



“Open Table” by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

WORLD COMMUNION & CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Evangelical Reformed
United Church of Christ
October 5, 2025
10:30 AM

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.

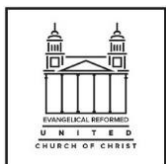
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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 —



October 5, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

**All who are able may stand*

WORLD COMMUNION & CONSECRATION SUNDAY

On World Communion Sunday, we consciously gather with followers around the planet to take in the bread and cup of life and liberation. We worship, acknowledging the brokenness and hope that exists around the world and proclaim that the death-dealing ways of the powers-that-be are not the ways of God and Jesus, the radical one from Nazareth.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Friends, one of the central tenets of World Communion Sunday is the idea that we belong to one another. We are knit together by the Spirit across state lines, over oceans, through Zoom screens, and between differences of opinion. What a gift that is!

To celebrate this good news of belonging, we are going to pass the peace to one another. Introduce yourself to someone new. Exchange a hug, a high five, or a handshake, or a warm smile, wave, air high five or to express your connection, and relish in the gift of community.

Friends, the peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you.

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?
We will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**God, help us to be builders of community.
Open our eyes to see you in our neighbors both near and far.
Inspire us to expand our understanding of places which we do not know.
We seek a deeper relationship with you and your children everywhere.
Guide us towards deeper questions and broader visions. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

Help Us Accept Each Other

#388

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way.
But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation.
Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends. Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

As we come today to your great table, O God, we realize how small we have made our own. Our vision of your grace is too narrow. Our awareness of your mercy is too limited. Our understanding of your kingdom always falls short. We fail to measure up to the people you have called us to be. Hear our prayers and forgive our shortcomings. Raise our eyes, lift our hearts, and inflate our spirits, so that we may live joyfully and abundantly in the manner of Jesus. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, across time and space and through the generations, God seeks us out.

This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Children of all ages are invited to participate in the service today. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is in the rear of the sanctuary and a wiggle space is available in the front of the sanctuary near the baptismal font.

Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume next Sunday, October 12.

MORNING PRAYERS

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

We have received many things- some in exchange for toil, others come by the grace of God. As we draw into a deeper relationship with God, we give with an open heart that isn't restrained by obligation or guilt. Rather it is the free expression of our place in the building of community, the inspiration of God's people and our hope to create a world dominated by love. Let us dedicate our gifts to 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

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Senior Choir
– J. Honoré

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, we seek to align ourselves more closely to your countenance, letting the strength of your Spirit guide us in all ways. Use these gifts of our hearts to bind the broken, feed the hungry, and restore peace in all places your light touches. May our lives be a holy radiance of your light. Amen.

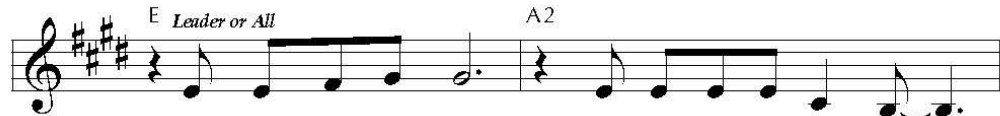
– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

*COMMUNION HYMN

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

769

For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
for young and for old, the right to be - long,
for just and un - just, a new way to live,
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998

MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006

Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

11.10.11.10 with refrain

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and
joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,
God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
jus-tice and joy!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

People will come from east and west and north and south to sit at table in the Kingdom of God. They will come with hope and they will come with doubts.

They will come with faith and they will come with fears. They will come with love and they will come with regrets. They will come from all over. They will come across all sorts of barriers and boundaries. They will come. They will all come for God longs for it to be so.

