A close-up photograph of a woman's face in profile, drinking water. The image is heavily tinted with a dark red color. A stream of water is captured mid-air, falling into her open mouth. The background is dark and textured. The text 'Thirsty Voices' is written in a white, cursive font and is enclosed within a thin white rectangular border.

Thirsty Voices

Welcome to Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Thank you for worshipping 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 8, 2026

Third 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. Richard Leslie

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Your Are Welcome Here

- G. DeMan

Refrain: **You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
No matter where you are on life's journey
You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
Come and join with us, we're united in the church of
Christ.**

**Come now all people, join in the song,
Come be a part of the family of God.
We are God's people and you belong.
Share in the joy of Christ. [Refrain]**

**We pray for justice, we pray for peace.
We hear the word of the Savior of all.
We find God's mercy, we find release;
Sharing the joy of Christ. [Refrain]**

**Lifting each other, doing what's right,
standing together whatever may come.
Praising our Savior, shining our light;
Sharing the joy of Christ. [Refrain]**

***CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER**

Linda and Kevin Coyle

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**

Pam Shepp

Surely, This Must Be It

– Rev. Sarah A. Speed

Everyone has a job. I wash the potatoes, filling the sink with slivers of potato peel. You brine the turkey, hovering by the oven all afternoon. Someone sets the table, taking care to fill a vase with asters and marigolds, sprigs of holly and shoots of evergreen. We play music while we prepare. “What The World Needs Now is Love” comes on. We can't get it out of our heads. We whistle along to Dionne all afternoon. And eventually, the doorbell rings.

You've invited the neighbors, the grad student who sits on the second row at church, the widower in the choir. We add seats to the table. We go around the room and share one thing we're grateful for. Eyes well as we create a laundry list of beauty. The kids get squirmy, but we're grateful for that too.

And then we eat! We scoop whipped potatoes and crisp green beans with fresh garlic. We pass the bread basket, leaving crumbs all over the table. They are tiny reminders of communion in our midst. And at the end of the night, when we walk our guests to the car and carry sleeping children to their car seats, our neighbors say, What a holy moment it all was. Surely this must be what heaven feels like. Surely we can create it together.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God,

We could press our ear to the page, hoping to hear you more clearly.

We could silence all the alarms and notifications,

hoping to catch a murmur of your voice. We could still our beating hearts, and still we might miss your voice. So today we pray, open up space in our hearts, in our spirits, in our minds, to feel your presence among us.

With you, anything is possible. We believe. Help our unbelief.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Morning Has Broken

- E. Farjeon

Morning has broken

like the first morning,

blackbird has spoken

like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing

fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall

sunlit from heaven,

like the first dewfall

on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness

of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness

where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!

Mine is the morning

born of the one light

Eden saw play!

Praise with elation,

praise every morning,

God's recreation

of the new day!

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Friends, we are like the disciples.

The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away.

We often do the same.

Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part.

That is why we need the Prayer of Confession.

For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference.

So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling.

Join me in prayer:

***PRAYER FOR GRACE**

Holy God,

with you the impossible is possible.

5,000 can be fed.

The blind can see.

The hopeless can find hope.

With you the impossible is possible,

but we are quick to forget that.

We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.

We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.

But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Family of faith,

no matter how many mistakes the disciples made,

Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved.

The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.

We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.

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.**

HYMN

Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

#3

**Many and great, O God, are thy works,
Maker of earth and sky;
Thy hands have set the heavens with stars;
Thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at thy word the waters were formed;
Deep seas obey thy voice.**

**Grant unto us communion with thee,
Thou star-abiding one;
Come unto us and dwell with us;
With thee are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
Eternal life with thee.**

*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

Pam Shepp

Mark 6:32-44 NT page 41
Ephesians 3:20-21 NT page 193

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

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, 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

My Jesus Walked

- L. H. Doucet

*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

Sing of Colors

#402

Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills in profusion are springing.

Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside my window their canticles singing.

Sing of colors of the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope we recall.

Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.

Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.

Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.

Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares, who has offered salvation.

Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.

**Many colors that shine from God's face,
Many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face,
Many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

***BENEDICTION**

May the God who Creates, Redeems and Sustains us
touch your life with tenderness
hold your hope with fierceness
and guide your heart with courage.

May you experience God's rich gifts of abundance, community, and the impossible made possible.

And may we call it GOOD.

Amen.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

An Old Irish Blessing

**May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sunshine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.**

**And until we meet again,
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand until we meet again.**

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

POSTLUDE



Worship Notes: Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. “Ripe for Harvesting”: Service Prayers for Lent 3A 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.

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 by the Maples/Rhoderick family in loving memory of Sam Maples.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 14 at 8:30 AM, 112 at 10:30 AM, and 64 online.



