

A graphic design for Easter Day. The background is a warm, golden-brown color. In the center, there is a faint, light-colored silhouette of a cross. Below the cross, a large number of hands are raised in a gesture of praise or worship. The hands are rendered in various shades of brown and tan, creating a sense of depth and movement. Several large, semi-transparent circles in shades of orange, red, and white are scattered across the scene, adding a decorative and ethereal quality. The overall composition is centered and balanced, with a soft, glowing atmosphere.

Easter Day

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 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

10:30 AM



The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

**All who are able may stand*

Bold text read in unison

PRELUDE

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

Cathy Fronck, trumpet
tune – LLANFAIR, arr. J. Biery

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth

- G.F. Handel, arr. S.Desare

***CONGREGATION CENTERING PRAYER**

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

LIGHTING OF THE CENTERING CANDLE

***THRESHOLD MOMENT**

Eliza Stitely

Birdsong

– written by The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

Birdsong Every morning the sun rises,
majestic and steady.
She is greeted
in all her strength
with the joyous cacophony of birdsong.
I like to believe
this holy chorus
is the birds telling each other—
I'm here.
We made it through the night.
You're not alone.
What good, good news.
I think the resurrection is a bit like that.
God is here.
We made it through the night.
We are not alone.
What good, good news.

***HYMN OF ADORATION**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

#233

tune – EASTER HYMN, arr. S. Drummond Wolff

**Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!
unto Christ, our heav'nly King, alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save, alleluia!**

**But the pains which He endured, alleluia!
our salvation have procured; alleluia!
now above the sky He's King, alleluia!
where the angels ever sing: alleluia!**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy One,
all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story.
All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost its sting.
All over the world, people are gathering together, praying for a glimpse of
you.
So like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here.
Speak to us today.
Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in
our midst once more.
With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb. We sing alleluia. We bow our
heads. We listen for you.
Amen.

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God.
The world battered and bruised,
betrayed and abandoned,
crucified and buried Jesus.
And despite it all, Jesus still chose to love those who hurt him.
So hear me when I say, there is nothing you can do that could keep God's love
at bay.
With that good news mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus
Christ loves, claims, and seeks us.
Friends, let us pray:

***PRAYER FOR GRACE**

Gracious God,
we want to be Easter people.
We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.
We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you.
We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid,"
but we are afraid.
And we don't know where to look.
And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.
So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.

**We are best intentions and best laid plans.
We are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias.”
We are on our way, but we are not there yet.
Show us how to embody your good news in this world.
Show us how to be your Easter people.
With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.**

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Family of faith,
even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias,” we belong to God.
There is nothing that could keep God’s love at bay.
So join me in this good news declaration:
**Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.
This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

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

THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 139: 7-12

OT page number 577

Matthew 27:62 - 28:15

NT page number 33

Reader: May God bless the reading of this word.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. David Cooney, Ph.D.

Good News?

MORNING PRAYER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Alexander Carmichael said, “The people say that the sun dances on this day in joy for a risen Saviour.” Whether clouds obscure the view, the sun takes the gifts it has been given to glorify God. Let us also take the gifts we have been given and use them to bring glory to the Holy One through the generosity of the resurrected life that proclaims that nothing is impossible for God.

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

Angels Visit When We Sing

Senior Choir
T. Tremey

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy Love, receive these gifts as seeds given in thanksgiving for your generosity. Let us rejoice in giving just as the sun dances in its power. Help us to nourish these offerings to meet the needs of our community and to witness to your goodness. We dedicate them to the flourishing of your kindom. Amen.

– SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus.
The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him.
They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ.
And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them."
Jesus met the women in their seeking.
Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief.
Jesus met them when they felt lost.
Jesus met them and provided hope.
Friends, if like the women you are seeking hope,
then come to this Table.
All are welcome here.
For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking,
God meets us here,
saying, "Do not be afraid."

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Eternal God, who has created the universe, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. As we partake of this bread and wine, we honor you, everlasting God. We give thanks that you come to us and abide with us.

Come, Holy One, come. Bless this meal; bless this fellowship; bless our lives, that justice and love may be the measure of our common witness. Amen.

As we bless and share these gifts, we celebrate the hospitality of Christ's table. All are worthy, all are welcome! Receive the fruits of the Spirit, and celebrate the communion of all things. Creator, Christ, and Spirit dance as one. So may it always be.

Be present with us as we share this meal and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who, with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night Jesus was betrayed, the Light of the World took bread and blessed it. Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:

“This is my body which is broken for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me.”

