

Palm Sunday

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 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

10:30 AM

Transgender Day of Visibility



The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal
**All who are able may stand*
Bold text read in unison

– SERVICE OF PALMS –

BRASS PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision
Sonata
Fugue in G minor
Trumpet Tune

Market Street Brass

- arr. B. McNally
- D. Speer
- J. S. Bach
- H. Purcell

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

BRASS PRELUDE

Ride On in Majesty

Market Street Brass

- A. Rawlings

***CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER**

The Coen 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**

For Transgender Day of Visibility

Remember that time,
You told me, because I was trans,
I couldn't be alone with kids?
That was a messed up thing to say.
And if you don't remember,
That's also messed up,
Because most days,
I can't forget
The way you reduced me
To a monster,
Because who I love
And how I saw myself
Didn't make sense to you

When did sense
Become the foundation for love?
Since when does love require understanding?
Where was the awe I heard preached,
For the variations of God's creation?
For the love of God,
What was there to fear –
Why did my love scare you?

Cause it's that love,
In my big heart,
That loves you too –
And every day,
That love gives way
To forgiveness,
And I thank God
You were in my life,
And I thank God,
You are alive,
I haven't forgotten

Dan Smith
– Chris Miles Vara
(they/he)

That it was you,
Who encouraged me
To supplement my writing
With my voice,
You that modeled honest communication,
Showed me faith in practice,
And love, and kindness –
Everything I needed,
When I was too young
To know what I didn't,
Or how to tell anyone else
What I did or did not want,
You gave me the greatest gift of all –
You gave me strength,
And confidence
That if and when,
I absolutely had to,
I could, in fact, keep my body safe.

So even though you and God
Saved me at eleven or twelve,
Or thirteen or sixteen,
Or eighteen or twenty-two,
The last time I finally came out to you,
I was saving myself –
Like you taught me how to,
Only not because
I was physically under attack,
But because I was under attack spiritually and emotionally,
And if I hadn't fought back,
If I hadn't gone on to be, both,
Super Queer and hold a Super Faith in God,
I may have died –
Either slowly, or immediately –
Instead, I chose to be Alive,

In hope of seeing the day
no other child's life,
Gets left behind –
So, we all get to thrive,
Together. -

And it starts,
With the “least of these” –
The child I might have been
If not for your love, -
So for the love of God,
Stop putting stumbling blocks
In children's way –
No matter their age,
If and/or when,
We don't understand them,
Or are scared for them,
Do what was done for me,
Before the love and dreams in my heart
Were feared –
Pretend nothing is scary,
Ask questions,
Stay past closing,
Until we know they're okay,
Talk with them,
Pray,
And love them like they're our own,
Because some day,
They might be –
And if we reject what the “Lord hath made,”
They, too, may wander this earth,
Looking for home.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of the Palms,

Thank you for drawing near to us.

Help us to live boldly in your truth as a sacred act of resistance, as a mirror of the Divine who transcends all categories and boundaries.

We gather today as people of faith, allies, and beloveds, to say:

Trans people are not an afterthought. They are not a side note in the story of liberation.

They are the movement. They are the miracle.

Thank you for showing us a different way: a God who rejects privilege.

As we cry “Hosanna” and wave palms, help us to hear this story again.

Give us wisdom to hear these words anew.

Give us wisdom to take them into our hearts this time.

Give us the wisdom to act on their truth.

As we wait, take away the fear that has settled in our souls.

Help us to trust in the arrival of goodness even in the wake of suffering.

Let this Palm Sunday speak a language of welcome that we might never turn away hope when it appears to us. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Palm Parade

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#216

All glory, laud, and honor

to you, Redeemer, King,

to whom the lips of children

made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the King of Israel

and David's royal Son,

now in the Lord's name coming,

the King and Blessed One.

The company of angels

is praising you on high;

and we with all creation

in chorus make reply.

**The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.**

**To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.**

**As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness,
O good and gracious King!**

***BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

The very first Palm Sunday was a day of action. It was a day of movement, of crowded city streets, and cries of "Hosanna!" It was a day of peaceful protest and dreams for a better world. The first Palm Sunday was a day of peaceful, hopeful action.

So friends, on this Palm Sunday, let us join the saints before us in an act of faith. Let us begin with an act of prayer, an act of honesty, an act of transformation. Let us begin by drawing close to God and sharing the truth of our lives. Let us begin with confession.

Join me in prayer:

***PRAYER FOR GRACE**

Jesus of Nazareth,

we know that you spent your days teaching and healing.

You marched through the streets and walked on water.

You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables.

Your good news was not confined to conversation.

It was not confined to the Temple.

Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world.

Holy God, we long for a faith like that.

Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith

to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon.

**Inspire us to love as you loved.
Inspire us to act.
With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.**

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Church family, whether or not you wave your palm branch,
whether or not you live out your faith,
whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions,
God will never stop loving you.
Jesus will never stop marching for you.
The Spirit will never stop listening to you.
**We are claimed, loved, and held in grace.
What good, good news. 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.**

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

***HYMN**

The Palms

– J.B. Faure

**O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festal preparation,
Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare;**

Chorus

**Join all and sing, His name declare,
Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation:
Hosanna! Praise to the Lord!
Bless Him who cometh to bring us salvation.**

**His word goes forth, and people by its might
Once more regain freedom from degradation.
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness are restored to light.** [Chorus]

**Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.** [Chorus]

THE SCRIPTURES

Dan Smith

Mark 11:1-11 NT page 47

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Rebecca Shillingburg

MORNING PRAYER

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Market Street Brass

Rondeau

– J. Mouret

– RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS –

INVITATION

Pastor: We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith.

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

SENTENCES

Pastor: Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: *David and Sharon*, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

ADDRESS

Pastor: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence *with us here at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ.*

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

***WELCOME AND RECEPTION**

Leader: Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, let us express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior. Thanks be to God!

The congregation may be seated.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this church.

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for sending to us these believers that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind

which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory.

All: Amen.

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.



OFFERTORY

Benedictus

Senior Choir

*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

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

#213

**Hosanna, loud hosanna
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.**

**"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice.**

***BENEDICTION**

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

Market Street Brass

- J. Stanley



Worship Notes: Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Opening Prayer adapted from prayers by Cole Author Riley and by Rev. Derek Terry, Acting Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC Church.

We thank Market Street Brass for joining us in worship!

Trumpet: Daniel Cheston, Frank Gorecki

Horn: Oscar Cabello

Trombone: Daniel Twentey

Bass Trombone: Brian Hinkley

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 in memory of our parents, Ed and Jane Rossig, by Bud, Jennifer and Ellen.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 12 at 8:30 AM, 110 at 10:30 AM, and 87 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

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

Serving Today: March 29

Deacons: Angela Brittain
Jim Brittain
Elder: Peter Brehm
Scripture Reader: Dan Smith
Acolyte: Laurel Nguyen-Powell
Greeters: Susan Kulp
Cliff Barr
Welcome Table: Julie Clark
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Jeff Schaeberle
David Howard
Nursery: Emily Spear, Maria Lagrotteria
Fellowship: Julie Clark, Joe Adkins
Quynn Adkins, Kyle Miller
Pat Dorsz, Zaydan York

Serving Next Week: April 5

Mark Ulrich
Quynn Adkins
Jeanellen Kallevang
Sue Pinner, Robin Cooney
Paul McGinley, Felecia Bishop
Julie Clark, Jeanellen Kallevang
Jeff Baker, Kelly Esslinger
David Howard
Julie Clark, Joe Adkins
Quynn Adkins, Kyle Miller
Pat Dorsz, Zaydan York

Communion Prep:

