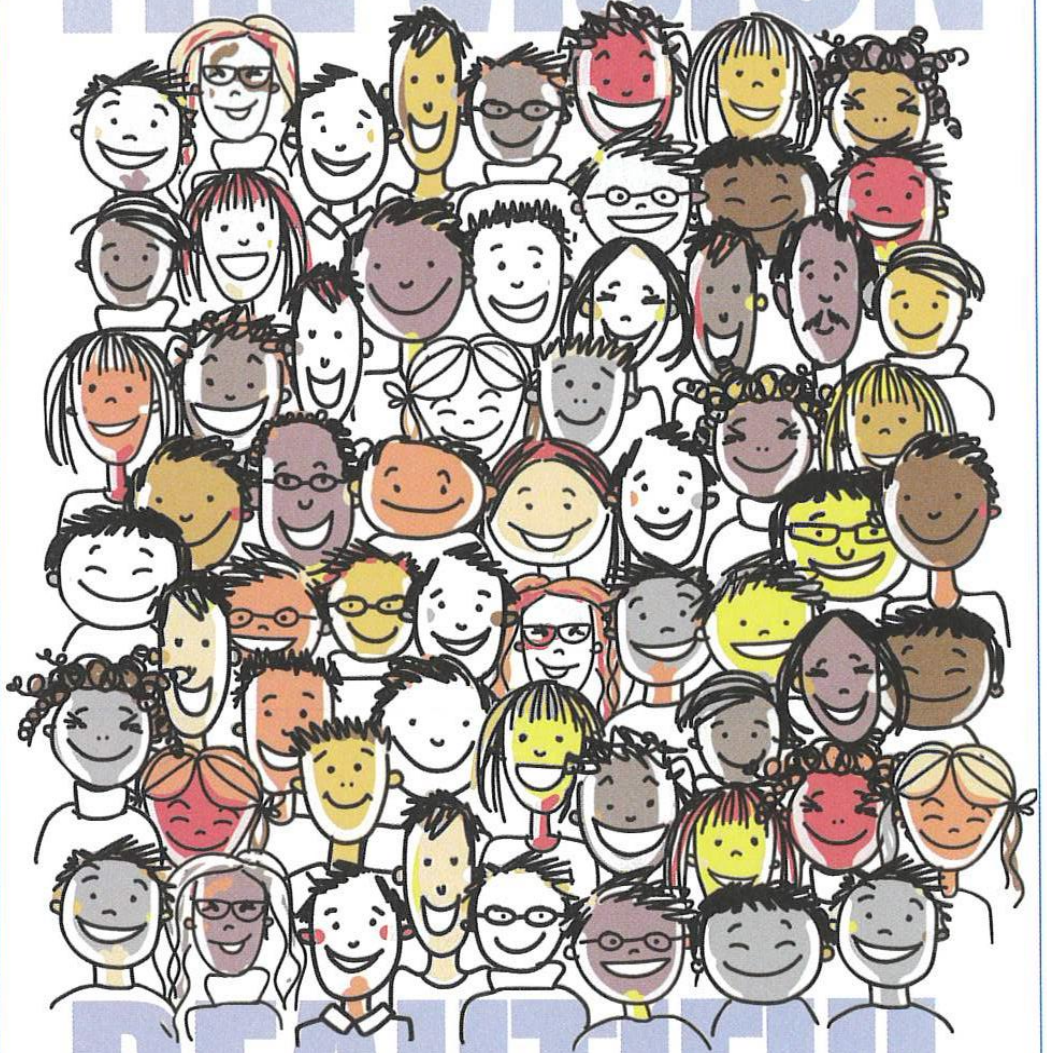


THE VISION



BEAUTIFUL

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 –



February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after the 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. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

ORGAN PRELUDE

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Ann Thompson, guest organist

