

# Restored



## **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 –



March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:30 AM



*The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal*

*\*All who are able may stand*

***Bold text read in unison***

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*PRELUDE**

**\*CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER**

Holly and Matt Davis

**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**

**\*THRESHOLD MOMENT**

Eliza Stitely

*Unwritten Agreement*

– Rev. Sarah A. Speed

We have this unwritten agreement,  
us members of humanity.

When the toddler at the coffee shop runs round the corner,  
when her mom, at the register, looks up in panic,  
we, the adults in the room, will pledge,  
with quick smiles and silent head nods, to keep watch.  
We will lean out of our seats.

We will put down our phones.  
We will stand at the ready  
to scoop up,  
to offer words of comfort,  
to make silly faces,  
to keep an eye on the door.  
And we will do this,  
because we cannot ignore the instinct to care.  
We will do this,  
because we cannot ignore the child right in front of us.  
We will do this,  
because love always includes the least of these.

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy One,  
sometimes the simplest of your commands  
are the hardest for us to hear.  
You say, "Love your enemy."  
"Turn the other cheek."  
"Care for the widow and the orphan."  
And we want to know: How? When? Where?  
Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear  
your truth for what it is. Open up  
space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities,  
to draw closer to you and closer  
to love.  
With hope for a better tomorrow,  
we listen, we pray.  
Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed*

**Christian, rise and act thy creed;  
let your prayer be in your deed;  
Seek the right, perform the true,**

#537

**raise your work and life anew.**

**Hearts around thee sink with care,  
you can help their load to bear;  
You can bring inspiring light,  
strengthen them to do the right.**

**Offer others hope and joy,  
and God's worship your employ;  
Giving thanks in humble zeal,  
learning all God's will to feel.**

**Come then, law divine, and reign;  
faith that doubt assails in vain,  
Perfect love bereft of fear,  
born in heaven and radiant here.**

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

Family of Faith,  
every week we pray the Prayer for Grace,  
because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace.  
Every week we need to be reminded of God's love.  
Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change.  
So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation.  
Friends, let us pray:

**\*PRAYER FOR GRACE**

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

**Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

**We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.**

God said, “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.”

**We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them.”

**We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.**

Fortunately for all of us, God also said,  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.”

**By God’s grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,  
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives!

**Amen.**

#### **\*WORDS OF GRACE**

Church family,

Jesus saw children and invited them to come to him.

Jesus healed widows and invited strangers to come with him.

Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion,  
and the same can be said for us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**Our God is a God of mercy.**

**Our God is a God of compassion.**

**Our God is a God of grace.**

**We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.**

**Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.**

**Amen.**

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*Children, youth, and all who wish to join them are invited to come forward for a special message.*

#### **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.**

## **HYMN**

*Little Child, Welcome*

#323

**Little children, welcome!  
Earth is yours to live in;  
arms of love protect you,  
little children, welcome!**

**Little children, welcome!  
Jesus cares about you;  
Jesus now enfolds you,  
little children, welcome!**

**Little children, welcome!  
We, the Church of Jesus,  
we will help your growing,  
little children, welcome!**

**Little children, welcome!  
God will make you happy,  
Jesus save and keep you,  
little children, welcome!**

*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**

Eliza Stitely

Matthew 19:13-15      NT page 21  
Deuteronomy 24:17-22      OT page 179

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

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

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

## MORNING PRAYER

### INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

The season of Lent invites us to consider what it means for us to live life sacrificially, to lean into Jesus' call to costly discipleship. How might God be calling you to a new way of sharing your resources to build care and equity in our communities and world? Let us offer whatever gifts we have to love the world like God did in giving God's Son.

*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

*I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

- R. W. Lehman

### \*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

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

#425

**For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
For God's gifts to every nation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping,  
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.  
In our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place,  
Look for those that our world casts aside.  
When you meet the widow, the orphan, or the stranger,  
Be open to hear their pain, speak with love.  
Share God's love with open arms.  
But no matter what, speak this good news.  
For the good news of the gospel is  
love and justice for all.  
It is joy that surprises,  
and nonviolence that transforms.  
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,  
so go forth speaking.  
For if you won't, then who will?  
Thanks be to God  
for this good, good news.  
Amen.

