



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room. (Accessible by the stairs from the Church Street Entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are located in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.

Hymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. 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 towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time, we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates for offering will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary. Thank you.

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.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

Donate online by scanning this code:
or download the **GivePlus Church** application and
make your donation via the app. Thank you.



Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Senior Pastor* ~ bkdaniel@erucc.org

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus* ~ burschenherrlichkeit@gmail.com

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

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

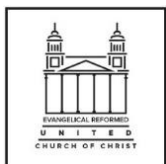
Tyler L. York ~ *Office Administrator* ~ tyork@erucc.org

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

Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Specialist* | Sherry Murray ~ *Nursery Attendant*



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 am



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...
We see God in each other

The numbered hymns are from The
New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

We See God in Each Other

Chimes Concert at 10:00 am from Trinity Chapel's steeple

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

- arr. C. Moglebust
Cambridge Handbell Choir

Away in a Manger

- arr. C. Harmon
Linda Moss, flute; C. Douglas Remsberg, clarinet

Threshold Moment *Where I Saw God Last*

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

The dimple in your right cheek, the child playing peek -a-boo from his stroller, the abuelita who spends her afternoons in the park by 86th; the teenagers on the subway who cannot control their laughter; Neil, my neighbor, who always asks about you, the mother who whispers a dozen times a day, *"thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus"*; the saxophone player at 42nd street, the poets, the artists, the garden volunteers; the metro car driver who sticks his head out the window to make sure we're all aboard; the man who gave up his seat on the subway, the kid in the dinosaur pajamas who cannot be convinced they're not school attire; the teachers, the nurses, the taxi cab drivers; the woman at the end of the block with her yappy dogs and her books in the window, the lovers that lay sprawled out on park blankets, the runners, the daydreamers, the sidewalk chalk artists; John from upstairs whose favorite flowers are yellow tulips, the Persian man at the grocery who tells me to be safe when I leave, my grandmother in Georgia; my neighbor, the stranger;
thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus.

Lighting of the Candle of Love

Bud Rossig & Lucas Nguyen-Powell

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news—these threads of love—not only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly. In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God's love. Thanks be to God for that good news. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: The prophet Isaiah foresees the coming of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-3, Isaiah 9: 2-7

Lucy Adkins

***Processional Carol** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strike and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

SECOND LESSON: The peace that Christ will bring is fore-shown

Jeremiah 23: 5-6; Isaiah 11: 1-2, 4, 6-9

Maureen Hueting

Anthem *The Holly and the Ivy*

- Traditional English

arr. M. McCaskill / D. Gilliam

Linda Moss, C. Douglas Remsberg

THIRD LESSON: John the Baptist heralds the coming of the Messiah

Matthew 3: 1-6, 11-12

Ethan Kline

***Carol** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings!

WINCHESTER NEW

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a Guest!
Yea, let us each the heart prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

For Thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Once more upon Thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

FOURTH LESSON: The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Alex Cumber

Anthem *Angels are Making Their Rounds*

- P. Choplin
Senior Choir

FIFTH LESSON: The evangelists tell of the birth of Jesus

Matthew 1: 19-23; Luke 2:1, 3-7

Aiden Baldree

Anthem *O Come, Little Children*

- Traditional
Chancel Handbell Choir

SIXTH LESSON: The shepherds go to the manger

Luke 2: 8-16

Trevor Weakly

***Carol** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*
Angels, from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

**Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God on earth is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Meditation

SEVENTH LESSON: The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Matthew 2: 1-11

Erin Gohegan

Anthem *The First Noel*

- arr. C. Dobrinski

EIGHTH LESSON: St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

John 1: 1-14

Colleen Huetting

Anthem *What Child is This?*

- Traditional English, arr. L. Larson
Linda Moss, C. Douglas Remsberg

Offering

Offertory *Christmas Joy*

- V. Thompson, arr. L. Smith
Senior Choir

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Bless now these gifts, God. Help them to become instruments of your
grace that help us to fill the hungry with good things, to lift up the
lowly, to help all your servants show mercy so that we will all
remember your promise that this world is about to turn. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *Angels, We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?**

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

Refrain:

