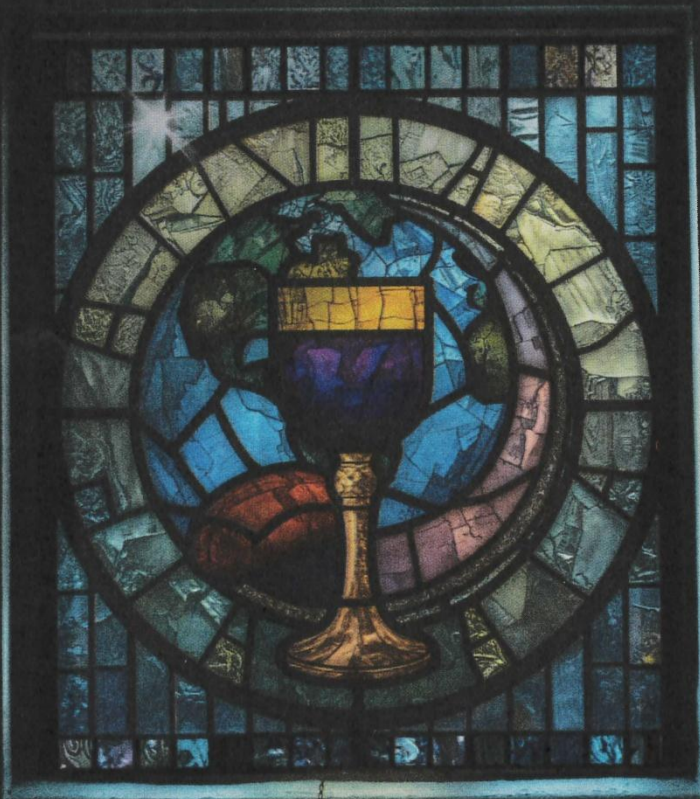


OCTOBER 11, 2026



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 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 11, 2026

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

ACCESS SUNDAY

Access Sunday is an annual celebration of the gifts persons with disabilities bring to church community, and the joys of being in accessible community. It is also a time to remember and repent of the harm done to disabled people in religious spaces, and to call upon the whole church to recommit itself to access as a justice issue.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Josh Privitt

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CENTERING BREATH**

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

You Are Welcome Here

Spirit

– G. DeMan

**You are welcome here, no matter who you are, no matter where
you are on life's journey.**

**You are welcome here, no matter who you are, come and join
with us, we're united in the church of Christ.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (written by Pastor Greg Tre Harris)

The Divine is our Shepherd. We want not. Not missing anything. Nothing
holy, forgotten, or left out.

Created in love, We are one!

The world names us by what it believes we lack. The Divine always calls us
whole. Our bodies, our minds, our spirits, created without hesitation, held
without condition, beloved without exception.

Created differently, We are one!

One Band. One Body. Many members. One Sound. One Song. Many voices.
One Truth. One Spirit. Many stories. No life stands alone. No gift exists apart
from another.

Created creatively, We are one!

We are seen through the eyes of our neighbors. We are strengthened by one another's veracity. We are healed through interconnected compassion. What the world calls weakness, The Divine transforms into common union.

Our reality does not diminish. It binds us together, reveals Christ among us, and becomes the very place where grace is made known. Our collective vulnerability saves us all! Created in oneness, We are one!

***OPENING PRAYER** (Adapted from a prayer by Pastor Greg Tre Harris)

Holy Divine, everything we need, at birth we have. Each story. Each body. Each way of moving through the world. Nothing lost. Nothing without purpose.

When the world teaches us otherwise, remind us that You have always called us whole. Our aches and pains are not evidence that Love abandoned us. They are reminders that we live, that we love and are loved.

As we gather in worship, help us recognize one another's abilities and disabilities, honor one each other's truths and identities, and discover Your presence within our shared humanity.

