

Caring



Neighbors

## **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 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 –



July 13, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

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

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peter Brehm

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, neighbors and strangers, prophets and seekers of justice,  
**those who need a helping hand, and those who have something to offer.**  
Whether your faith is weak or strong, come:  
**let us be neighbors in this place, and let us worship God together.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

God of love and compassion,  
you call us to be people of compassion, too:  
to experience in our living the lives of others,  
to laugh with their joys and cry with their sorrows.  
In this time of worship speak to us again your words of love  
and remind us again of what it means to be a neighbor.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the ultimate neighbor. 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**

God sends prophets to challenge and guide us—calling us to justice, compassion, and faithfulness. Too often, we turn away. Let us return to God now, confessing the ways we have resisted that call.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of grace: when we hear prophets calling us to measure up, and we turn away, forgive us. When we see our neighbors in need and turn away, forgive us. When we assume we are too busy or too important to get involved, forgive us. When we try to discredit prophetic voices so that we can ignore them, forgive us. When we fail to measure up to being your people, forgive us.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear this good news: we share in the promises God made to all people. God forgives us and sets us free to live new lives.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Kim Sexton

**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.*

**\*HYMN**

*Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

#588

**THE SCRIPTURES**

Abby Spear

Amos 7:7-15 OT page 855

Luke 10:25-37 NT page 71

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

The Rev. David Cooney, Ph.D.

*No Fine Print*

**MORNING PRAYERS**

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

Like the Good Samaritan, we are called to show mercy and compassion—crossing boundaries, offering care, and making room for others. As we bring our gifts, may they be used to build a church where strangers become friends, outcasts are welcomed, seekers are nourished, and doubters encounter grace. Let us give with open hands and generous hearts.

*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](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**

*Prayer for Shalom*

ERUCC Summertide Choir  
– Pederson

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of grace and compassion,  
we offer these gifts—of money and food—with open hearts.  
May they nourish ministries of justice, mercy, and welcome.  
Let your church be a place where strangers become friends,  
outcasts are embraced, seekers are fed, and doubters find faith.**

**Bless all who come to the Community Fridge and Pantry in need.  
May they receive more than sustenance—  
may they experience dignity, community, and care.**

**Multiply these humble offerings,  
that they may bear fruit in a world longing for justice,  
flourishing, and joy. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

#388

Tune – AURELIA

**\*BENEDICTION**

Go from this gathering to meet your neighbor with open hands and an open heart, giving and receiving the goodness of God's love!

**We go to love God, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Amen.**

**\*SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Please be seated.*



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

---

**The flowers on the altar** this morning are in honor of Joseph and Elaine Bishop by Felecia Bishop.

**The yellow rose** is presented by Audrey Rayfield in memory of her father, Donald Baker, US Army.

---

**Attendance Last Sunday:** attendance will be reported next week.



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

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

---

### **Serving Today: July 13**

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer  
Robin L. Brady-Slifer  
Elder: Matt Hueting  
Scripture Reader: Abby Spear  
Acolyte: Abby Spear  
Greeters: Robin Cooney, Danielle Carbone  
  
Welcome Table: Betsy Selby  
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker  
Jack Day  
Nursery: Emily Spear  
Fellowship: Emily Spear, Chris Spear  
Abby Spear, Ben Spear  
Jocelyn Vara, Chris Vara  
Rachael Bowman, Josh Bowman

### **Serving Next Week: July 20**

Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw  
  
Tyler L. York  
Patti Patterson  
  
Julie Ebersole, Felecia Bishop  
Tom Ford, Rachel Ford  
Elizabeth Slade, Jeanellen Kallevang  
Rodney Martin, Kelly Esslinger  
Jack Day  
  
Starr Schaeberle, Mark Ulrich  
Darryl Glick, Julie Chappell  
Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

---

### **Next Sunday: July 20 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Psalm 52 | Luke 10:38-42

The call to take up the role of discipleship encompasses a call to ground our daily living in the word of God. Each day, there are opportunities to hear and follow God's word, if only we pause and listen. The action of faithful discipleship is informed by reflection on Christ and the way of God's realm.

