

Breath of **Hope**

Welcome to Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Thank you for worshiping with us at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

If you are a guest, please visit us at the Welcome Table in the lobby. We would love to meet and learn more about you, and we are available to answer your questions. Please also feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. We encourage you to join us in the Community Room for Fellowship after the worship service for casual conversation and connection over light refreshments.

ERUCC is an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. We welcome into the full life and ministry people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

For Children: We have trained nursery staff for ages 0-4. A deacon or greeter can guide you to the nursery. Children aged 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table and a children's table is available for quiet activities at the front of the sanctuary.

We ask that you **please silence your cell phones** during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Restrooms, accessible and equipped with changing stations, are located on the 2nd floor, below the sanctuary, and on the 1st floor, outside the Community Room. Single-occupant, all-gender, accessible restrooms are located outside the North and Flora Rooms on the 2nd floor.

There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far.

We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.

15 WEST CHURCH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701
(301) 662-2762 • erucc@erucc.org • www.erucc.org



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



March 22, 2026

Fifth 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**

The Black family

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

LIGHTING OF THE CENTERING CANDLE

***THRESHOLD MOMENT**

Nancy Jones

The Things That Matter Most

– Rev. Sarah A. Speed

I wrecked the family car, an old gold minivan
that had traveled every inch of I-95. It had worn cushions
and an old school map in the glove box.
It held a folder full of mix CDs under the passenger seat
and every memory of every family trip, and I wrecked it.
I called the tow truck while the engine

hissed and smoked. I called my dad,
my own apologies tripping over themselves
to get to the front of the line.
I expected to be grounded.
I expected a “How could you?”
But when I got home that night,
my dad held me close and said,
“A car is just a car, but you are my child.
The only thing that matters is that you are okay.”
And I knew it for what it was.
It was mercy. It was love.
It was the thing that mattered most.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God, you call us to a life of justice, mercy and faith. In this time of Lent, rekindle the fire in our hearts to answer that call. Spark a fire in our hearts for justice: for the oppressed, the overlooked, our neighbors, those not given a voice. Spark a fire in our hearts for mercy for all who need grace. Spark in our hearts a fire for faith that we might trust you in all things. Remind us that faith invites us to love as you love, and to forgive as you forgive. Speak your word afresh to us in this time of worship and open our hearts to hear that word. In Jesus name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

#531

**God, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.**

**O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
some wanderers along life's way;
O feed me so that I may feed
your hungering ones without delay.**

**O fill me with your fullness, God,
your overflowing love to know;**

**In glowing word and kindling thought,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

**O use me, God, use even me
just as you will, and when, and where,
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time. None of us can get by without God's grace. When we acknowledge this truth and turn to God for forgiveness, we are able to be filled with God's grace. Join in this act of transformation.

***PRAYER FOR GRACE**

**Holy God,
we love to live our lives by the rules.
We love clear answers.
We love right and wrong.
We love swift justice.
We love to pick up stones,
but you show us another way.
You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.
You prioritize mercy over legality.
You prioritize people over tradition.
You prioritize love over everything.
Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.
Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.
Forgive us. Soften our hearts.
Root us in mercy, justice, and love.
With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel. Our God is a God of mercy, compassion, and grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God.

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.**

*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

Matthew 23:1-12, 23-24 NT page 25

Nancy Jones

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Weightier Matters

The Rev. David Cooney, Ph.D.

MORNING PRAYER

– CANTATA –

Requiem

by John Rutter
Senior Choir

Mary Huegel, oboe
Colleen Huetting, soprano

1. REQUIEM AETERNAM

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine:

et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion:

et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.

Exaudi orationem meam,

ad te omnis caro veniet.

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

A hymn befits thee, O God in Zion:
and to thee a vow shall be fulfilled in Jerusalem.

Hear my prayer,
for unto thee all flesh shall come.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

5. AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

Dona eis requiem.

Lamb of God, who takes the sin of the world,

In Thy mercy, grant them rest.

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of
misery.

He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

Dona eis requiem.

Lamb of God, who takes the sin of the world,

In Thy mercy, grant them rest.

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succor?

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

Dona eis requiem sempiternam.

Lamb of God, who takes the sin of the world,

In Thy mercy, grant them rest everlasting.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;

he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

- Latin text from Missa pro defunctis; English texts from the Burial

Service, 1662 Book of Common Prayer

6. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul; and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:

thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

- Psalm 23

7. LUX AETERNA

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord,

For they rest from their labors; even so saith the Spirit.

Lux aeterna luceat eis Domine:

cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,

quia pius es.

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine:

Et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Light eternal shine upon them, Lord, we pray:

With saints and angels ever dwelling,

for thy mercy's sake, may they rest in peace.

