NOVEMBER 8, 2026



TWENTY-FOURTH 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 –

November 8, 2026 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal
**All who are able may stand*
Bold text read in unison

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CENTERING BREATH**

CONSECRATION PRAYER (written by Kevin Coyle) Kevin Coyle

O Lord,
As we gather here, anticipating Consecration Sunday, bring our minds back to how you gave all. With just words, deeds, and a cross of cost you left behind a legacy that keeps on giving. Just as you invested in your disciples, awaken us to the many ways we can invest in our community and the strengthening of our church. As we move from day to day, may we grow in spirit, knowledge, and hope together. Even after we leave this space of welcome, fill us with a charitable spirit that can inspire neighbors and create a harvest of plenty. Amen.

BIBLE GIFTING Rev. Josh Privitt and Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

PRELUDE
You Are Welcome Here – G. DeMan

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Psalm 78) Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

Set your hope in God, who is worthy of our trust.
We remember the glorious deeds of the Holy One.
Set your hope in God, who orders our days and redeems our lives.
We rejoice in the wonders the Holy One has done.
Set your hope in God, who leads us.
We recommit to the ways of the Holy One. Our hope is in God!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy One, you have been loving and faithful from age to age. With each new day, we see moments of your patience and kindness. How partners accompany one another in life. How water, air, and the things of creation continue to abound. We praise you for this love and faithfulness, through song, prayer, and ritual. Join us in this service, as you have joined us time and time again. Hold us close as we celebrate and say farewell. Ground us in you through all things. We pray this in your loving name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Blessed Assurance #473

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. [Refrain]

***PRAYER FOR GRACE** Rev. Josh Privitt

Wise and just God, we do not want to come before you with empty words and meaningless acts. We know that your love has the power to transform us with compassion. We declare that your truth can liberate us and renew us as liberators in the world. In the midst of a world too

often guided by the pursuit of power, privilege, and prestige, soften our hearts. Help us reject the othering of our neighbors and your beloved. Help us reflect your goodness and good news through our lives, in word and deed. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Beloved, when we turn toward the Holy One, we find the Holy One has turned toward us. The God of compassion and grace will meet you in your hopes for a new life, will bring strength and power in your struggle, and will release you from actions and attitudes of the past. Receive God's forgiveness and invitation to embrace a new way going forward.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

There Are Some Things I May Not Know #405

There are some things I may not know,
There are some places I can't go,
But I am sure of this one thing
That God is real for I can feel God deep within.

Refrain:

Yes, God is real, real in my soul,
Yes, God is real for God has washed and made me whole;
God's love for me is like pure gold,
Yes, God is real for I can feel Him in my soul.

Some folks may doubt, some folks may scorn,
All can desert and leave me alone,
But as for me I'll take God's part
For God is real and I can feel God in my heart. [Refrain]

I cannot tell just how you felt
When Jesus took your sins away,
But since that day, yes, since that hour
God has been real for I can feel God's holy power. [Refrain]

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

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

Ruth 1:6-18
1 Corinthians 13

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Josh Privitt

MORNING PRAYER

CONSECRATION SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT Donna Smith

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY Rev. Josh Privitt

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 Senior Choir

Filled with Hallelujahs – P. Chopin

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Loving God, accept our offerings as a testament to our love, faith, and hope. Magnify them for your glory and to meet the needs of the

community. Expand our reach and glorify your name through our giving, O God. Amen.

– LITURGY OF FAREWELL –

GREETING

Mr. Matt Hueting
Vice President of the Leadership Council,
Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Our church family is constantly changing.
People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up.
People commit themselves to one another.
Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives.
Individuals move into our community and church life.
Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities.
It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings.
Today we share the time of farewell with our Music Minister, Alison Shafer, who has retired.

REMEMBRANCE AND RECOGNITION

GIVING AND SHARING SYMBOLS

RECOGNITION OF THE END

Mr. Matt Hueting

On September 12, 1982, this local church called Alison Shafer to serve as Director of Music.

Ms. Alison Shafer

I thank Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last forty-four years.
I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.
As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you are now retiring. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our music, faith, and worship will not leave us at your departure.

Ms. Alison Shafer

I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

VOWS OF RELEASE

Rev. Josh Privitt

Do you, the members and friends of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ release Alison from the duties of Director of Music?

People

We do with the help of God.

Rev. Josh Privitt

Do you offer your encouragement for her ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

People

We do with the help of God.