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

**POSTLUDE**



**Worship Notes: *The Signs: Service Prayers for Lent 4A*** was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema who serves as a free-range facilitator, ritualist, activist, teacher, and writer whose work lives at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective. Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |sanctifiedart.org.

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

**The flowers on the altar** this morning are given by Felecia Bishop in memory of Joseph and Elaine Bishop.

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

**Attendance Last Sunday:** 8 at 8:30 AM, 106 at 10:30 AM, and 47 online.



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

<https://erucc.org/visit/sunday-live-stream>

**Serving Today: March 15**

Deacons: Kyle Miller  
 Tommie Bradshaw

Elder: Susan Kulp

Scripture Reader: Eliza Stitely

Acolyte: Abby Spear

Greeters: Felecia Bishop  
 Rob Smith

Welcome Table: Jeanellen Kallevang

Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Larry Martin  
 David Howard

Nursery:

Fellowship: Starr Schaeberle, Mark Ulrich  
 Darryl Glick, Julie Chappell  
 Betsy Selby, Angela Brittain

**Serving Next Week: March 22**

Angela Brittain  
 Jim Brittain  
 Susan Kulp

Lucas Nguyen-Powell  
 Robin Cooney  
 Felecia Bishop  
 Betsy Selby  
 Kelly Esslinger, Ethan Kline

Susan Kulp, David Howard  
 Robert Morris, Linda Coyle  
 Rhea and Jake Stein

## **Next Sunday: March 22 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

John 8:2-11 | Matthew 23:23

As we move toward Holy Week, we acknowledge the ways Jesus' ministry was increasingly at odds with the religious leaders who prioritized loyalty to legality and perceived Jesus' teachings as a threat. While Jesus is teaching in the Temple, some scribes and Pharisees interrupt Jesus to put both him—and a woman caught in adultery—on trial. Their questioning intensifies as they cite Mosaic Law and put the woman's fate in Jesus' hands. Instead of focusing on punishment, Jesus flips the script and invites each person to consider their own sin; Jesus defuses the spectacle by condemning no one. Much of Jesus' teachings were grounded in his understanding of the Torah; however, many of his actions called for reinterpreting the law. As we wrestle with our own rules, we should ask, "What is the most just, merciful, and faithful interpretation?"

*David Cooney will be preaching and leading worship. 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.*

Della Willmann (Shelley Weakly's mother)  
Esther Ziegler  
Diane Waggy  
Claude Huntsman (brother-in-law of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)  
Baby James (Jeanellen Kallevang)  
Charlie Woodward  
John Stush  
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)  
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  
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)  
  
Confirmands and Mentors

---

## 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**

### **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.

---

### **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).

---

### **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.

## **FREDERICK SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Frederick School of Religion will be offering 7 classes covering a broad range of topics.

**WHEN:** Monday and Tuesday afternoons and Monday and Tuesday evenings, for six weeks starting March 16, 2026.

**WHERE:** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF) 4880 Elmer Derr Road Frederick, Md.

All 6-week long courses are eligible for up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units. For more information and registration forms, you may call 240-651-1865 or 240-490-5657 or visit our website at [www.frederickschoolofreligion.org](http://www.frederickschoolofreligion.org).

---

## **ALL-CHURCH MULCHING EVENT**

Saturday, March 21

ERUCC, 9:00 -11:00 AM

Let's Get Ready for Spring! The Green Team invites church members to join in cleaning up and mulching the native plant garden and Church street garden. Contact Linda Coyle to RSVP and bring garden gloves!

---

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)**

Sunday, March 22

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.



Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

ERUCC will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on **March 22, 2026**. Please prayerfully consider your contribution.

## **NO KINGS RALLY**

Saturday, March 28

Baker Park Bandshell, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Join us for the next **No Kings Rally** on March 28, 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Baker Park Bandshell! Watch for further details.

Also in our regional neighborhood, there will be a No Kings Rally in downtown Hagerstown this same day, from 1-3pm. This community needs to help to show up with big numbers in opposition. We stand with Hagerstown rallying against the Williamsport Internment Camp in partnership with the Maryland Coalition to Stop the Camps (<https://stopthecampsmaryland.com/>) who invite signs with the statement, “No DHS Camps in MD!” You can register for this event at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/no-camps-no-kings>.

Or you can attend a rally in Washington DC hosted by Indivisible. One option is to march at 10am across the Memorial bridge by the Lincoln Memorial and ending at the Washington Monument or join in the group meeting 1:30-4:00pm.

Our Mission Committee invites us to be safe whatever we might do that day.

View [www.nokings.org](http://www.nokings.org) to prepare by reading information titled “Know Your Rights” and viewing other details to prepare you for protests. A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action.

---

## **ERUCC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**



ERUCC is fortunate to have several scholarship programs available to our members as they seek educational opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in the realization of their full potential. These scholarships are gifts to church members for post-secondary undergraduate education and are awarded by the Scholarship Committee. The awards are based on the quality of the candidate's plan for use of the funds, the ability and promise of the applicant, and the need for financial assistance. The aid may continue for subsequent years after an interview with the Scholarship Committee, submission of intent to reapply, and a transcript of grades for the current year.

All application materials must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee through the Church Office by **May 7, 2026**.

Request an application for new or renewing applicants by visiting Ann at the reception desk in the Kieffer Lobby on Sunday mornings or email: [erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org).



Share your story and take part in the

# CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

If you identify as a survivor (or an ally) of power-based violence, including intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault, we invite you to create a T-shirt and confidentially share your story or message to encourage others.

[wash.org/clothesline-project](http://wash.org/clothesline-project) | [fresh@wash.org](mailto:fresh@wash.org)

## Upcoming Workshop

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Evangelical Reformed UCC | 15 West Church Street



A plain t-shirt and all art supplies will be provided. Find a workshop near you!



&



EVANGELICAL REFORMED  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## **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.

---

### **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).

---

### **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.

---

### **YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION INTERFAITH RETREAT**

**Confirmands: Thursday, March 19**, 6-8pm, Flora Room. “Ways We Pray”, dinner included.

**Youth and Confirmands: Friday, March 20** at 9am with an overnight in the sanctuary until Saturday, March 21 at 11am. Interfaith visits to the Islamic Center and Beth Shalom included as well as Planning for Good Friday leadership project.

RSVP for the overnight: <https://tinyurl.com/YthOvrnte320> or via QR code:



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

Friday, March 20

Community Room, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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/ERUCCGKC320> or via QR code:



---

## **BETHANY BEACH YOUTH RETREAT**

April 10-12, Cost \$50

We will leave early Friday and return Sunday afternoon. We will play on the beach, take photos on the boardwalk, enjoy many group games, and plan for YOUTH Sunday. We will carry our theme of STORY into hearing about the 6 uniting themes of the UCC church. 2 Adults volunteers needed.

Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/BBYRAPR10> or via QR code:



---

## **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 29	Palm Sunday Junior Church Easter egg hunt
April 3	God's Kids' Club, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
April 10-12	Bethany Beach Youth Retreat
April 17	Tree planting at the Reed Center
May 2	Tots Family Flower Photos
June 22-26	Full Day VBS in partnership with All Saints Episcopal
July 6-16	East Germany Group is Coming!
July 26-31	Gretna Glen Camp for Children and Youth, 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.

Jesus' words are easily distorted and sanitized in our modern world. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical," which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be

"good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news?

This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

---

### LET'S TALK – LENTEN STUDY

**"Mary Magdalene – A Woman for Our Time" with Rev. 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, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice." (Psalm 130)

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

---

### CAC LENTEN CONTEMPLATIVE SERIES

Join us for a journey every Wednesday at noon through Lent, we will be led in a contemplative time of prayer and community on Zoom. Spiritual directors or those who work in the discernment discipline from around this conference will lead us weekly. The world we live in is chaotic and frenetic, so this Lent let us be diligent in slowing down to sit in Spirit for a moment.

The link is here: <https://tinyurl.com/CACLentSeries>

Meeting Code 89607592102

Password 211204

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Ann Rolasky

## 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!



---

## LENTEN GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- Our **Christian Education Sunday Schools** invite the church to give **donations for our first responders**. We will collect individual, store-bought snacks like crackers, pretzels, chips, brownies, and non-refrigerated individual drinks. These can be brought to the Lobby outside of the Liz Coffey and Thomas Rooms. Our God's Kids Club in February followed the theme of Heroes, and we were blessed with sharing from Sean Sexton who is Firefighter Paramedic. We will collect items to distribute as a gift during Holy Week to Stations #3, #4, and #5. Two of these are located closest to our church, and one is a location that Sean serves from.
- **Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice** invites us to also partner in **giving to Beyond Shelter** this season. We will be collecting diaper wipes, diaper genie refills, hot drink mixes: tea, coffee, hot chocolate; and cases of individual water bottles. Please bring items all through March and April to the bin in the Sanctuary Lobby, to the left of the Welcome Table.

TRANSJOY PICNIC

# TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY

FREE EVENT

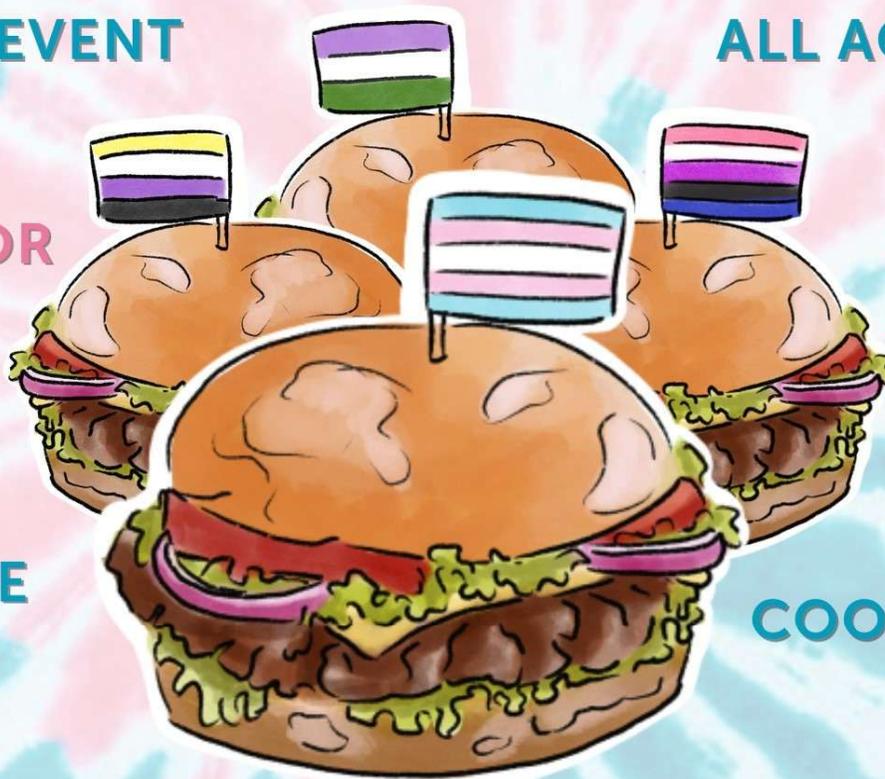
ALL AGES

RAIN OR  
SHINE

BANNER  
SIGNING

TIE DYE

BBQ  
COOKOUT



BRACELET MAKING

MULLINEX PARK  
16 S BENTZ ST,  
FREDERICK, MD 21701

SATURDAY,  
APRIL 4TH  
12PM-4PM



**THE FREDERICK  
CENTER** Emerging and  
Belonging Together

# **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

-----

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*

-----

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

## **CONSISTORY**

Peter Brehm ~ *Acting President* | Matt Hueting ~ *Vice President*

David Kehne ~ *Secretary* | Robert Morris ~ *Treasurer*

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

Shelley Weakly ~ *Mission, Evangelism, and Social Justice Chair* | Vacant ~ *Property Chair*

Julie Clark ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Holly Davis ~ *Christian Education Chair*

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

## **ELDERS**

Ave Barr | Peter Brehm | Matt Hueting | Jeanellen Kallevang | Susan Kulp | Eric Weakly

## **DEACONS**

Quynn Adkins | Tommie Bradshaw | Robin A. Brady-Slifer | Robin L. Brady-Slifer

Angela Brittain | Jim Brittain | Kyle Miller | Mark Ulrich

## **SETTLED PASTOR SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE**

Rachael Bowman | Tommie Bradshaw | Karl Cooper | Linda Coyle | Matt Hueting

Terry Logee | Jen Powell | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely

## Sunday Morning Schedule

*subject to change*

8:30 – 9:15 AM	<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	<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>
10:30 – 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.

## 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

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.



*Let the Little Children Come*  
by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell  
Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15  
11"x14" Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper

# Easter Lilies

This year, we will be filling our chancel area with beautiful Easter lilies on Easter morning. Plants will be ordered from the Dutch Plant Farm. You may take your plant home after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday, April 5.

If you would like to order lilies, please complete a form online by scanning the QR code below, or enter your information below and return this form in the offering plates with payment or to the church office by March 30. Cost per plant: \$18.50

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to place \_\_\_\_\_ lilies in the sanctuary for Easter morning.  
#



If you wish your lily to be listed "in memory of," "in honor of," or "placed by [the donor]," please indicate which and PRINT the names below.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Placed by:



\_\_\_ Check here to have your Easter lily(ies) distributed on your behalf if you do not wish to take the flower(s) yourself.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 15, 2026

John 9:1-41

### Restored

One of the most haunting questions in John comes when after Jesus restores the sight of a man born blind and the Pharisees begin asking, “Surely, we are not blind?”

From the very beginning of this healing story, there’s much debate and misinformed assumptions from the community, including Jesus’ disciples, as all wonder whose sin was responsible for the man’s affliction: His own or his parents? Curses and blessings pave much of the Old Testament theological road, so it was popular belief that when bad things happened it was because of something you or a family member did or didn’t do.

Jesus announces, though, the blindness was no one’s sin, and with a little divine spit rubbed onto the man’s eyes, Jesus heals him. The man returns from washing his eyes in the Pool of Siloam, which means “sent,” as Jesus instructed him to do. He returns with eyes that see everything vividly, even the truth of who Jesus is — the Holy One of God.

Skepticism prevails, though, and the Pharisees relentlessly question the man. It is then that Jesus makes the comment that he came into the world so that those who do not see may see, and those who do may become blind. He said it loud enough for the educated religious elite to hear. And when they do, they wonder, “Surely, we are not blind?”

Surely, I am not blind. Surely, you are not blind. We can see clearly what is right and what is wrong in the world, correct? Surely, we can see with the restored eyes of the blind man not only the beautiful blues in the sky and the lush greens in the meadows but the power and majesty of Christ among us.

The question of blindness is a haunting one because it reminds us that often we see only what we want to see, and we believe only what we want to believe. Like the Pharisees, none of us are free from misinformed assumptions and inherited prejudices and stymying skepticism.

How then do we gain our spiritual sight? I suppose it starts by allowing this question to haunt us. For only when we begin to ask if we ourselves are blind will we begin to admit that we need corrective spiritual lenses.

*All-knowing and all-seeing God, heal us from our own blindness that keeps us from seeing the world with the eyes of Jesus. May this day we regain our spiritual sight to see those who are hungry, who hurt, and who are lonely. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*

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