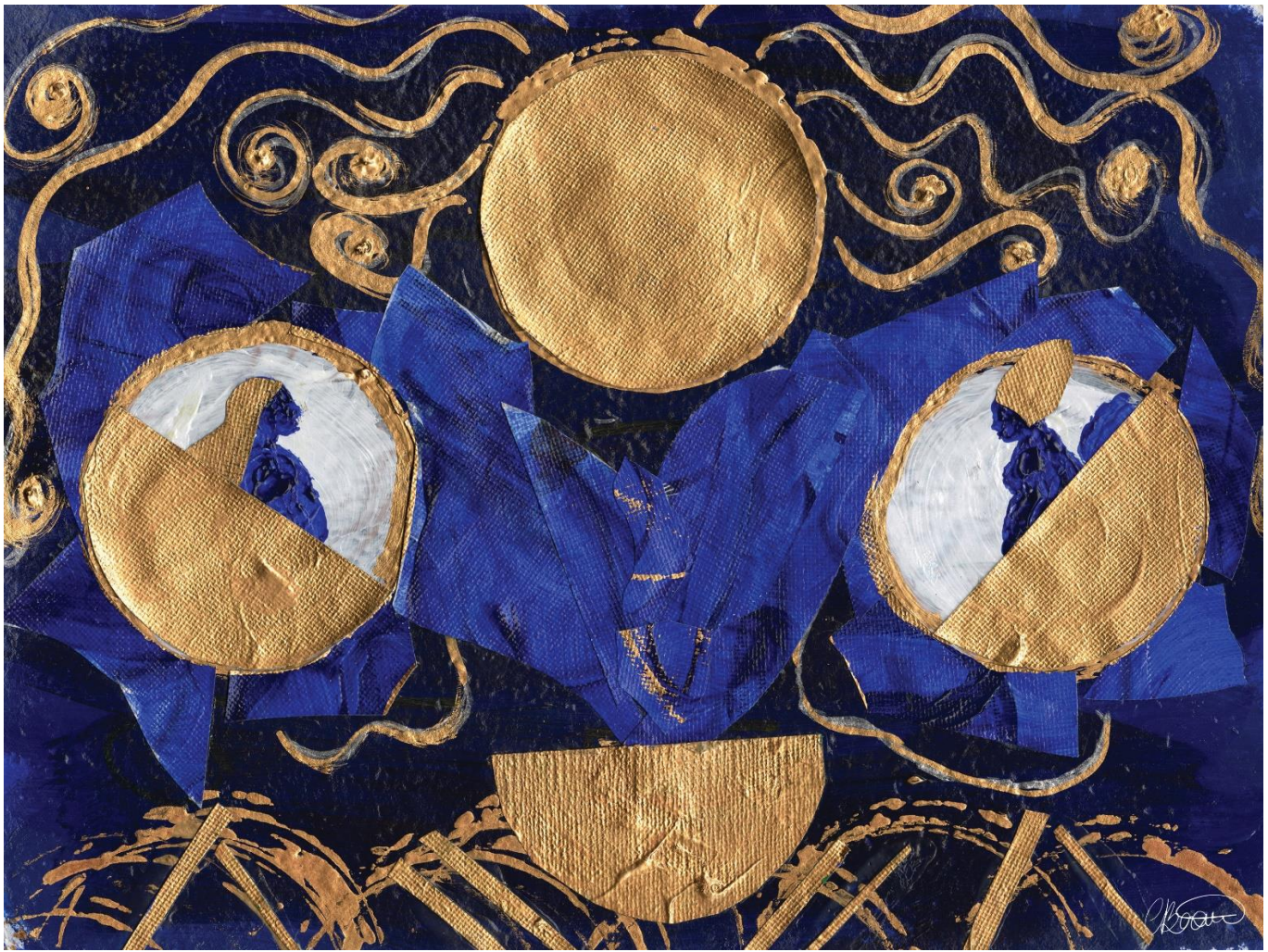
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

***Benediction**

May God's Door of Welcome swing open in your heart and in your life.
May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already
know. And may the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality
than you can imagine, making room in The Inn for all.
May it be so for you. May it be so for us. May it be so for this church.
Amen.

