



Breaking

Bread

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 –



April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

10:30 AM

Creation Justice Sunday

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

**All who are able may stand*

Bold text read in unison

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

***CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER**

Susan Kulp and David Howard

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

LIGHTING OF THE CENTERING CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Friends, where do you see God?

We see God in the wide reach of sky, in the towering height of mountains, in the depths of the sea, and in the vividness of flowers.

Friends, where else do you see God?

We see God in early morning sunrises, in the quiet after a snow, in the reaching of rivers and tributaries, and in the stars that light the night.

And in your seeing, what do you know?

We know that God is here, and we know that God is good.

Let us worship the God of creation!

Let us worship our with-us God.

***HYMN**

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

#17

**To you, O God, all creatures sing,
And all creation everything
Sings your praises. Alleluia!
To you, O God, day after day,
The sun and moon along their way
Sing your praises. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**To you, O God, the wind is strong,
The clouds in heaven sail along,
Sing your praises. Alleluia!
The setting sun, the morning light,
The moon that shines with softer light
Sing your praises. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**To you, O God, the waters flow,
And in their music praises show,
Sing your praises. Alleluia!
The fire that burns to warm the air,
The earth that bears the fruits we share
Sing your praises. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**To you, O God, we lift our song,
And to your love we all belong,
Sing your praises. Alleluia!
The young and old in one refrain
Unite to bless your holy name,
Sing your praises. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

One amazing thing about the Earth is that even after a fire, a flood, or an oil spill, new life always finds a way to grow. Your grace, God, is like that. No matter the mistakes we make, the mess we create, or the harm we do, open the eyes of our hearts in order to see the Divine Goodness in all things. Help us make more room for contemplation, more room for prayer, more room for study, more room for your love, more room for awe. As you breathe life into all creation, help us to notice that in your world, grace is in bloom.

Amen.

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

On this day, we remember the beauty of life. Beauty is complex. We call something “achingly beautiful” when it creates a *pathos* within us—a sense of something so precious that we want it to last forever—from the plump cheeks of a newborn to the wrinkled face of an elder. But alas, we are all mortal and not meant to exist in this bodily form forever. We open ourselves to the awe that is the beauty of life in between the first and last breath. Let us rise in body and/or spirit and pray:

***PRAYER FOR GRACE**

Awe-inspiring God,

**we come together this day because we need to be reminded
to see through the lens of beauty.**

**Too often, we admire a standard of beauty that leaves too much out of its
definition,**

**forgetting that life and its imperfections are inherently beautiful simply
because it exists.**

Open us to perceive anew.

Inspire us to receive our surroundings with awe.

**Forgive us when we move through our lives
and do not notice your handiwork in all things, all people.**

Be with us on this journey

as we seek again to marvel at your works.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

All of the cosmos was created and called good.

You are a part of this mystery of life.
God forgives us. Jesus embraces us. The Spirit enlivens us.
We are whole. With awe, we accept this belovedness.
And all God's people say, "**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.**

*Except on the first Sunday of the month, 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**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

#31

**Refrain: All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

The cold wind in the winter,

**the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one. [Refrain]**

THE SCRIPTURES

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg

Job 12:7-10 OT page number 462
Job 33:1-7 OT page number 479
Psalm 27:1-4 OT page number 503

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

REFLECTION

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

MORNING PRAYER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Through Christ, we receive an inheritance that is unfading. Let us express our gratitude to God by sharing the gifts we receive. Let us bring our material offerings for tangible ministry to spread good news in our community and world.

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

Like a River In My Soul

Senior Choir
- T. Osiak

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous One, may these gifts be a blessing to those in need, a source of hope for those in despair, comfort for those who grieve, encouragement for those who doubt, a balm for those in pain. May our generosity reflect our gratitude and our giving be another source of praise. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

#558

**O how glorious, full of wonder
Is thy name o'er all the earth;
Thou who wrought creation's splendor,
Bringing suns and stars to birth!
Rapt in reverence we adore thee,
Marveling at thy mystic ways,
Humbly now we bow before thee,
Lifting up our hearts in praise.**

**When we see they lights of heaven,
Moon and stars, thy power displayed,
What is man that thou shouldst love him,
Creature that thy hand hath made?
Child of earth, yet full of yearning,
Mixture strange of good and ill,
From thy ways so often turning,
Yet thy love doth seek him still.**

**Thou hast given man dominion
O'er the wonders of thy hand,
Made him fly with eagle pinion,
Master over sea and land,
Soaring spire and ruined city,
These our hopes and failures show,
Teach us more of human pity,
That we in thine image grow.**

**O how wondrous, O how glorious
Is thy name in every land!
Thou whose purpose moves before us
Toward the goal that thou hast planned.
'Tis thy will our hearts are seeking,
Conscious of our human need.
Spirit in our spirit speaking,
Make us sons of God indeed!**

*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 McFee, Marcia. Purveyors of Awe: Elements for Curating a Life of Spiritual Depth. www.worshipdesignstudio.com/purveyors-of-awe

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 placed by the York family in honor and remembrance of those who have died in service to the United States.

The yellow rose is presented by Karen Justice with prayers for the well-being of all members of our armed forces past and present.

Attendance Last Sunday: 12 at 8:30 AM, 104 at 10:30 AM, and 30 online.



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

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

Serving Today: April 19

Deacons: Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw
Elder: Ave Barr
Scripture Reader: Rev. Dr. Rebecca Shillingburg
Acolyte: JD Bowman
Greeters: Felecia Bishop, Rob Smith
Cliff Barr
Welcome Table: Betsy Selby
Audio/Visual: Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Baker
Jeff Schaeberle
Nursery: Linda Coyle
Fellowship: Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer
Peter Brehm, Rob McGuire
Felecia Bishop, Alex Martinez

Serving Next Week: April 26

Angela Brittain, Jim Brittain
Eric Weakly
Elizabeth Slade, Eric Weakly
Jeff Baker, Ethan Kline
David Howard
Molly Black
Linda Coyle, Tommie Bradshaw
Shelley Weakly, Eric Weakly
Colleen Baldree, Chuck Baldree

Next Sunday: April 26 – Fourth Sunday of Easter | Break the Silence Sunday | Youth Sunday | Scout Sunday

Next Sunday is Youth Sunday! We are excited to have many of our youth participating in leading worship. They will continue to explore the themes of the Purveyors of Awe series, presenting Wonder and Inclusivity, referencing scriptures from Psalm 107 and Psalm 139 as well as how their experiences in youth group have helped them to “lean in to Wonder.” Guest speakers will be Lucas Nguyen-Powell and Camryn Huenger.

We will also celebrate Scout Sunday next weekend! All scouts are invited to come in uniform on April 26 for a combined Scout Sunday! Please wear your uniform! We would like to include current and alumni scouts helping as greeters. To volunteer, talk with Pastor Kirstin.

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.

The family of Doris Esslinger	Barbara Heverley	Emogene Wyand
Raphaela Weinsweig	Todd Starr (nephew of Mary Staley)	Bob Pinner
Tom Ford	Sharon DiDonato (aunt of Darryl Glick, friend of Mark Ulrich)	Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)
Rhea Stein after the passing of her mother	Ginny Peters	Lee Thomas
Ingrid Jacobsen after the death of her wife, Kitty Bradley	Karen Stitely	Marcia Eisenstein
Laura Broderick	Donna Baumgardner Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)	Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Della Willmann (Shelley Weakly's mother)	Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)	Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)
Claude Huntsman (brother-in-law of Robin A. Brady-Slifer)	The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family	Jeannette Johnson
Charlie Woodward	Sandra Trout	Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
John Stush	Family of Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)	Marcy Channell (daughter of Jo Ann Fritz)
Izzie Sims (friend of Molly Black)	Mary Staley	Paige Coffey
Debbie Jennings (friend of Kathleen Jefferson)	Pat Condo	Fran Wenner
Robert Debonis (uncle of Sophia Carliss)	Wells Condo	Bonnie Devilbiss
Sandy Maples (sister-in-law of Allen and Joan Maples)	Tom Frazier	Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Betsy Fisher	Pauline Marendt	Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
	Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)	Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)
	Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)	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 *Genesis for Normal People* by Peter Enns and Jared Byas. If you are not a Bible scholar but want to be able to read Genesis and understand its big picture, this brief, witty book is the guide you've been waiting for. Clear summaries and thought-provoking questions provide direction for personal reflection and group discussion. Peter Enns, a Biblical Studies professor, and Jared Byas, an Old Testament professor, summarize the book's key themes and help us see Genesis as an ancient story, one with continued relevance for human experience today.

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, **4:30 PM** **Please note time change**

On Wednesday afternoons, you are invited to enter the church (doors open at 4:15 PM) and proceed to the front of the sanctuary in silence. We will pray silently in our own personal traditions. We begin promptly at 4:30 PM and end at 5:00 PM. What you can expect: substance for your everyday journey. Led by Rev. Richard Leslie.

MISSION, EVANGELISM, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE invites us to 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 April** to the bin in the Sanctuary Lobby, to the left of the Welcome Table.

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.

COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 19, 1:00 PM

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."

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Thursday, April 23

Hood College, Whittaker Campus Commons, 6:00 PM

This event is open to all community members. It serves as a supportive and empowering space for all survivors of power-based violence and their allies. Join in to uplift the voices and stories of survivors with life performers, interactive artwork, and more. There will be an optional, post-event awareness march on campus at 8:00pm. RSVP if you are able, so that the hosts know how many seats and how many candles to make www.Tinyurl.com/takeback2026

“LESSONS LEARNED”

Saturday, April 25

Sanctuary, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Please join us for a time of reflection and reconnection as a congregation after our season of interim ministry. Our gathering will take place in the sanctuary because we consider this conversation part of the holy work of our faith community. We understand that there are some unresolved questions by some of our ERUCC congregational family, and our Spiritual Council, including Matt Hueting and Peter Brehm, want to be able to listen, learn, and offer some of their own observations of this past season, so that we can better move forward together. Pastor Kirstin will be present and will open and close us in prayer together. We have invited Rev. Sheresa Rice-Simpson, who is able to join us, to offer her gifts in facilitation and guidance.

SACRED CONVERSATIONS

Tuesday, April 28 (monthly, 4th Tuesdays)

Flora Room, 2:00 PM

Join us for our monthly gathering to share stories and challenges related to life's changes, body limitations, and shifts in dependency. This is a sacred space to listen, pray, and connect as we navigate these transitions. This time of holy sharing emphasizes the importance of leaning on each other and recognizing that we are not alone on our journeys.

Contact: Ave Barr or Linda Coyle with questions.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 3

Community Room / Zoom, ~12:00 PM

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3, in the Community Room. Lunch will be served immediately following worship. We will elect new elders, deacons, and committee chairs. Members and friends of the congregation may also participate via Zoom.

To participate by Zoom, please **register in advance**:
<https://tinyurl.com/ERUCCAnnualMeeting> or scan the QR code:



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order	Peter Brehm
Opening Prayer	Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads
Review of Annual Program Reports	Peter Brehm
Nominating Committee Report and Vote	Peter Brehm
Constitution and Bylaws Report and Vote	Peter Brehm
Review of Financial Reports	Peter, Finance Committee Chair Robert Morris, Treasurer
Old Business	
Pastoral Search Committee Update	Matt Hueting
Historic Clock Tower Preservation	David Cooney
Name Study Group Report	Sedonia Martin, Chair
Benediction	Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads
Adjournment	Peter Brehm

Departing Lay Leaders

Harrison Fisher

Julie Clark

Nominating Committee Report for 2026

Members: Peter Brehm, Robert Morris, Julie Clark, Sue Pinner, Barb Barry

To be voted on by the Congregation

Elders (three-year term) Must be a member. Can serve two consecutive terms.

Two to be elected:

Robin L. Brady Slifer (first term ending in 2029)

Matt Hueting's (second term ending in 2029)

Continuing Elders

Eric Weakly (second term ending in 2027)
Jeanellen Kallevang (first term ending in 2027)
Susan Kulp (first term ending in 2028)
Ave Barr (first elected term ending in 2028)

Deacons (two-year term) Can serve two consecutive terms.

Up to four to be elected

Kyle Miller (second term ending in 2028)
Quynn Adkins (second term ending in 2028)
Angela Brittain (second term ending in 2028)

Continuing Deacons

Jim Brittain (second term ending in 2027)
Robin A Brady-Slifer (second term ending in 2027)
Robin L Brady-Slifer (second term ending in 2027)
Tommie Bradshaw (first term ending in 2027)
Mark Ulrich (first term ending 2027)

Standing Committee Chairs (two-year term but may be re-elected for two additional one-year terms. Co-chairs are allowed.)

Christian Education: Holly Davis (first two-year term ending in 2027)
Finance and Budget: Peter Brehm (first two-year term ending in 2027)
Mission and Social Action: Shelley Weakly (first one-year term ending in 2027)
Property: Keith Stickleby (first two-year term ending in 2028)
Stewardship Generosity: Kate Fromknecht (first two-year term ending in 2028)
Worship: Rebecca Shillingburg (second one-year term ending in 2027)
and
Member At Large: Larry Martin (second one-year term ending in 2027)

To be voted on by the Consistory

Consistory Leadership (voted for one-year term by the Consistory annually)

President Robin L. Brady Slifer (one year term ending in 2027)
Vice President Matt Hueting (one year term ending in 2027)
Secretary David Kehne (one year term ending in 2027)
Treasurer Robert Morris (one year term ending in 2027)

Team Chairs (no term set; appointed by the Consistory. No mention of membership requirement. Co-chairs are allowed.)

AV Tech Team (reports into Worship): Jeff Baker
Faithful Friends (reports into Spiritual Council): Jeanellen Kallevang and Elizabeth Slade
Green Team (reports into Christian Education): Linda Coyle
Holy Casserollers (reports into Spiritual Council): Kelly Esslinger
Hospitality/Fellowship: Joe Adkins
Hospitality/Funeral Receptions: Cathie Duncan and Sedonia Martin
Name Study Group: Sedonia Martin
Personnel Council (reports into Finance and Budget): Darryl Glick
Safety and Security Task Force (reports into Finance and Budget): Matt Davis
Welcoming Hands (reports into Worship): Barb Barry
Worship Design Team (reports into Worship): Ave Barr

Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/ConstitutionBylawsERUCC> to review the ERUCC Constitution and Bylaws.

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).

YOUTH GROUP OUTING - Dean's Turtle Farm

Sunday, April 26, 2:30 PM departure from church for a 3:30 PM tour in Westminster.

This will include meeting up to 100 turtles and tortoises from around the world in their outdoor enclosures. This hands-on experience will include feeding the giant tortoises! Bring a camera as photos are encouraged. RSVP by Wednesday, April 22 to Pastor Kirstin. We are thankful for parents who have volunteered to drive but must make sure we have seats for everyone.

Support our Confirmands!

Please save these 2 dates to support our Confirmation Class! This year we have two projects, both representing values of our ERUCC Faith Community. Our confirmands would love to have your support by attending one or both!

1. Peace Walk: **Sunday, April 19**, 4-5pm. Riverside Park, 1801 Monocacy Blvd, Frederick, Combining Just Peace themes with Creation Justice, two of our confirmands have chosen a paved path along the Monocacy River on which to lead us in a slow-paced, creation-centered walk, with pauses for reflection on a few quotes and scriptures and a shared art project at the end of the journey.
2. **Sunday, June 7**, join confirmands for food and trivia in the community room, combining themes of being an Anti-Racist church with a Trivia experience and a service project that will support the RISE Coalition of Western Maryland, a grassroots coalition led by immigrant community members, advocating for immigrant rights, social justice, and community empowerment.

Flyer invitations and announcements by our youth are soon to come!

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 a half-day (8:00am-12:30pm) or full-day camp (8:00am-3:00pm). The cost is \$20, and all students will receive a T-shirt.

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. To register students: visit <https://tinyurl.com/2026VBSRegister>, or use this QR Code:



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!

Sign up here to volunteer:

<https://tinyurl.com/ERUCCVBSVolunteer2026>, or use this QR code:

You will be signing up through ERUCC for this event.

Please direct any questions to Pastor Kirstin: ksrhoads@erucc.org



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! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/GermanYouthHost>



IMPORTANT "SAVE THE DATES" FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

May 2	Tots Family Flower Photos
May 24	Confirmation Sunday
May 31	Graduate Sunday
June 6	Frederick Running Festival
June 22-26	Full Day VBS in partnership with All Saints Episcopal
June 25	Interfaith Pride Service at Grace UCC
June 26	Pride Parade
June 27	Frederick Pride
July 5-16	East Germany Group is Coming!
July 26-31	Gretna Glen Camp for Children and Youth, Lebanon PA

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

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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.

2026 Holocaust Remembrance Day

Sunday, April 19, 1 p.m.

Presented by

**Beth Sholom Congregation and
Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick
1011 North Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701**

Heeding the Warning Signs

Please join us as we remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust through readings, prayers, music and more.

Elected officials will issue Holocaust Remembrance Day Proclamations

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Eugene Bergman

Beginning in 1939, Dr. Bergman and his family went from Pozan to Lodz to the Warsaw and Czestochowa Ghettos in Poland to survive the Nazis. Separated from his family, at 12 he helped the Polish resistance, then sent to a POW camp in Germany and then worked in a German factory until liberated by the Russians in May 1945.

Coming to the United States from a displacement persons camp in Germany in 1947 with the surviving members of his family, his mother and 1 brother. Deaf since 7 years old, Dr. Bergman's survival in the Holocaust is nothing short of miraculous. Dr. Bergman retired from Gallaudet College as an Assistant Professor of English.

All are welcome. No Charge; donations appreciated. Program is appropriate for ages 12 and older.

Light refreshments to follow the program.



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2026

Luke 24:13-35

Breaking Bread

Dear readers, I have some Eastertide questions for you. Consider this your Risen Lord check in.

First, where have you recently seen the Risen Lord on your path? Second, what have been the conversations that left you feeling as if you were in the presence of the divine? Third, when did your heart burn with the truth of the Gospel fully awakening your senses?

Finally, when was the last time you ripped into a warm, soft loaf of bread and, before slathering a piece with butter, paused and imagined the Lord with you in that breaking of the bread?

I have always been enamored with the resurrection encounter of the travelers on the road to Emmaus who didn't realize Jesus was walking with them until he later joined them for a meal. Luke's Gospel tells us that after Jesus blessed and broke the loaf, the travelers' eyes were opened, and they recognized him for who he was: The Risen Lord.

And so, every opportunity I have I will take a loaf of bread and share not only the yeasty goodness with friends, but I will ask them to join me in realizing that in this ordinary act we are experiencing something extraordinary. We are being given an opportunity for fellowship with not just one another but with Jesus our Lord.

Perhaps this ritual of mine was born out of the slow food movement that originated in Italy in the 1980s. It was a call to take time to thoughtfully and lovingly prepare a meal rather than nuking something quick to eat. Slow down to savor the food before you, because it is only when we are fully present that we can see all that we should be grateful for.

Yes, breaking bread is an everyday sacred occurrence in my home where I slow down to be fully present to my Risen Lord. Coincidentally, during the slow food movement of the 1980's, Michael Philip Ward wrote a song called, "In the Breaking of the Bread."

Based on the Emmaus encounter, the lyrics beautifully go beyond the bread breaking, reminding us that opportunities to see the Risen Lord are all around: *In the walking on the road, we saw Him. In the telling of our hopes, we saw Him. In the burning of our hearts, we saw Him. In the breaking of the bread, we saw Him. Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we knew He was alive.*

May this day your eyes suddenly open to the truth that Jesus is with you in every step you take and in every prayerful moment you make.

Sustaining and bounteous God, we thank You for the Bread of Life, our Risen Lord, who walks alongside us on our Emmaus Roads, always listening to our questions, our fears and our doubts. 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.)

