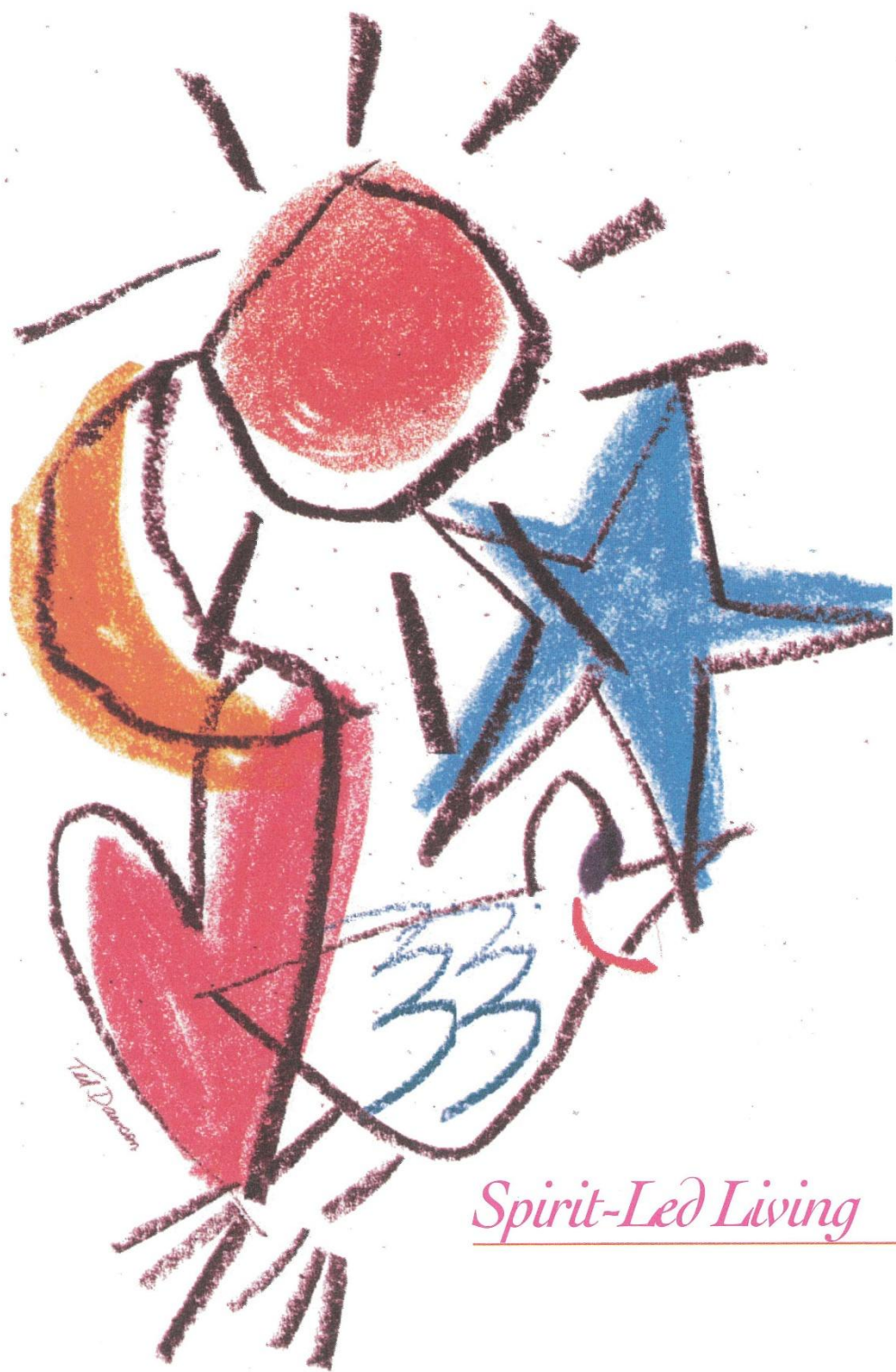




*Spirit-Led Living*

## **Welcome to Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ**

Thank you for worshiping with us at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

If you are a guest, please visit us at the Welcome Table in the lobby. We would love to meet and learn more about you, and we are available to answer your questions. 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 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 people 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 aged 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, 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.

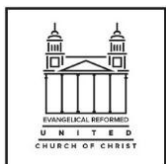
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

## **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 –



August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 a.m.