Postlude *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* - Traditional English, arr. L. Larson
(*please be seated*) Linda Moss, C. Douglas Remsberg





The Golden Cradle

by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by Luke 1:39-45; 56-58 | Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper

Mary and Elizabeth have found in each other a sisterhood amid their precarious and unusual circumstances. An older Elizabeth (perhaps losing hope of ever nursing a child at the loss of her monthly cycle) welcomes a young Mary (pledged to be wed at the first sign of her cycle, yet seemingly pregnant before she has even wed). Despite their difference in age, the two cousins find comfort in each other in the midst of the unconventional timing of their expanding families. All along, as the two women whisper together of the growing promises hidden in their wombs and unconventional lives, Mary and Elizabeth themselves are cradled by the guiding arms of the God who moves them beyond cousins into sisterhood.

Reminiscent of Haitian folk art figures, Mary and Elizabeth are portrayed wearing traditional Afro-Caribbean style headdresses as their silhouettes face one another in a stoic greeting. For new Haitian mothers, a tradition of preparing sacred tea leaves, as well as postpartum herbal baths, offers solidarity between the more seasoned women and a new mother. Often—as displayed by the relationship between the two women in this story—grandmothers, cousins, and other close female community members act as surrogates in this sacred practice for those who have been displaced from their own families.

The Golden Cradle expands on the imagery of Mary’s golden “yes” to her call, meeting Elizabeth’s “yes” to a holy birth of her own. In their meeting, the promises they carry leap for joy at this first encounter, offering us a picture of the kind of communal solidarity we often find along the journey of the unfolding story of God in our own lives. Even in moments of isolation, we often encounter surrogates who step in with divine provision when we need it the most.

—Carmelle Beaugelin

The flowers on the altar are given by Andy and Kathy Johnston in honor of their seven grandchildren: Hannah, Emma, Mady, Cole, Hayden, Zoe, and Ryder.

The yellow rose bud is presented by Peter Brehm and Jack Day.

Attendance Last Sunday: 22 at 8:30 am, 150 at 10:30 am, and 81 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



Watch worship live every Sunday at 10:30 am or on-demand:
<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

Today: December 18, 2022

Scripture Reader: Young Adults
Deacons: Matt Davis, Harrison Fisher
Elder: Peter Brehm
Greeters: Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
Pat Condo
Welcome: Holly Davis
Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin
Jeff Schaeberle
Fellowship: Congregational Meeting:
light lunch provided
Saturday Chimer: Dick Williams
Sunday Chimer: Kelly Esslinger

Next Week: December 25, 2022

Betsy Selby, Andrew Beadle
Gerry Blessing
Jo Ann Fritz, Felecia Bishop
Rob Smith

Rodney Martin, Jeff Schaeberle
Kelly Esslinger
*Please enjoy fellowship
without refreshments today!*

Tricia Coffey

FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for fellowship in the Community Room after worship to chat with friends, welcome our visitors, and enjoy a time of refreshment.

The Community Room, located on the 1st floor, is accessible by stairs or elevator.

The Poinsettias Adorning the Chancel are ...

IN MEMORY OF

- ✱ Our loved ones by Tom and Rachel Ford
- ✱ Melanie Hoffman by the family of Melanie Hoffman
- ✱ John and Martha Morris by Robert and Suzanne Morris
- ✱ Herman and Mildred Smith by Robert and Suzanne Morris
- ✱ Deckenback and Roberts families by Carolyn Roberts
- ✱ Sally Day by Peter Brehm and Jack Day
- ✱ Richard H. Brehm, III by Peter Brehm and Jack Day
- ✱ Frank and Jean Keyser by Phil and Betsy Selby
- ✱ Pacia Selby by Phil and Betsy Selby
- ✱ My son, Todd Stush by John Stush
- ✱ My loved ones by Audrey Rayfield
- ✱ Geraldine Wilson by Bruce Wilson
- ✱ Rev. Nevin L. Kershner by Kenneth and Barbara Kershner Daniel
- ✱ LaRue E. Daniel by Kenneth and Barbara Kershner Daniel
- ✱ Blaine and Kevin Hoffmann by Ken and Anne Hoffmann
- ✱ Bob Armitage by Linda Coyle
- ✱ John Coyle by Linda Coyle
- ✱ Rita Coyle by Linda Coyle
- ✱ Members of the Elseroad and Martin families by Larry and Sedonia Martin
- ✱ Our family saints at Christmas by Cindy Smith and Cindy Duranko
- ✱ Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Routzahn and family by Mary M. Staley and daughters
- ✱ The Staley Family by Mary M. Staley and daughters
- ✱ My husband, LaVern Rasmussen, by Monica Yost
- ✱ My mother, Peggy Yost, by Monica Yost
- ✱ Herman and Cecelia Gillis by Ed and Lee Garrett
- ✱ Willard and Katherine Garrett by Ed and Lee Garrett
- ✱ Bernard Fried, Larry Kelly, and Paul Culwell by Ed and Lee Garrett
- ✱ Dawn and Roger Williams, family of Starr and Jeff Schaeberle
- ✱ Dale and John Schaeberle, family of Jeff and Starr Schaeberle