Joining God's people across the globe and joining the saints of every time and place, we come to this table today. Everyone is welcome. God longs for it to be so. God longs to feed with us – all of us – with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God our Creator, whose image dwells in every face of the human family. Joined with the global chorus of our siblings in Christ around the world, we glorify you and pray for the day when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of you as waters upon the face of the sea. When the world could wait no longer, you sent your Son into the world to show us your many faces: Unexpected child, Unwelcomed refugee, Unhoused wayfarer, Teacher, Healer, Lover of the unlovable, Toucher of the untouchable, Forgiver of the

unforgiveable, Loved by the least, feared by authority, friend of the weak, foe of the strong. As once you set your face to Jerusalem to relieve your people's suffering once and for all— send now your Holy Spirit to the people of Palestine, starving and tired of being starved... the people of Burundi, impoverished and tired of being impoverished... the people of Ukraine, war-ravaged and tired of being war-ravaged... the people of El Salvador, corrupted and tired of being corrupted... the people of the United States, divided and tired of being divided. By your Spirit unite all peoples in Christ until we feast with him and all the saints in light. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, 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 to the chancel rail, where you will be served the bread and the cup. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. The cup contains grape juice (apple juice is provided in the center of each tray) and all bread is gluten-free. Please partake of the elements as they are given to you, then give the empty cup to the nearby steward before returning to your seat by the side aisle. If you want to receive the elements in the pew for any reason, please notify a deacon.

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**

Nourishing God, thank you for inviting us to your table where all are welcome, and for feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing. As you have filled our lives with love and hope, may we be a source of your love and hope for those who hunger for your good news. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 137 OT page 576

Luke 17:5-10 NT page 80

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice

COMMITMENT TIME AND BENEDICTION

After placing your card on the table as an act of consecration, please leave the sanctuary silently and proceed to the Celebration Luncheon so as not to disturb the meditation of others who are still completing their cards.



Worship Notes: *The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, Invitation to the Table and Communion Prayer are sourced from the Presbyterian Outlook. [World Communion Sunday October 5, 2025.](#)*

The Opening Prayer, Offertory Invitation, and Offertory Prayer of Dedication are authored by Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice.

Please join us for the Consecration Sunday Luncheon in our Community Room (1st Floor).
All are welcome to our table as we enjoy a catered luncheon in celebration of Consecration Sunday and the community of this congregation.

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Michael Condo, husband of Patricia and father of Wells Condo.

The yellow rose is presented by Jack Day and Peter Brehm in honor of all of our veterans.

Attendance Last Sunday: 18 at 8:30 AM, 130 at 10:30 AM, and 32 online.



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

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

Serving Today: October 5

Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Quynn Adkins

Elder: Ave Barr

Scripture Reader: Eliza Stitely

Acolyte: Zaydan

Greeters: Danielle Carbone, Cliff Barr

Welcome Table:

Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jack Day

Nursery: *trained volunteer needed*

Fellowship: Renae Kline, Cathie Duncan
Jim Weitz, Glenn Wallace
Kath Jefferson, Niel Jefferson
Emily Button Kambic

Communion Prep: Ave Barr

Communion Clergy: Rev. Michelle Beadle
Rev. Fred Rhines

Serving Next Week: October 12

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Eric Weakly
Darryl Glick

Cathie Duncan
Rissah Watkins, Elizabeth Slade
Kelly Esslinger, Ethan Kline
David Howard
Emily Spear
Ave Barr, Cliff Bar
Joan Maples, Allen Maples
Jen Powell, Pat Condo
Bud Rossig

Next Sunday: October 12 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 | Luke 17:11-19

Our readings invite us into the twin practices of faithful presence and radical gratitude. Jeremiah counsels exiles to bloom where they're planted, to seek the flourishing of even unwelcoming places. Jesus' encounter with ten lepers becomes a story about recognition and response: one foreigner sees clearly what nine miss entirely. How do we live as people of hope in difficult circumstances? What would it look like to live with the kind of gratitude that changes everything?

We welcome our German friends from Inden-Langerwehe this morning. We will be receiving new members into the life of the church. 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.

