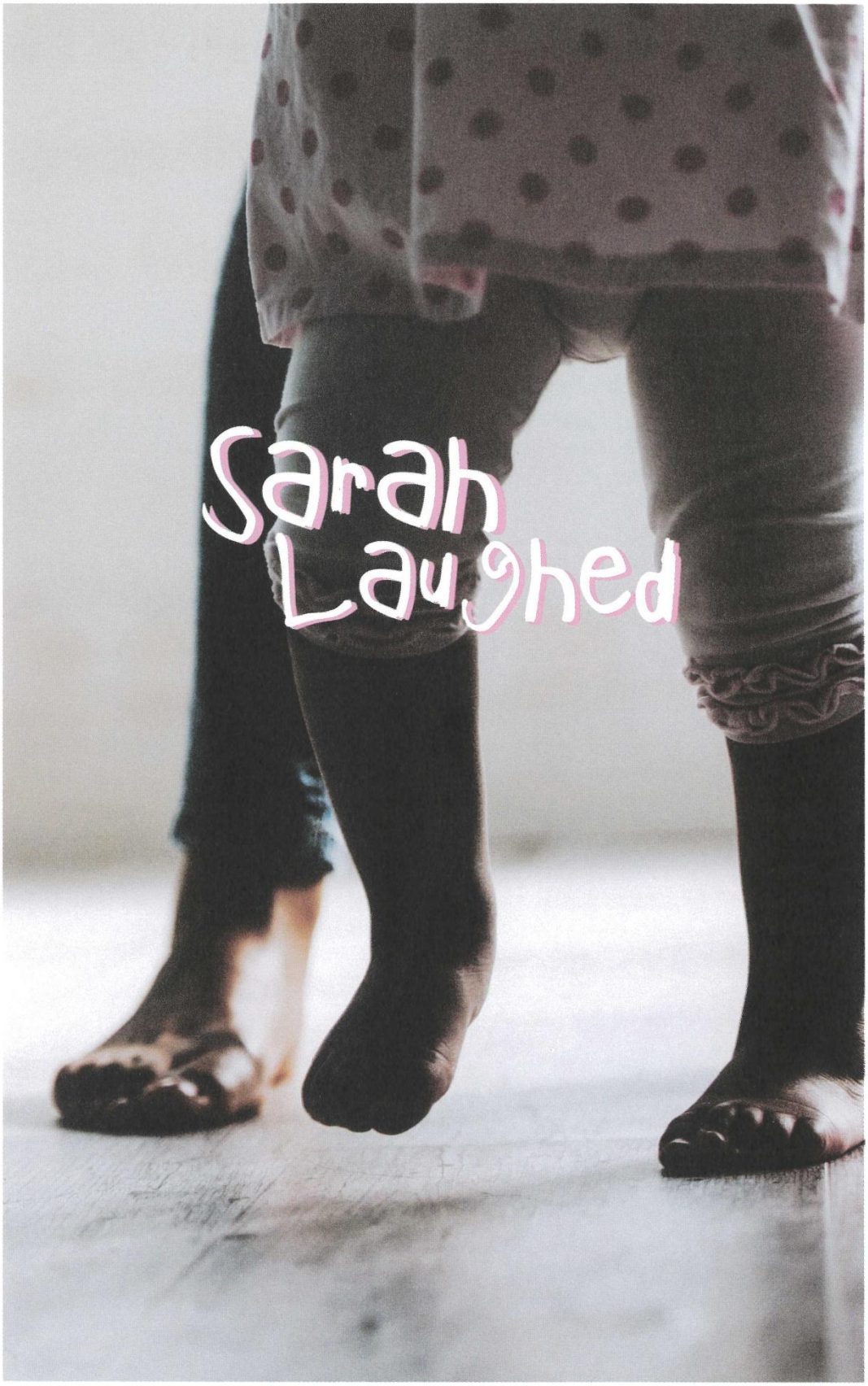
Sarah
Laughed

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 –

June 14, 2026 | Third Sunday after Pentecost | 10:30 AM

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

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

As you pass the peace, you will be invited to share with your neighbor one thing you are grateful to this ERUCC community for bringing into your life.