IN MEMORY OF

- ✳ Our parents, Kathleen and Joe Clancy and Margret and Bruce Jefferson by Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
- ✳ Sam and Peggy Maples by Allen, Joan, and Larry Maples and Lois and Jay Gaul
- ✳ Lawrence and Lois Schwin by Allen, Joan, and Larry Maples and Lois and Jay Gaul
- ✳ LeRoy Junker by the York Family
- ✳ Elizabeth Hooper by Trudi Shaw
- ✳ Marty Menchey Mandras by Marj Menchey Berkheimer and Sando Menchey Bernstein Lynch
- ✳ Bob Wittlinger by Marj Berkheimer

IN HONOR OF

- ✳ Family by Patti Patterson
- ✳ Howard Selby by Phil and Betsy Selby
- ✳ Our grandson, Duncan Broderick by Cathie and Will Duncan
- ✳ Alison E. Shafer by Kenneth and Barbara Kershner Daniel
- ✳ Claire R. Kershner by Kenneth and Barbara Kershner Daniel
- ✳ Our children, Mark and Christopher by Kenneth and Barbara Kershner Daniel
- ✳ Our children and grandchildren by Kathleen and Niel Jefferson
- ✳ My lovely parents, Larry and Sedonia, by their daughter, Ida
- ✳ Our parents by Owen and Tyler L. York

PLACED BY

- ✳ Don and Emogene Wyand
- ✳ Bob and Sue Pinner



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week:

Today's service will be a simple Sabbath after all the festivities of the past few weeks. It will be a chance in the quiet of the morning to remember, to rejoice and to respond to grace flowing freely in the humble birth of the God-made-flesh. It is also a chance for our church family to gather as the family of God.

The 10:30 a.m. service will revolve around carols that are familiar and easy to sing and the scriptures assigned for Christmas Day in the Revised Common Lectionary. They both tell the story of love and justice that shapes the meaning of the day.

Adult Education and Children's Sunday School will not be held, and Nursery Care will not be provided.

HOSPITAL AND PRAYER LIST

Your pastor wants to be available when members of ERUCC are in the hospital. Please let us know so that we can visit with you and your family and provide support. We always ask permission before adding a name to be included in the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Marcia Eisenstein, Bob Shafer, Joyce Kallevang (sister-in-law of Jeanellen Kallevang), Derek C. Hupp (grandson of Beanie and Gaylon Cornell), Wayne Kolb (friends of Stefan and Judi Mach and Tony and Linda LaFianza), Conway Barnes (brother-in-law of George and Linda Kline), Mary Ellen Baker, Pat Hevner, Jeannette Johnson, Jackie Keyser (sister-in-law of Betsy and Phil Selby), Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee Crutchley (sister of Milt Crutchley), Marcy Channell (daughter of JoAnn Fritz), Paige Coffey, Jane Doll, Peggy Githerman, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Neremiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle), Bonnie Devilbiss, The McCarty family, Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).



**LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR
CHILDREN PRAYING**

Sunday Education Opportunities for Adults

LET'S STUDY THE BIBLE with The Reverends John & Rebecca Shillingburg

North Room / Zoom

9:00 – 10:20 am

Zoom: bit.ly/3QSB77N

Meeting ID: 833 1890 5798

Passcode: 891524

Magi and Shepherds ... Both ... at the Manger? Did you grow up with a nativity scene as part of your family's annual Christmas decorations? And were both the shepherds and the Wise Men present at the manger? Lots of us did ... and many of us still display them in our homes each year. But, did you ever wonder why the Christmas story in Luke chapter 2 doesn't mention the Wise Men? Or, in Matthew ... where are the shepherds? And where are the Christmas stories in the gospels of Mark and John?

Join the *Let's Study the Bible* class in Advent as we do a deep-dive into the stories of Jesus' birth. No prior experience necessary, just bring your Bible ... and your questions!

LET'S TALK

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 am

Today: Advent Study Handel's Messiah. We conclude our focus on Handel's Messiah praising God (Hallelujah) for the gift of God's presence and grace in the birth of Jesus. Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" will announce in music and message the greatness of our loving God. Come and join us. Led by David Howard & Bob Manthey.

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chorus | "Lift up your heads, O ye gates" | Ps. 24:7-10 |
| Soprano Air | "How beautiful are the feet" | Rom. 10:15 |
| Chorus | "Their sound is gone out" | Rom. 10:18, Ps. 19:4 |
| Chorus | "Hallelujah" | Rev. 19:6, 11:15, 19:16 |

Next Week: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Let's Talk will resume on January 8 with a month focusing on "Faith in Action" as ERUCC members and friends reflect on recent trips including the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, disaster recovery in Kentucky, and the Franklinton Center at Bricks work trip.

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

Tuesdays, November 29 – December 20 North Room / Zoom 11:00 am – Noon

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398

Passcode: 973365

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

This Week at ERUCC

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 18 Community Room/Zoom following 10:30 am service

Zoom: bit.ly/ER22CongMtg

Meeting ID: 891 2964 6152

Passcode: 493929

The Consistory invites you to attend ERUCC's annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 18, following the 10:30 am service. Agenda items will include reports on Consecration Sunday outcomes, Property Committee capital projects, and sharing and approval of the proposed 2023 ERUCC mission spending plan. A light lunch will be served. We are the church, and everyone's participation is encouraged.



SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY THIS WEEK



The Christmas Fund: The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18

Main Sanctuary

5:00 pm

It is time for the ERUCC Christmas Pageant! This year we will be doing a version of the Christmas story called “A Spontaneous Christmas Pageant” and it is sure to be great fun!

The offering this evening can be a donation of food items, new winter hats and gloves, or money which the children's Sunday School classes will use to purchase hats, gloves, and food.

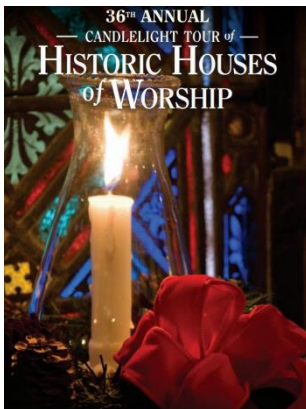
Enjoy a reception with milk and cookies following the pageant.

Upcoming at ERUCC

CANDLELIGHT HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP TOUR

Monday, December 26

Public Hours: 4:00 – 9:00 pm



The beloved Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship returns this holiday season in Downtown Frederick. ERUCC is looking forward to welcoming many visitors into our buildings during the tour on Monday, December 26. We need you, our beloved ERUCC community, to be available on this night to welcome them.

Sign up to help: bit.ly/cndLTour22. More details on shifts and duties will be released soon.

Questions?

Contact Julie Clark, jclarkad@yahoo.com or (301) 305-8181.

ERUCC WORK DAY

Tuesday, January 2

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

We are looking for a minimum of 8 volunteers for painting 2 classrooms in Trinity Chapel. We are also hoping to complete several other smaller projects. Contact Property Chair, Owen York, for information or to volunteer: owenjyork@gmail.com or (301) 401-4947.

UN-HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, January 8

following 10:30 am service

We will be taking down our Christmas decorations and appreciate all the help we can get! Help with the “Un-Hanging of the Greens” after the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, January 8.

FRANKLINTON CENTER TRIP PREP MEETING

Sunday, January 8

Community Room

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Adults, youth and their parents who will be attending the work trip to Franklinton Center at Bricks should attend this meeting after Christmas decorations are put away. We will discuss expectations, work assignments, travel, packing, and food menu.