May our worship reveal Christ among us, Your grace be made known through us, and our collective vulnerability become a testimony to Your abiding love. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

We Gather Together

#421

**We gather together to ask for God's blessing
To live in community, seeking God's will
We come now as sisters and brothers,
Confessing the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.**

**Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
You call us, O Savior, to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.**

**All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom to follow or stray,
Empowering all by hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.**

***PRAYER FOR GRACE** (Adapted from a prayer written by Pastor Maggie Guekguezian)

God we confess, that we took the truth that we are each made in Your image, and placed conditions upon that first act of Your love.

We, like the Israelites at Horeb's foot, forgot Your call to love each other. We shed some of life's beauty to be melted into a golden calf. We made a false idol named "able bodied", "neurotypical", and "sane", put it on a pedestal, and worshiped it.

God transform us, into unmakers of harm and workers of care. Make of us advocates for each other, like Moses who — through difficulties of speech — struggled for the good of Your people, first to Pharaoh and then even to You, O God! Fill us with life anew that it may endure. Make us remember that the Holy Spirit is in every breath whether fired by our lungs or by machines that assist them. Renew us, Holy One, renew us! Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE** (by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay)

Siblings in Christ, the Holy One is near and responds to your prayer.

Remember, "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9)

– SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM –

INVITATION

Rev. Josh Privitt

WELCOME

Pastor: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

ADDRESS

Pastor: Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God's new order. Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ's death. We are buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help him be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian

church so that he may affirm his baptism?
Parents: We do, with the help of God.

QUESTIONS OF FAMILY

Pastor: Do you promise to help this child grow in his faith?

Family: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to care for these parents, supporting them in their own faith as they care for Lucas?

Family: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to grow in your own faith as you follow in the ways and teachings of Jesus Christ in the world?

Family: We do, with the help of God.

***CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

Rev. Josh Privitt

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

Congregation: We promise our love, support, and care.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

Pastor: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: The water we use for today's baptism comes from three sources, each rich in symbolism and connection: the River Jordan, where Jesus himself was baptized; the river at Philippi in Greece, where Lydia became the first baptized believer in Europe through the Apostle Paul; and our own Frederick water, reminding us of our ties to this local community. Together, these waters signify our unity with the wider Church, our connection to the faithful who have gone before us, and our shared hope with those who will come after.

Let us pray:

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By that same Divine Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you eternal God, who was, who is, and who shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Now by your Holy Spirit, dear God, bless this sacred act of baptism, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

Pastor: By what name will your child be called?

Parents: Lucas Matthew Bradshaw.

Pastor: Lucas Matthew Bradshaw, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, One God, Mother of us all.

People: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTIZED

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Pastor: Let us pray for the one baptized today:

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this newly baptized child. May he be filled with joy; may he never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you.

Bless the parents, family, and sponsors of this child. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Lucas.

Bless these, your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

HYMN OF RESPONSE

I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry

#351

**I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.**

**I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.**

**I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off
and find where demons dwell.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God,
to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Rev. Josh Privitt

Children, youth, and all who wish to join them are invited to come forward for a special message.

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.*

THE SCRIPTURES (NRSVue translation)

Peg Stahler

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Josh Privitt

MORNING PRAYER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Making spaces of accessibility where all can belong is a collaborative process. As we continue planting the garden of accessibility, there are several ways we can work together. How will you help create a world that is accessible to all?

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

A Home of Grace

Spirit

– J. M. Martin

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Jacob Nault)

God who loves as exactly as we are, thank you for this opportunity to celebrate the gifts of our siblings. With these gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer, help us work with you to create a world where all your people can belong, and find peace in your presence. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who offers hope and liberation for all. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Now Thank We All Our God

#419

**Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms,
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God
our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too,
our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore.
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

May You Run and Not Be Weary

– P. Murakami

arr. Henry Wiens, adapted by Nylea L. Butler-Moore

**May you run and not be weary,
May your heart be filled with song.
And may the love of God continue
To give you hope
And keep you strong.
And may you run and not be weary.
May your life be filled with joy!
And may the road you travel
Always lead you home.**

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

POSTLUDE

Instrumental Excerpt from *A Home of Grace*

Spirit

– J. M. Martin



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

A HUGE thank-you to the small-but-mighty crew of Get Out the Vote postcard writers who hand-wrote and addressed 1,000 cards to voters in Georgia and North Carolina this summer: **Sophia Carliss, Susan Kulp, Jo Hendriks, Peg Stahler, Ave Barr, Tyler York, Jean Fish, Barb Biser, Charlotte Meierhoefer, Sandra Blake, Carole Roderio, Theresa Posthuma, Wanda Larsen and Kate McDermott.** We are grateful for their tireless efforts to make sure that Black voters in the Atlanta and Charlotte regions can be sure their votes will be counted this fall.

