

**Astounding  
Glory**

## **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 –



March 2, 2025

Transfiguration 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**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The call of the Holy One has brought us together.

**We have been called to pray and to praise.**

We are called to worship and to holy wonder.

**May the light of Love burn brightly in us.**

May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds.

**May it become a beacon of hope for others.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your still-speaking Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

#182

**We have come at Christ's own bidding  
to this high and holy place,  
where we wait with hope and longing  
for some token of God's grace.  
Here we pray for new assurance**

**that our faith is not in vain,  
searching like those first disciples  
for a sign both clear and plain.**

**Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,  
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,  
Moses and Elijah marvel  
as the heavenly voice is heard.  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder  
how the Law and Prophets meet:  
Christ with garments drenched in brightness,  
stands transfigured and complete.**

**Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
fearful lest our faith decline,  
We, like Peter, find it tempting  
to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage  
to proclaim what we profess,  
That our daily lives may prove us  
people of the God we bless.**

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

Holy God calls us to step out of the shadows and into the light of love and renewal. Yet, too often, we shield our hearts, turning away from the hard truths within us and around us. But God's mercy is deeper than our fear, and God's grace is wider than our resistance. Trusting in this promise, let us come before God with open hearts, confessing the ways we long to be made new.

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

**Holy God, it has been easy to live with our eyes veiled. Too often, we have hidden from the hard realities within us and around us. We have shielded Your light of Love, instead of sharing it. Something deep within has often hardened our hearts, leading to inertia and the denial of freedom. But there is a deeper longing within. We hunger for the forgiveness and renewal You revealed in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Holy One, and unveil our eyes and our hearts. With Your shining love, light a path of forgiveness for us that we may share it with others. By this, we may know the freedom of new life you revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news! Do not lose heart! God is merciful. Bit by bit, we are being transformed into the image of God's glory made known in Jesus Christ. In our turning, God has forgiven us and unveiled our lives. God has also called us to listen to Jesus Christ, the Beloved, who calls us by the same name. Beloved, may the forgiving light of God's love shine through us, and bear the hope of a new beginning to others.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **ANTHEM**

*Give Me Joy in My Heart*

Children's Music and Movement  
– Traditional

## **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**

Rebecca Shillingburg

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 NT page 180

Luke 9:28–36, (37–43) NT page 69

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

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

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

## **MORNING PRAYERS**

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

On the Mount of Transfiguration, the law of love and the prophecy of holy peace joined each other in Jesus as he prayed. God's generous love bore a radiant flash, kissing earth with heavenly light. So, the heart of God was revealed in Jesus, and a call was extended. It was the call to listen to Jesus and love generously like him. So we are invited to taste heavenly joy as we generously share the gifts we have received from the One who has given us life. In this spirit, may we bring our gifts to the one who transfigures everything with love.

*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

*Go Light Your World*

Senior Choir  
– C. Rice, arr. A. Pote

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to Your holy mystery and Your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring so that Your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning. By this, and more than we can name, continue to transfigure us and the world. 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**

*Be Now My Vision*

#451

**Be now my vision, God of my heart;  
nothing surpasses the love you impart  
You my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**Be now my wisdom and be my true word;  
ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
now and forever your child I will be.**

**Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
you, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
great God, my treasure, may we never part.**

**Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May the Holy radiance of transfiguration continually light the wick of your life.  
May it be a light that bears joy, hope, and love.  
May the voice of Jesus enter not only your ears but also your heart.  
And may that voice shape your voice for the good of the world.  
Blessings on you all! **Amen.**

**\*SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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

**POSTLUDE**



**Worship Notes:** Today's liturgy, *On the Mountain to Pray: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday Year C*, was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the

**The flowers on the altar** are placed by Cliff and Ave Barr in memory of their parents Paul and Ival Barr and Bill and Betty Lou Cassell.

**The yellow rose** is presented in thanks to our military by Bob and Sue Pinner.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 12 at 8:30 AM, 134 at 10:30 AM, and 46 online.



