

Another Road

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 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

10:30 AM



THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT

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**

PRELUDE

SHARING OF THE STAR GIFTS

This morning you are invited to receive a gift from the offering plates being passed around the congregation. Please help yourself to a star. The wise ones traveled great distance to offer their gifts to the newborn Christ-child were responding to the gift first given to them. They received God's gift, then offered their gifts to God. As we commemorate the arrival of the wise ones and remember their offerings, we take delight in receiving these stars and words that symbolize God's generosity in our lives. You are invited to ponder what significance this word might have in your life, and how God might be speaking to you through that simple message. You are encouraged to take your star home and place it some place where you can see it every day. Allow this "word" to speak to you throughout the year.

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Field Notes

– Rev. Sarah Speed

With tears in your eyes,
you name all the bumps
and zigzags your life has taken.
With clenched teeth
and a hummingbird pulse,
you wake up
and wonder—how did I get here?
In the last 40 days of
desert wandering, you say

you haven't heard God's voice once.
You say you miss when God was close,
when God used to sing the harmony line.
So you yell at the sky,
begging God to drop a pin,
to name the road,
to draw you a map.
You lament the way this life isn't easy.
You ask me—was the road ever straight and narrow,
or was that all a lie?
But then you crest the mountain,
and I don't hear from you for a while,
because God was growing
in the lilac field
on the other side of the hill.
God was scattered
among the pebbles
of the road you never planned to take.
Isn't it amazing, you say,
there are a million roads home
and God walks every single one of them.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

How did you get here?
We walked, eyes looking up, following the star.
We ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.
We tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.
We ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.
We crawled, kissing the earth below me.

Tell me again. How did you get here?
We are here by God's grace and love's pull.

Welcome home.
This is God's house.
There is room for you here.
Let us worship our gracious God.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of starlight, we long to follow you.

Like the Magi, we want to pick up the hems of our robes and run in your direction.

Like the Magi, we want to kick up dust with our feet and make a joyful ruckus following your guiding star.

Unfortunately, the stars can be hard to see from here.

Your still, small voice can be hard to hear from here.

So just as you guided the Magi, guide us.

Draw our attention to your Word.

Reveal what it is you want us to hear today, so that we can follow you.

With hope in our hearts we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

As with Gladness Those of Old

#159

**As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, one of the gifts of confession is it allows us to begin again.

For in this moment of prayer, we name our shortcomings and mistakes.

We receive God's grace, and we start again. The slate is wiped clean.

The prayer of confession is an act of beginning again and again and again.

Join me in prayer. For even here, God is already doing something new.

Let us begin again. Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

No matter the roads you've taken, the steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled, there is nowhere you could go that would land you outside of God's love. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get, or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone. We are loved. We are forgiven. We have every chance to begin again. Thanks be to God for a love like that!

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 of all ages are invited to participate in the service today. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is in the rear of the sanctuary and a wiggle space is available in the front of the sanctuary near the baptismal font.

Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume next Sunday.

*Youth participating in the **Young Spirit Choir** are dismissed at this time for rehearsal in the Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite.*

THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 43:16-21 OT page 672

Matthew 2:1-12 NT page 2

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

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

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator's abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

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

Sing We All Nowell

Senior Choir

– D. Averre

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Eternal God, magnify these gifts that we return in gratitude and for your glory. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

God, we gather at this table representing all people in all places in our world. We bless and pass the bread and cup as Christ passed it to his friends. Please allow these elements to remind us of the good that you have done and inspire us to do the good that Christ calls us to do. May we leave this table revived and refreshed, having sipped from the cup of bold courage so that we may challenge all forms of injustice and pain. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:

“This is my body which is broken for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me.”

And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you. When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me.”

Now, let us come to receive the bread and the cup.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward at the direction of the deacons to the chancel rail, where you will be served the bread and the cup. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. The cup contains grape juice (apple juice is provided in the center of each tray) and all bread is gluten-free. Please partake of the elements as they are given to you, then give the empty cup to the nearby steward before returning to your seat by the side aisle. If you want to receive the elements in the pew for any reason, please notify a deacon.

After all have received the bread and the cup:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

A BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

May the presence of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit keep and preserve you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We have been fed, dear God, by your presence and led by your light. May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

#157

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our midnight and lend us your aid.
Star of the East the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
God's holy Child with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore while this baby lies sleeping,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.**

**Shall we not offer our costly devotion,
fragrance of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

***BENEDICTION**

May the grace of God, the hope of God, and the communion of God rest and abide in you and shine through you as you arise in the world. **Amen.**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Offering prayers and Benediction written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for 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 are given by Cindy Smith, Cindy Duranko, and Jenna Duranko in memory of Liz Coffey, whose sweet spirit will forever dance in our memories.

The yellow rose is presented by John Stush in memory of his uncle, Michael Gbur, who perished in WWII.

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 83 at 10:30 AM, and 53 online.



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

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

Serving Today: January 5

Deacons: Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins
Elder: Robin Cooney
Scripture Reader: Ben Mercier
Greeters: Cliff Barr, Ave Barr
Rob Smith
Welcome Table: Julie Clark, Holly Davis
Lobby Attendant: Cliff Barr
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Nursery: Dawn Lagrotteria
Fellowship: Julie Clark, Joe Adkins
Quynn Adkins, Hollie Mercier
Kyle Miller, Pat Dorsz
Bobby Van Dyk

Serving Next Week: January 12

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Jeanellen Kallevang
Nancy Jones
Barb Barry, Felecia Bishop
Rob Smith, Cathie Duncan
Sue Pinner, Brendon Page
Felecia Bishop
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle

Next Sunday: January 12 – Baptism of Christ Sunday

Isaiah 43:1-7 | Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Luke's account of Jesus' baptism identifies Jesus as the manifestation of God's salvation as described in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the same way that Luke's baptism narrative invites us to take a backward glance at the promises of the Hebrew Scriptures, this week's Isaiah passage encourages a future gaze to the fulfillment of God's promise to one day gather people from East, West, North, and South in the realm of God. This week's backward glance and future gaze remind us that Jesus is the center of all of God's promises.

This day, we celebrate Jesus' baptism and remember the role our baptism has played in our lives. It is a day we also remember that along with Jesus, we are beloved by God and empowered to participate in God's healing work in the world. Spirit will be sharing in music leadership.

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:

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.

The Story Behind the Frederick Community Fridge

Sunday, January 5

Community Room, 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM



Have you noticed that ERUCC has a refrigerator and pantry shelves in our parking lot? Are you wondering what's up with that? Come find out more and get your questions answered on January 5.

The Frederick Community Fridge & Outreach invites community members to participate in a presentation and open discussion about the services offered. You can find out more about the project at <https://linktr.ee/frederickcommunityfridge>.



Activities and Events at ERUCC

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY TODAY

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

FRANKLINTON CENTER AT BRICKS TRIP PREP MEETING

Sunday, January 5

Community Room, 11:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Adults, youth and their parents who will be attending the work trip to Franklinton Center at Bricks should attend. We will discuss expectations, work assignments, travel, packing, and food menu.

FRANKLINTON CENTER AT BRICKS WORK TRIP

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

January 18 – 20



Please let Pastor Kirstin know if you are interested in going on the work trip to The Franklinton Center at Bricks, 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 Franklinton Center at Bricks 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.

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 invite you to join them at the annual interfaith Martin Luther King Jr. Beloved Community Potluck Dinner and Discussion.. Please bring a modest amount of food to share.

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

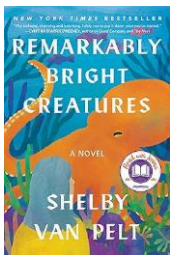
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

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

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

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.

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*

WINTER GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AT ERUCC!

Giving Tree in Sanctuary Lobby

Looking for ways you or your family can give to those in our community this winter? The ERUCC Giving Tree is a great place to start! The Giving Tree in the Sanctuary Lobby is decorated with ornaments listing needed items for various organizations sponsored by ERUCC's Mission, Evangelism, & Social Justice Committee (MESJ) and Youth Group.

You are invited to take one or more ornaments from the Giving Tree and then bring the donation items to the designated collection box. Read below about the amazing community organizations we are supporting this season and the items that can make a big difference!

SHIP (STUDENT HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP)

Donate November 24 – January 5

Contact: Shelley Weakly, MESJ Chair

SHIP provides critical resources and urgent services to the hundreds of Frederick County youth experiencing homelessness each year. Lend SHIP a helping hand by donating critically needed, NEW, FULL-SIZED hygiene supplies.

BEYOND SHELTER FREDERICK

Donate November 24 – January 5

Contact: Shelley Weakly, MESJ Chair

The mission of Beyond Shelter Frederick (formerly the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs) is to prevent and alleviate the effects of poverty on the residents of Frederick County. They operate the Alan P. Linton, Jr. Emergency Shelter for adults and an Emergency Family Shelter. Help Beyond Shelter Frederick stock the shelters this winter with donations of items for clients and use in the shelters.

FOSTER FAMILIES – ENTERTAINMENT GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Donate November 24 – December 22

Contact: Pastor Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads or Youth Group members

ERUCC's **Youth Group** has set a goal to collect 32 gift cards for the Frederick County Department of Social Services' Foster Families Program. This program asks for gift cards for locations like MeLand, Warehouse Cinemas, AdventureLand USA, Fourth Dimension Fun Center, Chuck E Cheese, Hot Fired Arts and other similar places. Gift cards are used by families for family visits with birthparents and recreation time as foster families.



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

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.



**LOVE IS
LOUDER**
Love Your Neighbor **OUT LOUD**

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.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2025

John 1: (1-9), 10-18

Another Road

Today is Twelfth Night, an oft-overlooked celebration bringing an end to the 12 days of Christmas. In olden days, it was the last holiday hoorah marked with feasting and merriment. It was also believed to be bad luck if the holly and the ivy were taken down before Jan. 5.

Twelfth Night, also known as Epiphany Eve, is an important transitional time, shifting our focus from the birth to the life of Christ. The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning “appearance” or “manifestation.”

In many cultures, Epiphany is a feast day celebrated with great fanfare on Jan. 6, with gifts exchanged commemorating the ones the Magi presented to Jesus.

They were among the first to recognize the appearance of the Promised One as foretold in Hebrew scriptures. And after paying homage to the Christ Child, they returned to their homelands via another road. (The Magi were warned in a dream to do so, as Herod, the jealous and dangerous earthly ruler wanted to know the whereabouts of this new king.)

Christ’s appearance in our lives often does that — puts us on another road that we never could have imagined being on.

It is an uncertain road that requires faith. But it is on this road where we discover “darkness cannot overcome” the light of Christ that shines on our paths. For, as John’s Gospel proclaims for us today, “his is the life that was the light of all people.”

This road, too, calls us to testify to that light. Just as John did.

No, not John from our gospel lesson, but another man named John who died in an accident in the prime of his life. At his funeral, the minister opened her homily with the words from John’s Gospel.

There was a man sent by God whose name was John. He was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The minister then spoke how this young man led many to the light of Christ — inviting people to church, always making time to be there for a friend in need, even mentoring a child who had lost his way.

No, John was not the light, but he did his best to testify to it in the days he was given. He chose to walk on another road, always looking for Christ among us.

It’s time for us now to step onto another road this year. It’s time to see, embrace and testify to that light in our world.

For there was a person sent by God whose name was ...

Loving and gracious God may the light of Your Son, Jesus, shine brightly on the paths You are calling us to step onto this year. May our words and actions testify to Your glory that is all around. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.



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