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

CONGREGATIONAL NAME CHANGE SURVEY

We need your input! Please complete our short anonymous survey and share how you think ERUCC is perceived and how our name can best reflect our identity and values.



Survey closes TODAY: <http://erucc.org/namesurvey>

Your voice matters—whether you’ve been here for decades or just joined. Help us discern our path forward!

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.”

SHARING HOSPITALITY WITH OUR WEST GERMAN FRIENDS

October 11 - 19

Prepare to welcome and support our friends from West Germany! Below are three distinct ways you can contribute to the hospitality of our visitors:

One: Contribute to a shared meal. We will be serving dinner to our German guests on Sunday, October 12, at 5:30 PM. Your help in providing for the meal or assisting with setup and cleanup is greatly appreciated! Please drop food in the kitchen labeled “German Dinner” by Sunday, October 12 at 11:00 AM.



Sign up: tinyurl.com/italER1012

Two: Contribute needed items for travel to Franklinton Center at Bricks and Washington, DC.

- **Old sweatshirts or jackets** to serve as “work shirts” for outdoor work at FCAB and **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. Contact Julie Clark (jclarkad@yahoo.com) with what you are providing.

Three: Financial support is also appreciated! Our Hospitality Team has developed a rich itinerary of programs, service projects, and fellowship activities for our guests. This includes a service trip to the Franklinton Center at Bricks, visits to Washington, D.C., including discussions on Capitol Hill, panels with civic and faith organizations in Frederick, and many other activities.



Give a gift in support today: <https://ppay.co/QTqsXSdqHgk>

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!

Give to Neighbors in Need: ppay.co/9cc7UUy4TaE



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!

LET'S TALK

Sunday, October 19

Community Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

While we take a two-week break from Let's Talk programming, we encourage you to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and take some time to converse casually. You're welcome to find space to sit quietly or chat in the Flora Room! Please make plans now to join us in the Community Room to hear from some of our West German visitors on their final Sunday with us, October 19. They will share some reflections from their experiences with us.

HELP PACK THE PANTRY

Sunday, October 12, during both worship services

Let's continue to BE the Church by supporting our neighbors in need. Once a month, we work together to fill the Frederick Community Fridge pantry in our parking lot.

Fall Comfort Foods – There's a chill in the air as fall arrives! Bring soup, chili, stews, crackers, and muffin or biscuit mixes to warm hearts and homes. Cans with pull-tops are especially welcome for easy preparation.

You are invited to bring any shelf-stable, unopened, and unexpired items to worship. You can place them on the table at the chancel as you arrive. We will offer a prayer of dedication over the items before sending them out to bless our neighbors. If you're unable to bring donations on Sunday, you can place them in the pantry at any time.

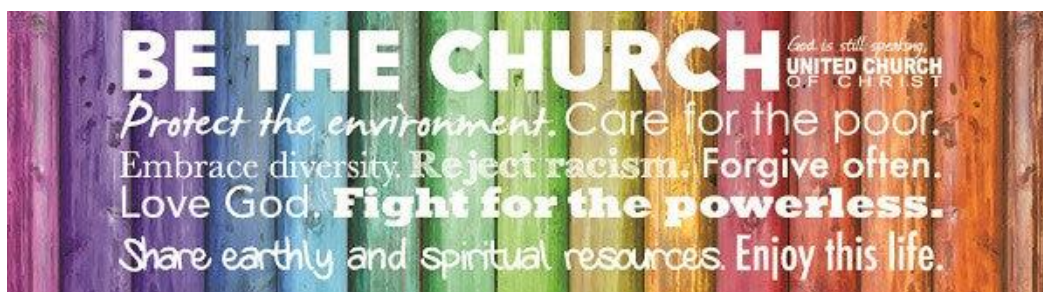
Contact: Kim Sexton, mkssexton@comcast.net.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

October 12 – November 23

We are collecting NEW coats and winter gloves, hats, and scarves for babies, children, and adults for our first giving opportunity of the season! These coats, collected in partnership with Asbury United Methodist Church, will be distributed to community members by ten local non-profit organizations in our community. Last year we collected 45 coats, 5 hats, and 5 pairs of gloves... how many items can we collect this year?

Bring NEW winter items to the collection box in the Sanctuary Lobby beginning October 12!



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 twice 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

Tuesdays

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

Zoom: tinyurl.com/tuetap

We began reading *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* by Colby Martin on Tuesday, September 30. Conservative Christians have used a handful of passages in the Bible—the "Clobber Passages"—to stand against the full inclusion of our LGBTQ siblings. In *Unclobber*, Martin guides readers in examining what the Bible says, and doesn't say, about homosexuality to help readers understand these inaccurate interpretations.

Join TAP as we explore these passages on our journey to know God and learn how to live as Christians in today's world.

PRAYING THROUGH THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

The Confirmation year is well underway! Please continue to 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)
- Abby Spear (Betsy Selby)

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

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE TRANSITIONS

Tuesday, September 21 (*monthly on the third Tuesday*)

Flora Room, 2:00 PM

Join us for our as we resume our monthly gathering to share stories and challenges related to life's changes, body limitations, and shifts in dependency. This is a sacred space to listen, pray, and connect as we navigate these transitions. This time of holy sharing emphasizes the importance of leaning on each other and recognizing that we are not alone in our journeys.

Contact: Ave Barr or Linda Coyle with questions.

GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays

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.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 1

On All Saints Sunday, we will remember those in our congregation, as well as loved ones and friends, who died during the past year. During the prayers at both the 8:30 & 10:30 AM services, the names will be read aloud, followed by the tolling of a bell. You are invited to bring a photo of the ones we will remember to place on the table in front of the chancel rail.

If you wish to include the name of someone who has passed away since November 1, 2024, please share the name(s) with us by October 28. You can tell Ann at the reception desk on Sunday or contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

REGISTER NOW – 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 are available. *A second night’s stay, departing on Sunday, November 9, will also be available.

- *Friday overnight + Saturday (4 meals) - \$75*
- *Saturday only (3 meals) - \$50*



Register now: tinyurl.com/ERwmn25

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.

BE PART OF A NATIONWIDE COMMUNITY MURAL PROJECT

You are invited to take part in a nationwide community mural project as part of your 2025 Advent spiritual practice.

Each participant will paint a small canvas (instruction, paints, and materials provided) with an image of their choice. Images from these individual canvases will then be combined into a large composite mural, which will be displayed publicly after its completion. Participants will keep their own canvas as a keepsake. Participants will have the opportunity to paint either in a group or individually.



The cost will be \$25 per canvas. More details to follow for those who express interest.

If you'd like to participate, indicate your interest by October 19 here: tinyurl.com/3dy3va6r

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

EVENT HOSPITALITY AND SUPPORT



Please consider giving your time as we extend ERUCC's hospitality to the community of people using our spaces for their milestone life events, business meetings, and community gatherings. When you support these events, you are helping to fulfill our mission to do good work in Frederick and beyond. Many opportunities to serve in this ministry may only involve a few hours of your time and are often very fulfilling to support.



Sign up to help: tinyurl.com/evnthlpER

Questions? Contact Tyler in the church office, (301) 662-2762 or tyork@erucc.org.

HELP OUR GARDEN GROW – OCTOBER WATERING DATES ADDED

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 to the soaker hose in the garden, and turn on the faucet (full instructions on the sign-up page).
- While the water runs for 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.



Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements

ANNUAL CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY REGISTRATION

Families with children from birth through high school: It's time for annual registration for children and youth ministries!

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.



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.

GOD'S KIDS' CLUB

Tuesday, October 28

Community Room, 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. Activities can include Bible stories, crafts, games, and service projects, all of which focus on exploring faith and building community.



Register Now: tinyurl.com/GKC1028



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sundays

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Join us for a joyful hour of learning, connection, and faith formation with classes for all ages.

Pre-K and Elementary Grades:

- **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: 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 should provide to their teacher upon arrival in the classroom.

Music & Movement takes place 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.

Youth:

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

Check-in: 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 main building at 10:15 AM.



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

BELOVED

BY

GOD



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor* ~ mmorgan@erucc.org

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate Pastor for Faith Formation & Parish Life* ~ ksrhoads@erucc.org

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

Tyler L. York ~ *Executive Church Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org

Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ jclayton@erucc.org

Ann Watkins ~ *Administrative Assistant/Receptionist* ~ awatkins@erucc.org

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

CONSISTORY

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

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

Rebecca Shillingburg ~ *Worship Chair* | Peter Brehm ~ *Finance Chair*

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

Julie Clark ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Holly Davis ~ *Christian Education Chair*

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

ELDERS

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Matt Hueting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Susan Kulp | Eric Weakly

DEACONS

Quynn Adkins | Tommie Bradshaw | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer

Angela Brittain | Jim Brittain | Kyle Miller | Mark Ulrich

SETTLED PASTOR SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE

Rachael Bowman | Tommie Bradshaw | Karl Cooper | Linda Coyle | Matt Hueting

Terry Logee | Jen Powell | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

8:30 – 9:15 AM	Early Worship , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Coffee and Conversation , Kieffer Lobby
9:15 AM	Let's Study the Bible , North Room
	Let's Talk , Flora Room
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care
9:15 – 10:00 AM	Children's Sunday School <i>Pre-K</i> , Nursery <i>K – 2nd Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room <i>3rd – 5th Grade</i> , Thomas Room
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Youth Sunday School <i>Middle School Youth/Confirmation</i> , Trinity Chapel <i>High School Youth</i> , Trinity Chapel
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.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 5, 2025

Psalm 137

Free to Grieve

A seminary professor once told his class of future pastors that there should always be a box of tissues in the pews of the churches they will serve.

“If a person can’t cry in the sanctuary, then where?” he asked.

I took this advice to heart. Every church I shepherded I made the case to the frugal finance committee for why we needed to order boxes of tissues for the pews.

It was an added cost worth every penny because there was always one person who came through the church doors as a stranger seeking solace who stayed as a sibling who had found healing. And the comment from these solace seekers was always the same: “Pastor, I was grateful for those tissues. I never felt like I could cry like that in church.” To which I replied, “If not here, then where?”

For the exiled Israelites it was by the rivers of Babylon where we are told they hung their harps on the willows and proceeded to lament — sobbing a great and heavy collective sob over all that they had lost. They were captives of Babylon. They had lost not just their physical homes, but their spiritual havens as well. They were stripped of their identities and their freedoms.

There are many today in our world in need of a willow to hang their harp on. They need a safe place to crumble to the ground and sob over all that they have lost, be it an actual place of belonging or a sense of purpose.

Perhaps we, ourselves, are finding the Israelites’ grief hitting too close to home. Losses are piling on top of losses without anytime to properly grieve or adjust to realities that are strange and unwelcomed.

We are living in a time where we all need to give ourselves — and others — the permission to freely grieve. We need to open wide those floodgates that have been holding back our tears. We need to cry to God in our distress. We need to wail and flail over all the injustices happening to and around us. We are in a place of exile from what we have treasured, and thought would never be taken away from us.

We all need a riverbank where we can sit and grieve. We need a place of refuge where we can let it all out. We need a pew with a box of tissues in it, lovingly placed by a pastor who is ready to shed a tear with us.

Compassionate God who not only hears our cries, but weeps with us, we bring you our tears, asking you to wipe them away and restore to us a sense of renewal and wholeness. 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.)



BUL0105

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

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2025 United Church of Christ