FRANKLINTON CENTER WORK TRIP

January 14 – 16

Open to adults and youth (7th – 12th grade)



Please let Pastor Daniel know if you are interested in going on the work trip to The Franklinton Center at Bricks, a conference, retreat, and educational facility in eastern North Carolina with a focus on justice advocacy and leadership development. Franklinton Center is an historic center of transformation where issues affecting the marginalized, the oppressed, and the poor are addressed. A former plantation, Franklinton Center traces its beginnings to the founding of Franklinton Christian College in 1871 and the Congregationalist Bricks School in 1895. A merger of those two schools in the 1950s formed Franklinton Center at Bricks. The Center is related to the UCC.

As with all church buildings, the more work volunteers can provide to maintain facilities, the more funds are available for programs and meeting the direct needs of people.

The work trip costs \$80 per person (includes housing and meals). The trip is subsidized by budgeted funds for mission trips.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT AT ERUCC

Because the Cross Is a Movement, Not a Moment!

Saturday, January 21

Community Room

6:30 – 8:30 pm



The ERUCC Mission and Social Action Committee invites you and your guests (middle school age and older) to join us for an evening of fellowship, a shared meal, and an intentional time to explore your faith passions, harness your gifts, and consider how you can be an agent of the Good News to help change the world into a better reflection of God's love for all.

Dinner will be provided and childcare can be arranged. Walking with us through a brief facilitated exercise, you will end the evening having identified a need in the world that is speaking most to you, explored how you would like to be part of the solution, and collaborated with others who share your passion for being an agent of change.



Join *The Movement*! Register by scanning the QR code, go to bit.ly/JOINmvm, or email your interest to pastorbeadle@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact Michelle Beadle, Mission and Social Action Committee Chair, at pastorbeadle@gmail.com.

Children and Family Ministry



Installation

REV. KIRSTIN SHROM-RHOADS
as

*Associate Pastor for
Faith Formation and Parish Life*

Sunday, January 22
3 p.m.

COLLECTING HATS AND GLOVES

A new addition to our outdoor foliage is our Holiday Warmth Tree, so named by our Sunday School children. Our Children's Ministry will be collecting new winter hats and gloves through the end of January. These can be left in boxes throughout our two buildings or added to the tree itself, which lives just outside the glass doors. Placed on a tree, these winter warmth items can be taken by those who might be able to use them. Additional items will be shared through SHIP for Homeless students and Federated Charities. Contact Pastor Kirstin, ksrhoads@erucc.org with questions.

GOD'S KIDS CLUB – SAVE THE DATES

On January 2, our young people will help our church with projects to clean up the building. After our project and lunch, we will enjoy a variety of board games!

Other upcoming dates to save for GKC include February 20 and March 22, scheduled 9-3 with students packing their own lunches. Kirstin is also planning a short day on Good Friday, April 7 from 9-12. This day we will participate in the stories of Holy Week through an interactive scavenger hunt of sorts and some imaginative visioning.

Would you like to volunteer for a partial or whole day with God's Kids Club? It is ideal for us to have 4 adults for our day. Reach out to Kirstin at ksrhoads@erucc.org with questions or to volunteer!

JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church for children ages 5 – 5th grade will resume on January 8. Children of all ages should enjoy today's Lessons and Carols service, Christmas Day service, and share in the Sacrament of Communion on January 1.

Youth Group Ministry

FRANKLINTON CENTER TRIP PREP MEETING

Sunday, January 8

Community Room

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Youth who will be attending the work trip to Franklinton Center at Bricks and their parents should attend this meeting after Christmas decorations are put away. We will discuss expectations, work assignments, travel, packing, and food menu.

Additional Announcements

2022 YEAR END DONATIONS

As 2022 comes to a close, the Finance Committee would like to thank you all for your continued extravagant generosity to the financial well-being of ERUCC in support of its programs and mission. The final 2022 year-end giving statements will be sent via e-mail or in the mail mid-January 2023.

All checks postmarked or delivered to the church by December 31 will be considered a 2022 tax year donation.

2023 MISSION SPENDING PLAN



2023 Mission Spending Plan

We 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.

