

ALL THAT
WE ARE

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 18, 2026

Second 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

John Shillingburg

PRELUDE

CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER

Peter Brehm

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

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, we gather today to remember that you have created us all in your image and in your likeness
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.
We remember how you spoke into the darkness and created light
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

**We remember the ways you have delivered your people
through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time,
right up until this present moment
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

You have comforted us through the middle passage, racism, segregation,
stripped identities and unjust laws
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

**God you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love
leading toward a beloved community
where all are equally seen and radically loved
And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call
to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.

***OPENING PRAYER**

**Just and Loving God, we enter into your sacred spaces, in sanctuaries
and in homes, in public gatherings and private places. You bridge time
and space to forge us as a beloved community. You make plain the way
of life for us. Encourage us to join your journey, to love your children and
creation, and to contribute to your kin-dom on earth. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

O God of Earth and Altar #582
**O God of earth and altar, bow down and hear our cry;
Our earthly rulers falter, our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us, the swords of scorn divide;
Take not your thunder from us, but take away our pride.**

**From all that terror teaches, from lies of pen and voice,
From all the easy speeches that make our hearts rejoice,
From value's profanation, form honor sacrificed,
From sleep and from damnation, deliver us, O Christ!**

**Awaken us to action and forge us into one,
Defying sect and faction; O God, your will be done!
Oppressive systems snare us; our apathies increase.
Great God, in mercy spare us for justice and for peace!**

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Friends, let us open our hearts before God and pour out the truth of our lives.
May this bring us closer to God.
Join me as we invite God to draw closer, to break in here.

*PRAYER FOR GRACE

God of all people, we have ignored the cries of others as they seek justice from the oppressor and we told them to wait a little while longer.
We have hidden the wounds of the ghettos of our society in an attempt to showcase society's beauty to the world.
We have not fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, or shelter to the stranger because of how they looked or the inconvenience of their need. Guide us as we work for justice for all people.

*WORDS OF GRACE

Today is a new day full of opportunities to try again.
What was left undone yesterday can be completed today.
We can turn from the sins of neglect and dishonesty,
and prayerfully move towards reconciliation and mutual respect.
We thank you God, for journeying with us.

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

Blessed Assurance

#473

**1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.**

**Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

[Refrain]

**³ Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. [Refrain]**

THE SCRIPTURES

Jack Day

Isaiah 49:1–7 OT page 679
Matthew 5:1–12 NT page 39

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg

MORNING PRAYERS

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Beloved children of God, too often we see the world through a lens of scarcity. We look at all the things we do not have or wish for something bigger and better. And yet, our stories of faith tell us that the smallest things often become enormous when placed in God's hands. And so, you are invited to share your gifts and watch how God can do great things to bless the entire community.

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

I Dream a Dream

– Poem by Langston Hughes, music by A. Thomas

Senior Choir

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy Mystery, receive these offerings from our hearts and our hands.
May they be used to bring your love and justice to our world. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

#472

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows dear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the shadows appear, and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

*BENEDICTION

This is the Holy Mystery of Grace:

In our seeking we are found;
in our blessing of others, we are blessed;
in our striving we are met along the way by Divine Presence;
in our loving of others, we are loved;
in our despair we are empowered;
in our grief we are comforted
and in our deepest longings we are satisfied.

This is the Holy Mystery of Grace.

May you know it now and forever. **Amen.**

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: Liturgy is adapted from **I Still have a Dream: Service Prayers for Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend 2020**, written by the Rev. Trayce Potter, Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement, Faith Education, Innovation and Formation Team (Faith INFO) UCC; Sanctified Arts; the benediction is by Rev. Dr. Christopher T. Graham.

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 today are in loving memory of Robert C. McCardell given by his family.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 9 at 8:30 AM, 124 at 10:30 AM, and 50 online.



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

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

Serving Today: January 18

Deacons:	Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw
Elder:	Jeanellen Kallevang
Acolyte:	Wyatt Pomeroy
Scripture Reader:	Jack Day
Greeters:	Sue Pinner, Felecia Bishop
Welcome Table:	Betsy Selby, Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual:	Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
	David Howard
Nursery:	Linda Coyle
Fellowship:	Starr Schaeberle, Julie Chappell Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

Serving Next Week: January 25

Jim Brittain, Angela Brittain
Peter Brehm
JD Bowman
Richard Leslie
Paul McGinley, Barb Barry
Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger
Renae Kline, Cathie Duncan
Jim Weitz, Glenn Wallace
Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson
Emily Button Kambic

Next Sunday: January 25 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1–4 | Matthew 4:1–17

Epiphany continues to reveal how God's light breaks into places shaped by fear, struggle, and uncertainty. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' message takes shape among ordinary people, in real places marked by hardship and hope. Matthew presents Jesus as one who brings light where shadows linger, echoing Isaiah's promise that those who walk in darkness will see a great light. This good news is both comforting and challenging, calling us to turn toward God's ways and to trust that transformation is already unfolding among us.

