



Restoring  
Beauty

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, below the sanctuary, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, outside the Community Room. Single-occupant, all-gender, accessible restrooms are located outside the North and Flora Rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: [www.erucc.org](http://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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org) • [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)**



**EVANGELICAL REFORMED**  
**United Church of Christ**  
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



February 8, 2026

Fifth 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**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER**

Jen and Karl Cooper

**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**

**\*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Spirit

*Joy Together*

– C. Townley, arr. Butler-Moore

**Joy together and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.**

**Joy together and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.**

*Refrain:*

**Celebrate joy and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.**

**Celebrate joy and worship the name. Joy together in Jesus.**

**Praise together and worship the name. Praise together in Jesus.**

**Praise together and worship the name. Praise together in Jesus. [Refrain]**

**Live together and worship the name. Live together in Jesus.**

**Live together and worship the name. Live together in Jesus. [Refrain]**

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Shout it out—no holding back!

**There is truth that needs to be spoken.**

Let the people rise and hear it.

**We are listening. We stand ready.**

Shout to the weary, the overlooked, the worn-thin:

**With courage, we gather. With voices, we speak words of life.**

Shout to the hearts carrying hidden weight,

**The Holy One meets us here in our honesty.**

Shout to the systems that press people down,

**Their power is not the final word.**

A new song is rising—

**A song that frees, a rhythm that restores, a melody of reparation.**

Shout to the builders, the dreamers, the stubbornly hopeful:

**The time has come for burdens to lift, for the grip of harm to loosen,  
for the rebuilding what has been broken.**

Come, Beloved Community, Come.

Bring your resolve, your compassion, your wide-awake faith.

**Let us worship the God who calls us to remove every yoke.**

## **\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Calling Voice That Won't Be Silenced, we come into this moment carrying the weight of our days—the strain we feel in our bodies, the struggle we witness in our neighbors, the burdens that press on our shared life.**

**Draw near to us now. Gather our scattered breath. Steady our trembling places. Kindle in us a courage that does not look away.**

**You are the One who refuses empty rituals and meets us instead in acts of mercy, in the work of lifting burdens, in the rebuilding of what has been harmed.**

**Open our hearts to compassion, open our imaginations to repair, open our hands to the work of freeing one another.**

**Let this time be honest, let this gathering be brave, and let your Spirit uproot what harms and to plant what heals.**

**We are here. Speak to us. Lead us. Remake us for your justice and joy.  
Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Glorious Is Your Name*

#53

**Glorious is your name, O Jesus, praises to your name.**

**Oh, glorious and righteous and holy is your name.**

**Oh, glorious is your name.**

**I feel your presence in this place, your Spirit makes me whole;**

**I can feel your warm embrace and all the joy within my soul,**

**Oh, glorious is your name, Oh glorious is your name.**

**\*CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Beloved of God, we come into this moment carrying stories we tell about ourselves—stories of good intentions, busy lives, and quiet compromises.

Yet the God who calls us is not interested in polished narratives, but in truth spoken gently and courage named honestly.

Confession is not a test we fail,

but an opening we step into—

a place where what is hidden can be named,

where what is heavy can be set down,

and where transformation can begin.

Trusting that God meets us with mercy and not fear,

let us turn our hearts toward the truth,

and pray for new life together.

**\*PRAYER FOR GRACE**

**God, we admit that we have not always chosen the path that frees.**

**We have stayed silent when truth asked for our voice;**

**we have protected our comfort when compassion asked for our hands;**

**we have waited for others to do the work you entrusted to us.**

**Loosen our resistance, lift the habits that keep us from seeing one another clearly, and break the patterns that bind us to what harms.**

**Teach us the courage to act with mercy. Teach us the discipline of repair.**

**Teach us the way of releasing what we cling to so that others may breathe more easily.**

**Let this moment mark a turning— a turning toward your justice, a turning toward your tenderness, a turning toward the shared life you imagine for us. In your grace, make us new. Amen**

## **\*WORDS OF GRACE**

Hear the good news:

The One who calls us out in truth, meets us not with shame,  
but with mercy that lifts what is heavy and compassion that steadies our steps.  
When we turn toward justice, God healing begins working in us.  
When we loosen what harms, God loosens the weight within us.  
When we offer ourselves to repair, God says to us, "Here I am."