Each year the Finance Committee and Stewardship/Generosity Committee work very hard to produce a carefully planned operating budget and mission spending plan for the upcoming year. The annual budget is prepared with a great deal of analysis, thoughtfulness, consultation and prayer. The budget provides the church's income and expenses in detail, and it is from that budget that our Mission Spending Plan emerges.

A 2023 Mission Spending Plan is available in the rear of the Main Sanctuary and Trinity Chapel and during Fellowship in the Community Room. This narrative budget is an illustrated guide to how your funds are used to further the work of the church in the world and highlights ERUCC's accomplishments and activities across four areas: Worship and Music; Christian Nurture and Fellowship; Mission; and Welcoming Spaces.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

We value being together to worship, for learning and discipleship, and to be in fellowship. Protect the safety and health of our community by considering these ways to love thy neighbor:



stay home if sick

if you experience symptoms like cough or fever, we ask that you join us online



masking

all may choose to mask anytime



wash and sanitize

wash hands for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer often

ERUCC HISTORY BOOK AVAILABLE

To commemorate the 275th Anniversary of ERUCC, the history book *Unto Us* has been updated to reflect our church history through 2020. The 8x11 hard backed history book, with color photo sections is available through the church office or on Sunday mornings.

Thanks to a generous donor, the cost of the book for purchase is \$20 per book. Call the church at (301) 662-2762 or email erucc@erucc.org to purchase.

VOLUNTEER FOR FELLOWSHIP

Helping with Sunday Fellowship can be as easy as helping set up before worship, helping serve after worship, or bringing a special treat to share. Sign up at bit.ly/ERUCC_fellowship or talk with Laura Rhoderick or Starr Schaeberle for more details.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

You decide whether a drive or walk to the church is safe. We do not encourage you to risk life and limb to get to church at all costs, but we expect to hold services for those who can arrive safely, unless the Frederick roads are closed. Our Senior Pastor and Organist can walk to the church, so they will always be present for Sunday morning worship services.

Other in-person activities, including committee meetings and any other regularly scheduled church activities, are generally governed by the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) inclement weather plan. In the event inclement weather requires FCPS to close, delay opening or dismiss early, the church office will similarly delay opening or be closed and ERUCC activities will also be cancelled or may be held virtually when possible and appropriate.

In the event inclement weather causes ERUCC to close or cancel activities, the church website (www.erucc.org) and the church's Facebook (www.facebook.com/eruccfrederick) will be updated as soon as possible.



**OUR CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 2**

**During this period, as we spend some time
with our families and friends we may take
longer than usual to reply to your messages.**



Advent and Christmastide at ERUCC

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION ...



The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and

religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Beginning with the first Sunday in Advent, this daily devotional follows the Christmas story through Epiphany. Including art, poetry, and reflections for the Season of Advent, this devotional is available in the rear of the Main Sanctuary, in Trinity Chapel, or by calling the church office at (301) 662-2762.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

A Surprising God

Wednesdays, November 30 – December 21

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Service of Prayer in Trinity Chapel, followed by a soup lunch and reflection.

The world is slowly emerging from the worst global emergency in a century, and the myriad struggles of the contemporary moment—division, isolation, illness, and uncertainty—make living our faith a challenge. For Christians, a number of questions have gained new urgency: Where do we find hope when it seems in such short supply? Where are the signs of God's peace in this divided world? Where do we find a deeper sense of joy?

Thomas G. Long and Donyelle C. McCray remind us that these are the questions of Advent in their new daily devotional, *A Surprising God*. Mindful of the stresses of life today in a world torn apart by conflict, marked by political division, and in the midst of a global health crisis, these devotions for Advent and Christmas invite readers to honest reflection on the challenges of being people of faith in this moment. Long and McCray explore what it means to wait for our salvation, to be open to the surprising thing that God is about to do, and to find hope in God's choice of the small and the insignificant.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 22

Main Sanctuary

7:30 pm

The purpose of this service is to provide a setting where people can come together in acknowledgment that, for many, this is a difficult time of the year. The service includes scripture, meditations, hymns, prayers, and the lighting of candles.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday, December 24

Children's Service

Main Sanctuary

5:30 pm

Candlelight & Carol Service

Main Sanctuary

7:30 pm

Communion Service

Trinity Chapel

10:30 pm


CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Sunday, December 25

8:30 am in Trinity Chapel and 10:30 am in Main Sanctuary

Today's service will be a simple Sabbath after all the festivities of the past weeks. It will be a chance in the quiet of the morning to remember, rejoice, and respond to grace flowing freely in the humble birth of the God-made-flesh. It is also a chance for our church to gather as the family of God.

