

A photograph of a person sitting in a forest, reading a book. The person's hand is visible holding the book. The background is a blurred forest scene. The text "HEALING REIGN" is overlaid in a bold, white, serif font. A solid green vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

HEALING REIGN

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 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 items, books, and crayons are in the rear of the sanctuary, and a 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 24, 2025

Eleventh 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 71)*

Let us worship the Holy One, our refuge, hope and trust.

Our praise is continually of our God!

God will not put us to shame. God is our rock!

Turn to the God who saves and delivers.

Our praise is continually of our God!

God's righteousness redeems. God is our shelter!

Find rest and delight in the Holy One.

Our praise is continually of our God!

We lean upon the Holy One. God is our sure foundation!

***OPENING PRAYER**

God, as we gather in your name, redeem the days when our focus wandered and draw us back to you. Let your wisdom, justice, and compassion guide us. Slow our pace to attend to those things that matter. Open our understanding to the good that needs to be done. Sustain us for the challenges we face. Make your name known among us and through us. We glorify and honor you in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

#251

**¹ I greet you, sure Redeemer, with my heart,
glad for the saving love that you impart,
Who pain did undergo for my poor sake;
I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.**

**² You are the source of mercy and of grace,
reigning omnipotent in every place;
So rule in us and our whole being sway.
Shine on us with the light of your pure day.**

**³ You are the life, by which alone we live,
and all our substance and our strength receive.
Sustain us by your faith and by your power,
and give us strength in every trying hour.**

**⁴ You have the true and perfect gentleness,
no harshness have you and no bitterness;
Grant us the grace that flows in you so free
that we may dwell in perfect unity.**

**⁵ Our hope is all in you and you alone;
we trust the promise that your word makes known.
O dear Redeemer, make us calm and sure,
that in your strength we evermore endure.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God calls us to walk in the way of justice and mercy, yet we know how often we turn aside. Trusting in God's nearness and love, let us bring our honest confession before the One who hears our cries and makes us new.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we confess that we claim your name but not your way.
We cling to excuses to avoid discomfort or sacrifice in service of our
neighbor. We turn from human suffering. We keep silent in the face of
wickedness. Transform us, O God, that we might be saved from the vise
of evil and the lure of inaction. Rebuild us with righteousness and hope
and redeem us for your kingdom. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, in Isaiah 58:9, the Voice assures, "Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, "Here I am." God's abiding presence never leaves us; God's transforming love will empower you to live the just and righteous life. Receive grace for participation and belonging in the kingdom. God's mercies are renewed for us.
Thanks be to God.

– SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM –

INVITATION

WELCOME

Pastor: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

ADDRESS

Pastor: Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God’s new order.

Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ’s death. We are buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Pastor: Do you desire to have your children baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage these children to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach these children that they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with these children in the Christian faith, to help them to be faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that they may affirm their baptism?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

A BLESSING

Pastor: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By that same Divine Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you eternal God, who was, who is, and who shall always be, world without end. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

Parents: We promise our love, support, and care.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: The water we use for today's baptism comes from three sources, each rich in symbolism and connection: the River Jordan, where Jesus himself was baptized; the river at Philippi in Greece, where Lydia became the first baptized believer in Europe through the Apostle Paul; and our own Frederick water, reminding us of our ties to this local community. Together, these waters signify our unity with the wider Church, our connection to the faithful who have gone before us, and our shared hope with those who will come after.

Let us pray:

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By that same Divine Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you eternal God, who was, who is, and who shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Now by your Holy Spirit, dear God, bless this sacred act of baptism, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

Pastor: By what name will your children be called?

Parents: Julianne Rose Black and Hudson Robert Black.

Pastor: Julianne Rose Black, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Hudson Robert Black, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTIZED

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Pastor: Let us pray for the ones baptized today:

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless these newly baptized children. May they be filled with joy; may they never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you.

Bless the parents, family, and sponsors of these children. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Julianne and Hudson.

Bless these, your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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 and Youth who wish to participate in today's "I Am" series, which explores identity, faith, and authenticity through story, discussion, and activity, may meet leaders at the back of the sanctuary. Children and Youth will return to their families in worship by 11:30 AM.

THE SCRIPTURES

Brooklyn

Hebrews 12:18-29 NT page 227

Luke 13:10-17 NT page 76

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

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

We invite you to participate in the kingdom of God through generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. Our financial contributions enable this church to meet the needs of our community and spread the love of God. Let us give in grateful expression of our faith and gratitude for our generous God.

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

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

ERUCC Summertide Choir

— arr. A. Snyder

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Gracious and Generous God, receive these gifts in faith and trust.
Help us to be good stewards of the resources you have given to us and
bless our generosity for your glory. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Community of Christ

#314

**¹ Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.**

**² Community of Christ, look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.**

**³ Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound -
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world 'round:
Disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.**

**⁴ When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;
Our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.**

***BENEDICTION**

**Beloved, go and make God's Name known.
Love our neighbors, spread the good news, do justice, seek Righteousness,
And live in hope.
Amen.**

***THREEFOLD AMEN**

#812

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: Adapted from *On the Sabbath: Service Prayers for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*, 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 by the Wyand family in memory of deceased loved ones.

The yellow rose is presented by John Stush and Audrey Rayfield in memory of their uncle, Jack Kiser, US Army.

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 115 at 10:30 AM, and 46 online.



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

Serving Today: August 24

Deacons: Angela Brittain, Jim Brittain

Elder: Ave Barr

Scripture Reader: Brooklyn

Acolyte: Vivian Bowman

Greeters: Julie Ebersole, Cliff Barr
Niel Jefferson, Kath Jefferson

Welcome Table: Jocelyn Vara, Betsy Selby

Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jack Day

Nursery: Emily Spear

Fellowship: Linda Coyle, Tommie Bradshaw
Shelley Weakly, Eric Weakly
Colleen Baldree, Chuck Baldree

Serving Next Week: August 31

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Susan Kulp
Marc Kline

Susan Kulp, Sue Pinner

Julie Clark
Larry Martin, Jeff Baker
David Howard

Joe Adkins

Next Sunday: August 31 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 | Luke 14:1, 7-14

In the letter to the Hebrews 13:1-8, 15–16, the author urges mutual love to be the basis of communal relationships, and particularly to remember those in prison and peril, welcoming strangers and doing good and sharing what they have, following Christ’s example. Our Gospel lesson for this Sunday is Luke 14:1, 7-14. Dining at the house of a Pharisee, Jesus notes how the guests jockey for a good position at the table. This leads Jesus to teach on the virtue of humility.

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.

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

Cards invited: Ginny Peters
315 Pearson Blvd
Frederick, MD 21702

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

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 – ONGOING MISSION OPPORTUNITY

At Vacation Bible School, our campers rolled up their sleeves to build a raised bed, fill it with compost, plant seeds, and give them a good first watering. You can see their beautiful work in the rear parking lot!

With hope and trust in God, we planted with wisdom, strength, creativity, and prayer. Now we need your help to keep the garden thriving.

How you can help:

- **Sign up for a watering day:** <https://signup.com/go/TFyEHkf>
- On your day (unless it rains), grab the hose from the fenced area, hook it up, and set the sprinkler (full instructions on the sign-up page).
- While the sprinkler runs for 20–30 minutes, enjoy a walk to the library or nearby shops.
- When finished, unhook the hose and put everything away.



Thank you for helping our garden grow! Our VBS campers can't wait to see the fruits of their labor, most of which will be shared with 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/njfqVemav2>

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.

REJOICE IN OUR WELCOME SUNDAY

Sunday, September 7

Let us rejoice in God's extravagant welcome! On Sunday, September 7, we will celebrate the joy of being together, connected in Christ, rooted in community, and sharing in our unfolding story of faith. This special Sunday marks the launch of a new year of faith formation for children, youth, and adults.

Following the 10:30 AM worship service, we'll continue the celebration with a time of fellowship in the Community Room to strengthen relationships, share stories, and grow in connection with one another.

Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday is a day of joy, belonging, and togetherness. If you know friends or family searching for a faith community, this is a great day to invite them to experience ERUCC.

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 (jlclarkad@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.
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International Day of Peace
Act Now for a Peaceful World

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.

SAVE THE DATE – WOMEN'S RETREAT

November 7 – 9

Manidokan Camp and Retreat Center

Mark your calendars for a time of rest, renewal, and connection at our annual Women's Retreat! We'll gather off-site at beautiful Camp Manidokan for a weekend of fellowship, reflection, and fun. Overnight and day-only options will be available.

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

More details and registration are coming soon!

61ST ANNUAL MEETING — CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE UCC

Friday, October 24 – Saturday, October 25, 2025

Little River United Church of Christ (8410 Little River Turnpike, Woodburn, VA)

The Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ will convene for its 61st Annual Meeting this October to gather in fellowship, worship, and shared mission.

Learn more and register: www.cacucc.org/am61

Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements

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

Sunday, August 24

dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

We hope your child will join us for our final affirming, fun, and thoughtful gathering on August 24 for "I am We: A Book of Community" led by Pastor Kirstin.

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.

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!

SAVE THE DATE – YOUTH PLANNING

Sunday, September 14

2:00 – 6:00 PM

Youth and families, mark your calendars now for our Youth Group kick-off and planning time! We'll swim, play games, enjoy snacks, and plan for the year ahead! More details to come!

JUNIOR CHURCH

resumes September 14

Children ages 5 through 5th grade are invited to Junior Church most Sundays during the school year. They begin worship at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary with their families and, after the Thought for the Day, are dismissed for creative, well-supervised spiritual formation activities. On the first Sunday of each month, children remain in worship to participate in communion with their families.

Junior Church resumes on Sunday, September 14. We hope you will join us!

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

CONSISTORY

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

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

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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

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15 W. Church St,
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*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.

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 2025

Luke 13:10-17

Healing Reign

The healing of the woman who had been bent over for 18 years is unique, appearing only in the Gospel of Luke. What isn't unique is once again Jesus is breaking the guarded Sabbath rule of not healing on the day of rest and, by doing so, ruffles the feathers of the religious elite.

He doesn't care, though. What matters is someone has been suffering for far too long, and that someone was a woman painstakingly shuffling into the synagogue, wishing only to worship without anyone staring at her.

Luckily, those around her were more than happy to look the other way. Our reactions to the disabilities of others are strange, aren't they? We either gawk at them not realizing how uncomfortable our unintentional rudeness is making them, or we try our best to pretend they are not there.

This day, though, the woman's hopes of blending into the crowd are dashed. Jesus saw her. As did everyone else. But the Greek word used for "saw" goes beyond superficial seeing. The Greek word used means that Jesus saw the extent of her suffering that reached deep into her soul. He saw the years of whispers of those wondering what she did to deserve her infliction. He saw the years of social isolation. He saw the loneliness, the hurt and feeling of rejection, of being "different."

Jesus saw her and with the words, "Woman, you are set free," she stood tall once again.

Many times we are like that woman, shuffling through life, bent by the weight of our worries and burdens. Many times we pray just to get through the day without anyone noticing the spiritual, emotional or physical pain we are in.

But Jesus sees us. He really sees us. He knows all that we are dealing with, and he will dare to break rules and boundaries to reach us with his healing grace. He will stand up for us, just like he did for that woman when he turned to the synagogue leader, chastising him for allowing a religious rule to keep a child of God from receiving true Sabbath rest — rest from the pain she was experiencing.

So, for all who are bent by the worries and burdens, by emotional or physical afflictions, Jesus sees you. Go to him and listen as he speaks your name. Yes, in Christ, we are set free. In Christ, we can all once again stand tall.

God, thank you for the reminder today that Jesus sees us and knows all that is weighing us down in this world. May this day we experience freedom from our ailments and worries. 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.)



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