



## **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 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 —



August 31, 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

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

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tyler L. York

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Inspired by Psalm 81 and 112*)

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to God.

**Happy are those who revere the Holy One.**

**Generation to generation delight in God's blessings.**

Sing aloud to God our righteousness; shout for peace to God.

**We rise from the depths in mercy, grace, and justice.**

Sing aloud to God our hope; shout for love to God.

**Our hearts are steady and secure. Worship the Holy One!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of Glory, we acknowledge your presence among us as we gather. You have knit us together as a community. In your kingdom, the first will be last and the last will be first. Dwell in the praises we voice, in the hope to which we cling, and the love that persists. Reveal yourself to us, Great One, and we will declare and spread your goodness in the land of the living. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

#4

**<sup>1</sup> Joyful, joyful, we adore you,**

**God of glory, God of love;**

**Hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the storms of doubt away;**

**Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.**



**<sup>2</sup> All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around you,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
teach us what our praise should be.**

**<sup>3</sup> You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,  
all who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
by that love our joy renew.**

**<sup>4</sup> Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
Boundless love is reigning o'er us,  
reconciling race and clan.  
Ever singing, move we forward,  
faithful in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us onward  
in the triumph song of life.**

#### **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, we worship a God who sets a table wide enough for all and whose mercy knows no bounds. Yet too often we choose places of privilege rather than places of service, and we miss the presence of God in one another. Trusting in God's grace, let us come with honesty and humility to confess our sin and seek the renewal of our lives.

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

**Righteous God, forgive us for the positioning we do. We seek elevated places and too often fail to notice the absences at your table. Our tables are segregated by the ways we diminish the beautiful distinctiveness you celebrate among us. We live in complacency while the world around us weeps in pain, suffering, and despair. Break our hearts, O God, so that we will seek your kingdom more than our own acquittal. As in the days of**

**Jeremiah, we “have changed [our] glory for something that does not profit” and are appalled. Convict our spirits to propel us to reshape the world into your vision of beloved community—repaired, restored, and reconciled. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, the Holy One is righteous and just as well as compassionate and faithful to forgive the contrite heart. God will give you strength and courage to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Children 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.*

**\*HYMN**

*We Are Your People*

#309

**<sup>1</sup> We are your people, Spirit of grace,  
you dare to make us Christ to our neighbors  
of every culture and place.**

**<sup>2</sup> Joined in community, treasured and fed,  
may we discover gifts in each other,  
willing to lead and be led.**

**<sup>3</sup> Rich in diversity, help us to live  
closer than neighbors, open to strangers,  
able to clash and forgive.**

**<sup>4</sup> Glad of tradition, help us to see  
in all life's changing, where Christ is leading,  
where our best efforts should be.**

## THE SCRIPTURES

Marc Kline

Hebrews 13:8, 15-16

NT page 228

Luke 14:1, 7-14

NT page 77

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

The resourcing of our shared ministry depends upon the gifts that we bring. As image bearers of the divine, we receive the privilege of generosity. Through our gifts, we demonstrate trust in the Sovereign One and hope in our collective future. Let us give with an abundance of love and faith.

*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

*He Touched Me*

Cindy Smith, soloist  
– B. Gaither

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy, Holy, Holy God, be glorified in our giving. Receive and magnify these gifts so that needs will be met, communities transformed, and lives renewed. We dedicate them in your precious name. Amen.**

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*How Firm a Foundation*

#407, stanzas 1, 2, 5

**<sup>1</sup> How firm a foundation for you has been laid,  
by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!  
What more can God say than to you has been said,  
to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

<sup>2</sup> "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand  
upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."

<sup>5</sup> "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

**\*BENEDICTION**

As you go,  
Take your place  
Exalt the Holy One  
Comfort the lowly  
Abide with the oppressed  
Center the marginalized  
Give glory and honor to God  
Be good news in the world.  
**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 *Places of Honor: Service Prayers for the Twelfth 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 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor).

---

**The flowers on the altar** are in loving memory of my mother, Isabell A. Boone, whose birthday was September 7, by Jo Ann Fritz.

**The yellow rose** is presented in memory of Janet L. Martin by Larry and Sedonia Martin.

---

**Attendance Last Sunday:** 9 at 8:30 AM, 125 at 10:30 AM, and 35 online.



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

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

---

### **Serving Today: August 31**

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer  
Robin L. Brady-Slifer  
Elder: Susan Kulp  
Scripture Reader: Marc Kline  
Acolyte:  
Greeters: Susan Kulp, Sue Pinner  
Barb Barry  
Welcome Table: Julie Clark  
Audio/Visual: Larry Martin, Jeff Baker  
David Howard  
Nursery:  
Fellowship: Joe Adkins

Communion Prep:  
Communion Clergy:

### **Serving Next Week: September 7**

Mark Ulrich, Quynn Adkins  
  
Laurel Nguyen-Powell  
  
Danielle Carbonne  
  
Julie Clark  
  
Julie Clark, Joe Adkins  
Quynn Adkins, Kyle Miller  
Pat Dorsz, Hollie Mercier  
Bobby Van Dyk  
Darryl Glick, Mark Ulrich  
Rev. Esther Ziegler  
Rev. Richard Leslie

---

### **Next Sunday: September 7**

#### **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday**

*We will celebrate Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday! We will share in communion at the chancel rail. We will commission and bless those leading Christian education and formation for the coming year. The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads will preach. The Senior 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.*

Beverly Mapp (sister of Audrey Rayfield)	Mary Staley	Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley)
William J. Smith (father of Dan Smith)	Mike Robertson (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)	Lee Thomas
Ginny Peters	Pat Condo	Marcia Eisenstein
Tom Ford	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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

## **Activities, Events, and Announcements**

### **LABOR DAY – ERUCC OFFICES CLOSED**

Monday, September 1

The ERUCC church office will be closed on Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day. As we pause to honor this day, may we each and together, in small and significant ways, affirm the dignity and worth of workers throughout the world for the thriving of all creation.

---

### **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.

---

### **LAST CHANCE! TELL US WHAT QUALITIES MATTER MOST IN OUR NEXT PASTOR**

We are ready to finalize and file our church profile with the Central Atlantic Conference UCC, but we want to hear from you first! Today is the final chance to share your thoughts.

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>

---



## 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!

---

## 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 two times each week:

- Sunday morning, 9:15 – 10:15 AM, Zoom: [bit.ly/ERsunstudy](https://bit.ly/ERsunstudy)
  - Wednesday evening, 7:00 – 8:15 PM, Zoom: [bit.ly/ERwedstudy](https://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  
Zoom (new link this year!): [tinyurl.com/tuetap](https://tinyurl.com/tuetap)

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](mailto:rdkline15@gmail.com).

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

---

## **DO YOU HAVE YOUR NAMETAG?**

If you've lost your nametag, misplaced it, or never received one, please let us know so we can make sure you have one ready for Rejoice in Our Welcome Sunday on September 7. Nametags are essential for connecting with guests, remembering names, and strengthening our community bonds. You can request a nametag using the request cards available at the Reception Desk (Kieffer Lobby), Welcome Table (Sanctuary Lobby), or contact the church office at [erucc@eruc.org](mailto:erucc@eruc.org).

---

## **ERUCC WORK & PREP DAY**

Saturday, September 6

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Roll up your sleeves, it's almost time for Work & Prep Day at ERUCC! Join us this Saturday as we come together to care for our church home. Whether you enjoy painting, scrubbing, sorting, or simply pitching in wherever needed, there is a place for you. No special skills or age required.

We will tackle a variety of projects, big and small: fresh coats of paint, power washing walkways and patios (bring your galoshes if you dare!), cleaning upholstery, adding gravel to the garden path, and sprucing up our window wells. Inside, there will be lighter organizing tasks too like sorting silverware, linens, and costumes.

And of course, no workday is complete without food and fellowship: enjoy coffee and donuts in the morning and pizza with salad for lunch as we celebrate what we accomplish together.

Come for the projects, stay for the laughter, teamwork, and the joy of seeing our spaces shine. Together, we can make a big difference!

---



*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

## 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.

---

## SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY NEXT WEEK

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



**Give:** <https://ppay.co/2pnCegjeZnI>

---

## 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.
-



*Sponsored by  
Frederick Friends Meeting  
& Others*

# 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**

## 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](https://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](mailto: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 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting this October to gather in fellowship, worship, and shared mission.

**Learn more and register:** [www.cacucc.org/am61](http://www.cacucc.org/am61)

---



## **Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements**

### **NURSERY UPDATE FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 31**

It is integral to our Safe Church Policy that we have two adults for nursery care. Since we were not able to secure a trained volunteer this week, nursery staff member Ashley Murphy will be in the nursery with an open-door policy. You may bring your child, provided you can stay with them, OR Ashley can sit with your child in the children's worship space at the front of the sanctuary. You may also use this space and/or the resources in the back of the sanctuary that are meant to support your child's presence in the sanctuary during worship.

If there are no infants or children by 10:45 AM, Ashley is permitted to leave, but will keep the nursery open for families who find it helpful to be there while caring for their child(ren) and viewing worship. Reminder: nursery care is for infants through age 4. Older children should not be in the nursery.

If, in the future, you would consider taking a rotation in the nursery during the 10:30 AM service, please let Ashley or Pastor Kirstin know. Thank you!

---

### **ANNUAL CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY REGISTRATION**

for all minors: from birth through Grade 12

**Families with children from birth through high school:** It's time to complete your annual registration for children and youth ministries! This includes both new families (or new children!) and current families who need to review and update their information.

**New Registration:** Complete your form online at [tinyurl.com/k1dzreg](https://tinyurl.com/k1dzreg). After saving your first child's information, you can easily add additional children by clicking "+Add Registrant" without starting a new form.



**Current Families:** Your existing registration information is available for review on printed forms at the reception desk in the Kieffer Lobby. Please review and update your family's information.

**Why This Matters:** These forms provide our staff with critical information to care for your children safely and effectively, including:

- Allergies and health needs
- Emergency contact information
- Behavioral considerations
- Permissions for health emergencies
- Photo and image sharing preferences

**Time-Saving Benefit:** This comprehensive annual form streamlines future registrations for Sunday School, Junior Church, VBS, God's Kids Club, and other activities. Our staff can access your child's information quickly, making separate event registration and permission forms simpler, saving you time throughout the year.

**Questions?** Contact the church office or speak with Pastor Kirstin. Thank you for helping us provide the best possible care for your children in all our ministry programs!

## PRAYING THROUGH THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Confirmation begins this weekend and continues through May 24<sup>th</sup>, Confirmation Sunday. Please keep in prayer these youth and their mentors, whose names are in parentheses.

- Vivian Bowman (Tricia Coffey)
- Camryn Huenger (Nancy Jones)
- Laurel Nguyen-Powell (Ave Barr)
- Isaac Pomeroy (Tommie Bradshaw)
- Emmalyn Rhoads (Jenna Duranko)
- Marley Rhoads (Angela Brittain)

and for leadership and organization provided by Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg, and Peter Brehm, among other guest leaders.

---

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

begins Sunday, September 7

We're excited to welcome all children and youth back for a year of Sunday School starting Sunday, September 7! Join us for a joyful morning of learning, connection, and faith formation as we begin a new year together. Classes for all ages begin at 9:15 AM.

- **Pre-K:** Meets in the Nursery
- **K – Grade 2:** Meets in the Liz Coffey Room
- **Grades 3 – 5:** Meets in the Thomas Room

**Check-in for Pre-K – Grade 5:** Please stop at the reception desk in the Kieffer Lobby each Sunday to check-in for class. Students will be given a label, which they must provide their teacher when arriving to the classroom.

Pre-K – Grade 5 classes conclude with optional **Music & Movement** from 10:00 – 10:15 AM. Students who wish to participate in Music & Movement will transition under the direction of their teachers to the Liz Coffey Room at 10:00 AM.

**Pickup:** All families must check out children with leaders in their classrooms at 10:00 AM OR at in the Liz Coffey Room at 10:15 AM if staying for Music & Movement.

- **Middle School/Confirmation:** Meets in Trinity Chapel, 10 West Church Street
- **High School:** Meets in Trinity Chapel, 10 West Church Street

**Check-in for Middle School/Confirmation & High School:** Youth should enter through the side door of Trinity Chapel, located behind the iron gate on the left side of the building. Please check in at the self-service kiosk before proceeding to your classroom. Always use the crosswalk when crossing the street.

**Dismissal:** Youth, escorted by a teacher, will return as a group to the Kieffer Lobby in the main building at 10:15 AM.

## **YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF & 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 in K – Grade 5 are invited to Junior Church most Sundays during the school year. Children 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. **We hope you will join us when Junior Church resumes on Sunday, September 14!**

---

## **SAVE THE DATE! GOD'S KIDS' CLUB RETURNS**

Now that school is back in session, mark your calendars for the first two God's Kids' Clubs of the year on Thursday, October 2, and Tuesday, October 28!

God's Kids' Club offers fun, faith-based programming for children on many scheduled school closure days—providing both a safe place to be and meaningful opportunities for youth to serve as helpers. We can't wait to kick off another great year together!

---



# **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.

### 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*

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.



## 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 31, 2025

Luke 14:1, 7-14

### Open Table

I have a friend who pastors a neighboring congregation who was hoping to use a generous gift left by a saint of the church to reconfigure the sanctuary seating.

She wanted to remove the wooden pews and buy moveable chairs, thus, opening space to set up banquet tables and invite the hungry in the community to an extravagant sit down dinner.

That didn't happen. The money went instead to repaving the church parking lot.

She asked the committee who made this decision if that was the best way to show hospitality to others? The committee thought so. And perhaps it was.

But if we explore the ancient meaning of hospitality, perhaps removable chairs allowing room to feed the hungry was a better choice than a coat of asphalt.

The word "hospitality," in the original Greek, is *philoxenos*, which means, "to love the stranger." In Middle Eastern culture it was considered a sacred duty to take responsibility for the stranger — to give them food and shelter. So true hospitality is more than opening church doors or paving a parking lot but opening our hearts to seeing the needs of others.

Jesus didn't see hospitality on display when he went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee. What he saw was guests clamoring for the good seats — the places of honor. And he called them out, telling them to be humble, adding, too, that around the table should be the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind.

In the book, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, Brennan Manning said that in the Near East, the shared table symbolizes the shared life. "Sadly," Manning writes, "the meaning of meal sharing is largely lost in the Christian community today."

What does hospitality look like in your life? Are the doors to your heart opened to the stranger who is hungry, cold and lonely?

My friend who failed in getting removable chairs in the sanctuary to create a banquet hall for the hungry in her community is now looking for another church to serve.

The one she served has a great parking lot, not a pothole to be found, but there are no longer cars parked there on a Sunday. The doors closed for good a few months ago.

*God, we hear Jesus' words that the first will be last and the last will be first, yet still we put our desire for recognition, prestige and comfort ahead of Your children who are pushed aside and overlooked. Open the doors to our hearts, so that true hospitality is lived in our communities. 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.)

