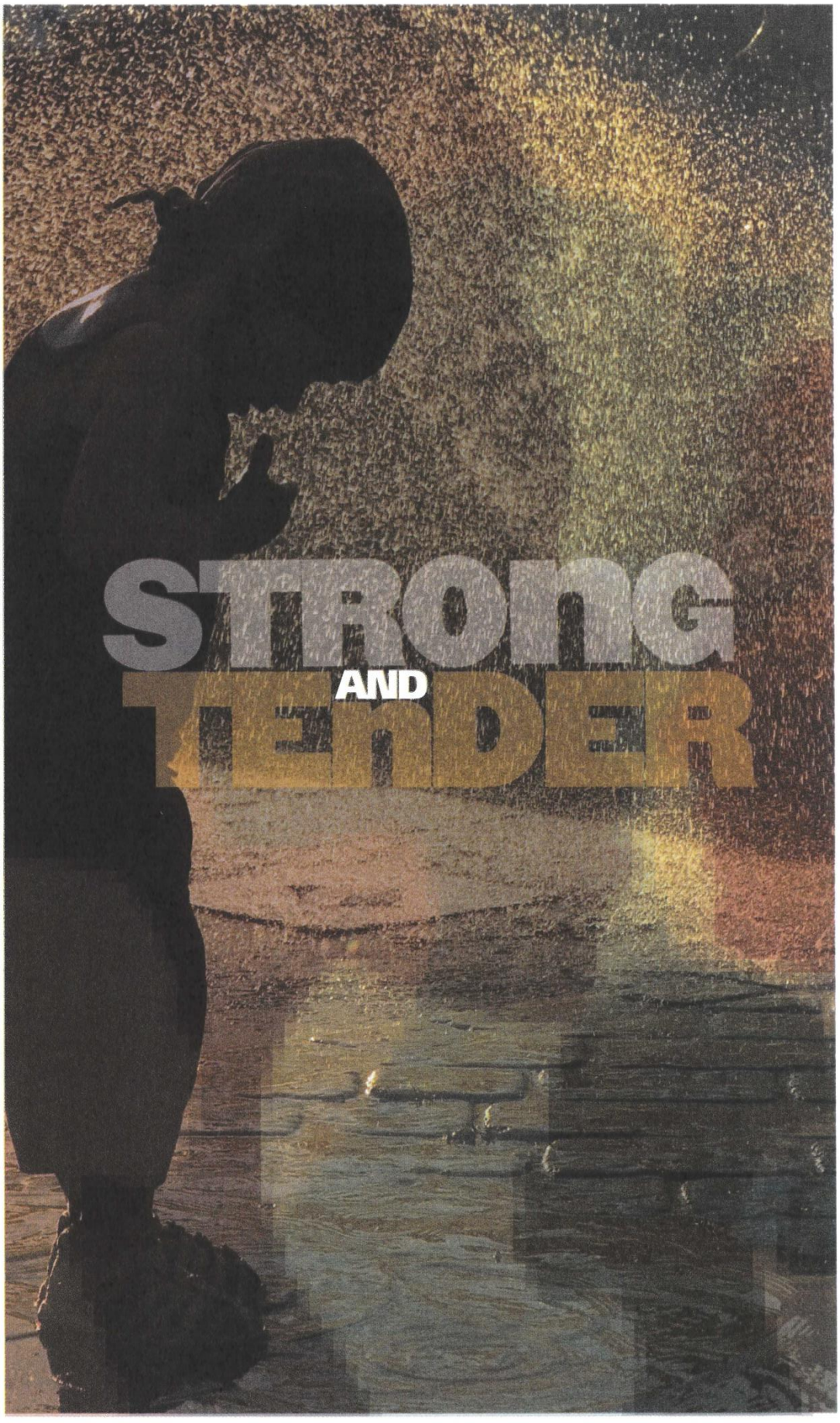

STRONG
AND
TENDER

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 –

March 16, 2025 | Second Sunday in Lent | 10:30 AM

everything [in] between
faith & works

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 Cambridge Handbell Choir
Creation Will Be At Peace – A.L. Page

THRESHOLD MOMENT Dan Smith
Wildfire – written by The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

I can picture it—salty sweat, accumulating in her bangs. The scent of toasted sesame seeds, crushed oregano, sumac, and cumin. Flour on her hands, painting streaks of white in her hair when she ties it back. The sweet date she samples—the way it stretches and clings to the back of her teeth, leaving the taste of honey in her mouth.

I can picture Martha in that kitchen, plating meals, eager to see their eyes close. Their heads nod. To hear the swell of approval that rises from their lips. And I can picture her sister. Brows scrunched. Fingers fidgeting, wishing for a pen, for paper, for a way to write it down. I can see her mouth part like a fish in the air, questions forming and reforming on her curious lips. I can see her lean in, knees tucked, eyes bright. I can see her imagining the world he dreamed of.

And I can picture how, for generations, this story of two brazen women in scripture, a story of two women so close to Jesus, may have felt like an untamed wildfire. I can picture the way we put these women in boxes. I can imagine how people saw their full hearts, their untamed energy, and decided to label that as good and bad, better and worse. I can imagine how

Martha's questions were interpreted as nagging, or the interruption interpreted as needy.

I can picture how it happened, but what if it was all more beautiful than that? What if these sisters discovered a ministry of cooking? What if they discovered the faithfulness of learning, the kind of friendship that allows you to ask questions, or something in between?

I can imagine it. Can you?

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come as you are.
If you have deep faith or your faith has run dry,
if you know every scripture or none at all,
if you have calloused hands and live your faith through good works,
or if you kneel at God's feet, with a million hungry questions,
come as you are.
This is God's house.
None are turned away.
All are welcome here.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, when our anxiety hovers close, when fear clings to our bones, when our stress rises like the tide, see us. Speak to us. Call us by name. See us in the kitchen, in the classroom, in the hospital waiting room. Speak to us in the quiet, in the crowd, in the inky black of night. Call us beloved. Call us by name. Call us your child. Whatever you do, speak to us, for we cannot live on bread alone. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Dear God, Embracing Humankind #502

[1] Dear God, embracing human-kind,
forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives your service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

[2] In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of your word,
let us, like them, be spirit stirred,
rise up and followers be.

[3] O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above!
There Jesus met you prayerfully:
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love.

[4] Drop your still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of your peace.

[5] Breathe through the pulses of desire
your coolness and your balm;
Let sense be numb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story where one does right and one does wrong. We know that life is often more complicated than that. We know that faith is embodied through being present and taking action—and everything in between. Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God. Let us be honest about our lives, our hopes, and our mistakes. For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace.Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Grace, we long to do the "right" thing.
We long to make the "right" choice.
We long to stand on the "right" side of the dividing line.
In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.
In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.
Show us how to hold our heart's desire for perfection loosely.

Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.
For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you.
Show us the way. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Faithful friends, God knows your heart.
When you mean well and lose your way, God knows.
When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.
When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows.
You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven. You have been sent to serve.
This is the good news of the gospel!
Nothing can separate you from God's love.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

ANTHEM Chancel Handbell Choir

Ode to Boomwhackers – Traditional

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Children, youth, and all who wish to join them are invited to come forward for a special message.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Children aged 5 through 5th grade who wish to participate in **Junior Church** may meet leaders at the back of the sanctuary. Children will return to their families in worship by 11:30 AM.*

THE SCRIPTURES Eric Weakly

Luke 10:38-42 NT page 72

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

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

MORNING PRAYERS

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a Christ who teaches, sees, affirms,
and celebrates all of who we are.
We believe in a Christ who invites us to use our gifts for good
and celebrates every step we take in that direction.
We believe in a Christ who understands our anxieties
and is gentle with our concerns.
And we believe in a Christ who looks at us with undiluted love.
The world will try to rank, rate, and declare winners,
but we know love has no limit.
So with God's help, may we nurture our faith and do good work. Amen.

SHARING OUR STORIES Bud Rossig

Each of us has a story of how we've experienced God's generosity and grace in our lives. When we share these stories, they inspire and strengthen our community. Throughout the year, members of ERUCC are invited by our Stewardship/Generosity Committee to reflect on how they have encountered God through this church—whether in moments of giving, receiving, or witnessing generosity in action.

This Sunday, we invite Bud Rossig to share his story with us. As we listen, may we grow in our awareness of God's abundant love and the ways it moves among us.

We also encourage you to reflect on your own experiences—how has God's generosity touched your life? How might you share that with others?

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

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 Senior Choir

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus – tune BUNESSAN, arr. J. Schrader

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Dear God, use our offerings of our resources and of our lives. Bless them, multiply them for your purposes in the world.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed #537

[1] Christian, rise and act thy creed;
let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
raise your work and life anew.

[2] Hearts around thee sink with care,
you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
strengthen them to do the right.

[3] Offer others hope and joy,
and God's worship your employ;
Giving thanks in humble zeal,
learning all God's will to feel.

[4] Come then, law divine, and reign;
faith that doubt assails in vain,
Perfect love bereft of fear,
born in heaven and radiant here.

***BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains, the valleys,
and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in peace. **Amen.**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN** #814

POSTLUDE

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

Worship Notes: Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. The Prayer of Dedication was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, a transitional pastor in the Heartland Conference, a certified facilitator of Sacred Conversations to End Racism, and a certified InterPlay leader.

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 in honor and gratitude for the women who have led, nurtured, and inspired us on our faith journeys.

The yellow rose is presented by Audrey Rayfield in memory of her father, Donald Baker, US Army.

Attendance Last Sunday: 12 at 8:30 AM, 118 at 10:30 AM, and 49 online.

Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 AM or on-demand:
https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC

Serving Today: March 16		**Serving Next Week: March 23**
Deacons:	Harrison Fisher, Kyle Miller	Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain
Elder:	Starr Schaeberle	Matt Hueting
Acolyte:	Laurel Nguyen-Powell	Vivian Scott
Scripture Reader:	Eric Weakly	Robin Cooney
Greeters:	Tom Ford, Rachel Ford	Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson
	Rob Smith	Ave Barr, Cliff Barr
Welcome Table:	Thi Nguyen	
Lobby Attendant:	Linda Coyle	Cliff Barr
Audio/Visual:	Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle	Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
	Kelly Esslinger	Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery:	Dawn Lagrotteria	Robert Kambic
Fellowship:	Starr Schaeberle, Julie Chappell	Susan Kulp, David Howard
	Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick	Carolyn Roberts, Colin Neely
	Besty Selby, Angela Brittain	Robert Morris, Linda Coyle
		Rhea Stein, Jake Stein

Next Sunday: March 23 – Third Sunday in Lent
rest & growth **|** Luke 13:6-9

The gardener in the vineyard knows the fig tree needs rest, nutrients, and time—and it also needs to produce fruit. Both things are true, which is also true for us. If we are always striving for more growth without taking time to rest, we will burn out. But if we are only ever resting, we won't bear fruit or grow. The fig tree also teaches us that the in between time—of nurture before fruit—can be where transformation begins.

The Senior Choir will sing.

PRAYER LIST

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

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

The Caughy Family
John Howard (brother of David Howard)
Doris Esslinger
Anne Hoffmann
Kim Genau (friend of the Duncans and the Jeffersons)
Sandra Trout
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
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
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
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/ERtuestudy
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.

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.

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.

LENTEN PRAYER FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS
Wednesdays through Lent
Zoom, 9:30 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERenough
Meeting ID: 845 4002 5254
Passcode: 443871

Join us on Zoom every Wednesday morning during Lent at 9:30 AM for a time of intentional prayer, focusing on current events and the needs of our community, nation, and world.

Contact: Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg, rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com, or Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

While this gathering is virtual-only, please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to request in-person encouragement or pastoral care.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE & SOUP LUNCHEON
Wednesdays, March 12 through April 9
Sanctuary and Community Room, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

"We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life …" (1 John 1:1)

Join us for a simple mid-week Lenten service as we explore 'Sensing God's Presence' through a series of reflections. Each week, Rev. Dr. Morgan will offer brief commentaries on one of our senses—touch, sight, taste, hearing, and smell—as we prepare for the extraordinary sensory experience of Easter morning. We begin in the sanctuary with prayer and scripture, focusing on the week's theme. Afterward, we'll gather in the Community Room for a warm soup luncheon, offering time for reflection and conversation. All are welcome as we pause, pray, and share together on this Lenten journey.

- **March 19 – Sight:** Mark 8:22-25, 1 Corinthians 13:12, and Psalm 36:1-2, 7-9
- **March 26 –Taste:** John 2:1-10, 1 Peter 2:2-3, and Psalm 34:4-8
- **April 2 – Hearing:** John 5:25-29, Romans 10:14, 17 and Psalm 62
- **April 9 – Smell:** John 12:1-3, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a and Psalm 141:1-2

Activities and Events

YOUNG ADULT DINNER
Sunday, March 16
5:00 PM

Meet in front of ERUCC at 5:00 PM when we will walk together to Brewer's Alley for a meal and time to socialize. The meal will be provided for by ERUCC.

Please RSVP to Pastor Kirstin, 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.

"LITTLE EASTER" DINNER
Sunday, March 23
Community Room, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

You're invited to join your ERUCC church community on the evening of Sunday, March 23, as we celebrate mid-Lent together! In early church communities, where people fasted throughout the week from rich foods like meat and proteins, Sundays were known as 'Little Easters'—a time to break the fast and nourish the body. In that spirit, we will gather for a **gluten-free dinner** featuring ham, salad, green beans, and potatoes, followed by **gluten-free desserts**, including a chocolate fountain with fruit and other treats for dipping.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 19: bit.ly/ERmar23din

You may also RSVP through the church office: erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

Contact: Julie Clark, jclarkad@yahoo.com, or Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP
Tuesday, March 25
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: 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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)
Sunday, March 30

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.

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

OFFERING DATE MARCH 30, 2025

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.

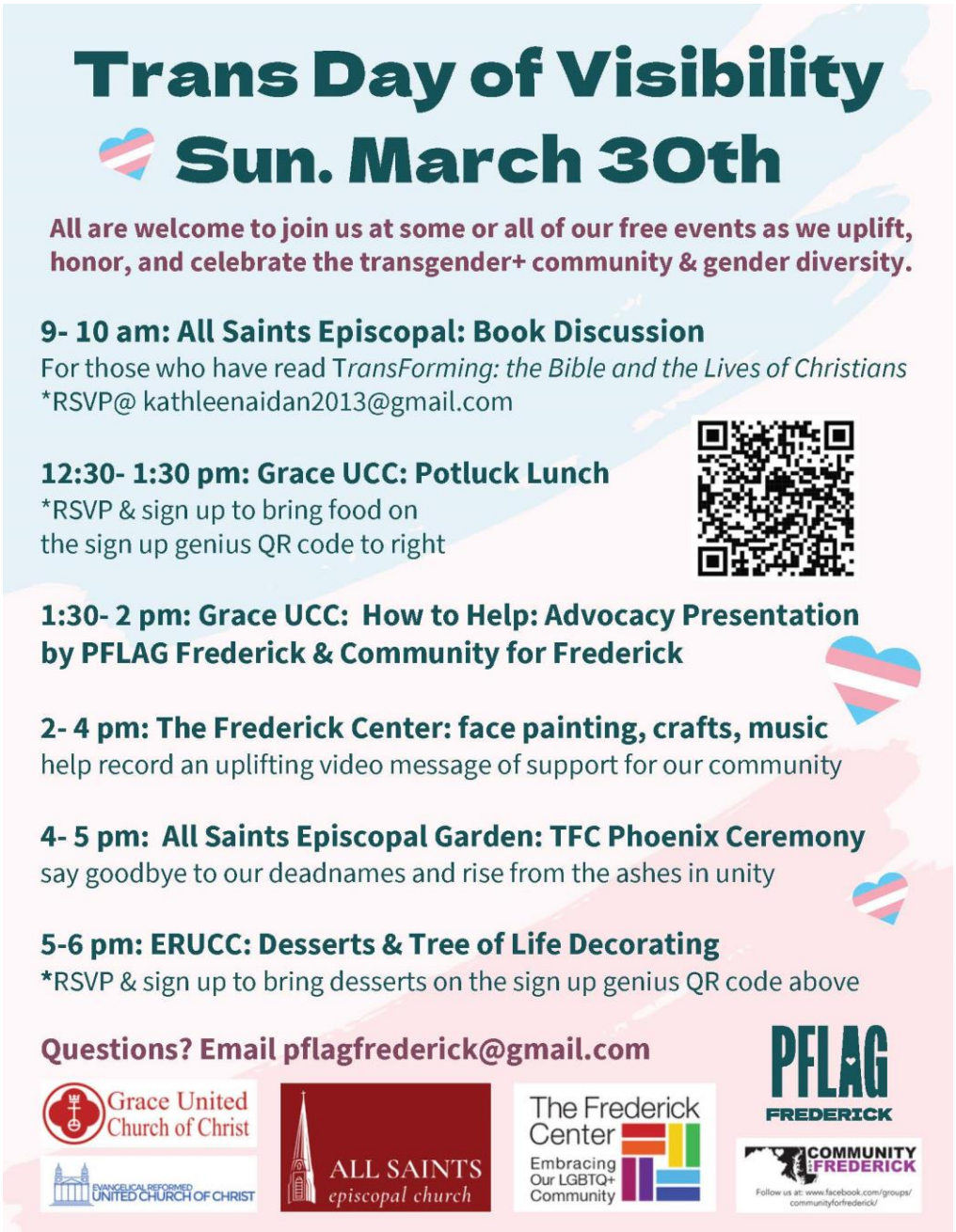
Our offerings let people know that they are not alone, that people they don't even know see their pain and care enough to respond. They extend a mighty witness of love that is powerful and healing. We hope you'll participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year with a spirit of joyful generosity!

ERUCC will officially receive OGHS offerings on March 30, but we welcome your gifts whenever your giving allows by using the special envelopes in the pews or by giving online at https://ppay.co/yMBdR7PE-xw

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY
Sunday, March 30

ERUCC is honored to partner with PFLAG, The Frederick Center, All Saints Episcopal Church, and Grace UCC to celebrate and support transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming people in our families, churches, schools, and community.

We will celebrate with a postcard advocacy kickoff in support of Policy 443, followed by a dessert reception and art installation from 5:00–6:00 PM. As part of our Lenten practice of prayer, a Prayer Tree is being created under the direction of Rhea Stein, in collaboration with the Worship Design Team. Introduced as part of our Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) celebrations on Sunday, March 30, this tree will remain with us as a lasting symbol of our prayers and commitment to inclusion.



Children, Youth, & Families

YOUTH GROUP – LENTEN VISITS

Sunday, March 16
Community Room, during Fellowship

During Fellowship in the Community Room, youth and parents will meet with Pastor Kristin to discuss Lenten visits to ERUCC members who can no longer attend or have difficulty participating in Sunday morning services. Youth will explore conversation and connection as a spiritual practice of generosity before pairing up in teams to go with a parent for their visit.

GOD'S KIDS CLUB – REGISTER TODAY!

Friday, March 28
Community Room, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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

This day's theme is "Weather Fun!" Kids will engage in exciting activities that connect weather and faith in meaningful ways. In the afternoon, they'll head to Baker Park for playtime, enjoying the outdoors together.

Youth leaders are welcome to be part of this special day! If you'd like to help, please contact Pastor Kirstin.

We hope your child can join us for this exciting day of fun and faith!

Register today: bit.ly/GKC0328

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!

Young Spirit Director: Trish Coffey

---

ucc.org

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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.

FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM

ERUCC T TEAM From Past to Future

The Transition Team is finalizing a schedule to host several small-group discussions in members' homes, beginning March 28 and continuing through April. These gatherings, called "A Chat with the T Team," will provide an opportunity for the congregation to share feedback on topics and issues important to our church's future. Chats will be on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday evenings.

We are still looking for a host in the Middletown and Jefferson area. If you would be willing to host, please contact Bud Rossig at (240) 357-6396 or budrossig@gmail.com.

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** *Pre-K – 2nd Grade,* Liz Coffey Room *3rd – 5th Grade,* Thomas Room
9:15 – 10:15 AM	**Youth Sunday School** *Middle School Youth,* Trinity Chapel *High School Youth,* Trinity Chapel
9:15 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 *Participating children are dismissed from Worship (2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays)*
	Young Spirit Rehearsal, Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite *Participating youth are dismissed from Worship (1st and 3rd Sundays)*
11:30 AM	**Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal,** Sanctuary *Children and Youth*

Thursday Rehearsal Schedule

subject to change

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

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 IN LENT

March 16, 2025 Luke 13:31-35

Strong and Tender

With each step toward the cross, Jesus' reveals sides to him that are rarely seen. Like his feisty side here in Luke's Gospel. After being warned by some Pharisees to leave because Herod wants him dead, Jesus replies, "Go tell that fox … I will keep driving out demons. I must press on."

Strong words, indeed. Yet soon after those words are uttered, Jesus laments over Jerusalem. It is in this lamenting we see a feminine side, as he expresses a tenderness in wanting to take the Holy City's children and protect them under his wing like a mothering hen.

Anyone who has raised chickens — or perhaps knows of someone who joined the backyard flock craze a few years ago — knows how sweet it is to gaze upon balls of yellow fluff peeping underneath their mother's wing. It tugs at the most hardened of hearts.

There once was an old farmer who admitted that there were many nights where he would sit in the barn and watch a hen and her chicks, noting that he could stare at the endearing scene forever.

Yes, we know Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We know him as the Prince of Peace, Counselor, Friend, Teacher and Healer. Yet how many times does the image of Jesus as Mothering Hen come to mind?

Take a moment now and hold that side of Jesus in your mind. Envision yourself being protected from the harsh world underneath the mothering wings of Jesus. How does that make you feel? Warm? Loved? Secure?

It was that image that held Karolina Sandell-Berg in her time of grief. When she was 26, Sweden's prolific poet and hymn writer, witnessed her father, a Lutheran pastor, being swept over the side of a ship during storm. There was nothing she could do to save him.

So distraught, she did what she knew best. She wrote a hymn focusing on the protective wings that shield us in times of danger and sorrow. "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior" (1865), set to a Swedish folk tune, soon became a beloved hymn often sung as a children's lullaby.

This Lent, let us spend more time getting to know Jesus' soft, mothering side. Find a day this week and light a candle, read Luke's Gospel lesson for today again, and search for Sandell-Berg's hymn on Apple music or Spotify. If you don't have access to these, ask a friend to help you find "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior." Then let its words and melody lull you into a place of healing and serenity.

Lord God, may the words to this hymn be our prayer for today: Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me, and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee. O be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place, and let my every moment be lived within thy grace. Amen.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

BUL0303

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2025 United Church of Christ