*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.*

Beth Pinner (niece of Bob Pinner)  
Peg McGuire (sister of Nan MacNamara)  
Donna Baumgardner Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)  
Amber Khan (friend of Maria and Dawn Lagrotteria)  
Leslynn Thomas (friend of Dan Smith)  
Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)  
Hayden Jessop (friend of Sophia Carliss)  
The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family  
Marj Berkheimer  
Rhea Stein  
Christy Kehlbeck (friend of Hollie Mercier)  
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)

---

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

## Activities, Events, and Announcements

### **HELP PACK THE PANTRY**

Sunday, July 13, 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**

Throughout the summer months (July 13, August 10), 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 July 13, you can place them in the pantry at any time.

**Contact:** Kim Sexton, [mkssexton@comcast.net](mailto:mkssexton@comcast.net).

---

### **SHARING OUR STORY – GERMAN PARTNERSHIP**

Sunday, July 20

Community Room, 9:00 AM

Participants in the **East German Church and Youth Partnership in Klein Schwechten:** Quynn, Eli, Camryn, Isaac, and Katie, and adults: Hollie Mercier, Matt Pomeroy, and Pastor Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads will share with the church where they went, what they did, and what they learned at 9:00 AM on Sunday, July 20, in the Community Room.

---

## 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**



*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*

## **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.

---

## **THE 35<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**July 11 – 15**

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for inspirational worship, conducting the business of the church, formal church witness, and fellowship with friends. Delegates and visitors will experience dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, and special dining events. Delegates will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. The Keynote speaker will offer illumination and insight into the challenges facing our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness, and will worship together.

Please pray for those from ERUCC and all who will attend General Synod in Kansas City.

---

## **NEW FRIENDS OPEN HOUSE AT ERUCC**

Thursday, July 17

Back Patio, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

You and your family are warmly invited to a New Friends Open House on Thursday, July 17, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at ERUCC. This casual and friendly evening is a chance to enjoy a beverage, light snacks, and good conversation on our back patio (we'll move inside if it's too hot or rainy). You'll have the opportunity to meet both new faces and longtime members who help shape the life of our congregation.

It's an open house, so feel free to arrive and leave whenever works best for your schedule. There's plenty of parking nearby—in the church lot, on the street, or in the parking garage. Dress is casual, children are welcome, and there's no cost or need to bring anything—just yourselves! We hope you can join us!

**If you're able, please RSVP by July 11 to help us plan.** Just let us know the names of those attending, and feel free to include any dietary needs or preferences so we can be as welcoming as possible: email Barb Barry at [ebbarry1@gmail.com](mailto:ebbarry1@gmail.com).

That said, we know how summer schedules go—if you're not sure yet or can't commit now, that's okay! If the day arrives and you find yourself free, we'd love to have you drop by. We're looking forward to a joyful evening of connection and community—and we hope to see you there!

## GRETNA GLEN CAMPER MAIL

Later this month (July 20-25), seven ERUCC children and youth will be campers at Gretna Glen, where they will have the opportunity to share in a camp experience filled with singing, Bible Discovery, worship, crafts, nature, swimming, boating, fishing, campfires, hiking, archery, sports, games, and much more. Those attending camp include Emma Baker, Emi Rhoads, Marley Rhoads, Brooklyn Njoya, Zaydan Fulp, Abby Spear, Ben Spear, and Pastor Kirstin.

Campers love to get mail while at camp! You're invited to send a positive note or letter by Monday, July 21, encouraging campers to have fun during their camp experience. Please address as follows:

Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center  
c/o Camper's Name - Night Owls  
87 Old Mine Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Pre-printed mailing labels are also available at the reception desk in the Kieffer Lobby and mail can also be given to Pastor Kirstin by Sunday, July 20, to deliver while at camp. Please remember that it may take a few days for letters to arrive at camp. Gretna Glen will hold mail until the camper's are there, so you can begin sending mail right away. Do not send any kind of food, snacks, candy or gum.

---

## ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, July 22

North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

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

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669

*The Sea Around Us* by Rachel Carson. *The Sea Around Us* is one of the most remarkably successful books ever written about the natural world. Rachel Carson has a rare ability to combine scientific insight with moving, poetic prose. She captures the mystery and allure of the ocean with a compelling blend of imagination and expertise. Carson's book provides a timely reminder of both the fragility and the centrality of the ocean and the life that abounds within it. Anyone who loves the sea, or who is concerned about our natural environment, will want to read, or re-read, this classic work.