The Rev. John Shillingburg will be preaching and leading worship. Ann Thompson will be our guest organist. 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.

John Stush
Beverley Mapp (sister of
Audrey Rayfield)
Izzie Sims (friend of Molly
Black)
Debbie Jennings (*friend of
Kathleen Jefferson*)
Charlie and his mother,
Amanda Brown (friend of
Rachael Bowman)
Robert Debonis (uncle of
Sophia Carliss)
Sandy Maples (sister-in-law of
Allen and Joan Maples)
Confirmands and Mentors
Betsy Fisher
Barbara Heverley
Todd Starr (nephew of Mary
Staley)
Sharon DiDonato (aunt of Darryl
Glick, friend of Mark Ulrich)
Isa Baxter (granddaughter of
Kathy Gelles-baxter)
Ginny Peters
Tom Ford

Karen Stitely
Donna Baumgardner Smith
(friend of Sandra Trout)
Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)
The Murray/Lennox/Cable
Family
Rhea Stein
Doris Esslinger
Sandra Trout
Charlie Van Eman (son of
friends of Kathleen and Niel
Jefferson)
Mary Staley
Pat Condo
Wells Condo
Kitty Bradley
Beanie Cornell
Tom Frazier
Pauline Marendt
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim
Sexton)
Carol Spera (mother of Mark
Ulrich)
Emogene Wyand

Bob Pinner
Jim Baldree (father of Chuck
Baldree)
Lee Thomas
Marcia Eisenstein
Derek C. Hupp (grandson of
Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan
and Judi Mach and Tony and
Linda LaFianza)
Jeannette Johnson
Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of
Betsy and Phil Selby)
Marcy Channell (daughter of
Jo Ann Fritz)
Paige Coffey
Fran Wenner
Bonnie Devilbiss
Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law
of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Kathy Blue Shores (friend of
Jean Fish & Barb Biser)

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 one of the following Sundays: January 11, 18, 25, and February 1 by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://tinyurl.com/ER26phto>. Walk-ins are also welcome. **On January 18, Elizabeth Slade will be taking photos after the 8:30 AM service. Just stop by the Welcome Desk. No appointment necessary.**



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 ebarry1@gmail.com or via text at (240) 422-7888.

FRANKLINTON CENTER AT BRICKS WORK TRIP

January 17–19

Please pray for ERUCC's annual work trip to the Franklinton Center at Bricks (FCAB). We depart on Saturday, January 17, at 6:00 AM and will return home on Monday, January 19, in the afternoon. This historic conference, retreat, and educational center in eastern North Carolina is dedicated to justice advocacy, leadership development, and community empowerment.



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

Special thanks to Keith Stickley, Marc Kline, and Sandy Gray for setting up our projects in advance. Thanks as well to Starr Schaeberle and Barb Barry for organizing our kitchen and meals.



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

MLK JR. COMMUNITY CONVERSATION & POTLUCK

Monday, January 19

Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 West Patrick Street, Frederick, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Questions? Contact Shelley Weakly, shelley.w.weakly@gmail.com, or Kathleen Jefferson kathleen.jefferson@gmail.com.

Please Join Us January 19, 2026

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ANNUAL BELOVED COMMUNITY CONVERSATION & POT LUCK



**THEME: DR. KING'S
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH!**

**““I believe that
unarmed truth and
unconditional love
will have the final
word in reality.”**

January 19, 2026 — 6:00 to 8:30pm

**Please bring a dish to share with your fellow
neighbors.**

**Trinity United Methodist Church
703 West Patrick Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701**

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, 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!

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE TRANSITIONS

Tuesday, January 27 (monthly, 4th Tuesdays)

Flora Room, 2:00 PM

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

Contact: Ave Barr or Linda Coyle with questions.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, January 27

North Room / Zoom, 7:00 PM

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

***The Lilac People* by Milo Todd.** Based on the true experiences of the LGBTQ+ population of Berlin/Germany before Hitler, during the war, and after liberation.

In 1932 Berlin, a trans man named Bertie and his friends spend carefree nights at the Eldorado Club, the epicenter of Berlin's thriving queer community. An employee of the renowned Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld at the Institute of Sexual Science, Bertie works to improve queer rights in Germany and beyond. But everything changes when Hitler rises to power. The Institute is raided, the Eldorado is shuttered, and queer people are rounded up. Bertie barely escapes with his girlfriend, Sofie, to a nearby farm. There they take on the identities of an elderly couple and live for more than a decade in isolation.

LET'S TALK: PRACTICING PEACE IN TIMES OF WAR

Sundays, January 18

Clapp Conference Room (church offices), 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Led by Susan Kulp. 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

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. Each drop-in class is \$10. 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.

