

Affirmed by
LOVE

Welcome to Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

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

If you are a guest, please visit us at the Welcome Table in the sanctuary lobby. We would love to meet and learn more about you and are available to answer your questions about ERUCC. Please also feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. We encourage you to join us for in the Community Room for Fellowship after the worship service for casual conversation and connection over light refreshments.

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

For Children: We have trained nursery staff for ages 0-4. A deacon or greeter can guide you to the nursery. Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table and a children's table is available for quiet activities at the front of the sanctuary.

We ask that you **please silence your cell phones** during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Restrooms, accessible and equipped with changing stations, are located on the 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 –



January 12, 2025

Baptism of Christ Sunday

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from
The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

BLESSING FOR THOSE TRAVELING TO FRANKLINTON CENTER AT BRICKS

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome

– L. Zelman / M. A. Miller

**Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,**

**Refrain: Singing welcome, welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here;
All are welcome in this place.**

**Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,**

**Refrain: Singing welcome, welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here;
All are welcome in this place.**

**Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice**

**Refrain: Crying welcome! Welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here;
All are welcome in this place.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.
God in Christ, has named us all "Beloved."
Yes, here and now, God's heaven of love is being poured out anew.
May this motion of our Holy God, shape our hearts and minds.
May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.
And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world!

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love.
Through this generous gift, stretch our souls wide and form us into
channels of your healing grace. Gift us with an ability to recognize You in
each other, all imprinted with Your beloved blessing.
Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and
our hearts with hope. Yes, soak our thinking, our praying, our hoping,
our everything in You. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

Take Me to the Water

#322

**Take me to the water, take me to the water,
take me to the water to be baptized.**

**None but the righteous, none but the righteous,
none but the righteous shall see God.**

**I love Jesus, I love Jesus,
I love Jesus, yes, I do.**

**Jesus is my Savior, Jesus is my Savior,
Jesus is my Savior, forever more.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

We have entered the season in which God's Light has been given to the world, God's blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires.

So today, we come to the river of God's mercy to offer our confession.

We come humbly, asking God to pour baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. May we pray together:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, let us enter again Your baptismal river of grace.

Let it soak every stain attached to the fabric of our lives and longings.

Yes, Holy One, submerge us in You again and again and again.

Cleanse every distracting impulse luring us away from You who is our heart's deepest desire. Let no urgency be more important than Your forgiving love, always transforming. Today, help us choose you above every temptation that lures us to worship lesser things. Forgive us, renew us, and grant us the grace promised by You in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Before we thought to turn to God, God already turned toward us in love.

The saturating grace of God is trustworthy and true. Our prayers of transformation have been met with God's outpouring of forgiving love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Children aged 5 through 5th grade who wish to participate in **Junior Church** may meet leaders at the back of the sanctuary and proceed to the Thomas Room.*

Children will return to their families in worship by 11:30 AM.

THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 43:1-7

OT page 672

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

NT page 60

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

– RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS –

INTRODUCTION

God created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos, embraced them, and called them good.

Jesus, baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, became living water for us and embraces all of us.

Jesus embraces also you who are the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized and all others who come seeking.

We follow Jesus with our baptism, marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being.

We join Jesus in love and service.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel, and hear once again the vows of baptism.

VOWS OF RENEWAL

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your baptism?

I do.

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

I do.

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

I do

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

I do.

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

I do.

In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

PRAYER

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

COMING TO THE WATER

As you are called, as you are moved, you may approach the bowl of water to renew your baptism. Remember always that, just as God called out to Jesus, God calls out to us, “You are my beloved, with you I am well pleased.”

BAPTISMAL HYMN *Down to the River to Pray* – Southern U.S. folk hymn

**¹As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way**

**²O sisters let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on, sisters let's go down
Down to the river to pray**

**³As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe & crown?
Good Lord show me the way**

**⁴O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O brothers, let's go down
Down to the river to pray**

**⁵As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way**

**⁶O fathers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on, fathers let's go down
Down to the river to pray**

**⁷As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord show me the way**

**⁸O mothers let's go down
Come on down, don't you wanna go down?
Come on mothers, let's go down
Down to the river to pray**

**⁹As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way**

**¹⁰O sinners, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sinners, let's go down
Down to the river to pray**

**¹¹As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord show me the way**

OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS AND LIVES TO CHRIST'S SERVICE

The outpouring of God's spirit described in the baptism of Jesus reminds us that God's very nature is generous, self-giving love. It is the source of our deepest joy. When we open our hearts in generous giving, we give space for God's love and joy to grow in us for the good of others. May our hearts be stretched wide by this motion of the Holy One, as we joyfully bring our gifts.