Upon entering the Sanctuary, you received a slip of paper. Write upon it something- a resentment, hurt feeling, or something you are carrying that separates you from the community and keeps you from moving forward. These will be collected by an usher during the first hymn.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

You Are Welcome Here *-G. DeMan*

Chorus:

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. [Chorus]

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. [Chorus]

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

***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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; we come before God with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God. It is God who made us, and we are God's; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise; give thanks to God and praise God's name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
God's faithfulness continues through all generations.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Renewing God, you have delivered a new beginning to us. The new chapter we had longed for is before us, with the promise of leadership three years in the making. As we venture into our bright future, help us to find peace in the journey we travelled. Remind us to seek you and to commit ourselves to growth, remembering the power of a community of faith. In you, we find strength. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Bring Many Names #11

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, gray with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

***CALL TO TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends. Let us pray:

***PRAYER FOR GRACE**

Holy God, we come before you holding onto pain, sadness, and perhaps even contempt. We have felt frustrated with one another at times, and we long for the renewal of our community. There were things done and things undone that contributed to the discord we felt. Each of us owns a part. We confess that we have not made you our center but instead sought comfort in familiar ways. We repent with contrite hearts. Cleanse our souls of anything that doesn't reflect love. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Relentlessly, God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, across time and space and through the generations, God seeks us out.

This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Children, youth, and all who wish to join them are invited to come forward for a special message. During the summer, we do not have Junior Church on a regular basis. Children are welcome to spend time in the children's worship space or borrow books and supplies from there, and the book nook in the back, while sitting with their families in the pews.

***HYMN**

When Love Is Found #362

When love is found and hope comes home,
sing and be glad that two are one.
When love explodes and fills the sky,
praise God and share our Maker's joy.

When love has flower'd in trust and care
build both each day that love may dare
to reach beyond home's warmth and light,

to serve and strive for truth and right.

When love is tried as loved ones change,
hold still to hope though all seems strange,
till ease returns and love grows wise
through list'ning ears and opened eyes.

When love is torn and trust betrayed,
pray strength to love till torments fade,
till lovers keep no score of wrong,
but hear through pain love's Easter song.

Praise God for love, praise God for life,
in age or youth, in calm or strife.
Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed
through death and life in broken bread.

THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 5:1-8 NT Page Number 155
Matthew 9:35-10:8 NT Page Number 8

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

SERMON The Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice

MORNING PRAYER

OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS AND LIVES TO CHRIST'S SERVICE

Invitation

With thankfulness, we give in gratitude and joy.
With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.
With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

This is a time in our service 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 are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshiping with us.

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 Spirit

I Need You to Survive - H. Walker

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give with our whole hearts- to you, Jesus, to our sisters and brothers, and to the sacredness of life abundant. May the gifts of our time, treasure, and talent seed ample harvests to the benefit of the church, the community, and the world. Help us to live each day in accordance with your generous life. Amen.

ACT OF RECONCILIATION AND COMMITMENT

***CLOSING HYMN**

Draw the Circle Wide - G. Light/M.A. Miller

[1]Draw the circle,
Draw the circle wide,
Draw the circle,
Draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone,
We'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle,
Draw the circle wide.
Repeat

[2]Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still,
Let this be our song
No one stands alone!
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle,
Draw the circle wide.
Repeat

[3]Draw the circle,
Draw the circle wide,
Draw the circle,
Draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone,
We'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle,
Draw the circle wide.

[4]Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still,
Let this be our song
No one stands alone!
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle,
Draw the circle wide.
Repeat

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION
God Be with You #809

***SEVENFOLD AMEN** #814

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

POSTLUDE

Worship Notes: The Opening Prayer was adapted from A Prayer for New Beginnings, by Arlene Drennan from the book, *Before the Amen Creative Resources for Worship*. The invitation to the offering is from *The Worship Sourcebook* pg 239.