Grant them rest eternal, Lord our God,

And light perpetual shine on them.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

The word Lent connects to the lengthening of daylight (springtime). In the light we see more clearly how we live, how we act, how we give of ourselves,

our time, our talent. How does your giving correspond to Jesus' call for justice, mercy, and faith? Let your generosity grow with the lengthening of the days.

This is a time during worship when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift to our church's ministries and programs. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts to share God's love.

If you wish to give, you can give online at www.erucc.org, by placing your gift in the offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary before or after the service, or by scanning the QR code to give from your phone.



***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Receive our gifts O God. May they be precious in your sight. We give our tithes and talents as a sign of our love and devotion. We pray these gifts will be used for your glory and for the works of justice, mercy, and faithfulness. Everything we give we offer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

#588

**Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.**

**Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.**

**So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.**

*BENEDICTION

*SEVENFOLD AMEN

#814

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. **Unbind: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Lent** 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, disability, and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.

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

The flowers on the altar this morning are given in loving memory of my husband, Bill Stahler and our granddaughter, Liz Coffey by Peg Stahler.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 11 at 8:30 AM, 112 at 10:30 AM, and 101 online.



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 AM or on-demand:
<https://erucc.org/visit/sunday-live-stream>

Serving Today: March 22

Deacons: Angela Brittain
Jim Brittain
Elder: Susan Kulp
Scripture Reader: Nancy Jones
Acolyte: Lucas Nguyen-Powell
Greeters: Robin Cooney
Felecia Bishop
Welcome Table: Betsy Selby
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Ethan Kline
Nursery:
Fellowship: Susan Kulp, David Howard
Robert Morris, Linda Coyle
Rhea and Jake Stein

Serving Next Week: March 29

Angela Brittain
Jim Brittain
Peter Brehm
Dan Smith
Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Susan Kulp
Cliff Barr
Julie Clark
Jeff Baker, Jeff Schaeberle
David Howard
Emily Spear, Maria Lagrotteria
Julie Clark, Joe Adkins
Quynn Adkins, Kyle Miller
Pat Dorsz, Zaydan York

Next Sunday: March 29 – Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11

Roman triumph usually occurred during Passover week as a show of Rome's might. The governor would have been surrounded by the wealthiest and most powerful citizens. In contrast, Jesus' march is for the people—all the people: the hungry, the poor, the afraid. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowd responds to Jesus' authenticity and humility. Perhaps they can see through the pageantry of the Roman parade; in contrast, the goodness of Jesus' leadership shines through, mobilizing the crowds to take action by throwing cloaks in the street and waving palm branches in the air. The energy is infectious, a climax moment in the grassroots movement of Jesus' ministry. This week's sub-theme intentionally places us in the crowd, inviting us to shout "Hosanna," to throw our coats down, and to wave branches. What will the good news inspire us to do? How will the gospel move us? As we head into Holy Week, how will we put Jesus' teachings into practice?

Rebecca Shillingburg 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.

Rhea Stein as her mother enters Hospice	Betsy Fisher	Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
Ingrid Jacobsen after the death of her wife, Kitty Bradley	Barbara Heverley	Emogene Wyand
Laura Broderick	Todd Starr (nephew of Mary Staley)	Bob Pinner
Della Willmann (Shelley Weakly's mother)	Sharon DiDonato (aunt of Darryl Glick, friend of Mark Ulrich)	Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)
Esther Ziegler	Isa Baxter (granddaughter of Kathy Gelles-Baxter)	Lee Thomas
Diane Waggy	Ginny Peters	Marcia Eisenstein
Claude Huntsman (brother-in-law of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)	Karen Stitely	Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Baby James (Jeanellen Kallevang)	Donna Baumgardner Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)	Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)
Charlie Woodward	Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)	Linda LaFianza
John Stush	The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family	Jeannette Johnson
Izzie Sims (friend of Molly Black)	Rhea Stein	Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Debbie Jennings (<i>friend of Kathleen Jefferson</i>)	Doris Esslinger	Marcy Channell (daughter of Jo Ann Fritz)
Charlie and his mother, Amanda Brown (friend of Rachael Bowman)	Sandra Trout	Paige Coffey
Robert Debonis (uncle of Sophia Carliss)	Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)	Fran Wenner
Sandy Maples (sister-in-law of Allen and Joan Maples)	Mary Staley	Bonnie Devilbiss
	Pat Condo	Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
	Wells Condo	Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
	Tom Frazier	Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
	Pauline Marendt	
	Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)	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.

Activities, Events, and Announcements

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG

Sunday morning, 9:15 – 10:15 AM, Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy

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

North Room / Zoom

Led by Rev. John Shillingburg, this is an ongoing class, with new members welcome at any time. No prior Bible knowledge is required. The class explores scripture in its original context, considering who wrote it and how it has been interpreted over time. This multi-faceted approach leads to deep learning and engaging conversations.

THEOLOGY AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH REV. DR. REBECCA SHILLINGBURG

Tuesdays

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

Zoom: tinyurl.com/tuetap

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

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

GENTLE YOGA

Tuesdays

Community Room, 7:00 PM

Experience tranquility and wellness in this Gentle Yoga Class. Led by experienced Yogamour instructors, this nurturing practice focuses on gentle postures, mindful breathing, and deep relaxation techniques. Participants of all levels are welcome.

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

Questions? Contact Renae, rdkline15@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY PRAYERS

Wednesdays

Sanctuary, 4:00 – 4:30 PM

On Wednesday afternoons, you are invited to enter the church (doors open at 3:45 PM) and proceed to the front of the sanctuary in silence. We will pray silently in our own personal traditions. We begin promptly at 4:00 PM and end at 4:30 PM. What you can expect: substance for your everyday journey. Led by Rev. Richard Leslie.

ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS!

Saturday, March 21

North Room, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

There is a wonderful crafters' gathering in the North Room once a month which happens to be meeting this Saturday, March 21st. We'll be there from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Join us for 10 minutes, two hours, or all day. Any craft is welcome, but please, no glitter, hahahaha!!! Contact Nancy Jones with any questions.

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 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.

ERUCC PARKING SURVEY

With the loss of permission to park in the M&T Bank lot across the street, ERUCC is evaluating the congregation's parking needs. Please take a moment to complete this brief survey so that we can discern possible changes to our parking strategy. We invite responses by not later than March 31, 2026. If you want a paper copy of the survey, please email or ask Ann Watkins (awatkins@erucc.org) to send you one. Thanks! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K5Y5HV9>

THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT – T-SHIRT MAKING SESSION

Wednesday, April 15

Community Room, 6:00 – 8:00 PM



The Clothesline Project is an effort to raise public awareness about sexual and intimate partner violence. If you identify as a survivor (or ally) of power-based violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault, we invite you to create a T-shirt and confidentially share your story of message to encourage others. The Clothesline Project shirts will be displayed on Thursday, April 23 at Hood College prior to Heartly House's Take Back the Night rally. Go to <https://wash.org/clothesline-project> to learn more. Shirts and limited art supplies will be available, or participants are welcome to bring their own shirt or supplies.

COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 19

Beth Sholom Congregation and Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick
1011 N. Market Street

We hold this Holocaust Remembrance Day Service to educate and to remember the atrocities of the Holocaust. We strive to honor and remember the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of others killed by the nazi regime and its collaborators during WWII. Too late we “Heeded the Warnings.”

This year we are very honored to present and interview a **deaf survivor, Dr. Eugene Bergman**. He will be speaking to us through an interpreter about his incredible and miraculous journey, a journey that ultimately found him emigrating to the United States. Notably, the first deaf person to earn a PhD in English, Dr. Bergman taught at Gallaudet College from 1972 to retirement in 1996. He is 95.

Questions? Please contact Marty Erlichman, Chair of the Holocaust Committee, erlichman@verizon.net or 301-694-9217

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

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays

Children in K – Grade 5 are invited to Junior Church most Sundays during the school year. Children begin worship at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary with their families and, after the Thought for the Day, are dismissed for creative, well-supervised spiritual formation activities. On the first Sunday of each month, children remain in worship to participate in worship and receive communion with their families. (Special activities are provided in the children's worship space on these Sundays).

HARDBOILED EGGS NEEDED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 3

We are in need of 8 dozen eggs for Friday, April 3 for painting eggs at God's Kids Club on Holy Friday. Please bring these to church and put in the walk-in by Wednesday, April 1, and that's no joke! Sign up here to bring eggs and other goodies: <https://bit.ly/4sUQiQm>

GOD'S KIDS' CLUB

Holy Friday, April 3

ERUCC, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Kids will paint eggs and make Easter Baskets for the Faithful friends and learn about Holy Week. Confirmants will take leadership in these activities as a part of their service to the church. Bring a water bottle and an extra pair of clothes should your paint clothes get dirty! Register at: <https://bit.ly/4sV3RiM> or by using the QR code:

PALM SUNDAY PALM PARADE

Sunday, March 29

On Sunday, March 29, during the 10:30 AM worship service ALL children are invited to help in the palm parade. Please arrive at 10:20 AM and sit in the back two rows of the sanctuary. Youth volunteers will distribute palms and lead the group through the sanctuary. We will also have Junior Church today. At that time, kids will have an Easter Egg hunt, including walking outside. Please bring a jacket as needed. **On THIS day, children will meet their parents in the Community Room instead of returning to the Sanctuary at 11:30 AM.** Questions? Ask Thomasa Pomeroy.

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.

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 this week will be looking for justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

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

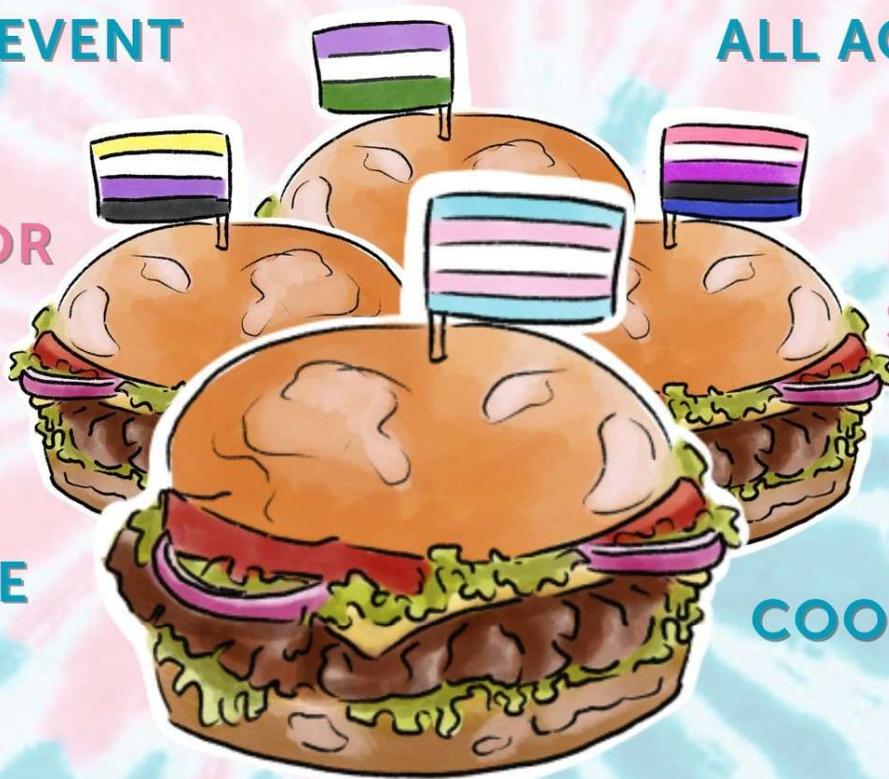
ALL AGES

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*

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

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

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

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

Angela Brittain | Jim Brittain | Kyle Miller | Mark Ulrich

SETTLED PASTOR SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE

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

Terry Logee | Jen Powell | Bud Rossig | Eliza Stitely

Sunday Morning Schedule

subject to change

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

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Ways to Give to Evangelical Reformed UCC

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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.

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2026

John 11:1-45

Breath of Hope

The first sermon that ever made tears roll down my cheeks was heard in a New York City church in my early 30s. I was a single Manhattan editor facing the proverbial fork in the road of life, not knowing which way to go. Even worse, was that I had no desire to take any step in any direction. I was stuck in what felt like a dank cave of gloom.

The preacher began talking about poor, dead Lazarus. Lazarus' sisters had sent word to Jesus about his friend being ill, urging him to come quickly. Jesus took his time, though. When he arrived, Lazarus had been wrapped in burial cloth and placed in a tomb for a couple of days. Jesus cried but then wiped his tears and called to his dead friend to come out.

This is when the preacher got dramatic, standing in the middle of the chancel and looking into an invisible tomb, shouting, "Come out! Live!"

The words reverberated from every corner of the sanctuary. The preacher then turned away from the imagined tomb and looked at us, the worshippers, and with an urgent, quieter plea, he begged for us to, "Come out! And finally live!"

The first tear ran down my cheek. Then the second. Then came the deluge, for I had realized I had been wrapped in my own burial clothes of fear. I had allowed the stone of depression to seal me from the hope that was still around.

That day I didn't hear a dramatic preacher preach. I heard Jesus himself cry to me, "Come out! There is still so much life to be lived. Remove the cloths of fear wrapped around you. Step out of the dark tomb of death and into the light of life — new life filled with God's promises of an amazing future."

Truthfully, I didn't hear the rest of the preacher's sermon. I was too excited to start living again.

On this Sunday in Lent when we are so close to the cross, when soon we will be hearing another resurrection story — THE resurrection of all resurrections, that of Jesus — we are reminded that God can and will revive us as well. Jesus is standing this day outside of whatever door you have slammed shut and he is breathing hope back into your lifeless world. It's time to come out of your tomb of grief, hopelessness, despair or indecision, and do something radical: Live!

Loving God, You know all too well how we often give up when things don't go our way or when we seem to have hit a dead end. But You see that this is not the end for us — or of us. There is still more to experience and to learn. May this day we heed Jesus' words to "Come out and finally live." 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.)