Rev. Josh Privitt

Do you, Alison, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you to lead its ministry of music?

Ms. Alison Shafer

I do with the help of God.

Rev. Josh Privitt

Do you offer your encouragement for our ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

Ms. Alison Shafer

I do with the help of God.

PRAYER

Rev. Josh Privitt

Let us pray.

All

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care.
The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments.
Guide us as we hold these cherished memories and move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning #369

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
For this work's almost done.

Refrain:

Sisters, don't grow weary,
Brothers, don't grow weary,
Children, don't grow weary,
For this work's almost done.

It's our faith makes us happy;
It's our faith makes us happy;
It's our faith makes us happy,
For this work's almost done. [Refrain]

We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
For this work's almost done. [Refrain]

Every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher,
For this work's almost done. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

As you go from this time and gathering,
Rest in the covenant,
Choose love every day,
Sing a joyful tune,
Sustain hope in action,
Serve the Holy One with love and honor,
And be a witness for the goodness of God in the land of the living. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION Senior Choir

May You Run and Not Be Weary – P. Murakami
arr. H. Wiens, adapted by N.L. Butler-Moore

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

POSTLUDE

You Shall Go Out With Joy – words and music by L. Larson

Worship Notes: Liturgy is adapted from **We Will Serve: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A**, written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

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

Please join us for **Fellowship** with lunch and a celebration of Alison's retirement after worship in our Community Room (1st Floor).

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of my father, William B. Kreh, from Susan E. Kreh.

The yellow rose is presented by Felecia Bishop in thanks of the Ray, Bishop, Nicholson, Cuffee, and Jones families for their continued military service since the Civil War to the present time.

Attendance Last Sunday: 15 at 8:30 AM, 108 at 10:30 AM, and 59 online.



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 AM or on-demand:
https://erucc.org/visit/sunday-live-stream

Serving Today: Nov 8		**Serving Next Week: Nov 15**
Deacons:		Kyle Miller Tommie Bradshaw
Elder:	Jeanellen Kallevang	Ave Barr
Scripture Reader:	Peg Stahler	
Acolyte:	Emmie R.	Laurel N-P.
Greeters:	Julie Ebersole, Karen Justice Rob Smith, Paul McGinley	Julie Ebersole Cliff Barr, Paul McGinley
Welcome Table:	Jeanellen Kallevang, Sue Pinner	Julie Clark
Audio/Visual:	Ethan Kline, Kelly Esslinger David Howard	Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle David Howard
Nursery:	Julie Chappell	
Fellowship:	Emily, Chris, Abby and Ben Spear Jocelyn, Chris and ElaRose Vara Rachael, Josh, JD & Vivi Bowman	

Next Sunday: November 15 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 25:31-46

The Rev. Josh Privitt will preach part 2 of the series "Best and Worst". 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.

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

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

ERUCC CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NOVEMBER 11

In observance of Veterans Day, the ERUCC church offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11. Thank you to all of you who served honorably, working to keep our country and the world safe and peaceful, and to your families who supported you in this endeavor.

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 through November 30!

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
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Facing Death, Finding Hope will move its location to the Flora Room for November 1st and to the North Room for November 8th, to accommodate Community Room activities. On the 1st, feel free to grab pancakes and join us in our discussion of grief with Jenna Duranko. On the 8th, we continue with Cathie Duncan and discuss preparations for death.

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.**

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.

CARE PACKAGES FOR CAREGIVERS
Collection: November 1 – 15

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 through November 15. Our youth will pack them up along with other packages on December 6.

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

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

ITEMS NEEDED FOR CARE PACKAGES TO THOSE IN COLLEGE & MILITARY
Collection: November 1 - December 6

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!

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.

PACK THE PANTRY
Sunday, November 8, 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 (or turkey), chicken or turkey gravy packet, and a 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, mkcssexton@comcast.net.

HOMELESS FOR THE HOLIDAYS – ANNUAL HYGIENE COLLECTION FOR SHIP
Collection: November 1 – December 31

Collection boxes are in the Sanctuary and Kieffer lobbies. Please see the flyer in the back of the bulletin for more information.

ALISON'S RETIREMENT PARTY
Sunday, November 8
Community Room, 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Our beloved Alison retired in August, and we are celebrating her 40+ years of ministry on November 8th. After honoring her during worship, we will gather in the community room to further the celebration with a meal and some other surprises. You don't want to miss it!

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. 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

SENIOR CHOIR, NOW RECRUITING TEENS AND UP!

Our Designated Director of Music, Jonas, is actively recruiting for the senior choir and wants to expand the group to include teens and up. He's also weighing changes to the rehearsal schedule to accommodate more people if that has been a barrier for you. If you're interested in joining, there are only a few requirements:

1. You must have a love for music and collaboratively making music with others
2. You need to be willing to sing solo in front of me for an audition
3. You need to be willing to commit to attending rehearsals and Sundays when the Senior Choir sings (actively from September through May, and as availability allows over the summer)
4. Having experience and confidence singing in parts is of course very welcomed, but is also not required. You just have to be willing to learn!

We currently rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and Sundays following the 10:30 a.m. service until about 12:30-1:00 p.m.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY – A SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP AND REFLECTION



This year's Season of Stewardship will conclude on Consecration Sunday, November 22, when we formally offer our Estimates of Giving to the church for the coming year and joyfully join together after the 8:30 AM worship service for a Celebration Breakfast or after the 10:30 AM service for a catered Celebration Luncheon. We are again using the spiritually focused stewardship program this year, and we hope you find it meaningful.

The Consecration Sunday program is grounded in Biblical teaching that financial stewardship is part of our faithful response to and worship of God. It provides us with a structure in which we can, together, examine our values and our patterns of giving and think consciously about what percentage of our income God is calling us to give. We are grateful to be on this spiritual journey with you and look forward to celebrating with you on November 22!

GOOD GRIEF: A COLLECTION OF POETRY AND PROSE: A SOMATIC APPROACH TO THE INTERSECTION OF GRIEF AND THE ARTS by Jenna Duranko, was released on Monday, November 2nd. Published by Tehom Center Publishing, a nonprofit press publishing feminist and queer authors, with a commitment to elevate BIPOC writers.

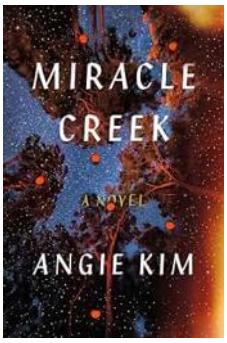
Good Grief is a collection of poetry and prose that follows grief through the body. Trained in thanatology, ministry, and music, Duranko draws on Peter Levine's Somatic Experiencing to track where loss lives in the nervous system. She then follows the creative impulse that rises once it is finally felt. The poems move through three sections: acknowledgment, the depths, and the first cracks of light. Grief is not only something you feel. It is something your body carries. This book is for you if:

- Your loss doesn't have a ritual attached to it
- You've been told you should be over it by now
- You're grieving someone who is still alive
- You suspect your body has been keeping a record your mind hasn't caught up to
- You want a book that will not rush you.

Three poems come paired with original marimba compositions you can listen to as you read. The collection closes with a guided somatic exercise for moving from sensation to creation, an invitation to make something from your own grief.

Available for purchase at Barnes and Noble online: https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/good-grief-jenna-duranko/1150957047?ean=9781966655855
or Amazon.com at: https://a.co/d/09Ak891q

ERUCC BOOK GROUP
Tuesday, November 24, 2026
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks



The ERUCC Book Group's upcoming selection for discussion is ***Miracle Creek: A Novel*** by Angie Kim, a Baltimore author.
A literary courtroom thriller about a Korean immigrant family and a young single mother, who is on trial for murdering her 8-year-old son, who is on the autism spectrum. The story begins with an explosion at an experimental oxygen chamber called the "Miracle Submarine," which kills two people and leads to a murder trial that uncovers secrets and lies within a community. The book draws on Kim's experiences as a former trial lawyer, an immigrant, and the mother of a child with a disability. Here's a podcast interview with the author: https://www.sarahsbookshelves.com/podcast-episode-22-literary-mysteries-angie-kim-author-miracle-creek/.
For more information, please contact Barb Barry at ebbarry1@gmail.com or Rebecca Shillingburg at rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com.

HANGING OF THE GREENS
Sunday, November 29
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.

Please use this Sign-up Genius link to confirm which decorating opportunities you can assist with. Many hands truly make light—and joy-filled—work!

Sign up: https://tinyurl.com/greens2026

Questions? Please contact Peter Brehm at pbrehm@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE - 6TH ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP
Sunday, December 6
Thomas Room, 12:00 PM

Celebrate the sweet treats of the season at ERUCC's 5th Annual Cookie Swap! Bring five dozen cookies and an extra container to take your cookies home. Children and their cookie creations are welcome. We will also be taking cookies to our members who are homebound. There will be a designated place to bring your cookies before attending worship or a Christian Education class.

Sign Up https://tinyurl.com/6thAnnualCookieSwap or scan

If you have questions, contact Starr Schaeberle, starr.schaeberle@comcast.net or (301) 662-6902.

ARE YOU FIRST AID TRAINED?

If you are first aid or CPR trained, a nurse, doctor, or emergency responder, let us know! We are seeking to put together a list that we can share with church staff of folks we can call on should the need arise on a Sunday morning. E-mail: erucc@erucc.org, revjosh@erucc.org, or call the office at 301-662-2762 to let us know. Thank you!

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.

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.

BIBLE GIFTING SUNDAY
Sunday, November 8
4th grade and 9th grade are significant transition points in life. We as people start to understand our Sacred Stories more deeply and ask important questions. To honor these transition points, we as ERUCC will be gifting our 4th and 9th graders Bibles. Join us on Sunday, November 8, during our 10:30 am worship service as we honor and celebrate these folks! If you have a child who is in 4th or 9th grade, be sure to let one of your pastors know (if we haven't talked to you already) so we can be sure they are included!

STAFFED NURSERY SCHEDULE

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

November 20	Youth Group Meeting
December 6	Youth Dress Up Dinner
December 11	Kris Kringle Hot Cocoa Outreach
December 20	Intergenerational Impromptu Christmas Pageant



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*

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** *Pre-K,* Nursery *K – 5th Grade,* Liz Coffey Room
9:15 – 10:15 AM	**Youth Sunday School** *Middle School Youth,* Flora Room *High School Youth,* Alcove
10:30 – 11:30 AM	**Worship**, Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org
	Junior Church, Thomas Room *Participating children are dismissed from Worship (2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays)*
11:30 AM	**Fellowship,** Downtown Community Room

Stay Informed

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



Worship services and events at Evangelical Reformed UCC are sometimes photographed and videotaped to document the vibrant life of our church. If you do not wish to be included in these recordings, please notify a deacon or the church office. Always obtain permission prior to sharing images and videos that include minors on your personal social media.

Homeless for the Holidays

Homeless for the Holidays Annual Hygiene Collection
November 1-December 31, 2026

If you could, stop for a moment and picture the holiday season. For most of us, the holidays are a celebratory time to gather amongst family and friends to spend time together under a warm roof and catch each other up on the excitement of the previous year.

For hundreds of young people in Frederick County, this time of year is incredibly difficult. This Holiday season, we're seeking hygiene donations to provide for our students! All items collected from the hygiene drive will be distributed to students experiencing homelessness within Frederick County. Top items requesting for hygiene donations:

- Ethnic Hair Care Products**
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and Conditioner**
- Body Wash
- Laundry Detergent**
- Hand Soap
- First Aid Items
- Dental Floss
- Mouthwash

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Feminine Hygiene Product (Pads) **
- Body Lotion**
- Hair Brushes
- Hair Ties
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

New and sealed items only, please do not donate used hygiene items.
*Most Needed Items **

To make your donation, please scan the QR code to the right:

Your gift, no matter the size, will make a meaningful impact in the life of a student experiencing homelessness.

Join us in Caring for the Earth
MACS

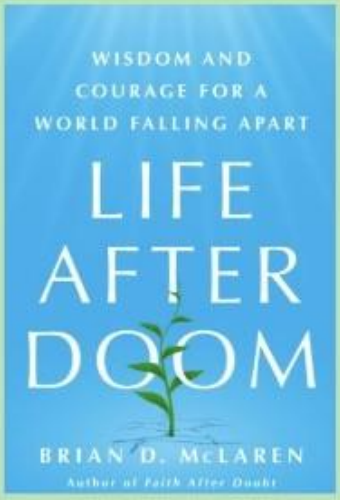
Multi-Faith Alliance of Climate Stewards

invites you to a

Book Discussion

During chaotic and dark times, it's normal to feel unsettled. But now it's time to regroup.

Gain a fresh perspective by **joining an open book group** discusing author/activist Brian McLaren's celebrated book *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*



Wednesday , November 18, 2026
5:30 pm
7th St Common Market2026
Sponsored by MACS

COMMON MARKET CO+OP

Together Let's find a clear-eyed way forward



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUL0110

8 1/2" x 14 UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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