We thank Laura Walling and Joe Baker for sharing their gifts with us in worship today!

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

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of LeRoy I. "Pete" Crum, by daughter, Martha J. Crum Kline.

The yellow rose is presented by Karen Justice in honor of all service members who have served in the U.S. Army.

Attendance Last Sunday: 12 at 8:30 AM, 106 at 10:30 AM, and 60 online.

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

	Serving Today: June 14	**Serving Next Week: June 21**
Deacons:	Robin A. & Robin L. Brady-Slifer	Kyle Miller, Tommie Bradshaw
Elder:	Marc Kline	Eric Weakly
Scripture Reader:		Dan Smith
Acolyte:	Emmie Rhoads	Lucas Nguyen-Powell
Greeters:	Felecia Bishop	Robin Cooney

	Rob Smith, Paul McGinley	Cliff Barr, Paul McGinley
Welcome Table:	Rissah Watkins, Molly Black	Betsy Selby, Eric Weakly
Audio/Visual:	Jeff Schaeberle, Kelly Esslinger	Kelly Esslinger, Jeffrey Baker
	Ethan Kline	David Howard
Nursery:		
Fellowship:	Ave and Cliff Barr	Karen Justice, Marj Berkheimer
	Joan and Allen Maples	Peter Brehm, Rob McGuire
	Jen Powell, Pat Condo	Felecia Bishop, Alex Martinez
	Bud Rossig	

Next Sunday: June 21 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day

John 21:1-19

The Rev. Joshua Privitt 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.

Family & friends of Brad Heffner
Daniel Schaffer (neighbor of Kathleen & Niel Jefferson)
Tom Dorsz
Paul McGinley
Family & friends of Justin Nalborczyk
Sue Whiting (sister of Nan McNamara)
Mike Simms
Adam Huegel
Carroll Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)
Tom Ford
Ingrid Jacobsen
Della Willmann (Shelley Weakly's mother)
Charlie Woodward
John Stush
Izzie Sims (friend of Molly Black)
Debbie Jennings *(friend of Kathleen Jefferson)*
Robert Debonis (uncle of Sophia Carliss)
Sandy Maples (sister-in-law of Allen and Joan Maples)
Betsy Fisher
Barbara Heverley
Todd Starr (nephew of Mary Staley)
Sharon DiDonato (aunt of Darryl Glick, friend of Mark Ulrich)
Ginny Peters
Karen Stitely
Donna Baumgardner Smith (friend of Sandra Trout)
Bill Cassell (brother of Ave Barr)
The Murray/Lennox/Cable Family
Sandra Trout
Family of Charlie Van Eman (son of friends of Kathleen and Niel Jefferson)
Mary Staley
Pat Condo
Wells Condo
Tom Frazier
Pauline Marendt
Kayla Merry (niece of Kim Sexton)
Carol Spera (mother of Mark Ulrich)
Emogene Wyand
Bob Pinner

Jim Baldree (father of Chuck Baldree)
Lee Thomas
Marcia Eisenstein
Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie & Gaylon Cornell)
Wayne Kolb (friend of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza)
Jeannette Johnson
Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby)
Marcy Channell (daughter of Jo Ann Fritz)
Paige Coffey
Fran Wenner
Bonnie Devilbiss
Tina Prescott (daughter-in-law of Barbara & Bill Prescott)
Heleen (sister of Karin Mens)
Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish & Barb Biser)

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

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH (FREEDOM DAY)
Friday, June 19

In honor of Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, the church offices will be closed on Friday, June 19.

Juneteenth commemorates the effective end of slavery in the United States. It marks the day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of enslaved African Americans there, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. Juneteenth invites us to reflect on the ongoing journey toward justice, equity, and liberation for all God's people.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, June 21
Sanctuary / Zoom, ~11:30 AM

Please join us in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 21st, for a special congregation meeting. We will welcome the Rev. Joshua Privitt to ERUCC, and he will lead us in worship at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Immediately following the 10:30 service, at approximately 11:30, we will convene a congregational meeting in the sanctuary. The only item on the agenda will be to vote to call the Rev. Joshua Privitt as the next Settled Senior Pastor of ERUCC. The votes will be

tallied immediately and the results announced. Lunch will be served immediately following the meeting. Members and friends of the congregation may also participate via Zoom.

To participate by Zoom, please register in advance: https://tinyurl.com/SpecialMtg621, or scan the QR code:

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

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. **Please note the last meeting for the summer is 6/17.**

THEOLOGY AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH REV. DR. REBECCA SHILLINGBURG
Tuesdays
North Room / Zoom, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Zoom: tinyurl.com/tuetap

Theology Among the People is taking a break. In September, we will begin with a review of the early chapters of *Genesis for Normal People* by Peter Enns and Jared Byas, making it easy for anyone to join us. 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.

WEDNESDAY PRAYERS
Wednesdays
Sanctuary, **4:30 PM**

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.

PACK THE PANTRY
Sunday, June 14, 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.

Theme this month: "BBQ"
Bring any of the following items to church:

Anything shelf-stable for a BBQ: Pasta salad kits, baked beans, BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, relish, pickles, olives, salad dressings, canned meats, canned fruits, crackers, and drink mixes.

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, mkcssexton@comcast.net.

"RISE UP, SING OUT! – A CONCERT FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT" WATCH PARTY
Sunday, June 14
Community Room, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Join at ERUCC for a watch party of the live concert at The Town Hall in New York City, featuring appearances by artists and activists including Bette Midler, Jane Fonda, Patti Smith, Rev. Adriene Thorne, and Rufus Wainwright. The "Rise Up, Sing Out!" concert officially begins at 7:30 PM.

For more information, visit https://riseupsingout.com/ or contact Julie Clark, jclarkad@yahoo.com.

ERUCC SUPPORTS THE UNITED WAY STUFF THE BUS CAMPAIGN
Collection Period: June 14 – August 3

ERUCC is collecting NEW school supplies for The United Way's Stuff the Bus campaign, which supports Frederick County Public Schools students in ALICE families.

Drop off school supplies in the big yellow bins in the Sanctuary and Kieffer Lobbies. The supplies most needed include markers, two-pocket folders (plastic preferred), earbuds with microphones, composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, three-

ring binders, crayons, and backpacks. Complete lists of supplies are available above the yellow bins.

2026 PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

Come help us show others that ERUCC is an Open & Affirming community of faith.
Sign up to march in the Pride Parade on Friday, June 26, and/or help at our Frederick Pride table on Saturday, June 27!
https://tinyurl.com/ERUCC-FrederickPride

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK
Monday, July 6
Downtown Community Room, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Join ERUCC members and our German friends as we partner with Blessings in a Backpack to fill backpacks for hungry FCPS kids. We'll meet in the Downtown Community Room and share dinner with our German group afterward. Look for further details and a Sign-Up Genius coming soon!

AWESOME CLOTHESLINE SHARING

Our Eastertide theme has been "Pursuing Awe". Tom Dorsz has wowed us with his photographs, still on display in the music suite hallway. We have explored the deeps of the ocean and the shells on the beach with an awesome sealife display in the lobby outside the Community Room.

Now, it is your turn to share what inspires awe (or awww) for you by posting photos, drawings, or easily hung 2D pieces on a lighted clothesline on the blue wall at the head of the stairs from the Kieffer Lobby. Starting this week, please show us the things that move you, amaze you, inspire you, or bring you overwhelming joy and gratitude. No explanation is needed other than the image itself, but please put enough information on the back of the piece that we can return it to you when the display is taken down. This will be an ongoing installation project of the Worship Design Team.

WEARING NAMETAGS

Please be sure to wear your nametags so that we have that gracious reminder as we get to know people who are new to us. If you do not have a nametag and want one, please request it at either the Welcome desk or Welcome table.

CHANGE IN PARKING LOT PATTERNS

During the week of **July 22-25**, please limit usage of our parking lot during the day as we have drop off and pick up of campers for Vacation Bible School during that week.