This is a time in our service 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 are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshiping with us.

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

Come, Be Baptized

Spirit
– G.A. Smith

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to grow through giving, made possible by your outpouring spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new blessings in this congregation and around the world. And may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#82

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you;
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

***BENEDICTION**

Remember that your first name is Beloved, given to you by God before any other name. Remember also it is the name given to every human being. May this blessed gift and claim of God grow in your heart and mind. And may it flow through you as a blessing into the life of the world. Blessings on you, Beloved! **Amen.**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

God Be with You

#809

**God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again.
O God be with you till we meet again.**

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: *Heaven Opened: Service Prayers for the Baptism of Christ* was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

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 today are in memory of the Rev. Henri L. G. Kieffer, Margaret Roulette Kieffer, and Dr. Robert H. Pilgram and Margaret Kieffer Pilgram, by Penny & Bill George.

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

The red rose is placed in celebration of the birth of Hudson Robert Black, born to Rob and Molly Black on December 27, 2024.

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 137 at 10:30 AM, and 51 online.



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

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

Serving Today: January 12

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Jeanellen Kallevang
Scripture Reader: Nancy Jones
Greeters: Barb Barry, Felecia Bishop
Rob Smith, Cathie Duncan
Welcome Table: Sue Pinner, Brendon Page
Lobby Attendant: Felecia Bishop
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery: Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship:

Serving Next Week: January 19

Harrison Fisher, Kyle Miller
Jeanellen Kallevang
Darryl Glick
Rachel Ford, Tom Ford
Felecia Bishop
Jeanellen Kallevang
Felecia Bishop
Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Kelly Esslinger
Starr Schaeberle, Julie Chappell
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

Next Sunday: January 19 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Corinthians 12:1–11 | John 2:1–11

Today's scriptures remind us to stay open to the new places and new ways that God's work is revealed. Sometimes, we fall prey to the tendency to see God's activity in predictable places. We forget that scripture shows us, again and again, that God acts in unexpected ways. In 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, the Holy Spirit manifests individualized gifts in each person and Jesus performs a miracle at a wedding in Cana in John 2:1–11.

The Senior Choir will be singing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE

Evangelical Reformed UCC wants to be there for you when you're experiencing an illness, hospitalization, or other life event for which you, or someone you love, may need a visit.

Members who are in nursing homes and those who currently reside in their homes but are unable to come to regular Sunday morning services will receive visits (and communion) from Rev. Dr. Morgan. Our Faithful Friends Team also makes visits, calls, and sends care cards.

If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

PRAYER LIST

We always ask permission before adding a name to the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Mary Staley
Mike Robertson (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)
Pat Condo
Wells Condo
Mike McLanahan
The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family
Gail Ellam
Charlene Perry
Greg Alley
Dave Alley
Sue Stevens (friend of Susan Kulp)
Kitty Bradley
Beanie Cornell
Raymond Slifer (father of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)
The Black Family
Susan Bonhag (friend of the Mercier family)
Milt Crutchley
Father of Sherry Murray
Craig, Carrie, Aaron, Chase and Maddy Percopo (friends of Lois Gaul)

Kat Weedon (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Tom Frazier
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)
Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
Pauline Marendt
Haley Duff
Charlotte Blue and Family (friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Emogene Wyand
Bob Pinner
Delmar Speak
Donna Hill (mother of Collen Baldree)
Philip Hill (father of Colleen Baldree)
Tanya Pearre (sister of Colleen Baldree)
Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)
Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley)
Lee Thomas
Joan Thomas (mother of Dan Smith's friend)
Autumn Crutchley

Jason Rhoads
Greg Rhoads
Marcia Eisenstein
Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & 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)
Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)
Marcy Channell (daughter of Jo Ann Fritz)
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)
Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield)

Adult Christian Education Opportunities

BIBLE STUDIES for ADULTS

SUNDAY MORNING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

with Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg
North Room / Zoom, 9:00 – 10:15 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy
Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888
Passcode: 327128

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon
with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg
North Room / Zoom, 11:00 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERTuesday
Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398
Passcode: 973365

WEDNESDAY EVENING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

with Rev. John Shillingburg
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERWedstudy
Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500
Passcode: 848933

LET'S TALK

Let's Talk is an adult educational opportunity that focuses on how we can live out our faith and share our knowledge and expertise. Contact Linda Coyle, lkcoyle@yahoo.com with questions or ideas for a presentation.