And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and thanked God for it. Pouring out the red wine, he said:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you. When you drink this cup ever after this night, remember me.”

Now, let us come to receive the bread and the cup.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

All who desire the Sacrament, including children, are invited to come forward at the direction of the deacons to one of two locations at the front of the sanctuary, where you will be served the bread and the cup. The cup contains grape juice (apple juice is provided in the center of each tray) and all bread is gluten-free. Please partake of the elements as they are given to you, then give the empty cup to the nearby steward before returning to your seat by the side aisle. If you want to receive the elements in the pew for any reason, please notify a deacon.

After all have received the bread and the cup:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

A BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

May the presence of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit keep and preserve you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Loving Christ,

thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies.

Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst.

Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are.

Thank you for this Table that brings us together.

Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits.

Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there.

May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news.

With joy and hope we pray, amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven tune – HYFRYDOL, arr. L. Larson

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;

Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.

Jesus on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled;

But the crucified Redeemer now is risen from the dead!

Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born;

Glorious life, and life immortal on this holy Easter morn;

Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by God's liberating deed;

Now the Christ with us abiding to eternal life shall lead.

Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace,

Rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of your face;

**That we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel hands be gathered, and be yours eternally.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to the God of joy;
Alleluia to the Savior who came death's bonds to destroy;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.**

***BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
But no matter what, speak this good news.
For the good news of the gospel is
love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises,
and nonviolence that transforms.
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,
so go forth speaking.
For if you won't, then who will?
Thanks be to God
for this good, good news.
Amen.

***SEVENFOLD AMEN**

#814

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

POSTLUDE

March Joyeuse

Cathy Fronck, trumpet
- J. Head, arr. S. Mitchell-Wallace



Thank you to guest musician, Cathy Fronk.

Worship Notes: Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Please join us for **Fellowship** with light refreshments and time for casual conversation after worship in our Kieffer Lobby (2nd Floor).

The flowers on the altar this morning are given for my ERUCC family. Happy Easter from Felecia Bishop.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 13 at 8:30 AM, 133 at 10:30 AM, and 76 online.



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

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

Serving Today: April 5

Deacons: Mark Ulrich
Quynn Adkins
Elder: Jeanellen Kallevang
Scripture Reader: Eliza Stitely
Acolyte:
Greeters: Sue Pinner, Robin Cooney
Paul McGinley, Felecia Bishop
Welcome Table: Julie Clark, Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual: Jeff Baker, Kelly Esslinger
David Howard
Nursery:
Fellowship: Renae Kline, Jim Weitz
Glenn Wallace, Cathie Duncan
Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson
Emily Kambic
Communion Prep: Ave Barr

Serving Next Week: April 12

Robin A. Brady-Slifer
Robin L. Brady-Slifer
Matt Huetting
Kathleen Jefferson, Niel Jefferson
Paul McGinley, Rob Smith
Rissah Watkins, Molly Black
Jeff Schaeberle, Kelly Esslinger
Ethan Kline
Ave Barr, Cliff Barr
Joan Maples, Allen Maples
Jen Powell, Pat Condo
Bud Rossig

Next Sunday: April 12 – Second Sunday of Easter

As a species, we are prone to attending to that which we dread and fear. It helped keep us alive. But now the frequency of bad news is off the charts and it isn't keeping us alive, rather it is quietly draining the life right out of us. We must engage in awe-filled practices that heighten our connection to that which is bigger than us, remind us that we are not alone, and offer us respite and resilience.

The Rev. Fred Wenner will be preaching and leading worship. Spirit will sing.

PRAYER LIST

We invite you to hold the following people in your prayers this week. Though we may not know the specifics of their needs, God does, and our prayers are a meaningful way to surround them with love and support.

ERUCC seeks permission before adding a name to this list or in worship announcements. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

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

PASTORAL CARE

ERUCC wants to be there for you when you're experiencing an illness, hospitalization, or other life event for which you or someone you love may need a visit.

Members who are in nursing homes and those who currently reside in their homes but are unable to come to regular Sunday morning services will receive communion from our pastoral team. Our Faithful Friends Team also makes visits, calls, and sends care cards. If emergency pastoral care is needed in the case of crisis, death, or severe illness, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

Activities, Events, and Announcements

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE WITH REV. JOHN SHILLINGBURG

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

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

North Room / Zoom

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

THEOLOGY AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH REV. DR. REBECCA SHILLINGBURG

Tuesdays

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

Zoom: tinyurl.com/tuetap

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

Beginning April 14th: Our next book will be *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.

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.

MUSIC OF THE REGIMENT – FREE CONCERT

Sunday, April 12

Sanctuary, 2:30 PM

In the spirit of the United States Semiquincentennial of 2026 (America's 250th), join us for "Music of the Regiment" and their new 2026 program "Equal to any Band in this Country..."!

Music of the Regiment is a musical ensemble that performs music from the past as closely as possible for the present, including on period-appropriate instruments. They have a focus on the classical and military music traditions of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

New for the Semiquincentennial year, their program "Equal to any Band in this Country..." combines dramatic readings with the marches and opera arrangements that formed the soundtrack of American, French, and British forces serving during the American Revolution. Featuring classical clarinets, horns, and bassoons, the band established by Virginia's Colonel Christian Febinger was the first of its kind to boost his soldiers' morale as they converged on Yorktown by 1781.

Featuring works by André Grétry (1741–1813), François-Joseph Gossec (1734–1829), Timothy Olmsted (1759–1848), John Reid (1721–1807), Johann Christian Bach (1735–1782), and others.

The concert will begin at 3:00 PM in the main sanctuary of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC). Join us at 2:30 for a short preconcert talk before the main show!

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.

EARTH DAY TREE-PLANTING PROJECT

Friday, April 17

REED Center, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

We are SO excited to be gathering for an intergenerational creation justice service project at the REED Center for Ecosystem Reintegration at 1932 Mountain Church Road, Middletown. We will meet at that location. We currently have 4 families of multiple generations going, and welcome more! We have invited members of Grace UCC to join us as well. To RSVP, contact Pastor Kirstin so we have a general idea to tell our host organization: ksrhoads@erucc.org.

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.

“LESSONS LEARNED”

Saturday, April 25

Sanctuary, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

As you plan ahead this month, please consider joining 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.

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 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER

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).

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. See QR Code on Flyer to register students.

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://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DA3FBC34-63299992-vacation>.

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 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 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 |

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!

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

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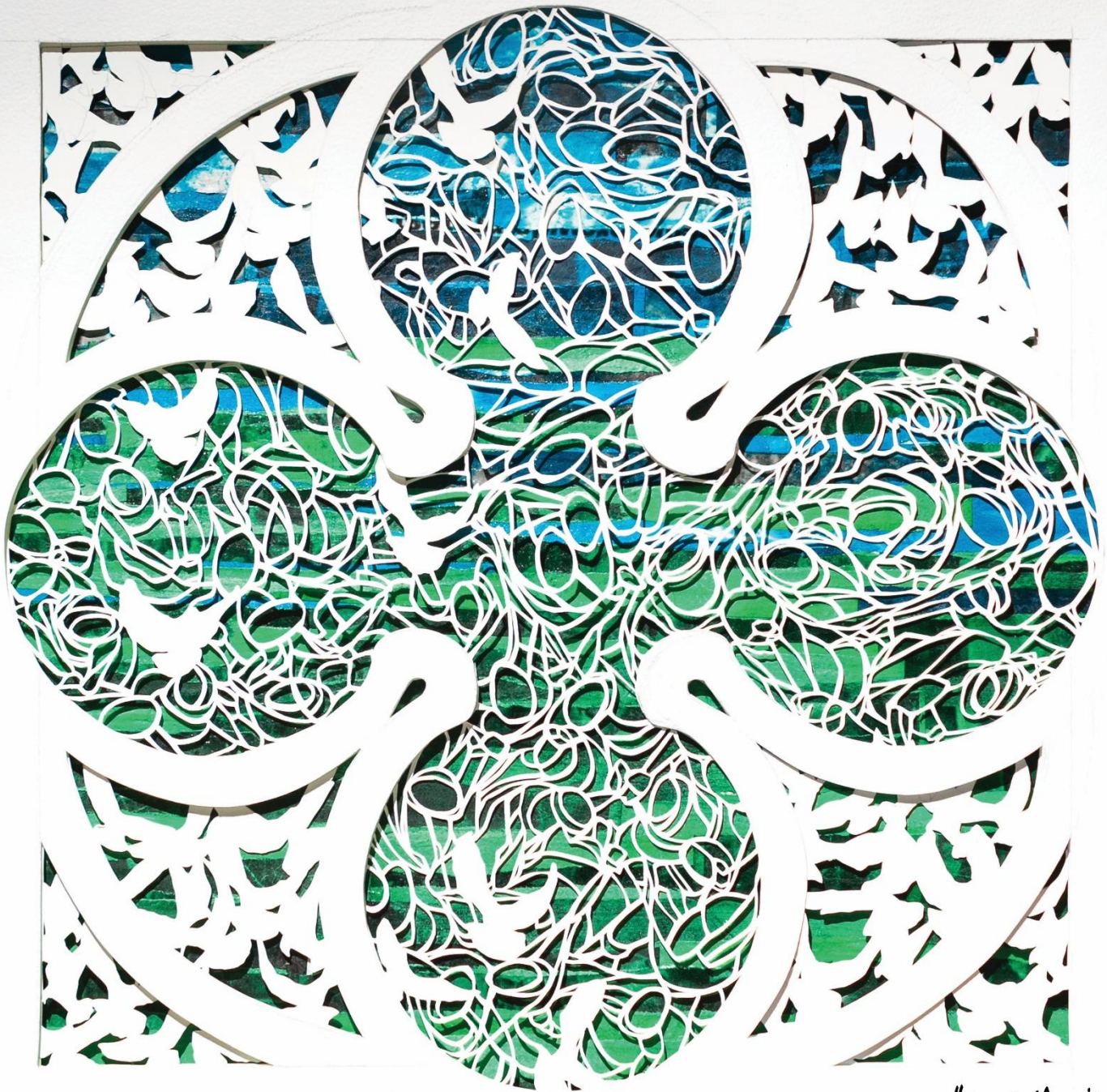
CASH OR CHECK

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.



Hannah Garrity

Meet Me in Galilee

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 28:1-10

18x18" Hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with
paper lace overlay

E A S T E R D A Y

April 5, 2026

John 20:1-18

Easter

There has always been something powerful about Mary's lonesome walk to the tomb that first Easter morning as each grief-filled step leads to renewed hope. And the beauty is that while we know what awaits her — not a lifeless body, but rather the Risen and Resurrected Lord — she doesn't.

In her pre-dawn funeral march, she has no clue that with just a few more difficult steps she will understand how God's promises are true. She will be awed to see how death doesn't get the victorious last word. She will hear the blessed new hellos that come after the heart-breaking good-byes.

Whenever I find myself moving in slow motion and the weight of loss makes it hard to take even one tiny shuffle forward, I take my side next to Mary. I imagine walking with her to the tomb of death that will be revealed as the tomb of life. I walk with her noticing how the darkness gradually changes color. One step forward and the black sky turns to gray. Another step forward and the gray lightens with twinges of pink. Yet another step and the pinks give way to dazzling golden hues. Each step, a step of faith. Each step, a step of promise. Each step leading to the promise of a resurrected life.

It happened to Mary, and it can happen to you on this day, the Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday!

Remember Mary and find the courage in your losses of life to keep stepping forward, for those are the steps leading to hope and healing. Those are the steps that will reveal to us the loving compassion of our Risen Lord and Friend.

God of Resurrection Hope, we praise You for the new day dawning. In Jesus, our hopes are renewed. In Jesus, grief will turn into joy. In Jesus, our tombs will indeed be made empty. May the steps of faith we take be strengthened by Your Love and may we never step moving forward toward Your beautiful promises. 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.)



EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

In Memory of

- Marjorie Pierce by Sharon and Dave Reith
- Richard and Marie Wallace by Glenn Wallace and Jim Weitz
- Charles and Patience Weitz by Glenn Wallace and Jim Weitz
- Dorsainvil Elders by Sandra Dorsainvil
- Dale and John Schaeberle by Jeff and Starr Schaeberle
- Roger and Dawn Williams by Jeff and Starr Schaeberle
- Richard O. Robinson by Marc and Renae Kline
- Gerald and Phyllis Warren and Arthur and Helen Kline by Marc and Renae Kline
- Boots and Harold Kehne by Bob Funk and Dave Kehne
- Roy and Charlene Roush by Jim and Andrea Hyndman
- David P. Fall by Mary and Tom Boswell
- John and Martha Morris by Robert and Suzanne Morris
- Herman and Mildred Smith by Robert and Suzanne Morris
- My granddaughter, Liz Coffey, by Peg Stahler
- My husband, Bill Stahler, by Peg Stahler
- Kevin and Blaine Hoffman by Ken and Anne Hoffman
- Loved ones by John Stush and Audrey Rayfield
- My son, Todd, by John Stush
- Sam and Margaret Maples and Lawrence and Lois Schwin by Allen, Joan and Larry Maples
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Routzahn and Orvis Staley by Janice and Mary Staley and Diane Waggy

EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

In Honor of ...

- Virginia Quynn Gaul by Allen, Joan and Larry Maples
- Shannon, Isa and Reed Baxter by Kathy Gelles-Baxter

Placed by ...

- Bob Funk and Dave Kehne
- The Pinners

