

*Hold  
on to  
Faith*

## **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 lobby. We would love to meet and learn more about you, and we are available to answer your questions. 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 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 people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

*For Children:* We have trained nursery staff for ages 0-4. A deacon or greeter can guide you to the nursery. Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table and a children's table is available for quiet activities at the front of the sanctuary.

We ask that you **please silence your cell phones** during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Restrooms, accessible and equipped with changing stations, are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, below the sanctuary, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, outside the Community Room. Single-occupant, all-gender, accessible restrooms are located outside the North and Flora Rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

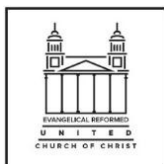
## **Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ**

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far.

We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.

**15 WEST CHURCH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701**  
**(301) 662-2762 • [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org) • [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)**





**EVANGELICAL REFORMED**  
**United Church of Christ**  
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



November 9, 2025    Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost    10:30 AM

*The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal*

*\*All who are able may stand*

***Bold text read in unison***

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Spirit

*Welcome*

– L. Zelman / M. A. Miller

**Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin  
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,  
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,**

**Singing welcome, welcome to this place  
You're invited to come and know God's grace  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.**

**Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,  
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,  
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,**

**Singing welcome, welcome to this place  
You're invited to come and know God's grace  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.**

**Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,  
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,  
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice**

**Crying welcome! Welcome to this place  
You're invited to come and know God's grace  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Inspired by Psalm 17)*

Guard me as the apple of your eye, O God.

**You wondrously show us your steadfast peace.**

Hide me in the shadow of your wings, Divine Spirit.

**You wondrously show us your steadfast strength.**

I behold your face in righteousness, Christ of Hope.

**You wondrously show us your steadfast love.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

God of Love,

**We see only a fraction of your presence, God. We know you only in part, as we experience this world with our senses, our experiences, and what is tangible in front of us. How does the sacredness of each earthly breath draw us closer to your presence on this side of Heaven? May we grasp the beauty of this world, even on gloomy days. May we cherish our relationships here on earth even when times are challenging. May we know that God is forever present with us and will care for us as we arrive at our eternal home in Heaven. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*In All Our Living*

#499

**In all our living, we belong to God;  
and in our dying, we are still with God;  
So, whether living, or whether dying,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.**

**God sent Christ Jesus to be our shalom,  
to show us mercy and healing love;  
So in our living, and in our dying,  
Christ is our shalom; Christ is our shalom.**

**\*CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Beloved, God invites us to honesty—not to shame us, but to free us.

We confess that we sometimes focus more on what comes after this life than on the pain and need around us now. Trusting in God's mercy and desire for healing, let us turn our hearts toward truth and offer our confession together.

### **\*PRAYER FOR GRACE**

**God of Heaven and Earth,**

**So often, we concern ourselves about the afterlife. We wonder who will be there, what we need to believe, and more. Yet, on this side of heaven, in your earthly Realm, there are many still hurting from the pains accumulated in this life. From illnesses to poverty, and from the lack of kindness to the overwhelming injustices, we overlook the needs of our siblings. Open our hearts to the gaps happening in our world.**

**Allow us to be more compassionate and less judgmental about our neighbors who need additional help. Help us to set aside our worries about the afterlife as we know you will care for us there and then. Amen.**

### **\* WORDS OF GRACE**

Even when we are overwhelmed by our thoughts of life after death, God shares hope. May God's grace transform us here in this world as we build the Realm of God here on earth. **Amen.**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

### **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**

*I Want Jesus to Go with Me*

#490

**I want Jesus to go with me;**

**I want Jesus to go with me;**

**All along my pilgrim journey,**

**O I want Jesus to go with me.**

**In my trials, O comfort me;  
in my trials, O comfort me;  
When my heart is almost breaking,  
O I want Jesus to comfort me.**

**When I'm in trouble, O stay with me;  
When I'm in trouble, O stay with me;  
When my head is bowed in sorrow,  
O I want Jesus to stay with me.**

## **THE SCRIPTURES**

Jack Day

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17      NT page 206

Luke 20:27-38      NT page 84

**Reader:**      May God bless the reading of this word.

**All:**      **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

## **MORNING PRAYERS**

## **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

We have our minds set to our time after this life. Yet God is calling us to care for our communities and churches here on this side of Heaven. May we name the ways we can create Heaven on earth for our neighbors. By using our talents, treasures, and time, may we seek to build safety and sanctuary for all of God's children.

*This is a time during worship 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 wish to give, you can give online at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org), by placing your gift in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary before or after the service, or by scanning the QR code to give from your phone.*



## **OFFERTORY**

*Find Us Faithful*

Spirit  
– J. Mohr

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of Infinite Love,**

**Through our gifts, time, and talents, we nurture your Realm. We provide for our neighbors who lack basic necessities and who look for inclusion of their souls. May Heaven be a place that we can experience throughout our lives as we breathe the invigorating air of your Spirit.**

**We ask that you bless all who come to the Community Fridge and Pantry in need. May they receive more than sustenance—may they experience dignity, community, and care. Multiply our humble offerings, that they may bear fruit in a world longing for justice, flourishing, and joy.**

**With gratitude, we celebrate our gifts from you and dedicate our gifts to bring peace to this earth. Amen.**

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

#76

**Send forth by God's blessing our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The service is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.**

**The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.**

**With you grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,  
united us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**As we abide together on this side of Heaven,  
May the Christ of Hope lead us to righteousness and justice,  
May the Spirit of Strength fill our hearts with courage,**

May God, our Joyful Creator, graciously settle our hearts with peace.  
May we find ourselves on journeys seeking glimmers of paradise and the  
presence of the Divine among us.  
**Amen.**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*An Old Irish Blessing*

— T. Jennings

**May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again, until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of God's hand until we meet again.**

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

**POSTLUDE**



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

**Worship Notes:** Today's liturgy is adapted from **God of the Living: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**, written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.



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

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**The flowers on the altar** this morning are in loving memory of my father, William B. Kreh, from Susan E. Kreh.

**The yellow rose** is placed in the sanctuary today by Karen Justice in honor of all US military veterans and her husband, Col. John Justice.

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 11 at 8:30 AM, 150 at 10:30 AM, and 49 online.



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

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

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**Serving Today: November 9**

Deacons:	Robin A. Brady-Slifer Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder:	Eric Weakly
Scripture Reader:	Jack Day
Acolyte:	
Greeters:	Cathie Duncan, Rob Smith
Welcome Table:	Rissah Watkins
Audio/Visual:	Ethan Kline, Jeff Baker Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery:	<i>Trained volunteer needed</i>
Fellowship:	Emily Spear, Chris Spear Abby Spear, Ben Spear Joceyln Vara, Chris Vara Rachael Bowman, Josh Bowman

**Serving Next Week: November 16**

Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw
Matt Hueting Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Tom Ford, Rachel Ford Felecia Bishop, Rob Smith Betsy Selby, Jeanellen Kallevang Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle Jack Day
<i>Trained volunteer needed</i>
Starr Schaeberle, Julie Chappell Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

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**Next Sunday: November 16 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 65:17-25 | Luke 21:5-19

Today's readings hold together two seemingly contradictory truths: the promise of God's new creation and the reality of present suffering. Isaiah paints a vision of restored Eden where wolf and lamb dwell together, while Jesus warns his followers that following him leads through persecution and upheaval. How do we live with hope when the world seems to be falling apart? Both passages suggest that God's ultimate victory doesn't bypass present pain but transforms it into something redemptive and life-giving.

*The Senior Choir will sing.*

## **PRAYER LIST**

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

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

Charlie and his mother, Amanda Brown (friend of Rachael Bowman)	Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr) The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family	Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley)
Robert Debonis (uncle of Sophia Carliss)	Rhea Stein	Lee Thomas
Sandy Maples (sister-in-law of Allen and Joan Maples)	Doris Esslinger	Marcia Eisenstein
Confirmands and Mentors	Sandra Trout	Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Betsy Fisher	Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)	Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)
Laura Duncan Broderick (Cathie and Will's daughter)	Mary Staley	Jeannette Johnson
Barbara Heverley	Pat Condo	Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Todd Starr (nephew of Mary Staley)	Wells Condo	Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley)
David Young (friend of Janice Staley)	Kitty Bradley	Marcy Channell (daughter of Jo Ann Fritz)
Sharon DiDonato (aunt of Darryl Glick, friend of Mark Ulrich)	Beanie Cornell	Paige Coffey
Isa Baxter (granddaughter of Kathy Gelles-baxter)	Milt Crutchley	Fran Wenner
Ginny Peters	Raymond Slifer (father of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)	Bonnie Devilbiss
Tom Ford	Tom Frazier	Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Karen Stitely	Pauline Marendt	Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Donna Baumgardner Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)	Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)	Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
Amber Khan (friend of Maria and Dawn Lagrotteria)	Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)	
	Emogene Wyand	
	Bob Pinner	
	Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)	

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## **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 the Rev. Dr. Morgan. Our Faithful Friends Team also makes visits, calls, and sends care cards.

