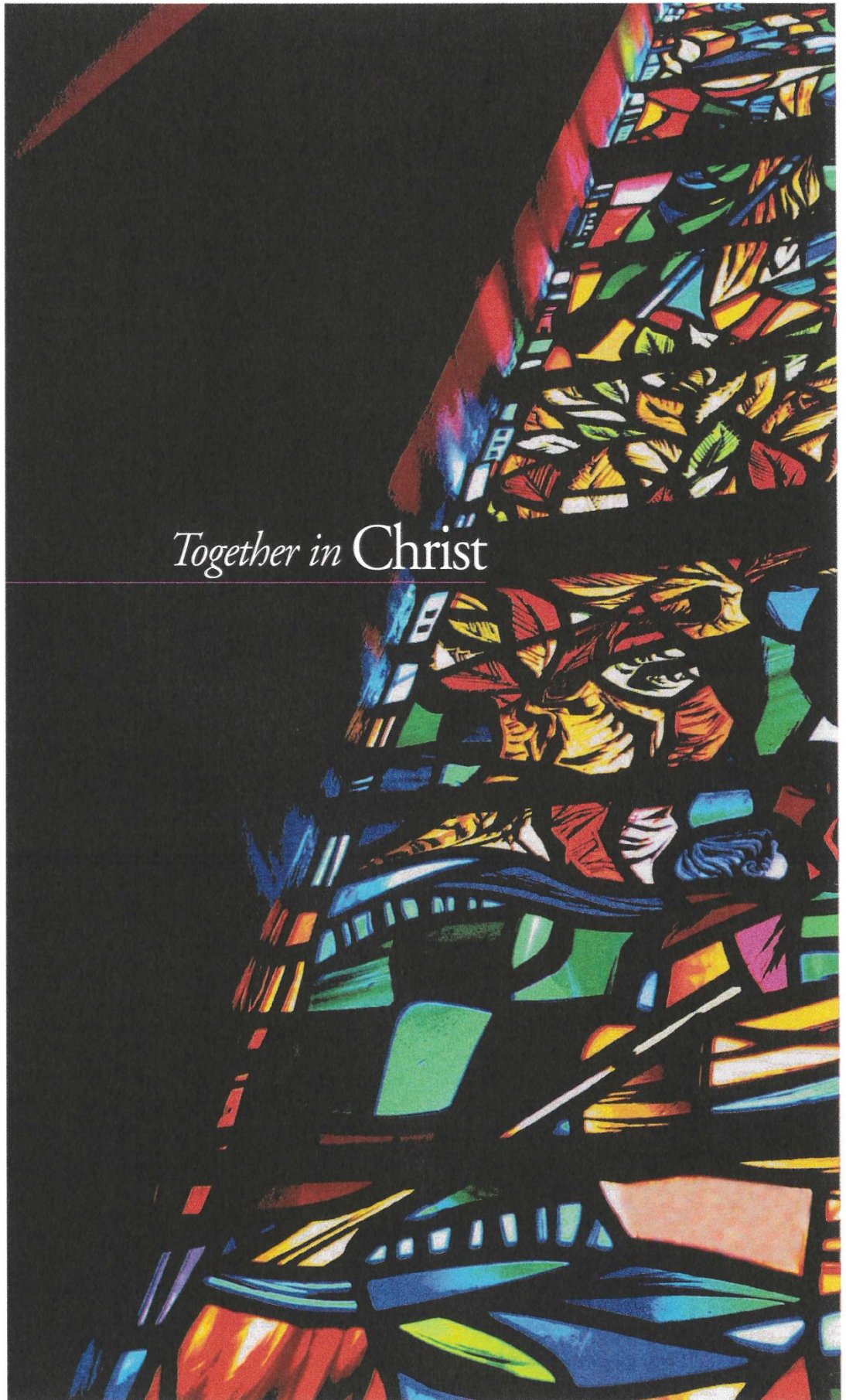


Together in Christ



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.

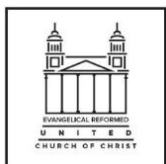
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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 23, 2025

Reign of Christ Sunday

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**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Inspired by Psalm 46*)

In the present time, no matter what passes before us,
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
As earth shakes and nations are in an uproar,
God is present with us and is our refuge in times of trouble.
As the world trembles in fear and worry,
May we find stillness and peace, knowing God is God of all.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy Redeemer,
In the dusk of this liturgical year, we recall the beauty of our days together. The blessedness of Christmas love and the light of Epiphany move us to bring illumination to our neighbors. The hope of Easter and the strength of Pentecost inspire us to bring the Good News of God's love to this world. All of this is to create God's Realm here on this earth, where we follow the steps of Christ, knowing the endurance of the Holy Spirit abides with us today and always. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Be Still My Soul

#488

¹ Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

**² Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
to guide in future days as in the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.**

**³ Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here
when we shall be with God whom we adore,
with disappointment, no grief nor fear,
sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

In every act of mercy, Jesus shows us a glimpse of God's own heart, which is wide enough to hold our failures, our fears, and our longing for wholeness. Trusting in that boundless love, we come honestly before God, confessing the ways we fall short of extending the same mercy to others. Let us pray:

***PRAYER FOR GRACE**

**Divine Grace,
Jesus promised paradise to his neighbor on the cross. No matter what transgression the person had carried out, Jesus still promised a future filled with hope, mercy, and love. And yet, even when we pray, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we often limit paradise for our neighbors. We quietly ask: What have they done in their lives that they must ask for help, receive assistance, and lack health? Yet what we don't realize is that their misfortunes are not for us to judge. Beloved God, open our hearts wide to mercy – both in receiving and in extending it to others. May we shun judgment and open our hearts to a paradise here on earth where all your children can abide in peace and wholeness. Amen.**

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Through the words and acts of Jesus, we experience peace, hope, and grace. God's love is beyond limits and will move us to open ourselves to the beauty of infinite mercy.
To God be the glory! 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

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

#197

**1 Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

**Refrain: In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

**2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. [Refrain]**

**3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me live from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]**

**4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand,
just beyond the river. [Refrain]**

THE SCRIPTURES

Camryn Huenger

Colossians 1:11-20 NT page 200

Luke 23:33-43 NT page 89

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 would happen if we were to set aside our worries and begin to create paradise on earth – here and now? What if we shared just a little extra of our time, talent, and treasures so that others can experience paradise on this side of heaven? When we share our gifts, the universe begins to transform for our neighbors, creation, and ourselves.

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

Bless the Lord

Senior Choir
– J. Raney

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of All Time and Space,

You call us to transform the world through the extension of your grace to all of creation. May we find new and creative ways to share our treasures, talents, and time in order to create your Realm here on earth. May we work to create paradise beginning here today. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim

#305

**You servants of God, your Sovereign proclaim,
and publish abroad that wonderful name:
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol,
Who, sovereign and glorious, now rules over all.**

**God rules from on high, almighty to save,
and still God is nigh, whose presence we have.
The great congregation God's triumphs shall praise,
ascribing salvation to Jesus always.**

**Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud for what God has done.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Still veiling their faces, they worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore and render God's right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.**

***BENEDICTION**

As we transform our universe into God's paradise,
May the Spirit of Strength give us courage to care for our neighbors.
May the Christ of Mercy give us peace in each time and space.
May our Creator of Hope inspire us to love in new ways.
Fellow companions on this journey: we are called to build God's Realm,
creating heaven on earth for all.

Amen.

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: Liturgy is adapted from **Service Prayers for Reign of Christ Sunday**, 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 are in celebration of our Mother, Mary Staley, for her upcoming milestone birthday as a centenarian on November 29, by Janice Staley, Kenny Neal, and Diane Waggy.

The yellow rose is presented in honor of Elmer L. Martin by Larry and Sedonia Martin.

Attendance Last Sunday: 15 at 8:30 AM, 108 at 10:30 AM, and 32 online.



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

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

Serving Today: November 23

Deacons:	Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain
Elder:	Susan Kulp
Scripture Reader:	Camryn Huenger
Acolyte:	Zaydan York
Greeters:	Niel Jefferson, Kathleen Jefferson
	Cliff Barr, Rob Smith
Welcome Table:	Thi Nguyen
Audio/Visual:	Jeff Baker, Kelly Esslinger
	Ethan Kline
Nursery:	Emily Spear
Fellowship:	Susan Kulp, David Howard
	Colin Neely, Robert Morris
	Linda Coyle, Jake Stein, Rhea Stein

Serving Next Week: November 30

Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw
Peter Brehm
Nancy Jones
Susan Kulp, Sue Pinner
Paul McGinley
Julie Clark
Jeff Baker, Jeff Schaeberle
David Howard
<i>Trained Volunteer Needed</i>
Joe Adkins

Next Sunday: November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

In the Time of Herod, We Long for God to Break In

Lamentations 3:55-57 | Luke 1:5-13

“In the days of King Herod...” With these words, Luke’s Gospel grounds the birth of Jesus in a world shaped by violence, occupation, and fear. The author of Lamentations cries out in personal pain while his homeland is under Babylonian rule. Our global and personal heartache are intertwined, and the wait for promised rescue is hard to bear. Whether in exile, under the rule of a puppet king, or in the depths of personal pain, we long for God to break through the fear and bring us hope.

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads will be preaching. 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.

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

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

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

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!

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

Happy Thanksgiving

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!

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!

YOUTH COLLECTING COINS “SHOP FOR SHIP”

On Sunday, November 9, 16, and 23, youth will collect loose change (paper money welcome too) offering by our prayer tree so that they can “SHOP FOR SHIP” items as a part of the 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!

SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS

Monday, December 1, 5:00 – 7:00 PM – North Room

Thursday, December 4, 5:00 – 7:00 PM – Zoom: tinyurl.com/SCer1204

If you would like to be a Safe Church-trained volunteer, or if you are currently volunteering and your training was more than two years ago, please plan to attend one of these Safe Church training events! Not sure when your last training took place? Ask Ann at the reception desk on Sunday morning or email awatkina@erucc.org.

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*.

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.

MISSION SPENDING PLAN REVIEW OPPORTUNITY

Sunday, December 7

Community Room, during Fellowship

Interested in learning more about ERUCC's proposed 2026 budget before the Congregational Meeting? Join our Finance Chair and Treasurer during Fellowship on Sunday, December 7.

This is a great opportunity to ask questions, share your input, and gain a deeper understanding of the financial planning that supports our mission and ministry.

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 14

Community Room / Zoom, ~ 12:00 PM

Register to attend via Zoom: tinyurl.com/reg1214er

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 14, immediately following the 10:30 AM service. This is a vital opportunity for us to gather as a community, share updates, and make important decisions for our church's future.

Agenda Highlights:

- Review and approval of the proposed 2026 Mission Spending Plan
- Progress on the Historic Clock Tower project
- Response to Consecration Sunday
- Study Group plans for our Congregation Name
- Settled Senior Pastor Search and Call Committee

We Are the Church! Your voice matters, and your participation is essential.

Lunch will be provided, and we invite you to bring a dessert to share. Let's come together to celebrate, plan, and grow as a church family!

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 and on printed forms at the back of the sanctuary.

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.

HOT COCOA OUTREACH AT KRIS KRINGLE PROCESSION

Friday, December 12

ERUCC, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

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/ER25kbp

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
-

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 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.

WEDNESDAY PRAYERS

Wednesdays

Sanctuary, 4:00 – 4:30 PM (NOTE: Change of time)

On Wednesday afternoons, you are invited to enter the church (doors open at 3:45 PM) and proceed to the front of the sanctuary in silence. We will each pray silently in our own personal traditions. We begin promptly at 4:00 PM and end at 4:30 PM. What you can expect: substance for your everyday journey. Led by Rev. Richard Leslie.

LET'S TALK: ADVENT

Sundays, December 7, 14, 21

North Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Led by Kim Sexton. As we delve deeper into the theme from Sanctified Arts, *What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent*, we will use the daily devotional that comes with the program as our book and supplement with other resources. There will also be an art project as part of our lesson and we will find ways to share our light in the world.

Questions? Contact Kim Sexton, mkssexton@comcast.net.

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/ERcnd125>.

Questions? Contact Julie Clark, Jclarkad@yahoo.com.

JOIN A FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Looking for a simple, meaningful way to get to know people at ERUCC? Consider volunteering on one of our Fellowship Teams! It's a fun and rewarding ministry that helps create spaces for connection over coffee, treats, and warm conversation. Whether you enjoy hosting or prefer working quietly in the background, there's a place for you. Most volunteers serve just once every other month, making it an easy commitment with a big impact. Come help create the warm, welcoming spaces that bring our community together!

Ready to volunteer or want to learn more? Contact Joe Adkins: joeadkins1301@gmail.com, or the Church Office.


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.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Beginning with the first week of Advent, this devotional takes seriously the angels' message in Luke's Gospel and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. Each week offers art, reflections, poetry, and hymns to give you hope in a fearful world. The devotional will be available in the rear of the Sanctuary starting Sunday, November 23. You can also request a copy through the church office at erucc@erucc.org.

**CANDLELIGHT
VIGIL**



Join us for a candlelight vigil for
sexual assault and
human trafficking survivors

Monday November 24 at 6pm

Frederick City Hall Park
101 N. Court Street

RISE
UP
FREDERICK

RISEUPFREDERICK.COM

 **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

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.

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

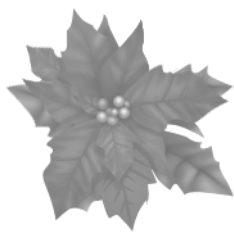
Stay Informed



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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:

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 23, 2025

Colossians 1:11-20

Together in Christ

Today is the Reign of Christ Sunday, also known as Christ the King Sunday. For the faithful, it is the Church's New Year's celebration as the liturgical calendar year comes to close. A new cycle of Scripture passages then begins with the first Sunday of Advent.

On this day, we remember how Jesus the Christ came as promised to usher in a kingdom of love and grace. And even though those with earthly power tried to silence him with death on the cross, Jesus triumphed.

As Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus from his beloved "Messiah," in which he composed in 1741 proclaims, "And he shall reign forever and ever."

This is indeed a celebratory Sunday for Jesus Christ does reign forever and ever.

I have friend, though, who takes a different approach to this Sunday, preferring to delete "King" and use the word "kin" instead. When I asked why she changes it to "Christ the Kin Sunday" she replied that it better captures who Jesus is for us today.

A king, she explained, insists on his people to fall in line and follow royal edicts. "In a kingdom there really is no freedom for those who are not in the inner circle of privilege. There is always someone being crushed under the power," she said. "Is 'king' really the best way to describe our Lord?"

I never really thought of the baggage the word "king" might have, and perhaps Christ is not my king. Disclaimer: Jesus is indeed my Lord, and that is a profession of faith I will fall on my knees proclaiming every day that I have breath. But king?

Now "kin," which means members of a family, is a more thought — provoking description of Jesus. For aren't we all part of the family of Christ? Aren't we all siblings through his blood that was shed for us on the cross? And as our kin, Jesus doesn't issue royal edicts to further earthly powers, rather he issues Godly edicts to further humankind: Edicts to love one another as he has loved us.

As we sing of Christ's reign ruling forever and ever, let us also lift a note of praise for Christ Our Kin, our brother who reminds us that no matter what our ancestry searches discover, we all belong to the family of God.

Dear God, as we celebrate the everlasting reign of Christ, may we remember how his power is not in ruling his children, but in loving them. May our power be found in love as well. 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.)

