

**Called
Together**

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*

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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 –



January 22, 2023

Third Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am

The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal

*All who are able may stand

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

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship** (*inspired by Psalm 27*)

God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

**God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble,
and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!**

Day after day, we seek God's face and the assurance of God's holy love:

O God, do not turn from us or hide your face from us!

Be our guide and our light instead!

One thing we ask of God:

**That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our life,
and never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.**

Beloved of God, enter this worship in thanksgiving,
for God is among and within us!

Thanks be to God!

***Opening Prayer**

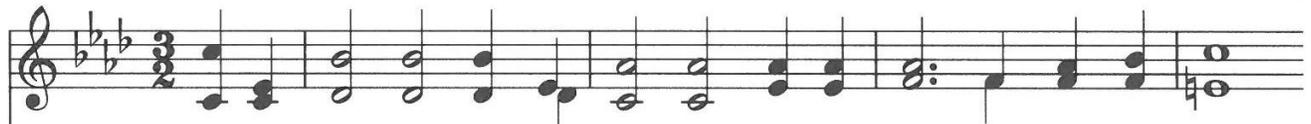
Gracious Light-Bearer,

Into the shadows of our isolation you speak words of life and community.

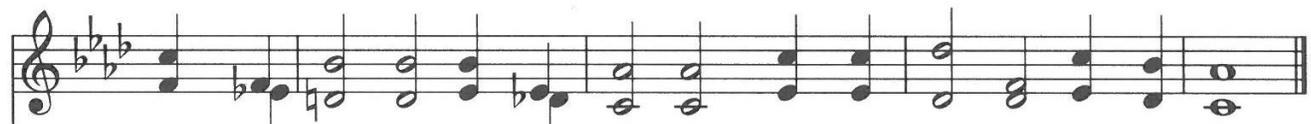
**Challenger of our lives, you call us from places we call home to lead us
more deeply into the world you love.**

**With your gentle, healing touch you redeem the broken places of our
lives and you heal the wounded places of the earth.**

**Inspire our worship here this day, so that we may receive liberation in
your word, and be filled to overflowing to share your reconciling love
throughout the earth. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**



1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer - cies, Sav - ior, may we hear your call,



Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.



***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, in Christ you call us to unity of mind and purpose,
but we confess that our hearts are often turned
toward separation and division.**

**We quarrel; we encourage rivalries;
we tear down our brothers and sisters in faith.**

**Help us to remember that all have been baptized as one body
into Christ's death and resurrection.**

**Teach us to hold fast to those promises
which draw us together in the Spirit,
so that we may proclaim the power
of Christ's life and ministry with one voice.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Receive the good news: there is no place, not even in our hearts,
where the love of God cannot penetrate.

God is around and among us, healing, restoring
and calling us to new life as one body, united in Christ.

Praise be to God

for the gift of forgiveness and the promise of peaceful unity!

Anthem *Indescribable*

- L. Story / J. Reeves
Children's Music and Movement

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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*Children ages 5 through 5th grade may be dismissed for Junior Church,
located in the **Thomas Room**, during the singing of the hymn.*

***Hymn** *Dear God, Embracing Humankind*

#502
see next page

The Scripture

Isaiah 9: 1-4 OT page 638

Matthew 4: 12-23 NT page 3

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Morning Prayers

Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

Offertory *Let In Thy Light*

– E. Butler
Senior Choir

1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your

ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
 bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak

pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.
 through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God, to you we dedicate these gifts this day.

May this act of giving inspire other ways that we may "fish for" your people, seeking out those who need your nourishing spirit.

And we pray that you will multiply them and the gifts of all your faithful people like loaves and fishes, that your love may be revealed on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Closing Hymn *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

#173

D A7 D

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go: en mi
1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

G A7

ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo
bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das; tan só - lo
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly
treasure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my

D A7 D *Estrillo (Refrain)*
D7

que - res que yo te si - ga. Je -
re - des y mi tra - ba - jo. re - des y mi tra - ba - jo. Je -
ask - ing for me to fol - low. O
fish - nets and will for work - ing. O

G D

sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;
Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;

One of the most popular hymns to Jesus Christ, composed by...

A7 D

son - ri - en - do, has di - cho mi nom - bre;
 kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.

D7 G F#m

en la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;
 On the sand I have a - ban - doned my small boat;

B7 Em A7 D

jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 now with you I will seek oth - er seas.

