



Another Road

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.

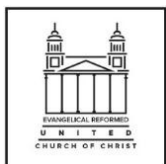
There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

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 –



January 4, 2026

Epiphany

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**

PRELUDE

SHARING OF THE STAR GIFTS

This morning, you are invited to receive a gift from the offering plates being passed around the congregation. Please help yourself to a star. The wise ones traveled a great distance to offer their gifts to the newborn Christ-child in response to the gift first given to them. They received God's gift, then offered their gifts to God. As we commemorate the arrival of the wise ones and remember their offerings, we take delight in receiving these stars and words that symbolize God's generosity in our lives. You are invited to ponder what significance this word might have in your life, and how God might be speaking to you through that simple message. You are encouraged to take your star home and place it somewhere where you can see it every day. Allow this "word" to speak to you throughout the year.

THRESHOLD MOMENT

A Step Toward Home

– Rev. Sarah Speed

I will not tell you to buck up,
to tough it out, to ignore the fear
rattling around in your chest.
I will not tell you that all shall be well
or that morning will come quickly.
I will not ask you to march into danger
without first repeating your name in my prayers.
But if fear stops you in your tracks,
if fear makes it hard to breathe,

hard to move,
hard to think,
then I will remind you
that even one step with shaking knees
is a step toward home.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the dark of morning,
the stars still shine.
In the depth of winter,
the birds still climb.
At the start of the year, tender and new,
God is here. God is near.
Do not rest in your fear.
God is here.
So like the stars and the birds,
Let us worship holy God.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of the Stars,
like the magi, we come to this place searching for you.
So today, just like every day, we ask that you would remove any
barricades that keep us from your Spirit.
Clear out the distractions. Wipe away the doubt.
Open up our hearts, and speak to us through these ancient words.
And as you do, we will keep walking.
As you do, we will move toward you.
With hope we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

As with Gladness Those of Old

#159

As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Friends, on this Epiphany Sunday we stand at the start of a new year, and there is nothing better about a new year than the chance to begin again. That is exactly what we do in the Prayer of Grace. We speak honestly with God and God surrounds us with grace. We are able to begin again. So may we start this new year, this new season, this new week with God's grace. Let us pray. Let us begin again.

***PRAYER FOR GRACE**

Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However, we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear once again. So today we pray— forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks. Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call. Forgive us when fear is louder than love. Show us how to turn our fear into action. Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world. With hope we pray, amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Family of Faith, whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid, God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:

**Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks,
God's love for us is boundless.**

**We are seen. We are surrounded with grace. We are sent to serve.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Holly Davis

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Children of all ages are invited to participate in the service today. A book nook with children's programs, books, crayons, and activities is in the rear of the sanctuary and a wiggle space is available in the front of the sanctuary near the baptismal font. Junior Church for children ages 5 through 5th grade will resume Sunday, January 11.

THE SCRIPTURES

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg

Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18 NT page 2

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

At the start of this new year, we remember the magi—who kept moving toward Christ even in a fearful world. Like them, we choose hope. We choose to act. Our offering is one small step on that journey, a way of saying that fear will not have the last word. Let us bring our gifts with courage and expectation, trusting that God is here and God is near.

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

March of the Three Kings

Senior Choir
– Provençal Carol, arr. E.J. Lorenz

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of the Stars, bless these gifts and the hopes they carry. Use them to shine light in places of fear and to guide your people toward justice, compassion, and new beginnings. As we dedicate our offerings, dedicate us also—so that, like the magi, we may follow your light with steady, faithful hearts. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Here at this Table, there is enough room, enough food, enough love for everyone.

Here at this Table, you are wanted and welcomed.

You are safe and loved.

Here at this Table, you belong.

So my friends, there is no need for fear here, for this is a joyful feast.

And you are invited. Come. All are welcome.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Loving God, pour out your Spirit on this Table.

Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread.

Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary juice.

The thing we fear the most is distance from you, so draw near to us here.

Saturate this room with your Spirit and this Table with your love.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:

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

And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:

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

Now, let us come to receive the bread and the cup.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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

After all have received the bread and the cup:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Loving God, in a world racked with fear, you gather us together.

You set the table. You meet us here.

You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits.

**You remind us that this is a joyful feast,
and that fear cannot win every time.**

**So with renewed courage, with renewed hope,
with renewed conviction, send us out into the world.**

Help us to feed others as you have fed us.

With gratitude we pray, amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Arise, Your Light Is Come

#164

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

***BENEDICTION**

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit.

May you reach for each other's hands.

May you choose courage whenever you can.

And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends,

and the one who journeys with— go in peace and *be not afraid*.

Amen.

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: Liturgy adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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 given by Cindy Smith, Cindy Duranko, and Jenna Duranko in memory of Liz Coffey, whose sweet spirit will forever dance in our memories.

The yellow rose is placed by Jo Ann Fritz and Richard Leslie in honor of our son-in-law, Steve Channell, who fought for our country.

Attendance on Sunday, December 21: 14 at 8:30 AM, 148 at 10:30 AM, and 57 online.
Attendance for December 28 will be reported on January 11



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

Serving Today: January 4

Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Quynn Adkins
Elder: Ave Barr
Scripture Reader: Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg
Greeters: Danielle Carbone, Cliff Barr
Welcome Table: Rissah Watkins
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Ethan Kline
David Howard
Nursery:
Fellowship: Julie Clark, Joe Adkins
Quynn Adkins, Hollie Mercier
Kyle Miller, Pat Dorsz
Communion Prep: Ave Barr
Communion Clergy: Rev. Esther Ziegler
Rev. John Shillingburg
Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg

Serving Next Week: January 11

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Eric Weakly
Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson
Julie Clark, Elizabeth Slade
Kelly Esslinger, Ethan Kline
David Howard
Maria Lagrotteria, Emily Spear
Emily Spear, Chris Spear
Abby Spear, Ben Spear
Jocelyn Vara, Chris Vara, Michelle
Rachael Bowman, Josh Bowman

Next Sunday: January 11 – Baptism of Christ Sunday

Isaiah 42:1-9 | Matthew 3:13-17

In this season after the Epiphany, the scriptures invite us to wonder about the unfolding possibilities that are opened to us through the revealing of God's ways in Jesus the Christ. On this Baptism of Christ Sunday, we hear God's Spirit-filled voice speaking new things into action, reminding us that we are God's beloved children. The Gospel lesson from Matthew is the account of Jesus' baptism. The voice from heaven that speaks at Jesus' baptism echoes the voice spoken in Isaiah. These words proclaim the mission of God's beloved servant to restore justice.

This day, we celebrate Jesus' baptism and remember the role our baptism has played in our lives. It is a day we also remember that, along with Jesus, we are beloved by God and empowered to participate in God's healing work in the world. Spirit will be sharing in music leadership.

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.

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

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY TODAY

Mortgage Assistance: On the first Sunday of each month, we have a special opportunity for giving towards Mortgage Assistance. Donations fund ERUCC's mortgages with the Fisher Fund and FCB Bank, a division of ACNB Bank, payments on which are about \$153,000/year.

HELP PUT CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AWAY

Sunday, January 4
following 10:30 AM service

We will be taking down our Christmas decorations and appreciate all the help we can get! Help after the 10:30 AM worship service today. Thanks!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

EXCITING NEWS! We are updating our pictorial church directory. We invite you to OPT IN by completing a digital or paper form and submitting a photo for inclusion. You can submit a photo of your choosing via email OR have your photo taken for submission. Please sign up here (insert link to sign-up genius) to have your photo taken on one of the following Sundays: January 4 | January 11 | January 18 | January 25 | February 1. No appointment, no worries. Walk-ins are welcome: <https://tinyurl.com/ER26phto>

Our new directory will help us get to know one another better. We all can relate to the difficulty of putting names to faces when meeting someone for the first (or second) time. The directory will be a gift for newer members and those who have been around for a while, in helping us get to know and connect with our ERUCC family. Volunteers will be in the Community Room during fellowship to answer questions, provide the form, and help you OPT IN to the directory.

We need volunteers to help spread the word and assist with the Opt-in process before and after service as well as during Fellowship. Please contact: Barbara Barry at ebbarry1@gmail.com or via text at 240-422-7888 if you'd like to help.



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

SOUPER SEND-OFF

Sunday, January 11

On Dr. Morgan's last Sunday at ERUCC, we would like to acknowledge his time with us with a soup lunch during Fellowship. We are expecting a crowd in his honor and for the Name Study Group presentation that is also scheduled during Fellowship. Please contact Ave Barr (avebarr9200@gmail.com) or Susan Kulp (smkulp@earthlink.net) if you would be willing to make a crockpot of soup or bring bread/crackers for the event.

