

## **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 rear of the sanctuary. We would love to meet and learn more about you and are available to answer your questions ERUCC. Please also feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. We encourage you to join us for in the Community Room for Fellowship after the worship service for casual conversation and connection over light refreshments.

ERUCC is an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. We welcome into the full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

*For Children:* We have trained nursery staff for ages 0-4. A deacon or greeter can guide you to the nursery. Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table and a children's 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, below the sanctuary, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, outside the Community Room. Single-occupant, all-gender, accessible restrooms are located outside the North and Flora Rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

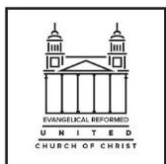
## **Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ**

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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org) • [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)**





**EVANGELICAL REFORMED**  
**United Church of Christ**  
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



October 19, 2025

Twentieth 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***

**REFORMATION SUNDAY**

**BRASS PRELUDE**

Bist du bei mir

Trumpet Tune

Hymn Tune Medley

Market Street Brass

– J.S. Bach

– Jeremiah Clarke

– Charles Wesley

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**BRASS ANTHEM**

Fanfare on the “Old 100th”

Market Street Brass

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us gather together this Reformation Sunday so that we may celebrate the witness of our forebearers and the courage that gave birth to the Reformation.

**In this time of worship, may we honor the saints of God in ages past and in our present days.**

May the conviction of God’s grace written on their hearts be one that forms our own faithfulness.

**May we be inspired to participate in the ongoing reformation of the church and be present this day to hear our still-speaking God.**

Let us worship together.

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, we thank you for gathering us into your church and gracing us with your faithful presence. We ponder our history, ancient and still developing, and marvel at the many expressions of your church. Grant us the vision to be a part of a new reformation for the Church that will bring even more joy and justice to the world. Continue to gather us into Jesus’ vision and dream that your faithful people may be one in you. Amen**

# \*OPENING HYMN

## *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

— arr. Paige/Nix

### FANFARE AND CONCERTATO ON "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"

Words by  
MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)  
tr. by FREDERICK H. HEDGE (1805-1890)

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG  
by MARTIN LUTHER  
Arranged by JON PAIGE (BMI)  
and BRAD NIX (ASCAP)


#### CONGREGATION



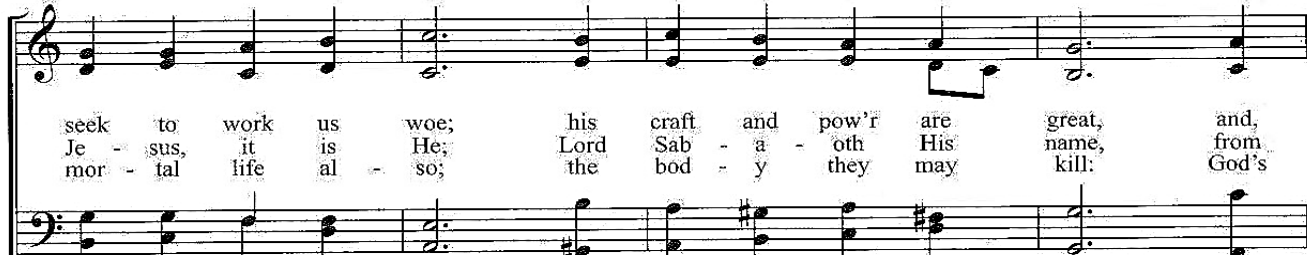
(parts) 1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
(parts) 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
(unis.) 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a



fail - ing; our help - er He, a - mid the flood of  
los - ing; were not the right Man - on our side; the  
bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth  
Man of God's own - choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
Him who with us. sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this



seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great, and  
Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sab - a - oth they His name, from  
mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill: God's



armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual  
age to age the same, and He must win the bat - tle.  
truth a - bid - eth still; His king - dom is for - ev - er.

**SHAWNEE PRESS**

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## **\*CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

The apostles tell us that if we return to God with open and honest hearts, God is faithful and just and welcomes us with open arms. Trusting in God's unlimited grace, let us go to God in prayer.

## **\*PRAYER FOR GRACE**

**When we want to be a church ever-reforming, yet cling to comfortable ways: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**When we want to honor your "still speaking voice" but are fearful of insights that challenge old assumptions: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**When we want to live into Jesus' dream of oneness but fail to listen to voices of difference: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## **\* WORDS OF GRACE**

Take heart, Jesus is calling to us! We trust in the one who has guided the church for two millennia. Through Christ, God forgives us our failings, and continues to call us into a community of mutual love and forgiveness. **Amen.**

## **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**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

— MELITA, arr. C. Courtney

*Stanza 1* Choir

*Stanza 2* Women

**When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.**

*Stanza 3 Men*

**His oath, His covenant, His blood Sustain me in the raging flood;  
When all supports are washed away, He then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.**

*Stanza 4 All*

**When He shall come with trumpet sound, O, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before the throne.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.**

**THE SCRIPTURES**

Patti Patterson

Joel 2:23-32

OT page 848

Luke 18:10-13

NT page 81

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

The Rev. John Shillingburg

**MORNING PRAYERS**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Our ancestors in faith and church-building show us the way to share the gifts God has given us with the whole community. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God with heartfelt gratitude, commitment and praise.

