



WILDERNESS COMPANIONS

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 9, 2025

First 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

HONORING OUR SCOUTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Never Met a Stranger

Laurel Nguyen-Powell
– Rev. Sarah A. Speed

When we talk about God, we say
she's never met a stranger.
She makes friends at the airport.
She waves to babies in the check-out line.

When we talk about God, we say
she'll leave the porch light on.
She'll have warm bread in the oven.
She'll have all the time in the world.

When we talk about God, we say
she'll look you in the eye.
She'll love you as you are.
She'll call you by your name.

When we talk about God,
we never have to talk about
which side of the road she might walk down.
Wherever you are,
that's where she'll be.

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

You Are Welcome Here

– G. DeMan

Refrain: You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey.
You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
come and join with us, we're united in the church of Christ.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

Who is my neighbor?

How can I help?

What do I have to learn?

Where is God in all that we do?

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

So may we listen. May we learn.

May we stay curious, and may we look for God.

This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, we love to ask you questions. We love to throw our wonderings at the sky, to bring our curiosity to your feet, to examine, beseech, and imagine all day long. But when the answers come, we don't always like what we hear. Awaken a curiosity in us. Awaken a penchant for listening, and make room in our spirits for your Word to land. With hope we question, we wonder, we dream, we listen. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

#454

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Our faith tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, but you and I know that is often easier said than done.

Fortunately for us, prayer can be a tool for transformation. When we are honest before God and each other, we open the door to growth and change.

So join me in the prayer of confession. Join me now, so that tomorrow, we will be even better at loving our neighbors as ourselves. Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Family of faith, When we set limits on love,
God loves extravagantly.

When we forget that we are neighbors,

God claims us as God's own.

When we judge, hold back, or harm,

God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone
that could separate us from the love of God.

This is the good news of the gospel. 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**

They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"

#541

**They asked, "Who's my neighbor and whom should I love;
for whom should I do a good deed?"
Then Jesus related a story and said,
"It's anyone who has a need,
yes, anyone who has a need.**

**There once was a traveler set on by thieves
who beat him and left him to die;
A priest and a Levite each saw him in pain;
but they turned away and walked by,
yes they turned away and walked by.**

**A certain Samaritan then came along
to bind up his wounds and give aid;
He took him to stay at an inn until well,
and for all the service he paid,
yes, for all the service he paid.**

**I know who's my neighbor and whom I should love,
for whom I should do a good deed;
For Jesus made clear in the story he told,
it's anyone who has a need,
yes, anyone who has a need.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Patti Patterson

Luke 10:25-37 NT page 71

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

Church, if God asked you, “Who is your neighbor?”
what would you say?

**We would say,
every child, every person,
every weeping willow,
and every morning lark.
Every freckled face,
every wrinkled pair of hands,
every tail-wagging dog,
and every crisp ripe apple.**

**We would say, we are connected—
to one another, to all of God’s creation.
There are no strangers in God’s house.
We are all family here.**

I think God would delight in that answer. For it is said,
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your strength,
with all your mind,
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

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

Recognizing that all that we have comes from God, let us offer back to God,
not our leftovers, but the first and best of what we have received.

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

My Jesus Walked

Spirit
– L. H. Doucet

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Dear God, use these gifts, and our lives, to feed and nourish, spreading your love where it is most needed.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Be Now My Vision

#451

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

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

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

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

*BENEDICTION

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

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

God Be in My Head

– V. Pennington

God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart and in my thinking. [REPEAT]

God be in my head, God be in my eyes, God be in my mouth, my heart, and in my thinking. God be at my end and my departing.

POSTLUDE

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



We thank Laura Walling and Joe Baker for sharing their gifts with us in worship today!

Worship Notes: Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. The Invitation to Generosity and 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 given by the Maples/Rhoderick family in loving memory of Sam Maples.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 117 at 10:30 AM, and 54 online.



