



*Dazzling* Reign

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## **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 15, 2026

Sixth 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**

**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**

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is in God.

**God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

**Trust in God at all times, O people; pour out your heart before God; God is a refuge for us.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Eternal Light, shine into our hearts.**

**Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil.**

**Eternal Power, be our support.**

**Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance.**

**Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us.**

**That with all our heart and mind and soul and strength we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy to your holy presence;**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

#403

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' love and righteousness;  
I dare not trust this earthly frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

When shadows veil my Savior's face,  
I rest upon unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

Christ's oath and covenant and blood  
support me in the rising flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
Christ then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When Christ shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in Love be found,  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

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

On the mountain God gave to Moses the ways of wise living to share with the people. On the mountain Jesus gave the gathered crowd the ways of wise living. Come before the Wise One in prayer and seek God's ways.

## **\*PRAYER FOR GRACE**

**O Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us. We come before you as children. We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom. Let us walk in beauty and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. May our hands respect the things you have made, our ears be sharp to hear your voice. Make us wise, so that we may know the things you have taught your people, the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. We seek strength not to be superior to our brothers and sisters, but to live in harmony with ourselves and all of your creation. Help us to be ever ready to come to you, so when life fades as a fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.**

## **\*WORDS OF GRACE**

The Great Spirit who gives us life also fills us with the love and courage we need to follow the way of Jesus. May we live guided by the wisdom that gives us strength to share that love with all creation. **Amen**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*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**

Patti Patterson

Exodus 24:12–18

OT page 70

Matthew 7:24–29

NT page 7

**Reader:** May God bless the reading of this word.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

*A Solid Foundation*

The Rev. David Cooney, Ph.D.

## **MORNING PRAYERS**

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

This is the moment we've been waiting for. The space and time where we get to give back to the Holy One out of that which the Holy One has given to us. The wait is over, now let us offer our time, talent, and treasure with joy! **Amen.**

*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

*How Firm a Foundation*

– D. Forrest

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept this offering of your people.**

**Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given, and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all Peoples, and advance your reign. Amen.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation*

#400

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of our Go, and precious,  
binding all the Church in one;  
Holy Zion's help for ever,  
and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you,  
come, O God of Hosts, today!  
With your constant, loving kindness  
hear your people as they pray.  
Give your fullest benediction:  
grace to follow Christ the Way.

Here renew your servants' vision,  
that by faith they may attain  
peace and hope, renewed compassion,  
strength to comfort those in pain,  
Tears and grief transformed to gladness  
in your everlasting reign.

### \*BENEDICTION

Ancient of Days, as we exit this holy place, remind us of your words that are written on our hearts and that you placed them there for us to be able to share them with others. May we be as patient about their reception of these words as you have been and are with us. **Amen.**

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

### POSTLUDE



**Worship Notes:** Liturgy adapted from *Wait: Service Prayers for the sixth Sunday after Epiphany* was written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, who serves as The Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ. *Mystic in the making.*

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 in loving memory of Walter and Suzanne Schmid from Denman and JoyceAnn Schmid.

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

**Attendance Last Sunday:** 7 at 8:30 AM, 96 at 10:30 AM, and 89 online.

Watch  
Worship  
Live



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

### **Serving Today: February 15**

Deacons: Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw  
Elder: Starr Schaeberle  
Scripture Reader: Patti Patterson  
Acolyte: Emmie Rhoads  
Greeters: Cathie Duncan, Sue Pinner  
Felecia Bishop  
Welcome Table: Elizabeth Slade, Betsy Selby  
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Kelly Esslinger  
Jeff Schaeberle  
Nursery: Linda Coyle  
Fellowship: Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer  
Peter Brehm, Felecia Bishop  
Rob McGuire, Alex Martinez

### **Serving Next Week: February 22**

Angela Brittain, Jim Brittain  
Peter Brehm  
Betsy Selby  
Vivian Bowman  
Paul McGinley  
Cliff Barr  
  
Jeff Baker, Jeff Schaeberle  
David Howard  
  
Linda Coyle, Shelley Weakly  
Eric Weakly, Tommie Bradshaw  
Colleen Baldree, Chuck Baldree

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### **Next Sunday: February 22 – First Sunday of Lent**

Matthew 13:31-32

This week we focus on the subversive and playful nature of the good news. The kin-dom of heaven is so good it should catch us by surprise! Like a mustard seed, the good news can grow from the smallest seed into the tallest tree. Like an unruly weed, or fine wine saved for last, the good news is abundant and cannot be contained. As we sink into Jesus' teachings throughout the season, we may not always be comfortable, but we can trust that these teachings are good, rooted in love, and worthy of celebration.

*Tommie Bradshaw will be preaching and leading worship. The Senior Choir will sing.*

# Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

## WEBSITE

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



one time or recurring gifts

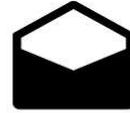
## MOBILE



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

## **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)

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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**

### **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 **Sunday, February 22, in the Community Room at approximately 12:00 PM**

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### **CHURCH DIRECTORY - DEADLINE EXTENDED (March 2)**

We are off to a great start with the Church Directory Update. The snow and cold snap threw a wrench in our timeline! **The submission deadline is extended to Monday, March 2.** Please OPT-IN by completing a digital or paper form.

**You can access the digital Opt-in form via this link:** <https://tinyurl.com/ERoptin26>. Paper forms will be available at Fellowship and the office through March 2. Submit a personal photo via email OR a church volunteer is available through March 1 to take photos before and after the 10:30 Service. Tom Dorsz is taking photos 2/22. Come to the Welcome Desk or Reception Desk in Keiffer Lobby.

Thanks for participating in this opportunity to build connection and community with our ERUCC family and new settled Pastor. **Questions?** Contact Barbara Barry at [ebbarry1@gmail.com](mailto:ebbarry1@gmail.com) or via text at (240) 422-7888.

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### **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.

## **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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## **LET'S TALK – LENTEN STUDY**

**“Mary Magdalene – A Woman For Our Time” With Richard Leslie**

Sundays February 22 – March 29

Downtown Community Room / Zoom 9:15 AM

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/erucclentenstudy>

“Out of the depths I cry to you, I Lord. Lord, hear my voice.” (Psalm 130)

We will gather to study Cynthia Bourgeault’s book, *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, beginning on Sunday, February 22. It is not necessary to buy the book, but it is available new and used on Amazon. We will begin promptly at 9:15 AM.

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## **SACRED CONVERSATIONS**

Tuesday, February 24

Flora Room, 2:00 PM

Join us for our next monthly gathering where we will 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 challenges and transitions related to life's changes, body limitations, and shifts in dependency. Pastor Kirstin will lead us in this time of holy sharing, emphasizing the importance of leaning on each other and recognizing that we are not alone in our journeys. Contact Ave Barr, Linda Coyle, or Pastor Kirstin with questions.

## **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.

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## **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.

## **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).

**Pickup:** All families must check out children with leaders in their classrooms at 10:15 AM.

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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. (Special activities are provided in the children's worship space on these Sundays).

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

Monday, February 16

Community Room, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Theme: *Heroes 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.

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/GKCHeroes>

## **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.

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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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## **EAST GERMANY GROUP IS COMING THIS SUMMER**

### **July 5-16, Approximate Dates**

We will need help with host families and other hospitality for 10-12 people. Feel free to ask our planning team: Matt Pomeroy, Owen York, Barb Barry, Jeff Baker, or Pastor Kirstin, if you have any questions!

## IMPORTANT “SAVE THE DATES” FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

March 20	God’s Kids’ Club, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
March 19-21	Youth & Confirmands Overnight and Interfaith Services
April 3	God’s Kids’ Club, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
May 2	Tots Family Flower Photos
June 22-26	Full Day VBS in partnership with All Saints Episcopal
July 16	East Germany Group is Coming!
July 23-26	Regional UCC Youth Conference, Laurelville PA
July 26-31	Gretna Glen Camp for Children, Lebanon PA



## Lent 2026 at ERUCC



This Lent, we are grounding ourselves in the good news of Jesus’ teachings. Over the next 7 weeks, our objective is not to simply examine some of the core tenets of Jesus’ ministry, but to truly embody them in our daily lives. We selected this text for Ash Wednesday primarily to focus on invitation and Jesus’ emphasis on radical inclusion; in this parable we see powerful metaphors for the ways God seeks out “many,” especially those at the margins, and doesn’t stop until the table is full. If we imagine God as the host of the banquet, how do we respond to God’s invitation? When do we feel God seeking us out? The context for this parable (Luke 14:12-14) also implies that Jesus is interested in how we host, who we seek to dine with, and what our intentions

are. Do we set tables simply for status and honor? Or do we search far and wide for those who are desperate to be fed (physically, spiritually, and emotionally)? As we begin this season with dust on our foreheads and the reminder of our human fragility, may we come like “those who humble themselves” (Luke 14:11). This Lent, may we not only be generous hosts but also humble guests, for the good news of great joy for all people means that God’s invitation is cast wider than we think, and we may be surprised to see who shows up.

### **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

Each week offers commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, hymns, and reflection prompts. Devotionals will be available starting Sunday, February 15, in the back of the Sanctuary or by request through the church office. We encourage you to engage in the weekly art and reflections at your own pace, imagining where God might be meeting you in between the dichotomies and supposed binaries.

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### **DAILY DEVOTIONAL CARDS**

A collection of 52 daily devotional cards – each with a question for reflection and a short prayer, spanning from Ash Wednesday through the first few days of Easter will be available starting Sunday, February 15, in the back of the Sanctuary or by request through the church office.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

Wednesday, February 18

Sanctuary, 12:00 PM and 7:30 PM

### **intention & action | Luke 14:15-24**

We begin Ash Wednesday with an open invitation. Instead of inviting people to focus internally on fasting and self-deprivation during Lent, this parable invites us into a communal feast. The host of the party sends a servant to search the entire city to bring people in: “Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled.”(CEB) The net is cast wide, though too many guests deny the invitation, instead focusing on their individual concerns. Yet, the host’s invitation is persistent. They search high and low for the dispossessed and the vulnerable, perhaps those who are hungry to accept the invitation. As guests are gathered in, the miracle is that there is still room. There is more love and abundance available if only we are present to accept it.

Services will include the Imposition of Ashes.

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## **ASH WEDNESDAY FOR FAMILIES**

Wednesday, February 18

**4:00 – 6:00 PM**

Given that the imposition and wearing of ashes is a significant part of our faithful expression of church life, on Ash Wednesday, Pastor Kirstin will have a prepared space inside the back parking lot doors, by our prayer tree, to share ashes and a blessing with anyone who wishes to participate in this sacred tradition. This opportunity can create meaning and connection for families or those who may not be able to attend our worship services at noon and 7:30 PM.

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## **MIDWEEK LENTEN WALKS**

**Wednesdays**

**12:00 PM in front of Kieffer Lobby**

Each Wednesday of Lent, beginning February 25, any who want to can join in a 20-30 minute prayer walk around our Lenten theme for the week. Meet at noon with comfortable walking shoes and a water bottle or snack if you wish. We will wander, not speedwalk. Our intention for Week 1 will be looking for something that surprises us!



# 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**

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Rebecca Shillingburg ~ *Worship Chair* | Peter Brehm ~ *Finance Chair*

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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	<b>Early Worship</b> , Sanctuary
9:00 AM	<b>Coffee and Conversation</b> , Kieffer Lobby
9:15 AM	<b>Let's Study the Bible</b> , North 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>
10:30 – 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

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## TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 15, 2026

Matthew 17:1-9

### Dazzling Reign

The setting sun cast a warm glow against the wooden beams of the Vermont barn where my wedding reception was being held. As candles flickered on the tables, the music for the father daughter dance began playing. My father's eyes glistened when he realized the song chosen for our twirl on the dance floor was from "The Sound of Music." The movie had always been a favorite in our family as Julia Andrews traipsing through the Alps always tugged at my father's Swiss heart.

*Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow until you find your dream.*

In the movie, Mother Superior sings this to young Maria — played by Julia Andrews — who is struggling with God's call in her life. The older nun reminds Maria that following God will always mean going in surprising, new directions. There will be struggles, doubts and tears. But search the high and low, Mother Superior says. Follow the dream that will indeed require "all the love you can give, every day of your life for as long as you live."

The season of Lent is upon us, but before we trudge along with Jesus on the way to the cross, we find ourselves having a mountaintop experience. It is here we join Jesus who takes two of his followers to witness divine glory. Jesus is transfigured in dazzling light and the pillars of the faith, Moses and Elijah, stand with him. Jesus' friends are in awe.

It is an amazing moment meant to renew us for the journey ahead, bolstering our waning faith. But we are not meant to stay on the mountain forever. There is life to be experienced. There are mountains to climb, streams to ford, and rainbows to follow.

I chose this song for my dance with my father because I got married later in life. I was at the point where I thought saying "I do" would never come from of my lips. Yet through my setbacks, my father would always encourage me to hang on to faith. Follow your dream. Don't give up.

Lent is beginning. Take one last look at the dazzling glory from your mountaintop view. Now grab hold of God's hand and make your way back down into the world. Give your hopes, dreams and desires to God and, as you do, make sure to give them all the love that they will need for as long as you live.

*God of mountain highs and valley lows, give us the strength and courage to follow You no matter how difficult or disruptive the path might seem. Help us to trust that where You lead us is to the place where the deepest desires of our hearts are found. 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