Children & Youth Activities, Events, and Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH AND JUNIOR CHURCH

During the summer, our 9:15 AM Sunday School and Junior Church classes and teachers take a break. We welcome children to spend time during the service in the Children's Worship Area, where there are additional craft supplies, worship streamers, and fidgets. In addition, there are books and coloring supplies in the back corner of the sanctuary that can also be used in your seats.

We welcome our children to make joyful noises during worship and believe that they grow from participating in the service, by listening to things as they sit with us, and by learning the patterns of worship, including prayers and hymns, as well as participating in sacred moments like baptisms, communion, and other worship rituals and traditions.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Sunday, **June 14**, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Flora Room
Register at: https://tinyurl.com/SafeChurch0614 or scan this QR code:

so that Pastor Kirstin can prepare for the correct number of people. New volunteers and returning volunteers are welcome! We are so thankful for everyone who helps with these ministries! This is needed for any new helpers for Vacation Bible School.

CATOCTIN ASSOCIATION OVERNIGHT LOCK-IN

Friday, July 24, 6:00 PM – Saturday, July 25, Noon
Grace United Church of Christ, 25 E 2nd St, Frederick

All youth going into 7-12th grades are invited! There is zero cost, and registration includes food and activities all night long, as well as a 2-hour service project on Saturday. There will be time to rest for those who don't wish to go all night. Planning and Leadership by Pastor Kirstin, Pastor Chance Martinez and Pastor Katie Pennick. Register at:
https://erucc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/101/responses/new

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026: A THEATRE CAMP APPROACH!

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

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.

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

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"*Moses and the Freedom Fanatics!*"
Friday, June 26
ERUCC Sanctuary, 11:30 AM

Come enjoy this live musical presented by our Vacation Bible School Children and Youth. No tickets or RSVP needed.

INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN GERMANY HOSPITALITY

EAST GERMANY GROUP IS COMING THIS SUMMER
July 5-16, Confirmed Dates!

Save these dates to gather as a church family with our guests as we participate in hospitality together.
-July 6, Dinner and Service Project, Project late afternoon time TBD, Dinner at 6:00pm
-July 12, We welcome our guests in worship and extended visiting at fellowship
-July 14, Goodbye dinner at ERUCC, 6:30pm

Donations
-Donations of Food for church and camping trip meals will be helpful! Look for a sign-up genius by Sunday, June 21.

Youth parents: please sign up here for which activities your child(ren) will attend with our German youth. https://tinyurl.com/GermanPartnerActivitiesSignUp or use this QR code:

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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Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager* ~ jclayton@erucc.org

Ann Watkins ~ *Office Administrator* ~ awatkins@erucc.org

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

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

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Robin L. Brady-Slifer ~ *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* | Keith Stickley ~ *Property Chair*

Kate Fromknecht ~ *Stewardship/Generosity Chair* | Holly Davis ~ *Christian Education Chair*

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

Darryl Glick ~ *Personnel Chair*

ELDERS

Ave Barr | Robin L. Brady-Slifer | 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 – 12:00 PM	**Nursery Care**
10:30 – 11:30 AM	**Worship**, Sanctuary and Online at www.erucc.org
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.

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.

JUNE*TEENTH
FREDERICK
JOIN THE STORY
FREEDOM . CULTURE. ART. FOOD. COMMUNITY.
19 JUNE 2026
11 AM - 3 PM
MULLINIX PARK
FREDERICK, MARYLAND
Celebrate Juneteenth with a day rooted in community, culture, and joy!
Enjoy delicious food, live music, local vendors, and family-friendly activities all in the heart of a welcoming park setting. This free event is open to the public, so come explore, connect, and celebrate together.

