

## ERUCC – “Be Fruitful”

(Gen. 1:28)

This is our first command from God, even if we so often and so easily jump to the “and multiply” part. This isn’t a command to be fertile. It’s our user instructions – what we are supposed to do (John 15:8). Having been blessed with the gift of life itself, we are asked this in return: to be fruitful – to bring forth into this world always love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22).

But that doesn’t happen by magic! Being fruitful takes choice, intentionality, and work – the kind of work we can only do for ourselves. To bear good fruit, to be an agent of God’s light, requires that we learn and grow, equipping ourselves to be ready to serve with courage and clarity whenever the moment arises.

Well, moments we have! Plenty! And we would be hard pressed to name a more insidious, relentless, diabolical, and divisive force at work corrupting our human family than racism. So, let’s get busy being fruitful!

This fall Evangelical Reformed UCC will be offering a 4-week series on white privilege using the book *Waking Up White and Finding Myself In the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. Together, all are invited to journey through this highly accessible and relatable book, exploring and reflecting on the many ways American racism plays out in everyday life, and identifying how we can be part of God’s good work in a world in need of healing.

**“I’m so excited! Can’t wait to learn and grow! Sign me up!”**

✓ Awesome! Bring Friends! We need you!

**“I want a fair world as much as the next person, but I reject the notion of ‘white privilege.’ To be honest, whenever I even hear the term I shut down.”**

✓ You get that this conversation isn’t easy, for anyone. But if indeed we all want a fair world then we need to find a way to agree on how to talk about it. And we can’t find that common way if you aren’t there. We need you!

**“I’m already informed about anti-racism and the principle concepts of white privilege.”**

✓ Then as you know, it can be a strange journey, and the witness of one who has already walked it is invaluable. We need you!

**“I’m afraid – afraid I’ll say something stupid, afraid I’ll have regrets, afraid I’ll learn something that will break the peace at my Thanksgiving table.”**

✓ Wow, same! But aren’t we afraid of all that anyway? Might as well get busy educating ourselves so we can get some control over our circumstances. We need you!

**“I’m tired – I’m busy – I’m busy and tired! I’m not sure I can commit to this.”**

✓ Understood, but anything is better than nothing. One step forward is a whole step forward. Can’t catch up on the reading? Just join a discussion session. Can’t make a session? Follow online. Just want to read the book and nothing else? That’s great! No judgment, no worries. We need you!

### HOW?

- 1) Get *Waking Up White and Finding Myself In the Story of Race* by Debby Irving.
- 2) Mark your calendar: this study will kick-off on **October 27 and wrap-up on November 23**.
- 3) **By October 18**, sign up for a discussion group by contacting the ERUCC church office (call, email, carrier pigeon/owl). The reading schedule for each week will be posted by the end of September. Groups will convene in the Liz Coffey Room at Evangelical Reformed UCC as follows:

Group 1	Sundays, Oct. 27-Nov. 17	12:30pm - 1:30pm
Group 2	Sundays, Oct. 27-Nov. 17	4:00pm - 5:00pm
Group 3	Saturdays, Nov. 2-Nov. 23	9:00am - 10:00am
- 4) For those who won’t be joining a group, we will be designing an online experience to run concurrently with the group curriculum. Let us know you will be participating in the study independently so we can stay in touch to make sure you are getting the support you need.

### Questions on Content?

Contact Rev. Michelle Beadle at [pastorbeadle@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbeadle@gmail.com) or (h) 301-371-3981

### Questions on Sign-ups and Logistics?

Contact the ERUCC church office at [aquilar@erucc.org](mailto:aquilar@erucc.org) or (o) 301-662-2762