everything sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam,
Your silver moon with softer gleam sing your praises,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your wind that blows the tempest by,
your clouds that sail across the sky sing your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song,
and lights of evening sing a long, sing your praises,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your flowing waters, crystal clear,
make melodies for you to hear, sing your praises, alleluia!
Your fire, … bountiful and bright,
remembering your warmth and light, sings your praises,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

To you, O God, day after day,
your planet earth in every way, sings your praises, alleluia,
As savory fruit and fragrant flower
shower forth your glory and your power, singing praises,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God calls us back again and again to the way of Christ. Let us turn toward that grace now and open our hearts in confession.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, too often we seem determined to turn away from you. You, however, continually call us to repentance, to turn–back to you and your way. We pray for fortitude to remain on the path set by Jesus and embody the ministry of Christ in the world. Deliver us from the insignificant concerns that distract us and empower us to do the work you have called us to do. Most of all, grant us grace to be the people you have made us to be. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, you have received an inheritance of riches in God. These treasures of hope, strength, encouragement, peace, grace, joy, rest, and love are yours to claim. They are yours to live. Receive them freely and abundantly.
Thanks be to God.

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.

THE SCRIPTURES The Rev. Richard Leslie

Psalm 49:1-9 OT page 518
Luke 12:13-21 NT page 74

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg

MORNING PRAYERS

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

Having received the gifts of God, let us seek the kindom and return a portion of our abundance to the ministry of this faith community so that our collective offering will bless God and God's people.

This is a time during worship 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 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 ERUCC Summertide Choir
Grace Upon Grace – M. McDonald

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy One, bless these offerings, prosper the work of our hands, and the gifts we bring. We dedicate them to your kindom forever and ever. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

God, we gather at this table representing all people in all places in our world. We bless and pass the bread and cup as Christ passed it to his friends. Please allow these elements to remind us of the good that you have done and inspire us to do the good that Christ calls us to do. May we leave this table revived and refreshed, having sipped from the cup of bold courage so that we may challenge all forms of injustice and pain. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

***Through* Christ, *with* Christ and *in* Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:
"This is my body which is broken for you.
Whenever you eat it, remember me."

And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you.
When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me."

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward at the direction of the deacons. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. The cup contains grape juice, and all bread is gluten-free. Consume the bread and drink from the cup as it is given to you, and hand your empty cup to one of the ushers.

After all have received the bread and the cup:

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

A BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

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

***CLOSING HYMN**

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky #563

We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor,
that all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join as partners
in creating a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beacons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,
that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

***BENEDICTION**

God has loved us. God loves us now. God will always love us.
Go and love God back.
Amen.

***THREEFOLD AMEN** #812

During the postlude, please remain seated, letting the music flow over you as a closing blessing.

POSTLUDE

Please be seated.

Worship Notes: Liturgy adapted from ***Rich Toward God:*** **Service Prayers for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Please join us for **Fellowship** with light refreshments and time for casual conversation after worship in our Community Room (1st Floor).

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in loving memory of Bill Rhoads by Barbara and Gregory.

The yellow rose is presented by Audrey Rayfield in memory of her brother, David Rayfield, US Air Force.

Attendance Last Sunday: 9 at 8:30 AM, 115 at 10:30 AM, and 37 online.

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

Serving Today: August 3		**Serving Next Week: August 10**
Deacons:	Mark Ulrich, Quynn Adkins	Robin A. Brady-Slifer
		Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder:	Jeanellen Kallevang	Matt Hueting
Scripture Reader:	Rev. Richard Leslie	Peg Stahler
Acolyte:		
Greeters:	Sue Pinner	Cathie Duncan, Felecia Bishop
	Robin Cooney, David Cooney	Julie Ebersole
Welcome Table:	Elizabeth Slade, Rissah Watkins	Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual:	Kelly Esslinger, Ethan Kline	Ethan Kline, Larry Martin
	David Howard	Kelly Esslinger
Nursery:		Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship:	Renae Kline, Cathie Duncan	Ave Barr, Cliff Barr, Pat Condo
	Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson	Joan Maples, Allen Maples
	Emily Button Kambic	Jen Powell, Bud Rossig
Communion Prep:	Cathie Duncan, Will Duncan	
Communion Clergy:	Rev. David Cooney	
	Rev. Fred Rhines	

Next Sunday: August 10 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 | Luke 12:32-40

As God calls us to claim our roles as disciples, our response is grounded in faith. What is this faith? In the readings today, we encounter the dynamic nature of faith and its expression in the lives of individuals and communities. We live in the assurance of faith as we await the fullness of the reign of God. This week, we are encouraged again to look to the example of faithful witnesses for the assurance we need to keep hoping and believing.

The ERUCC Summertide Choir will sing.