NAME CHANGE SURVEY RESULTS PRESENTATION

Sunday, January 11

Community Room/Zoom, during Fellowship

At the Congregational Meeting on December 14, the Name Study Team shared a brief overview of the survey results. To explore the full findings from Church Leadership, the Congregation, and our External Partners & Community, please join us for a presentation during Fellowship on Sunday, January 11. We'll take a deeper look at what the data—including your voices—are telling us and outline the next steps as we continue to discern whether a name change is right for ERUCC.

WEDNESDAY PRAYERS

Wednesdays

Sanctuary, 4:00 – 4:30 PM

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.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS REVIEW SESSIONS

A Constitution and Bylaws Study Group has completed a draft of a revised document, and we invite the entire congregation to be part of the next step. Three upcoming sessions will offer an opportunity to hear more about the recommended revisions, ask questions, and share your feedback as we discern together the best path forward for ERUCC's governance and ministry.

Review the current draft: <https://tinyurl.com/ymaaemst>

Please join us at one of the following sessions in 2026:

- **Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 PM on Zoom**
 - Pre-registration required: <https://tinyurl.com/ERcb0106>
- **Sunday, January 25 in the North Room at approximately 12:00 PM**
- **Sunday, February 8 in the North Room at approximately 12:00 PM**

Your participation is essential as we shape structures that support our mission, our values, and our shared future. We hope to see you there!

FRANKLINTON CENTER WORK TRIP

Open to adults and youth (6th–12th grade)

January 17–19

Join us for ERUCC's annual work trip to the Franklinton Center at Bricks (FCAB), a historic conference, retreat, and educational center in eastern North Carolina dedicated to justice advocacy, leadership development, and community empowerment. Over MLK Jr. weekend (2026), we'll partner with this remarkable UCC-related ministry whose roots include the Franklinton Christian College (1871) and the Congregationalist Bricks School (1895), both founded to expand education and opportunity for formerly enslaved and marginalized communities. Today, FCAB continues that legacy as a hub for transformation and justice work.

ERUCC has the longest continuous volunteer partnership with Franklinton Center at Bricks. Each year, our group helps upgrade and maintain facilities so FCAB can more effectively serve its community with education, justice programming, and essential services.

The cost is **\$90 per person**, which includes housing and meals. (Confirmands participate at no cost—it's part of the Confirmation program.)

Budgeted mission funds and additional donations from the congregation help subsidize the trip. **Make a gift in support of this work trip today:** <https://ppay.co/kkaBnvIos-A>

Prep Meeting for Participants and Parents of Participating Youth: Participants should attend our prep meeting on Sunday, January 11, at 9:15 AM in the Community Room. Please bring all completed forms (including the health form if you did not bring it in by January 4. At this meeting, we will discuss and sign our covenant agreement and review the four work projects. **ALL CONFIRMANDS SHOULD ATTEND!**



If you're ready for meaningful service, deep learning, and great community, we'd love for you to join us. **Register and pay here:** <https://tinyurl.com/ER26fcab>

Questions? Contact Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org

LET'S TALK: PRACTICING PEACE IN TIMES OF WAR

Sundays, January 4, 11, 18

Flora Room, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Many of us are struggling to find our way in the face of previously unimaginable, radical changes occurring daily in our world. Join us as we explore together effective ways to respond to these assaults. The class is based on the short book, *Practicing Peace in Times of War*, by Pema Chödrön, an American Buddhist nun in the Tibetan tradition who draws on Buddhist teachings to explore the origins of aggression, hatred, and war.

The way we respond to challenges in our everyday lives can either perpetuate a culture of violence or create a new culture of compassion. She offers practical ways to break the cycles of violence and aggression. We will also explore the parallels between these teachings and those of Jesus and the Bible as a whole. It is not necessary to read the book to participate. New members are welcome at any session.

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG

Sunday morning, 9:15 – 10:15 AM, Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy

Wednesday evening, 7:00 – 8:15 PM, Zoom: bit.ly/ERWedstudy

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.

THEOLOGY AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH REV. DR. REBECCA SHILLINGBURG

Tuesdays

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*. 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?

GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays (*Classes resume January 6*)

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.

Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

WEBSITE

www.erucc.org/give



one time or recurring gifts

MOBILE



Scan to give from your mobile device

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

YOUTH FUNDRAISER: “OPERATION NACHOS!”

We’ve subbed SUBS with NACHOS! This year, our Youth Group is trying something new and selling nachos to pick up on Super Bowl Sunday.

Youth will begin taking orders for “Operation Nachos!” either on paper or online starting Sunday, January 4. **Orders must be completed by Sunday, February 1.**

Each order will be served in an 8-inch square container of nachos and your choice of three 3-oz. sides for \$12. You can then add additional sides, including ground beef, guacamole, salsa, and more for an extra cost. Ground beef will be pre-cooked and refrigerated. We hope to make it easy



for you to pick up your nachos on Sunday, February 8, go home, and put your chips on a plate with other ingredients that you want to heat up while your cold sides are all ready for gametime! Portions will serve 1-2 people.

- 1) **Order online:** tinyurl.com/ERncho26, scan QR code at left, or use a paper order form by Sunday, February 1.
- 2) **Pay** for your order anytime or on day-of pickup by cash/check or online by scanning the QR code at right, or go to ppay.co/y5HdY9oKBQY (note: Youth Nachos in the memo field).
- 3) **Pick up** your order on Sunday, February 8, in the Community Room



Questions?

Contact Chris Vara, chris.marie.vara@gmail.com, or Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.



Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sundays, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

(resumes on Sunday, January 4)

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

(resumes on Sunday, January 11)

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.

ADVENT MISSION PROJECT FOR K–5 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Collection: November 30 – January 4

This Advent season, our K–5th grade Sunday School classes are putting compassion into action with a special mission project! We're teaming up to stock the Frederick Community Fridge and Pantry, a simple but powerful way our children can help care for our neighbors. Children are invited to bring non-perishable food items or hygiene products to their classrooms. We'll be collecting donations through January 4, when our classes will make a special trip out to our parking lot to place their gifts directly into the Community Fridge. It's a hands-on moment of generosity and learning that embodies the heart of Advent.

KIDVENTERS: SNOW TUBING

Liberty Mountain Resort, 78 Country Club Trail, Carroll Valley, PA 17320

Sunday, January 25, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

KidVentures this month includes snow-tubing at Liberty Mountain on Sunday, January 25. Sign Up list to RSVP will be available in next week's bulletin. Cost per rider is \$35 (ERUCC will cover additional costs). This is NOT a drop-off event. Parents who are attending but not tubing can attend at no cost. Riders must be 42-inches tall.

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BY

GOD



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

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The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

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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 , Flora 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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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2026

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Another Road

There's nothing more inviting than a candle's warm glow on a cold winter's night. The flickering flame dances as if being led by some divine melody. It's a light that calls to mind the opening of John's Gospel that speaks of a light in which no darkness can overcome.

Since the discovery of fire, a candle burning in the pitch black has always held symbolic hope. Back in the day, placing a candle in the window announced there was a birth in the house. It was also a sign of someone's passing or a remembrance of a loved one. During the persecution of Catholic priests in Ireland, a candle in the window let a priest know that the home was a place of refuge.

We all need a candle burning in the window guiding us to our place of refuge, for we all seem to be groping in the dark these days, wandering for far too long on uncertain roads. Where is that spark of hope leading us to a place of belonging?

Long after the Christmas season of light is over, I continue to embrace every opportunity I have to light candles. With a strike of a match, darkened nooks in my home magically come to life. I also find a soothing calmness wash over me while watching a candle burn. The limited reach of its flame is my reminder to stop trying to see so far ahead. Rather, trust what the light is revealing, no matter how narrow or short the path it illuminates is. It's then I realize I don't need search lights to be found. All I need is the Christ light shining on me.

There's a poem by Howard Thurman who writes about lighting candles all year long. In it he encourages us all to light "candles of joy, despite the sadness; candles of hope where despair keeps watch; candles of peace for tempest-tossed days; candles of grace to ease heavy burdens; and candles of love to inspire all my living."

There's a light to be found in the world — one that the darkness will not overcome. May we do our part in keeping the light of Christ burning brightly in 2026.

Loving God, help us be the ones who light the candles of joy, hope, peace, grace and love this year, illuminating the darkness for those who are lost and shining a beacon of welcome to those who are lonely. 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.)



BUL0205

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