

EMBRACING LOVE

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 30, 2025

Fourth 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

Emi Rhoads

The Good Shepherd

– written by The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

Jesus said, “*Who among you wouldn’t leave the 99?
Who among you wouldn’t look for the one?*”

Someone in the crowd probably rolled their eyes.
Someone squirmed and looked at their palms.
Someone sighed and thought to themselves,
“*This man doesn’t understand the business.
What fool would leave 99 to look for one?*”

But maybe God was not talking about us.
Maybe God was talking about
her own reckless love.
Maybe God was talking about
her own willingness
to turn the world upside down
for me.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our God is a shepherding God.
Our God knows us by name.

Our God will never stop searching for us.
So if you feel lost,
then know that God is seeking you.
If you feel found,
then know that God will never leave.
This is the promise of scripture.
This is the promise of God's love.
Let us worship our with-us God.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**God, you look for us. You search for us.
You turn every corner and climb every mountain.
You call our name until your voice is hoarse.
When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us.
So once again we pray, find us in this moment.
Look for us.
And then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near.
With hope we pray, with hope we listen. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows

#248

**Such perfect love my Shepherd shows,
whose goodness fails me never,
Whose hand all things I need bestows
and watches me forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,
my loving Shepherd leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
with food from heaven feeds me.**

**When vain and foolish oft I strayed,
you, faithful Shepherd, sought me,
And on your shoulder gently laid,
then home rejoicing brought me.**

**I do not fear death's shadowed vale
when you are here beside me;
Your rod and staff and strength prevail
to comfort and to guide me.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, in the Christian tradition many have used “lost” and “found” labels to describe people “out there” versus people “in here.” Many have used “lost” and “found” language to create a damaging dichotomy that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost.

But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd.

So join me in the prayer of confession, as people who know both ends of that spectrum. Join me as we go to God in prayer:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

If God is a painter,

let us be the brush.

If God is a musician,

let us be the song.

If God is an architect,

let us be the tools.

Let us be the hands.

Let us be the builders.

But if God is a shepherd,

who never stops seeking,

let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel.

Our God is never far away.

Forgive us, dear God, for forgetting this good news. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found.

We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves.

Sometimes, we leave the flock and lose our way.

But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God

who is always by our side.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

No matter how far we wander,

we can never wander from the bounds of God’s grace.

We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

– SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM –

INVITATION

WELCOME

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: **There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. There is one Lord. One faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.**

ADDRESS

Pastor: Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God's new order.

Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ's death. We are buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on those whom God has chosen. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

People: **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Pastor: Camryn, do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor (*addressing the parents/sponsors*): Are you ready with God's help to guide and encourage Camryn by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to follow the way of Jesus Christ?

Parents/Sponsors: I am.

Pastor (*addressing the candidate*): Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able??

Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

***CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: The water we use for today's baptism comes from three sources, each rich in symbolism and connection: the River Jordan, where Jesus himself was baptized; the river at Philippi in Greece, where Lydia became the first baptized believer in Europe through the Apostle Paul; and our own Frederick water, reminding us of our ties to this local community. Together, these waters signify our unity with the wider Church, our connection to the faithful who have gone before us, and our shared hope with those who will come after.

Let us pray:

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By that same Divine Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you eternal God, who was, who is, and who shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Now by your Holy Spirit, dear God, bless this sacred act of baptism, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Camryn Noel Huenger, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTIZED

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Pastor: Let us pray for the one baptized today.

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful for this child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy

Spirit. Embrace us all as children in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ. Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

People: Amen

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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.*

THE SCRIPTURES

Jo Ann Fritz

Luke 15:1-7 NT page 78

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

Remembering the gifts we have received, let us make our offerings to God's work through this church. Today, you are also invited to offer your gifts to others around the world through One Great Hour of Sharing. Jesus' call for us to be light is an ongoing opportunity for us to offer our gifts to others. The world needs light more than ever before. We cannot be in all of these places ourselves or even see them with our own eyes, but through our generous tithes, offerings, and special gifts, we can be a light that shines day and night. In that spirit, let us share now!

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 worshipping 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

Calling My Children Home

Senior Choir

– C. Waller, D. Lawson, R. Yates

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, bless these gifts and our lives to your service. We offer these gifts in the spirit of light and with a heart full of gratitude for what we've been given. These offerings show our commitment to sharing with those in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. As we share, we shine the light of our faith with those we may never meet. Bless these gifts, just as you have blessed us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ's name, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

#351

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.**

*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 this morning are in memory of our parents, Ed and Jane Rossig, by Bud, Jennifer, and Ellen.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 12 at 8:30 AM, 121 at 10:30 AM, and 44 online.



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

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

Serving Today: March 30

Deacons: Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain
Elder: Peter Brehm
Acolyte: Willa Coen
Scripture Reader: Jo Ann Fritz
Greeters: Julie Ebersole, Danielle Carbone
Felecia Bishop, Susan Kulp
Welcome Table: Jeanellen Kallevang
Lobby Attendant: Felecia Bishop
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Kelly Esslinger
Nursery: Emily Spear, Ben, Abby
Fellowship:

Serving Next Week: April 6

Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins
Ave Barr

Linda Coyle
Sue Pinner, Felecia Bishop
Barb Barry
Holly Davis
Rob Smith
Kelly Esslinger
Larry Martin
David Howard

Rena Kline, Cathie Duncan
Jim Weitz, Glenn Wallace
Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson
Emily Button Kambic

Next Sunday: April 6 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

righteousness & mercy / Luke 19:1-10

The crowds grumble at Jesus' self-invitation to stay with Zacchaeus, and their righteous indignation isn't without cause. As a tax collector, Zacchaeus has extorted money and acted in collusion with the empire, using his position to oppress his own people. It is important to call out oppression, and yet, Jesus offers mercy. That mercy then begets more mercy as Zacchaeus, unprompted, offers to return what he took, and then some.

We will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the chancel rail this morning. The Senior Choir will share a cantata, 'Blessed: A Holy Week Journey Through the Beatitudes' with music by Joel Raney and words by Pamela Stewart. We will also add to our Prayer Tree, placing symbols and prayers in honor of the strength and beauty that come from immigrants and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts.

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
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

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
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.

- **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

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.

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 receive OGHS offerings on March 30, but gifts are welcome anytime using the special envelopes in the pews or by giving online at <https://ppay.co/yMBdR7PE-xw>

**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

**OFFERING DATE
MARCH 30, 2025**

Love your neighbor. No exceptions.



HOP INTO ACTION: HELP US GET READY FOR EASTER FUN!

We're gearing up for two egg-citing events at ERUCC—our **Palm Sunday Egg Hunt** and the **Good Friday Eggstravaganza**—and we need your help to make them happen!

Candy & Small Toys for the Egg Hunt

Help us fill eggs for our **Palm Sunday Egg Hunt** during Junior Church by donating bags of Easter candy or small toys. You can also pick up 2 dozen empty eggs from Pastor Kirstin, fill them with candy, and return them by Tuesday, April 8. Donations can be dropped off in the office.

Eggs & Supplies for the Eggstravaganza

On Good Friday, we'll gather to dye eggs at our Annual Eggstravaganza! We're looking for:

- Hardboiled eggs (eggs are pricey, but if you can donate 1-2 dozen, we can do this together!)
- Egg decorating supplies
- Snacks to enjoy while we create!

Drop-off Info:

- Candy & stuffed eggs → Due Tuesday, April 8 (Office)
- Eggs & decorating supplies → Due Wednesday, April 16 (Office/Kitchen)

Can you help? Every bunny who can contribute makes a difference! Let us know what you can bring, and let's make this a joyful celebration for our children and community!



Donation List: bit.ly/EReggs25

MEALS FOR MISSION OF MERCY (M.O.M.)

Sunday, April 6

Community Room Kitchen, 1:00 PM

What is Mission of Mercy? Mission of Mercy (M.O.M.) provides free medical, dental, and vision care to underserved communities. Their mission combines compassionate care with essential health services. Learn more at www.amissionofmercy.org/maryland-pennsylvania!

What Do They Do Locally? Twice a month, M.O.M. brings medically equipped buses to Frederick's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Volunteer doctors, dentists, nurses, and administrators provide services to those in need.

How Does ERUCC Help? Every other month, a team from the Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Committee provides lunch for M.O.M. volunteers. We prepare and deliver baked penne (one meat, one vegetarian), garlic bread, salad, and donated cookies from Uncle Ralph's Bakery.

How Can You Help?

Join us for a food prep at 1:00 PM in the Community Room kitchen on Sunday, April 6.

Want to volunteer or have questions?

Contact Nancy Jones at knitwitsrule@outlook.com or (240) 446-8025

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 has been 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, 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

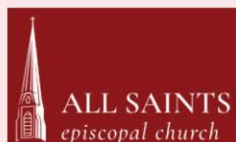
2- 4 pm: The Frederick Center: face painting, crafts, music help record an uplifting video message of support for our community

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



THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT – T-SHIRT MAKING SESSION

Wednesday, April 2

Community Room, 6:00 – 8:00 PM



The Clothesline Project is an effort to raise public awareness about sexual and intimate partner violence. Survivors (or friends of survivors) of rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, incest, intimate partner violence and other victims of gender based violence share their stories on t-shirts hung in a public place to bear witness and educate the general public. The Clothesline Project shirts will be displayed on Thursday, April 10 at Hood College prior to Heartly House's Take Back the Night rally. Go to <https://wash.org/clothesline-project/> to learn more. Shirts and limited art supplies will be available, or participants are welcome to bring their own shirt or supplies.

Take Back the Night

Thursday, April 10

Hood College, Whittaker Campus Commons, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Join Heartly House as we gather for our annual Take Back the Night event! Take Back the Night is a non-profit organization with the mission of ending sexual, relationship, and intimate partner violence in all forms.

- Feature speakers, musicians, and visual artists sharing their stories as we come together to lift up survivors and empower each other. Pastor Kirstin will offer an invocation.
- The event is free, but registration is required (bit.ly/4c5OVat)
- Please note the event will be covering themes of violence, oppression, and harm. While not explicit, the material will not be appropriate for those under the age of 16.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

WEBSITE

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*

SAVE THE DATES - INQUIRERS' CLASSES

Sunday, April 27 and Sunday, May 11

Flora Room and Zoom, 9:30 AM

Interested in learning more about ERUCC and what it means to be part of our community of faith? We warmly invite you to join us for our two-part **Inquirers' Class** — a time to connect, ask questions, and explore what membership at ERUCC looks like.

If you're seeking a church where...

- You don't have to check your mind at the door
- God's love embraces *every* person — no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey
- Faith engages with the real world — offering meaning, hope, and purpose
- You and your family can grow spiritually in an open, affirming, and thoughtful community

.... then we'd love to get to know you.

At our Inquirer's Class, you'll meet our pastors and church members, hear more about our values, beliefs, and history, and learn about the United Church of Christ — our wider church family.

Who should come? Anyone curious about ERUCC, whether you're brand new or have been worshipping with us for a while but haven't taken the step of membership. ERUCC members looking for a refresher or who simply want to be part of meeting and welcoming others into our church community are also welcome.

Questions? Contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

ERUCC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



ERUCC is fortunate to have several scholarship programs available to our members as they seek educational opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in the realization of their full potential. These scholarships are gifts to church members for post-secondary undergraduate education and are awarded by the Scholarship Committee. The awards are based on the quality of the candidate's plan for use of the funds, the ability and promise of the applicant, and the need for financial assistance. The aid may continue for subsequent years after an interview with the Scholarship Committee, submission of intent to reapply, and a transcript of grades for the current year.

All application materials must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee through the Church Office by the **April 30 dead line**.

Request an application for new or renewing applicants by email: erucc@erucc.org.

Children, Youth, & Families

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

GOD'S KIDS CLUB AND EGGSTRAVAGANZA REGISTER TODAY!

Friday, April 18

Community Room, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Register your children today for our Holy Friday God's Kids Club, including our annual Easter Eggstravaganza! This special God's Kids Club will be filled with hands-on activities that bring the Easter story to life!

- **Resurrection Eggs Lesson & Take-Home Story** – Discover the meaning of Easter in a fun and interactive way.
- **Paint Easter Eggs** – Get creative as we decorate eggs together!
- **Make Baskets & Sign Cards** – Share love and kindness with those in our church family who are homebound and in care facilities.
- **Paint a Cross to Take Home** – A beautiful reminder of God's love.

All kids are welcome for this meaningful morning of faith, fun, and friendship!

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/GKC0418



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



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Other Announcements

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.

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.

HOLY WEEK AT ERUCC

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13

8:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary and Livestream



Jesus doesn't instigate his own parade. Instead, just his quiet presence alone inspires the multitude to shout out and praise God. When the religious leaders try to silence the crowd, Jesus tells them that the noise level isn't the point—even the stones would cry out if they were silent. It takes wisdom to know when our voice is needed and when it's just noise.

Palm Sunday begins the succession of days known as Holy Week, commemorating the final events of Jesus' earthly ministry. At 10:30 AM, we will mark this sacred day with a triumphant processional of palms led by our children and youth, recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, where crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches—signifying his coming as a king. This moment of joyful celebration also serves as a solemn reminder of the suffering and sacrifice that would soon follow. The Senior Choir will sing and Market Street Brass will be featured.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17

7:30 PM

Worship in Sanctuary



In his final hours, Jesus redefines power through acts of humility, including sharing a final meal with his closest friends and those who will soon betray him. After breaking bread, the disciples argue about who is the greatest, but Jesus tells them that the greatest must be the least and the leader must be the servant, turning their hierarchy on its head. According to Jesus, humility is powerful, and real power is shown through humility.

We will commemorate the last Supper as we share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Senior Choir will sing.

HOLY FRIDAY

Friday, April 18

12:00 PM Worship in Sanctuary

7:30 PM Worship in Sanctuary and Livestream



As Jesus dies on the cross, one thief resists him and the other accepts him as Messiah. Jesus resists the empire but accepts his fate. We also are called to resist systems of power and oppression, and yet we ultimately have to accept that Jesus dies—and one day we will too. We have to discern what to accept as given and what to resist, what is “God’s will,” and what is the result of our own unquestioned systems.

The Senior Choir will sing.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20

8:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary and Livestream

Grief is a healthy response to Jesus’ death and a valid way to enter worship on Easter morning. And yet, the women at the empty tomb are given hope amidst their mourning. The other disciples don’t believe the women’s message, but Peter, living in the in-between of grief and hope, runs to the tomb to see for himself. Grieving doesn’t have to make us hopeless. Hope can compel us to take action when we are deep in grief.



This morning, we will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at stations in the front of the Sanctuary. The Senior Choir will sing and guest brass players will join us in celebration. We will also add to our Prayer Tree, expanding its inclusivity with brightly colored prayer flowers, alongside the fresh flowers we place on the Easter Cross, symbolizing our collective prayers and the beauty of resurrection hope.

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

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

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

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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

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

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

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

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant*

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

CONSISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

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

Jim Brittain | Matt Davis | Harrison Fisher | Kyle Miller

TRANSITION TEAM

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

Thomasa Pomeroy | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely | Katie Zander

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

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

Thursday Rehearsal Schedule

subject to change

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

Stay Informed

Subscribe to receive e-news from ERUCC at <http://eepurl.com/gDNCu5> or by scanning the QR code.



Worship services and events at Evangelical Reformed UCC are sometimes photographed and videotaped to document the vibrant life of our church. If you do not wish to be included in these recordings, please notify a deacon or the church office. Always obtain permission prior to sharing images and videos that include minors on your personal social media.

Easter Lily Orders



This year we will be filling our chancel area with beautiful Easter lilies on Easter morning.

Plants will be ordered from the Dutch Plant Farm. You may take your plant home after the 10:30 AM worship service on Easter Sunday, April 20.

If you would like to order lilies, please complete a form online (bit.ly/ERlily25) or a printed form and return it with payment in the offering plates or to the church office by March 30.

Cost per plant: \$18

Donor Name: _____

I want to place _____ lilies in the sanctuary for Easter morning.
#

If you wish your lily to be listed “in memory of,” “in honor of,” or “placed by [the donor],” please indicate which and **PRINT the names below.**

In memory of:

In honor of:

Placed by:

Select the check box below to have your Easter lily(ies) distributed on your behalf if you do not wish to take the flower(s) yourself.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Embracing Love

For centuries, renowned artists have captured the varied emotions among the characters in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, depicting on canvas and in stone the forgiving father, the bitter brother and the repentant prodigal.

If you were to pick up a brush on this the fourth Sunday in Lent, which of the characters would you paint first? Who would it be that you — answer honestly now — relate to the most? The one extending forgiveness or the one bitter because that forgiveness has been extended. Or maybe you are putting on those ancient sandals, trekking back home to make amends?

Don't worry too much about your answer, because over the course of our lives we will find ourselves identifying with each of these characters. There will be times where we are grace-filled, times where we begrudge forgiveness, and times where we are truly sorry for the things we have done.

Famed Dutch artist, Rembrandt, has two versions of the prodigal son in which he painted in his lifetime. The first was done while he was a young man at the height of his fame and domestic bliss. With a loving wife, children and an audience who clamored for his work, Rembrandt had it all. It's not surprising that at this time in his career he depicted himself as the prodigal without a care in the world, a woman seated on his lap, and a drink lifted high in his hand.

Life though changed for the artist. His children and wife died. His wealth was gone, as were his patrons who once commissioned works created by his hands. Rembrandt returned to the prodigal son for one of his last paintings before his death. Only this time, each brushstroke revealed a man who knew all too well what it meant to be broke and broken.

Great artists create from what they know in life. Rembrandt was no exception, capturing in his prodigal son paintings a joy that was fleeting and sorrow that was soul crushing. It would be the latter that would become the artist's most well-known painting.

And in the end, Rembrandt found himself running home into the loving arms of God. He died on Oct. 4, 1669, and was buried with no family and no fanfare in a grave set aside for paupers that was owned by the church.

We will all someday find ourselves running into the arms of a loving and forgiving God, who will welcome his prodigal children — always. But for now, how do we get better at extending this holy and healing forgiveness to others? How do we not become bitter? How do we find the strength to make the amends we must make? How would a great artist paint us right now in such a story of grace?

Praises to You, O God, who never turns Your back on us — no matter how far from home we have ventured. Embrace us now with Your love and may that love soften our hearts to the point where we our arms begin to open wider to all Your children who are lost and lonely. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