PRESENTED BY: Frederick Health

FREDERICK Pride

WEEKEND

JUNE **26-28** 2026

PARADE 6.26 | 7pm
DOWNTOWN FREDERICK

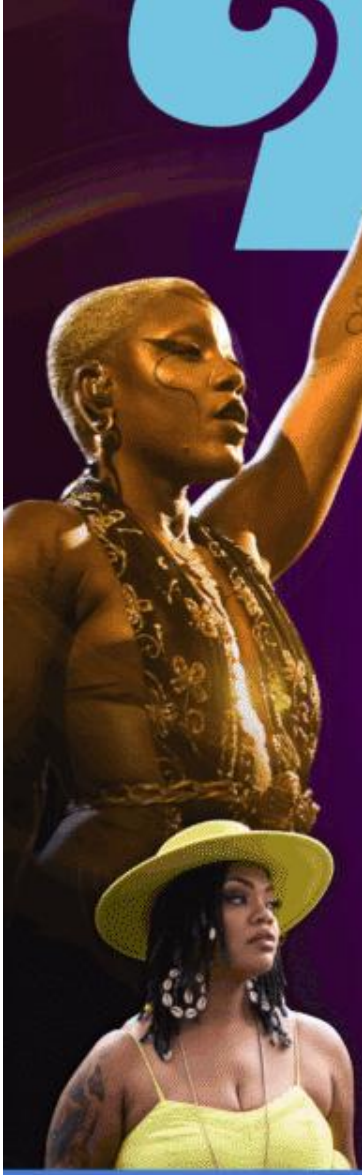
FESTIVAL 6.27 | 11am-6pm
CARROLL CREEK LINEAR PARK

BIKE RIDE 6.28 | 9am-11am
BAKER PARK

BRUNCH CRAWL 6.28 | 11am-4pm
DOWNTOWN FREDERICK

SPILL THE TEA with INIKO 6.28 | 4pm
MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATER

FrederickPride.org



HEADLINING PERFORMANCES

GUEST OF HONOR **INIKO**

AND LOOSEY LADUCA | VICTORIA BLACK | JOY+SOUL | EVOLUTION OF THE REVOLUTION

June 14, 2026 Gen 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Sarah Laughed

In a sea of youthful faces, Sarah's wrinkled skin stood out in the lecture hall. The 75-year-old was there to earn her Master of Divinity degree. Her classmates wondered why. Did she think she would serve a church late in life?

Many succeeded in suppressing their laughter. Others did not. Sarah didn't mind. She laughed, too, when the dream of being a minister emerged. Even her denomination didn't support her she confided to me one day before class.

"They laughed, too," she said with a smile that soon melted from her face when she continued. "It's sad that all who laugh are the ones who claim they know God. What God are they learning about here in these hallowed halls?"

There was once another Sarah who laughed at God's startling, unbelievable plans — Abraham's wife. She overheard angels talking to her elderly husband that she, who was barren, would conceive a child. Their son, Isaac, would come into the world when Sarah was 90 and Abraham 100.

When she heard the news, she couldn't help but laugh. Perhaps it was an incredulous laugh. After all, prayers for a child have gone unanswered for years. And let's not forget, the old couple was kept waiting another 25 years after God first made the promise to Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation.

When God asked why she laughed, Sarah tried to deny it. God wasn't mad with her. I think God was probably suppressing a chuckle, getting a kick out of how once again those who follow God still get so surprised at the impossible becoming possible.

"Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?" asked seminarian Sarah that day in the lecture hall, repeating God's words spoken to our biblical Sarah so long ago.

I have found myself repeating these words many times to churches that were struggling, even dying. "Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?" Other translations replace "wonderful" with "hard."

I ask because we all forget that the Almighty can bring life to that which is barren — even dead. Nothing is impossible with God. Sarah's story is one all churches this day need to hear, for the laughter of hope is still possible amid empty pews.

Just ask seminarian Sarah. She was ordained at 78 and called to serve a struggling rural congregation, where for five beautiful years they laughed together, cried together and grew together.

Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? No, it is not. Just remember the Sarahs.

God of laughter and beautiful promises, many of us are feeling like life has passed us by and that it is too late to start over, try again — even dare to believe dreams can still come true. But nothing is too wonderful for You. Strengthen our faith to believe that all things are possible and give us the patience to trust Your perfect timing. 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.)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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