3. Tú ne-ce-si-tas mis ma-nos,
 mi can-san-cio que a o-tros des-can-se,
 a-mor que quie-ra se-guir a-man-do.
Estrillo

3. You need my hands, my ex-haus-tion,
 work-ing love for the rest of the
 wea-ry—
 A love that's will-ing to go on lov-ing.
Refrain

4. Tú, Pes-ca-dor de o-tros ma-res,
 an-sia e-ter-na de al-mas que es-pe-ran.
 A-mi-go bue-no, que a-sí me lla-mas.
Estrillo

4. You who have fished oth-er wa-ters;
 you, the long-ing of souls that are
 yearn-ing:
 As lov-ing Friend, you have come
 to call me.
Refrain

***Benediction**

Go now in peace, for Christ has called you to live in peace
among your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Go now in courage, for Christ has called you from the places of your life
to be agents of redemption and partners in healing.

Go now in joy and thanksgiving, for Christ is our light!

Go now as one body, to love and serve God as you love and serve the
world!

****Sevenfold Amen***

#814

Postlude (*please be seated*)



Today's liturgy, "A Call to Unity: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany" was written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, Minister and Team Leader for Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA) UCC.

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of Michael Patrick Sexton, Sr. by Mike and Kim Sexton.

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

If you are interested in sponsoring the yellow rose, please contact the church office at (301) 662-2762 or erucc@erucc.org.

Attendance Last Sunday: 12 at 8:30 am, 81 at 10:30 am, and 58 online.

Watch
Worship
Live



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

Today: January 22, 2023

Scripture Reader: Peter Brehm
Deacons: Betsy Selby, Andrew Beadle
Elder: Marc Kline
Greeters: Kathleen Goebel, Rob Smith
Sue Pinner
Welcome: Jeanellen Kallevang
Audio/Visual: Jeff Schaeberle, Jeff Baker
Kelly Esslinger
Fellowship: Starr Schaeberle, Peter Brehm
Saturday Chimer: Tricia Coffey
Sunday Chimer: Kelly Esslinger

Next Week: January 29, 2023

Rev. Michelle Beadle
Betsy Selby, Andrew Beadle
Eric Weakley
Bob and Nancy Manthey
Susan Kulp, David Howard
Pat Condo
Kelly Esslinger, Jeff Schaeberle
Larry Martin
Betsy Fisher, Monica Yost
Joan Maples
Dick Williams
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Next Week: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Today we begin a five-week exploration of a collection of Jesus' sayings known as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' radical vision of what God's reign on earth might look like is a vision of wholeness for all people is found in Matthew 5: 1-12. Micah 6:1-8 describes a dramatic confrontation, a lawsuit between God and Israel. What must Israel do to be in a right relationship with God? Verse 8 summarizes: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

The Senior Choir will be singing. Pastor Kirstin will be leading worship.

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:

Ed Hoffman, Bob Pinner, Stacie Carey (niece of Darlene Brunner and Jeannette Johnson), Frank Tordoff (father of Kim Sexton), Ginny Peters, Larry Butler (father of RaeAnn Butler), 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

Sundays

North Room / Zoom

9:00 – 10:20 am

Zoom: bit.ly/ERSunstudy

Meeting ID: 893 8670 5888

Passcode: 327128

Foundational Stories of the Old Testament ... in Order! The Exile ... and the Exodus ... is that one event with two names ... or two? And if they are different, which came first? Was Daniel in the lion's den because Joseph put him there?

If you have ever pondered questions like these, join the *Let's Study the Bible* class for an 8-week (or so) survey of the big stories of the Old Testament in the order they occurred. No prior experience needed; just bring your Bible!

LET'S TALK

Community Room

9:30 – 10:15 am

This Week: Reflections on Disaster Recovery in Kentucky

Let's Talk this month focuses 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.

Next Week: Another January trip to Franklinton Center at Bricks



Weekly Education Opportunities for Adults

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with The Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel

The Difficult Words of Jesus

Tuesdays through February 21

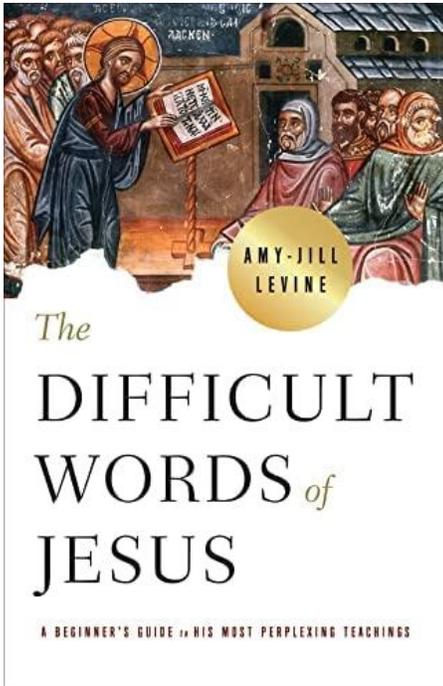
North Room / Zoom

11:00 am – Noon

Zoom: bit.ly/3TdUnOy

Meeting ID: 875 1423 3398

Passcode: 973365



Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation

No class on January 24 and 31

- February 7 Nowhere Among the Gentiles
- February 14 Outer Darkness
- February 21 Your Father the Devil



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

This Week at ERUCC

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Sunday, January 22

Main Sanctuary

3:00 pm

A Service of Installation for Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads as Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Parish Life will take place Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 pm in our Main Sanctuary. A reception will immediately follow in the Community Room.

ERUCC BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, January 24

Liz Coffey Room / Zoom

7:00 pm

Zoom: bit.ly/ERUCCbooks

Meeting ID: 848 7056 7574

Passcode: 226669

Wish You Were Here by Jodi Picoult. Read a book synopsis in the January *Trinity Chimes* at bit.ly/Jan23Chimes.

The ERUCC Book group meets bi-monthly at 7:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday. Our 2023 Book Group Coordinators are Susan Kulp and Rebecca Shillingburg.

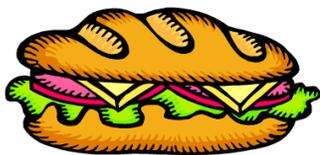
Upcoming at ERUCC

CELEBRATION OF SHERRY MURRAY

Sunday, January 29

We will honor and celebrate Sherry Murray for her many years of caring ministry as our Nursery Attendant during the 10:30 am worship service and during Fellowship in the Community Room.

YOUTH GROUP SUB SALE



The beloved ERUCC Youth Group Sub Sale is underway! This special fundraising event is a long-time favorite and we have brought it back again this year. These delicious 8" submarine sandwiches will be lovingly made by our ERUCC Youth Group and available just in time

for the Super Bowl!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will help offset costs for the youth group's planned mission and service-related projects throughout the year. Sandwiches will be available for pick up on Saturday, February 11th from 10:30-11:00 am or on Sunday, February 12th following church services. Our youth will have paper order forms which may be used to place your order or you may do so online using the digital form available through the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/230165489847165>.



Sandwiches are \$9.00 each and orders are due by FEBRUARY 5, 2023!

The Youth Group thanks you for your continued support!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 12



On this day, the Youth of ERUCC will join in a nationwide youth movement to collect resources to tackle hunger. Our youth will be collecting monetary gifts in big soup pots following the service on Sunday, February 12. We will also be in the parking lot until 1pm to receive your drive by gifts. All monetary donations and food will be given to the Frederick Food Bank.

Children and Family Ministry

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 FAMILY SNOW TUBING

Saturday, February 4

Liberty Mountain Resort

4 – 6:00 pm

Cost \$10 per person. (Church will cover the difference) There are 2 different hills. The hill for kids under 42 inches requires parent supervision. Parents who come and do not plan to ride on tubes will not have to pay for a ticket. If you want to come and go on a tube yourself, you can pay for a ticket and ride on both hills. Kids 42" and taller can go on either hill. If they go on the smaller hill, they too must be supervised. Look for details about signing up!

GOD'S KIDS CLUB – SAVE THE DATES!

Upcoming dates to save for GKC include February 20 and March 22, scheduled 9:00 am – 3:00 pm 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 GKC? It is ideal for us to have 4 adults for our day. Contact Kirstin at ksrhoads@erucc.org with questions or to volunteer!

JUNIOR CHURCH

On all Sundays except the first Sunday of each month, children aged 5 – 5th grade may go to Junior Church after the Thought for the Day in the worship service. Junior Church, a space to join in creative spiritual formation activities, will take place in the Thomas Room most weeks. Parents should pick up children from Junior Church following service.

Volunteer leaders needed! Contact Pastor Kirstin for more information and to express interest.

Youth Group Ministry

SNOW TUBING

Saturday, January 28

Enjoy fun together and enjoy tubing down the snowy slopes together. Thanks to parent, Julie, for organizing this activity.

SUB PREPARATION AND SALE

Saturday, February 11

Community Room Kitchen

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

This will be one of our major fundraisers for summer trips and activities.

Additional Announcements

MISSION OPPORTUNITY – MEALS FOR MISSION OF MERCY



Beginning Monday, February 6, ERUCC will be supporting Mission of Mercy. They serve the uninsured, working poor, homeless and economically disadvantaged with active and retired licensed healthcare professionals who volunteer their time to provide free medical and dental services and prescription medications. The services provided at 14 health clinics in four states are provided regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, or religion. All services are free, and no fees are charged. No one is denied service because of their inability to pay.

The mobile clinic is held at the Frederick Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints two to three times a month. We have been asked to prepare and serve lunch for 30-35 staff and volunteers. We don't have to clean up, and all utensils, plates, and even drinks are provided! The Stake Center kitchen is available for food prep and warm up, OR we can meet here at ERUCC and prepare, OR you can make at home and bring here to ERUCC fresh or frozen!

Please contact Angela Brittain if you feel a calling to give to this mission at angela3cats@yahoo.com or (240) 457-1479.

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.

HELP WITH COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS

Did you know you can help extend ERUCC's radical hospitality to community and non-profit organizations that use our spaces throughout the week? It's easy, joyful, and helps extend our mission to support these groups with a place to gather and convene at little to no cost.

Contact Tyler in the church office at tyork@erucc.org or (301) 401-3904 for more information, to be added to the list of amazing volunteers who make this ministry possible, or to sign up to help with one of the dates below:

Saturday, February 4, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Community Convening – Local Management Board and the Office of Children and Families

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/Jan23Chimes.



Please send announcements for the bulletin, Thursday Thoughts, or Trinity Chimes to erucc@erucc.org. Trinity Chimes Submission Deadline is the 15th of each month.





Service of Installation

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

as

*Associate Pastor for
Faith Formation and Parish Life*

Sunday, January 22

3 p.m.

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

15 West Church Street

Frederick, Md 21701

301-662-2762

A reception will immediately follow at the church.

Sunday Morning Schedule

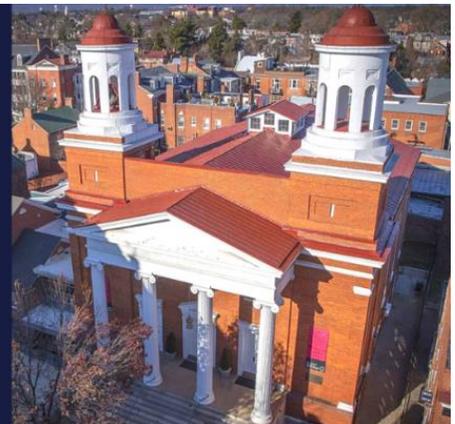
8:30 – 9:15 am	Worship , Trinity Chapel
9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Nursery Care , Main Building
9:30 – 10:15 am	Adult Education , Main Building <i>Let's Talk (9:30 am) and Let's Study the Bible (9:00 am)</i>
9:30 – 10:10 am	Children's Sunday School , Trinity Chapel <i>Ages 3 – 2nd Grade, 3rd – 6th Grade, Confirmation 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>

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



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 22, 2023

Matthew 4:12-23

Called Together

Wonderful Creator, In the beginning you made the world – rocks and trees, water and animals. You created, and you looked on your creation and called it good. Good, you decided, but not complete. And so you created us. You made people. You created us to be beautifully diverse – with many colors of skin, many levels of ability, many shapes and sizes. In our diversity, you also created us with a common longing – to love and be loved, to grow and thrive, to live lives of meaning and purpose.

Brother Christ, You came to earth to show us how to be both fully human and completely divine. You loved and cried, taught and touched, died and rose again. By your healing touch, you brought others close to you and to your heavenly Parent. You modeled for us how to live lives of sacrifice and service, how to be healers of the ills of body and mind. You encouraged us to be bringers of hope to all we encounter.

Holy Spirit, You are the Advocate. You accompany us day by day, hour by hour, breath by breath. You are the challenger, the encourager and the sustainer. You impel us toward places of need and longing in your world and infuse us with the desire to be your people. You lift us, giving us energy when our own spirits flag. And you promise to remain with us, no matter what.

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer; you are both one and three. You are both distinct and in relationship. As neither one part of your divine being is complete without the others, so we are called to lives of radical interconnectivity. Create in us a desire to bring hope and healing to all we encounter. In your many powerful names we pray, Amen.



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