PRAYER LIST

We invite you to hold the following people in your prayers this week. Though we may not know the specifics of their needs, God does, and our prayers are a meaningful way to surround them with love and support.

ERUCC seeks permission before adding a name to this list or in worship announcements. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Karen Stitely
Beth Pinner (niece of Bob Pinner)
Donna Baumgardner Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)
Amber Khan (friend of Maria and Dawn Lagrotteria)
Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)
Hayden Jessop (friend of Sophia Carliss)
The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family
Rhea Stein
John Howard (brother of David Howard)
Doris Esslinger
Sandra Trout
Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)
Kathy Johnson
Mary Staley
Mike Robertson (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)
Pat Condo
Wells Condo
Kitty Bradley
Beanie Cornell
Milt Crutchley
Raymond Slifer (father of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)
Susan Bonhag (friend of the Mercier family)
Tom Frazier
Pauline Marendt
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)
Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
Emogene Wyand
Bob Pinner
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
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)

Cards invited: Emogene Wyand
701 Wyngate Dr
Frederick, MD 21701

PASTORAL CARE

ERUCC 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 regular Sunday morning services will receive visits (and communion) from the Rev. Dr. Morgan. Our Faithful Friends Team also makes visits, calls, and sends care cards.

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.

Activities, Events, and Announcements

ERUCC SUPPORTS THE UNITED WAY'S STUFF THE BUS CAMPAIGN

Collection Period: June 1 – August 3

ERUCC will be collecting NEW school supplies for The United Way's Stuff the Bus campaign, which supports Frederick County Public Schools students in ALICE families.

Drop off school supplies in the big yellow bins in the Sanctuary Lobby. The supplies most needed include markers, two-pocket folders (plastic preferred), earbuds with microphones, composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, three-ring binders, crayons, and backpacks. Complete lists of supplies may be found above the yellow bins.

HELP WITH VBS SUPPLIES

Donations needed by August 3

Our Vacation Bible School campers will receive a special snack each day of VBS, and we need your help with donations of food items. Please consider signing up to donate! Label items "VBS" and place in the Community Room kitchen/walk-in fridge.

Scan the QR Code or follow this link for the Signup Genius list: bit.ly/erVBS25.

Questions? Contact Starr Schaeberle at (301) 639-1309 or starr.schaeberle@comcast.net.

LET'S TALK: FOSTER PARENTING

Sunday, August 3
Community Room, 9:30 – 10:15 AM

All are welcome to join us on Sunday, August 3, when we welcome Frederick County's Foster Parent Recruiter, Kaitlin Morris, LCSW-C, who will share information about foster parenting.

Kaitlin will present a mini-orientation on the licensure process and basic eligibility for becoming a foster parent in Frederick County. This is a wonderful, low-stakes starting place to learn more about the foster care program and the needs within our community for families to support youth and children.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Mortgage Assistance: On the first Sunday of each month, we have a special opportunity for giving towards Mortgage Assistance. Donations fund ERUCC's mortgages with the Fisher Fund and FCB Bank, a division of ACNB Bank, payments on which are about $153,000/year.

WEEKLY PRAYER GATHERING
Wednesdays starting August 6
Sanctuary, 4:30 PM

When the world outside is disintegrating, there is a place of respite. Look how Jesus approached it with his disciples: "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest awhile".

On Wednesday afternoons, starting August 6, you are invited to enter the church (the far left front door into the Kieffer Lobby and the elevator vestibule door will be unlocked at 4:15 PM) and proceed quietly to the front of the sanctuary. We will meet promptly at 4:30 PM, have a few moments of "wisdom," perhaps chant together, and then fall into 20 minutes of silence (centering prayer/meditation). We will dismiss in silence, at 5:00 PM. Led by Rev. Richard Leslie.

SOLES OF JOY
Collection Period: now – August 7

Betsy Selby is once again collecting brand-new shoes for girls and boys in grades K-12 and invites you to help **Soles of Joy,** which will distribute the shoes so that local students can start the new school year with a new pair of sturdy athletic shoes/sneakers!

New shoes can be brought directly to ERUCC, or you can make a donation toward the purchase of shoes via cash or check made out to ERUCC (write "Soles of Joy" in the memo) or online at https://ppay.co/fGwqeNNf4W8.

HELP PACK THE PANTRY
Sunday, August 10, during both worship services

Let's continue to BE the Church by supporting our neighbors in need. Once a month, we work together to fill the Frederick Community Fridge pantry in our church parking lot.

Summer Months: Peanut Butter Jelly Mission
You are invited to bring any of the following shelf-stable, unopened, and unexpired items to worship to ensure there is food available for children while school is out. You can place them on the table at the chancel as you arrive. We will offer a prayer of dedication over the items before sending them out to bless our neighbors:

- Peanut/nut butters
- Boxed mac & cheese
- Shelf-stable milk
- Juice boxes or bottles
- Cereal
- Ravioli/Spaghetti-Os
- Cans of soup
- Applesauce
- Canned proteins (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Treats like fruit rollups, Little Debbie's, goldfish, Oreos, etc.

If you're unable to bring donations on August 10, you can place them in the pantry at any time.

Contact: Kim Sexton, mkcssexton@comcast.net.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS
Sunday, August 17, during 10:30 AM Worship

The first day of school is just around the corner, and we want to send you into the new year with love, laughter, and a whole lot of blessings! Join us on Sunday, August 17, for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks, a joyful celebration for students, teachers, and school staff of all ages and stages. Whether you're heading into preschool or grad school, teaching your first class or your thirtieth, or supporting students behind the scenes, you are welcome!

Bring your backpack, tote bag, laptop case, or briefcase to worship as we bless the journey ahead and remind one another: you are not alone, your church family is cheering you on every step of the way!

WELCOMING SPACES – HELP NEEDED
Sunday, August 17

Our friends from Curious Iguana are returning to the Community Room for an author talk and book signing (paid tickets required) on Sunday afternoon, August 17. *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Gardner will be discussing her latest thriller, *Kiss Her Goodbye*, with a representative from the non-profit No One Left Behind, with whom she partnered to research the novel. No One Left Behind is dedicated to evacuating, resettling, and advocating for our wartime allies in Afghanistan, Iraq, and beyond who have been displaced from their homes due to their support for the U.S. mission. Learn more at https://curiousiguana.com/event/lisa-gardner/.

How you can help:

- Assist with room setup immediately after worship on Sunday, August 17 — all tables need to be stored, the stage setup, and ~300 chairs need to be placed in rows!
- Volunteer as a Hospitality Host from 2:00 – 3:15 PM to greet and guide guests in the Kieffer Lobby. Contact the Church Office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762 to help.

GET EXCITED ABOUT OUR FALL GERMAN PARTNERSHIP

Prepare to support our **West Germany Youth Partnership**, who will be with us October 11-19 (Saturday night through Sunday worship, leaving for the airport Sunday after church).

- Contact Suzanne Morris (Morrissuzyq@aol.com) if you are able to serve as a host family.
- Contact Julie Clark (jclarkad@yahoo.com) and Renae Kline (rdkline15@gmail.com) if you are able to help with serving group meals.
- Contact Pastor Kirstin (ksrhoads@erucc.org) if you can help with airport travel on Sundays or area travel during the week.

ERUCC WORK & PREP DAY
Saturday, September 6

Save the date! Join us at ERUCC's Work & Prep Day, a time to roll up our sleeves and care for our shared spaces together. Whether you love to paint, sort, clean, or just lend a helping hand, there will be something for everyone; no special skills or age required! More details coming soon.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION
Tell Congress to Stop Supporting Human Rights Violations in the Philippines!

For the past several years, the Philippines has been deemed one of the deadliest countries in the world for human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists. Under former President Duterte's regime, massacres, killings, and intimidation became a regular occurrence, with the number of extrajudicial killings estimated at 30,000.

In July, General Synod 35 resoundingly passed the Declaration of Support for Philippine Human Rights (read more at https://bit.ly/40HlAi4). Join the UCC in living out this declaration of faith by taking action to support our siblings in the Philippines!

Take Action here: bit.ly/JPAN128771

DISASTER RECOVERY TRIP – TIOGA COUNTY, PENN.
October 5 – 10, 2025

ERUCC's Mission, Evangelism, & Social Justice Committee encourages anyone interested to participate in an upcoming long-term recovery disaster relief work trip to Tioga County, Pennsylvania, this fall!

Tioga County was particularly hard hit by flooding triggered by the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby in August 2024. Some of those affected areas were also drenched by the leftovers of Tropical Storm Fred in August 2021 and took months to recover.

Our partner for our work week is Develop Tioga, a local organization that has formed a Long-Term Recovery Team continuing to work with those affected. The recovery work has been focused on cleaning up debris from properties and repairing homes that were devastated by flooding. Previous groups have been doing work such as installing water heaters, drywall, replacing insulation, and building ramps.

As we get closer to the time of the trip and know the skills of the group members, we will be able to have a clearer idea of what our group will be doing. We will need people with a variety of skills, as well as people who are willing to learn new skills, cook, and do material runs for the group. In other words, we will find meaningful work for you to do.

Group Size: Up to 20

Cost: Approximately $100 per person for food. As of right now, the group will be cooking at a local church. One dinner out at your own expense.

Accommodations: Penn York Camp. Participants will need to bring sleeping bags or bedding.

Schedule: Participants arrive late afternoon/early evening on October 5. We can arrange for the carpooling once we know who is going.

- Monday - Friday, October 6-10: Work Projects
- Departure: Early afternoon on Friday, October 10th

Contact: Barbara Kershner Daniel, CAC Disaster Response Coordinator at bkdaniel@cacucc.org.

Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 4 – 8

Registered VBS "campers" should enter through the rear doors from the parking lot patio into the Sanctuary Lobby. Children and youth helpers will immediately check in before entering Camp Firelight! Make sure you bring a packed lunch, a reusable water bottle, and sunscreen daily.

Check-out will take place at the same location; doors open at 2:45 PM.

Some help — from anyone — is needed on Sunday, August 3, to move furniture and decorate the rooms. Connect with Pastor Kirstin to lend a hand from 12:00 – 2:00 PM.

VBS Youth Helpers will meet with Pastor Kirstin for training on Sunday, August 3, in the Community Room from 3:00-4:00 PM.

SUMMER SUNDAYS FOR KIDS & YOUTH: "I AM" SERIES

Select Sundays, starting June 22
dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

This summer, we're embracing a more relaxed rhythm with five special Sundays designed just for children and youth—from Pre-K through high school. These gatherings offer a meaningful balance: space for spiritual growth and connection, while also honoring the value of rest, travel, and time away for our wonderful volunteers and families.

Each session will focus on a unique "I AM" theme, exploring identity, faith, and authenticity through story, discussion, and activity.

We hope your child will join us for our final affirming, fun, and thoughtful gathering:

- August 24 - "I am We: A Book of Community" led by Pastor Kirstin

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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

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 ~ *Executive Church Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org

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

Ann Watkins ~ Administrative Assistant/Receptionist ~ awatkins@erucc.org

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

CONSISTORY

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

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

Rebecca Shillingburg ~ *Worship Chair* | Peter Brehm ~ *Finance Chair*

Shelley Weakly ~ *Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Chair* | Vacant ~ *Property Chair*

Julie Clark ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Holly Davis ~ *Christian Education Chair*

Mark Ulrich ~ *Head Deacon* | Larry Martin ~ *Member-at-Large*

ELDERS

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Matt Hueting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Susan Kulp | Eric Weakly

DEACONS

Quynn Adkins | Tommie Bradshaw | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer

Angela Brittain | Jim Brittain | Kyle Miller | Mark Ulrich

SETTLED PASTOR SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE

Rachael Bowman | Tommie Bradshaw | Karl Cooper | Linda Coyle | Matt Hueting

Terry Logee | Jen Powell | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

8:30 – 9:15 AM	**Early Worship**, Sanctuary
9:00 AM	**Coffee and Conversation,** Kieffer Lobby
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	**Nursery Care**
10:30 – 11:30 AM	**Worship**, Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org
11:30 AM	**Fellowship,** Downtown Community Room

Stay Informed

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

Worship services and events at Evangelical Reformed UCC are sometimes photographed and videotaped to document the vibrant life of our church. If you do not wish to be included in these recordings, please notify a deacon or the church office. Always obtain permission prior to sharing images and videos that include minors on your personal social media.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 3, 2025 Luke 12:13-21

Soul Investment

There was a field I always enjoyed driving by. In the summer it was filled with wildflowers dancing in the wind. Come autumn the flowers would wither but the tall grass danced on, inviting leaves as its dance partner, both moving with the changing wind.

I drove by the field the other day and discovered it had been trampled by a sea of concrete storage units. My heart broke. How did we come to live in a world where such buildings are needed?

Sadly, more beautiful fields are in danger of extinction as the self-storage market in the United States is projected to reach $44 billion in 2033. And just last year, storage space consumed an estimated 2,099,000,000 of square feet.

Jesus once told a story about the dangers of accumulating material possessions. He warned how "stuff" can easily become gods, demanding more of our time, energy and money in acquiring and caring for them.

He then spoke about a rich fool in need of more storage for his worldly goods. So, the rich fool tore down his existing barns and built bigger ones, all along feeling a sense of worth and security. What he didn't realize was that security was fleeting as death would come like a thief in the night. What good then would the bigger barns be?

The other day I passed an old farmhouse with a huge dumpster on the front lawn — this has become today's obit in my rural community, alerting neighbors that an elderly resident has died. Relatives would soon be tossing treasures into it like worthless trash.

I often wonder what would happen to my things. News reports have been telling me for years now that the younger generation doesn't want our "antiques." This has fueled a trend, which emerged from Sweden, known a "death cleaning" — where the living control what goes into the foreboding dumpster.

While it might sound a bit morbid, the act of purging while still alive can be a spiritual act, leading us to decide, while we have time, what we really need to hold on to.

I am by no means rich, but still a bit foolish. But then I see a dumpster in front of a home and reality hits hard: We really can't take our stuff with us.

My prayer is for the day to come when bigger barns are no longer built so that the real treasures in life, the wildflowers in the field, can dance again. Will you join me in this prayer?

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)

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