Worship Notes: Liturgy is adapted from UCC Disabilities Ministries Access Sunday 2026.

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 this morning are given by Cindy Smith and Cindy Duranko in memory of our dear friend, Jack Patterson.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 16 at 8:30 AM, 116 at 10:30 AM, and 68 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

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

Serving Today: Oct 11

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Eric Weakly
Scripture Reader: Peg Stahler
Acolyte: Vivi B.
Greeters: Robin Cooney
Rob Smith, Paul McGinley
Welcome Table: Elizabeth Slade, Sue Pinner
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle
Ethan Kline
Nursery: Katie Z.
Fellowship: Ave Barr, Cliff Barr
Joan Maples, Allen Maples
Jen Powell, Pat Condo
Bud Rossig, Nicole Warrington

Serving Next Week: Oct 18

Kyle Miller
Tommie Bradshaw
Susan Kulp

Abby S.
Julie Ebersole, Susan Kulp
Felecia Bishop
Betsy Selby, Jeanellen Kallevang
Jeff Schaeberle, Kelly Esslinger
David Howard

Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer
Peter Brehm, Rob McGuire
Felecia Bishop, Alex Martinez

Next Sunday: October 18 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 96 |Matthew 22:15-22

Pastor Josh Privitt will preach and lead worship. 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.

Christian Brady Tolbert Neely (daughter of cousin of Mary Boswell)	Carroll Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)	Colton Pudvah (great-nephew of Kim Sexton)
Sally Jane Bussiere (friend of Mary Boswell)	Tom Ford	Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
Barbara Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)	Ingrid Jacobsen	Emogene and Don Wyand
Peg McGuire (sister of Nan McNamara)	Charlie Woodward	Bob Pinner
Sherry Hoover (mother of Ashley Coen)	Izzie Sims (friend of Molly Black)	Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)
Susan Slade (mother of Arthur Slade)	Robert Debonis (uncle of Sophia Carliss)	Lee Thomas
Jack (nephew of Pastor Kirstin in military duty)	Barbara Heverley	Marcia Eisenstein
Jessica Snyder (niece of Janice Staley)	Todd Starr (nephew of Mary Staley)	Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie and Gaylon Cornell)
Debbie Jennings	Sharon DiDonato (aunt of Darryl Glick, friend of Mark Ulrich)	Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)
Betty Schaeberle	Ginny Peters	Jeannette Johnson
John Maslowski	Karen Stitely	Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Dan Rice (partner of Alison Shafer)	Donna Baumgardner Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)	Paige Coffey
Daniel Schaffer (neighbor of Kathleen & Niel Jefferson)	Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)	Fran Wenner
Mike Simms	Sandra Trout	Bonnie Devilbiss
	Mary Staley	Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
	Pat Condo	Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
	Wells Condo	Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
	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.

Activities, Events, and Announcements

HELP PACK THE PANTRY

Sunday, October 11, 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. **This month we are collecting toiletries – soap, bodywash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, feminine hygiene products, etc.**

You are invited to bring any 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, mksessexton@comcast.net.

WINTER COAT AND HYGIENE DRIVE

October 1 – November 30

We are collecting NEW coats and winter gloves, hats, and scarves for babies, children, and adults and hygiene items (soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, laundry pods, and hand and feet warmers) for our first giving opportunity of the season! These items, 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 40 coats, 42 hats, and 80 pairs of gloves... how many items can we collect this year?

Bring NEW winter items to the collection box in the Sanctuary Lobby beginning October 1!

BEST AND WORST

The Bible is beautiful, moving, and confusing. Starting in November, we will be covering both extremes in worship, and we need YOUR help. Fill out the survey below to let us know what your favorite scriptures are and what are the most troubling/hardest scripture. We'll learn about what we love as a Church family and grow together as a community! Use this link to submit your answers <https://tally.so/r/obPQJV>, scan this QR code, or send Pastor Josh an e-mail (revjosh@erucc.org) or text.



GENTLE YOGA

Wednesdays

Community Room, 6:30 p.m.

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.

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

Join us as we read and discuss *Genesis for Normal People* by Peter Enns and Jared Byas. 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.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG

Sunday, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

North Room / Zoom: <http://tinyurl.com/ERUCCsunstudy>

Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

North Room / Zoom: <http://tinyurl.com/ERUCCwedstudy>

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

LET'S TALK – FACING DEATH, FINDING HOPE

A Six-Week Conversation About Death & Dying

Sundays, October 11 – November 15 | Adult Sunday School

Community Room, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

An honest and open exploration of death and dying through Scripture, personal experience, practical preparation, and conversation. **Bring your questions—there are no questions we're afraid to ask, and no expectation that we all have the same answers.**

October 11 — Death in the Bible

Rev. Josh Privitt

What does Scripture say about death, resurrection, heaven, and eternal life?

October 18 — The Body & Dying

Holly Davis, BSN, RN

What happens to our bodies as we die? What do we know about the process of death?

October 25 — Near-Death Experiences

Rev. Richard Leslie

What do people experience when they come close to death? We'll share stories and explore different perspectives.

November 1 — Grief & Loss

Jenna Duranko, Thanatologist & Author

of Good Grief

What happens to us when someone we love dies? We'll explore grief, mourning, healing, and how we walk with one another.

November 8 — Preparing for Death

Cathie Duncan

How do we begin meaningful end-of-life conversations with the people we love? We'll explore sharing our wishes, making plans, and helping our loved ones know what matters to us.

November 15 — Open Forum

Questions, stories & conversation

A final gathering to explore what we've learned, what we believe, and what we're still wondering about.

NEW FRIENDS GATHERING

Thursday, October 15

Back Patio, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

You and your family/friends are warmly invited for a New Friends Gathering on Thursday, October 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on the back patio at ERUCC (15 W. Church Street, Frederick MD 21701). This is a casual and friendly evening with beverages, light snacks, and good conversation. You'll have the opportunity to connect with Pastor Josh, new friends, longtime members, and everyone in between.

This is a drop in event, so feel free to arrive and leave whenever works best for your schedule. Children are welcome. In the event of rain, we will move to the lobby immediately inside our entrance near the back parking lot. There's plenty of parking nearby—in the church lot (limited), on the street, or in the parking garage. Dress is casual, there is no cost and no need to bring anything—just bring yourselves!

If you're able, please **RSVP by October 12** to Barb Barry @ebbarry1@gmail.com. Please let us know the names of those attending and any dietary needs or preferences, so we can provide for all. That said, we know how busy schedules go—if you're not sure yet or can't commit now, that's okay. If the day arrives and you find yourself free, we'd love to have you.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Barb at ebbarry1@gmail.com (240)422-7888. We're looking forward to a joyful evening of connection and community—and we hope to see you there!

KEEP ME IN STITCHES CRAFT DAY

Saturday, October 17

North Room, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

There is a wonderful crafters' gathering in the North Room once a month, which happens to be meeting this month on Saturday, September 19. We'll be there from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Join us for 10 minutes, two hours, or all day. Any craft is welcome, but please, no glitter, (hahahaha!!!) Contact Nancy Jones with any questions, knitwitsrule@outlook.com.

MISSION OF MERCY MEALS

Monday, October 19

We provide lunch for the doctors, dentists, nurses, and volunteers who donate their valuable time in assisting underserved members of our community.

Please sign up to donate items at <https://bit.ly/MOMOct26> or scan this QR code:

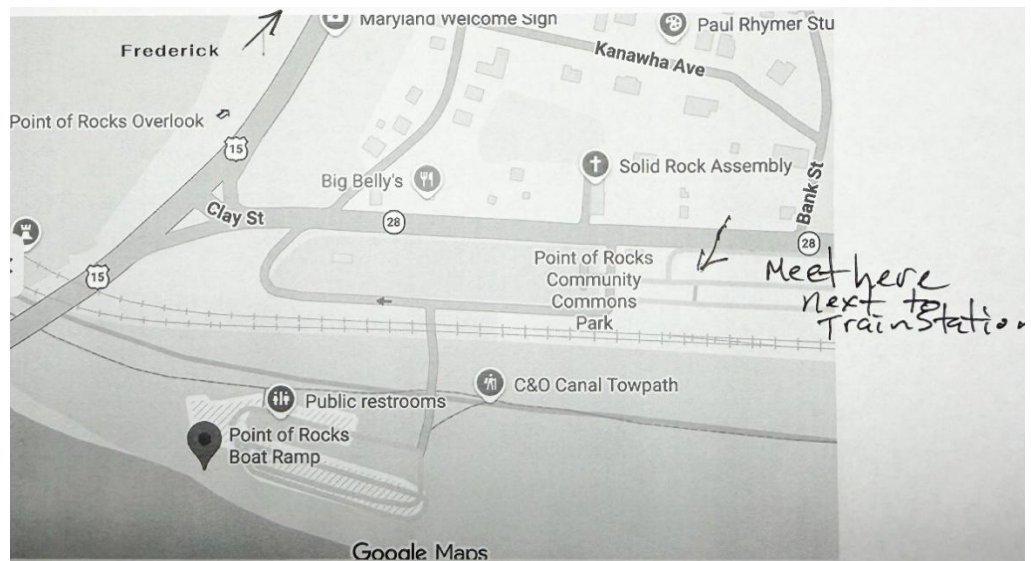


Bring items to church no later than Sunday, October 18. Leave bread in the freezer; all other items can be placed in the walk-in refrigerator. Please mark all items with M.O.M. or Mission of Mercy. Contact Nancy Jones with any questions, knitwitsrule@outlook.com.

SPIRITUAL PHOTOGRAPHY WALK

Sunday, October 18,
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Tom Dorsz, one of our resident photographers and Green Team member, has agreed to lead a Spiritual Photography walk. Whether you have a fancy camera or just a phone camera, we invite you to join us in taking a closer look at our awesome natural world.



We will meet at the Point of Rocks Community Park next to the train station, then follow Tom to the boat ramp area. From there, the canal path is easy and flat with great scenery. See the map below. If you need a ride, let Linda Coyle know so we can arrange carpooling.

FALL FUN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, October 25
Community Room, during Fellowship

We had so much fun on our Rejoice in the Welcome Sunday that our Creative Expressions team has planned more fun things! Join us for Fall Fun Fellowship on Sunday 10/25 during our 11:30 a.m Fellowship time as we decorate pumpkins and eat fall snacks together. Join a table of diverse peoples to decorate your BEST pumpkin (and yes you can bring your own supplies). The winning pumpkin will get a prize and bragging rights.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 1

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

If you wish to include the name of someone who has passed away since November 1, 2025, please share the name(s) with us by October 28. You can tell Ann at the reception desk on Sundays, or contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

CONVERSATIONS FOR A HEALTHY CHURCH

Saturday, November 7

Sanctuary, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Successful congregations understand the importance of connectivity, relationality, and boundaries. Join our associate conference minister, Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice, in the sanctuary on November 7th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. as she leads a discussion on the foundations of good pastoral beginnings, positive relational practices, and sound decision making around the nuts and bolts of active church life.

WOMEN'S RETREAT - EXPERIENCING GOD'S GOODNESS AND LOVE

November 13 – 14

Manidokan Camp and Retreat Center

1600 Harpers Ferry Rd, Knoxville, MD 21758

We pray that this weekend of time apart gives us full view of the gift of God's goodness in our warm community of friends, expressions of poetry that we read and write, exploring in the outdoors, practicing gratitude, and fun ways to "Taste and See that the Lord is Good!" We will gather Friday night as early as 5:00 p.m. and have a crockpot dinner together around 6:30 p.m. We will depart Saturday around 4:30 p.m. in order to give time for those who want to attend Jenna Duranko's evening book signing at ERUCC to do so.

Sign Up: <https://bit.ly/46TWhMw>



Walking Together Toward Racial Justice: A Learning and Action Series

The Central Atlantic Conference is offering a seven-session evening Zoom series for individuals and congregations that are curious about, in early stages, or just needing a review on how to work toward racial justice. We will explore what racism looks like across major life domains and person-to-person interactions. We will also identify

ways that we as the church can work towards changing systems and institutions that promote and maintain racism. We CAN make the future better than the present and the past! Join us. Find your unique place in the work against racism, gain energy through our faith, get to know others engaging in the work, and learn about resources available generally and through the Conference.

We'll be meeting Thursdays – 7:00- 8:30 pm ET

Start date: October 22nd (excluding Thanksgiving). End date: December 10th

Facilitators: Rev. Marty Kuchma, Vivian Jackson, Saskia Campbell

Register at <https://www.cacucc.org/events/p/walking-together-2026>

ALISON'S RETIREMENT

Keep your eyes peeled! Our beloved Alison retired in August, and we want to celebrate her for her 40+ years of ministry. A team has formed to put together a celebration for her and recognition during worship, so watch for an announcement coming soon. But in the meantime, keep your eyes on Sunday in early November.

RINGERS NEEDED! The ERUCC handbell choir is reforming and seeking adults interested in joining! Being able to read music is not required, but enthusiasm and joy in music certainly are. Contact Jonas at music@erucc.org for more information.

Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sundays, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

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

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

Children in K – Grade 5: please check in at the reception desk in the Kieffer Lobby. Class is held in the Liz Coffey Room.

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

Pickup: All families must check out children from the leaders in the Liz Coffey Room at 10:15 a.m.

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 and High School Youth: Please check in at the self-service kiosk in the Kieffer Lobby before proceeding to your classroom: Middle School in the Flora Room, High School in the Alcove.

JUNIOR CHURCH

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays

Children in K – Grade 5 are invited to Junior Church most Sundays during the school year. Children begin worship at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary with their families and, after the Thought for the Day, are dismissed for creative, well-supervised spiritual formation activities. On the first Sunday of each month, children remain in worship to participate in worship and receive communion with their families.

GOD'S KIDS' CLUB HEADS TO SUMMERS FARM!

Friday, October 16, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This October, our GKC will be going to Summers Farm for the afternoon! After a fun fall morning at church, we will drive children to Summers Farm and play! Each smaller group will be supervised both by an adult and 1-2 youth helpers. Please plan to pick up your child at Summers Farm (**7503 Hollow Rd, Middletown, MD 21769**) at the entrance gate at 3:00 p.m. Communicate with Thomasa Pomeroy (she/her, tomato.pomeroy@gmail.com) if you have questions. This sign-up link below includes your RSVP and a \$10 fee for admittance to the play area with many games, a trampoline, a petting zoo area, and more! Click: <https://erucc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/111/responses/new> or scan:



YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Sunday, October 18

Community Room, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Youth Group is back on October 18 from 6-8 pm in the Community Room! Youth (6th-12th grade folks) come join us for games, snacks, activities, friends, and conversation around our mental health. With fall in full swing and winter approaching, being intentional on our own mental health is key. Come join your friends and mentors as we have fun and grow together! Reach out to Pastor Josh (revjosh@erucc.org or 573-999-5640) with any questions.

FALL FEST & TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Friday, October 30

ERUCC Parking Lot and Patio, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The Youth Group is hosting a Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, October 30, on an early dismissal day for Frederick County Students. All ages are welcome to attend, though snacks and games will be geared toward elementary-aged children. We are looking for help from people who are willing to bring a car, decorate your trunk, and hand out candy and/or treats! You may bring your own candy or use candy donated to the church. AND we will have games, snacks, and decorated pumpkin judging.

Sign up to decorate a car or donate treats:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DA3FBC34-66284236-trunk#/>



NURSERY SCHEDULE

10/11 - Ashley & Katie
10/25 - Ashley & Vivi
11/8 - Ashley & Julie
11/22 - Ashley & Cam
12/6 - Ashley & Linda

12/20 - Ashley & Molly
1/3 - Ashley & Kate F.
1/17 - Ashley & Katie
1/31 - Ashley & Vivi

IMPORTANT “SAVE THE DATES” FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

October 16	God’s Kids’ Club, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
October 18	Youth Group, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
October 30	Trunk or Treat at ERUCC, Times TBD
November 1	Youth Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
November 1-15	Care Package Collection for College Students and Faithful Friends
November 3	God’s Kids’ Club
December 6	Youth Dress Up Dinner
December 11	Kris Kringle Hot Cocoa Outreach

Staff News

WE’RE HIRING!

ERUCC is seeking a Sunday Morning Nursery Assistant to work 2 Sundays a month from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., \$25 per hour. Staff member will provide a safe and caring environment for infants and children. Stamina to work with toddlers, ability to lift 40 pounds, and good communication skills are expected. Building trust with children and families is critical. Applicants should share inclusive values of welcoming diversity in a variety of ways, including church LGBT membership and leadership. Email erucc@erucc.org to apply. Provide a resume and 2 references. Visit <https://erucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Nursery-Assistant-Position-.pdf> for the complete job description.



YOU
BELONG
HERE

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

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

Jonas Dawson ~ *Designated Director of Music* ~ music@erucc.org

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

Ann Watkins ~ *Church Administrator* ~ awatkins@erucc.org

Melissa Hissey ~ *Office Assistant* ~ melissahissey@erucc.org

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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.	Early Worship , Sanctuary
9:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation , Kieffer Lobby
9:15 AM	Adult Bible Study , North Room
9:15 AM	Let's Talk – Facing Death, Finding Hope , Community Room
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care
9:15 – 10:00 AM	Children's Sunday School <i>Pre-K, Nursery</i> <i>K – 5th Grade, Liz Coffey Room</i>
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Youth Sunday School <i>Middle School Youth, Flora Room</i> <i>High School Youth, Alcove</i>
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room <i>Participating children are dismissed from Worship (2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays)</i>
11:30 AM	Fellowship , Downtown Community Room

Stay Informed



Subscribe to receive e-news from ERUCC at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

WEBSITE
www.erucc.org/give



one time or recurring gifts

MOBILE



Scan to give from your mobile device

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

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.



SAVE THE DATE

**Grand Opening of the
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER**

Saturday, October 17, 2026 | 2pm

125 East All Saints Street, Frederick, MD



Visit aarchsociety.org for event descriptions details.




ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
• PRESENTS •

COAT & HYGIENE Drive

Collecting **NEW** winter coats and hygiene items for all ages, genders, and sizes!


 SHARE WARMTH.
 SHARE LOVE.
 CHANGE LIVES.

DONATIONS BENEFIT:

- ♥ Helping Hands and Caring Hearts
- ♥ Judy Center at Lincoln Elementary School
- ♥ Advocates for Homeless Families
- ♥ Waterboyz for Jesus Christmas Alive
- ♥ Eliza's House
- ♥ Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (COIPP)
- ♥ Steadfast: Standing Firm Against Youth Homelessness
- ♥ Team Swann
- ♥ Orenda Center of Wellness, LLC
- ♥ Beyond Shelter

HYGIENE ITEMS NEEDED:

-  Laundry Pods
-  Soap / Body Wash
-  Shampoo / Conditioner
-  Deodorant
-  Lotion

-  Toothpaste / Toothbrush
-  Hand & Feet Warmers

Every item makes a difference!



DROP OFF:

Near the MESJ Bulletin Board
Outside the Sanctuary
October 1 – November 29




♥ TOGETHER, WE CAN BRING WARMTH, DIGNITY, AND HOPE TO OUR COMMUNITY.



BUL0106

8 1/2" x 14 UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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