*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. Josh Privitt

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*CENTERING BREATH**

**PRELUDE**

*Meditation on Leoni*

Jonas Dawson, guest organist

- M. Lyon, arr. D.H. Hegarty

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*inspired by Psalm 105*)

O give thanks to the Holy One, the I Am Who I Am, who calls us together and makes their name known.

**We praise God's holy name! Let the hearts that seek the Holy One rejoice and testify!**

O give thanks to the Holy One, God of our ancestors, who lives and reigns with all generations.

**Sing praises to our God. Remember their wonderful works, saving acts, and redemptive deeds.**

O give thanks to the Holy One, Mighty and Just God, who lends strength in the struggle and leads us in righteousness.

**Seek the presence of the Holy One. Praise God!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Sovereign God, we delight in your presence. Your words bring joy, peace, and strength. You fill us with your Spirit and shape us in truth. Take us beyond the wilderness of our current condition. Remind us of who you are and who we are in you. With thanksgiving, we come to you just as we are. In hope, we bring our dreams for a better world and better lives. In awe, we recount what you have already done. Set a fire for your way and your will within us as we minister in your name. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped*

#22

**Sing praise to God,  
Who has shaped and sustains all creation!  
Sing praise, my soul,  
In profound and complete adoration!  
Glad-some rejoice organ and trumpet voice,  
Joining God's great congregation.**

**Praise God, our guardian,  
Who lovingly offers correction,  
Who, as on eagle's wings,  
Saves us from sinful dejection.  
Have you observed how we are always preserved by  
God's parental affection?**

**Sing praise to God,  
With sincere thanks for all your successes.  
Merciful God ever loves  
To encourage and bless us.  
Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve,  
Strength that would touch and caress us.**

**Sing praise, my soul,  
The great name of your high God commending.  
All that have life and breath join us,  
Their notes sweetly blending.  
God is your light!  
Soul, ever keep this in sight, amen, amen never ending.**

**\*PRAYER FOR GRACE**

**Redeemer and Guide, sometimes we drift from the path of life you give us. Rather than saying yes to the call, we make up reasons why we can't follow. Rather than persevering in prayer, we dwell in anger, rage, and conspiracies. Rather than holding fast to what is good, we compromise with evil. Help us to live in love and harmony with one another. Empower us to pursue peace for all. Let us overwhelm evil with compassion and hope in your name. Amen.**

## **\*WORDS OF GRACE**

Beloved, wherever we go becomes holy ground because the Holy One goes with us. Be firm in hope that the God who met Moses through a burning bush will meet us wherever we may seek strength, encouragement, and the will to live in righteousness, justice, and peace. By the grace of the Holy One, all these things are possible in us and through us.

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*Children, youth, and all who wish to join them are invited to come forward for a special message. During the summer, we do not have Junior Church on a regular basis. Children are welcome to spend time in the children's worship space or use books and supplies from there and the bookshelves while sitting with their families in the pews.*

## **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.**

## **HYMN**

*When Israel Was In Egypt's Land*

#572

**When Israel was in Egypt's land,  
Let my people go,  
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,  
Let my people go.**

Chorus:

**Go down, Moses,  
Way down in Egypt's land.  
Tell old Pharaoh  
To let my people go.**

**Thus spoke our God," bold Moses said  
"Let my people go.  
If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead.**

**Let my people go."** [Chorus]

**No more shall they in bondage toil  
Let my people go.  
Nor spill their blood on Egypt's soil,  
Let my people go.** [Chorus]

**Oh, let us all from bondage flee,  
Let my people go.  
And let us all in Christ be free,  
Let my people go.** [Chorus]

## **THE SCRIPTURES**

Jack Day

Exodus 3:1-15

OT Page Number 50

Romans 12:9-21

NT Page Number 162

**Reader:** May God bless the reading of this word.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Josh Privitt

## **MORNING PRAYER**

## **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

As a spiritual discipline, generosity demonstrates our commitment to the kingdom of God in a tangible way. When we share our resources, we proclaim our trust in God's abundant provision, our concern for the condition of our neighbors, and our responsibility for the maintenance and care of our community. Let us give generously to the good work of God's church.