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

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

Serving Today: March 9

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Ave Barr
Acolyte: Wyatt Pomeroy
Scripture Reader: Patti Patterson
Greeters: Robin Cooney, David Cooney
Cathie Duncan
Welcome Table: Jeanellen Kallevang
Lobby Attendant: Rob Smith
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Nursery: Stephanie Fisher
Fellowship: Emily Spear, Chris Spear
Ben Spear, Abby Spear
Jocelyn Vara, Chris Vara
Rachael Bowman, Josh Bowman
Brendon Page

Serving Next Week: March 16

Harrison Fisher, Kyle Miller
Starr Schaeberle
Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Eric Weakly
Tom Ford, Rachel Ford
Rob Smith
Linda Coyle
Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle
Kelly Esslinger
Starr Schaeberle, Julie Chappell
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Besty Selby, Angela Brittain

Next Sunday: March 16 – Second Sunday in Lent

faith & works | Luke 10:38-42

In many translations, Jesus says that “Mary has chosen the better part,” which has been used to create a divide between Mary and Martha. However, in the Greek, Mary has chosen the “good portion,” and Martha’s tasks are called “ministry.” Therefore, perhaps Mary represents our faith, our desire to know God intimately, and Martha represents our good works, our desire to transform the world. Both are needed, and both are good.

The Senior Choir will sing, and the Chancel and Cambridge Handbell Choirs will offer special music.

PRAYER LIST

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

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

Anne Hoffmann
Kim Genau (friend of the Duncans and the Jeffersons)
Sandra Trout
Beth Henry (daughter of friends of Jeanelle Kallevang)
Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)
Trish Coffey
Kathy Johnson
Mary Staley
Mike Robertson (friend of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)
Pat Condo
Wells Condo
Mike McLanahan
The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family
Charlene Perry
Greg Alley
Dave Alley
Sue Stevens (friend of Susan Kulp)
Kitty Bradley
Beanie Cornell
Raymond Slifer (father of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)

Susan Bonhag (friend of the Mercier family)
Milt Crutchley
Father of Sherry Murray
Tom Frazier
Pauline Marendt
Craig, Carrie, Aaron, Chase and Maddy Percopo (friends of Lois Gaul)
Kat Weedon (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)
Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
Haley Duff
Charlotte Blue and Family (friends of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Emogene Wyand
Bob Pinner
Delmar Speak
Philip Hill (father of Colleen Baldree)
Tanya Pearre (sister of Colleen Baldree)
Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)
Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley)

Lee Thomas
Joan Thomas (mother of Dan Smith's friend)
Autumn Crutchley
Jason Rhoads
Greg Rhoads
Marcia Eisenstein
Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)
Jeannette Johnson
Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)
Marcy Channell (daughter of Jo Ann Fritz)
Paige Coffey
Fran Wenner
Bonnie Devilbiss
Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield)

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

Christian Education: Spiritual Life, Learning, and Practices

BIBLE STUDIES for ADULTS

SUNDAY MORNING LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE

with Revs. John and Rebecca Shillingburg
North Room / Zoom, 9:00 – 10:15 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy
Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888
Passcode: 327128

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

How the Bible Actually Works by Peter Enns
with Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg
North Room / Zoom, 11:00 AM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERTuesday
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.

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

Activities and Events

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

Sunday, March 9

Community Room, during Fellowship

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

Suggested donation: \$5 per cup

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

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

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.

Love your neighbor. No exceptions.



“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

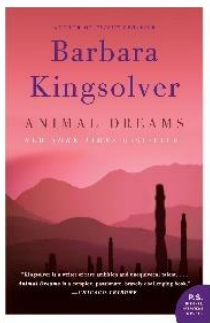
North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

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.

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

2025 ERUCC Book Group Reads:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| May 27 | <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i> by Robin Wall Kimmerer |
| July 22 | <i>The Sea Around Us</i> by Rachel Carson |
| September 23 | <i>A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812</i> by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich |
| November 25 | <i>Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books</i> by Kirsten Miller |



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 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>

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

Keep open house; be generous with your lives.”

(Matthew 5:14-16, The Message)

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

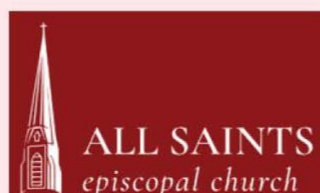
4- 5 pm: All Saints Episcopal Garden: TFC Phoenix Ceremony say goodbye to our deadnames and rise from the ashes in unity



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



Children, Youth, & Families

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children should be checked in by one of their grown-ups at the Check-In Station in the Kieffer Lobby before class.

Pre-K – 2nd Grade

Liz Coffey Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

3rd – 5th Grade

Thomas Room, 9:15 – 10:00 AM

CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Liz Coffey Room, 10:00 – 10:20 AM

This music group for children in Pre-K through 5th Grade are invited to participate in rehearsals each Sunday morning following Sunday School from 10:00–10:20 AM in the Liz Coffey Room.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Trinity Chapel, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Youth Sunday School, with Middle and High School classes, meets in Trinity Chapel, 10 West Church Street. Enter through the side door behind the iron gate on the left side of the building. Always use the crosswalk. Youth will return as a group to the Kieffer Lobby at 10:15 AM.

JUNIOR CHURCH

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays

dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

Junior Church is a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities for children ages five through 5th grade. Children begin 10:30 AM worship with their families and are dismissed to Junior Church after the Thought for the Day. On the first Sunday of each month, children participate in worship and communion with their families.

YOUNG SPIRIT REHEARSAL

rehearses the 1st and 3rd Sundays

dismisses from 10:30 AM worship service

Rehearsals are held after the Thought for the Day on the first and third Sundays of each month and wrap up by 11:30 AM so you can rejoin your family in the sanctuary. No experience needed—just enthusiasm!

Young Spirit Director: Trish Coffey

YOUTH GROUP – SOUP SALES

Sunday, March 9

Community Room, during Fellowship

Youth will staff the soup sales table to raise funds for various Youth Group trips, including Germany, WorldPride in DC, the spring retreat, and other outdoor adventures. Every cup sold makes a difference!

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

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 – SAVE THE DATE!

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 can include Bible stories, crafts, games, and service projects, all focused on exploring faith and building community.

Stay tuned for more details, including a simple new online registration process—coming soon!



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.

BECOME A FAITHFUL FRIEND: A SIMPLE WAY TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

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

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

BOOKS LOOKING FOR NEW READERS ...

Carolyn Roberts has multiple boxes of books for kids (one box) and adults that she would love to give to interested readers. Stop by 207 Rockwell Terrace after worship today from 12:00 – 3:00 PM and take as many or as few books as you like. The books will be on the front porch, weather permitting, or on the adjacent sun porch. Books range in genre and topic but primarily include history, theology/religion, novels, mysteries, biographies.

BE A BLESSING PRACTICE PEACE.
LEAD WITH LOVE.
BE JOYFUL. PRAY OFTEN. BE KIND. GIVE THANKS.
DO GOOD. HAVE COURAGE. WORK FOR JUSTICE.
BE THE LIGHT. ENCOURAGE OTHERS.  UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM



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

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

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

As part of the Transition Team's focus on our church's connections, we've compiled a list of most of our ties to the local community, the region, and the world. This includes connections with other churches, the Catoctin Association, the Central Atlantic Conference, and the national setting of the United Church of Christ. ERUCC is actively engaged both locally and beyond, with 74 connections listed.

If we've missed any connections, please let Terry Logee know at terry.bed_r@live.com or by text to (240) 367-4539.

Additionally, the Transition Team has issued a T Team Takeaways report, highlighting key insights from the Heritage, Leadership, and Connections Focus Points. This report offers valuable learnings to guide our congregation as we discern our future.

Both the Connections list and the T Team Takeaways report can be read online. Printed copies are also available in the back of the sanctuary or by request through the church office.

Read the Connections List: bit.ly/4kvvQC8

Read the T Team's Key Takeaways: bit.ly/3F4ib51



Lent 2025 at ERUCC

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

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



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

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

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

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE & SOUP LUNCHEON

Wednesdays, March 12 through April 16

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 12 – Touch:** Luke 7:11-15, Revelation 21:1-4, and Psalm 118:15-17
- **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

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL AND DEVOTIONAL CARDS

Devotionals offers weekly commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, hymns, and reflection prompts and daily Devotional Cards – each with a question for reflection and a short prayer, spanning from Ash Wednesday through the first few days of Easter, are available in the back of the Sanctuary or by request through the church office.

WHAT IS LENT?

The church year is divided into seasons, marking the rhythm of Christian life and spiritual growth. The church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, which falls four Sundays before Christmas Day. After Advent, we enter the season of Christmas, followed by the seasons of Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Each of these seasons invites us into deeper reflection on the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as our call to live out his teachings in the world.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Historically, Lent developed as a time of preparation for individuals—known as catechumens—who were preparing for baptism into the Body of Christ. Over time, Lent became a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal for the entire faith community. During this season, we are invited into self-examination, study, fasting, prayer, and acts of justice and love. These practices help us realign our lives with God's call to compassion, peace, and reconciliation. Lent is a time for deepening our commitment to Christ's message of radical inclusivity, justice, and mercy.

Conversion—literally, the "turning around" or reorientation of our lives toward God—is a central theme of Lent. As individuals and as a community, we take this time to examine our hearts and our collective readiness to follow Jesus on his journey toward the cross. The forty days of Lent mirror the forty-day temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and the forty-year journey of Israel from slavery to a new community. In these biblical narratives, we find themes of struggle, perseverance, and transformation—lessons that continue to resonate as we seek to live faithfully in a complex and broken world.

Each season of the church year is symbolized by different colors, which express the emotions and theological themes of the liturgical calendar. The cloths on the altar, lectern, and pulpit—known as paraments—reflect these changing seasons. From Ash Wednesday through Good Friday, the sanctuary is adorned with purple or violet paraments. Violet, an ancient royal color, signifies the sovereignty of Christ and is also associated with repentance and spiritual preparation.

As a community of faith, we recognize Lent not only as a time for personal spiritual renewal but also as a call to justice. Jesus' ministry consistently uplifted the marginalized, challenged systems of oppression, and embodied God's love for all people. In this Lenten season, we commit to deepening our awareness of injustice and seeking ways to bring about God's vision of peace and equity. Through prayer, reflection, and action, we prepare our hearts not only for the joy of Easter but for the ongoing work of resurrection in the world today.

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.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025

Luke 4:1-13

Wilderness Companions

Where are you most likely to turn to when needing comfort or encouragement? A loved one? A trusted friend? A Google search? How many times do we turn to God's Word first?

After her death, Laura Ingalls Wilder's family discovered where the author of the "Little House on the Prairie" books sought refuge in life. Tucked between the pages of her Bible was a list of go-to scriptures for all of life's circumstances.

Facing a crisis? The pioneer girl turned to Psalm 46. Discouraged? Laura's heart found healing in Psalm 24. And when lonely, it was Psalm 27 she would read.

Leaning into God's Word was exactly what Jesus did when facing his 40-days of wilderness wandering and wondering. After emerging from the waters of his glorious baptism, the Spirit led the Son of God into the harsh desolation of the desert. Then, at Jesus' most vulnerable moment, the Devil appeared tempting Jesus to tap into his divine connection to God to save himself.

Jesus, though, knew better. He turned to God's Word for help, overcoming every temptation with the preface "it is written."

Devil: *I bet you are hungry, Jesus. Why not turn these stones into bread?*

Jesus: *It is written, you shall not live by bread alone.*

Devil: *I will give you all these kingdoms if you worship me.*

Jesus: *It is written, worship only the Lord your God.*

Devil: *Throw yourself from the highest point of the temple, for it is written that the angels will attend to you. (Yes, even the Devil turned to God's word, but that's another Sunday Bulletin devotion for another day.)*

Jesus: *It is written, do not put the Lord your God to the test.*

And with that, the Devil departed.

Hearing the story of Jesus in the wilderness on the first Sunday in Lent is as much of a church tradition as reading the birth narrative on Christmas Eve. The story sets the stage for the 40-day season, where mimicking wilderness deprivation often plays out as some holy diet plan with the giving up of chocolate.

Rather than denying ourselves, though, why not take on the spiritual practice of turning to God's Word daily. For my friends, those words were Jesus' wilderness companions, and they are ours as well, always waiting to be called upon in our times of trial and temptation.

This Lent, let us make a go-to scripture list to turn to always. Even perhaps tuck that list into the pages of a Bible, knowing that someday someone will meet our wilderness companions and discover just how helpful they can be.

Loving God, may we remember to turn to Your Word in our times of need, for that Word will soothe our troubles, light our paths and bring clarity to the many questions we have. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



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