

*Open Invitation*

## **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 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

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**

**THRESHOLD MOMENT**

Rebecca Shillingburg

*Slow Growth*

– written by The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

There's a vine in the South that covers everything.  
It chokes out the light. Grows up to twelve inches per day.  
In a matter of years, it will blanket a forest.  
If you saw it from space, you'd marvel at its reach.  
If you saw it from the passenger seat, you'd weep at what it covers.  
Those looking for fast shade plant this invasive vine.  
Who can blame them? We're all impatient.  
But if it's fruit you want—  
the tart cherry,  
the sticky sweet kumquat,  
the soft side of a peach,  
the crisp bite of an apple—  
then bless the rain.  
Thank the sun.  
Put your hands in the dirt,  
and wait.

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Worship is a place to rest.

**We breathe deeply here.**

We still our aching bones.

**We sit in the quiet.**

We surround ourselves with music.

**Worship is a place to rest.**

Worship is a place to grow.

**We listen for God's word.**

We invite it to challenge us.

**We lean in with curiosity.**

We ask questions.

**Worship is a place to grow.**

So come into this space.

Come rest and grow here.

**For where two or more are gathered,**

**God is always there.**

Let us worship our gracious God.

## **\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Creator God, Your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in.  
Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth.  
And your Word is like a gardener, a love that prunes and encourages,  
waters and delights, seeds and tends. So as we turn to your text today,  
warm our bones, tend to our broken pieces, and show us how to grow.  
With hope we pray, Amen.**

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

#489

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,**

**“Come unto me and rest;**

**Lay down, O weary one, lay down  
your head upon my breast.”**

**I came to Jesus as I was,**

**so weary, worn, and sad,**

**And there I found a resting place,  
where Jesus made me glad!**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Behold, I freely give  
The living water; thirsty one,  
draw near, and drink, and live.”**

**I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I am redeemed.**

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

Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God’s grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God’s grace again.

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

Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.  
**We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation.  
We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.**  
There are also days when we fail to act.  
**We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.  
We find excuses to justify our inaction.**  
God, forgive our imbalance.  
**Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.  
Show us how to do the same. Amen.**

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

Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

**God’s grace is deeper than the ocean. God’s love is wider than the sky.  
We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization  
change and inspire us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## 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.*

## \*HYMN

*Come to Tend God's Garden*

#586

**Come to tend God's garden, seeds of hope to sow,  
planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow!  
In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant health!  
In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace!**

**As we tend God's garden, from its furrows rise  
stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies!  
Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness our root,  
unity our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!**

**May God's garden flourish, may our toil succeed,  
may God bless our actions, every word and deed!  
Serving Christ each season, with God's diagram,  
charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand!**

## THE SCRIPTURES

Robin Cooney

Luke 13:6-9      NT page 76

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 God who loves  
and tends to us like a gardener.**

**We believe that like the trees,  
some seasons are for growth,  
and some seasons are for rest.**

**Some days require pruning,  
and some require planting.**

**Fortunately, we believe that our green-thumbed God  
sees us and cultivates the sweetest fruit.**

**So may we plant roots,  
reach for the sky,  
grow where we can,  
and rest when rest is needed,  
for we believe there is holiness in the pruning and  
in the planting. And we do not grow alone.  
Thanks be to God, Amen.**

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

From the abundance that God has given us, let us return a portion to be used for God's work through this church.

*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

*Cantique de Jean Racine (O Redeemer Divine)*

Senior Choir  
– G. Fauré

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Dear God, take these offerings of treasure, and our lives, to use for your purposes in the world.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

#31

**Refrain:** All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
our dear God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors,  
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]

The purple-headed mountain,  
the river running by,  
The sunset, and the morning  
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]

The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them every one. [Refrain]

## \*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 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor).

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**The flowers on the altar** this morning are in loving memory of my husband, Bill Stahler, and our granddaughter, Liz Coffey, by Peg Stahler.

**The yellow rose** is presented in memory of Bobby L. York, US Army, by The York Family.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 10 at 8:30 AM, 140 at 10:30 AM, and 42 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 23

Deacons: Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain  
Elder: Matt Hueting  
Acolyte: Vivian Scott  
Scripture Reader: Robin Cooney  
Greeters: Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson  
Ave Barr, Cliff Barr,  
Welcome Table: Jeanellen Kallevang  
Lobby Attendant: Cliff Barr  
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin  
Jeff Schaeberle  
Nursery: Robert Kambic  
Fellowship: Susan Kulp, David Howard  
Carolyn Roberts, Colin Neely  
Robert Morris, Linda Coyle  
Rhea Stein, Jake Stein

### Serving Next Week: March 30

Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain  
Peter Brehm  
Willa Coen  
Jo Ann Fritz  
Julie Ebersole, Danielle Carbone  
Felecia Bishop, Susan Kulp  
Jeanellen Kallevang  
Felecia Bishop  
Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin  
Kelly Esslinger  
Emily Spear, Ben, Abby

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### **Next Sunday: March 30 – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*lost & found* | Luke 15:1-7

Herding sheep is a never-ending task. As soon as one is found, another may go missing. Our lives have a similar ebb and flow—in one moment we might feel like we have it all together, and in the next, we're struggling to survive. The promise of this parable is that no matter how "lost" we feel, the Good Shepherd is by our side.

*We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering and celebrate the lives and contributions of transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming people in recognition of Transgender Day of Visibility (March 31). 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  
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](https://bit.ly/ERSunstudy)  
Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888  
Passcode: 327128

Join us for a three-session introduction to the New Testament, as preparation for beginning our study of the gospels.

### **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.*

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## LENTEN PRAYER FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Wednesdays through Lent

Zoom, 9:30 AM

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERenough](https://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](mailto:rebecca.shillingburg@gmail.com), or Pastor Kirstin, [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto: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.*

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## 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 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

### **“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.

If you missed the RSVP deadline, please join us anyway. We'd still love to celebrate with you!

**Contact:** Julie Clark, [jclarkad@yahoo.com](mailto:jclarkad@yahoo.com), or Pastor Kirstin, [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org).

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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.

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### **ERUCC COVID MEMORIAL**

The ERUCC COVID Memorial Sculpture, installed in the windows between the Sanctuary Lobby and Kieffer Lobby, stands as a testament to the love we shared during the heights of the coronavirus pandemic through acts of care and protection. Created from cloth masks donated by our congregation, it honors all who wore masks for the safety and well-being of others.

**This memorial is not yet complete without your voice.** We invite you to help fill this sacred space with the memories, prayers, and reflections of our community. Paper strips are available on the round table in the Sanctuary Lobby. Simply write your message, roll it into a scroll, and place it in one of the open spaces in the sculpture.

Your words — of grief, gratitude, or remembrance — will help us fully tell the story of that time and the love that carried us through.

## JOIN US FOR A CHAT WITH THE TRANSITION TEAM

Thursday, March 28 or Friday, March 29

7:00 – 8:30 PM

ERUCC members are invited to connect and "Chat with the Transition Team" at one of two gatherings:



**Thursday, March 28** hosted by Terry and Donna Logee

11602 Daysville Road, Frederick (Libertytown)

The house is located at the corner of Oak Tree Circle and Daysville Road, with its driveway situated on Oak Tree Circle.

**RSVP** by text to (240) 367-4539 or email Terry at [terry.bed\\_r@live.com](mailto:terry.bed_r@live.com)

**Friday, March 29** hosted by Rebecca and John Shillingburg

Homewood at Frederick – Classrooms A & B, The Lodge

500 Pearson Circle, Frederick, MD 21702

Homewood residents can access The Lodge with their keycard. Non-residents will need to be let in, so please let us know if you plan to attend.

**RSVP** to [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org)

We hope to see you at one of these gatherings! Additional "Chat with the Transition Team" sessions may be offered in April.

## 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*

## 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.



**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>**

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## 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.

# Trans Day of Visibility



## Sun. March 30th

All are welcome to join us at some or all of our free events as we uplift, honor, and celebrate the transgender+ community & gender diversity.

### 9- 10 am: All Saints Episcopal: Book Discussion

For those who have read *TransForming: the Bible and the Lives of Christians*

\*RSVP@ kathleenaidan2013@gmail.com

### 12:30- 1:30 pm: Grace UCC: Potluck Lunch

\*RSVP & sign up to bring food on the sign up genius QR code to right



### 1:30- 2 pm: Grace UCC: How to Help: Advocacy Presentation by PFLAG Frederick & Community for Frederick



### 2- 4 pm: The Frederick Center: face painting, crafts, music help record an uplifting video message of support for our community

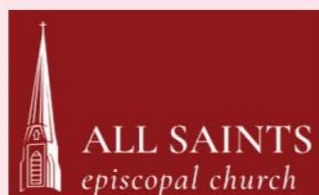
### 4- 5 pm: All Saints Episcopal Garden: TFC Phoenix Ceremony say goodbye to our deadnames and rise from the ashes in unity



### 5-6 pm: ERUCC: Desserts & Tree of Life Decorating

\*RSVP & sign up to bring desserts on the sign up genius QR code above

Questions? Email [pflagfrederick@gmail.com](mailto:pflagfrederick@gmail.com)





## **Children, Youth, & Families**

### **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](http://bit.ly/GKC0328)



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### **YOUTH RETREAT TO BETHANY BEACH**

April 13 – 16



ERUCC Youth are invited to a meaningful retreat exploring Peace, paired with the Holy Week story at Bethany Beach! Cost is \$50.

**Register today:** [bit.ly/ythBB0425](http://bit.ly/ythBB0425)

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### **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.

## **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

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## **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).

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

## **MINISTERS AND STAFF**

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

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

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Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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

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

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

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

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant*

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

## **CONSISTORY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **ELDERS**

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

## **DEACONS**

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

Jim Brittain | Matt Davis | Harrison Fisher | Kyle Miller

## **TRANSITION TEAM**

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

Thomasa Pomeroy | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely | Katie Zander

## Sunday Morning Schedule

*subject to change*

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

## Thursday Rehearsal Schedule

*subject to change*

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

## 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.

## Open Invitation

There's a general store in a sleepy New England village that hasn't sold a stick of penny candy or a bolt of fabric for more than 50 years. Residents are now turning the storefront into a community center, hoping to restore a sense of neighborly belonging that has vanished in recent years.

While clearing out cobwebbed corners and opening squeaky drawers, a thick leather ledger was discovered. Amid its columns, fading ink revealed not only the cans of corn and bottles of milk families consumed, but that many had not yet paid for the items. Page after page were the words "payment to come."

An elderly man who bought many a stick of penny candy as a boy smiled when he heard about the ledger, remembering how the store's owners would always give what was needed to families even if they could not pay for the items just yet. It's no wonder the store didn't survive, he mused.

Perhaps the storeowners, though, crafted their business plan from the words of the prophet Isaiah, who delivers an open invitation to us now on our Lenten journey to come, drink if we are thirsty, eat even if we have no means to pay for the bread. Come, no matter who we are or what our circumstances, and find belonging, acceptance and sustenance.

Come, and let us take in all that God is offering.

This passage from Isaiah is so full of welcome, with God imploring us to come — and listen. Listen to the words of life. Come and listen — and look. At what? Look first at the past, remembering God's care and grace. And then, look to the future and know this care and grace is still abundant.

What are we thirsting for this day? What are we hungering for? Do we remember in our wanting that God is really all we need. Are we listening to the voice of love? Are we looking for the grace that was, is and will always be? Can we accept that we this day are being given an open invitation to experience the goodness of life?

There's a general store in a sleepy New England village seeking to offer something other than the penny candy and bolts of fabric of yesteryear. It wants to restore community. And that's perhaps, my friends, the thing we are most thirsty and starved for. For there is a divine ledger in which by our name our running tab is marked "paid in full."

Let us pray.

*God of community, let us say "yes" to that open invitation to come as we are before Your glory. Let us drop our pretenses and let go of judgments. Let us remember that there is a banquet table where all are invited to find fullness once again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*



8.1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE