

A photograph of a grey plastic seedling tray with multiple circular compartments. Each compartment contains dark, rich soil and a small, bright green seedling with two rounded leaves. The seedlings are at various stages of growth. The tray is set against a background that features a vertical green gradient on the left and a semi-transparent grey area on the right where the tray is visible.

Life *Planting*

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 12, 2025

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

**All who are able may stand*

Bold text read in unison

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Spirit

Welcome

— L. Zelman / M. A. Miller

**Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,**

**Singing welcome, welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.**

**Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,**

**Singing welcome, welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.**

**Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice**

**Crying welcome! Welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Inspired by Psalm 66)*

We celebrate the Holy One who eases our souls.

Come and see what God has done!

We celebrate the Holy One who keeps us from slipping.

Come and see what God has done!

We celebrate the Holy One whose steadfast love sustains us.

Come – come and see what God has done!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, Compassionate Architect,

You are the bearer of all our souls, the hope of all possibilities when walls surround us. You carve paths in mountainous regions when our roads appear blocked. You build bridges between people separated by gaps and distances. May we be ones who create channels so that your children continue to form relationships with one another and with you. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Joy Together

– C. Townley, arr. Butler-Moore

Joy together and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.

Joy together and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.

Refrain: **Celebrate joy and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.**

Celebrate joy and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.

Praise together and worship the name. Praise together in Jesus.

Praise together and worship the name. Praise together in Jesus.

[Refrain]

Live together and worship the name. Live together in Jesus.

Live together and worship the name. Live together in Jesus.

[Refrain]

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan *(English)*
& Pfr. Daniel Müller Thór *(German)*

God welcomes us just as we are: honest, imperfect, and always growing.

Yet we know how easily we close ourselves off to the movement of the Spirit and the call of love. Trusting in God's endless mercy, let us open our hearts and confess together.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

read in unison in English, repeated in German

**Holy One, Creator of All,
As your Spirit nudges people from all experiences and lands into our
lives, we often turn the sign from “Come In! We’re Open!” to “Sorry,
We’re Closed.” It’s easier for us to draw the curtains and remain in the
shadows than open ourselves up to the light, to healing, and all the
possibilities that God sends our way. May your Spirit swing open our
souls to all possibilities of newness. May our unlocked minds notice the
ways your presence fills our hearts with expanding love and hope. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

first in English, repeated in German

In each season of our lives, God’s grace continuously transforms our hearts.
May we return our gratitude and celebrate the glory of God in our Alleluias
and Amens.

Alleluia and Amen! Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR JOY, GROWTH & SAFETY FOR/WITH OUR GUESTS & HOSTS

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 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.*

***HYMN**

I Thank You, Jesus

#41

**Thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you Jesus, my Savior God,
for you brought me, yes, you brought me
from a mighty, a mighty long way.
Thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, my Savior God,
for you brought me, yes, you brought me
from a mighty, a mighty long way, a mighty long way.**

**Been my father, been my mother, been my sister, my brother, too,
for you brought me, yes, you brought me
from a mighty, a mighty long way, a mighty long way.
Been my father, been my mother, been my sister, my brother, too,
for you brought me, yes, you brought me
from a mighty, a mighty long way, a mighty long way**

THE SCRIPTURES

Darryl Glick

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 NT page 731

Luke 17:11-19 NT page 80

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

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

God calls us to plant and build, heal and seek the well-being of all. As we share our gifts with the church and community, may we recognize that sharing our talents, treasures, and time benefits all of creation.

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

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Spirit
– P. Baloché

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Divine Crafter of Joy,

Through your great works, we see your glory. Through our work together, we reflect your glory to a world in pain. May we deliver your dreams and build your Realm here on earth. Bless the work of our hearts as we move into a future filled with hope and living your visions. Amen.

We ask that you bless all who come to the Community Fridge and Pantry in need. May they receive more than sustenance—may they experience dignity, community, and care.