*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**

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Summer Choir  
- arr. E. Lojeski

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God, we present these offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries in the days ahead, that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.**

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*The God of Abraham Praise*

#24

**The God of Abraham praise,  
all praises to God's name,  
who was and is and is to be,  
fore'er the same!  
The one eternal God,  
before what now appears;  
the First, the Last:  
beyond all thought  
through timeless years!**

**God's spirit freely flows,  
high surging where it will;  
God spoke of old in prophet's word;  
that word speaks still.  
Established is God's law,  
and changeless it shall stand  
deep written on the human heart,  
in every land.**

**God has eternal life  
implanted in the soul;  
God's love shall be  
our strength and stay,  
while ages roll.  
All praise the living God!  
Extol that hallowed name,  
who was, and is, and ever shall  
be still the same!**

**The God of Sarah praise,  
all praises to God's name,  
who was and is and is to be,  
fore'er the same!  
The one eternal God,  
before what now appears;  
the First, the Last: beyond all thought  
through timeless years!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Trust in God in the wilderness.  
Hope in God through the wilderness.  
Follow God beyond the wilderness.  
With the assurance that God makes the ground holy,  
Hears the cries of the people,  
And comes near to the suffering,  
Join the work of deliverance,  
Believe in the possibility of a just world  
And work toward its realization.  
Go, in peace and determination,  
To serve and love God and all creation.

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Introduction and Fughetta*

- C. H. Rinck, arr. C. Cooman



***Worship Notes:*** Liturgy is adapted from **Beyond the Wilderness: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Year A** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

~ We give thanks to Jonas Dawson, our guest organist ~

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are in loving memory of my mother, Isabell A. Boone, whose birthday was September 7, by Jo Ann Fritz.

**The yellow rose** is presented in memory of Janet L. Martin by Larry and Sedonia Martin.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 19 at 8:30 a.m., 110 at 10:30 a.m., and 82 online.

Watch  
Worship  
Live



**Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. or on-demand:**

<https://erucc.org/visit/sunday-live-stream>

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### **Serving Today: Aug 30**

|                   |                                                                  |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Deacons:          | Mark Ulrich<br>Quynn Adkins                                      |
| Elder:            | Ave Barr                                                         |
| Scripture Reader: | Jack Day                                                         |
| Acolyte:          | Wyatt Pomeroy                                                    |
| Greeters:         | Felecia Bishop<br>Cliff Barr, Susan Kulp                         |
| Welcome Table:    | Sue Pinner                                                       |
| Audio/Visual:     | Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle<br>David Howard                 |
| Nursery:          |                                                                  |
| Fellowship:       | Julie Clark, Joe Adkins<br>Kyle Miller, Pat Dorsz<br>Zaydan York |
| Communion Prep:   |                                                                  |
| Communion Clergy: |                                                                  |

### **Serving Next Week: Sept 6**

|                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mark Ulrich<br>Quynn Adkins<br>Matt Hueting<br>Robin Cooney<br>Abby Spear<br>Felecia Bishop<br>Barb Barry            |
| Ethan Kline, Jeffrey Baker<br>David Howard                                                                           |
| Julie Clark, Joe Adkins<br>Kyle Miller, Pat Dorsz<br>Zaydan York<br>Ave Barr<br>Rev. Esther Ziegler, Rev. Rob Peters |

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## Next Sunday: September 6 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 149 | Romans 13:8-14

*We will share in Holy Communion at the chancel rail this morning. Pastor Josh Privitt will preach and lead worship. The Summer Choir will sing. Jonas Dawson will be our guest organist, and Jenna Duranko will play marimba.*