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

Serving Today: March 8

Deacons: Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Elder: Marc Kline
Scripture Reader: Pam Shepp
Acolyte: JD Bowman
Greeters: Cathie Duncan, Sue Pinner
Rob Smith
Welcome Table: Elizabeth Slade
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery: Kate Fromknecht
Fellowship: Emily Spear, Chris Spear,
Ben Spear, Jocelyn Vara
Chris Vara, Michelle Kerill
Brendon Page, Rachael Bowman
Josh Bowman

Serving Next Week: March 15

Kyle Miller
Tommie Bradshaw
Susan Kulp
Eliza Stitely
Abby Spear
Felecia Bishop
Rob Smith
Jeanellen Kallevang
Kelly Esslinger, Larry Martin
David Howard

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

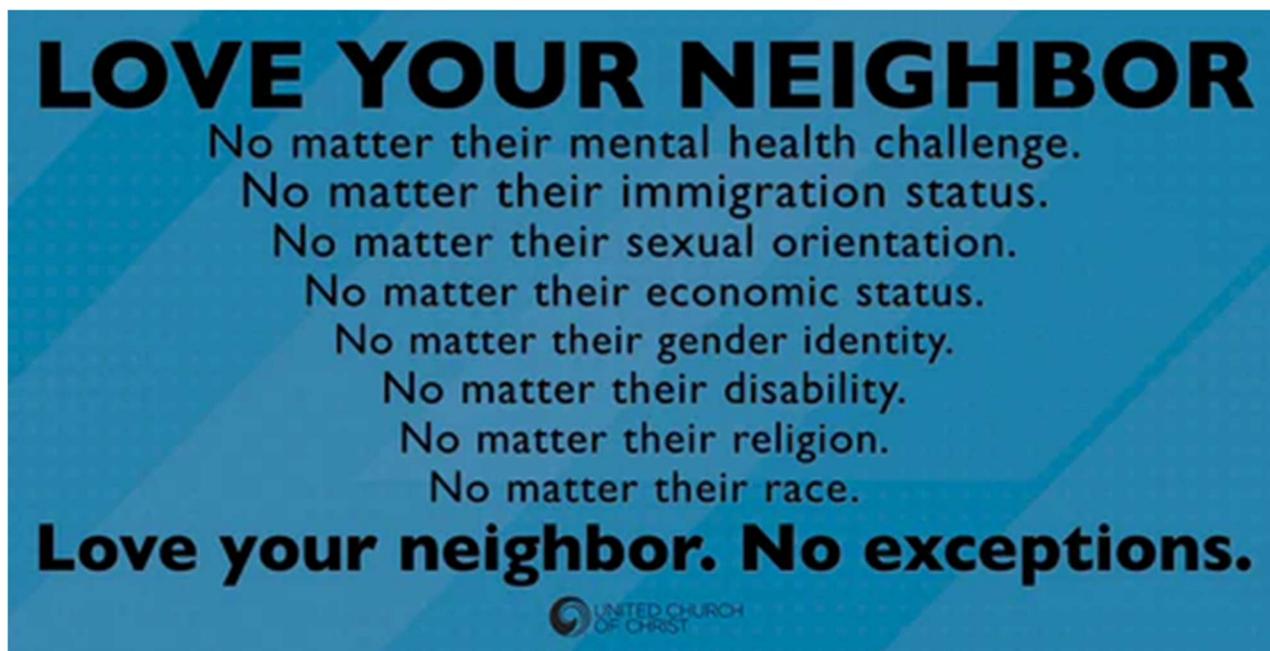
Next Sunday: March 15 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Matthew 19:13-15 | Deuteronomy 24:17-22

In many modern contexts, it may seem sweet that Jesus welcomed little children; however, in Jesus' setting, spending time with children would have seemed wasteful or useless. When Jesus blesses a crowd of children (after the disciples rebuke them and try to send them away), he once again reorients socially-constructed hierarchies to center the vulnerable. Throughout his ministry, Jesus emphasized the last, the least, and the lost, building upon the mandates of the Hebrew scriptures to care for the immigrant, widow, and orphan among you.

Deuteronomy repeatedly reminds the Israelites, “you were once slaves in Egypt.” Their memory of oppression should impel them to provide for anyone under-resourced or cut off from the protection of a household. Similarly, Jesus uplifting children is a reminder that we were all once children and we have all been vulnerable at some point in our lives, relying on the protection and care of others. If we're truly living out the good news, then anyone vulnerable will not only be protected from harm, but cared for so they have the chance to thrive.

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.

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

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

HELP PACK THE PANTRY

Sunday, **March 8**, during both worship services

Let's continue to BE the Church by supporting our neighbors in need. Once a month, we work together to fill the Frederick Community Fridge pantry in our parking lot.

Easter Dinner in-a-bag – **Bring canned ham, instant mashed potatoes, canned pineapple, canned green beans, boxed mac-n-cheese and a prepackaged dessert**

You are invited to bring any shelf-stable, unopened, and unexpired items to worship. You can place them on the table at the chancel as you arrive. We will offer a prayer of dedication over the items before sending them out to bless our neighbors. If you're unable to bring donations on Sunday, you can place them in the pantry at any time.

Contact: Kim Sexton, mkssexton@comcast.net.

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG

Sunday morning, 9:15 – 10:15 AM, Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy - **No class 3/8**

Wednesday evening, 7:00 – 8:15 PM, Zoom: bit.ly/ERWedstudy - **No class 3/11**

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 – **No class March 10.**

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.

INQUIRERS' CLASSES

Two options to choose from:

Sunday, March 8 – Flora Room, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, *or*

Thursday, March 12 – Zoom, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Interested in learning more about ERUCC and what it means to be part of our community of faith? We warmly invite you to join us for **Inquirers' Class** — a time to connect, ask questions, and explore what membership at ERUCC looks like.

At our Inquirer's Class, you'll meet our pastors and church members, hear more about our values, beliefs, and history, and learn about the United Church of Christ — our wider church family.

Who should come? Anyone curious about ERUCC, whether you're brand new or have been worshipping with us for a while, but haven't taken the step of membership. ERUCC members looking for a refresher or who simply want to be part of meeting and welcoming others into our church community are also welcome.

To register, please email Ann Watkins at erucc@erucc.org, or stop by the reception desk in Kieffer Lobby after worship. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. **Questions?** Contact the church office at erucc@erucc.org or (301) 662-2762.

FREDERICK SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The 42nd 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.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Did you know that ERUCC is a Creation Justice Church? What does that mean? What do we do? The Green Team will have a table in the sanctuary lobby after church. Stop by to find out about ERUCC's creation justice work and how to get involved.

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. We stand with Hagerstown rallying against the Williamsport Internment Camp in partnership with the Maryland Coalition to Stop the Camps who invite signs with the statement, “No DHS Camps in MD!”

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.

WORK CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

There are two opportunities in 2026 for members of the Central Atlantic Conference to help our neighbors in North Carolina – April 12-18 and June 21-27.

Register for the April trip: <https://tinyurl.com/mb2925rx>

Please contact Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon, for more information or to register for either trip: pastorchance.graceucc@gmail.com.

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).

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. Contact Pastor Kirstin, 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>

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>

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>

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!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY SCHOOLS

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.

IMPORTANT "SAVE THE DATES" FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

April 3	God's Kids' Club, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
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, I 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 Week 1 will be looking for something that surprises us!

Lenten Prayer Walks

February 25 Looking for things that surprise us!

March 4 Looking for things that show love!

March 11 Looking for ways that nature or community work together!

March 18 Looking for people caring for each other

March 25 Looking for justice, mercy & faithfulness

April 1 Looking for *signs of celebration!*



Questions? Call 301-662-2762

Wednesdays

Start at ERUCC
Keiffer Lobby
12:00 noon

Walk with wonder:

**Looking for GOOD NEWS
through observing our
community each week!**

Everyone welcome - bring a friend!

Ministers, Staff, & Lay Leaders of Evangelical Reformed UCC

MINISTERS AND STAFF

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

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Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

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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



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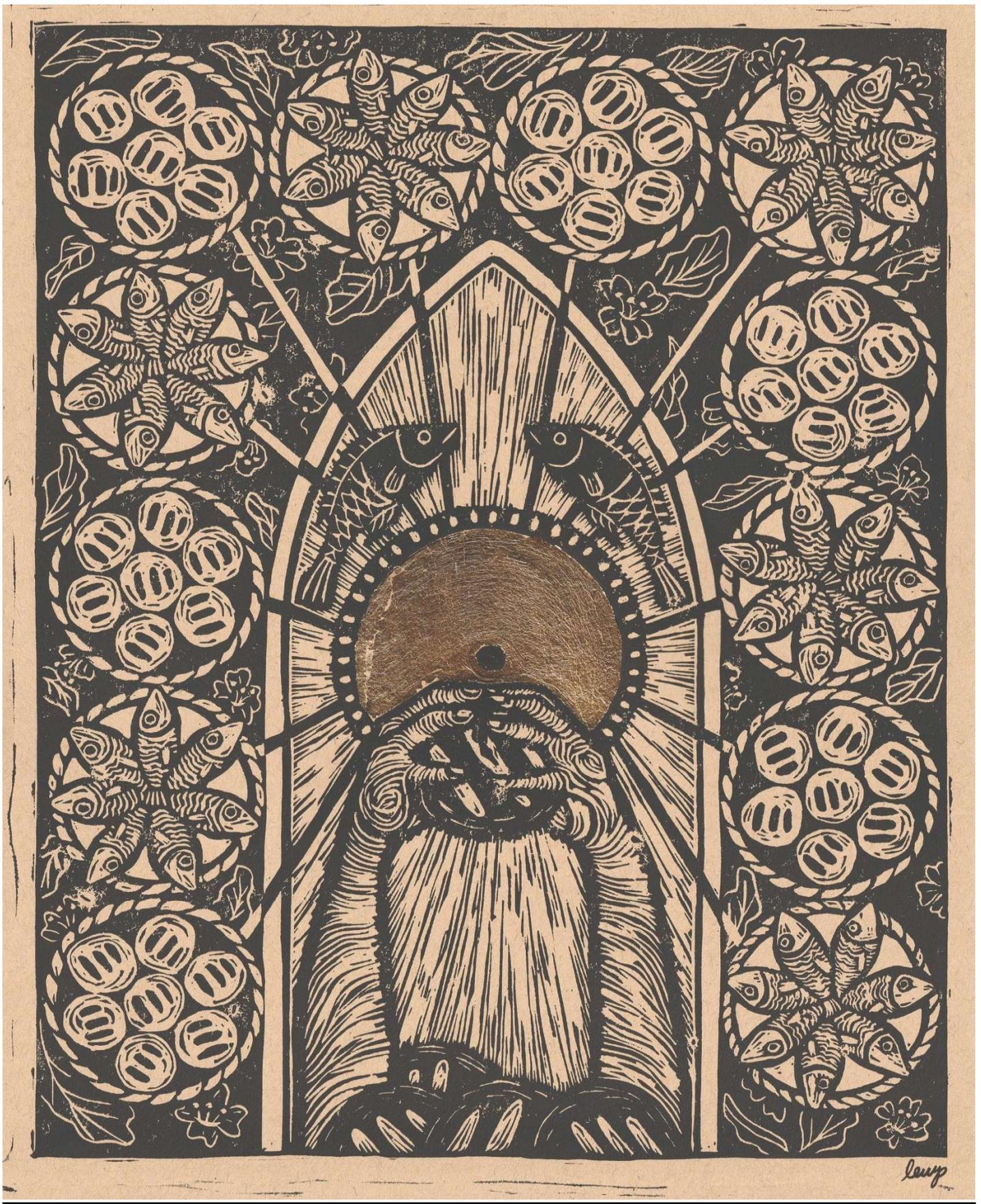
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Evangelical Reformed UCC
15 W. Church St,
Frederick MD 21701



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.



Far More Abundantly

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21

11"x14" Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper, with gold leaf detail

Easter Lily Orders



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 AM 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:

Select the check box below to have your Easter lily(ies) distributed on your behalf if you do not wish to take the flower(s) yourself.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8, 2026

John 4:5-42

Thirsty Voices

There's an old stone well on my Vermont property dating back to the eighteenth century. It's no longer operational as it ran dry years ago. A deeper well has since been drilled. Still, there's something spiritually powerful about that old well. Each time I walk by the stone relic I find myself pausing for a blessed second, imagining Jesus offering me water in which I would never thirst again.

It was the same offer he extended to the Samaritan woman in the village near Shechem at Jacob's well, believed to have been built around 1906 B.C.

Jesus encounters the woman in the noontime sun. After getting past the societal faux pas of a Jew asking a Samaritan for water, and after disregarding the red flag waving that this woman is an outcast among her own people — after all, who draws water when the sun is the highest and the hottest — Jesus has the water conversation.

He doesn't talk about the refreshing liquid that quenches parched throats, but the refreshing Word of God that saturates souls that have become spiritual wastelands.

Sir, how do I get this water? It's a question we should all ask, for what will satiate our thirsting for acceptance and wholeness?

Soon after moving to my fledgling farm that I named "Old Stone Well Farm," in honor of that well that captivated me, I began a Lenten spiritual practice. I would rise early in the morning and sit on the old rock slab covering the well's opening. I would then picture Jesus right beside me sharing all the beautiful things he sees in the world, and all the beauty he still sees in me just as he saw in the Samaritan woman.

My friends, although you can't physically join me at my old Vermont well this Lent, there is a well for you sit by this day. It is a place to retreat to and to close your eyes and to whisper to your Friend and Savior, "Jesus, I would very much like this water that you offer."

Thirst-quenching God, may we find ourselves asking Your Son boldly for the water in which we will never thirst for anything ever again. May this be the day we take a big holy gulp of hope, of love, of forgiveness, and of peace. 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.)