In this promise, receive your freedom. In this grace, begin again.  
**Amen.**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*Children aged 5 through 5th grade who wish to participate in **Junior Church** may meet leaders at the back of the sanctuary. Children will return to their families in worship by 11:30 AM.*

## **\*HYMN**

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

#282

**Refrain: Every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart I will pray.**

**Upon the mountain my God spoke,  
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me; it looked so fine,  
I asked my God if all were mine.**

**[Refrain]**

**Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold,  
it chills the body, but not the soul.  
There's only one train on this track;  
it runs to heaven, then right back.**

**[Refrain]**

## THE SCRIPTURES

Laurel Nguyen-Powell

Isaiah 58:1–9a (9b–12) OT page 688

Matthew 6:1-14 NT page 5

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

The Rev. John Shillingburg

## MORNING PRAYERS

## RECOGNITION OF THE MINISTRY OF TYLER L. YORK

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Faithful Friends of God, the prophets tell us that devotion is revealed in the way we lighten each other's load—right here, in our streets and neighborhoods, where strain is real and hope needs partners.

When we give, we join the work of lifting burdens and repairing the places we call home. Let our offering be simple and true: open hands, willing hearts, and commitment to our shared life.

*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](http://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

*You Are My All in All*

Spirit  
– D. Jernigan

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God Who Leads Us Toward Freedom, we give thanks for every gift offered today—for open hands, willing hearts, and the courage to imagine a shared life made whole.**

**We ask that you bless all who come to the Community Fridge and Pantry in need. May they receive more than sustenance—may they experience dignity, community, and care. Multiply our humble offerings, that they**

**may bear fruit in a world longing for justice, flourishing, and joy.**

**Bless what we have brought. Let it move where relief is needed, where repair can begin, where dignity can rise. Make these gifts more than generosity—make them instruments of justice, seeds of compassion, signs that your vision is taking root among us.**

**Carry us forward in this work with gratitude deep enough to shape the world we are building together. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Over My Head*

#514

**<sup>1</sup> Over my head I hear music in the air.  
Over my head I hear music in the air.  
Over my head I hear music in the air;  
there must be a God somewhere.**

**<sup>2</sup> Over my head I hear singing in the air.  
Over my head I hear singing in the air.  
Over my head I hear singing in the air;  
there must be a God somewhere.**

**<sup>3</sup> Over my head I see trouble in the air.  
Over my head I see trouble in the air.  
Over my head I see trouble in the air;  
there must be a God somewhere.**

**<sup>4</sup> Over my head I see Jesus in the air.  
Over my head I see Jesus in the air.  
Over my head I see Jesus in the air;  
there must be a God somewhere.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May the Way, Truth and Life go with you, the Presence that unsettles what must change and steadies what must endure.

Let the weight on your shoulders grow lighter, not by forgetting it, but by letting others walk beside you.

Carry within you a courage that listens deeply, an imagination wide enough to rebuild ruins, and a tenderness fierce enough to unlearn every habit of harm.

And as you go—into streets that need mending and neighborhoods aching for breath— may you hear the Holy murmur “Here I am” in every shared burden, in every act of mercy, in every small unraveling of the yoke.

Go in boldness. Go in gentleness.

Go in the sacred work of making all things whole. **Amen.**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*God Be with You*

#809

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

**POSTLUDE**

*On Our Way Rejoicing!*

– M Sedio



**We thank Laura Walling and Joe Baker  
for sharing their gifts with us in worship today!**

**Worship Notes:** Liturgy adapted from *Remove the Yoke: Service Prayers for Epiphany 5A* was written by **Rev. Michael Anthony Howard**, who serves as the Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. Michael’s work supports congregations as they weave theology, justice, and place-based ministry into faithful action that bears prophetic witness to God’s dwelling among us.

Please join us for **Fellowship** with light refreshments and time for casual conversation after worship in our Community Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor).

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**The flowers on the altar** today are given in loving memory of my husband, Michael Rhoads, on the anniversary of his birthday by Belinda Rhoads.

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

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**Attendance Last Sunday:** 11 at 8:30 AM, 102 at 10:30 AM, and 51 online.



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

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

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### **Serving Today: February 8**

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer  
Robin L. Brady-Slifer  
Elder: Ave Barr  
Scripture Reader: Laurel Nguyen-Powell  
Acolyte: Abby Spear  
Greeters: Robin Cooney, Rob Smith  
Paul McGinley  
Welcome Table: Rissah Watkins, Sue Pinner  
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Ethan Kline  
David Howard  
Nursery:  
Fellowship: Ave Barr, Cliff Barr  
Joan Maples, Allen Maples  
Jen Powell, Pat Condo  
Bud Rossig

### **Serving Next Week: February 15**

Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw  
  
Starr Schaeberle  
Patti Patterson  
Emmie Rhoads  
Cathie Duncan, Sue Pinner  
Felecia Bishop  
Elizabeth Slade, Betsy Selby  
Jeff Baker, Kelly Esslinger  
Jeff Schaeberle  
Linda Coyle  
Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer  
Peter Brehm, Felecia Bishop  
Rob McGuire, Alex Martinez

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### **Next Sunday: February 15 – Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 24:12–18 | Matthew 7:24–29

As the Sermon on the Mount draws to a close, Matthew presents Jesus as one who teaches with authority rooted in transformative truth. Jesus calls his listeners not only to hear his words, but to build their lives upon them. The image of Moses on the mountain in Exodus reminds us that encounters with God can be awe-filled and unsettling, calling us into deeper faithfulness. Together, these texts invite us to consider what it means to build our lives on a foundation strong enough to withstand the storms, trusting that God's wisdom continues to guide and sustain us.

*The Rev. David Cooney will be preaching and leading worship. Jonas Dawson will be our guest organist. The Senior Choir will sing.*

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## **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.*

Baby James (Jeanellen Kallevang)  
Allen, Joan, and Larry Maples  
Charlie Woodward  
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)  
Baby James (great-nephew of a friend of Jeanellen Kallevang)

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## **PASTORAL CARE**

ERUCC wants to be there for you when you're experiencing an illness, hospitalization, or other life event for which you or someone you love may need a visit.

Members who are in nursing homes and those who currently reside in their homes but are unable to come to regular Sunday morning services will receive communion from our pastoral team. 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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).

## **Activities, Events, and Announcements**

### **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!

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### **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, [mkssexton@comcast.net](mailto:mkssexton@comcast.net).

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### **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**
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### **YOUTH FUNDRAISER: "OPERATION NACHOS!"**

Don't forget to pick up your "Operation Nachos!" orders from our Youth after worship service in the Community Room.

**Need to pay?** Pay by cash/check or online by scanning the QR code at right, or go to [ppay.co/y5HdY9oKBQY](https://ppay.co/y5HdY9oKBQY) (note: Youth Nachos in the memo field).



## **GREEN TEAM TABLE ON DATA CENTER EXPANSION**

Sunday, February 8, during Fellowship

Tom Dorsz and the Green Team will host a table during fellowship on February 8 to invite congregants to sign a petition to place the proposed data center expansion in Frederick County on the ballot. Signing the petition is not a vote for or against the expansion. It is simply a request to allow voters to decide the issue. We believe this decision should be made by the people of Frederick County, not solely by its Planning Commission. Signers must be registered Frederick County voters.

As a Creation Justice church, the Green Team is dedicated to providing education on environmental choices that impact our community.

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## **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 Catocin 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!

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

## **LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG**

Sunday morning, 9:15 – 10:15 AM, Zoom: [bit.ly/ERSunstudy](https://bit.ly/ERSunstudy)

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

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## **THEOLOGY AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH REV. DR. REBECCA SHILLINGBURG**

Tuesdays

North Room / Zoom, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom: [tinyurl.com/tuetap](https://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.

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## **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](mailto:rdkline15@gmail.com).

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## **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](mailto:pastorchance.graceucc@gmail.com).

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## FREDERICK SCHOOL OF RELIGION

*The Frederick School of Religion* convenes for its 41<sup>st</sup> year March 3. The School is an ecumenical teaching organization that provides a ‘*Learning for Life*’ experience. This year’s school consists of 6 courses which cover a broad range of topics appealing to diverse faith groups. The location is Beth Shalom, 1011 N. Market St., Frederick, MD 21701. These courses will be offered on consecutive Monday and Tuesday afternoons and evenings from March 3 through April 8. Each 6-week long course is eligible for up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units. For more information and registration forms, you may visit our website [www.frederickschoolofreligion.org](http://www.frederickschoolofreligion.org) or call (240) 651-1865 or (240) 490-5657.

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## Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

### WEBSITE

[www.erucc.org/give](http://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.

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**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.