---

# A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

## 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.

---

## REMEMBERING LOVE AND RESTORING HOPE

Wednesday, August 27

Frederick Community College JBK Theater, 7:00 PM

The Frederick County Health Department invites those who have lost a loved one to participate in an event called “Remembering Love & Restoring Hope” to be held in August to honor the lives



lost to overdose. Anyone interested in having their loved one be included in the event can submit information through July 18, 2025 here:

<https://frederickcountymd-training.form.transform.civicpl...>

Anyone who has lost a loved one to overdose is invited to attend the event which will also provide support to family and friends left behind. The event will be held at Frederick Community College JBK Theater, 7932 Opossumtown Pike Frederick, MD 21702.

If you or your loved one is struggling with addiction and is in need of support, system navigation, harm reduction supplies, or treatment resources, call us at (301) 600-1777 or email [BHS@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:BHS@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

---

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

## Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements

### 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 these affirming, fun, and thoughtful gatherings:

- July 20 - "I am Peace: A Book of Mindfulness" led by Thomasa Pomeroy
- July 27 - "I am Courage: A Book of Resilience" led by Thomasa Pomeroy

---

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 4 – 8



We are excited to begin our Vacation Bible School registration! This year we are using the Cokesbury theme Camp Firelight! which invites us to explore the ways that we trust can in God. VBS this year will be Monday-Friday, August 4 – 8, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM with one afternoon of extended day and a trip to Baker Park Swimming Pool.

Campers and volunteers will be asked to pack a lunch and bring a water bottle and sunscreen daily. We will give campers a drawstring "camp bag" on Monday that they can use for the week. We are asking for both participating children ages 4 year old – entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade and youth helpers entering grades 6 – 12 to be signed up using this registration.



**Register:** [bit.ly/ERvbs25](https://bit.ly/ERvbs25)

If you would like to help with VBS by leading an activity, decorating the rooms, or helping with snacks, please contact Dawn Lagrotteria at [59mbartles@gmail.com](mailto:59mbartles@gmail.com)

Please look for a food supplies sign up to contribute food or snack items that will be provided mid- July. We will plan a volunteer meeting on July 18. New volunteers will be able to attend SAFE CHURCH TRAINING on Thursday, July 31. Please contact Pastor Kirstin by July 18 to RSVP and select a time.

We will move furniture and decorate the rooms Sunday, August 3 from 12:00 – 2:00 PM. Youth Helpers will have a training August 3 from 4:00-5:00 PM.

**Contact:** Pastor Kirstin, [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org).

# **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 ~ *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	<b>Early Worship</b> , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	<b>Coffee and Conversation</b> , Kieffer Lobby
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Nursery Care</b>
10:30 – 11:30 AM	<b>Worship</b> , Sanctuary and Online at <a href="http://www.erucc.org">www.erucc.org</a>
11:30 AM	<b>Fellowship</b> , Downtown Community Room

## **Stay Informed**



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

**A JUST WORLD FOR ALL.**



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.

July 13, 2025

Luke 10:25-37

## Caring Neighbors

“Who is my neighbor?” It’s a question asked of Jesus so long ago, and one that still begs for an answer today.

For Jesus, his reply was to tell the beloved parable we know as “The Good Samaritan,” highlighting for his hearers how the most unlikely person — a Samaritan — who was despised by the Jews, was the very person to care for the nearly beaten to death man found in a ditch alongside the notoriously dangerous Jericho Road.

So often, when we hear Jesus’ words, we all too quickly step into the sandals of the Samaritan. We see ourselves in the role of benevolent savior with a charitable heart — and matching wallet — to help our unfortunate neighbors.

But do we ever dare to switch characters and put ourselves in the ditch, beaten and left to die, praying that someone will see and help us? Not as often as we should.

The question “Who is my neighbor?” is complex for the answer lies in the much-needed realization that sometimes we are the helper and sometimes we are the helpless, but all the time we are travelers on the same precarious road of life and, as such, need to see one another as neighbors in Christ.

There’s a quote from Martin Niemöller, a German Lutheran pastor who went from Nazi sympathizer to outspoken critic of Hitler, that is part of the permanent exhibition at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which opened in 1993.

His quote is a powerful illustration of the fluidity of defining who are neighbor is. He wrote:

*First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me.*

Catholic priest and author, Henri Nouwen, once said of the parable of The Good Samaritan that “my neighbor is the one who crosses the road for me.”

May today we become road crossing neighbors, knowing that one day we, too, will find ourselves in need of another road crossing neighbor who dares to reach their hand out to us.

*Loving God, may Your world be filled with caring neighbors who recognize one another as Your precious beloved children. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*

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



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