If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

## **Activities, Events, and Announcements**

### **HELP PACK THE PANTRY**

Sunday, November 9, during both worship services

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

***Thanksgiving in a Bag for 2* – Create a Thanksgiving meal in a gallon Ziploc bag: box of instant stuffing, bag of instant mashed potatoes, can of green beans/vegetable, 2 cans of chicken, gravy packet, and can of cranberry sauce. Feel free to add a dessert treat!**

You are invited to bring any shelf-stable, unopened, and unexpired items to worship. You can place them on the table at the chancel as you arrive. We will offer a prayer of dedication over the items before sending them out to bless our neighbors. If you're unable to bring donations on Sunday, you can place them in the pantry at any time.

**Contact:** Kim Sexton, [mkssexton@comcast.net](mailto:mkssexton@comcast.net).

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### **ERUCC CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NOVEMBER 11**

In observance of Veterans Day, the ERUCC church offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 11. Thank you to all of you who served honorably, working to keep our country and the world safe and peaceful, and to your families who supported you in this endeavor.

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### **NEW FRIENDS GATHERING AT ERUCC**

Friday, November 14

Kieffer Lobby, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

You and your family/friends are warmly invited to a New Friends Gathering at ERUCC on Friday, November 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. This casual and friendly evening is a chance to enjoy a beverage, light snacks, and good conversation. You'll have the opportunity to meet both new faces and long-time members who help shape the life of our congregation. Please join us in our main lobby, immediately inside our main Church Street entrance.

Feel free to arrive and leave whenever works best for your schedule. There's plenty of parking nearby—in the church lot (limited), on the street, or in the parking garage. Dress is casual, and there's no cost or need to bring anything—just yourselves!

If you're able, please RSVP by November 11. Please let us know the names of those attending, and feel free to include any dietary needs or preferences so we can be as welcoming as possible. You can email Barb Barry at [ebbarry1@gmail.com](mailto:ebbarry1@gmail.com).

That said, we know how busy schedules go—if you can't commit now, that's okay! If the day arrives and you find yourself free, we'd love to have you drop by. We hope to see you there!

## **HELP MARY STALEY CELEBRATE A REMARKABLE MILESTONE!**

On November 29, one of our cherished members, Mary Staley, will celebrate her 100th birthday! To honor this incredible milestone, we invite you to shower her with birthday cards filled with love, gratitude, and blessings. Mail to Mary Staley, 803 Motter Avenue, Frederick, MD 21701.

Thank you for helping make her 100th birthday a celebration to remember!

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## **WINTER COAT DRIVE**

Collection: October 12 – November 23

We are collecting NEW coats and winter gloves, hats, and scarves for babies, children, and adults for our first giving opportunity of the season! These coats, collected in partnership with Asbury United Methodist Church, will be distributed to community members by ten local non-profit organizations in our community. Last year we collected 45 coats, 5 hats, and 5 pairs of gloves... how many items can we collect this year?

Bring NEW winter items to the collection box in the Sanctuary Lobby!

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## **LET'S TALK: CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM—WHAT'S THAT?**

Sundays, October 26 – November 23

North Room / Zoom, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERSunstudy](https://bit.ly/ERSunstudy)

Led by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg and Dr. Matt Davis. Have you heard the term '*Christian Nationalism*' and wondered exactly what it means, how Christians should approach it, and why Christians in other traditions adhere to aspects of it? In this class, we will be reading Brian Kaylor's book *The Bible According to Christian Nationalists: Exploiting Scripture for Political Power* and using that as a launching point to discuss the history, intellectual foundations, composition, and objectives of the movement. We will examine and critically analyze Scripture passages that have been oft-cited as proof texts by Christian Nationalist thought leaders, as well as additional amplifying passages that present counterpoints. Our goal is to equip you to understand this important movement that is reshaping the country in which we live, as well as the age-old question of what our position as Christians should be towards political power.

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## **SACRED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE TRANSITIONS**

Tuesday, November 18 (*monthly on the third Tuesday*)

Flora Room, 2:00 PM

Join us for our monthly gathering to share stories and challenges related to life's changes, body limitations, and shifts in dependency. This is a sacred space to listen, pray, and connect as we navigate these transitions. This time of holy sharing emphasizes the importance of leaning on each other and recognizing that we are not alone in our journeys.

**Contact:** Ave Barr or Linda Coyle with questions.

## ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, November 25

North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: [bit.ly/ERUCCbooks](https://bit.ly/ERUCCbooks)

***Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller.** Miller brings us a bracing, wildly entertaining satire about a small Southern town, a pitched battle over banned books, and a little lending library that changes everything. Beverly Underwood and her arch-enemy, Lula Dean, live in the tiny town of Troy, Georgia, where they were born and raised. Now Beverly is on the school board, and Lula has become a local celebrity by embarking on a mission to rid the public libraries of all inappropriate books—none of which she's read. To replace the “pornographic” books she's challenged at the local public library, Lula starts her own lending library in front of her home with books that she's sure the town's readers need. But Beverly's daughter, Lindsay, sneaks in by night and secretly fills Lula Dean's little free library with banned books wrapped in “wholesome” dust jackets.

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## CARE PACKAGES FOR CAREGIVERS

Collection: November 2 – December 7

Our Faithful Friends volunteer team is collecting small items to put together “Care packages for Caregivers” of our Faithful Friends and others. Donations will be collected on November 2, both on Sunday morning and during Trunk-or-Treat. We will continue to collect them through December 7. Our youth will pack them up along with other packages on December 7.

- |   |                        |  |
|---|------------------------|--|
| ▪ Prayer cards                              | ▪ Lip balm             | ▪ Tea bags   |
| ▪ Playing cards                             | ▪ Socks                | ▪ Small stuffed animals  |
| ▪ Cards to send to other people with stamps | ▪ Gloves               | ▪ Low-maintenance plant with a small pot for the youth to decorate |
| ▪ Shelf-stable food (protein bars, nuts)    | ▪ Lotion               |  |
|   | ▪ Question books/cards |  |
|   | ▪ Pet treats/toys      |  |

Bring donations to the Sanctuary Lobby and place them in the designated donation box. Thanks!

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### Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

#### WEBSITE

[www.erucc.org/give](http://www.erucc.org/give)



one time or recurring gifts

#### GIVE THE NEW WAY



Scan to try it for yourself!

#### CASH OR CHECK

made payable to  
Evangelical Reformed UCC  
15 W. Church St,  
Frederick MD 21701



offering plates  
are available in the  
rear of the sanctuary  
before and after worship



## LANTERNS NEEDED FOR ADVENT WORSHIP DESIGN

Once again, we are using the Sanctified Art program for our Advent journey. The theme this year is *What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope This Advent*. The guiding image is a lantern. The Worship Design team is looking for lanterns for an installation. If you have a lantern(s) that you would be willing to lend for the entire Advent/Christmas season, please contact Ave Barr, [avebarr9200@gmail.com](mailto:avebarr9200@gmail.com).

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## ITEMS NEEDED FOR CARE PACKAGES TO THOSE IN COLLEGE & MILITARY

Collection: November 2 - December 7

We're sending care packages to our young adults in college, job training, or military service—just a little reminder that ERUCC's care extends to them no matter where they are on life's journey! We are collecting individual snacks and small office/household items to include in these packages. Donations could include hot chocolate packets, chips/crackers, fruit pouches, popcorn, granola bars, cookies, soup packs, candy, sticky notes, pens, reusable straws, decks of cards, word search or game books, stress balls, and lip balm. Think: what can be useful and fun?!

Bring donations to the Sanctuary Lobby and place them in the designated donation box. Thanks!

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## LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG

Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings

North Room / Zoom

Led by Rev. John Shillingburg, this is an ongoing class, with new members welcome at any time. No prior Bible knowledge is required. The class explores scripture in its original context, considering who wrote it and how it has been interpreted over time. This multi-faceted approach leads to deep learning and engaging conversations. Currently the Sunday morning class is studying the Gospel of Mark and the Wednesday evening class is focusing on the prophets; we will begin Isaiah—The Greatest Hits on Wednesday, November 5.

The course is offered twice each week:

- Sunday morning, 9:15 – 10:15 AM, Zoom: [bit.ly/ERsunstudy](https://bit.ly/ERsunstudy)
    - **The Sunday morning class will participate in the Let's Talk series on Christian Nationalism from October 26 – November 23.**
  - Wednesday evening, 7:00 – 8:15 PM, Zoom: [bit.ly/ERwedstudy](https://bit.ly/ERwedstudy)
- 



## THEOLOGY AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH REV. DR. REBECCA SHILLINGBURG

Tuesdays (*note: class will not meet on November 4*)

North Room / Zoom, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom: [tinyurl.com/tuetap](https://tinyurl.com/tuetap)

We are reading *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* by Colby Martin. Conservative Christians have used a handful of passages in the Bible—the "Clobber Passages"—to stand against the full inclusion of our LGBTQ siblings. In *Unclobber*, Martin guides readers in examining what the Bible says, and doesn't say, about homosexuality to help readers understand these inaccurate interpretations. Join TAP as we explore these passages on our journey to know God and learn how to live as Christians in today's world.

We will begin reading Brian Kaylor's book *The Bible According to Christian Nationalists: Exploiting Scripture for Political Power* on November 16. Have you heard the term Christian Nationalism and wondered exactly what was meant by that and how we as Christians should approach it and Christians in other traditions who adhere to aspects of it?

The Tuesday class will be slightly different than the Sunday class but will cover similar topics.

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## GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays

Trinity Chapel, 7:00 PM

Experience tranquility and wellness in this Gentle Yoga Class. Led by experienced Yogamour instructors, this nurturing practice focuses on gentle postures, mindful breathing, and deep relaxation techniques. Participants of all levels are welcome. Each drop-in class is \$10. Questions? Contact Renae, [rdkline15@gmail.com](mailto:rdkline15@gmail.com).

*To access the yoga classroom in Trinity Chapel, walk through the gate to the left of the building, down the walkway to the side door, and into the hallway leading to the classroom.*

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## WEEKLY PRAYER GATHERING

Wednesdays

Sanctuary, 4:30 PM

When the world outside is disintegrating, there is a place of respite. Look how Jesus approached it with his disciples: "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest awhile".

On Wednesday afternoons, you are invited to enter the church (the far left front door into the Kieffer Lobby and the elevator vestibule door will be unlocked at 4:15 PM) and proceed quietly to the front of the sanctuary. We will meet promptly at 4:30 PM, have a few moments of "wisdom," perhaps chant together, and then fall into 20 minutes of silence (centering prayer/meditation). We will dismiss in silence at 5:00 PM. Led by Rev. Richard Leslie.

## **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Sunday, November 23

Immediately following 10:30 AM Worship

Help us deck the halls and prepare our sacred spaces for the Advent and Christmas season! Hanging of the Greens is a joyful ERUCC tradition—a time to work side by side, laugh together, and transform our church with the beauty and hope of the season.



Sign up using the link below to choose a task (or two!) and join in this festive community effort. Many hands truly make light—and joy-filled—work!

Sign up: [tinyurl.com/ERgrns25](https://tinyurl.com/ERgrns25)

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## **5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP**

Sunday, December 7

North Room, 12:00 PM

Celebrate the sweet treats of the season at ERUCC's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Swap! Bring five dozen cookies and an extra container to take your cookies home. Children and their cookie creations are welcome. We will also be taking cookies to our members who are homebound. There will be a designated place to bring your cookies before attending worship or a Christian Education class.

If you have questions, contact Starr Schaeberle, [starr.schaeberle@comcast.net](mailto:starr.schaeberle@comcast.net) or (301) 662-6902.

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## **CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP**

Friday, December 26

The beloved Candlelight Historic Houses of Worship Tour returns this holiday season in Downtown Frederick. This special open house celebrates Frederick's tradition of religious diversity, local history, and the holiday season on Friday, December 26, 2025, from 3 - 8 PM.

ERUCC will open its main building, located at 15 West Church Street, to the public for this tour. We will be offering refreshments and our wonderful hospitality.



**Interested in volunteering at this event?**

Scan the QR Code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/ERcndl25>.

**Questions?** Contact Julie Clark, [Jclarkad@yahoo.com](mailto:Jclarkad@yahoo.com).

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## **ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR OUR ALTAR THIS CHRISTMAS**

Now – Sunday, December 14

Please find details and an order form on the inside back cover of this bulletin.

## SUPPORT HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF EFFORTS

Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica on October 28 as a Category 5 storm with sustained wind speeds more than 175 mph. Most of the island remains without power, telecommunications and other basic utilities. Over 13,000 people in Jamaica remain in shelters and 34 fatalities have been reported – a number that is expected to rise as search and rescue efforts continue.

After making its way across Jamaica, Hurricane Melissa made a second landfall on Cuba's southeastern shore as a Category 3 storm and inflicted significant flooding and wind damage across the southeastern part of the country.

In Haiti, heavy sustained winds from Hurricane Melissa's rain bands and significant storm surge led to severe flooding and landslides. Authorities in Haiti report 25 fatalities, with that number also expected to rise in the coming days.

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support the immediate and long-term needs of affected communities across the region. The primary needs at this stage of recovery are shelter, safe drinking water, sanitation, healthcare, and food. In the coming days and weeks, the focus will shift to debris removal and restoration of access. Long-term support for reconstruction of homes, recovery of livelihoods, and restoration of community services will be essential in the days, months, and years ahead.

Through ACT Alliance's Rapid Response Fund and our long-standing partnership with Church World Service, the UCC is already working to get resources for those who need them across the region. Through Global Ministries, we are also in contact with our partners in Jamaica, Cuba and Haiti and are working quickly to accompany and support their response efforts.



Your generous financial support will be used by UCC's partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery.

**Give to relief through ERUCC today:** <https://ppay.co/sFRKj4jxUb8>

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## YOUTH COLLECTING COINS "SHOP FOR SHIP"

On Sunday November 9, 16, and 23 the youth will collect a loose change (paper money welcome too) offering by our prayer tree so that they can "SHOP FOR SHIP" items as a part of youth group on November 23. These items will be shared with Frederick students who are housing insecure. Our students will buy some of the following items: Shampoo /Conditioner, Body Wipes, shaving cream. Hairbrushes, hair ties, ethnic hair care products, toothbrushes, and toothpaste, mouthwash, bandaids. Please join in supporting them with any change you want to share!

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



## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

One of the Finance Committee's roles is to track our Mission Spending Plan to make sure we are being good stewards of our income and expenses. Understanding that income and expenses vary every month, fall is a good time for a good check-in on our 2025 finances. This time of the year takes into account most of the months and yet is far enough away from December and the end of the fiscal year to make any needed financial course corrections.

As of September 30, the congregation donated \$414,579 of the \$481,740 Tithes and Offering funds that were budgeted to be received as of that date, which is \$67,161 under budget, or 86% of what we budgeted to be received. In addition, the congregation donated \$27,552 of Support income representing 129% of budget, giving us a total of \$441,131 of direct contributions, 88% of what we anticipated.

On the expense side, through September 30 we spent \$779,169 versus a mission spending plan calling for spending \$740,152 through this date, representing an attainment of 105% of what we budgeted to spend.

As the calendar rolls over into November, now is a good time to reflect on your financial support of ERUCC for 2025 and catch up on this amount or consider kicking in a bump as we start our Advent preparations and Christmas celebration. On this, please let us know at [treasurer@erucc.org](mailto:treasurer@erucc.org) if you need a 2025 giving statement.

**Free Turkey Distribution**

  Helping Hands and Caring Hearts

*Full Frozen Turkey Meal with all the Trimmings*



**Saturday, November 22, 2025  
2pm-4pm at Asbury UMC**

*Please note the following:*

- Limited to Frederick County Residents Only
- 1 Turkey Box Per Address
- Can **NOT** have received a Turkey Meal from another Area Distribution

 **ASBURY**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Mark Groover  
101 West All Saints St  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 663-9380  
[www.asburyumcfmd.org](http://www.asburyumcfmd.org)

 **ASBURY**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH and  Helping Hands and Caring Hearts

are partnering together to share the joys of a homecooked

**Thanksgiving Dinner**



**Wednesday, November 26, 2025  
2pm-6pm**

Come fellowship, be served and welcomed in love!

 **ASBURY**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Mark Groover  
101 West All Saints St  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 663-9380  
[www.asburyumcfmd.org](http://www.asburyumcfmd.org)



## DALE CARNEGIE TRAINING AT ERUCC (FOR A HIGH DISCOUNTED RATE!)

From Darryl Glick: As part of my role at Dale Carnegie Training, I'm focused on developing new Facilitators and strengthening our team. To support this, we need a live audience for a hands-on experience. I'm currently mentoring three certified Facilitators who are expanding their expertise into the "Leadership" competency.

To help them grow, we're offering the two-day *Management Program for Leaders*—usually priced at \$2,195—for just \$199. This reduced rate is available because these Facilitators need to deliver the program under supervision to complete their certification in this competency area. Rest assured, the agenda, materials, and outcomes remain unchanged. This is also not a commercial for us; I am simply asking for live participants to take part in an interactive training program.

Topics we will cover include characteristics of effective leadership; creating an engaged team environment; leading others to achieve agreed-upon results; increasing self-awareness; delegation; teamwork; motivation; organization; planning; outside-of-the-box thinking; and the people side of change.

Details:

- Group size is limited to 15 participants (Registration is first-come, first-served)
- Attendees must be in a leadership role and must have direct reports
- Payment is required at registration
- This is open to anyone who meets the requirements, so pass this along to family, friends or colleagues
- If you have any questions, please reach out to Darryl Glick ([darryl.glick@dalecarnegie.com](mailto:darryl.glick@dalecarnegie.com)) or 240-505-1682 for details or enrollment

The program will take place in the Community Room on Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. A commitment must be made to fully attend both days.

# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter their mental health challenge.

No matter their immigration status.

No matter their sexual orientation.

No matter their economic status.

No matter their gender identity.

No matter their disability.

No matter their religion.

No matter their race.

## Love your neighbor. No exceptions.



## **Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH**

Sundays, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Join us for a joyful hour of learning, connection, and faith formation with classes for all ages.

**Children in Pre-K; K – Grade 2; and Grades 3 – 5:** please check-in at the reception desk in the Kieffer Lobby (main building).

**Music & Movement** takes place from 10:00 – 10:15 AM. Students who wish to participate in Music & Movement will transition under the direction of their teachers to the Liz Coffey Room at 10:00 AM.

**Pickup:** All families must check out children with leaders in their classrooms at 10:00 AM OR in the Liz Coffey Room at 10:20 AM if staying for Music & Movement.

**Youth in Middle School/Confirmation or High School** should enter Trinity Chapel through the side door, located behind the iron gate on the left side of the building. Please check in at the self-service kiosk before proceeding to your classroom. Always cross the street at the crosswalk.

**Dismissal:** Youth, escorted by a teacher, will return as a group to the main building at 10:15 AM.

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### **JUNIOR CHURCH**

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Children in K – Grade 5 are invited to Junior Church most Sundays during the school year. Children begin worship at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary with their families and, after the Thought for the Day, are dismissed for creative, well-supervised spiritual formation activities. On the first Sunday of each month, children remain in worship to participate in worship and receive communion with their families.

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### **YOUTH GROUP - “SHOP FOR SHIP” & CAMPFIRE DINNER**

Sunday, November 23

4:00 – 6:30 PM

We will count the change we have collected from the past three Sundays and buy items with the money raised. Then we will have some fun together around the campfire and discuss a couple of our upcoming events.

# Church Parking Lot Reminders



To ensure safety, accessibility, and good neighborliness, please review the following important guidelines for using the church parking lot:

**1. Park only in clearly marked parking spaces.**

Do not park along curbs, in unmarked areas, or in any way that blocks driveways, alleys, or pathways. These right-of-way areas must remain open at all times for emergency vehicles, our neighbors, and those accessing the Community Fridge.

**2. Never block another vehicle in.**

This includes double-parking or parking behind someone who is already parked. All vehicles must be able to enter and exit freely at all times.

**3. Always display your ERUCC Authorized Parking permit.**

Place your permit on your dashboard whenever you park in the lot. If you need a permit, please contact the church office or visit the reception desk on Sunday.

**4. Building users must display time-limited parking placards.**

Groups using space in the building are often assigned a limited number of parking spaces, and they must display the special event parking placard provided to them. These placards ensure we can identify authorized vehicles and maintain proper capacity.

**5. If you are physically able, please avoid parking in the lot.**

Street parking is free after 5:00 PM Monday–Saturday and all day Sunday, and nearby City of Frederick garages are excellent alternatives. Garage parking is free on Sundays from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

**6. Please call the office before using the lot for any personal parking.**

Anytime you want to park for personal reasons—during the week, evenings, or weekends outside worship—contact the church office to confirm availability. This helps us manage limited spots and avoid conflicts with building users & ministries.

**7. Please reserve Sunday morning parking for those with reduced mobility.**

If you can walk from street parking or a garage, your choice helps ensure members and guests with mobility challenges can park close to the building.

**8. Thursday evening parking is reserved for choir members.**

Your cooperation ensures dependable access for those participating in the church's music ministry.

**9. Please anticipate new signage and active parking enforcement soon.**

To ensure the lot is used safely and appropriately, ERUCC will be installing updated signage and implementing enforcement of parking expectations.



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

## **MINISTERS AND STAFF**

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

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

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Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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

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

Ann Watkins ~ *Administrative Assistant/Receptionist* ~ awatkins@erucc.org

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

## **CONSISTORY**

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

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

Rebecca Shillingburg ~ *Worship Chair* | Peter Brehm ~ *Finance Chair*

Shelley Weakly ~ *Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Chair* | Vacant ~ *Property Chair*

Julie Clark ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Holly Davis ~ *Christian Education Chair*

Mark Ulrich ~ *Head Deacon* | Larry Martin ~ *Member-at-Large*

## **ELDERS**

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Matt Hueting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Susan Kulp | Eric Weakly

## **DEACONS**

Quynn Adkins | Tommie Bradshaw | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer

Angela Brittain | Jim Brittain | Kyle Miller | Mark Ulrich

## **SETTLED PASTOR SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE**

Rachael Bowman | Tommie Bradshaw | Karl Cooper | Linda Coyle | Matt Hueting

Terry Logee | Jen Powell | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely

## **Sunday Morning Schedule**

*subject to change*

8:30 – 9:15 AM	<b>Early Worship</b> , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	<b>Coffee and Conversation</b> , Kieffer Lobby
9:15 AM	<b>Let's Talk</b> , North Room
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Nursery Care</b>
9:15 – 10:00 AM	<b>Children's Sunday School</b> <i>Pre-K, Nursery</i> <i>K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Liz Coffey Room</i> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Thomas Room</i>
9:15 – 10:15 AM	<b>Youth Sunday School</b> <i>Middle School Youth/Confirmation, Trinity Chapel</i> <i>High School Youth, Trinity Chapel</i>
10:00 – 10:20 AM	<b>Children's Music and Movement</b> , Liz Coffey Room
10:30 – 11:30 AM	<b>Worship</b> , Sanctuary and Online at <a href="http://www.erucc.org">www.erucc.org</a> <b>Junior Church</b> , Thomas Room <i>Participating children are dismissed from Worship (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)</i>
11:30 AM	<b>Fellowship</b> , Downtown Community Room

## **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.



# Poinsettias



We will be ordering poinsettias from Frederick High School this year. All funds will benefit the horticultural program and Frederick High FFA Chapter. Each plant will have 4-6 blooms and will cost \$10. Plants will be placed on the chancel in the Sanctuary.

**Order by December 14!**

**Complete the form and return it with payment to the church office, offering plate, or pay online at [bit.ly/eruccflowers](https://bit.ly/eruccflowers) by December 14.**



Scan to  
Pay Online

Plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Services; however, we would appreciate having some left for the Candlelight Historic Houses of Worship Tour on December 26.

**Donor Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to place \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias in the church for Christmas.

☐ I/we have **enclosed** a payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 per plant).

☐ I/we made an **online** payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 per plant).

If you wish for your poinsettias 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:**

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**In honor of:**

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**Placed by:**

## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 9, 2025

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

### Hold on to Faith

Have you ever fallen ill with FoMo? I haven't, but I do know friends who came down with a severe case of it and it wasn't pretty.

FoMo stands for "Fear Of Missing Out." The term entered our vocabularies sometime around 2004 just as social media was taking off. As more people scrolled the Internet incessantly, watching videos of other people's exotic trips, perfect family picnics, and swanky restaurant reviews, the sense of missing out on life grew.

While the ancient church in Thessalonica didn't have Facebook or Instagram, the people were still coming down with FoMo. Well, more like FoMo's earlier strain that we will call FoMJC — Fear of Missing Jesus Christ.

False prophets were coming out of the woodwork spreading rumors that the much-anticipated return of Jesus had already happened. Because of this fake news, the Apostle Paul had to write a letter to the dear people in the Thessalonica church to ease their angst of being left out of something amazing.

After assuring the congregation that the Lord had not yet come back, Paul advises them to stand firm in their faith and hold fast to the teachings of Christ that they were taught. He even chides them a little with his reprimand, "Don't you remember what I told you?"

I have a soft spot in my heart for the Thessalonians. I know how easy it is to believe fake news. One click bait headline is all it takes to get caught in a tangle web of misinformation. And anyone who has fallen down the soul-sucking black hole of social media knows that FoMo is highly contagious with those happy faces staring back at you, living the life you wish you had, infecting the sacredness of all God has indeed blessed you with.

Now more than ever, the faithful need to reread Paul's letter. We need to hold fast to our faith and remember all that we were taught about God's ways and God's truths.

There will always be false prophets. There will always be click bait headlines. There will always be that one friend who posts about a picture-perfect life. The world today will do its best to make you think you are missing out on something fun or important. But you aren't. For we who live in Christ are not missing anything at all. We who hold on to God's Word and choose to walk the Jesus way will get to see and experience the beauty and grace that are in this world.

Let the false prophets talk gibberish. Let social media influencers ramble on about their latest adventures. You my friend, have something better. You have your faith. Hold on to it. And remember, there is no FoMo with God by your side.

*God, our days are in your loving hands. There is no fear of missing out on what life has to offer for you are leading us. You orchestrate our comings and goings. We praise you that every day is a blessed one, filled with your beautiful God moments. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



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

BUL0110

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