– J. Cruger/ D. Busarow

CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER

The Bowman Family

As we walk together through this time of transition, we give thanks for the faith that has shaped us and look with hope toward what lies ahead. We covenant to proclaim and embody God's love and justice for all people, serving our neighbors both near and far. Through faithful living and active participation in our congregation, we commit to following in the way of Jesus to build a community of extravagant welcome and inclusivity for all people. May we continue to reflect God's light through our love and hope in all that we do. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CENTERING CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 105: 1-5)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles and judgments uttered.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Creator God, who seasons our lives with grace, peace, hope and love, and who provides light for the darkness, open our ears, hearts, and minds in this time of worship that we might hear your word, have our spirits filled with your presence, and be drawn ever closer to you. Teach us your ways and put your paths before us. Help us to follow you in all we think and do and say. In the name of the light of the world, Christ Jesus, Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

#181

**You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the reign of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
life in the City of God!**

Refrain: **Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people:
light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the City of God!**

[Refrain]

**You are a seed of the Word, O people:
bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the City of God**

[Refrain]

**We are blessed and a pilgrim people:
bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
love is the City of God!**

[Refrain]

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

When we do good, challenges are ever present. Sometimes, the challenges can be overwhelming and so we're tempted to retreat or stay silent. Help us to remember all that you do for our good so that we can go forth and do the same.

***PRAYER FOR GRACE** (Lydia S. Martinez, Hispanic, U.S.A.)

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We have failed in our calling to be your holy people, a people set apart for your divine purpose. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope. We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. We try to speak in your name without relinquishing our glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace. Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you. Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. Amen.

MINISTRY MOMENT Franklinton Center at Bricks (FCAB)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

BLESSING FOR REV. KIRSTIN SHROM-RHOADS IN BELIZE

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.*

THE SCRIPTURES

Robin Cooney

Isaiah 49:1–7 OT page 679

Matthew 5:13–20 NT page 4

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Be You

The Rev. David Cooney, Ph.D.

MORNING PRAYERS

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Christ calls us to let our lives and our work—salty, bright, and good—give witness to the reign of God in our midst. Let us generously offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, that the glory of God may be recognized and celebrated in our world.

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

We Gather at Your Table, Lord

Senior Choir
– Ehret

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, please take these gifts and multiply them; let them be a means to create the justice and peace you long for in this world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

*CLOSING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

#525

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine;
all through the night, I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

***BENEDICTION**

Let the Mystery of God send us into the world:

Beautiful, Just, Merciful!

Let the Wisdom of God surprise us in the world:

Vulnerable, Powerful, Searching!

Let the Glory of God shine through our work in the world:

Salty, Bright and Good!

In the Mystery, the Wisdom, the Glory of God

Let us rejoice!

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

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in D

– J. Alcock



Worship Notes: The Invitation to Generosity, Dedication, and Benediction is from “**Salty Bright and Good: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**” written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, UCC.

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 given loving memory of Philip and Donna Hill, parents of Colleen Baldree.

The yellow rose is presented by Audrey Rayfield in memory of her brother, David Rayfield, US Air Force.

Attendance Last Sunday: -- at 8:30 AM, -- at 10:30 AM, and 85 online.



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

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

Serving Today: February 1

Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Quynn Adkins

Elder: Eric Weakly

Scripture Reader: Robin Cooney

Acolyte: Laurel Nguyen-Powell

Greeters: Paul McGinley, Barb Barry
Felecia Bishop, Rob Smith

Welcome Table: Julie Clark

Audio/Visual: Ethan Kline, Jeff Baker
David Howard

Nursery: Kate Fromknecht

Fellowship: Renae Kline, Cathie Duncan
Jim Weitz, Glenn Wallace
Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson
Emily Button Kambic

Communion Prep: Peter Brehm

Communion Clergy: Revs. Shelley Weakly & Richard Leslie

Serving Next Week: February 8

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Ave Barr
Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Abby Spear
Cathie Duncan, Rob Smith
Paul McGinley
Rissah Watkins, Sue Pinner
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
David Howard

Ave Barr, Cliff Barr
Joan Maples, Allen Maples
Jen Powell, Pat Condo
Bud Rossig

Next Sunday: February 8 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1–9a (9b–12) | Matthew 6:1–14

As Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew's Gospel turns our attention to prayer, generosity, and the shape of a faithful life. In teaching the Lord's Prayer, Jesus offers more than words to recite, he gives his followers a way of trusting God daily, seeking forgiveness, and aligning their lives with God's reign. Isaiah's call to a faith that loosens injustice and restores community echoes this prayerful vision. Together, these texts invite us into a faith that is sincere, embodied, and rooted in God's sustaining grace.

