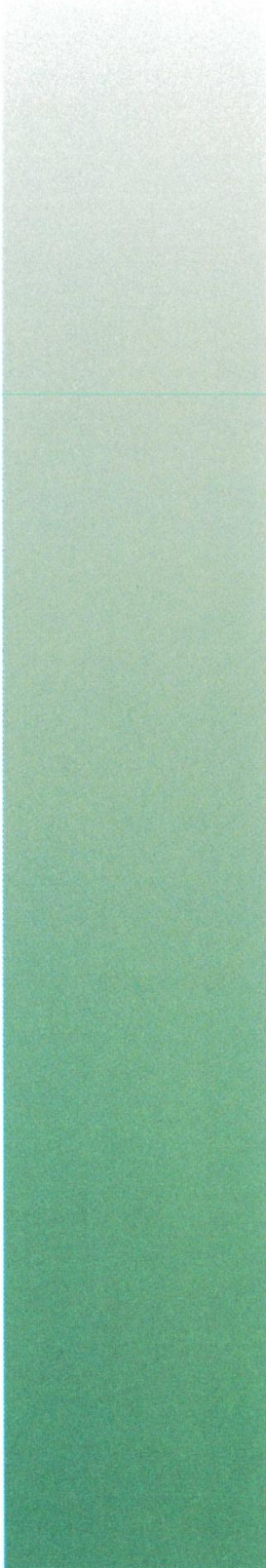
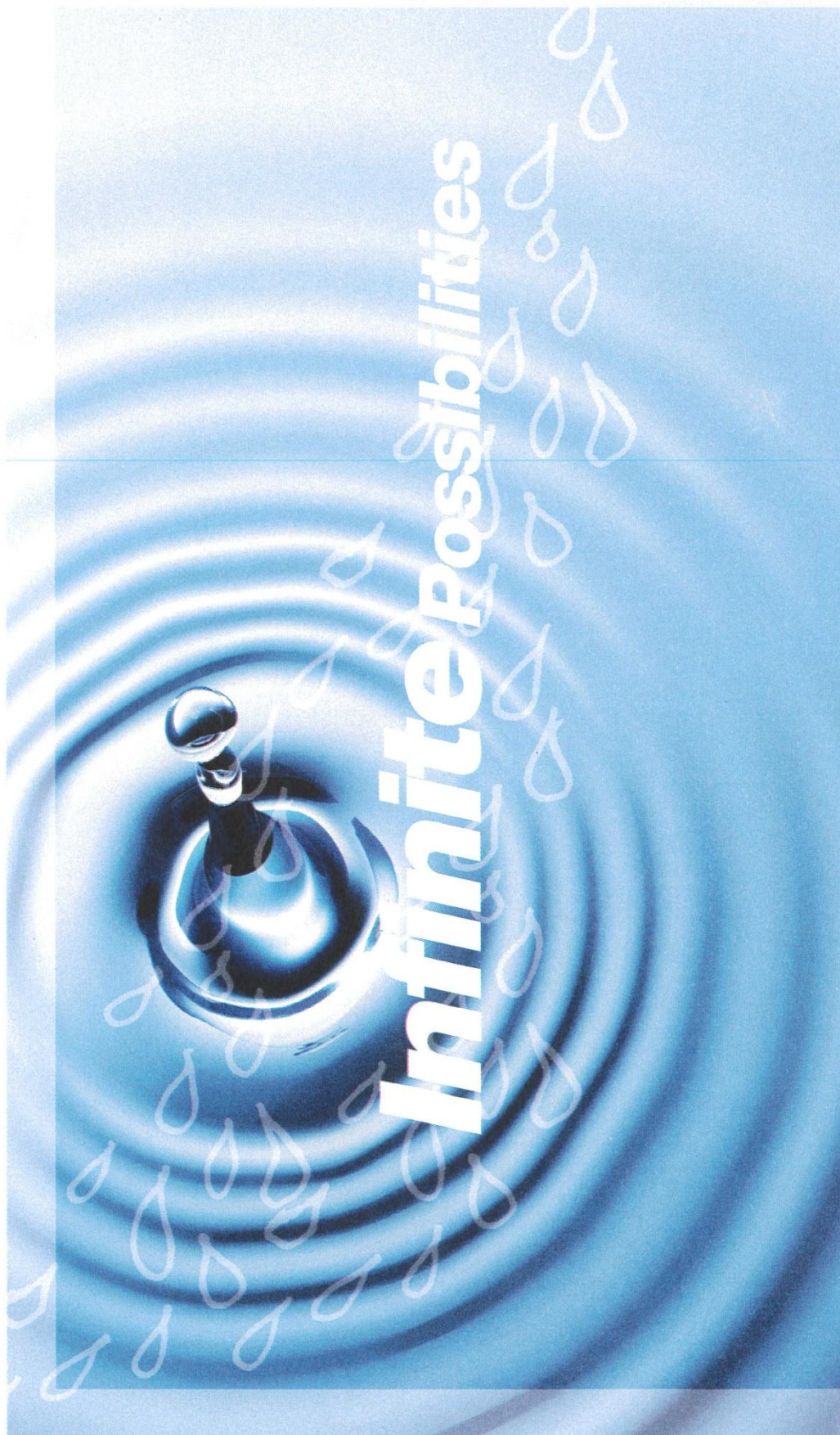


Infinite Possibilities



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 aged 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.

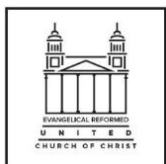
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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 –



November 16, 2025 Twenty-Third 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. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Inspired by Psalm 98)*

O Sing to our Creator a New Song,

Make a joyful noise to God, everyone!

With trumpets and sounds of the horn

We create joyful sounds for you, God of love.

The hills will sing together in bliss.

Just as the sea roars and the artists rhyme, we serenade our Creator.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Beloved Divine Sustainer,

Like the sunlight, your presence illuminates the world around us. Like the air, your being invigorates us. Even when the world seems to be on fire, your quenching rain soothes our souls. Through your wisdom, we find our hope and strength. Fill our minds with your peace and our hearts with fortitude, knowing you will never depart from us. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

To God Compose a Song of Joy

tune – ST ANNE

To God compose a song of joy; to God make melody,

Whose arm of strength does wondrous things,

whose hand brings victory!

Before the nations God reveals a just and righteous will,

Remembering in faithful love the house of Israel.

In every corner of the earth, God comes to save and free;

Break forth with shouts of holy joy; all lands, make melody.

**With trumpet, with the sound of horns, with strings, yes, with the lyre,
With voices praise the sovereign God, a lusty, joyous choir.**

**Let seas in all their fullness roar; sing, people of all lands;
Let mountains join and sing for joy; let rivers clap their hands.**

**The God of justice comes to save; let earth make melody;
For God will judge with righteousness and rule with equity.**

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

When the world feels heavy and hope feels far away, God invites us not to hide but to come closer—to speak honestly, to seek mercy, and to begin again. Let us pray.

***PRAYER FOR GRACE**

Holy Strength,

At the signs of conflict in our communities and world, we cower instead of running towards the needs of our neighbors. We believe the end is near, but in actuality, this is another wave of dread coming from our fellow humans. Unfortunately, we can't simply wish this conflict away. Instead you call us to walk through the fire and to use our voices. Forgive us when we want to stop instead of continuing to follow the way of Jesus. Give us grace to keep moving forward, even when betrayal and hate are raining upon us. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Shame and despair will not overtake us. The grace of God sustains us from dawn until dusk and in the depths of the night. **Amen.**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg

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**

God Speak to Me, That I May Speak

#531

**God, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.**

**O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
some wanderers along life's way;
O feed me so that I may feed
your hungering ones without delay.**

**O fill me with your fullness, God,
your overflowing love to know;
In glowing word and kindling thought,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

**O use me, God, use even me
just as you will, and when, and where,
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Laurel Nguyen-Powell

Isaiah 65:17-25 OT page 696

Luke 21:5-19 NT page 85

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

What are the best ways for us to share what we have? How can we best use our gifts when our neighbors are hurting and our systems impose limits on the well-being of God's children? Through our gifts, we are able to bear your strength and boost the hearts of many.

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, by placing your gift in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary before or after the service, or by scanning the QR code to give from your phone.



OFFERTORY

My Hope is in the Lord

Senior Choir
– J.M. Martin

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Creator God, Source of All Energy,
We see how your gifts transform the hearts, minds, and souls of this world. May your wisdom continue to strengthen our spirits. Through our gifts of treasures, talents, and time, we can serve your children, ensuring no one goes hungry and all are thriving. Through our endurance and compassion, may we build your Realm here on earth. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Incarnate God, Immortal Love

#414, stanzas 1, 5, 6

**Incarnate God, immortal Love,
whom we, that have not seen your face,
by faith, and faith alone, embrace,
Believing where we cannot prove;**

**We have but faith; we cannot know,
for knowledge is of things proved true;
And yet we trust it comes from you,
a sign of promise; let it grow.**

**Let knowledge grow from more to more,
but more of reverence in us dwell;
That mind and soul, according well,
may make one music as before.**

***BENEDICTION**

**As we work to faithfully follow God's call,
May Christ illuminate the road ahead,**

May the Spirit invigorate us throughout each day,
May our Creator soothe us and instill hope.
Beloved siblings, even as waves of fear crash over us, God never leaves nor
forsakes us and brings us courage as we journey together.
Amen.

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: Liturgy is adapted from *Gain Your Souls: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Third 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 (1st Floor).

The flowers on the altar this morning are in memory of Kevin for his 70th birthday by his sister, Nan, who misses him every day.

The yellow rose is presented by Jack Day and Peter Brehm in honor of all of our veterans.

Attendance Last Sunday: 15 at 8:30 AM, 127 at 10:30 AM, and 35 online.



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

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

Serving Today: November 16

Deacons: Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw
Elder: Matt Hueting
Scripture Reader: Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Acolyte: JD Bowman
Greeters: Tom Ford, Rachel Ford
Felecia Bishop, Rob Smith
Welcome Table: Betsy Selby, Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle
Jack Day
Nursery: Holly Davis, Linda Coyle
Fellowship: Starr Schaeberle, Julie Chappell
Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

Serving Next Week: November 23

Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain
Susan Kulp
Camryn Huenger
Zaydan York
Niel Jefferson, Kathleen Jefferson
Cliff Barr, Rob Smith
Jeff Baker, Kelly Esslinger
Ethan Kline
Emily Spear
Susan Kulp, David Howard
Colin Neely, Robert Morris
Linda Coyle, Jake Stein, Rhea Stein

Next Sunday: November 23 – Reign of Christ Sunday

Colossians 1:11-20 | Luke 23:33-43

Today's readings reveal the upside-down nature of Christ's kingdom. Paul's soaring hymn celebrates Jesus as the cosmic ruler in whom all things hold together, while Luke shows us this same Christ dying between two criminals, extending grace to a thief in his final moments. What kind of king reigns from a cross? What kind of power looks like weakness? Both passages invite us to see that true authority comes not through domination but through self-giving love that transforms even death into victory.

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.

Jason Rhoads Charlie and his mother, Amanda Brown (friend of Rachael Bowman) Robert Debonis (uncle of Sophia Carliss) Sandy Maples (sister-in-law of Allen and Joan Maples) Confirmands and Mentors Betsy Fisher Laura Duncan Broderick (Cathie and Will's daughter) Barbara Heverley Todd Starr (nephew of Mary Staley) Sharon DiDonato (aunt of Darryl Glick, friend of Mark Ulrich) Isa Baxter (granddaughter of Kathy Gelles-baxter) Ginny Peters Tom Ford Karen Stitely Donna Baumgardner Smith (friend of Sandra Trout) Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)	The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family Rhea Stein Doris Esslinger Sandra Trout Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson) Mary Staley Pat Condo Wells Condo Kitty Bradley Beanie Cornell Milt Crutchley Raymond Slifer (father of Robin A. Brady-Slifer) Tom Frazier Pauline Marendt Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton) Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich) Emogene Wyand Bob Pinner	Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree) Anne Gallagher (friend of Milt and Bettie Joe Crutchley) Lee Thomas 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)
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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.

Activities, Events, and Announcements

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!

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!

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

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.



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 18

North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: 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.

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!

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.

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!

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
 - **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
-



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

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

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.

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.

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

5th ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP

Sunday, December 7

North Room, 12:00 PM

Celebrate the sweet treats of the season at ERUCC's 5th 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.



Sign Up: <https://tinyurl.com/ER25cookies>

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

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*

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.

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>

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!

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 if you need a 2025 giving statement.

SERVE ON PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR MLK JR. COMMUNITY POTLUCK

The Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Community Potluck planning committee is seeking to add a someone from ERUCC to their team! If you are interested in serving, please contact Shelley Weakly, shelley.w.weakly@gmail.com.

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.

ADVENT MIDWEEK: WALKING & PRAYING THE LABYRINTH

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31

Various locations, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Walking a labyrinth is an ancient spiritual discipline. This year, during Advent, we invite you to gather midweek at various locations in our area to walk a labyrinth. Locations will be announced as they are confirmed and look for more details in the forthcoming edition of *Trinity Chimes*.

HOT COCOA OUTREACH AT KRIS KRINGLE PROCESSION

Friday, December 12

We are excited to prepare for our fourth annual Hot Cocoa Hospitality and Outreach before and after the Kris Kringle Procession. Our children and youth will offer neighbors a cup of hot chocolate and share invites to our Christmas Eve services and the Historic Houses of Worship Candlelight Tour. This year we will also have a donation box to collect socks, shoes, and deodorants for SHIP students (Frederick's Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership).

We can use your help! Donations of large containers of hot chocolate mix, candy canes, and mini marshmallows are needed for this fun evening.

Sign up to donate: tinyurl.com/ER25kkp



Free Turkey Distribution

ASBURY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



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

IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING, OUR CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 26-28

Happy Thanksgiving

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) 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.

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.

JUNIOR CHURCH

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

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.



LOVE IS LOUDER

Love Your Neighbor **OUT LOUD**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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

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*

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	Early Worship , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Coffee and Conversation , Kieffer Lobby
9:15 AM	Let's Talk , North Room
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Nursery Care
9:15 – 10:00 AM	Children's Sunday School <i>Pre-K, Nursery</i> <i>K – 2nd Grade, Liz Coffey Room</i> <i>3rd – 5th Grade, Thomas Room</i>
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Youth Sunday School <i>Middle School Youth/Confirmation, Trinity Chapel</i> <i>High School Youth, Trinity Chapel</i>
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>
11:30 AM	Fellowship , Downtown Community Room

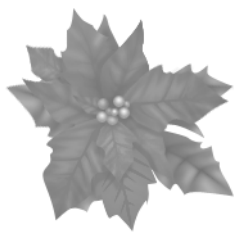
Stay Informed



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 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:

In honor of:

Placed by:

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16, 2025

Isaiah 65:17-25

Infinite Possibilities

Imagine a world where everyone gets along. A place where the Lord says nothing shall be hurt or destroyed, where even the wolf and the lamb eat together peacefully.

This is the vision of a peaceable kingdom that the prophet Isaiah brings to us today. It is a world where only happiness and rejoicing exists. There is no pain nor sorrow.

My friends, such a world is possible because our God is one who holds infinite possibilities. It is only our own limited capacities for love and redemption that keep us captive to finite probabilities.

What if this day, though, we could lay aside our disbelief and enter the God possibilities? What if we could finally believe the world can change for the better, starting with our own hearts realizing that nothing is ever hopeless.

Take for instance the miraculous story of the wolf of Gubbio, which is found in the 14th-century short story collection, *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*. The story tells of saint's encounter with the good people of Gubbio, Italy, who are being terrorized by a heartless and vicious wolf. The wolf not only steals their food but also their children.

Francis finds the wolf, but before the animal can attack, the saint makes the sign of the cross over its head. The wolf bows down and leans into Francis, who then asks the wolf why the residents of Gubbio are angry with him. The wolf says he is simply hungry.

Francis then makes a deal with the townsfolk to feed the wolf, who he has now named "Brother Wolf."

In return, Brother Wolf promises not to do any harm. For years, wolf and people live in peace, with Brother Wolf roaming the village streets and entering homes without incident. When Brother Wolf dies, Gubbio grieves deeply. The feared enemy had become a dear friend, and all it took was for someone to listen to the one who was misunderstood. All it took was for someone to take note of the struggle beneath the façade of strength to make peace in Gubbio possible.

While just a legend, the story is a moving tale that not only tugs at our heartstrings but invokes a vision of God's hope for us all — to live in harmony with one another.

What if we stopped fearing the wolves in our lives and seek to understand the "enemy" we tend to mistrust and hate all too quickly? Perhaps if we did, we would come to tame not only the wolf roaming about, but the wolf within.

Limitless God, your love knows no boundaries. It is far-reaching and healing. Help us to see beyond the limitations that our fears and disbelief nurture. Fill our minds with wisdom from above and help us to take a step towards a more peaceable world. 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.)

