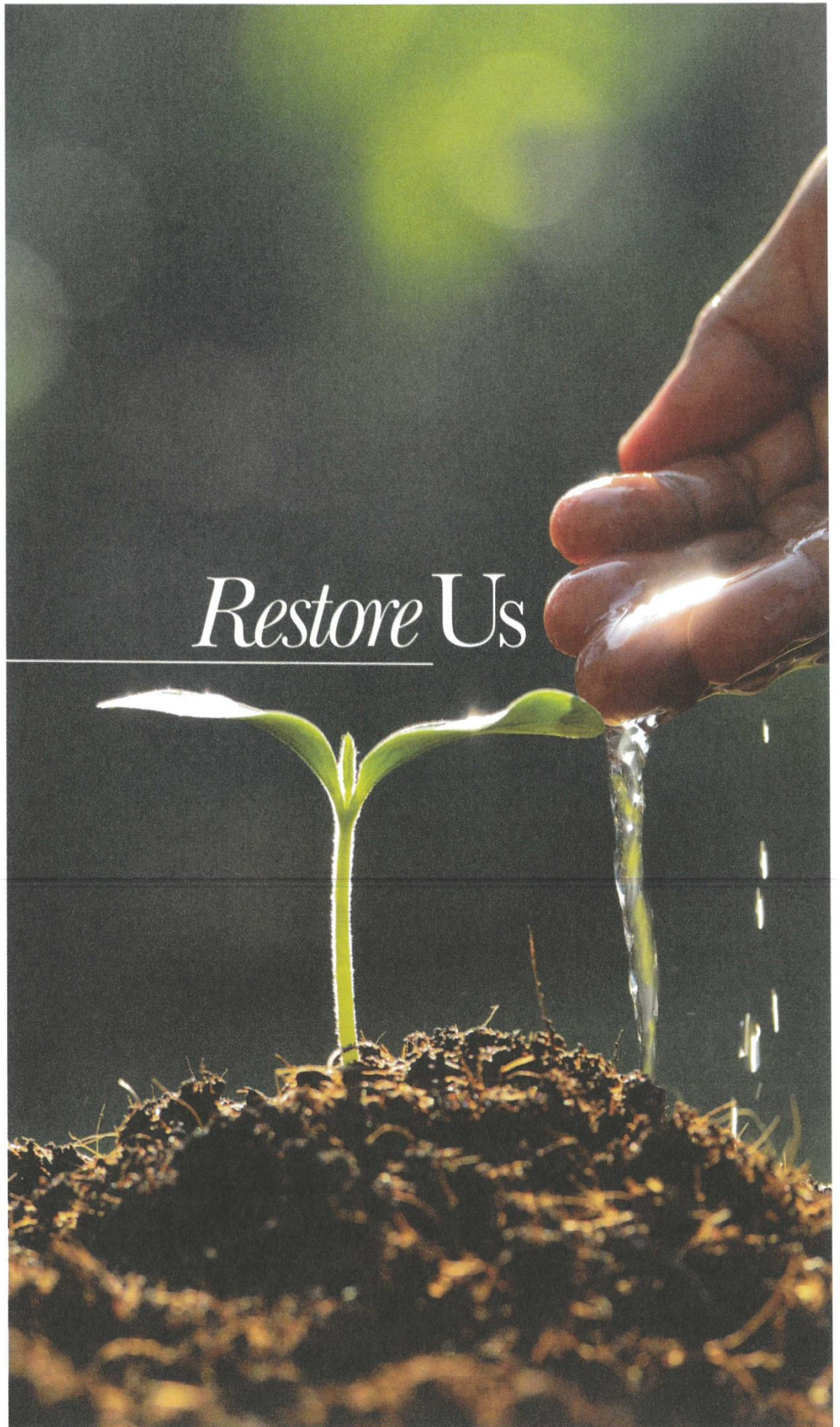


Restore Us



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 17, 2025

Tenth 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**

God calls us to seek justice, rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan, and plead for the widow.

We come to learn God's ways and to walk in God's truth.

Christ comes to kindle a holy fire, to stir our hearts and awaken our spirits.

**We come ready to be transformed,
to live with courage and compassion.**

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,
we gather to worship the living God.

God is with us now. Let us worship with joy and commitment!

***OPENING PRAYER**

**We come before you this day, O God,
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.**

**As you have been with your people throughout history,
we know you are with us now.**

**In this time of worship,
help us to celebrate your presence among us,
and strengthen us to continue
the work you have begun. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

God Is Truly with Us

#68

**¹ God is truly with us; sing we and adore now;
praise the One we come before now.
Here within this temple, here in sound and silence,
worship God in deepest reverence.
You alone, God, we own, you, our God and Savior;
praise to you forever.**

**² God is truly with us; loud our praise resounding!
Echoes of the saints surrounding!
"Holy, holy, holy," hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!
Bow your ear to us here; hear, O Christ, the praises
that your Church now raises.**

**³ Source of every blessing, bless the ones who name you,
let our words and deeds proclaim you.
Like the saints and angels praising you in glory,
may your servants sing your story.
And in all, great and small, may we do most nearly
what you love most dearly.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God has shown us what is good, yet we have not always walked in those ways. When we ignore God's care or turn from God's hopes, we are invited, not into shame but into the grace that calls us back. Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us confess our sins together.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, you provide all we need and watch over us.
But in response, we have often ignored your care
and have not always lived in ways you long for.
We know that at times we disappoint you,
going against your hopes and dreams.
Forgive us, God.
Don't give up on us. Continue to care for us, that we might do your will,
producing the fruits of justice and proclaiming your praise. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God has been with saints throughout history, and God is with us now. Know that you are forgiven, and invited by God into new living.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Trust in You

Vacation Bible School Campers

– Andy Wilson

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.

***HYMN**

O Day of God, Draw Near

#611

**O Day of God, draw near in beauty and in power,
Come with your timeless judgement now to match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,
The quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our world of strife your sovereign word of peace,
And finely build for days to come foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our word of strife your sovereign word of peace,
That war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease.**

**O Day of God, draw near as at creation's birth;
Let there be light again, and let your reign begin on earth.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Eric Weakly

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

OT page 630

Luke 12:49-56

NT page 75

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Let's Talk

The Rev. Michelle Beadle

MORNING PRAYERS

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

Friends, as followers of Jesus, we are called to be disciples who speak and act with justice in a world that knows pain and anger. Guided by the Spirit, we are invited to live a love that is steady and real, sustaining those around us, honoring each person's story, and making God's presence known to those who have felt unloved.

In our giving, we share more than resources. We share hope, renewal, and the journey of faith together. With respect, dignity, joy, and compassion, let us now bring our tithes, gifts, and very lives to Christ's service, that God's name may be glorified in all we do.

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

I Want Jesus to Walk with me

ERUCC Summertide Choir
– arr. B. Burroughs

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, we offer our gifts and ourselves to you. Take all that we have and are and use that for the work of making your reign real on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

God Be with You

#81

**¹ God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

² God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

³ God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

⁴ God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

***BENEDICTION**

Take with you the blessing of Jesus,
who leads us and makes our faith complete;
the blessing of our Heavenly Mother and Father,
from whom we come;
and the blessing of the Holy Spirit,
who breathes life into us all.
May the God of our ancestors
lead you into the future.
Amen.

***THREEFOLD AMEN**

#812

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: Liturgy adapted from Seasons of the Spirit.

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 honor of this congregation who embody the UCC motto, “to believe is to care, and to care is to do”. They are given with gratitude by Jean N. Fish and Barbara J. Biser.

The yellow rose is placed by Karen Justice in honor of her late husband, Col. John Justice.

Attendance Last Sunday: 11 at 8:30 AM, 109 at 10:30 AM, and 45 online.



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

Serving Today: August 17

Deacons:	Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw
Elder:	Eric Weakly
Scripture Reader:	Eric Weakly
Acolyte:	
Greeters:	Tom Ford, Rachel Ford Felecia Bishop
Welcome Table:	Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual:	Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle Jack Day
Nursery:	
Fellowship:	Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer Peter Brehm, Felecia Bishop Rob McGuire, Alex Martinez

Serving Next Week: August 24

Angela Brittain, Jim Brittain
Ave Barr
Brooklyn
Vivian Bowman
Julie Ebersole, Cliff Barr
Niel Jefferson, Kath Jefferson
Jocelyn Vara, Betsy Selby
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jack Day
Emily Spear
Linda Coyle, Tommie Bradshaw
Shelley Weakly, Eric Weakly
Colleen Baldree, Chuck Baldree

Next Sunday: August 24 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrews 12:18-29 | Luke 13:10-17

God breaks into our world and shakes things up. When Jesus reaches out to the woman who is bent over and proclaims she is “set free,” we rejoice in our liberation as well. We are set free to respond to God’s call and participate fully in the new life of God’s healing reign. Jesus welcomes, loves, and restores. What is our call to discipleship in the new life that Jesus brings?

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.

Jim Rube (great uncle of Tyler York)	Pat Condo	Marcia Eisenstein
Karen Stitley	Wells Condo	Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Donna Baumgardner Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)	Kitty Bradley	Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)
Amber Khan (friend of Maria and Dawn Lagrotteria)	Beanie Cornell	Jeannette Johnson
Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)	Milt Crutchley	Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Hayden Jessop (friend of Sophia Carliss)	Raymond Slifer (father of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)	Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)
The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family	Susan Bonhag (friend of the Mercier family)	Marcy Channell (daughter of Jo Ann Fritz)
Rhea Stein	Tom Frazier	Paige Coffey
John Howard (brother of David Howard)	Pauline Marendt	Fran Wenner
Doris Esslinger	Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)	Bonnie Devilbiss
Sandra Trout	Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)	Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)	Emogene Wyand	Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Kathy Johnson	Bob Pinner	Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Mary Staley	Tanya Pearre (sister of Colleen Baldree)	
Mike Robertson (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)	Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)	
	Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley)	
	Lee Thomas	

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

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!

LUNCH & LEARN WITH GLOBAL MINISTRIES MISSION CO-WORKERS

Sunday, August 17

Grace UCC (25 E. 2nd St.), 12:30 PM

Join Grace UCC on Sunday, August 17, at 12:30 PM for lunch, a presentation, and conversation with Xiomara Cintrón-García and Alex Maldonado, Global Ministries Mission Co-Workers serving in Colombia. Our offerings through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) help make their work possible, so this is a wonderful chance to see your gifts in action and be inspired by their ministry.

Alex and Xiomara, have spent the past four years working for peace and justice in partnership with The Christian Centre for Justice, Peace, and Nonviolent Action (Justapaz) and the Evangelical Council of Colombia (CEDECOL), both partners of Global Ministries of the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ.

They will share stories from their role in supporting the implementation of a historic peace agreement, helping communities gain voice and security amid an uncertain peace, and showing how churches and civil society are building peace in the face of violence.

Come, learn, and be encouraged by how the gospel is bringing hope to Colombia.

WEEKLY PRAYER GATHERING

Wednesdays

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, 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.

HELP OUR GARDEN GROW

During Vacation Bible School, campers rolled up their sleeves and got to work! They built a raised bed, filled it with compost, planted seeds, and gave them a good drink of water. You can see their beautiful work in the rear parking lot.

With trust in God, we planted in hope: seeking wisdom, using our strength, adding creativity, and praying for growth. But the job isn't over! Our new plants need consistent watering, and we'd love help from our church family.

How you can help:



- **Sign up for a watering day:** <https://signup.com/go/TFyEHkf>
- On your day (unless it has rained), get the hose from the fenced area in the parking lot, hook it up, and use the sprinkler to water the plants (full instructions on sign-up page).
- Enjoy a stroll to your favorite shop or library while the sprinkler waters for 20-30 minutes.
- When done, unhook the hose/sprinkler and put them away.

Thank you for helping us out. Our VBS campers are eager to see the fruits of their labor, which will largely go to the Frederick Community Fridge! Carrots, beets, kale, cilantro, and more!

WHAT QUALITIES MATTER MOST IN OUR NEXT PASTOR? TELL US!

As we prepare to finalize and file our church profile with the Central Atlantic Conference UCC, we want to hear from you!

We've created a short survey listing qualities that a potential senior pastor might exhibit. Please take a few minutes to select up to 15 qualities that you feel are most important. Your responses will help ensure our priorities reflect those of the congregation as we complete the profile and begin evaluating potential candidates. It only takes 5 minutes to make your voice heard!



Take the Survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/njqVemav2>

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG

resumes Sunday, September 7, and Wednesday, September 10
North Room / Zoom

Led by Rev. John Shillingburg, this is an ongoing class, with new members welcome at any time. No prior Bible knowledge is required. The class explores scripture in its original context, considering who wrote it and how it has been interpreted over time. This multi-faceted approach leads to deep learning and engaging conversations. In September, the Sunday morning class will begin by studying the Gospel of Mark and the Wednesday evening class will begin by exploring the book of Hosea.

The course is offered at two times each week:

- Sunday morning, 9:15 – 10:15 AM, Zoom: bit.ly/ERsunstudy
- Wednesday evening, 7:00 – 8:15 PM, Zoom: bit.ly/ERwedstudy

THEOLOGY AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH REV. DR. REBECCA SHILLINGBURG (formerly Tuesday Morning Bible Study)

resumes Tuesday, September 9

North Room / Zoom, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Our new name reflects the diverse nature of this class. We've explored topics ranging from what we believe to how the truth of the Bible is more than we get when we read it literally. In September, we will finish the last chapters of *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. This beautifully written book has helped us discover the sacred in the small things we do and see every day of our life. We hope you will join us.

GENTLE YOGA RETURNS!

Tuesdays, starting September 9

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. Participants of all levels are welcome.

Each drop-in class is \$10. Questions? Contact Renae, rdkline15@gmail.com.

To access the yoga classroom in Trinity Chapel, walk through the gate to the left of the building, down the walkway to the side door, and into the hallway leading to the classroom.

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.

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.



SEPTEMBER 21

1:30-8:00 PM

ERUCC Downtown Community Room
15 W Church St. and Baker Park
Frederick, MD

Events Include

1:30-3 PM ~ Film Showing:
"There is Another Way"

3-4 PM ~ Workshops:
 Braver Angels & Others
 Rotary Club Peace Efforts

4-6 PM ~ Group Walk to Baker Park
 Sing-A-Long & Music
 Art Projects: Making Peace Signs
 Origami: Folding Cranes
 Tattoos & Face Painting

6-7 PM ~ Return to the Community Room
Potluck Supper

Sponsored by
Frederick Friends Meeting
& Others

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, with others in the Central Atlantic Conference UCC, to Tioga County, Pennsylvania, this October 5-10!

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.



Learn more: bit.ly/tioga1025

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

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

Select Sundays

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

begins Sunday, September 7

We're excited to welcome all children and youth back for a new year of Sunday School on Sunday, September 7! Join us for a joyful morning of learning, connection, and faith formation as we begin a brand new year together.

Classes for all ages begin at 9:15 AM. Bring your curiosity, your questions, and a friend!

More details coming soon, but for now, mark your calendars!



A JUST WORLD FOR ALL.

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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	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.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

WEBSITE

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*

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.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 17, 2025

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Restore Us

There comes a time in life when you wake up one morning and stare into the mirror wondering who that person is staring back at you.

Perhaps it is a few more gray hairs or a new wrinkle that makes the reflection unrecognizable. Or maybe it's not your physical appearance, but rather a hollow feeling in your gut reminding you that somewhere on the road of life you took a wrong turn and don't know the way back to who you were or who you wanted to be.

If this was the morning that such reality splashed your face, take heart. You are not alone as each of us, one day or another, stand in the need of God's restoration.

Luckily, God is in the business of restoring what is lost — be it our dreams, our hopes or our trust in goodness in the world. We just need to cry out to God, asking for help.

Psalm 80 is such a cry. In this often overlooked plea for restoration and salvation, the psalmist brings to us a soaring and emotional song, complete with the refrain, "Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved."

The setting to the psalm is the aftermath of a crisis where the nation of Israel, described as a vineyard, recognizes that they had a part to play in the destruction of the vines. And in the aftermath of everything that went wrong, Israel remembers once again that the only hope they have is in God. Three times they sing the refrain, "Restore us, God Almighty ..."

Yes, there comes a time in our lives when we wake up and don't recognize the person staring back at us. Somewhere along the way something went awry — a wrong decision, a wrong turn, a bad choice or a sorrowful mistake.

It is then we sing with faith the refrain sang by the helpless and the hopeless, "Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved."

And as we do, know that God hears, God sees and God is at work, restoring us once again.

May today we commit to memory Psalm 80's refrain, turning to it always in our times of need.

Merciful God, we are sorry for forgetting Your ways are always the best for us. Forgive us for the decisions we have made that have created chaos and confusion in our lives. Restore us now and may Your face shine upon us this day and always. 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.)