### **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.*

|                                                                       |                                                                  |                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Beverly Mapp (sister of<br>Audrey Rayfield)                           | Carroll Smith (friend of<br>Sandra Trout)                        | Colton Pudvah (great-nephew<br>of Kim Sexton)                                 |
| Susan Slade (mother of Arthur<br>Slade)                               | Tom Ford                                                         | Carol Spera (mother of Mark<br>Ulrich)                                        |
| Family and friends of Frank<br>Tordorff (father of Kim<br>Sexton)     | Ingrid Jacobsen                                                  | Emogene and Don Wyand                                                         |
| Jack (nephew of Pastor Kirstin<br>in military duty)                   | Charlie Woodward                                                 | Bob Pinner                                                                    |
| Rose Plankey (mother of<br>Kathy Gourlie)                             | Izzie Sims (friend of Molly<br>Black)                            | Jim Baldree (father of Chuck<br>Baldree)                                      |
| Scott Maples (nephew of Allen<br>and Joan Maples)                     | Robert Debonis (uncle of<br>Sophia Carliss)                      | Lee Thomas                                                                    |
| Friends and family of John<br>Stush                                   | Family and friends of Betsy<br>Fisher                            | Marcia Eisenstein                                                             |
| Friends and family of Marcy<br>Channell (daughter of Jo Ann<br>Fritz) | Barbara Heverley                                                 | Derek C. Hupp (grandson of<br>Beanie and Gaylon Cornell)                      |
| Jessica Snyder (niece of Janice<br>Staley)                            | Todd Starr (nephew of Mary<br>Staley)                            | Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan<br>and Judi Mach and Tony and<br>Linda LaFianza) |
| Debbie Jennings                                                       | Sharon DiDonato (aunt of Darryl<br>Glick, friend of Mark Ulrich) | Jeanette Johnson                                                              |
| Betty Schaeberle                                                      | Ginny Peters                                                     | Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of<br>Betsy and Phil Selby)                      |
| John Maslowski                                                        | Karen Stitely                                                    | Paige Coffey                                                                  |
| Dan Rice (partner of Alison<br>Shafer)                                | Donna Baumgardner Smith<br>(friend of Sandra Trout)              | Fran Wenner                                                                   |
| Daniel Schaffer (neighbor of<br>Kathleen & Niel Jefferson)            | Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)                               | Bonnie Devilbiss                                                              |
| Mike Simms                                                            | The Murray/Lennox/Cable<br>Family                                | Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law<br>of Barbara & Bill Prescott)                 |
| Friends and family of Adam<br>Huegel                                  | Sandra Trout                                                     | Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)                                                 |
|                                                                       | Mary Staley                                                      | Kathy Blue Shores (friend of<br>Jean Fish & Barb Biser)                       |
|                                                                       | Pat Condo                                                        |                                                                               |
|                                                                       | Wells Condo                                                      |                                                                               |
|                                                                       | Tom Frazier                                                      |                                                                               |
|                                                                       | Pauline Marendt                                                  |                                                                               |

**Please notify the church office when you want your request removed from the prayer list.**

## **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 communion from our pastoral team. 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**

### **END OF SUMMER CHURCH COOKOUT TODAY!**

Ballenger Creek Park, Shelter #1

Approximately 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., but we have it reserved all day!

We are excited to gather to say goodbye to summer! Please meet at Ballenger Park, Shelter #1! We will head there after church so that we can have an early afternoon lunch together. **Come ready for some good food, good fun, and good people.**

In addition to bringing yourself and something to share, please bring your own table settings/cups/napkins, beverages, camping chairs if desired (there will be plenty of table space), and a board game if you want to share! We will have some community-building games for all ages after we eat, and we will also have frisbees and a variety of sports balls to share. We hope to see you there!

---

### **SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY – SEPTEMBER 6**

**Mortgage Assistance:** On the first Sunday of each month, we have a special opportunity for giving towards Mortgage Assistance. Donations fund ERUCC's mortgages with the Fisher Fund and FCB Bank, a division of ACNB Bank, payments on which are about \$153,000/year.

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### **PACK THE PANTRY**

Sunday, September 13, 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 church parking lot.

### **National Linguini Day is Sept 15<sup>th</sup>!**

You are invited to bring any shape pasta or your favorite shelf-stable sauce to worship and 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.

**Contact:** Kim Sexton, [mkssexton@comcast.net](mailto:mkssexton@comcast.net).

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## WEDNESDAY PRAYERS

Wednesdays

Sanctuary, 4:30 p.m.

On Wednesday afternoons, you are invited to enter the church (doors open at 4:15 PM) and proceed to the front of the sanctuary in silence. We will pray silently in our own personal traditions. We begin promptly at 4:30 PM and end at 5:00 PM. What you can expect: substance for your everyday journey. Led by Rev. Richard Leslie.

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## ADULT BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG (STARTING 9/13)

Sunday morning, (STARTING 9/13) 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., Zoom link coming soon

Wednesday evening, (STARTING 9/16) 7:00 – 8:15 p.m., Zoom link coming soon

North Room / Zoom

Each week there are two opportunities to engage in Bible study with other adults--Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. (beginning September 13th) and Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. (beginning on September 16th). Both classes are hybrid: you can join in person in the North Room or via Zoom.

Each class takes the same approach--exploring 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. No prior knowledge is required. New participants are always welcome.

This fall, the Sunday morning class will be engaging the Gospel of John. The Wednesday evening class will be considering the book of Job. Join us at one or both!