Ave Barr

HOLY WEEK AT ERUCC

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2

7:30 PM Worship in Sanctuary



Knowing he is nearing the end, Jesus surrounds himself with his closest friends. Though he is very aware of who will betray him, he doesn't exclude Judas or Peter from the table. In modern times, we might have canceled Judas, but Jesus chooses to care for him instead, offering him bread and cup and loving care. Jesus doesn't define Judas by his worst act. If we put ourselves in Judas's shoes, it really is good news that nothing can separate us from God's love. We are not judged by our worst actions, which means we are called to extend grace to others too. The good news is that God's radical, unstoppable love extends to all people—even to those who wrong us, even to us on our worst days.

We will commemorate the last Supper as we share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Senior Choir will sing.

HOLY FRIDAY

Friday, April 3

12:00 PM Worship in Sanctuary

7:30 PM Worship in Sanctuary and Livestream



Where is the good news on Good Friday? Where do we see glimpses of goodness within an awful, brutal story? Jesus kisses the one who betrays him. He exclaims, "no more!" in the fury of drawn swords, offering healing instead. He uses his final breaths to plead for forgiveness for those who have crucified him. Jesus is stripped of all decency and humanity, yet his actions reveal the good news of a peaceful God. Meanwhile, the actions of others around him—the betrayals, the mocking, the derision, the mob mentality, and the violence—reveal who we are at our worst. The Passion narrative tears down any facade. Everything is revealed in this moment, for better and for worse. The good news is, Jesus' ministry is not defeated by death—it is only interrupted. More will be revealed on the third day.

The Senior Choir will sing at the 7:30 PM service only.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5

8:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary and Livestream



Death cannot stop the good news. It is alive, unbound, and wild in the world. Like the mustard seed, it grows without limit. Like water turned into wine, it surprises us with joy. Like loaves of bread, it expands to feed each hungry soul. And now, even in the face of death, it will not be buried or silenced. Just as the angels in Advent, the angel at the empty tomb delivers good news: “Do not be afraid.” On the way to Galilee, Jesus greets the women with this same message, but adds: “Go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” As we celebrate the good news of Easter, let us also go out seeking Christ in the faces of neighbors and strangers, and in the good works that are alive in this world.

This morning, we will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at stations in the front of the Sanctuary. The Senior Choir will sing, and guest brass players will join us in celebration. We will also add to our Prayer Tree, expanding its inclusivity with brightly colored prayer flowers, alongside the fresh flowers we place on the Easter Cross, symbolizing our collective prayers and the beauty of resurrection hope.

A JUST WORLD FOR ALL



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

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.

NORTH CAROLINA MISSION TRIP DONATIONS

Six members of ERUCC will be attending the North Carolina Mission trip to Boone, NC, **Sunday, April 12 - Saturday, April 18**. The group, led by Chance Martinez, of Grace UCC and Barbara Kershner Daniel, Mission Trip Coordinator for the Central Atlantic Conference, includes 14 participants.

We are requesting breakfast and dinner casseroles to feed at least 15 people. Please prepare them in disposable aluminum pans, preferably frozen. Additionally, we are looking for donations to purchase fresh food during the trip. A complete list of items will be available on Sign-Up Genius (<https://bit.ly/48cKQjN>). Donations can be left in the kitchen identified as "Mission Trip." Please see Sedonia Martin with any questions (smartin@towson.edu or 410-596-5419).

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. The committee consists of chair, Sandra Trout and members Dan Smith, Trish Coffey, and Cathie Duncan.

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.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY 2026

Saturday, April 4

Mullinex Park, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

16 S Bentz St

You're invited to join the Frederick Center for the 2026 Trans Joy Picnic to celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)! This will be our biggest and best celebration yet! To show our pride in our trans community, connect with friends, and cultivate trans joy and resilience, we hope to see you there. We will have a BBQ cookout provided by The Williams Kitchen, annual banner signing, tie dye, bracelet making, music, and more! This event is FREE and open to all ages. Come on down and celebrate with us on April 4th!

UCC FLOOD RESPONSE TO DISASTER IN HAWAII

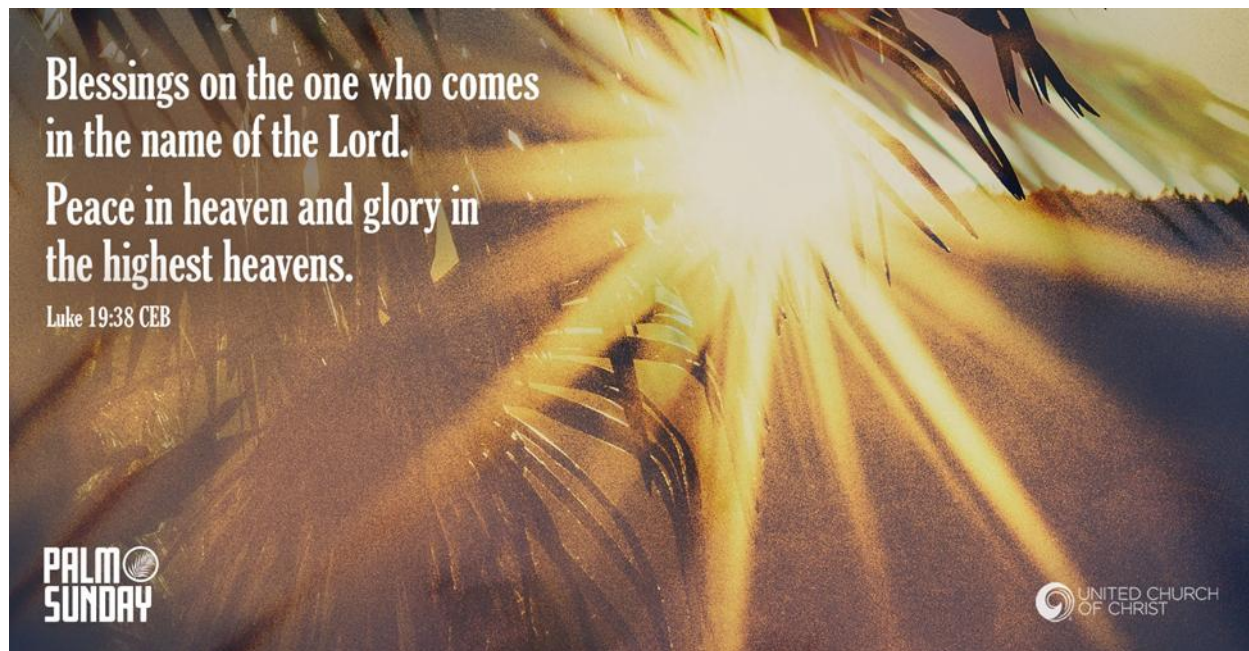
In late March 2026, Hawaii experienced back-to-back storms known as Kona Lows that caused severe flooding across the Hawaiian Islands. This flooding represents the worst flooding that Hawaii has seen in more than 20 years. The Governor of Hawaii estimates the damages from these storms at over \$1 billion, including damage to airports, schools, roads, homes, and a Maui hospital in Kula. The **Global HOPE team** is in regular communication with the Hawaii Conference staff, ecumenical partners in disaster recovery, and response coordination calls with the national network of voluntary organizations active in disasters (VOAD). At this time, we are working to connect response resources with communities in need – this includes coordination with Church World Service and the potential deployment of clean up kits.

As we continue to pray for and support those who experienced unimaginable loss, we invite you to support the UCC's recovery efforts in the following ways:

- Donate to the UCC's Hawaii Flooding 2026 Appeal. Your gifts will support the long-term recovery efforts of these communities, as we work to ensure an equitable approach to recovery.
- Pray for those who have been impacted.
- Act by assembling Hygiene Kits and Cleanup Buckets. **(Watch for an opportunity to make flood clean-up buckets with our ERUCC community!)**

Thank you for your partnership in our collective efforts to accompany those most deeply impacted by these recent events. Your heartfelt support will make a difference.

You can also mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hawaii Flooding 2026" in the memo section of your check. Our EIN: 34-1927041



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:



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:



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026: A THEATRE CAMP APPROACH!

JUNE 22-26, Monday – Friday, with a performance Friday morning.

Registration for both students and volunteers will go live on Monday, April 6.

Both volunteers and participants can choose half day, **(8:00am-12:30pm)** or full-day camp **(8:00am-3:00pm)**

Because it is a musical, and we need singers, high school students are invited to be volunteers and middle school students up to age 13 can choose to be a volunteer or to participate in the musical! We will be learning and performing the children’s musical “*Moses and the Freedom Fanatics!*” while still having activities, crafts, and an afternoon at the pool.

All students will register through All Saints Episcopal Church and all volunteers will register through ERUCC.

Volunteers from both churches will need to have updated safe church background checks, trainings, and be cleared to help with children. We will have a training in the beginning of June for anyone who needs to be recertified or who has been within our community for at least 6 months and wants to help this week!

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

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.
-

ADORN OUR FLORAL EASTER CROSS

Easter Sunday, April 5

As we continue our tradition of filling our Easter cross with flowers on Easter Sunday, we invite you to bring in flowers of your own. These could be early blooms from trees or flowers from your garden or even from a florist. We will celebrate joyfully with signs of new life that help to “Tell us Something Good!” about the resurrection power of Jesus and the joy we have from the deep and inclusive love of God!

When you enter the sanctuary or during our first musical selections, we invite you to come forward and add to the beauty of this cross in the front of the sanctuary. There will be additional flowers for anyone who forgets or doesn't have access to them. During the 10:30am service, at the end of worship, the now flower-adorned cross will be carried outside to the portico, proclaiming joy and new life to the Frederick community!



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	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, Nursery</i> <i>K – 2nd Grade, Liz Coffey Room</i> <i>3rd – 5th Grade, Thomas Room</i>
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Youth Sunday School <i>Middle School Youth/Confirmation, Flora Room</i> <i>High School Youth, Alcove</i>
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

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



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.

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.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
(SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT)

March 29, 2026

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Palm Sunday

Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Not the best dinnertime conversation to initiate but leave it to Jesus to bring it up just as everyone is enjoying a meal. We are there as well, at the table gathered for what will become known as The Last Supper. It is a night to wash feet, break bread and drink from the common cup. It is also the time for Judas, one of Jesus' 12 followers, to excuse himself from the festivities to sell Jesus out to the chief priests for 30 pieces of silver.

We already know what comes next as the Holy Week drama unfolds. Jesus is arrested, tried and crucified. We also know that Judas, so overcome with shame and guilt, will kill himself.

What we don't know is that there is more to Judas' story. Often seen as the scapegoat in the story of salvation, Judas' real failing goes deeper than greed.

The ultimate betrayal was that Judas failed to believe in the depths of God's love for him — a love that forgives the deepest of betrayals. Rather than remember the grace Jesus spoke of, Judas allowed his guilt to consume him.

When I think of Judas' betrayal as one not trusting God's redemptive love, I begin hearing Jesus' dinner conversation differently. When he declares one of us will betray him, I squirm in my seat as others protest "Surely not I, Rabbi?" I know that many times I have run from God all because I couldn't trust the extent of love waiting to absolve me of my guilt and give me a new lease on life.

My friends, don't be like Judas — or me. Run to the loving arms of God, unafraid of the confessions that will come from your lips. Run, confess, repent — let it all out. Not only can God handle it, God will forgive.

Forgiving God, as much as we would like to say that we would not betray You, we know better. We are human and we are flawed. In this life, we will stray from Your ways. When we do, give us the courage to return to You, seeking the forgiveness You will not withhold from us. 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.)