*This is a time during worship when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift to our church's ministries and programs. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts to share God's love.*

*If you wish to give, you can give online at [www.erucc.org](http://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**

*Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*

Senior Choir

– M. Hayes

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Reform our lives, O God, and let these gifts change the world.  
Take them and multiply them to be a blessing of justice and peace in the world you love!**



# \*CLOSING HYMN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

– arr. R. A. Hobby

*for choir, congregation, brass, and organ*

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander, 1650-80

Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

LOBE DEN HERREN

from *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Stralsund, 1665



All: 1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
All: 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
Choir: 3. Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -  
All: 4. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for  
reign - ing And, as on wings of an  
fend you. Sure - ly his good - ness and  
dore him! All that has life and breath,



he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear Now to his tem - ple draw  
Have you not seen All that is need - ful has  
Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can  
Let the a - men Sound from his peo - ple a -



near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
do If with his love he be - friend you.  
gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

**\*BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** *Please remain seated*  
*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Market Street Brass  
– Martin Luther



**We thank Market Street Brass for joining us in worship!**

Trumpet:	Daniel Cheston
	Gerald Jones
Horn:	Oscar Cabello
Trombone:	Daniel Twentey
Tuba:	Kevin Olivera

**Worship Notes:** Today's liturgy is from *Church, New Each Moment: Service Prayers for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost*, written by the Rev. Bonnie Tarwater of San Diego, CA.



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

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**The flowers on the altar** are in memory of Dan Marshall by his family, who love and miss him.

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

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 11 at 8:30 AM, 129 at 10:30 AM, and 83 online.



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

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

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### **Serving Today: October 26**

Deacons: Angela Brittain, Jim Brittain  
Elder: Peter Brehm  
Scripture Reader: Patti Patterson  
Acolyte:  
Greeters: Niel Jefferson, Kath Jefferson

Welcome Table: Julie Clark  
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Ethan Kline  
David Howard  
Nursery: *Trained volunteer needed*  
Fellowship: Linda Coyle, Tommie Bradshaw  
Shelley Weakly, Eric Weakly  
Colleen Baldree, Chuck Baldree  
Communion Prep:  
Communion Clergy:

### **Serving Next Week: November 2**

Mark Ulrich, Quynn Adkins  
Susan Kulp  
Robin Cooney  
Danielle Carbone

Julie Clark, Elizabeth Slade  
Ethan Kline, Jeff Baker  
Jack Day  
*Trained volunteer needed*  
Julie Clark, Joe Adkins  
Quynn Adkins, Kyle Miller  
Pat Dorsz, Hollie Mercier  
Darryl Glick, Mark Ulrich  
Rev. Richard Leslie  
Rev. David Cooney

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### **Next Sunday: November 2 – All Saints Sunday**

Psalm 139 | Luke 19:1-10

Today's readings celebrate the God who sees us completely and loves us still. The psalmist marvels at being known from conception to grave: searched, understood, and pursued by divine love. Zacchaeus discovers this same reality when Jesus looks up into his tree and invites himself to dinner, transforming a despised tax collector into a generous neighbor. What happens when we truly believe we are seen, known, and chosen? Both passages suggest that being fully known by God is not something to fear, but the very foundation of transformation.

*We will share in Holy Communion at the chancel rail on this All Saints Sunday as we remember in prayer members of the congregation and friends and family who have died in the past year. 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.*

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 Stitley	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)
The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family	Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)	
	Emogene Wyand	
	Bob Pinner	

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## **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](mailto: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!

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

Sundays, October 26 – November 23

North Room / Zoom, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERsunstudy](https://bit.ly/ERsunstudy)

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.

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### **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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org) or (301) 662-2762.

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## **ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Sunday, November 2

Community Room, 8:30 – 10:15 AM

The ERUCC Youth Group invite you to an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast with pancakes, meat, fruit, yogurt, and breakfast beverages all included. Suggested donation is \$10/person, \$5/child (11 and under)! Fundraising will benefit ERUCC German hosting in Summer 2026.

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## **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!

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## **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.

## HELP PACK THE PANTRY

Sunday, November 9, 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.

***Thanksgiving in a Bag for Two*** – Create a complete Thanksgiving meal in a gallon Ziploc bag: box of instant stuffing, bag of instant mashed potatoes, can of green beans (or vegetable of choice), 2 cans of chicken, chicken gravy packet, and can of cranberry sauce. Feel free to add a dessert treat!

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](mailto:mkssexton@comcast.net).

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## 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. Currently the Sunday morning class is studying the Gospel of Mark and the Wednesday evening class is focusing on the prophets; we will begin Isaiah—The Greatest Hits on Wednesday, November 5.

The course is offered twice each week:

- Sunday morning, 9:15 – 10:15 AM, Zoom: [bit.ly/ERSunstudy](https://bit.ly/ERSunstudy)
    - **The Sunday morning class will participate in the Let's Talk series on Christian Nationalism from October 26 – November 23.**
  - Wednesday evening, 7:00 – 8:15 PM, Zoom: [bit.ly/ERWedstudy](https://bit.ly/ERWedstudy)
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## LANTERNS NEEDED FOR ADVENT WORSHIP DESIGN

Once again, we are using the Sanctified Art program for our Advent journey. The theme this year is ***What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope This Advent***. The guiding image is a lantern. The Worship Design team is looking for lanterns for an installation. If you have a lantern(s) that you would be willing to lend for the entire Advent/Christmas season, please contact Ave Barr, [avebarr9200@gmail.com](mailto:avebarr9200@gmail.com).

## **THEOLOGY AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH REV. DR. REBECCA SHILLINGBURG**

Tuesdays

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

Zoom: [tinyurl.com/tuetap](https://tinyurl.com/tuetap)

We are reading *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* by Colby Martin. 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.

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## **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](mailto: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.*

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## **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.

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## **UCC PEOPLE'S PRAYERS FOR PEACE INITIATIVE**

In 2024, UCC General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, invited the wider church to participate in an ongoing, interactive season of prayer. "This is a time for us to be reminded we are not alone in our desire to see change in the world. Our collective voices in prayer can make a difference. This is an act of faith."

**Learn more and submit your own prayers:** [bit.ly/PeoplesPrayers](https://bit.ly/PeoplesPrayers)



## 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](https://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.

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## 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](https://tinyurl.com/ERgrns25)

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## Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

### WEBSITE

[www.erucc.org/give](http://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**

### **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](https://tinyurl.com/GKC1028)

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### **ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

Sunday, November 2

Youth help is needed at this annual ERUCC Youth Group fundraiser!

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### **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](https://tinyurl.com/ER1102ff)

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### **JUNIOR CHURCH**

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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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*

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

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 26, 2025

Luke 18:9-14

### Just Worship

I had a childhood friend who always wanted attention. Be it on the playground or in the classroom, her favorite words were, “Look at me!” She needed affirmation. She desired recognition.

I, on the hand, was quite shy. So, whenever my friend went into spotlight seeking mode, I would inch away from her. I didn’t want attention by association.

While I never would stop being her friend, at times it bothered me. So much so that I would take my frustration to the one person I knew would listen and understand. No, not God. Although that should have been my first choice. Rather, I took my woes to my mom.

The wisdom she spoke to me, I can still hear today. Those who cry “look at me” are often lacking something deep inside, she said. When you know who you are — more importantly, when you know it is God you belong to — then there is no need to be loud in your search for validation.

Luke’s Gospel illustrates this perfectly for us, presenting a picture of two people praying in the public square. One, a Pharisee, bellowing his “look at me” prayer for all to hear.

“Thank you, God, that I am not like the tax collector,” he shouts in misguided praise and thanksgiving.

The other person is in fact that tax collector, who also comes before God in a time of much-need prayer. But rather than stepping into the spotlight, he hides himself in the shadows. He doesn’t want anyone looking at him. He doesn’t even want God’s eyes on him. He is sorrowful and truly repentant.

God, though, sees the man in the shadows. God also sees the attention-seeking Pharisee. And God sees right into their hearts. So, when Jesus tells his friends which man went home justified, they might have been surprised to have heard it was the man in the shadows.

“Look at me! Look at me!” is not something that should be coming out of the mouths of those following Christ. For Jesus, himself, reminded his friends often that he had come to serve and not be served. Jesus taught there was greatness in weakness and that the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

We don’t have to shout to God this day, “Look at me!” Rather, we should be whispering, “Have mercy on me.” For God already sees us. God knows the desires, fears, joys, and secrets that are in our hearts. We don’t need to validate our goodness or our worth with God. And for that, let the people shout, “Amen!”

*All-knowing God, you who sees into our hearts know already what we need. We do not need to justify our goodness or seek validation. We are your beloved children, and you care for us deeply. Help us this day to remember how worthy we are in your sight. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*

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



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