Adult Education and Children's Sunday School will not be held, and Nursery Care will not be provided.



Let this Christmas be the season
we renew our commitment
to be instruments of
God's peace.



Thank You!

13th century mystic Meister Eckhart wrote: "If the only prayer you ever said was, 'Thank you,' that would suffice."

The United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross aims to be that prayer in our midst. The Christmas Fund supports retired clergy and lay staff and surviving spouses in need through regular gifts to supplement their (often very limited) retirement incomes, through once-a-year "Thank-you" checks. It also provides individual grants to clergy in crisis or acute need.

The Christmas Fund is one of the Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, and this congregation supports it with our gifts, because we believe that while the sacrifices clergy and church workers make for their ministries are good for our churches, they can be bad for those professionals' bottom lines. We do it because clergy are as likely to need help as the rest of us, maybe for different reasons, maybe not. We do it because their service is valuable to us. We do it to say, "Thank you."

You may not be able to write checks to rescue retirees from poverty. But you can help anyway. By giving to the Christmas Fund, you will make sure that your pastor has a place to go for help if she needs it, make sure that retirees have support when they need it, make sure that this season, our church can be the church for those who need it throughout the UCC.

In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,104,479)
- Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees (\$177,600)
- Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families (\$150,338)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees (\$254,000)

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Sunday Morning Schedule

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:30 – 9:15 am | Worship , Trinity Chapel |
| 9:30 am – 12:00 pm | Nursery Care , Main Building |
| 9:30 – 10:15 am | Adult Education , Main Building <i>Let's Talk (9:30 am) and Let's Study the Bible (9:00 am)</i> |
| 9:30 – 10:10 am | Children's Sunday School , Trinity Chapel <i>Ages 3 – 2nd Grade, 3rd – 6th Grade, Confirmation Class</i> |
| 10:10 – 10:25 am | Children's Music & Movement , Trinity Chapel <i>Pre-K through high school</i> |
| 10:30 – 11:30 am | Worship , Main Sanctuary |
| 11:30 am | Fellowship , Community Room |
| 11:30 am – 12:00 pm | Cambridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal , Flora Room <i>Pre-K through high school</i> |

Stay Informed



Read the ERUCC monthly newsletter, *Trinity Chimes*, for more information about activities, opportunities, and updates. You can find the newsletter in the back of the sanctuary and online by scanning the QR code or at bit.ly/22DecChimes.



Please send announcements for the bulletin, Thursday Thoughts, or Trinity Chimes to erucc@erucc.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

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.



EVANGELICAL REFORMED
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022

Matthew 1:18-25

God With Us

According to the dictionary, the term incarnation means “a person who embodies in the flesh a deity, spirit, or abstract quality.” In Jesus, the Holy came to earth to live like us, to laugh like us, to mourn like us, and to love like us. In the simplest terms, the incarnation is the Divine coming to earth as a child, the infant Jesus, for the purpose of embodying concretely the abstract quality of love for one another.

Although only Jesus is the Incarnation with a capital I, Christ’s followers can continue to embody in the flesh and make real the abstract quality of love. It is one thing for us to say that they love one another. Demonstrating that love through acts of service and compassion truly incarnates the love that Christ came to demonstrate.

One way we as the United Church of Christ incarnate Christ’s love at this time of year is by contributing to the Christmas Fund (formerly called the Veterans of the Cross).

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

This testimonial from a Christmas Fund recipient was shared last year, a reminder that the fruits of loving incarnation will always be gratitude, joy, and connection. “The grant is enough to allow me a little breathing room at the end of each month. Thank you for that gift. But equally important to me personally is this grant symbolizes a wonderful connection to the church I love. I have been blessed in so many ways.”

For more information visit:

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/christmas-fund/>



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE