

Something
New

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.

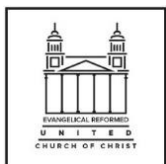
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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 –



April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:30 AM



The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal
**All who are able may stand*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tyler L. York

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Eliza Stitely and Brooklyn Njoya

Righteousness & Mercy

– written by The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

As children we are taught to tell the teacher.

(Justice was dealt when we spoke up.)

As children we are taught to always be kind.

(Friends were made when we spoke love.)

As children we are taught that Zaccheus climbed a tree.

(But we cut that tree down a long time ago.)

So what are the rules for this day and age?

Can we turn black and white into shades of gray?

Do we call each other out, for righteousness sake?

Do we call each other in? Do we grab something to eat?

As always, love is somewhere in between.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Loving God, week after week we return to this space,
because we long to see you.**

**Like Zacchaeus who climbed a tree
to get a peek at you as you walked by,
we come to this sanctuary hoping to get a peek
of your goodness, of your joy, of your light.**

**So speak to us through these ancient words.
Let us get a peek of the love that lingers here.
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

#551

**Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
hear my humble cry;
While on others you are calling,
do not pass me by.**

***Refrain:* Savior, Savior,
hear my humble cry;
While on others you are calling,
do not pass me by.**

**Let me at your throne of mercy
find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition,
help my unbelief. *[Refrain]***

**Trusting only in your merit,
would I seek your face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,
save me by your grace. *[Refrain]***

**Be the Spring of all my comfort,
more than life to me;
Not just here on earth beside me,
but eternally. *[Refrain]***

ANTHEM

My Hands are the Hands

Children's Music and Movement
– arr. by J. Linn

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 of all ages are invited to participate in the service today. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is in the rear of the sanctuary and a wiggle space is available in the front of the sanctuary near the baptismal font.

Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume next Sunday.

*Youth participating in the **Young Spirit Choir** are dismissed at this time for rehearsal in the Marj Menchey Berkheimer Music Suite.*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness.

Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth.

Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it.

Fortunately, God does not act that way.

No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again. So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.

When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right.

Again and again, bring us closer to you.

Again and again, show us the way.

Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

God, we gather at this table representing all people in all places in our world. We bless and pass the bread and cup as Christ passed it to his friends. Please allow these elements to remind us of the good that you have done and inspire us to do the good that Christ calls us to do. May we leave this table revived and refreshed, having sipped from the cup of bold courage so that we may challenge all forms of injustice and pain. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Jesus gathered with his friends, to share in the Passover meal. Knowing that he would soon be physically taken from them, he wanted them to know he would still be with them spiritually. He gave them this practice of remembering him, remembering all that he taught them about God's love, remembering the journey from righteousness to mercy.

He turned to them and picked up the bread and thanked God for it. He blessed this simple table bread, saying,

“This is my body which is broken for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me.”

And then again, he took up the cup and blessed it, thanking God for it as well. As he poured it out for them, his disciples, his friends, he said,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for many. When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me.”

Now, let us come to the table remembering all who are invited: may we come to the meal, remembering the poor, the widows and orphans, the jobless, and the immigrants and others unjustly detained with generous love and humble service, for this is also their table. Likewise, we remember those not here, praying that they know Christ is with them.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward at the direction of the deacons to the chancel rail, where you will be served the bread and the cup. You may kneel or stand to receive the elements. The cup contains grape juice (apple juice is provided in the center of each tray) and all bread is gluten-free. Please partake of the elements as they are given to you, then give the empty cup to the nearby steward before returning to your seat by the side aisle. If you want to receive the elements in the pew for any reason, please notify a deacon.

After all have received the bread and the cup:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

A BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

May the presence of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit keep and preserve you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We have been fed, dear God, by your presence and led by your light.

May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES

Matthew 5:2-12

NT page 4

Luke 19:1-10

NT page 82

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Linda Coyle

REFLECTION

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

MORNING PRAYERS

– CANTATA –

Blessed: A Holy Week Journey Through the Beatitudes

– J. Raney, P. Stewart
Senior Choir

Blessed

Blessed are the meek.

All I Have

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

See Him Weeping

Blessed are those who mourn.

Eleison, Have Mercy

Blessed are the merciful.

My God, My God, My Father

Blessed are those persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

***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, the trees
and everywhere in between.

Believe that good news, and go in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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



Please join us for **Fellowship** with light refreshments and time for casual conversation after worship in our Community Room (1st Floor).

The flowers on the altar are presented in honor of the strength and beauty that immigrants bring to our communities and in celebration of all efforts to foster Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

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

A red rose is placed in celebration of the birth of Griffin John David, born on March 25, 2025, to Matt and Hilary David.

A red rose is placed in celebration of the birth of Edith Guinevere Caughy, born on March 29, 2025, to Jenni and Leandra Caughy.

Attendance Last Sunday: 11 at 8:30 AM, 109 at 10:30 AM, and 48 online.



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

Serving Today: April 6

Deacons: Matt Davis, Quynn Adkins
Elder: Ave Barr
Acolyte:
Scripture Reader: Linda Coyle
Greeters: Sue Pinner, Felecia Bishop
Barb Barry
Welcome Table: Holly Davis
Lobby Attendant: Rob Smith
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger Larry Martin
David Howard
Nursery:
Fellowship: Renae Kline, Cathie Duncan
Jim Weitz, Glenn Wallace
Kathleen Jefferson, Neil Jefferson
Emily Button Kambic

Serving Next Week: April 13

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Peter Brehm
Quynn Adkins
Cathie Duncan, Sue Pinner
Thi Nguyen
Eric Weakly
Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Baker
Ave Barr, Cliff Barr, Pat Condo
Joan Maples, Allen Maples
Jen Powell, Bud Rossig

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.



**Order Easter Lilies now
to adorn our chancel on
Easter Sunday, April 20!**

**Orders deadline extended:
April 10**

Cost: \$18 per plant



<https://bit.ly/ERlily25>

If you would like to order lilies, please complete a form online (bit.ly/ERlily25) or a printed form available in the sanctuary and return it with payment in the offering plates or to the church office by April 10.

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
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)

I cannot thank the congregation enough for all of your prayers and cards. My knee is recovering very well from surgery. Would like to thank Sue Pinner and Kathy and Neil Jefferson especially for all they did for us during this time of surgery and recovery. We are blessed to be a part of ERUCC.

– Anne Hoffmann

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

An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor
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

Wednesday, April 9

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 9 – Smell:** John 12:1-3, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a and Psalm 141:1-2

*We invite you to pray the prayer below through the remainder of Lent.
It was written by participants in the Lenten Prayer for Such a Time as This,
which uses it as a centering prayer each Wednesday morning when it gathers at 9:30 AM.*

Lenten Prayer for the World

We call upon the words recorded in Isaiah 43,

“I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

As we pray for the instability of our nation and world, we call to you out of lament.
The waters are fast, and the fire is burning.

We are overwhelmed by the division and disruption of safety, security, and
normalcy in our nation and world. Help us not to be consumed by this anxiety.
We pray for calm and strength in the storm so that we are not consumed by the
flames.

Guide our perseverance; lead us as we stand for all who are vulnerable:
safety and affirmation for transgender and non-binary brothers and sisters,
peace in areas of the world torn by war,
hope for those in danger of losing jobs, careers, and their sense of identity,
security and decency for immigrant and refugee neighbors,
restoration of resources and dignity to the medical and scientific field serving
many of our vulnerable,
value and accessibility of educational opportunities for all.

May the humanity and diversity of all God’s creation be celebrated and
championed. Knowing our needs are more than we have named, we pause and
invite you to speak into our spirits.

We pray trusting that you will lead us as we live our faith. Amen.

Activities and Events

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!

Donation List: bit.ly/EReggs25



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!

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.

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.

NEW DATES! - CHATS WITH THE TRANSITION TEAM

April 11, April 13, and April 25

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



Friday, April 11, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

hosted at the home of Larry and Sedonia Martin
3030 Mill Island Parkway, #403
Frederick (Worman's Mill area)

RSVP by email to Lsimartin1@comcast.net.

Sunday, April 13, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

hosted at the home of Kathy and Neil Jefferson
2423 Mill Race Road
Frederick (Worman's Mill area)

RSVP by email to kathleen.jefferson@gmail.com.

Friday, April 25, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

hosted at the home of Owen and Tyler York
9314 Hillsborough Drive
Frederick (Spring Ridge area)

RSVP by email to tyork@erucc.org.

HELP PACK THE PANTRY

Sunday, April 13, during both worship services

Let's continue to BE the Church by supporting our neighbors in need. Once a month, we will work together to fill the Frederick Community Fridge pantry located in our church parking lot.

April: Easter Dinner in a Bag

In April, we will create Easter dinner bags for families in our community. On Palm Sunday, April 13, you are invited to bring any of the following shelf-stable, unopened, and unexpired items to worship, where you can place them on an offering table at the chancel as you arrive. At the 10:30 AM service, you may also place items in the designated area at the rear of the sanctuary for our children and youth to bring forward during the Palm Processional. We will offer a prayer of dedication over the items before sending them out to bless our neighbors:

- Canned ham
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned pineapple
- Canned green beans
- Boxed mac and cheese
- Cake in a mug mix

If you're unable to bring donations on April 13, you can place them in the pantry at any time.

Contacts:

Kim Sexton, mkssexton@comcast.net, or Shelley Weakly, shelley.w.weakly@gmail.com.

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.

ADORN OUR FLORAL EASTER CROSS

Easter Sunday, April 20

As we embrace the joy of Easter, you are invited to help transform the cross into a beautiful symbol of resurrection and new life. On Easter morning, Sunday, March 31, bring fresh flowers—whether from your garden or a florist—and place them on the cross in the sanctuary.

During the 10:30 AM service, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection, and at the end of worship, the flower-adorned cross will be carried outside to the portico, proclaiming the promise of new life to our Frederick community.

Following worship, the Easter Cross will be moved to the outside stairs for photos. We especially invite children and youth to join Pastor Kirstin and Pastor Morgan for a group photo at the cross.

Join us in this cherished tradition as we share the beauty and hope of Easter!

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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 4

Community Room / Zoom, ~12:00 PM

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4, in the Community Room, with lunch being served immediately following worship. We will be electing new elders, deacons, and committee chairs. Members and friends of the congregation may also participate via Zoom.

Zoom information and the slate of nominees from the Nomination Committee will be available in advance of the meeting.

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*

Children, Youth, & Families

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, April 6

North Room, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

German Language and Culture Zoom with German Youth Group. Food and beverages will be provided. Please go here after service instead of fellowship.

CONFIRMATION MEETING

Sunday, April 13

Trinity Chapel, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Parents and Prospective Confirmands (rising 7th and 8th graders) are invited to attend a Confirmation meeting in the Trinity Chapel Sanctuary. Enter through side door.

At this meeting we expect to:

- Share the goals and structure for Confirmation
 - Share some of the dates we ask families to commit to outside of Sundays
 - Discuss the role of mentors
 - Answer questions for youth and families
-

YOUTH RETREAT TO BETHANY BEACH

April 13 – 16, departing from ERUCC Parking Lot, 2:00 PM (April 13)



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

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.

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'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! Tots and parents are welcome, too!

- **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.

Youth helpers 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

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.

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.



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

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.

April 6, 2025

Isaiah 45:16-21

Something New

If someone asked who your favorite prophet was, who would you say? Would it be “the weeping prophet” Jeremiah? Or maybe Hosea? He displayed the redeeming love of God by marrying a prostitute, repeatedly taking her back after many attempts to return to her former vocation. Perhaps it would be Micah, who spoke of a Shepherd King who would lead God’s children. What about Isaiah?

Often referred to as the prophet of Advent, Isaiah makes a rare Lenten appearance with his reminder that God is one who makes all things new — starting with creation, then with the foretold birth of a Mighty Counselor — Jesus — whose death and resurrection opened a path of new beginnings for us.

Hearing Isaiah speak to us in the season of Lent is our invitation to a holy reset. And we love resets, don’t we? The internet is full of promises that by following this plan or that we will have more energy, restful sleep, perhaps even a smaller waistline. We will be better than ever.

Isaiah’s Lenten reset, though, doesn’t involve gimmicks or empty promises. His reset is simply this: Remember once again that God is God and there is no other. That is all we need to bring focus back to our confusing and chaotic days where our Good Friday crosses forever loom on the horizon.

For just as Isaiah says in today’s passage, God had no intention for Jacob’s descendants to seek the Lord in vain. Rather, they would seek AND find. So it is for us today. Seeking the Lord is never an exercise in futility.

There’s been a lot of news lately about the mental health epidemic plaguing all ages. For the young, social media has ironically created a sense of isolation. For the elderly, loss of loved ones and no strong family network are fueling loneliness. Even those who have social supports in place are experiencing an emptiness inside.

Perhaps you or someone you know is experiencing a soul-crushing emptiness right now? If so, take heart. Your Lenten reset is here. Seek the Lord and you will find. For God who made the earth, did not create it to be empty. There is so much glory to take in and beauty for our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to embrace.

We were not created to be a shell of ourselves. Now is the time for our Lenten reset that leads to a full and fulfilled life.

God of great grace, may we remember that You sent Your Son Jesus to us so that we could have life abundant. Fill our hearts with this knowledge as we seek to love and serve You now and forever. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.



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

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