

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.

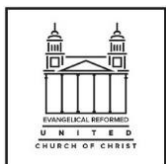
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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 —



September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

**All who are able may stand*

REJOICE IN OUR WELCOME SUNDAY

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Richard Leslie

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING OF TEACHERS The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

As we celebrate the ministry of discipleship and the ministry of those who help us make disciples, let us celebrate our commitment to the educational ministry of our church.

LITANY OF COMMITMENT

(To the Teachers) Sisters and brothers, you have been called by our church to fulfill the responsibilities of teachers of the faith. Will you commit yourselves by giving of your time to fulfill this ministry?

We will, with the help of God.

Do you understand that by accepting this ministry you are becoming agents of transformation in people's lives?

We do understand.

Will you share your love, peace and Christian joy with everyone so people may see in you the life of Christ?

We will with the help of God.

(To the Congregation) Will you, brothers and sisters, promise to support and care for those you have called to this ministry?

We promise with the help of God.

Please join in offering our support and prayers:

Bless, O God, the teachers and leaders of this ministry of formation and nurture. Give them your strength and your peace, that they may teach and lead with conviction, imagination, love, and patience. Strengthen their faith and their commitment by the gifts of your Spirit. Ground their lives in your life; center their wills in your will; and focus their spirits on your Spirit, that they may teach and lead for the common good. Amen.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Richard Leslie

Children of God: welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

*OPENING PRAYER

Creator God,

We gather as Your beloved children –

However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community –

So this becomes a place where all are welcome.

We have come to learn and to love, to cry out and to give support

We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing,

to be with each other and to be with You,

to worship You with adoration and praise.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

O God, Who Teaches Us to Live

#359, stanzas 1, 2, 3

¹ **O God, who teaches us to live and guides us on our way.**

For all the teachers in our midst, we give you thanks and praise.

² **For love that welcomes children in and holds them when they stray,**

For knowledge hearts and souls receive, we give you thanks and praise.

³ **For wisdom, skills, and confidence where wonder leads to faith,**

For those who ask and those who hear, we give you thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God,

through your Holy Spirit you created unity in the midst of diversity;

We acknowledge that human diversity is an expression of your manifold love for your creation;

We confess that in our brokenness as human beings we turn diversity into a source of alienation, injustice, oppression, and wounding. Empower us to recognize and celebrate differences as your great gift to the human family. Enable us to be the architects of understanding, of respect and love;

We are thankful that you forgive us and guide us to reconciliation and new beginnings moment after moment, day after day.

Through the Lord, the ground of all unity, we pray.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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**

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

#172

**¹ Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us, saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**² As of old, Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.**

**³ Jesus calls us from the worship of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**⁴ In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."**

**⁵ Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Laurel Nguyen-Powell

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 NT page 174

John 21:4-14 NT page 115

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

MORNING PRAYERS

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

Let us do well in sharing and giving of our resources, gifts, and time within and beyond this faith community for the glory and love of 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

Filled with Hallelujahs

Senior Choir
– P. Choplin

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sovereign God, receive our praise, our gifts, and our faithfulness, all as signs of our love for you and our commitment to help heal and serve the world we live in. We pray that our gifts may be used so that others may feast in abundance in God's house and take refuge under God's wings. May we always know God as our fountain of life and Jesus the head of our Body, the church. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:

**“This is my body which is broken for you.
Whenever you eat it, remember me.”**

And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:

**“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you.
When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me.”**

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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

After all have received the bread and the cup:

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

A BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

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

***CLOSING HYMN**

God of Change and Glory

#177

**God of change and glory, God of time and space,
when we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

Refrain:

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for he gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs,
you have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.**

[Refrain]

**Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
you are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.**

[Refrain]

***BENEDICTION**

May this day bring Sabbath rest to our hearts and our homes. May we know the grace to embrace our finite smallness in the arms of God's infinite greatness. May God's Word feed us and God's spirit lead us into the week and into the life to come. Amen.

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer was written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission. The Prayer of Confession is from Jesuitresource.org, developed by The Center for Mission and Identity at Xavier University with support from the Conway Institute for Jesuit Education.

Please join us for **Fellowship in** our Community Room (1st Floor), as we will sit TOGETHER at ONE LARGE TABLE and share food, including a treat of milk and cookies. We will be welcomed by our Sunday School teachers, who are invited to say a few words about their classes. We are all a piece of this big and beautiful community called ERUCC! Hope you can stay and talk for a little!

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy V. Gaver and Mrs. Phoebe Crum, and Great-grandfather William J. Seward, by Martha J. Kline.

The yellow rose is presented in honor of Senior Master Sergeant Brian L. York, USAF, Ret. by his son and son-in-law, Tyler and Owen York.

Attendance Last Sunday: 9 at 8:30 AM, 70 at 10:30 AM, and 38 online.



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

Serving Today: September 7

Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Quynn Adkins
Elder: Peter Brehm
Scripture Reader: Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Acolyte:
Greeters: Danielle Carbonne, Barb Barry
Welcome Table: Julie Clark
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Kelly Esslinger
David Howard
Nursery: Robert Kambic
Fellowship: Julie Clark, Joe Adkins
Quynn Adkins, Kyle Miller
Pat Dorsz, Hollie Mercier
Bobby Van Dyk
Communion Prep: Darryl Glick, Mark Ulrich
Communion Clergy: Rev. Esther Ziegler
Rev. Richard Leslie

Serving Next Week: September 14

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Jeanellen Kallevang
Katie Zander
Abby Spear
Sue Pinner, Barb Barry
Jeanellen Kallevang, Elizabeth Slade
Kelly Esslinger, Ethan Kline
David Howard
trained volunteer needed
Emily Spear, Chris Spear
Abby Spear, Ben Spear
Jocelyn Vara, Chris Vara
Rachael Bowman, Josh Bowman

Next Sunday: September 14 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Timothy 1:12-17 | Luke 15:1-10

The first lesson today is from 1 Timothy 1:12-17. The Apostle Paul says of his former life, “I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief.” In our Gospel lesson, Luke 15:1-10, Jesus’ critics grumble against him because, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” In response, Jesus tells them stories about a searching shepherd, a seeking woman, and a waiting father who all went to extraordinary lengths to retrieve that which is lost.

Spirit will share in music leadership this morning.

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.

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

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

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
 - 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

Zoom (new link this year!): 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.

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.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY TODAY

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>

LET'S TALK: *WELCOME BACK!*

Sunday, September 7

Flora Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

School has started. Sunday School has started. Life is a blur! Let's unwind and catch up. Grab some coffee and join us for some adult conversation time. Did you take any fun trips this summer? Eat any special summer meals? Grow some delicious vegetables? Read a great book? Go to a concert or movie? Come share your summer experiences and get to know your fellow congregants a bit better.

PRAYER GROUP FOR CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Flora Room

Sundays, September 14 – 28, 10:10 AM

Please join our prayer groups for Consecration Sunday, led by Tommie Bradshaw, our Consecration Sunday Prayer Team leader. We will pray for the Consecration Sunday program, its leadership team, and guest leader, and that all congregation members will seek God's will when coming to a faithful decision on what God is calling each to give.

The prayer groups will meet at 10:10 AM in the Flora Room after *Let's Talk*:

- Sunday, September 14
 - Sunday, September 2
 - Sunday, September 28
-

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.

CONGREGATIONAL NAME CHANGE SURVEY

As we prepare to welcome our new settled pastor next year and celebrate the completion of the Trinity Chapel steeple restoration later this fall, we are also discerning whether a new name might better reflect who we are as a congregation and how we serve our community.

On October 13, 2024, the congregation voted “to consider changing its name from Evangelical Reformed to another name, to be voted on at a later date. The new name will retain United Church of Christ, with the understanding that the congregation may also choose to retain Evangelical Reformed as the name.”

To guide this process, we need your input. Please take a few minutes to complete a short anonymous survey and share your perspective on how ERUCC is perceived and how we might best reflect our identity and values.

Complete the congregational survey by October 1: <http://erucc.org/namesurvey>



Your voice matters. Whether you have been part of ERUCC for decades or have joined more recently, your insights will help us discern our path forward.

LET’S TALK: *OH, THE PLACES WE’VE BEEN* AN AFRICAN SAFARI & VICTORIA FALLS

Sunday, September 14

Flora Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Is Africa on your bucket list? This is your chance to hear firsthand about the wonders of Africa and some get some travel tips. Presented by Terry and Donna Logee.

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*

LET'S TALK: *SUNDAY*

Sunday, September 21

Flora Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

This Sunday is a day to prayerfully lift up the Sun and its role in creating clean energy. The Trump administration has chosen to end tax incentives for clean energy projects on December 31 and on September 30 for EVs, but there is still time to take advantage of the tax credits until the end of the year. Come find out more details during Let's Talk. Presented by Linda Coyle and members of the Green Team.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, September 23

North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669

A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812 by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. Drawing on the diaries of one woman in eighteenth-century Maine, Thatcher, a historian, unraveled the fascinating life of a community several hundred years ago. Between 1785 and 1812, a midwife and healer named Martha Ballard kept a diary that recorded her arduous work (in 27 years, she attended 816 births) and her domestic life in Hallowell, Maine.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR NAMETAG?

If you've lost your nametag, misplaced it, or never received one, please let us know! 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.

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!



CONSECRATION SUNDAY – A SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP AND REFLECTION

This year's Season of Stewardship will conclude on Consecration Sunday, October 5, when we formally offer our Estimates of Giving to the church for the coming year and joyfully join together after the 8:30 AM worship service for a Celebration Breakfast or after the 10:30 AM service for a catered Celebration Luncheon. We are again using the spiritually focused stewardship program this year, and we hope you find it meaningful.

The Consecration Sunday program is grounded in Biblical teaching that financial stewardship is part of our faithful response to and worship of God. It provides us with a structure in which we can, together, examine our values and our patterns of giving and think consciously about what percentage of our income God is calling us to give.

We are grateful to be on this spiritual journey with you and look forward to celebrating with you on October 5!

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.



*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

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

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. 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!

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!**

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sundays, beginning September 7

9:15 – 10:15 AM

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 10:20 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.

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!



God is still speaking,
**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

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Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

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

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

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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	Let's Study the Bible , North Room
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care
9:15 – 10:00 AM	Children's Sunday School <i>Pre-K, Nursery</i> <i>K – 2nd Grade, Liz Coffey Room</i> <i>3rd – 5th Grade, Thomas Room</i>
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Youth Sunday School <i>Middle School Youth/Confirmation, Trinity Chapel</i> <i>High School Youth, Trinity Chapel</i>
10:00 – 10:20 AM	Children's Music and Movement , Liz Coffey Room
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room <i>Participating children are dismissed from Worship (2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays)</i>
11:30 AM	Fellowship , Downtown Community Room

Stay Informed



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

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025

Philemon 1:1-21

A New Identity

Grace to you and peace from God.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if we received letters from friends with the same salutation of that of the Apostle Paul? Better yet, wouldn't it be nice just to receive letters rather than texts and emails?

But I'm not here to talk about the lost art of letter writing. I want to discuss the seemingly lost art of seeing one another as siblings who belong to the family of God and, as such, truly able to love despite flaws, failures, and fickleness.

Onesimus was standing in the need of such redeeming and accepting love. The runaway slave had returned to his master, Philemon, but Philemon was not willing to take him back. Enter Paul, who steps in to mediate. He urges Philemon to not only welcome Onesimus with open arms but to welcome him as a beloved brother, not a slave.

Paul knew firsthand how our true identities were not found in the roles we were assigned, nor do they rest in familial bloodlines. Our true identities are steeped in the blood of Christ, making us all siblings of one another.

By the grace of God, Paul himself received a new identity going from "Saul the Feared Persecutor of Jews" to "Paul the Great Spokesperson for the Risen Lord."

Why couldn't Onesimus' identity change as well?

Philemon does as Paul says, and while we don't have subsequent letters to see how this new friendship progressed, we do have the legends. One has Onesimus becoming an influential Christian leader in Greece. Another has Onesimus becoming bishop of Ephesus.

While we aren't certain what is true or not, this we do know: Onesimus, whose name means "useful," reminds us today, that we, too, are useful in the eyes of God.

Our identities are not wrapped up in who we think we are, what others say of us, or what we do for a living. Our very being is found in Christ, and as such, Christ urges us to take on a new identity. Perhaps you are really a peacemaker, or bridge builder, or even a compassion sharer? What divine potential is within you?

Creator God, free us from the roles we play in life. May this day we embrace new identities as your beloved children, ready to be used for your purpose in making this world a loving and just place for all. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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



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

BUL0101

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