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

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

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### **Serving Today: March 2**

Deacons: Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins

Elder: Robin Cooney

Scripture Reader: Rebecca Shillingburg

Greeters: Felecia Bishop, Rob Peters  
Julie Ebersole, Rob Smith

Welcome Table: Julie Clark, Holly Davis

Lobby Attendant: Darryl Glick

Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker  
Jeff Schaeberle

Nursery: Kate Fromknecht

Fellowship: Julie Clark, Joe Adkins  
Quynn Adkins, Hollie Mercier  
Kyle Miller, Pat Dorz  
Bobby Van Dyk

Communion: Ave Barr, Cliff Barr

Communion Clergy: The Rev. Shelley Weakly  
The Rev. Kathleen Stolz

### **Serving Next Week: March 9**

Robin A. Brady-Slifer  
Robin L. Brady-Slifer  
Ave Barr  
Patti Patterson  
Robin Cooney, David Cooney  
Cathie Duncan  
Jeanellen Kallevang  
Rob Smith  
Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin  
Jeff Baker  
Stephanie Fisher  
Emily Spear, Chris Spear, Ben Spear  
Abby Spear, Jocelyn Vara, Chris Vara  
Brendon Page, Rachael Bowman  
Josh Bowman

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### **Next Sunday: March 9 – First Sunday in Lent**

***stranger & neighbor*** | Luke 10:25-37

This parable begins and ends with the question, “Who is my neighbor?” and the answer is, surprisingly, “the stranger.” The Samaritan, whose place of worship and customs are different from the lawyer who questions Jesus, is both a stranger and a neighbor to the man who was beaten and left in a ditch. In our world, many of our physical neighbors are strangers to us, and many of our neighbors—those closest to us—feel like strangers in divisive political climates. If we align our intentions and actions, then maybe we need to reconsider who we label as “stranger,” and ask ourselves if we have acted as good neighbors.

*We will recognize the contributions of Scouts and adults to Scouting. All Scouts are invited to come in uniform. Spirit will share in music leadership and Young Spirit will offer special music.*

## PRAYER LIST

*We invite you to hold the following people in your prayers this week. Though we may not know the specifics of their needs, God does, and our prayers are a meaningful way to surround them with love and support.*

*ERUCC seeks permission before adding a name to this list or in worship announcements. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.*

Kim Genau (friend of the Duncans and the Jeffersons)  
Eliana and Kay (friends of the Spears)  
Sandra Trout  
Beth Henry (daughter of friends of Jeanellen Kallevang)  
Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)  
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  
Charlene Perry  
Greg Alley  
Dave Alley  
Sue Stevens (friend of Susan Kulp)  
Kitty Bradley  
Beanie Cornell  
Raymond Slifer (father of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)

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  
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)

**Cards invited:** Kitty Bradley  
3990 Farm Lane  
Monrovia, MD 21770

# **Christian Education: Spiritual Life, Learning, and Practices**

## **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**

*How the Bible Actually Works* by Peter Enns  
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

### **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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## **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.

### **Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity**

Sundays, March 2 – April 13  
Flora Room, 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

*Living the Questions* invites us to explore a more authentic, open-minded faith. In this thought-provoking 7-week video series, Revs. David Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy team up with an all-star cast of Bible scholars and church leaders to provide a primer to a church movement that encourages every Christian to "live the questions" instead of "forcing the answers."

Facilitated by Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg, each *Let's Talk* session in this series features commentary from bestselling authors like Diana Butler Bass, John Shelby Spong, Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, and Brian McLaren. Together, we'll embrace curiosity, wrestle with tough topics, and discover how progressive Christianity offers a vibrant, compassionate path forward.

## 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.

## 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



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

## BE THE CHURCH

*God is still speaking.*  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.  
Embrace diversity. Reject racism. Forgive often.  
Love God. **Fight for the powerless.**  
Share earthly and spiritual resources. Enjoy this life.*

## **Activities and Events**

### **SOUP'S ON! A YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER WITH LENTEN ROOTS**

Sunday, March 9

Community Room, during Fellowship

Warm up with a delicious cup of homemade soup while supporting our youth group! On Sunday, March 9, during Fellowship, the Youth Group will be selling a variety of soups, perfect to enjoy on the spot or take home for later.