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



FREE AMERICA WALKOUT

Tuesday, January 20

ERUCC Front Steps, 4:00 PM

Join our community for a peaceful gathering rooted in hope, justice, and solidarity. The hour will include brief remarks followed by sign-waving on Market Street. An ASL interpreter will be available. This is a nonviolent event grounded in respect, safety, and care for one another.

While the focus centers on women's voices and leadership, all who care about dignity, inclusion, and a future that belongs to everyone are warmly invited to participate. There will be a collection for feminine and personal hygiene products to support local organizations. Please bring items if you are able.

If you cannot attend in person, you are invited to pause, reflect, share the event with others, or hold the gathering in your thoughts at 4 PM.

Together, we walk toward a future shaped by compassion, courage, and belonging where everybody is in, and nobody is out.

2026 GIVING ENVELOPES

For those who currently use giving envelopes, your 2026 envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary, labeled by household name. Please note that envelopes are unnumbered this year, as numbering is no longer needed for our finance processes. If you give in cash, please write your name on the envelope (or include a brief note) so your gift can be properly recorded.

Giving envelopes are always optional. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to begin, you may request either a full set (weekly plus special giving opportunities) or a packet of special giving opportunity envelopes only. Please see Ann at the reception desk in the Kieffer Lobby, or contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

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>

For the June work camp, youth are encouraged and welcome to participate. Trip Leaders: Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, CAC Disaster Response Coordinator, and Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon, Pastor, Grace UCC.

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

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 starting late January. We are grateful for our relationships with our neighbors and ask for your cooperation as we honor their request and help maintain a spirit of mutual respect and good neighborliness in our downtown community.

Please also review the following important guidelines for using the church parking lot:

- 1. Park only in clearly marked parking spaces.** Do not park along curbs, in unmarked areas, or in any way that blocks driveways, alleys, or pathways.
- 2. Never block another vehicle in.** This includes double-parking or parking behind someone who is already parked. All vehicles must be able to always enter and exit freely.
- 3. Always display your ERUCC Authorized Parking permit.** Place your permit on your dashboard whenever you park in the lot. If you need a permit, please contact the church office or visit the reception desk on Sunday.
- 4. Building users must display time-limited parking placards.** Groups using space in the building are often assigned a limited number of parking spaces, and they must display the special event parking placard provided to them.
- 5. If you are physically able, please avoid parking in the lot.** Street parking is free after 5:00 PM Monday–Saturday and all day Sunday, and nearby City of Frederick garages are excellent alternatives. Garage parking is free on Sundays from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- 6. Please call the office before using the lot for any personal parking.** Anytime you want to park for personal reasons—during the week, evenings, or weekends outside worship—contact the church office to confirm availability.
- 7. Please reserve Sunday morning parking for those with reduced mobility.** If you can walk from street parking or a garage, your choice helps ensure members and guests with mobility challenges can park close to the building.
- 8. Thursday evening parking is reserved for choir members.** Your cooperation ensures dependable access for those participating in the church's music ministry.

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

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 will resume on February 1, following Franklinton Center at Bricks work trip activities.

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.

KIDVENTURES: SNOW TUBING

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

Sunday, January 25, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

KidVentures for elementary-age children will go snow tubing at Liberty Mountain on Sunday, January 25. 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>

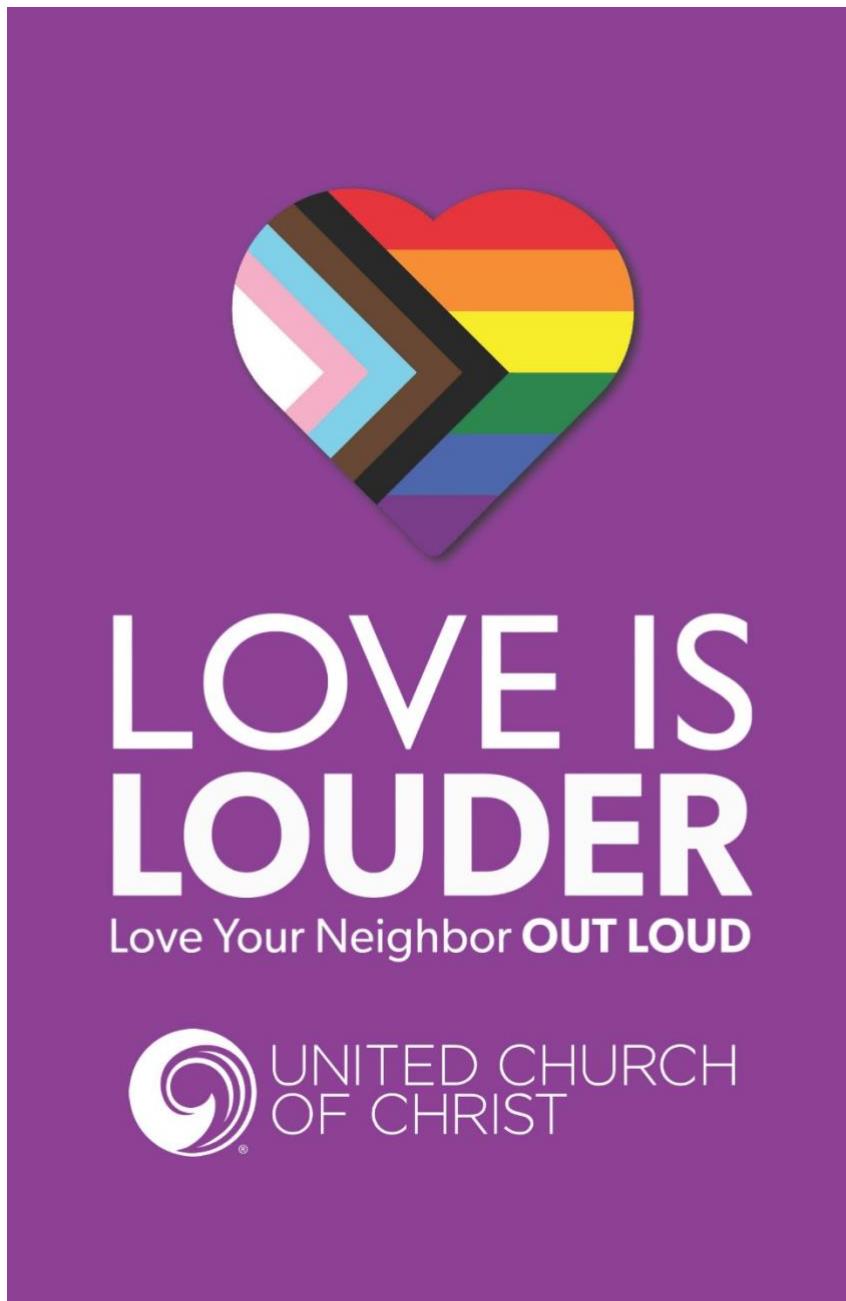
YOUTH DRESS UP DINNER

Community Room

Sunday, February 1, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Youth and parents, look for an invitation from the Dress-up Dinner team for youth to attend our annual dress-up dinner on Sunday, February 1. 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!

Contact Barb Barry (she/her) ebbarry1@gmail.com or Emily Spear (she/her) emilyspear@gmail.com with questions.



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*

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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 Huetting ~ *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*

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

ELDERS

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Matt Huetting | 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 Huetting

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>
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

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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.

January 18, 2026

John 1:29-42

All That We Are

When the Spirit descended from heaven like a dove and remained on Jesus at his moment of baptism, John saw it. He was in the Jordan River baptizing his cousin, Jesus. He witnessed that holy, amazing moment. He knew Jesus was the one to follow — not him — and so, he told his two followers just that.

“Look, there’s the Lamb of God. That’s who you want to follow,” said John. So off they went after Jesus. Jesus, sensing he was being followed, turned and asked them bluntly, “What are you looking for?” To which they replied, “Where are you staying?”

What kind of question was that? So much meaning gets lost in translation as our modern ears hear this as a question of actual location or a curiosity about how one is living. But the former followers of John who wanted to be in the Jesus club, were not wanting to know if Jesus was in a hip neighborhood or residing in a swanky dwelling. Their question we discover is much deeper for the Greek word we translate into “staying” should read “abide.”

The word “abide” is an important one in John’s Gospel. It is used 10 times in the first 10 verses in John 15. The biblical definition for abide means “to be held or kept” or “to remain.” So, what the soon-to-be followers of Jesus wanted to know was who was holding this prophetic teacher. Who was “keeping” Jesus — keeping him safe, secure, steadfast?

Jesus’ reply “come and see” is also one that goes deeper than an invitation to tour his home and have a cup of tea. Jesus’ “come and see” is an invitation to an adventure that unfolds throughout the entire Gospel of John.

Come and see how I abide in God. Come and see the importance of abiding in me as I abide in you. Come and see how, with God, you will always be held tightly.

Let’s now revisit this story. Jesus walks by and we realize he is the one we need to follow. Just as we catch up with his flowing robes, he turns to us and asks, “What are you looking for?”

Pause here and really think about your answer. What have you been looking for? What have been our expectations of Jesus? What is it we hope to discover? Now dare to ask the question, “Where are you abiding?”

Show us, Lord, once and for all, how we can also remain in the safe and transformative care of God, so that we can face the trials of this life victoriously — and with grace.

Tell us, Lord, where you abide because we would like to abide there as well. Let us end our time together praying the words of the great old hymn, “Abide with Me.”

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me. May it be so. 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.)

