

Prayerful Living

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 the 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 five 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.

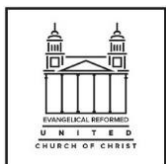
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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 21, 2025

Fifteenth 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. John Shillingburg

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Inspired by Psalm 113)*

Praise the Holy One!

From the rising of the sun until its setting, the name of God deserves our praise!

Who is like our God...seated on high?

Praise the Most High,

who observes all things and remembers the poor and those in need.

God our Righteousness raises the lowly and levels the exalted.

Praise the Righteous One, who is just and mighty, who repairs and redeems.

**The Redeemer pours out love and justice, compassion and conviction,
hope and salvation. Praise the Holy One!**

***OPENING PRAYER AND PRAYER FOR PEACE**

God of the ages, you created this earth, our world in peace.

Yet, in honesty, we know the world we have made does not know peace.

There are many places which suffer from war and violence.

We look at the news and think, "not here, Lord"

and yet know there are homes and communities

as near to us as next door that suffer from hatred, prejudice, and cowardice.

**God of the ages, we pray for your peace around the world
and for the places where we live as well.**

We look around and affirm that all people
are created by you and in your image.

**Yet, we also affirm that though we are all the same,
there are differences too—different races,
different cultures, different beliefs.**

Show us your presence in all whom you have created,
especially in those who differ most from us.

Help us to have love for all your children.

With your love and peace look on the whole world,
your one human family.

**Take away all hatred, break down all that separates us,
unite us as one people that, in your good time all
peoples and nations may live in peace, your peace.**

As we live in this world, help us in the midst of disagreements and struggles
to confront one another without bitterness or hatred
and help us to work together with respect and understanding.

Give courage to the leaders of this world.

**Guide them to work for your justice and your peace,
always acting for the betterment of the whole world.**

Give them strength and wisdom.

**Help them to remember that they are called
to serve the common good of all.**

We pray that you would help us.

**Equip us with the words, the patience, and the skills to show your love,
to bring your peace to all.**

Help us to do our part—to speak up when needed
and when a listening ear is best, remind us of that too.

We pray through the Peacemaker, who is our peace. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Now Is the Time Approaching

#609

**¹ Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold,
when all shall dwell together, secure and manifold.
Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,
all earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.**

**² Let all that now divides us remove and pass away,
like mists of early morning before the blaze of day.
Let all that now unites us more sweet and lasting prove,
a closer bond of union, in blessed lands of love.**

**³ O long-expected dawning, come with your cheering ray!
Yet shall the promise beckon and lead us not astray.
O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on
to pray, and hope, and labor till Christ's new realm is come.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God longs to renew our hearts and awaken new life within us. We are not asked to hide our failures or fears, but to bring them into the light of God's compassion. Trusting in this grace, let us confess together.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Redeemer, forgive us for defiling your holy ground. We have not cared for your creation, we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, and we have not been faithful with the gifts you have given to us.

We ask you not to clean our slate but to renew our hearts. Soften the hardness this world encourages us to wrap around our hearts, and replace it with compassion, empathy, and accountability to our neighbor, siblings, and creation. Awaken a new life within us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, a new life is possible. The Holy One has planted compassion within our hearts. We need only allow ourselves to come alive to the hope and joy that transformation promises us. Receive the grace of God to release fear of failure in order to try and fail and try again to be all that God will empower us to be.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

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 aged 5 through 5th grade who wish to participate in **Junior Church** may meet leaders at the back of the sanctuary. Children will return to their families in worship by 11:30 AM.*

THE SCRIPTURES

Tom Jenkins

1 Timothy 2:1-7 NT page 208

Luke 16:1-13 NT page 79

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

CONSECRATION SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Eliza Stitely

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

Let us bring our gifts as faithful stewards so that lives may be changed, needs may be met, and the kingdom of God realized. Give generously and cheerfully as an act of grateful praise.

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

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Senior Choir

– J. Strathee

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Abundant God, may the gifts we give along with your miraculous power be sufficient to the needs of the community and a blessing to the world that you love. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

#573

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in you way;
loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day:
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,
to carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.**

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,
for in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.**

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace;
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,
to love and serve each other for all eternity.**

***BENEDICTION**

Go out into the world to love and serve the Holy One
In word and in deed
In season and out of season
In trust and in stewardship
Go, faithful servant of God
Go in peace
Amen.

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: *An Accounting: Service Prayers for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. Prayer for Peace written by Eric T. Myers.

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 are in loving memory of Suzanne and Walter Schmid from Denman and JoyceAnn Schmid.

The yellow rose is presented in memory of M. Amos Martin by Larry and Sedonia Martin.

Attendance Last Sunday: 10 at 8:30 AM, 122 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 21

Deacons: Kyle Miller, Quynn Adkins
Elder: Ave Barr
Scripture Reader: Tom Jenkins
Acolyte: Wyatt Pomeroy
Greeters: Tom Ford, Rachel Ford
Cliff Barr, Felecia Bishop
Welcome Table: Betsy Selby, Rissah Watkins
Audio/Visual: Kelly Essingler, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Nursery: *trained volunteer needed*
Fellowship: Starr Schaeberle, Julie Chappell
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

Serving Next Week: September 28

Angela Brittain, Jim Brittain
Matt Hueting
Betsy Selby

Niel Jefferson, Kath Jefferson
Felecia Bishop

Kelly Esslinger, Ethan Kline
Jack Day
trained volunteer needed
Susan Kulp, David Howard
Colin Neely, Robert Morris
Linda Coyle, Rhea Stein, Jake Stein

Next Sunday: September 28 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Timothy 6:6-19 | Luke 16:19-31

Today's scriptures confront us with hard truths about wealth, generosity, and human dignity. Paul reminds us that contentment, not accumulation, brings true satisfaction, while Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus reveals the moral blindness that privilege can create. Both lessons challenge comfortable assumptions about success and call us to see those whom society renders invisible. What does it mean to be truly rich in God's economy?

The Season of Stewardship continues. 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.

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

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 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.

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG

Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings

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
-

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 21
 - Sunday, September 28
-



بَادِرُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ

“ **Be prompt** in doing good deeds ... ”

—Sahih Muslim Hadith 118

We're making sacred haste, together.

Sometimes, being faithful requires us to slow down. But this moment calls us to *move quickly*, so we can shift our homes and congregations to clean energy before federal incentives sunset over the coming year.

Even as some of those in power seek to keep burning fossil fuels and damaging our climate, let's be faithful to *our* call: **to be prompt** in caring for each other and for our common home.

Each of us in this community can do something *right now* to choose clean energy and move away from fuel-burning. What can you do today?



Electrify at home

Heat pumps are highly efficient, save money and energy, and will benefit from federal tax credits only until the end of the year.

- Montgomery County is helping homeowners **electrify their homes** (sign up by Oct. 5 for installation by year-end): bit.ly/electrifymc
- Do you qualify for a **free heat pump**? Check: go.sustainourfuture.org



Go solar at home

Join a purchasing group to go solar at home together with neighbors while federal residential tax credits are available — only until the end of the year.

- Montgomery County homeowners are purchasing **solar panels** together through Solar United Neighbors' Switch Together program (sign a contract by Sept. 15 for installation by year-end): bit.ly/faithinsolar
Eligible folks will be connected with Maryland's Solar Access funds, too.
- If panels aren't possible but you pay your home energy bill, **subscribe to community solar** through Neighborhood Sun: nsunsolar.com/ipl



Save energy and go solar in community buildings

IPL's Clean Energy Shepherd can guide your organization in saving energy, electrifying, or going solar: bit.ly/meetwithmaddie, solar@ipldmv.org

Live outside of Montgomery County? Wondering about cost?
Connect now with clean energy opportunities in DC, Md, or NoVa,
including income-qualified programs:

ipldmv.org/now



THEOLOGY AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH REV. DR. REBECCA SHILLINGBURG

resumes Tuesday, September 9

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

Zoom: 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

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.

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.

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.

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* EAST GERMANY

Sunday, September 28

Flora Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Before our German visitors arrive, we will hear from some of our adults who travelled to East Germany in prior years. Their insights will help us in welcoming our German visitors in October. Presented by members of ERUCC.

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).

Our Germany Hospitality Team is in need of the following:

- Host families for October 11-October 19
 - Contact Suzanne Morris (Morrissuzyq@aol.com)
- 1 more driver for Saturday, October 11, for a 3:45 PM airport arrival
 - Contact Pastor Kirstin (ksrroads@erucc.org) if you can help with airport travel
- Old sweatshirts or jackets to serve as “workshirts” for outdoor work at Franklinton Center
- Sleeping bags to borrow for DC overnight. Please bring to ERUCC’s Community Room on Sunday, October 12 by 6:00 PM.
- Personal-sized snacks and beverages for car rides. Bring to church on Sunday, October 12.
 - Julie Clark (jclarkad@yahoo.com) know what you are providing

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



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 ~ Conversations:
Braver Angels Ambassador & 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
Temporary Tattoos

6-8 PM ~ Return to the Community Room
Potluck Supper

*Sponsored by: Grace UCC, ERUCC,
and Frederick Friends Meeting*

For more information, contact: Grace UCC
pastorchance.graceucc@gmail.com or
www.frederickfriends.org

*In case of inclement weather, Baker Park events
will be held at ERUCC.*

Volunteers are needed to help with the September 21 International Day of Peace events at ERUCC and Baker Park. Thanks for volunteering: tinyurl.com/2s3zwm6a

SAVE THE DATE – WOMEN’S RETREAT

Friday, November 7 – Saturday, November 8*
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. *A second night’s stay, departing on Sunday, November 9, will also 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!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Sunday, October 5

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 5, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

The Neighbors in Need Offering is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ. Your gifts support ministries of justice and compassion, the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) and Neighbors in Need grants. Thank you for your generosity!



Neighbors in Need

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

— Galatians 6:2

**Advocacy is essential to participating in
God's mission in the world.**

Gifts to the **Neighbors in Need** offering support ministries of justice and compassion in the United Church of Christ, including the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C.



The UCC Washington D.C. Office was called into being by a resolution at General Synod 10 in 1975. The office was assigned to identify, analyze, and forecast social issues which called for the attention of the church. The work has always been guided by the discernment of the UCC through General Synod gatherings and resolutions that collectively witness to God's call.

Each week the Washington D.C. Office creates an action alert to help give church members the opportunity to contact legislators simply and easily. In 2025 these weekly alerts have encouraged church members to fight for disability housing accommodations, to stop the gun violence epidemic, and to support environmental justice for all.

Thank you for your generosity!

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

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays

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 worship and receive communion with their families.



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 DATES! GOD'S KIDS' CLUB RETURNS IN OCTOBER

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, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM!

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

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

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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



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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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 21, 2025

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Prayerful Living

I recently discovered there's a monastery just over the mountain from my home in Vermont. Founded in 1960 by a Carthusian monk, the monastery prides itself on being very private. Throughout the years, only once was a newspaper reporter invited inside its holy of holies.

Perhaps this guarded solitude is what helps the monks true to their motto, "the cross is steady while the world keeps turning."

While closed to the public, the monastery does have a website. You can imagine my husband's reaction when he found me reading the "how to join us" page. Lucky for him, I did not have any of the qualifications. That hasn't stopped me, though, from desiring a cloistered life.

The world just seems so volatile these days. It doesn't take much for my faith to waver, and many times I feel my cross is unsteady in this turning and churning world. I need more quiet moments amid the chaos. I need a stronger prayer life.

What I need the most, however, is to find a way to live a monastic life while still being plugged into the world. Is that even possible?

According to author, Kathleen Norris, it is.

Norris wrote at length about the power of capturing "monk moments" as you go about your day. She explains that it isn't necessary to turn your back on the world to have deep communion with God. Monk moments are those moments of grace, epiphanies, and peace that are happening all the time. We just need to be open to them.

In fact, I am having a monk moment right now as I write this reflection in a crowded airport en route to preach for a friend in Miami.

At first glance, this setting is anything but conducive to writing. The air is thick with the stress of many flight delays. The chatter is loud as people call loved ones with new estimated arrival times and gate changes blare over airport speakers.

And yet, this is my holy ground. There is nothing that is stopping me from talking to God. I can pray. Right here, right now. I can pray for the family that just walked right by me. I can pray for the woman sitting across from me worrying about her flight connection. I can pray for the loved ones I hold in my heart as well as the strangers filling the seats here at the airline gate.

After all, being a praying people is what God desires from us. And as the Apostle Paul reminds his young disciple, Timothy, our thanksgivings to God should be made for all people in all places. I don't need to run away to a monastery to pray. I can — and am — having a monk moment right now. What about you?

All-knowing and ever-listening God, fill our days with beautiful monk moments — moments where amid the noise and chaos of the world, we find peace and solace in your presence. 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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