#### **Suggested donation: \$5 per cup**

Soup has deep roots in the tradition of the Lenten Supper, a simple meal of vegetarian soup, bread, and water that reflects the season's focus on abstinence, sacrifice, and simplicity. Historically, fasting was a continual practice for many Christians during Lent. Our youth may recall conversations with the Islamic Society youth last year, who shared how fasting remains a strong practice for them during the holy days of Eid.

Your support helps fund exciting youth trips, including Germany, WorldPride in DC, the spring retreat, and other outdoor adventures. Every cup makes a difference!

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### **ENOUGH – A CARE AND SUPPORT GROUP**

Wednesdays

Zoom, 9:30 AM

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERenough](https://bit.ly/ERenough)

Meeting ID: 845 4002 5254

Passcode: 443871

Together, we support one another as we boldly declare, Enough! Inspired by Dr. Morgan's sermon on February 2, we affirm that we are enough—enough as beloved children of God and enough to stand for love and justice for all people.

At Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, we follow the call of Jesus to love our neighbors, seek justice, and affirm the dignity of all people. We wish all people enough ... enough good to sustain each other throughout life!

Join us on Zoom each Wednesday morning at 9:30 AM for a time of support and encouragement as we navigate the challenges of national politics and their impact—both broadly and in our personal lives. While this gathering is virtual-only, please don't hesitate to reach out if you're struggling and would like to request in-person encouragement or pastoral care.

Contact: Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg, [rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com), or Pastor Kirstin, [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org).

## OVERDOSE RESPONSE TRAINING

Friday, March 21

North Room, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Be prepared. Save a life. Learn the signs of an overdose and how to use Naloxone (i.e. Narcan) at an Opioid Overdose Response Training offered for free in partnership with the Frederick County Health Department and the Frederick Community Fridge. Registration is not required.

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## ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, March 25

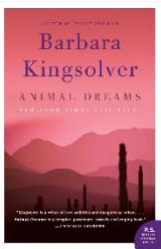
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERUCCbooks](https://bit.ly/ERUCCbooks)

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669

*Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver.



"Animals dream about the things they do in the daytime just like people do. If you want sweet dreams, you've got to live a sweet life." So says Loyd Peregrina, a handsome Apache trainman and latter-day philosopher. But when Codi Noline returns to her hometown, Loyd's advice is painfully out of her reach. Dreamless and at the end of her rope, Codi comes back to Grace, Arizona, to confront her past and face her ailing, distant father. What she finds is a town threatened by a silent environmental catastrophe, some startling clues to her own identity, and a man whose view of the world could change the course of her life.

Blending flashbacks, dreams, and Native American legends, *Animal Dreams* is a suspenseful love story and a moving exploration of life's largest commitments.

2025 ERUCC Book Group Reads:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 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  |
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For over 75 years, the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS)** has been helping bring God’s hope and healing to hurting people domestically and around the world. OGHS’s mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners.

*Did you know that ERUCC is one of the top 50 giving churches in the United Church of Christ to One Great Hour of Sharing?*

When we participate in OGHS, we shed light in places where circumstances make it difficult to imagine a future with hope. We create possibility for people forced to flee their homes in search of safety and new promise. We support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and overturn lives. We empower partners around the globe in their labors to build sustainable futures. We plant seeds of peace where war has wrought despair and destruction.

Our offerings let people know that they are not alone, that people they don’t even know see their pain and care enough to respond. They extend a mighty witness of love that is powerful and healing. We hope you’ll participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year with a spirit of joyful generosity! ERUCC officially receives OGHS offerings on March 30, but we welcome your gifts whenever your giving allows.

*“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine!*

*Keep open house; be generous with your lives.”*

*(Matthew 5:14-16, The Message)*

## **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**

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.

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### **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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### **YOUNG SPIRIT REHEARSAL**

rehearses the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

Young Spirit Director: Trish Coffey

## Lent 2025 at ERUCC

### **EVERYTHING [IN] BETWEEN: A LENTEN SERIES IN LUKE'S GOSPEL**

This Lent, we'll journey through the Gospel of Luke, exploring stories that have shaped both faith and culture—the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus, and more. These familiar stories challenge us to rethink assumptions, just as they did for Jesus' first followers.



Jesus' ministry was marked by radical, boundary-breaking love. He uplifted the outsider, dined with the despised, and redefined who our neighbors are. His teachings disrupted social, political, and religious divides—divides that still echo in our world today.

This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each week, we'll explore ideas we often see as opposites—faith & works, rest & growth, grief & hope. But what if these aren't binaries at all? What if God is found not in easy answers, but in between?

This season, we invite you to move beyond black-and-white thinking and discover the presence of God in the complexities of life. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. Wherever you find yourself on the journey, may this Lent open us to transformation, deeper faith, and a love that knows no bounds. to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.

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### **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

Each week offers commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, hymns, and reflection prompts. Devotionals are available in the back of the Sanctuary or by request through the church office. We encourage you to engage in the weekly art and reflections at your own pace, imagining where God might be meeting you in between the dichotomies and supposed binaries.

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### **DAILY DEVOTIONAL CARDS**

A collection of 52 daily devotional cards – each with a question for reflection and a short prayer, spanning from Ash Wednesday through the first few days of Easter are available in the back of the Sanctuary or by request through the church office.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, March 5

Sanctuary, 12:00 PM and 7:30 PM



### **intention & action | Luke 9:51-62**

On this Ash Wednesday, we join Jesus as he “sets his face toward Jerusalem.” As Jesus makes his way toward Jerusalem, he is approached by people from local towns who promise to follow him. Jesus’ response is harsh, but urgent. He needs real commitment. He needs disciples who are willing to be rejected and persecuted—and who will embody hope, compassion, and peace along the way. It becomes apparent that these potential disciples aren’t quite ready for the task at hand.

And so, as Lent begins, let us also ask ourselves: are we ready? Are we willing to be transformed? Will our actions reflect our best intentions?

*Services will include the Imposition of Ashes. At the 7:30 PM service, the Senior Choir will sing and we will share in the Sacrament of Communion.*

### **Ash Wednesday for Families**

Given that the imposition and wearing of ashes is a significant part of our faithful expression of church life, Pastor Kirstin will be available between services, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM, just inside the back parking lot doors to share ashes and a blessing with anyone who wishes to participate in this sacred tradition. This opportunity is especially meaningful for families or those who may not be able to attend our worship services at noon and 7:30 PM.

The ash placed on our foreheads is a powerful symbol of grief, sorrow for our sins, and repentance through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. On this day, we name the journey between intention and action.

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## **MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE & SOUP LUNCHEON**

Wednesdays, March 12 through April 16

Sanctuary and Community Room, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Join us for a simple midweek Lenten gathering. We will begin in the sanctuary with prayer and scripture, setting our hearts on the journey of Lent. Afterward, we’ll move to the Community Room for a warm soup luncheon, offering time for reflection and conversation. All are welcome as we pause, pray, and share together.

## Other Announcements

### **PASTORAL CARE**

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

Members who are in nursing homes and those who currently reside in their homes but are unable to come to regular Sunday morning services will receive 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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### **BECOME A FAITHFUL FRIEND: A SIMPLE WAY TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!**

Do you like to brighten someone's day? Do you enjoy communicating directly with one other person? Do you want to know that you have made a difference in someone's life? Are you looking for a ministry opportunity that you can do on your schedule? If so, "Faithful Friends (FF)" is for you! FF maintains connections with members of ERUCC who can no longer participate, or have difficulty participating, in Sunday morning services. Those who participate in the ministry regularly communicate with one or more members on the FF list of approximately 20 individuals. Communication can be in any form that maintains a connection (e.g., cards, calls, visits, texts).

Contact Jeanelle Kallevang at [geeggirl@hotmail.com](mailto:geeggirl@hotmail.com) or (301) 919-2057 for more details.

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### **SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY**

**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.

Scan the QR code or visit [www.erucc.org/give](http://www.erucc.org/give) to give online today.



### **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.



## FREDERICK SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The Frederick School of Religion convenes for its 41<sup>st</sup> year of classes on March 3. The School is an ecumenical teaching organization that provides a ‘*Learning for Life*’ experience for all. The six-week series of 6 courses includes a broad range of topics appealing to diverse groups.

Classes are held at Beth Shalom, 1011 N. Market St., Frederick, MD 21701 on consecutive Mondays or Tuesdays from March 3 through April 8. Each course is eligible for up to 1.2 CEUs.

For more information and registration forms, visit [www.frederickschoolofreligion.org](http://www.frederickschoolofreligion.org).

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## FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM



Members and friends, the Interim Process work at ERUCC is closer to being finished than we imagined, just a few months ago. Now we need your help and cooperation, as we move toward an all-important finish line.

The Transition Team would like to have several small group meetings (about 20 or more attendees per session) in members' homes during March and early April. Those living in group homes may want to use a clubhouse or assembly room, where larger groups may gather. These meetings will provide an opportunity for “**A Chat with the T Team.**” We are interested in getting more feedback on topics and issues that are important to you, the congregation.

If you would be willing to host one of these meetings, please contact the church office at [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org) or (301) 662-2762.

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## SAFE CHURCH POLICY UPDATED

We’re pleased to share an important update to our **Safe Church Policy**, specifically our **Policies for Working with Children and Youth**. This update has been carefully reviewed by the Risk Management Team and approved by the Consistory. Most of the revisions focus on alignment with state laws, the requirements of the Insurance Board, and best practices recommended by Praesidium Academy, their training source. These updates also provide clearer definitions around supervision, including the *Rule of 3*, a practice we’ve long followed to ensure safety in all settings.

**Creating a safe, welcoming environment for our young people is a shared responsibility.** It allows our children and youth to explore their faith, discover their gifts, grow as leaders, and build the foundation they need to thrive. In this spirit, we encourage everyone to take a moment to review the updated policy and familiarize themselves with our collective commitment to safety.



**Read the Policy:** [bit.ly/ERSafechurch0225](https://bit.ly/ERSafechurch0225)

Thank you *all* for the vital role you play in nurturing our children and youth and encouraging them to become active participants in the vibrant faith community here at ERUCC. Keep an eye out for upcoming Safe Church Training opportunities.

**Contact:** Pastor Kirstin, [ksrroads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrroads@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

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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
9:15 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, Liz Coffey Room</i> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Thomas Room</i>
9:15 – 10:15 AM	<b>Youth Sunday School</b> <i>Middle School Youth, Trinity Chapel</i> <i>High School Youth, Trinity Chapel</i>
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>

## **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.

## TRANSFIGURATION

March 2, 2025

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

### Astounding Glory

Can you recall a time when you were in a place so incredibly breathtaking that you wished you could have stayed forever? Perhaps you even began envisioning building your dream home there.

Tucked in our hearts are such places in which the very thought of them can renew our spirits. Jesus knew this. That is why he took Peter, James and John to the mountain top. He wanted them to experience the astounding glory of God — and to hold on to that experience when hard times came.

And hard times were coming.

Jesus was about to begin the last leg of his journey to the cross and, with each step taken, he knew his friends' courage would be challenged. For a brief mountain top moment, though, they would have their souls stirred.

They would see Jesus being transfigured, his face and clothing shining radiantly as he talked with the pillars of Jewish law and prophecy — Moses and Elijah. And as a divine cloud enveloped them, a voice spoke, saying, "This is my Son. Listen to him."

We can see why Peter never wanted to leave the mountain and suggested building shelters in which to reside in. But that was not to be for him. Or for us.

For my friends, our most transformative faith moments are often had in the valley lows rather than on proverbial mountain tops. Yet we do our best skirting those valleys, expending more energy to scaling mountains.

We are on the cusp of the 40-day season of Lent. It is a journey that leads us to the gates of Jerusalem where in a week's time cheers welcoming Jesus turn to jeers calling for his death.

Are we ready for a journey that will bring us face-to-face with the fickleness of hearts, including our own? Will we heed God's voice and listen to Jesus when doubts and fears grip us? Will the memories of God's glory glimpsed on our own mountain tops — or ocean fronts or pine-scented forests — be enough to sustain us during times of trials?

God's glory witnessed on the mountain was indeed astounding. But even more astounding is this: When we, in the depths of our valley despair, find ourselves still in awe by the glory of God that is always shining upon us.

*Mighty God, as we step into the season of Lent, give us the courage to leave the beauty of our mountain tops and enter bravely into the valleys of life. May the knowledge of Your glory sustain us, and may we continually listen to the loving voice of Jesus who guides us now and always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*



8.12" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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