Q&A with the T Team

Sunday, January 12
Flora Room, 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM

Join the Transition Team for a Q&A session in the **Community Room**. Bring your questions as we continue to navigate this exciting interim journey together!

What If ...

Sunday, December 19
Flora Room, 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM

Congregation member Karen Justice is a co-author of the recently released book *Widows Among Us: Stories and Insights*. She will be sharing information from their four-part book addressing two “what if” questions of life:

- What if you lose a spouse?
How planning can prevent grief from being increased by the burden of paperwork.
- What if you know a widow or widower?
How to be helpful and supportive in ways she or he will appreciate.

The average age of a widow in America is 59, and each day, 2,800 American women become widowed! It's important for **both men and women** to think about the “what ifs.”

Activities and Events at ERUCC

FRANKLINTON CENTER AT BRICKS WORK TRIP

Open to adults and youth (6th – 12th grade)

January 18 – 20



It's not too late! Please let Pastor Kirstin know if you are interested in going on the work trip to The Franklinton Center at Bricks (FCAB), a conference, retreat, and educational facility in eastern North Carolina with a focus on justice advocacy and leadership development. Franklinton Center is an historic center of transformation where issues affecting the marginalized, the oppressed, and the poor are addressed.

A former plantation, FCAB traces its beginnings to the founding of Franklinton Christian College in 1871 and the Congregationalist Bricks School in 1895. A merger of those two schools in the 1950s formed Franklinton Center at Bricks.

Our group has the longest partnership as volunteers who upgrade and maintain facilities to help FCAB better lead education and programs and meet their community's basic needs.

The work trip costs \$80 per person (includes housing and meals). The trip is subsidized by budgeted funds for mission trips.

HELP PUT CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AWAY

Sunday, January 12

following 10:30 AM service

We will be taking down our Christmas decorations and appreciate all the help we can get! Help after the 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday, January 12.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

WEBSITE

www.erucc.org/give



one time or recurring gifts

GIVE THE NEW WAY



*We're moving to a better way of giving.
Scan to try it for yourself!*

CASH OR CHECK

*made payable to
Evangelical Reformed UCC
15 W. Church St,
Frederick MD 21701*



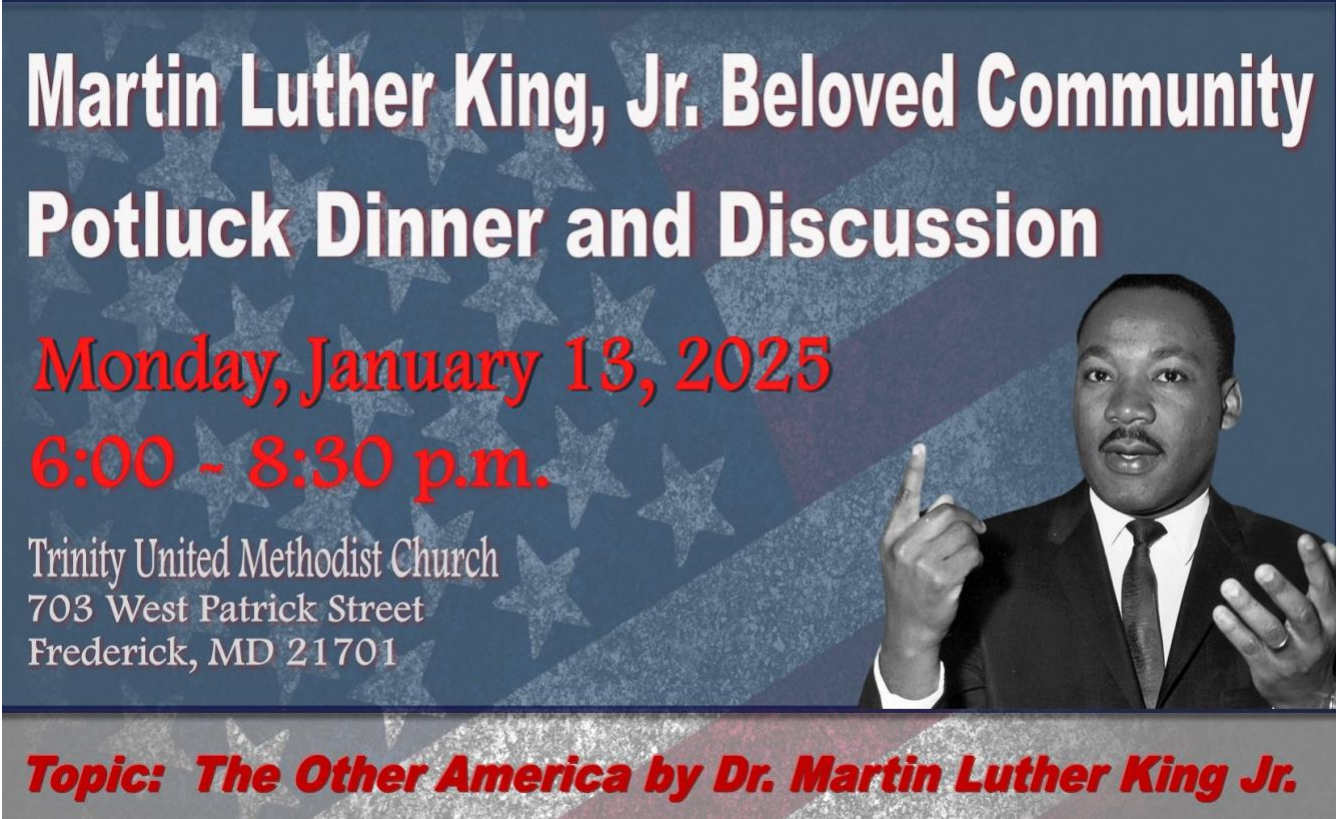
*offering plates
are available in the
rear of the sanctuary
before and after worship*

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BELOVED COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Monday, January 13

Trinity UMC, 705 W. Patrick St, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

ERUCC's Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Committee invites you to join them at the annual interfaith Martin Luther King Jr. Beloved Community Potluck Dinner and Discussion. MESJ is making sub sandwiches together to share for the potluck: please join in sub making in the Community Room kitchen at 4:30 PM on Monday, January 13.



**Martin Luther King, Jr. Beloved Community
Potluck Dinner and Discussion**

Monday, January 13, 2025
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church
703 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Topic: The Other America by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

NATURAL BURIAL PRESENTATION

Wednesday, January 15

Community Room, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Making plans for the end of life can be an emotional topic with many factors to consider. While traditional casket burials or cremation are familiar choices, there is now a more sustainable option available in Frederick County called green or natural burial.

To learn more, join ERUCC's Green Team and the community for a presentation about natural burial with Michael Judd from Morris Orchard Natural Burial. A representative from Keeney Basford Funeral Home will also be available to share information about how they serve families that choose natural burials.

Bring your questions and concerns. There will be plenty of time for discussion.

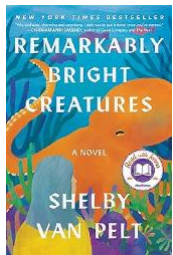
Contact: Linda Coyle, lkcoyle@yahoo.com.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, January 28
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks
Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574
Passcode: 226669

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.



After Tova Sullivan's eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanishes on a boat in Puget Sound, Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared.

2025 ERUCC Book Group Reads:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 25 | <i>Animal Dreams</i> by Barbara Kingsolver |
| May 27 | <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i> by Robin Wall Kimmerer |
| July 22 | <i>The Sea Around Us</i> by Rachel Carson |
| September 23 | <i>A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812</i> by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich |
| November 25 | <i>Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books</i> by Kirsten Miller |

CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL NAME SUGGESTIONS

On Sunday, October 13, 2024 the congregation voted in favor of a motion “to consider changing its name from 'Evangelical Reformed' to another name, to be voted on at a later date. The new name will retain 'United Church of Christ,' with the understanding that the congregation may also choose to retain 'Evangelical Reformed' as the name.”

Submit names you wish to be considered for the congregation in a digital suggestion box at bit.ly/3Y7nPcd or the designated suggestion box in the Sanctuary Lobby.



GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays
Trinity Chapel, 7:00 PM

Experience tranquility and wellness in this Gentle Yoga Class. Led by experienced Yogamour instructors, this nurturing practice focuses on gentle postures, mindful breathing, and deep relaxation techniques. Participants of all levels are welcome.

Each drop-in class is \$10. Questions? Contact Renae, rdkline15@gmail.com.

To access the yoga classroom in Trinity Chapel, walk through the gate to the left of the building, down the walkway to the side door, and into the hallway leading to the classroom.

Children, Youth, & Families

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children should be checked in by one of their grown-ups at the Check-In Station in the Kieffer Lobby before class.

Pre-K – 2nd Grade

Liz Coffey Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

3rd – 5th Grade

Thomas Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Liz Coffey Room, 10:00 – 10:20 AM

This music group for children in Pre-K through 5th Grade are invited to participate in rehearsals each Sunday morning following Sunday School from 10:00–10:20 AM in the Liz Coffey Room.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Trinity Chapel, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Youth Sunday School, with Middle and High School classes, meets in Trinity Chapel, 10 West Church Street. Enter through the side door behind the iron gate on the left side of the building. Always use the crosswalk. Youth will return as a group to the Kieffer Lobby at 10:15 AM.

JUNIOR CHURCH

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

dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

Junior Church is a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities for children ages five through 5th grade. Children begin 10:30 AM worship with their families and are dismissed to Junior Church after the Thought for the Day. On the first Sunday of each month, children participate in worship and communion with their families.

YOUNG SPIRIT REHEARSAL

rehearses the 1st and 3rd Sundays

dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

Rehearsals are held after the Thought for the Day on the first and third Sundays of each month and wrap up by 11:30 AM so you can rejoin your family in the sanctuary. No experience needed—just enthusiasm!

We sing once per month during the 10:30 AM worship service and would love for any interested Middle or High School students to join us.

Young Spirit Director: Trish Coffey

GOD'S KIDS CLUB

Thursday, January 16

Community Room, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Join us for a fun-filled day at ERUCC's **God's Kids Club!** This program is designed for elementary-aged children to come together for a day of learning, creativity, and fellowship. Activities can include Bible stories, crafts, games, and service projects, all focused on exploring faith and building community.

For more information or to register, contact Pastor Kirstin.

We can't wait to spend the day with your kids as they grow in faith, make new friends, and have a wonderful time!

KIDVENTURES: SNOW TUBING

Saturday, January 25

Snow Riders, Harpers Ferry, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Join us for an exciting snow tubing adventure at Snow Riders in Harpers Ferry, WV! We'll meet at 4:00 PM at 408 Alstadts Hill Road, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

Schedule:

- **4:00 PM:** Arrival and check-in.
- **4:30 – 6:00 PM:** Snow tubing session.

Additional Information:

- **Age Group:** KidVentures activities are designed for elementary-aged children.
- **Height Requirement:** All participants must be at least 36" tall. Children between 36"–42" must ride tandem with a guardian. Participants over 42" can ride solo.
- **Safety:** All participants are required to sign a release form. A parent or guardian's signature is required for guests under the age of 18.
- **Refreshments:** Hot chocolate is available for purchase from a food truck and a full service restaurant, Alstadts Ale House, is located on-site.

Details:

- **For Parents/Adults:** Adult family are welcome to participate in tubing (ticket required) or to watch and relax by a campfire at the top of the hill.
- **Cost:** \$30 per tubing participant.



RSVP and Pre-payment: Required. Please register at bit.ly/snowtubekids25.

We look forward to sharing this fun-filled winter experience with you!

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

SUNDAY MORNING

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ prefers not to cancel worship services because of the weather. We advise you to use your own good judgment about whether conditions where you live are too treacherous for you to make it to services safely.

If conditions are such that the ERUCC needs to cancel services, we will make that decision no less than one and a half hours ahead of the time each worship service begins. Activities such as Christian Education classes for children, youth, and adults and Nursery Care may be cancelled even if worship services continue as scheduled.

Notification: If services are cancelled, we notify people via email, our Facebook page(s) and the website at www.erucc.org.

WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS

Church classes, groups, meetings, and other activities may be canceled or held virtually when possible and appropriate if weather conditions are hazardous or are predicted to become hazardous. If you have a question about whether or not your specific event is cancelled, please contact the coordinator/leader of the event.

The church office is generally governed by the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) inclement weather plan. In the event inclement weather requires FCPS to close, delay opening, or dismiss early, the church office will similarly delay opening or be closed and ERUCC activities will also be cancelled or may be held virtually when possible and appropriate.

Notification: If the church office is closed or will delay opening, we will post a notification on our Facebook page(s) and the website at www.erucc.org.



Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

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

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

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

Tyler L. York ~ *Executive Church Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org

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

Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant*

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

CONSISTORY

Peter Brehm ~ *President* | Matt Hueting ~ *Vice President*

David Kehne ~ *Secretary* | Robert Morris ~ *Treasurer*

Rebecca Shillingburg ~ *Worship Chair* | Will Duncan ~ *Finance Chair*

Shelley Weakly ~ *Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Chair*

Julie Clark ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Dan Ebersole ~ *Property Chair*

Vacant ~ *Christian Education Chair* | Matt Davis ~ *Head Deacon* | Larry Martin ~ *Member-at-Large*

ELDERS

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Robin Cooney | Matt Hueting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Eric Weakly

DEACONS

Quynn Adkins | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer | Angela Brittain

Jim Brittain | Matt Davis | Harrison Fisher | Kyle Miller

TRANSITION TEAM

Felecia Bishop | Tommie Bradshaw | Karen Justice | Terry Logee | Allen Maples

Thomasa Pomeroy | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely | Katie Zander

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

8:30 – 9:15 AM	Early Worship , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Coffee and Conversation , Kieffer Lobby
9:00 AM	Let's Study the Bible , North Room
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care
9:15 – 10:00 AM	Children's Sunday School <i>Pre-K – 2nd Grade</i> , Liz Coffey Room <i>3rd – 5th Grade</i> , Thomas Room
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Youth Sunday School <i>Middle School Youth</i> , Trinity Chapel <i>High School Youth</i> , Trinity Chapel
9:30 AM	Let's Talk , Flora Room
10:00 – 10:20 AM	Children's Music and Movement , Liz Coffey Room
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Worship , Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org Junior Church , Thomas Room <i>Participating children are dismissed from Worship (2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays)</i> Young Spirit Rehearsal , Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite <i>Participating youth are dismissed from Worship (1st and 3rd Sundays)</i>
11:30 AM	Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal , Sanctuary <i>Children and Youth</i>

Thursday Rehearsal Schedule

subject to change

6:15 PM	Cambridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal , Sanctuary <i>Contact: Trish Coffey and Kelly Esslinger</i>
7:00 PM	Senior Choir Rehearsal , Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite <i>Contact: Alison E. Shafer</i>

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.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 12, 2025

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Affirmed by Love

The teen waded into the cold lake. With words of being joined with Christ and the community of believers through the waters of baptism, under she went — emerging seconds later with the most radiant smile anyone had ever seen.

Her father captured that smile, memorializing the day with a photo in a frame that was inscribed with the words God spoke at Jesus' baptism, "This is my beloved."

Now, in a shoebox apartment with a toddler getting into mischief and overdue bills piling up on the kitchen counter, the girl with the once radiant smile, wondered where it all went wrong.

Tired and defeated, she sat on the couch, staring at the wall of pictures before her. It was then she spotted her younger self staring back at her with a smile that time had forgotten.

She shifted her gaze to the words on the frame. Only this time what she heard in her heart was a whisper, "You are STILL my beloved." Just then she did something strange. She smiled — radiantly — remembering who was still holding her.

Today is the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. It is a day that follows the celebration of Epiphany, underscoring the season of Christ appearing to us, revealing the love he has for us and the hope that is found when we clasp our hand in his.

Here, in Luke's Gospel, Jesus is recognized as God's beloved, emerging from his baptism in the Jordan River to God's voice thundering praises and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. It is a new beginning for Jesus. The start of his earthly ministry.

Baptism is an invitation to new life. But as we know, life's newness — its bright prospects, endless possibilities and hopeful promises — can fade with time.

That is why on this day we remember not only Jesus' baptism, but our own. For the very act of remembering that we have been claimed as God's beloveds has the power to revive us once again.

It is said that on his most difficult days and times of great trials, 16th-century German Reformer, Martin Luther, would repeat these words: "I am baptized." It was Luther's way of reminding himself that no matter how off course life got, he was still held by a loving God who was always making all things new.

We all need that baptismal reminder.

So today, fill up a sink or a bowl with water. Dip, submerge, splash your hands in it. Then close your eyes and hear God whisper to you, "You are my child, the beloved, with you I am well pleased." And as you do, may you find a radiant smile sweeping across your face.

All-knowing and All-Loving God, may the cleansing waters of baptism wash over our lives, reviving hope for our tomorrows. May we hear Your voice this day reminding us that we are Your beloveds. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE