



EXTRAVAGANT  
SIGN

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, below the sanctuary, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, outside the Community Room. Single-occupant, all-gender, accessible restrooms are located outside the North and Flora Rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

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

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

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far.

We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.

**15 WEST CHURCH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701**  
**(301) 662-2762 • [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org) • [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)**



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



January 19, 2025

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

10:30 AM

The numbered hymns are from  
The New Century Hymnal

\*All who are able may stand

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Inspired by Psalm 36*)

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.

**For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!**

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains;  
your judgments are like the great deep.

**For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!**

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you  
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

**For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Magnificent God, we come to draw near to you. Your presence among us  
sustains and challenges us. In you, we find strength and surprises.**

**May the songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the word proclaimed, and  
the lives touched honor your name. We give you glory and honor.**

**We welcome you and pray that your spirit shapes us with fresh wind,  
power, and compassion. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

#1

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Your life is life-giving - to both great and small;  
in all life you're living, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,  
then wither and perish - but naught dims your powers.**

**So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we now render as your angels do:  
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.**

#### **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

The call to confession is always a call to experience God's mercy. In admitting the truth of our lives to our loving God, we open ourselves to the experience of grace and healing. Trusting in that divine love, let us pray:

#### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, we live in the tension between expectation and reality. Sometimes, we navigate that tension with hope and clarity. At other times, we fester in doubt, disappointment, and uncertainty. Help us to release our need to control and enable us to embrace the possibilities. May our trust in your goodness and the power you have poured into us embolden our faith. Amen.**

#### **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, know that God's grace meets us at our point of need with encouragement. Circumstances change, and that's the nature of God's creative work. Receive the gift of new life with the unexpected experiences it brings. God is with you and equips you for the journey.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Maria Lagrotteria

## 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.*

## \*HYMN

*God of Change and Glory*

#177

**God of change and glory, God of time and space,  
when we fear the future, give to us your grace.  
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

*Refrain:*

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise  
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,  
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for he gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs,  
you have made us different, blessing many kinds.  
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.**

**[Refrain]**

**Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,  
you are still creating endless love and light.  
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart.**

**[Refrain]**

## THE SCRIPTURES

Darryl Glick

1 Corinthians 12:1–11      NT page 174

John 2:1–11              NT page 93

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

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

MORNING PRAYERS

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

Whatever gifts we bring may be transformed like water to the best wine. Trust God with what we have to offer. Our trust can sow miracles, reveal Jesus in the world, and magnify joy in our communities. Give with peace that the kingdom overflows with abundance and with hope that our collective efforts make the world new.

*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](http://www.erucc.org), by placing your gift in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary before or after the service, or by scanning the QR code to give from your phone.*



OFFERTORY

*Many Gifts, One Spirit*

Senior Choir

– A. Pote

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy One, may our gifts declare your glory and benefit the common good. Receive them with our gratitude for your generosity and the opportunity to participate in your kingdom on earth. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*We Shall Overcome*

#570

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
we shall overcome some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
we shall overcome some day.**

**We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,  
we'll go hand in hand some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
we'll go hand in hand some day.**

**We are not afraid, we are not afraid,  
we are not afraid today;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
we are not afraid today.**

**Our God will see us through, our God will see us through,  
our God will see us through some day,  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
our God will see us through some day.**

**The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,  
the truth shall make us free some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
the truth shall make us free some day.**

**We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,  
we shall live in peace some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
we shall live in peace some day.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May you be filled by the presence of God  
May you draw from the wells of justice, peace, and righteousness  
May you taste the fruit of the Spirit as you make the way of Jesus  
your path in the world and the name of God known in word and deed.  
Go, in peace and power to love and serve God and neighbor. **Amen.**

**\*SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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

**POSTLUDE**



**Worship Notes:** *Fill, Draw, Taste: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

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

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**The flowers on the altar** are dedicated to the glory of God in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his enduring legacy of justice, equality, and love. May they also serve as a prayer for our nation—that we continue striving to build a more just, compassionate, and united world, where all people are treated with dignity and respect.

**The yellow rose** is presented by Audrey Rayfield in honor of her nephew, Dylan Rayfield, US Air Force.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 11 at 8:30 AM, 155 at 10:30 AM, and 50 online.



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

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

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**Serving Today: January 19**

Deacons: Harrison Fisher, Kyle Miller  
Elder: Eric Weakly  
Scripture Reader: Darryl Glick  
Acolyte: Wyatt  
Greeters: Rachel Ford, Tom Ford  
Felecia Bishop  
Welcome Table: Jeanellen Kallevang  
Lobby Attendant: Felecia Bishop  
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin  
Kelly Esslinger  
Nursery: Dawn Lagrotteria  
Fellowship: Julie Chappell  
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick  
Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

**Serving Next Week: January 26**

Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain  
Peter Brehm  
Eliza Stitely  
Ave Barr, Cliff Barr  
Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson  
Cliff Barr  
Kelly Essinger, Jeff Baker  
Jeff Schaeberle  
Stephanie Fisher, Emily Spear  
Susan Kulp, David Howard  
Carolyn Roberts, Colin Neely  
Robert Morris, Jake Stein, Rhea Stein

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**Next Sunday: January 26 – Third Sunday after Epiphany**

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a | Luke 4:14–21

As we follow the light of Christ into the world in the Season after the Epiphany, this week's scripture readings offer guidance about how to live in a way that pleases God. These passages reveal how those who "hear" can live into the fullness of who God created us to be.

*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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

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## 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:**

Trish Coffey  
Kathy Johnson  
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  
Tom Frazier  
Pauline Marendt

Craig, Carrie, Aaron, Chase  
and Maddy Percopo (friends  
of Lois Gaul)  
Kat Weedon (friend of  
Jean Fish & Barb Biser)  
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim  
Sexton)  
Carol Spera (mother of Mark  
Ulrich)  
Haley Duff  
Charlotte Blue and Family  
(friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)  
Emogene Wyand  
Bob Pinner  
Delmar Speak  
Donna Hill (mother of Colleen  
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](https://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](https://bit.ly/ERTuesday)  
Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398  
Passcode: 973365

Our next Tuesday Morning study will begin February 4 using *How the Bible Actually Works* by Peter Enns.

Rather than reading the Bible as a how-to manual filled with literal truths that must be strictly followed, Peter Enns argues the Bible is not static. It does not hold easy answers to the perplexing questions and issues that confront us in our daily lives. Rather, the Bible is a dynamic instrument for study that not only offers an abundance of insights but provokes us to find our own answers to spiritual questions, cultivating God's wisdom within us.

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

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

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERWedstudy](https://bit.ly/ERWedstudy)  
Meeting ID: 892 1764 4500  
Passcode: 848933

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## Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

### WEBSITE

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



one time or recurring gifts

### GIVE THE NEW WAY



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

## 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](mailto:lkcoyle@yahoo.com) with questions or ideas for a presentation.*

### What If ...

Sunday, January 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.”

### Reflections from Franklinton Center at Bricks

Sunday, January 26

Community Room, 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM

Join us to hear reflections from those who participated in our annual work trip to Franklinton Center at Bricks last weekend.

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## ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, January 28

North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERUCCbooks](https://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      *Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver

May 27        *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

July 22        *The Sea Around Us* by Rachel Carson

September 23      *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

November 25      *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller

## Activities and Events at ERUCC

### SUPPORT CALIFORNIA FIRE RELIEF

Last October, our ERUCC community came together to support Hurricane Relief efforts, contributing over \$1,000 to help those in need. Your generosity made a difference, and we are calling on you again to extend that same compassion and care.

Catastrophic wildfires in California have devastated communities, destroying homes and displacing thousands of people. Many are in urgent need of shelter, food, and basic supplies, and the recovery process will be long and challenging.

The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is actively responding to these needs, providing critical support to those affected, helping families and individuals rebuild their lives and find hope amidst the ashes, including our siblings at Altadena Community Church, which was lost to the fire, along with the homes of many in that congregation.

We invite you to join us in supporting these efforts by making a financial contribution to UCC Disaster Ministries. Your donation will go directly toward providing assistance to wildfire survivors and helping communities recover.

To give, please visit <https://ppay.co/icXKeYILLmk>, scan the QR code, or make your check payable to ERUCC, noting “California Fire Relief” in the memo line.



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### T TEAM: INTERIM PROCESS UPDATE

Monday, February 3 or Tuesday, February 4  
Zoom, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Zoom: [bit.ly/40idfQY](https://bit.ly/40idfQY)  
Meeting ID: 846 1599 1673  
Passcode: 126282

The Transition Team invites all congregation members to join us for one of two Zoom conversations as part of our ongoing work during this important period in the life of ERUCC. These sessions will be held on Monday, February 3, and Tuesday, February 4, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

We'll provide updates on our progress, including completing the **Heritage** and **Leadership** Focus Points—two of the five focus areas in this interim journey. We'll also discuss our plans for the remaining Focus Points: Connections, Mission, and Future.

These conversations are an opportunity for you to hear about the work we've done, ask questions, and share your thoughts on the interim process. Your input is vital as we continue preparing for the next steps, including collaborating with a Search Committee to call a new pastor for our congregation.

Mark your calendars and join us for one or both sessions!

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 9 as we join in the Souper Bowl of Caring! This annual mission invites us to tackle hunger in our community through giving and service. More details on how you can contribute will be shared soon.

Also, don't miss the Youth Group Sub Sales! Order forms will be available soon, with delicious subs ready for pickup on February 9—perfect for your game day celebrations. Your support helps fund our youth programs and mission activities.

Thank you for your generosity and participation!

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## **GENTLE YOGA**

Tuesdays

Trinity Chapel, 7:00 PM

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

Each drop-in class is \$10. Questions? Contact Renae, [rdkline15@gmail.com](mailto:rdkline15@gmail.com).

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

## **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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Liz Coffey Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Thomas Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

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### **CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND MOVEMENT**

Liz Coffey Room, 10:00 – 10:20 AM

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

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### **YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*No Youth Sunday School classes will be held on Sunday, January 19 due to the mission work trip to Franklinton Center at Bricks.*

## JUNIOR CHURCH

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

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## 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](https://bit.ly/snowtubekids25).

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

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## Other Announcements

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, JANUARY 20 IN OBSERVANCE  
OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**



Please pray for our mission work team as they travel and serve this weekend at Franklinton Center at Bricks!



**FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY &  
SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY**

**MAIN BUILDING  
CLOSED**

*for deep floor cleaning*

THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING

## **CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL NAME SUGGESTIONS**

On 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](https://bit.ly/3Y7nPcd) or the designated suggestion box in the Sanctuary Lobby.



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

## **MINISTERS AND STAFF**

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

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

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Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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

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

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*

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

## **Thursday Rehearsal Schedule**

*subject to change*

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

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## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 19, 2025

John 2:1-11

### Extravagant Sign

Jesus is making his public debut as the Son of God, performing the first of seven recorded miracles in John's Gospel — turning 120 gallons of water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

Now it wasn't the place or the time that Jesus had intended to display his divinity, but when your mother asks you to do something, as Mary did, you do it.

Mary's insistence for Jesus to intervene was out of concern for their hosts, as running out of wine was a great embarrassment. It was expected for food and drink to be abundant for the many days of wedding feasting. (Weddings in Jesus' time weren't just a sit-down dinner or a morning brunch. They went on for days.)

John's telling of this miracle, though, is not about saving face — or even revealing the face of God in Jesus.

There's a life-changing lesson for us today that is swishing around the six stone jars of water that are on the premises of the wedding banquet.

To start, John's point of telling us there are six jars is important. Numbers have great significance in Jewish teachings. Seven, for example, represents perfection and completeness. Six, however, symbolizes imperfection. Jesus viewing those six jars as valuable for this miracle moment shows us how God sees all the things we deem unworthy as worthy.

There's more. The water in those jars were not meant for drinking, but rather for ceremonial washing. It was customary for Jews to wash their hands and say a blessing before any meal that included bread. It would be considered disgusting to drink from those six jars.

Jesus, though, does the unthinkable. He disregards Jewish beliefs and traditions, turning the untouchable water into the best wine anyone has ever tasted. Had the guests known the water for ceremonial washing was used for the wine they were sipping; they would have been aghast. Yet those privy to this miracle were getting a preview of what Jesus' mission would be: To dismantle the systems that separate the clean from the unclean, that keep the downtrodden down and the oppressed oppress.

Would we have sipped that wine if we knew where it came from? Would we be willing to bend rules, break traditions, rid ourselves of rituals if it meant experiencing amazing water-into-wine miracles that God has for us?

There's so much God wants to do in our lives, but first we need to let go of our assumptions of how life should be. Are you ready for a boundary-breaking, rule-busting God to turn your water into wine?

*God, forgive us for those times we are so set in our ways that we close our hearts to the new thing You want to do in our lives. Open us this day to all the beautiful and exciting possibilities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*



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