Multiply these humble offerings, that they may bear fruit in a world longing for justice, flourishing, and joy. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

How Can I Say Thanks

#14

**How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet you gave to prove your love for me;
the voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am, and ever hope to be; I owe it all to you.
To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
to God be the glory for the things you have done.**

Refrain: **With your blood you have saved me;
with your power you have raised me;
to God be the glory for the things you have done.**

**Just let me live my life – let it be pleasing unto you;
And if I gain any praise, let it go to glorify you. [Refrain]**

***BENEDICTION**

As we move about God's Realm this week,
May we recognize the Spirit's movement in forging new pathways
May we recognize Christ's movement in shaping communities of gratitude,
And may we recognize the Divine's movement in fashioning a world in which
all have the means to thrive.
Amen.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Great Work Has God Begun in You

#353, stanza 4

**Great work has God begun in you;
take on God's love in all you do,
And may that love in you increase—
now, with God's blessing, go in peace.**

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

POSTLUDE



We welcome our German friends from Inden-Langerwehe this morning!

**We thank Laura Walling and Joe Baker for sharing their gifts
with us in worship today!**

Worship Notes: Adapted from *Joy in Heaven: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Please join us for **Fellowship** with light refreshments and time for casual conversation after worship in our Community Room (1st Floor).

The flowers on the altar are given by Cindy Smith and Cindy Duranko in memory of our dear friend, Jack Patterson.

The yellow rose is presented by John Stush in memory of his brother, Gerald Stush, US Air Force.

Attendance Last Sunday: 12 at 8:30 AM, 132 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 12

Deacons:	Robin A. Brady-Slifer Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder:	Eric Weakly
Scripture Reader:	Darryl Glick
Acolyte:	
Greeters:	Cathie Duncan, Rob Smith
Welcome Table:	Rissah Watkins, Elizabeth Slade
Audio/Visual:	Kelly Esslinger, Ethan Kline David Howard
Nursery:	Emily Spear
Fellowship:	Ave Barr, Cliff Bar, Bud Rossig Joan Maples, Allen Maples Jen Powell, Pat Condo

Serving Next Week: October 19

Tommie Bradshaw, Kyle Miller
Ave Barr Eric Weakly
Tom Ford, Rachel Ford Felecia Bishop Betsy Selby Jeff Schaeberle
Kate Fromknecht Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer Peter Brehm, Felecia Bishop Rob McGuire, Alex Martinez

Next Sunday: October 19 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22–31 | Luke 18:1-8

Today's scriptures wrestle with the mystery of persistent faith. Jacob's nightlong struggle with a divine stranger leaves him wounded yet blessed; transformed by an encounter he can barely comprehend. Jesus' parable of the persistent widow reveals a God who honors our refusal to give up, even when heaven seems silent. Both stories ask: What does it mean to hold on when holding on feels impossible? Sometimes our greatest breakthroughs come not from easy answers, but from our willingness to keep wrestling.

We say farewell to our German friends from Inden-Langerwehe this morning. 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.

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

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

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 our shared meals.



We will be serving **lunch during Fellowship on Sunday, October 19**, as we say goodbye to our German guests. Your help in providing for the meal or assisting with setup and cleanup is greatly appreciated! Please drop off the food labeled “German Lunch” in the kitchen by 10:00 AM on Sunday, October 19.

Sign up for **October 19 lunch**: tinyurl.com/Lnch1019

Two: Contribute 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.

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>

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!

NO KINGS PROTEST

Saturday, October 18

Baker Park Bandshell, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Join members of the faith community and neighbors across Frederick for a peaceful public witness affirming equality, justice, and democracy for all people. The *No Kings Protest* offers space for us to live out our shared call to love our neighbor and resist all forms of domination and oppression. This nonpartisan gathering seeks to uplift the moral and spiritual values of freedom, accountability, and the common good.

Want to join with others from ERUCC? Meet in front of the church at 3:45 PM (access to the Kieffer Lobby is available from 3:30 – 4:15 PM for restrooms or rest).

LET'S TALK: REFLECTIONS FROM OUR GERMAN GUESTS

Sunday, October 19

Community Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

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.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

We are still collecting gifts for The Neighbors in Need offering, which 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

LET'S TALK: CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM—WHAT'S THAT?

Sunday, October 26 – November 23

Flora Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Led by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg and Dr. Matt Davis. Have you heard the term '*Christian Nationalism*' and wondered exactly what it means, how Christians should approach it, and why Christians in other traditions adhere to aspects of it? In this class, we will be reading Brian Kaylor's book *The Bible According to Christian Nationalists: Exploiting Scripture for Political Power* and using that as a launching point to discuss the history, intellectual foundations, composition, and objectives of the movement. We will examine and critically analyze Scripture passages that have been oft-cited as proof texts by Christian Nationalist thought leaders, as well as additional amplifying passages that present counterpoints. Our goal is to equip you to understand this important movement that is reshaping the country in which we live, as well as the age-old question of what our position as Christians should be towards political power.

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.

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE TRANSITIONS

Tuesday, October 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.



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

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.

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST – SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 2

Save the date for this annual ERUCC Youth Group fundraiser! More details coming soon!

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

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.

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*

Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements

YOUTH – AARCH TOUR, PUMPKIN CARVING, DINNER

Sunday, October 12

ERUCC, 1:00 PM – 6:30 PM

We will meet at 1:00 PM to take an African American Culture and History Walking Tour of Frederick, where we'll hear stories of people who lived in certain houses, view murals, and learn about Mullinix Park. The tour will be about 90 minutes. We will then carve pumpkins back at ERUCC and have dinner in the Community Room with our German Youth and host families.

YOUTH – CIVIC PANEL, LUNCH, TREE TREKKERS

Friday, October 17

ERUCC, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

We will meet in the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM for a Civic Organization Panel focused on the theme of how we are to be the church in these times. Each group will talk about who they serve, the risks they face, what they are doing to create change, and how churches can help. We will have lunch brought to us from Chipotle thanks to Renae Kline before we carpool to Tree Trekkers.

Once you drop off your youth, we will drive them to Tree Trekkers unless you ask to drive them. You can then meet us there (9560 Old National Pike, Frederick) at 5:00 PM.

For all youth attending the Civic Panel, we will also pay the full price for Tree Trekkers! As Pastor Kirstin shared at our Youth planning meeting, we really hope for some discussion time with our German youth during this time!

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/GKCC1028



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

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.

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST – SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 2

Save the date to help at this annual ERUCC Youth Group fundraiser! More details coming soon!

TRUNK OR TREAT – SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 2

ERUCC Parking Lot and Patio, 5:00 – 6:00 PM



Save the date for this spooktacular Trunk or Treat event!

More details are coming soon, including how to sign up to decorate a trunk and donate candy/small giveaway items.

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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 12, 2025

Jeremiah 29:1,4-7

Planting Life

If you knew the world would end tomorrow, what would you do today?

When Martin Luther, the 16th-century German scholar and theologian, was asked this question, he replied, “I would plant an apple tree.”

Now it’s debatable whether Luther said this or not. He did adore nature, and he did give us the tradition of bringing an evergreen into our homes at Christmastime. But regardless of him planting an actual apple tree, what really matters is how we would answer such a question today.

What would we do to show hope in the future even when that future didn’t seem very promising? Would we dare to plant a tree?

Jeremiah would. The prophet even invites those he is writing to who are now living in exile in Babylon to join him. Lay down roots even in a strange land.

The children of God, though, don’t want any part of the Babylonian way of life. They want to return to Jerusalem. Their homesickness is spiraling into a deep, gloomy pit that is robbing them of the joy God still has for them.

Isn’t it true for all of us that when life doesn’t go our way, our disappointments often cloud our eyes from seeing the still-in-front-of-us God possibilities.

Jeremiah, though, isn’t buying their pity party. He instructs them on how to carry on with hope and faith. Take wives. Have children. Multiply there in the land of your exile. Build homes. Plant gardens. Don’t wait for when you return to Jerusalem. Live in the now and make beautiful plans for tomorrow — despite your current situation.

Lay down roots even in the very soil you wish your feet never stepped upon, for in that very soil a seed will still grow into something beautiful.

We are all being called to plant life this day — to bring forth hope amid despair, beauty amid ugliness, and calm amid chaos.

If you knew the world would end tomorrow, what would you do?

May today we take our shovels and begin planting Luther’s fabled apple trees.

God of promises, help us to accept where we are this day in our lives. Rather than focusing on what we don’t have or what we long for, open our eyes to the beautiful gifts and the precious people who are right in front of us. 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.)