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

Tuesdays

North Room / Zoom, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Theology Among the People (TAP) resumes on Tuesday, **September 22nd**. We will begin with a review of the early chapters of *Genesis for Normal People* by Peter Enns and Jared Byas, making it easy for anyone to join us. If you are not a Bible scholar but want to be able to read Genesis and understand its big picture, this brief, witty book is the guide you've been waiting for. Clear summaries and thought-provoking questions provide direction for personal reflection and group discussion. Peter Enns, a Biblical Studies professor, and Jared Byas, an Old Testament professor, summarize the book's key themes and help us see Genesis as an ancient story, one with continued relevance for human experience today.

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## UN-BURDENED, FREDERICK COUNTY UNITED IN RELIEF



### Medical Debt

neighbors are burdened with medical debt, and we want to unburden them."

Please consider giving to this campaign. If we raise \$103,172.00, we will wipe out \$15 MILLION DOLLARS in accumulated medical debt! This would unburden more than 14,000 of our neighbors right here in Frederick County. What a perfect opportunity to come together and make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors!



To give, please visit: <https://bit.ly/FCUnitedInRelief> or scan the QR code:

To pay by check, please make payable to Undue Medical Debt and note "Unburdened Frederick County" on the memo line of your check. Checks can be left with Ann in the church office or in the Kieffer Lobby on Sunday mornings. Checks can also be mailed directly to Undue Medical Debt at P. O. Box 411675, Boston, MA 02241-1675.

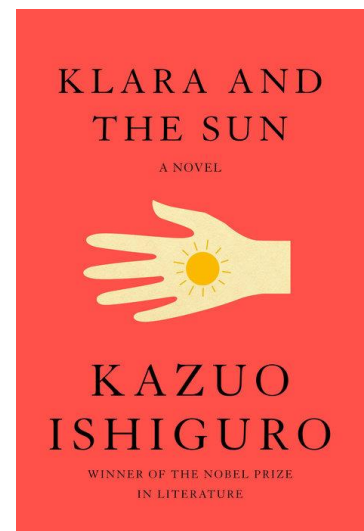
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### ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, September 22, 2026  
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 p.m.  
Zoom: [bit.ly/ERUCCbooks](https://bit.ly/ERUCCbooks)

The ERUCC Book Group's upcoming selection for discussion is *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

From her place in the store, Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her, but when the possibility emerges that her circumstances may change forever, Klara is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans.



In *Klara and the Sun*, Kazuo Ishiguro looks at our rapidly changing modern world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator to explore a fundamental question: what does it mean to love? For more information, please contact Susan Kulp at [smkulp@earthlink.net](mailto:smkulp@earthlink.net) or Rebecca Shillingburg at [rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com).

## **Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements**

### **REJOICE IN THE WELCOME: SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 13**

**Sunday School for all ages!**

**9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**

All classes are in the Main Building. Children and Youth check in at the Kieffer Lobby.

Adult Bible Study: North Room, taught by Rev. John Shillingburg

High School Youth: The Alcove, taught by Matt and Holly Davis, Eliza Stitely, Jim Brittain

**NEW Elementary and Middle School will begin together for a 15-minute gathering of songs and celebrations outside of the Thomas Room and then divide for lessons at 9:30.**

Middle School Youth: The Flora Room, taught by Trish Coffey and Arthur Slade

Children: Liz Coffey Room, taught by Kate Fromknecht, Donna Smith, Rachael Bowman, Jeanellen Kallevang, Thomasa Pomeroy, Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads, and Substitutes: Julie Ebersole, Audrey Rayfield

Elementary classes will be learning one Bible story for 3-5 weeks using different modalities, including games, art, cooking, science, spiritual practices, and more! Our first theme is Creation!

---

### **REJOICE IN THE WELCOME: WE ARE ALL A PART OF GOD'S CREATION**

**On Sunday, September 13**, we will rejoice together in many ways! Before the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services, we will be greeted by an interactive photo station created by our Worship Design Team. During worship, we will share in music, liturgy, and engagement with the joy we share as part of God's creation. Please stay for fellowship, where all are invited to participate in intergenerational table activities and our favorite cookies and milk. Around the room, there will be opportunities to sign up for volunteering in a variety of ways! Consider bringing cookies to share!

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### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH REGISTRATION FORMS AND ANNUAL PERMISSIONS**

Children and Youth Permission forms are renewed each fall during the month of September. These are available for you to sign at the Welcome Desk in the Kieffer Lobby on Sunday mornings. If you are new to ERUCC or have not completed an original registration form, you can do so at this link: <https://bit.ly/SundaySchoolReg2026> or scan this QR code: These forms keep us updated on photo permissions, allergies, emergency contacts, and anything else that you want to communicate about your child.



## NURSERY UPDATE FOR FALL

Beginning in September and continuing until we find a second nursery staff member, we may have the nursery only staffed twice a month. On other Sundays, the nursery will remain open for families to view the service from there. We are finalizing a position description and should be ready to share it next week. We are also seeking new nursery volunteers to be a second adult in the room once every 8 weeks. Please see Ashley Murphy or Pastor Kirstin to learn more. Nursery secondary volunteers need to have been part of our congregation for 6 months, have a background check, and review our safe church policies. Primary leaders also go through additional training.

---

Sponsored by Frederick Friends Meeting and others

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

*"Invest  
in  
Peace-*



*-For Everyone,  
Everywhere,  
Every Day."*

**JOIN US FOR MUSIC, ARTS, ACTIVITIES,  
DISCUSSION, AND REFRESHMENTS!**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH: 2 - 5:30 PM  
GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
25 E. 2ND STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701**

**FOR MORE INFO OR TO RSVP:  
[HTTPS://WWW.FREDERICKFRIENDS.ORG](https://www.frederickfriends.org) ->PLEASE  
INCLUDE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12.**

**FAMILIES WELCOME!**

# **Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC**

## **MINISTERS AND STAFF**

Rev. Josh Privitt ~ *Senior Pastor* ~ revjosh@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*

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

Ann Watkins ~ *Church Administrator* ~ 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*

## **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

Robin L. Brady-Slifer ~ *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* | Keith Stickley ~ *Property Chair*

Kate Fromknecht ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Holly Davis ~ *Christian Education Chair*

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

Darryl Glick ~ *Personnel Chair*

## **ELDERS**

Ave Barr | Robin L. Brady-Slifer | 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 a.m.       | <b>Early Worship</b> , Sanctuary                                                          |
| 9:00 a.m.              | <b>Coffee and Conversation</b> , Kieffer Lobby                                            |
| 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | <b>Nursery Care</b>                                                                       |
| 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.     | <b>Worship</b> , Sanctuary and Online at <a href="http://www.erucc.org">www.erucc.org</a> |

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## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2026

Romans 12:9-21

### Spirit-Led Living

I've been told all my life to stop wearing my heart on my sleeve — a saying popularized in William Shakespeare's *Othello*, where the villain asks, "Shall I wear my heart upon my sleeve for daws to peck at?" (By the way, a "daw" is a bird in the crow family.)

Shakespeare, though, can't take full credit for the saying. Its origin can be traced to medieval jousts when dashing knights would literally wear the affection of fair maidens in the way of ribbons and other trinkets tied to their armor sleeve.

Today, wearing one's heart is far from romantic. It's viewed as a negative trait of a sensitive soul that's weak. Yet saints like Catherine of Sienna and Thérèse of Lisieux saw sensitive souls as grace-filled gifts to the world.

So, for all you sensitive souls reading this, know that you are strong beyond measure and that the world needs such love and care on display. For that heart on your sleeve is beating with the heart of God, showing others what it truly means to live a spirit-led life.

Spirit-led living is something of a struggle these days as it is marked by authenticity and vulnerability. It also means doing that hardest thing we can ever do — love in all circumstances, especially when you are in the presence of your enemies.

Paul, the very apostle who told us to "rejoice in the Lord always," while imprisoned in Rome, was also the one who urged us to let love be genuine. If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

While I've always appreciated Paul's advice, very seldom have I followed it. It's more satisfying (albeit a short-lived satisfaction) to stoop down to the enemies' level. But overcoming evil with evil, is not a marker of a spirit-led life. Rather, vulnerable love is, and such love is disarming in today's world.

There is no preventive to take to ensure we never get hurt, betrayed or rejected in life. I wish there was. But allowing true feelings to be expressed and not buried, allowing tears to fall with those who are hurt, makes for an environment where God can come and transform the gunk into something beautiful. And when our sensitive souls are on display, what we are showing is that we know our worthiness comes from God alone.

I don't know about you, but my heart will always be on my sleeve for all to see. Where is your heart?

*Loving God, in a world of raging hate and distrust, may our lives reflect Your goodness and grace. Help us to stop trying to protect our hearts from hurts, but to share them openly. May this day the heart on our sleeves that the world sees be not our own, but Yours. 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.)

