



Ask **BOLDLY**
Live **JUSTLY**

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 19, 2025

Nineteenth 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**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Inspired by Psalm 121)*

As the sun sets behind the hills,

We celebrate hope in our Creator.

Even as the sun strikes the earth in daytime

We celebrate peace in our Creator.

As we move about this earth from day to day

We celebrate the love of our Creator.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy One, Holder of our Hearts,

From time to time, we notice our souls are heavy from injustices. From the ways our community members are treated to the lack of compassion towards folks in faraway places, we attempt to embrace hope and often feel defeated. Yet you continue to be the bearer of dreams, God of Love.

May we feel your Spirit's peace even when struggles accumulate. May we be baptized by your glimmers even as we journey through a world filled with ashes. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way

#465

**1 Teach me, O Lord, your holy way,
and give me an obedient mind,
That in your service I may find
my heart's delight from day to day.**

**2 Help me, O Savior, here to trace
the sacred footsteps you have trod;
and fully trusting in my God,
to grow in goodness, truth, and grace.**

**3 Guide me, O Christ, that I may ne'er
forsake the right, or do the wrong;
Against temptation make me strong,
and keep me in your sheltering care.**

**4 Bless me in every task I face,
begun, continued, done for you:
Fulfill your will in all I do,
and grant me your abundant grace.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

When the world feels heavy with injustice, it can be tempting to turn away, to close our hearts from pain and protect what peace we can find. Yet God invites us to bring our weariness into the light of mercy. Trusting in the One who heals and restores, let us come before God with open hearts and honest spirits, confessing our need for grace.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Beloved God of All,
We often feel deserted by Divine Justice and Peace, especially after absorbing the news each day. We allow ourselves to fully walk away from spreading Good News of your love and grace after feeling the lack of mercy in our world. We would rather be silent in places of comfort instead of shining your light in our pain-present reality. Our hearts can not bear knowing of any further wrongdoings. Open our souls to your healing. Embolden us to be persistent in our quest to do justice and love kindness. May we follow your light when the shadows attempt to swallow our resolve. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Our souls continue to open to the healing and hope of God. May we embrace the glow of God's grace as we seek ways to care for our neighbors.

Thanks be to God!

BLESSING AND SENDING OF OUR GERMAN GUESTS

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 Heard My Mother Say

#409

**1 I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say,
I heard my mother say,
"Give me Jesus"**

**Refrain: Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world,
give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world,
give me Jesus.**

**2 At midnight was my cry,
at midnight was my cry,
at midnight was my cry,
"Give me Jesus." [Refrain]**

**3 Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus. [Refrain]**

**4 In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus. [Refrain]**

THE SCRIPTURES

Eric Weakly

Genesis 32:22–31 OT page 30

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

Today, we remember with gratitude those who gathered 300 years ago for the first Communion service of the German Reformed Church in this land. They were immigrants, people who carried with them faith, courage, and the hope of new beginnings. Their gifts laid a foundation for ministries of compassion and justice that continue to shape us.

As we bring our offerings, we give thanks for the gifts that immigrants of every generation bring to our communities, for their songs and stories, their labor and love, their trust that God is doing good things among us.

May our generosity today honor their witness and help build a church and a world where all people can belong and thrive.

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

Be Thou My Vision

Senior Choir

– D. Forrest

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Divine Connector of Generations and Peoples,

With grateful hearts we remember those who came before us—

immigrants who trusted your Spirit as they built new lives and formed new communities of faith. We give thanks for their courage, perseverance, and faithfulness, and for the richness they brought to the world through their languages, traditions, and dreams.

As we offer our gifts today, we remember that we are also called to be builders, to open our doors wide, to welcome the stranger, to celebrate the diversity of your creation, and to carry forward the Good News of your love.

Bless these offerings, O God, that they may strengthen ministries of hope, justice, and inclusion. Empower us to be generous people who reflect the grace we receive in Christ. We dedicate these gifts, and our lives, to your transforming work in this generation and the next. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#506

**1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!**

**What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!**

**Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.**

**2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?**

**We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!**

**Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to our God in prayer!**

**3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
burdened with a load of care?**

**Precious Savior, still our refuge,
take it to our God in prayer!**

**Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to our God in prayer!
Jesus' arms will take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.**

***BENEDICTION**

May the God of Hope stir us to awaken to Divine dreams.
May the Christ of Light embolden us to use our voices
May the Spirit of Peace fill us with the resolve to transform our world.
With help from the Holy One, we will never lose heart!
Amen.

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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 to worship with us this morning! We bid them safe travels as they depart this afternoon.

Worship Notes: Adapted from *Not to Lose Heart: Service Prayers for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.

This year we will celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the first Communion service of German Reformed Church in the United States which took place on October 15, 1725, in the vicinity of what is now known as Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ in Gilbertsville, PA. While there is evidence that the German Reformed Church was active in other parts of North America prior to this date, October 15, 1725, became the official organization date of the German Reformed Church in the United States (E&R Library & Archives).

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 Jo Ann (Nolder) Leslie, placed by her family on the anniversary of her death.

The yellow rose is presented in remembrance of Corporal Ray A. York, U.S. Army, Missing in Action in North Korea on October 20, 1950.

Attendance Last Sunday: 9 at 8:30 AM, 148 at 10:30 AM, and 89 online.



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

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

Serving Today: October 19

Deacons:	Tommie Bradshaw, Kyle Miller
Elder:	Ave Barr
Scripture Reader:	Eric Weakly
Acolyte:	
Greeters:	Tom Ford, Rachel Ford Felecia Bishop
Welcome Table:	Betsy Selby
Audio/Visual:	Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery:	Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship:	Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer Peter Brehm, Felecia Bishop Rob McGuire, Alex Martinez

Serving Next Week: October 26

Angela Brittain, Jim Brittain
Peter Brehm
Patti Patterson
Niel Jefferson, Kath Jefferson
Julie Clark
Jeff Baker, Ethan Kline
David Howard
<i>Trained volunteer needed</i>
Linda Coyle, Tommie Bradshaw
Shelley Weakly, Eric Weakly
Colleen Baldree, Chuck Baldree

Next Sunday: October 26 – Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 | Luke 18:9-14

Today's lessons explore the anatomy of authentic prayer in times of crisis. Jeremiah voices Israel's desperate plea during drought and divine silence, laying bare the community's failures while clinging to covenant hope. Jesus contrasts two prayers, showing us that God draws near to broken hearts, not polished performances. When life strips away our pretenses, what kind of prayer emerges?

We give thanks this Reformation Sunday as we ponder our history, ancient and still developing. We honor the vision to be a part of a new reformation for the Church that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world. The Rev. John Shillingburg will preach and lead worship. The Senior Choir will sing. Market Street Brass will be featured.

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.

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

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

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Collection: 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!

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.

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

Sundays, 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.

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.

CARE PACKAGES FOR CAREGIVERS

Collection: November 2 – 16

Our Faithful Friends volunteer team is collecting small items to put together “Care packages for Caregivers” of our Faithful Friends and others. Donations will be collected on November 2, both on Sunday morning and during Trunk-or-Treat. We will continue to collect them through November 16th. Our youth will pack them up along with other packages on December 7.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| ▪ Prayer cards | ▪ Lip balm | ▪ Tea bags |
| ▪ Playing cards | ▪ Socks | ▪ Small stuffed animals |
| ▪ Cards to send to other people with stamps | ▪ Gloves | ▪ Low-maintenance plant with a small pot for the youth to decorate |
| ▪ Shelf-stable food (protein bars, nuts) | ▪ Lotion | |
| | ▪ Question books/cards | |
| | ▪ Pet treats/toys | |

Bring donations to the Sanctuary Lobby and place them in the designated donation box. Thanks!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 2

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!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR CARE PACKAGES TO THOSE IN COLLEGE & MILITARY

Collection: November 2 - December 7

We’re sending care packages to our young adults in college, job training, or military service—just a little reminder that ERUCC’s care extends to them no matter where they are on life’s journey! As a church, we are collecting individual snacks and small office or household items to include in these care packages. Donations could include hot chocolate packets, chips/crackers, fruit pouches, popcorn, granola bars, cookies, soup packs, candy, sticky notes, silly pens, reusable straws, decks of cards, hand-sized word search or game books, stress balls, and lip balm. Think: what can be useful and fun?!

Bring donations to the Sanctuary Lobby and place them in the designated donation box. Thanks!

UPDATE FROM THE NAME STUDY GROUP

ERUCC's Name Study Group met on Thursday, October 16, with our Postern Agency team for a presentation of the results and analysis of the survey data about ERUCC's name and identity. As imagined, there is much to discern, and the group will next work on crafting a comprehensive presentation to the congregation to showcase the research data and its conclusions. Please stay tuned for that presentation date. Please remember, no decisions will be made regarding a new name without additional direction from church leadership and congregational approval, which will come later in the process. Should you have any questions, please reach out to a member of the Name Study Group: Ave Barr, John Shillingburg, Jenna Duranko, Kathleen Jefferson, Bud Rossig, Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads, Tyler L. York, Peter Brehm, Sophia Carliss, and Sedonia Martin.

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.

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.

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



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.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, November 23

Immediately following 10:30 AM Worship

Help us deck the halls and prepare our sacred spaces for the Advent and Christmas season! Hanging of the Greens is a joyful ERUCC tradition—a time to work side by side, laugh together, and transform our church with the beauty and hope of the season.



Sign up using the link below to choose a task (or two!) and join in this festive community effort. Many hands truly make light—and joy-filled—work!

Sign up: tinyurl.com/ERgrns25



Our German guests and ERUCC hosts met with the United Church of Christ Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington, D.C., to discuss living out our faith in the public square, being a voice for the marginalized, and what it means to be the church in the world today.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

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www.erucc.org/give



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Frederick MD 21701



offering plates
are available in the
rear of the sanctuary
before and after worship

Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements

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

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!

FALL FEST & TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Sunday, November 2

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

The ERUCC Youth Group is inviting the whole church to a Fall Fest & Trunk-or-Treat!

There will be Fall-themed crafts, games, and yummy snacks. This is an ideal event for families with little ones and elementary-aged children, but all are invited! Families welcome. Trunks will be dressed up and decorated for you to enjoy as you make your way from car to car to fill your bag with treats. Costumes are optional and encouraged!



Sign up to decorate a car or donate treats: tinyurl.com/ER1102ff

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.



Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

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

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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*

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

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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

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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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 19, 2025

Luke 18:1-8

Ask Boldly; Live Justly

Robert Frost once said that the “best way out is always through.” Vermont’s poet laureate was, of course, talking about tackling a problem head on with great persistence.

Persistence can be a good thing for the one who persists. It can also be annoying to the person on the receiving end of the incessant pleas. Just ask any parent with a yet-to-be housebroken puppy on their hands all because it was easier to give in to their child’s requests for the bundle of fur.

In the case of puppies, persistence can be seen as a negative trait. But in the case of God, persistence is a beautiful virtue. One that we all need to embrace, especially in our prayer lives.

That is exactly what Jesus tells his friends here in Luke’s Gospel. Jesus wants them to understand the amazing power there is in bringing all their cares and worries to God in prayer. “Don’t lose heart. Keep on praying,” he says.

Jesus then gives them an example of what persistence in God’s kingdom looks like. There was a widow, he tells them, who was seeking justice. The judge, though, wouldn’t give it to her. She didn’t give up. Rather, she went to the judge daily with her request for justice. It finally got to the point where the judge would cringe when he heard who was at his door wanting to see him — yet again! Not wanting the widow to wear him out, the judge finally grants her the justice she sought.

Persistence paid off for the widow, and it can pay off for us in our prayer lives as well. But know this: Unlike the judge who finally gives in to the widow, God “gives in” to us not because we wore God out. God “gives in” out of great love for us. God only wants the best for us and will answer our prayer according to God’s will.

When I was young, I fell in love with a Barbi wedding dress that I saw on the shelf in the toy store. My mom said it was too expensive. I kept asking for it though. My persistence didn’t pay off. Rather than getting the flimsy, mass manufactured Barbi dress, my mother gave me a piece of cream satin fabric, scissors, sewing needles and thread. She told me to create my own Barbi wedding dress. I did. And not only was it prettier than I could ever had imagined it to be, but my mom, in her wisdom, ignited my passion for fashion design.

Jesus was right. We must never lose hope. We must always be persistent, for we just don’t know where our God answered prayers will lead.

God, we thank you that your door is always opened to us. There is never a time when you will not listen to our pleas and problems. May we become persistent prayer warriors who never lose heart and never give up, for we know you answer us in your time and in your loving way. 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.)