The Rev. John Shillingburg will be preaching and leading worship. Ann Thompson will be our guest pianist. Spirit will share 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.

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

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

UPDATE! – PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

EXCITING NEWS! We are updating our pictorial church directory and invite you to OPT-IN by completing a digital or paper form and submitting a photo.



You can access the digital Opt-in form by scanning the QR code or via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ERoptin26>. Paper forms will be available at Fellowship each Sunday from January 11 to February 1, with volunteers available to answer questions and help navigate the digital form.

You can submit a photo via email OR have a church volunteer take your photo for submission. Please sign up to have your photo taken (near the Welcome Desk) on February 1 by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://tinyurl.com/ER26phto>. *Walk-ins are also welcome.*



Our new directory will help us get to know one another better by putting names to faces and will be a gift, helping us connect with our ERUCC family.

Questions? Contact Barbara Barry at ebbarry1@gmail.com or via text at (240) 422-7888.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

As we tackle hunger at ERUCC on Sunday, February 8, we will be both collecting both canned items for the Frederick Fridge (Pack the Pantry) and change that will be donated to the Frederick Food Bank. When you arrive on Sunday, you can add points to your team by choosing a football shaped sticker to add to your food item and put your loose change in the soup pan representing your favorite team too! Both count as points for our ERUCC friendly competition for OUR winner! And in the end, our whole community wins!

HELP PACK THE PANTRY

Sunday, February 8, during both worship services

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

***Souper Bowl of Caring* – Bring canned soups, chilis, stews, crackers, or bread mixes**

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

Contact: Kim Sexton, mkessexton@comcast.net.

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:

- **Sunday, February 8, in the North Room at approximately 12:00 PM**
- **Sunday, February 22, 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!

BELIZE IT OR NOT!!!

February 2-9, Please pray for Pastor Kirstin's Climate Justice/Eco-theology Mission Partnership trip to the Toledo district of Belize. As a part of the Xa'al Be'Delegation, she will depart early on February 2 and arrive in Belize City, where the group will take another plane to Punta Gorda. While together, this group will visit a self-sustaining food forest, visit Maya Mountain Research Farm to learn about their permaculture, visit Belize Power Connect Limited (a solar power organization led by Mayan women), and participate in service project of tree planting. While visiting these groups, churches, and host families, we will consider how to develop future partnerships with churches in the CAC conference and the national UCC. Pastor Kirstin was honored to be invited to this exploratory group as the pastor from the Catoctin Association and to be going along with Pastor John Rogers, the organizer from the New Jersey Association, Brooks Berndt(UCC Minister for Environmental Justice) and 8 other participants with roles in churches and climate justice. She will return home on Monday, February 9. Our hopes are that this trip will help discern next steps for our own congregation to partner with Belizean churches in 2027 or beyond. We look forward to hearing about this experience when she returns!

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

Join us as we read and discuss *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by **Mariann Edgar Budde** beginning February 8.

Bishop Mariann Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C., guides readers in how to find courage in pivotal life moments, using personal stories, scripture, and pop culture to explore themes like deciding to go, stay, or start. The book argues that bravery isn't a single act but a journey built from small, conscious choices, offering hope and practical wisdom for navigating uncertain times.

GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays

Community Room, 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.

NEW! Pay what you can or drop-in for free. The donations will be used to purchase food for the Frederick Community Fridge & Pantry, located in the church parking lot.

Questions? Contact Renae, rdkline15@gmail.com.

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 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.

WORK CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

There are two opportunities in 2026 for members of the Central Atlantic Conference to help our neighbors in North Carolina – April 12-18 and June 21-27.

Register for the April trip: <https://tinyurl.com/mb2925rx>

Please contact Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon, for more information or to register for either trip: pastorchance.graceucc@gmail.com.

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. **Due to snow, we will extend orders for nachos until Wednesday, February 4.** Forms between now and Sunday can be emailed or brought to the church office. Both orders and payment can be made today in the community room where our youth will have a table.

Youth: meet Saturday, February 7, 6:00 – 9:00 PM (NOTE: earlier time!) to pack up the nachos.

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 (they/he), chris.marie.vara@gmail.com, or Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org.

IMPORTANT PARKING UPDATES & REMINDERS

Our neighbors at The Temple and M&T Bank, have asked us, along with other nearby congregations, to share an important note regarding parking. **The lot at the corner of W. Church and N. Court Streets is not available for ERUCC use.** This request applies to all days and times, including Sunday mornings. Towing will be enforced.

Street Parking: Starting February 9, the City of Frederick Parking Department will begin phasing out all physical on-street parking meters in downtown Frederick. As part of this transition, on-street parking payments will move exclusively to ParkMobile, a digital parking payment system accessible via mobile phone.

For patrons who prefer to pay with cash, that option will remain available. All five City-owned parking garages will continue to accept both cash and credit card payments. As part of this update, on-street parking enforcement hours will change to 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM, extending by 1 hour beyond the current schedule, Monday – Saturday; **street parking on Sunday will remain free.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

SUNDAY MORNING

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ prefers not to cancel worship services because of the weather. We advise you to use your own good judgment about whether conditions where you live are too treacherous for you to make it to services safely.

If conditions are such that the ERUCC needs to cancel services, we will make that decision no less than one and a half hours ahead of the time each worship service begins. Activities such as Christian Education classes for children, youth, and adults and Nursery Care may be cancelled even if worship services continue as scheduled.

Notification: If services are cancelled, we notify people via email, our Facebook page(s) and the website at www.erucc.org.

WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS

Church classes, groups, meetings, and other activities may be canceled or held virtually when possible and appropriate if weather conditions are hazardous or are predicted to become hazardous. If you have a question about whether or not your specific event is cancelled, please contact the coordinator/leader of the event.

The church office is generally governed by the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) inclement weather plan. In the event inclement weather requires FCPS to close, delay opening, or dismiss early, the church office will similarly delay opening or be closed and ERUCC activities will also be cancelled or may be held virtually when possible and appropriate.

Notification: If the church office is closed or will delay opening, we will post a notification on our Facebook page(s) and the website at www.erucc.org.

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



THE UCC JUSTICE AND PEACE ACTION NETWORK

The Justice and Peace Action Network (JPANet) is our denomination's grassroots advocacy network composed of individual members and local UCC congregations across the country. The JPANet educates and engages its members in shaping public policy and keeping with God's vision of a just and loving society. Our work is grounded in General Synod resolutions, consonant with historic UCC witness, and formed by a biblical understanding of prophetic ministry.

JPANet members collectively advocate on a variety of issues for social change. These issue areas are resourced by a team in the UCC's Washington D.C. Office, part of the Justice and Local Church Ministries, who work with UCC advocates to shape coordinated strategy on our common witness. For global issues, the D.C. team partners with Global Ministries, a common missional witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

Learn more: <https://www.ucc.org/action-center/>.

The word "YOU" is rendered in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Each letter is filled with a multi-colored pattern. The 'Y' features a mix of rainbow colors and transgender colors (pink, light blue, brown, purple). The 'O' and 'U' are filled with the standard rainbow colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple).

**BELONG
HERE**

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 classes resume on February 1 in NEW LOCATIONS. The Middle School/Confirmation class will meet in the Flora Room. The High School class will meet in the Alcove (please proceed to the space through the education/music hallway on the second floor). Youth should check in at the self-service kiosk in the Kieffer Lobby before proceeding to class.

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 DRESS UP DINNER

Community Room

NEW DATE: Sunday, February 22, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

The Youth Dress Up Dinner is postponed until Sunday, February 22. Contact Barb Barry (she/her) ebbarry1@gmail.com with questions.

Youth are welcome to bring a friend. Please reply to the invitation you receive with your friend's name and any food allergies or diet restrictions. Parents will be invited to help decorate and staff the dinner. The theme is often a surprise for our youth, but parents will get a heads-up as the preparations begin!

KIDVENTURES: SNOW TUBING

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

NEW DATE: Sunday, February 15, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

KidVentures for elementary-age children will go snow tubing at Liberty Mountain on Sunday, February 15. 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. There is a concession stand with indoor/outdoor seating that is great for parental viewing. Bring money for hot chocolate!



Please sign up as soon as you are able, since spots may be limited!

Register and pay here: <https://tinyurl.com/kvER0125>

TINY TOTS CHOCOLATE DIPPING

Community Room

Saturday, February 7, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Join other Tiny Tots families, led by Thomasa Pomeroy (tomato.pomeroy@gmail.com) in the Community Room to create a small Valentines gift made by dipping and drizzling fruit, pretzels, and other foods in chocolate!

RSVP through the Tiny Tots Families Pushpay Group Calendar.

CLIMATE HOPE ART CONTEST

We celebrate the opening of the 2026 Climate Hope Art Contest sponsored by the UCC Climate Justice Organizers. UCC children and youth are welcome to participate by drawing, painting, or coloring their own work of art to bring this theme to life. We will pass out templates during Sunday School and have additional flyers available at the reception desk in the Keiffer Lobby.

We will accept submissions until March 18. Please submit artwork to Pastor Kirstin, to Ann at the reception desk, or share by email to awatkins@erucc.org. Contact Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org, with questions.

BE A BLESSING PRACTICE PEACE.
LEAD WITH LOVE.
BE JOYFUL. PRAY OFTEN. BE KIND. GIVE THANKS.
DO GOOD. HAVE COURAGE. WORK FOR JUSTICE.
BE THE LIGHT. ENCOURAGE OTHERS.  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

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

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

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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

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

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 , Downtown Community 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, Flora Room</i> <i>High School Youth, Alcove</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.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 1, 2026

Matthew 5:1-12

The Vision Beautiful

When we hear someone say how blessed they are or how blessed a friend is, we automatically think of how their lives are filled with answered prayers, abundant grace, and equally abundant provision. But when Jesus preached his Sermon on the Mount to the masses, he turned the idea of what a blessing is upside down.

I wonder what the reaction really was when all those who needed to hear an inspirational message from Jesus heard his take on a blessed life instead.

Blessed are you who are poor in spirit. Blessed are you who mourn. Blessed are you who are meek. Blessed are you who hunger. Blessed are you who have been reviled and persecuted. Blessed are you in all the muck of life — my addition, not Jesus'.

I woke up the other the day desperately needing to remember once again that a blessed life is not a charmed life. I needed to know that no matter what this world throws at me or what others might say about me or do to me, that I am blessed because I am a child of God.

In my moments where I feel no one hears me, Jesus is listening. Those days I feel invisible, Jesus sees me. Those days when I really feel as if I hate the world (please tell me I am not alone here), I know that Jesus isn't judging me. Rather, like any understanding friend, my Lord and my Savior, walks alongside me, softening the calluses forming on my heart by a world filled with chaos, anger and violence.

Days like these I need to stop everything and run into the arms of Jesus. I need to feel the safety and security of his redeeming love. I need to hear his beautiful voice reassure my blessedness. For the world will try its best to drag us down, but Jesus is there to always lift us up.

So blessed are you this day. You who hurts. You who has been betrayed. You who are tired. You who are doubting. You who has lost your way, your purpose, you're your faith.

Blessed are you. Period. No questions asked. Why? Because you are a beautiful child of God — seen, heard and loved.

God of grace and great hope, we ask that You bless the brokenness in our lives, putting back together the shattered pieces of dreams or relationships in a new way. And, as You do, may we hear deep in our hearts the reassuring and restorative words that through all of life's ups and downs that we are indeed blessed. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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



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