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### **JUNIOR CHURCH**

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### **GOD'S KIDS' CLUB**

Monday, February 16

Community Room, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Theme:** *Heros Day* with special guest, ERUCC's own, Sean Sexton with the Frederick County Division of Fire & Rescue Services. Pack a lunch, bring a water bottle, and clothes to play outside.

God's Kids' Club offers fun, faith-based programming for children on many scheduled school-closure days, providing both a safe place to be and meaningful opportunities for youth to serve as helpers. Activities can include Bible stories, crafts, games, and service projects, all of which focus on exploring faith and building community.

## **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>

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## **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](mailto: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!

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## **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](mailto:awatkins@erucc.org). Contact Pastor Kirstin, [ksrhoads@erucc.org](mailto:ksrhoads@erucc.org), with questions.

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# LOVE IS LOUDER

Love Your Neighbor **OUT LOUD**



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# **Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC**

## **MINISTERS AND STAFF**

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

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Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

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

Ann Watkins ~ *Administrative Assistant/Receptionist* ~ awatkins@erucc.org

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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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

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## **Sunday Morning Schedule**

*subject to change*

8:30 – 9:15 AM	<b>Early Worship</b> , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	<b>Coffee and Conversation</b> , Kieffer Lobby
9:15 AM	<b>Let's Talk</b> , Downtown Community Room
9:15 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Nursery Care</b>
9:15 – 10:00 AM	<b>Children's Sunday School</b> <i>Pre-K, Nursery</i> <i>K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Liz Coffey Room</i> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Thomas Room</i>
9:15 – 10:15 AM	<b>Youth Sunday School</b> <i>Middle School Youth/Confirmation, Flora Room</i> <i>High School Youth, Alcove</i>
10:00 – 10:20 AM	<b>Children's Music and Movement</b> , Liz Coffey Room
10:30 – 11:30 AM	<b>Worship</b> , Sanctuary and Online at <a href="http://www.erucc.org">www.erucc.org</a> <b>Junior Church</b> , Thomas Room <i>Participating children are dismissed from Worship (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)</i>
11:30 AM	<b>Fellowship</b> , 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.

## Restoring Beauty

There's a white-washed stone and thatched roof cottage in Ireland that sits on a cliff. From every weather-beaten shuttered window there is a view of the sea that has inspired poets and composers for centuries. Wildflowers dance amid the grassy bluffs where a passing sheep or two can be found perfecting the storybook setting.

I stumbled upon this cottage during one of my bouts with writer's block. I had a pressing deadline, yet no inspiration. So, I decided to Google "Irish cottages for sale." Sadly, this dream cottage was not on the market. It was a vacation rental.

I was intrigued, but not with the possible dates in which to book a much-needed getaway. There on the website was the history of the cottage and how its owners restored the structure that had fallen not only into disrepair but had become what looked like just a pile of rocks.

Each before and after picture had me in awe. The restoration project was a massive undertaking. Yet what impressed me was not the amount of time, money and energy they put into bringing this ancient cottage back to life. What impressed me was that they had the eyes to see the beauty lurking in the rubble.

I am grateful that there are people who can see the possibilities in this world when others can't. I often show my husband, with great excitement, dilapidated old homes that are for sale. I begin pointing to the amazing stone foundation. I trace with my finger on the realtor's picture the faint outline of a chimney to what would have been a huge open hearth used for cooking. He, though, can't see what I see. He still sees just a pile of wood that would cost many dollars to rebuild.

But what would this world look like if we weren't blind to the "what can be's"? This question goes beyond Irish cottages, and even beyond the New England clapboard saltboxes I constantly dream about restoring.

I am talking about the "what can be's" that Jesus sees amid the broken beams, crumbling foundations and caved roofs of our lives. For just when we think rebuilding our life is impossible, Jesus not only sees that restoration is possible. Jesus makes it happen.

Many years ago, Jesus urged God's children to let their lights shine. Don't hide your light under a bushel basket. Shine — and shine brightly. Shine amid the rubble and ruin. Shine so that the God beauty can be seen. Shine to reveal that there is always hope. Shine, because the God truth is this: A pile of stone can indeed become a beautiful cottage once again.

*Loving God, forgive us when we start believing that restoration work is just too hard and costly. Open our eyes to see what You see — that all things are possible with You. Come into our lives this day and restore all that has crumbled. Restore, rebuild, reimagine — do what it takes for us to begin to shine once again. 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.)*

